

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 9

Sefer Shoftim- A book about Judges or Kings -Part III

The final unit (chapters 17-21)

Pessel Micha - idol worship or idle worship & shevet Levi

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Review

I. The final unit – chapters 17-21

What makes it a distinct unit?

NO JUDGES

NO CYCLE

COMMON REFRAIN

“During those days... NO KING in Israel...”

II. Review of the Outline

Chapter

Topic

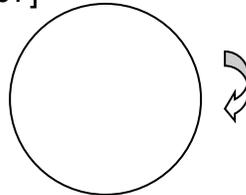
1

Background - *Who conquered, and who didn't*
[A segue from Sefer Yehoshua to Shoftim]

2

Stating the thesis - *the 'cycle' - intro to the first theme:*
→ *The danger of appointing a King*

[leaving God → trouble → 'crying out' → salvation → quiet...]
[compare this cycle with Tehillim 107]



3 - 8

Proving the thesis - *the 'good' "shoftim" [judges]*

The stories of

Otniel (40 years)

Ehud (80 years / includes Shamgar?),

Devorah (40 years)

Gideon (40 years, note request re: King at end of story!)

9 -10

The story re: Avimelech - *an 'anomaly'*

Intro to the second theme: The danger of not appointing a King

[note how Avimelech **does not** fit the above cycle - note his character]

10 -16

The stories re: Yiftach & Shimshon -

Proof from the 'not so good' "shoftim" - note years are not '40'

Note as well the numerous 'one-liner' shoftim

17 -21

Three additional 'stories' - *'not involving "shoftim"*

Third & final theme: the need for educational leadership of shevet Levi

Note the phrase "ba'yamim ha'heyim, ein melech b'Yisrael..."

In each story - note as well how they relate to 'anarchy'

Pay attention to the character of the "ish Levi" involved in each story!

1. "pesel Micha" - Idol made by Micha & shevet Dan,
2. "pilegash b'Givah" - (how & why he cut up her body)
3. "milchemet Binyamin" - the civil war against Binyamin & the attempt to find wives for the 600 male survivors.

III. A 'short story' with ironic (or sarcastic) detail

Note as well parallels to Sefer Shmot

Shoftim chapter 17

א וַיְהִי-אִישׁ מֵהַר-אֶפְרַיִם, וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיכָהוּ.

1 Now there was a man of the hill-country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah.

ב וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ אֶלֶף וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לָקַח-לָךְ, וְאֵתִי (וְאֶתָּה) אָלִית - וְגַם אָמַרְתָּ בְּאָזְנֵי, הִנֵּה-הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי, אֲנִי לָקַחְתִּיו; **וְתֹאמַר אִמּוֹ, בְּרוּךְ בְּנִי לַיהוָה.**

2 And he said unto his mother: 'The eleven hundred pieces of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou didst utter a curse, and didst also speak it in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it.' And his mother said: 'Blessed be my son of the LORD.'

ג וַיָּשֶׁב אֶת-אֶלֶף-וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף, לְאִמּוֹ; וְתֹאמַר אִמּוֹ הַקָּדָשׁ הַקָּדָשְׁתִּי אֶת-הַכֶּסֶף לַיהוָה מִיָּדִי לְבָנִי, לַעֲשׂוֹת פֶּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה, וְעַתָּה, אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ לָךְ.

3 And he restored the eleven hundred pieces of silver to his mother, and his mother said: 'I verily dedicate the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image; now therefore I will restore it unto thee.'

ד וַיָּשֶׁב אֶת-הַכֶּסֶף, לְאִמּוֹ; וְתִקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֵתִים כֶּסֶף וְתַתְּנֶהוּ לְצוּרָף, וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פֶסֶל וּמִסְכָּה, וַיְהִי, בְּבַיִת מִיכָהוּ.

4 And when he restored the money unto his mother, his mother took two hundred pieces of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image; and it was in the house of Micah.

ה וְהָאִישׁ מִיכָה, לוֹ בַיִת אֱלֹהִים; וַיַּעַשׂ אֶפֻּד, וַיִּתְּרָפִים, וַיְמַלֵּא אֶת-יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו, וַיְהִי-לוֹ לַכֹּהֵן.

