

Joshua & Judges Chronology



Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary •
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Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges

65a

HYKSOS INVASION OF EGYPT

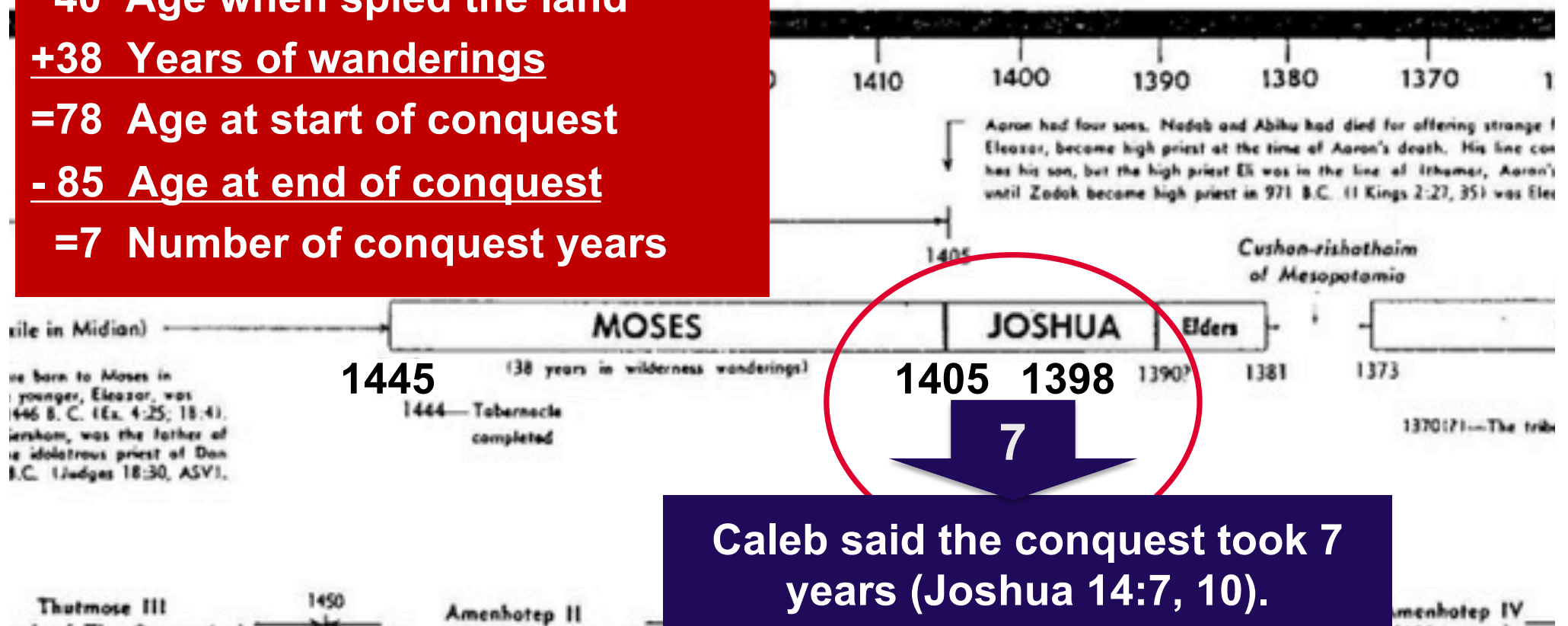
("There arose a new king
over [against] Egypt
who knew not Joseph")

1730 B. C.

Josh. 14:7 I was 40 years old when Moses, the servant of the LORD, sent me from Kadesh-barnea to explore the land of Canaan. I returned and gave an honest report.

Josh. 14:10 Now, as you can see, the LORD has kept me alive and well as he promised for all these forty-five years since Moses made this promise—even while Israel wandered in the wilderness. Today I am 85 years old.

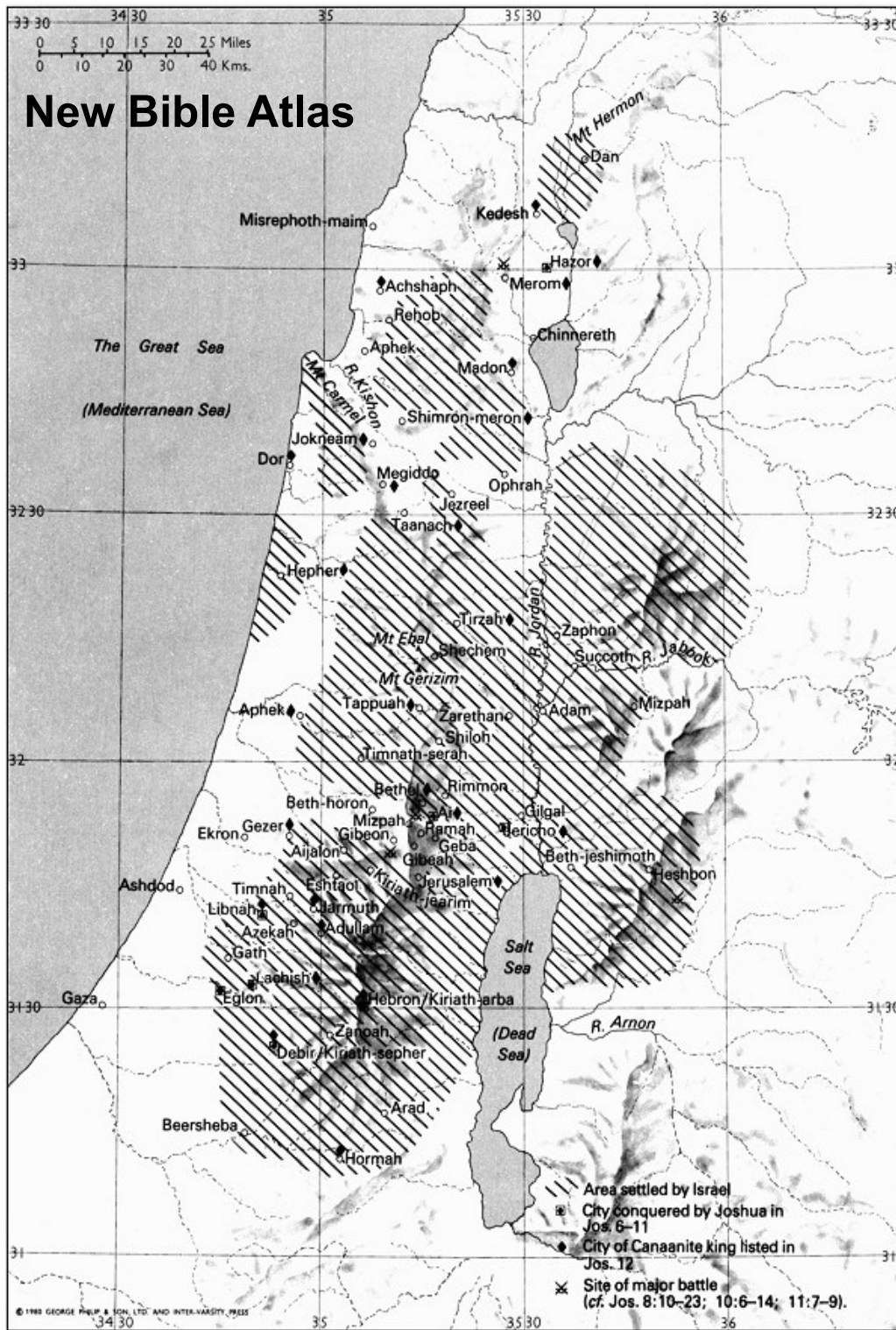
40 Age when spied the land
+38 Years of wanderings
=78 Age at start of conquest
- 85 Age at end of conquest
=7 Number of conquest years



