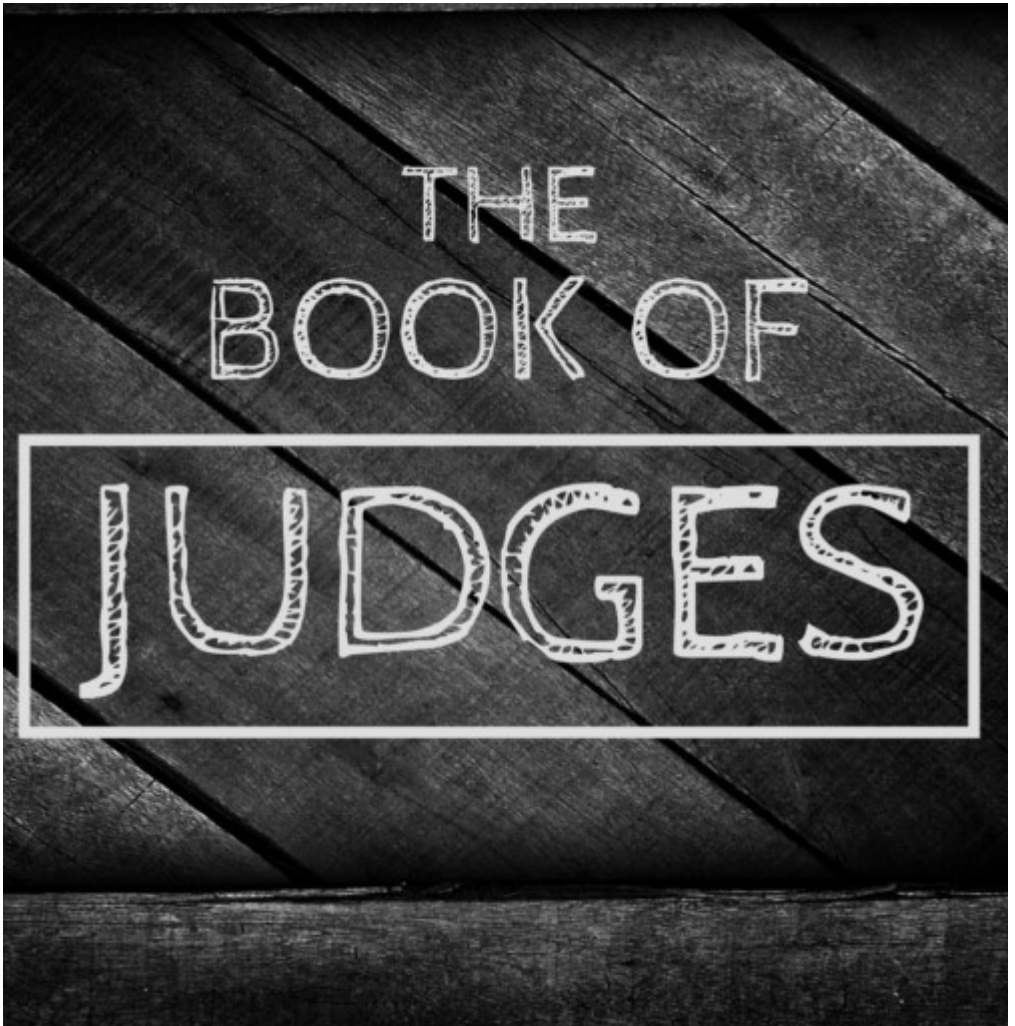


# Let's Worship God

23rd-28th May 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## **Monday - Judges 18:1-6 - False Assurance**

In Judges 1:34 we learned that the tribe of Dan had failed to capture all the land allotted to them. Their settlements were confined to the hill country, while the lowlands near the Mediterranean Sea remained in the hands of the peoples of the land. Now we find that some of the Danites have completely given up on the notion of obeying the LORD's commandment to seize the land allotted to them. Instead, they send five spies to find another "inheritance." Setting out from Zorah and Eshtaol, they head north through the hill country of Ephraim. While there, they stay the night at the home of Micah (whom we encountered in chapter 17). Hearing the voice of the Levite whom Micah has made his priest, they recognize by his accent that he is from somewhere else. When they inquire what brought him there, they learn he is serving as Micah's priest, upon which they ask him to inquire of God whether their mission will succeed. The false priest assures them their journey is "under the eye of the LORD," which is a figure of speech meaning God is blessing their undertaking.

