

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.²And 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.³When 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?⁴And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.⁵And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous.⁶And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.⁷Then 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.⁸And they came unto their brethren to Zorah and Eshtaol: and their brethren said unto them, What say ye?⁹And they said, Arise, that we may go up against them: for we have seen the land, and, behold, it is very good: and are

¹وَفِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ لَمْ يَكُنْ مَلِكٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ، وَفِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ كَانَ سَبْطُ الدَّانِيِّينَ يَطْلُبُ لَهُ مَوْلَاً لِلسُّكْنَى لِأَنَّهُ إِلَى ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ لَمْ يَقَعْ لَهُ تَصِيبٌ فِي وَسْطِ أَسْبَاطِ إِسْرَائِيلَ.²فَارْتَسَلُوا بَنُو دَانَ مِنْ عَشِيرَتِهِمْ خَمْسَةً رِجَالٍ مِنْهُمْ، رِجَالاً بَنِي بَاسٍ مِنْ ضَرْعَةٍ وَمِنْ أَسْثَاوَلٍ لِيَجَسَّسَ الْأَرْضَ وَفَحَصَهَا. وَقَالُوا لَهُمْ، اذْهَبُوا افْحَصُوا الْأَرْضَ. فَجَاءُوا إِلَى جَبَلِ أَفْرَايِمَ إِلَى بَيْتِ مِيخَا وَبَاتُوا هُنَاكَ.³وَبَيَّنَمَا هُمْ عِنْدَ بَيْتِ مِيخَا عَرَفُوا صَوْتَ الْغُلَامِ الْلاَوِيِّ، فَقَالُوا إِلَى هُنَاكَ وَسَأَلُوهُ، مَنْ جَاءَ بِكَ إِلَى هُنَا، وَمَاذَا أَنْتَ عَامِلٌ فِي هَذَا الْمَكَانِ، وَمَا لَكَ هُنَا.⁴فَقَالَ لَهُمْ، كَذَا وَكَذَا عَمِلَ لِي مِيخَا، وَقَدْ اسْتَأْجَرَنِي فَصِرْتُ لَهُ كَاهِنًا.⁵فَقَالُوا لَهُ، اسْأَلِ إِيذَنَ مِنَ اللَّهِ لِنَعْلَمَ هَلْ يَنْجُحُ طَرِيقُنَا الَّذِي تَخُنْ سَائِرُونَ فِيهِ.⁶فَقَالَ لَهُمْ الْكَاهِنُ، اذْهَبُوا بِسَلَامٍ. أَمَامَ الرَّبِّ طَرِيقُكُمْ الَّذِي تَسِيرُونَ فِيهِ.