

Judges Series

Lesson #30

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**When Lefty Killed Fatty and
Escaped Through the Outhouse—**

Part 2

Judges 3:12–30

JUDGES

**Moral Relativism
Destroys a Nation**

2021 Series

“While the sequence of episodes is clear, the narrator is obviously not interested merely in chronicling historical events. With effective employment of ambiguity, irony, satire, hyperbole, and caricature, he sketches a literary cartoon that pokes fun at the Moabites and brings glory to God. In fact, the account is so polemical and coarse that many scholars deny any historical basis to it.”

~D. Block, Judges, Judges 3:12

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

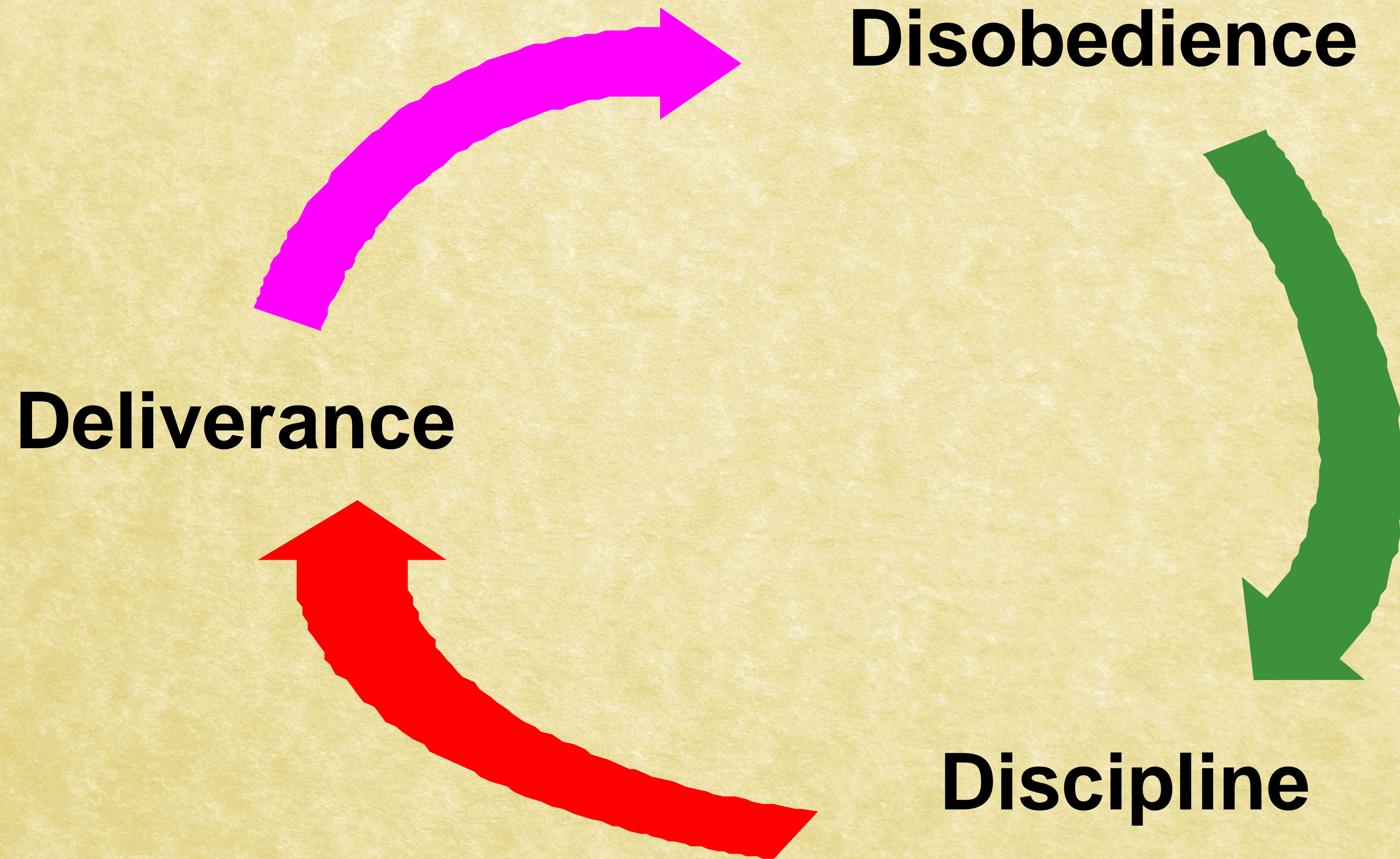
People

Chap. 19–21

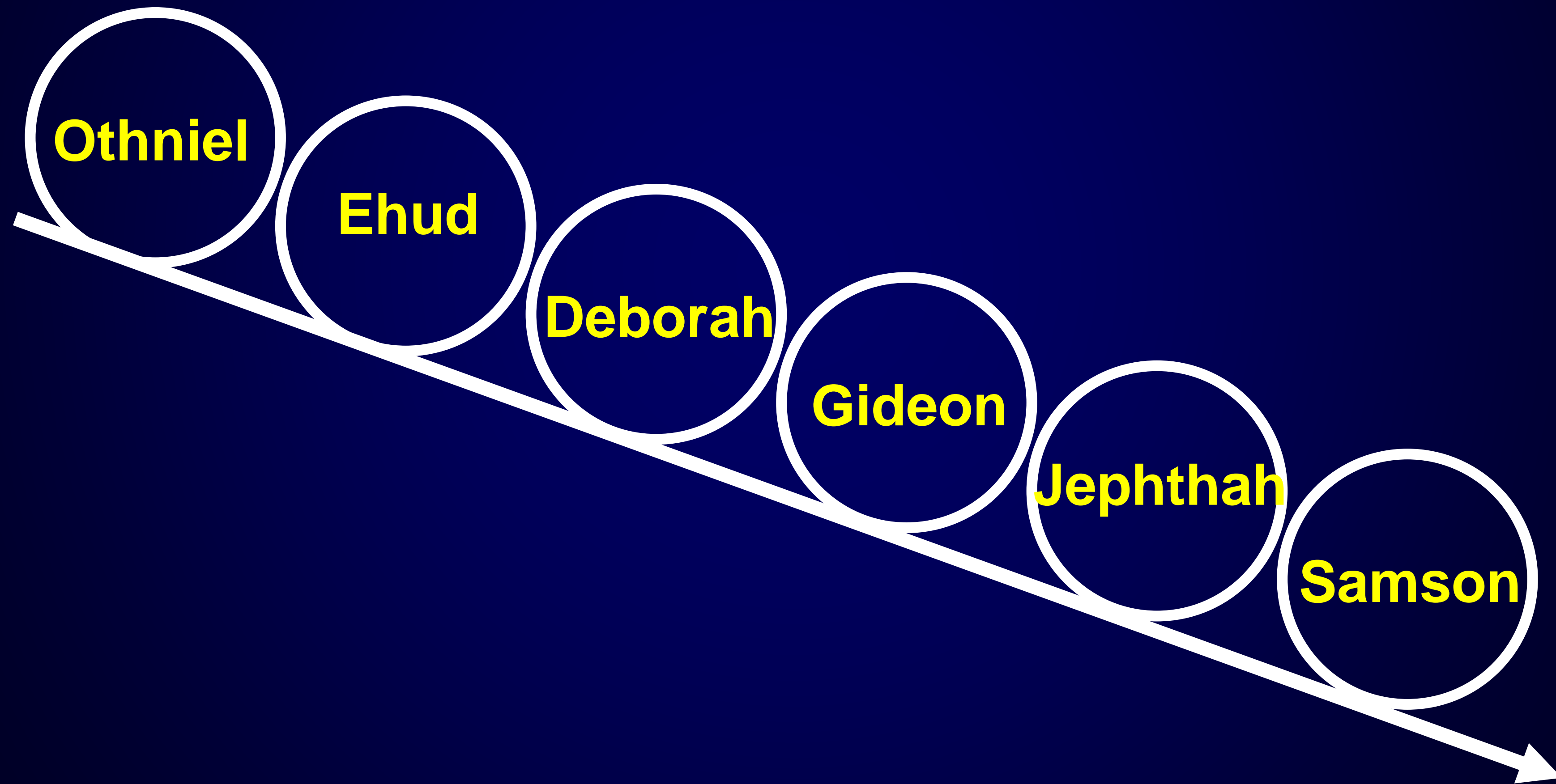
The Divine Indictment

Judg. 3:7, “And the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and the Asheroth.”

The Cycles of the Judges



Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges



The Divine Indictment

Judg. 3:7, “And the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and the Asheroth.”

