

## ~JONATHAN 1 (113)

(Jon'a-than) [Yehowah Has Given]

- A Levite who served as priest in connection with false worship at the house of Micah in Ephraim and later with the Danites. The account in (Judges Chapters 17,18) repeatedly refers to a young Levite who, at;
- After that the sons of Dan stood up the carved image for themselves, and **Jonathan** the son of Gershom, Moses son, he and his sons became priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the lands being taken into exile. (Judges 18:30)
- Is called **Jonathan** the son of Gershom, Moses son. That he was earlier described as of the family of Judah may refer simply to the fact that he resided in Bethlehem in the territory of Judah.
- Now there happened to be a young man of Bethlehem in Judah of the family of Judah, and he was a Levite. And he was residing there for a time. (Judges 17:7)
- Wandering **Jonathan** eventually came to the home of Micah in the mountains of Ephraim. Micah had set up a carved image in his home. **Jonathan** agreed to serve as priest for the household even though he was not of the family of Aaron and an image was being used in worship.
- Later five Danites seeking a place for a section of the tribe to settle met Jonathan. They asked him to inquire of God whether they would be successful, and he gave them a favorable response in the name of Yehowah.
- When the main body of 600 Danite men, as well as their families and livestock, passed by Micah's house on their way north, they took the objects of worship including the carved image.
- They also induced selfish **Jonathan** to throw in his lot with them, to become their priest and not just priest for a family.
- Now there happened to be a young man of Bethlehem in Judah of the family of Judah, and he was a Levite. And he was residing there for a time. (Judges 17:7)

- Then they turned and went their way and put the little ones and the livestock and the valuable things ahead of them. (**Judges 18:21**)
- **Jonathan** and his sons became priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the lands being taken into exile.
- After that the sons of Dan stood up the carved image for themselves, and **Jonathan** the son of Gershom, Moses son, he and his sons became priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the lands being taken into exile. (**Judges 18:30**)
- Some commentators have applied this to a conquest of the district, such as by Tiglath-pileser III, or all of the northern tribes in **740 B.C.E.**
- In the days of Pekah the king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria came in and proceeded to take Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and to carry them into exile in Assyria. (**2 Kings 15:29**)
- In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and then led Israel into exile in Assyria and kept them dwelling in Halah and in Habor at the river Gozan and in the cities of the Medes. (**2 Kings 17:6**)
- However, since Samuel evidently wrote Judges, an earlier application must be intended.
- And they kept the carved image of Micah, which he had made, set up for themselves all the days that the house of the true God continued in Shiloh. (**Judges 18:31**)
- Mentions that the Danites kept the carved image set up for themselves all the days that the house of the true God continued in Shiloh.
- This suggests a time period for the application of the preceding verse, and it strengthens the view that **Jonathan's** family served as priests until the Ark was captured by the Philistines. It has been contended that
- After that the sons of Dan stood up the carved image for

themselves, and **Jonathan** the son of Gershom, Moses son, he and his sons became priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the lands being taken into exile. (**Judges 18:30**)

- **Should read, until the day of the ark's being taken into exile.**
- **And the ark of God itself was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. (**1 Samuel 4:11**)**
- **So she said; Glory has gone away from Israel into exile, because the ark of the true God has been captured. (**1 Samuel 4:22**)**
- **But this conclusion about the duration of the priesthood of **Jonathan's** family may be correct even without altering the reading, for**
- **After that the sons of Dan stood up the carved image for themselves, and **Jonathan** the son of Gershom, Moses son, he and his sons became priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the lands being taken into exile. (**Judges 18:30**)**
- **May be taking the view that the land, in a sense, was carried into exile when the Ark was captured.**