

~MICAH 1 (377)

(Mi'cah) [shortened form of Michael or Micaiah]

- A man of Ephraim. In violation of the eighth of the Ten Commandments
- You must not steal. ([Exodus 20:15](#))
- **Micah** took 1,100 silver pieces from his mother. When he confessed and returned them, she said; I must without fail sanctify the silver to Yehowah from my hand for my son, so as to make a carved image and a molten statue, and now I shall give it back to you.
- She then took 200 silver pieces to a silversmith, who made a carved image and a molten statue that afterward came to be in **Micah's** house.
- **Micah**, who had a house of gods, made an ephod and teraphim and empowered one of his sons to act as priest for him. Although this arrangement was ostensibly to honor Yehowah, it was grossly improper, for it violated the commandment forbidding idolatry
- You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or that is on the earth underneath or that is in the waters under the earth. ([Exodus 20:4](#))
- You must not bow down to them nor be induced to serve them, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. ([Exodus 20:5](#))
- But exercising loving-kindness toward the thousandth generation in the case of those who love me and keep my commandments. ([Exodus 20:6](#))
- And bypassed Yehowah's tabernacle and his priesthood.
- Now there happened to be a man of the mountainous region of Ephraim whose name was **Micah**. ([Judges 17:1](#))

- In time he said to his mother; The thousand one hundred silver pieces that were taken from you and over which you pronounced a curse and also said it in my hearing, look! the silver is with me. It was I who took it. At that his mother said; Blessed may my son be of Yehowah. (**Judges 17:2**)
- Accordingly he gave back the thousand one hundred pieces of silver to his mother, and his mother went on to say; I must without fail sanctify the silver to Yehowah from my hand for my son, so as to make a carved image and a molten statue, and now I shall give it back to you. (**Judges 17:3**)
- So he returned the silver to his mother, and his mother took two hundred silver pieces and gave them to the silversmith. And he went making a carved image and a molten statue, and it got to be in **Micah's** house. (**Judges 17:4**)
- As for the man **Micah**, he had a house of gods, and he proceeded to make an ephod and teraphim and to fill the hand of one of his sons with power, that he might serve as priest for him. (**Judges 17:5**)
- In those days there was no king in Israel. As for everybody, what was right in his own eyes he was accustomed to do. (**Judges 17:6**)
- These are the regulations and the judicial decisions that you should be careful to carry out in the land that Yehowah the God of your forefathers will certainly allow you to take possession of, all the days that you are alive on the soil. (**Deuteronomy 12:1**)
- You should absolutely destroy all the places where the nations whom you are dispossessing have served their gods, on the tall mountains and the hills and under every luxuriant tree. (**Deuteronomy 12:2**)
- And you must pull down their altars and shatter their sacred pillars, and you should burn their sacred poles in the fire and cut down the graven images of their gods, and you must destroy their names from that place. (**Deuteronomy 12:3**)
- You must not do that way to Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 12:4**)

- But to the place that Yehowah your God will choose out of all your tribes to place his name there, to have it reside, you will seek, and there you must come. ([Deuteronomy 12:5](#))
- And there you must bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tenth parts and the contribution of your hand and your vow offerings and your voluntary offerings and the firstborn ones of your herd and of your flock. ([Deuteronomy 12:6](#))
- And there you must eat before Yehowah your God and rejoice in every undertaking of yours, you and your households, because Yehowah your God has blessed you. ([Deuteronomy 12:7](#))
- You must not do according to all that we are doing here today, each one whatever is right in his own eyes. ([Deuteronomy 12:8](#))
- Because you have not yet come into the resting-place and the inheritance that Yehowah your God is giving you. ([Deuteronomy 12:9](#))
- And you must cross the Jordan and dwell in the land that Yehowah your God is giving you as a possession, and he will certainly give you rest from all your enemies round about, and you will indeed dwell in security. ([Deuteronomy 12:10](#))
- And it must occur that the place that Yehowah your God will choose to have his name reside there is where you will bring all about which I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tenth parts and the contribution of your hand and every choice of your vow offerings that you will vow to Yehowah. ([Deuteronomy 12:11](#))
- And you must rejoice before Yehowah your God, you and your sons and your daughters and your man slaves and your slave girls and the Levite who is inside your gates, because he has no share or inheritance with you. ([Deuteronomy 12:12](#))
- Watch out for yourself for fear you may offer up your burnt offerings in any other place you may see. ([Deuteronomy 12:13](#))
- But in the place that Yehowah will choose in one of your tribes is where you should offer up your burnt offerings, and there you should do all that I am commanding you. ([Deuteronomy 12:14](#))

