

# The Territory of Judges 17-21

1:29 Neither did **Ephraim** drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

3:27 And it came to pass, when [Ehud] was come, that he blew a trumpet in the **mountain of Ephraim**, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

5:14 Out of **Ephraim** was there a root of them against Amalek [whose root was in Amalek];

8:1 And the men of **Ephraim** said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.

Judg. 12:1 And the men of **Ephraim** gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said unto Jephthah, Wherefore passedst thou over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thine house upon thee with fire.



Ephraim as title for the Northern Kingdom

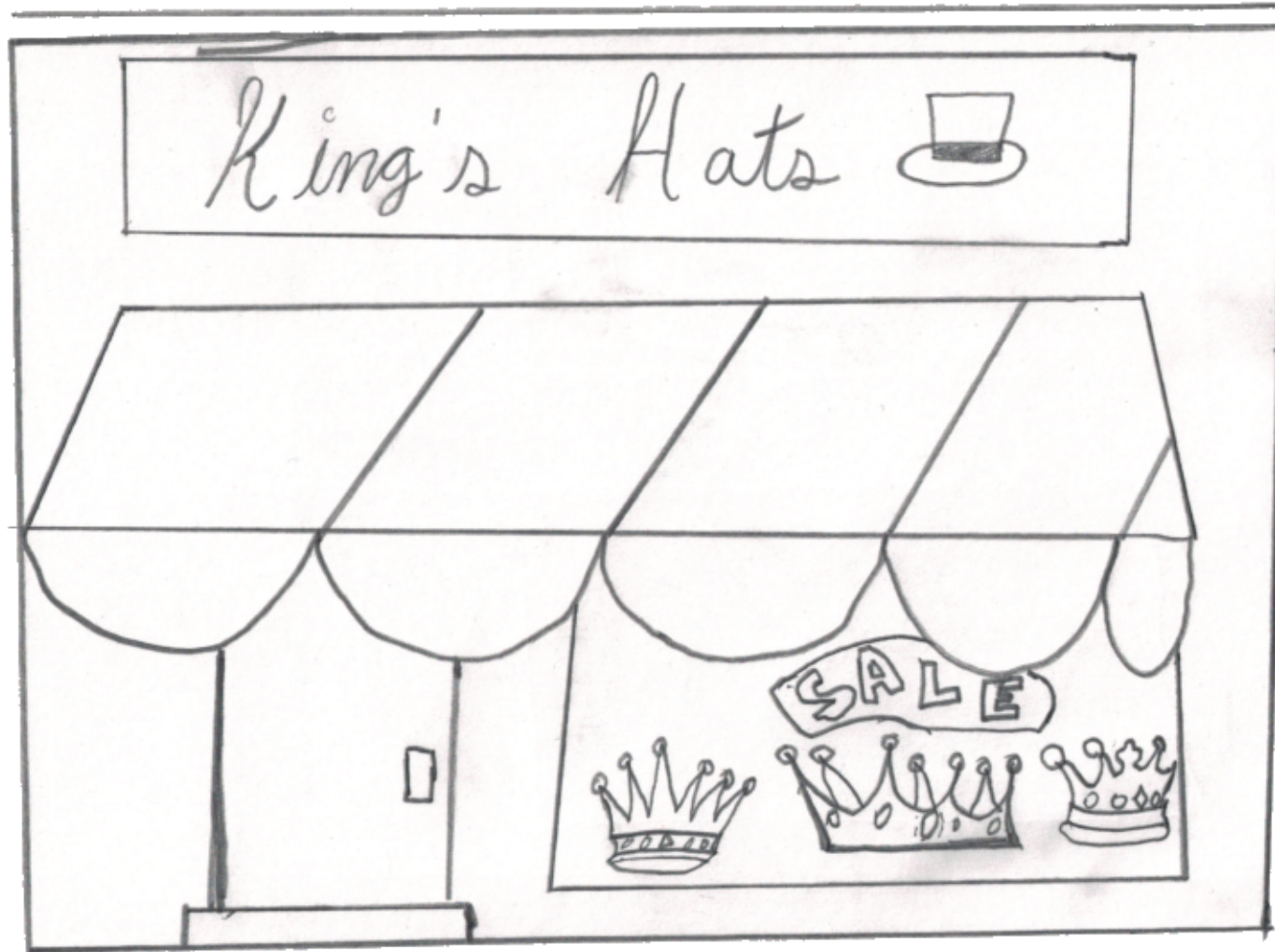
1Ki 12:25 Then Jeroboam built **Shechem in mount Ephraim**, and dwelt therein;

Isa 7:2 And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with **Ephraim**. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind.

... 9 And the head of **Ephraim** is **Samaria**, ...

Jer 7:15 And I will cast you [Judah] out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of **Ephraim**.

Hos 5:3 I know **Ephraim**, and **Israel** is not hid from me: for now, O **Ephraim**, thou committest whoredom, and **Israel** is defiled.



Judges 17:6

6 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

- At this time, what was the political situation in Israel?



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Bilson Peters

## Judges: Between Conquest and Kingdom

1:1-3:6, Prolog

1:1-2:5, **Social** Disintegration

2:6-3:6, **Spiritual** Departure

3:7-16:31, The Judges

17:1-21:25, Epilog and Diagnosis

17:1-18:31, **Spiritual** Weakness: **Dan**

17:1-5, An Irregular Sanctuary

17:6, **Refrain: No King**

17:7-13, An Irregular Levite

18:1a, **Refrain: No King**

18:1b-32, An Irregular Tribe

19:1-21:25, **Social** Strife: **Benjamin**

19:1a, **Refrain: No King**

19:2b-21:24, Reconciliation, Rape, Revenge

21:25, **Refrain: No King**

## The Rise and Fall of the House of Micah

Rise:

- 1: Godly name
- 2a: Spiritually sensitive
- 2b: Mother believes in the LORD
- 3a: Mother dedicates wealth to the LORD

Fall:

- 3b: Mother seeks an idol
- 4: Mother violates her vow
- 5a: Micah's house of idols
- 5b: Micah's defective priesthood

# Graven Images and the Lord



Ebal and Gerizim from the east. Van and Anita Parunak, November 1974

17:3 a graven and a molten image

Deut. 27:14 And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice, 15 Cursed be the man that maketh **any graven or molten image**, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

17:3 unto the LORD ... to make a[n] ... image

Deu 4:15 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for **ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you** in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: 16 Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and **make you a graven image**, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, 17 The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, 18 The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth:

Exod 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain [lift up the name of the Lord thy God to **vanity**]

Jer. 18:15 my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to **vanity**,

# Compromised Vows

17:4 two hundred shekels

Acts 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. ... 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And **kept back part of the price**, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Deut. 23:21 When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, **thou shalt not slack to pay it**: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. 22 But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. 23 That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.

# 17:5, Micah's House of Gods

Judg. 6:25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down **the altar of Baal** that thy father hath, and cut down **the grove** that is by it:

Judg. 8:27 And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c6/LEV\\_8-High\\_priest\\_in\\_robos\\_and\\_breastplate.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c6/LEV_8-High_priest_in_robos_and_breastplate.jpg)

# Teraphim H8655: Household Gods

Gen. 31:19 And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the **images H8655** that were her father's. 20 And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled.

Gen. 31:30 And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods?

Gen. 31:34 Now Rachel had taken the **images H8655**, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not. 35 And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women is upon me. And he searched, but found not the **images H8655**.

Gen 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. 2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, **Put away the strange gods that are among you**, and be clean, and change your garments: 3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. 4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

Jos 24:22 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. 23 Now therefore **put away**, said he, **the strange gods which are among you**, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.