

THE BOOK OF



JUDGES

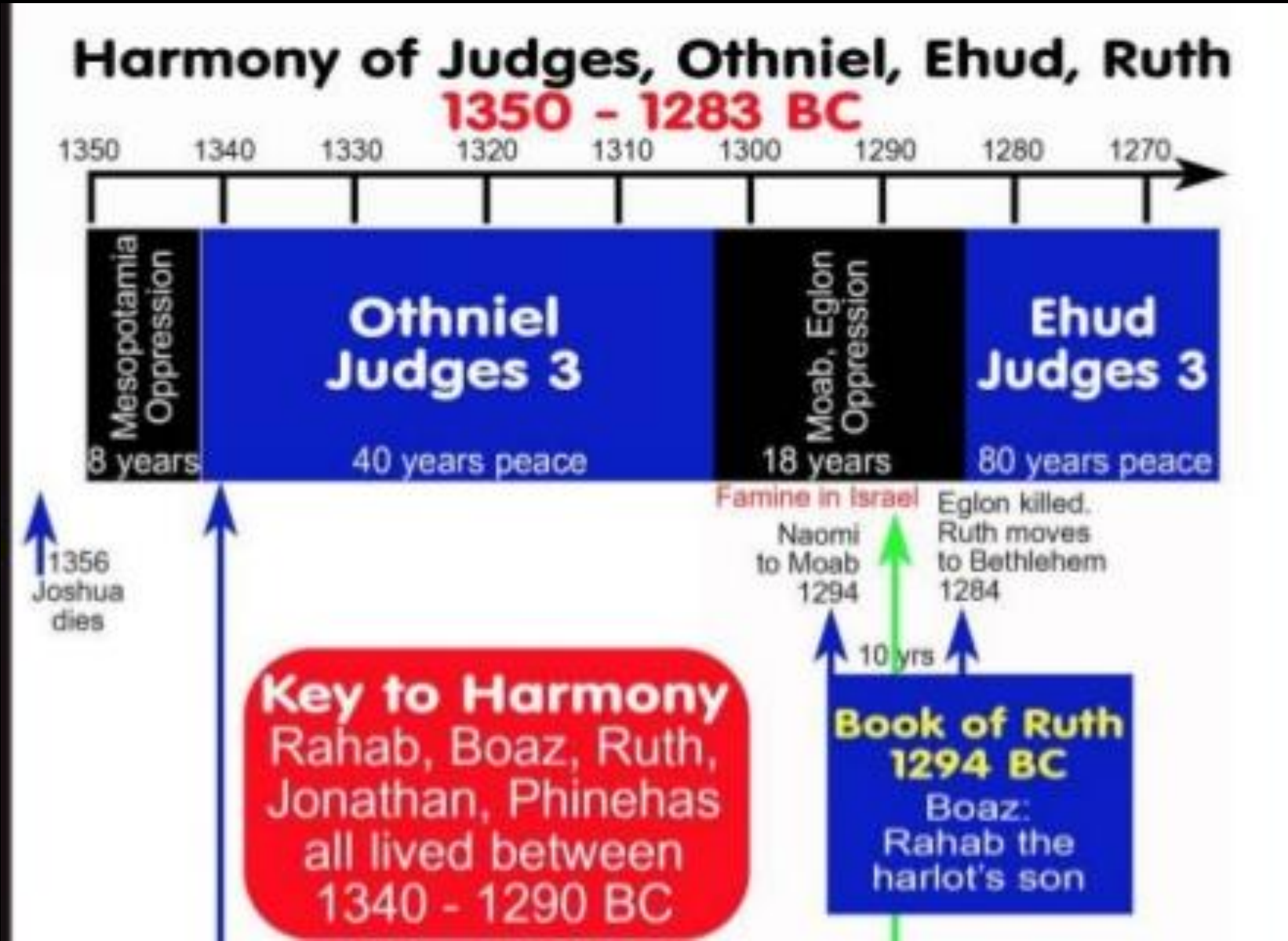
FORSAKEN YET FAITHFUL

Where have we been so far...

