



# OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

*Sunday Adult Class*  
*9:45 AM*



# The Judges

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**Othniel** (3:7-11)

**Ehud** (3:12-30)

**Shamgar** (3:31)

**Deborah** (4:1-5:31)

**Gideon** (6:1-8:35)

**Abimelech** (9:1-57)

**Tola** (10:1-2)

**Jair** (10:3-5)

**Jephthah** (10:6-12:7)

**Ibzan** (12:8-10)

**Elon** (12:11-12)

**Abdon** (12:13-15)

**Samson** (13:1-16:31)

**Eli** (1 Samuel 1:1-4:22)

**Samuel** (1 Samuel 7:3-25:1)

# Introduction to The Early Judges

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- If the Israelites had listened to the warnings and had destroyed the rest of the Canaanites their entire remaining history might have been different
  - Time passed and few additional Canaanites were destroyed
  - Some tribes complained about the Canaanites within their borders and Joshua urged them to join forces and destroy them, but they did not (Joshua 17:12-18)

# Introduction to The Early Judges

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- Gradually over years, the Israelite families made friends with Canaanite families nearby
  - They **first tolerated** their neighbors' idolatrous worship of Baal and then began experimenting with the idols themselves
  - Gradually all battles stopped
    - God was **angry with the people** because they had not obeyed Him

# Early Judges

- Gradually, the Canaanites remaining in the land gained enough strength to fight the Israelites again



# **The Later Judges**

**Judges 10:6 - 1 Samuel 7:17**

# The Later Judges

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- A new wave of oppression begins because the Israelites became wicked again
  - They began worshiping the gods of **Baalim**, of **Ashtaroth** of Syria, of Zidon, and of the Moabites
- Ammonites attacked the tribes on the eastern side of the Jordan

# Pagan Gods

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- **Baal:** means “lord” or “master”
  - Became identified with various regional gods that were thought to provide fertility for crops and livestock





# Pagan Gods

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- **Ashtaroth:** Another name for the goddesses called “the Asherah” (plural)
  - Her objects of worship were found up and down the land.
  - Considered the female counterpart to Baal (Judges 2:13). Like Baal, she is a god of fertility
  - Solomon compromised his faith by worshiping at the altar of Ashtaroth (1 Kings 11:5,33)



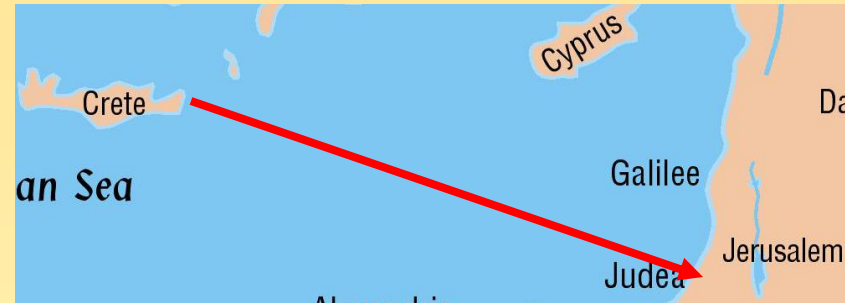
# The Later Judges

- **Ammonites** oppressed the Israelites living in **Gilead** for 18 years
  - Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh were involved in this oppression
  - They crossed the Jordan to fight against **Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim**



# The Later Judges

- The **Philistines** came to Palestine from the island of Crete



- They brought with them the knowledge of iron smelting which neither the Canaanites nor the Israelites had
  - This gave them an advantage in their weaponry

# The Later Judges

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- **More on the Philistines**

- Some were in the land as early as Abraham's day
  - Genesis 21:34
- They were no major threat at that time
- Moses does not list them as one of the tribes to be conquered in his day
- It appears from historical notes as well as scriptural facts, that a new wave of Philistines moved into the southern coastal plain about the time of the early Judges



# The Later Judges

- **Samson** was of the tribe of Dan from the village of **Zorah**
  - God gave him miraculous strength to “begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines”