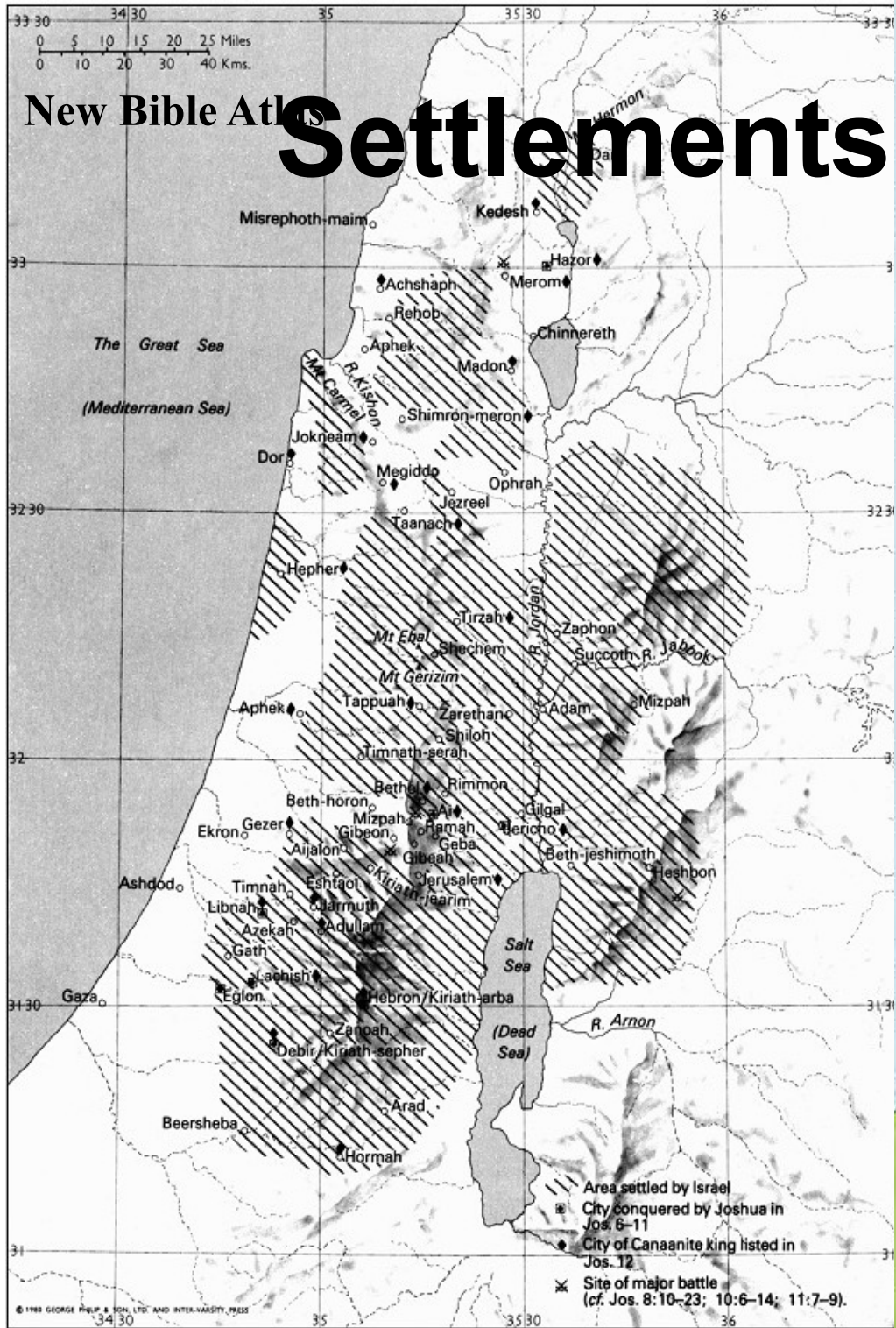
Caleb said the conquest took 7 years (Joshua 14:7, 10).