- Later, **Micah** took Jonathan, a descendant of Moses son Gershom, into his home, hiring this young Levite as his priest.
- In turn he said to them; Thus and so **Micah** did for me that he might hire me, and that I might serve as priest for him. (**Judges 18:4**)
- After that the sons of Dan stood up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, Moses son, he and his sons became priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the lands being taken into exile. (**Judges 18:30**)
- Mistakenly feeling satisfied with this, **Micah** said; Now I do know that Yehowah will do me good.
- Now there happened to be a young man of Bethlehem in Judah of the family of Judah, and he was a Levite. And he was residing there for a time. (**Judges 17:7**)
- And the man proceeded to go from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to reside for a time wherever he might find a place. At length while going his way he came into the mountainous region of Ephraim as far as the house of **Micah**. (**Judges 17:8**)
- Then **Micah** said to him; Where do you come from? At that he said to him; I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to reside for a time wherever I may find a place. (**Judges 17:9**)
- So **Micah** said to him; Do dwell with me and serve as a father and priest for me, and I, for my part, shall give you ten silver pieces a year and the usual outfit of garments and your sustenance. Accordingly the Levite went in. (**Judges 17:10**)
- Thus the Levite took it upon himself to dwell with the man, and the young man got to be as one of his sons to him. (**Judges 17:11**)
- Furthermore, **Micah** filled the hand of the Levite with power, that the young man might serve as a priest for him and might continue in the house of Micah. (**Judges 17:12**)
- Hence **Micah** said; Now I do know that Yehowah will do me good, because the Levite has become priest for me. (**Judges**

17:13)

- But Jonathan was not of Aaron's lineage and thus was not even qualified for priestly service, which only added to **Micah's** error.
- And you should appoint Aaron and his sons, and they must take care of their priesthood, and any stranger coming near should be put to death. (**Numbers 3:10**)
- In those days, the Danites, searching for territory in which to dwell, sent out five spies, who eventually came to Ephraim as far as the house of **Micah** and got to spend the night there.
- While near **Micah's** house, they recognized Jonathan's voice, found out what he was doing there, and had him inquire of God so that they might know whether their venture would be successful. The priest told them; Go in peace. It is before Yehowah that your way is in which you go.
- In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was looking for an inheritance for itself to dwell there, because up to that day an inheritance had not fallen to them in the midst of the tribes of Israel. (**Judges 18:1**)
- Eventually the sons of Dan sent five men of their family, men from among them, men who were valiant fellows, out from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it. So they said to them; Go, explore the land. In time they came into the mountainous region of Ephraim as far as the house of **Micah** and got to spend the night there. (**Judges 18:2**)
- While they were close by the house of **Micah**, they recognized the voice of the young man, the Levite, so that they turned aside there. And they proceeded to say to him; Who brought you here, and what are you doing in this place, and what interest do you have here? (**Judges 18:3**)
- In turn he said to them; Thus and so **Micah** did for me that he might hire me, and that I might serve as priest for him. (**Judges 18:4**)
- Then they said to him; Inquire, please, of God that we may know whether our way on which we are going will be successful. (**Judges 18:5**)

- So the priest said to them; Go in peace. It is before Yehowah that your way is in which you go. (**Judges 18:6**)
- They subsequently spied out Laish and returned, telling their brothers about it, whereupon the five spies and 600 Danite men girded for warfare headed for that city.
- En route, as they passed **Micah's** house, the spies told their brothers about his religious articles and suggested their acquisition.
- The Danites took these and also convinced the Levite that it would be better for him to be a priest to a tribe and family in Israel than just for one man. They then took him, the ephod, the teraphim, and the carved image and went their way.
- Accordingly the five men went on and came to Laish and saw how the people that were within it were dwelling in self-reliance according to the custom of the Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting, and there was no oppressive conqueror that was molesting a thing in the land, while they were far off from the Sidonians and they had nothing to do with mankind. (**Judges 18:7**)
- At length they came to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brothers began to say to them; How was it with you? (**Judges 18:8**)
- At this they said; Do get up, and let us go up against them, for we have seen the land, and, look! It is very good. And you are hesitant. Do not be sluggish about walking to come in to take possession of the land. (**Judges 18:9**)
- When you come in, you will come to an unsuspecting people, and the land is quite wide, for God has given it into your hand, a place where there is no lack of any sort of thing that is in the earth. (**Judges 18:10**)
- Then six hundred men girded with weapons of war, out of the family of the Danites, departed from there, that is, from Zorah and Eshtaol. (**Judges 18:11**)
- And they got on their way up and went camping at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. That is why they have called that place Mahaneh-dan

