

A Tour of the Israel-Lebanon Border and the Ancient City of Dan

Lecture: 02-25 A Tour of the Israel-Lebanon Border and the Ancient City of Dan | Israel 2026

SITE OVERVIEW

Location: Tel Dan — Modern northern Israel, at the Israel-Lebanon border; ancient names: Dan and Laish (Lesh)

Date of Visit: Not explicitly stated

Biblical References: None explicitly cited in the recording, though the city of Dan and the patriarchal period are implied

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The site is identified as the ancient City of Dan, previously known as Laish (Lesh) prior to Israelite conquest

The city gate referenced is associated with the patriarchal period, approximately 1800 BC, contemporaneous with Abraham

The site sits on the modern geopolitical border between Israel and Lebanon

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

A city gate from the ancient city of Laish (Lesh) is present on site, dated to approximately 1800 BC

The gate is described as visually intact and identifiable as a distinct physical structure

A small military bunker from a more recent Israel-Lebanon conflict is also present on site, attesting to the site's continued strategic relevance

Lebanese vehicles and a Lebanese village are visible from the site, confirming its precise border location

DR. SCHILLING'S KEY POINTS

The gate dating to ~1800 BC is presented as a tangible connection to the time of the patriarch Abraham, grounding biblical chronology in physical archaeology

Dr. Schilling emphasizes the layered historical significance of the location — ancient Canaanite city, later Israelite city of Dan, and a modern military frontier zone

The site's position directly on the Israel-Lebanon border is highlighted repeatedly as remarkable and disorienting, underscoring how ancient and modern geopolitics converge at this location

⚠ Speculative/Implied: The connection between the gate and Abraham is based on approximate dating alignment (~1800 BC) rather than a direct scriptural citation made in the recording

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Located at the northernmost boundary of ancient Israel — consistent with the biblical expression “from Dan to Beersheba”

The site borders Lebanon directly, with Lebanese vehicles and a Lebanese village observable from the location

The recording suggests proximity to a border crossing or military zone, indicating the site's historical role as a frontier city

The ancient city of Laish was a Canaanite settlement before being renamed Dan following Israelite settlement of the tribe of Dan

QUOTABLE MOMENTS

“I am standing on the border of Israel and Lebanon.” — Repeated for emphasis, underscoring the site's geopolitical immediacy

“This gate dates back to 1800 BC, around the time of Father Abraham.” — Key teaching moment connecting archaeology to patriarchal biblical history

“Crazy.” — Informal but telling expression of the site's remarkable ancient-modern convergence

PERSONAL NOTES

Recording quality and continuity appear fragmented; portions of the transcript may be incomplete or out of sequence

Follow-up questions to consider:

- Which specific excavation or archaeological team dated the Laish gate to 1800 BC?
- What is the precise biblical account of Dan's conquest of Laish? (See Judges 18)
- What war is referenced by the bunker — the 1982 Lebanon War or a later conflict? No date is explicitly given

Dr. Schilling's reference to "19th. About 600" is unclear — possible troop numbers, a year reference, or a distance figure; requires clarification from the original recording