

JUDGES 10-12

THE BOOK OF



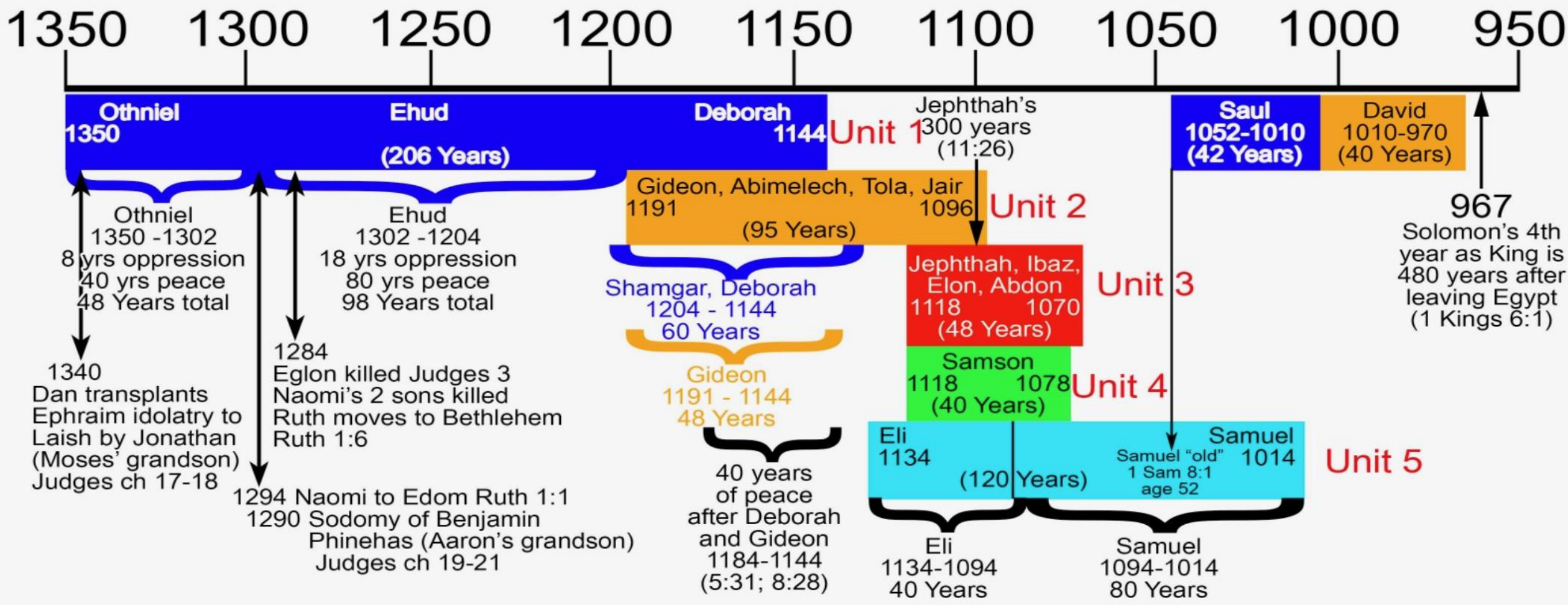
JUDGES

Forsaken YET Faithful

Where have we been so far...