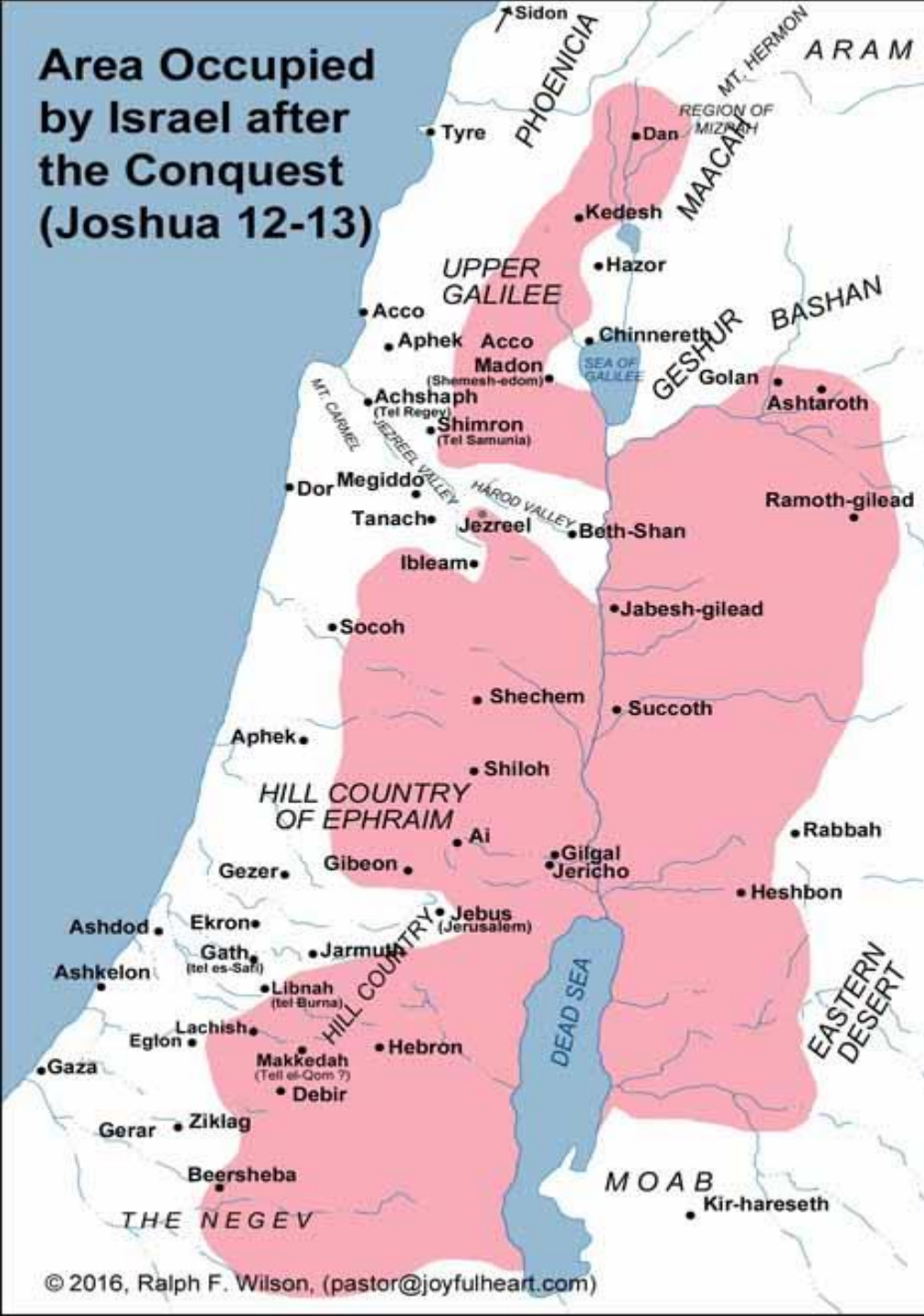
- We are forgetful...He is faithful!
- We forsake...He never feints!
- We are failing...He is forgiving!

