

Judges Series

Lesson #01

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Everyone Did What Was
Right in Their Own Eyes**



JUDGES
2021

**Moral Relativism
Destroys a Nation**

Heb. 11:32, “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

Heb. 11:33, “who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Heb. 11:34, “quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

Heb. 11:35, “Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Heb. 11:36, “Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

Heb. 11:37, “They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—”

Heb. 11:38, “of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

Heb. 11:39, “And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,”

As Adama Sesay, astrologer and creator of Lilith Astrology, points out, there will be a major shift in power dynamics in this era.

“For eons the power has rested in traditional, oppressive hierarchical structures, and their beliefs dictated our reality,” says Sesay. “[In the Age of Aquarius,] the power is turning over to the individual, and giving the freedom for you to choose your own reality based on what aligns with your soul.”

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Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

**How Israel Went from
Spiritual Victory
to Being Worse than
the Canaanites**

**Incomplete
obedience**

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson

(the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

chap 17–18

and the

People

chap 19–21

Jdg. 2:1, “Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said:

‘I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, “I will never break My covenant with you.” ’ ”

Jdg. 2:2, “ ‘And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?

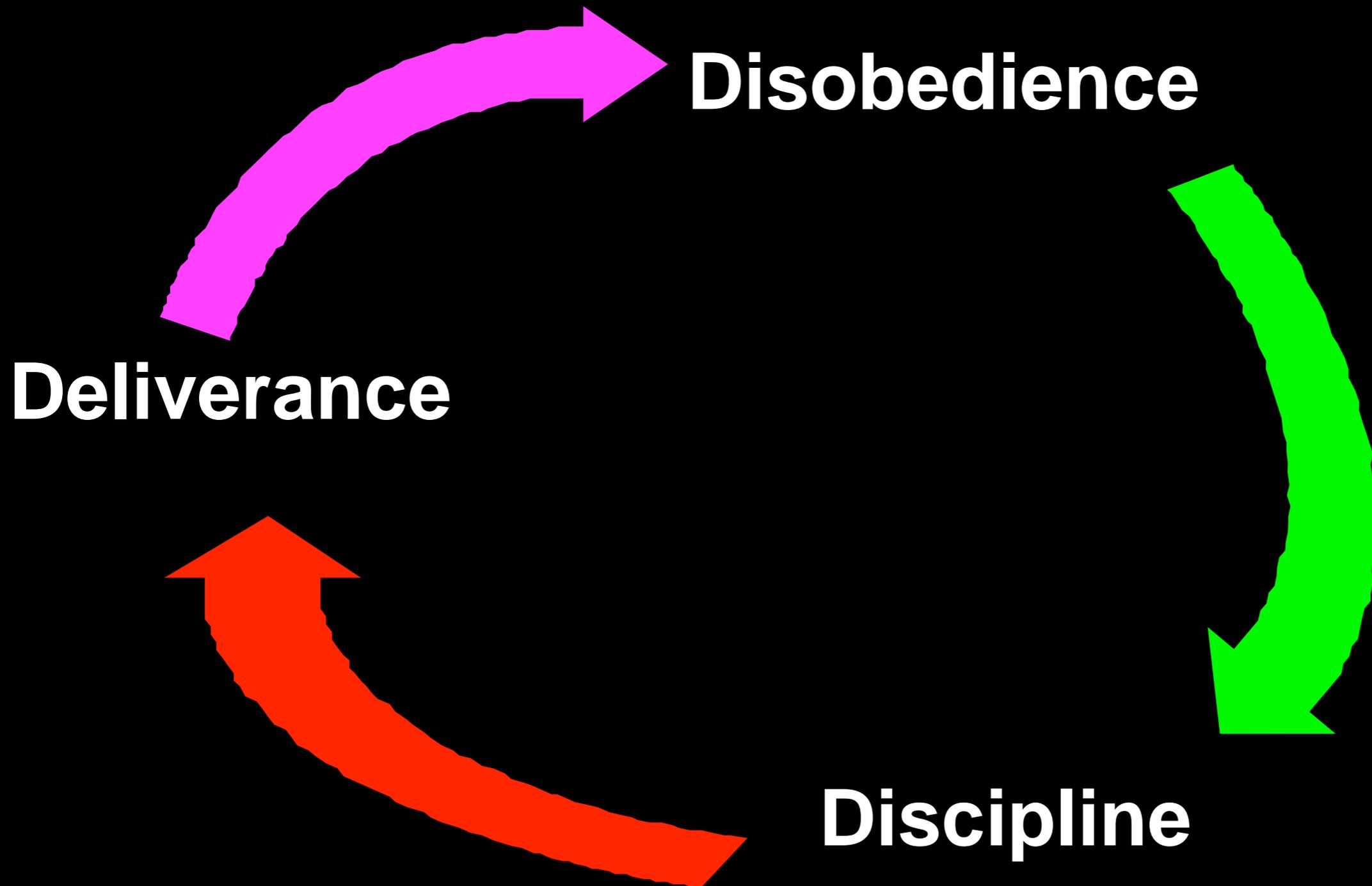
Jdg. 2:3, “Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ ”

