

JUDGES 18 vs 1

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The author of this book is uncertain, some suggest Samuel, the high priest. It was written around 1050-1000bc. The events in the book cover the stormy period of the history of Israel between their return from Egypt until the time a monarchy was set in place. The judges were military and civil leaders during the confederacy of the 12 tribes plus Ephraim and Manasseh who occupied the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Book of Judges



Micah and the Danite migration continues,

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 to that day all their inheritance had not fallen to them among the tribes of Israel.

² And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their areas, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said to them, Go, search the land: who when they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there.

³ When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in there, and said to him, Who brought you here? what are you doing in this place? and what do you have here?

⁴ And he said to them, Thus and so Micah has done with me, and has hired me, and I am his priest.

⁵ And they said to him, please ask counsel of God, that we may know whether our way on which we are going will be prosperous.

⁶ And the priest said to them, Go in peace: your way in which you are going before the LORD is approved.

⁷ Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people who were there, how they lived after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that was shaming them in anything; and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no business with any man.

⁸ And they came to their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said to them, What do you say?

⁹ And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good. And will you sit still? Do not be lazy to go, and to enter to possess the land.

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10 When you enter, you will come to a secure people, with a spacious land: for God has given it into your hands; a place where there is no lack of any thing that is on the earth.

11 Then from the family of the Danites; from Zorah and from Eshtaol, six hundred armed men with weapons of war set out.

12 And they went up, and camped in Kiriath-jearim, in **Judah: so they called that place Mahaneh-dan to this day: behold, it is west of Kiriath-jearim.**

13 And they passed from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

14 Then the five men who went to spy out the country of Laish answered, and said to their brethren, Do you know that there is in these houses an ephod, and household idols, and a graven image, and a molten image? So now consider what you should do.

15 And they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even to the house of Micah, and greeted him.

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

17 And the five men who went to spy out the land went up, and came in there, and took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim / the household idols, and the molten image: while the priest stood in the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men who were armed with weapons of war.

18 And when these went into Micah's house, and took the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim / the household idols, and the molten image. Then the priest said to them, What are you doing?

19 And they said to him, Hold your peace, put your hand over your mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be a priest to the house of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?

20 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went among the people.

21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the valuables in front of them.

22 When they had gone a good distance from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan.

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²³ And they cried to the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said to Micah, What is the matter with you, that you come with such a company?

²⁴ And he said, You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and have gone away: and what do I have besides? and what is this when you say to me, What is the matter with you?

²⁵ And the children of Dan said to him, Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household.

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 to his house.

²⁷ And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest whom he had, and came to Laish, to people who were at quiet and secure: and they defeated them with the edge of the sword, and burned the city with fire.

²⁸ And there was no one to deliverer them, because it was far from Zidon, and they had no dealings with anyone; and it was in the valley that lies near Beth-rehob. And they rebuilt a city, and lived in it.

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 at first was Laish.

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

³¹ And they set up for themselves the graven image which Micah made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.

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