down to this day. Look! It is west of Kiriath-jearim. (**Judges 18:12**)

- After that they passed along from there to the mountainous region of Ephraim and came as far as the house of **Micah**. (**Judges 18:13**)
- Then the five men that had gone to spy out the land of Laish answered and said to their brothers; Did you know that there are in these houses an ephod and teraphim and a carved image and a molten statue? And now have in mind what you ought to do. (**Judges 18:14**)
- So they turned aside there and came to the house of the young man, the Levite, at the house of **Micah**, and began to ask how he was getting along. (**Judges 18:15**)
- All the while the six hundred men girded with their weapons of war, who were of the sons of Dan, were standing at the entrance of the gate. (**Judges 18:16**)
- The five men that had gone to spy out the land now went on up, that they might enter in there to take the carved image and the ephod and the teraphim and the molten image. And the priest was standing at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men girded with weapons of war. (**Judges 18:17**)
- And these went into the house of **Micah** and proceeded to take the carved image, the ephod and the teraphim and the molten image. At that the priest said to them; What are you doing? (**Judges 18:18**)
- But they said to him; Be quiet. Put your hand over your mouth, and go with us and become a father and a priest for us. Which is better, for you to continue a priest to the house of one man or for you to become a priest to a tribe and family in Israel? (**Judges 18:19**)
- At this the heart of the priest was pleased, and he now took the ephod and the teraphim and the carved image and came into the midst of the people. (**Judges 18:20**)
- Then they turned and went their way and put the little ones and the livestock and the valuable things ahead of them. (**Judges**

18:21)

- Shortly thereafter, **Micah** and a company of men pursued the Danites. Upon catching up with them and being asked what was the matter, Micah said,
- They themselves had got a distance away from the house of **Micah** when the men who were in the houses that were close by the house of Micah were called together and tried to catch up with the sons of Dan. (**Judges 18:22**)
- When they kept crying out to the sons of Dan, then they turned their faces and said to **Micah**; What is the matter with you that you have been called together? (**Judges 18:23**)
- So he said; My gods that I made you have taken, the priest too, and you go your way, and what do I have anymore? How, then, is it that you can say to me; What is the matter with you? (**Judges 18:24**)
- At this the sons of Dan said to him; Do not let your voice be heard close to us, for fear that men bitter of soul may assault you people, and you have to forfeit your own soul and the soul of your household. (**Judges 18:25**)
- And the sons of Dan kept going on their way, and **Micah** got to see that they were stronger than he was, and so he turned and went back to his house. (**Judges 18:26**)
- The Danites thereafter struck down and burned Laish, building the city of Dan on its site. Jonathan and his sons became priests to the Danites, who kept the carved image of **Micah**, which he had made, set up for themselves all the days that the house of the true God the tabernacle continued in Shiloh.
- As for them, they took what **Micah** had made and the priest that had become his, and they kept going toward Laish, against a people quiet and unsuspecting. And they proceeded to strike them with the edge of the sword, and the city they burned with fire. (**Judges 18:27**)
- And there was no deliverer, for it was far away from Sidon, and they had nothing at all to do with mankind, and it was in the low plain that belonged to Beth-rehob. Then they built the city and

took up dwelling in it. (**Judges 18:28**)

- Furthermore, they called the name of the city Dan by the name of their father, Dan, who had been born to Israel. Nevertheless, Laish was the city's name at first. (**Judges 18:29**)
- After that the sons of Dan stood up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, Moses son, he and his sons became priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the lands being taken into exile. (**Judges 18:30**)
- And they kept the carved image of **Micah**, which he had made, set up for themselves all the days that the house of the true God continued in Shiloh. (**Judges 18:31**)