Jdg. 2:11, “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals;

Jdg. 2:12, “and they abandoned the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger.

Jdg. 2:13, “They abandoned the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.”

The Cycles of the Judges



Jdg. 3:1, “Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan

Jdg. 3:2, “(this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it),

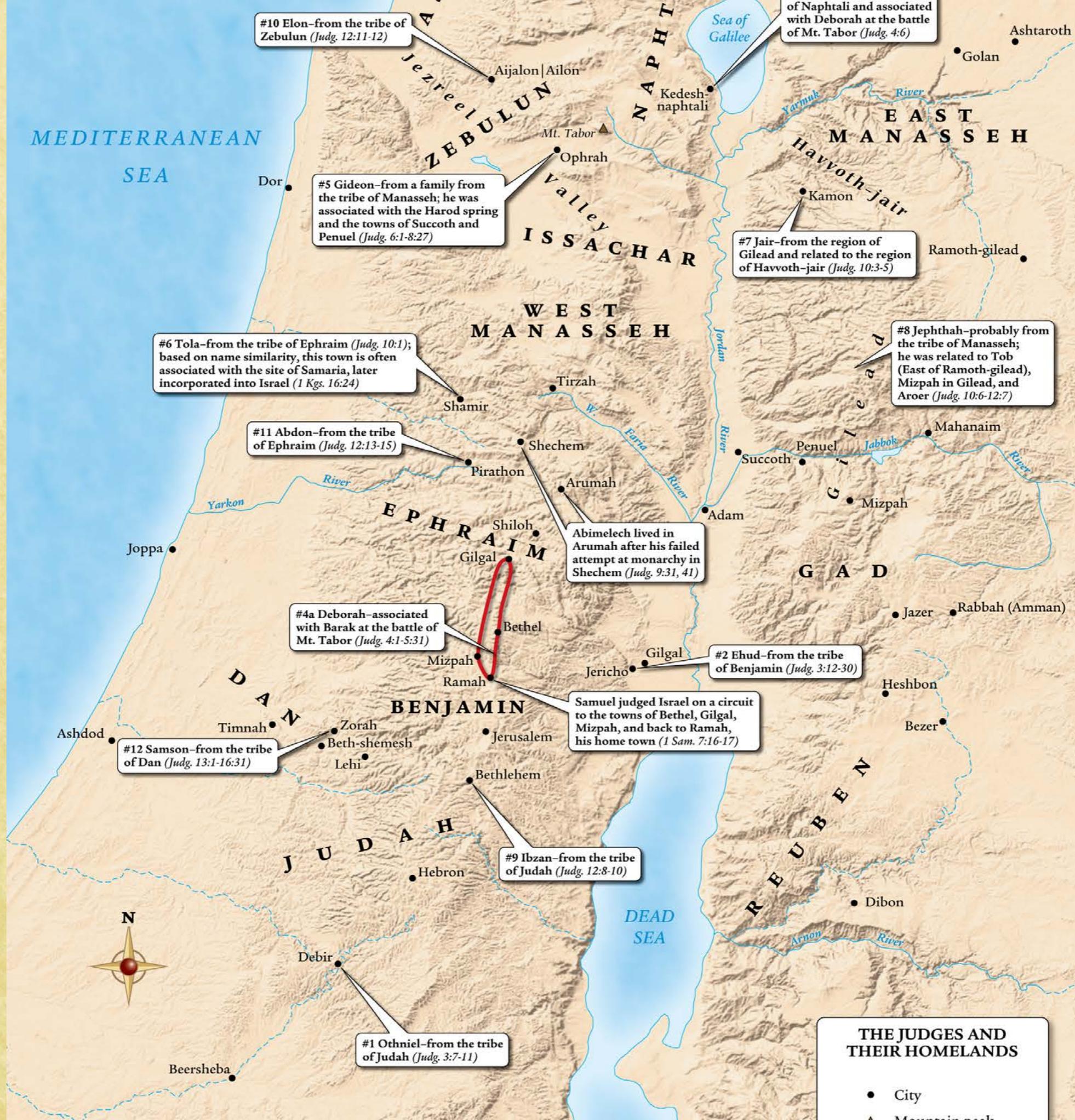
Jdg. 3:3, “namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath.”

