

Judges Series

Lesson #95

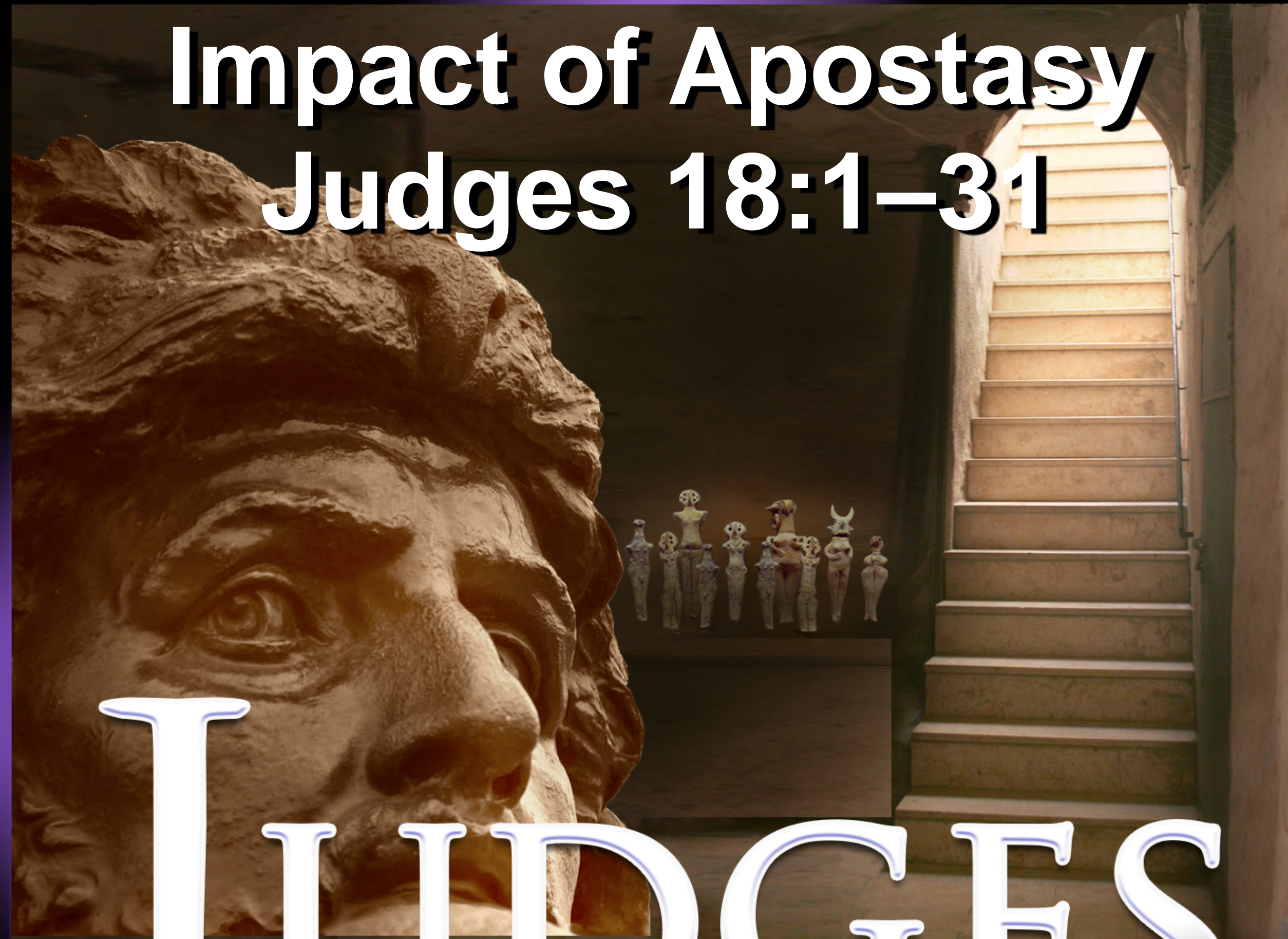
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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Impact of Apostasy
Judges 18:1–31**



JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

Judg. 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;”

The Tribe of Dan



The Tribe of Dan

1. The tribe of Dan is composed of the descendants of Jacob's fifth son, Dan, through Bilhah, the maid of Rachel; through his only known son, Hushim:

Gen. 35:25, “the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, were Dan and Naphtali;”

Num. 26:42, “These are the sons of Dan according to their families: of Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These are the families of Dan according to their families.” [NKJV]

2. When Jacob pronounced his final blessing upon his sons, to Dan he said:

Gen. 49:16, “Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel.