A benediction from a false priest serving idols should give the Danites no confidence at all. However, he has told them what they want to hear, so they are ready to believe it. If the Danites were really interested in doing what God blessed, they would have repented of their sins, trusted only in the LORD and obeyed His commandment to capture the land He had given them.

Like these Danites, many people want God's blessing, but do not want to know what God really thinks. We must avoid the folly of the tribe of Dan and seek to obey God's revealed will, wisely applying what He has told us in His Word. Only then can we be assured of the LORD's blessing on our undertakings.

### **Questions**

1. Why do the Danites send these five spies to find an "inheritance"?
2. What does the Levite tell them when they ask him to inquire of God?
3. How do we know this is a false assurance?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the wisdom to apply God's revealed will to our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"In those days there was no king in Israel." Judges 18:1a

**Praise: Psalm 103 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 18:7-10 - Speaking Presumptuously**

After receiving false assurance from Micah's priest, the five Danite spies set out northward from the country of Ephraim in order to find a land in which their tribe can dwell. Travelling in that direction, they would have found that the lands were occupied by the Israelite tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, Issachar, and Naphtali. Therefore, there is no place available to them until they come to the northern extremity of the land of Canaan. There they find the city of Laish (called "Leshem" in Joshua 19:47). The people of Laish are a peaceful people who have no dealings with anyone else - meaning they have no friends or allies to aid them if they are attacked. Their land is bountiful, just the sort of place for which the spies are looking.

The five men return to the land of Dan and tell their fellow Danites about this rich and fertile valley they have found. They describe the peaceful inhabitants as "unsuspecting," and advise their tribesmen to go and take this land. Their advice is utterly sinful. First, it ignores the LORD's commandments that the tribes are to capture the lands allotted to them (and this land was not allotted to Dan). Second, it encourages the strong to prey upon the weak - something completely inconsistent with God's revealed will. Finally (and arguably worst of all) the spies speak falsely of God, saying of Laish, "God has given it into your hand." Thus, they presumptuously speak for the LORD.

We must take great care never to speak presumptuously for the LORD. We can only know God's will from His revealed Word. If we cannot determine something is His will from the clear statements of Scripture or from reasonable application of it, we must not claim to know His will.

## **Questions**

1. How do we know the Danite spies spoke presumptuously?
2. How can we avoid the same sin?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to keep us from the sin of speaking presumptuously for Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"In those days there was no king in Israel." Judges 18:1a

**Praise: Psalm 104 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Wednesday - Judges 18:11-12 - An Expedition of War**

When the five spies report that the city of Laish is vulnerable to attack and that the people there are unsuspecting and have no allies on whom they can call for help, six-hundred men of Dan prepare to leave on an expedition of war. They come from the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol. Between these towns and west of Kiriath-jearim in Judah, they encamp as they make ready to invade Laish. Because of the historical significance of this encampment, the place will be remembered for generations to come a "Mahaneh-dan," which means "camp of Dan."

The fact that only six hundred men are needed for this undertaking is not a sign of the LORD's favor. Gideon only needed three-hundred men because God was proving it was by His strength that Israel would prevail over the multitudes of the Midianites. In this case, by contrast, six hundred is a sufficient number because of the vulnerability of the people of Laish. Six hundred men will be enough to destroy this peaceful city.

The people of Laish live outside the boundaries of the lands allotted to the Israelite tribes. They live nowhere near the land allotted to Dan. They have not wronged or attacked Israel. Consequently, the Danites have no reason to believe this land is rightfully theirs. That they are willing to take it by force shows that they are reasoning as the world does - believing that might makes right - and not as God's people are to reason.

Scriptures like Mark 8:33, I Corinthians 1 and 2, II Corinthians 10:5, and James 4:4 tell us that we are not to think as those who have no relationship with the LORD think. Rather, we are called to bring every thought into subjection to Christ. May we learn more and more to be obedient, making our decisions based on what God says is right and not on what merely seems good to us.

## **Questions**

1. Why do the Danites plan to attack Laish?
2. What is wrong with their reasoning?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to bring our thoughts into subjection to Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"In those days there was no king in Israel." Judges 18:1a

**Praise: Psalm 105 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 18:13-20 - Theft

As the Danite force heads north to attack Laish, they come to the home of Micah in the hill country of Ephraim. The five spies tell them of the idols that Micah possesses, and, perhaps believing possession of the idols will aid their mission, determine to steal them. The six-hundred armed men stand guard while the five spies go into the shrine to get the idols. Not only do they steal the objects, but they offer the Levite the position of priest over the entire clan of Danites who are planning to move to Laish. Consistent with what we learned of his character in chapter 17, the Levite is delighted at the prospect of the comfort and prestige being priest to an entire tribe (or significant portion of one) will bring, and agrees to go with them.

