

Judges 18

King James Version (KJV)

(Chapters 17 – 21 document what was happening in Israel during the time of the Judges. The country was rife with multi-culturalism, paganism, perversion and Idolatry. They deserted God over and over and yet HE forgave them every time they repented)

18 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 unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel. (Dan received an inheritance in the Promised Land. But they did not drive out the Amorites as God directed them to do)

(The Amorites eventually drove Dan out of their lands, and into the mountains. They were basically homeless) See Joshua-19, Judges-1:34-25

² And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there. (mount Ephraim – not a mountain, but rather the hill country of Ephraim)

³ When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this place? and what hast thou here? (voice = his accent; they realized that he was a Levite from Judah)

⁴ And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest. (Not a priest of God; he is a priest of Micah)

⁵ And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous. (God = El-O-Heem – God the creator; instead of Yahoveh = God of the covenant)

(They had long ago abandoned God's covenant with Moses. They were all worshipping idols by now)

⁶And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go. (LORD = Yahoveh) (This is all BS. This guy is no legitimate priest. He's just telling them what they want to hear)

NOTE: (This is similar to false Christian preachers today who pervert the Word of God with traditions of men. And yet they expect God to bless them)

⁷Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing; and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no business with any man. (dwelt carelessly – they lived freely and securely; without a defensive force)

(The spies from Dan assumed the land was vulnerable to a takeover. These people seemed to be far enough away from the Zidonians, although they seemed to be Zidonians)

NOTE: (Zidonians were merchants, not farmers. They dealt in commerce and trade with Tyre – a stronghold of the Kenites)

⁸And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye? (They returned to Dan)

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

¹⁰When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and to a large land: for God hath given it into your hands; a place where there is no want of any thing that is in the earth. (secure = peaceful) (God didn't give them this land. They abandoned the good land that God gave them to the Amorites)

¹¹And there went from thence of the family of the Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war. See Numbers-26 (There were 64,400 total men of war in Dan. They only sent 600)

(What they should have done is worship the true God, and taken their land back from the Amorites. That was the land that God had promised them)

¹² And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathjearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjathjearim. (Behind it – to the west of) (Mahanehdan = camp or city of Dan)

¹³ And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah. (They found Micah's false church)

¹⁴ Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? Now therefore consider what ye have to do. (They need a new "religion" for their new land)

¹⁵ And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and saluted him.

¹⁶ And the six hundred men appointed with their weapons of war, which were of the children of Dan, stood by the entering of the gate. (That must have worked well to intimidate the house of Micah)

¹⁷ And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, and came in thither, and took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred men that were appointed with weapons of war. (They stole the idols to set up their own religion, so as to bring into their new land)

¹⁸ And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, What do ye?

¹⁹ And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: is it better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel? (Shut up and come with us to be our priest) (father can also mean adviser or counselor, as Joseph was to Pharaoh)

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

(This false priest sees a chance to get rich from the tithes of the whole tribe of Dan. Like so many false preachers today, this guy is driven by

money. He's going to need a lot more collection plates to bring in those tithes)

²¹ So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them. (carriage = their belongings; they have their families, their possessions and their livestock with them)

(They are relocating permanently. They put their families, their herds and their possessions in the front; so that the army could march behind them. They were expecting the people with Micah to come after them)

²² And when they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that were in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan. (They went out to try to get their false preacher back, along with their idols)

²³ And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company? (They want their false religion back)

²⁴ And he said, Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? and what is this that ye say unto me, What aileth thee? (heathen idols – This proves that they were all idol worshippers; not concerned neighbors)

²⁵ And the children of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon thee, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household. (The men of Dan are threatening the murder of Micah and his family; so that they can keep the idols that they stole)

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 unto his house. (Sinners <idolaters> were overpowered by other sinners <idolaters>. Israel has completely lost their way. They have become no better than the surrounding heathen Canaanite tribes that God told them to destroy)

²⁷ And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire. (These Danites took this new land, instead of re-taking the land that God gave them. They should have fought the

Amorites, which God had told them to destroy. Disobey God and you will lose His protection)

²⁸ And there was no deliverer, because it was far from Zidon, and they had no business with any man; and it was in the valley that lieth by Bethrehob. And they built a city, and dwelt therein. (Laish had been an isolated Zidonian colony, far from Zidon. They were easily defeated by the 600 armed men of Dan)

²⁹ And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first. (Israel is Jacob – God changed his name) see Genesis-35:10

NOTE: Revelation-7 (Dan and Ephraim are replace by Levi and Joseph because of their repeated idolatry. When Jeroboam became the first king of the 10 northern tribes, he put one golden calf to worship in Ephraim and another one in Dan. In the last chapters of Ezekiel, during the Millennium, Ephraim and Dan will be reinstated as part of the 12 tribes)

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. (The son of Manasseh - is a copyist error. The word Manasseh was changed from Moses in the manuscripts – and then a translation error. Manasseh, in the Hebrew, has the hanging letter N, raised above the line, to change the word from Moses to Manasseh. Moses had a son named Gershom. This verse should read – Gershom, the son of Moses)

(captivity of the land – This refers to when the Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant from Israel in the time of Samuel)

³¹ And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh. (They became a total heathen tribe. They gave up their promised land, and the true God that gave that land to them)

NOTE: (God allowed their enemies to oppress Israel in order to try to wake them up and out of their idolatry. It worked from judge to judge, but in between, the people always reverted back to their false gods and abandoned the true God)