New Bible Atlas

Land Settled under Joshua



Settlements v. Allotments



Populations by Tribe

Numbers 26
Joshua 13:1–19:48

Levi
23,000
Spread
Throughout
Israel

Asher
53,400

Naphtali
45,400

Zebulun
60,500

Issachar
64,300

Manasseh
52,700

Ephraim
32,500

Dan
64,400

Benjamin
45,600

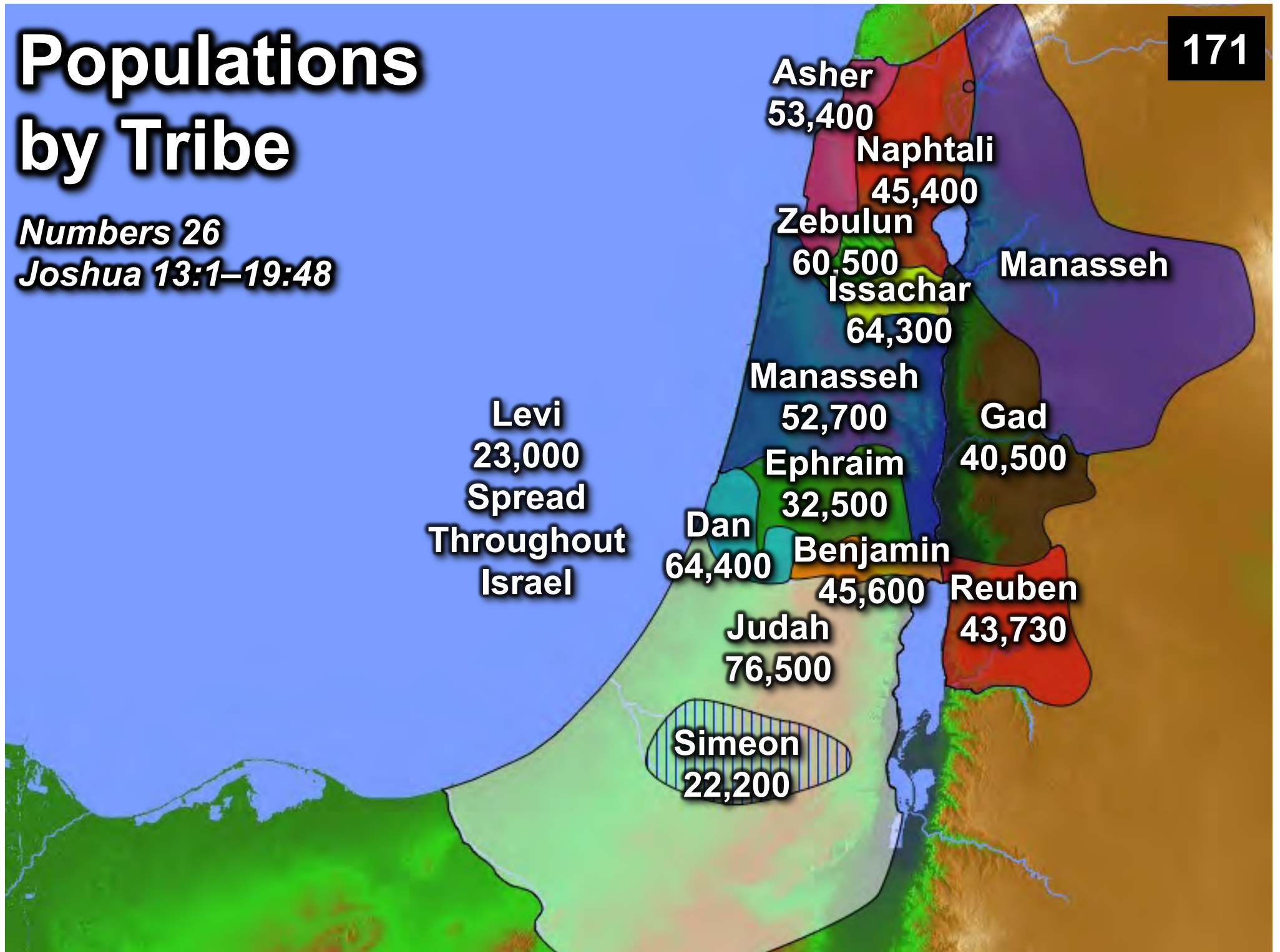
Judah
76,500

Simeon
22,200

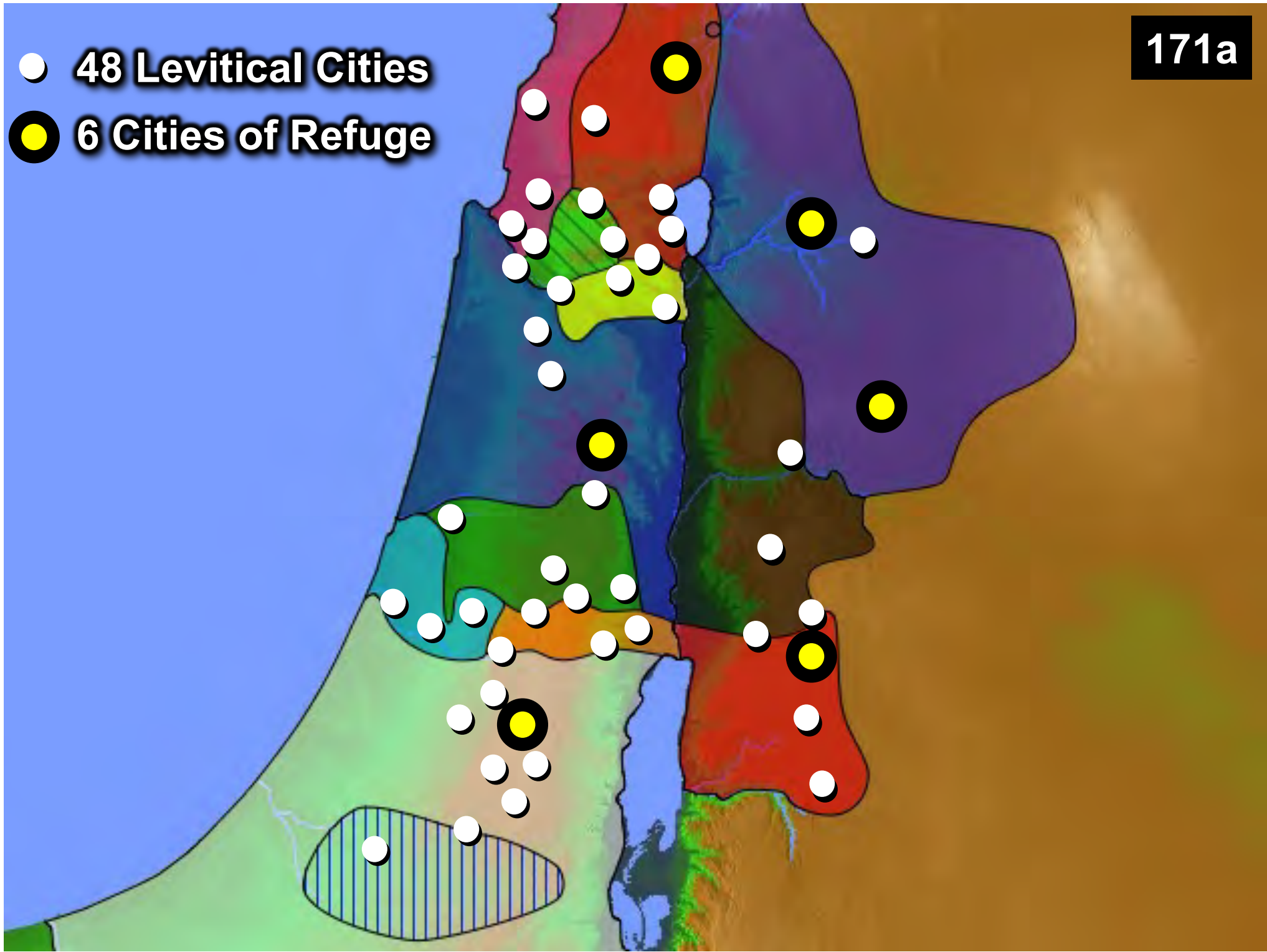
Gad
40,500

Reuben
43,730

Manasseh



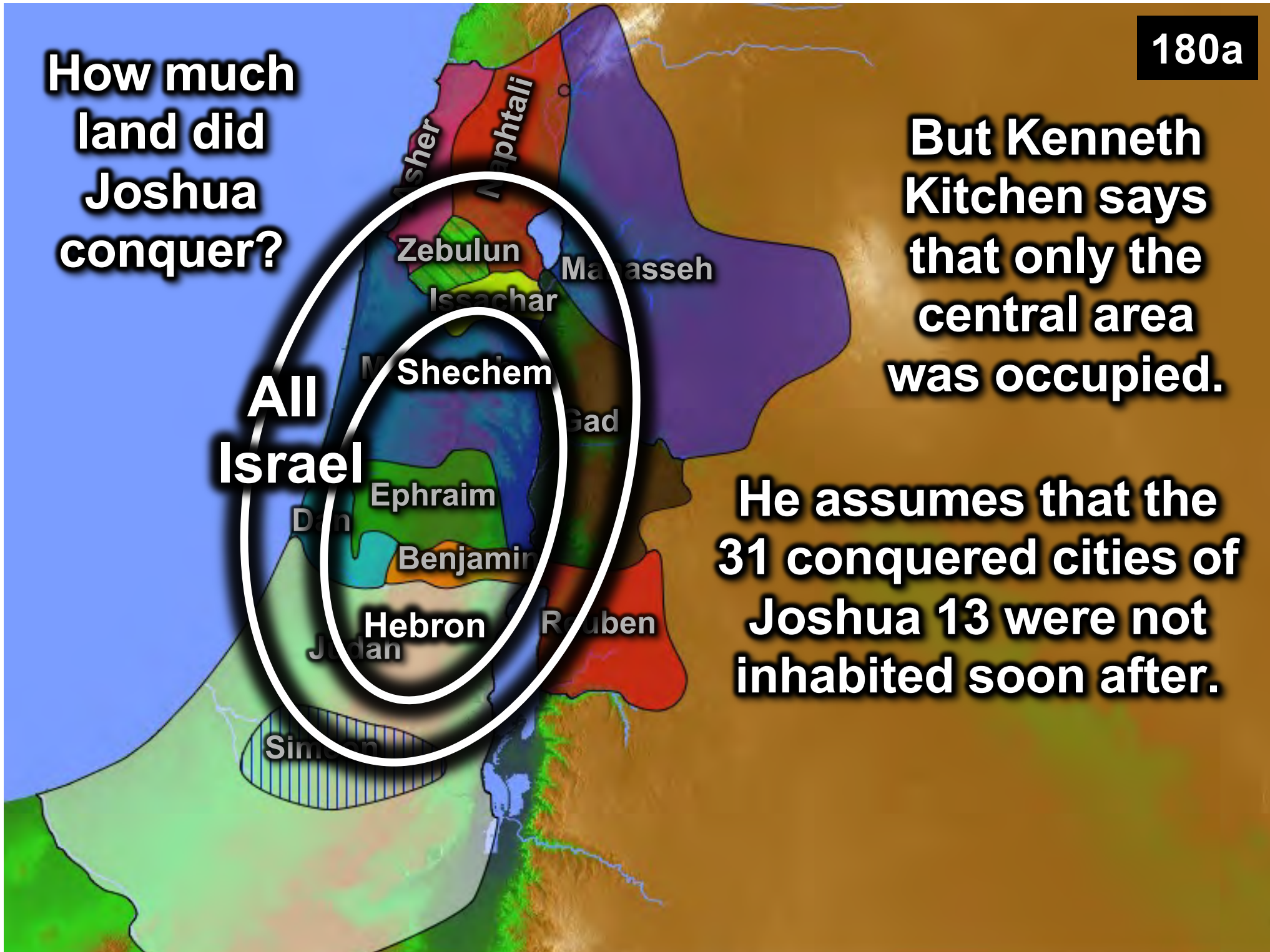
- 48 Levitical Cities
- 6 Cities of Refuge



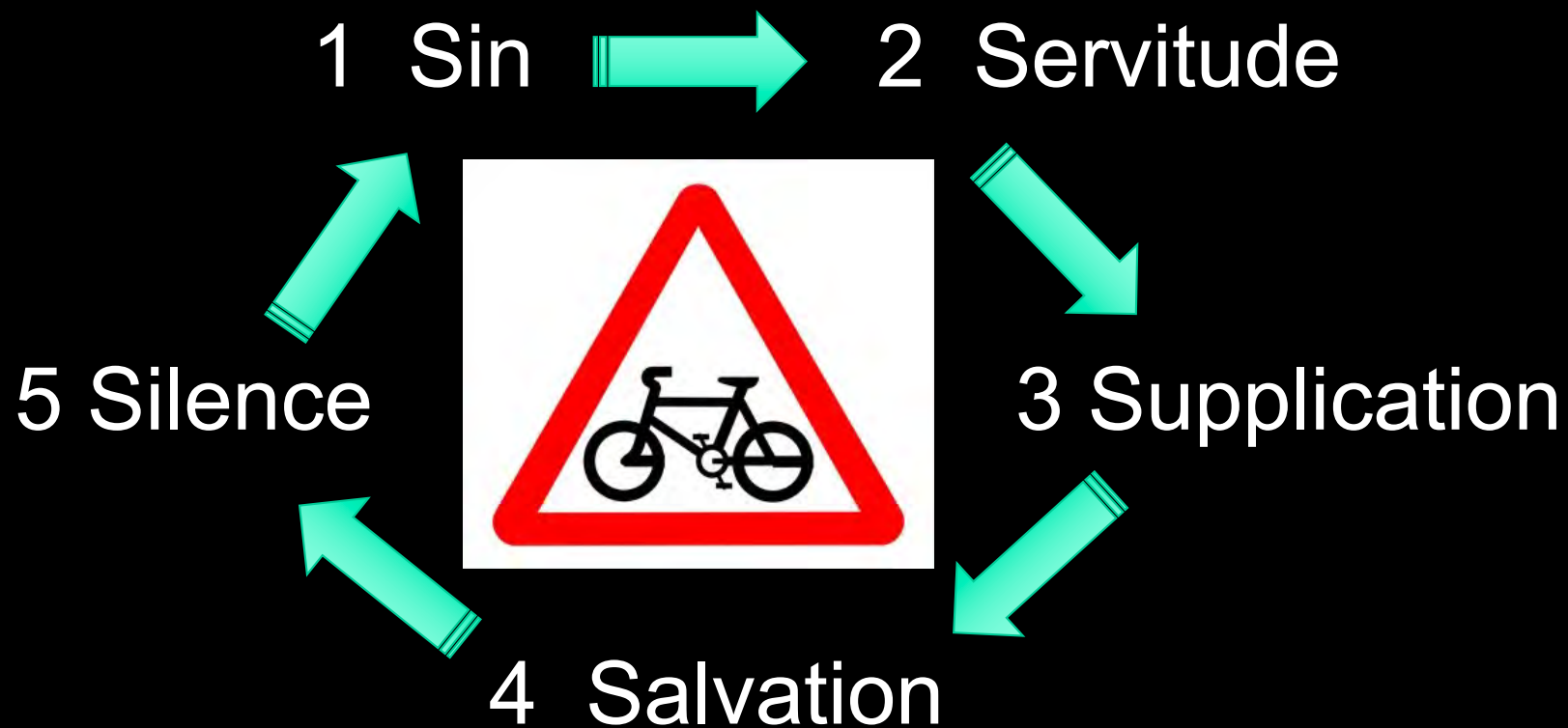
How much land did Joshua conquer?