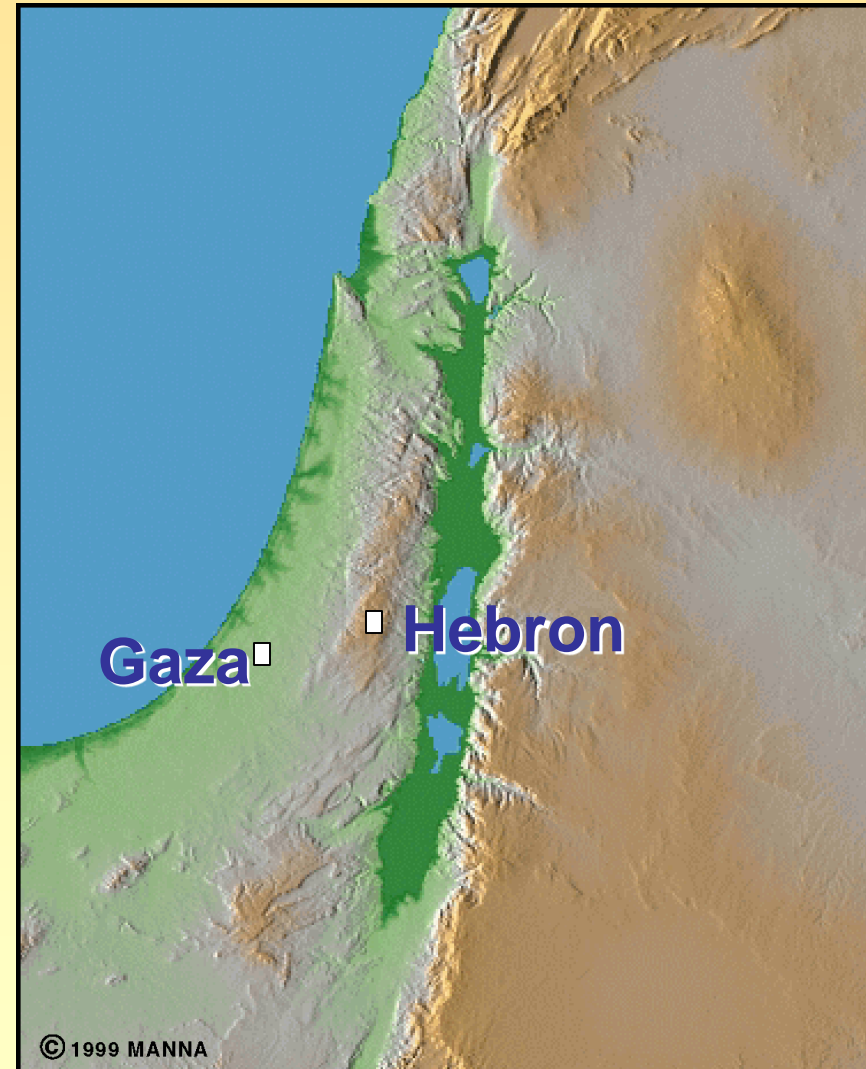
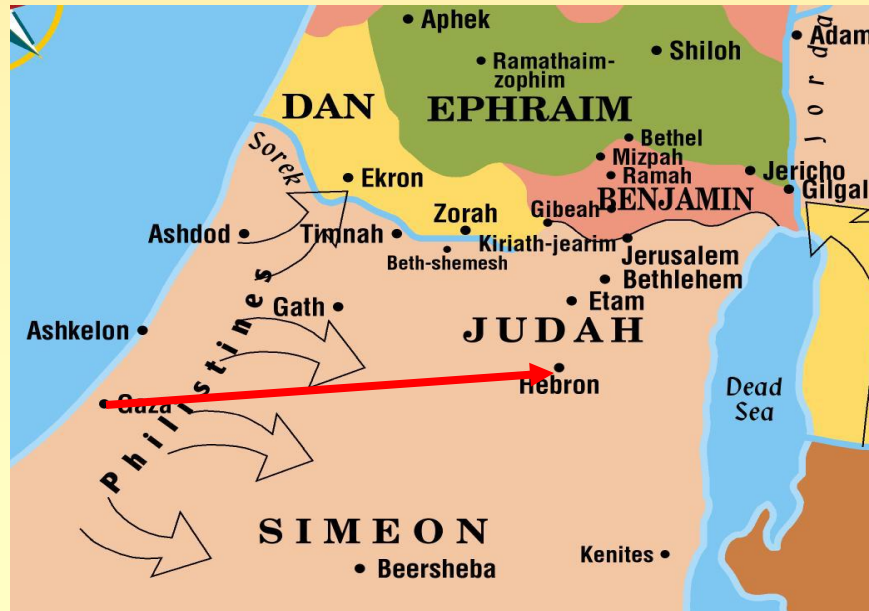
# The Later Judges

- His story is unusual in that he never led an army of any kind
  - All his conflicts with the Philistines were personal conflicts
  - He killed thousands of Philistines during his lifetime



# The Later Judges

- **Samson's** strength was displayed when he took the gates of the city of Gaza across to the hill before Hebron!



# The Later Judges



- **Samson** met his downfall in the valley of **Sorek**
  - They learned the secret of his strength through Delilah
  - They put out his eyes and forced him to be a slave



# The Later Judges

- While mocking him in the house of their god Dagon in **Gaza**, he bowed himself on the pillars of the temple
  - He killed more in his death than he had in the rest of his life



# The Later Judges

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- God was allowing His people to be oppressed at this time
  - They had become wicked
  - In addition to their idolatrous worship, the priests of God who were serving at the tabernacle at Shiloh were some of the most wicked men in the land
    - 1 Samuel 2:12-17

# The Period of the Judges

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- The period of the judges is described as a time when there was no central government and:

**“every man did that which was right in his own eyes”** (Judges 21:25)

# The Period of the Judges

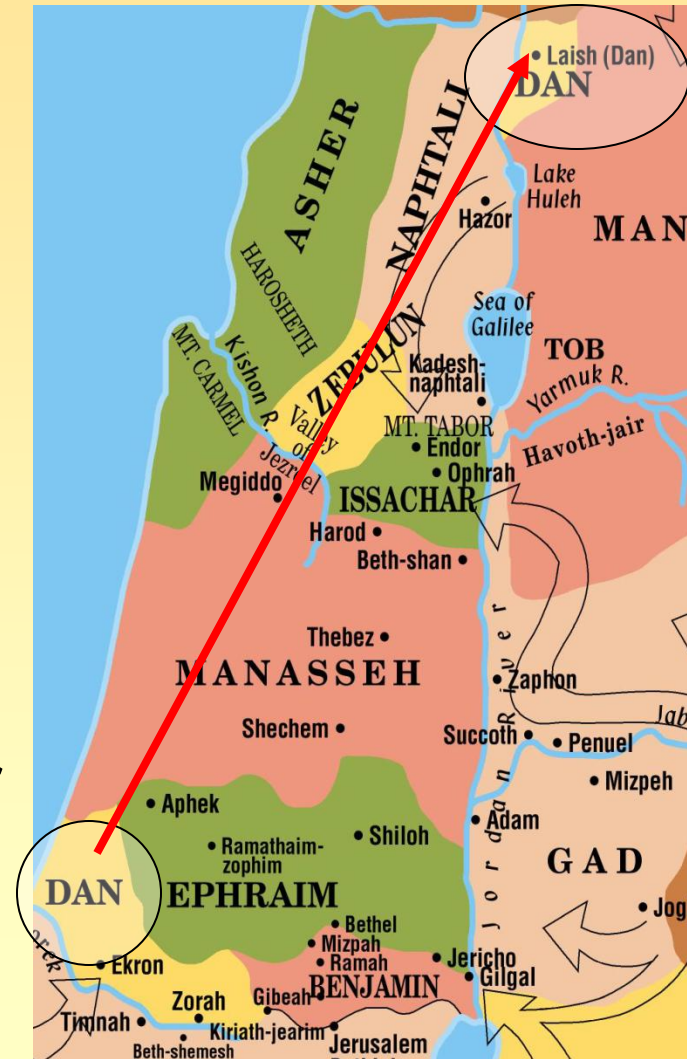
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- There was rivalry between the tribes
  - Ephraim felt insulted if they weren't called to each battle
  - Benjamin refused to punish some wicked men for a crime committed and the other tribes nearly destroyed the whole tribe of Benjamin in revenge



