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Book of Judges Chapter 18

07_JUD_18_01 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.

07_JUD_18_02 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.

07_JUD_18_03 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?

07_JUD_18_04 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.

07_JUD_18_05 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.

07_JUD_18_06 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD [is] your way wherein ye go.

07_JUD_18_07 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.

07_JUD_18_08 And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What [say] ye?

07_JUD_18_09 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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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?

07_JUD_18_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?

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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?

07_JUD_18_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?

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_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.

07_JUD_18_31 And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.