

JUDGES AND RUTH: FACING GROUP APOSTASY AS INDIVIDUALS
Part XI: Learning To Value And Practice Leadership That Adheres To Scripture
(Judges 17:1-19:1a)

I. **Introduction**

- A. Though each of us believers in Christ is a king-priest according to 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6, God has established human leaders in His flock who are to lead in obedience of Scripture for blessing, Heb. 13:17.
- B. To see the *practical value* of such human Biblical leadership, and to lead by aligning ourselves with Scripture, we view Judges 17:1-19:1a that reveals what happens when such Biblical leadership is *lacking*:

II. **Learning To Value And Practice Leadership That Adheres To Scripture, Judges 17:1-19:1a.**

- A. Joshua 1:8 informs us the nation Israel was required by God to obey His Word for blessing.
- B. Yet, the lack of **Scripture-based** leadership in Israel during the period of the judges left the nation open to spiritual decline (Judges 17:6; 18:1a; 19:1a and 21:25 in accord with the king's duty in Deut. 17:18-20).
- C. We only need to let history speak for itself to see the need for leadership that is **Scripture-based**:
 - 1. Due to a **lack of Scripture-based** leadership in the **family**, the *family* slipped into **apostasy**, 17:1-6:
 - a. The man, Micah tried to remove his mother's illegal revenge curse (Lev. 19:18) due to his lawless act of stealing her silver (Ex. 20:15) by repaying that silver unbiblically (Ex. 22:1-4), Judges 17:1-3.
 - b. His mother errantly blessed his unbiblical restoration, and to celebrate, made an idol to the Lord in violation of Ex. 20:4-5 out of the restored silver, 17:4. Thus, even her good intentions were wrong!
 - c. Micah then set up his son to be a priest in his house-shrine in violation of Num. 18:1-7 (Jud. 17:5).
 - d. **The reason for such error is given in Judges 17:6: the lack of Scripture-based leadership left families doing what was right in their own eyes rather than what God wanted!**
 - 2. Due to a **lack of Scripture-based** leaders in the **Levitical priesthood**, the *priesthood* fell into sin:
 - a. Micah sought formal absolution from his guilt by violating Deut. 12:5 to hire a young **Levite** to be his private **house** priest, 17:7-12. Thus, a **Levitical priesthood** independent of the tabernacle under the Law was established, and that where **idols** were syncretistically mixed with true worship!
 - b. Amazingly, Micah actually concluded God would be pleased with this arrangement, Judges 17:13.
 - c. The reason for such error is given in Judges 18:1a: the lack of a Scripture-based leadership left priests doing what was right in their own eyes rather than what was right with God!
 - 3. Due to a **lack of Scripture-based** leaders, apostasy came to corrupt even **international matters**!
 - a. The **sinfully faithless** Danites ran out of room of land allotment since they had failed to trust God to remove the Philistines, Jud. 2:1-3; thus, they sought easier land to conquer for more room, 18:1b-2a.
 - b. In their search, they came across Micah's **unbiblical syncretistic ecumenism**, and **unbiblically** sought the house-priest's **unbiblical** blessing on their **faithless** efforts to gain more land, 18:2b-5.
 - c. After gaining this illicit priest's illicit blessing (18:6), the Danites violated Ex. 21:16 by **kidnapping** this house-priest, **lovelessly** outmaneuvering Micah in violation of Lev. 19:18b to motivate themselves to conquer territory **not Biblically** apportioned to them by **God**, Jud. 18:7-11, 13-26.
 - d. In the end, they violated Ex. 20:13 by **murdering** the people of Laish to settle there, Jud. 18:27-29.
 - e. In the end, the Danites set up the graven image made by Micah's mother and had Jonathan, the son of Gershom who could trace his lineage back to Moses establish a priesthood with this graven image, cf. Judges 18:30 with Ryrie Study Bible, KJV, fn. to Judges 18:30a. Thus, they **errantly by-passed** the **Aaronic** priesthood and went with the line of **Moses** in **violation** of Exodus 28:1, 43!
 - f. Thus, the Danites practiced an **errant ecumenical syncretism** until the captivity of the ark from Shiloh in the 11th century, Ibid., The Ryrie Study Bible, KJV, fn. to Judges 18:30!
 - g. **The reason for such error is given in Judges 19:1a: the lack of Scripture-based leadership left the nation often doing what was right in its own eyes rather than what was right with God!**

Lesson: *The lack of Bible-based leadership in Israel led to apostasy at all levels of society -- apostasy in the home, priesthood, tribe, etc. that harmed even innocent people at the international level!*

Application: *(1) If we are subordinates, may we value and heed good Bible-based leadership. (2) If we are leaders at ANY level of God's appointment, may we ADHERE STRONGLY to SCRIPTURE!*