

THE BOOK OF



JUDGES

FORSAKEN YET FAITHFUL

Judges שֹׁפֵט [shaw·fat] – “Leader”

- Author: Samuel (traditionally) to Israel
- Key verse: Judges 21:25

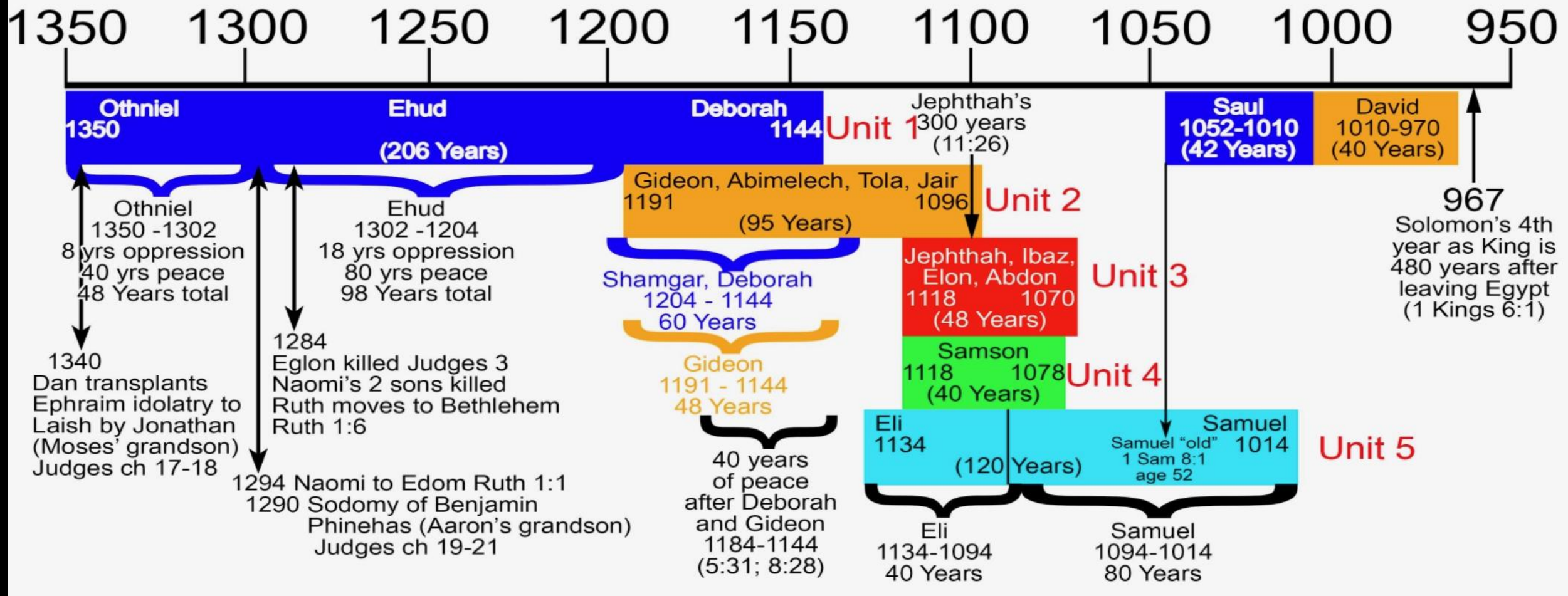
“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

- Purpose: You need a King



Location

- Regional leaders
- Never over the entire Kingdom
- Various periods



- Period: 1350 to 1052 BC (Joshua and Saul)
- Written: 1052 (Saul) ≈ 1004 (Fall of Jerusalem)

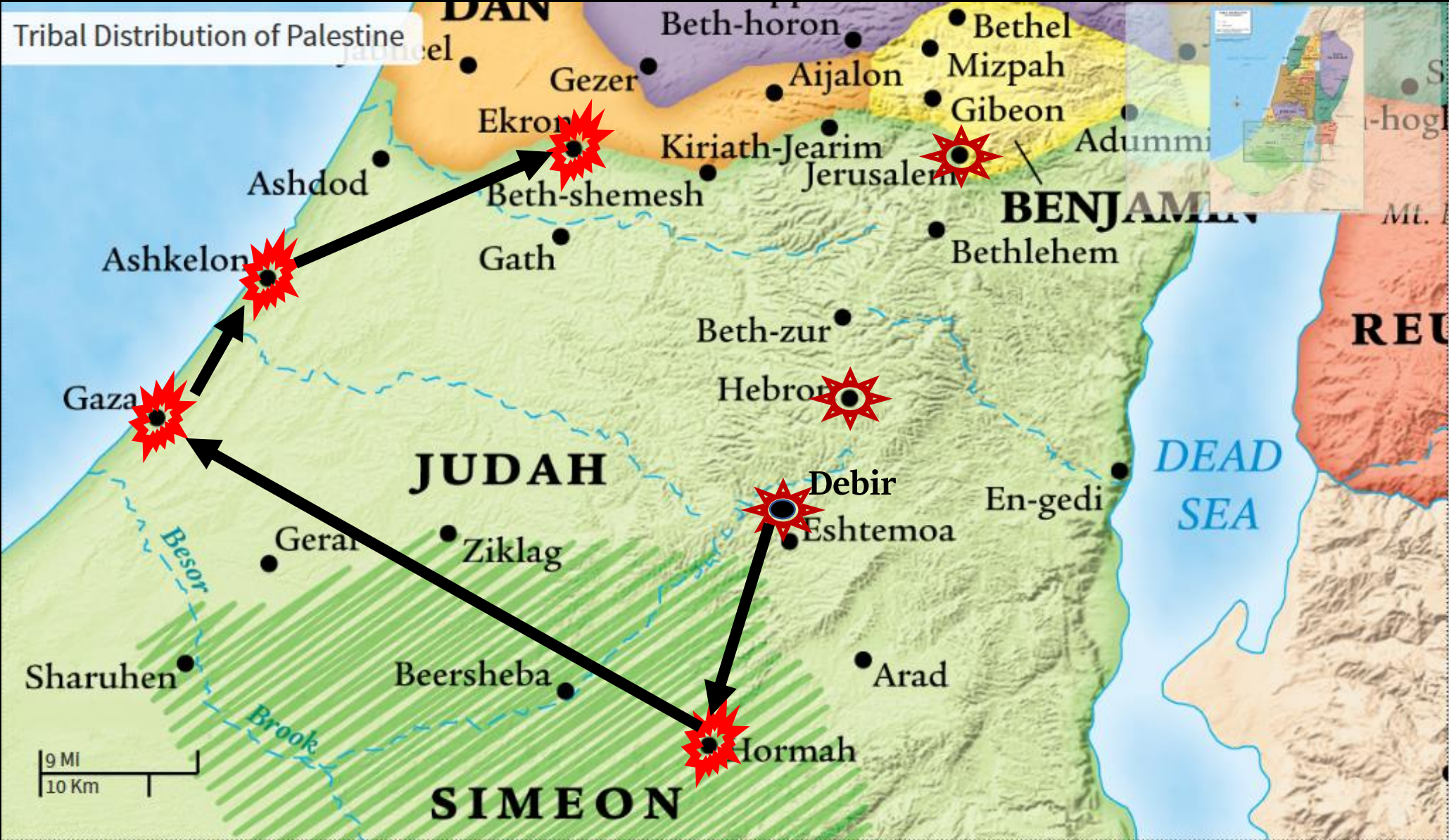
Judges 1:1-16



Judges 1:1-16

- Good first round!
 - Seek & follow God's leadership
 - Cooperation between tribes
 - Othniel introduced
 - Honor prior commitments to the Kenites
 - Obedience rewarded / enemies crushed

Judges 1:17-18



Judges 1:17-18

- Great round two!
 - Cooperation & more victory
 - But just when things get going ...

Judges 1:19

19 And the Lord was with Judah...but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.

- Disconnect!

- The Lord is w/them, but they couldn't...

Judges 1:20

²⁰ And Hebron was given to Caleb, as Moses had said. And he drove out from it the three sons of Anak.

