



**Key Word**

**172  
39**

**Failure**

**Judges**



**Theme**

172

**Failure Under  
the Theocracy**

**Judges**

# Key Verse

172

**"In those days Israel had no king;  
everyone did as he saw fit  
(what was right in his own eyes)"  
(17:6; 21:25)**

**Judges**

# Kingdom Statement

39

**Israel **failed** to implement God's direct rule over the nation, showing the need for a righteous king to lead the nation under a monarchy (21:25).**

**Judges**

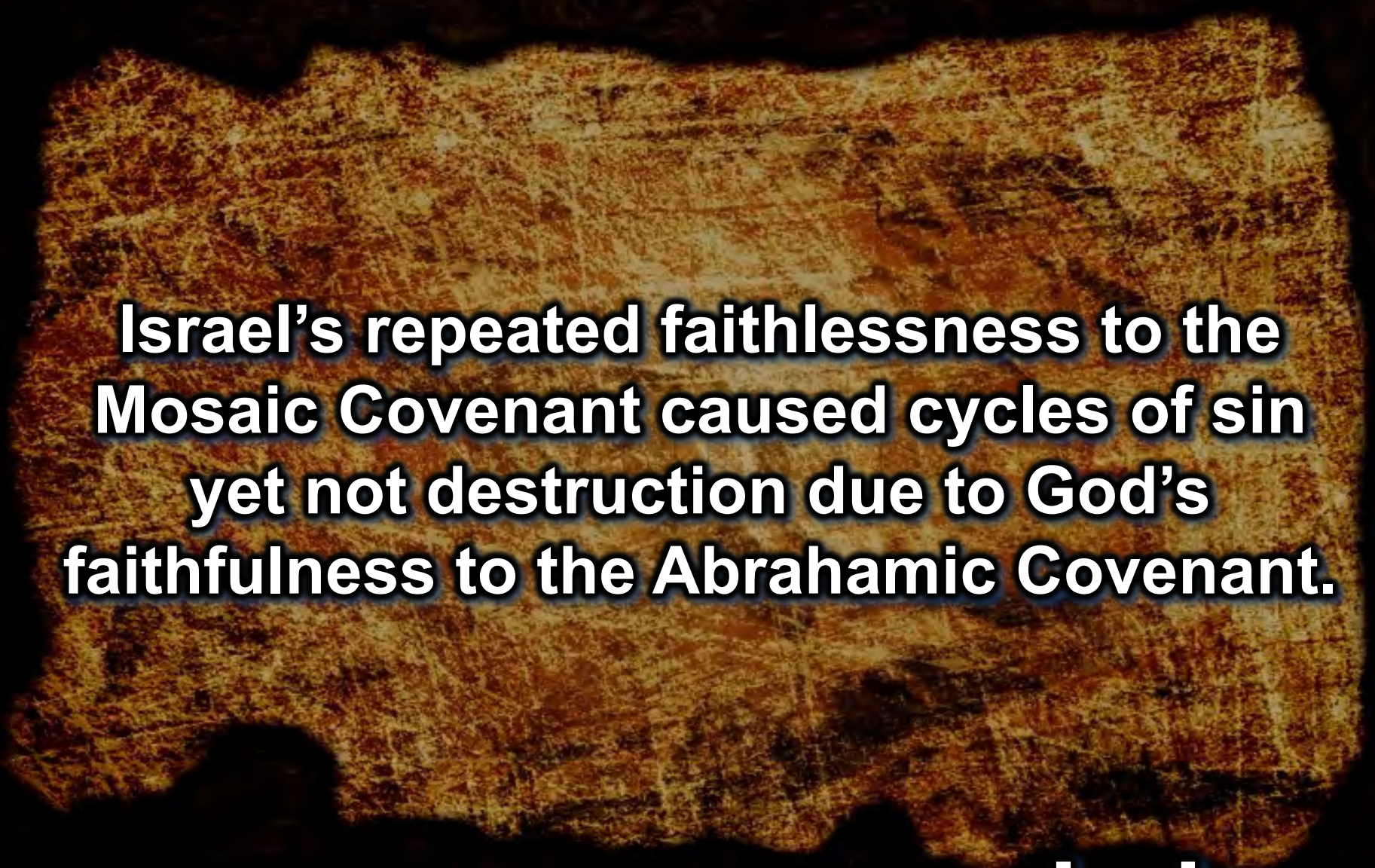




## Summary Statement

Israel's **failure** under the theocracy due to faithless disobedience is contrasted with God's merciful care in disciplining and delivering Israel through judges to exhort submission to its new, divinely appointed kings in a righteous monarchy

# Judges




**Israel's repeated faithlessness to the  
Mosaic Covenant caused cycles of sin  
yet not destruction due to God's  
faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant.**

**Judges**



# Redemption

42b




**God faithfully provided redeemers for Israel (2:18) who served as forerunners of the redemption in Christ, who also will judge the unrighteous and deliver His children (Rom. 10:13).**

**Judges**



# Messiah

A blue-tinted image of a person in a long robe looking up at a bright light source in a forest. The person is standing on a path, and the background shows trees and foliage. The overall mood is spiritual and awe-inspiring.

**Judges raised up by God  
typify Jesus Christ, the Final  
Deliverer, Judge, and Ruler  
not of a single locale but of  
the entire world.**

## Judges

# Judges

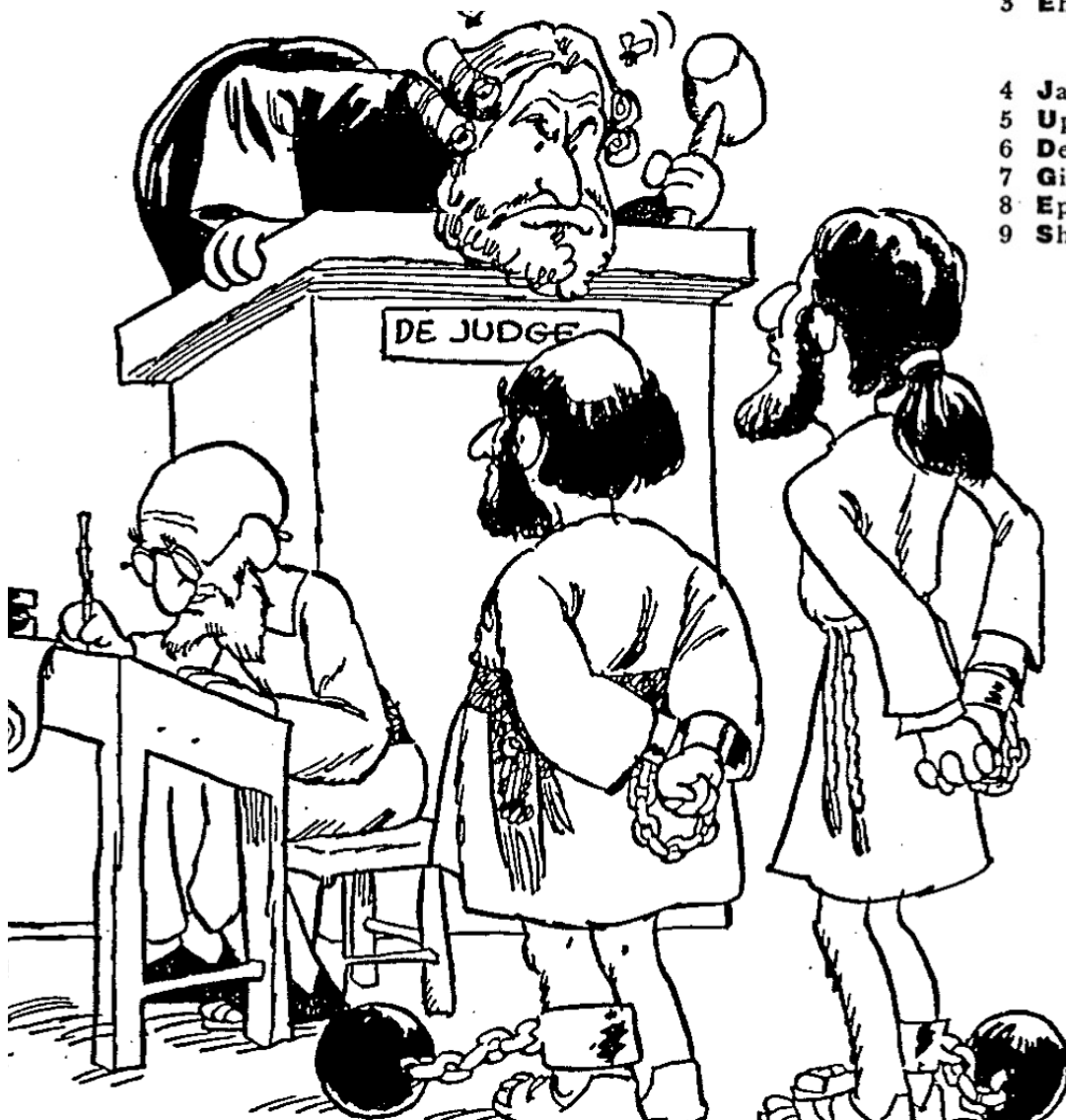
172

# Failure Under the Theocracy

Incomplete Occupation		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  1	Spiritual Disobedience  2:1-5	Intro  2:6–3:6	South  3:7-31	North  4:1–5:31	Central  6:1–10:2	East  10:3–12:7	North  12:8-15	West  13:1–16:31	Religious Depravity  17–18	Moral Depravity  19–21
Canaan										
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)										

# Judges

- 1 Territories Israel left unconquered
- 2 How God tested Israel
- 3 Ehad slays Moab's king
- 4 Jabin overcome by Deborah
- 5 Uplifting song of Deborah
- 6 Determination via Gideon's fleece
- 7 Gideon's army routs Midianites
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- 16 Philistines find Samson's secret
- 17 Ephraimite hires own priest
- 18 Offenses committed by Danites
- 19 Perversion of Levite's concubine
- 20 Levite's vengeance on Benjamites
- 21 Existence of Benjamin assured



Barry Huddleston, *The Acrostic Summarized Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992)



# Be Steadfast

A dramatic photograph of a lighthouse on a rocky island. A massive, white-capped wave is crashing over the lighthouse, which has a red lantern room and a small arched entrance. The sky is overcast and grey, and the foreground shows the rough, rocky terrain of the island.

## *Judges*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore  
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

# Dr E N Poulson



**1 April 1925—13 October 2017**



Why must you be **steadfast** in  
having God as your king?



**3 reasons**



**I. Incomplete obedience plants  
the seeds for **failure** (1–2).**





## II. Relativism leads to **cycles** of sin (3–16).





### III. Relativism leads to **idolatry** (17–21).





# Main Idea



**Make God king  
—not relativism  
and the idolatry  
of sin cycles**

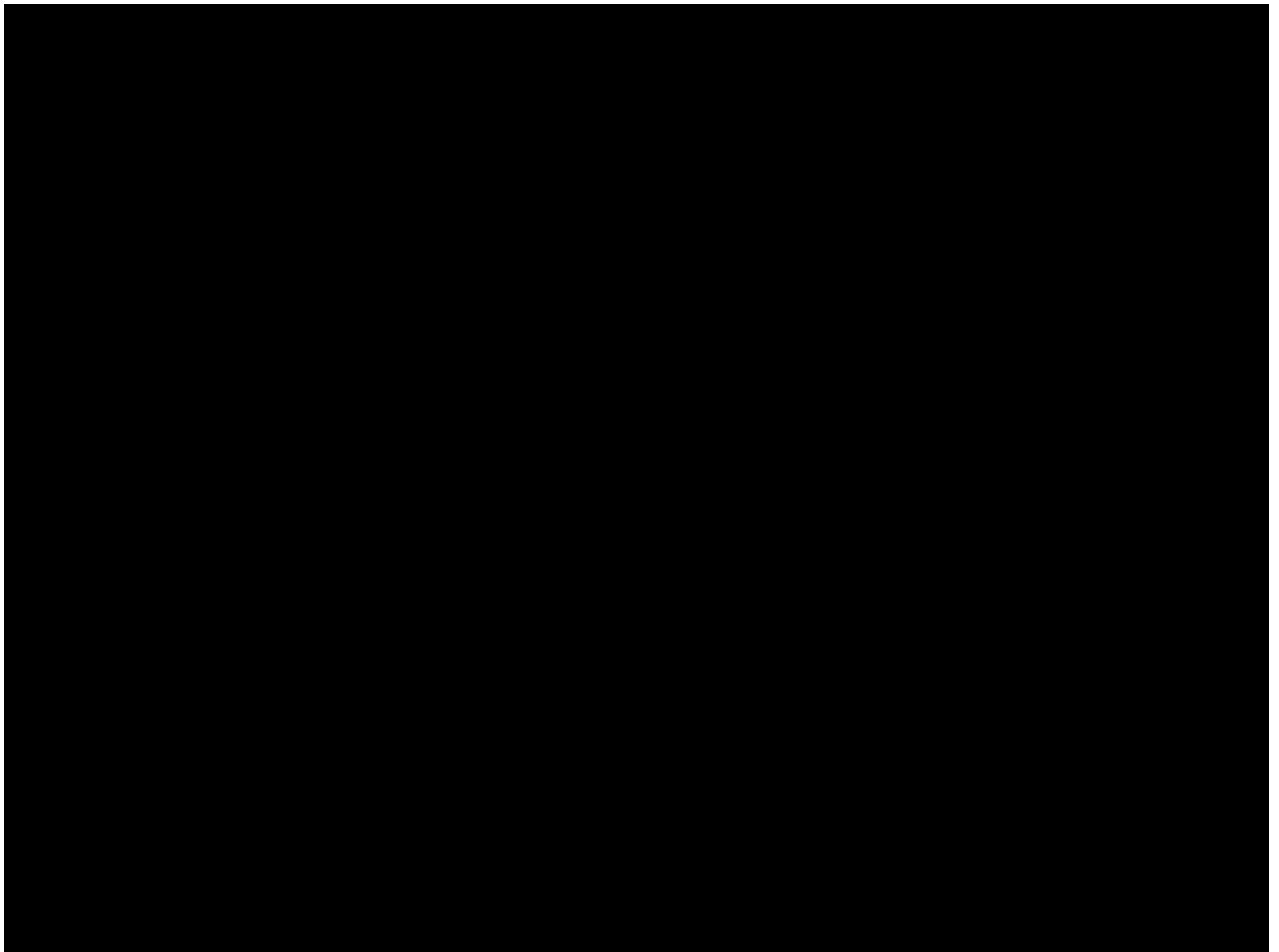
**Judges**

Discussion Question:

# How is Our Day Like the Judges Period?



- Relativism: "Save the whales" but kill humans
- Secularism: "I don't let my religion affect my politics"
- Promiscuity: "What that leader does in his bedroom is his business and not mine"





# Birth of a People

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Joshua

**Them**

Formation Sanctification Preparation Occupation

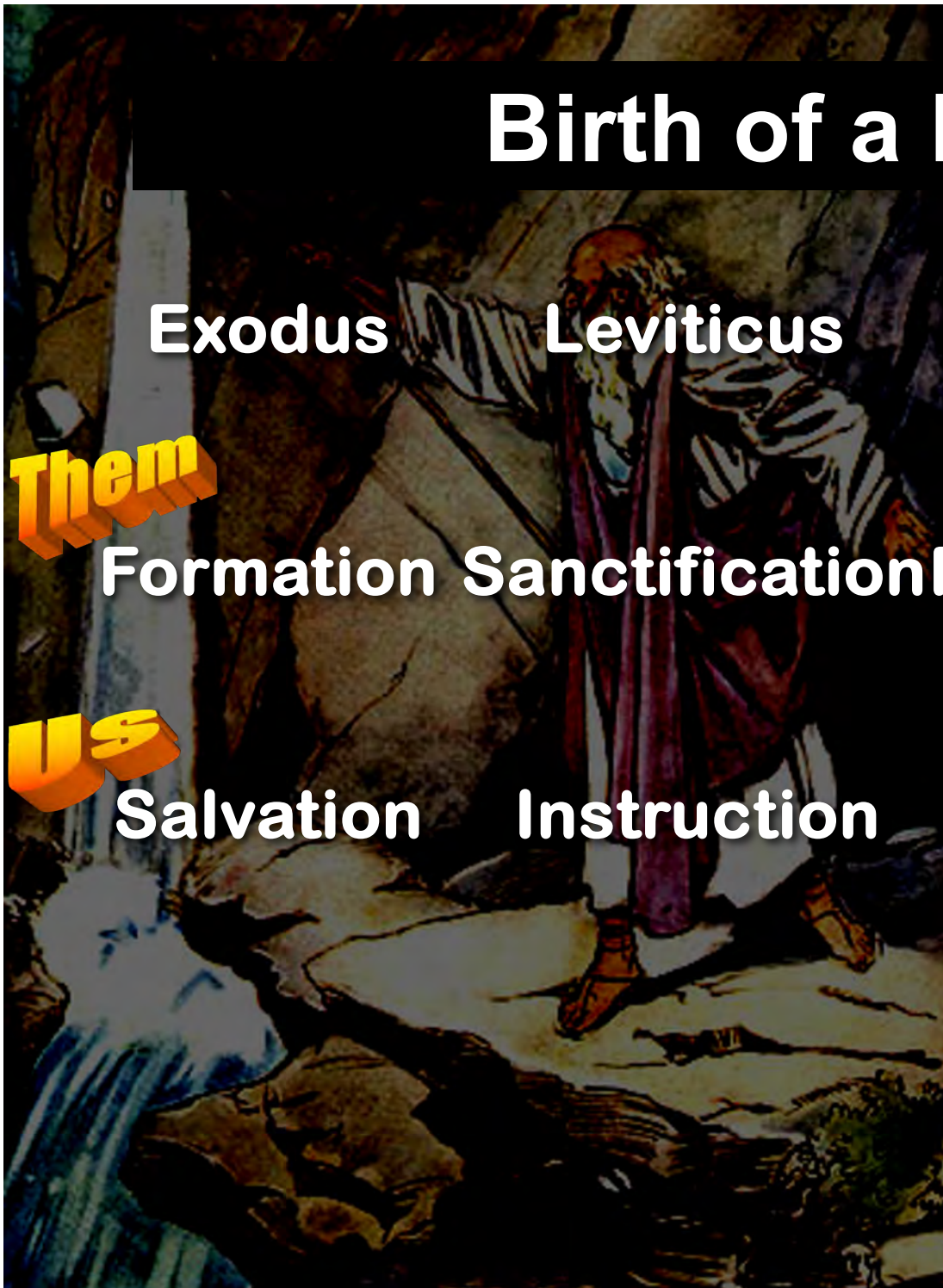
**US**

Salvation

Instruction

Walk

Rest



# ***Who were these judges?***

173

## **The name Judges (*shaphat*)**

- Those who "act as law giver, judge, governor" (BDB 1047b 1b)**
- Those who liberate or deliver people first before ruling**

## **Authorship & Date**

- **Probably Samuel**
- **Between coronation of Saul (1043 BC) & David's conquest of Jerusalem (1004 BC)**





**Relativism**

# Deuteronomy 7:1-4

**"When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations – the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you – and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally."**

# Deuteronomy 7:1-4

**"Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you."**



**Key Word:**     **Failure**

**Key Verse:**     **Judges 17:6; 21:25**

**"In those days Israel had no king;  
everyone did as he saw fit (what  
was right in his own eyes)"**

# What color is this wedding dress?



**White & Gold?**

**Or...**

**Blue & Black?**

**"The original image is in the middle. At left, white-balanced as if the dress is white-gold. At right, white-balanced to blue-black."**

# Chiasm in Judges

## ***JUDGES***

ca. 1360 – 1051 BC

## Setting The Stage For The Monarchy

### Introduction

Anticipation of Problems  
Connected With Foreign Influences

#### Intro. Part 1

Settle-  
ment in  
Canaan  
Only  
Partially  
Succes-  
sful

#### Intro. Part 2

God's  
Principle of  
Discipline:  
1. Doing  
evil  
2. LORD sends  
spoiler  
3. People cry  
out  
4. God raises  
up Deliverer

1:1–2:5

2:6–3:6

### Main Body: Cycles of Judges

Continual Degeneration of the Nation and the Quality Of Her Judges Through Cycles of Discipline

1

Oth-  
niel  
Nar-  
rative

3:7-11

2

Ehud  
Nar-  
rative

3:12-31

3

Deb-  
orah  
Barak  
Nar-  
rative

4:1–5:31

4

Gideon  
Nar-  
rative

6:1–8:32

5

Abime-  
lech  
Nar-  
rative

8:33–10:5

6

Jephthah  
Nar-  
rative

10:6–12:15

7

Samson  
Nar-  
rative

13:1–16:31

### Epilogue

Internal Corruption  
and Inter-tribal  
Strife

#### Epilogue Part 1

Micah and  
The Danite  
Migration

17:1–18:31

#### Epilogue Part 2

Levite's  
Concubine  
And Civil  
War With  
Benjami-  
nites

19:1–21:25

A

B

C

D

E

F

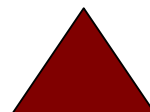
E'

D'

C'

B'

A'



Suppl. 25.1



# Be Steadfast

A dramatic photograph of a lighthouse on a rocky island. The lighthouse is a small, white, cylindrical structure with a red door and a red lantern room. It is being battered by massive, white-capped waves that are crashing over it. The sky is dark and stormy, and the overall scene conveys a sense of intense pressure and adversity.

## *Judges*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore  
CICFamily.com • BibleStudyDownloads.org

# Dr E N Poulson



**Arrived in Singapore 17 March 1953**

# Dr E N Poulson



**1 April 1925—13 October 2017**



# Dr E N Poulson





**Steadfast.**



**Where are you putting your trust? Do you have an immovable trust in God?**





SINCE 1828

JOIN MWU

GAMES

BROWSE THESAURUS

WORD C

steadfast


DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

## Definition of STEADFAST

- 1 a : firmly fixed in place : **IMMOVABLE**  
b : not subject to change
  - the *steadfast* doctrine of original sin —Ellen Glasgow
- 2 : firm in belief, determination, or adherence : **LOYAL** • her followers have remained *steadfast*

—steadfastly *adverb*

—steadfastness  \-,fas(t)-nəs, -fəs(t)-\ *noun*

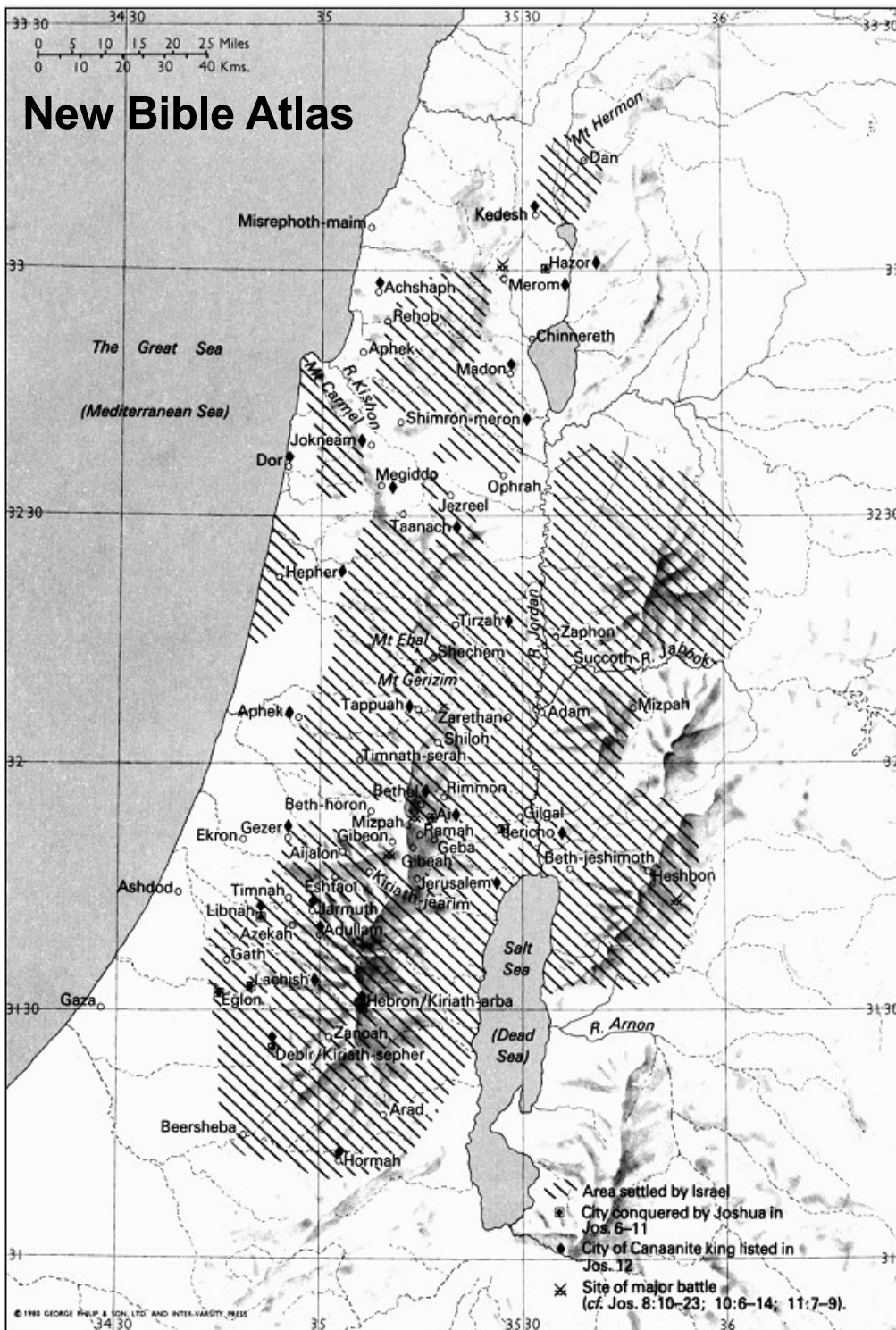


Why must you be **steadfast** in  
having God as your king?

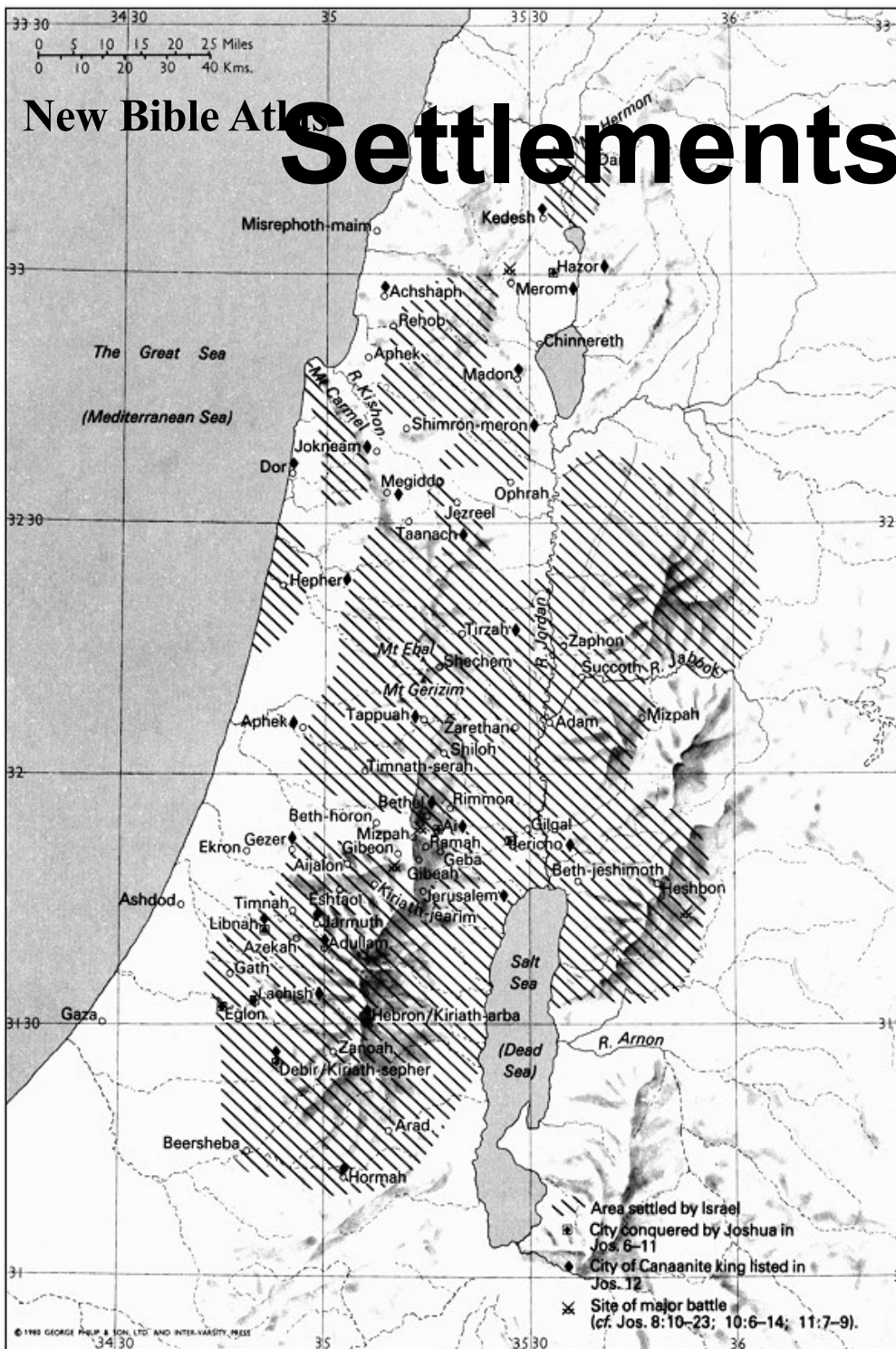




# Land Settled under Joshua









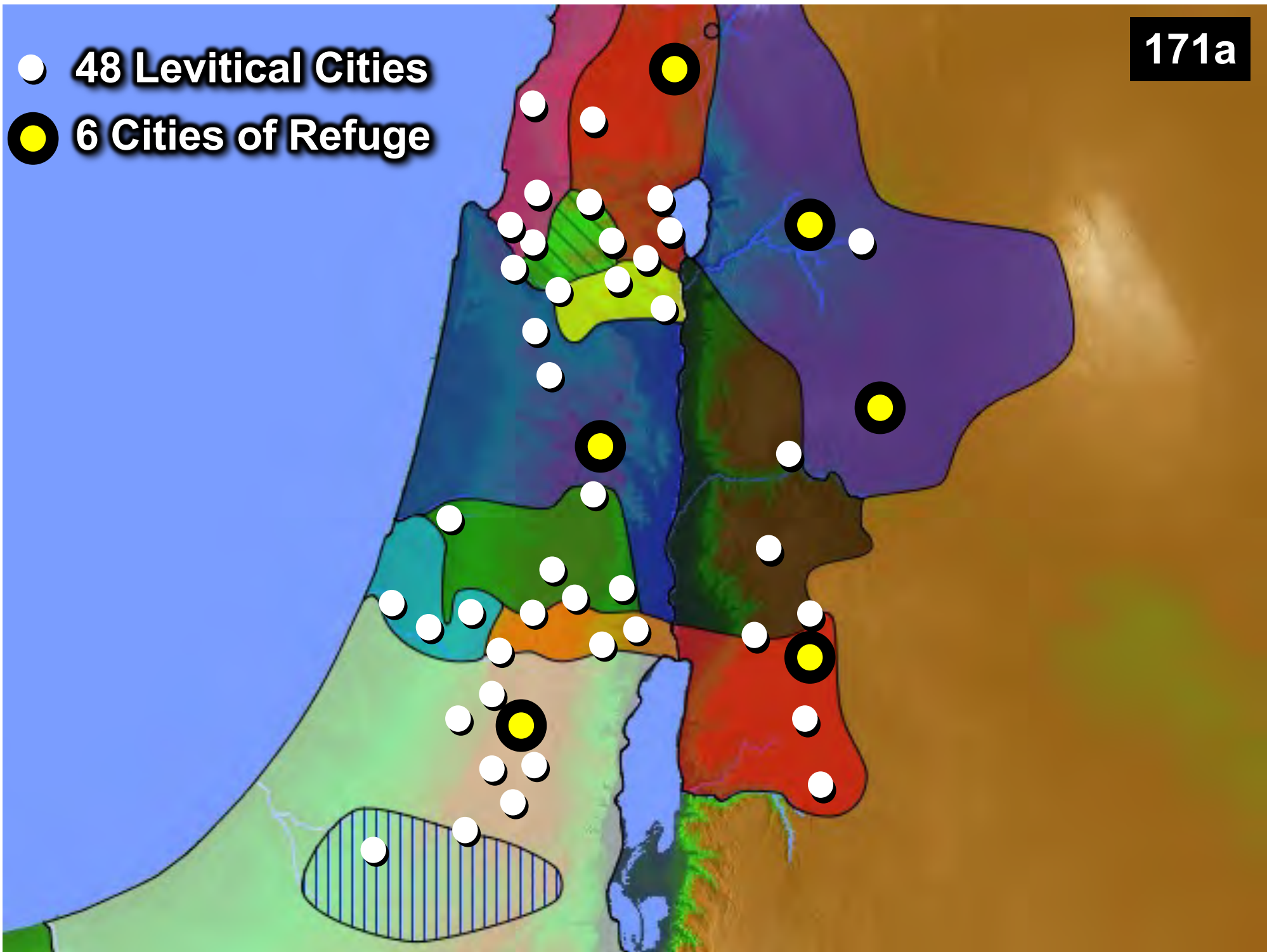
# 5 Books of Moses + Joshua



**The Word Available to Them**



- 48 Levitical Cities
- 6 Cities of Refuge







Why must you be **steadfast** in  
having God as your king?