Jesus is the King we desperately need!

Timeline



Area Occupied
by Israel after
the Conquest
(Joshua 12-13)

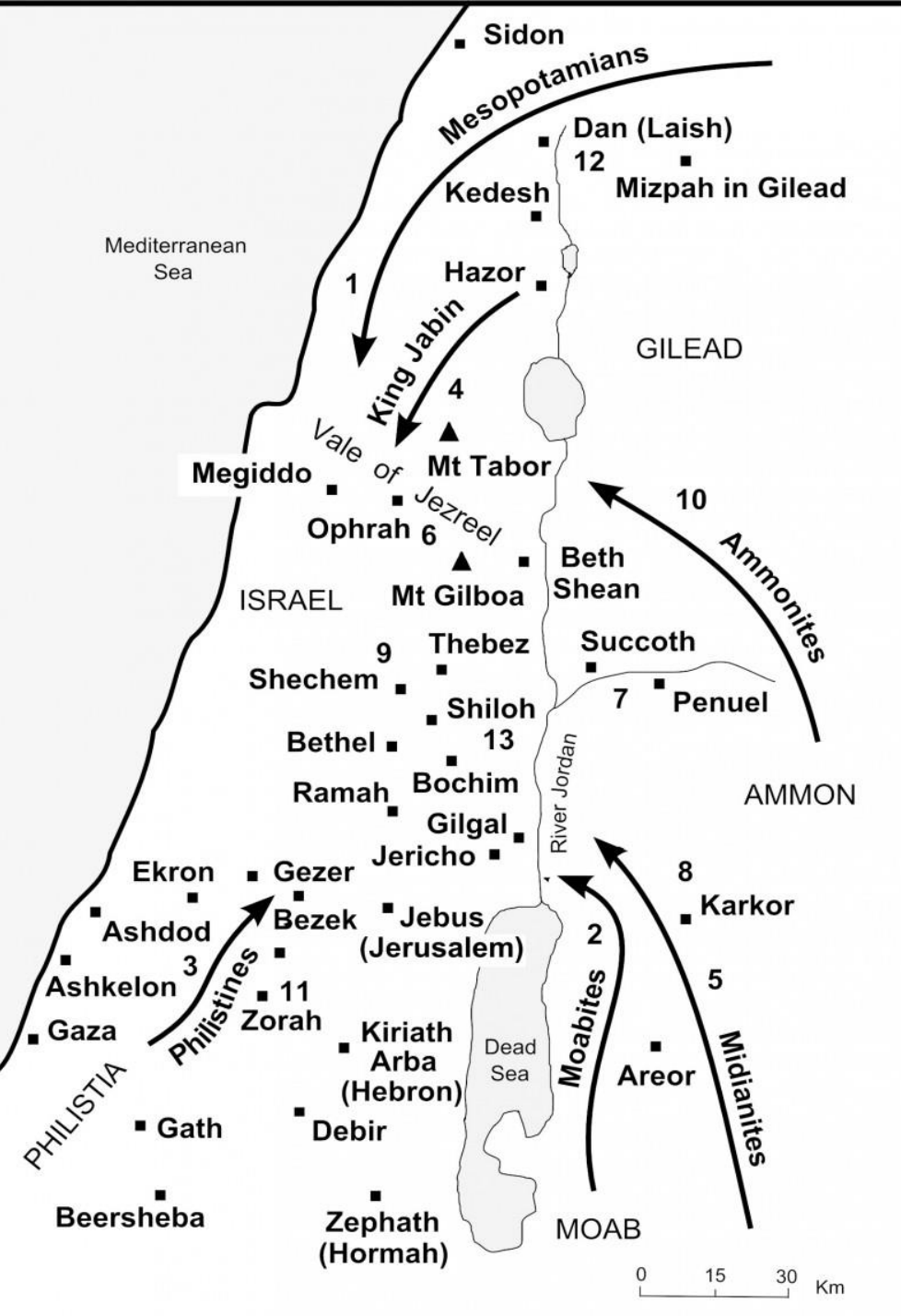


Judges 3:1-2

Now these are the nations that the Lord left, to test Israel by them, ...to teach war to those who had not known it before.