Gen. 49:17, “Dan shall be a serpent by the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse’s heels so that its rider shall fall backward.”

3. The tribal inheritance, the division of the land, which was given to the tribe of Dan, is listed in Joshua 19:40ff.

Josh. 19:40, “The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families.

Josh. 19:41, “And the territory of their inheritance was Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh,

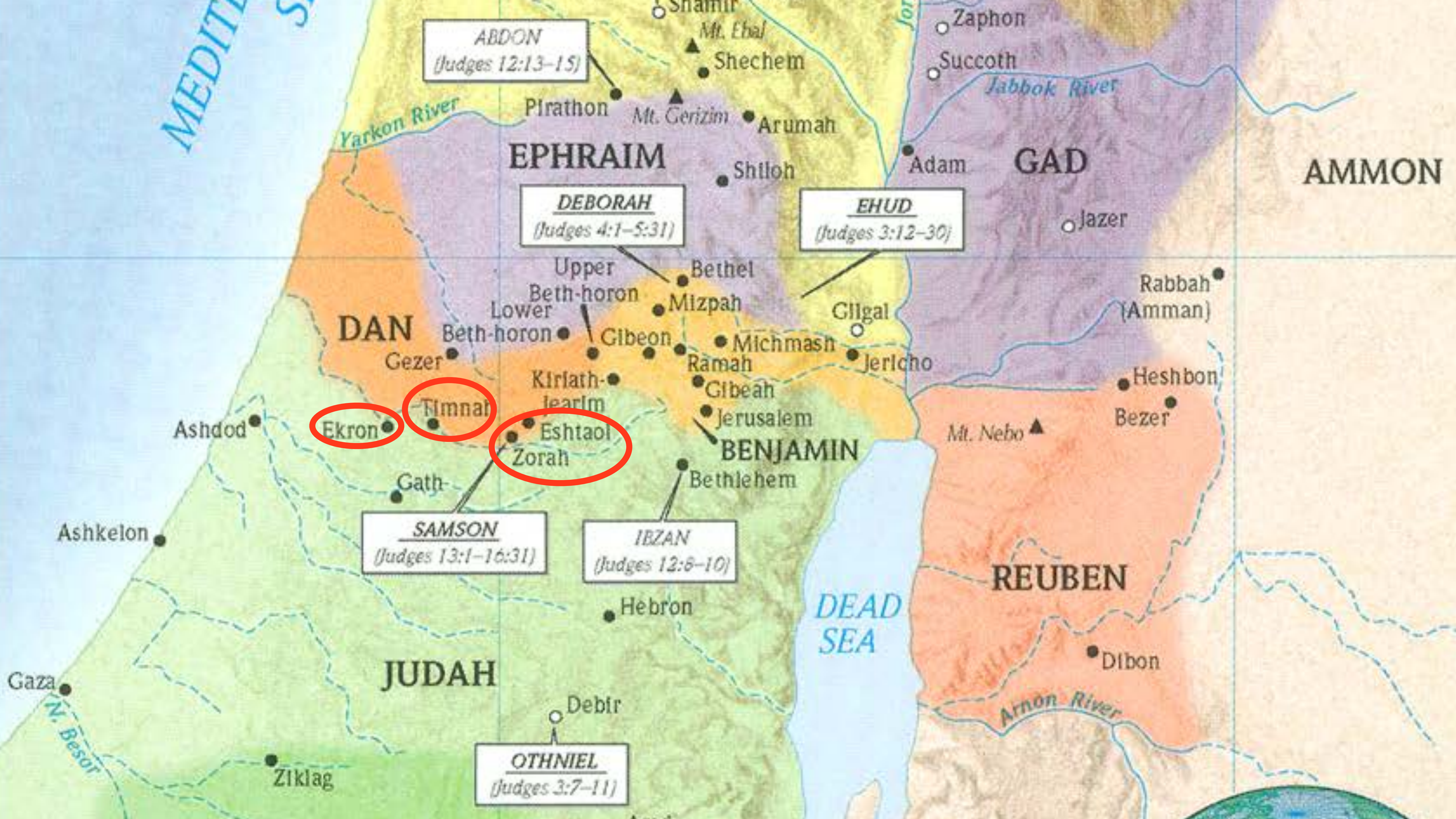
Josh. 19:42, “Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Jethlah,