- Anakim (Giants) – Num 13:33
- Round three!
 - Old guard recovers momentum – phew!

Judges 1:21

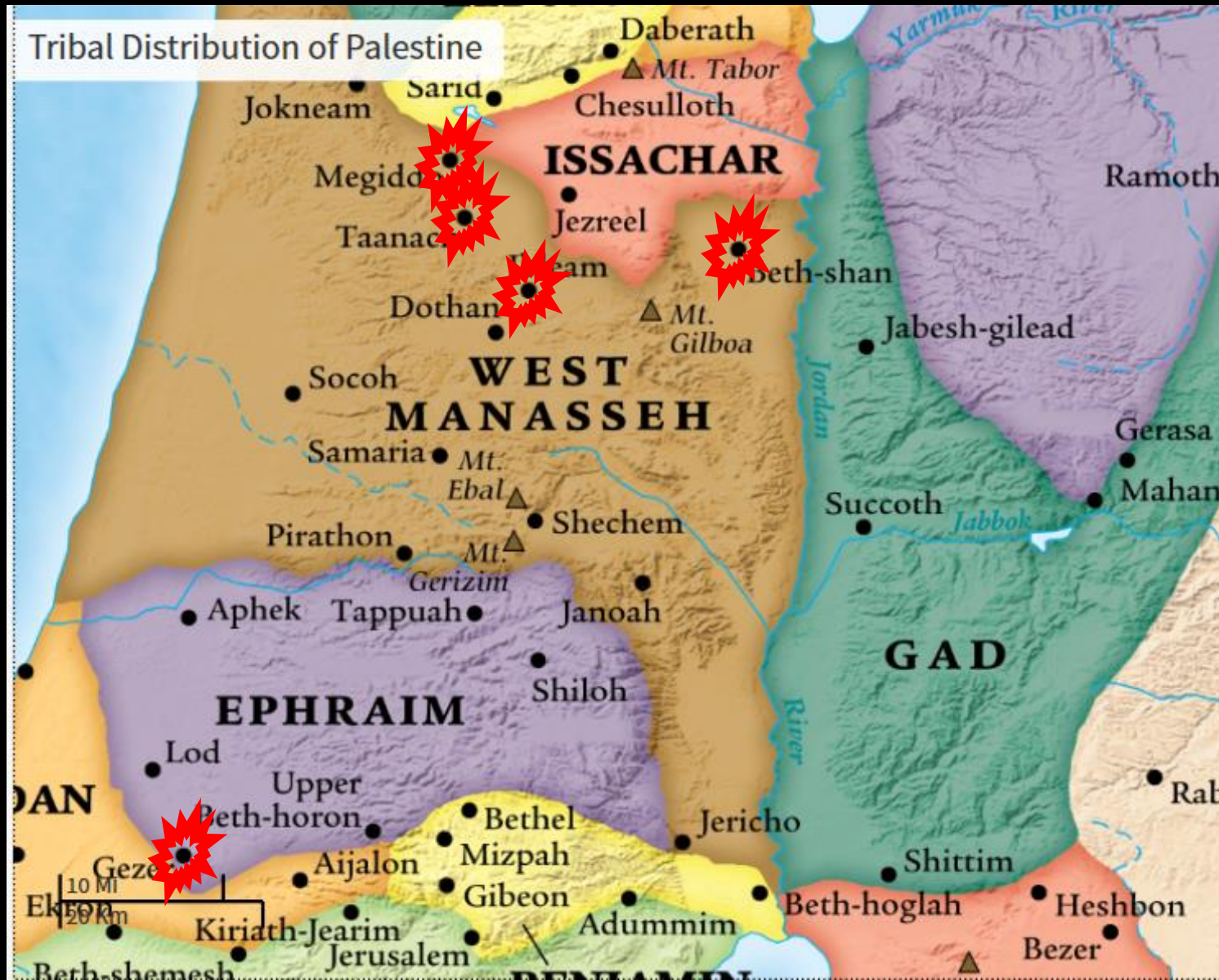
21 But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

- But now we are losing ground again?

Judges 1:22-26 Successful..or not?



Judges 1:27-29 Something is not right...



Judges 1:29-33

30 Zebulun - Kitron, Nahol

31 Asher - Acco, Sidon, Ahlab...

*33 Naphtali - Beth-shemesh, Beth-anath,
...became subject to forced labor for them.*

Judges 1:34-36

³⁴ The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country...persisted in dwelling in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim...

- Tribe of Dan actually loses – what?

Judges 2:1-5

...I said...you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice.

- Ex 34:11-14 – the reason for their failure
 - Inquire / no treaties – Gibeon (Josh 9)

Judges 2:6-10

⁸ And Joshua...died ...And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord...

- Lack of *competent* leadership

Judges 2:11-13

...they abandoned the Lord, ...went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them...

- Did exactly what God said they would
(Ex 34:15-16)

Judges 2:14-15

15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them...

- Deut 28:15-25

Judges 2:16-19

16 Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved ...¹⁷ Yet they did not listen to their judges...

- Despite God's faithfulness / not faithful

Judges 2:20-23

²⁰ So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel...²¹ I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations ...²² in order to test Israel by them

- Direct disobedience requires discipline

Summary

- Starts off well
- Tribes cooperate
- Victory initially comes, but...
- Waver and don't drive out Canaanites
- The Lord disciplines disobedient Israel
- But still saves them despite faithlessness



The Good News

- We are forgetful...He is faithful!
 - Psalm 35:5-6 / Rev 19:11
- We forsake...He never feints!
 - Deut 31:8 / Heb 13:5
- We are failing...He is forgiving!
 - 1 Jn 1:9 / Psalm 103:2-12

THE BOOK OF



JUDGES

FORSAKEN YET FAITHFUL

DEBORAH & BARAK

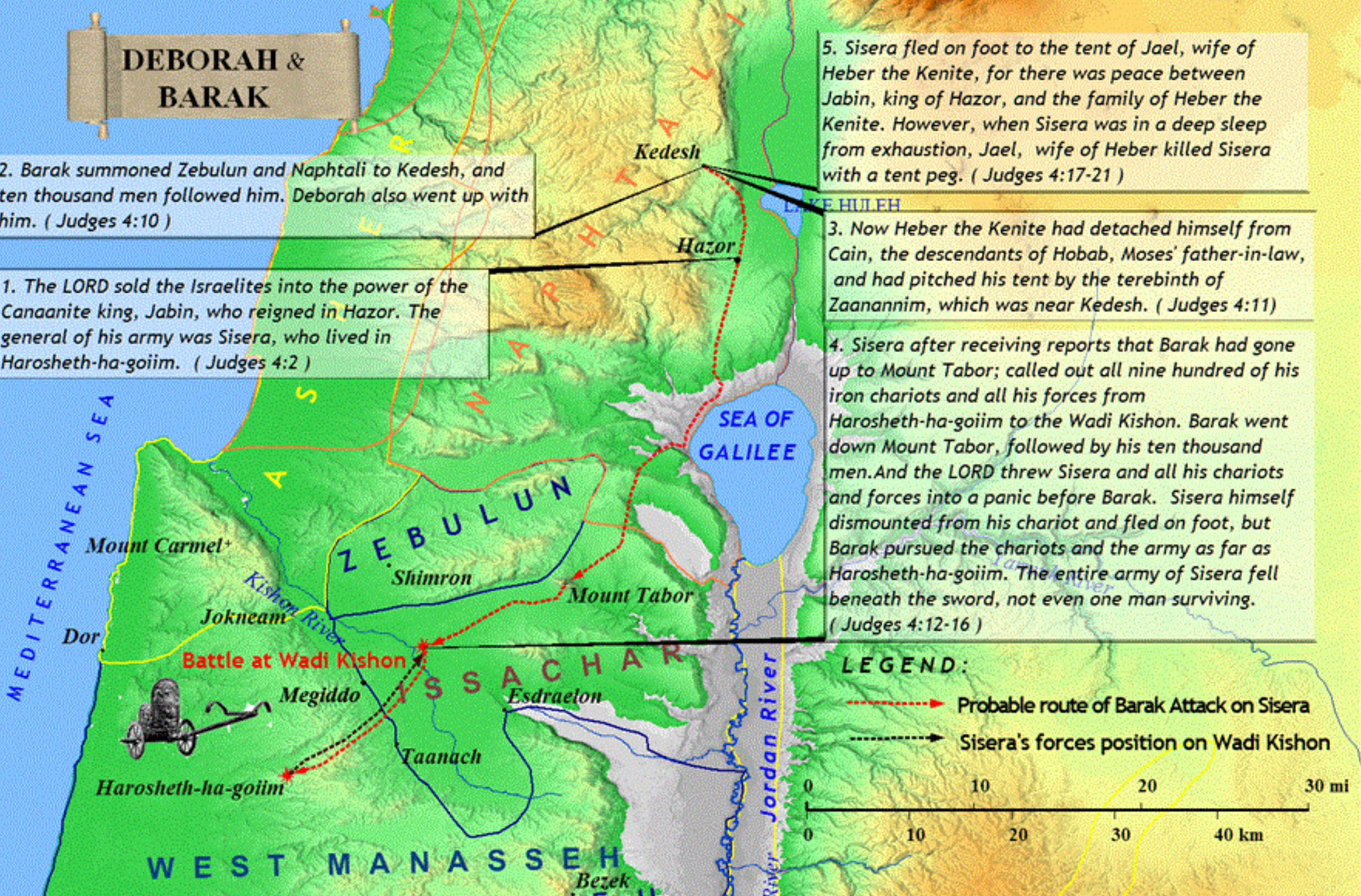
2. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh, and ten thousand men followed him. Deborah also went up with him. (Judges 4:10)