Judg. 3:12a, “And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord.” ~NKJV

And served their gods



Seated god, perhaps El or storm god, and enthroned king statue, from Hazor, 15th–13th c. BC

And served their gods



Ivory lid depicting a goddess, from Minet el Beida, circa 1250 BC

And they forsook Yahweh and served Baal



Figurine of Baal from Ugarit, 14th–13th centuries BC

And they forsook Yahweh and served Baal



Figurines representing Baal, 14th–13th centuries BC

And they forsook Yahweh and served Baal and the Asherahs



Cult stand depicting Asherah, from Taanach, 10th century BC

And they forsook Yahweh and served Baal and the Asherahs



Cult stand depicting Asherah, from Taanach, 10th century BC

God's Agent of Divine Discipline

Judges 3:12b, “So the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord.” ~NKJV



Yahweh strengthened Eglon, the king of Moab, against Israel



Kerak, the ancient capital city of Moab (from the southwest)

Yahweh strengthened Eglon, the king of Moab, against Israel



Royal inscription from Moab, mid-8th century BC

Judges 3:12b, “So the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord.” ~NKJV

“Eglon” a paronomasia on ‘egel, “bull, calf,” or a “fat calf” — a diminutive form, but it is also based on the same consonants as *agol*, for “round, rotund”

**חזק *chazaq* piel wawConsec
3 masc sing
be(come) strong, make strong, to strengthen, give courage, provide military strength**

Judges 3:12b, “So the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord.” ~NKJV

Prov. 3:34, “Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Pet. 5:5c, “... God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Judg. 3:17, “So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man.)”

Judg. 3:17, “So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man.)”

בָּרִיאַ מְעוֹד *bariy' me'od* very or extremely fat man

**Psa. 119:70, “Their heart is as fat as grease,
but I delight in Your law.”**

Judg. 3:17, “So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man.)”

בָּרִיאַ מְעוֹד *bariy' me'od* very or extremely fat man

**Psa. 119:70, “Their heart is as fat as grease,
but I delight in Your law.”**

חֵלֶב-1 *chelev-1* Noun comm masc sing abs fat, sacrificial fat

Judg. 3:22, “Even the hilt went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the dagger out of his belly; and his entrails came out.”

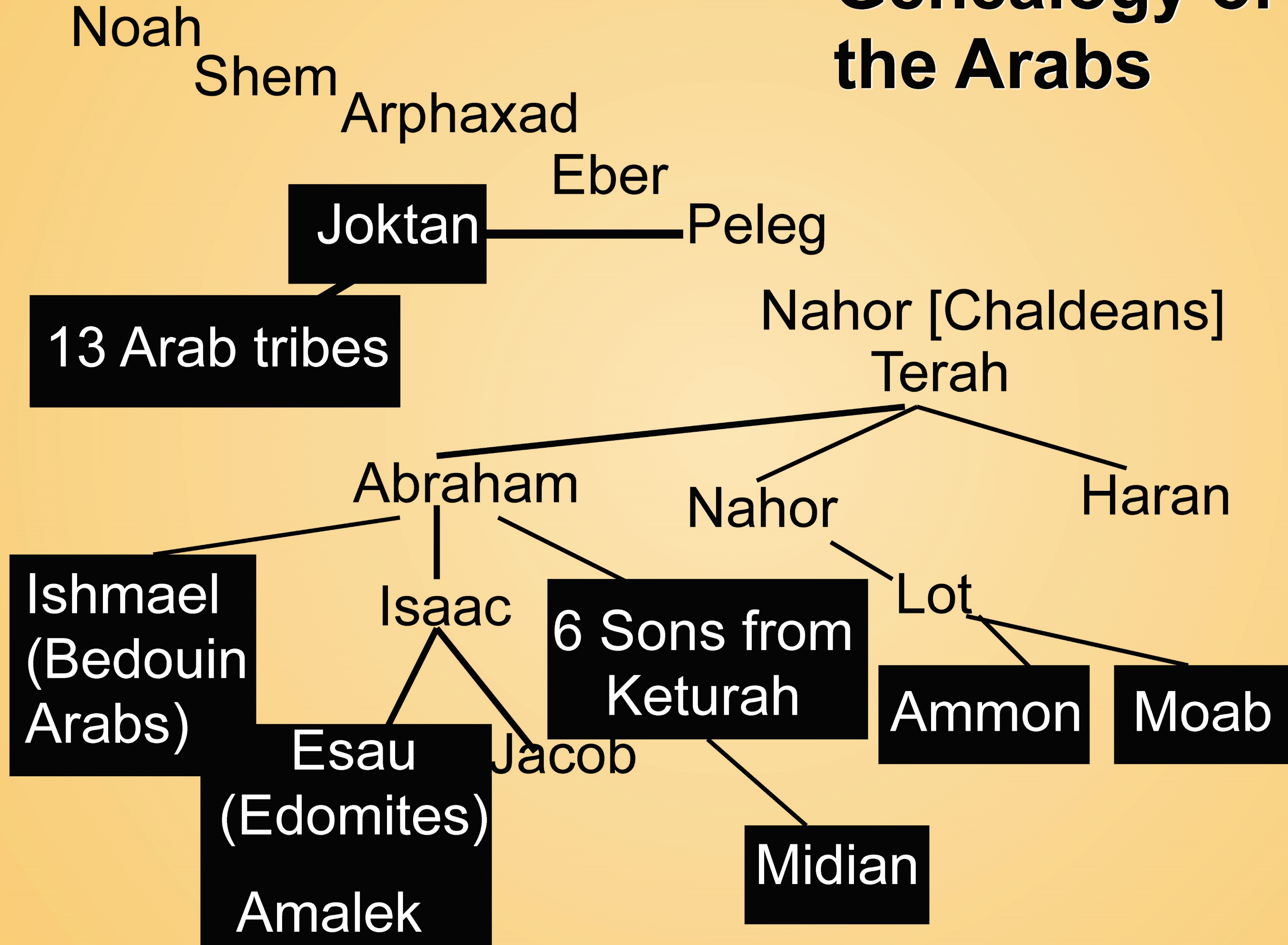
Psa. 2:2, “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Messiah, saying,

