

A Rival Cult and a Renegade Levite Judges 17

A thieving son starts his own cult. 17:1-6

- ❖ Events from here on are not chronological, as we will see later in 18:30. Note focus changes from national sin/deliverance to glimpses of widespread corruption, most notably in Dan & Benjamin (featuring Levites).
- ❖ What might this son's theft suggest, cf. 17:5? Why does he come clean? How do we explain all the "God-talk" yet see such unbiblical things going on here? Is this a problem now? What for example?
- ❖ 17:6 and 21:25 = theme verse for Judges (18:1, 19:1 = partial quotes). What appears to be the purpose of this repeated statement?

A renegade Levite accepts leadership in this cult. 17:7-13

- ❖ We have a "homeless" Levite wandering about here (also not from a levitical city. Should any Levite take this job? What is up with him?
- ❖ Micah's insecurity is such that he eagerly snatches up the Levite to legitimize his new cult. For "father" see 5:7, 18:19, II Kgs. 2:12.
- ❖ What does Micah's assumption in v.13 suggest about his motives?

