

THE BOOK OF

Judges

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Chapters 17-18: Micah and the Danites

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

(from Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts)

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| Part One: | 1:1 to 3:4 | The Deterioration of Israel and Failure to Complete the Conquest of Canaan |
| Part Two: | 3:5 to 16:31 | The Deliverance of Israel During the Seven Cycles |
| Part Three: | 17:1 to 21:25 | The Depravity of Israel in Sinning like the Canaanites |

“If the central section of Judges offers us flawed heroes caught in a depressing cycle of oppression and deliverance, the final chapters portray a fallen people seemingly beyond the hope of redemption.” (Theologyofwork.org)

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Part One:	1:1 to 3:4	The Deterioration of Israel and Failure to Complete the Conquest of Canaan
Part Two:	3:5 to 16:31	The Deliverance of Israel During the Seven Cycles
Part Three:	17:1 to 21:25	The Depravity of Israel in Sinning like the Canaanites
	17:1 to 18:31	An account of great religious corruption
	19:1 to 21:25	An account of great moral corruption

Chapter 17 introduces us to a man named **Micah** – not the prophet “in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah” (Mic. 1:1) – but “a man of mount Ephraim” who epitomizes the religious corruption of his time.

Chapter 17

- 1 And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name was Micah.
- 2 And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my son.
- 3 And when he had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee.
- 4 Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred shekels of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.
- 5 And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.
- 6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.
- 7 And there was a young man out of Bethlehemjudah of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there.
- 8 And the man departed out of the city from Bethlehemjudah to sojourn where he could find a place: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.
- 9 And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I am a Levite of Bethlehemjudah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.
- 10 And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.
- 11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.
- 12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.
- 13 Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.

This story begins with Micah's confession to his mother that he was the one who stole the money she'd been looking for:

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- 12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.
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But when Micah's mother told him her intended use for the money, Micah went along with her plan.

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Judges 17:1-2

- ¹ And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name was Micah.
- ² And he said unto his mother,
The eleven hundred *shekels* of silver
that were taken from thee,
about which thou cursedst,
and spakest of also in mine ears,
behold, the silver *is* with me; I took it.
- And his mother said,
Blessed *be thou* of the LORD, my son.

Judges 17:1-2

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behold, the silver is with me; I took it.
- And his mother said,
Blessed be thou of the LORD, my son.

Well, bless your heart.



Judges 17:3-5

3 And when he had restored the eleven hundred *shekels* of silver to his mother, his mother said,
I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image:
now therefore I will restore it unto thee.

4 Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred *shekels* of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.

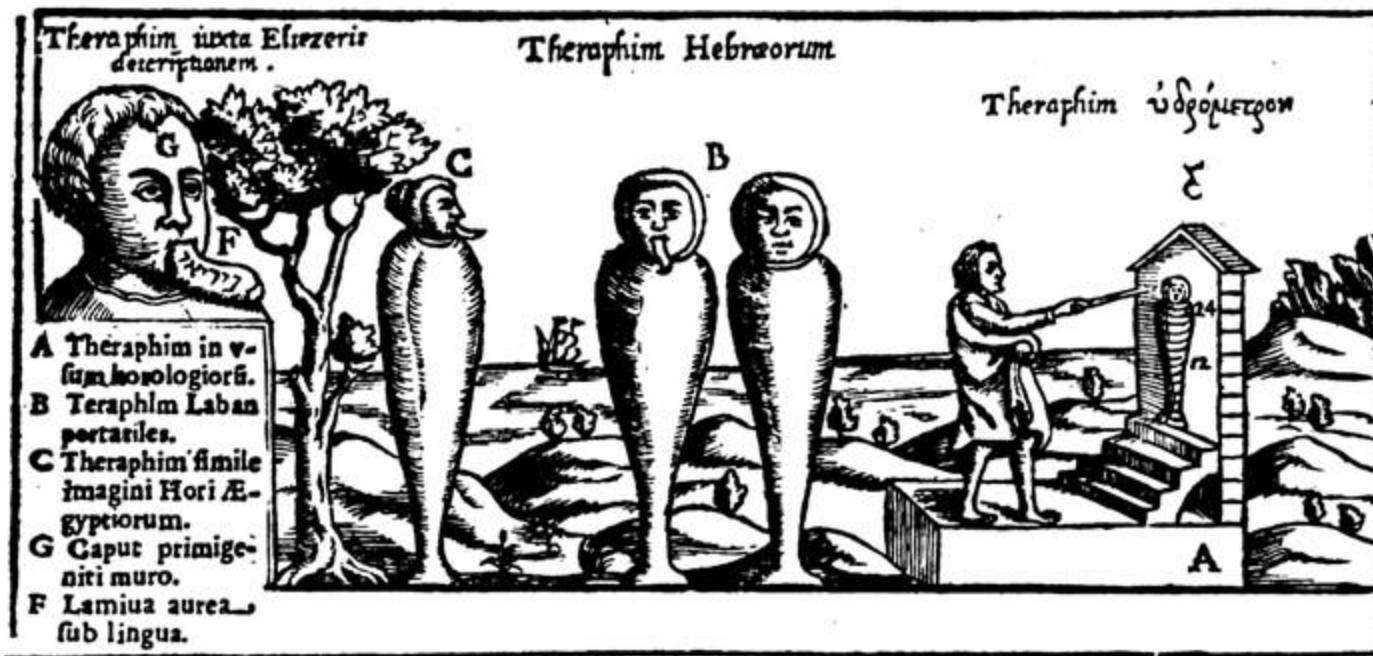
5 And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

These final chapters of Judges are like a game of

What's wrong with the picture?



