

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on
Sefer Shoftim: Perakim Yud Het - Yud Tet
by Zvi Grumet**

פרק יח

1. Why is the movement of שבט דן introduced with the phrase “אין מלך ישראל” (the second time we hear this phrase in two פרקים)?
2. Do you recognize the places that the five messengers from דן came from?
3. From where did the five emissaries from דן know the pseudo-כהן from לחם?
4. What irony is there in מיכה chasing after the soldiers from דן who robbed him?
5. Notice the places where פסל מיכה functioned, and for how long it functioned in each of those places. Now take a look at מלכים א יב:כח-כט. What insights does this suggest to you?
6. What do you notice that is odd about פסוק ל?
7. Notice that שבט דן is willing to use force to take what is not theirs but not what is theirs!
8. Both מיכה and שבט דן go far from their homes to settle elsewhere. Notice how this is a contrast to יהושע’s vision!

פרק יט

1. Notice again the interaction between הר אפרים and בית לחם! What is going on here?
2. Each of the characters in this story – the man from הר אפרים, the פילגש, the father-in-law, the host, the townspeople of גבעה – is significantly flawed. Identify the moral flaws in each.
3. What interesting biographical information do we have about the host?
4. How many parallels can you find between this story and the story of לוט’s guests in סדום?
5. Notice the language in פסוקים יז-יט. What does the language remind you of?
6. What justification is there for the claim that what the man ultimately does with his פילגש is nothing more than a cynical manipulation?
7. The word מאכלת is used in פסוק כט. Where is the only other place in תנ”ך that this word is used?!
8. Notice the similarities between this story and the rape of דינה.