

# Judges 18

Jesus

## I. Dan's Idolatry

1 In those days there was **no king in Israel**. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was **seeking an inheritance** for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them.

- **No King in Israel:** 2X here and 17:6. Emphasis on No King
- Did what was right in own eyes...

### Could not conquer the Land given them

**Judges 1:34** And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; 35 and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres...

- Too hard to obey God and take what He offered; i.e. land in west Israel [Joshua 19]
- Find an easier way to expand its borders...

2 So the children of Dan sent five men of their family **from their territory**, men of valor from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and search it. They said to them, "**Go, search the land.**" So they went to the **mountains of Ephraim**, to the house of Micah, and lodged there. 3 While they were at the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. They turned aside and said to him, "**Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you have here?**"

- Dan sends 5 Guys to find land/ Head north east to Ephraim
- End up at Micah's house **recognize voice of Levite**

**This guy gets around:** What are you doing here?

4 [The Levite] said to them, "Thus and so Micah did for me. **He has hired me**, and I have **become his priest.**" 5 So they said to him, "Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous."

- 5 Guys from Dan ask Levite to **inquire of God**

6 And the priest said to them, "**Go in peace.** The presence of the Lord be with you on your way." 7 So the five men departed and went to Laish. They saw the people who were there, how they **dwelt safely**, in the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure. There were no rulers in the land who might put them to shame for anything. They were far from the Sidonians, and they had no ties with anyone.

God is with you as you run away from God's plan? Right.  
False-Prophets love to give this message and make believers love to listen

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke,

exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Don't we want our doctors to tell us the truth?

- **Dan leave Micah's with Levites blessing**
- **Head north to Laish...**People Dwelling in safety/Quiet/Secure

8 Then the spies came back to their brethren at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brethren said to them, "What is your report?" 9 So they said, "**Arise, let us go up against them.** For we have seen the land, and indeed it is very good. Would you do nothing? Do not hesitate to go, and enter to possess the land. 10 When you go, you will come to a secure people and a large land. **For God has given it into your hands,** a place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth."

- 5 Guys go south to home/give report to rest of Dan

**Be like taking candy from a baby... God has given Laish into your hands**

No...God gave you land that you refuse to trust Him to conquer

- **Q.** If something comes easy does that always mean it's God's will
- **Q.** If you don't have a peace about it does that mean it is always not God's will?

**No.** God's will is what He tells you to in any give situation whether hard/easy/peace/anguish

- **God has given Laish into our hands.**
- No. Your compromising because what God told you to do was too hard...

11 And six hundred men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war. 12 Then they went up and encamped in Kirjath Jearim in Judah. (Therefore they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. There it is, west of Kirjath Jearim.) 13 And they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

- 600 more Danites head north again stop Micah's home church...
- **Beginning of Dan's idolatry...**

14 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, "Do you know that there are in these houses an **ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image?** Now therefore, consider what you should do." 15 So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the **young Levite man**—to the house of Micah—and greeted him. 16 The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate. 17 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up. Entering there, they **took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image.** The priest stood at the entrance of the gate

with the six hundred men who were armed with weapons of war.

- 5 Men of Dan take all Micah's idol worshipping paraphernalia
- Levite helplessly looks on at 600 guys w/weapons

18 When these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image, the priest [Levite] said to them, "**What are you doing?**" 19 And they said to him, "Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be **a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?**" 20 So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people.

- **Levite to Danites:** What are you doing taking this stuff?
- **Shut up we're giving you a Promotion:** Priest of one guy to Priest of entire Tribe
- **Levite:** Opportunist; i.e. Hireling leaves for the better gig. No loyalty to Micah

**John 10: 11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

- Not serving God/man...but serving self
- Leaves at first sign trouble/difficulty

21 Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods in front of them. 22 When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan. 23 And they called out to the children of Dan. So they turned around and said to Micah, "What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?" 24 So he said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away. Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, '**What ails you?**' "

- Micah/neighbors gather together/go after 600 Danites

**Danites to Micah and rag-tag bunch...What's your problem?  
You took my priest and my gods**

- If someone can carry away your god...you have the wrong god

25 And the children of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, **lest angry men fall upon you**, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household!"

- You don't want to do this.

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

## SUMMARY Dan's Idolatry

### II. Danites Settle Generation of Idolatry Begins

27 So they took the things Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they **struck them with the edge of the sword** and burned the city with fire.

- Idolatry began w/Micah now spreads throughout an entire Tribe; i.e. Dan
- Later Jeroboam would set up one of two gold calves in Dan's new digs

**Sin is likened to leaven; expands through corruption**

**1 Corinthians 5:6** Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened.

**1 Corinthians 5:6** ... Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

28 There was **no deliverer**, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no ties with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth Rehob. So they rebuilt the city and dwelt there. 29 And they called the name of the city **Dan**, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However, the name of the city formerly was **Laish**.

- **Dan settled in northern Israel:** North to south now Dan to Beersheba

**Dan moved from the land designated to them by God because they did not trust God to conquer what was already theirs**

**Joshua 1:2** ... arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon **I have given you** [past tense] ...

**Whatever the Lord has promised you is yours already. Take it!**  
**Dan settled in Laish. Dan settled for Laish. Dan settled for compromise...**

30 Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the **carved image**; and **Jonathan the son of Gershom**, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were **priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land**. 31 So they set up for themselves **Micah's carved image** which he made, all the time that the **house of God was in Shiloh**.

We can suppose that Micah had no idea how far-reaching the effects of his sin would become. His personal idolatry became the idolatry of an entire tribe... [Guzik]

**Jonathan and sons became idolatrous priests to Tribe of Dan  
Until the Assyrians came and took Dan captive w/hooks in noses**

- Who was Jonathan the son of Gershom? Moses grandson. **How far the fall?**
- Began w/ Micah's carved image/Doing it his way

**I don't go to church...**we meet at my home w/those of same mind/4/no more  
Do not forsake the gathering...that's where the work is done/accountability happens

▪ **Yet...the House of God was in Shiloh**

1. Lit. Place rest
2. Home of Tabernacle of God
3. Home of the Ark of the Covenant
4. Place where Living God met with man but instead...

- Everyone did what was **right in his own eyes...**
- Israel at this time **did not have a king**

**...but they did, the King of Kings. They just did not recognize Him as King**

**Nation of Israel is unrecognizable as God's chosen people**  
**Is America becoming unrecognizable as people who claim Living God as our King?**

**Psalm 33:12** Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.