ُوَفِي تِلْكَ الأَيَّامِ لَمْ يَكُنْ مَلِكٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ، وَفِي تِلْكَ الأَيَّام كَانَ سِبْطُ الدَّانِيِّينَ يَطْلُبُ لَهُ َمُلْكاً لِلسُّكْنَى لأَنَّهُ إِلَى ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ لَمْ يَقَعْ لَهُ نَصِيبٌ فِي وَسَطِ أَسْبَاطِ إَسْرَائِيلَ. ۚ فَأَرْسَلَ ۚ بَنُو دَانَ مِنْ عَشِيرَتِهِمْ خَِمْسَةَ رِجَال ُ مِنْهُمْ، رِجَالاً بَنِي بَأْسِ مِنْ صُرْعَةَ وَمِنْ أَشْتَأُولَ لِتَجَسُّسَ الأَرْضِ وَفَحْصِهَا. وَقَالُوا لَهُمُ، اذْهَبُوا افْحَصُوا الأَرْضَ. فَجَاءُوا إِلَى جَبَـل أَفْرَايـمَ إِلَى بَيْتِ مِيخَـا وَبَـاتُوا هُنَاكَ. وَبَيْنَمَا هُمْ عِنْدَ بَيْتِ مِيخَا عَرَفُوا صَوْتَ الْغُلاَمِ اللَّويِّ، فَمَالُوا إِلَى هُنَاكَ وَسَأْلُوهُ، مَنْ جَاءَ بِكَ إِلَى هُنَا،َ وَمَاذَا أَنْتَ عَامِلٌ فِي هَذَا الْمَكَانِ، وَمَا لِكَ هُنَا. ۖ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ، كَذَا وَكَذَا عَمِلَ لِي مِيخَا، وَقَدِ اسْتَأْجَرَنِي فَصِرْتُ لَهُ كَاهِناً. ۚفَقَالُوا لَهُ، اسْأَلْ إِذَنْ مِنَ اللَّهِ لِنَعْلَمَ هَلْ يَنْجَحُ طَرِيقُنَا الَّذِي نَحْنُ سَائِرُونَ فِيهِ. ۚ فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْكَاهِنُ، اذْهَبُوا بسَلاَم. أَمَامَ الرَّبِّ طَرِيقُكُمُ الَّذِي تَسِيرُونَ فِيهِ. ۖ فَذَهَبِ الَّخَمْسَةُ الرِّجَالِ وَجَاءُوا إِلَى لاَيِشَ. وَرَأُوُا الشُّعْبَ الَّذِينَ فِيهَا سَاكِنِينَ بِطُمَأْنِينَةِ كُعَادَةِ الصَّيْدُونِيِّينَ مُسْتَرِيحِينَ مُطْمَئِنِّينَ، وَلَيْسَ فِي الأَرْضِ مُؤْذِ بِأَمْرِ وَارِثُ رِيَاسَةً، وَهُمْ بَعِيدُونَ عَنِ الصَّيْدُونِيِّينَ وَلَيْسَ لَهُمْ أُمْرٌ مَعَ إِنْسَانِ. ْ وَجَاءُوا إِلَى إِخْوَتِهِمْ إِلَى صُرْعَةَ وَأَشْتَأُولَ. فَقَالَ لَّهُمْ إَخْوَتُهُمْ، مَا أَنْتُمْ. ۖ فَقَالُواً، قُومُوا نَصْعَدْ إِلَيْهِمْ، لأَنْنَا رَ أَيْنَا ۚ الأَرْضَ وَهُوَذَا هِيَ جَيِّدَةٌ جِدّاً وَأَنْتُمْ سَاكَتُونَ. لاَ تَتَكَاسَلُوا عَنِ الذَّهَابِ لِتَدْخُلُوا وَتَمْلِكُوا الأَرْضَ. 10 عِنْدَ مَجِيئِكُمْ تَأْتُونَ إِلَى شَعْبِ مُطْمَئِنٍّ، وَالأَرْضُ وَاسِعَةُ الطَّرَفَيْنِ. إِنَّ اللَّهَ قِدْ دَفَعَهَا لِيَدِكُمْ. مَكَانٌ لَيْسَ فِيهِ عَوَزٌ لِشَيْءٍ مِّمَّا فِي الأَرْضِ. 11 فَارْتَحَلَ مِنْ هُنَاكَ مِنْ عَشِيرَةٍ الدَّانِيِّينَ مِنْ صُرْعَةَ وَمِنْ أَشْتَأُولَ سِتُّ مِئَةِ رَجُلَ مُتَسَـلَحِينَ بعُـدَّةِ الْحَرْبِ.¹²وَصَعِدُوا وَحَلَّـوا فِـمِ قَرْيَـةٍ يَعَارِيمَ فِي يَهُوذَا. لِذَلِكَ دَعُوا ذَلِكَ الْمَكَانَ مَحَلَّةَ دَانِ إِلَى هَذَا الْيَوْم. هُوَذَا هِيَ وَرَاءَ قَرْيَةِ يَعَارِيمَ.¹³وَعَبَرُوا مِنْ ُهُنَاكَ إِلَى جَبَل أَفْرَايِمَ وَجَاءُوا إِلَى بَيْتِ مِيخَا. 14فَقَالَ الْخَمْسَـةُ الرِّجَـالِ الَّذِينَ ذَهَبُوا لِتَجَسُّسِ أَرْضِ لاَيشَ لإِخْوَتِهِمْ، أَتَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ فِي هَذِهِ الْبُيُوتِ أَفُوداً وَتَرَافِيمَ وَيَمْتَالًا مَنْحُوتاً وَتِمْتَالاً مَسْبُوكاً. فَالآنَ اعْلَمُوا مَا تَفْعَلُونَ. 15فَمَـالُوا إِلَى هُنَـاكَ وَجَـاءُوا إِلَى بَيْتِ الْغُلاَمِ اللاَّويِّ، بَيْتِ مِيخَا، وَسَلَّمُوا عَلَيْهِ.16وَالسِّتُّ مِئَةِ الرَّجُل الْمُتَسَلِّحُونَ بِعُدَّتِهِمْ لِلْحَرْبِ وَاقِفُونَ عِنْدَ مَدْخَلِ الْبَابِ هَؤُلاَءِ مِنْ بَنِي دَانِ. 1 فَصَعِدَ الْخَمْسَةُ الرِّجَالُ الَّذِينَ ذَهَبُـوا لِتَجَسُّـس الأَرْض وَدَخَلَـوا إلَـي هُنَـاكَ، وَأَخَـذُوا التُّمْثَالَ الْمَنْحُوتَ وَالأَفُوَدَ وَالتَّرَافِيمَ وَالتَّمْثَالَ الْمَسْبُوكَ

