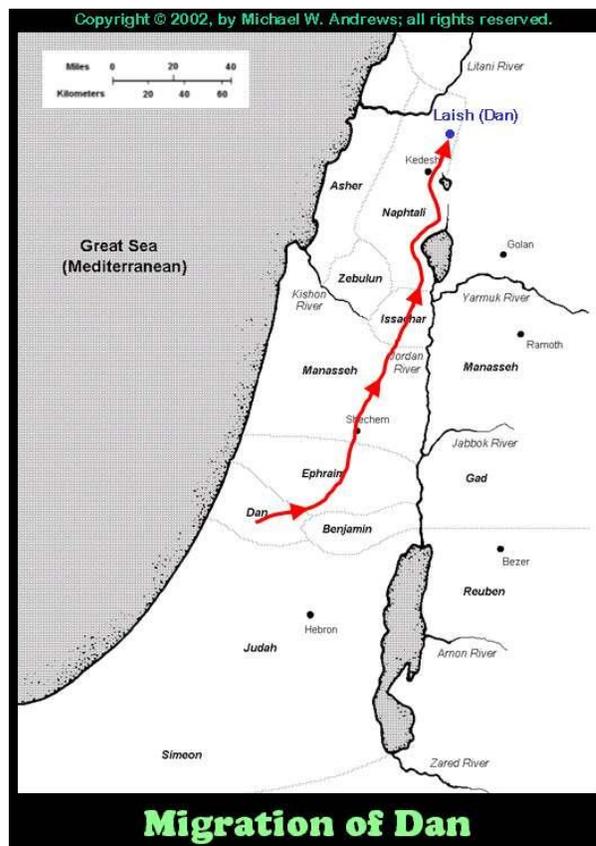


**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”  
May 10, 2016**

- ✓ **Judges 18:1-19:30.** The Danites—doing what is right in one’s own eyes.
- ✓ **Philippians 4:10-20.** Contentment in God.
- ✓ **Psalms 71:1-24.** Remembering the faithfulness of God.

**COMMENTS:**

**Judges 18:1-19:30.** The phrase that begins this section, “in those days there was no king in Israel,” is not simply a political fact. It is code for the fact that in those days everyone did what was right in his own eyes, note 17:6. Laish is mentioned in 18:7. It is a city where inhabitants dwell in unfortified towns and villages, making for great difficulty in trying to rebel a Danite attack. This city will be renamed Dan, and become infamous for Jeroboam’s setting up of his golden calf. The problem with the Danites destroying the city (18:27-29) is that God had specifically proscribed only 7 Canaanite nations to be destroyed (Deut. 7:1). To other people they were to first offer peace (Dt 20:10-18). The tribe of Dan does not ask who these people are and may have destroyed an innocent population. Moreover, this is not the land God allotted to them (Josh. 19:47). Note the last two verses of chapter 18: this is the natural results of God’s people *doing what is right in his own eyes* in the absence of a king or spiritual leader. Consider the wretched state of Christianity today. Is it not an example of everyone doing what is right in his own eyes? I cannot tell you how many times I have heard Christians say and do things that “was good in their own eyes,” having nothing to do with their Lord’s will for their lives. Apparently, times really have not changed that much. The false gods may not have the same names, but they exist as much today as they did back in the evil times of the Judges—as exemplified by the Danites, who brazenly established a tribal center of idolatrous worship without compunction. Anytime a believer makes the fatal shift of doing what he thinks is right rather than what the Word of God says, there is no limit to the depths of the depravity in which he may sink—to go from rejection of what God says to rejection of His very existence is not a large step. As a matter of fact, rejection of God’s existence is one of the most effective ways for one to do what is right in his own eyes. In closing, I would add that we are all guilty of doing our own thing, doing what we think is right, with respect to our marriages, family, interaction with others, and goals of life. Let us redouble our efforts and commitment to wholeheartedly follow the Lord.



**Philippians 4:10-20.** Note how Paul speaks of contentment regardless of the circumstances—whether he had plenty or was hungry (11-13). He said he “learned the secret” of life. The secret of life is none other than God Himself. We were made for God and unless and until we make Him the issue there can be no contentment or stability. There are two guarantees in life: the changing circumstances and the unchanging God. The problem is that we tend *make a means of living and enjoying life* the goal or end of life. For example, obtaining wealth is a means of enjoying life, not the goal of life itself. If we make the means of life the goal of life then we will always be frustrated as we will be tossed about by the ever changing details of life. Things like money by definition cannot be a goal, it is just a means of exchange for something else. The same goes for health. Good health is not a goal of life, but a means of enjoying life. Let us not confuse means and ends. God is the end, the goal, of life. When the believer’s goal in life is money, health, pleasure, or approbation, then his life is upside down and he has forgotten the very meaning of life and with it capacity for developing a robust life that lives for God as the greatest good and goal of life. All that is around us is to sustain us for something far greater than anything in this life: the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Psalms 71:1-24.** The psalmist has reached old age and looks back on his life with the Lord. He recalls his love for the Lord since he was a young person. He remembers how the Lord had protected him from his youth upwards. As many of us reach our “golden” years, let us reflect on the Lord’s constant faithfulness as He guides us through our journey of “life.” There are many things on our journey that we do not get a choice about. However, everyone has the choice of what kind of person he is becoming. The greatest challenge of life is the acquiring of the virtue necessary to be a great person in the Lord who really is content in all circumstances. It is our life’s work and it is not easy or automatic (by some conduit spiritual formula).

**Romans 11:36** For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don