# The Period of the Judges

- The tribe of **Dan** felt crowded
  - They failed to take their allotted land from the Canaanites
  - Later the Philistines fought for their southern portion
  - Most of the tribe moved north and took the city of Laish near the source of the Jordan River
  - They renamed the city Dan in honor of the father of their tribe

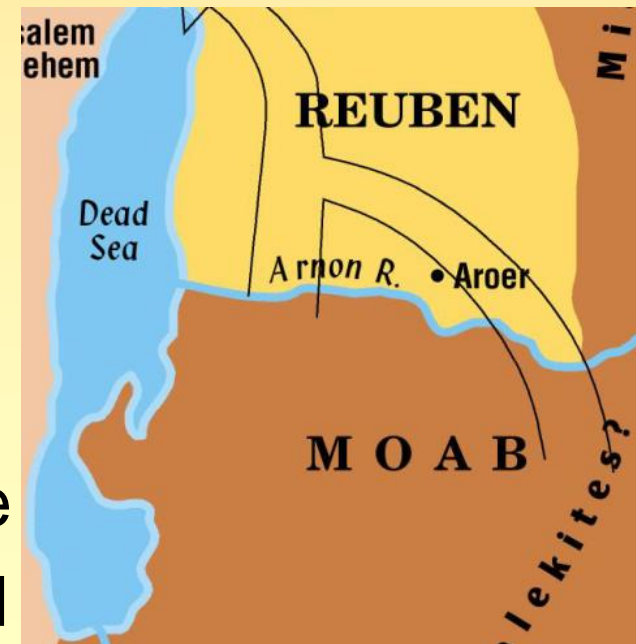




# The Period of the Judges

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- During this period of time the story of **Ruth** unfolds
  - Ruth was a maiden from Moab – **an ancestor of Christ**
  - She came to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi
  - She married Boaz
  - Had a son named Obed
  - Who had a son named Jesse
  - Who had a son named David
  - Who had a descendent named Jesus!



# Eli and Samuel

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Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord  
(1 Samuel 1:1-20)

Eli was both high priest and judge.  
He judged for 40 years (1 Samuel 4:18)

- Samuel was the last judge of Israel
- When he was old, he anointed Saul as the first king
- Samuel was a judge, prophet, and priest





# Kingdom of Saul

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S

- The Israelites could only blame themselves for losing the land

A

- They did not keep the commandments of God

U

“and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and **utterly destroy them**. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.” (Deuteronomy 7:2)

L

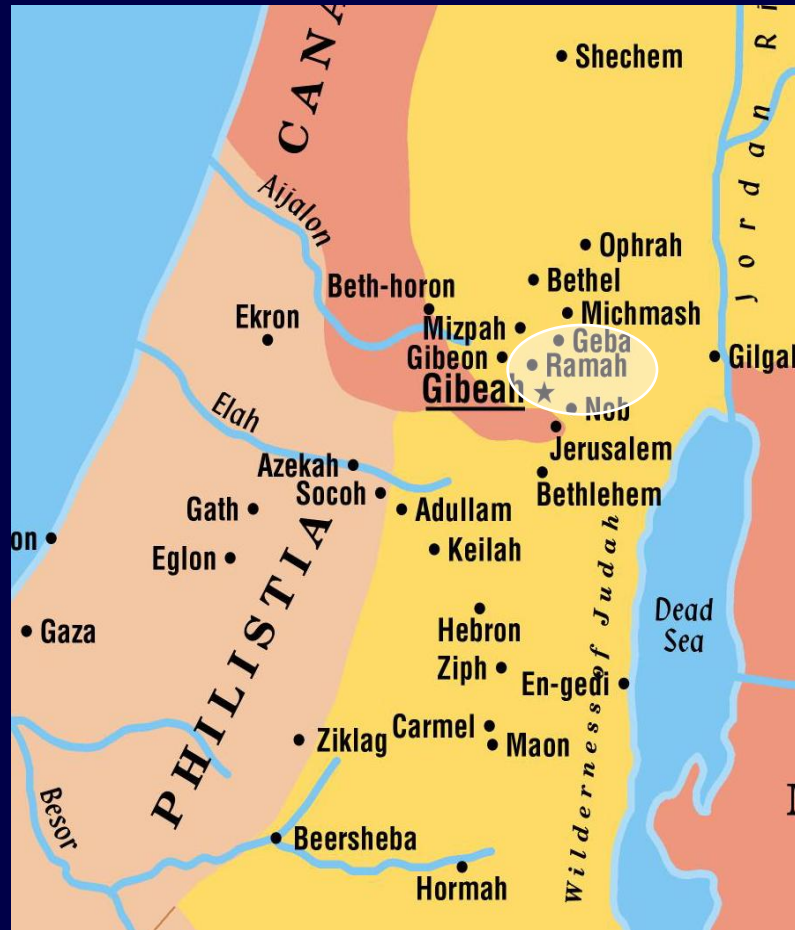
# Kingdom of Saul

S  
A  
U  
L

- **The Israelites cry for a king!**
  - Felt their system let them down – blamed God
  - Wanted a king to be like the other nations
    - To lead them in battle like other nations
- **Israel failed due to a lack of faith**
  - Superficial obedience to God

# Kingdom of Saul

- Ramah



- People gathered to ask Samuel to appoint for them a king

- Samuel is distressed

- God tells him to grant their request

- Not rejecting Samuel, but rather rejecting God as their King

# Saul and the Philistines

S  
A  
U  
L

- Israelite Army
  - For the first time in Israelite history we see them with a standing army
  - Saul keeps 3,000 and sends the rest back home
  - 2,000 accompany him to **Michmash** in Mt. Bethel
  - 1,000 accompany his son Jonathan and go to **Gibeah**