1. The LORD sold the Israelites into the power of the Canaanite king, Jabin, who reigned in Hazor. The general of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. (Judges 4:2)

5. Sisera fled on foot to the tent of Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin, king of Hazor, and the family of Heber the Kenite. However, when Sisera was in a deep sleep from exhaustion, Jael, wife of Heber killed Sisera with a tent peg. (Judges 4:17-21)

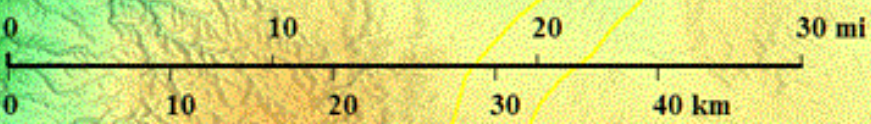
3. Now Heber the Kenite had detached himself from Cain, the descendants of Hobab, Moses' father-in-law, and had pitched his tent by the terebinth of Zaannanim, which was near Kedesh. (Judges 4:11)

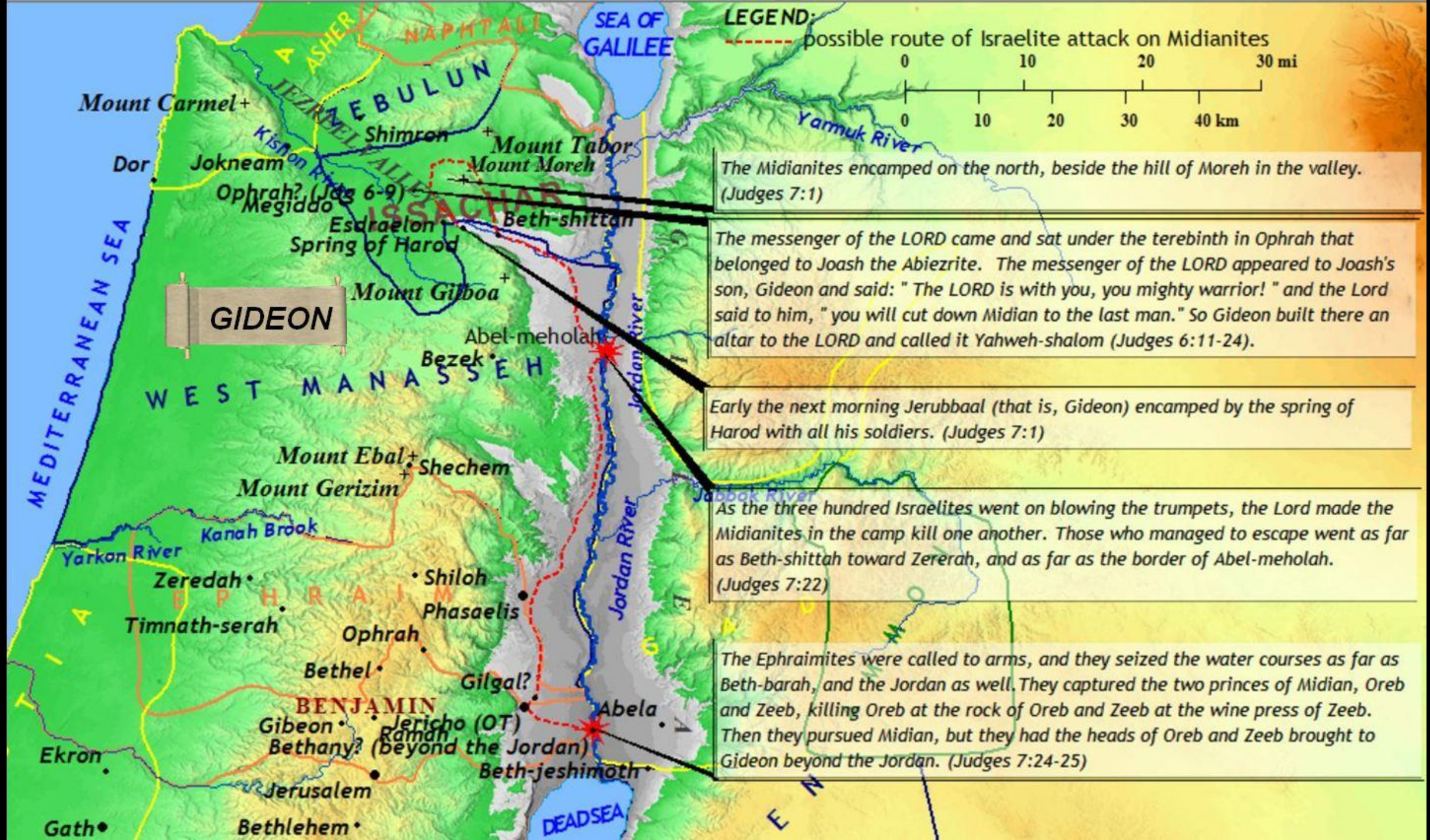
4. Sisera after receiving reports that Barak had gone up to Mount Tabor; called out all nine hundred of his iron chariots and all his forces from Harosheth-ha-goiim to the Wadi Kishon. Barak went down Mount Tabor, followed by his ten thousand men. And the LORD threw Sisera and all his chariots and forces into a panic before Barak. Sisera himself dismounted from his chariot and fled on foot, but Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth-ha-goiim. The entire army of Sisera fell beneath the sword, not even one man surviving. (Judges 4:12-16)



LEGEND:

- - - - - Probable route of Barak Attack on Sisera
- - - - - Sisera's forces position on Wadi Kishon





LEGEND:
 - - - possible route of Israelite attack on Midianites

0 10 20 30 mi
 0 10 20 30 40 km

GIDEON

The Midianites encamped on the north, beside the hill of Moreh in the valley. (Judges 7:1)

The messenger of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite. The messenger of the LORD appeared to Joash's son, Gideon and said: "The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior!" and the Lord said to him, "you will cut down Midian to the last man." So Gideon built there an altar to the LORD and called it Yahweh-shalom (Judges 6:11-24).