Josh. 19:43, “Elon, Timnah, Ekron,

Josh. 19:44, “Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,

Josh. 19:45, “Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon,

Josh. 19:46, “Me Jarkon, and Rakkon, with the region near Joppa.” [NKJV]



ABDON
(Judges 12:13-15)

Pirathon

EPHRAIM

DEBORAH
(Judges 4:1-5:31)

EHUD
(Judges 3:12-30)

DAN

Ekron

Timnah

Eshtaol

SAMSON
(Judges 13:1-16:31)

IBZAN
(Judges 12:6-10)

BENJAMIN

JUDAH

OTHNIEL
(Judges 3:7-11)

GAD

AMMON

REUBEN

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

DEAD SEA

Ashkelon

Ashdod

Gath

Gezer

Lower Beth-horon

Upper Beth-horon

Mizpah

Bethel

Gilgal

Jericho

Gibeon

Michmash

Ramah

Gibeah

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Hebron

Debir

Ziklag

Gaza

N. Besor

Shamir

Mt. Ebal

Shechem

Mt. Gerizim

Arumah

Shiloh

Adam

Succoth

Zaphon

Jabbok River

Jazer

Rabbah (Amman)

Heshbon

Bezer

Mt. Nebo

Dibon

Arnon River

Josh. 19:47, “And the border of the children of Dan went beyond these [literally: ‘the territory of the sons of Dan went out from them (they lost control of it)’], because the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem [Laish] and took it; and they struck it with the edge of the sword, took possession of it, and dwelt in it. They called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father.

Josh. 19:48, “This is the inheritance [possession] of the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.” [NKJV]

***“They had not claimed what the Lord had allotted to them”**

“God is Dead”

