

THE HOUSE OF MICAH(ABC) – LESSON 32

QUESTION – READ JUDGES 17 & 18

THE HOUSE OF MICAH IS A PICTURE OF A LOCAL CHURCH WITHOUT APOSTOLIC GRACE.

EXPLAIN THE FEATURES OF SUCH A HOUSE.

ANSWERS – ABC – LESSON 32

CONSEQUENCE OF AN ABSENCE OF APOSTOLIC GRACE:

NAME WITHOUT THE NATURE

Judg 17:2-3

2And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears-- here is the silver with me; I took it." And his mother said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!"

3So when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you."(NKJ)

This house lived under the name of the LORD – Hebrew(Jehovah). This house had the right name but was steeped in idol worship – it did not manifest the character/nature of God. The use of the name of God in this house does not authenticate the house.

Apostolic grace builds the nature of God into the house.

The apostles built the character of Christ in their followers.

1 Cor 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.(NKJ)

1Thes 1:6-7

6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.(NKJ)

1 Tim 4:12

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.(NKJ)

1 Pet 2:21

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:(NKJ)

3 Jn 1:11

Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.(NKJ)

Apostolic ministry destroys idols to manifest the truth of Christ.

Acts 17:16

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he

saw that the city was given over to idols.(NKJ)

1Thes 1:6-9

6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,(NKJ)

APOSTOLIC MINISTRY TURNS PEOPLE AWAY FROM IDOLS.

Acts 19:26

"Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.(NKJ)

ERROR SUPPORTED BY EXISTING LEADERSHIP.

Judg 17:3-4

3 So when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you."

4 Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved image and a molded image; and they were in the house of Micah.(NKJ)

The mother of the house supports Micah's idolatry. She does not correct, thus there is no restraint on idolatry.

When apostolic grace is absent, the existing leadership will support all kinds of evils viz.

Adultery, homosexuality, worldliness, rebellion etc.

In 1 Cor. 5 fornication thrived because of an absence of resident apostolic grace. Paul corrects this.

1 Cor 5:1

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles-- that a man has his father's wife! (NKJ)

APOSTLES DISMANTLE ERROR SANCTIONED OR MISSED BY OTHERS IN THE BODY.

PETER

Acts 8:18-21

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,

19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive

the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!"

21 "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.(NKJ)

SIMON'S CHARACTER FLAWS, WHICH ESCAPED PHILLIP'S EVANGELISTIC GRACE IS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED UNDER THE GRACE OF PETER THE APOSTLE.

EZRA

Pagan wives were permitted under Zerubabbel, but not by Ezra.

Ezra 10:2-3

2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this.

3 "Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.(NKJ)

HEZEKIAH

Hezekiah destroys Nehushtan, which was permitted by his predecessors.

II Ki 18:4

He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.(NKJ)

BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION WITHOUT MENTAL TRANSFORMATION.

Judg 17:1-2

1 Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was Micah.

2 And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears-- here is the silver with me; I took it." And his mother said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!" (NKJ)

Micah admits his sin of theft. He returns the stolen money. His action is commendable, but it is motivated by the threat of a curse. Fear got him to do the right thing.

Righteousness is the result of manipulation. The right thing is done because of fear rather than because it is the right thing to do.

In this house the issue of the heart and motives are never addressed.

IN THIS CHURCH THE RIGHT DEEDS ARE MOTIVATED BY FEAR:

ATTEND CHURCH BECAUSE OF FEAR OF HELL.

TITHE BECAUSE OF FEAR OF THE CURSE.

WHEN RIGHT THINGS ARE DONE BECAUSE OF THREATS AND FEAR, THEN THAT HOUSE IS UNDER THE SPELL OF WITCHCRAFT.

WHEN THE ELEMENT OF FEAR IS REMOVED, THEN THE OLD BEHAVIOUR RETURNS.

TEMPORARY BEHAVIOUR CHANGES ARE SEEN IN THE NATION OF ISRAEL IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES ONLY WHILE THE JUDGE LIVED.

Judg 4:1

When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD.(NKJ)

Judg 2:7-11

7 So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.

9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;(NKJ)

When behavioural change is the result of external modifiers, it is temporary. The apostolic brings behavioural change through mental transformation. Thus the individual is consistent in season and out of season. The individual remains consistent even in the absence of supervision.

Phil 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; (NKJ)

Phil 1:27

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,(NKJ)

APOSTOLIC GRACE IS CONCERNED ABOUT BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION THROUGH MENTAL TRANSFORMATION.

(IN THE ABSENCE OF APOSTOLIC GRACE THERE IS BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION THROUGH FEAR).

Eph 4:23

and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,(NKJ)

Phil 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,(NKJ)

Rom 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.(NKJ)

ABSENCE OF VERBAL INTEGRITY.

Judg 17:3-4

3 So when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you."
4 Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved image and a molded image; and they were in the house of Micah.
(NKJ)

Micah's mother declared that she "had wholly dedicated the silver ...to the Lord".
1100 shekels were returned - she surrenders 200 shekels.
This pictures a leadership with no verbal integrity.

APOSTOLIC GRACE BRINGS INTEGRITY INTO THE HOUSE.

