

THE JUDGES

IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS NO KING

everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

JUDGES 17:6; 21:25

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Spiritual Anarchy

THE JUDGES 17:6; 21:25

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Jeremiah 10:23 (NKJV)

²³ O Lord, I know the way of man *is* not in himself;
It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

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Chapters 17-21 relate
detached historical
events during the days of
Phinehas, son of Eleazar,
the son of Aaron -
(2:10-23; 20:28)

- How idolatry came into the tribe of Ephraim - (17)
- How idolatry came to be introduced in the tribe of Dan - (18)
- A most barbaric & shameful act by some Benjamites, - (19)
- The entire destruction of Benjamin, except 600 men - (20).
- How the tribe of Benjamin was preserved - (21)



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Micah's Homelife

- Micah - the thief who stole from his mother – (17:1,2)
- The cursing, lenient, idolatrous mother – (17:2-4)
- Micah appoints his son priest of an idolatrous religion – (17:5)
- No authority – no standard – no rules – no values – (17:6)



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Micah's Religious Life

- A religious mother – dedicating money to the Lord through idolatry – (17:3,4)
- The false religion of Micah – worshipping Jehovah through images – (17:4-6)
- Appoints his son as priest - (17:5)
- Hires a Levite priest, thinking it will bring blessings – (17:7-13)



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Micah's Religious Influence

- The Danites sought to gain their inheritance – (18:1-10)
- Took advantage of the hospitality of Micah stealing his idols and priest – (18:11-20)
- Took advantage of those unable to resist them - Preyed on the indefensible – (18:21-31)



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The Destruction of Ungodliness

- A young Levite in Ephraim sets out to retrieve his wife (concubine) from her fathers house in Bethlehem - 19:1-8
- On their return to Ephraim, they stop in Gibeah where the woman is savagely treated and killed - 19:9-30



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The Destruction of Ungodliness

- Israel goes to war with Benjamin because they protected the men who did this evil thing - killing all but 600 men - 20:1-48
- Wives provided for the remaining Benjamites - 21:1-24



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Judges 21:25 (NKJV)

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The Need For Godly Homes



How did a generation grow up in Israel that “*did NOT know the Lord?*” - Judges 2:10; Deut 6:4-25



What was the result? People became UNGODLY - resulting in lost blessings, uncontrolled lawlessness and violence, and finally destruction. - Deut 6:15; 2 Chron. 36:15-21

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“Americans think that they have been liberated from the traditional family. Women were liberated from the home – from their husbands – from their children . . . Fathers liberated from their authority and responsibility. Children were liberated from limits and rules . . .

Yet it turns out that these were precisely what held society together.” –

Cal Thomas

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The Need For Godly Homes



- Husbands & Fathers need to accept their position in the home – (Eph 5:23,25,28; 6:4)
- Wives & mothers need to accept their roles as well – (Eph 5:22,24; Titus 2:3-5)
- Children must learn how to respect and obey their parents – (Mat 15:4; Eph 6:1-3)

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The Need For Godly Religion

- Judges 17,18 gives insight as to how idolatry crept into Israel's religion. -
- The northern tribes adopted idolatry early on leading to their destruction - 1 Kings 12:25-33
- Judah also turned away from God resulting in the end of the nation - 2 Chron. 36:15-21



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The Need For Godly Religion



- Many inherit their religion – or allow their parents to keep them from accepting the truth – (Luke 14:26)
- Man made religion is everywhere in our day!! – (Mat 15:17-19)
- Idolatry is still very much a problem today – (Rom 1:22-25)
- Hireling preachers are still a problem as well – (2 Peter 2:1-3)

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The Need For Godly Religion



- Returning to the Biblical pattern for salvation - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 19:1-5
- Returning to Biblical pattern for the church
 - *Only one* - Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22,23; 4:4
 - *Not divided* - 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Eph. 4:1-3
 - *Submits to Christ* - Eph 5:22-25
 - *Organization* - (Elders, deacons, saints) Phili 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Pet 5:1-4
 - *Worship* - Jn 4:24; Eph 5:19; Heb 12:25-29
 - *Work* - Rom 14:17; Mat 28:19; 1 Cor. 14:26

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The Result of Ungodly Homes & Religion

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- ◆ Selfish & Inconsiderate -
- ◆ Greedy & Covetous -
- ◆ Arrogant & Proud
- ◆ Speaking Against Truth
- ◆ Disrespectful / Ungrateful –
- ◆ Unholy –
- ◆ Without Natural Affection –
- ◆ Truce Breakers, Unforgiving
- ◆ Liars – (*false accusers*)
- ◆ Undisciplined –
- ◆ Violent / Hostile To Virtue –
- ◆ Betrayers -
- ◆ Rash & Reckless –
- ◆ Over Confident -
- ◆ Lovers of Pleasure –
- ◆ Form of Godliness -

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The Result of Ungodly Homes & Religion



Our churches are filled with carnal, unregenerate, impenitent, worldly people.

Sexual immorality, adultery and all kinds of sexual perversions are acceptable.

Irreverence, deceit, alcoholism, broken homes, etc. have become “the norm.”

Our streets are filled with drugs and violence.

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**We NEED To Do What Is
Right In God's Eyes
In Our Homes
In Our Religion
In Our Society**

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Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

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Charts by Don McClain

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<http://w65stchurchofchrist.com>

2 Timothy 3:1–9 (NKJV)

¹ But know this, that in the last days
perilous times will come: ² For men will be
lovers of themselves, lovers of money,
boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient
to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving,
unforgiving, slanderers, without self-
control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴
traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of
pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2 Timothy 3:1–9 (NKJV)

⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.