5 And the man Micah had a house of God, and he made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

ו **בַּיָּמִים הֵהֵם, אֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:** אִישׁ הַיִּשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֵינָיו, יַעֲשֶׂה. {פ}

6 In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes. {P}

ז וַיְהִי-נֶעַר, מִבֵּית לָחַם יְהוּדָה, מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת, יְהוּדָה; וְהוּא לֵוִי, וְהוּא גֵר-שָׁם.

7 And there was a young man out of Beth-lehem in Judah--in the family of Judah--who was a Levite, and he sojourned there.

ח וַיֵּלֶךְ הָאִישׁ מִהָעִיר, מִבֵּית לָחַם יְהוּדָה, לְגוֹר, בְּאֶשֶׁר יִמָּצָא; וַיָּבֵא הַר-אֶפְרַיִם עַד-בַּיִת מִיכָה, לַעֲשׂוֹת דָּרְכוֹ.

8 And the man departed out of the city, out of Beth-lehem in Judah, to sojourn where he could find a place; and he came to the hill-country of Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

ט וַיֹּאמֶר-לוֹ מִיכָה, מֵאֵין תָּבוֹא; וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו

9 And Micah said unto him: 'Whence

לְוִי אָנֹכִי, מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדָה, וְאָנֹכִי הַלֵּךְ, לָגוּר בְּאֶשֶׁר אֲמָצָא. comest thou?' And he said unto him: 'I am a Levite of Beth-lehem in Judah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.'

י וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מִיכָה שְׁבֵה עִמָּדִי, וְהָיָה-לִי לְאָב וּלְכֹהֵן, וְאָנֹכִי אֶתֶן-לְךָ עֶשְׂרֵת כֶּסֶף לַיָּמִים, וְעֶרְךָ בְּגָדִים וּמְחִיתֶךָ; וַיֵּלֶךְ, הַלֵּוִי. 10 And Micah said unto him: 'Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten pieces of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals.' So the Levite went in.

יא וַיֹּאֶל הַלֵּוִי, לְשֹׁבֵת אֶת-הָאִישׁ; וַיְהִי הַנְּעָר לוֹ, כְּאֶחָד מִבְּנָיו. 11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.

יב וַיְמַלֵּא מִיכָה אֶת-יַד הַלֵּוִי, וַיְהִי-לוֹ הַנְּעָר לְכֹהֵן; וַיְהִי, בְּבֵית מִיכָה. 12 And Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

יג וַיֹּאמֶר מִיכָה--עֲתָה יָדַעְתִּי, כִּי-יִיטִיב יְהוָה לִי: כִּי הָיָה-לִי הַלֵּוִי, לְכֹהֵן. {פ} 13 Then said Micah: 'Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite as my priest.'

Chapter 18

א בַּיָּמִים הֵהֵם, אִין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל; וּבַיָּמִים הֵהֵם, שָׁבַט הַדָּנִי מִבִּקֵּשׁ-לוֹ נַחֲלָה לְשֹׁבֵת--כִּי לֹא-נִפְלָה לוֹ עַד-הַיּוֹם הַהוּא בְּתוֹךְ-שְׁבֻטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּנַחֲלָה. {פ} 1 In those days there was no king in Israel; and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day there had nothing been allotted unto them among the tribes of Israel for an inheritance. {P}

ב וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ בְנֵי-דָן מִמִּשְׁפַּחְתָּם חֲמִשָּׁה אַנְשִׁים מִקְצוֹתָם אַנְשִׁים בְּנֵי-חֵיל מִצְרָעָה וּמֵאֶשְׁתָּאֵל, לְרַגֵּל אֶת-הָאָרֶץ וּלְחַקְרָהּ, וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֵהֶם, לְכוּ חַקְרוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ; וַיָּבֹאוּ הֵר-אֶפְרַיִם עַד-בֵּית מִיכָה, וַיִּלְּנוּ שָׁם. 2 And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their whole number, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them: 'Go, search the land'; and they came to the hill-country of Ephraim, unto the house of Micah, and lodged there.

