

Lesson 15: Anarchy in Israel

Judges 17-18

Outline of the Book of Judges

- I. Introduction to the Time of the Judges
(1:1-3:6)

- II. The Careers of the Judges
(3:7-16:31)

- III. Moral Decline During the Time of the Judges
Highlighted
(17-21)

II. The Careers of the Judges (3:7-16:31)

- A. Othniel (3:7-11)
- B. Ehud (3:12-30)
- C. Shamgar (3:31)
- D. Barak (4-5)
- E. Gideon (6-9)
- F. Tola (10:1-2)
- G. Jair (10:3-5)
- H. Jephthah (10:6-12:7)
- I. Ibzan (12:8-10)
- J. Elon (12:11-12)
- K. Abdon (12:13-15)
- L. Samson (13-16)

Thesis Statement

During the time of the judges,
the Israelites became like the Canaanites,
but God preserved them as a distinct, surviving
people and nation
by raising up judges who saved them from their
enemies.

Theme Verse

17:6 “In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.”

18:1 “In those days there was no king in Israel”

19:1 “Now it came about in those days, when there was no king in Israel”

21:25 “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

The sons of Israel did evil in the eyes of the LORD

- 2:11
- 3:7
- 3:12
- 4:1
- 6:1
- 10:6
- 13:1

2 Kings 21:1-2

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hephzibah.

He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

Three Main Concerns

- Corruption of a Tribal Allotment
- Corruption of a Levite
- Corruption of Worship

Manasseh

מונשה

Moses

משה

וְהָיָא בְּעַמְּקֵי אֲשֶׁר לְבֵית־רְחֹב וַיִּבְנוּ אֶת־הָעִיר
שֵׁם־הָעִיר דָּן בְּשֵׁם־^a דָּן אֲבִיהֶם אֲשֶׁר יוֹלֵד
שֵׁם־הָעִיר לָרֵאשֶׁנָּה : ³⁰ וַיִּקְיִמוּ לָהֶם בְּנֵי־דָן אֶת
גִּרְשֵׁם בֶּן־מַלְשָׁה^a הוּא וּבָנָיו הָיוּ כַהֲנִים לְשִׁבְתָּא
הָאָרְצִי : ³¹ וַיִּשְׁיִמוּ לָהֶם אֶת־פֶּסֶל מִיִּכָּה אֲשֶׁר
בֵּית־הָאֱלֹהִים בְּשֵׁלָה^a : פ
¹ וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָהֵם וּמֶלֶךְ אֲרָם בִּישְׂרָאֵל
בִּירְכַתִּי הָר־אֶפְרָיִם וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ אִשָּׁה פִילָגִי

The Talmud

Was he a son of Gershom, or was he not rather a son of Moses? As it is written, the sons of Moses were Gershom and Eliezer, but because he did the deeds of Manasseh the Scripture assigns him to the family of Manasseh.

Rabbah Bar Bar Channah

The prophet studiously avoided calling Gershom the son of Moses, because it would have been ignominious to Moses to have had an ungodly son; but he calls him the son of Manasseh, raising the ן, however, above the line, to show that it might either be inserted or omitted, and that he was the son of either Manasseh or Moses—of Manasseh through imitating his impiety, of Moses by descent.