⁷فَذَهَبَ الْخَمْسَةُ الرِّجَالِ وَجَاءُوا إِلَى لَيْشَ. وَرَأَوْا الشَّعْبَ الَّذِينَ فِيهَا سَاكِنِينَ يَطْمَئِنُّونَ كَعَادَةِ الصِّدُونِيِّينَ مُسْتَرَحِينَ مُطْمَئِنِّينَ، وَلَيْسَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُؤَدِّ يَأْمُرٍ وَارِثِ رِبَاسَةٍ، وَهُمْ يَعْبُدُونَ عَنِ الصِّدُونِيِّينَ وَلَيْسَ لَهُمْ أَمْرٌ مَعَ إِنْسَانٍ.⁸وَجَاءُوا إِلَى إِخْوَتِهِمْ إِلَى ضَرْعَةٍ وَأَسْثَاوَلٍ. فَقَالَ لَهُمْ إِخْوَتُهُمْ، مَا أَنْتُمْ. فَقَالُوا، قُومُوا بَصْعَدُ إِلَيْهِمْ، لَأَنَّا رَأَيْنَا الْأَرْضَ وَهُوَذَا هِيَ جَيِّدَةٌ جَدًّا وَأَنْتُمْ سَاكِنُونَ. لَا تَتَكَاسَلُوا عَنْ الدَّهَابِ لِنَدْخُلُوا وَتَمْلِكُوا الْأَرْضَ.¹⁰عِنْدَ مَجِيئِكُمْ تَأْتُونَ إِلَى شَعْبٍ مُطْمَئِنٍّ، وَالْأَرْضُ وَاسِعَةٌ الطَّرْقَيْنِ. إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ دَفَعَهَا لِيَدِكُمْ. مَكَانٌ لَيْسَ فِيهِ عَوْرُ لَيْشِيِّ مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ.¹¹فَارْتَحَلَ مِنْ هُنَاكَ مِنْ عَشِيرَةِ الدَّانِيِّينَ مِنْ ضَرْعَةٍ وَمِنْ أَسْثَاوَلٍ سِتُّ مِائَةٍ رَجُلٍ مُتَسَلِحِينَ بِعُدَّةِ الْحَرْبِ.¹²وَوَضَعُوا وَخَلَوْا فِي قَرْيَةِ بَعَارِيمَ فِي يَهُوذَا. لِيَذَلِكَ دَعَا ذَلِكَ الْمَكَانَ مَحَلَّةَ دَانَ إِلَى هَذَا الْيَوْمِ. هُوَذَا هِيَ وَرَاءَ قَرْيَةِ بَعَارِيمَ.¹³وَعَبَّرُوا مِنْ هُنَاكَ إِلَى جَبَلِ أَفْرَايِمَ وَجَاءُوا إِلَى بَيْتِ مِيخَا.¹⁴فَقَالَ الْخَمْسَةُ الرِّجَالِ الَّذِينَ ذَهَبُوا لِيَجَسَّسَ أَرْضَ لَيْشَ لِإِخْوَتِهِمْ، أَتَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ فِي هَذِهِ الْبُيُوتِ أَفُودًا وَتَرَافِيمَ وَتِمْنَالًا مَنُحُوتًا وَتِمْنَالًا مَسْبُوكًا. فَلَاآنَ اعْلَمُوا مَا تَفْعَلُونَ.¹⁵فَقَالُوا إِلَى هُنَاكَ وَجَاءُوا إِلَى بَيْتِ الْغُلَامِ الْلاَوِيِّ، بَيْتِ مِيخَا، وَسَلَّمُوا عَلَيْهِ.¹⁶وَالسَّتُّ مِائَةَ الرَّجُلِ الْمُتَسَلِحُونَ بِعُدَّتِهِمْ لِلْحَرْبِ وَاقِفُونَ عِنْدَ مَدْخَلِ الْبَابِ هَؤُلَاءِ مِنْ بَنِي دَانَ. فَصَعِدَ الْخَمْسَةُ الرِّجَالِ الَّذِينَ ذَهَبُوا لِيَجَسَّسَ الْأَرْضَ وَدَخَلُوا إِلَى هُنَاكَ، وَأَخَذُوا التِّمْنَالَ الْمَنُحُوتَ وَالْأَفُودَ وَالتَّرَافِيمَ وَالتِّمْنَالَ الْمَسْبُوكَ