Col 3:17

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
(NKJ)

Rom 15:18

18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient--
(NKJ)

II Th 3:7-9

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;
8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,
9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.(NKJ)

“COPYCAT”MENTALITY.

Judg 17:4-5

4 Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred shekels of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.
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.(KJV)

Micah was duplicating the Ark of the Covenant.
Molten image – equivalent to the mercy seat.
Carved image – the ark
Teraphim – replica of the cherubims
Ephod – the priestly garments
Consecration of his son as a priest.

He was building from his imagination. He most likely knew about the exploits of Joshua and the Ark of the Covenant.

He was trying to access the blessings of God through copying.

THIS IS A PICTURE OF A COUNTERFEIT CHURCH.

GOD CANNOT BLESS A COUNTERFEIT CHURCH.

This looks like the Ark but is not the real thing.

Looks like a church but not the real thing.

2 Tim 3:5

having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
(NKJ)

It has a form of godliness.

God has not commissioned or sanctioned this building.

There are many who want God to bless visions from their own minds.

The anointing does not come from the structure – it comes from God.

God's anointing flowed from Shiloh through his structure.

Micah was building an antenna to tap into God's anointing.

We want God to bless something we copy. We copy mannerisms, songs, methods, accents and messages.

God does not move in that which is copied.

We must build by divine prescription.

**WHEN APOSTOLIC GRACE IS ABSENT, THE LOCAL CHURCH COPIES,
BECAUSE SHE LACKS CREATIVITY AND UNIQUENESS.**

Judg 17:6

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

APOSTLES BRING CREATIVITY AND UNIQUENESS INTO THE LOCAL CHURCH.

Rom 15:20

And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation,(NKJ)

THE TEACHINGS OF AN APOSTLE COME FROM DIVINE REVELATION-NOT COPIED INFORMATION.

Gal 1:16-24

16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."

24 And they glorified God in me.(NKJ)

BUILDING FOR SELF.

Judg 17:4-5

4 Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved image and a molded image; and they were in the house of Micah.

5 The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

(NKJ)

Micah had personal support – his mother.

He had a personal shrine - The man Micah had a shrine

He had personal idols - a carved image, a molded image, household idols

Had a personal priest - he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

He was the set man of his own house - not the set man of God. He was building his own kingdom.

APOSTLES BUILD FOR GOD.

1 Cor 10:31

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

(NKJ)

Acts 20:19

19 "serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;(NKJ)

Col 3:24

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.(NKJ)

PAUL CLAIMED DIVINE GRACE FOR BUILDING.

1 Cor 3:9-11

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.(NKJ)

SHORT CUTS

Judg 18:31

So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.(NKJ)

The house of God was in Shiloh. It was the only legitimate place of worship. This was where the real Ark was situated.

MICAH WANTED A CONVENIENT SYSTEM OF WORSHIP:
GEOGRAPHICAL CONVENIENCE – A TEMPLE IN HIS HOUSE.
COST CONVENIENCE – SILVER IDOLS INSTEAD OF GOLD OF THE TABERNACLE
REVELATION WITHOUT REPENTANCE – HE SHOWED NO REMORSE FOR THEFT.
REVELATION WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP.
no sacrifice
no washing of the laver.
no oil for the lampstand.
no shewbread for the table.
no incense for the altar.

The complex access to God in the Tabernacle of Moses was about relationship before revelation.

Micah's copy was grossly inferior. He had no Outer Court or Holy Place.
David already had an intimate relationship with God. His heart was ready. He did not need the preparations of the Outer Court and the Holy Place.
The Apostle Paul's revelation was a result of relationship with God.
See Gal 1:16-24

Apostolic grace demonstrates that revelation is costly – there are no short cuts.

Gal 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.(NKJ)

Gal 6:17

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.(NKJ)

2 Cor 12:7

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.(NKJ)

2 Cor. 11:22-30

A MICAH HOUSE HAS A BELIEF SYSTEM WITHOUT SUFFERING.
IN A HOUSE WITH APOSTOLIC GRACE THERE IS THE ELEMENT OF THE

FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS.

Phil 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,(NKJ)

Phil 1:29

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,(NKJ)

LACK OF DISCERNING AND GULLIBILITY

Judg 17:7-12

7 Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.

8 The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn wherever he could find a place. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

9 And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" So he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay."

10 Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in.

11 Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him.

12 So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in the house of Micah.(NKJ)

Micah fires his son and hires the Levite without checking his credentials. He knew his son better than he knew the Levite. This was an inaccurate, apostate Levite looking for wherever he could find a place. An authentic Levite would have pointed to Shiloh. This Levite was easily bought. The priesthood was national, not personal.

IN THE HOUSE OF MICAH THERE ARE NO STANDARDS FOR MINISTRY. ANYONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF A MAN OF GOD CAN FIND EMPLOYMENT HERE. AN INACCURATE, UNEMPLOYED LEVITE, WITH NO VISION AND PURPOSE COMES TO AN INACCURATE HOUSE – SUDDENLY HE HAS A MINISTRY AND IS PAID. THIS IS THE RESULT OF AN ABSENCE OF APOSTOLIC GRACE.