# Saul and the Philistines

S  
A  
U  
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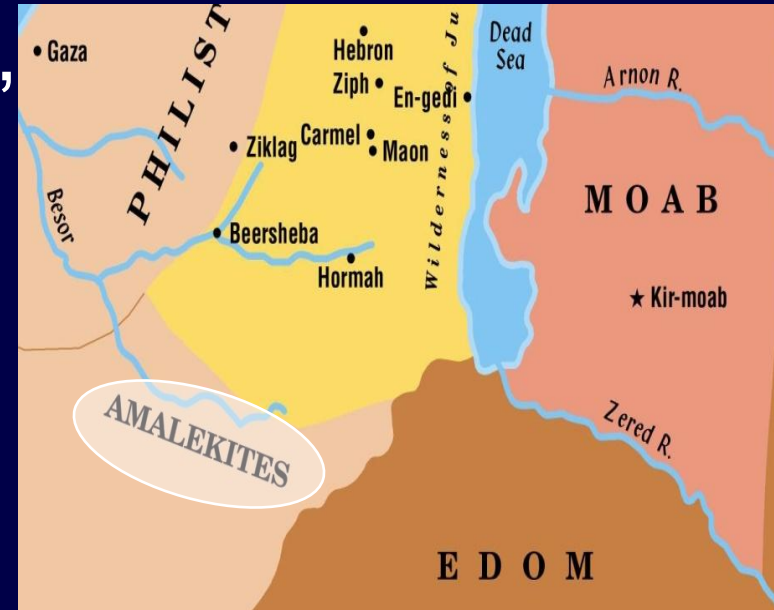
- Saul was not trying to take their land as his, but rather trying to push them back out of Israel's territory



# S A U L

## Saul's Disobedience

- Saul's humility faded, as did his favor with God
  - God sent Saul to take vengeance on the **Amalekites**
    - The time had come for God to destroy them as He had promised in Moses' day (Exodus 17:14)



# The Battleground

S  
A  
U  
L



David kills  
Goliath

# David Rises to Prominence

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S

- David plays the harp to soothe Saul

- Becomes friends with Jonathan

A

- Leads successful raids against the Philistines

U

- Marries Saul's daughter Michal

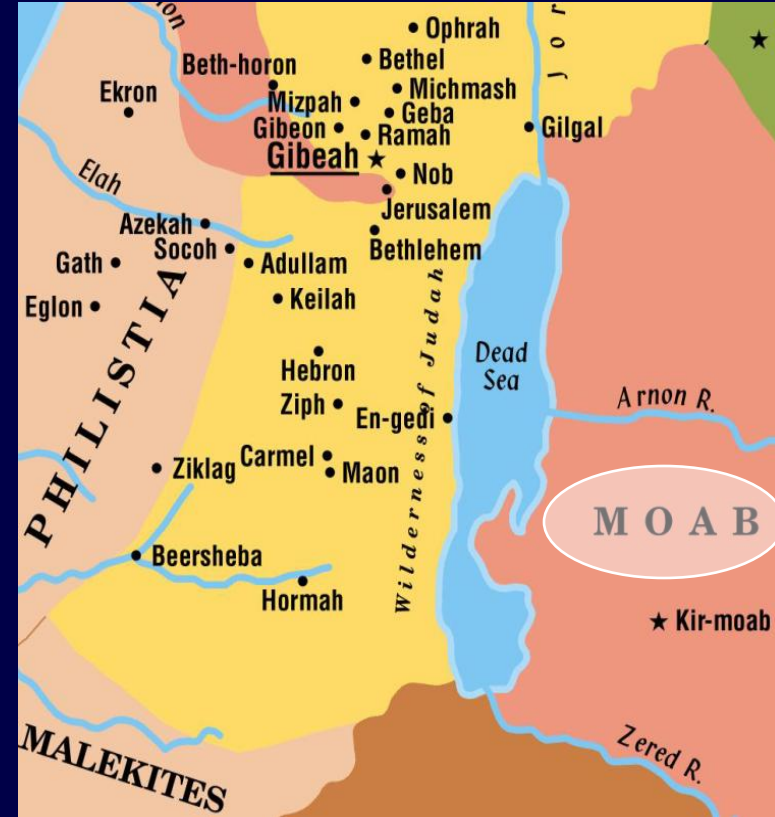
L

- After paying a dowry of 200 Philistine foreskins

# S A U L

## Saul Pursues David

- Sympathizers learned of David and soon he had over 600. He feared for his parents' safety and took them to the land of Moab



# Israel in Distress

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S

A

U

L

- Palestine covers 12,000 square miles
  - Saul controlled no more than 6,000 square miles when he died
  - His last battle with the Philistines left the land divided with the Philistines in firm control
  - The people still lived basically in their old tribal territories (yet sharply reduced in size)
- The kingdom is in dire circumstances!



# A Man After God's Own Heart

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D

- “after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22)

A

–Not perfect; Was a man of great faith

–Tried to rule as God wanted him to rule

V

- The forgiven man can stand blessed before God

I

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom  
the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose  
spirit there is no deceit. (Psalms 32:1-2)

D

Romans 4:6-8



**D  
A  
V  
I  
D**

## **A Man After God's Own Heart**

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- More chapters of the Bible devoted to his story or Psalms written by him, than any other man
  - 1 Samuel 16 (first mentioned) – 1 Kings 2 (death)
  - Approximately half of the Psalms were written by him

# The Triumphs of David

D  
A  
V  
I  
D

- David strengthens the city of Jerusalem and makes it his own
- Moved the ark of the covenant into the city from **Kiriath-jearim**, or **Baalath**
  - It had been there since the days of Samuel



D  
A  
V  
I  
D

# The Triumphs of David

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- Taking the city of Jerusalem was a WISE move
  - City never in Israel's hands – thus neutral from any distinct tribe
  - Centrally located with roads in all directions