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 day: behold, it is behind 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.¹⁶ And 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

وَالكَاهِنُ وَاقِفٌ عِنْدَ مَذْخَلِ الْبَابِ مَعَ السِّتِّ مِثَّةَ الرَّجُلِ الْمُتَسَلِّحِينَ بَعْدَهُ الْحَرْبِ.¹⁸ وَهَؤُلَاءِ دَخَلُوا بَيْتَ مِيخَا وَأَخَذُوا التَّمثالَ الْمَنْحُوتَ وَالْأَفُودَ وَالتَّرَافِيمَ وَالتَّمثالَ الْمَسْبُوكَ. فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْكَاهِنُ، مَاذَا تَفْعَلُونَ.¹⁹ فَقَالُوا لَهُ، اخْرُسْ. صَعَّ يَدُكَ عَلَى قِمِكَ وَادْهَبْ مَعَنَا وَكُنْ لَنَا أَبًا وَكَاهِنًا. أَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَكَ أَنْ تَكُونَ كَاهِنًا لِبَيْتِ رَجُلٍ وَاحِدٍ، أَمْ أَنْ تَكُونَ كَاهِنًا لِسَبْطٍ وَلِعَشِيرَةٍ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ.²⁰ فَطَابَ قَلْبُ الْكَاهِنِ، وَأَخَذَ الْأَفُودَ وَالتَّرَافِيمَ وَالتَّمثالَ الْمَنْحُوتَ وَدَخَلَ فِي وَسْطِ الشَّعْبِ.²¹ ثُمَّ انْصَرَفُوا وَدَهَبُوا وَوَضَعُوا الْأَطْفَالَ وَالْمَاشِيَةَ وَمَتَاعَهُمْ قُدَّامَهُمْ.²² وَلَمَّا ابْتَعَدُوا عَنْ بَيْتِ مِيخَا اجْتَمَعَ الرِّجَالُ الذِّبْنَ فِي الْبُيُوتِ الَّتِي عِنْدَ بَيْتِ مِيخَا وَأَذْرَكُوا بَنِي دَانَ، وَصَاحُوا إِلَى بَنِي دَانَ قَالَتَقْتُوا، وَقَالُوا لِمِيخَا، مَا لَكَ صَرَخْتَ.²⁴ فَقَالَ، إِلَهِي الَّتِي عَمِلْتُ قَدْ أَخَذْتُمُوهَا مَعَ الْكَاهِنِ وَدَهَبْتُمْ، فَمَاذَا لِي بَعْدُ. وَمَا هَذَا تَقُولُونَ لِي، مَا لَكَ.²⁵ فَقَالَ لَهُ بَنُو دَانَ، لَا تُسَمِّعْ صَوْتَكَ بَيْنَنَا لِئَلَّا يَقَعَ بِكُمْ رِجَالُ أَنْفُسِهِمْ مَرَّةً فَتَنْزِعَ نَفْسَكَ وَأَنْفُسَ بَنِيكَ.²⁶ وَسَارَ بَنُو دَانَ فِي طَرِيقِهِمْ. وَلَمَّا رَأَى مِيخَا أَنَّهُمْ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُ انْصَرَفَ وَرَجَعَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ.²⁷ وَأَمَّا هُمْ فَأَخَذُوا مَا صَنَعَ مِيخَا، وَالكَاهِنَ الَّذِي كَانَ لَهُ، وَجَاءُوا إِلَى لَإِيْشَ إِلَى شَعْبٍ مُسْتَرِيحٍ مُطْمَئِنِّينَ، وَصَرَبُوهُمْ بِحَدِّ السِّيفِ وَأَخْرَفُوا الْمَدِينَةَ بِالنَّارِ.²⁸ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ مِنْ يُنْقِذُ لَأَتَهَا بِعِيدُهُ عَنْ صِيْدُونِ، وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُمْ أَمْرٌ مَعَ إِنْسَانٍ، وَهِيَ فِي الْوَادِي الَّذِي لِبَيْتِ رَحُوبَ. فَبَنُوا الْمَدِينَةَ وَسَكَنُوا بِهَا.²⁹ وَدَعَوْا اسْمَ الْمَدِينَةِ دَانَ بِاسْمِ دَانَ أَبِيهِمُ الَّذِي وُلِدَ لِإِسْرَائِيلَ. وَلَكِنَّ اسْمَ الْمَدِينَةِ أَوَّلًا لَإِيْشَ.³⁰ وَأَقَامَ بَنُو دَانَ لَأَنْفُسِهِمُ التَّمثالَ الْمَنْحُوتَ. وَكَانَ يَهُونَاتَانُ بْنُ جَرْشُومَ بْنِ مَنَسَّى هُوَ وَبَنُوهُ كَهَنَةً لِسَبْطِ الدَّانِيَّيْنِ إِلَى يَوْمِ سَبْيِ الْأَرْضِ.³¹ وَوَضَعُوا لَأَنْفُسِهِمْ تَمثالَ مِيخَا الْمَنْحُوتِ الَّذِي عَمِلَهُ، كُلَّ الْأَيَّامِ الَّتِي كَانَ فِيهَا بَيْتُ اللَّهِ فِي شِيلُوه.

ye?¹⁹ And 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?²⁰ 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.²¹ So 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?²⁴ And 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?²⁵ And 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.²⁷ And 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

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.²⁹ 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.³⁰ 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.³¹ And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.