**3 reasons**



**I. Incomplete obedience plants  
the seeds for **failure** (1–2).**



**Israel's incomplete occupation  
of Canaan led to the need for  
judges (1:1–2:5).**



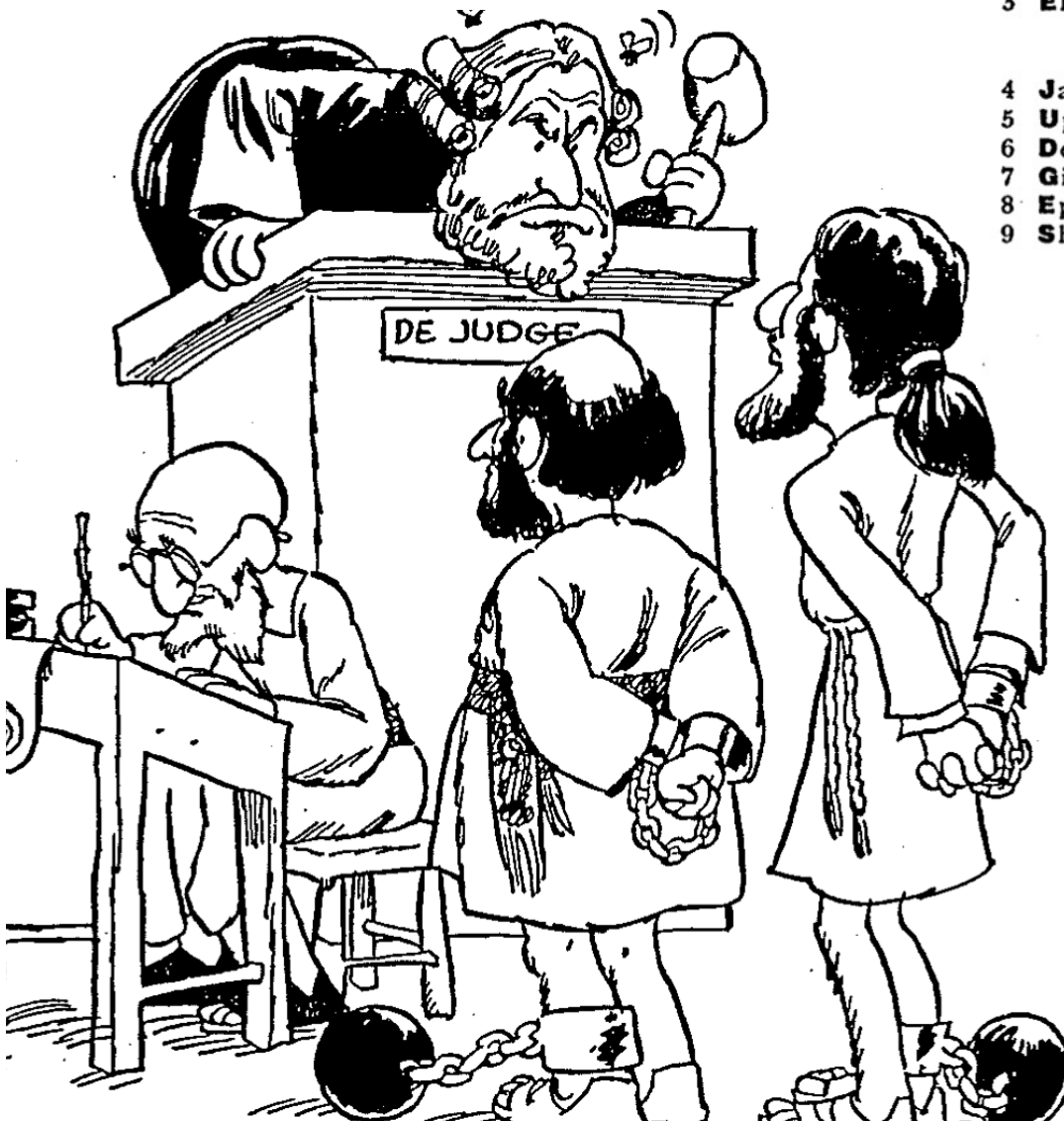


*Dr. Rick Griffith, Singapore Bible College*  
*BibleStudyDownloads.org*



# Judges

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- 2 How God tested Israel
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Barry Huddleston, *The Acrostic Summarized Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992)

# Judges 1

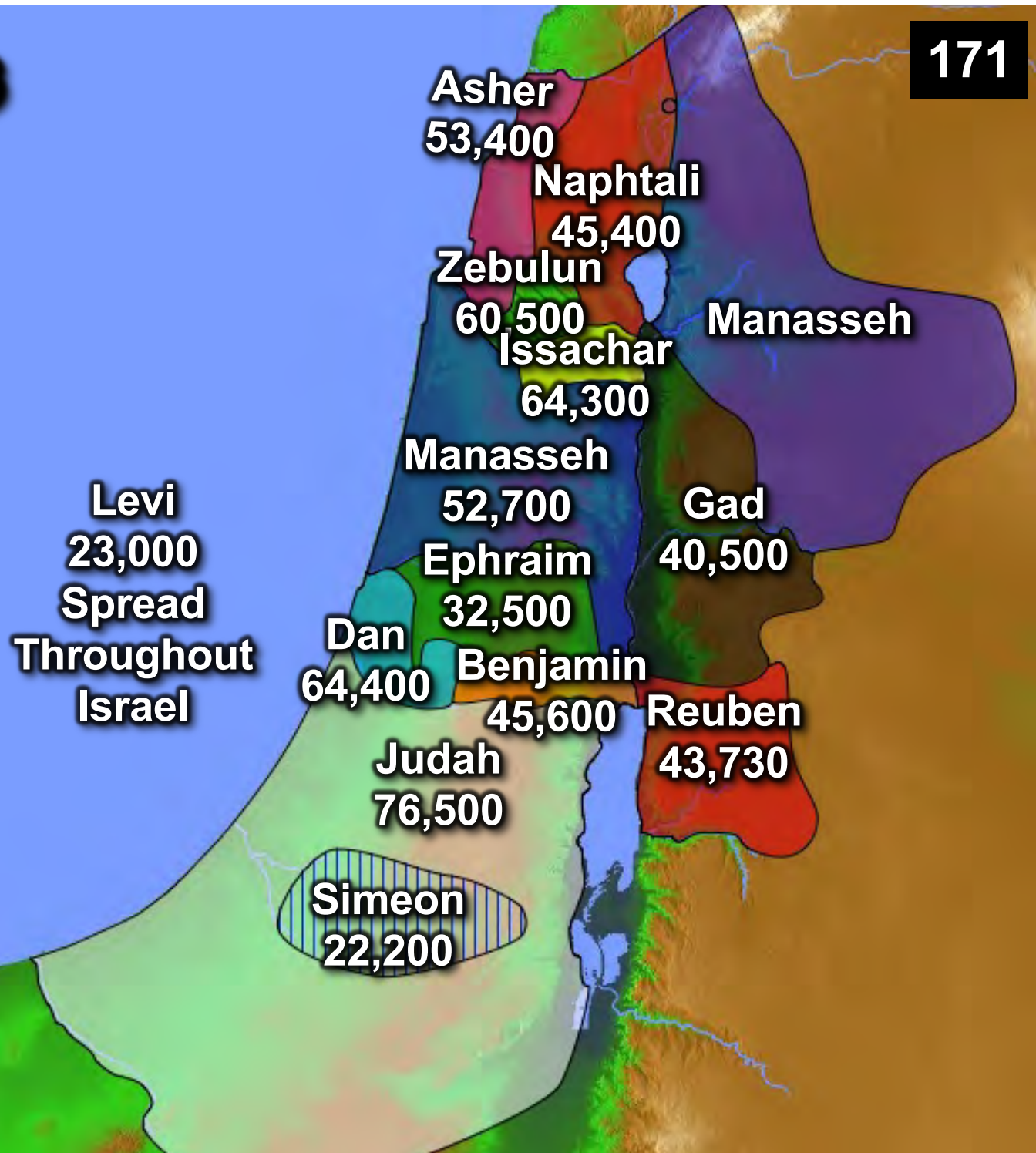
# Failure Under the Theocracy

Incomplete Occupation		Deliverance by Judges							Need for Monarchy	
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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										
1										
Canaan										
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)										



# Populations by Tribe

*Numbers 26*  
*Joshua 13:1–19:48*



# Grades for the Tribes of Israel

*Judges 1:1-35*

171

Levites  
Spread  
Throughout  
Israel

Asher

F

Naphtali

Zebulun

D

D

Issachar

Manasseh

Manasseh

D

Gad

Ephraim

F

A

Dan

F

Benjamin

F

Reuben

Judah

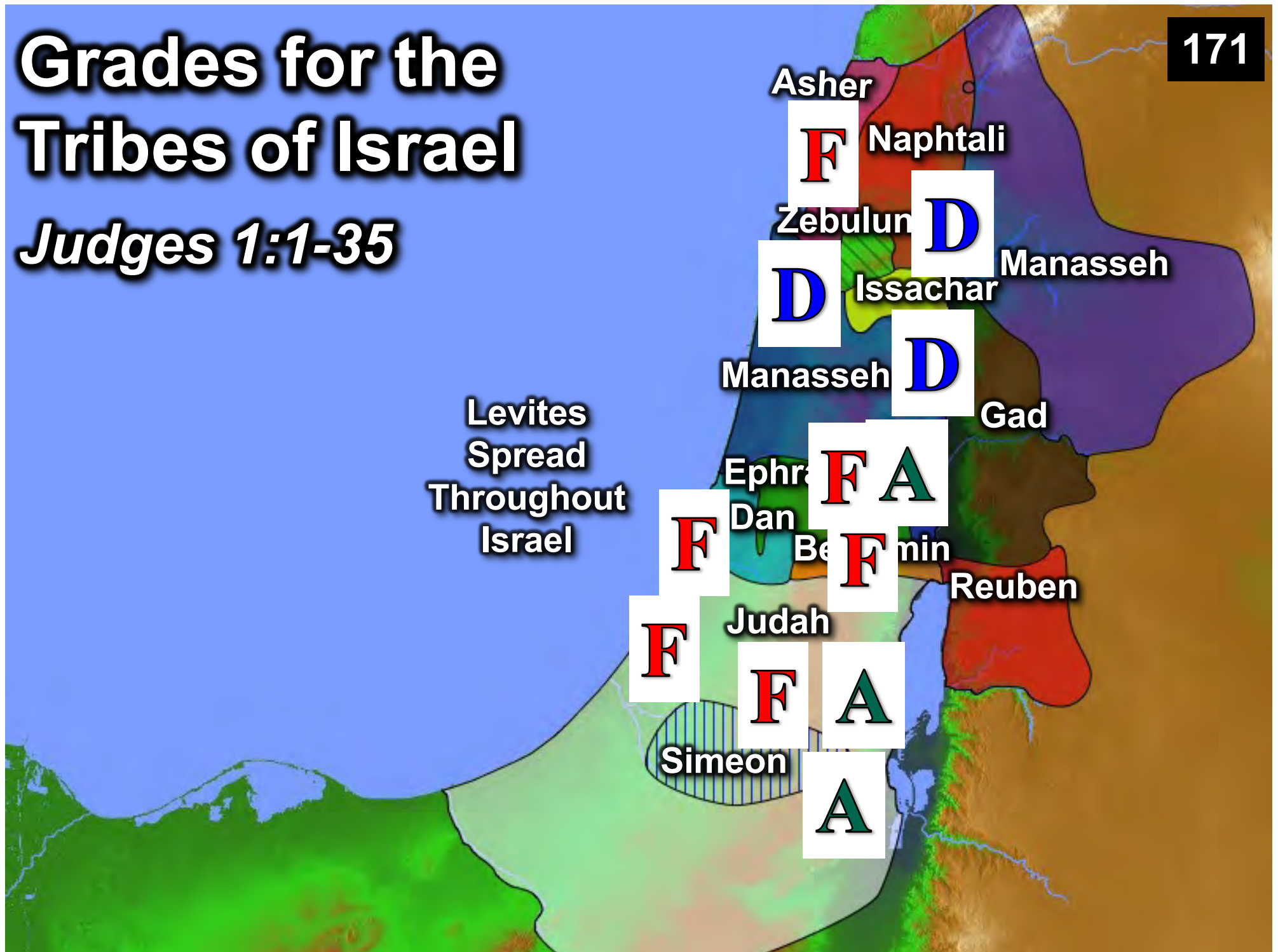
F

F

A

Simeon

A



**Key Word**

**172  
39**

**Failure**

**Judges**



**Theme**

172

**Failure Under  
the Theocracy**

**Judges**

# Key Verse

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**"In those days Israel had no king;  
everyone did as he saw fit  
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(17:6; 21:25)**

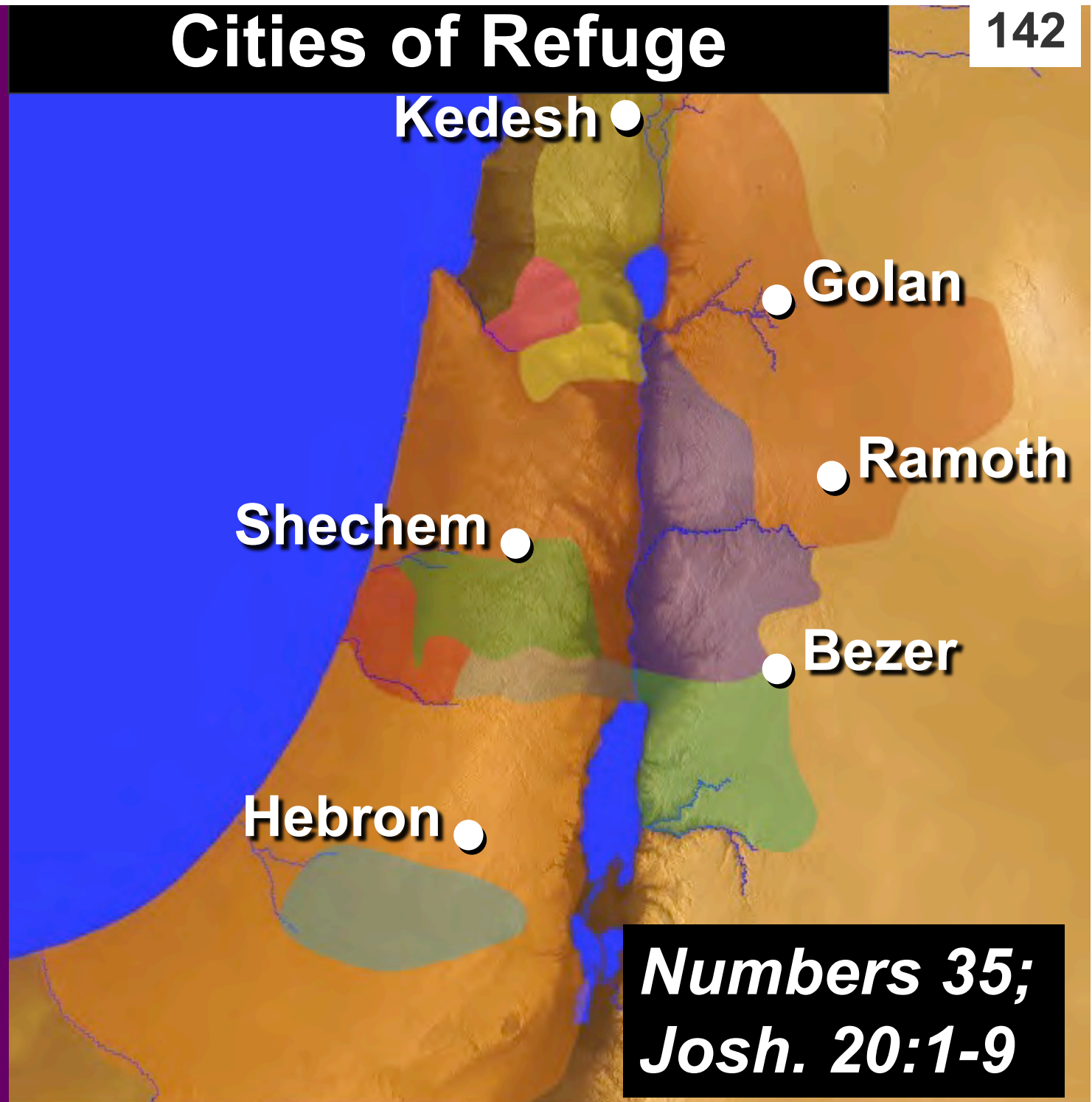
**Judges**

# Cities of Refuge

Israel lived in a nomadic culture of personal vengeance by family members against the offending family (blood feuds).

Yet the nation was not ready for legal procedures by an objective village assembly (civil law).

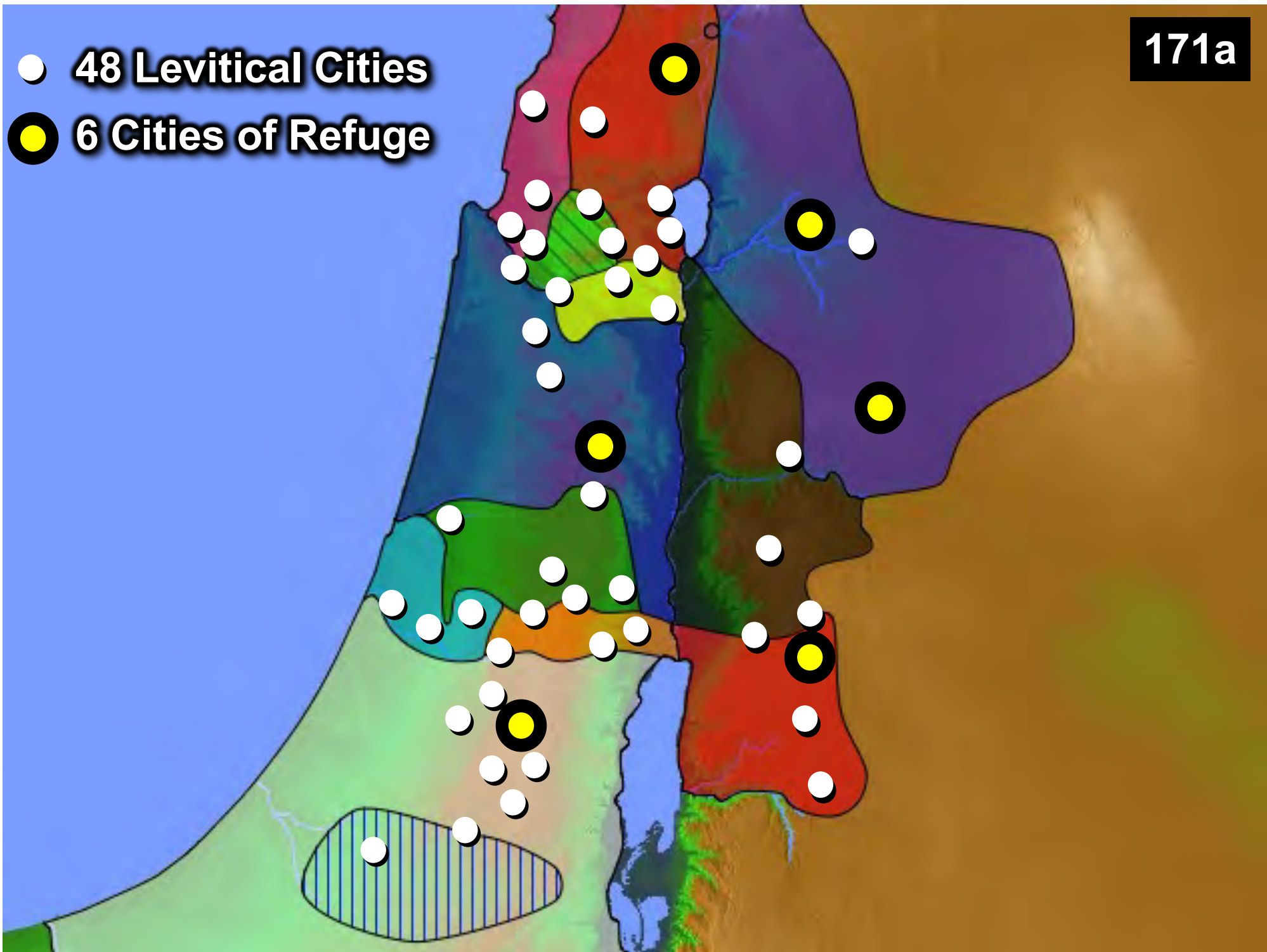
Therefore, God instituted an intermediate step of six nearby cities where one who accidentally killed someone could flee.



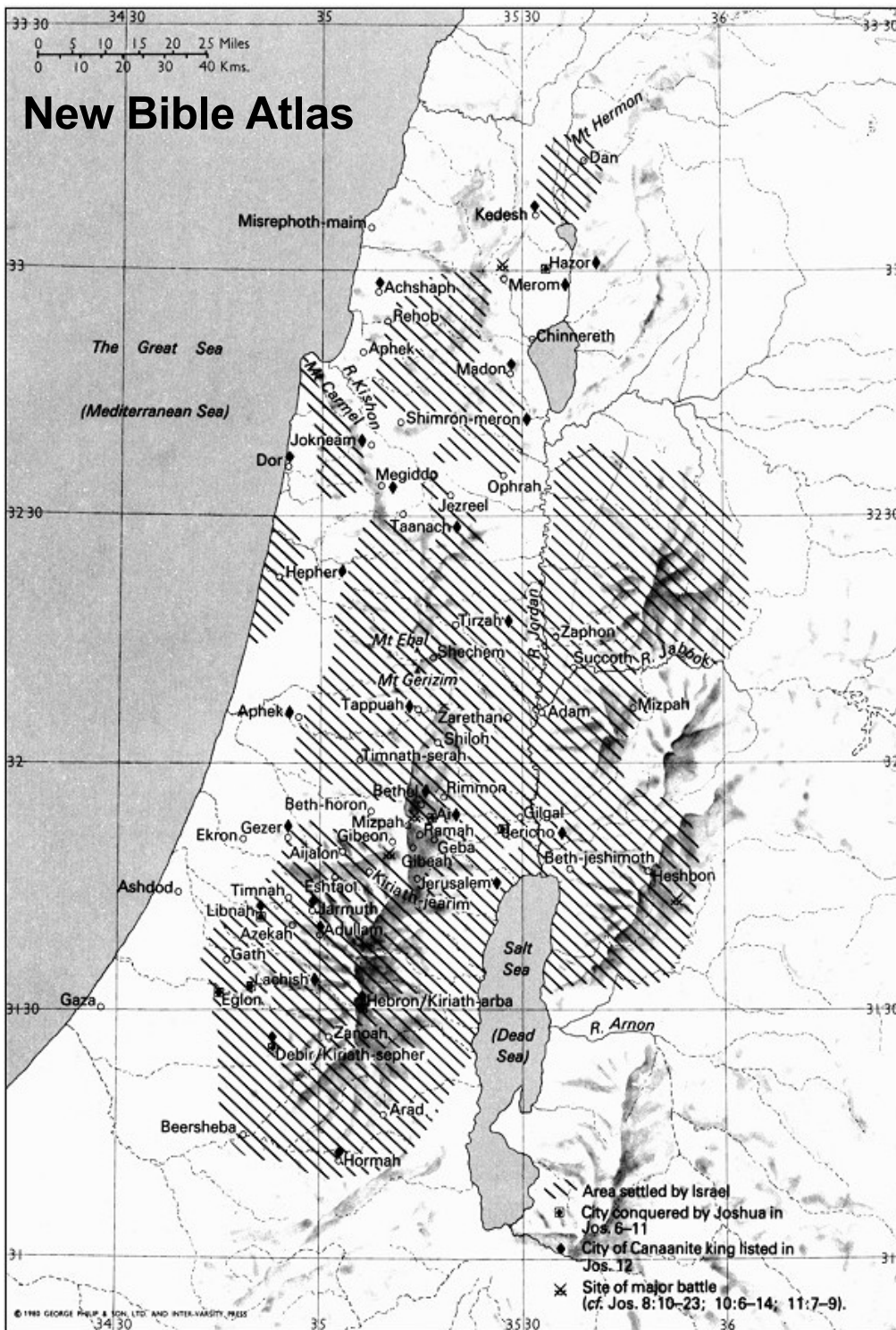
***Numbers 35;  
Josh. 20:1-9***



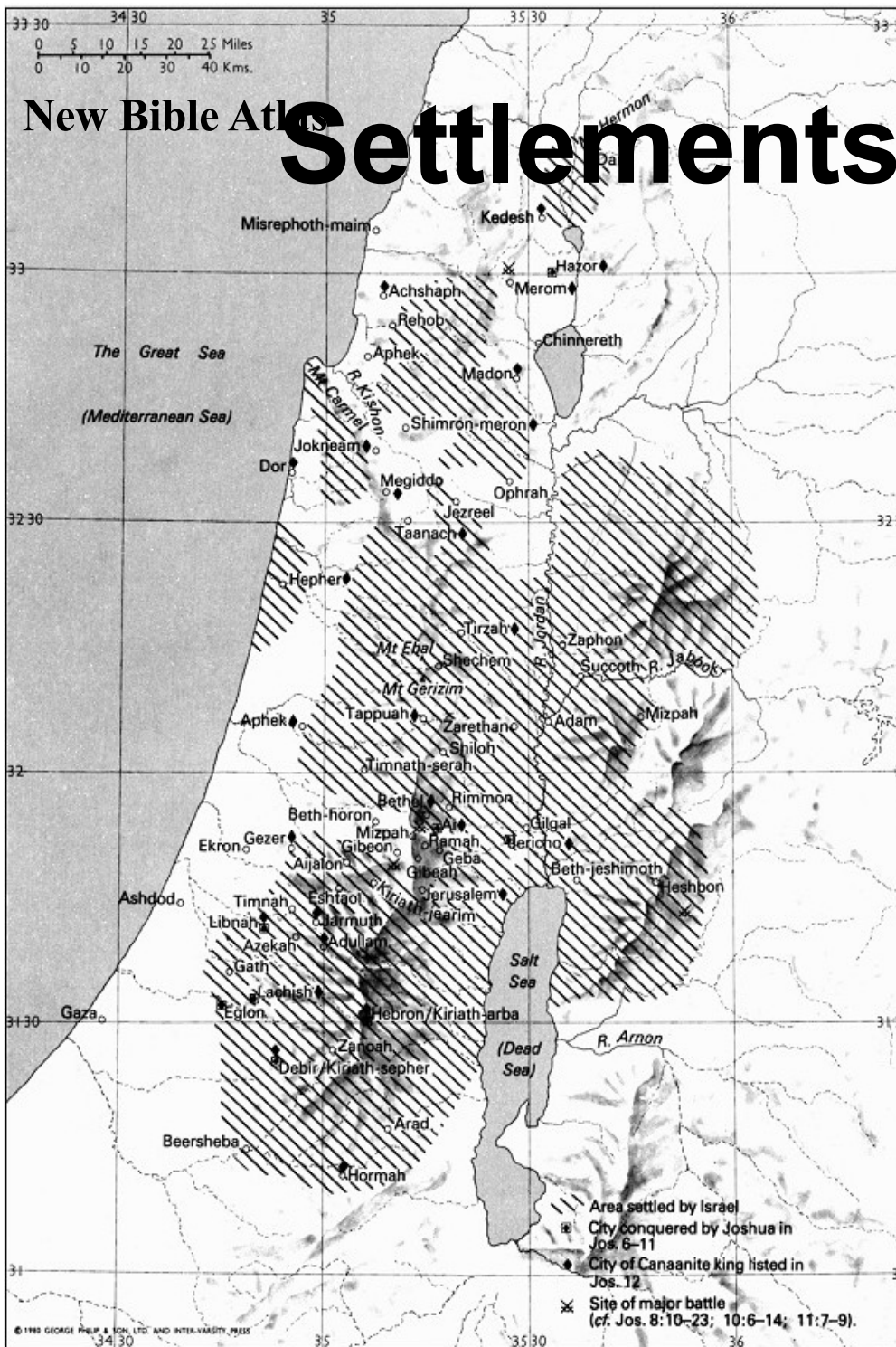
- 48 Levitical Cities
- 6 Cities of Refuge



# Land Settled under Joshua















# Judges 2



Failure Under the Theocracy									
Incomplete Occupation		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								
1	2:1-5								
Canaan									
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)									

Military Disobedience	Spiritual Disobedience
-----------------------	------------------------

1

2:1-5

# Canaan

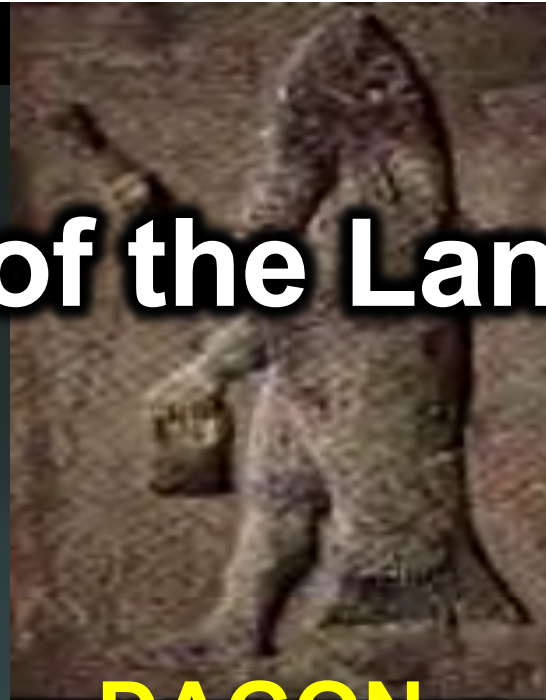
## c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)

# False Gods of the Land

**BAAL**



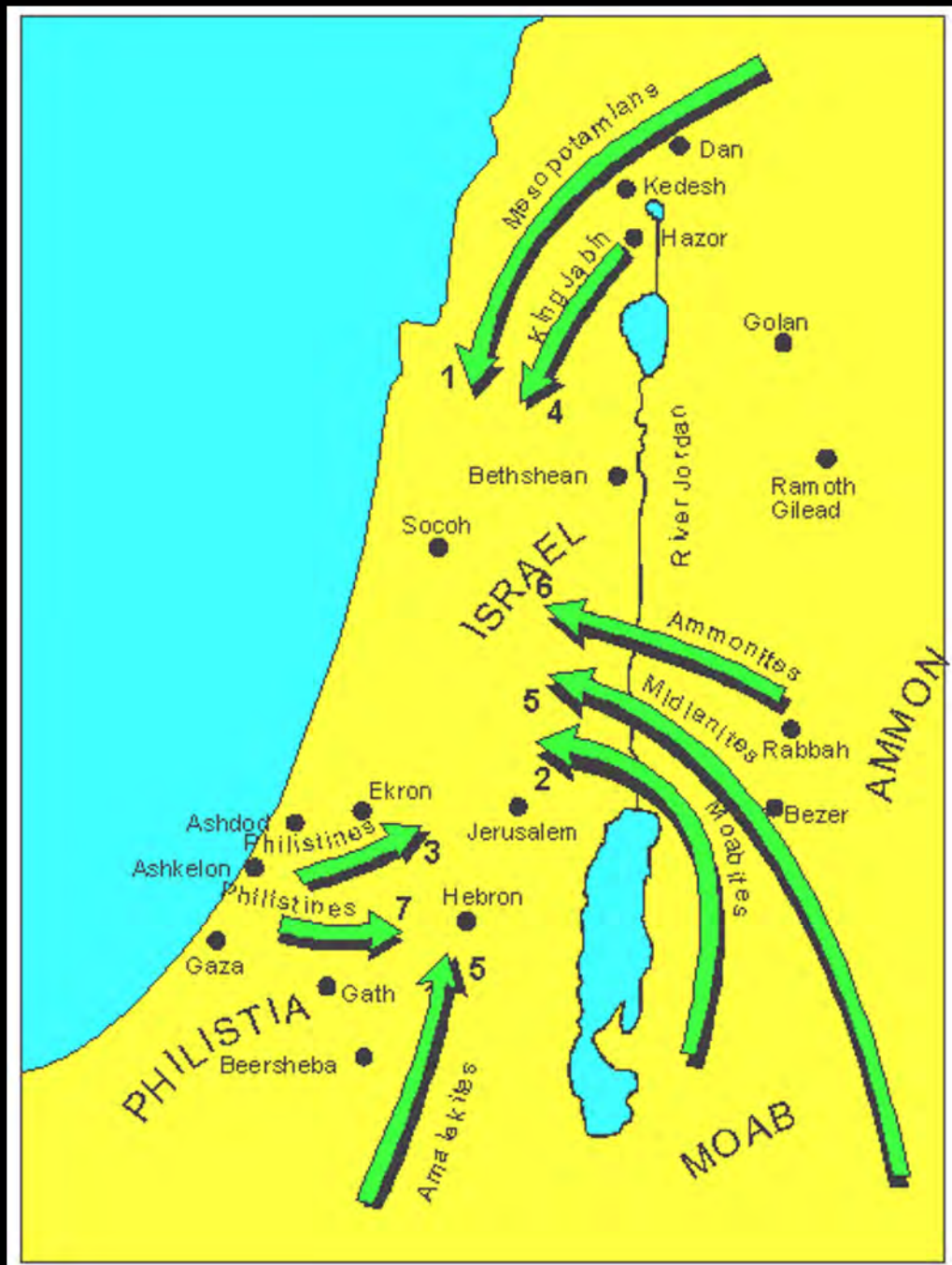
**DAGON**



**A  
S  
T  
H  
A  
R  
O  
T  
H**







# The Consequence of Breaking the Mosaic Covenant

Israel was invaded by enemies that the LORD raised up against them.

