

# 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

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**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

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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

וַיֵּצֵא א	גְבוּל	בְּנֵי	דָן	וַיָּעַל ו	בְּנֵי
went out	And the coast	of the children	Dan	went up	of the children
H3318	H1366	H1121	H1835	H5927	H1121
וַיִּלָּחֶם ו	עִם	לְשֵׁם	וַיִּלָּכֵד ו	אוֹתָהּ	וַיַּכּ ו
Dan	to fight	Leshem	and took	it and smote	
H1835	H3898	H5973	H3920	H853	H5221
לְפִי	חֶרֶב	וַיִּרְשׁ ו	אוֹתָהּ	וַיֵּשְׁבוּ	בָּהּ
it with the edge	of the sword	and possessed		it and dwelt	
H6310	H2719	H3423	H853	H3427	H0
וַיִּקְרָא ו	לְשֵׁם	דָן	כֵּשׁ מ	וַיִּבְרָא:	אֲבִיהֶם:
therein and called	Leshem	Dan	after the name	Dan	their father
H7121	H3959	H1835	H8034	H1835	H1

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