

# ***GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST***

*Sermon by Ray Reynolds*

## **YOU BE THE JUDGE: A SERIES ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES**

*Lesson Nine = Spiritual Anarchy*

**Judges 17-18**

Introduction: The days of the Judges have come to an end, but the story is far from over. The death of Samson brings a new phase of religion to the Israelites. Idolatry and spiritual anarchy takes off among the children of God. Instead of turning to God for deliverance they rely on their own strength and create their own system of religion. It is clear that the writer intends for the reader to see the tragedy of anarchy at the end of his book. These final stories show the depths of degradation. God's children would sink so low that even He would reject them. Let's study together . . . . .

Discussion:

### ***I. Spiritual Anarchy in the Home (17:1-13)***

- A. An Immoral Son (vs.1-3)
  - Stolen silver is applauded.
  - He is dishonest and he is a thief.
- B. An Immoral Mother (vs.4-6)
  - The stolen silver becomes an idol and a statue.
- C. An Immoral Priest (vs.7-13)
  - The idolater hires a priest.
  - The priest is willing to surrender any moral values.

### ***II. Spiritual Anarchy in the Nation (18:1-31)***

- A. The Nation Needed A King (v.1, 17:6)
  - The people were incomplete without a leader.
- B. The Danites Needed A Homeland (vs.1-2)
  - These people were totally lost!
  - For years they had wandered without a place to call home.
- C. The Danites Needed Wisdom (vs.3-10)
  - Scouts from Dan meet the priest.
  - They asked him for prayers and he gave them his opinion.
- D. The Danites Needed A God (vs.11-21)
  - 600 Danites headed off to war and went to Micah's house.
  - They influenced the priest to go with them.
  - Together they steal everything that belonged to Micah.
- E. The Danites Needed A Victory (vs.22-31)
  - Micah wanted his gods and his priest, but did not get them.
  - Instead they were so excited they went on to Laish and fought.
  - They destroyed this city and killed the innocent people there.

Conclusion: The children of God suppressed the truth in unrighteousness and experienced the wrath of God as a result. It is clear that spiritual anarchy has taken over among the nation of Israel. However, the story is not over and this will lead to moral anarchy before God steps in to take control. What happens next? We will see in our next lesson. . . .