+Taken from Nelsons 3D-M Jenkins, S. 1997, c1985. Nelson's 3-D Bible map book (electronic ed.). Thomas Nelson: Nashville

**Disobeying the LORD as king  
leads to trouble.**

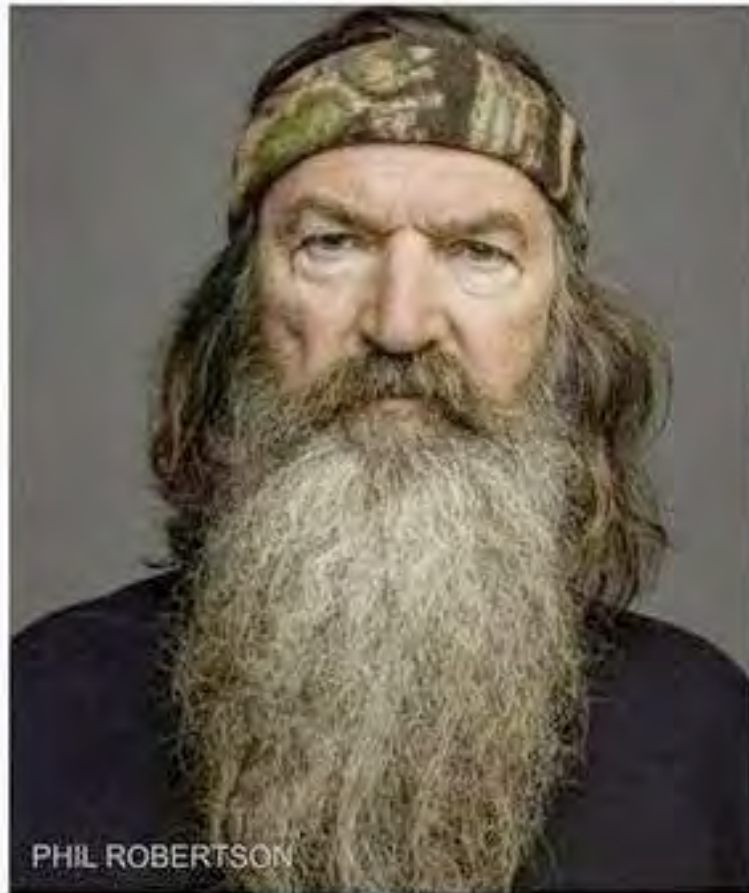


**Relativism**



# Relativism

**SAYS GAYS NEED TO  
ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST  
TO GET TO HEAVEN**



**LIBERALS DEMAND  
HE BE CENSORED**

**ORDERS GAYS HANGED,  
BEHEADED, STONED &  
BURNED ALIVE**



**INVITED TO SPEAK AT  
COLUMBIA UNIV., USA**



# RELATIVISM

**Because there absolutely are no absolutes.**



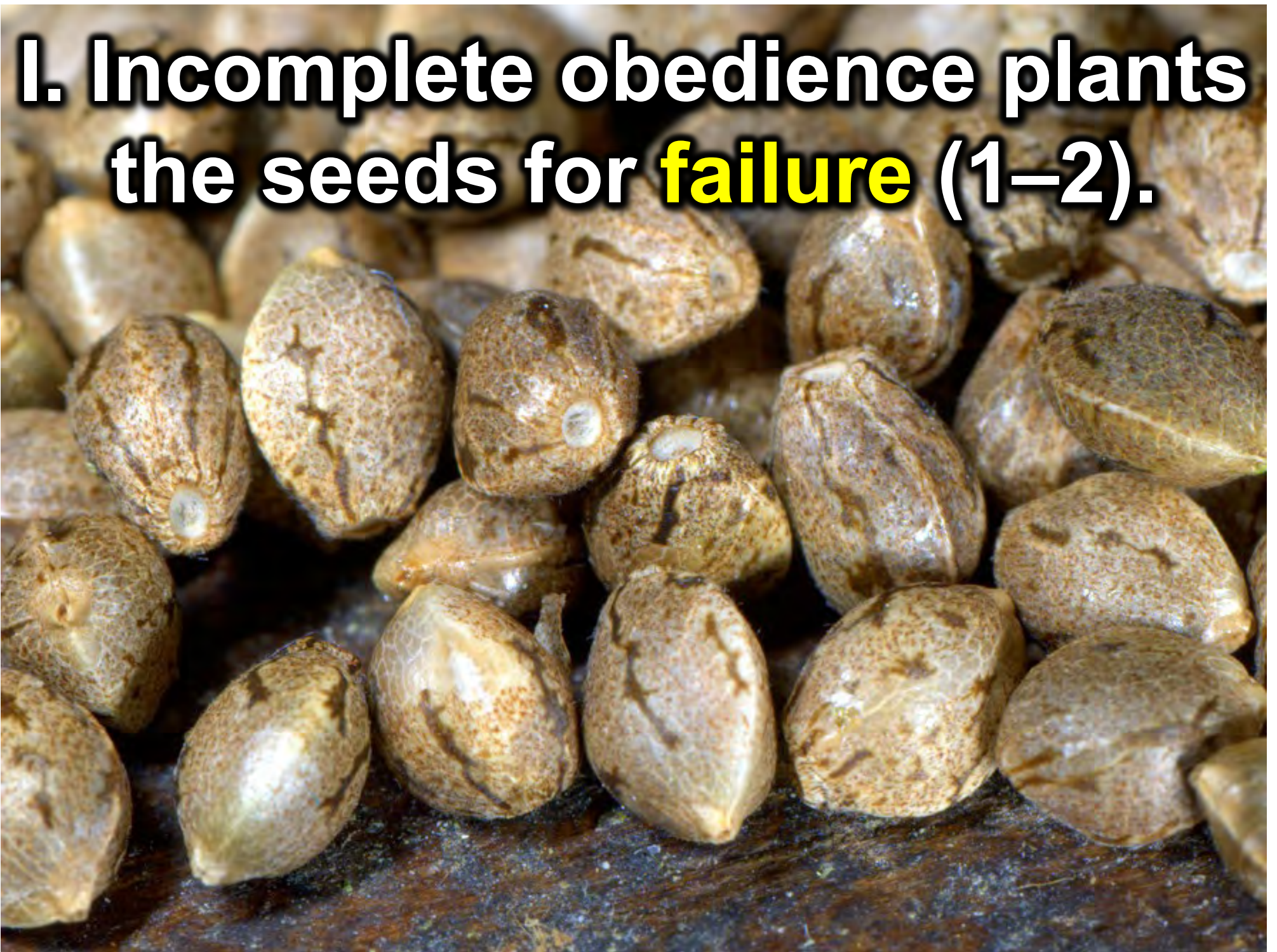
Why must you be **steadfast** in  
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**3 reasons**



**I. Incomplete obedience plants  
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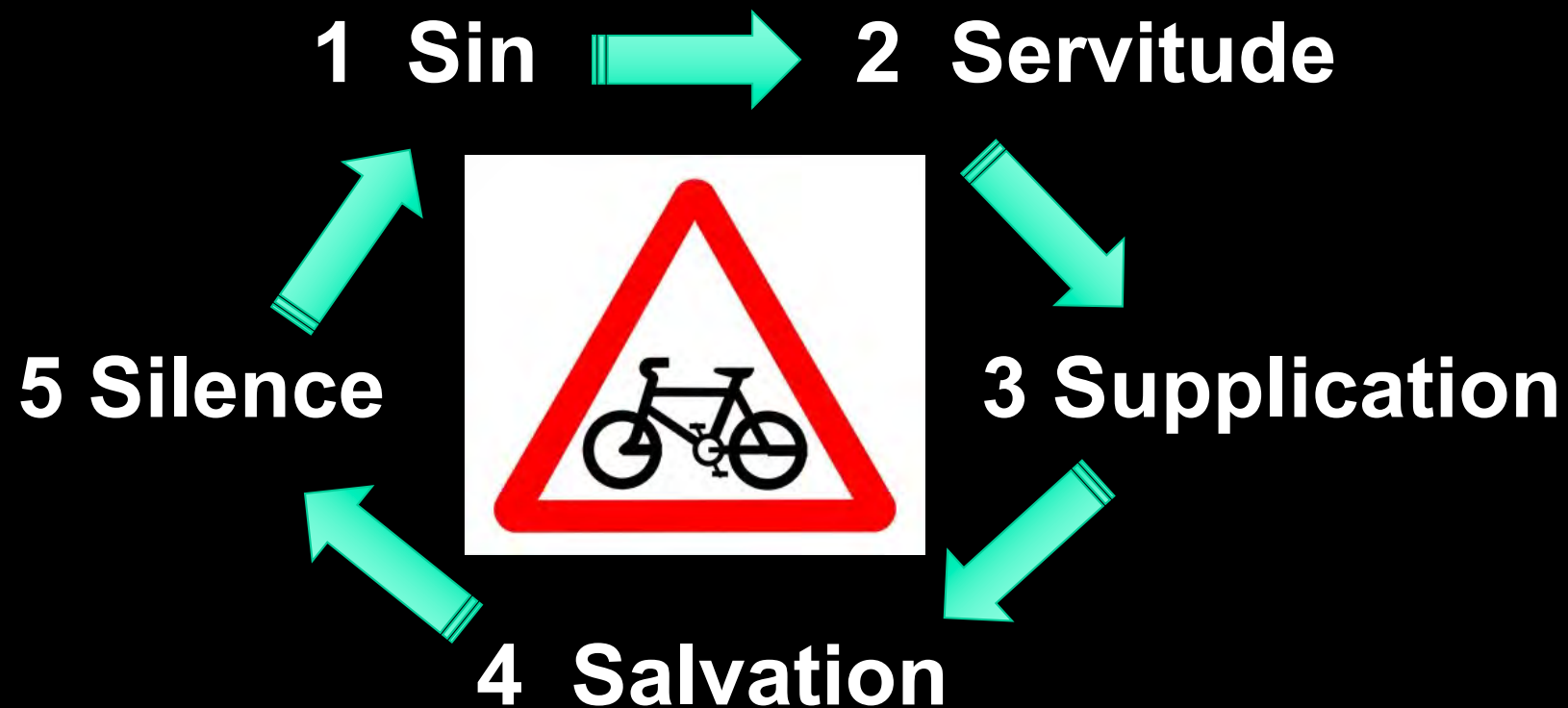


**II. Relativism leads to **cycles**  
of sin (3–16).**

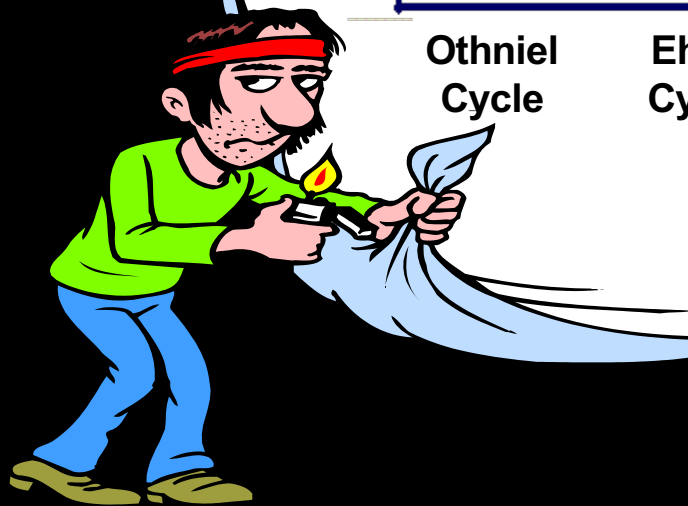
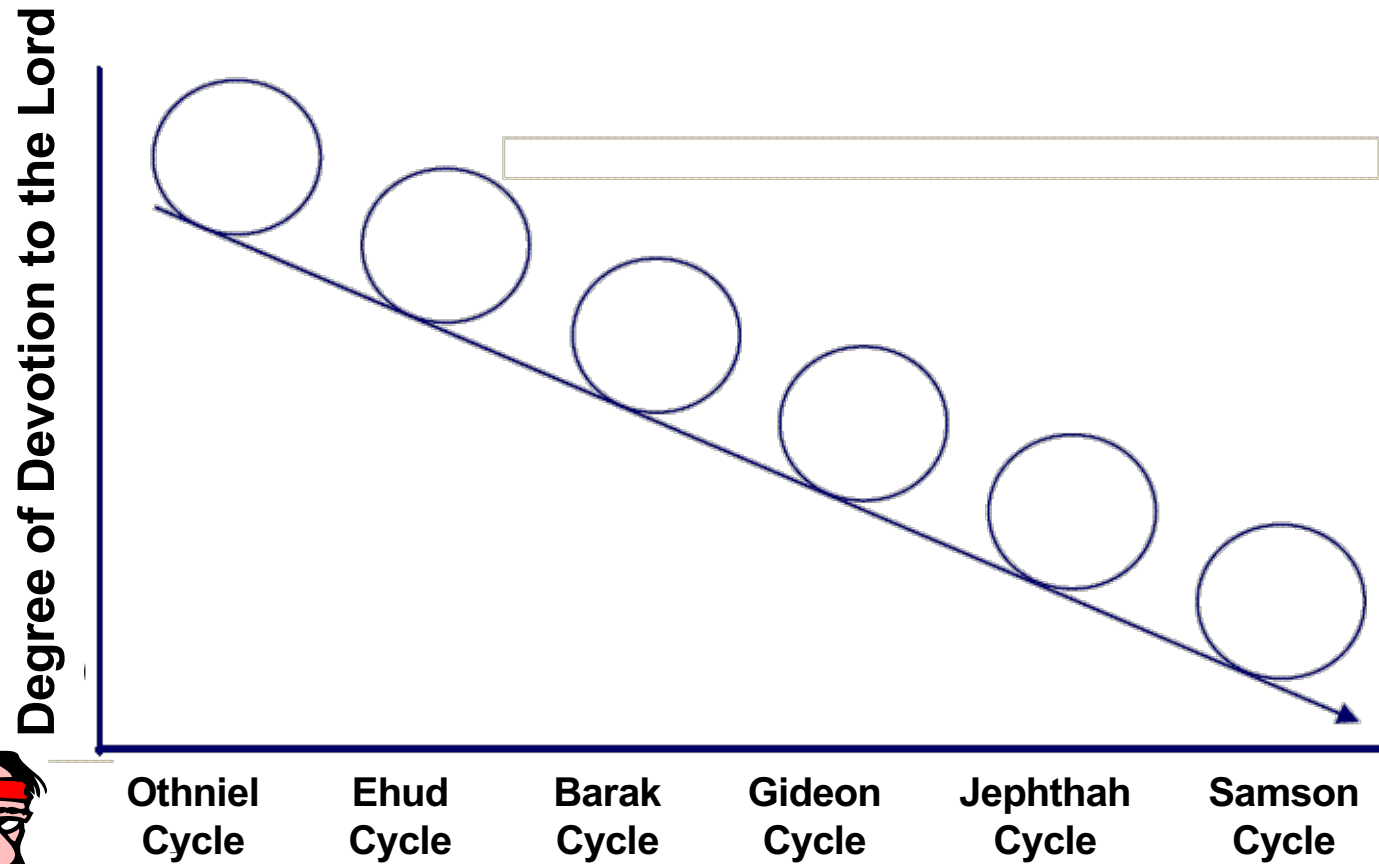
**Judges tried to stop Israel's  
cycles of sin to show that  
God's absolute standards were  
better than Israel's relative  
standards (2:6–16:31).**



# The Cycle Repeated in Judges



# Downward Spiral of the Cycles





# The Mystery of the Judges



- ◆ We define the era of the Judges as 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 significantly **exceeds** the expected value of 400 years: **510+ years**

## 174



# 360 yrs

966

**Saul 40 yrs**

# David 40 yrs

410 yrs

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Cycle	Oppressor	Location in Israel	Years of Oppression	Deliverer	Years of Peace
1 (1711-1710)	Philistines	South	8	Othniel	40
2 (12:30-31)	Moabites	Southeast	18	Ehud	80
3 (Judges 4-5)	Canaanites	North	20	Deborah & Barak	40
4 (6:1-8:32)	Midianites	Northcentral (Ophrah)	7	Gideon	40
5 (8:33-9:1)	Amorites	Central	2	Unnamed Woman	—
6 (10:1-10:18)	Amorites	Central (Shamir)	—	Samson	23
7 (10:3-5)	Amorites	East (Komon, Gilead)	—	Jair	22
8 (10:6-12:7)	Amorites	East (Zaphon, Gilead)	18	Jephthah	6
9 (12:8-10)	Amorites	Southeast (Bethlehem)	—	Izban	7
10 (12:11-12)	Amorites	Northwest	—	Elon	10
11 (12:13-15)	Amorites	Central (Pirathon)	—	Abdon	8
12 (Judges 13-15)	Philistines	Southwest (Zorah)	40	Samson	20

1381 BC Mesopotamian rule began

1049 BC Samson died

Oppression

Peace

Total

Total

332

410

174

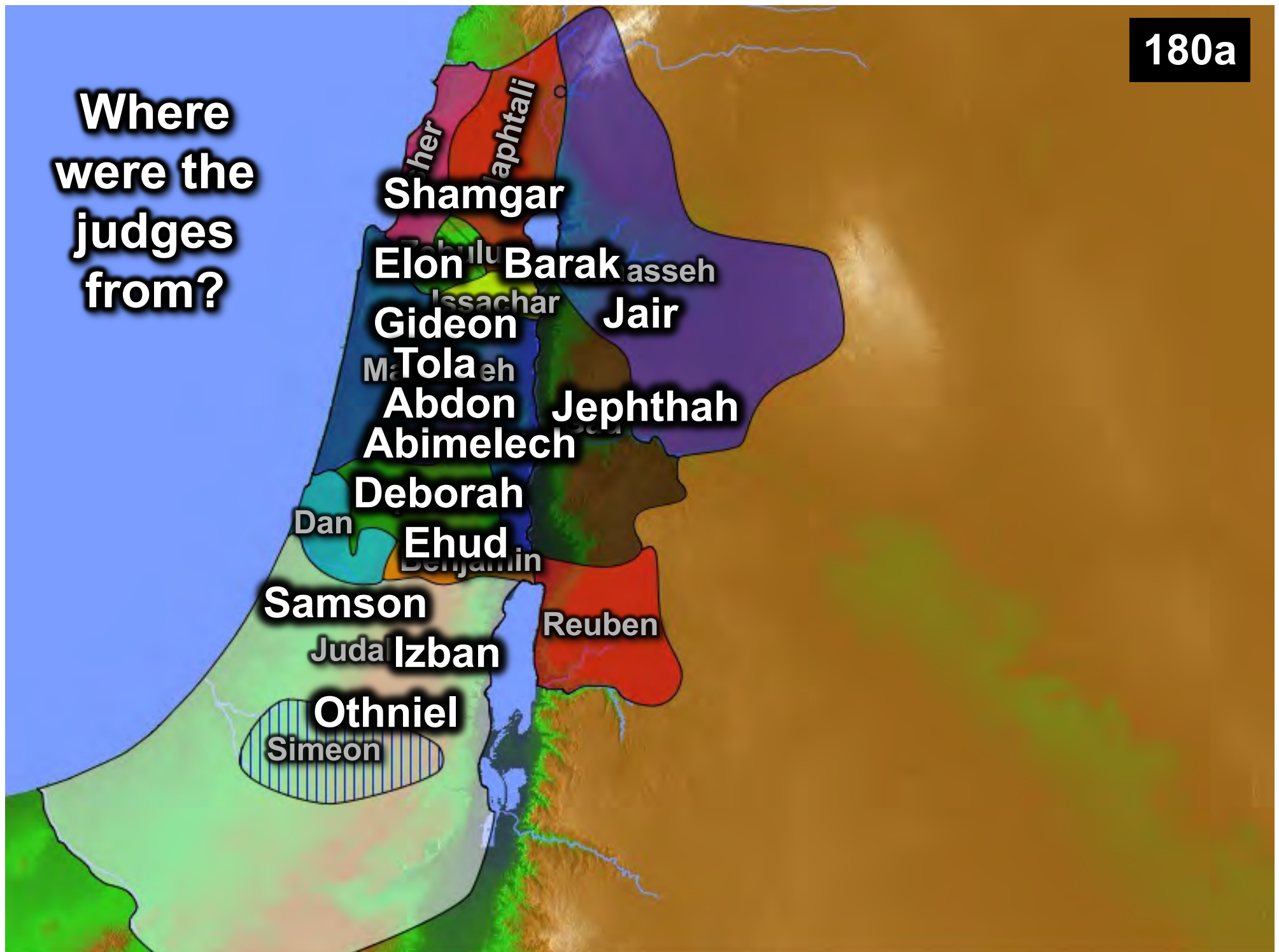




# Possible Solutions

- 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?

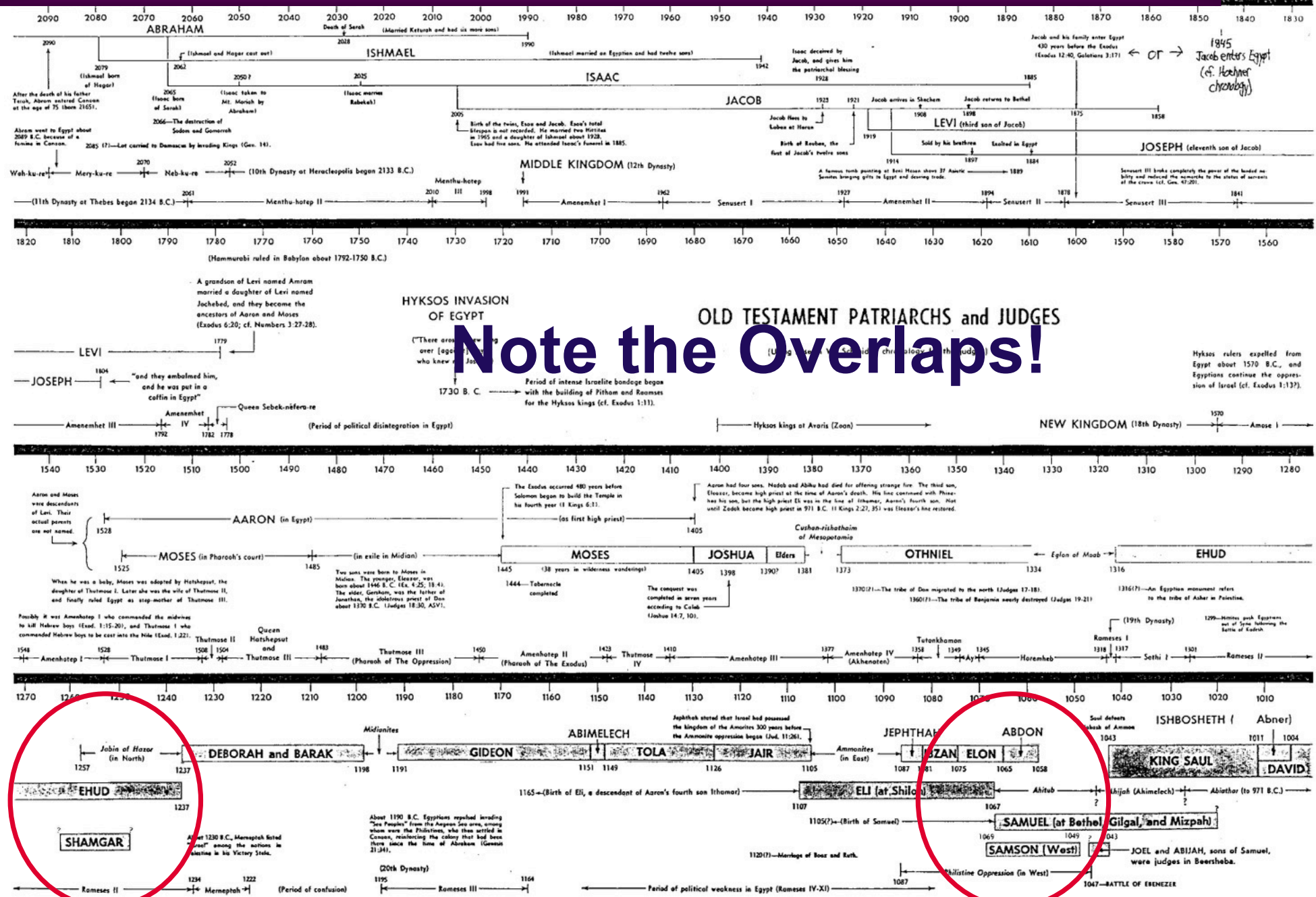




# What Do We Think?

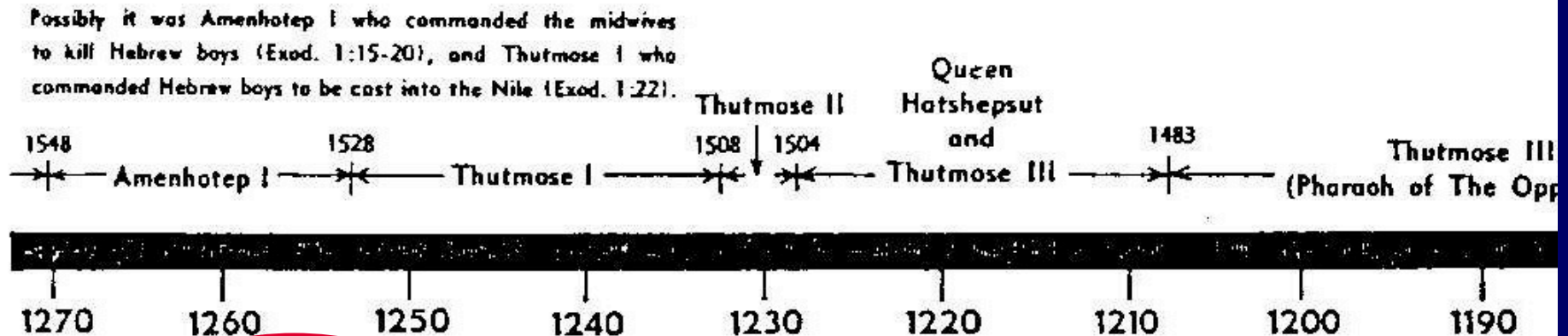
- ◆ It is clear from the **Bible** that the period of the Judges spans 400 years.
- ◆ Closer study reveals that there are some **overlaps**. *For example, the judges Jephthah to Samson obviously overlapped with the 40 years of Philistine oppression and the years of priestly service of Eli and Samuel.*



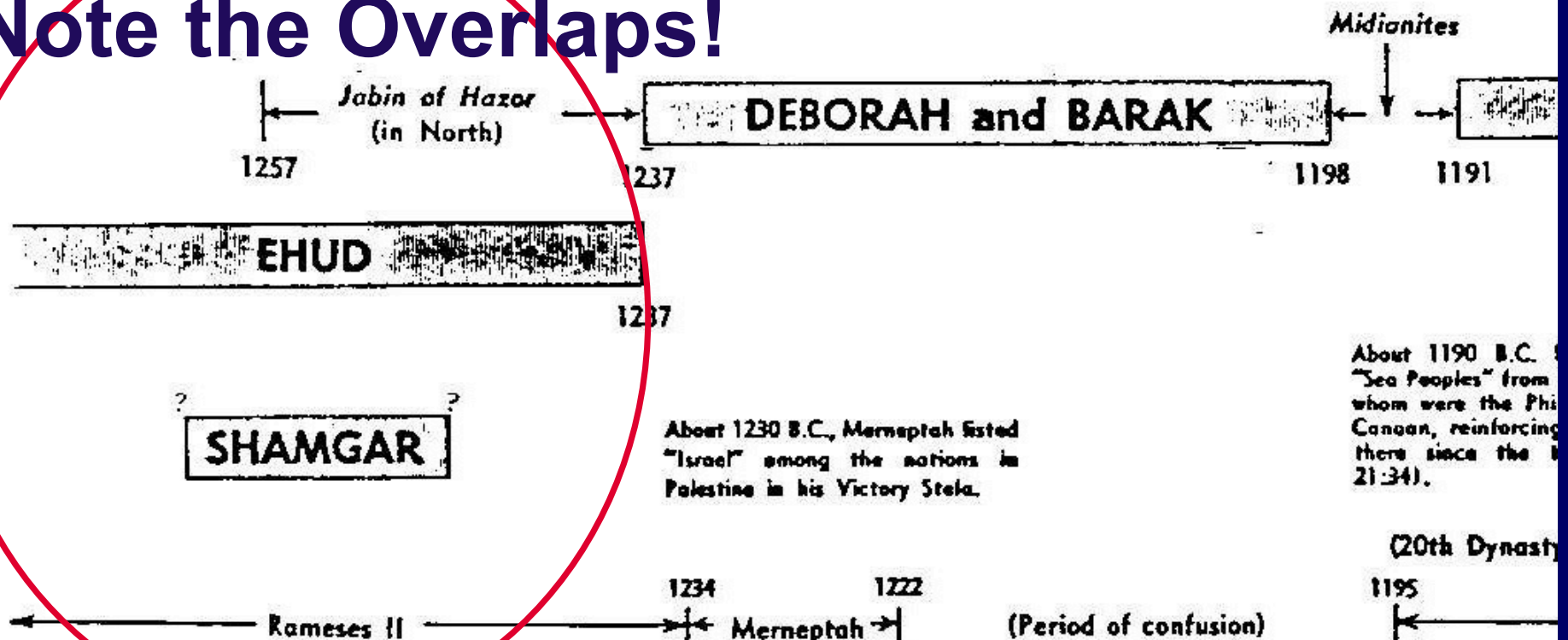


# Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges

96

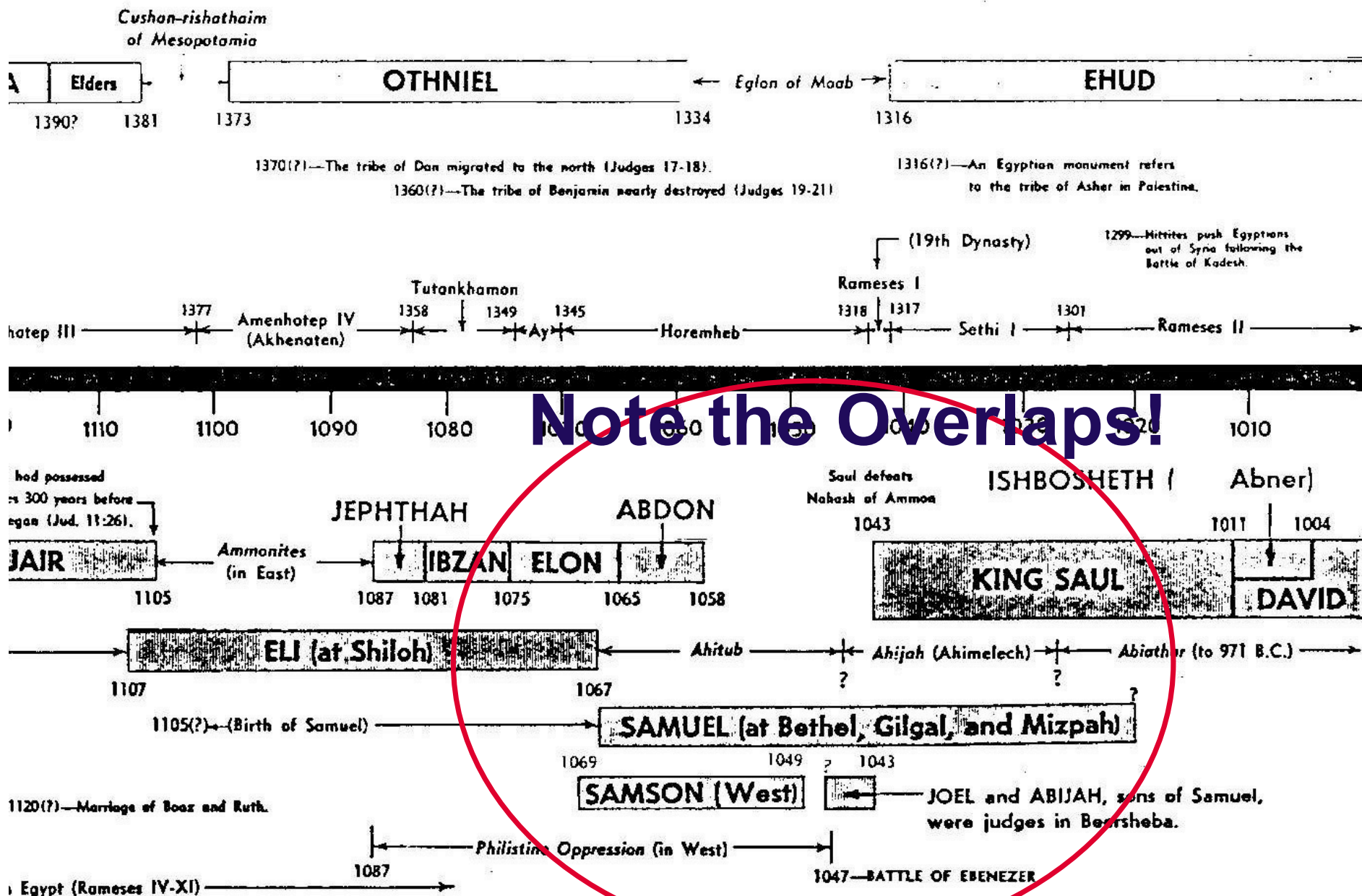


**Note the Overlaps!**



# Old Testament Patriarchs & Judges

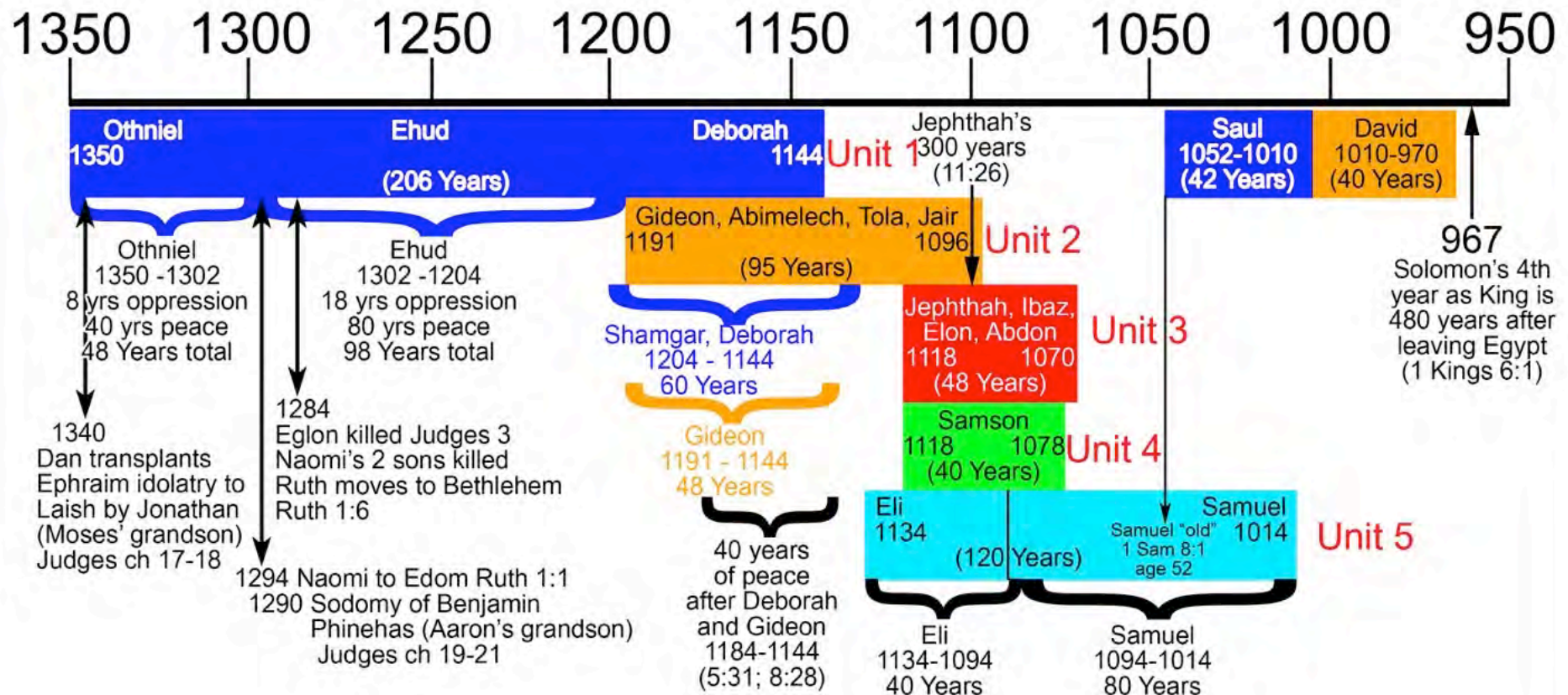
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# Chronology of Judges Timeline

## The Five Indivisible Units of Chronology



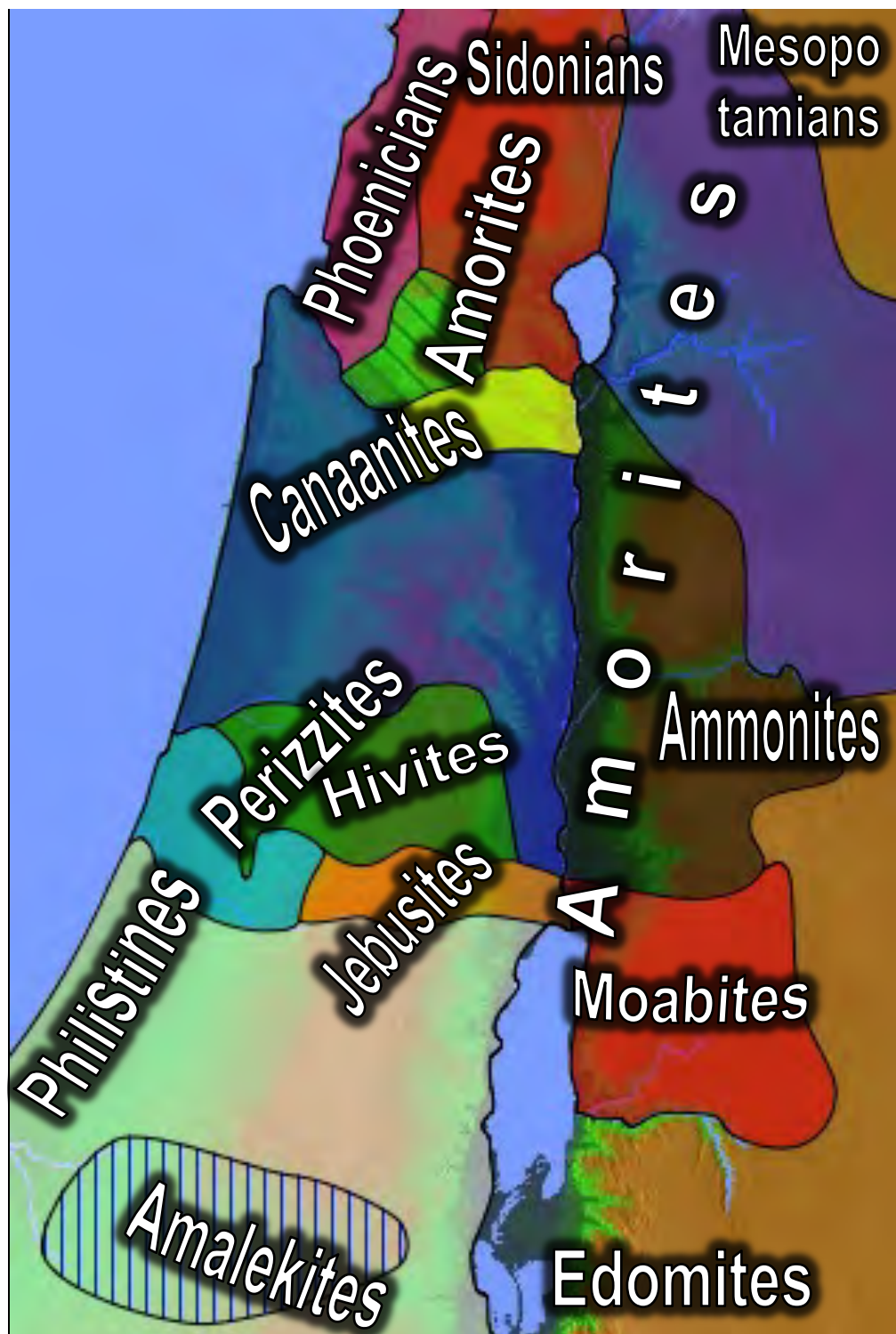
# Conclusions from Findings

- ◆ 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



**Judges 3**





## Enemies in Canaan During the Judges (3:5)

**"The Arameans and Philistines who settled in Canaan adopted the practices of the Canaanites; similarly the Amorites accepted much of the Sumerian religion as their own when they moved into Mesopotamia. Among all those peoples, however, the Hebrews took an independent course. Their God was the unique and cosmic deity who demanded exclusive allegiance. Such a concept ran against the grain of all the religions of the day."**

**WALTER A. ELWELL**

## 172

Incomplete Occupation		Deliverance by Judges							Need for Monarchy	
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Deterioration		Discipline							Depravity	
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1	2:1-5	2:6-3:6	3:7-31							
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Cycle	Oppressor	Location in Israel	Years of Oppression	Deliverer	Years of Peace
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2 (3:12-30)	Moabites		Peace 4x	18	Ehud
Parenthesis (3:31)	Philistines	Southwest	—	Shamgar	—
3 (Judges 4–5)	Canaanites	Peace 2x	20	Deborah & Barak	40
4 (6:1–8:32)	Midianites	Peace 6x	7	Gideon	40
5 (8:33–9:57)	Abimelech	Central	3	Unnamed Woman	—
Parenthesis (10:1-2)	—	Central (Shamir)	—	Tola	23
Parenthesis (10:3-5)	—	East (Komon, Gilead)	—	Jair	22
6 (10:6–12:7)	Oppression 3x	18	Jephthah	6	
Parenthesis (12:8-10)		—	—	Izban	7
Parenthesis (12:11-12)	—	Northwest	—	Elon	10
Parenthesis (12:13-15)	—	Central (Pirathon)	—	Abdon	8
7 (Judges 13–16)	Oppression 2x	40	Samson	20	

Where did  
Othniel  
judge  
(3:7-11)?