Psa. 2:3, “ ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.’

Psa. 2:4, “He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord mocks them.” ~RD

Judg. 3:13, “And he gathered to himself the sons of Ammon and Amalek; and he went and defeated Israel, and they possessed the city of the palm trees.”

Genealogy of the Arabs



He gathered to him the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and he went and struck Israel



Citadel of Amman, from the theater

He gathered to him the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and he went and struck Israel



Negev to the east of Beersheba (aerial view from the west)

And they possessed the city of palm trees



Palm trees in Jericho

And they possessed the city of palm trees



Jericho, modern Tell es-Sultan (aerial view from the north)



Lev. 26:14, “ ‘But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments,

Lev. 26:15, “if, instead, you reject My statutes, and if your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant,”

Lev. 26:16, “ ‘I, in turn, will do this to you: I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that shall waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away; also, you shall sow your seed uselessly, for your enemies shall eat it up.

Lev. 26:17, “ ‘And I will set My face against you so that you shall be struck down before your enemies; and those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when no one is pursuing you.’”

Judg. 3:14, “And the sons of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.”

“served”, Qal Imperfect *abadh*, “to work, to serve, to be enslaved to, to worship”

God's Gracious Deliverance

Judg. 3:15, “But when the sons of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them, Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. And the sons of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab.”

Yahweh raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a left-handed man



“Ehud Street” sign in Jerusalem

The children of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab



Depiction of tribute brought from Israel, on the Black Obelisk

The phrase “a left handed man” is *itter, yad yemino*

Literally, “shut up to the right hand”

Judg. 3:16, “And Ehud made himself a sword which had two edges, a cubit in length; and he bound it on his right thigh under his cloak.”

Now Ehud had made for himself a sword that had two edges



Bronze short sword from Zapher Papoura, 1400–1190 BC

And he kept it under his clothes on his right thigh



Ashurnasirpal II holding bowl and flanked by attendants, from Nimrud, 9th century

And he kept it under his clothes on his right thigh



Ashurnasirpal II holding bowl and flanked by attendants, from Nimrud, 9th century

Judg. 3:17, “And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man.”

Judg. 3:18, “And it came about when he had finished presenting the tribute, that he sent away the people who had carried the tribute.