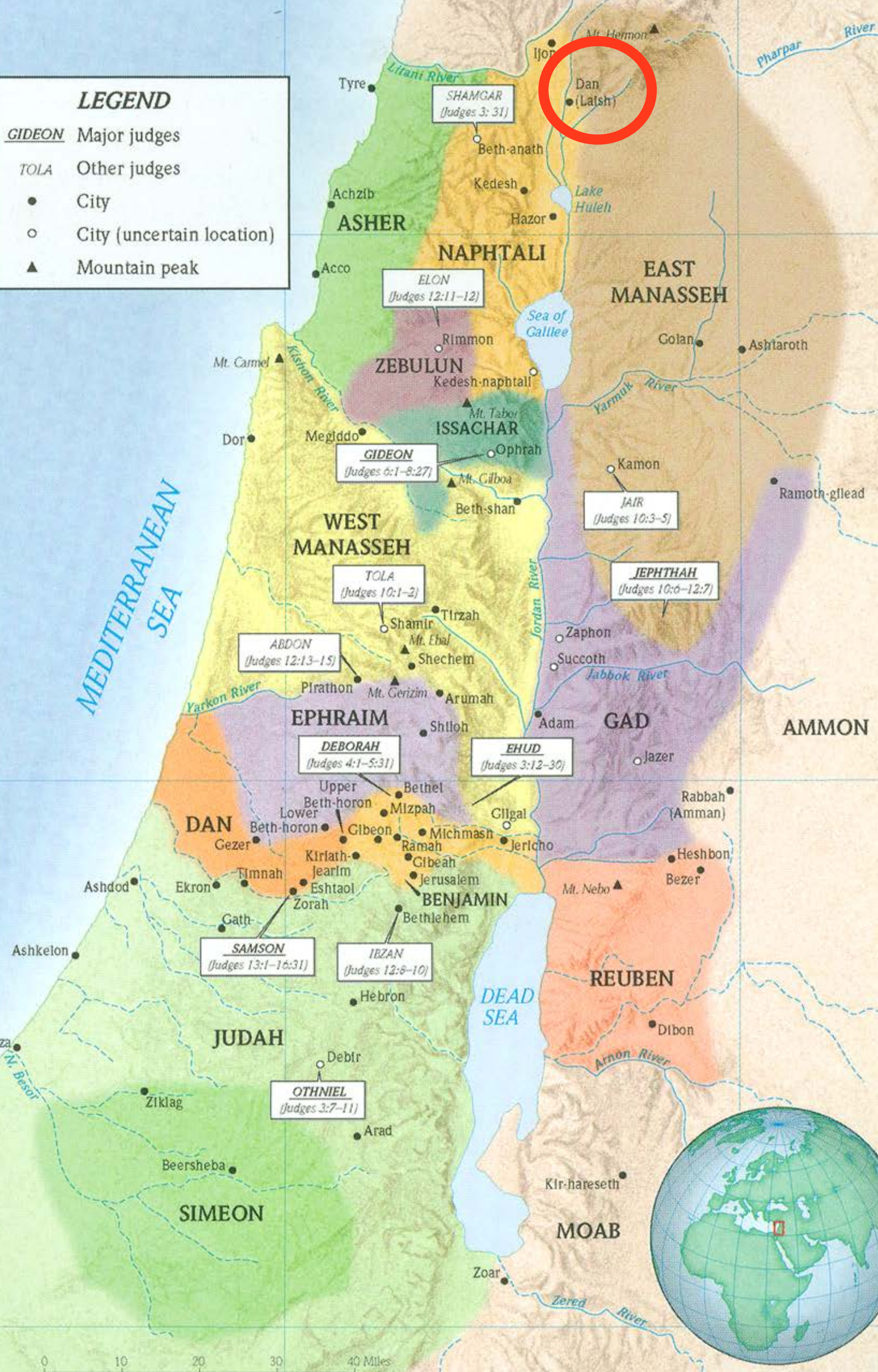
Friedrich Nietzsche



Judg. 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;

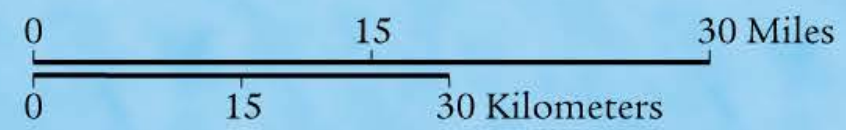
Judg. 1:35, “and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim; yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put under tribute.

Judg. 1:36, “Now the boundary of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upward.”



OF PALESTINE

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- ▨ Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon



MEDITERRANEAN
SEA



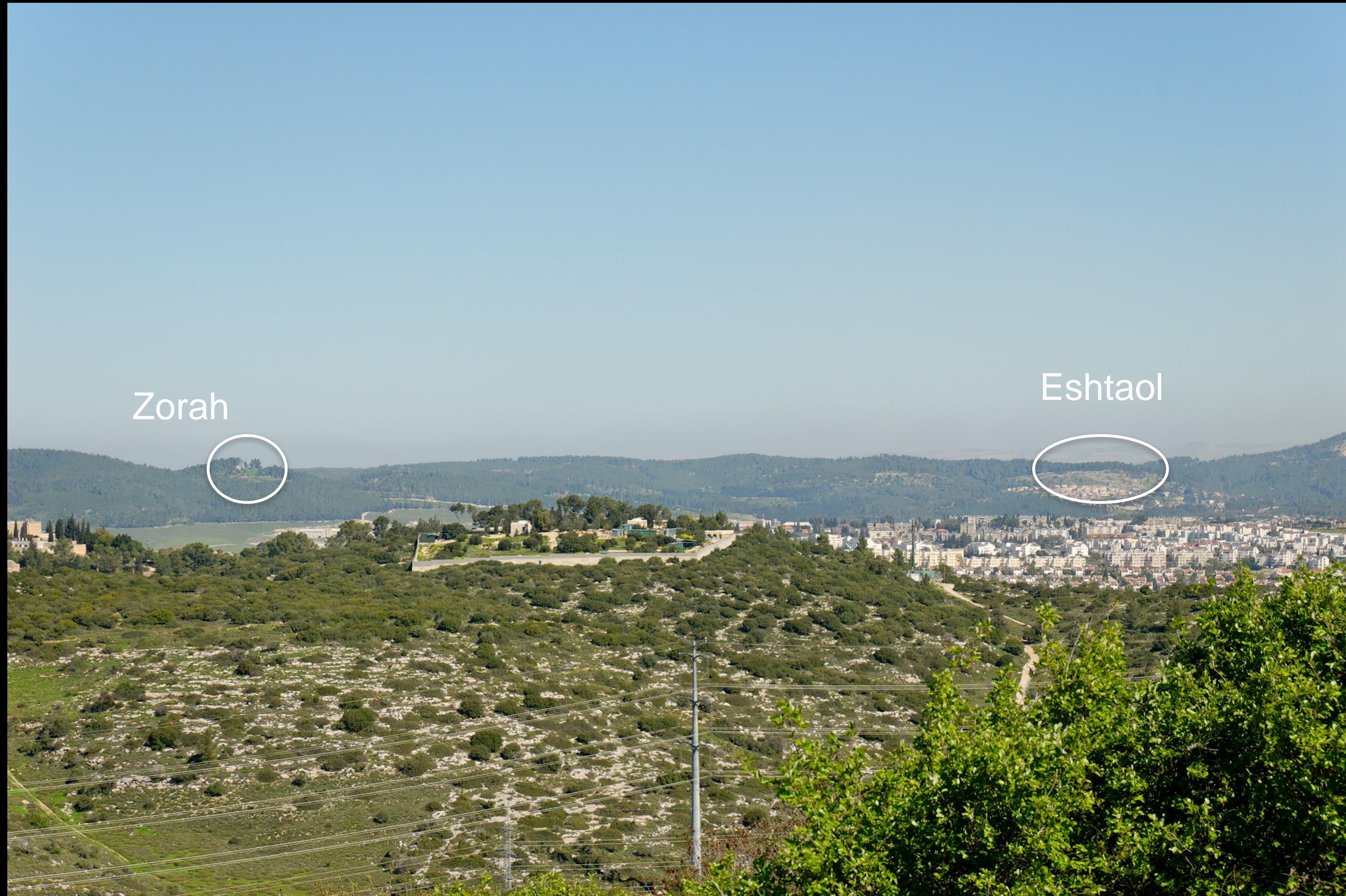
- 1. The reconnaissance mission of the 5 Danite scouts.**
- 2. The migration of the tribe of Dan, Judges 18:11–31**
 - a. The Danite trek to the hill country of Ephraim (Judges 18:11–13);**
 - b. The encounter with the Levite (Judges 18:14–20);**
 - c. The encounter with Micah (Judges 18:21–26; that’s the Danites’ encounter with Micah);**
 - d. The mission accomplished (Judges 18:27–31)**