But Kenneth Kitchen says that only the central area was occupied.

He assumes that the 31 conquered cities of Joshua 13 were not inhabited soon after.



The Cycle Repeated in Judges





Judges

Failure Under the Theocracy

Incomplete Possession		Deliverance by Judges							Need for Monarchy	
1:1–2:5		2:6–16:31							17–21	
Deterioration		Discipline							Depravity	
Causes Of the Cycles		Curse Of the Cycles							Conditions Of the Cycles	
Living with the Canaanites		War with the Canaanites							Living Like the Canaanites	
Military Disobedience	Spiritual Disobedience	Intro	South	North	Central	East	North	West	Religious Depravity	Moral Depravity
1	2:1-5	2:6-3:6	3:7-31	4:1-5:31	6:1-10:2	10:3-12:7	12:8-12:15	13:1-16:31	17-18	19-21
Canaan										
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)										

The Mystery of the Judges



- ◆ We can define the era of the Judges by starting with the leadership of **Moses** and finishing with the crowning of **Saul**
480 (from Exodus to Solomon's temple; 1 Kings 6:1)
 - 40 (Saul's rule Acts 13:11)
 - 40 (David's rule 1 Kings 2:11) = 400 years
- ◆ When the number of years that the Judges and Israel's enemies rule are added up, it **exceeds** the expected value of 400 years: **410+ yrs**
- ◆ **But this doesn't even include the 40-year wanderings, giving only 360 years**

Years the Judges Ruled

Cycle	Oppressor	Location	Years of Oppression	Deliverer	Years of Peace
1 (3: 7-11)	Mesopotamians	South	8	Othniel	40
2 (3: 12-30)	Moabites	South	18	Ehud	30
Parentesis (3: 31)	Philistines	Southwest	Ñ	Samson	Ñ
3 (chs. 4D5)	Canaanites	North	20	Deborah & Barak	40
4 (6: 1D8:32)	Midianites	North central (Ophrah)	7	Gideon	40
5 (9: 1D9: 55)	Amorites	Central	6	Yonadab	Ñ
Parentesis (9: 1-2)	Philistines	Central (Shamir)	Ñ	Samson	23
Parentesis (10: 3-5)	Ñ	East (Komon, Gilead)	Ñ	Jair	22
6 (10: 6D12: 15)	Ammonites	East (Zaphon, Gilead)	18	Jephthah	6
Parentesis (12: 8-10)	Ñ	South east (Bethlehem)	Ñ	Izban	7
Parentesis (12: 11-12)	Ñ	North west	Ñ	Elon	10
Parentesis (12: 13-15)	Ñ	Central (Pirathon)	Ñ	Abdon	8
7 (ch. 13Ñ16)	Philistines	South west (Zorah)	40	Samson	20