D  
A  
V  
I  
D

# The Triumphs of David

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- Located on top of a mountain – easily defended
- With the Ark of the Covenant there, it would be the religious and political center

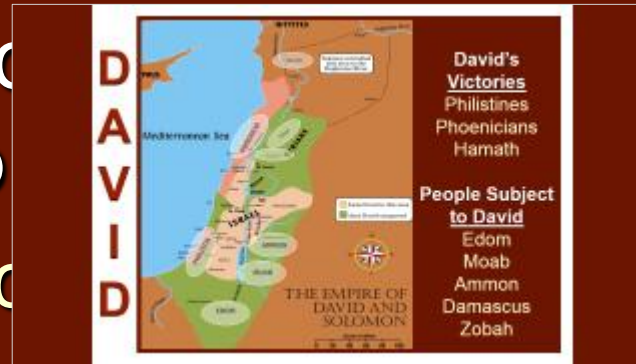




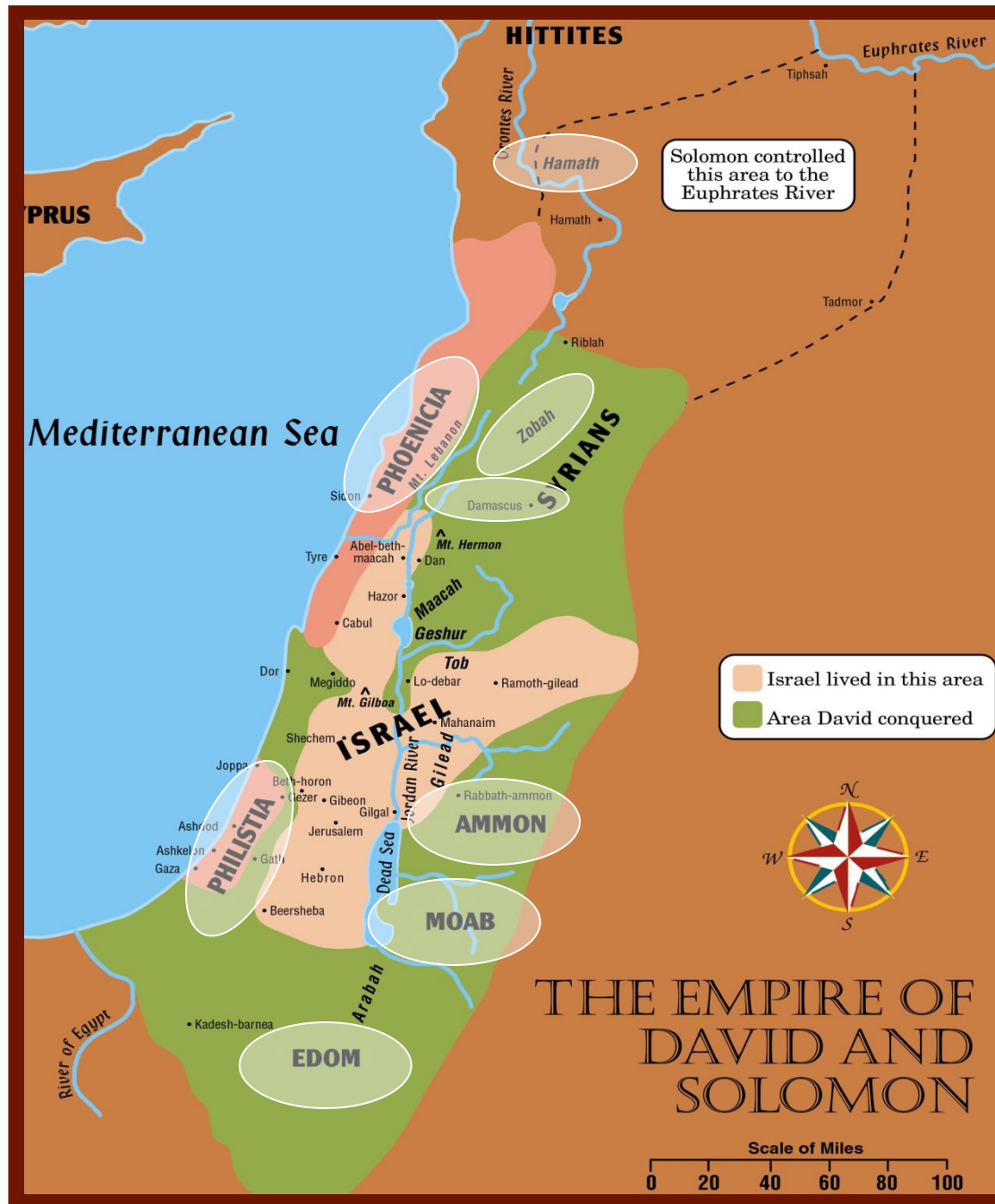
D  
A  
V  
I  
D

# The Triumphs of David

- God gave David decisive victories over and over and drove them back to a narrow strip of land
  - They never became a threat to David, but he had broken their power
  - The Philistines never again became a powerful force throughout Israelite history



# DAVID



David's Victories  
Philistines  
Phoenicians  
Hamath

People Subject to David  
Edom  
Moab  
Ammon  
Damascus  
Zobah

# Desire to Build a Temple

D

- David wanted to build a temple for God in Jerusalem

A

– However, God did not approve. He said:

V

“I have never asked for a permanent dwelling place. Why should I have one now? David, I took you from the sheepcote to make you ruler of My people and I have been with you in all you have undertaken. Furthermore, I will set up your house after you to rule over My people. But, David, you have shed much blood. Your son after you will be a man of peace, and I will let him build Me a house. If your sons sin, I will punish them, but I will not take away My mercy from them as I did to the house of Saul. Your kingdom and your throne will be established forever”

I

D

**(2 Samuel 7:4-17; 1 Chronicles 22:6-10; paraphrased)**

# Transgressions of King David

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D

- While David's men were conquering the city of Rabbah, he saw a woman named Bathsheba and committed fornication with her (2 Samuel 11)

A

- She was the wife of Uriah, one of his most loyal men

V

- As a result, she became pregnant and David was determined to cover up his sin

I

- He had Uriah put in the forefront of the battle so he would be killed, and then he took Bathsheba as his wife

D

D  
A  
V  
I  
D

# Transgressions of King David

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- His wives would be lain with openly as a disgrace to him
  - His sin marked a sad day for David himself and for all of Israel
  - Reference Psalms 51 for a glimpse of David's grief that he felt over the sin which he committed

# Troubles of King David

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D

- There was incest in David's house (13:1-20)

A

- Amnon (David's oldest) rapes his half-sister Tamar

V

- David was grieved, but how could he punish his son for a sin no worse than his own?

