

Micah's Idol

Judges 17 – 18

by Don Falkos

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A man named Micah stole some silver from his mother. But then he admitted the theft and gave it back. She took some of it to a silversmith and had it fashioned into an idol, which was placed in Micah's home. Micah set up a shrine for the idol.

Jonathan, the grandson of Moses, was traveling through the area and happened to stop at Micah's house.

"Where are you from?" asked Micah.

"I'm a Levite from Bethlehem, and I'm looking for a place to live."

"Stay with me! You can be the priest for my idol. I'll pay you and give you food and clothing."

So Micah installed Jonathan as his own personal priest.

In all the years since the death of Joshua the tribe of Dan had yet to find a permanent home. Some spies identified an ideal place and also learned about Jonathan.

One day 600 armed Danites turned up at Micah's house. They took everything from his shrine including the idol and said to Jonathan, "You can stay here and be a priest for one man, or you can come with us and be a priest for an entire tribe."

Jonathan went with them. Micah chased after them, but when the soldiers threatened his life, he turned back.

The men of Dan came to the town their spies had identified. They killed everyone and burned the town to the ground. Then they rebuilt the town and named it Dan. They set up Micah's idol and appointed Jonathan, the grandson of Moses, as their priest. Jonathan's family served as priests for the tribe of Dan for many, many years.