Cushan-Rishathaim



All  
Israel

Othniel

# Othniel

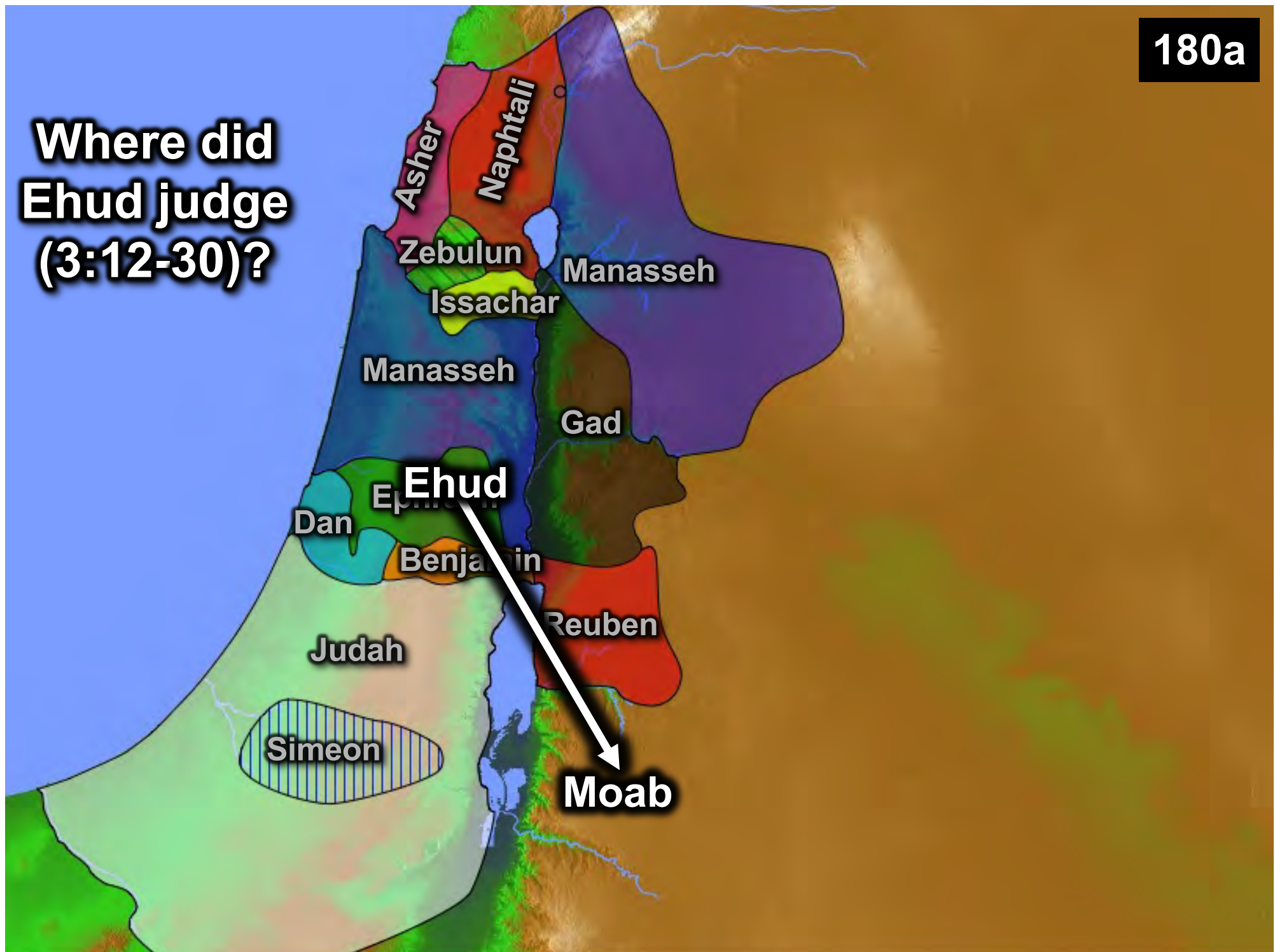
176

## Othniel – (tribe of Judah), Caleb's nephew

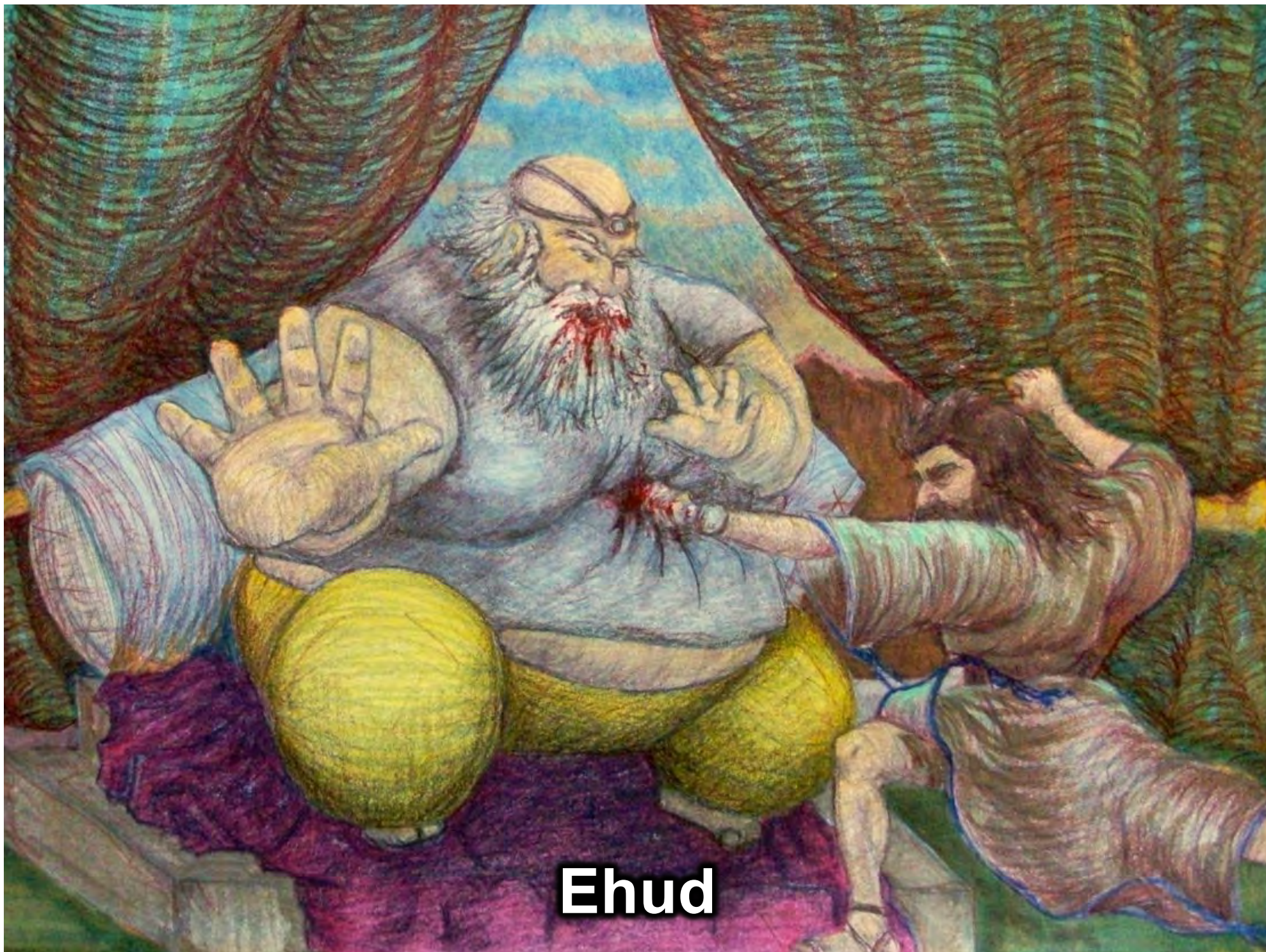
<b>Location</b>	<b>Southern Israel</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Did evil in the eyes of the Lord Served the Baals and Asherahs(3:7)</b>
<b>Servitude</b>	<b>Mesopotamians Eight years(3:8)</b>
<b>Supplication</b>	<b>Cried out to the LORD (3:9)</b>
<b>Silence</b>	<b>Peace for 40 years (3:11)</b>
<b>1. The first judge and probably the finest 2. Empowered by the Spirit of the Lord (3:10a) 3. From reputable line and related to Caleb</b>	



**Where did  
Ehud judge  
(3:12-30)?**







**Ehud**

# Ehud

176

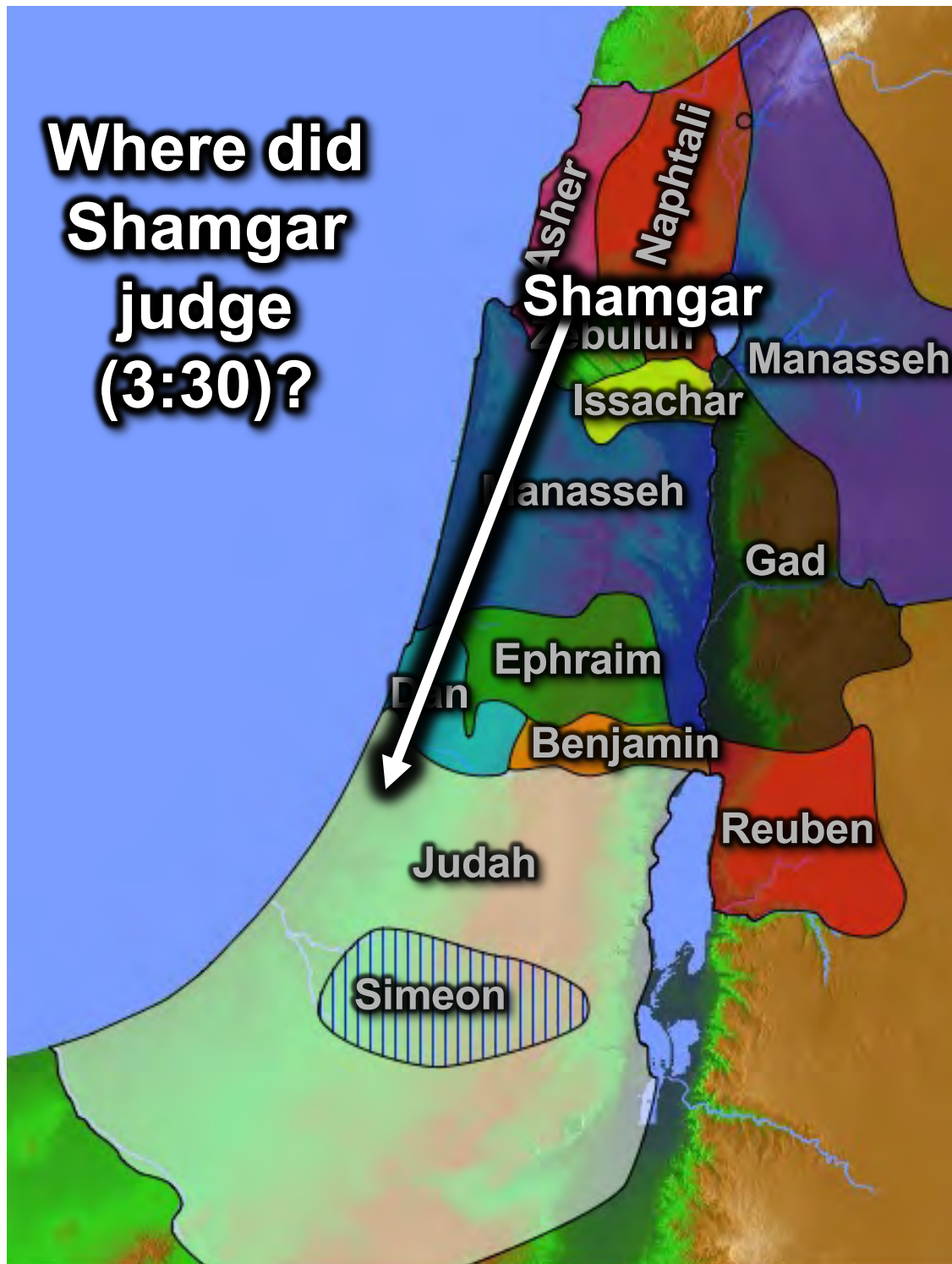
## Ehud (tribe of Benjamin), left-handed

<b>Location</b>	<b>South-eastern Israel</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Israel did evil (3:12a)</b>
<b>Servitude</b>	<b>Moab Eighteen years (3:14)</b>
<b>Supplication</b>	<b>Cried out to the LORD (3:15)</b>
<b>Silence</b>	<b>Peace for 80 years (3:30)</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Left-handed, element of surprise</li><li>2. Unexpected deliverer because:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Israel saw him as a tribute bearer, not a likely hero</li><li>b. Eglon saw a deformed, weak &amp; unlikely assassin</li></ol></li><li>3. Ehud's message for Eglon is the "sword"</li><li>4. Shamgar (son of Anath) killed 600 with an ox goad and was a deliverer for SW Israel during Ehud's lifetime.</li></ol>	



**Where did  
Shamgar  
judge  
(3:30)?**

**"After Ehud,  
Shamgar son of  
Anath rescued  
Israel. He once  
killed 600  
Philistines with  
an ox goad"  
(3:31 NLT).**



# Judges 4

# Failure Under the Theocracy

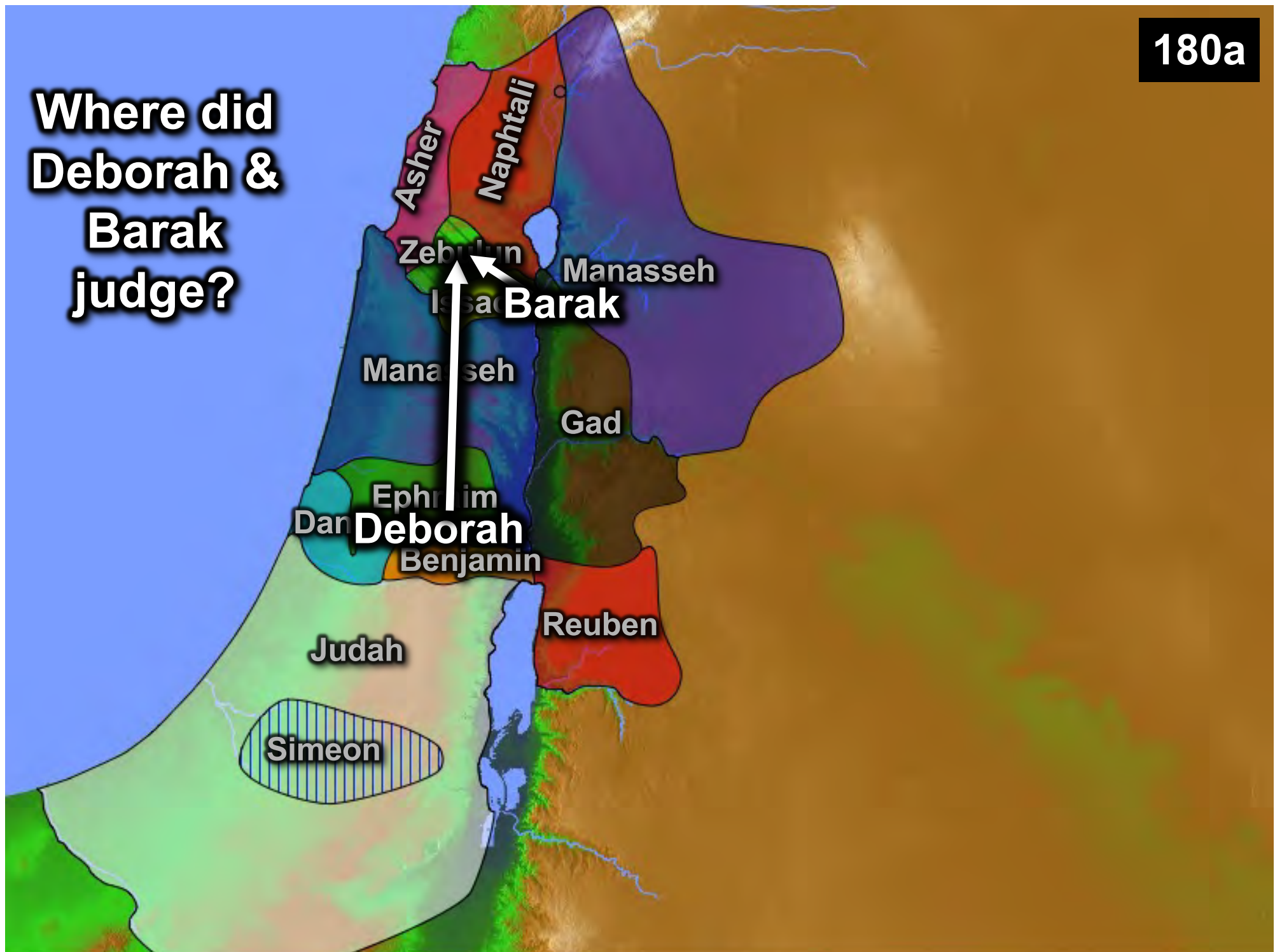
Incomplete Occupation		Deliverance by Judges							Need for Monarchy	
1:1–2:5		2:6–16:31							17–21	
Deterioration		Discipline							Depravity	
Causes Of the Cycles		Curse Of the Cycles							Conditions Of the Cycles	
Living with the Canaanites		War with the Canaanites							Living Like the Canaanites	
Military Disobedience	Spiritual Disobedience	Intro	South	North						
1	2:1-5	2:6-3:6	3:7-31	4:1-5:31						
Canaan										
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)										



# Deborah & Barak



Where did  
Deborah &  
Barak  
judge?





**10,000 Israelite men defeated 900  
Canaanite chariots (Judges 4:3, 6)**





# Judges 5

# Deborah & Barak

176

**Deborah (prophetess, wife of Lappidoth)**  
**Barak (son of Abinoam of Kedesh)**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Northern Israel</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>-Did evil in the eyes of the Lord (4:1)</b>
<b>Servitude</b>	<b>-Canaanites (4:2) -Twenty years (4:3)</b>
<b>Supplication</b>	<b>-Cried to the Lord (4:3b)</b>
<b>Silence</b>	<b>-Peace for 40 years (5:31b)</b>
<b>1. Deborah conveyed the Lord's command to Barak 2. Barak would go only if Deborah went too. 3. Was Barak a coward? See Heb 11:32 "...about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah...who through faith conquered kingdoms...." can depict Barak's humble acceptance and dependence on God acting thru Deborah. "...the Lord will hand Sisera over to a woman" (4:9b). - Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite killed Sisera</b>	



## Deborah's Song (Judges 5)

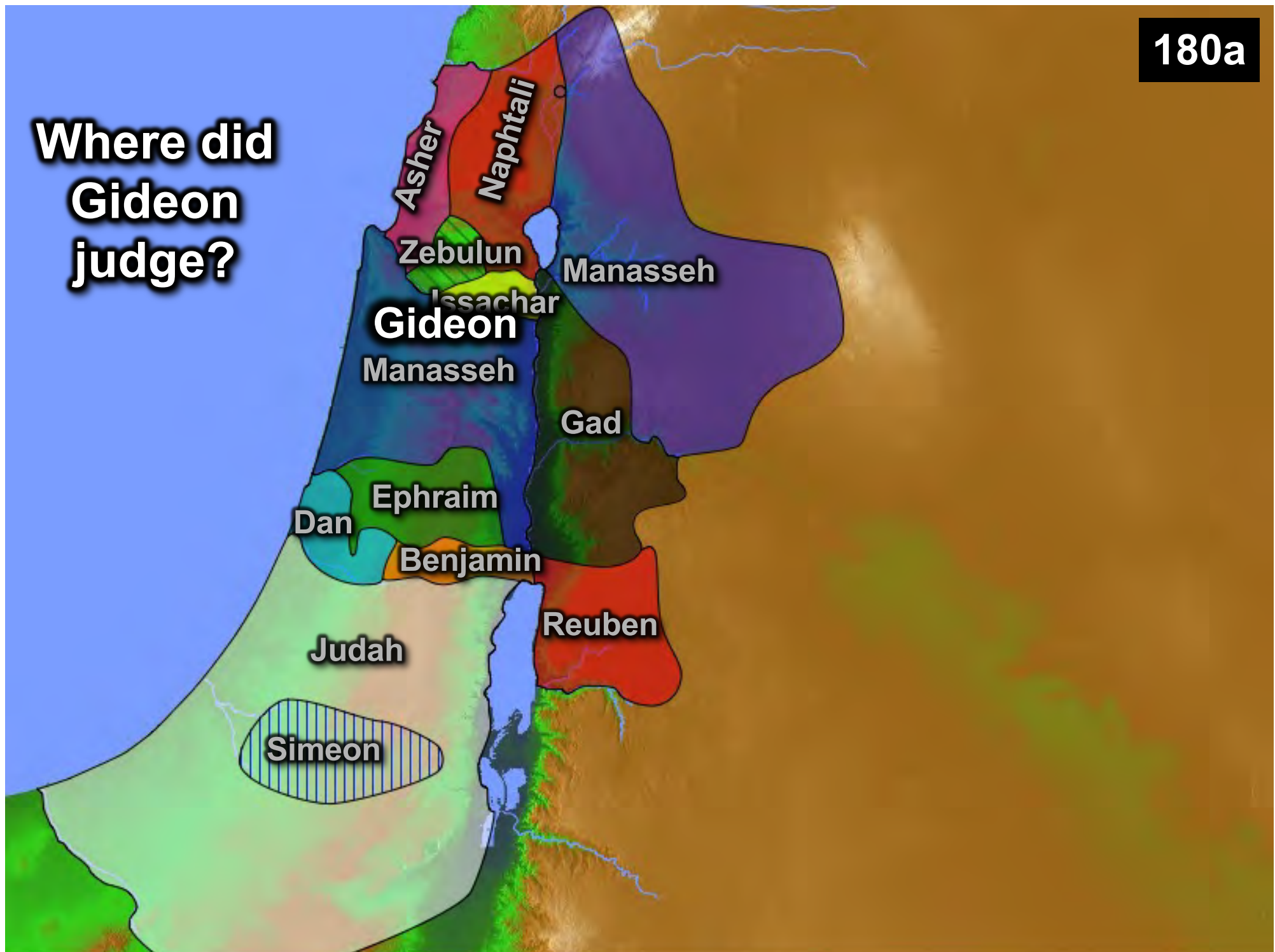


# Judges 6

Failure Under the Theocracy										
Incomplete Occupation		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					
1	2:1-5	2:6-3:6	3:7-31	4:1-5:31	6:1-10:2					
Canaan										
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)										

## c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)

**Where did  
Gideon  
judge?**







**God Called Gideon**





# **"Gideon thanks God for the miracle of the dew"**

**Painting by Maarten van Heemskerck  
(Musée des Beaux-Arts de Strasbourg)  
in AD 1550**

# Gideon

## Son of Joash (Manasseh)





## Gideon (tribe of Manasseh)

(Also known as "Jerubbaal," the great Baal fighter)

<b>Location</b>	<b>North-central (Ophrah)</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Did evil in the eyes of the Lord (6:1a)</b>
<b>Servitude</b>	<b>Midianites, (6:1), Amalekites, &amp; other eastern peoples (6:3b) for seven years (6:1)</b>
<b>Supplication</b>	<b>Cried out to the Lord (6:6b)</b>
<b>Silence</b>	<b>Peace for 40 years</b>

1. In the book of Judges, the Gideon narrative marks a turning point as the 'quality' of the judges began to get worse.
2. Gideon was called while he threshed in shame
3. He was tested for obedience in destroying Baal's altar (6:25-26)
4. He was empowered for service (6:34).
5. He asked for two confirmations—is that a faith problem?

# Judges 7

# Gideon Trimmed Down His Troops (7:1-8a)





# Gideon Defeated the Midianites (7:17-21)



# Judges 8



**Gideon**

**"You will break the oppressor's  
rod, just as you did when you  
destroyed the army of Midian"  
(Isa. 9:4b NLT)**





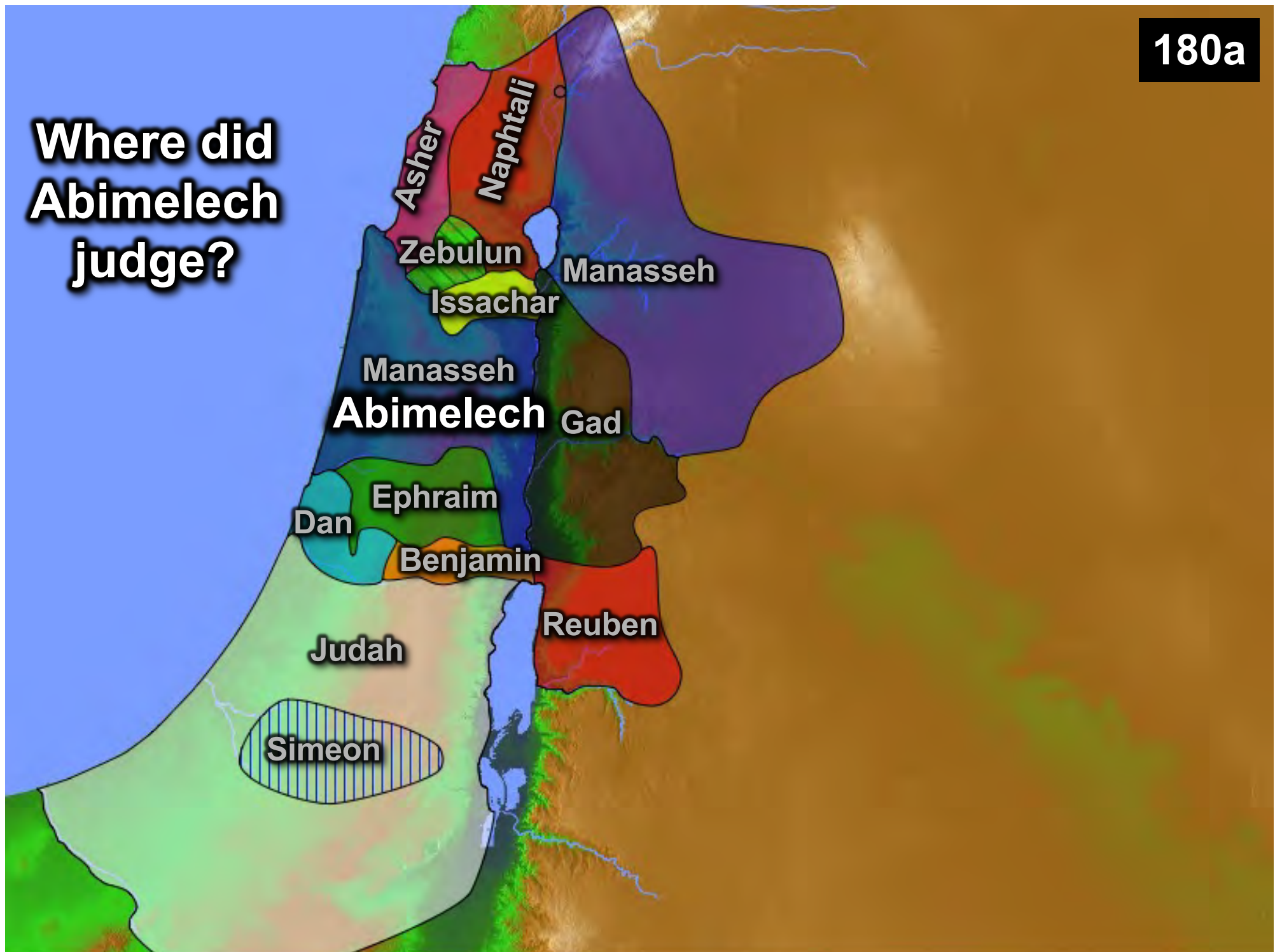
## Gideon (tribe of Manasseh)

(Also known as "Jerubbaal," the great Baal fighter)

<b>Location</b>	North-central (Ophrah)
<b>Sin</b>	Did evil in the eyes of the Lord (6:1a)
<b>Servitude</b>	Midianites, (6:1), Amalekites, & other eastern peoples (6:3b) for seven years (6:1)
<b>Supplication</b>	Cried out to the Lord (6:6b)
<b>Silence</b>	Peace for 40 years
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. After reducing Gideon's army of 32,000 to 300, the Lord gave him confirmation from the enemy's camp.</li><li>7. Hebrews 11:32 "...about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah...who through faith conquered kingdoms...." shows he is a hero of faith due to his obedience to God's calling in spite of humanly impossible odds.</li><li>8. He foolishly made a golden ephod which the people worshipped.</li><li>9. His son by a concubine, Abimelech, killed seventy of his sons except the youngest, Jotham.</li></ol>	

# Judges 9

**Where did  
Abimelech  
judge?**





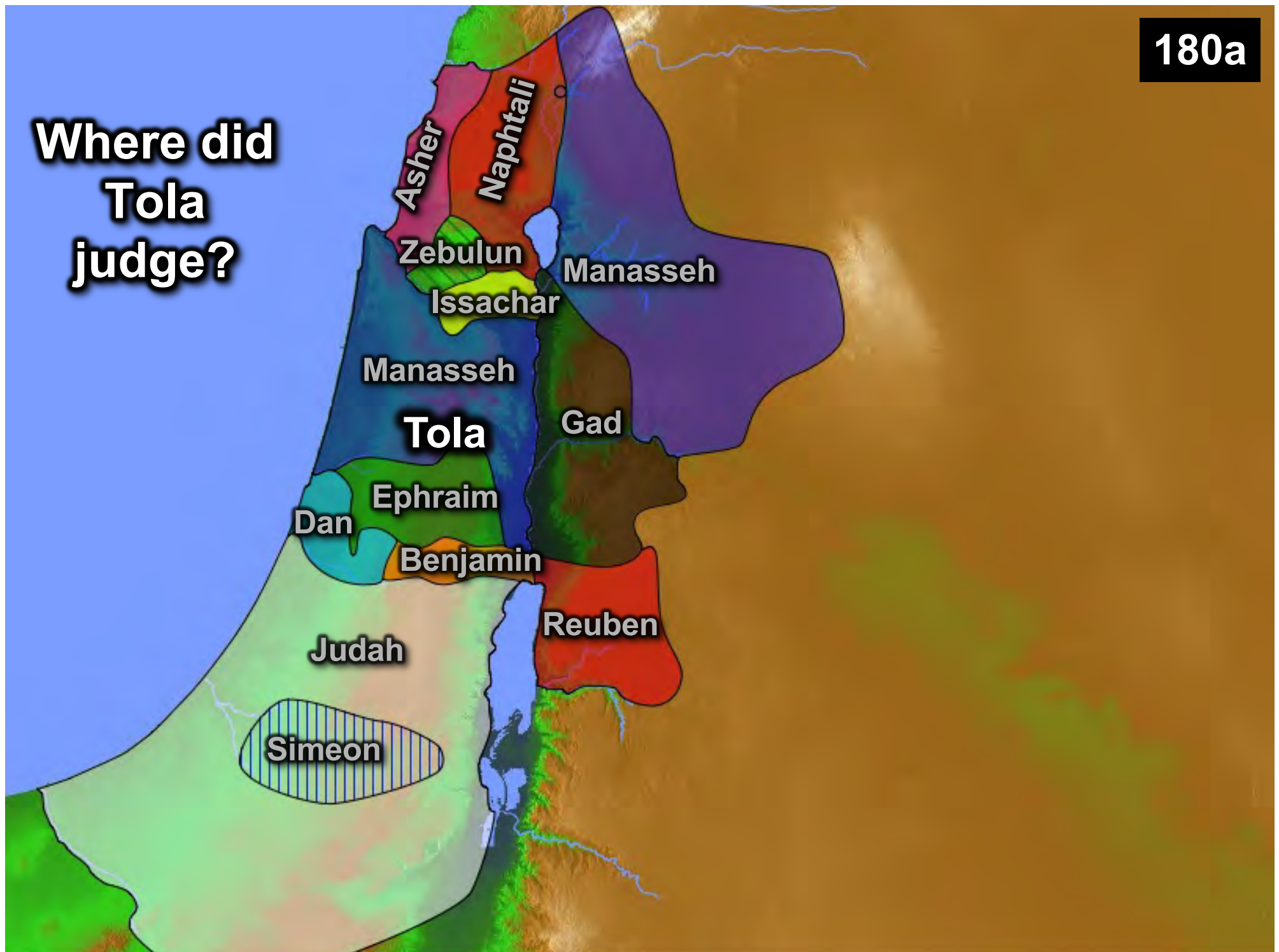
# Judges 10

## 172

Failure Under the Theocracy										
Incomplete Occupation		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				
1	2:1-5	2:6-3:6	3:7-31	4:1-5:31	6:1-10:2	10:3-12:7				
Canaan										
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)										

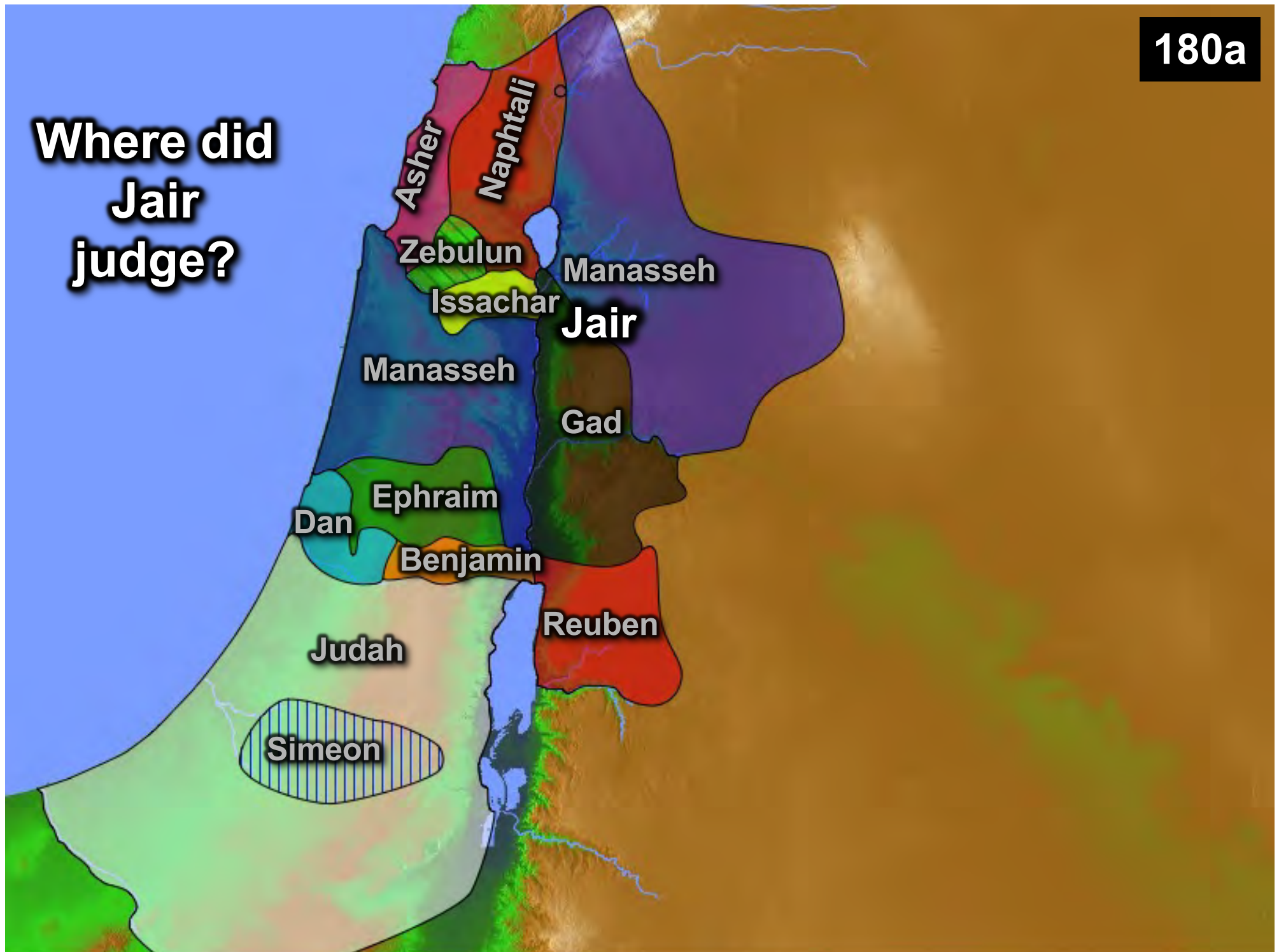
## c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)