I

D



# Troubles of King David

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D

- Absalom killed Amnon and fled for his life

A

- Troubles in David's Kingdom

- Rebellion of Absalom

- Absalom's murder

- David restored as King

- Commentary on the Reign of David  
(21:1-24:25)

V

I

D

D  
A  
V  
I  
D

# The Kingdom of David



- David took over a kingdom of 6,000 square miles
  - Philistines contested his right to that much
  - Died leaving a kingdom of 60,000 sq miles for his son Solomon to rule

# S O L O M O N

## King Solomon

- Solomon becomes King (962 B.C.)
- David charged Solomon to:

“keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His **statutes**, His **commandments**, His **judgments**, and His **testimonies**, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;” (1 Kings 2:3)

- Land was at rest for 40 years
- Solomon begins to build the temple
  - Strengthened peace treaty with King Hiram

# S O L O M O N

## King Solomon

- God appears to Solomon early in his reign at **Gibeon** and tells him to ask for whatever he wished

“...Give therefore thy servant an **understanding heart** to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?  
(3:7-9)



# S O L O M O N

## King Solomon

- God was pleased with Solomon's request and granted him wisdom beyond any man before or since
- God promised him riches and honor above all of his day
- If Solomon obeyed God faithfully, he would be granted long life also
  - Solomon did not receive this promise because he failed to meet the condition for it

# The Temple Project

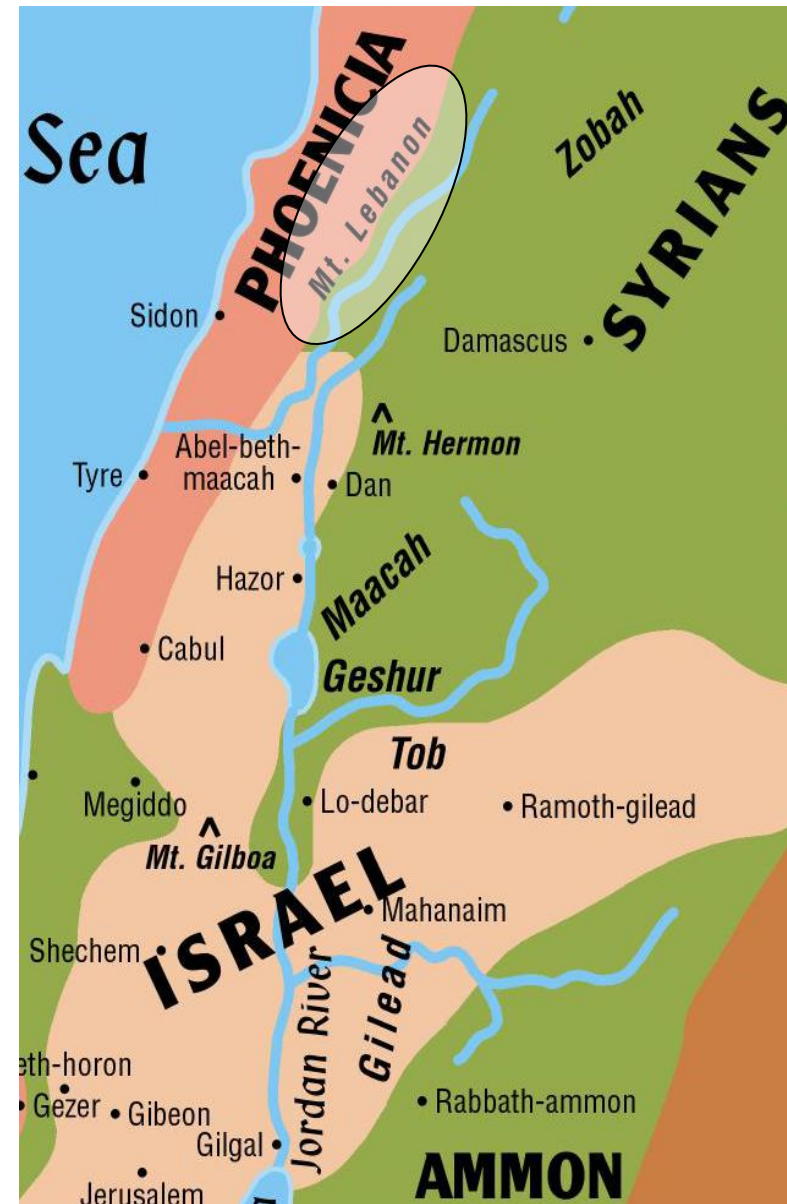
- Solomon started building the temple in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of his reign
  - 480 years has passed since the Israelites came out of Egypt (1 Kings 6:1)
  - 960 years before the birth of Christ





# The Temple Project

- 10,000 of 30,000 men working in the mountains of **Lebanon** at a time (rotated every month)



# The Temple Project

- Solomon also:
  - Had 70,000 burden bearers
  - Had 80,000 hewers in the mountains
  - Had 3,300 overseers (1 Kings 5:13-18)
  - Made slaves of the Canaanites still living in the land and forced them to help on the temple

# The Temple Project

- It took 7 years to build (1 Kings 6:37-38)
  - A beautiful structure
  - Value impossible to assess
    - Made of silver, gold, brass, cedar, and marble
- Blessed if they would keep the Word of God
  - If not, they would be cut off (1 Kings 9:7-9)

