

## ....*And the Sun Went Down Upon Them*

<<< *Judges 17:1 – 21:25*

~ “Miracle drugs” are nothing new. Someone even said, “Moses had two tablets that could cure the world!” The problem is: many, maybe most, people are allergic to so-called miracle drugs. Likewise, most so-called “Christians” are, obviously, highly allergic to the two tablets Moses prescribed. Our Spiritual Safari through Judges has exposed nothing but little men – one after another – like a great big little-man parade! I have tried to inject as much humor into the study of this book as I possibly could muster – and for that I apologize, because it hasn’t been funny. Well, this final study won't be funny, either – I promise you that. The puny little oddballs we have considered as judges collectively amount to absolute zero in leadership for the nation Israel throughout several centuries of their existence. God's chosen people, at the time in which we are studying, have sunk as deeply into gross immorality as any heathen nation of the world could possibly descend. The final result is going to be that a king is raised to rule over them; against all of the Lord’s commands NOT to have a king like the other nations around them. God made it clear that He wanted to rule Israel directly and Israel directly rejected God as their king! They asked for a man-king; and they are going to receive one – a very, very bad king.

I’m quite sure humanity has lost its way in this modern and affluent global society. We have what we call a “new morality” and “situational ethics,” but those are just code words for “same old sin!” There is nothing new under the sun, as Solomon so wisely stated. We disguise a complete rebellion against God as “higher thinking” – which says truth is subjective, and we should have no guilt in our mind at all. Mankind is attempting to flee God as fast as a rocket ship might fly. What man doesn't realize is that God is already wherever they are running to. How tragic we truly are.

As we look at American leadership today we see no great statesmen such as George Washington or Thomas Jefferson. In fact, those two are villainized - because we now call good evil and evil good. We have no Patrick Henry’s or John Witherspoon’s or ANY men even close to that caliber. What we have is a totally anemic and ineffective leadership in our

present day; and to be fair, this applies to the entire world. The next step is a strong man who brings revival - or we shall die on this path we are following. Let's take a few moments to pray for our nation – as bad as it may be. We need to stop criticizing our leaders and start praying for God to raise up a man who believes Him. It may seem unrealistic that any politician would turn to the Lord God - because it is unlikely - but that's what we are called to do – pray for them. We better pray that, somehow or another, the Spirit of God will move on this utterly and disastrously sinning world that is set to go straight down the toilet. Let's pray He will bring us back to Himself....

## XVII

~ Alright, as we traverse the final five chapters of this book of Judges, we are going to intensely re-examine our philosophy of history, which we began in the first report of our Spiritual Safari through Judges and have been developing and illustrating in this and subsequent studies. I'm not including all of the Bible text in this final report, so you need to stop right here and read all five chapters very carefully before you continue, and after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment. If you will take the time to do that, then this study will be much more meaningful to you, I promise you that.

Remember, our safari philosophy of history is the “hoop of history” that rolls on through time. It works like this: Israel was in the place of blessing – then they began a departure from God – they went their own way – they were sold into slavery – then they cried out to God – they turned to God and repented – God sent a judge to deliver them EVERY SINGLE time – they came back to the place of blessing – and then their wheel just went around again from square one as they, once again, turned away from God and did evil.

Every nation that falls, or has ever fallen, goes down and out in the same order of steps: first, there is religious apostasy – then moral awfulness – and, finally, political anarchy! It begins in the temple or church; it spreads to the home – and ends in the corrupt government of the people. There are traceable footsteps of this, in exactly this order, in every nation that circles

the drain and then finally goes on down the toilet. In chapters seventeen and eighteen we see the first step - apostasy in the temple – and we can think spiritually in terms of the church - for our present day....

***1 And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name was Micah.***

***2 And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my son.***

~ This Micah is a momma's boy whose mother has raised a spoiled little brat. She was saving money and he decided to steal it. After he took it, the theft must have bothered his conscience, so he told her what he had done. Well, instead of her applying the board of education to the seat of knowledge – as in, beating the tar out of him – she congratulates the little darling for being so darn honest. Well, they take the restored money, and they go off into abject pagan idolatry....

***3 And when he had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee.***

~ Can you imagine momma giving the stolen money back to the son to make a graven image idol directly against commandment number two from the Mosaic Law? To make matters as bad as they can possibly be, she says she dedicated this all unto the Lord. Friends, it just does not get any worse than this. This is blasphemy.