1381 BC Mesopotamian rule began

Oppression 114 Peace 296

Total 332

Total 410

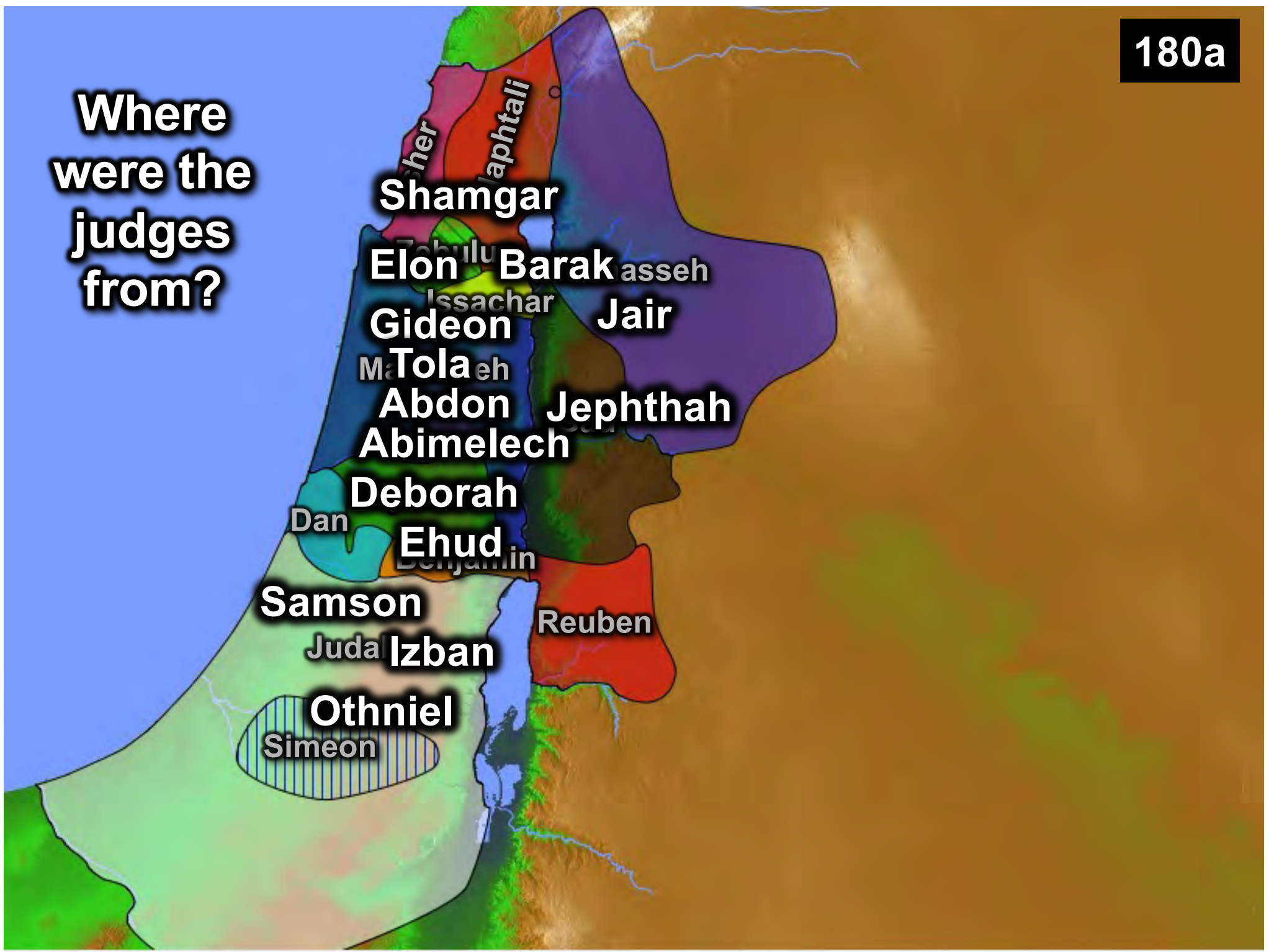
1049 BC Samson died

Possible Solutions

- 1) **Include the years of oppression** by Israel's enemies within the periods of leadership of the Judges
- 2) **Overlap** the leaderships of the Judges



Where
were the
judges
from?

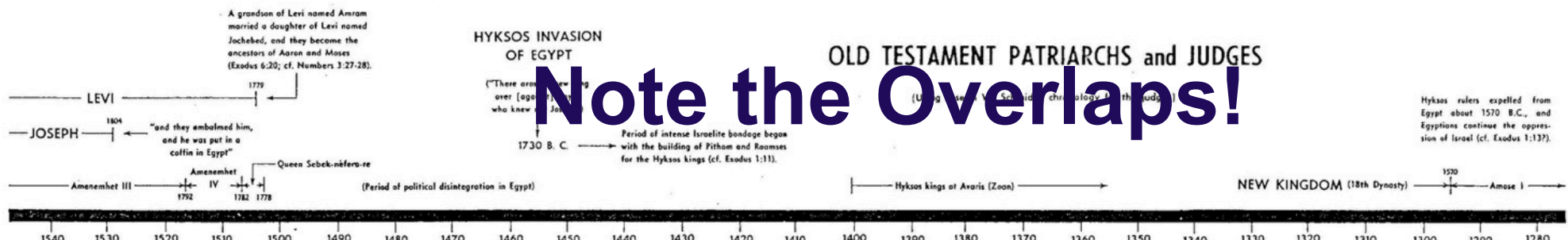
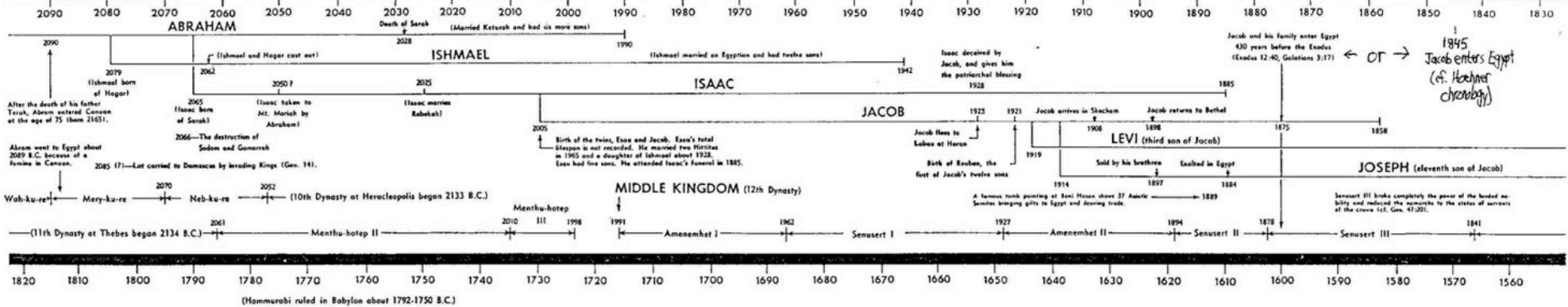


What Do We Think?

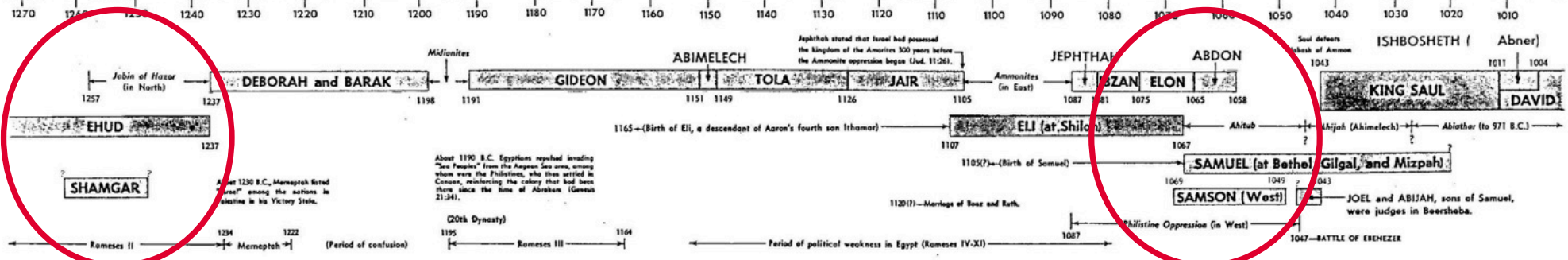
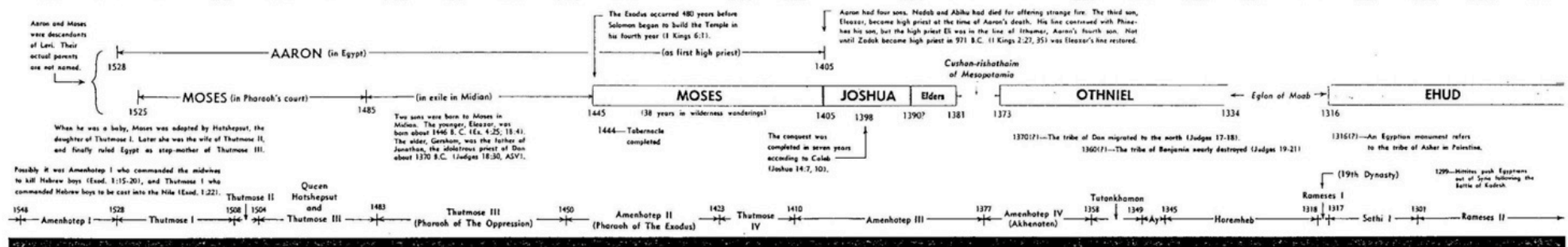
- ◆ It is clear from the **Bible** that the period of the Judges spans 410 yrs
- ◆ Closer study reveals that there are some **overlaps**. *For example, the judges Jephthah to Samson overlapped with the 40 years of Philistine oppression and the years of priestly service of Eli and Samuel*



Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges

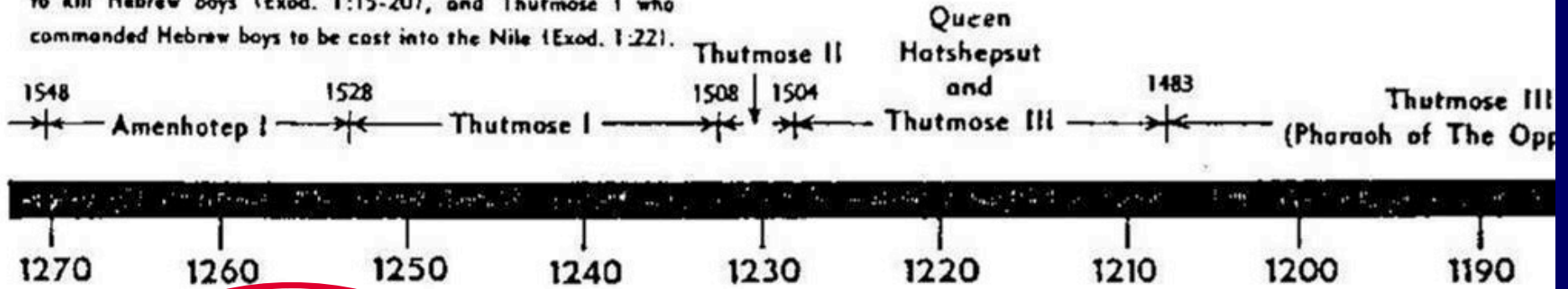


Note the Overlaps!