All of this was in gross violation of the Mosaic Law.



“The **teraphim** were idol-like objects that represented and/or embodied ancestral spirits, and were used for ancestral devotion and divination.”

Israelite Divination and the Mysterious Teraphim; isthatinthebible.wordpress.com

Verse 6 explains the spiritual condition of Israel at this time:

Judges 17:6

6 In those days *there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

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The wisdom of Proverbs 16:25 was quite needed:

²⁵ There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are the ways of death.*

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- 10 Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.

Now we are introduced to a wandering priest in search of employment:

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- 9 And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I am a Levite of Bethlehemjudah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.
- 10 And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.
- 11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.
- 12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.
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When Micah secured this man's services for himself, he was sure his luck was about to change.

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- 13 Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.

Judges 17:7-13

- 7 And there was a young man out of Bethlehemjudah of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there.
- 8 And the man departed out of the city from Bethlehemjudah to sojourn where he could find *a place*: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.
- 9 And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I *am* a Levite of Bethlehemjudah, and I go to sojourn where I may find *a place*.

- 10 And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten *shekels* of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.
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- 12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.
- 13 Then said Micah, *Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.*

In Chapter 18, Israelites of the tribe of Dan enter the story. These men had not yet received their allotted portion of the Promised Land, and were looking for a place to claim for their own.

Chapter 18

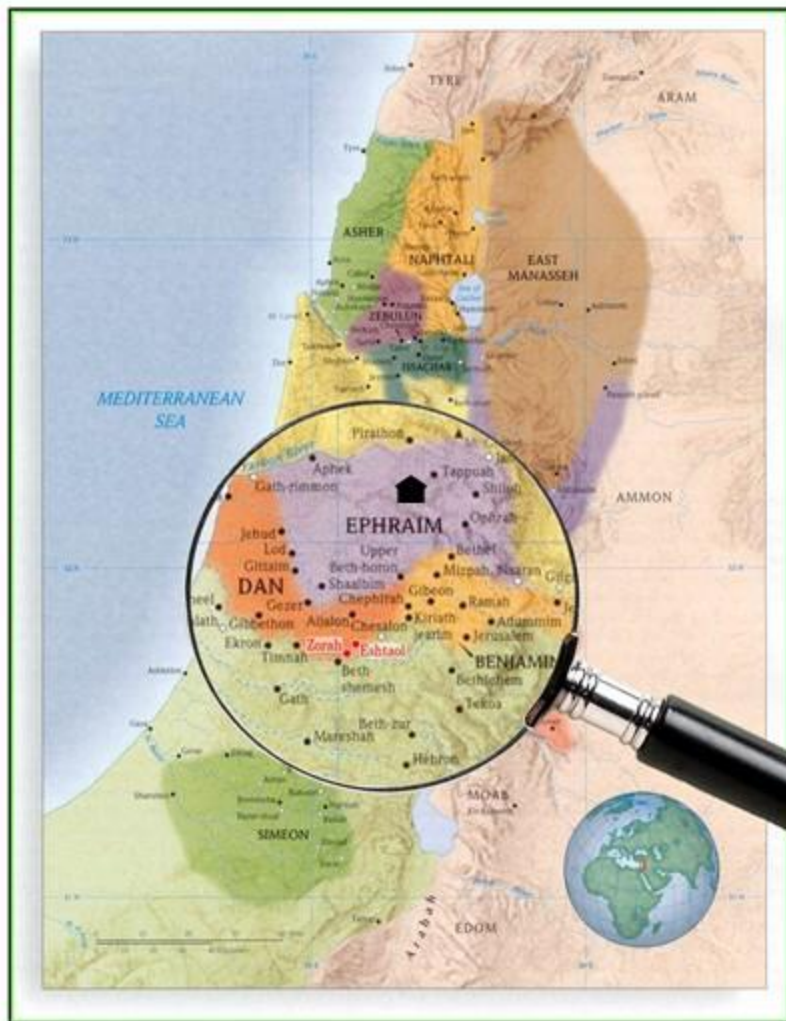
- 1 In those days there was no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.
- 2 And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men 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.
- 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?
- 4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealt Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.
- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.
- 7 Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwell 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.
- 8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
- 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 are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.
- 10 When 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.
- 11 And 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.
- 12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathyearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjathyearim.
- 13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?
- 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.
- 21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before 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.
- 23 And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What allest thou, that thou comest with such a company?
- 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 allest thou?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Bethrehab. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.
- 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.
- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.



