

Chapter 18

Firft fending fpies to difcouer, 11. fix hundred armed men of the tribe of Dan goe to feeke poffeffions. 14. By the way they take the idol, and idolatrical prieft from Michas, 27. furprife the towne of Lais, 30. and there fet vp idolatrie.

In thofe dayes there was not a king in Ifrael, and the tribe of Dan fought poffeffion for it felfe, that it might dwel therein: for vntil that day it had ^{a)}not receiued a lotte among the other tribes. ² Therefore the children of Dan fent fiue men of their ftocke and familie moft valiant from Saraa and Efthaol, that they might view the land, and diligently behold it, and they faid to them: Goe, and confider the land. Who going forward when they were come into mount Ephraim, and had entered into the houfe of Michas, they refted there: ³ and knowing the voice of the yong man the Leuite, and vifing his lodging, they faid to him: Who brought thee hither? What doeft thou here? For what caufe wouldeft thou come hither? ⁴ Who answered them: Thefe, and thefe things hath Michas done to me, & hath hyred me for wages to be his prieft. ⁵ And they defired him that he would confult ^{b)}the Lord, that they might know whether they should goe on a prosperous iourney, and the thing should haue effect. ⁶ ^{c)}Who answered them: Goe in peace: The Lord regardeth your way, and the iourney that you goe. ⁷ The fiue men therefore going came to Lais, & they faw the people dwelling in it without any feare, according to the cuftome of the Sidonians, fecure and quiet, no man at al refifting them, & of greate riches, and feparated farre from Sidon and from al men.

^a Their whole portiō was affigned (*Ios. 19.*) but through their owne flouth they poffeffed litle of it, fo that hitherto the greateft part was not receiued.

^b They ment the falfe god which the apoftata Leuite ferued.

^c The diuel answered, as his maner is obfcurely, fome times truly & fometime falfly.

⁸ And returning to their brethren in Saraa and Eftaol, and asking what they had done they answered them:
⁹ Arife, and let vs goe vp to them: for we haue seene the Land exceeding rich and plentiful: neglect not, flacke not: let vs goe, and poffesse it, it wil be no labour. ¹⁰ We shall enter vnto them being fecure, into a most large countrie, and our Lord wil deliuer to vs the place, wherein is penurie of nothing, of those thinges that grow on the earth. ¹¹ There departed therefore from the kinred of Dan, that is to say, from Saraa and Efthaol fix hundred men, furnished with warlike armour, ¹² and going vp they taried in Cariathiarim of Iuda: which place from that time tooke the name of the Tentes of Dan, and it is at the backe of Cariathiarim. ¹³ Thence they passed into mount Ephraim. And when they were come to the house of Michas, ¹⁴ the five men, that before had been sent to view the Land of Lais, said to the rest of their brethren: You know that in these houses there is an Ephod, and Theraphim, and a grauen, and molten god: See what pleaseth you. ¹⁵ And when they had turned a litle aside, they entred into the house of the yong man the Leuite, which was in the house of Michas: and saluted him with peacable wordes. ¹⁶ And the fix hundred men so as they were armed, stood before the doore. ¹⁷ But they, that were entred the house of the yong man, endeououred to take away the grauen, the Ephod and the idols, and molten god, and the priest stood before the doore, the fix hundred most valiant men expecting not farre of. ¹⁸ They therefore that were entred tooke the grauen, the Ephod, the Theraphim, and molten god. To whom the priest said: What doe you? ¹⁹ To whom they answered: Hold thy peace, and put thy finger vpon thy mouth and come with vs, that we may haue thee for a father, and a priest. Whether is better for thee, that thou be a priest in the house of one man, or in one tribe and familie in Israel? ²⁰ Which when he had heard, he agreed to their wordes, and tooke the Ephod, and idols, and grauen god, and departed with them. ²¹ Who when they went forward, and had made the children and the cattel to goe before them, and al that was precious, ²² and were now

farre from the houle of Michas, the men that dwelt in the houle of Michas crying out together folowed, ²³ and at their backe began to shoute. Who looking backe, faid to Michas: What meanest thou? Why doest thou crie? ²⁴ Who answered: My goddes, which I made me, you haue taken away, and the priest, and al that I haue, and doe you fay: What aileth thee? ²⁵ And the children of Dan faid to him: Beware thou speake no more vnto vs, and there come vnto thee men prouoked in mind, and thou with al thy houle perish. ²⁶ And so they went on their iourney begone. But Michas feing that they were stronger then he, returned into his houle. ²⁷ And the fix hundred men tooke the priest, and the thinges which we spake of before, and came into Lais to a people that was quiet and secure, and froke them in the edge of the sword: and the citie they deliuered to fyre, ²⁸ no man at al bringing them succour, for that they dwelt farre from Sidon, and had with no men anie societie and affayres. And the citie was situated in the countrie of Rohob: which building agayne they dwelt in it, ²⁹ calling the name of the citie Dan, according to the name of their father, whom Ifrael had begotten, which before was called Lais. ³⁰ And they sette vp to them felues the ^agrauen idol, and Ionathan the sonne of Gerfon the sonne of Moyfes, and his sonnes priestes in the tribe of Dan, vntil the day of their captiuitie. ³¹ And the idol of Michas remayned with them al the time, that the houle of God was in Silo. In those daies there was not a king in Ifrael.

^a *pefel, eidolon, fculptile, the grauen thing, falsly called god. c. 17. v. 5.*