



# JUDGES

our deepest need



Opportunist = a person who **exploits** circumstances to gain an **immediate advantage** rather than being guided by consistent principles or plans

Judges 17 - opportunism on a family level

Judges 18 - opportunism on a tribal level

“In those days there was no king in Israel.”

Judges 18:1



# 1. concern (1-6)

“In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the people of Dan was seeking for itself an inheritance to dwell in, for until then no inheritance among the tribes of Israel had fallen to them.

“So the people of Dan sent five able men from the whole number of their tribe, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it. And they said to them, ‘Go and explore the land.’

“And they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there. When they were by the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite.

“And they turned aside and said to him, ‘Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What is your business here?’

“And he said to them, ‘This is how Micah dealt with me: he has hired me, and I have become his priest.’

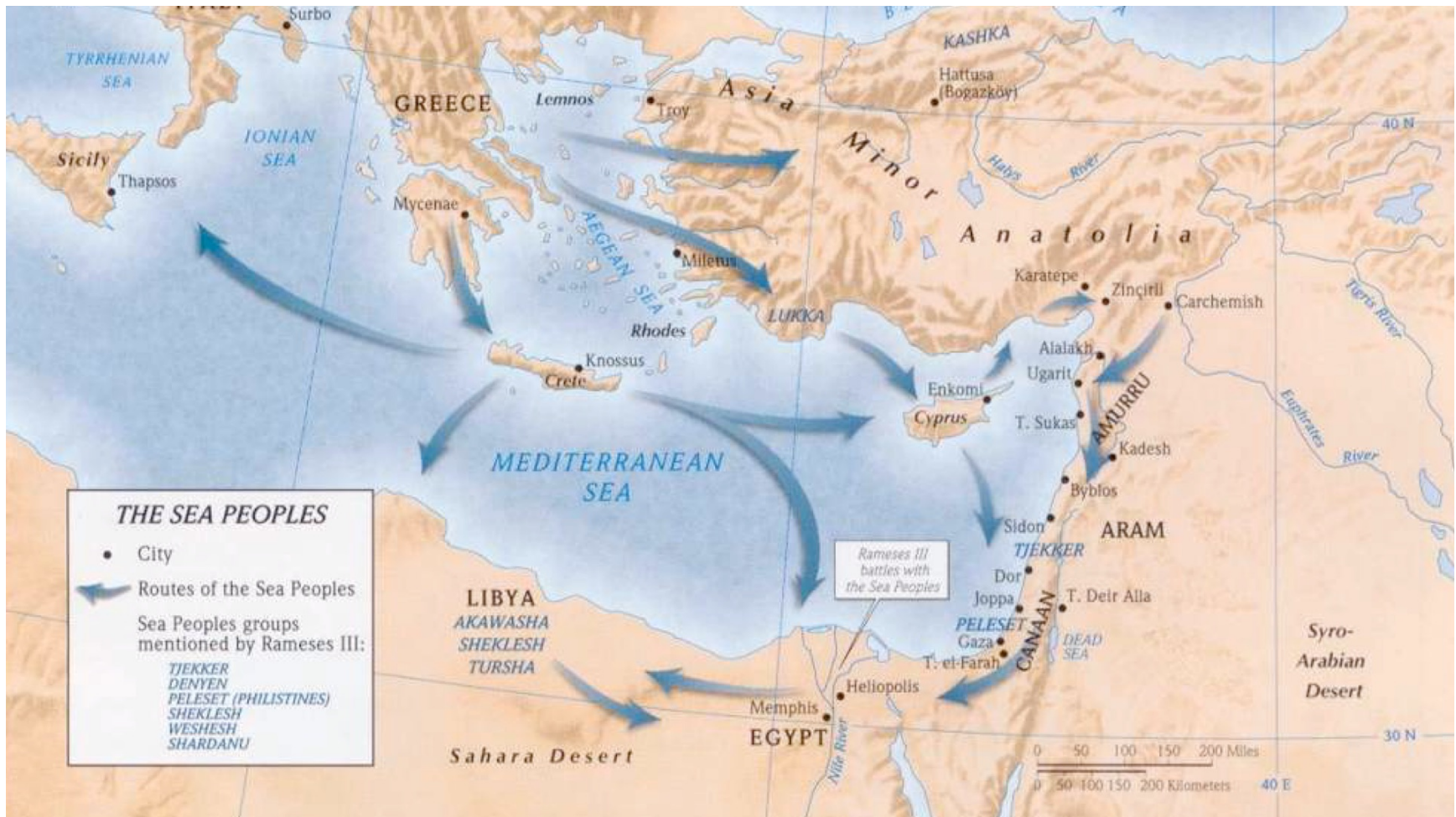
“And they said to him, ‘Inquire of God, please, that we may know whether the journey on which we are setting out will succeed.’ And the priest said to them, ‘Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the Lord.’”

Judges 18:1-6













1. concern (1-6)

2. **convenience** (7-13)

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“Then the five men departed and came to Laish.” (7)





## Geographical Opportunism (9-10)

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- **considerable** property – “the land is spacious”

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## Geographical Opportunism (9-10)

- beautiful land – “it is very good”
- vulnerable people – “unsuspecting”
- considerable property – “the land is spacious”
- justifiable provision – “God has given it”
- **bountiful** resources – “no lack of anything”

1. concern (1-6)
2. convenience (7-13)
3. **cover** (14-26)



“Now the 600 men of the Danites, armed with their weapons of war, stood by the entrance of the gate.

“And the five men who had gone to scout out the land went up and entered and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, while the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the 600 men armed with weapons of war.