Well, we have a whole lot of Christians today who are just as inconsistent as Micha's momma. They talk incessantly about the Lord as they worship their idol. The real problem is they are literally so ignorant and dim they don't even know what they are doing. The modern-day youth group is absolutely NOTORIOUS for doing this. They take up an offering "... for the Lord" that is only used for the social pancake potluck dinner the following Friday night. It is positively SHAMEFUL what passes as "Christianity" today.

They disguise their dedication to hedonism as dedication to the Lord; and that is one reason this country is in total ruin as far as the youth is concerned. Their foolishness has NOTHING to do with the True and Living God whatsoever. That is the picture we are examining in this section of Scripture, my safari friends. Micah didn't make just one molten image, either....

***5 And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.***

***6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.***

~ Well, verse six will be repeated several times in these final five chapters and will be the very last verse of the Book of Judges, too! When every man is doing that which is right in his own eyes you just happen to have a nation with a disaster on their hands. To compound the despicable heresy, we find this is a family affair as Micah drags his sons into idolatry....

***7 And there was a young man out of Bethlehemjudah of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there.***

***8 And the man departed out of the city from Bethlehemjudah to sojourn where he could find a place: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.***

***9 And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I am a Levite of Bethlehemjudah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.***

***10 And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.***

~ Here, we meet the first Israeli itinerant preacher in the Bible. This man from the tribe of Levi will preach for room and board. Of course, he is a hired preacher. He'll say whatever you pay him to say; all he needs is a

script. He is the messenger boy for a secular family group. God have mercy on the millions of churches across this nation – and world – today that have exactly this same kind of preacher. Some churches demand the love gospel – others demand the prosperity gospel – NONE of them allow the words of the Lord Jesus to be read from when He said, “.... he who loves his life shall surely lose it, but he who hates his life shall find life eternal.” No, you can bet your life they won't have that message taught properly – not EVER! Let's be clear in our perspective: we have a priest from the tribe of Levi who has a house full of idols....

***11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.***

***12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.***

***13 Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.***

~ So, the Levite took the boy under his own tutelage. Notice, however, the idolatry was not condemned. The lowest form of counterfeit Christianity is revealed, and the darkest spiritual ebb is flowing full force in this passage of Scripture as the nation Israel's final apostasy is unraveling. This man, Micah, thinks if he just has a Levite – an ordained preacher – then that is all he needs for everything in his life to be justified! Naturally, he was doing what was right in his own eyes. Friends, I told you we were going into darkness; but this is only the beginning of the tragic end. Throughout all of this pagan and filthy idolatry they KNEW was wrong – they expect the blessing of God to be upon them. Do you know anything about this problem? There are many people and churches just like this today....

## **XVIII**

***1 In those days there was no king in Israel....***

~ Utter confusion is the situational ethic we have at this time of history that we are studying. There is no leadership; and, you'll remember from the

Book of Joshua, NONE of the tribes fully possessed the portions of land they were given. You will also remember that the tribe of Dan had the biggest problem as they took to the hills and ran away when fighting broke out. So, as we read on in this chapter, the men from Dan make an expedition to determine what they could do to expand their borders. During those travels, they come across the house of Micah....

***3 When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this place? and what hast thou here?***

~ This Levite man certainly sounded like a preacher, too, because they know that distinctive articulation. Do NOT think for one moment they heard the voice of God when they heard the voice of the young man. He openly admits he is nothing but a hired preacher. As we have said, this is just a messenger saying the things his paying group hired him to say! So many preachers today are so far away from that which God has called them to do that I sincerely think they believe they are doing the right thing; it is a disaster we have in our churches and, let's face it, everyone knows it – except this type of preacher and his congregation. They all think that THEIR little church is the right one and that THEY are the only ones blessed by God. Translation: every man is doing what is right in his own eyes.

I am fully aware most people disagree with literally everything I say. Most are suspicious of my motives and most question whether I have ever studied the Bible in an educated manner. My friends, I teach without fear and without regret and TOTALLY without compromise because NONE of you pay me. Even the one or two who have supported this missionary ministry will tell you – I am no paid prophet. I do not report to my benefactors; and I don't change my message when it offends.

