### Judges

## Chapter 17

1Then there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim named MicaYas. 2He had said this to his mother:  
  
 ‘Do you remember those 1,100 silver coins that you once had and which you cursed me for taking?  
  
 ‘Well, here they are, for I did in fact take them.’  
  
And his mother said:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah bless you, my son.’  
  
3So he returned her 1,100 silver coins, and his mother said:  
  
 ‘I had dedicated this money to the Lord and set it aside for [you], my son, to make a molded and carved image… So it’s yours anyhow.’  
  
4However, he went on and gave the money back to his mother. Then his mother took 200 of the silver coins and gave them to a silversmith, who used them to mold and carve an idol for the house of MicaYas.  
  
5So, the house of MicaYas was thereafter used as the temple to his god. Then [MicaYas] made a sacred vest and a religious emblem, and he anointed one of his sons to be his priest. 6For back in those days, there was no king in IsraEl and everyone did whatever seemed right in his own eyes.  
  
  
7Well, there was a young Levite from BethLehem of Judea who happened to be passing by one day... 8He’d left He’d left <span class="placename">BethLehemHe’d left <span class="placename">BethLehem</span> in Judea, heading towards whatever place he might find. And when he got to the hills of Ephraim and to the house of MicaYas, his journey ended.  
  
9For MicaYas asked him:  
  
 ‘Where have you come from?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘I’m a Levite from BethLehem of Judah, and I’m traveling to any place that I may find.’  
  
10So MicaYas said to him:  
  
 ‘Then, live with me!  
  
 ‘If you’ll become a father and a priest to me, I’ll give you 10 silver coins every year, as well as a change of clothing, and I’ll also provide you free room-and-board.’  
  
11So the Levite lived there with MicaYas and became like one of his sons, 12for he’d anointed the Levite to serve as his priest, and from then on, he lived in MicaYas’ home.  
  
13MicaYas said:  
  
 ‘Now I know that the Lord will treat me well, because a Levite has become my priest!’