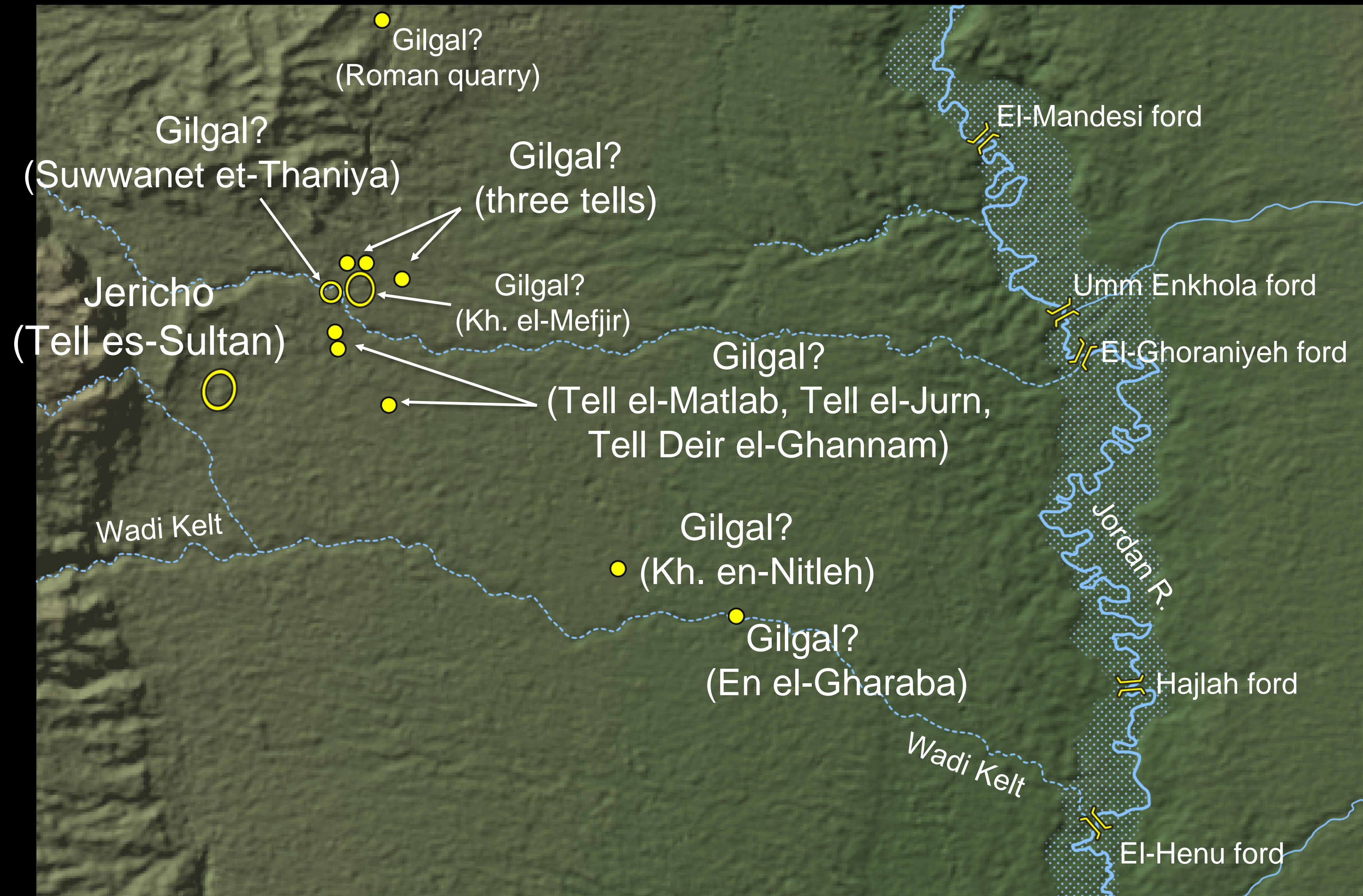
Judg. 3:19, “But he himself turned back from the idols which were at Gilgal, and said, ‘I have a secret message for you, O king.’ And he said, ‘Keep silence.’ And all who attended him left him.”