Early the next morning Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) encamped by the spring of Harod with all his soldiers. (Judges 7:1)

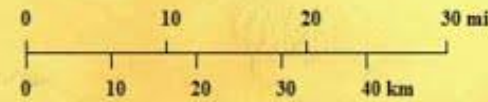
As the three hundred Israelites went on blowing the trumpets, the Lord made the Midianites in the camp kill one another. Those who managed to escape went as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, and as far as the border of Abel-meholah. (Judges 7:22)

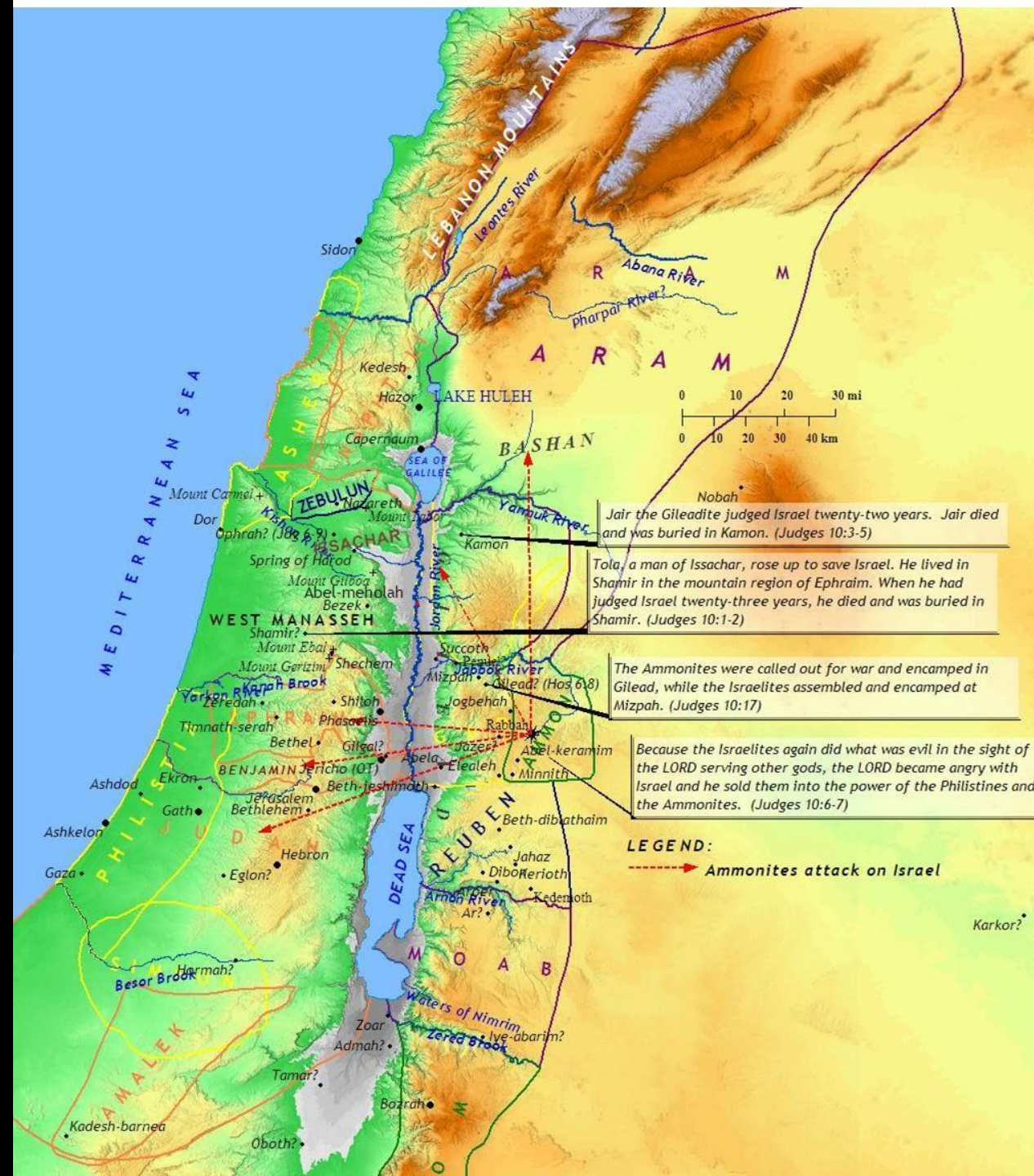
The Ephraimites were called to arms, and they seized the water courses as far as Beth-barah, and the Jordan as well. They captured the two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, killing Oreb at the rock of Oreb and Zeeb at the wine press of Zeeb. Then they pursued Midian, but they had the heads of Oreb and Zeeb brought to Gideon beyond the Jordan. (Judges 7:24-25)

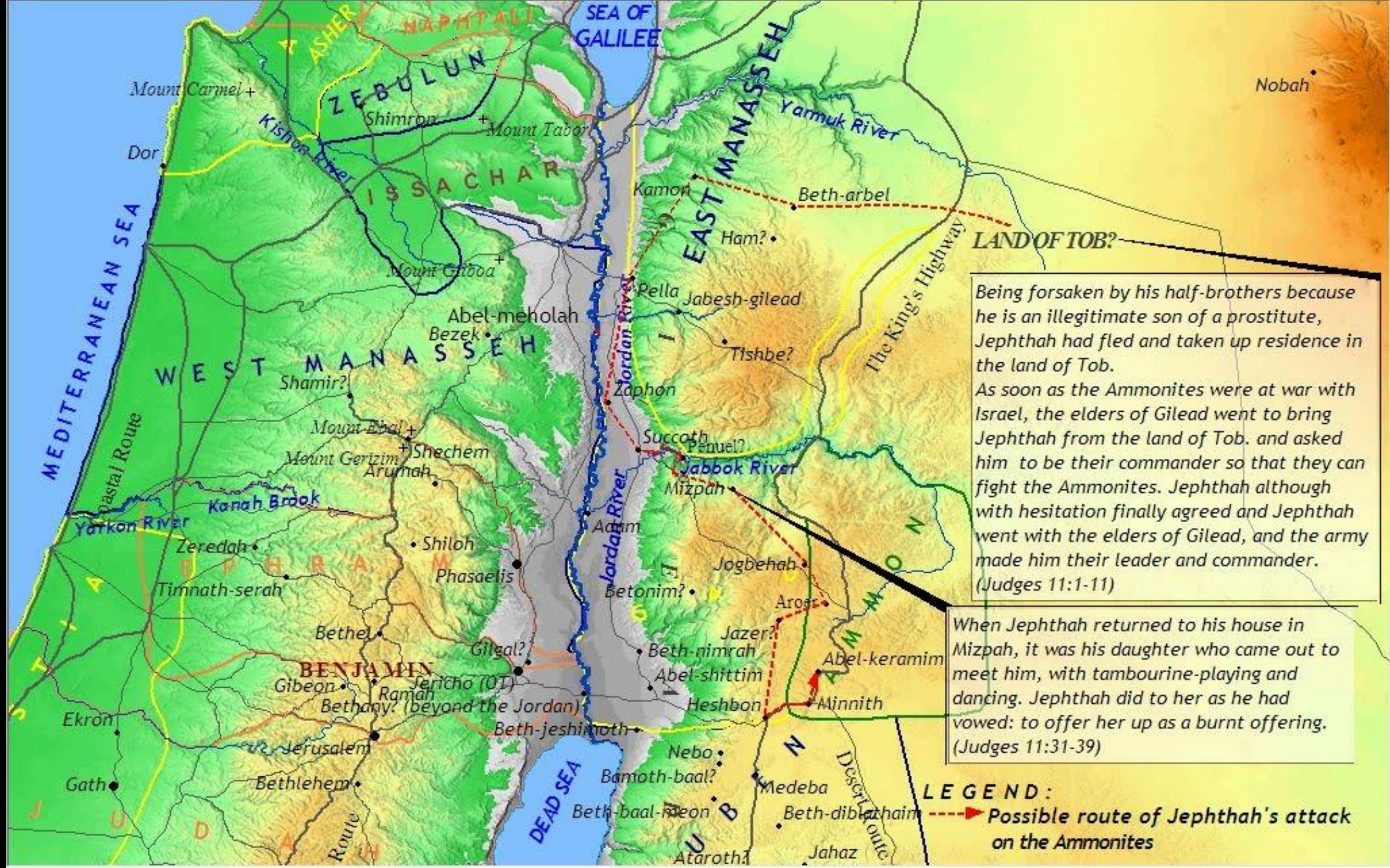
Abimelech out of his desire to become king, went to his father's house in Ophrah, and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Gideon, on one stone. Only the youngest son of Gideon, Jotham, escaped, for he was hidden. (Judges 9:5)

