October 25, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God has seen the cold hearts of His people, their spiritual apathy, social injustice, and ugly greed, and He was bringing loving discipline.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:
Heavenly Father, please help me pursue good choices for You.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
"I said, 'Surely you will fear Me, you will receive instruction'- so that her dwelling would not be cut off, despite everything for which I punished her. But they rose early and corrupted all their deeds."

(Jeph 3:7 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", July 13, 2023)

Fall Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

NEXT WEEK

Unit 3: From Judges to Kings

The Prophet Is Called

1 Samuel 3:8-20

A Lack of Instruction
Judges 17:1-6; 18:18-19, 27

Lesson Background and Introduction

An accurate understanding of the book of Judges hinges on knowing the covenant God established with the Hebrew people. God gave instructions for holy living and proper worship. For example, he expressly prohibited the making of carved images and idols (Exodus 20:4; 34:17; Leviticus 26:1; Deuteronomy 5:8; 27:15). God inaugurated the tabernacle as the central place of worship for Israel (Exodus 26:1-37; 36:8-38; 40:1-38; Deuteronomy 12:1-14). He established a priesthood (Exodus 28:1; Numbers 3:5-10). He consecrated and ordained the priests to be the purveyors and administrators of the covenant, overseeing the sacrificial system (Exodus 29:1-9; compare Leviticus 9:22-24; Numbers 1:47-51). God also gave regulations concerning the priests' attire (Exodus 28; 39:2-31). From all these and others, we see a picture of required faithfulness and obedience through attention to detail.

The book of Judges focuses on the Israelites' repeated apostasy. Apostasy is what happens when faith is abandoned, whether through the willful and outright refusal to conform to the conditions of the covenant or as a gradual slipping away from obedience and faithful practice. The events surrounding Micah's household and the conquest of Laish happened early in the judges' era, even though they are not mentioned until late in the book. This is established by comparing Joshua 19:47 (where the town of Laish is called "Leshem") with Judges 1:34; 18:1, 27-29. Therefore, Micah lived during the days of Othniel, Israel's first judge, in the mid-1300s BC (Judges 3:7-11).

Key Verses: Judges 17:6

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

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

MISGUIDED WORSHIP (JUDGES 17:1-6)

Worship based on stolen offerings (1-2)

Offerings of the wicked (Prov 15:8)

Offerings of those who do not please God (Hos 8:12-13)

Offerings that have not been given in the right way (Gen 4:5-7)

Offerings that are meaningless (Isa 1:13-17)

Worship dedicated for idols (3-4)

Worship of idols (Ps 97:7)

Worship must be to God only (Matt 4:10)

Worship of heavenly bodies (Acts 7:42)

Worship of angels (Col 2:18)

Worship done in a worldly manner (5-6)

Worship with rules of man (Matt 15:9)

Worship that is not done in spirit and truth (John 4:21-24)

Worship by those that do not keep a tight rein on the tongue (James 1:26)

Worship of idols that are nothing compared to God (1 Cor 8:4)

MISGUIDED RELATIONS (JUDGES 18:18-19, 27)

Relations conquered (18-19)

Conquered because of the love of money (1 Tim 6:10)

Conquered because of bribes (Isa 1:23)

Conquered because of illicit favors (Ezek 16:33)

Conquered because of ungodly agreements (Judg 17:10-12)

Relations destroyed (27)

Destroyed because of mingling too long with sin (Ps 106:35-36)

Destroyed because of playing with the fire of sin (Prov 6:27-28)

Destroyed because of being yoked together with sin or wickedness (2 Cor 6:14-15)

Destroyed because of things that contaminates the body and spirit (2Cor 7:1)