

# ROCK SOLID EVIDENCE

In the north of Israel is the ancient Biblical city of Dan. The Jewish tribe by the same name settled there early in the nation's history and the archaeological remains are fascinating!

To begin with there is an ancient gateway called **The Gate of Three Arches**. This mud-brick gateway dates back to the Middle Bronze Age (c.2000-1500 BC).

It was probably a part of the original Canaanite settlement spoken of in **Genesis 14:14**, which says:

***“Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he...went in pursuit as far as Dan.”***



The gateway is the earliest of its kind ever found. Just think: Abraham almost certainly saw this gateway and possibly passed through it when rescuing Lot!

But there is more. Connected with a later and darker period of Israel's history is the remains of an altar for idolatrous worship. This is no surprise as the Bible says that King Jereboam erected two golden calf idols, one in the north of Israel and the other in the south. The historical record

is found in 1 Kings 12:

***“Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold...and he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.” (v28-29).*** These

centres became temples with altars for sacrificing to the false gods.



Today you can see the remains of **the place of worship at Dan**, complete with a (reconstructed) metal frame to help the visitor imagine what sacrificial altar would have looked like. This place was mentioned in many Bible passages – amazing!



But for many the most important archaeological find at Dan was an Iron Age **inscription which mentions David king of Israel**. It was probably written by the Syrian



king Hazael (2 Kings 9:15) and later smashed by

the Assyrians when they invaded Israel. But it is significant because it provides an early inscription confirming the existence and reign of David. So, more solid proof!