

Excavations at Dan



Bethel was the southernmost city of the Israelite kingdom, and a place of worship was already present at the time of Jeroboam, as this is where Jacob had his dream. The name, Bethel, means the House of God, and this is where Jeroboam set up a place of worship for the kingdom of Israel, but he also set up a place of worship at Dan.

Research excavations



The distance between Dan and Jerusalem is about 126 miles.





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Between the altar and the raised platform is a great oak tree. The excavators dug around it, leaving some of the ruins caught between its giant roots. The wall of small rocks was added on the lower level in order to protect the exposed roots.





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The Tel Dan Stele with the “House of David” inscription, testifying to the historicity of David and the reality of his dynasty.



The Egyptian god Bes
and a dancing figure,
both excavated at
Dan.







Hiram—King of Tyre (1 Kings 5:1)
Hiram—Worker in metal (2 Chr. 2:13)

Hiram—King of Tyre (2 Chr. 2:3)
Hiram—Worker in metal (1 Kings 7:13)

Before Dan, the city was called Laish:

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.

(Judges 18:29)

And it was to Laish that Abram went to rescue Lot:

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained *servants*, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued *them* unto Dan. (Genesis 14:14)

How could Abram go to Dan? There was no Jacob and no twelve sons at that time. The scribe who copied the text to say Abram went as far as Dan knew people no longer knew where Laish was. It is like St. Petersburg. Most people today don't know where St. Petersburg was. There is no longer a city of St. Petersburg. The name of the city was changed to Petrograd, and Petrograd was later changed to Leningrad, which is how the world knows it today, but it was originally named St. Petersburg. In Genesis the later name was substituted for Laish most likely because the people knew where Dan was and did not know where Laish was.

But on top of this, there are two Dans!



Following the Israelite invasion of Canaan in c. 1406 BC, the southern coastal plain was allocated to the tribe of Dan. Due to the superior weaponry of the Philistines, who used iron chariots to defend their cities, the Danites were unable to conquer this territory (see Judges 1:19). While a few Danites, such as Samson's parents, remained in the south, most of the tribe turned their attention to the far north of the country and seized the Canaanite city of Laish, renaming it Dan. As Dan was the most northerly city conquered by the Israelites, Israel stretched "from Dan to Beersheba" (see Judges 20:1 & 2 Samuel 24:2).

1. Titus 1:5—I left thee in Crete (written AD 63)
2. Minoan culture on Crete that flourished (2600 BC—1450 BC)
3. Laish captured by Dan—after 1406 BC