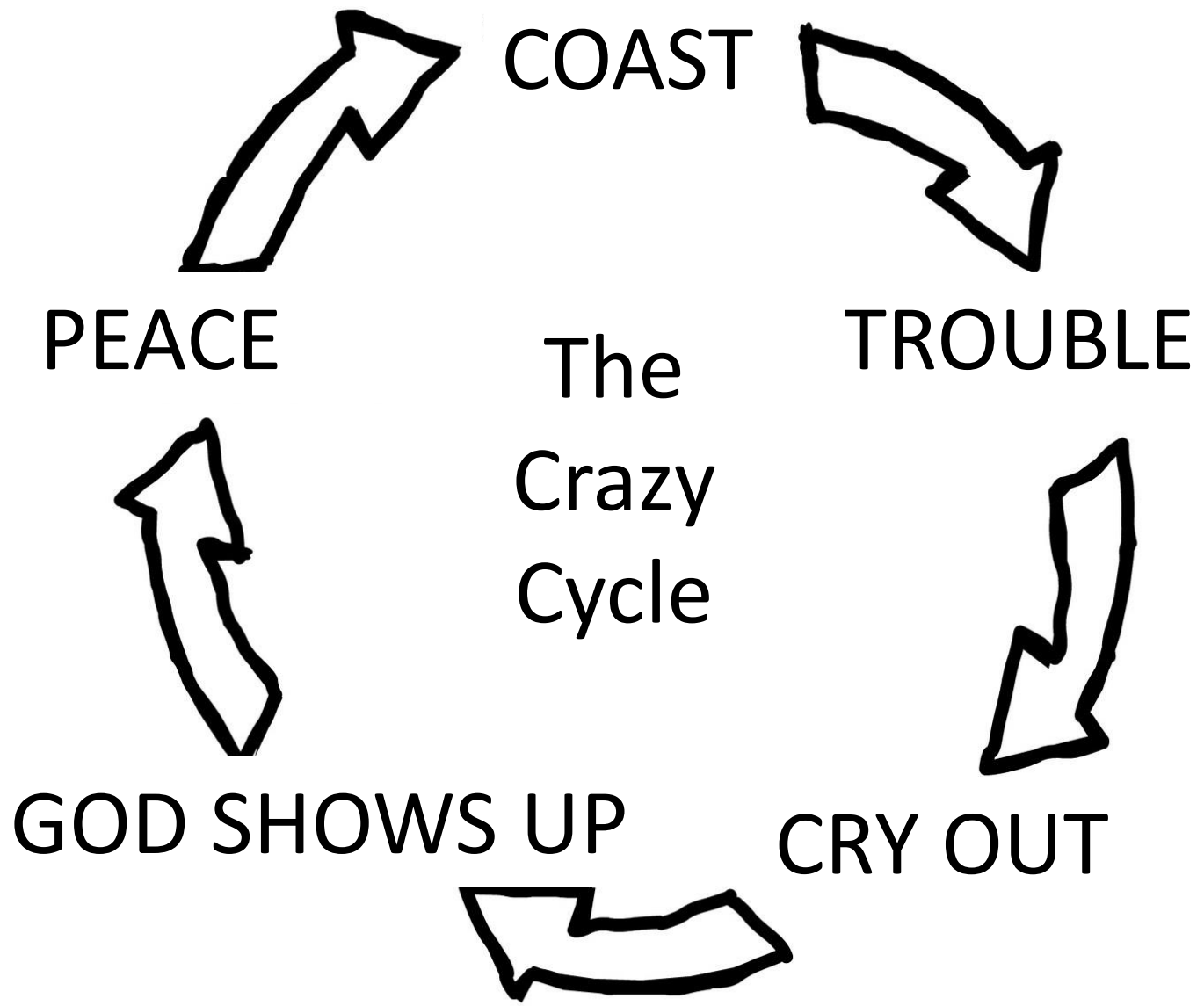
- Jesus is the Lord we desperately need (1-2)
 - Remember Him (Othniel, Ehud & Shamy)
 - Obey Him (Deborah and Barak)
 - Trust Him (Gideon)

Timeline



Key verse - Judges 21:25

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



Cycle of sin

- Things go well
 - “Coast”
- Things go bad
 - “Cry out”

Othniel

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola

Jair

Jephthah

Ibson

Elon

Abdon

Samson

Downward spiral

- Religious license
 - Barak won't obey
 - Gideon doesn't trust
 - Jephthah doesn't know
 - Samson totally rebels
- Political uncertainty
- Moral anarchy

This is the cycle of humanity

- Nations throughout history
- Europe - Reformation (16th century)
- GB & US - Great Awakening (18th century)
- The US and the world today?