# S O L O M O N

## Solomon's Wisdom

- God gave Solomon great wisdom
  - Ability to accumulate facts and draw conclusions
    - An early story is told to illustrate his ability (1 Kings 3:16-28)
  - Seems to have used his ability to amass knowledge of plant life, animal life, proverbs, and songs
  - People came from great distances to hear him answer difficult questions (1 Kings 4:29-34; 10:1-3)

# S O L O M O N

## Solomon's Other Projects

- After 7 years of work on the temple, he spent 13 years building himself an elaborate palace in Jerusalem
- He strengthened the walls of Jerusalem and built fortress towers

## Solomon's Other Projects

- Built fortress cities  
(1 Kings 9:17-18)
  - Hazor
  - Megiddo
  - Gezer
  - Beth-horon
  - Baalath  
(unknown)
  - Tadmor  
(Northeast of Damascus)





# S O L O M O N

## Solomon's Downfall

- It seems that Solomon sought to amass women the way he did his gold
  - Some of his marriages were for political reasons but the text says he **“loved many strange women”**
    - 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3)
  - Married women from:
    - Egypt, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, Hittite kingdom

# S O L O M O N

## Solomon's Downfall

- These proved to be the final downfall of his kingdom
  - He built high places in Jerusalem to the various gods his wives worshiped
    - He would even worship there with his wives

# S O L O M O N

## Solomon's Downfall

- God appeared to Solomon one last time

“Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and **have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you**, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

**1 Kings 11:11-13**

## The Empire Begins to Crumble

- The empire that Solomon had built now begins to fall apart
  - Hadad the Edomite returns from Egypt to claim his country
    - Fled to Egypt when David defeated Edom

## The Empire Begins to Crumble

- Rezon gathers men and sets up a city-state in Zobah
- Ahijah the prophet tears his garment into 12 pieces and gives 10 of them to one of Solomon's overseers named Jeroboam
  - Promised Jeroboam he would rule over 10 tribes
  - Jeroboam flees to Egypt when Solomon hears this

# The Kingdom Divides

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- Solomon's death marks the close of Israel's glory
  - Never again did they have or deserve God's blessings as He had given them in the days of David and Solomon



# The Kingdom Divides

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- The day came to anoint Solomon's son **Rehoboam** king
  - **The people gathered at Shechem**
    - Asked him to lighten their burdens
    - He refused to lighten their burdens
    - Boasted that it would be even harder!



# The Kingdom Divides

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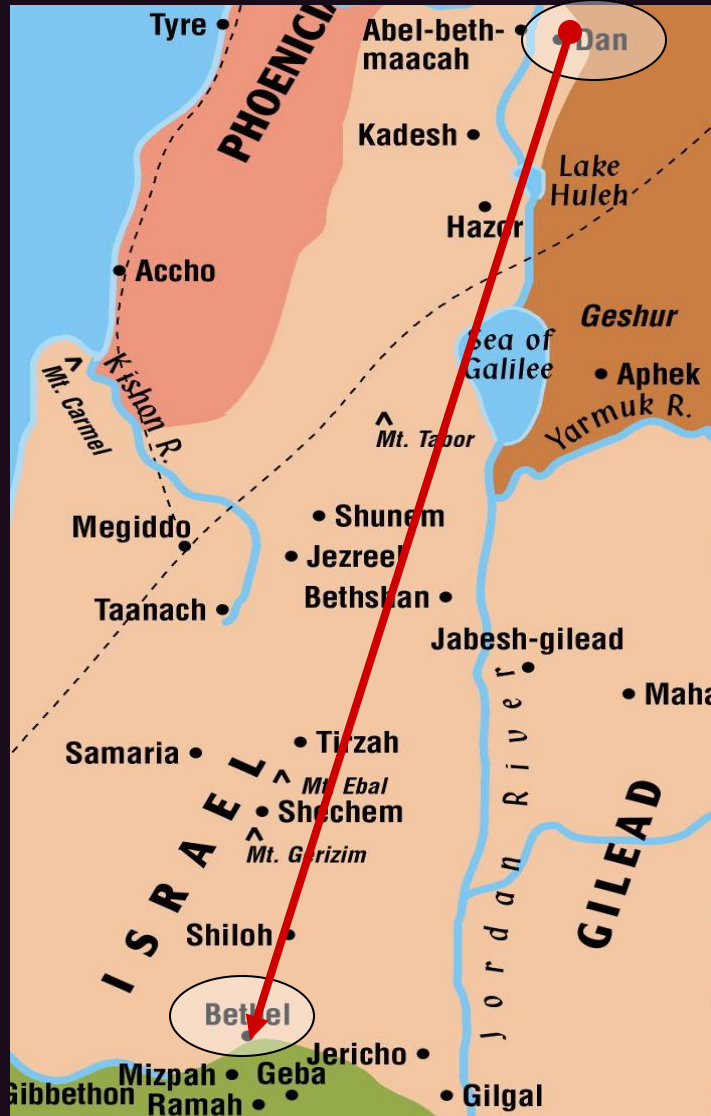
- Jeroboam became king of the ten northern tribes as the prophet Ahijah had predicted
  - They kept the name of Israel
  - Only Benjamin and Judah were left under Rehoboam
    - Simeon was incorporated as part of Judah by this time in Bible history

# The Kingdom Divides

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- Jerusalem was on the border between the two tribes of Benjamin and Judah
- Rehoboam was of the tribe of Judah
  - They took the name of Judah
  - Kept control of the temple, palace, and the capital city

# The Divided Kingdom



- The southern kingdom of Judah still worshiped God at the temple in Jerusalem
  - Oftentimes it was only a ritual of worship
  - It is heartbreaking to see the beginning of the moral and religious decay of this period

# The Divided Kingdom

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- Gradually the Levites moved south
  - Other faithful people moved south until the two kingdoms were nearer the same population than the figures, ten tribes and two tribes, indicate

# The Divided Kingdom

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- The divided kingdom continued for about 200 yrs
  - One of the darkest periods of Old Testament history
  - Israel and Judah warred against each other at times
  - There were on-going battles within and without
  - Out of 39 kings in the two kingdoms, 13 were murdered by their own people