Testing and teaching war

- *“Opportunity for spiritual formation”*
 - Trials are like *“Spiritual catfish”*
- Country was exceedingly rich / fruitful
 - Surrounded by enemies



Judges 3:3-4 – “Surrounded”

- Philistines – SW
- Moab, Midian, Ammon – SE
- Sidonians – NW
- Hivites – NE
- Canaanites – internal threat
- Do you ever feel this way?

Judges 3:5-7

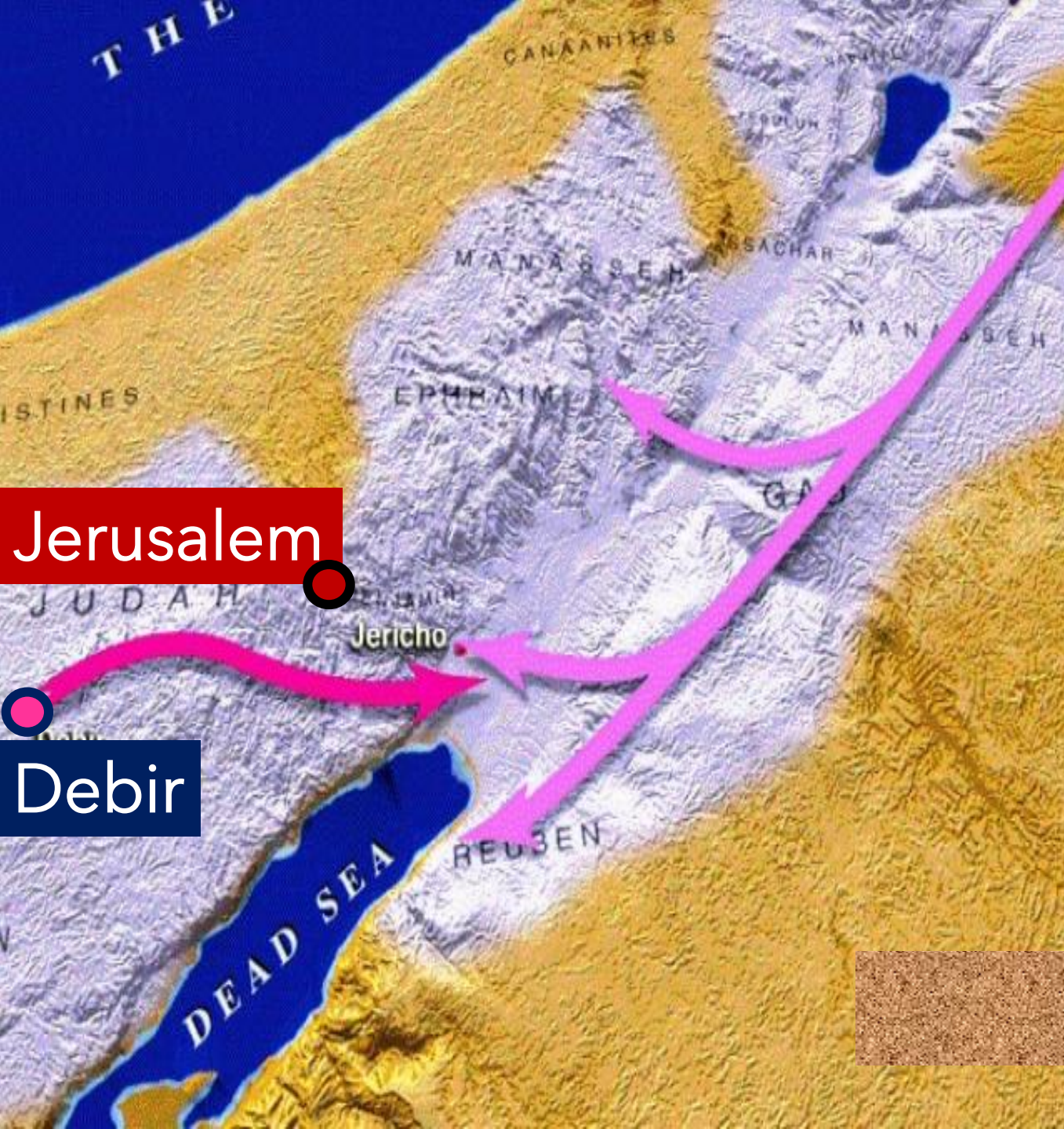
*...people of Israel lived among the
Canaanites...people of Israel did what was
evil ...forgot the LORD...served the Baals...*