¹In 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. And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there. When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this place? and what hast thou here? And he said unto them. Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest. And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous. And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is vour way wherein ye go. Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing; and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no business with any man. And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye? And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good: and are

ye still? be not slothful to go, and to enter to possess the land. 10 When ye go, ye shall come unto a people secure, and to a large land: for God hath given it into your hands; a place where there is no want of any thing that is in the earth. 11 And there went from thence of the family of the Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war. 12 And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathjearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahanehdan unto this behold, it is behind day: Kirjathjearim. 13 And they passed thence unto mount Ephraim, and came unto the house of Micah. 14 Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what ye have to do. 15 And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and saluted him. ¹⁶And the six hundred men appointed with their weapons of war, which were of the children of Dan, stood by the entering of the gate. ¹⁷ And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, and came in thither, and took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred men that were appointed with weapons of war. 18 And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, What do

وَالْكَاهِنُ وَاقِفٌ عِنْدَ مَدْخَلِ الْبَابِ مَعَ السِّتِّ مِئَةِ الرَّجُلِ الْمُتَسَلِّحِينَ بِعُدَّةِ الْحَرْبِ. 18وَهَـؤُلاَءِ دَخَلُـوا بَيْتَ مِيخَـا وَأَخَذُوا التَّمْثَالَ الْمَنْحُوتَ وَالْأَفُودَ وَالتَّرَافُيمَ وَالتَّمْثَالَ الْمَسْبُوكَ. فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْكَاهِنُ، مَاذَا تَفْعَلُونَ. ۖ فَقَالُوا لَهُ، اخْرَسْ. ضَعْ يَدَكَ عَلَى فَمِكَ وَاذْهَبْ مَعَنَا وَكُنْ لَنَا أَباً وَكَاهِناً. أَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَكَ أَنْ تَكُونَ كَاهِناً لِبَيْتِ رَجُلِ وَاحِدٍ، أَمْ أَنْ تَكُونَ كَاهِناً لِسِيْطٍ وَلِعَشِيرَةٍ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ. 20فَطَابَ قَلْتُ الْكَاهِنِ، وَأَخَذَ الأَفُودَ وَالتَّرَافِيمَ وَالتَّمْثَالَ الْمَنْحُوتَ وَدَخَلَ فِي وَسَطِ الشَّعْب. 21 ثُمَّ انْصَرَفُوا وَذَهَبُوا وَوَضَعُوا الأطْفَالَ وَالْمَاشِيَةَ وَمَتَاعَهُمْ قُدَّامَهُمْ. 22 وَلَمَّا ابْتَعِدُوا عَنْ بَيْتِ مِيخَا اجْتَمَعَ الرِّ جَالُ الَّذِينَ فِي الْبُيُوتِ الَّتِي عِنْدَ بَيْتِ مِيخَا وَأَدْرَكُوا بَنِي دَانَ،²³وَصَاحُوا إِلَى بَنِي دَانِ فَالْتَفَتُوا، وَقَالُوا لِمِيخَا، مَا لَكَ صَرَخْتَ.²⁴َفَقَالَ، آلِهَتِيَ الَّتِي عَمِلْتُ قَدْ أَخَذْتُمُوهَا مَعَ الْكَاهِنِ وَذَهَبْتُمْ، فَمَاذَا لِي بَعْدُ. وَمَا هَذَا تَقُولُونَ لِي، مَا لَكَ.²⁵فَقَالَ لَهُ بَنُو دَان، لاَ تُسَمِّعُ صَوْتَكَ بَيْنَنَا لِئَلاّ يَقَعَ بِكُمْ رِجَالٌ أَنْفُسُهُمْ مُرَّةُ فَتُنْذِعَ نَفْسَكَ وَأَنْفُسَ بَيْتِكَ. 26وَسَارَ بَنُو دَانَ فِي طَرِيقَهِمْ. وَلَمَّا رَأَى مِيخَا أَنَّهُمْ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ انْصَرَفَ وَرَجَعَ إِلَى بَيْتِه. 27 وَأُمَّا هُمْ فَأَخَذُوا مَا صَنَعَ مِيخَا، وَالْكَاهِنَ الَّذِي كَانَ لَهُ، وَجَاءُوا إِلَى لاَيشَ إِلَى شَعْبِ مُسْتَرِيحٍ مُطْمَئِنٍّ، وَضَرَبُوهُمْ بِحَدِّ السَّيْفِ وَأَحْرَقُوا الْمَدِينَةَ بِأَلنَّارٍ ²⁸َوَلَمْ ـَكُونَ مَنْ يُنْقَذُ لأَنَّهَا بَعِيدَةٌ عَنْ صَيْدُونَ، وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُمْ أَمْرٌ مَعَ إِنْسَانِ، وَهِيَ فِي الْوَادِي الَّذِي لِبَيْتِ رَحُوبَ. فَبَنُوا ِ الْمَدِينَةَ وَسَكَنُوا بِهَا ²⁹َوَدَعَوُا اسْمَ الْمَدِينَةِ دَانَ باسْم دَان أبيهِـم الَّـذِي وُلِـدَ لإسْـرَائِيلَ. وَلَكِـنَّ اسْـمَ الْمَدِينَـةِ أَوَّلاً لاَيشُ.ٰ 30 وَأَقَامَ بَنُو دَانِ لأَنْفُسِهِمِ التَّمْثَالَ الْمَنْحُوتَ. وَكَانَ يَهُونَاتَالُ بْنُ جَرْشُومَ بْنُ مَنَسَّى هُوَ وَبَنُوهُ كَهَنَةً لِسِبْطِ الدَّانِيِّينَ إِلَى يَوْم سَِبْي الأَرْضِ.³¹وَوَصَعُوا لأِنْفُسِهمْ تِمْثَالَ مِيخَا الْمَنْحُوتَ اَلَّذِي عَمِلَهُ، َ كُلَّ الأَيَّامِ الَّتِي كَانَ فيهَا ىَنْتُ اللَّه في شيلُوهَ.

ye?¹⁹And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: is it better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel? And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people.²¹So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them. ²² And when they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that were in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan. 23 And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company?²⁴And he said. Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? and what is this that ye say unto me. What aileth thee?²⁵And the children of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon thee, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household. ²⁶ And the children of Dan went their way: and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house.²⁷And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire. 28 And there was no deliverer, because it was far from

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Zidon, and they had no business with any man; and it was in the valley that lieth by Bethrehob. And they built a city, and dwelt therein. And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first. And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land. And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.