**Where did  
Tola  
judge?**

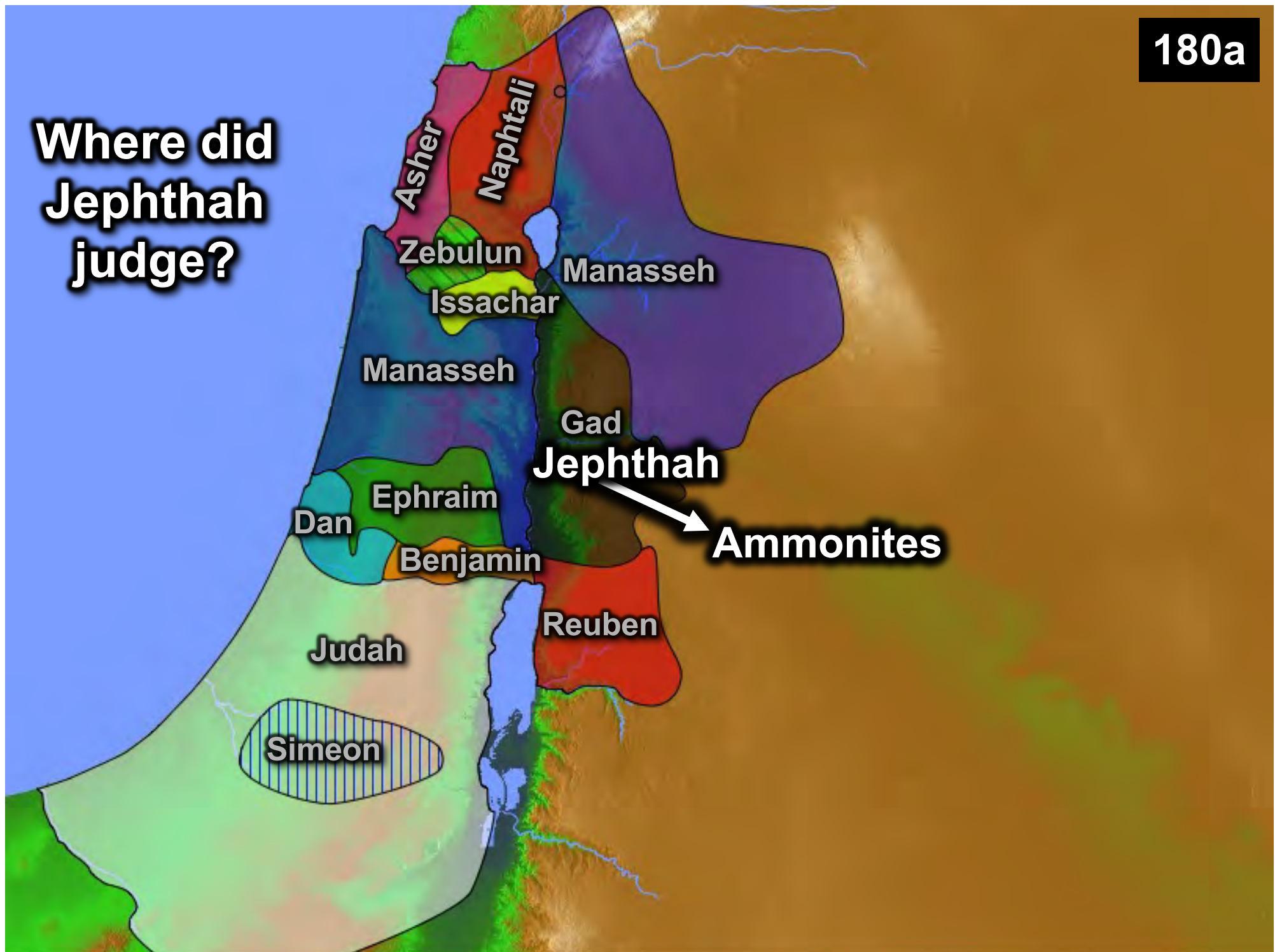




**Where did  
Jair  
judge?**



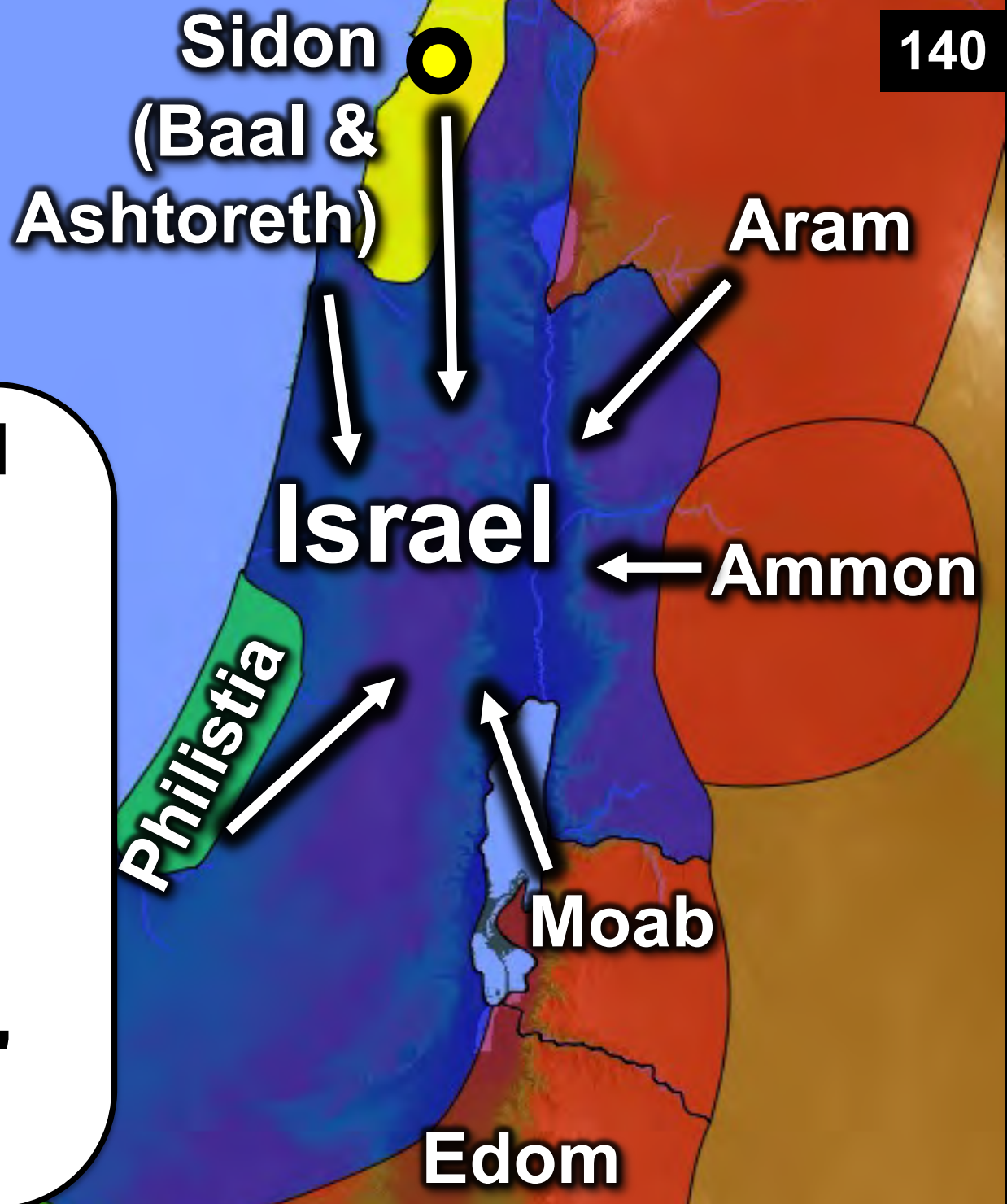
**Where did  
Jephthah  
judge?**



# Gods of the Nations

*Judges 10:6 NLT*

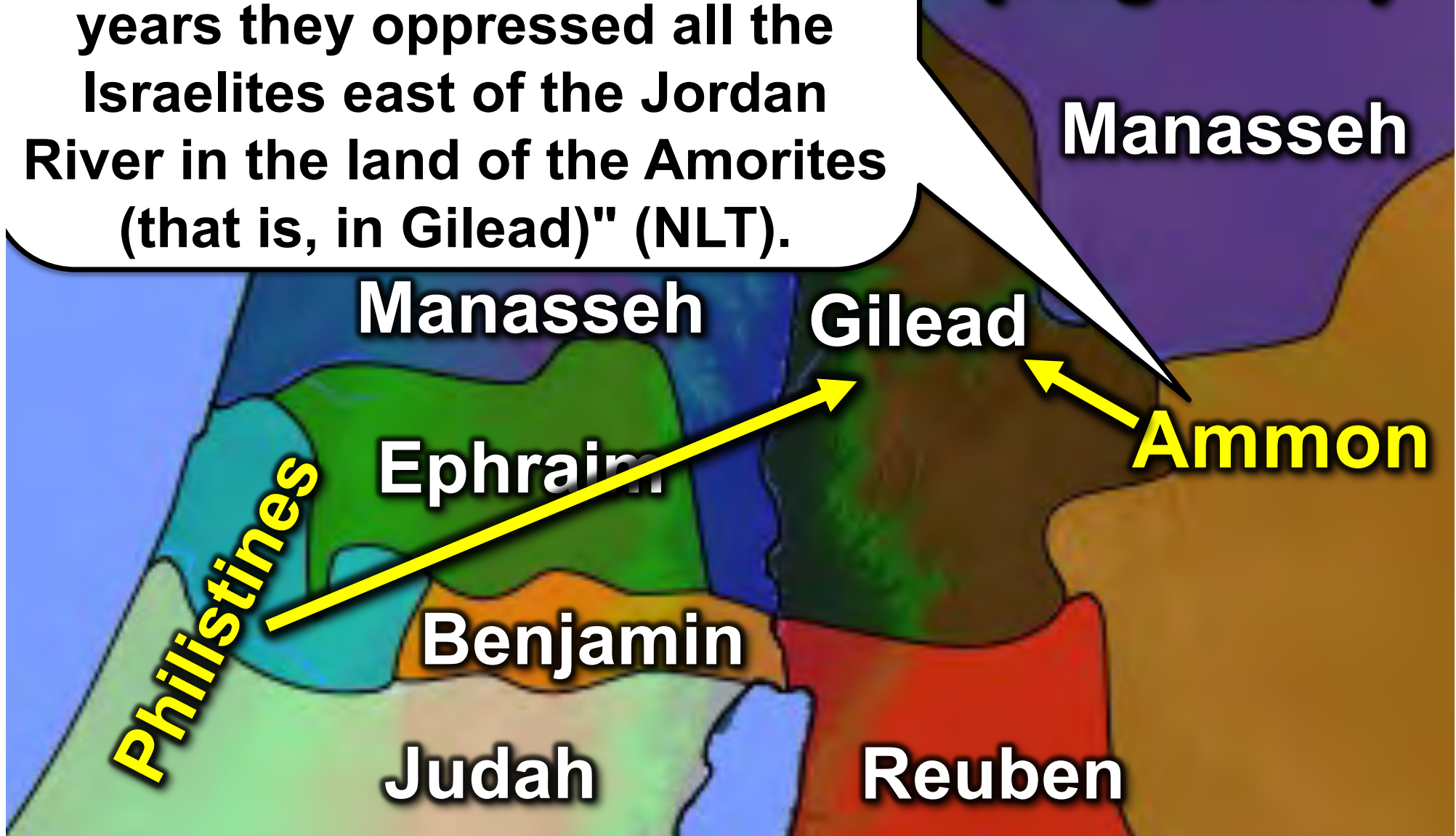
"...They served the images of Baal and Ashtoreth, and the gods of Aram, Sidon, Moab, Ammon, and Philistia..." (10:6).





"Philistines and the Ammonites...began to oppress them that year. For eighteen years they oppressed all the Israelites east of the Jordan River in the land of the Amorites (that is, in Gilead)" (NLT).

## Twin Invasions (Judges 10:8)



"The Ammonites also crossed to the west side of the Jordan and attacked Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim. The Israelites were in great distress" (NLT).

## Eastern Invasions (Judges 10:9)

Manasseh

Gilead

Manasseh

Ephraim

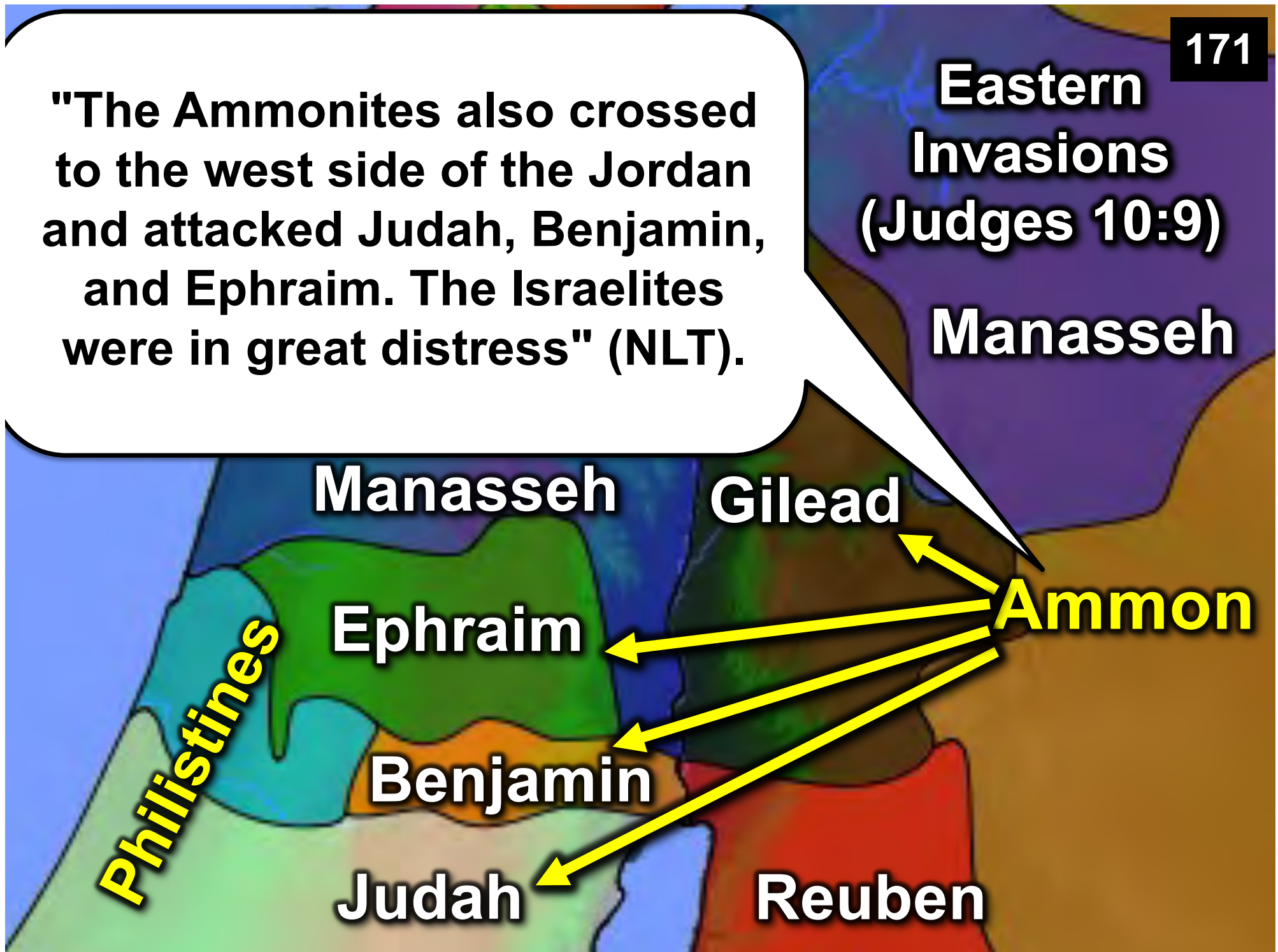
Benjamin

Judah

Reuben

Ammon

Philistines





**Jepththah's Victory (10:17–12:6)**



# Judges 11

# An Early Exodus (1446)

FOR

- ♦ *1 Kings 6:1*

480 years from  
Exodus to the  
building of  
Solomon's Temple  
(966)

Exodus      1446 BC

+      480 yrs

Temple =      966 BC

+      4 yrs

Reign Began = 970/71

- ♦ *Judges 11:26*  
Jephthah assigns  
300 years between  
his day (c.1100) and  
the Conquest



70a, 70g

# Jephthah versus Ammonites

Manasseh

Gilead

Gad

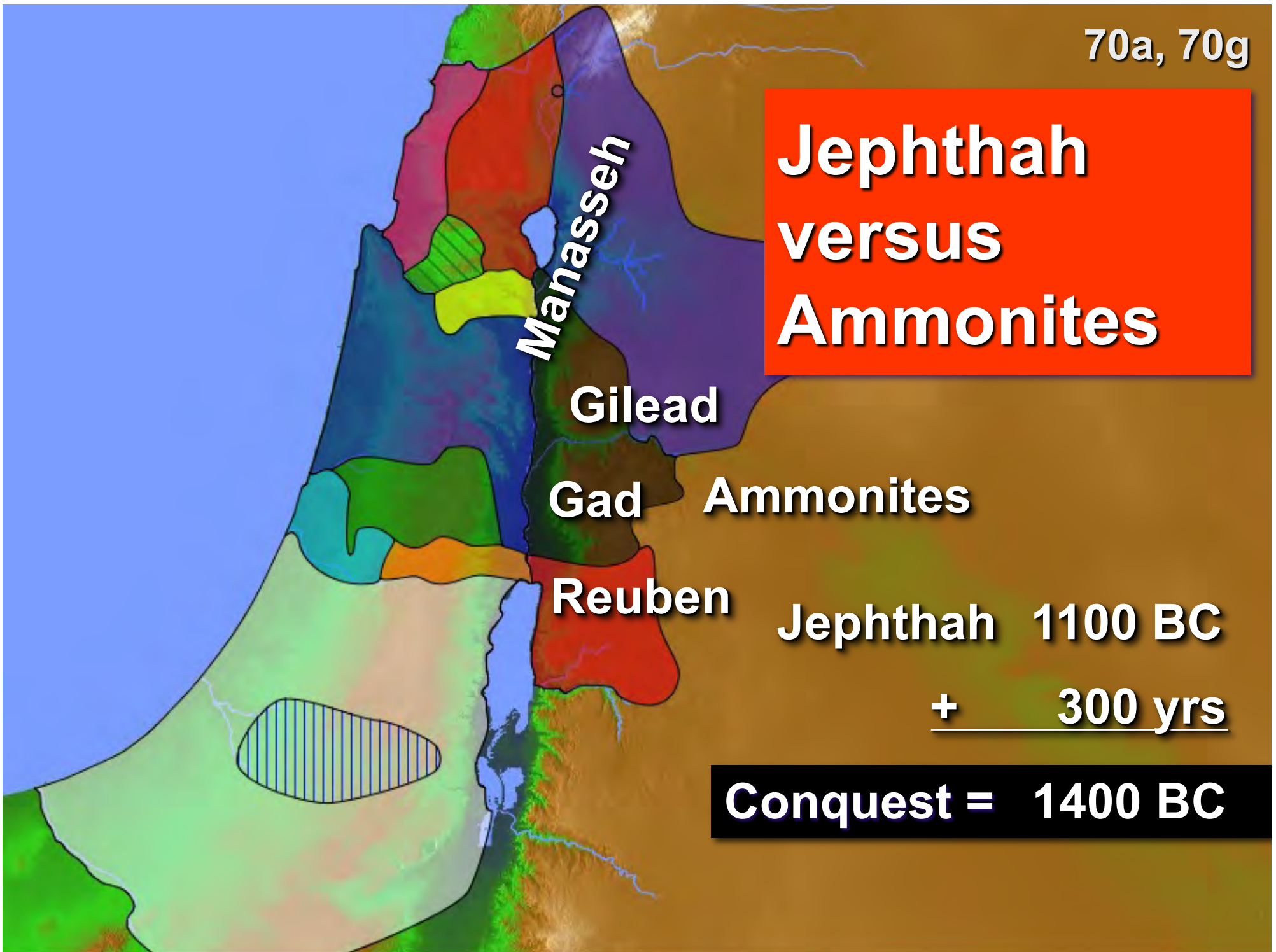
Ammonites

Reuben

Jephthah 1100 BC

+ 300 yrs

Conquest = 1400 BC





# An Early Exodus (1446)

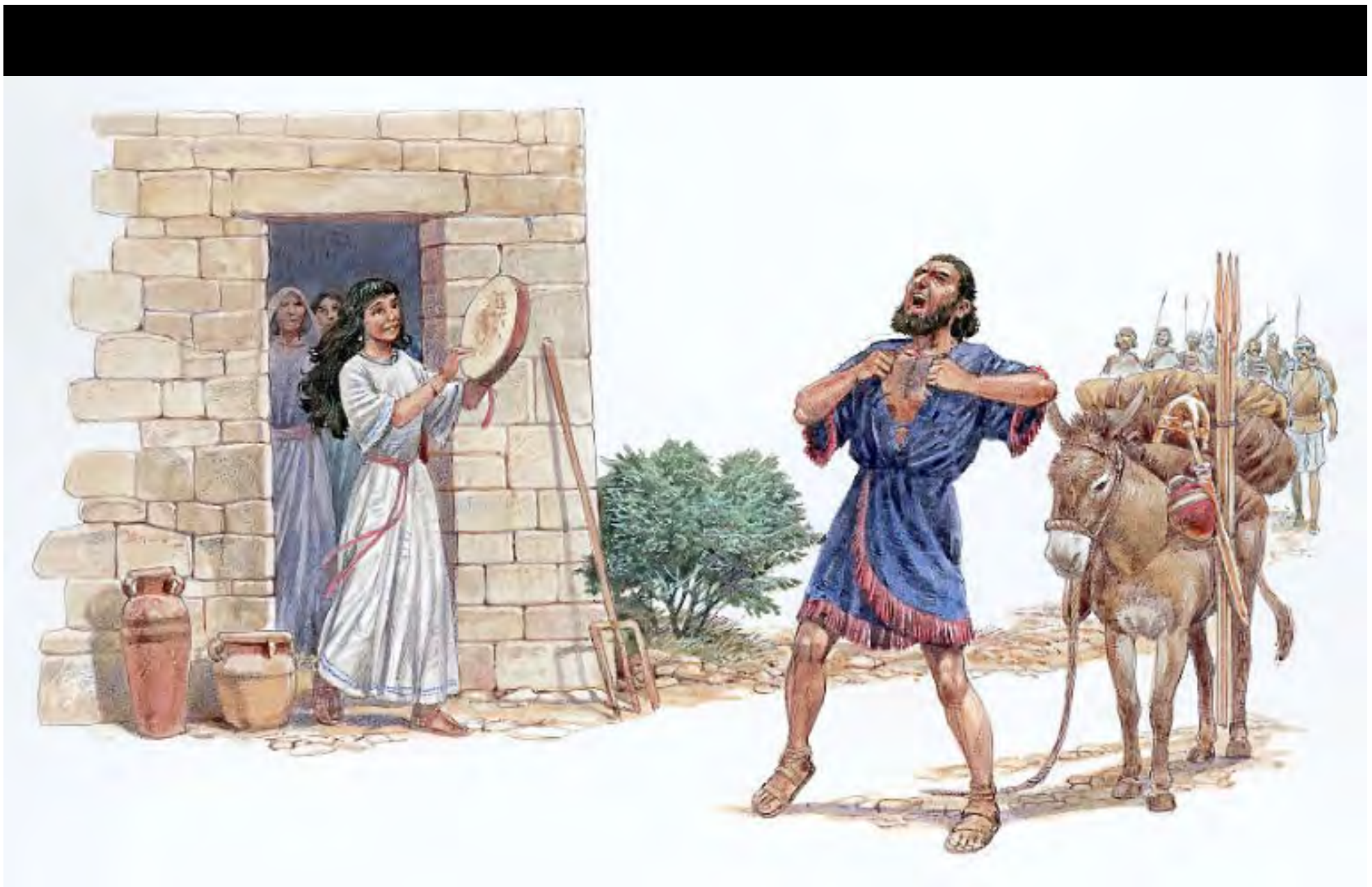


## FOR

- ◆ *1 Kings 6:1*  
480 years from Exodus to the building of Solomon's Temple (966)
- ◆ *Judges 11:26*  
Jephthah assigns 300 years between his day (c.1100) and the Conquest

## AGAINST

- ◆ a) 480 means 12 generations. Actual no. of yrs is  $12 \times 25 = 300$
- ◆ b) The text is corrupt
- ◆ c) Historian had inaccurate facts
- ◆ This was a generalization or an inaccurate guess as he had no access to historical records



**Jephthah's Daughter Greets Him (11:34)**



**Did Jephthah really kill his daughter?**



## DEDICATED

1. Being a judge, Jephthah must have been God-fearing, so he would not have violated God's law
2. The Spirit of the Lord comes on Jephthah; he is noted in Heb. 11 so he would not have violated Law
3. Daughter bewails her virginity and 11:39 makes comment that "she knew not a man"

## SACRIFICED

1. Promise of a simple animal sacrifice would hardly be a convincing vow in this situation
2. The mention of something coming out of the house implies that human sacrifice was intended
3. The burnt offering (*'olah*) involves death in all 286 OT occurrences

## DEDICATED

4. Evidence of women in service of tabernacle—Ex. 38:8; 1 Sam. 2:22

5. Human sacrifice would have been clearly understood as a violation of God's Law, and public opinion would have disallowed it even if Jephthah wanted to proceed

## SACRIFICED

4. If it was frequent practice to have women enter tabernacle service, why the commendation?

5. Human sacrifice is seen as a last ditch effort in battle (2 Kings 3:27)

## DEDICATED

6. Lev. 27:1-8 allows for redemption of humans vowed for sacrifice

7. The conjunction in 11:31 should be rendered "or," showing Jephthah considered various situations

## SACRIFICED

6. The conjunction in 11:31 is one of apposition: "will be the Lord's, that is, I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering"

7. There is little evidence of Jephthah's spirituality or knowledge of the Law



# Jephthah Part 1

178

## Jephthah (the Gileadite)

<b>Location</b>	<b>East (Zaphon, Gilead)</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Did evil in the eyes of the Lord (10:6a) Served gods of many nations</b>
<b>Servitude</b>	<b>Philistines and Ammonites (10:7) Eighteen years (10:8)</b>
<b>Supplication</b>	<b>Cried out to the Lord (10:10) Repented and got rid of foreign gods (10:16)</b>
<b>Silence</b>	<b>Six years (12:7a)</b>

- 1. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah when he went against the Ammonites (11:29) and the Lord gave him victory.**
- 2. He made an unnecessary vow and the text points towards its fulfilment in sacrificing his daughter.**

# Jephthah Part 2

178

## Jephthah (the Gileadite)

<b>Location</b>	<b>East (Zaphon, Gilead)</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Did evil in the eyes of the Lord (10:6a) Served gods of many nations</b>
<b>Servitude</b>	<b>Philistines and Ammonites (10:7) Eighteen years (10:8)</b>
<b>Supplication</b>	<b>Cried out to the Lord (10:10)</b>
<b>Silence</b>	<b>Six years (12:7a)</b>
<b>3. Hebrews 11:32-33 "...about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, ...who through faith conquered kingdoms...." notes his feats positively</b> <b>4. Though a prohibited act, his ultimate sacrifice of his daughter shows him to be a man of his word; Although foolish and stubborn, he still mentioned "the Lord, God of Israel" in his message to the Ammonite king (11:13-27).</b> <b>5. His background and deeds show the influence of the surrounding nations on his behaviour (e.g. the sacrifice of his daughter).</b>	

# Judges 12



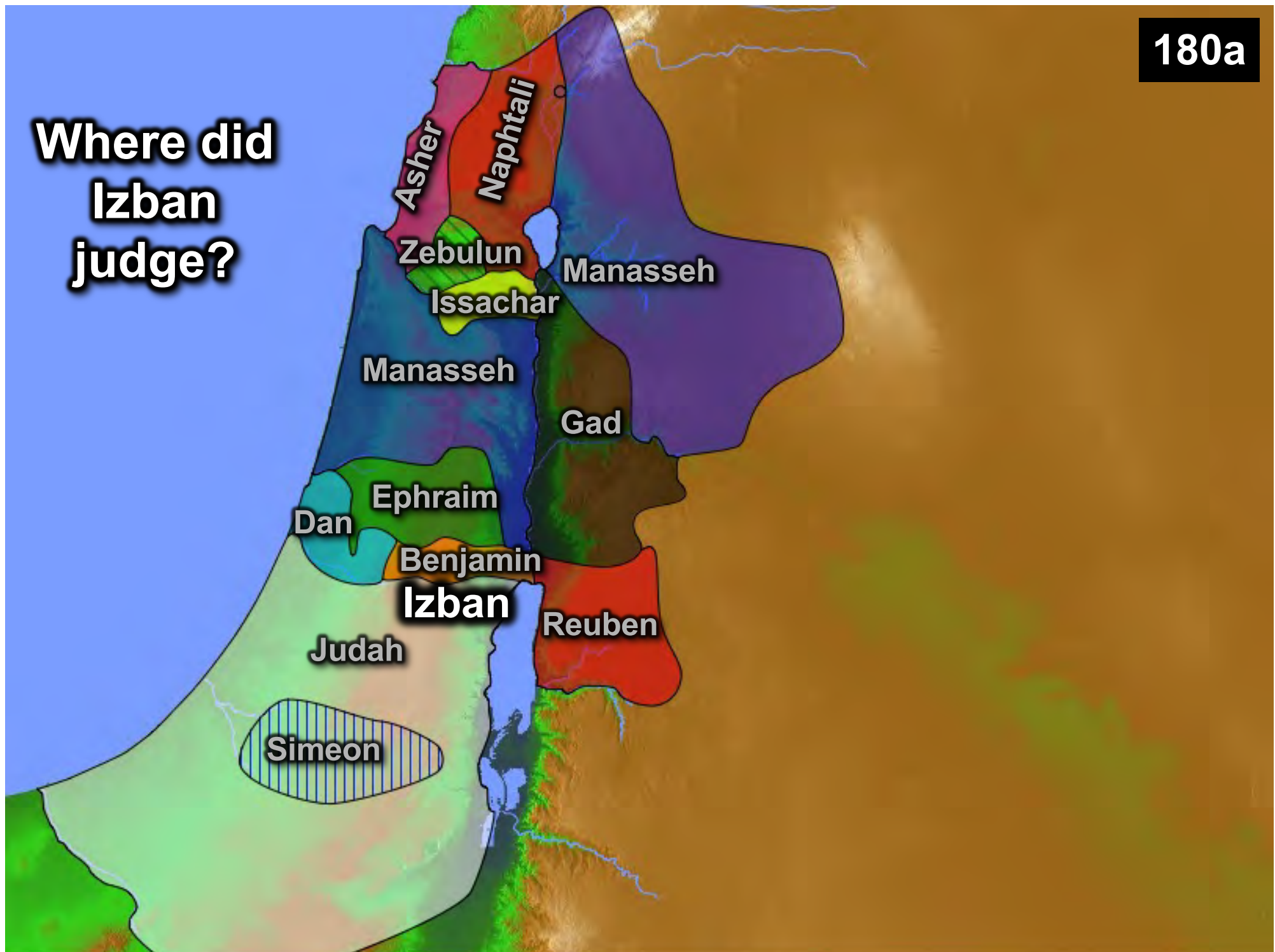
# Northern Campaign (12:8-15)

172

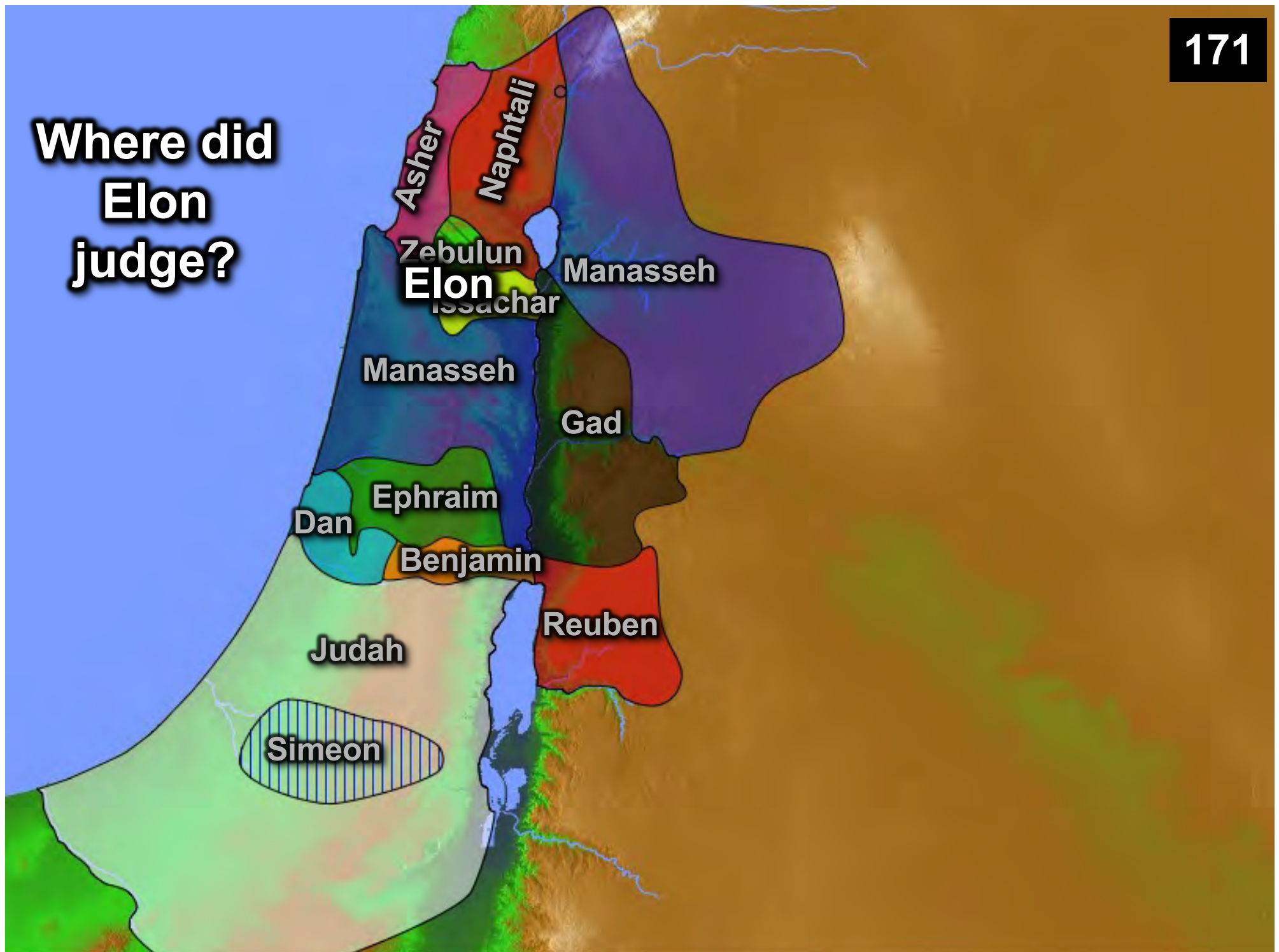
# Failure Under the Theocracy

Incomplete Occupation		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			
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			
Canaan										
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)										