- God said this would happen – Ex 34:11-16

Judges 3:8

*...anger of the LORD was kindled ...he sold
them into the hand of...king of
Mesopotamia. And the people of Israel
served Cushan...eight years.*

- Mesopotamia – “amidst the rivers”
- God did what He said – Deut 28:25-26



Judges 3:9-11

- Who does what...
- Exodus experience again – Ex 2:24-25
- 1st he judged Israel, then he went to war

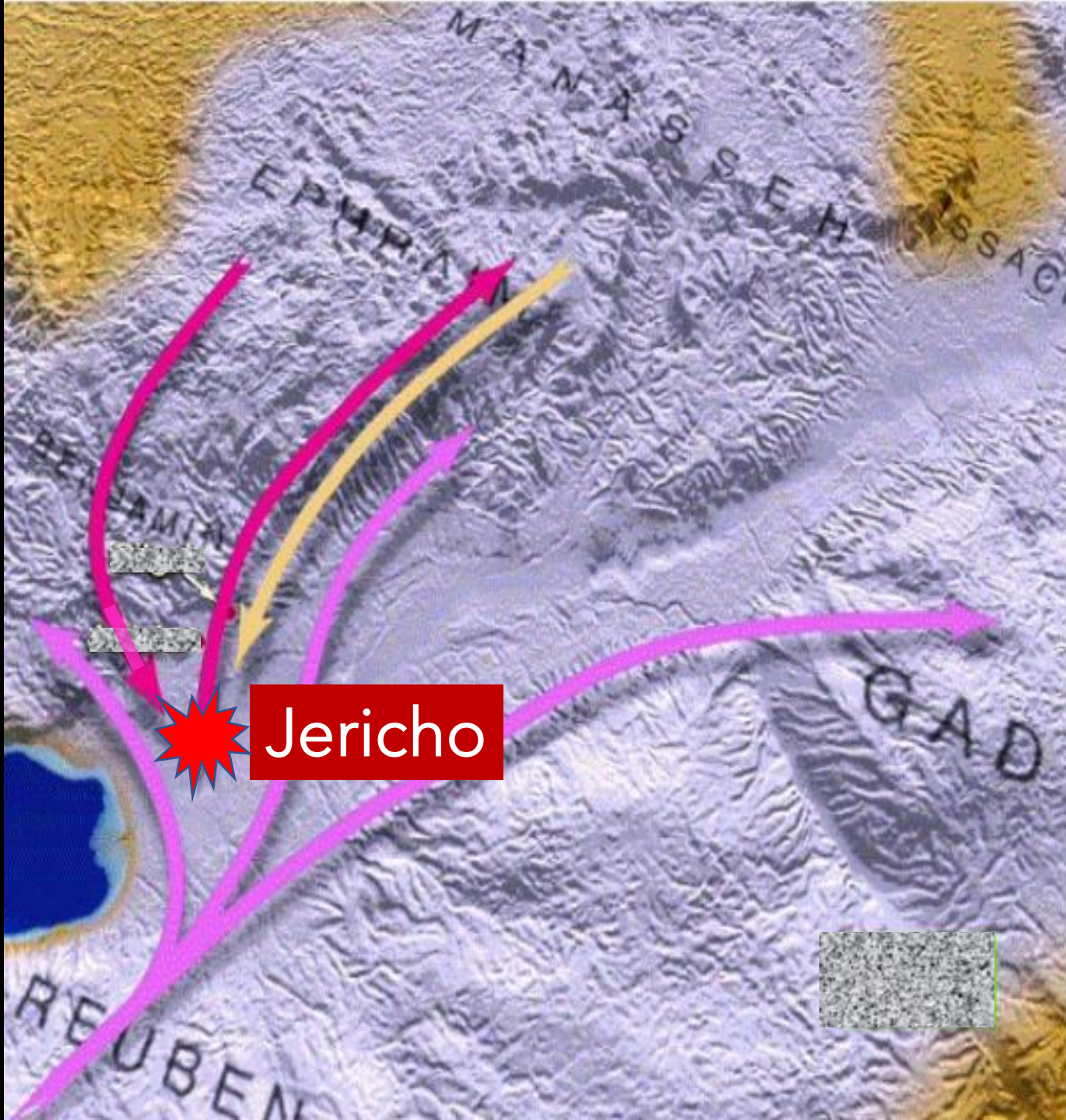
Judges 3:12-14

*...people of Israel ...did what was evil...
the LORD strengthened...king of Moab ...
13 He gathered ...Ammonites and
the Amalekites...defeated Israel...took...
city of palms...people...served...the king of
Moab eighteen years.*

Judges 3:15

Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man.

- Benjamites ambidextrous – 1 Chron 12:2



Judges 3:16-30

- Uses deceit
- Capitalizes on “Bull Calf’s” (Eglon) pride
- Calls out the people
- Sound strategy
- Israel rests 80 years

Is assassination justifiable?

- Moabites, Ammonites, and Amalekites not only neighbors, but also relatives
 - Lot (Abraham's nephew), father of Moab and Ammon (Gen 19:30-38)
 - Esau (Jacob's brother) is the ancestor of Amalek (Gen 36:12, Deut 25:17, 19)

