

Border-Side Tourism in an Active-Risk Zone: Israel–Lebanon Edge

Lecture: 02-25 Border-Side Tourism in an Active-Risk Zone: Israel–Lebanon Edge, Spectacle vs. Safety | Israel 2026

SITE OVERVIEW

Location: Tel Dan (Ancient City of Dan) — northern border of Israel, adjacent to Lebanon

Date of Visit: Not explicitly stated

Biblical References: None explicitly cited in the recording

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The site is identified as the ancient city of Dan, one of the northernmost cities of ancient Israel, historically significant as a boundary marker (“from Dan to Beersheba”)

A small military bunker is present at the site, associated with a conflict in which Israel pushed Lebanese forces back — referenced informally by Speaker 5 as lasting “a couple of years”

The visit coincides with contemporary military activity, including Israeli airstrikes on Hezbollah positions in Lebanese villages, with rockets reportedly stored in civilian structures including churches (flagged as anecdotal/unverified field commentary)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

The Ancient City of Dan is noted as physically situated on or immediately adjacent to the modern Israel–Lebanon border

No formal excavation discussion or artifact descriptions are provided in this recording

A military bunker from a recent conflict is observed at the site, described as having a wooden top structure along a side wall — this represents modern historical layering at an ancient site

DR. SCHILLING'S KEY POINTS

⚠ Note: It is unclear from this transcript which speaker is Dr. Schilling. No speaker is explicitly identified as Dr. Schilling. The academic content typically expected from a site lecture is largely absent from this recording. The following reflects the most substantive observations made:

The group was earlier located at Gamla (referenced as “the Camel” — Gamla derives from the Aramaic/Hebrew for camel, referencing the site’s hump-shaped topography), where military aircraft were heard overhead

The border demarcation between Israel and Lebanon is strikingly immediate at Tel Dan — Lebanese vehicles and a Lebanese village are visible from the Israeli side of the road

Active regional conflict (Hezbollah rocket storage in southern Lebanese villages) provides a contemporary parallel to the historically contested nature of this region

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Tel Dan sits at the northernmost point of Israel, directly bordering Lebanon

Lebanese vehicles, structures, and a Lebanese village are visible from the site with no significant physical barrier apparent to the group

The site was visited the same day as a visit to Gamla, located in the Golan Heights region — both sites fall within the broader northern Israel/Upper Galilee geographical zone

The proximity to active military operations underscores the continued strategic significance of the Dan/Hermon corridor as a northern approach into the Land of Israel

QUOTABLE MOMENTS

“This side roads Israel, the other side Lebanon — crazy.” — Speaker 2, standing on the Israel–Lebanon border at Tel Dan

“Ancient city of Dan, ancient city, right on the border of Israel and Lebanon.” — Speaker 2, contextualizing the site’s location

“It’s crazy to see Lebanon next to all these people right now.” — Speaker 5, referencing the juxtaposition of an active conflict zone with tourist/pilgrimage visitors

PERSONAL NOTES

⚠ This recording does not appear to be a formal academic lecture. It reads as informal group conversation and ambient site exploration. Content suitable for structured academic note-taking is minimal.

Follow-up recommended: Cross-reference Tel Dan's biblical significance (e.g., Judges 18; 1 Kings 12:29 — Jeroboam's golden calf at Dan) for supplementary lecture notes not captured here.

Gamla visit earlier the same day may have included more substantive academic content — a separate transcript for that portion would be valuable.

The military aircraft and tank observed near Gamla and the Lebanese border activity should be noted as contextual background for the date of visit, though no explicit date is provided in the transcript.

Speaker identification should be clarified before these notes are finalized for academic distribution.