

# Judges 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.** Dan had been allotted fertile western territory (Joshua 19:40-48), but Amorites "forced the children of Dan into the mountain" (Judges 1:34). Rather than trusting God for victory, Dan sought easier conquest elsewhere. The phrase "sought them an inheritance" reveals unbelief—God had already given them an inheritance; their responsibility was to possess it through faith. Their refusal mirrors Israel's unbelief at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 13-14). From a Reformed perspective, God's promises require faith-filled obedience to realize. We cannot abandon God's assignments because they're difficult and expect blessing in self-chosen paths. Dan's choice had lasting consequences: geographic isolation, vulnerability to attacks, and becoming synonymous with idolatry when Jeroboam placed a golden calf there (1 Kings 12:28-30).

## Historical Context

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Dan's original allotment was prime agricultural land in the Shephelah bordering Philistine territory. Philistine military superiority (iron weapons and chariots) and Amorite resistance made conquest difficult. Rather than persevere in faith, Dan sought easier territory in the far north. Archaeological excavations at Tel Dan

confirm the city's Canaanite destruction and Israelite rebuilding during the Judges period. This relocation isolated Dan geographically and spiritually, contributing to their later apostasy. The city of Dan eventually became Israel's northernmost point, referenced in the phrase "from Dan to Beer-sheba," but also became a center of idolatrous worship that persisted for centuries.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How do we abandon God's clear assignments because they're difficult, seeking easier alternatives?
2. What does Dan's choice teach about the long-term consequences of faithlessness?
3. How does Dan's failure illustrate the necessity of faith-filled perseverance in claiming God's promises?

## Interlinear Text

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הֵי יוֹם	הָהֵם	אֵין	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	הֵי יוֹם	הָהֵם
In those days	H1992	H369	there was no king	in Israel	In those days	H1992
H3117			H4428	H3478	H3117	
שְׁבֵטֵי י	הַדָּנִי	מִבְקֶשׁ	לֹא	בְנִחְלָה:	לָשׁ בֵּת	כִּי
the tribe	of the Danites	sought	H0	all their inheritance	to dwell in	H3588
H7626	H1839	H1245		H5159	H3427	
לֹא	נִפְלָה	לֹא	עַד	הֵי יוֹם	הָהֵם	בְּתוֹךְ
H3808	had not fallen	H0	H5704	In those days	H1931	unto them among
	H5307			H3117		H8432
שְׁבֵטֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנִחְלָה:				
the tribe	in Israel	all their inheritance				
H7626	H3478	H5159				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Judges 17:6** (Kingdom): In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

**Judges 1:34** (Parallel theme): And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley:

**Judges 19:1** (Kingdom): And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Beth-lehem-judah.

**Judges 21:25** (Kingdom): In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.