**Where did  
Izban  
judge?**

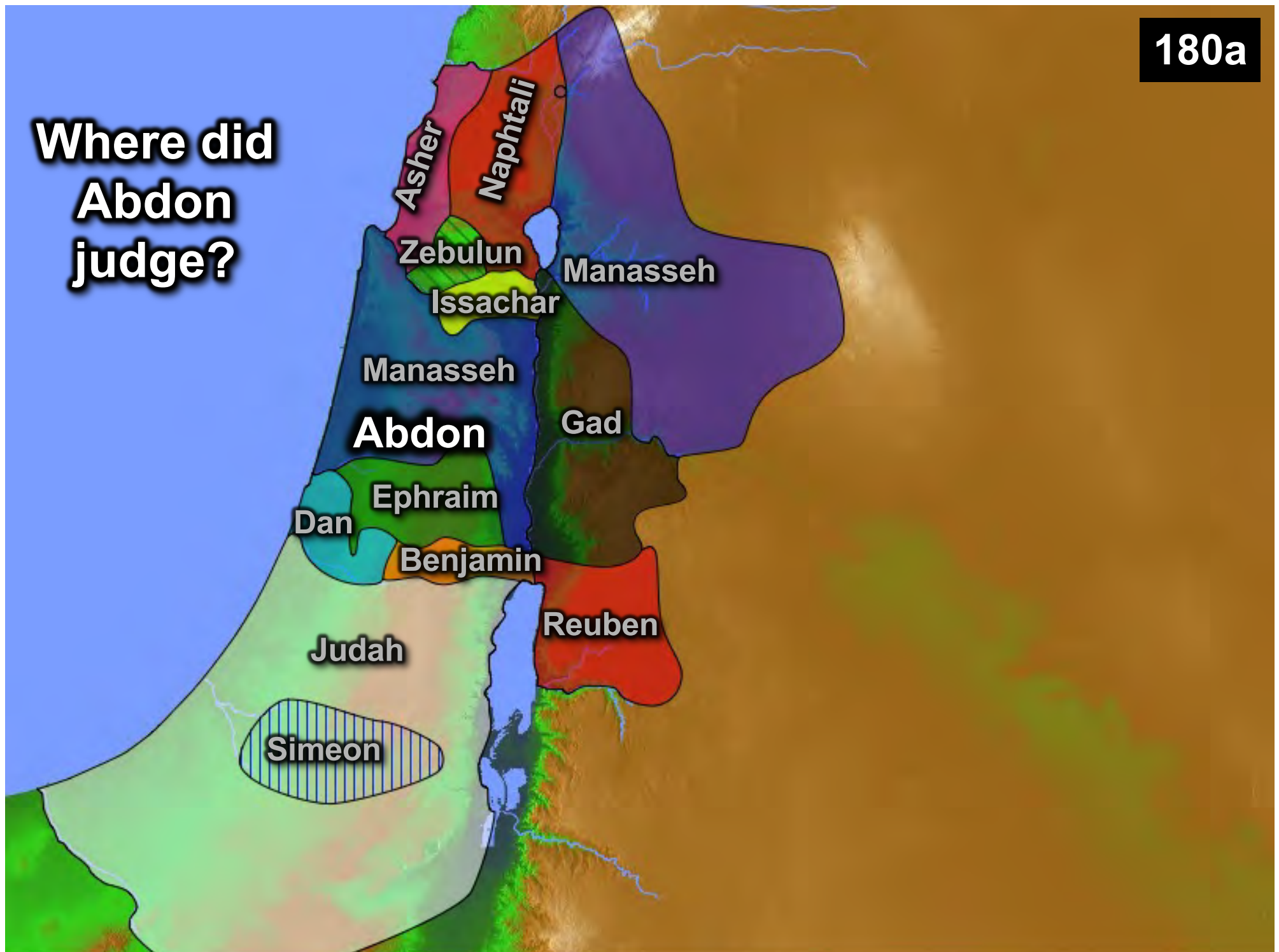


**Where did  
Elon  
judge?**





**Where did  
Abdon  
judge?**



# Judges 13

# The Samson Cycle

**1 Sin**



**"Again the Israelites did evil  
in the LORD's sight..." (13:1a).**



# The Samson Cycle

1 Sin  2 Servitude



**"...so the LORD handed them over to the Philistines, who oppressed them for forty years" (13:1b).**

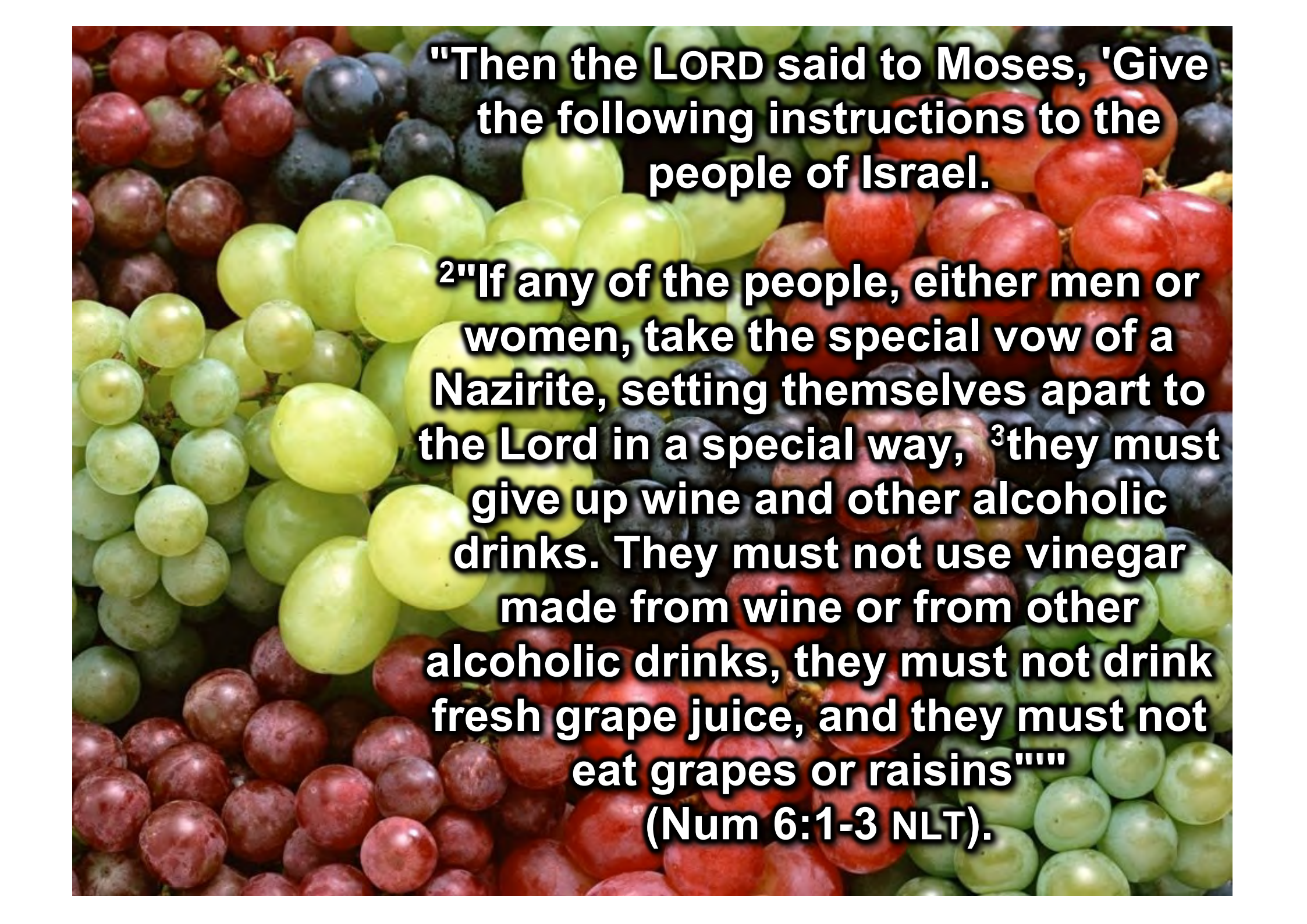
# The Samson Cycle

1 Sin → 2 Servitude



3 Supplication

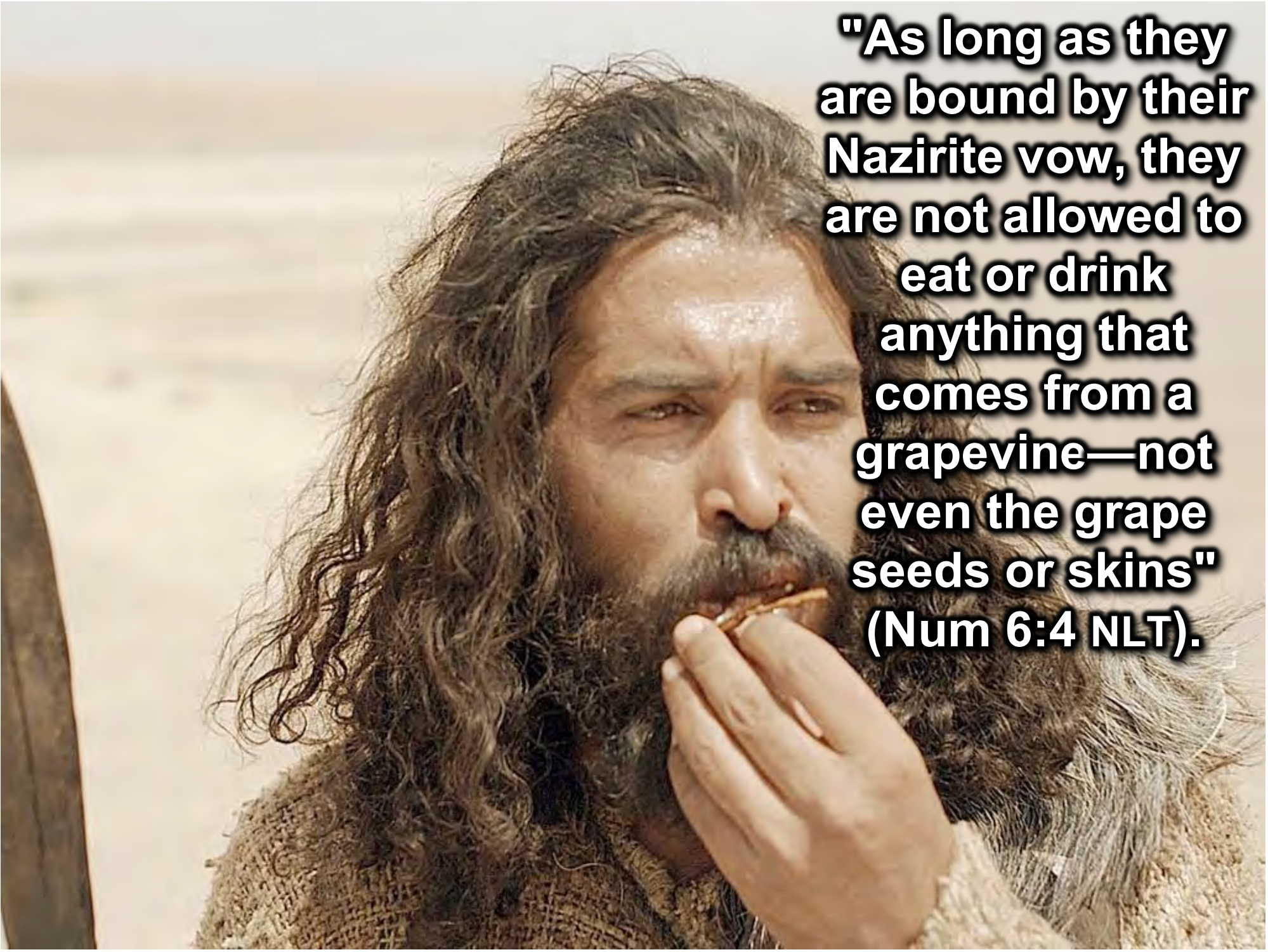
**Supplication Absent:** No mention is made of the nation crying out to the LORD for deliverance from its enemy.



**"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Give the following instructions to the people of Israel.**

**<sup>2</sup>"If any of the people, either men or women, take the special vow of a Nazirite, setting themselves apart to the Lord in a special way, <sup>3</sup>they must give up wine and other alcoholic drinks. They must not use vinegar made from wine or from other alcoholic drinks, they must not drink fresh grape juice, and they must not eat grapes or raisins""  
(Num 6:1-3 NLT).**

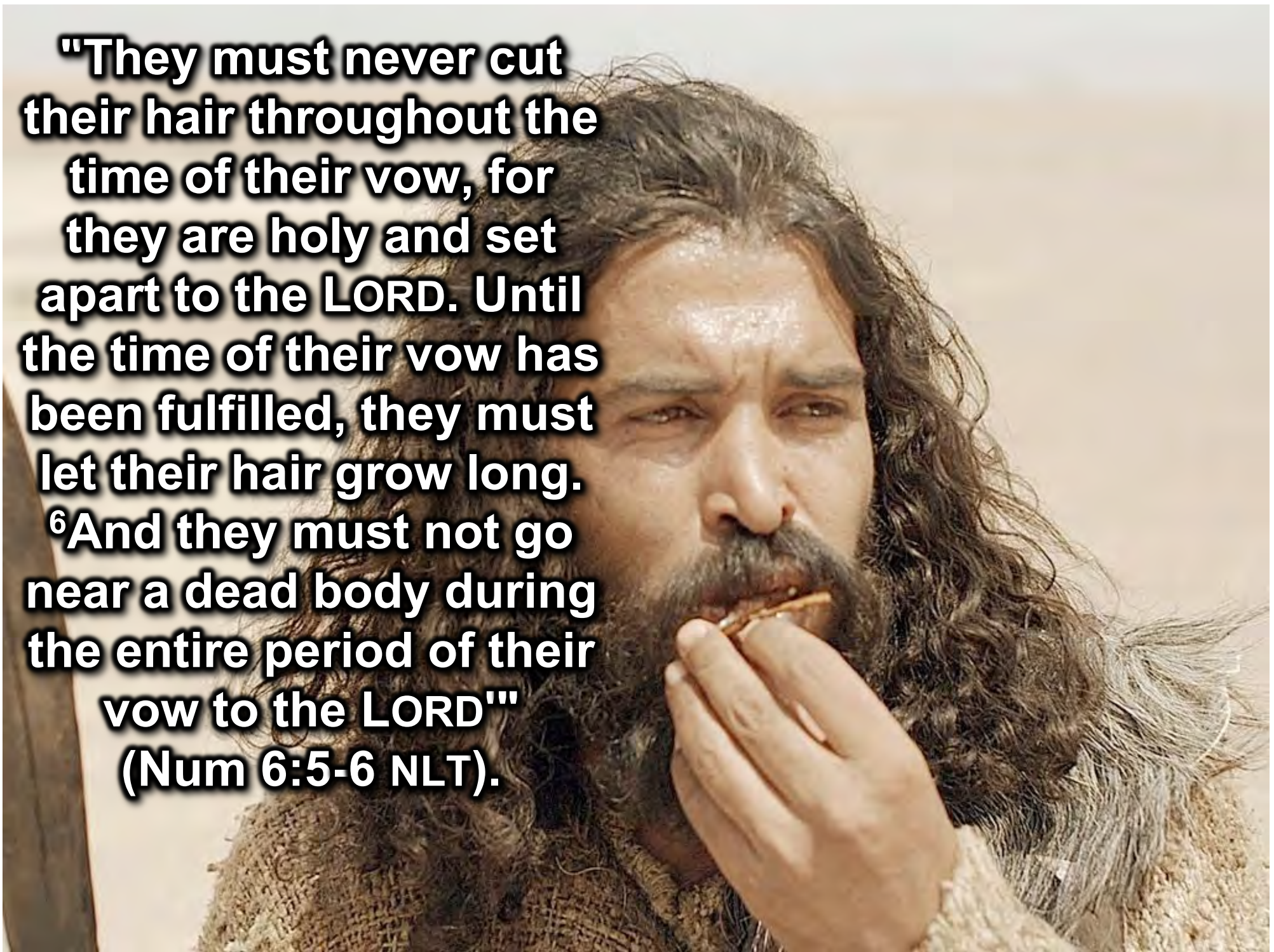




**"As long as they  
are bound by their  
Nazirite vow, they  
are not allowed to  
eat or drink  
anything that  
comes from a  
grapevine—not  
even the grape  
seeds or skins"  
(Num 6:4 NLT).**



**"They must never cut their hair throughout the time of their vow, for they are holy and set apart to the LORD. Until the time of their vow has been fulfilled, they must let their hair grow long. <sup>6</sup>And they must not go near a dead body during the entire period of their vow to the LORD"  
(Num 6:5-6 NLT).**



# The Samson Cycle

**Samson delivers southwestern Israel from the Philistines as God's merciful provision for the nation (13:2–16:31).**

**2 Servitude**

**3 Supplication**

**4 Salvation**



# Samson: A "Sun" in Darkness

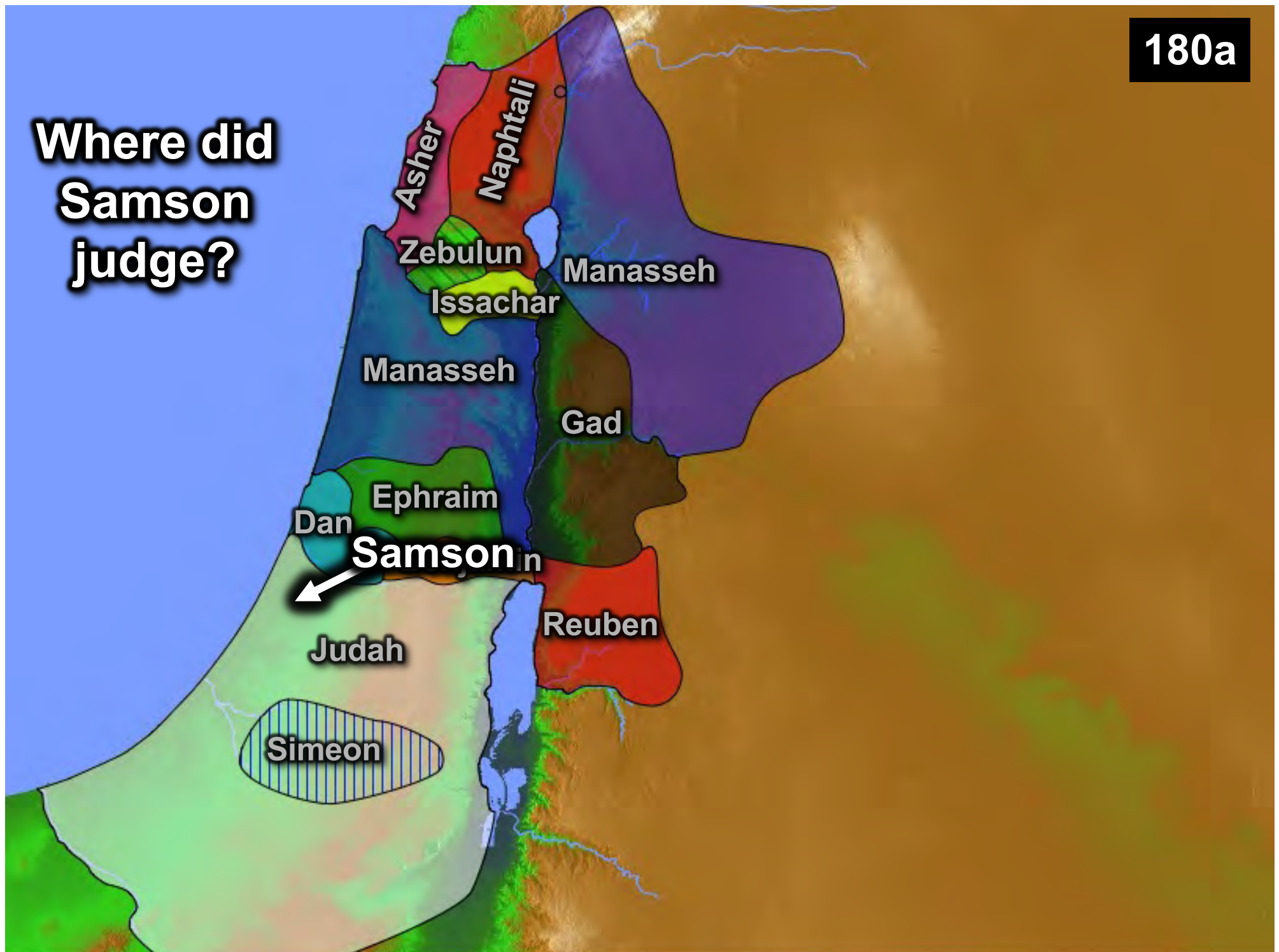
A bright sun is partially obscured by a large black circle, creating a silhouette effect. The sun's light rays are visible on the left side, and the black circle is positioned in the center-right of the frame.

**"Samson"**  
means  
**"Sun"**

## Failure Under the Theocracy

Incomplete Occupation		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		
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		
Canaan										
c. 341 Years (1390-1049 BC)										

**Where did  
Samson  
judge?**





# Judges 14



**"One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. <sup>2</sup>When he returned home, he told his father and mother, 'A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me'"**  
**(Judges 14:1-2 NLT).**



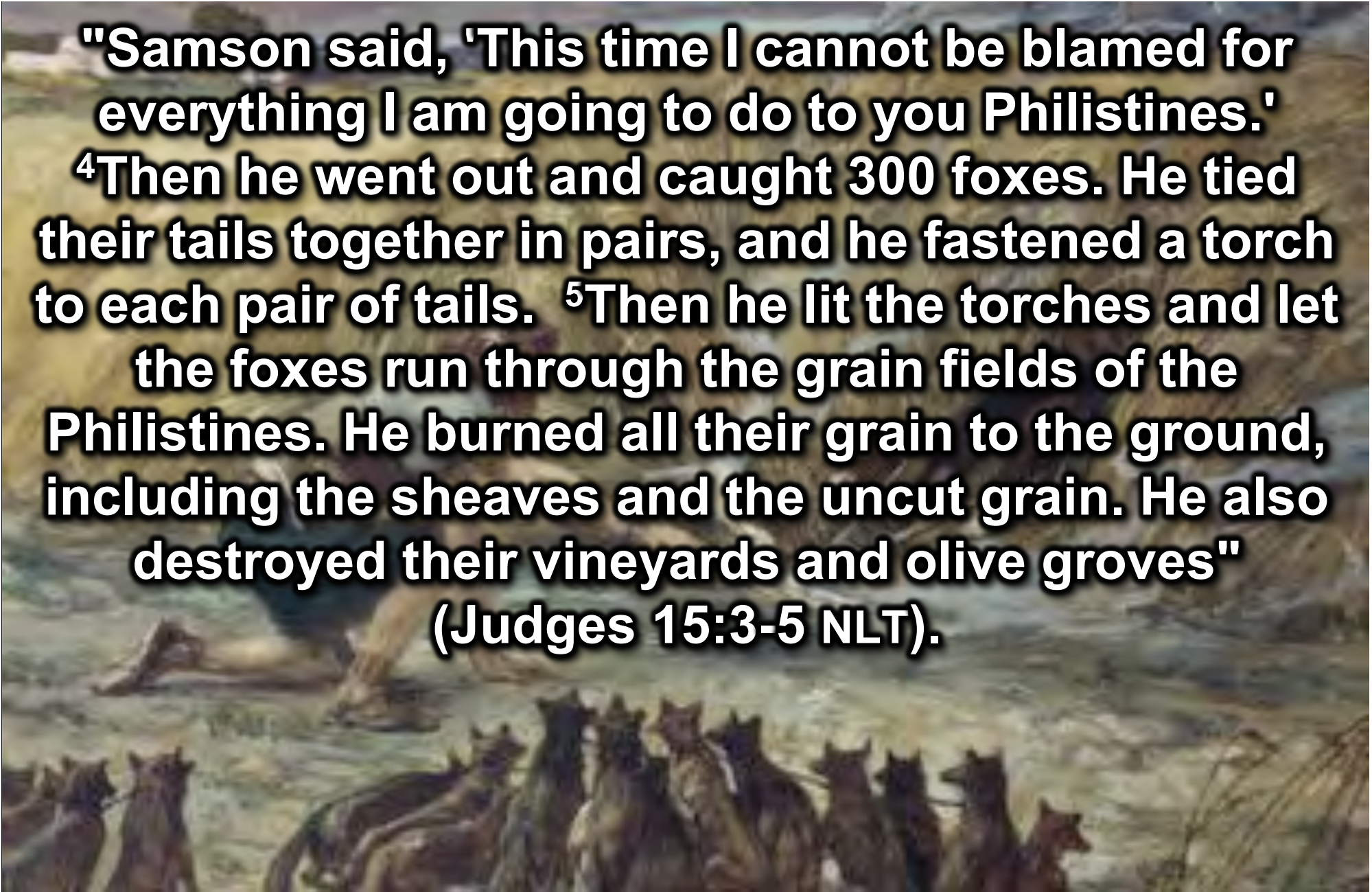
**"As Samson and his parents were going down to Timnah, a young lion suddenly attacked Samson near the vineyards of Timnah. <sup>6</sup>At that moment the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat. But he didn't tell his father or mother about it" (Judges 14:5-6 NLT).**



# Judges 15

# Samson & the Foxes (Judges 15)



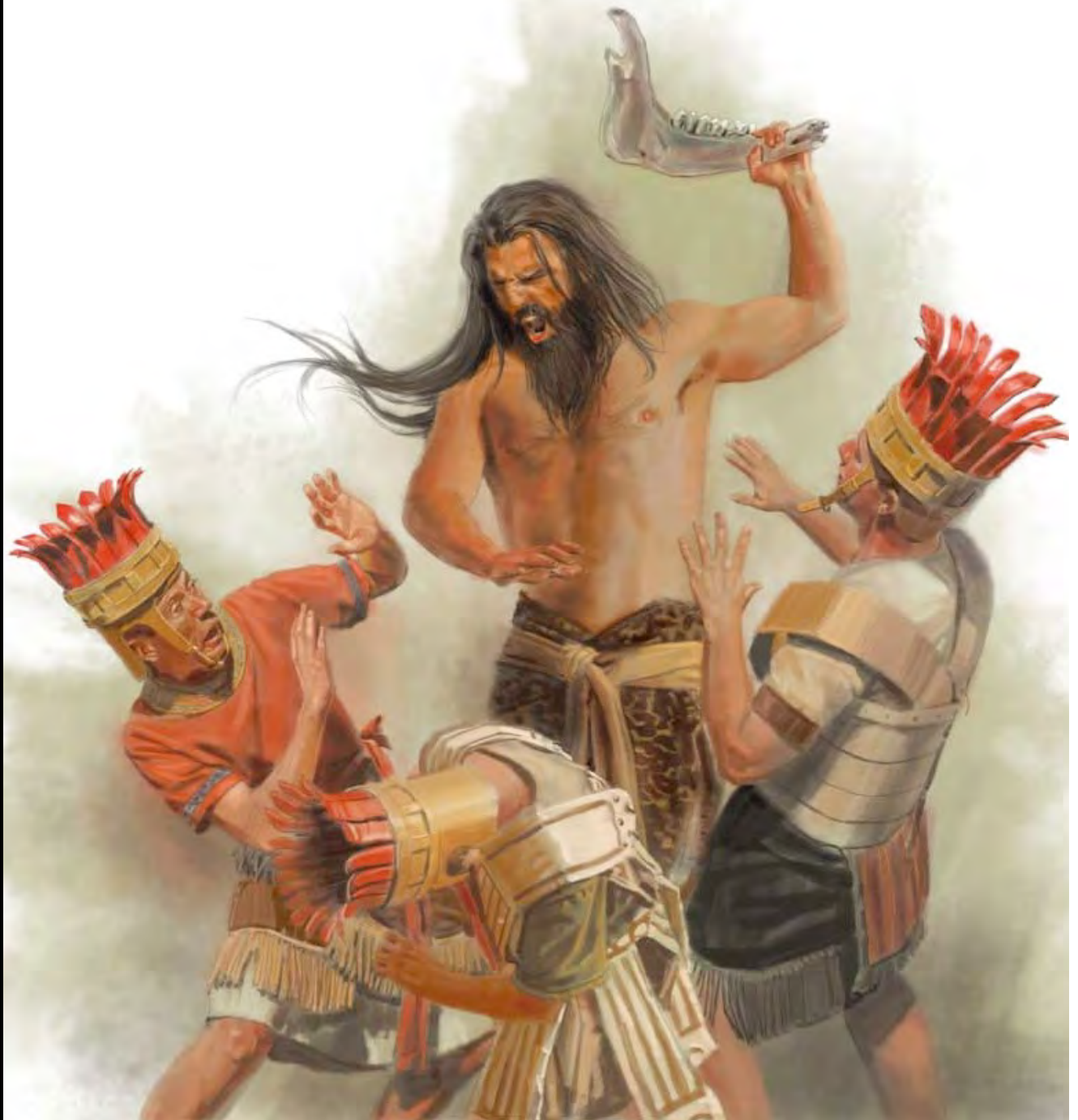


**"Samson said, 'This time I cannot be blamed for everything I am going to do to you Philistines.'**

**<sup>4</sup>Then he went out and caught 300 foxes. He tied their tails together in pairs, and he fastened a torch to each pair of tails. <sup>5</sup>Then he lit the torches and let the foxes run through the grain fields of the Philistines. He burned all their grain to the ground, including the sheaves and the uncut grain. He also destroyed their vineyards and olive groves"**  
**(Judges 15:3-5 NLT).**



**Samson's  
Jawbone  
Revenge  
(15:15-16)**



# Samson Part 1

178

## Samson (tribe of Dan), a Nazirite by birth

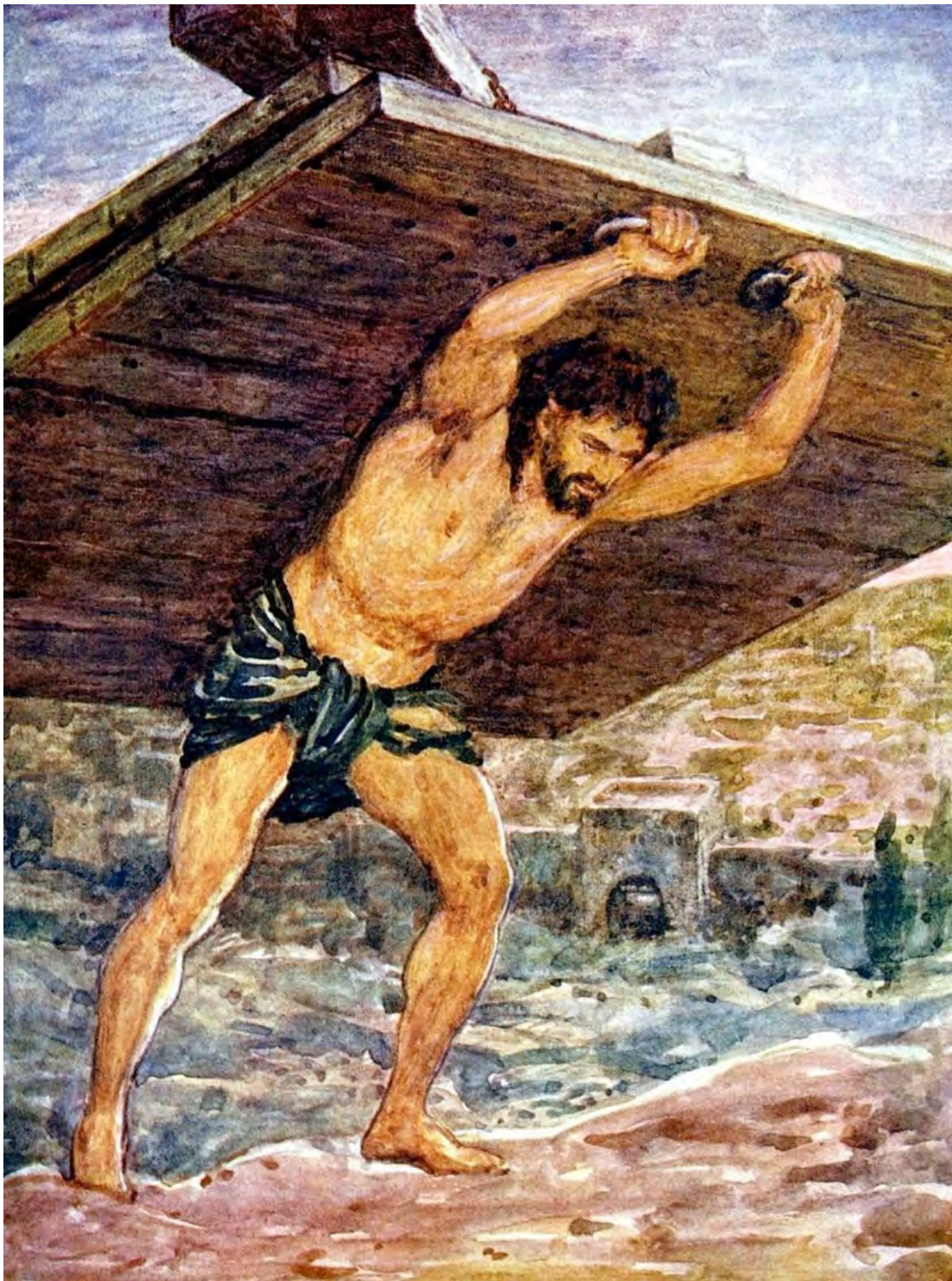
<b>Location</b>	<b>Southwest (Zorah)</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Does evil in the eyes of the LORD (13:1)</b>
<b>Servitude</b>	<b>Philistines (13:1) Forty years</b>
<b>Supplication</b>	<b>No mention</b>
<b>Silence</b>	<b>No mention He led Israel twenty years</b>
<b>1. Record of the Lord's Spirit working in him:(1)13:25 (2)14:6 (3)14:19 (4)15:14. 2. He loved women (esp. Philistines), contributing to his fall. 3. His life-style was not reflective of a Nazirite: -getting near the carcass of the lion, -participation in intermarriage with other nations.</b>	

## Samson (tribe of Dan), a Nazirite by birth

<b>Location</b>	<b>Southwest (Zorah)</b>
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Does evil in the eyes of the LORD (13:1)</b>
<b>Servitude</b>	<b>Philistines (13:1) Forty years</b>
<b>Supplication</b>	<b>No mention</b>
<b>Silence</b>	<b>No mention He led Israel 20 years</b>
<b>4. Disclosing and having his hair cut denounced his union with God and so his strength departed. Prayer restored it as strength was not in his hair per se but in the presence of God.</b>	
<b>5. Samson's prayers: (1) 15:18 because was thirsty (2) 16:28 asking God for his strength.</b>	
<b>6. He killed more when he died than while he lived (16:30).</b>	
<b>7. Hebrews 11:32-33 shows Samson as a hero of faith who acted against all odds and depended on God.</b>	



# Judges 16



**"But Samson stayed in bed only until midnight. Then he got up, took hold of the doors of the town gate, including the two posts, and lifted them up, bar and all. He put them on his shoulders and carried them all the way to the top of the hill across from Hebron" (Judges 16:3 NLT).**





**Samson & Delilah**





# The Story of Samson

What was his weakness?