In verse 30, we will learn that the Levite's name is Jonathan the son of Gershom. Some Old Testament manuscripts say Gershom is the son of Manasseh while others say he is the son of Moses. The best reading is probably that Jonathan is a descendant of Gershom son of Moses. Perhaps Jonathan hopes to capture some of the prestige that he feels should come with being a son of Moses, and perhaps the Danites believe having a descendant of Moses as priest is as good as having a son of Aaron. However, in Exodus 29:44, the LORD declared, "Aaron and his sons I will consecrate to serve Me as priests." As important as Moses was to the history of Israel, it was to Aaron and his descendants that the priesthood of God's Old Covenant people belonged.

After having determined a sinful course of action in their plan to conquer Laish, the Danites now add the sin of theft. Worse still, as they steal Micah's idols, they also entice Jonathan to become their priest, thus perpetuating and broadening the false religion Micah began.

### Questions

1. Why might the Danites want Micah's idols?
2. What offer do they make to Jonathan the Levite?
3. Why would he accept their offer?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will bring an end to false religions.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"In those days there was no king in Israel." Judges 18:1a

**Praise: Psalm 106 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 18:21-26 - Threats and Foolishness

In today's reading, we learn that the six-hundred armed men are not traveling alone. Intending to conquer Laish and settle there, they have brought their families, livestock, and possessions with them. They have made a wicked plan to attack a peaceful people, they have stolen Micah's idols, and they have embraced false religion, enticing Jonathan the Levite to be their priest. To these sins they now add the threat of violence against a brother Israelite.

When Micah realizes what has happened, he and his neighbors pursue the Danites, shouting as they catch up to them. When the Danites ask what they want, Micah accuses them of stealing his gods and his priest. The Danites answer Micah's accusations by threatening to kill him and his entire household.

It is worthy of note that when Micah accuses the Danites he says "You take my gods that I made." In Isaiah 44:9-20, the prophet speaks of how foolish it is to worship a thing made by human hands. Psalm 115 also speaks of the folly of worshipping idols which have mouths but cannot speak, ears but do not hear, eyes but do not see, hands but do not feel, and feet but do not walk. Psalm 115:8 says, "Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them." That is, those who make and worship idols ultimately will become powerless and dead.

We must take great care not to worship a god of our own making or imagining. The Living God has revealed Himself in His written Word and most fully in His Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. It is this God, alone, whom we must worship.

## Questions

1. How do the Danites respond to Micah's accusations?
2. What is important about Micah's words concerning his gods?
3. What do we learn from Isaiah 44 and Psalm 115 about idols and those who worship them?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that we worship God for who He truly is, and that we would never worship a god of our own imagining.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"In those days there was no king in Israel." Judges 18:1a

**Praise: Psalm 107 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 18:27-31 - Murder and Idolatry**

After stealing Micah's idols and enticing Jonathan the Levite to come with them, the Danites travel to Laish. Finding the people "quiet and unsuspecting," without allies and far from anyone who might help them, the Danites fall upon them, slaughtering them and burning their city. They then rebuild the city and name it Dan, after their ancestor, the son of Jacob. With the excuse that the LORD's sanctuary is far away at Shiloh, they set up Micah's idols to worship and make Jonathan the Levite their priest. This false religion lasts until the "captivity of the land" - either until the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) or until the northern Israelite tribes were deported by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Many Bible scholars believe this long-lasting idolatry is the reason the tribe of Dan is left out of the list of Israelite tribes in Revelation 7:4-8.

Last week we considered the Regulative Principle of Worship which states "If God has not commanded a practice as an element of worship, He has forbidden it." By setting up their own idols and making someone not of the line of Aaron their priest, first Micah and now the Danites have violated this principle, clearly taught in Deuteronomy 12:28-32. They may claim to be worshiping the true God - it was of God that the spies inquired in Judges 18:5, and it was in the LORD's name that Jonathan and the spies presumed to speak - but they are not worshipping Him rightly as He has commanded. It is important not only that we worship the true God, but that we worship Him truly, according to His commandments.

## **Questions**

1. What crime do the Danites commit against the people of Laish?
2. What sin do they then commit against God?
3. What was wrong with their form of worship? Was anything wrong with having Jonathan as their priest?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

## **Memory Verse**

"In those days there was no king in Israel." Judges 18:1a

**Praise: Psalm 108 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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