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**B0831 – August 31, 2008 – Holy Land Tour - Part 10 – Dan**

DAN (LAISH/LESHEM (Canaanite names)/ TEL EL-QADI (Arabic, “mound of the judges))

I. Used 31x’s (Gen 14:14; Dt 34:1; Josh 19:47-48; Judg 18:2, 12, 16, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30; 20:1; 1 Sam 3:20; 2 Sam 3:10; 2 Sam 17:11; 24:2; 24:15; 1 Kgs 4:25; 12:28ff; 15:20; 2 Kgs 10:29; 1 Chron 21:2; 2 Chron 16:4; 30:5; Jer 4:15; 8:16; Ezek 48:1, 2, 32; Amos 8:14)

II. Geographic Location

A. Northern Border of Israel

B. From Dan to Beersheba (Judg 20:1; 1 Sam 3:20; 2 Sam 3:10; 2 Sam 17:11; 24:2; 24:15; 1 Kgs 4:25; 1 Chron 21:2; 2 Chron 30:5; Amos 8:14)

C. Tel – a mound or hill

D. Dan River

1. One of four sources of Jordan River

2. Largest source of Jordan River

3. Source of the Dan is aquifer fed from rainfall and Mt Hermon

a. Seven Springs feed into the Dan

- b. Five are west of Tel Dan
- c. Two are at NW foot of Tel Dan (Ein Dan and Ein Leshem)

### III. History

- A. **Period following Noahic Flood** - Canaanite City called Laish/Leshem (Sons of Ham – Gen 10:6)
- B. Canaanite ‘Three-Arched’ Gates of Mud Brick (the most ancient of it’s kind every discovered)
- C. **Call of Abraham** - Abram pursued and overtook 4 kings as far north as Dan (Gen 14:14)
  - 1. Salt Sea region was well-watered at the time
  - 2. Lot chose this region because it was “well-watered” (Gen 13:10)
  - 3. Postdiluvian Environment Transitioning
  - 4. The four kings probably attacked the region for its fertility
  - 5. Today it’s a desert wilderness
  - 6. It is highly likely that Abram passed through the ‘Three-Arched Gates’ at Laish
- D. **Moses** - Moses from Transjordan Mt Nebo saw the Promised Land from Gilead to Dan (Deut 34:1)
- E. **Conquest and Settlement** - Tribe of Dan Migrates to Laish/Leshem

1. Dan's original tribal allotment under Joshua was along the coast near Joppa but the Amorites forced them into the hill country (Judg 1:34)<sup>1</sup>
2. The Danites migrated north and defeated Laish/Leshem (Josh 19:47; Judg 18:27-31) and it became their inheritance although the territory was actually assigned to Naphtali (Gen 30:7-8; 35; 25; Josh 19:32-48) but they never subdued it.
3. The Danites re-named the city Laish, Dan
4. Dan means "judge" from which we get Daniel, "God is my judge"
5. They took with them graven images. Dan always had a problem with idolatry. Of all the tribes they were the most idolatrous. This is possibly why they are not mentioned as one of tribal contributors to the 144,000 witnesses in the Tribulation (Rev 7). Those prone to idolatry are prone to compromise and tolerance and would therefore not make good witnesses. The anti-Christ is not from the tribe of Dan. He is not even Jewish. There are 19 different lists of the 12 tribes, not a single list is ever the same. Joseph's tribe was divided into Manasseh and Ephraim so you can have variants in the lists. Dan does receive a land allotment in the Millennium (Ezek 48:1, 2, 32). So Dan is probably not listed because of her long history of idolatrous worship.

#### **F. Kingdom Divided**

1. Solomon's heavy taxation
2. Solomon dies

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<sup>1</sup> Eventually the Amorites were subject to forced labor by the house of Joseph (Judg 1:35).