APOSTOLIC GRACE ELEVATES THE STANDARD OF MINISTRY IN A LOCAL CHURCH. THE DISCERNING OF THE HOUSE IS SHARPENED.

THE APOSTLE PAUL OUTLINED QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS: 1 TIM. 3, TITUS 1)

APPOINTMENT TO MINISTRY FOLLOWS A PERIOD OF WAITING.

1 Tim 5:22

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.(NKJ)

FALSE TEACHERS AND PROPHETS ETC. ARE IDENTIFIED.

2 Cor 11:12-13

12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

(NKJ)

2 Pet 2:1

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.(NKJ)

HOUSE OF SENTIMENTALISM.

The house of Micah is plagued with sentimentalism:

The mother blesses her son instead of chastising him for theft.

Judg 17:2

And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears-- here is the silver with me; I took it." And his mother said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!"(NKJ)

His son was appointed as priest although he was not of the Levitical order.

Judg 17:5

Now this man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some idols and installed one of his sons as his priest.(NIV)

His son is quickly replaced by the Levite.

Judg 17:12

Then Micah installed the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in his house.(NIV)

Micah asks the Levite to father him, but soon ends up fathering the Levite.

Judg 17:10-11

10 Then Micah said to him, "Live with me and be my father and priest, and I'll give you ten shekels of silver a year, your clothes and your food."

11 So the Levite agreed to live with him, and the young man was to him like one of his sons.(NIV)

WHEN APOSTOLIC GRACE IS ABSENT, SENTIMENTALISM CONTROLS THE DYNAMICS OF THE HOUSE.

APOSTOLIC GRACE DEMONSTRATES THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS BASED ON TRUTH, NOT SENTIMENT.

Ananias and Sapphira(Acts 5) die in the midst of Apostolic grace.
Paul and Barnabas split because of the conflict between truth and sentiment.

(Acts 15:37-40)
The fornicator is disciplined.(1Cor.5)

HOUSE OF SUPERFICIALITY.

Judg 17:10-11

10 Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in.
11 Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him.(NKJ)

In this house covenant language is used loosely.

In present terms, Micah is saying to the Levite "I want you to father me".

All of this is based on outward assessment:

The man is from Bethlehem.

Calls himself a levite.

Levite is employed as a father – in the next verse he becomes a son.

APOSTOLIC GRACE IS CONCERNED ABOUT DEPTH.

Rom 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?"
35 "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?"
36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever.
Amen.(NKJ)

Eph 3:13-19

13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.
14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,
17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height--
19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.(NKJ)

FALSE SECURITY

Judg 17:13

Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!"(NKJ)

Micah believed that he would be prosperous because he now had a Levite to service his tabernacle – his outward structure was complete. (He had the replica of the Ark of the Covenant. All he needed was a Levite to fulfil his vision.) But this was a counterfeit system of worship.

GOD CANNOT BLESS THE COUNTERFEIT. HE CANNOT BLESS THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE FLESH.

I Jn 5:14

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.(NKJ)

CONFIDENCE IS BASED ON THE WILL OF GOD.

Micah was confident in a structure not sanctioned by God. His confidence was fleshly.

Phil 3:3

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,(NKJ)

APOSTOLIC GRACE REVEALS THAT BLESSINGS ARE THE RESULT OF OBEDIENCE RATHER THAN EXTERNAL STRUCTURES. THESE BLESSINGS DEMAND CONFORMITY TO THE HEAVENLY PATTERN.

GODLINESS, GOOD WORKS ETC ARE PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOUR THAT RESULT FROM INTERNAL CHANGE IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF APOSTOLIC GRACE.

1 Tim 4:8

For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.(NKJ)

Rom 6:16-18

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
(NKJ)

Rom 6:22

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.
(NKJ)

Titus 3:8

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.(NKJ)

SOUL PROSPERITY(INTERNAL CHANGE) IS RELATED TO OUTWARD PROSPERITY.

3 Jn 1:2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.(NKJ)

PROGRESSIVE ERROR.

Judg 17:10

10 Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in.(NKJ)

Judg 18:19-20

19 And they said to him, "Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?"

20 So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people.(NKJ)

Judg 18:31

31 So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.(NKJ)

FROM BEING A PRIEST TO A SINGLE FAMILY, THE LEVITE MIGRATES TO BECOMING A PRIEST TO THE TRIBE OF DAN.

THE CURSE OF IDOLATRY SPREADS INCREMENTALLY.

IN THE ABSENCE OF APOSTOLIC GRACE ERROR INCREASES.

WHEN PAUL LEFT EPHESUS, THE WOLVES CAME IN.

Acts 20:29-32

29 "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (NKJ)

IN THE ABSENCE OF APOSTOLIC GRACE, THOSE IN ASIA TURNED AWAY FROM PAUL.

2 Tim 1:15

This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.(NKJ)

ABSENT FATHER/KING

The voice of Micah's father is absent. There was also no king in Israel. This typifies an absence of apostolic grace.

Judg 17:6

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.(NKJ)

Judg 18:1

1 In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them.(NKJ)

1 Cor 4:15-16

15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.(NKJ)