Well, here we have a confusing Levite. We're studying a period of compromise; and we're living in a modern age of total compromise, corruption, confusion and nearly complete apostasy. The mark of apostasy is upon us, and I cannot over-emphasize that fact. We're not subjecting ourselves to the authority of the True and Living God; and THAT is our

WHOLE problem in contemporary society. The Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ Who is revealed in It are COMPLETELY ignored; and those two elements are not taught properly, correctly nor completely in the church anymore. We have so much preaching that excludes Christ that we can turn on our TV's or open magazines – or go to a local church – and fill every waking moment with false doctrine, pseudo-peanut theology and teaching ABOUT the Bible – but never hear the Lord Jesus Christ mentioned one time! The few who DO happen to say His Name only drag Him in to lend their own theories or philosophies credibility. Well, these men from Dan have come across a priest; and they want to speak to him....

***5 And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous.***

***6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.***

~ Oh, yes, here is the sweet talk people pay BIG money for. There is one current “preacher” who recently sold seats to his happy hour for eight hundred fifty dollars PER ticket. Well, believe me, that man tells his “congregational” ilk EXACTLY what they want to hear. I have listened to him and, I’ll admit, that man – who has a first name the same as one of the prophets from the Bible – sounds great! If I had eight hundred fifty dollars to waste on an hours worth of self-help, I would want to hear EXACTLY the things he says, too! The message he gives feels amazing – but it isn’t sound doctrine – it’s just, well, doctrine. That’s the composite of a hired preacher and they vary on differing levels – but they all say ONLY the things that their particular people want to hear. These preachers want to hear personal compliments - and the congregation will compliment him - for saying nice, soft, sweet easy sayings they can piously parrot out around the office on Monday – because they, in turn, of course, want to be patted on their backs for being such good people. What a picture we have here! It's sick. Well, these five Danite men take off with the blessing from the hired preacher and they think this is the best thing since sliced bread - simply because their paid prophet tells them....

***10 When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and to a large land: for God hath given it into your hands; a place where there is no want of any thing that is in the earth.***

~ As you read the rest of this chapter these Danite men go out to spy out the land, and....

***30 And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.***

~ Jonathan, in verse thirty, just happens to be the grandson of Moses. Apostasy is as thick as it gets at this point in our study. You can't get it any worse than we see it right here on the pages of Scripture – and as we see in our religious world today! Moses own grandchildren are running around setting up idols in Israel. They are a LONG ways from the True and Living God. Moses told them not to have any other Gods before the True and Living God and Moses told them not to make unto themselves ANY likenesses; but that's what's going on. The priests have idol worship abounding, and the people are paying big bucks for the pleasures. Tragically, they will also pay dearly in the nation's demise.

As I wrote the first Spiritual Safari, I began to realize a few secrets about the modern church. I found out reaching them is WAY out of my league. I wasn't what you would call "raised" in the church, so it was all somewhat new. Oh, I had been dragged to church by my mom for years; but I thought churches were all good. I thought they all truly loved the Lord Jesus; and I naively thought they all taught the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ properly, correctly and completely. As I studied the Bible under a man who actually believed God, I just wasn't sure anymore and friends, THAT is the reason I was compelled to write it all down – I HAD to know if what I was believing was real or not. Well, you can take my word for it – or not – but the Bible, the WORD OF GOD, the Lord Jesus Christ – is ALL real and Christ IS alive right NOW!

Both D.L. Moody and Billy Graham, not to mention the senior Osteen, were true men of God; but their children became leaders of the three largest

liberal religious cults in America today; indeed, in the world! This all began in the old Federal Council of Churches, which I doubt any of you readers know much about. Well, friends, I do not guess at the Bible – I know what I am teaching you and I will stand before God with no apologies for what I have presented to you. Nothing in my over-achieving life ever hurt me as much as the true and correct education in the Word of God that I am receiving. I'm just being totally honest – because I always am totally honest with you readers. I simply couldn't understand all of this, and I abandoned writing for a LONG, LONG time as a result!

It is shocking and amazing to me how we have departed from the true Gospel of Christ today; and I am NEVER shocked or amazed at anything. The integrity and inerrancy of the Word of God has been abandoned wholesale! Apostasy is an awful thing. Again, I have prayed the Lord will lead me OUT of this rinky-dink and unsupported so-called missionary effort and back to a life where I can enjoy it – make some money and live like a normal person. If you enjoy this safari, you may want to keep praying God will continue to lead me. If God says yes to me – I PROMISE YOU – I will never type one more character, jot or tittle in His Name. I have already completed commentary on Holy Writ once; and I stand by it. I have nothing further to say. Our nation has a real problem with religious apostasy – you can just write that down! THAT, my friends, is what we have come to....

