



Ephod on the High Priest

Bible Places Pictures

Teraphim (idol). Figurines of a fertility goddess placed in ancient Canaanite houses to ensure health.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient\\_Canaanite\\_Teraphim.\\_Figurines\\_of\\_fertility\\_goddess.\\_Wellcome\\_M0008439.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_Canaanite_Teraphim._Figurines_of_fertility_goddess._Wellcome_M0008439.jpg)

Judges 17

שִׁפְטִים יז

1 וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מֵהַר־אֶפְרַיִם וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיכָיָהוּ:

2 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ

אֵלַי וּמֵאֵה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לָקַח־לְךָ  
וְאֵתִי וְאֵת אֵלֵיךְ וְגַם אֶמְרָתְךָ בְּאָזְנִי

הִנֵּה־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי

אֲנִי לָקַחְתִּיו

וְתֹאמֶר אִמּוֹ

בָּרוּךְ בְּנִי לַיהוָה:

3 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־אֵלָיו וּמֵאֵה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ

וְתֹאמֶר אִמּוֹ

הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדָּשְׁתִּי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לַיהוָה

מִיָּדַי לְבָנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת פֶּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה

וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ לְךָ:

4 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ

וְתִקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֵתִים כֶּסֶף

וְתִתְּנֶהוּ לְצֹרֵף

וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פֶּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה

וַיְהִי בְּבַיִת מִיכָיָהוּ:

5 וְהָאִישׁ מִיכָה לֹו בַיִת אֱלֹהִים

וַיַּעַשׂ אִפֹּד וְתַרְפִּים

וַיַּמְלֵא אֶת־יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו

וַיְהִי־לוֹ לְכֹהֵן:

Now mother has the money

4 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ  
וַתִּקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֲתִים כֶּסֶף  
וַתִּתְּנֶהוּ לְצוּרָף  
וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פָּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה  
וַיְהִי בְּבַיִת מִיְכַיָּהוּ:

Mother pays the refiner

5 וְהָאִישׁ מִיְכָה לֹו בַיִת אֱלֹהִים  
וַיַּעַשׂ אִפֹּד וְתַרְפִּים  
וַיִּמְלֵא אֶת־יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו  
וַיְהִי־לֹו לְכֹהֵן:

1 וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מִהַר־אֶפְרַיִם וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיְכַיָּהוּ:

Mother had some money

2 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ  
אֵלַי וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לְקַח־לְךָ  
וְאֵתִי וְאֵת אֲלִית וְגַם אֶמְרַת בְּאֲזְנֵי  
הַנָּהֶ־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי  
אֲנִי לְקַחְתִּיו  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ  
בְּרוּךְ בְּנִי לִיהוָה:

Son took the money

Now mother has the money

3 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־אֵלַי־וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ  
הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדְּשֹׁתִי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לִיהוָה  
מִיָּדַי לְבָנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת פָּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה  
וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ לְךָ:

Now son has the money

Now mother has the money

4 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ  
וַתִּקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֵתִים כֶּסֶף

Mother pays the refiner

וַתִּתְּנֶהוּ לְצוּרָף  
וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פֶסֶל וּמִסְכָּה  
וַיְהִי בְּבַיִת מִיְכַיָּהוּ:

5 וְהָאִישׁ מִיְכָה לֹוּ בַיִת אֱלֹהִים  
וַיַּעַשׂ אִפֹּד וְתַרְפִּים  
וַיִּמְלֵא אֶת־יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו  
וַיְהִי־לֹוּ לְכֹהֵן:

1 וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מִהַר־אֶפְרַיִם וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיְכַיָּהוּ:

Mother had some money

2 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ  
אֵלַי וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לְקַח־לָךְ  
וְאֵתִי וְאֵת אֵלִית וְגַם אֶמְרַת בְּאֲזְנֵי  
הַנָּה־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי  
אֲנִי לְקַחְתִּיו  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ  
בְּרוּךְ בְּנִי לִיהוָה:

Son took the money

Now mother has the money

3 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־אֵלַי וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ

הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדְּשֹׁתַי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לִיהוָה  
מִיָּדַי לְבָנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת פֶּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה  
וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ לָךְ:

Now son has the money

Why does the mother give the money to her son, when she is going to pay the refiner in the next verse?

