

Judges Series

Lesson #94

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Counterfeit Religion:
Surprising Disguises
Judges 17:6–13**

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

The problem with religion:

- 1. We are born with a sin nature and everything comes from the sin nature until we are regenerated.**

The problem with religion:

2. Even our good deeds come from the sin nature.

Isa. 64:6, “But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

The problem with religion:

3. We can do good before salvation, i.e., observe the Law, but its end result is always sin:

Rom. 7:5, “For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.”

Morality alone may be a temporary solution, but it is not enough to solve the chaos from sin.

The problem with religion:

- 4. We either walk by means of the Holy Spirit or the sin nature. Therefore, all religion comes from the sin nature and is motivated by self-righteousness and arrogance, and will always destroy a society.**

Rom. 8:3, “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom. 8:4, “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Rom. 8:5, “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Rom. 8:6, “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

The problem with religion:

The only solution is Christianity, a relationship—not a religion.

5. All religions, cults, myth-based religions share in common the failure to distinguish the Creator from the creature.

Judges chapter 17 is an introduction to the apostasy of the tribe of Dan in chapter 18.

Chapter 17 has two parts to the introduction

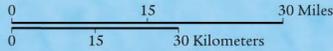
- a. Judges 17:1–5 introduces us to Micah, his mother, and the idol.**
- b. Judges 17:6–13 introduces us to the apostate priest.**

Judg. 1:34, “And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley;”

Judg. 1:29, “Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.”

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION OF PALESTINE

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- ▨ Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon



MEDITERRANEAN SEA



DEAD SEA

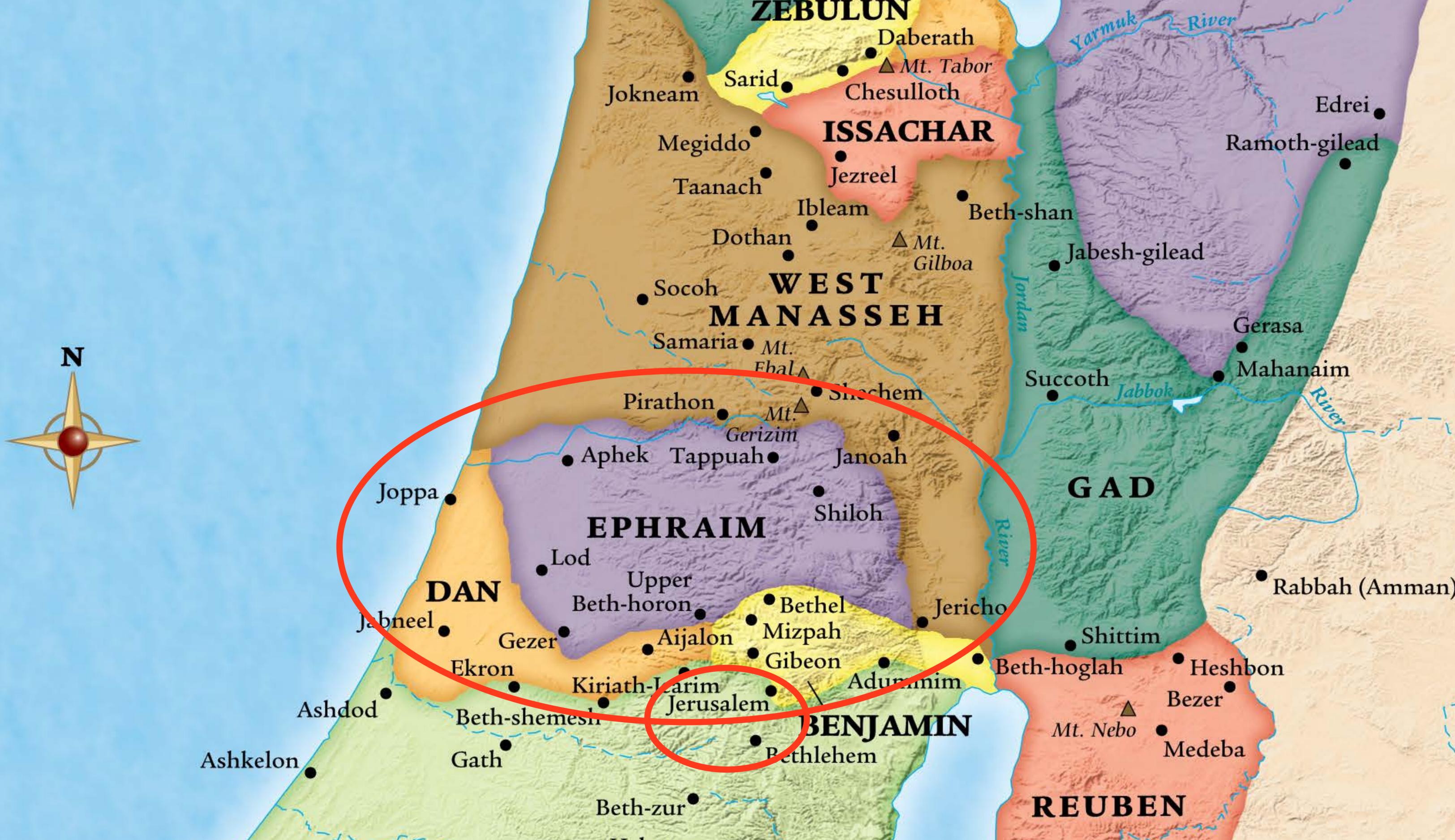
OF PALESTINE

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- ▨ Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon

0 15 30 Miles
0 15 30 Kilometers

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA





2 Tim. 3:2, “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Tim. 3:3, “unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

2 Tim. 3:4, “traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2 Tim. 3:5, “having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

Moral Failures:

Micah was a thief. He stole 1,100 shekels from his mother.

**Motivation: self-protection from his mother's curse,
Judges 17:2c**

Blessing: his mother blesses him, Judges 17:2d

Holier than thou: She originally dedicated the entire 1,100 shekels for “*Yhwh*” to make an idol, but then only gives him 200 shekels?????

Ex. 20:3, “You shall have no other gods before Me.

Ex. 20:4, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

Ex. 20:5, “you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Ex. 20:6, “but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

פֶּסֶל *pesel* idol, graven image

Micah broke the law of the central sanctuary.

Deut. 12:5, “BUT you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.”

Deut. 12:6, “There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.” [NKJV]

Zech. 10:2, “For the idols/*teraphim* speak delusion; The diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wend their way like sheep; They are in trouble because there is no shepherd.” [NKJV]

Conclusion:

Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” [NKJV]

Judg. 17:7, “Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.” [NKJV]

Judg. 17:7, “Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.” [NKJV]

1. He is a *na'ar*, a young man, not yet a mature adult, not yet thirty.

Judg. 17:7, “Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.” [NKJV]

2. He is from Bethlehem, David’s future city. Three times this fact is mentioned to get our attention. This young man will be an embarrassment to Bethlehem.

Judg. 17:7, “Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.” [NKJV]

3. By tribe and vocation or calling he is a Levite.

Judg. 17:7, “Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.” [NKJV]

4. He is nameless so far. What we discover in Judges 18:30 is that he is Jonathan, a grandson of Moses.

Judg. 17:7, “Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.” [NKJV]

5. He is one who will sojourn or travel.

Judg. 17:9, “And Micah said to him, ‘Where do you come from?’ So he said to him, ‘I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay.’ ”

Judg. 17:10, “Micah said to him, ‘Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance.’ So the Levite went in.” [NKJV]

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Judg. 17:11, “And the Levite agreed to live with the man; and the young man became to him like one of his sons.

Judg. 17:12, “So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in the house of Micah.”

Judg. 17:13, “Then Micah said, ‘Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, seeing I have a Levite as priest.’ ”