ABIMELECH

All the lords of Shechem and all Beth-millo came together and made Abimelech king by the terebinth at the memorial pillar in Shechem. but when this was reported to Jotham, he went and stood at the top of Mount Gerizim and protested against it because Abimelech killed his seventy brothers who were sons of Gideon, also known as Jerubbaal. (Judges 9:6-20) God put an evil spirit between Abimelech and the lords of Shechem, and the lords of Shechem broke faith with the house of Abimelech. The lords of Shechem instigated, put their trust in Gaal, son of Ebed. However, they were all utterly defeated by Abimelech until when he came close to the entrance of the tower in the middle of the city to set it on fire, a certain woman cast the upper part of a millstone down on Abimelech's head, and it fractured his skull. In shame, Abimelech asked his armor-bearer to kill him. (Judges 9:23-54)







Being forsaken by his half-brothers because he is an illegitimate son of a prostitute, Jephthah had fled and taken up residence in the land of Tob.

As soon as the Ammonites were at war with Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob, and asked him to be their commander so that they can fight the Ammonites. Jephthah although with hesitation finally agreed and Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the army made him their leader and commander. (Judges 11:1-11)

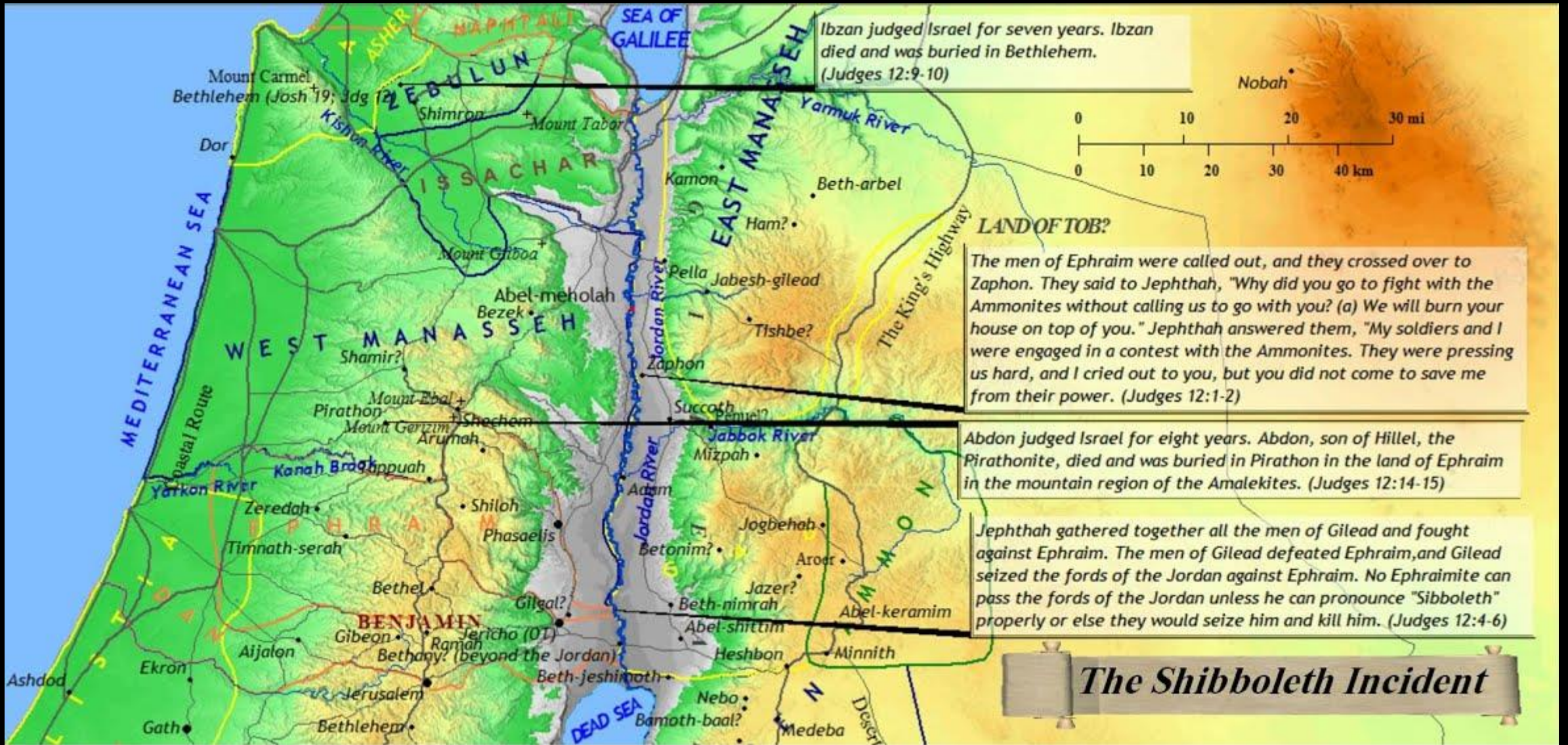
When Jephthah returned to his house in Mizpah, it was his daughter who came out to meet him, with tambourine-playing and dancing. Jephthah did to her as he had vowed: to offer her up as a burnt offering. (Judges 11:31-39)

Nobah

LAND OF TOB?

LEGEND:

- - - - - Possible route of Jephthah's attack on the Ammonites



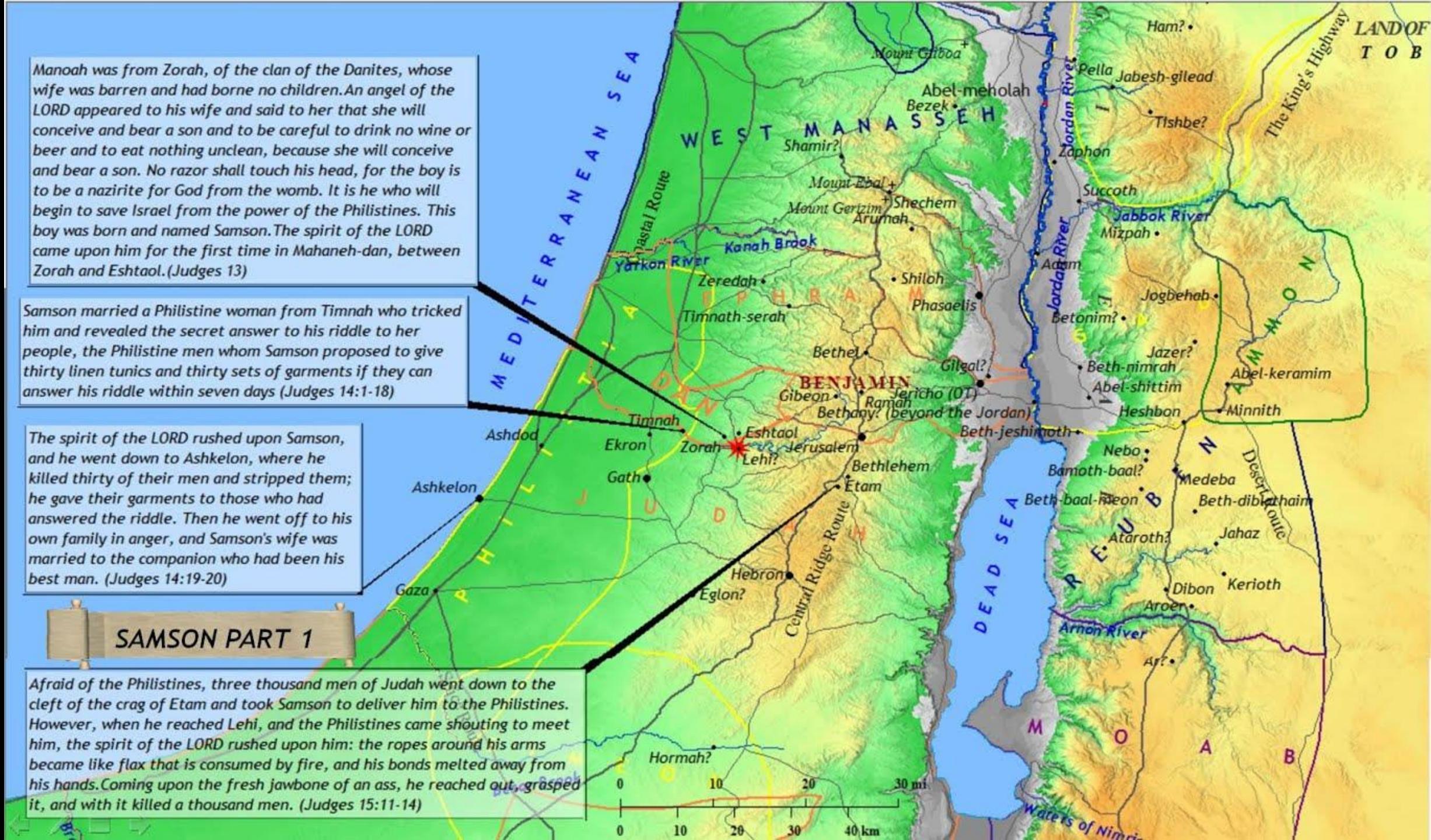
Manoah was from Zorah, of the clan of the Danites, whose wife was barren and had borne no children. An angel of the LORD appeared to his wife and said to her that she will conceive and bear a son and to be careful to drink no wine or beer and to eat nothing unclean, because she will conceive and bear a son. No razor shall touch his head, for the boy is to be a nazirite for God from the womb. It is he who will begin to save Israel from the power of the Philistines. This boy was born and named Samson. The spirit of the LORD came upon him for the first time in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol. (Judges 13)