He now has to give it back to her a second time so she can pay the refiner. (See NET Bible notes)

Now mother has the money

4 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ  
וַתִּקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֵתִים כֶּסֶף

Mother pays the refiner

וַתִּתְּנֶהוּ לְצוּרָף  
וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פָּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה  
וַיְהִי בַּבַּיִת מִיְכִיָּהוּ:

5 וְהָאִישׁ מִיְכָה לֹוּ בַיִת אֱלֹהִים  
וַיַּעַשׂ אִפּוֹד וְתַרְפִּים  
וַיִּמְלֵא אֶת־יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו  
וַיְהִי־לֹוּ לְכֹהֵן:



Why does the mother give the money to her son, when she is going to pay the refiner in the next verse?

He now has to give it back to her a second time so she can pay the refiner. (See NET Bible notes)

1 וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מִהַר־אֶפְרַיִם וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיְכִיָּהוּ:

Mother had some money

2 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ  
אֵלַי וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לְקַח־לָךְ  
וְאֵתִי וְאֵת אֵלִית וְגַם אֶמְרַת בְּאֲזְנֵי  
הַנָּהֶ־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי  
אֲנִי לְקַחְתִּיו  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ  
בָּרוּךְ בְּנִי לִיהוָה:

Son took the money

Now mother has the money

3 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־אֵלַי־וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ

הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדְּשֹׁתִי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לִיהוָה  
מִיָּדַי לְבָנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת פָּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה  
וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ לָךְ:

Now son has the money

Now mother has the money

4 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ  
וַתִּקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֵתִים כֶּסֶף

Mother pays the refiner

וַתִּתְּנֶהוּ לְצוּרָף  
וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פָּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה  
וַיְהִי בְּבַיִת מִיכָיָהוּ:

5 וְהָאִישׁ מִיכָה לֹו בַיִת אֱלֹהִים  
וַיַּעַשׂ אִפּוֹד וּתְרָפִים  
וַיִּמְלֵא אֶת־יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו  
וַיְהִי־לֹו לְכֹהֵן:

NET Bible: In the Hebrew text the statement, "**but now I am giving it back to you,**" appears at the end of v. 3 and is spoken by the mother. But v. 4 indicates that she did not give the money back to her son. Unless the statement is spoken by the woman to the LORD, it appears to be misplaced and fits much better in v. 2. It may have been accidentally omitted from a manuscript, written in the margin, and then later inserted in the wrong place in another manuscript.

1 וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מִהֶרֶץ־אֶפְרַיִם וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיכָיָהוּ:

Mother had some money

2 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ  
אֵלָף וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לָקַח־לְךָ  
וְאֵתִי וְאֵת אֶלְיָת וְגַם אֶמְרָת בְּאֲזְנֵי  
הַנָּהָה־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי  
אֲנִי לְקַחְתִּיו  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ  
בָרוּךְ בְּנִי לַיהוָה:

Son took the money

Now mother has the money

3 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־אֵלָף־וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ

הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדְּשֵׁתִי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לַיהוָה  
מִיָּדַי לְבְנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת פָּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה  
וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ לְךָ:

Now son has the money

Now mother has the money

וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ 4  
וַתִּקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֲתִים כֶּסֶף

NET Bible Judges 17:2  
He said to his mother,  
"You know the eleven hundred pieces of silver which  
were stolen from you,  
about which I heard you pronounce a curse?  
Look here, I have the silver.  
I stole it,  
**but now I am giving it back to you.**"  
His mother said,  
"May the LORD reward you, my son!"

וַיְהִי־לּוֹ לְכֹהֵן:

NET Bible: In the Hebrew text the statement, "**but now I am giving it back to you,**" appears at the end of v. 3 and is spoken by the mother. But v. 4 indicates that she did not give the money back to her son. Unless the statement is spoken by the woman to the LORD, it appears to be misplaced and fits much better in v. 2. It may have been accidentally omitted from a manuscript, written in the margin, and then later inserted in the wrong place in another manuscript.

וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מֵהַר־אֶפְרַיִם וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיכָיָהוּ: 1

Mother had some money

וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ 2  
אֵלַי וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְתָּ לָּךְ  
וְאֵתִי וְאֵת אֶלְיָת וְגַם אֶמְרָת בְּאָזְנֵי  
הַנָּהָה־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי

Son took the money

אֲנִי לָקַחְתִּיו  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ  
בְּרוּךְ בְּנִי לַיהוָה:

Now mother has the money

וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־אֵלַי־וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ 3  
וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ  
הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדְשֹׁתַי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לַיהוָה  
מִיָּדַי לְבְנֵי לַעֲשׂוֹת פְּסָל וּמִסֵּכָה  
וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ לָךְ:

Now son has the money



1 וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מֵהַר־אֶפְרַיִם וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיכָהוּ:

2 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ

אֵלַי וּמֵאֵה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לָקַח־לְךָ  
וְאֵתִי וְאֵת אֲלִית וְגַם אֶמְרַת בְּאֲזְנֵי

הַנָּה־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי

אֲנִי לְקַחְתִּיו

וְתֹאמֶר אִמּוֹ

בְּרוּךְ בְּנִי לִיהוּהָ:

3 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־אֵלָף־וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ

וְתֹאמֶר אִמּוֹ

הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדָּשְׁתִּי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לִיהוּהָ

מִיָּדַי לְבָנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת פֶּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה

וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֵנו לְךָ:

4 וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ

וְתַקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֵתִים כֶּסֶף

וְתַתְּנָהוּ לְצוּרָף

וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פֶּסֶל וּמִסְכָּה

וַיְהִי בַבַּיִת מִיכָהוּ:

5 וְהָאִישׁ מִיכָה לֹו בַיִת אֱלֹהִים

וַיַּעַשׂ אִפּוֹד וְתַרְפִּים

וַיַּמְלֵא אֶת־יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו

וַיְהִי־לוֹ לְכֹהֵן:

Example of wayyiqtol as **recapitulation**?

- Summary remark
  - Gen 2:1  
וַיִּכְלְוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל־צִבְאוֹתָם:  
Thus the heavens and the earth **were completed**.
  - Gen 23:20  
וַיִּקַּם הַשָּׂדֶה וְהַמְעָרָה אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ לְאַבְרָהָם  
So the field and the cave in it **were confirmed** for Abraham.
- Pluperfect (controversial)
  - Num 1:47-49, Ex 4:11-12,18-19, 1 Kings 13:12  
(See Waltke/O'Connor p. 550 & 552)



When he gave the silver back to his mother,

וַיִּשָׁב אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ 4

she took ...

וַתִּקַּח אִמּוֹ מֵאֵתִים כֶּסֶף

she paid ...

וַתִּתְּנֶהוּ לְצוּרָף

וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ פֶסֶל וּמִסֵּכָה

וַיְהִי בַבַּיִת מִיִּבְיָהוּ:

וְהָאִישׁ מִיָּכָה לוֹ בַּיִת אֱלֹהִים 5

וַיַּעַשׂ אִפּוֹד וְתַרְפִּים

וַיַּמְלֵא אֶת־יָד אֶחָד מִבָּנָיו

וַיְהִי־לוֹ לְכֹהֵן:

וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מִהֶרֶץ־אֶפְרַיִם וְשֵׁמוֹ מִיִּבְיָהוּ: 1

Mother had some money

וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמּוֹ 2

אֵלַי וּמָאָה הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְתָּ לָּךְ

וְאֵתִי וְאֵת אֵלֶיךָ וְגַם אֶמְרָתְךָ בְּאָזְנִי

הֲנֵה־הַכֶּסֶף אֵתִי

אֲנִי לָקַחְתִּיו

Son took the money

Son gives back the money

וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ

בְּרוּךְ בְּנִי לַיהוָה:

When he gave back to his mother the eleven hundred pieces of silver,

וַיִּשָׁב אֶת־אֵלָף־וּמֵאָה הַכֶּסֶף לְאִמּוֹ 3

his mother said...

וַתֹּאמֶר אִמּוֹ

הַקִּדָּשׁ הַקִּדַּשְׁתִּי אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף לַיהוָה

מִיָּדַי לְבָנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת פֶּסֶל וּמִסֵּכָה

וְעַתָּה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ לָּךְ:

Example of wayyiqtol as recapitulation?

- Summary remark

- Gen 2:1

וַיִּכְלְוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל־צְבָאָם:

Thus the heavens and the earth *were completed*.

- Gen 23:20

וַיִּקָּם הַשָּׂדֶה וְהַמְעָרָה אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ לְאַבְרָהָם

So the field and the cave in it *were confirmed* for Abraham.