“And when these went into Micah’s house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, the priest said to them, ‘What are you doing?’

“And they said to him, ‘Keep quiet; put your hand on your mouth and come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?’

“And the priest’s heart was glad. He took the ephod and the household gods and the carved image and went along with the people.”

Judges 18:16-20

“But the people of Dan took what Micah had made, and the priest who belonged to him, and they came to Laish, to a people quiet and unsuspecting, and struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire.

“And there was no deliverer because it was far from Sidon, and they had no dealings with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth-rehob.



“Then they rebuilt the city and lived in it. And they named the city Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor, who was born to Israel; but the name of the city was Laish at the first.

“And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. So they set up Micah’s carved image that he made, as long as the house of God was at Shiloh.”

Judges 18:27-31







# המתחם הפולחני The Sacred Precinct

המתחם הפולחני של בית המקדש השני, הוקם על ידי המלך חזקיהו ב-720 לפנה"ס. המבנה הוקם על גבעה קטנה, ומתחם זה היה מוקד עבודת אלילים חשובה. המבנה הוקם על גבעה קטנה, ומתחם זה היה מוקד עבודת אלילים חשובה.

The precinct before was, dated to the time of Jeroboam son of Nebat (9th century BC), replaced an earlier structure commissioned by Beldassur son of Hapal, in the 10th century BC. The precinct continued in use as a sacred space for a thousand years, until the end of the Roman period.



קיר (חומה) מן התקופה ההלניסטית  
Wall from the Hellenistic period

קיר פנימי  
Inner wall

קיר חיצוני  
Outer wall

קיר המזרחי  
Eastern wall

קיר המערבי  
Western wall

קיר הדרומי  
Southern wall

קיר הצפוני  
Northern wall

קיר הדרומי הפנימי  
Inner southern wall

קיר הצפוני הפנימי  
Inner northern wall

קיר המזרחי הפנימי  
Inner eastern wall

קיר המערבי הפנימי  
Inner western wall

קיר המזרחי החיצוני  
Outer eastern wall

קיר המערבי החיצוני  
Outer western wall

קיר הדרומי החיצוני  
Outer southern wall

קיר הצפוני החיצוני  
Outer northern wall

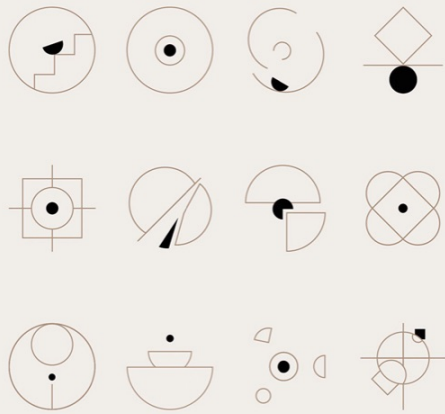


What is God saying to us today?

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\*Turn from **impatience**.

# LEAD



*12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church*

**PAUL DAVID TRIPP**



“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

“You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand....

“Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.”

James 5:7-8, 11

“Pride of accomplishment, identity of success, and the idolatry of power are the soil in which impatience grows, and that impatience always results in a harvest of bad fruit, both in leaders and in those they lead.

“Impatience tempts them to try to control things they have no power to control, to create change they cannot create, and to move what they have no ability to move.”

Paul Tripp

Why are we so vulnerable to impatience?

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1. We live in a **broken world**.

“When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

Acts 14:21-22



Why are we so vulnerable to impatience?

1. We live in a broken world.
2. We lead people who don't always **follow well**.

“I am deeply persuaded that the church of Jesus Christ has been way too influenced by the **short attention span, next best thing, instant gratification, and easily bored** culture of the society in which we live and do our work....

“[We] are too influenced by social media flashes, too interested in strategies for quick results and success....

“We are tempted to like quick and despise slow. We are tempted to esteem new and disrespect old. We are attracted to new ideas instead of ancient truths.”

Paul Tripp

Why are we so vulnerable to impatience?

1. We live in a broken world.
2. We lead people who don't always follow well.
3. We are ambassadors of One who is **infinitely patient**.

“There would be no kingdom of God, no church of Jesus Christ, no people of God, and no population in the new heavens and the new earth if it were not for the infinite patience of the Lord....

“He is willing to do the same thing in you and for you again and again until it takes root and flourishes. He is willing to say the same thing to you over and over again until you hear and live it. He greets your weakness with patience and not disgust....

“He patiently picks you up when you fall. He patiently dresses your self-inflicted wounds. He patiently stands in your way when you want your own way. He never tires of you. He never turns his back on you and walks away.



“He patiently gives himself to the work that he has begun in you, and he will patiently continue until his work is done. His work is a process, not an event. Redemption is longevity work. Redemption is legacy work. Redemption takes patience.”

Paul Tripp





“What we want is OUT, and sometimes there appear to be some easy ways to get there. Will we take Satan up on his offers, satisfy our desires in ways never designed by God, seek security outside of His holy will?

“If we do, we may find a measure of happiness, but not the lasting joy our Heavenly Father wants us to have. We will ‘gain the world,’ but we’ll lose our souls. Jesus knew that His joy lay in only one direction: the will of the Father. And so does ours.”

Elisabeth Elliot

“We may be earnestly desiring to be obedient and holy, but we may be missing the fact that it is here, where we happen to be at this moment, and not in another place or another time, that we may learn to love Him -

“here where it seems He is not at work, where His will seems obscure or frightening, where He is not doing what we expected Him to do, where He is most absent.

“Here and nowhere else is the appointed place. If faith does not go to work here, it will not go to work at all.”

Elisabeth Elliot