Samson married a Philistine woman from Timnah who tricked him and revealed the secret answer to his riddle to her people, the Philistine men whom Samson proposed to give thirty linen tunics and thirty sets of garments if they can answer his riddle within seven days (Judges 14:1-18)

The spirit of the LORD rushed upon Samson, and he went down to Ashkelon, where he killed thirty of their men and stripped them; he gave their garments to those who had answered the riddle. Then he went off to his own family in anger, and Samson's wife was married to the companion who had been his best man. (Judges 14:19-20)

SAMSON PART 1

Afraid of the Philistines, three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the crag of Etam and took Samson to deliver him to the Philistines. However, when he reached Lehi, and the Philistines came shouting to meet him, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon him: the ropes around his arms became like flax that is consumed by fire, and his bonds melted away from his hands. Coming upon the fresh jawbone of an ass, he reached out, grasped it, and with it killed a thousand men. (Judges 15:11-14)



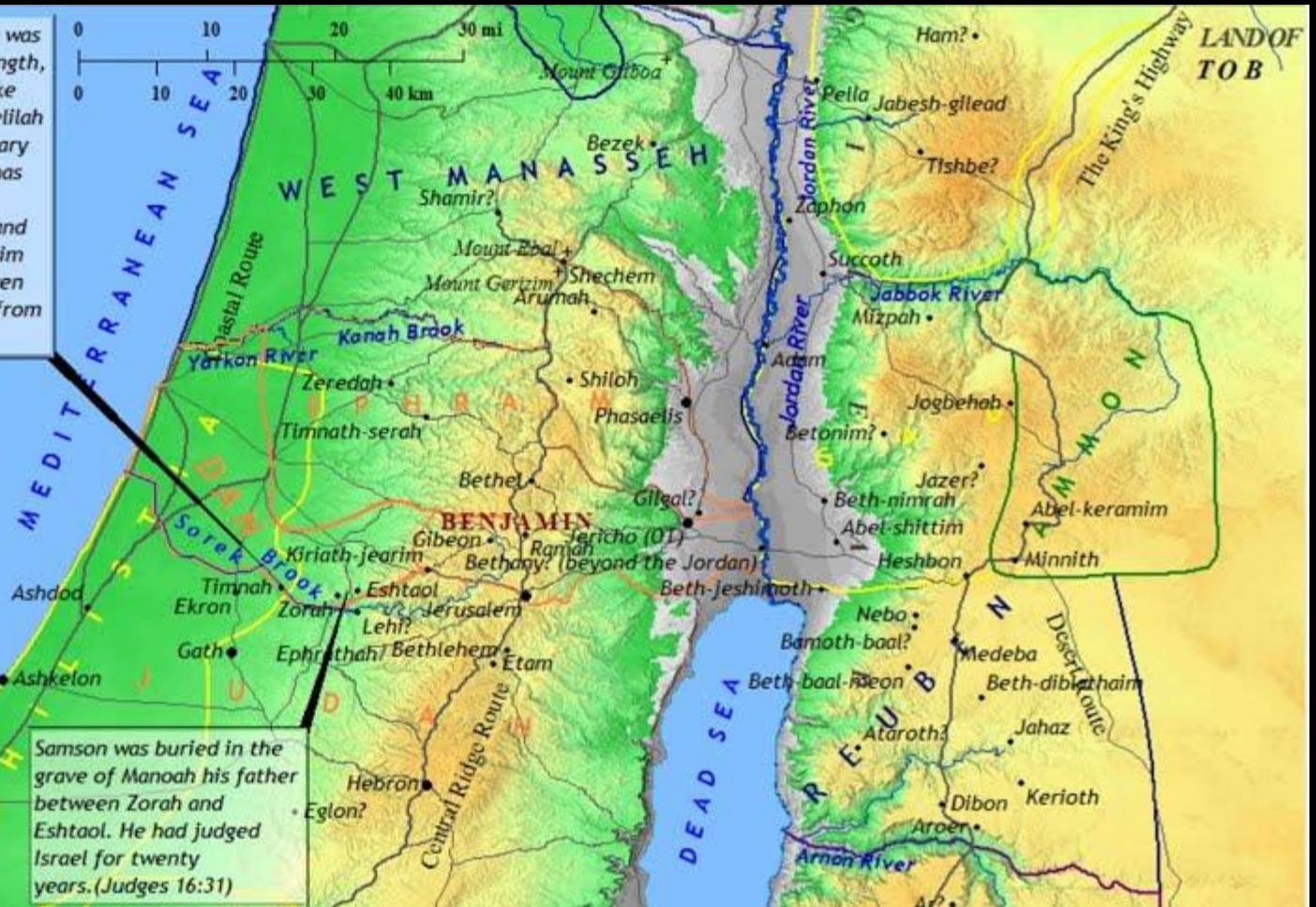
Samson fell in love with a woman in the Wadi Sorek whose name was Delilah who tricked him to find out where he gets his great strength, and how the Philistines may overcome and bind him so as to make him helpless in exchange for eleven hundred pieces of silver. Delilah pressed him continually and pestered him till he was deathly weary of it. So Samson told her all that was in his heart that no razor has touched his head, for he has been a nazirite for God from his mother's womb and if he is shaved, his strength will leave him, and he shall grow weaker and be like anyone else. Delilah then put him to sleep on her lap, and called for a man who shaved off the seven locks of his hair. With this, the Philistines easily seized Samson from Delilah's lap and gouged his eyes. (Judges 16:4-21)

The Philistines brought Samson down to Gaza and bound him with bronze fetters, and he was put to grinding grain in the prison. But the hair of his head began to grow as soon as it was shaved. When their spirits were high, they called Samson from the prison, and he provided amusement for them. They made him stand between the columns. Samson grasped and pushed the two middle columns on which the temple rested; one at his right, the other at his left and the temple collapsed killing the lords and all the people who were in it. With this Samson also died along with them. With his death Samson defeated the Philistines. (Judges 16:19-30)