- Pluperfect (controversial)

- Num 1:47-49, Ex 4:11-12,18-19, 1 Kings 13:12

(See Waltke/O'Connor p. 550 & 552)

## Some Commentary

- Money is stolen
- The mother pronounces a curse on the thief
- The son gets scared and confesses his guilt
- The mother then quickly pronounces a blessing on her son
- The mother decides to thank YHWH, consecrates the money to YHWH but in making an idol brings herself under God's curse and doesn't seem to realize what she has done
  - ESV Deuteronomy 27:15 "'Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image, an abomination to the LORD, a thing made by the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.' (Deu 27:15 ESV)
- She dedicates only 200 of the 1100 to YHWH
  - Questionable motive as well as action?
- It seems that there are 2 idols
  - ESV Judges 18:14 Then the five men who had gone to scout out the country of Laish said to their brothers, "Do you know that in these houses there are an ephod, household gods, a carved image, and a metal image? Now therefore consider what you will do." (Jdg 18:14 ESV)
- Teraphim = household gods (e.g. Gen 31:19; 1 Sam 19:13)
- Ephod had been used for divination
  - ESV Judges 8:27 And Gideon made an ephod of it and put it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family. (Jdg 8:27 ESV)
- Micah ordains his own priest (one of his sons) and sets up his own "house of God" in his own house
- "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." (v 6)

6 בַּיָּמִים הֵּהֶם אֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל  
אִישׁ הַיִּשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֵינָיו יַעֲשֶׂה:

7 וַיְהִי-נֶעַר מִבֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה  
מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת יְהוּדָה  
וְהוּא לֹוִי  
וְהוּא גֵר-שֵׁם:

8 וַיֵּלֶךְ הָאִישׁ מִהַעִיר מִבֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה  
לְגוֹר בְּאֶשֶׁר יִמְצָא  
וַיָּבֵא הַרְאָפְרַיִם עַד-בֵּית מִיכָה  
לַעֲשׂוֹת דְּרָכָו:

9 וַיֹּאמֶר-לוֹ מִיכָה  
מֵאֵין תָּבוֹא  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו

לֹוִי אֲנֹכִי מִבֵּית לָחֶם יְהוּדָה  
וְאֲנֹכִי הֵלֶךְ לְגוֹר בְּאֶשֶׁר אֶמְצָא:

10 וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מִיכָה  
שָׁבָה עִמָּדִי וְהָיָה-לִי לְאָב וּלְכֹהֵן  
וְאֲנֹכִי אֶתֶן-לְךָ עֶשְׂרֵת כֶּסֶף לַיָּמִים  
וְעַרְךָ בְּגָדִים וּמַחֲתָךְ  
וַיֵּלֶךְ הַלֹוִי:

11 וַיֹּאֲלֵה לֹוִי לְשֹׁבֵת אֶת-הָאִישׁ  
וַיְהִי הַנֶּעַר לוֹ כְּאֶחָד מִבְּנָיו:

12 וַיִּמְלֵא מִיכָה אֶת-יַד הַלֹוִי  
וַיְהִי-לוֹ הַנֶּעַר לְכֹהֵן  
וַיְהִי בְּבֵית מִיכָה:

13 וַיֹּאמֶר מִיכָה  
עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי-יֵיטִיב יְהוָה לִי  
כִּי הָיָה-לִי הַלֹוִי לְכֹהֵן:

## Some Commentary

- A Levite leaves Bethlehem to find some employment
  - Bethlehem not one of the 48 Levitical cities assigned by Moses
  - City of the future king David
  - City of a future Levite in the sordid tale of Judges 19
- The Levite travels north and finds Micah who wants to upgrade his priest
- Levite becomes both a “father” and a “son” to Micah
  - father = term of honour
    - Genesis 45:8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
    - 2 Kings 6:21 As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?"
    - Micah gives Levite enough to live on
  - 10 silvers a year
  - The priestly clothes to do his job
  - Food
- The Levite agrees
- Micah ordains the Levite (second ordination)
- The Levite, however, is a descended of Moses not Aaron
  - ESV Judges 18:30 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. (Jdg 18:30 ESV)
- Micah has a shrine, a Levitical priest and some idols.
  - Now surely YHWH will prosper him.
- Worship exchanged for Idolatry; indicative of the age
  - Refusing to worship by God’s commands => blissful confusion and a mistaken sense of God’s blessing
  - Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.