ג הֵמָּה, עִם-בֵּית מִיכָה, וְהֵמָּה הִכִּירוּ, אֶת-קוֹל הַנְּעָר הַלֵּוִי; וַיִּסּוּרוּ שָׁם, וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ מִי-הֵבִיאָךְ הֵלֶם, וּמָה-אֶתָּה עֹשֶׂה בְּזֵה, וּמָה-לְךָ פֹה. 3 When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite; and they turned aside thither, and said unto him: 'Who brought thee hither? and what doest thou in this place? and what hast thou here?'

ד וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם--כָּזָה וְכָזָה, עָשָׂה לִי מִיכָה; וַיִּשְׁכַּרְנִי, וְאֵהִי-לוֹ לְכֹהֵן. 4 And he said unto them: 'Thus and thus hath Micah dealt with me, and he hath hired me, and I am become his priest.'

ה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ, שְׁאַל-נָא בְּאֵלֵהֶם; וַיִּנְדְּעָה--הַתְּצַלַח דְרַכֵּנוּ, אֲשֶׁר אֲנַחְנוּ הֹלְכִים עִלְיָהּ. 5 And they said unto him: 'Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we are going shall be prosperous.'

ו וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הַכֹּהֵן, לְכוּ לְשָׁלוֹם; נִכַח יְהוָה, 6 And the priest said unto them: 'Go in peace; before the LORD is your way

דַּרְכְּכֶם אֲשֶׁר תֵּלְכוּ-בָהּ. {פ}

wherein ye go.' {P}

ז וַיֵּלְכוּ חֲמִשָּׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים, וַיָּבֹאוּ לַיִּשָּׁה; וַיִּרְאוּ אֶת-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-בְּקִרְבָּהּ יוֹשְׁבֵת-לְבֶטֶח כְּמִשְׁפַּט צְדָנִים שָׁקֵט וּבֶטֶח, וְאִין-מְכָלִים דָּבָר בְּאֶרֶץ יוֹרֵשׁ עֶצֶר, וּרְחוּקִים הֵמָּה מִצִּידֹנִים, וְדָבָר אִין-לָהֶם עִם-אָדָם.

7 Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt in security, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; for there was none in the land, possessing authority, that might put them to shame in any thing, and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no dealings with any man.

ח וַיָּבֹאוּ, אֶל-אֲחֵיהֶם, צְרָעָה, וְאַשְׁתָּאֵל; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהֶם אֲחֵיהֶם, מָה אַתֶּם.

8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol; and their brethren said unto them: 'What say ye?'

ט וַיֹּאמְרוּ, קוּמָה וְנַעֲלָה עֲלֵיהֶם, כִּי רָאינוּ אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ, וְהִנֵּה טוֹבָה מְאֹד; וְאַתֶּם מְחַשְׂשִׁים--אֶל-תַּעֲצָלוּ, לָלֶכֶת לְבֹא לְרִשֵׁת אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ.

9 And they said: 'Arise, and let us go up against them; for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good; and are ye still? be not slothful to go and to enter in to possess the land.'

י כְּבִאֲכֶם תָּבֹאוּ אֶל-עַם בֶּטֶח, וְהָאֶרֶץ רַחֲבַת יָדַיִם--כִּי-נִתְּנָה אֱלֹהִים, בְּיַדְכֶם: מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אִין-שָׁם מַחְסוֹר, כֹּל-דָּבָר אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ.

10 When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and the land is large; for God hath given it into your hand; a place where there is no want; it hath every thing that is in the earth.'

יא וַיִּסְעוּ מִשָּׁם מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת הַדָּנִי, מִצְרָעָה וּמֵאַשְׁתָּאֵל, שֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אִישׁ, חֲגוּר כָּלִי מִלְחָמָה.

11 And there set forth from thence of the family of the Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men girt with weapons of war.