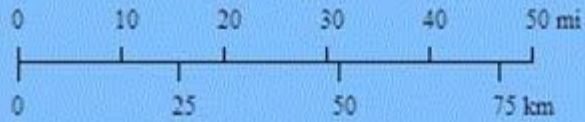
SAMSON & DELILAH



Samson was buried in the grave of Manoah his father between Zorah and Eshtaol. He had judged Israel for twenty years. (Judges 16:31)

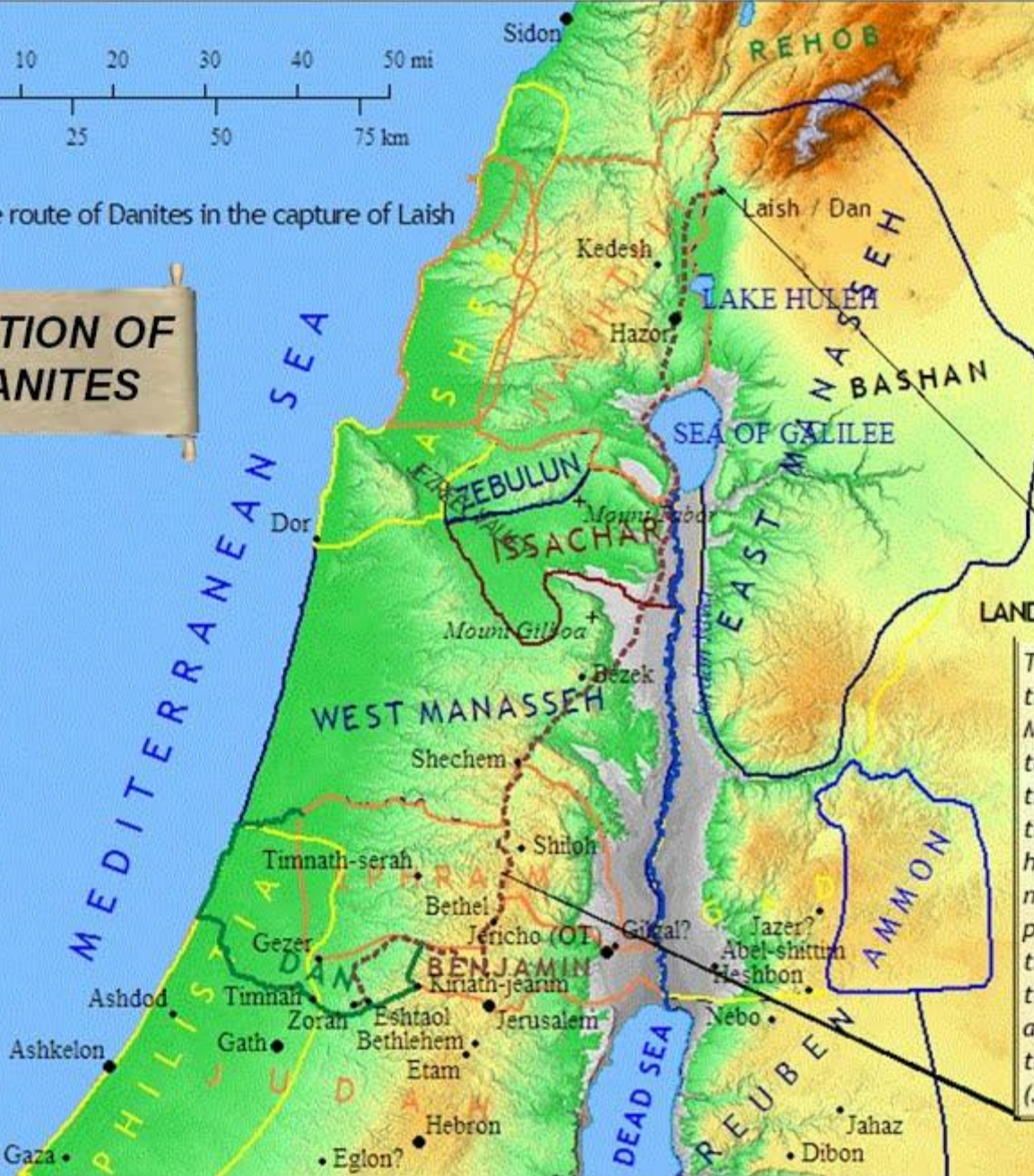






----- Probable route of Danites in the capture of Laish

MIGRATION OF THE DANITES

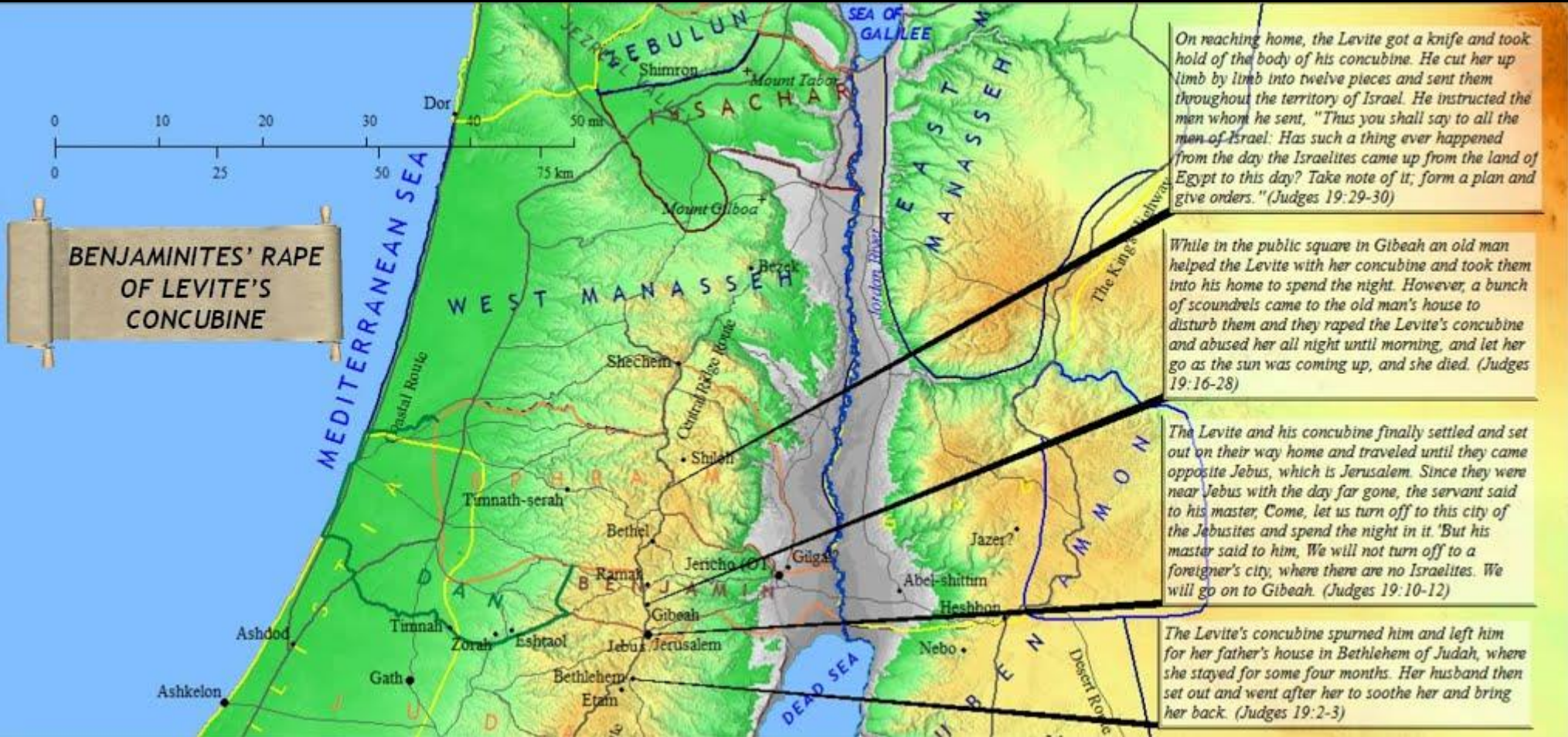
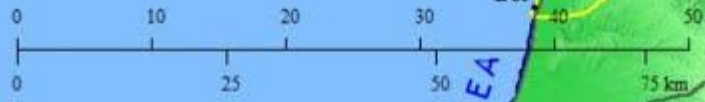


Having taken what Micah had made and his priest, they marched against Laish, a quiet and trusting people; they put them to the sword and destroyed the city by fire. No one came to their aid, since the city was far from Sidon and they had no dealings with the Arameans; the city was in the valley that belongs to Beth-rehob. The Danites then rebuilt the city and occupied it. They named it Dan after their ancestor Dan, who was born to Israel. But Laish was the name of the city formerly. Jonathan, son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his descendants were priests for the tribe of the Danites until the time the land went into captivity. (Judges 18: 27-30)

LAND OF TOB?