Her?

Hair?

Heart?

*"Samson... the **he man**  
with a **she weakness**"*

*-Chuck Swindoll*

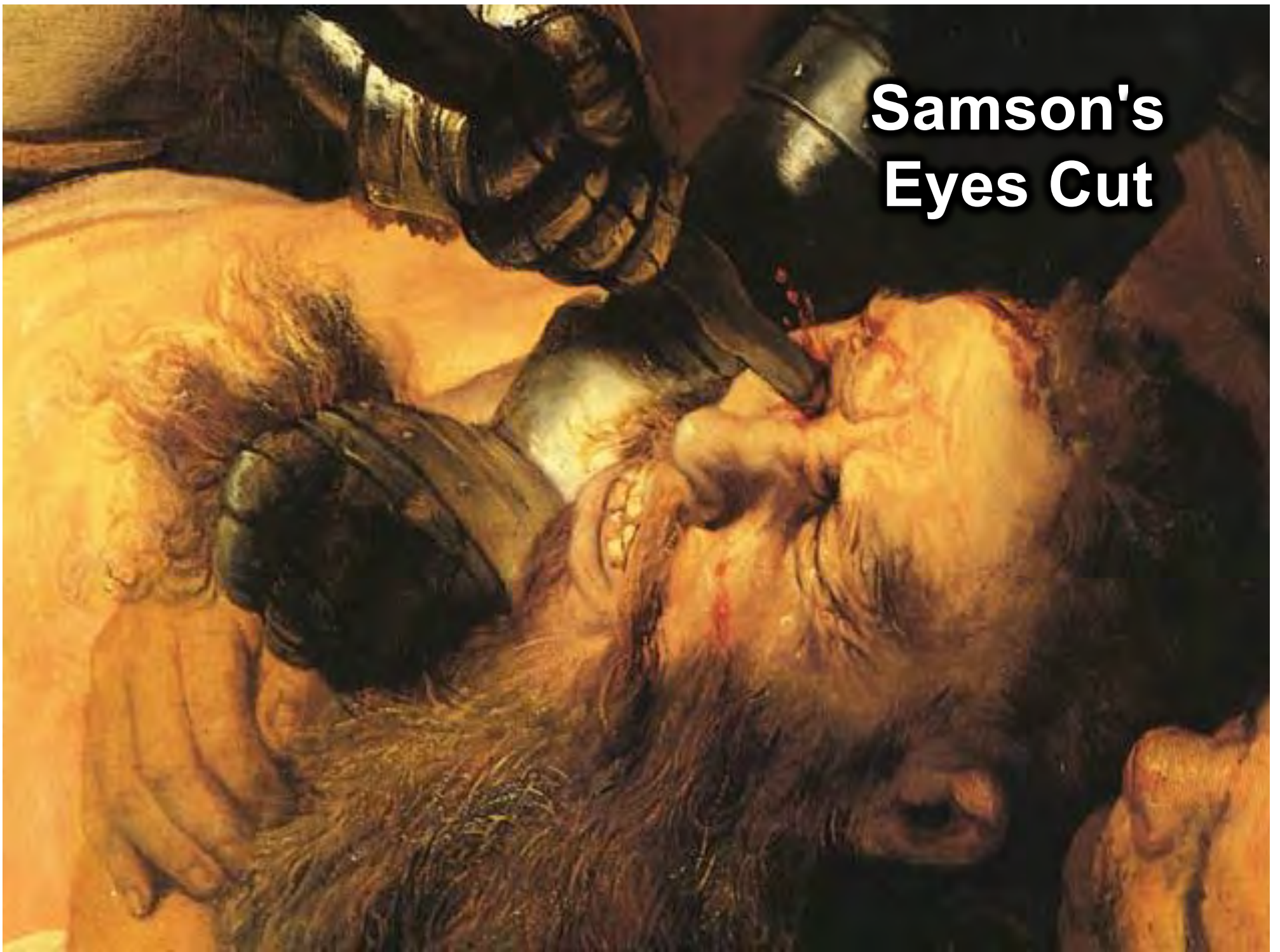




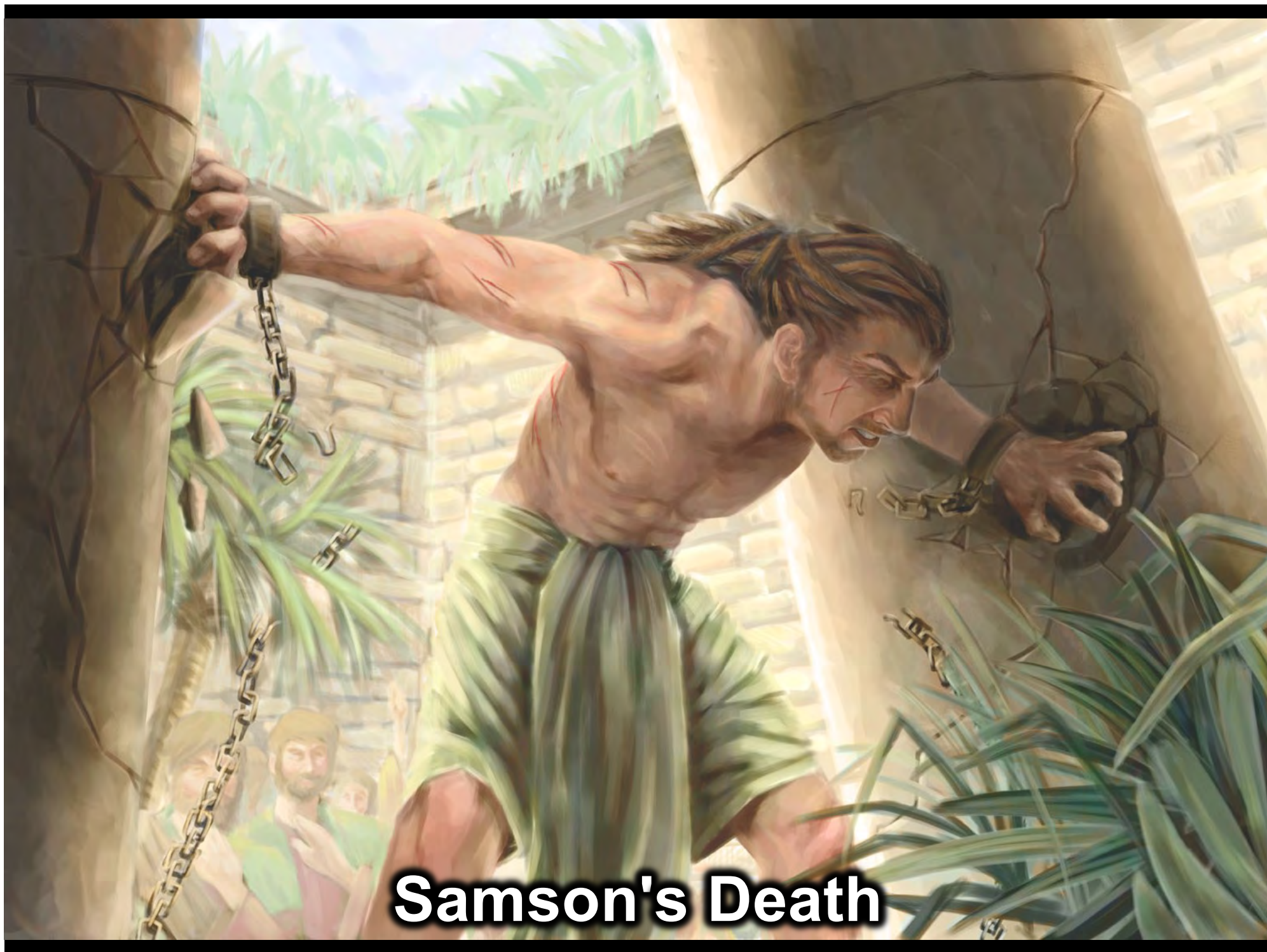
# Samson's Haircut



# Samson's Eyes Cut







**"Samson had judged Israel for twenty years" (16:21) but no mention is made of the nation experiencing peace after Samson's 20-year rule.**

**5 Silence**



**3 Supplication**

**4 Salvation**



**We go in circles when we  
make up the rules.**



# Moral Relativism



**Relativism**





# **BAND-AIDS ON A GUNSHOT WOUND**

***Lessons from Judges***



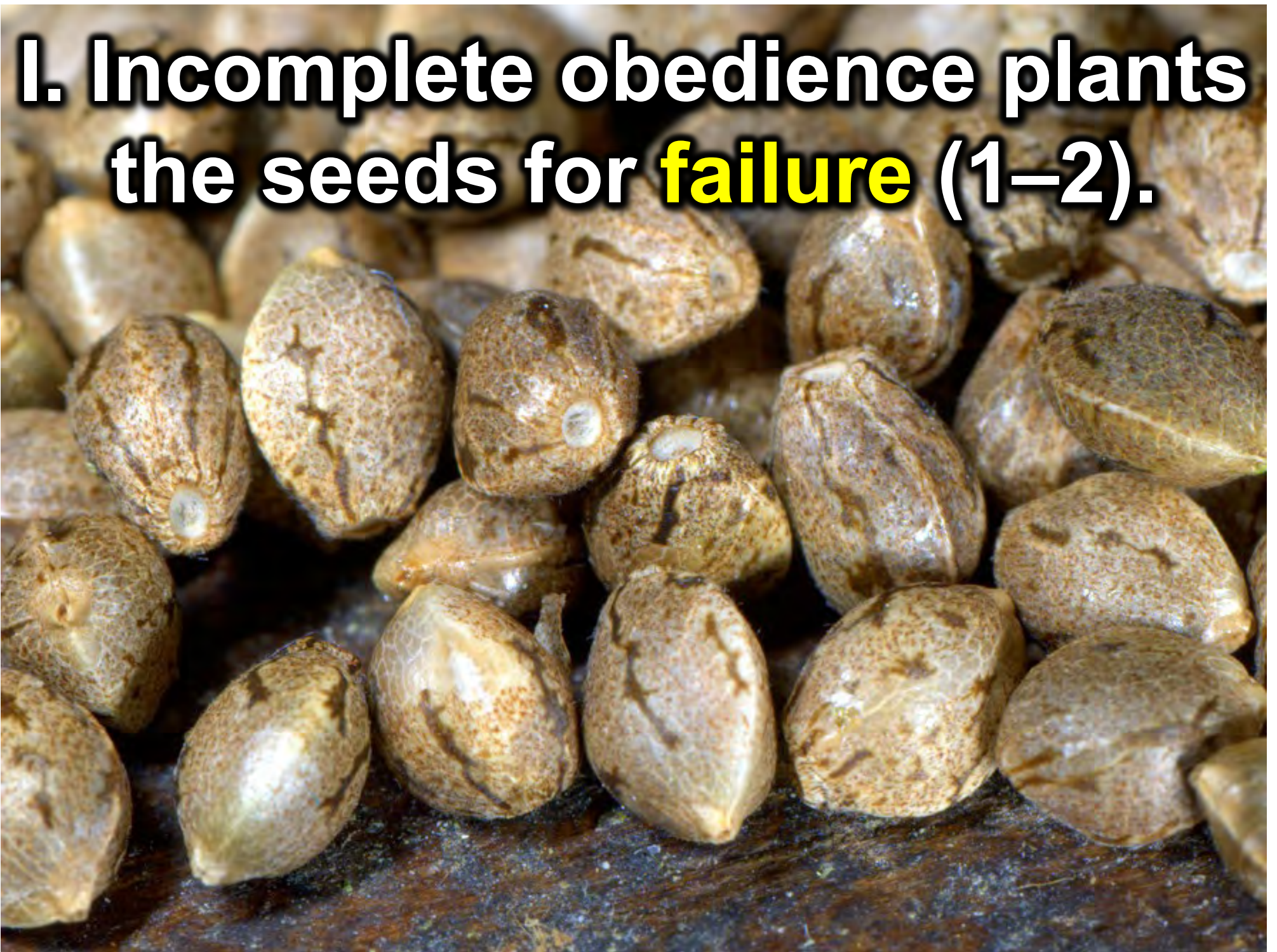
Why must you be **steadfast** in  
having God as your king?



**3 reasons**



**I. Incomplete obedience plants  
the seeds for **failure** (1–2).**





**II. Relativism leads to **cycles**  
of sin (3–16).**



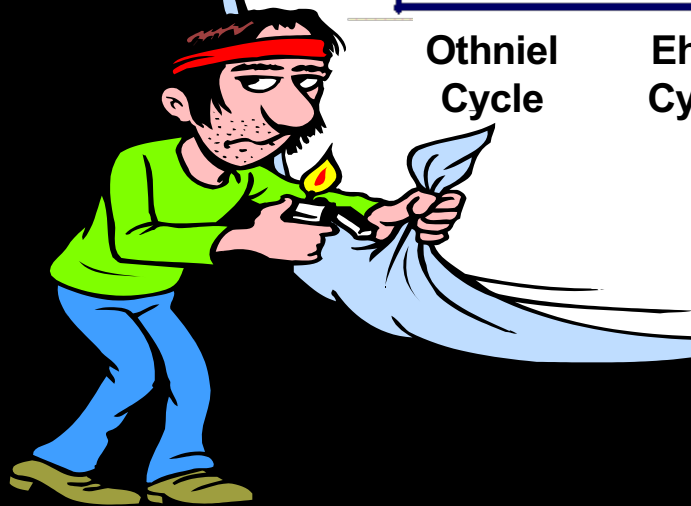
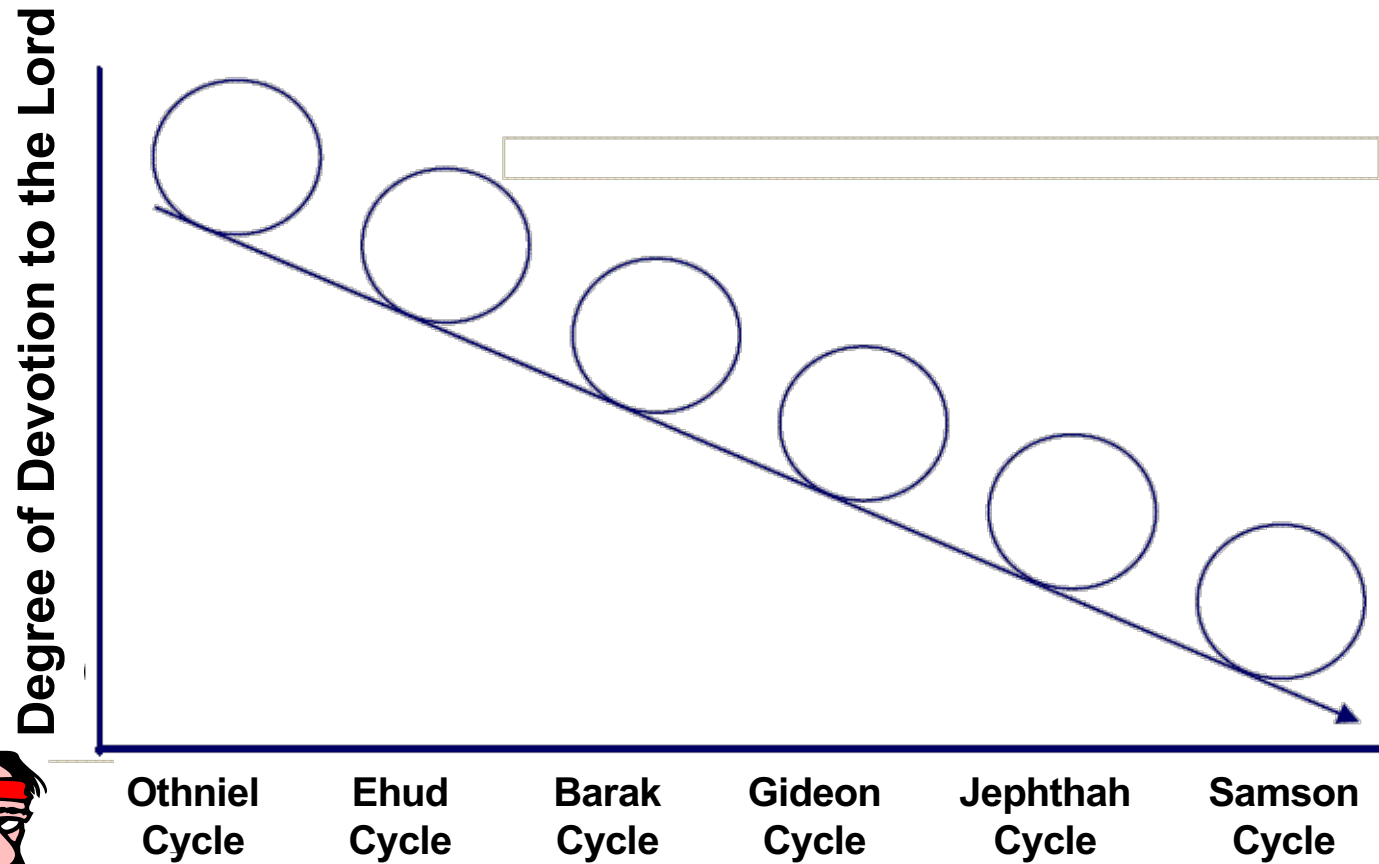
### III. Relativism leads to **idolatry** (17–21).



**Israel's religious and moral failures showed they needed a righteous king instead of their relativism (Judges 17–21).**

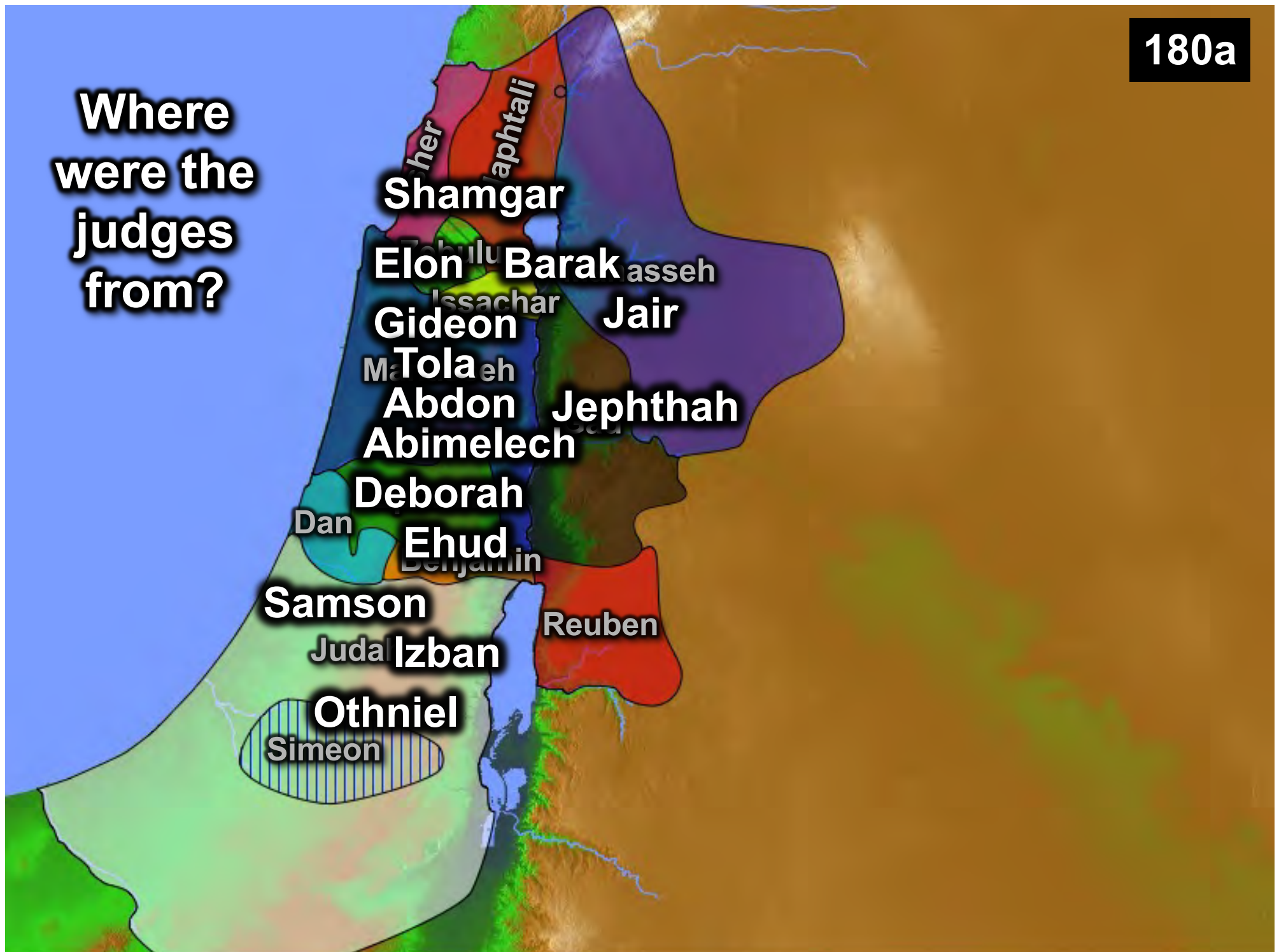


# Downward Spiral of the Cycles



Cycle	Oppressor	Location in Israel	Years of Oppression	Deliverer	Years of Peace
1 (3:7-11)	Mesopotamians	Peace 5x	8	Othniel	40
2 (3:12-30)	Moabites		Peace 4x	18	Ehud
Parenthesis (3:31)	Philistines	Southwest	—	Shamgar	—
3 (Judges 4–5)	Canaanites	Peace 2x	20	Deborah & Barak	40
4 (6:1–8:32)	Midianites	Peace 6x	7	Gideon	40
5 (8:33–9:57)	Abimelech	Central	3	Unnamed Woman	—
Parenthesis (10:1-2)	—	Central (Shamir)	—	Tola	23
Parenthesis (10:3-5)	—	East (Komon, Gilead)	—	Jair	22
6 (10:6–12:7)	Oppression 3x	18	Jephthah	6	
Parenthesis (12:8-10)		—	—	Izban	7
Parenthesis (12:11-12)	—	Northwest	—	Elon	10
Parenthesis (12:13-15)	—	Central (Pirathon)	—	Abdon	8
7 (Judges 13–16)	Oppression 2x	40	Samson	20	

Where  
were the  
judges  
from?





# Judges 17

# Depravity (17–21)

172

## Failure Under the Theocracy

Incomplete Occupation		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)										

# Religious Failure (17–18)



## Personal apostasy of Micah (ch. 17)

- Idolatry
- Hiring a Levite pagan priest

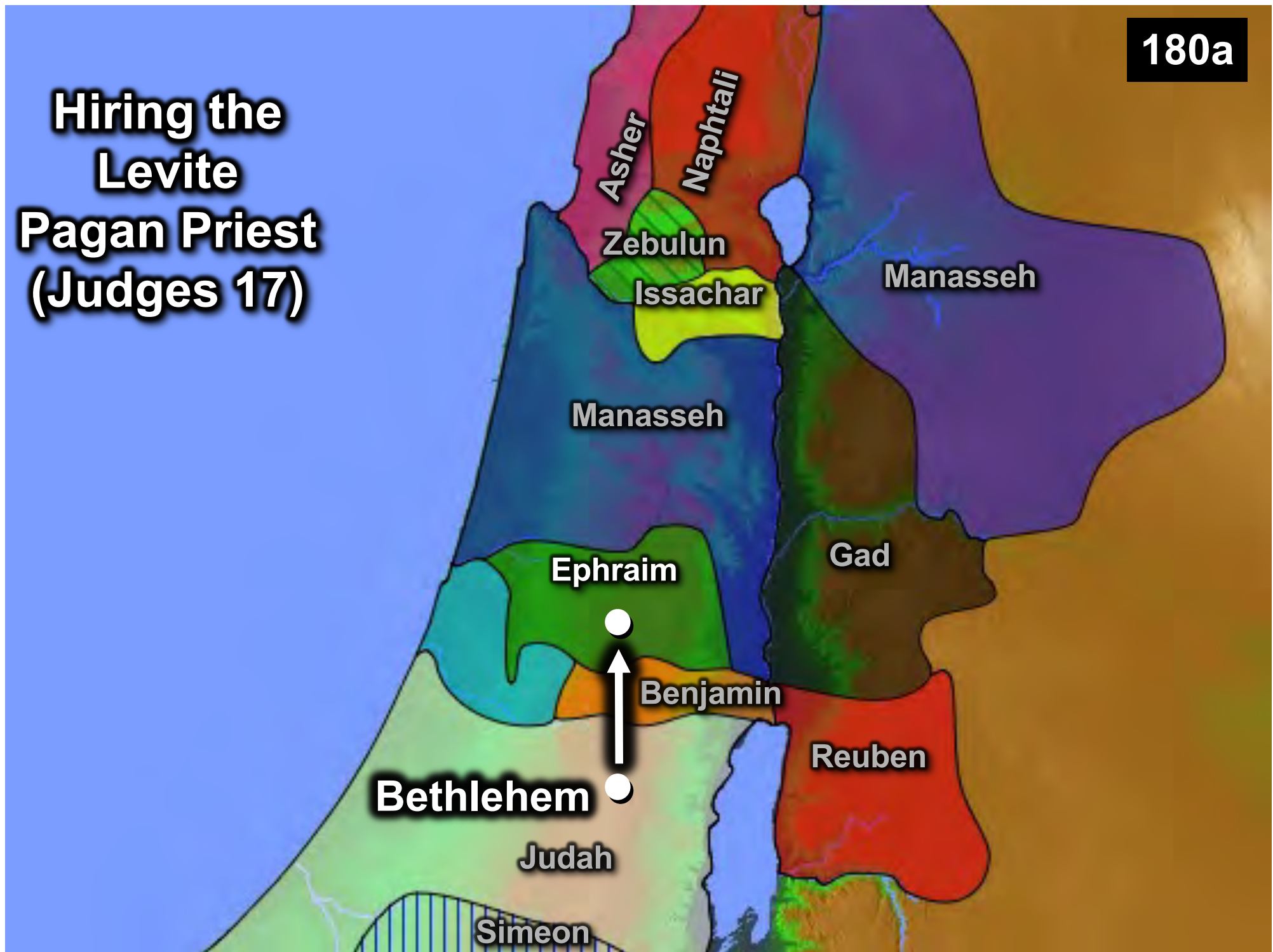


# The Golden Calf



180a

# Hiring the Levite Pagan Priest (Judges 17)



# Judges 18



# Religious Failure (17–18)



## Personal apostasy of Micah (ch. 17)

- Idolatry
- Hiring a Levite pagan priest from Bethlehem

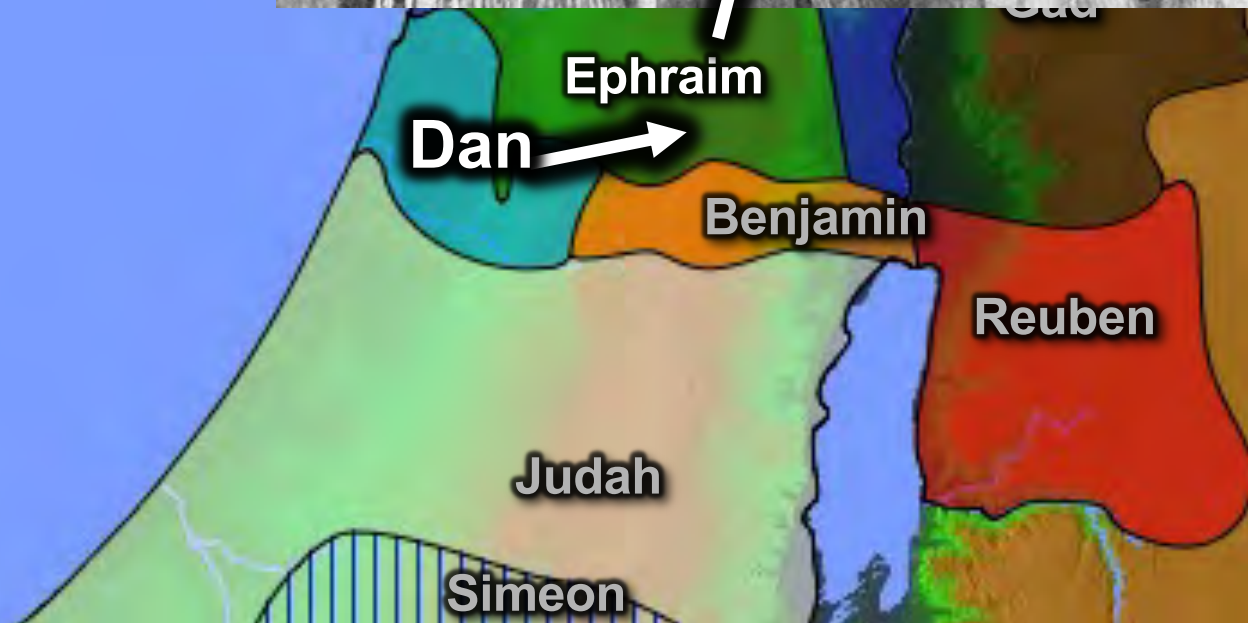
## Tribal apostasy (ch. 18)

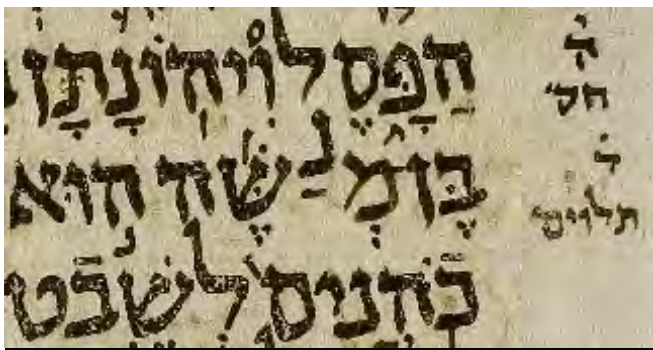
- Levite blesses the selfish, faithless migration plan of the tribe of Dan
- Syncretism

# Migration of the Tribe of Dan (Judges 18)

Dan

180a





# Who was this Levite?

Judges 18:30-31 (NLT)

Moses



Gershom



**Jonathan**

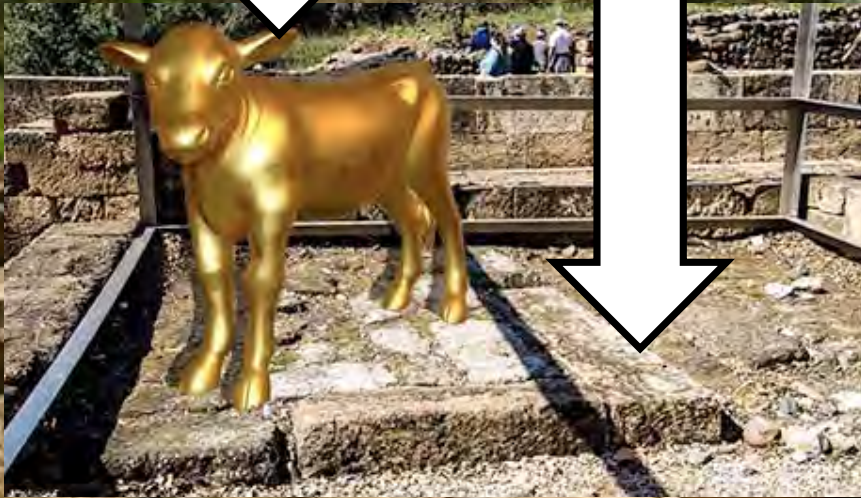
"Then they set up the carved image, and they appointed **Jonathan** son of Gershom, son of Moses, as their priest. This family continued as priests for the tribe of Dan until the Exile. <sup>31</sup> So Micah's carved image was worshiped by the tribe of Dan as long as the Tabernacle of God remained at Shiloh."



# **Altar of Jonathan (grandson of Moses) in 1340 BC (Judges 18:30)**

**Jeroboam set up his golden calf on the very same  
altar in 931 BC (1 Kings 12:26-33)!**

- **The Israelite  
Kingdom  
Began Under  
Jeroboam  
(1 Kings  
12:25–14:20)**



**Tel Dan**



# ***Inventing Paganism***

**Jeroboam set up  
calf idols at Bethel  
and Dan (1 Kings  
12:26-33)**





**Jeroboam's altar like this in Bethel split in half  
(1 Kings 13:1-5, 31-32)**



**Tel Dan**



# Cause & Effect

**Religious  
Failure**

**Moral  
Failure**



**17–18**

**19–21**

# Judges 19



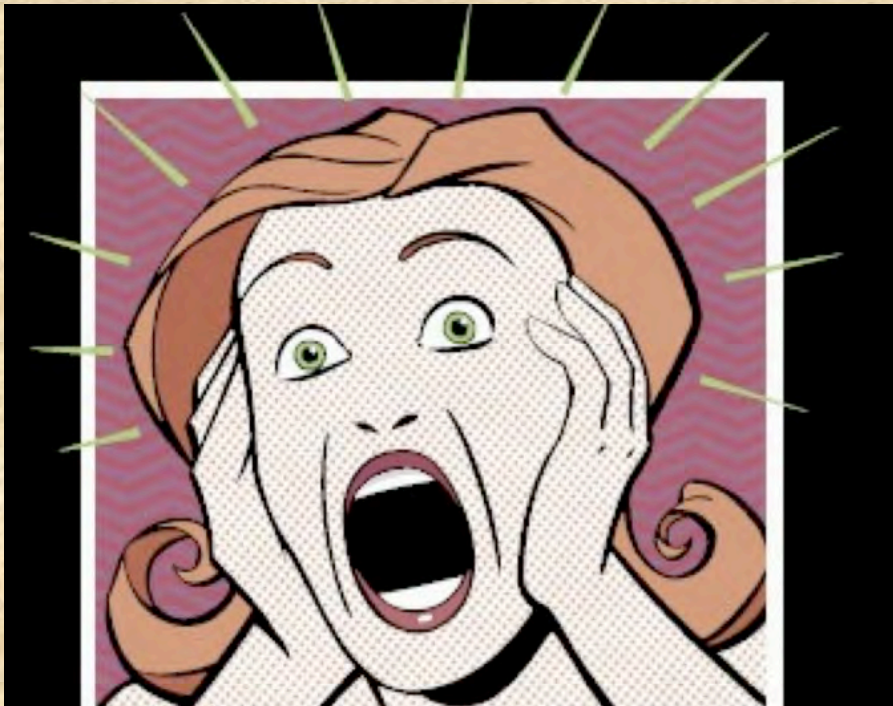
**Concubine Killed (Judges 19–21)**



# \*\*\*\* *Gibeah Gazette* \*\*\*\*

## THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS STORY IN THE BIBLE

CONCUBINE KILLED & CUT INTO 12 PIECES (JUDG. 19:1-30)

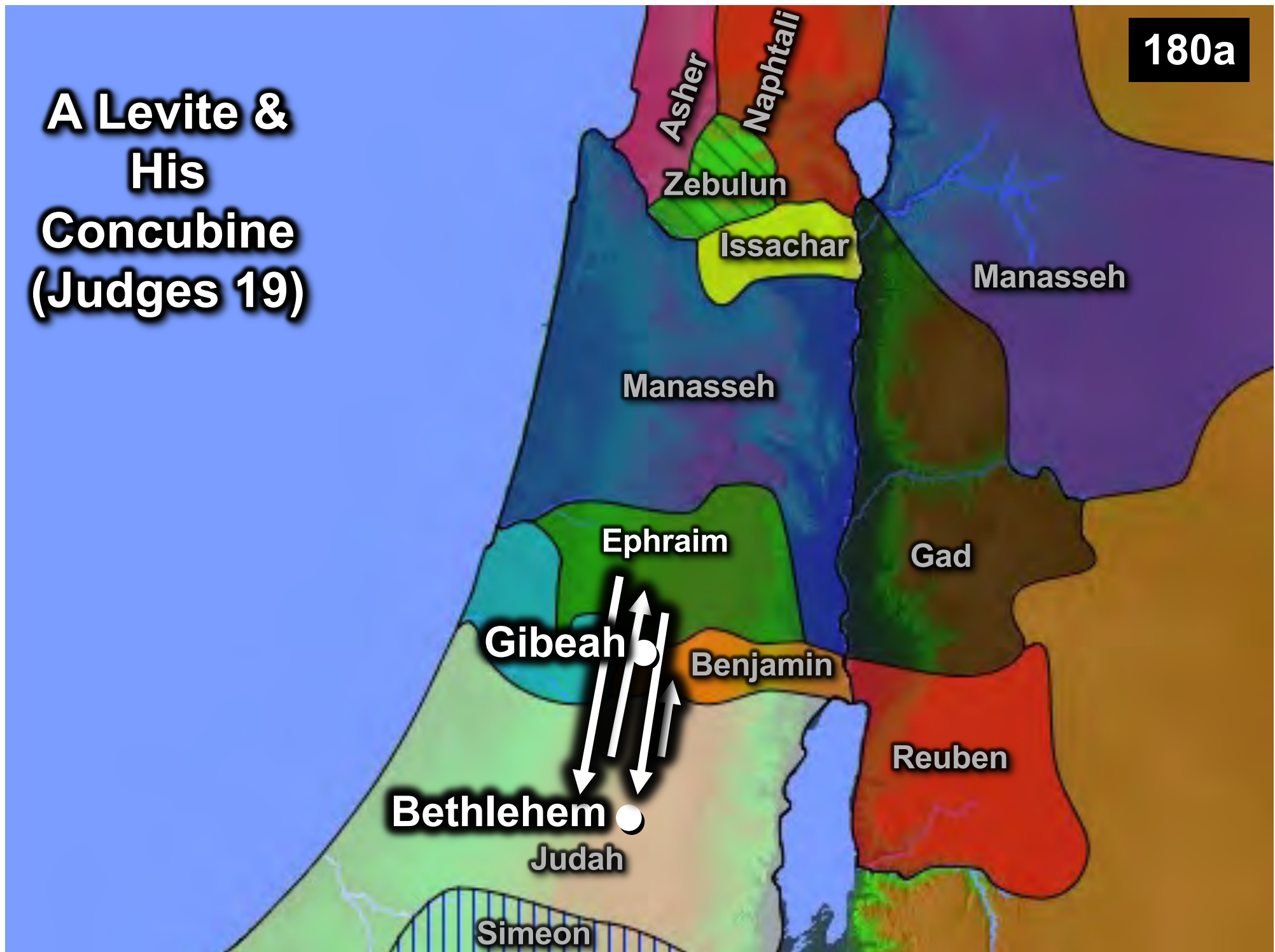


"Now in those days Israel had no king. There was a man from the tribe of Levi living in a remote area of the hill country of Ephraim. One day he brought home a woman from Bethlehem in Judah to be his concubine."