Jdg. 3:4, “And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

Jdg. 3:5, “Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.”

Jdg. 3:6, “And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.

Jdg. 3:7, “So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.”



#10 Elon—from the tribe of Zebulun (Judg. 12:11-12)

of Naphtali and associated with Deborah at the battle of Mt. Tabor (Judg. 4:6)

#5 Gideon—from a family from the tribe of Manasseh; he was associated with the Harod spring and the towns of Succoth and Penuel (Judg. 6:1-8:27)

#7 Jair—from the region of Gilead and related to the region of Havvoth-jair (Judg. 10:3-5)

#6 Tola—from the tribe of Ephraim (Judg. 10:1); based on name similarity, this town is often associated with the site of Samaria, later incorporated into Israel (1 Kgs. 16:24)

#8 Jephthah—probably from the tribe of Manasseh; he was related to Tob (East of Ramoth-gilead), Mizpah in Gilead, and Aroer (Judg. 10:6-12:7)

#11 Abdon—from the tribe of Ephraim (Judg. 12:13-15)

Abimelech lived in Arumah after his failed attempt at monarchy in Shechem (Judg. 9:31, 41)

#4a Deborah—associated with Barak at the battle of Mt. Tabor (Judg. 4:1-5:31)

#2 Ehud—from the tribe of Benjamin (Judg. 3:12-30)

#12 Samson—from the tribe of Dan (Judg. 13:1-16:31)

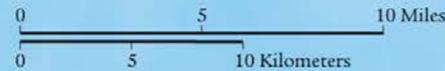
Samuel judged Israel on a circuit to the towns of Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah, and back to Ramah, his home town (1 Sam. 7:16-17)

#9 Ibzan—from the tribe of Judah (Judg. 12:8-10)

#1 Othniel—from the tribe of Judah (Judg. 3:7-11)