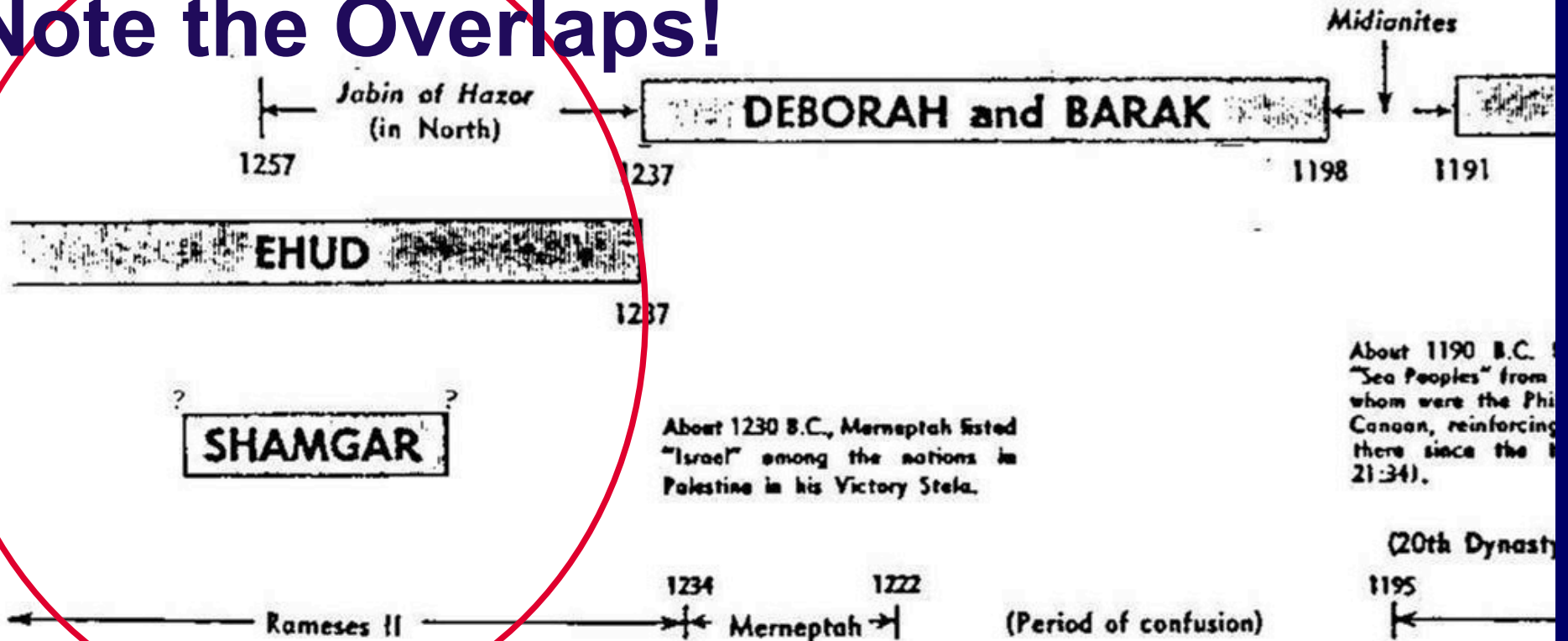


Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges

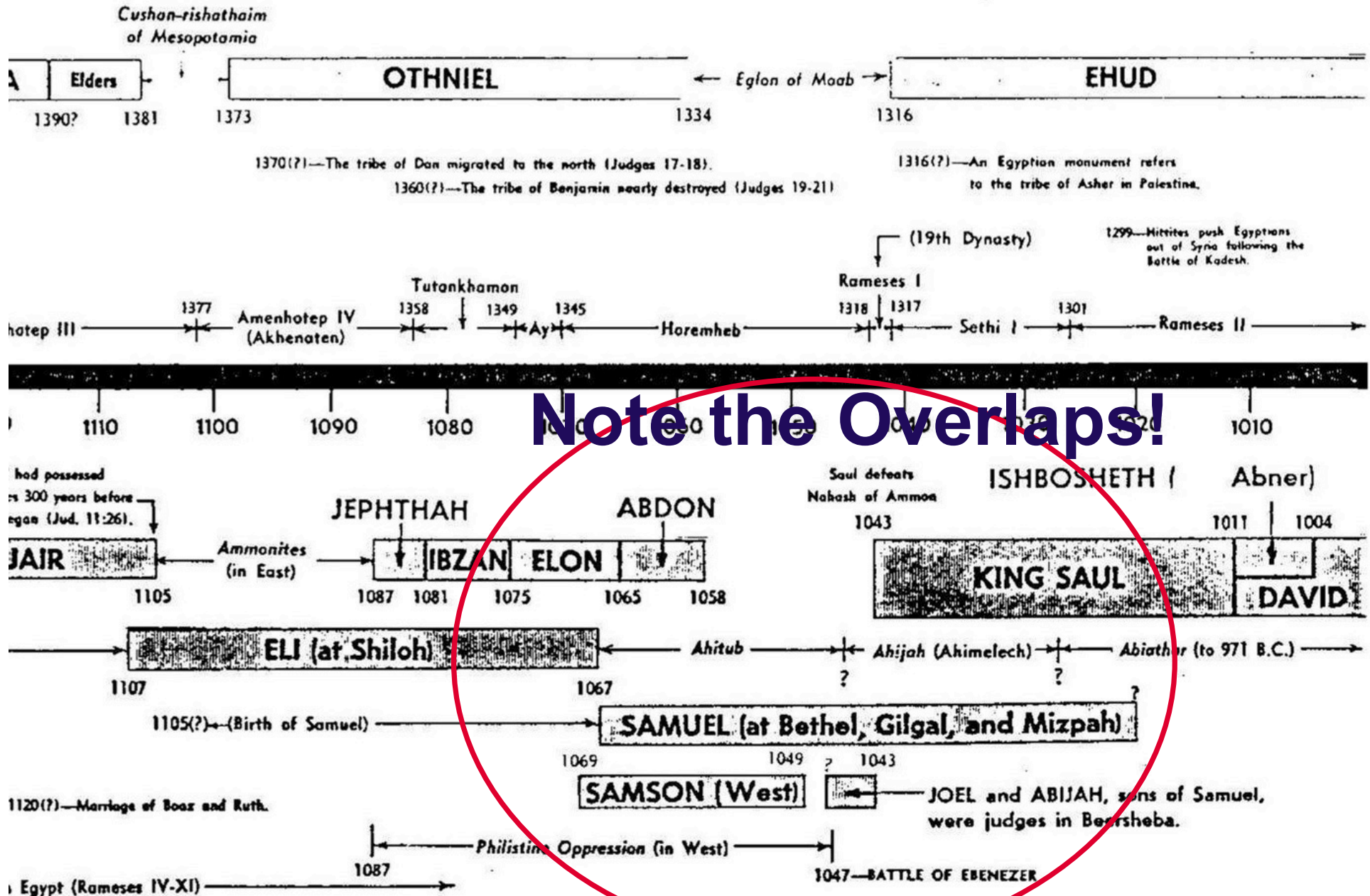
Possibly it was Amenhotep I who commanded the midwives to kill Hebrew boys (Exod. 1:15-20), and Thutmose I who commanded Hebrew boys to be cast into the Nile (Exod. 1:22).



Note the Overlaps!



Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges



Conclusions from Findings

- ◆ There is **not enough biblical information** to determine the exact number of years that each judge ruled alone
- ◆ The years that Israel fell under enemy rule are **not always mentioned**
- ◆ Nevertheless, the Bible is **accurate** in its historical information



The Story of Samson

What was his weakness?

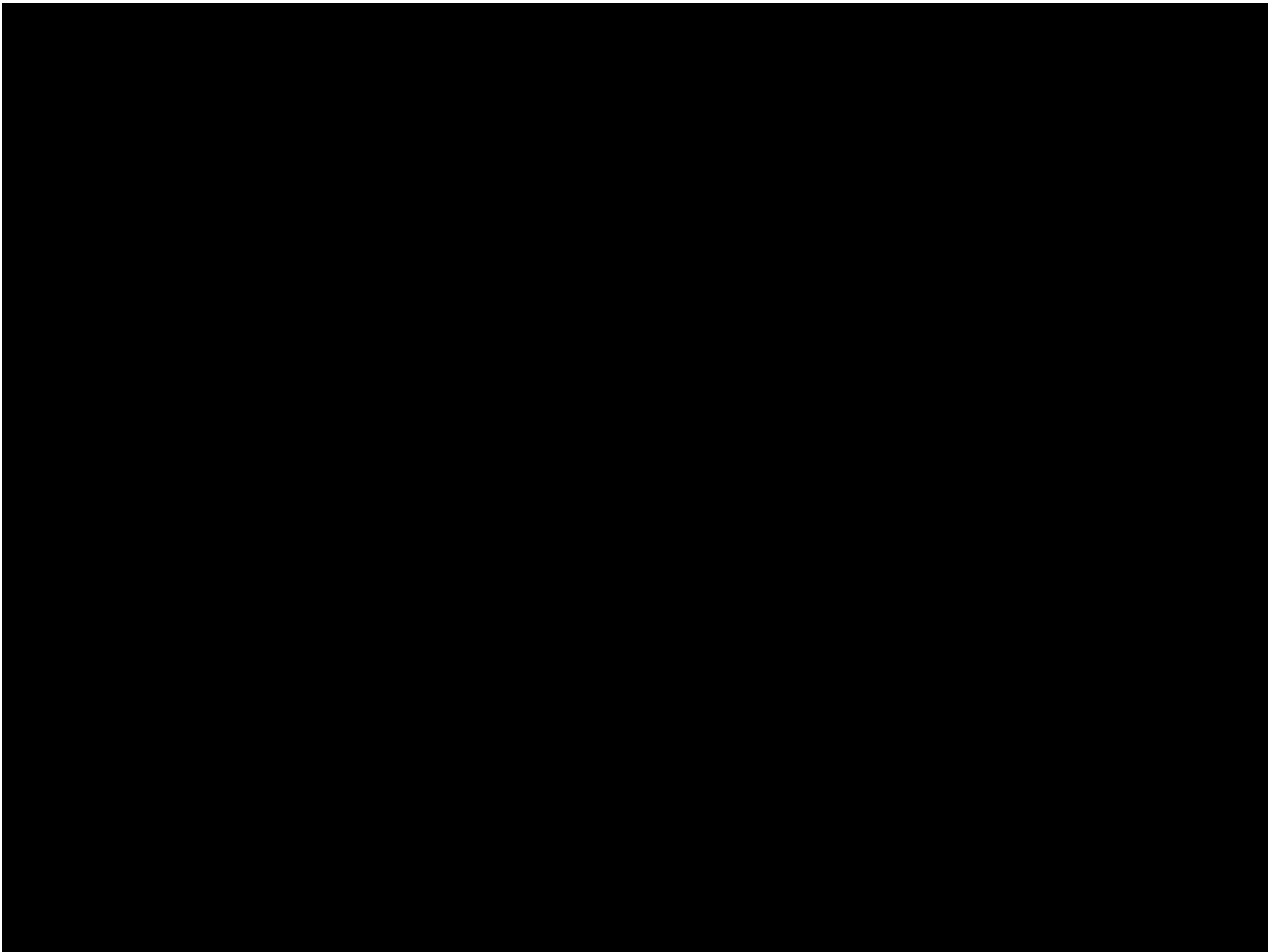
Her?

Hair?

Heart?

*“Samson... the he man
with a she weakness”*

-Chuck Swindoll



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