3. Rehoboam becomes king

a. People request decrease of taxes

b. Rehoboam rejects wisdom of elders

c. Rehoboam receives foolishness of friends (replaces old)

4. Northern kingdom rebels

5. Southern kingdom of Judah remains loyal to Rehoboam  
(his tribe)

6. The Kingdom Divides

7. Jeroboam, son of Nebat, becomes king of north

a. To prevent migration south to Jerusalem he sets up two cultic centers

1. The southernmost is at Bethel, just 11 miles north of Jerusalem, this was the southern border of his kingdom. Here he set up the golden calf (Apis bull which started in Egypt and continued to be a part of Israel's worship)

2. The northernmost is at Dan, this was the northern border of his kingdom. Here he set up the golden calf (1 Kgs 12:28ff; 2 Kgs 10:29)

b. This was a false worship system that mimicked the true worship system.

1. False priests not from the tribe of Levi (1 Kgs 12:31)

2. False object of worship, the golden calf (1 Kgs 12:32).
3. False feast day (1 Kgs 12:32-33). True Passover was in the 1<sup>st</sup> month not the 8<sup>th</sup>
4. A religion devised in his own heart (Heb – *bada* means “invented,” always in a bad sense)
  - i. Autonomy – the pagan heart is desperately wicked
  - ii. Rejection of the word of God
  - iii. Slight modifications of the truth are wholesale revisions in God’s eyes
  - iv. God detests modification of His word and His revealed worship patterns
  - v. The prophet warns Jeroboam (1 Kgs 13:1-10)
  - vi. The false prophet turns the true prophet back (1 Kgs 13:1-34). The importance of following the word of God and not the word of man.

**Application:** There are proper and improper ways of worshipping God, approaching God and so forth. The pagan heart insists on approaching God his own way. Surely if my worship is sincere (from the heart) it will be accepted. It will not. God is a God of order and His order is revelatory of His nature. He prescribes how to pray (To the Father in the name of the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit). He

prescribes a form of church government. Music of discord, raking across the notes, sliding between notes is unbiblical, it is pagan chaos, Christian lyrics do not make music Christian. Art, His nature and word reveal a proper art form, beauty is not in the eye of the beholder but in the mind of God revealed in Scripture. All art does not glorify God. Realism, impressionism, abstract, these reflect a worldview. Chaos art, random art, abstract art are not biblical forms of art. How the word of God is taught, not only what is taught, the content, but the method used.

#### G. **Kingdom Decline**

1. King Asa of Judah (913-873BC) requests Syrian King Ben-Hadad to break treaty with northern kingdom and attack
2. He agrees after receipt of gold and silver from the Temple and defeats Dan (1 Kgs 15:20; 2 Chron 16:4)
3. King Jehu (843-816BC) brings some reform, removing Baal, but he continues in the sins of Jeroboam, leaving the golden calves at Dan and Bethel (2 Kgs 10:29)

#### IV. **Archaeological Discoveries**

- A. **Canaanite Gate**
- B. **Jeroboam's High Place**
- C. **Israelite Gate**
  1. **Basalt Stela inscription found near Israelite Gate**

1. [.....].....[.....] and cut [.....]
2. [.....] my father went up [.....]fighting at/against Ab[....]
3. And my father lay down; he went to his [fathers]. And the king of I[s-]
4. rael penetrated into my father's land[. And] Hadad made me—myself—king.
5. And Hadad went in front of me[, and] I departed from .....[.....]
6. of my kings. And I killed two [power]ful kin[gs], who harnessed two thou[sand cha-]
7. riots and two thousand horsemen. [I killed Jo]ram son of [Ahab]
8. king of Israel, and I killed [Achaz]yahu son of [Joram kin]g
9. of the House of David. And I set [.....]
10. their land
11. ...[.....]
12. other ...[.....] and Jehu ru-  
]
13. led over Is[rael.....]
13. siege upon [.....]

2. Syrian Agora

3. Podium for Ruler

KEY TRUTH: GOD DETESTS IDOLATRY

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