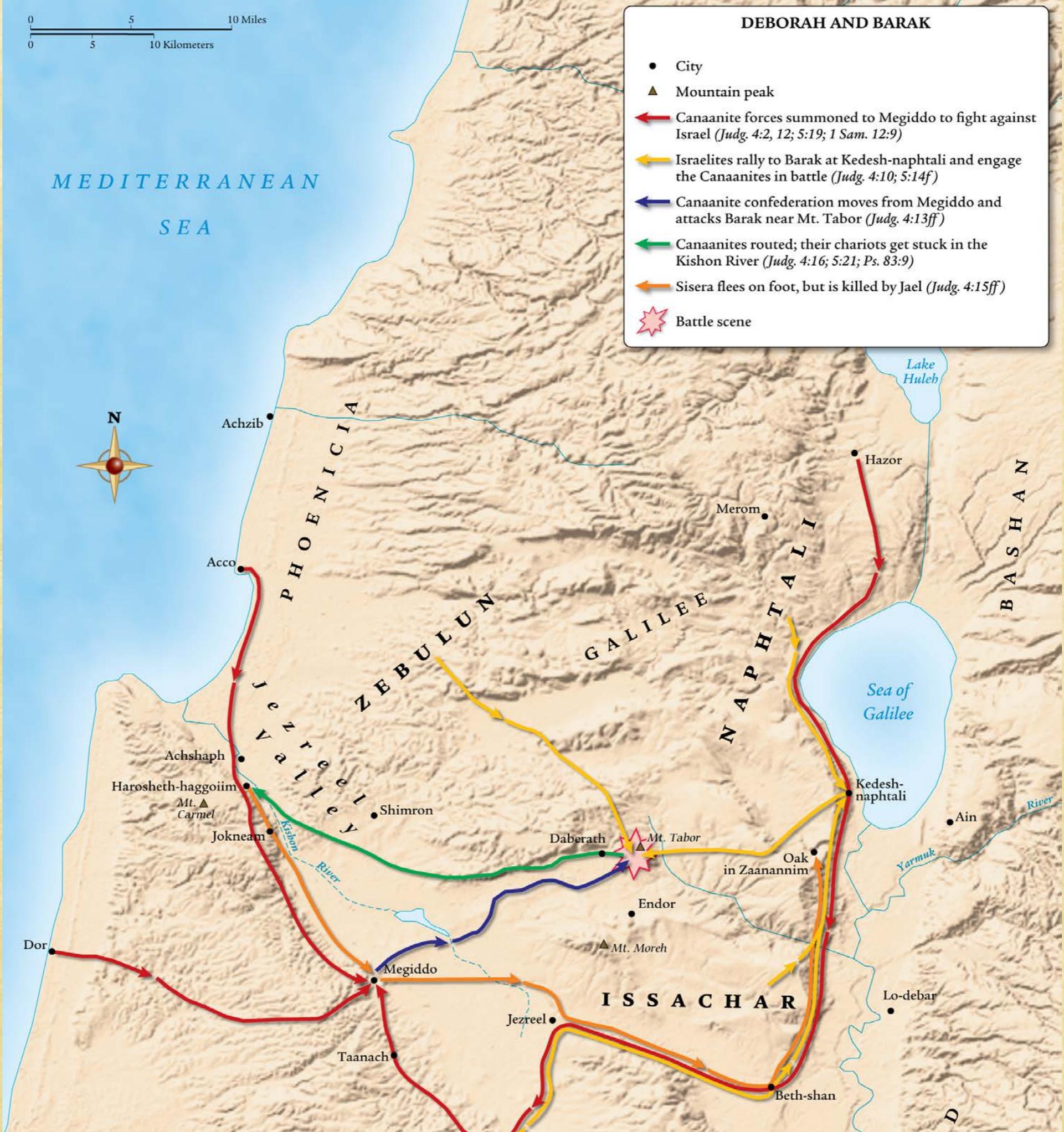
THE JUDGES AND THEIR HOMELANDS

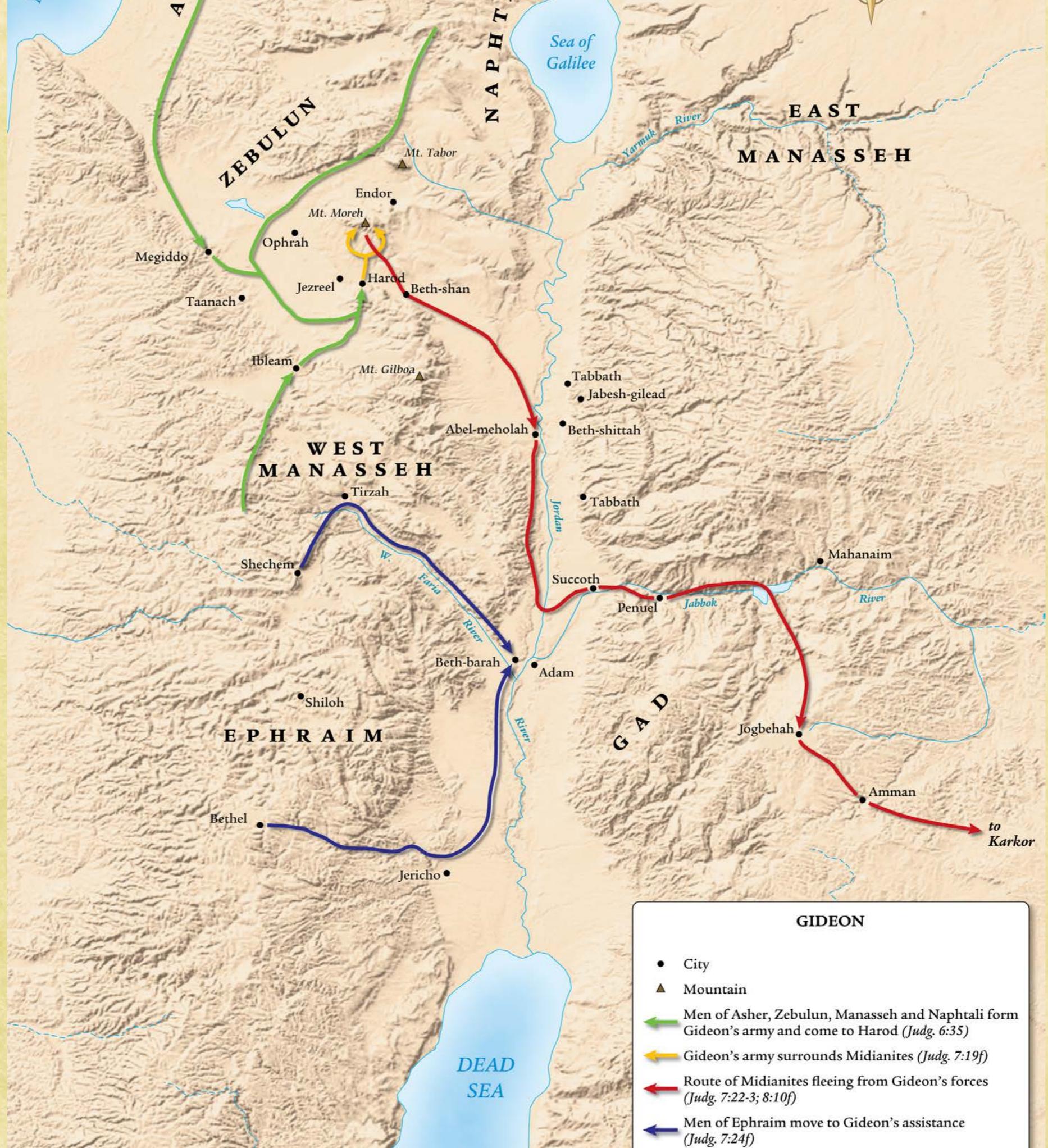
- City
- ▲ Mountain peak



DEBORAH AND BARAK

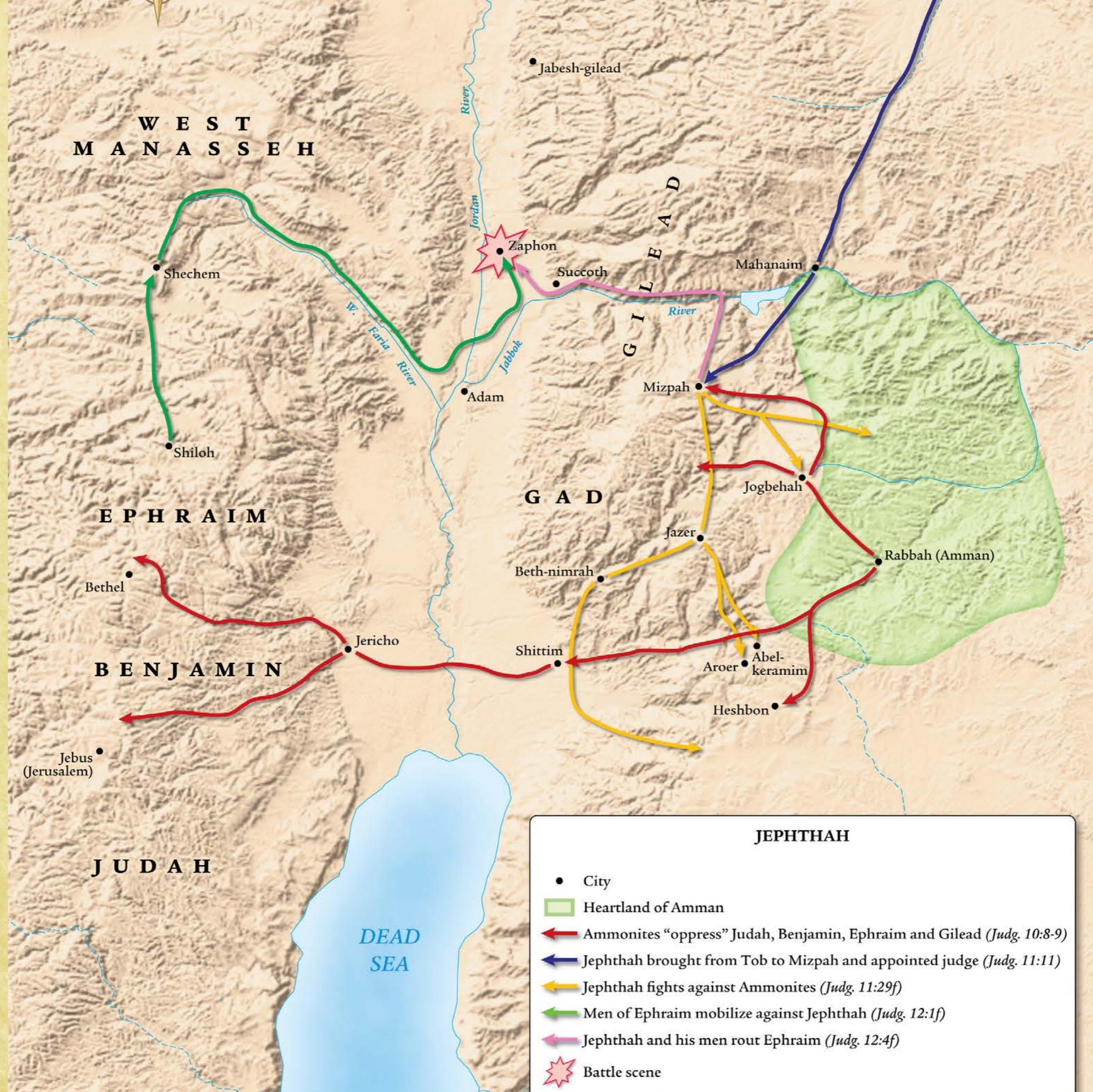
- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Canaanite forces summoned to Megiddo to fight against Israel (*Judg. 4:2, 12; 5:19; 1 Sam. 12:9*)
- ← Israelites rally to Barak at Kedesh-naphtali and engage the Canaanites in battle (*Judg. 4:10; 5:14f*)
- ← Canaanite confederation moves from Megiddo and attacks Barak near Mt. Tabor (*Judg. 4:13ff*)
- ← Canaanites routed; their chariots get stuck in the Kishon River (*Judg. 4:16; 5:21; Ps. 83:9*)
- ← Sisera flees on foot, but is killed by Jael (*Judg. 4:15ff*)
- ★ Battle scene





GIDEON

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- Men of Asher, Zebulun, Manasseh and Naphtali form Gideon's army and come to Harod (*Judg. 6:35*)
- Gideon's army surrounds Midianites (*Judg. 7:19f*)
- Route of Midianites fleeing from Gideon's forces (*Judg. 7:22-3; 8:10f*)
- Men of Ephraim move to Gideon's assistance (*Judg. 7:24f*)