Judges 18:1-2

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- 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?
- 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.
- 21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before 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.
- 23 And they cried unto the children of Dan, And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What alleth thee, that thou comest with such a company?
- 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 alleth thee?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Bethrehab. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.
- 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.
- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

These men recognized the Levite, and were surprised to see him in Ephraim. They asked him to bless their venture before continuing on their journey.

Judges 18:3-6

- 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?
- 4 And he said unto them,
Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me,
and hath hired me, and I am his priest.

- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them,
Go in peace: before the LORD is your
way wherein ye go.

Judges 18:3-6

- 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?
- 4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.

- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.

Given the facts of the story, it is highly unlikely that this was a genuine word of the LORD.

The men continued their journey, and entered a land occupied by a carefree and quiet people who had no ruler.

Chapter 18

- 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 unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.
- 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.
- 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?
- 4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.
- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.
- 7 Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt carelessly, 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.
- 8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
- 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 are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.
- 10 When 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.
- 11 And 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.
- 12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathyearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjathyearim.
- 13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 away 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?
- 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.
- 21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before 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.
- 23 And they cried unto the children of Dan, And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What allest thou, that thou comest with such a company?
- 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 allest thou?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Bethrehab. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.
- 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.
- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Judges 18:7-10

7 Then 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.

Judges 18:7-10

7 Then 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.



These people were like hippies.

The five Danites hurried home, anxious to tell the others about this land ripe for the picking.

Chapter 18

- 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 unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.
- 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.
- 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?
- 4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.
- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.
- 7 Then 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.
- 8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
- 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 are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.
- 10 When 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.
- 11 And 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.
- 12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathyearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjathyearim.
- 13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?
- 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.
- 21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before 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.
- 23 And they cried unto the children of Dan, And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What alleth thee, that thou comest with such a company?
- 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 alleth thee?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Bethrehab. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.
- 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.
- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Judges 18:8-10

- ⁸ And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
- 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 are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.

- ¹⁰ When 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.

The Danites assembled their army and marched on toward invasion and occupation. But on their way, they stopped again at the house of Micah. They were particularly interested in all the idols they'd seen there.

Chapter 18

- 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 unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.
- 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.
- 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?
- 4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.
- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.
- 7 Then 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.
- 8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
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- 10 When 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.
- 11 And 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.
- 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.
- 13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?
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- 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.
- 21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before 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.
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- 31 And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Judges 18:11-15

- ¹¹ And 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.
- 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.*
- ¹³ And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.

- 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.
- 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.

They convinced the priest to abandon Micah and go with them instead, taking all of Micah's precious idols with him.

Chapter 18

- 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 unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.
- 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.
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- 4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.
- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.
- 7 Then 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.
- 8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
- 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 are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.
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- 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.
- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
- 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.
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- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Judges 18:16-21

- 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.
- 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.
- 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?
- 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.
- ²¹ So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.

Micah and his friends went after the Danites to reclaim his things, but they were scared away.

Chapter 18

- 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 unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.
- 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.
- 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?
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- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.
- 7 Then 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.
- 8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
- 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 are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.
- 10 When 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.
- 11 And 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.
- 12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathyearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjathyearim.
- 13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?
- 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.
- 21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before 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.
- 23 And they cried unto the children of Dan, And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What alleieth thee, that thou comest with such a company?
- 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 alleieth thee?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Bethrehab. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.
- 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.
- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Judges 18:22-26

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.

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?

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?

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.

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.

The Danites entered the peaceful village and completely overwhelmed them.

Chapter 18

- 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 unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.
- 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.
- 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?
- 4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.
- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.
- 7 Then 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.
- 8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
- 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 are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.
- 10 When 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.
- 11 And 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.
- 12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathyearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjathyearim.
- 13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?
- 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.
- 21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before 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.
- 23 And they cried unto the children of Dan, And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What alleth thee, that thou comest with such a company?
- 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 alleth thee?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Bethrehab. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.
- 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.
- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Then they set up the idols in their new home – essentially thumbing their nose at the true God who dwelt in the tabernacle in nearby Shiloh.

Chapter 18

- 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 unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.
- 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.
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- 4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.
- 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.
- 6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.
- 7 Then 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.
- 8 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?
- 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 are ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land.
- 10 When 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.
- 11 And 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.
- 12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathyearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjathyearim.
- 13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
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- 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?
- 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.
- 21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before 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.
- 23 And they cried unto the children of Dan, And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What alleth thee, that thou comest with such a company?
- 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 alleth thee?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Bethrehab. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.
- 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.
- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Judges 18:27-31

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Judges 18:27-31

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.

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

Here this story ends, with a reminder that the better option was there all along.

And they built a city, and dwelt therein.

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.

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 them up Micah's graven image, which he made, **all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.**

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

(from Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts)

- Part One: 1:1 to 3:4 The Deterioration of Israel and Failure to Complete the Conquest of Canaan
- Part Two: 3:5 to 16:31 The Deliverance of Israel During the Seven Cycles
- Part Three: 17:1 to 21:25 The Depravity of Israel in Sinning like the Canaanites**

Only one story remains:

19:1 to 21:25 An account of great moral corruption



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