Judg. 18:1, “In those days there was no king of Israel; and in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for themselves to live in, for until that day an inheritance had not been allotted to them as a possession among the tribes of Israel.”

Eph. 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,”

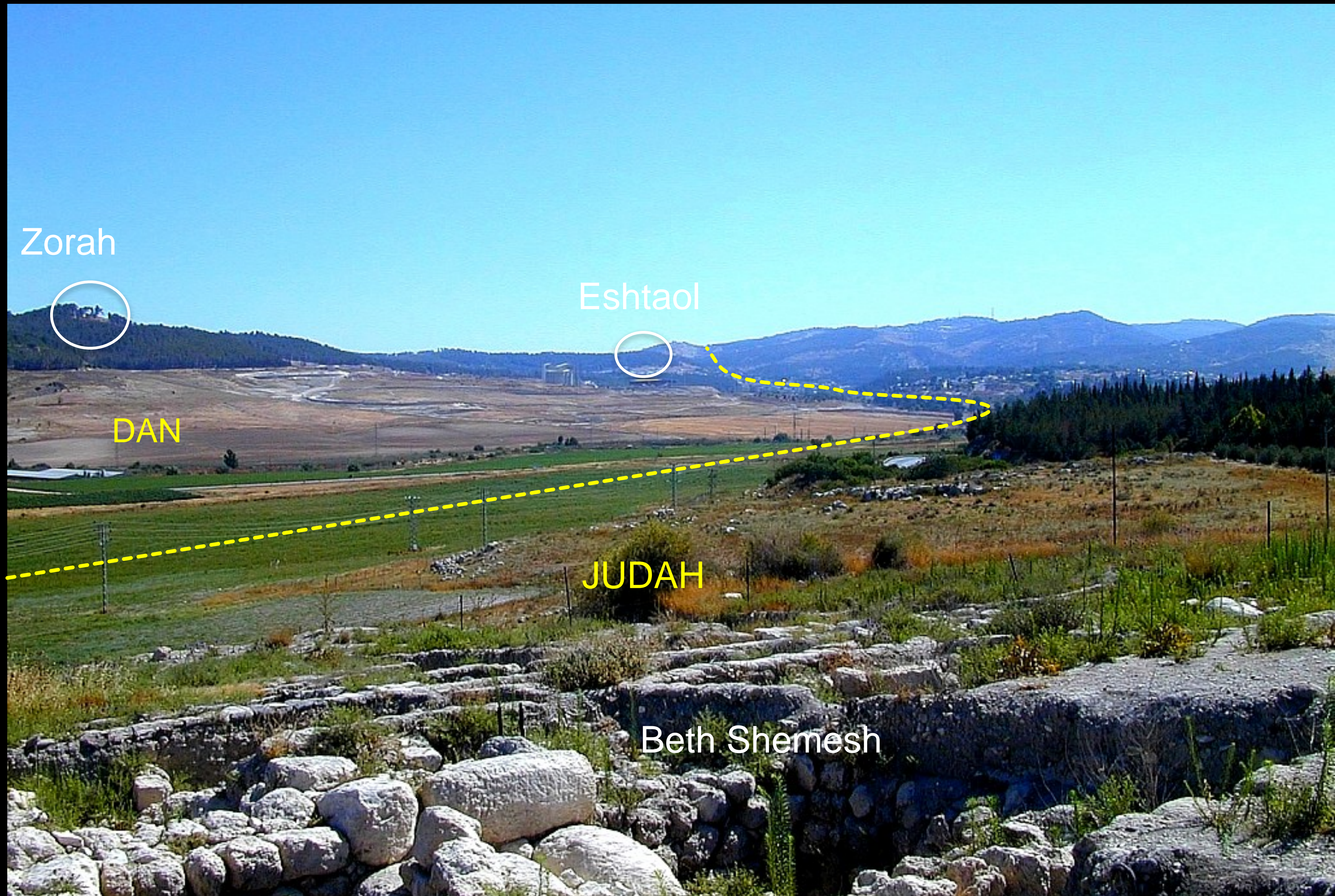
Judg. 18:2, “So the sons of Dan sent from their family five men out of their whole number, valiant men from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to search it; and they said to them, ‘Go, search the land.’ And they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.”

