

JUDGES CHAPTER 17

JUDGES FEATURED IN THIS CHAPTER

OTHNIEL
EHUD
SHAMGAR
DEBORAH
GIDEON

ABIMELECH
TOLA
JAIR
JEPHTHAH
IBZAN

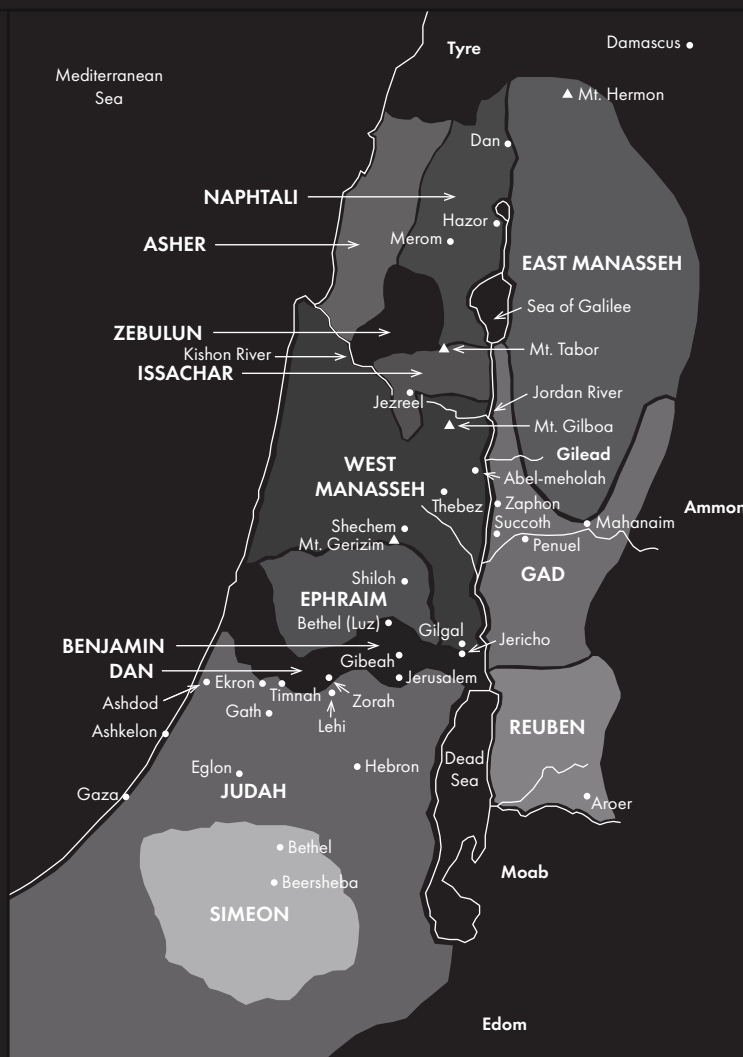
ELON
ABDON
SAMSON
ELI
SAMUEL

WHEN

- Most scholars place the period of the Judges between 1450 B.C. and 1000 B.C.
- We are not given exact dates for the historical events recorded in Judges 17.

WHERE

- Micah and his mother lived in the hill country of Ephraim.
- The young Levite who became Micah's priest was from Bethlehem.



CHARACTERS

- **Micah** – A man from Ephraim who created a shrine and appointed his own priests.
- **Young Levite** – This man was hired by Micah to work in his shrine.

OUTLINE

- MICAH BUILDS HIMSELF A SHRINE (17:1-5):
 - + In Ephraim, there was a man named Micah who stole 1,100 pieces of silver from his mother.
 - + Feeling bad about his dishonesty and being fearful of the curse his mother had spoken over the thief, he gave the money back.
 - + His mother forgave him and dedicated 200 pieces of the silver to the creation of a metal image.
 - + From the text it appears the metal image was supposed to represent the true God, but this had been forbidden in the 10 commandments.
 - + Micah took the image and made a shrine. In addition to the metal image, Micah added an ephod, household gods, and he appointed his son to be priest.
- MICAH FINDS A LEVITE TO BE A PRIEST AT HIS SHRINE (17:6-13):
 - + "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (17:6).
 - + A young man from the tribe of Levi left his home in Bethlehem in search of a job.
 - + As he journeyed through the hill country of Ephraim, he met Micah.
 - + Learning that he was a Levite and knowing that the Levites were those ordained to serve at God's Tabernacle, Micah offered the young man a job working as a priest in his shrine.
 - + The young man accepted and over time he became like a son to Micah.
 - + Micah concluded, "Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, because I have a Levite as priest."

APPLICATION

- Why is this story and the stories in the concluding chapters of Judges included in the Bible?
- The end of the book of Judges contains a few unpleasant stories that may seem random upon first reading.
- I suspect these stories are included in the book to show the religious confusion and immorality that spread through the tribes of Israel.
- It didn't take long for many Israelites to break their covenant with God.
- Some of the problems stemmed from ignorance of God's laws, while others were a result of outright rebellion.
- As you read through the next few chapters, allow them to inform you on the spiritual state of the nation.

OTHN
EHUD
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DEBO
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ABIM
TOLA
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ELON
ABDO
SAMS
ELI
SAMU