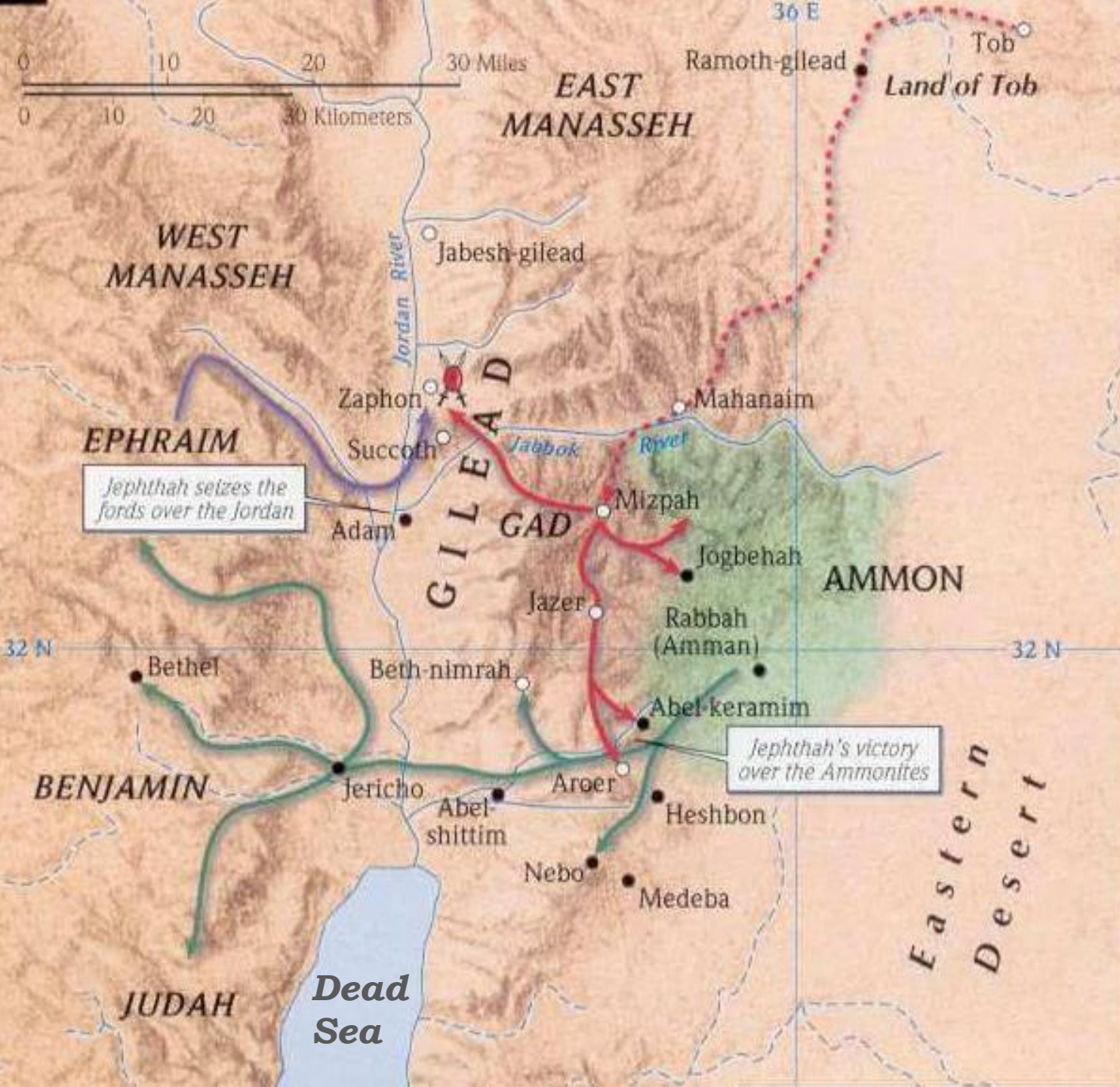
What does Scripture say about this?