The five men who had gone to reconnoiter the land went up and entered the house of Micah with the priest standing there. They took the idol, the ephod, the teraphim and the metal image. When the priest said to them, "What are you doing?" they said to him, "Be still! Put your hand over your mouth! Come with us and be our father and priest. Is it better for you to be priest for the family of one man or to be priest for a tribe and a clan in Israel?" The priest, agreeing, took the ephod, the teraphim, and the idol, and went along with the troops. (Judges 18:17-20)

BENJAMINITES' RAPE OF LEVITE'S CONCUBINE



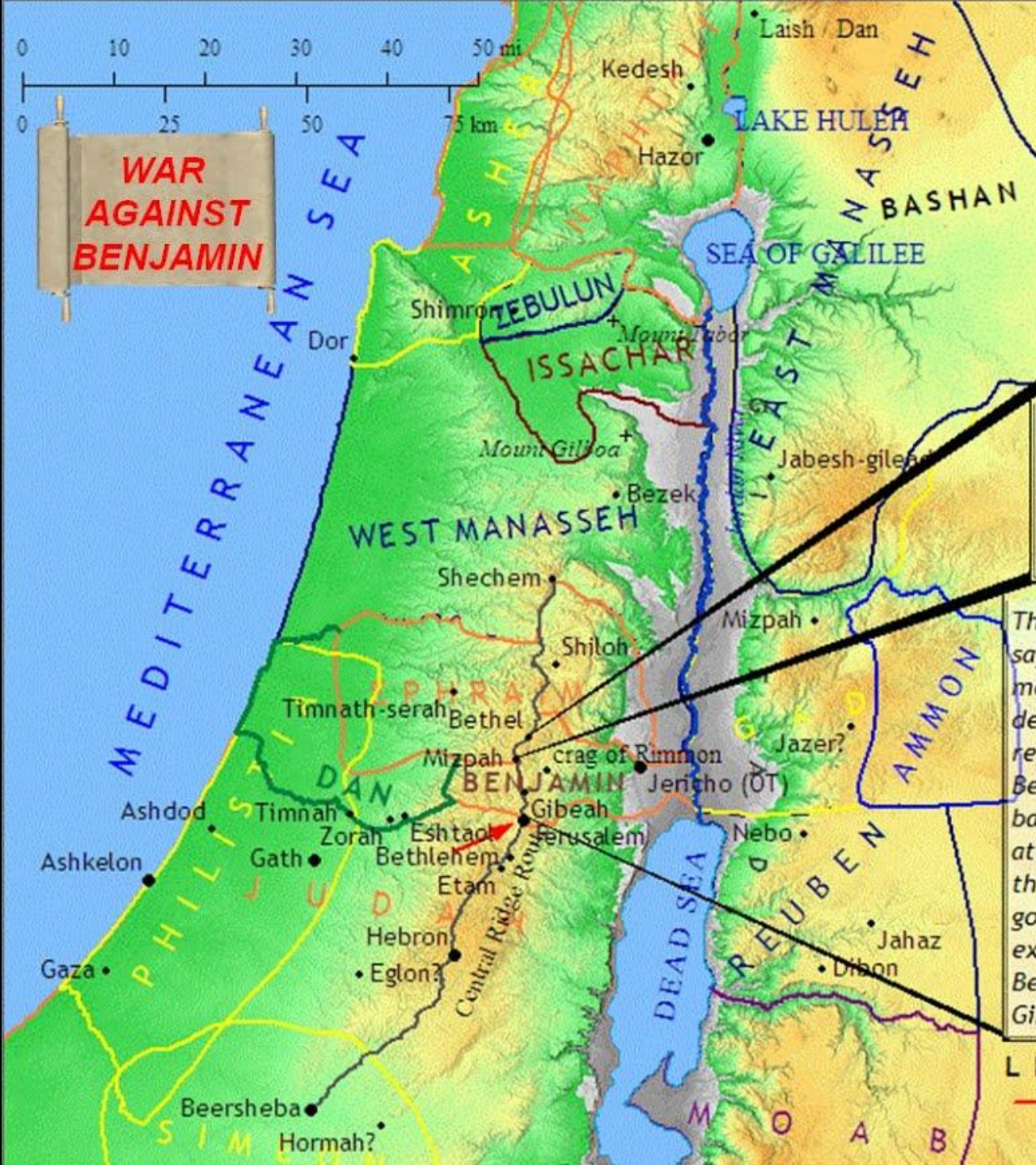
On reaching home, the Levite got a knife and took hold of the body of his concubine. He cut her up limb by limb into twelve pieces and sent them throughout the territory of Israel. He instructed the men whom he sent, "Thus you shall say to all the men of Israel: Has such a thing ever happened from the day the Israelites came up from the land of Egypt to this day? Take note of it, form a plan and give orders." (Judges 19:29-30)

While in the public square in Gibeah an old man helped the Levite with her concubine and took them into his home to spend the night. However, a bunch of scoundrels came to the old man's house to disturb them and they raped the Levite's concubine and abused her all night until morning, and let her go as the sun was coming up, and she died. (Judges 19:16-28)

The Levite and his concubine finally settled and set out on their way home and traveled until they came opposite Jebus, which is Jerusalem. Since they were near Jebus with the day far gone, the servant said to his master, Come, let us turn off to this city of the Jebusites and spend the night in it. But his master said to him, We will not turn off to a foreigner's city, where there are no Israelites. We will go on to Gibeah. (Judges 19:10-12)

The Levite's concubine spurned him and left him for her father's house in Bethlehem of Judah, where she stayed for some four months. Her husband then set out and went after her to soothe her and bring her back. (Judges 19:2-3)

**WAR
AGAINST
BENJAMIN**



The Israelites went up to Bethel and consulted God. When the Israelites asked, "Who shall go up first for us to do battle with the Benjaminites?" the LORD said: Judah first. (Judges 20:18) After being defeated twice; the Israelites consulted the LORD (for the ark of the covenant of the LORD was there in those days, and Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, was standing in His presence in those days), and asked, "Shall I again go out to battle with my brother Benjamin, or shall I stop?" The LORD said: Attack! For tomorrow I will deliver him into your power. (Judges 20:27-28)

The Israelites came out as one, from Dan to Beer-sheba including the land of Gilead, and the assembly gathered to the LORD at Mizpah. (Judges 20:1)
The men of Israel took an oath at Mizpah: "None of us will give his daughter in marriage to anyone from Benjamin." (Judges 21:1)

The tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin to say, "What is this evil that has occurred among you? Now give up the men, the scoundrels who are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and thus purge the evil from Israel." But the Benjaminites refused to listen to their kindred, the Israelites. Instead, the Benjaminites assembled from their cities at Gibeah, to march out to battle with the Israelites. (Judges 20:12-14) The Israelites went to attack Gibeah twice but were defeated by the Benjaminites because they strike down the Israelites along the highways, one of which goes up to Bethel and one to Gibeah in the open country where they expect the Israelite to attack. But the Israelites defeated the Benjaminites by setting up an ambush attacking instead west of Gibeah. (Judges 20:20-33)

LEGEND:

→ Israel ambush the Benjaminites West of Gibeah

