

## The Danites' Bad Move (Judges 18:1-31)

*The tribe of Dan moved from the land in the south that God had given them (1:34) to land in the far north (18:1-31).*

*The Lord seemed to bless their efforts by giving them victory in the north, but the move was not a good idea.*

### I. INSIGHT

- . . **Natural Insight #1: Dan had been unable to defeat the Amorites in the south** (Jud. 1:34).
  - . . The Amorites were naturally stronger than the Danites (1:34). – Dan was a small tribe (1:35).
  - . . So the Danites were forced to live in the mountains (1:34). – Valleys were better for farming.
- . . **Erroneous Insight: an idolatrous Levite told the Danites what they wanted to hear** (8:4-6).
  - . . He was a syncretist who mixing the Lord with idols. So his “insight” was not from God.
  - . . He was like a false prophet back then and a worldly (Rogerian) counselor today.
- . . **Natural Insight #2: the Danites discovered good but weakly defended land in the north.**
  - . . It was good farm and pasture land (18:9-10) and much easier to conquer (1:34, 18:27-28).

### D. DETAILS

- . . **The details about the new land were encouraging** (18:9-10).
  - . . It was wide, flat, and fertile rather than mountainous (18:10, 1:34).
  - . . The spies in 18:9-10 purposefully sounded much like Caleb in Num. 13:30.
- . . **There are more details about the idolatry than about the land.**
  - . . Micah's household idols is the main topic in 18:14-26. (Chapter 17 is about Micah's idols as well.)
  - . . Idolatry is also stressed at the end of chapter 18, in 18:30-31.
  - . . These idolatrous details show that the move was a very bad idea.

### E. ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM

- . . **The people had been discouraged by the Amorites** (1:34).
  - . . So they were enthusiastic about the possibility of finding an easier place (18:1).
- . . **The Levite encouraged the spies** (18:5-6), and **they encouraged the other Danites** (18:9-10).
  - . . This encouragement was not from God (18:30-31), but it kept them going, but the wrong way.

### A. ASSURANCE

- . . **The conquest seemed to confirm the rightness of the move** (18:28-29).
  - . . They were confident the Lord was in it (18:10).
  - . . They were comfortable with their syncretism (18:30-31).
- . . **So for many years, superficially at least, it seemed like a good move.**
  - . . Later when captivity came (18:30), however, that all changed.

**applications:** 1.) *Seek the Lord first instead of an easier place.* 2.) *Beware of worldly counselors.*