# The Divided Kingdom

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- The welfare of the kings and their kingdoms was directly related to their service to God
- Southern kingdom – kings were direct descendants of David through Solomon
  - This was in fulfillment of the promise made to David in 2 Samuel 7:12

**"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom."**

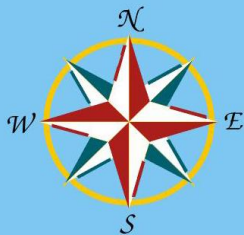
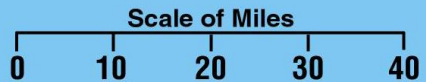
- Some good kings in Judah – none in Israel

# The Northern Kingdom

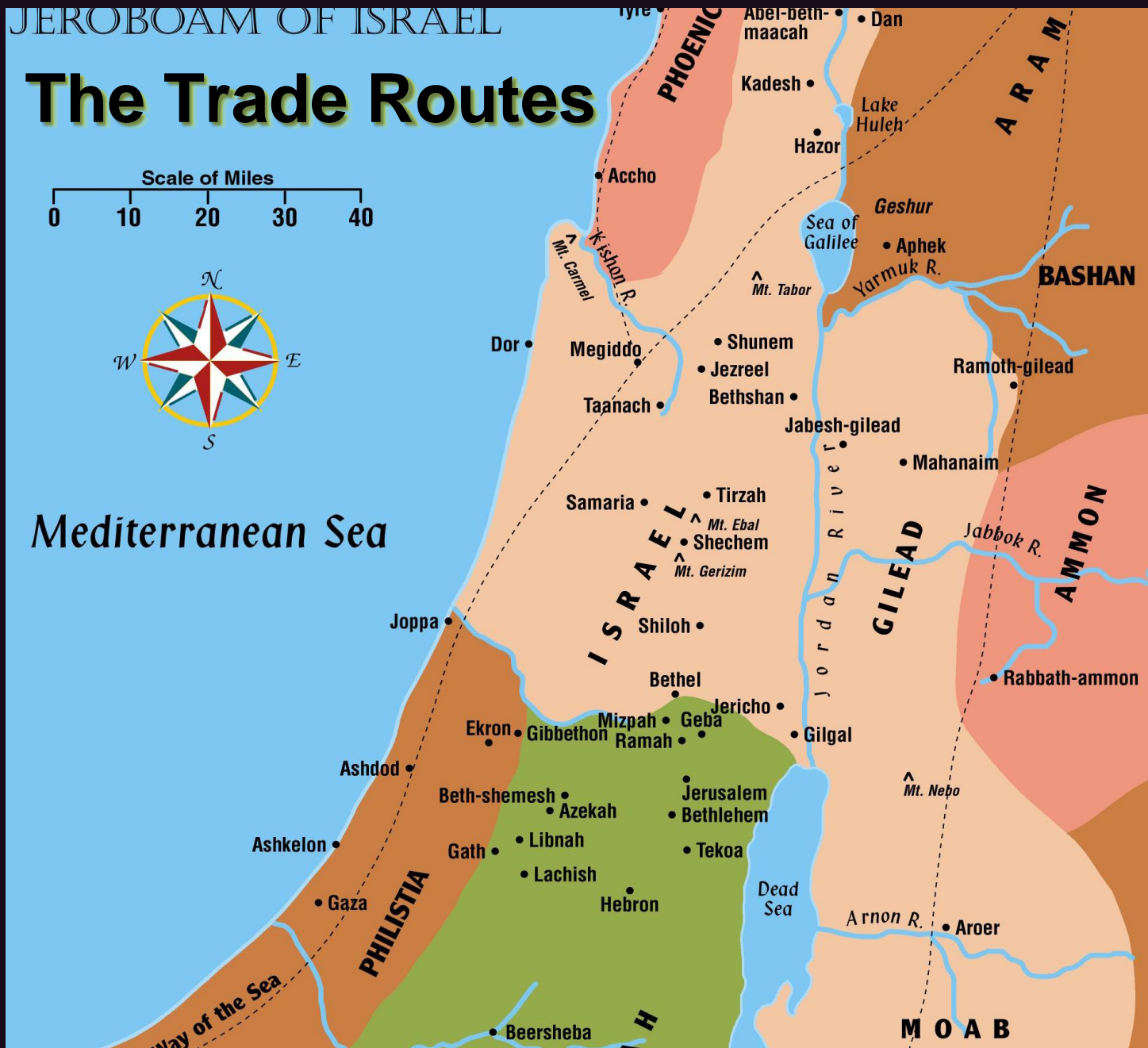
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- Went from bad to worse
  - Either worshiped Jeroboam's golden calves OR worshiped Baal – the god of the Canaanites
  - Ruling family in Israel changed 9 times
    - One would murder the king, destroy his family and then proclaim himself king
    - God sent prophets to warn of destruction
      - but were ignored

# The Trade Routes



Mediterranean Sea



# The Southern Kingdom

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- Judah was land-locked
  - Main routes avoided the more difficult roads through the hill country
  - Dead Sea was a natural barrier on the east
  - Philistines held the southern coastal plain

# The Fall of Israel

721 B.C.

## The Assyrian Empire



# The Fall of Israel

721 B.C.

- God's Word came true
  - The kingdom of Israel had fallen, never to be rebuilt
    - The people were captive and scattered throughout the land
    - They had forsaken God and His judgment came upon them





# Judah's Last Days



586 B.C.

2 Kings 18-25; 2 Chronicles 29-36

# Judah's Last Days 586 B.C.

- Felt the heavy hand of Assyria
  - Might have fallen soon after Israel if their kings had been as wicked as Ahaz – who appealed to Tiglath-pileser for help
- Also troubled by raids from the Edomites and the Philistines



# Judah's Last Days 586 B.C.



# Judah's Last Days 586 B.C.

- Babylon and Media agreed to co-exist
  - Media laid claim to all the land north and east of Nineveh
  - Babylon claimed all of Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, and Egypt

