

Judges 18 Tribe-wide Idolatry

v1-2 Danites seeking their land

Indicates the time in which these events occurred---before all the lands were fully distributed among the tribes. This chapter shows the spiritual condition of the Danites which explains why they could not drive the Amorites out and inhabit the valley, as told in Judges 1:34-36.

Zorah and Eshtaol (13:25; 16:31)

v3-6 The Danite spies are blessed by the young Levite

What do we learn about the Danites when we read that they asked this Levite to inquire of the Lord?

v7-10 The spies go to Laish and bring a report of the land

Why are the spies confident that God will give them this land?

v11-21 The Danites send a military troop, who confiscate Micah's goods by which they obtain, what they believe to be, the "essential pieces" for religion in their new home.

What were the "essential pieces" of religion the Danites believed were needed for their new home? What were they missing?

Why did the Levite agree to go with the Danites?

What do the actions of the Danites and Levite tell us about the god they were worshipping (whom they called "the LORD")?

v22-31 The Danites conquer and settle in Laish

The statement of Gideon's father seems appropriate here regarding the injustice against Micah (Judg. 6:31).

When "the god" approves of (or permits without rebuke) deeds such as this and those of v17-20, what effect does that have upon the people claiming to follow that god?

Application Questions

What are the "essential pieces for religion" today, in the minds of many people?

Find a verse that reveals a portion of the "essential pieces" for true religion today.

Israel often pursued other gods because those religions had a much lower standard of "holiness" than God did. Give an example of this in Judges 18 and a related, modern example.