
2 Avraham Biran, Dan I—A Chronicle of the Excavations, the Pottery Neolithic, the Early Bronze Age and the Middle Bronze Age Tombs, (Jerusalem: Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, 1996), 1.

3 Biran, Dan I, 1.

4 When referring to the Canaanite stratum the name Laish will be used, while Dan will be used when discussing the stratum associated with the Israelites. Genesis 14:14, Judges 19:7, 29–30, Joshua 19:47, 1 Chronicles 21:2, 2 Samuel 24:6.

5 1 Kings 12:29.

6 Avraham Biran, Biblical Dan, (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1994), 108. Additional notes: “Now we did have evidence of the Late Bronze Age here and there. We found Israelite settlement pits years ago. It took us about ten years to come to the conclusion that we had a lot of Israelite settlement pits. It wasn’t so clear until we opened up a larger area. These past two seasons have convinced us that there were so many of them, one next to the other, that they destroyed much of the Late Bronze Age stratum. Obviously if you dig a pit and you excavate a wall, you remove it. That’s what the Israelites did when they dug their pits. I think there was quite an important Late Bronze city here. The fact that we have the Mycenaean tomb from the Late Bronze Age and the fact that we have the Dancer from Dan from the Late Bronze Age indicate a very developed civilization.” Shanks, “BAR Interview.”

7 Avraham Biran, “Five Years Later,” The Biblical Archaeologist, 43, No. 3 (Summer 1980), 168–82.

8 Ibid., 169.

9 Ibid., 169–72.


12 Biran, Biblical Dan, 114.
13 Biran, Dan II, 37.
14 Biran, Dan II, 37.
15 Ibid.
16 Biran, Biblical Dan, 114.
17 Ibid.
18 Biran, Dan II, 63.
19 Ibid, 64, Shanks, “BAR Interview.”
20 Shanks, “BAR Interview.”
24 Ibid., 349.
25 Ibid.
27 Shanks, “BAR Interview.”
28 Ibid.
29 Ibid., Biran, Biblical Dan, 120.
35 Ibid., 97.
37 Biran, Biblical Dan, 120.
38 Ibid.
39 Ben-Dov, Dan III, 126.
40 Ibid.
41 Biran, Biblical Dan, 105.
42 Ben-Dov, Dan III, 134.
45 Ibid., 121.
46 Ibid.
47 Ibid.
48 Ben-Dov, *Dan III*, 353.
49 Ibid.
51 Ben-Dov, *Dan III*, 353.
54 Israel, “Tel Dan.”
55 For a city described in such lush terms to be “unsuspecting,” a supreme amount of confidence in one’s defensive structures is required. Second mention of “unsuspecting” noted in Judges 18:10.
56 Shanks, “BAR Interview.”
57 Ibid.
58 Ibid.
59 Laughlin, “The Remarkable.”
61 Ibid.
68 Ibid., 73.
69 Ibid.
74 Laughlin, “The Remarkable.”
Note that the cult practices of Israelite religion discussed in this section are of the prescribed and expected nature of their religion, as set forth by its founding documents. This discussion does not include the analysis of adherence to orthodoxy, nor does it account for variations from the original prescription.


Biran, “Two Discoveries,” 95–98.


Exodus 23:31–33.


Judges 1:27

Exodus 35:30–36:38.


Leviticus 1:5, tent of meeting is another name for the tabernacle.

Leviticus 3:2, 8, 13.

Leviticus 4:4–5, 7.

Leviticus 4:18; These are just a few examples. For more examples of offertory requirements which brought the people of Israel to the tabernacle, see the following passages. Leviticus 6:30; 8:3, 4, 33–36; 9:23; 10:7; 14:8, 11, 23; 12:6; 15:14, 29; 16:7; 17:4–6, 9; 19:21.

Exodus 34:22–24.

Biran, “Tel Dan,” 43.

Ibid.

Biran, “Five Years Later,” 177.

Ibid.

The definition of ḫuṣṣot ranges from “street, plaza, to market, bazaar,” and “designates structures or defined spaces lying ‘outside’ other spaces or structures, such as buildings or walls.” Ibid., Avraham Biran, “Two Bronze Plaques and the Ḫuṣṣot of Dan,” *Israel Exploration Journal* 49, No ½ (1999), 43–54, 50.

Biran, “Two Bronze,” 52.

Ibid.

Biran, “Two Bronze,” 53.

Ibid., 54.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid. The bowl was “decorated with a sign resembling a trident.”

Ibid., “Sacred Spaces.”

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

111 Ben-Dov, Dan III, 154.

112 Biran, “Sacred Spaces.”

113 Ben-Dov, Dan III, 155.

114 Ibid.

115 Ben-Dov, Dan III, 155. Of special note is Ben-Dov’s footnote: Brandl and Ophel’s study “was undertaken in 1982, but never published. The statuette is attributed to this period on the basis of typological criteria, but it is impossible to say when it was brought to Tel Dan.

116 Laughlin, “The Remarkable.”

117 Ibid.

118 Ibid.

119 Ibid.

120 Ibid.

121 Ibid.

122 Biran, “Sacred Spaces.”

123 Shanks, “BAR Interview.”

124 Ibid.

125 Ibid.

126 Shanks, “BAR Interview”; Biran, “Sacred Spaces.”


129 Ibid.


Biran, “Two Discoveries at Tel Dan,” 91.

Ibid., 95.

Ibid.


Ibid., “Is the Cultic.”

Ibid.

Biran, “Two Discoveries,” 95.


Ibid., 97–98.

Ibid., 97–98.

Although the bronze plaques are dated to the Iron Age II and are in no way relatable to Israelite cult worship, these artifacts were found outside the city parameters in the market area and could have come to Dan in any number of ways.

Greer, “An Israelite,” 36.