

The Missing Idol

Judg 18:20-31

Judg. 17:4 ... 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**, ...

Judg. 18:14 Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in these houses an **ephod**, and **teraphim**, and a **graven image**, and a **molten image**? now therefore consider what ye have to do.

Judg. 18:17 And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, and came in thither, and took the **graven image**, and the **ephod**, and the **teraphim**, and the **molten image**: ...

Judg. 18:18 And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the **carved image**, the **ephod**, and the **teraphim**, and the **molten image**.

Judg. 18:20 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the **ephod**, and the **teraphim**, and the **graven image**, and went in the midst of the people.

Judg. 18:30 And the children of Dan set up the **graven image**: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

Judg. 18:31 And they set them up Micah's **graven image**, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Replacing the molten image:

1Ki 12:28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, ... 29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

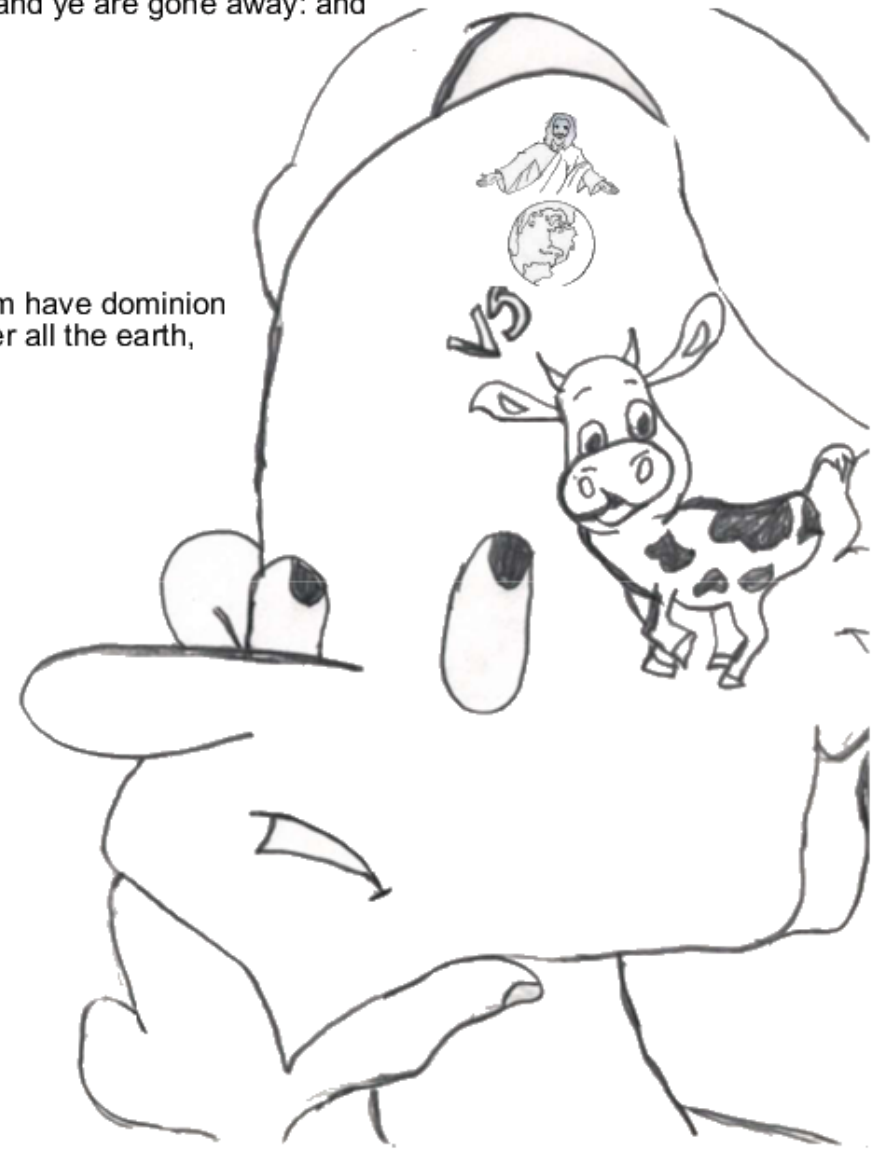
Judges 18:24

24 And he said, Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? and what is this that ye say unto me, What aileth thee?

Genesis 1:26

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

- What did God say that man would have dominion over?



The Impotence of Man-Made Gods

Is 44:10 Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing? ... 12 The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. 13 The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. 14 He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. 15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. 16 He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: 17 And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

Isa 46:1 Bel boweth down, Nebo stoopeth, **their idols were upon the beasts**, and upon the cattle: your carriages were heavy loaden; **they are a burden** to the weary beast. 2 They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves are gone into captivity. 3 Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are **borne by me** from the belly, which are carried from the womb: 4 And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs **will I carry you**: I have made, and **I will bear; even I will carry**, and will deliver you.

An Unjustified Conquest

	18:7	18:27, 28
A: Echo	Then the five men departed, and came to Laish , and saw the people that were therein,	27 ... they ... came unto Laish ,
	how they dwelt careless [without care], after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure ;	unto a people that were at quiet and secure :
B: Action		and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire.
A: Echo	there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing;	28 And there was no deliverer ,
	and they were far from the Zidonians ,	because it was far from Zidon ,
	and had no business with any man .	and they had no business with any man ;
(location)		and it was in the valley that lieth by Bethrehob.
B: Action		And they built a city, and dwelt therein.

Burning and Building?

Deut 6:10 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, **to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, 11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not;** when thou shalt have eaten and be full; 12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Josh. 11:12 And all the cities of those kings, and all the kings of them, did Joshua take, and smote them with the edge of the sword, and he utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. 13 But as for the cities that stood still in their strength upon their tells, **Israel burned none of them, save Hazor only;** that did Joshua burn. 14 And all the spoil of these cities, and the cattle, the children of Israel took for a prey unto themselves; but every man they smote with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, neither left they any to breathe.

Dan's "Blessings"

Rachel:

Gen 30:6 And Rachel said, God hath **judged H1777** me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name **Dan**.

Jacob:

Gen 49:16 **Dan** shall judge **H1777** his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. 17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward. 18 I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.

Moses:

Deu 33:22 And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan.



Micah's Levite and the Structure of Judges

Prolog	A: Fighting	Israel Fights Enemies (1:1-2:5)
	B: Idolatry	Israel Faces Idolatry (2:6-3:6)
Center of Cycles	B: Idolatry	Gideon Faces Idolatry (6:1-32)
	A: Fighting	Gideon Fights Enemies (6:33-7:25)
	A: Fighting	Gideon Fights Israel (8:1-21)
	B: Idolatry	Gideon Forges Idolatry (8:22-32)
Epilog	B: Idolatry	Israel Forges Idolatry (17:1-18:31)
	A: Fighting	Israel Fights Israel (19:1-21-25)

Other insights from this history:

- Two idols → Baal and Asherah/Ashterah (2:13; 3:7; 10:6)
- Faithfulness of Samson's parents (they didn't move north!)
- Samson's solo heroism