The people of Dan sent . . . five men . . . valiant men from Zorah and Eshtaol



Zorah and Eshtaol (from the south)

The people of Dan sent . . . five men . . . valiant men from Zorah and Eshtaol



Zorah and Eshtaol from Beth Shemesh

Judg. 18:3, “When they were near the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young man, the Levite; and they turned aside there, and said to him, ‘Who brought you here? And what are you doing in this place? And what do you have here?’ ”

Judg. 18:3, “When they were near the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young man, the Levite; and they turned aside there, and said to him, ‘Who brought you here? And what are you doing in this place? And what do you have here?’ ”

**נָכַר *nakhar* hif perf 3 com plur
to recognize, disguise, treat
as foreign; or HALOT Hiphel
“to inspect carefully, to
investigate, but it could mean
recognize”**

Judg. 18:4, “He said to them, ‘Thus and so Micah did for me. He has hired me, and I have become his priest.’

Judg. 18:5, “So they said to him, ‘Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous.’

Judg. 18:6, “And the priest said to them, ‘Go in peace. The presence of the Lord be with you on your way.’ ” [NKJV]

Judg. 18:7, “Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were in it living in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure; for there was no ruler humiliating them for anything in the land, and they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone.”

Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were in it



Record of Thutmose III's Canaan campaign at Karnak Temple, circa 1475 BC



Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were in it



Dan (aerial view from the south)

They lived in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure



Spring at Dan

They lived in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure



Headwaters of the Jordan River at Dan

They lived in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure



Headwaters of the Jordan River at Dan

Judg. 18:8, “When they came back to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol, their brothers said to them, ‘What do you report?’

Judg. 18:9, “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.

Judg. 18:10, “ ‘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.’ ”

Judg. 18:11, “And six hundred men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war.

Judg. 18:12, “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.)

Judg. 18:13, “And they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.”

Judg. 18:14, “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.’”

Judg. 18:15, “So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young Levite man—to the house of Micah—and greeted him.”

Judg. 18:16, “The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate.”

Judg. 18:17, “Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up. Entering there, they took the carved image, the ephod, the *teraphim*, 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.

Judg. 18:18, “When these went into Micah’s house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image, the priest said to them, ‘What are you doing?’

Judg. 18:19, “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?’ ”

Judg. 18:20, “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.

Judg. 18:21, “Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods in front of them.

Judg. 18:22, “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.

Judg. 18:23, “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?’ ”

Judg. 18:24, “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?” ’

Judg. 18:25, “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!’

Judg. 18:26, “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.”

Judg. 18:27, “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.

Judg. 18:28, “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.

Judg. 18:29, “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.”

Judg. 18:30, “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.

Judg. 18:31, “So they set up for themselves Micah’s carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.”

And the people of Dan set up for themselves the graven image



High place of Dan with reconstructed altar