Judges 11:1-3

Gilead's...sons...drove Jephthah out...

*³ Then Jephthah fled from his brothers
and lived in the land of Tob.*

- Jephthah is forced out of the community
 - Loses a committed family



JEPHTHAH AND THE AMMONITES

JUDG. 10:6-12:7

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ← Ammonite raids of Gilead tribes
- ← Jephthah's war against Ammon
- ← Jephthah returns from Tob
- ← Men of Ephraim clash with Jephthah
- Ammonite territory
- 🦋 Battle at Zaphon

(Judges 11:4-11)

...the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah...⁶ And they said to Jephthah, “Come and be our leader, that we may fight against the Ammonites.”

- When they need him, they call him?

(Judges 11:12-13) – the issue at hand

Jephthah ... “What do you have against me...to fight against my land?”

*... “Because Israel ...took away my land,
from the Arnon to the Jabbok...*

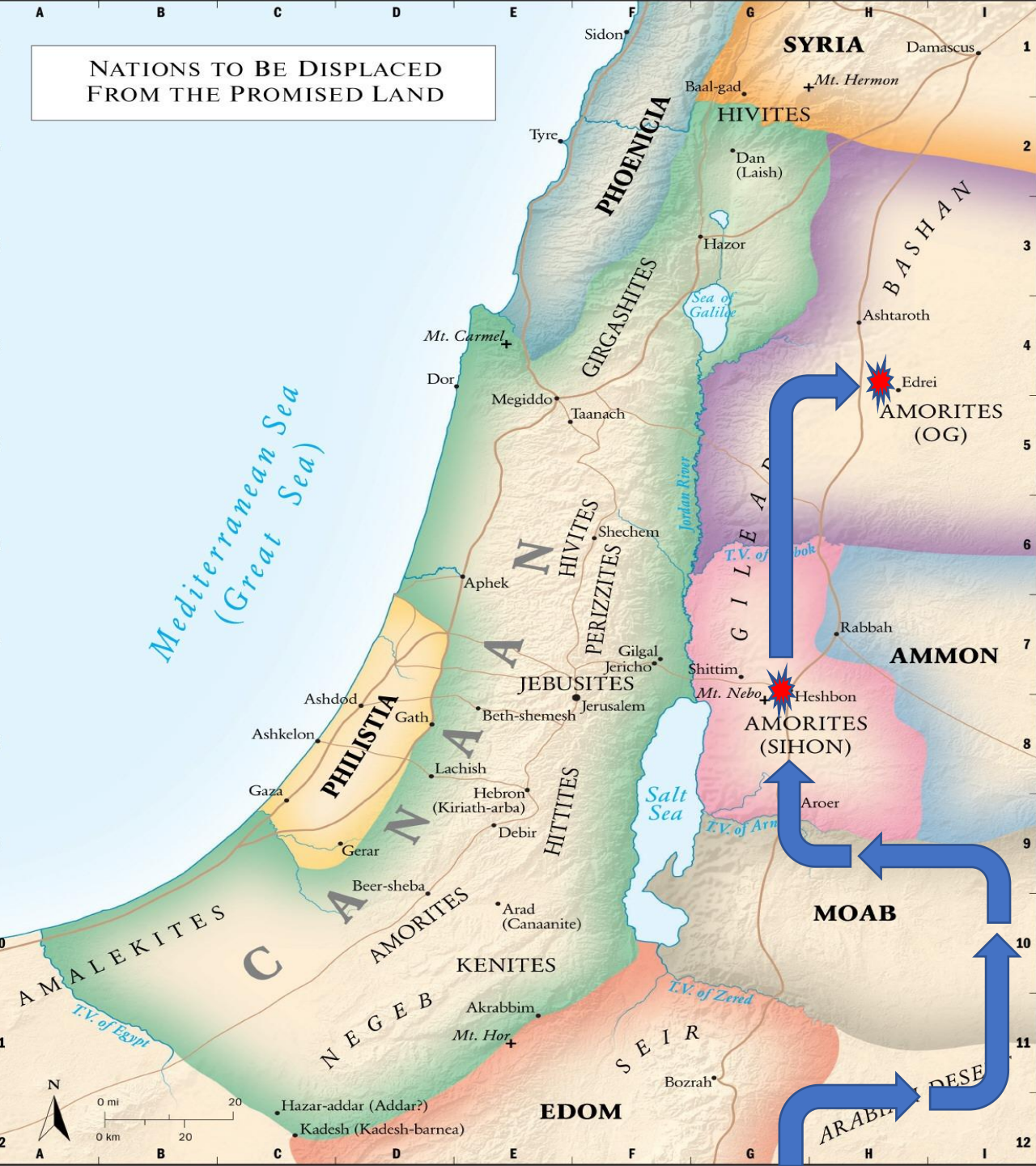
- Jephthah acts like he is already a king
- Ammonite king claims the land of Sihon