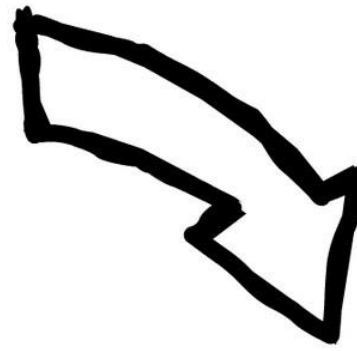
Judges 3:31



After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad...

- Foreigner who saved Israel and defeated the enemy despite limited resources

the people turn
from God (3:7)



God judges by delivering the
people to their enemies (3:8)

a period of peace under
the judge (3:11)



God sends a judge to rescue
the people (3:9-10)

*the cycle
of judges*



the people turn
back to God (3:9)



Are we like the Israelites?

- Are we not surrounded by enemies?
- Do we not forget the Lord?
- Do we not at times serve other “gods”?

How do we get off the cycle?

God #1 – for our own good and the world

- Habits of Grace

- Scripture

- Prayer

- Worship

- Fellowship

- B.U.S.Y.

- Achievement

- Money

- Children's activities

- Recreation

What do these three have in common?

- Othniel is a conquering prince of Judah
- Ehud is handicapped
- Shamgar is an outsider

They only bring temporary peace

God wants to bring us lasting peace / abundant life

Jesus is a prince - soon to be King

...handicapped - chooses to not use power

...a foreigner - His home is in Heaven

God is using Jesus

to save the world...and you!

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