

Joshua 19:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the coast of the children of Dan went out too little for them: therefore the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem, and took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and possessed it, and dwelt therein, and called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father.

Analysis

And the coast of the children of Dan went out too little for them—The tragedy: Dan found their inheritance insufficient. Rather than trust God and fight, **the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem, and took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and possessed it.** They conquered Leshem (also called Laish), **dwelt therein, and called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father.**

This explains Dan's abandonment of their God-given land for self-chosen territory. Judges 18 details their violence, theft of Micah's idol, and establishment of apostate worship. When God's provision seems 'too little,' human solutions lead to spiritual disaster. Contentment and faith must govern ambition (Philippians 4:11-13).

Historical Context

Laish/Leshem lay in Upper Galilee near Mount Hermon, far north of Dan's original allotment. Judges 18 describes the Danite migration circa 1200 BC. Dan became Israel's northernmost city, giving rise to the phrase 'from Dan to Beersheba.' Their idolatrous shrine corrupted northern Israel for centuries.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When have you deemed God's provision 'too little' and pursued self-directed solutions with tragic results?
2. How does discontent with God's assignment lead to spiritual compromise and idolatry?

Interlinear Text

בָּנִי	תַּעַל	וְ	מִקְ	מִ	בְּנִי	גְּבוּל	גְּבוּל	אֲלָא
went out	And the coast	of the children	Dan		H1992	went up	of the children	
H3318	H1366	H1121	H1835			H5927	H1121	
Dan	to fight	H5973	Leshem	and took	H853	it and smote		H853
H1835	H3898		H3959	H3920		H5221		
לְפִי	בְּ	הַ	וְיִשְׁבֹּו	אֶזְתָּחָה	חַבְּבָה	וְיִרְשֶׁ	וְ	אֶזְתָּחָה
it with the edge	of the sword		and possessed		H853	it and dwelt		H0
H6310	H2719		H3423			H3427		
therein and called	Leshem	Dan	after the name	Dan	their father			
H7121	H3959	H1835	H8034	H1835	H1			

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