(Judges 11:14-23)

...the LORD, the God of Israel, dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel...

- Jephthah knows his history
 - God, not Israel, transferred the land
 - Land was Amorite's, not Ammonite's

NATIONS TO BE DISPLACED FROM THE PROMISED LAND



Amorites or Ammonites?

- Sihon - Num 21:21-24
 - Arnon to Jabbok
- Og (Num 21:31-35)
 - Jabbok to Mt Hermon
- Ammon and Moab
 - Lot's sons
- Edom: Esau's progeny

(Judges 11:24-28)

...Will you not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess?...But the king of the Ammonites did not listen.

- Which territorial god is which? (1 Kgs 11:7)
 - Chemosh is the god of Moab
 - Molech is the god of the Ammonites

(Judges 11:29)

29 Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites.

- God manifests despite Jephthah's character

Judges 11:30-31

³⁰ And Jephthah made a vow...whatever comes out from the doors of my house... I will offer it up for a burnt offering."

- Jephthah obviously doesn't know the Lord
 - Human sacrifice? NO! (Lev 18:21, 20:1-5)
 - How about thanksgiving offering? (Lev 2)

What meets a victorious conqueror?

- Miriam's song celebrating victory (Ex 15:20)
- Women's song about David (1 Sam 18:7)
- Generals march down the *Via Triumphalis*
 - Gold and white toga
 - Laurel wreath as the victor's crown
 - Procession of captives and booty

(Judges 11:32-33)

...Jephthah crossed over to them Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand...So the Ammonites were subdued...

- God (not Jephthah) delivers Israel

Judges 11:34-35

...And behold, his daughter came out to meet him...I cannot take back my vow."

- Why not?
 - Jephthah has many options...

Jephthah's options

- He doesn't even look for a loophole?
- Redeeming offerings in vows (Lev 27:1-8)
- God is "situationally flexible" (Lev 5:11)
 - If poor, you can sacrifice two birds
- *Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice... (Matt 9:13)*

Judges 11:36-40

And she said to him, “do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth”...she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow...

- Daughter is sacrificed as a burnt offering

Let's summarize

- Jephthah pushed out of the community
- Becomes a leader of a band of outlaws
- Called by the elders to lead them in battle
- Negotiates becoming their leader
- Makes a foolish vow and wins
- Selfishly and despicably, fulfills his vow

Jephthah's "hamartia" (fatal flaw)

- Religious license has progressed
 - False religion has infiltrated
 - Knows about God, doesn't know God

Many people today only know about God

Many in churches only know about God too!

Gospel: Jesus came that we might know God

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

THE BOOK OF



JUDGES

FORSAKEN YET FAITHFUL