WEST
MANASSEH

EPHRAIM

BENJAMIN

JUDAH

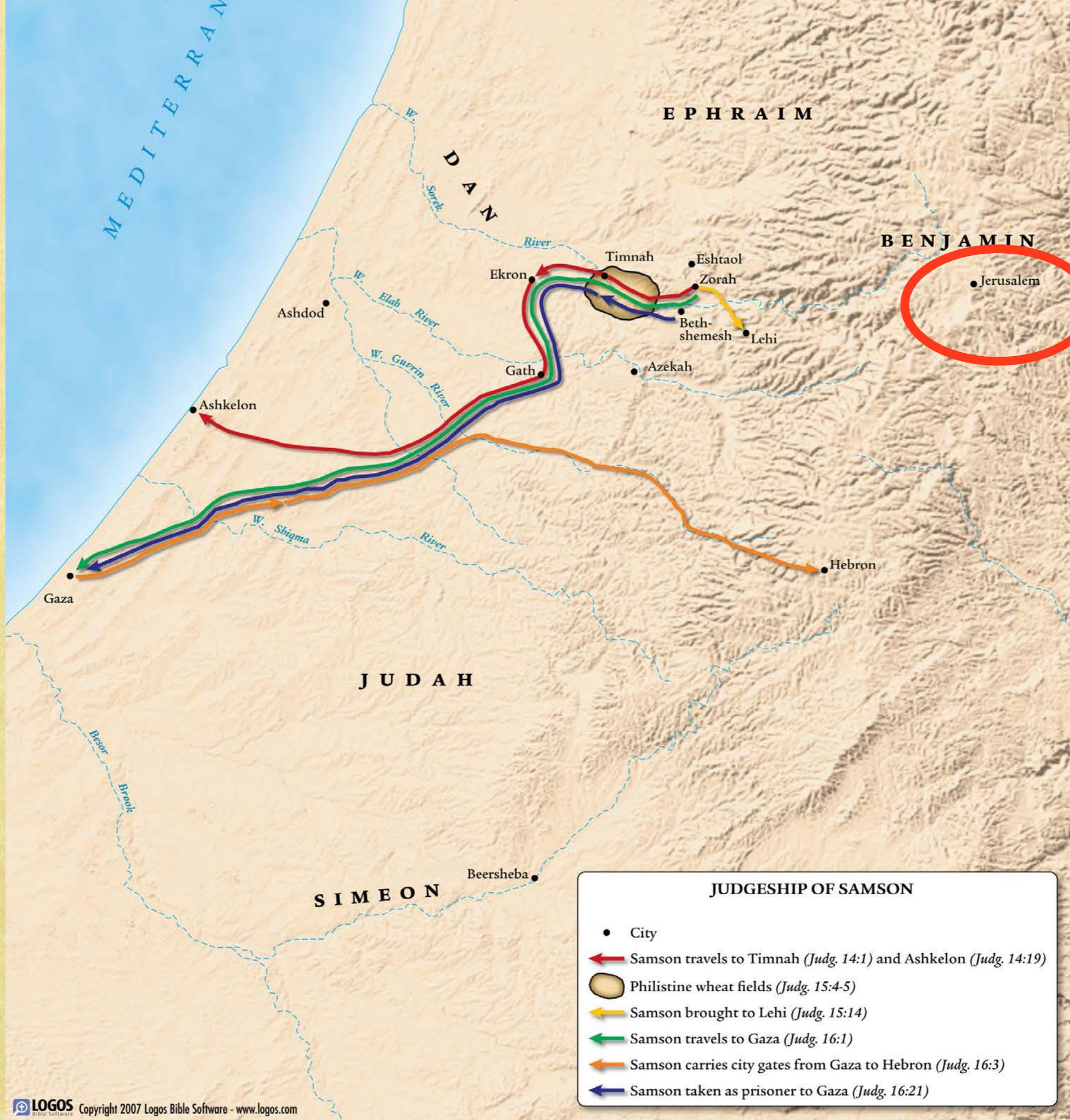
GAD

GILEAD

DEAD
SEA

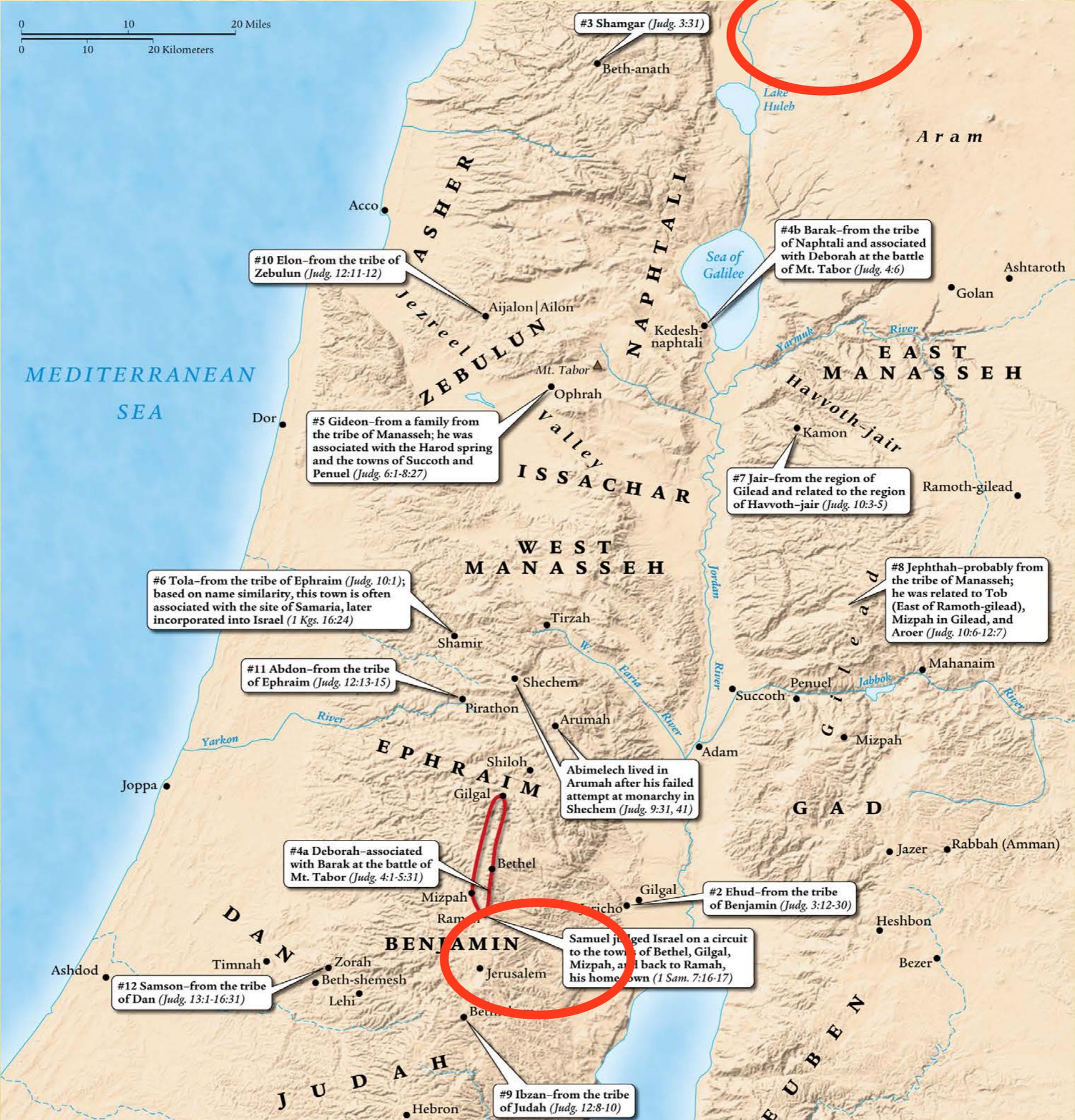
JEPHTHAH

- City
- Heartland of Amman
- ← Ammonites "oppress" Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim and Gilead (*Judg. 10:8-9*)
- ← Jephthah brought from Tob to Mizpah and appointed judge (*Judg. 11:11*)
- ← Jephthah fights against Ammonites (*Judg. 11:29f*)
- ← Men of Ephraim mobilize against Jephthah (*Judg. 12:1f*)
- ← Jephthah and his men rout Ephraim (*Judg. 12:4f*)
- ★ Battle scene



JUDGESHIP OF SAMSON

- City
- ← Samson travels to Timnah (*Judg. 14:1*) and Ashkelon (*Judg. 14:19*)
- Philistine wheat fields (*Judg. 15:4-5*)
- ← Samson brought to Lehi (*Judg. 15:14*)
- ← Samson travels to Gaza (*Judg. 16:1*)
- ← Samson carries city gates from Gaza to Hebron (*Judg. 16:3*)
- ← Samson taken as prisoner to Gaza (*Judg. 16:21*)



#3 Shamgar (Judg. 3:31)

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