**JUDGES: UNFAITHFUL PEOPLE... FAITHFUL GOD**

# A Levite & His Concubine (Judges 19)

180a



## Moral Failure (19–21)

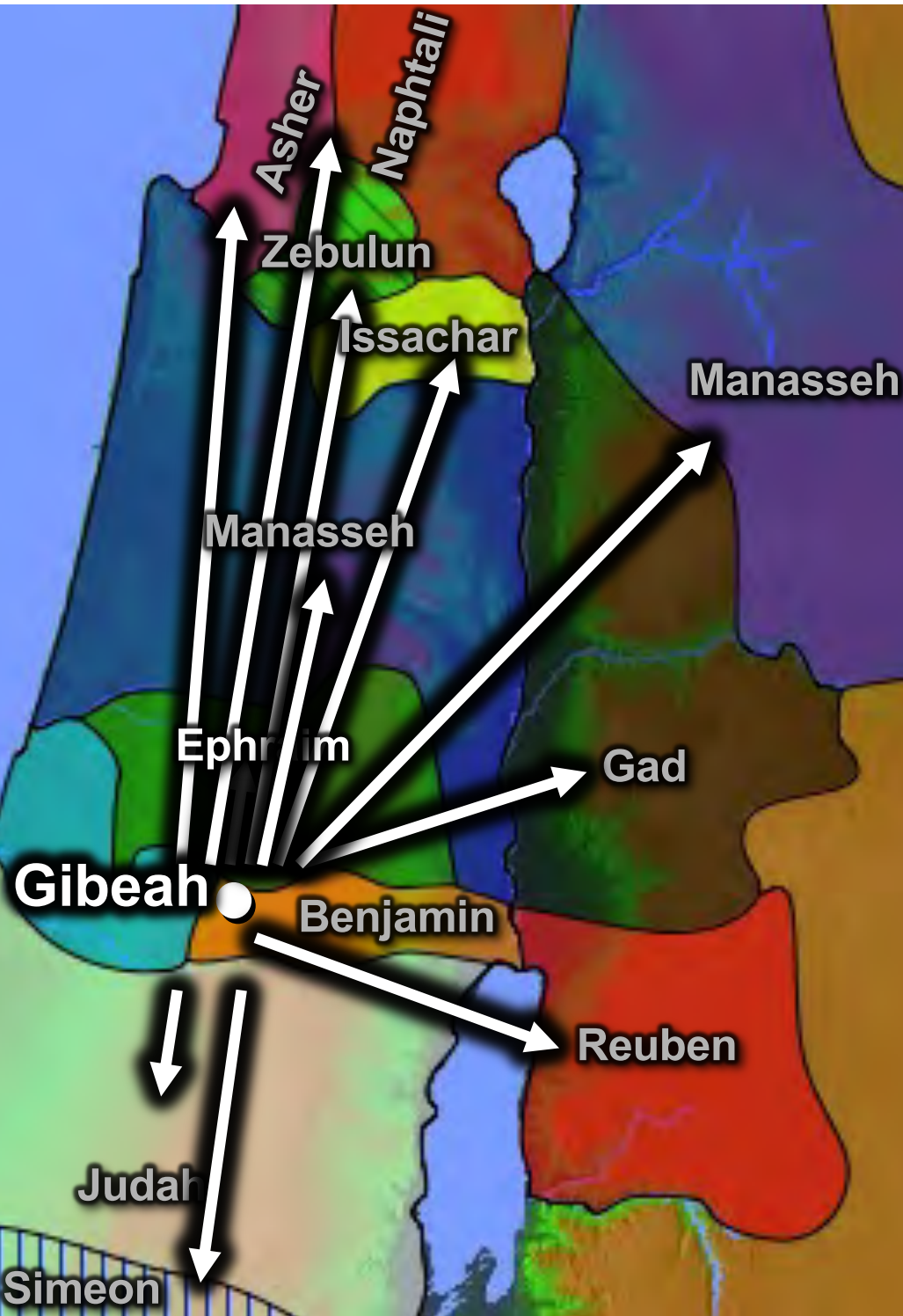
- Benjamites in Gibeah rape and kill a Levite's concubine (19)





180a

**Concubine  
Parts Sent to All  
Israel  
(Judges 19:29-30)**



# Judges 20

## Moral Failure (19–21)



- Benjamites in Gibeah rape and kill a Levite's concubine (19)
- 400,000 warriors of other 11 tribes destroy 26,100 Benjamites, including women and children (20).

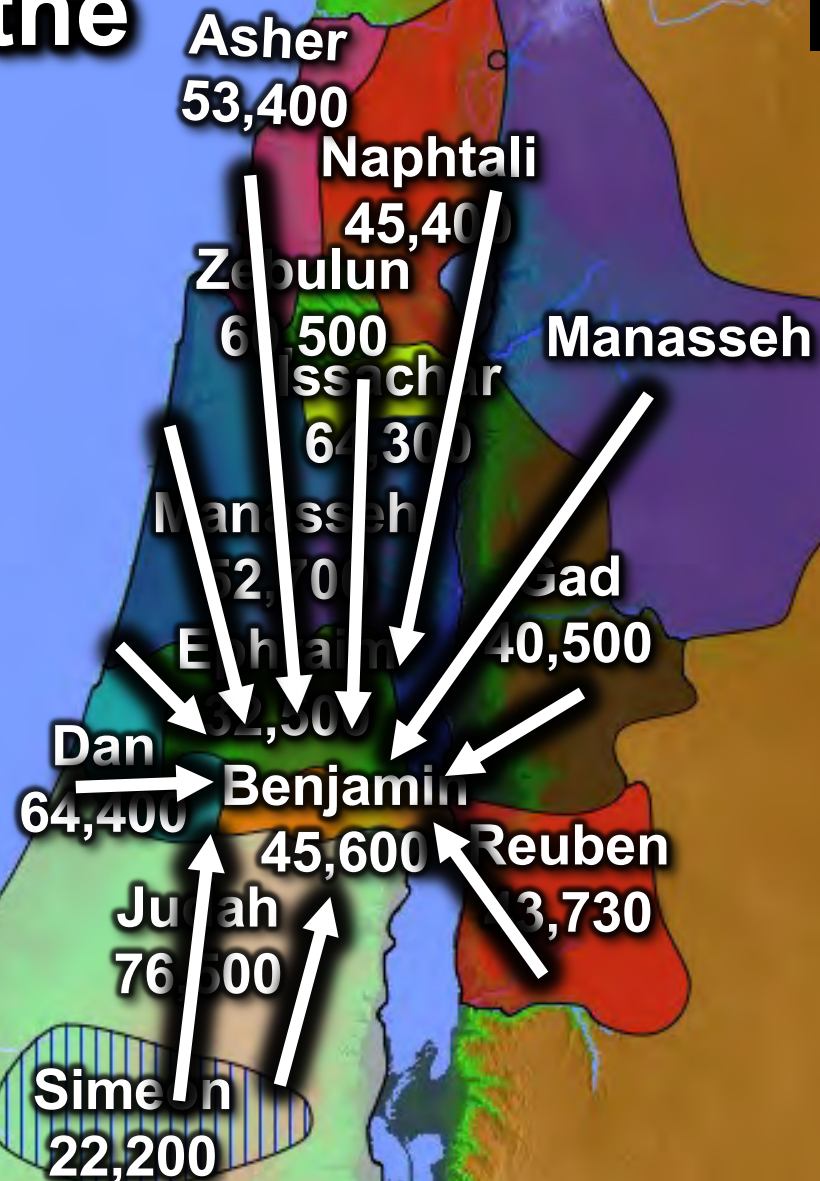


# Near Destruction of the Tribe of Benjamin

*Judges 20*

171

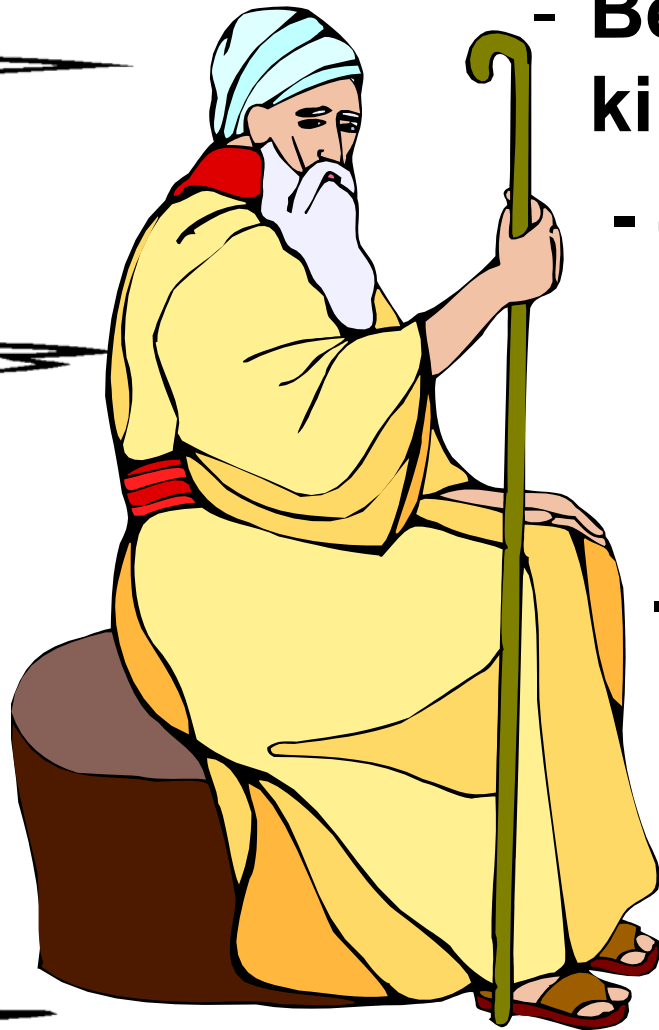
Levi  
23,000  
Spread  
Throughout  
Israel



*Numbers 26 Populations*

# Judges 21

## Moral Failure (19–21)



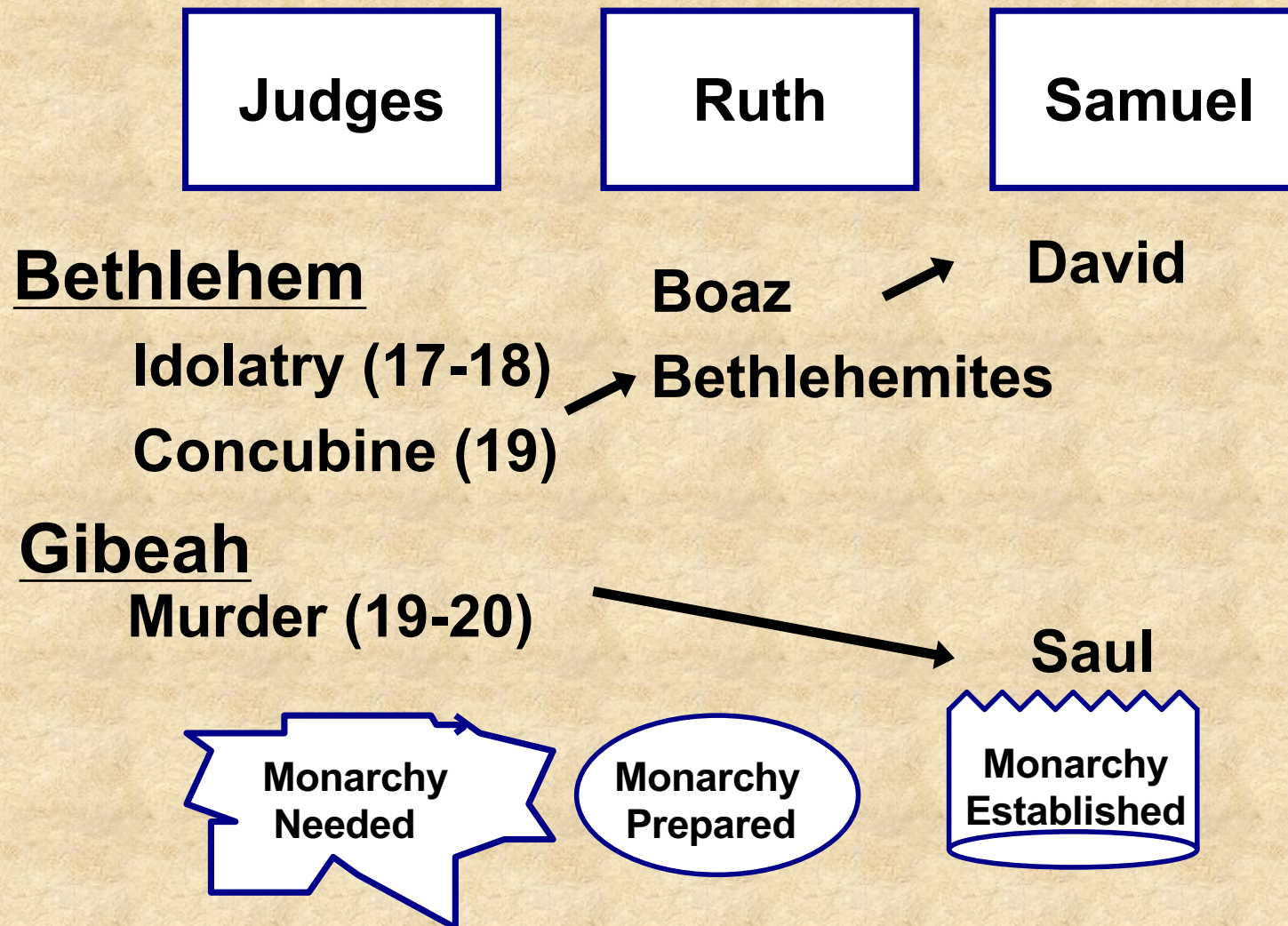
- Benjamites in Gibeah rape and kill a Levite's concubine (19)
- 400,000 warriors of other 11 tribes destroy 26,100 Benjamites, including women and children (20).
- Benjamites kill everyone in Jabesh Gilead except 400 virgins and steal another 200 virgins at Shiloh as wives for the remaining 600 Benjamites to preserve their line (21).



# The Last Verse is the Key Verse

***"In those days Israel  
had no king. Everyone  
did as he saw fit"  
(Judges 21:25).***

# The Theology of Judges-Ruth-Samuel



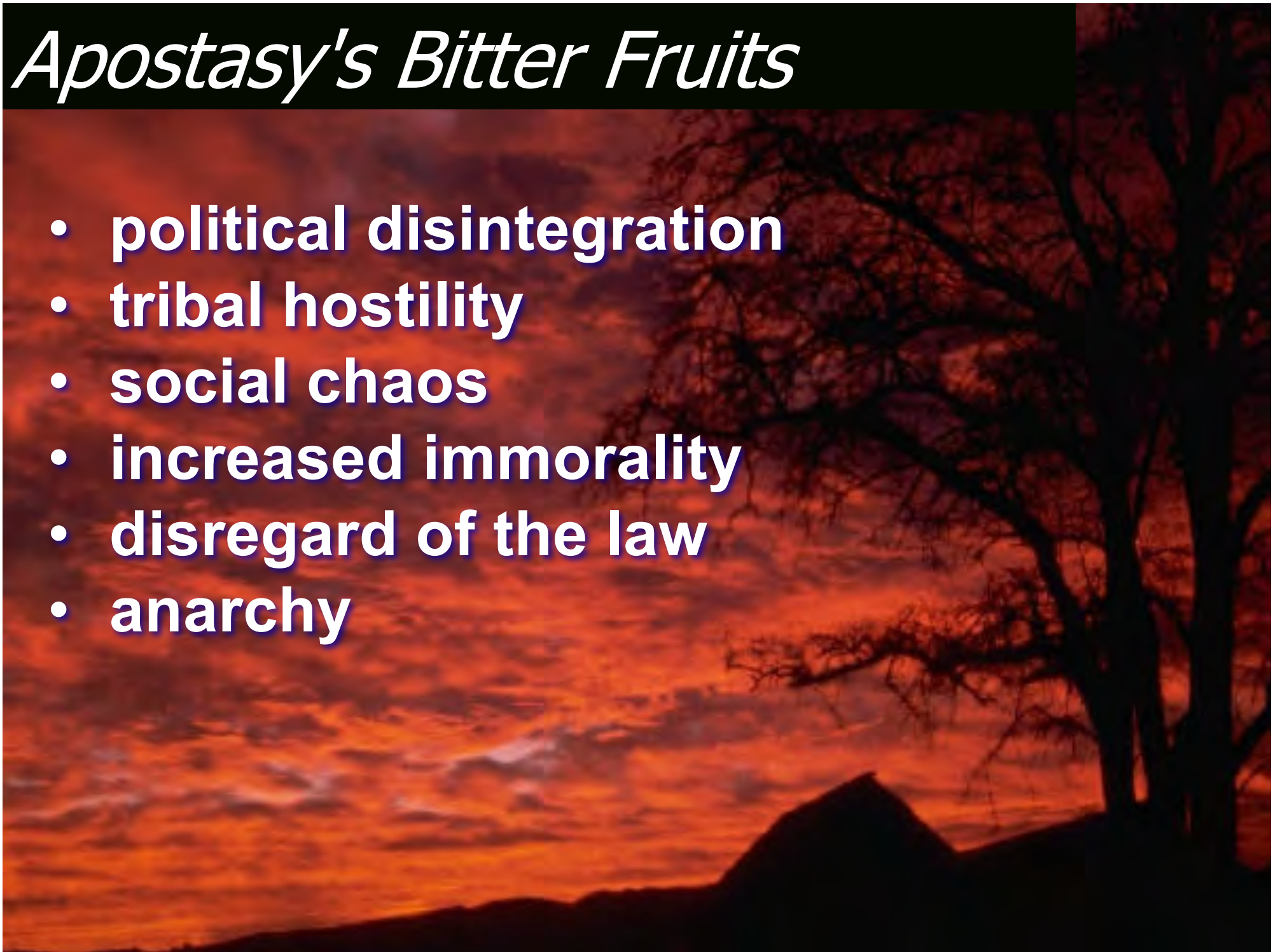
Adapted from Thomas L. Constable, "A Theology of Joshua, Ruth, and Judges,"  
in *A Biblical Theology of the OT*, ed. Roy B. Zuck, 95-96, 117

**Be guided by wisdom instead  
of whims that worship a  
different god.**



# *Apostasy's Bitter Fruits*

- **political disintegration**
- **tribal hostility**
- **social chaos**
- **increased immorality**
- **disregard of the law**
- **anarchy**



# **IDOLATRY**

**MAKING A GOOD THING THE ULTIMATE THING.**

**Defining Idolatry**



# Defining Idolatry





# Defining Idolatry



Why must you be **steadfast** in  
having God as your king?





# Main Idea

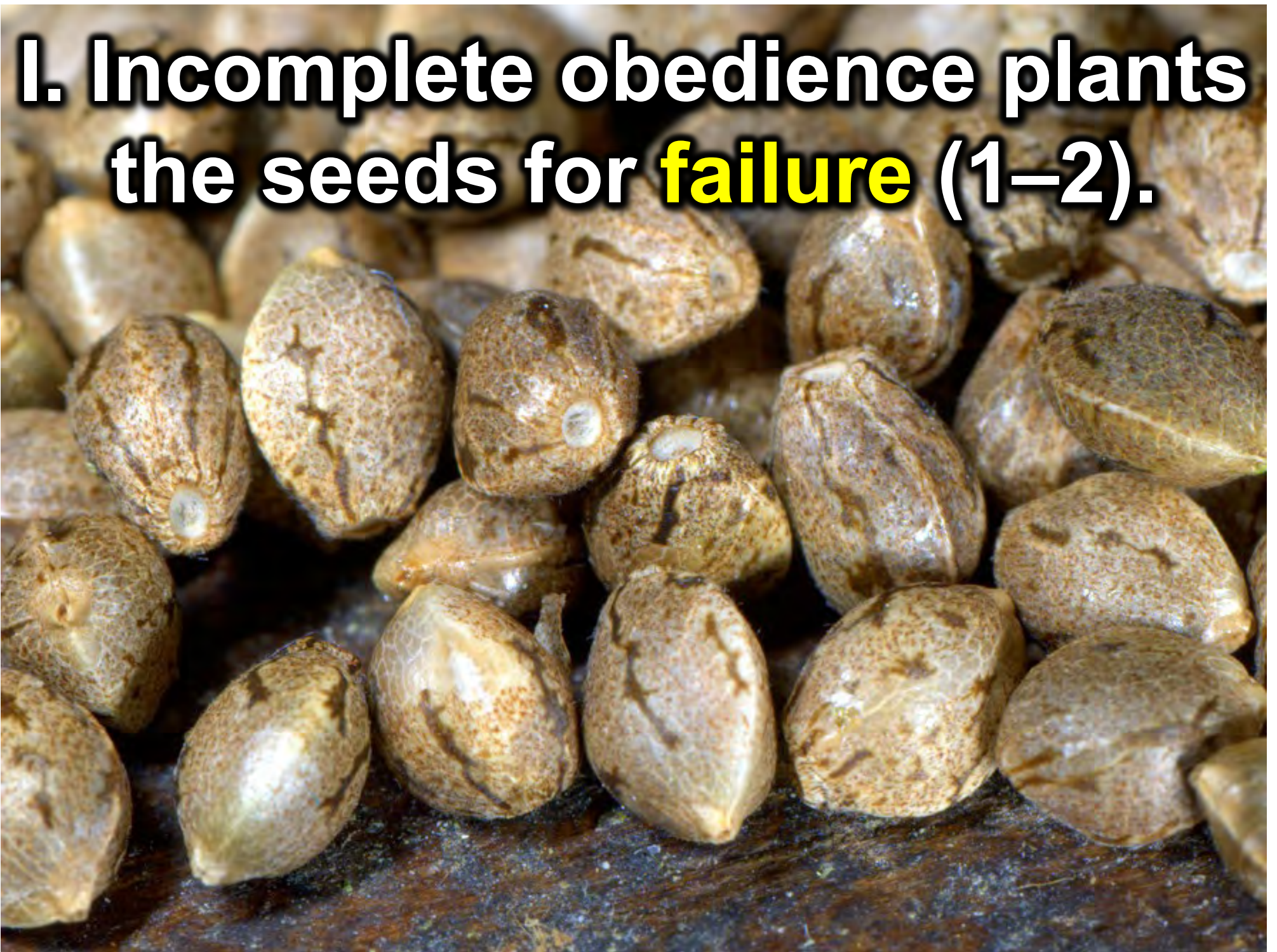


**Make God king  
—not relativism  
and the idolatry  
of sin cycles**

**Judges**



**I. Incomplete obedience plants  
the seeds for **failure** (1–2).**





**II. Relativism leads to **cycles**  
of sin (3–16).**



### III. Relativism leads to **idolatry** (17–21).





Discussion Question:

# How is Our Day Like the Judges Period?



- Relativism: "Save the whales" but kill humans
- Secularism: "I don't let my religion affect my politics"
- Promiscuity: "What that leader does in his bedroom is his business and not mine"

**This  
pamphlet is  
blank.**

**We're  
atheists.**



# Relativism

# Applications

- **Rejecting God's lordship (incomplete obedience) plants the seeds for failure (1–2).**
- **Personal relative standards instead of God's absolute standards lead to cycles of sin (3–16).**
- **Replacing God's wisdom with personal whims leads to idolatry (17–21).**



# Be Steadfast.

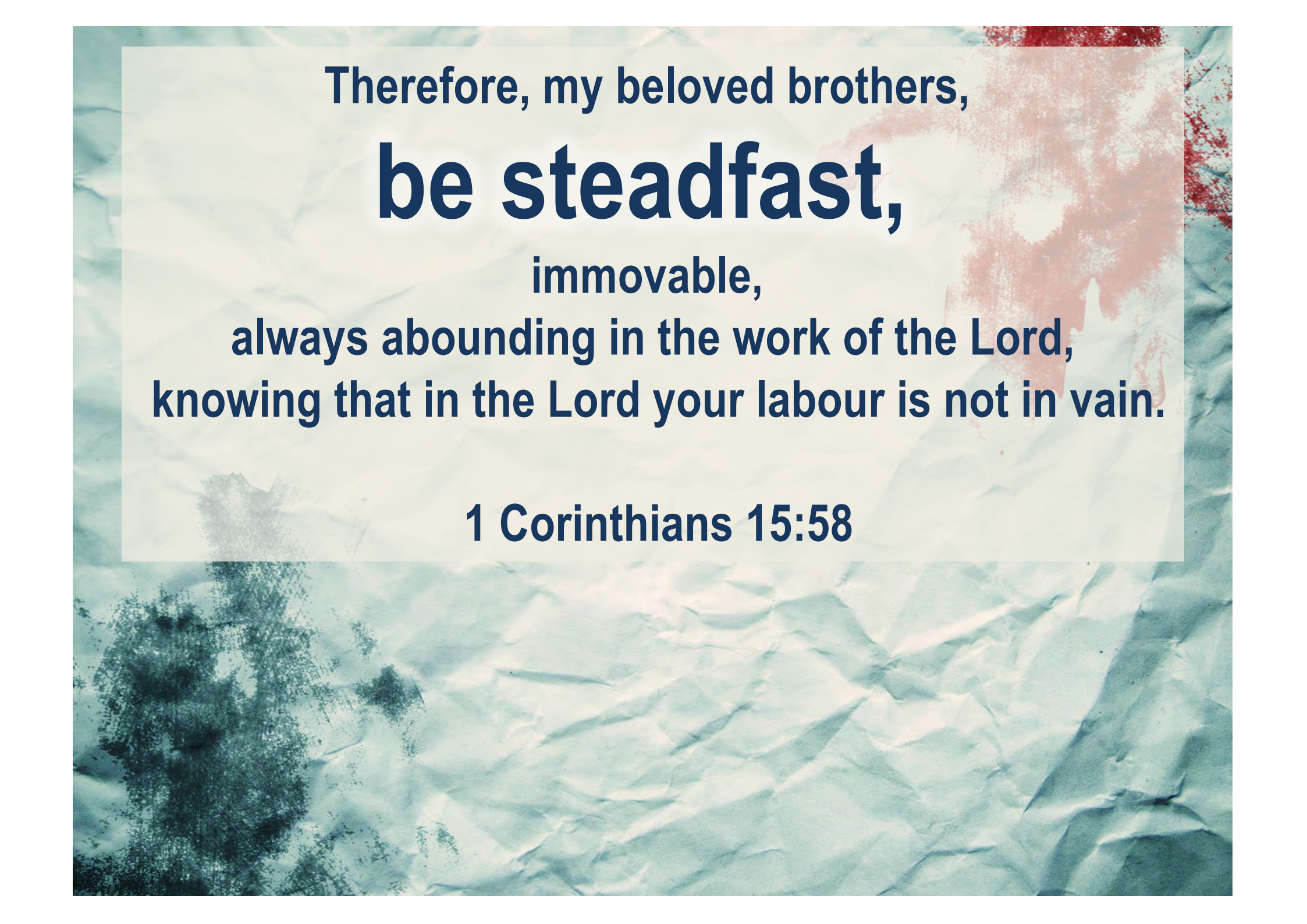


A man in a dark suit is seen from behind, standing in front of a large window with horizontal blinds. The blinds are partially open, allowing light to filter through. The man's hands are in his pockets, and he is looking out the window. The overall tone is contemplative and serious.

**Think about it.**

**Who is the real boss of your life?  
How can you enthrone God as  
your true king?**





Therefore, my beloved brothers,  
**be steadfast,**  
immovable,  
always abounding in the work of the Lord,  
knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**



# Contrasting Leaders

## Judges

**Local**

**Not predicted**

**Deliverers**

**Various Cities**

**Independent**

## Kings

**National**

**Foretold (Deut 17)**

**Politicians**

**Jerusalem**

**Dynastic**



162-163

# Pagan Deities

- Nature
- Worship
- Priesthood
- High Places
- Detestable Elements

# How Different They Are!

	<b>Monotheism</b>	<b>Polytheism</b>
<b>Truth</b>	<b>Absolute</b>	<b>Relative</b>
<b>Writings</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Books</b>
<b>Idols</b>	<b>Prohibited</b>	<b>Accepted</b>
<b>Religions</b>	<b>Judaism</b> <b>Christianity</b> <b>Islam</b>	<b>Buddhism</b> <b>Hinduism</b> <b>Mormonism</b>



# One's View of God Affects His View of Sacrifices, Morality & Mission

## Pagan

Horrible god

Man seen as OK in comparison

Seeks pleasure & material needs

Sacrifices appease deity  
for sex, food & money

Local deity makes them rich

Massacre others for wealth

## Israel

Holy God

Man seen as sinful

Seeks spiritual needs

Sacrifices atone for sin to  
reconcile God & man

God forgives sin

Mission to others for their good

**We become like the God we worship!**



160d

# CANAANITE HIGH GOD

Prince of the earth, god of fertility, lord of sky and earth, god of thunder and lightning etc

**Lord, master, owner**

Chief male deity of the Phoenicians and Canaanites

**Slain by Mot & revived by Anath**

Worshipped in the high places of Moab (Num. 22:41)

# BAAL

# The Baal Cycle



**Baal  
Rises**

**Baal  
Rises**

**Mot  
kills  
Baal**

**Mot  
kills  
Baal**



**Winter**

**Spring**

**Summer**

**Fall**

**Winter**

**Spring**





# Religion

## Baal fertility cycle (Baal Epic)



**Mot (death) in winter defeated by Baal (life) in spring**

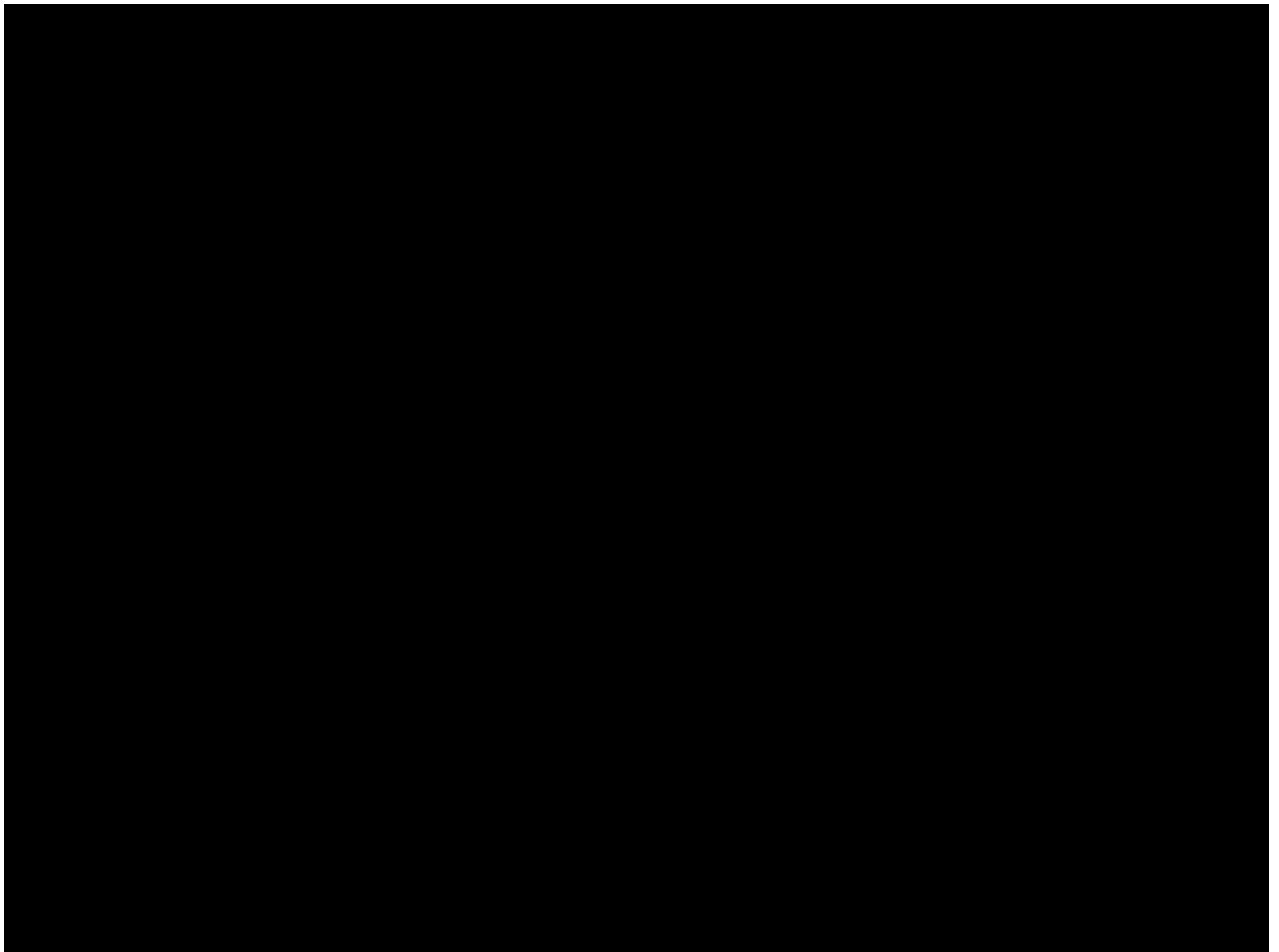
**Temple prostitution and sexual fertility rites in religious worship helped Baal resurrect in spring**



# Child Sacrifice to Baal

- During worship live babies were placed on the burning hot hands of the statue of Baal.
- After dying they were then pushed into a hole underneath.








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