יב וַיַּעֲלוּ, וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּקִרְיַת יַעֲרִים--בִּיהוּדָה; עַל-כֵּן קָרְאוּ לַמְּקוֹם הַהוּא מַחֲנֵה-דָן, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה--הִנֵּה, אַחֲרֵי קִרְיַת יַעֲרִים.

12 And they went up, and encamped in Kiriath-jearim, in Judah; wherefore that place was called Mahaneh-dan unto this day; behold, it is behind Kiriath-jearim.

יג וַיַּעֲבְרוּ מִשָּׁם, הַר-אֶפְרַיִם; וַיָּבֹאוּ, עַד-בַּיִת מִיכָה.

13 And they passed thence unto the hill-country of Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.

יד וַיַּעֲנוּ חֲמִשָּׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים, הַהֹלְכִים לְרַגְלֵ אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ לַיִשׁ, וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-אֲחֵיהֶם, הֲיִדְעֶתֶם כִּי יֵשׁ בְּבֵתִים הָאֵלֶּה אֶפֹּד וְתַרְפִּים וּפְסָל וּמִסְכָּה; וְעַתָּה, דַּעוּ מָה-תַּעֲשׂוּ.

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.'

טו וַיִּסּוּרוּ שָׁמָּה, וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בַּיִת-הַנְּעָר הַלְוִי בַיִת מִיכָה; וַיִּשְׁאַל-לוּ, לְשָׁלוֹם.

15 And they turned aside thither, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and asked him of his welfare.

טז וַיֵּשֶׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת אִישׁ, חֲגוּרִים כָּלִי מִלְחָמָתָם, נֹצְבִים, פֶּתַח הַשַּׁעַר--אֲשֶׁר, מִבְּנֵי-דָן.

16 And the six hundred men girt with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate.

יז וַיַּעֲלוּ חֲמִשָּׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים, הַהֹלְכִים לְרַגֵּל אֶת-
הָאָרֶץ--בָּאוּ שָׁמָּה, לְקַחוּ אֶת-הַפֶּסֶל וְאֶת-
הָאֵפוֹד וְאֶת-הַתְּרָפִים וְאֶת-הַמַּסַּכָּה; וְהִכְהִינוּ,
נֹצֵב פֶּתַח הַשַּׁעַר, וְשֵׁשׁ-מֵאוֹת הָאִישׁ, הַחֲגוּר כְּלֵי
הַמִּלְחָמָה.

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; and the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men girt with weapons of war.

יח וְאֵלֶּה, בָּאוּ בֵּית מִיכָה, וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת-פֶּסֶל
הָאֵפוֹד, וְאֶת-הַתְּרָפִים וְאֶת-הַמַּסַּכָּה;
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם הִכְהִינוּ, מָה אַתֶּם עֹשִׂים.

18 And when these went into Micah's house, and fetched the graven image of the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image, the priest said unto them: 'What do ye?'

יט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ הַחֲרָשׁ--שִׁים-יָדָךְ עַל-פִּיךָ,
וְלֹךְ עִמָּנוּ, וְהָיָה-לָנוּ, לְאָב וּלְכֹהֵן;
הַטּוֹב הַיּוֹתֵד כֹּהֵן, לְבַיַּת אִישׁ אֶחָד, אוֹ הַיּוֹתֵד
כֹּהֵן, לְשֵׁבֶט וּלְמִשְׁפָּחָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל.

19 And they said unto him: 'Hold thy peace, lay thy hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest; is it better for thee to be priest unto the house of one man, or to be priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel?'

כ וַיִּיטֵב, לֵב הַכֹּהֵן, וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הָאֵפוֹד, וְאֶת-
הַתְּרָפִים וְאֶת-הַפֶּסֶל; וַיָּבֵא, בְּקֶרֶב הָעָם.

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.

כא וַיִּפְּנוּ, וַיֵּלְכוּ; וַיִּשְׁימוּ אֶת-הַטֹּף וְאֶת-
הַמְּקָנָה, וְאֶת-הַכְּבוֹדָה--לִפְנֵיהֶם.

21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the goods before them.