### **XIX, XX and XXI**

~ Okay – this ending brings us to the second and third stage in our philosophy of history: moral awfulness and political anarchy. Our attention is shifting here to the tribe of Benjamin. I'm not even going to bother placing text down here because it is truly unbelievable – in a believable way! I HIGHLY and STRAIGHTLY suggest you read it and drink it all down carefully. In fact, we're only going to look at one thing I think is important. This is another insight into the life of the children of Israel in the day in which we are studying. You might want to flip over and read Romans chapters one through three at this time, too – to connect the dots.

We have a Levite with a concubine playing the harlot against him. She ran away and went back home to her father. So, the Levite went after her.

Well, he brings her back and they end up in the tribe of Benjamin – in a Jebusite home – being entertained in the city of Jebus. As they are having some sort of party, the townsmen came by. I feel they knew about her reputation to begin with. Well, they break in and rape her all night and she ends up dying from the trauma. I know this is common news today, but back then this would have shocked a community. The modern parallel is a little too striking as we read this chapter, by the way. So, they rape her, and leave her for dead. The Levite was, obviously, not happy about this dastardly deed. So, the Levite cut her up in itty bitty pieces and sent her body parts out to all the other tribes with a message about what had happened and why.

Naturally, all the other tribes were incensed. They all believed the law should be fully enforced now; they, even in this terribly dark day, weren't quite as lawless as we have sunk as a nation today. Yes, I mean that, and if you don't think it's true then you are either blind, living in a vacuum or you are experiencing dementia – one of the three. Our modern legal system is just a political sham, friends; we all know that. There is rich-man justice and poor-man justice throughout the entire world. All the while the so-called "patriotic group" of today protests for as little law as possible. Some want none. They want to do that which is right in their own eyes. Who do we think we are kidding? Well, all the tribes assemble themselves against the tribe of Benjamin. Benjamin makes a self defense attempt but to no avail....

***Judges 20:16 among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men left-handed; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss***  
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~ Stay with me as we conclude safari commentary on the Book of Judges. Many think it was miraculous David was able to peg Goliath dead in the center of the forehead. Well, David's stone hit Goliath precisely where David was aiming! Many liberals explain this away; usually with at least fifteen minutes of dissertation. They were as accurate slinging stones then as we are with "smart bombs" today. Naturally, they had to get a little bit closer, but they didn't miss. When you saw the whites of their eyes it was too late. As a side note, most people erroneously assume David took five stones in case he missed with the first. I actually heard of a sermon on that

basis. Well, if you read the record accurately you'll find that Goliath had four sons with him in the Philistine army, and David had a rock for each one of them, too.

The tribe of Benjamin is almost completely decimated at this point. Verse forty-four of chapter twenty reveals all of that. Eighteen thousand men of valor is just about all of them – the record lists twenty-five thousand – we're seeing the brink of total extermination of the tribe of Benjamin. This is all the tragic end result of gross immorality. We're talking about the favorite tribe. Benjamin and Joseph were the two youngest sons and the two most-favored sons of old man Jacob. Benjamin was the one Judah was willing to lay down his life for in Egypt – for Jacob's sake.

So, our Spiritual Safari through the entire Word of God concludes our study in Judges with tribe against tribe, class against class; and what happens next is step number three in our philosophy of history: political anarchy. All of the steps have been taken for the total downfall of the nation Israel as we close this book. America needs a Declaration of DEPENDANCE on God today. I think it's time to abandon independence. I just happen to have been born into a very patriotic family in Fort Bragg, North Carolina on July fourth, nineteen hundred sixty-six, friends. My dad fought hard for many years in Viet Nam for this country. In 1928 the Wall Street Journal ran an article stating, during the depression, mind you; that America need NOT some economic arrangement or political move – but a return to the days when Americans dealt fairly and honestly with each other. This country is going to HAVE to learn the Bible properly, correctly and completely if there is to be any hope for our future. There's no other way. Our trouble is spiritual, and we are dying fast in that regard. The American church has failed – the American home is a disaster – the American government is dead! I'm not holding my breath for revival because "revival" is perfect nonsense. We are off track, totally derailed – God have mercy is all I have left to say - and I'm not sorry for saying any of this, either. We'll continue into the little book of Ruth in our next report ~

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