כב הִמָּה הֲרַחִיקוּ, מִבַּיַּת מִיכָה; וְהָאֲנָשִׁים,
אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵתִים אֲשֶׁר עִם-בַּיַּת מִיכָה, נִזְעְקוּ,
וַיַּדְבִּיקוּ אֶת-בְּנֵי-דָן.

22 When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that were in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan.

כג וַיִּקְרְאוּ, אֶל-בְּנֵי-דָן, וַיִּסְבוּ, פְּנֵיהֶם;
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְמִיכָה, מַה-לָּךְ כִּי נִזְעַקְתָּ.

23 And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah: 'What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company?'

כד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי אֲשֶׁר-עָשִׂיתִי לְקַחְתֶּם
וְאֶת-הַכֹּהֵן, וַתֵּלְכוּ--וּמַה-לִּי עוֹד;
וּמַה-זֶּה תֹּאמְרוּ אֵלַי, מַה-לָּךְ.

24 And he said: 'Ye have taken away my god which I made, and the priest, and are gone away, and what have I more? and how then say ye unto me: What aileth thee?'

כה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו בְּנֵי-דָן, אֵל-תִּשְׁמַע קוֹלְךָ
עִמָּנוּ--פֶּן-יִפְּגְעוּ בְּכֶם, אֲנָשִׁים מְרֵי נַפְשׁ,
וְאִסְפְּתָה נַפְשֶׁךָ, וְנָפַשׁ בֵּיתְךָ.

25 And the children of Dan said unto him: 'Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows fall upon you, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household.'

כו וַיֵּלְכוּ בְּנֵי-דָן, לְדַרְכָּם; וַיִּרְא מִיכָה, כִּי-
חֲזָקִים הִמָּה מִמֶּנּוּ, וַיִּפֹּן, וַיָּשָׁב אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ.

26 And the children of Dan went their way; and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house.

כז וְהִמָּה לְקַחוּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה מִיכָה,

27 And they took that which Micah had made, and the priest whom he had, and

וְאֶת-הַכֹּהֵן אֲשֶׁר הָיָה-לוֹ, וַיָּבֵאוּ עַל-לִישׁ עַל-
עַם שִׁקָּט וּבֵטֶחַ, וַיִּכּוּ אוֹתָם לְפִי-חֶרֶב;
וְאֶת-הָעִיר, שָׂרְפוּ בְאֵשׁ.

came unto Laish, unto a people quiet and secure, and smote them with the edge of the sword; and they burnt the city with fire.

כח וַאֲיִן מַצִּיל כִּי רְחוֹקָה-הִיא מִצִּידוֹן, וְדָבַר
אִין-לָהֶם עִם-אָדָם, וְהִיא, בְּעֵמֶק אֲשֶׁר לְבֵית-
רְחוֹב; וַיִּבְנוּ אֶת-הָעִיר, וַיֵּשְׁבוּ בָּהּ.

28 And there was no deliverer, because it was far from Zidon, and they had no dealings with any man; and it was in the valley that lieth by Beth-rehob. And they built the city, and dwelt therein.

כט וַיִּקְרְאוּ שֵׁם-הָעִיר, דָּן, בְּשֵׁם דָּן אֲבִיהֶם,
אֲשֶׁר יוֹלָד לְיִשְׂרָאֵל; וְאוֹלָם לִישׁ שֵׁם-הָעִיר,
לְרֵאשֶׁנָּה.

29 And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel; howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first.

ל וַיִּקְיִמוּ לָהֶם בְּנֵי-דָן, אֶת-הַפֶּסֶל; וַיְהוֹנָתָן בֶּן-
גֵּרְשֹׁם בֶּן-מְנַשֶּׁה הוּא וּבָנָיו, הָיוּ כֹהֲנִים
לְשֵׁבֶט הַדָּנִי, עַד-יוֹם, גְּלוֹת הָאָרֶץ.

30 And the children of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.

לא וַיִּשְׂיִמוּ לָהֶם, אֶת-פֶּסֶל מִיְכָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה,
כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֹּת בֵּית-הָאֱלֹהִים, בְּשִׁילָה. {פ}

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