But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal



“Gilgal” sign near Jericho

But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal



Map showing proposed locations of Gilgal

But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal



Proposed locations of Gilgal on the Plain of Jericho (aerial view from the west)

But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal



Proposed locations of Gilgal on the Plain of Jericho (aerial view from the west)

But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal



Proposed area of Gilgal, east of Jericho (aerial view from the south)

But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal



Proposed area of Gilgal, east of Jericho (aerial view from the south)

But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal



Jiljul near Jericho

"I have a secret message for you, O king." And he said, "Keep silent." And all . . . went out



Frey Abu Median, sheikh of the Hanagreh tribe

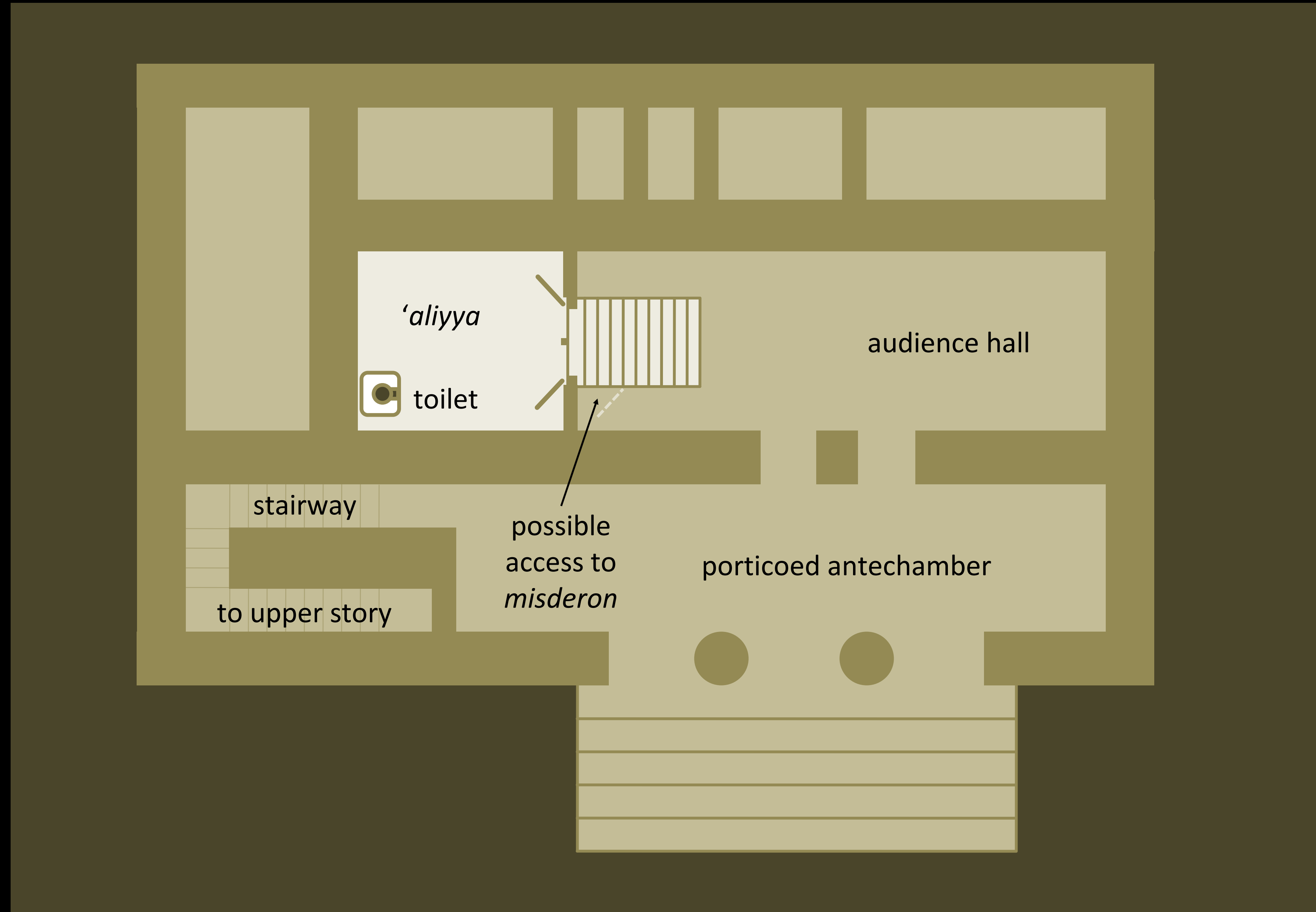
Judg. 3:20, “And Ehud came to him while he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, ‘I have a message from God for you.’ And he arose from his seat.”

And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber



The "Middle Building," excavated by John Garstang, possibly palace of Eglon

And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber

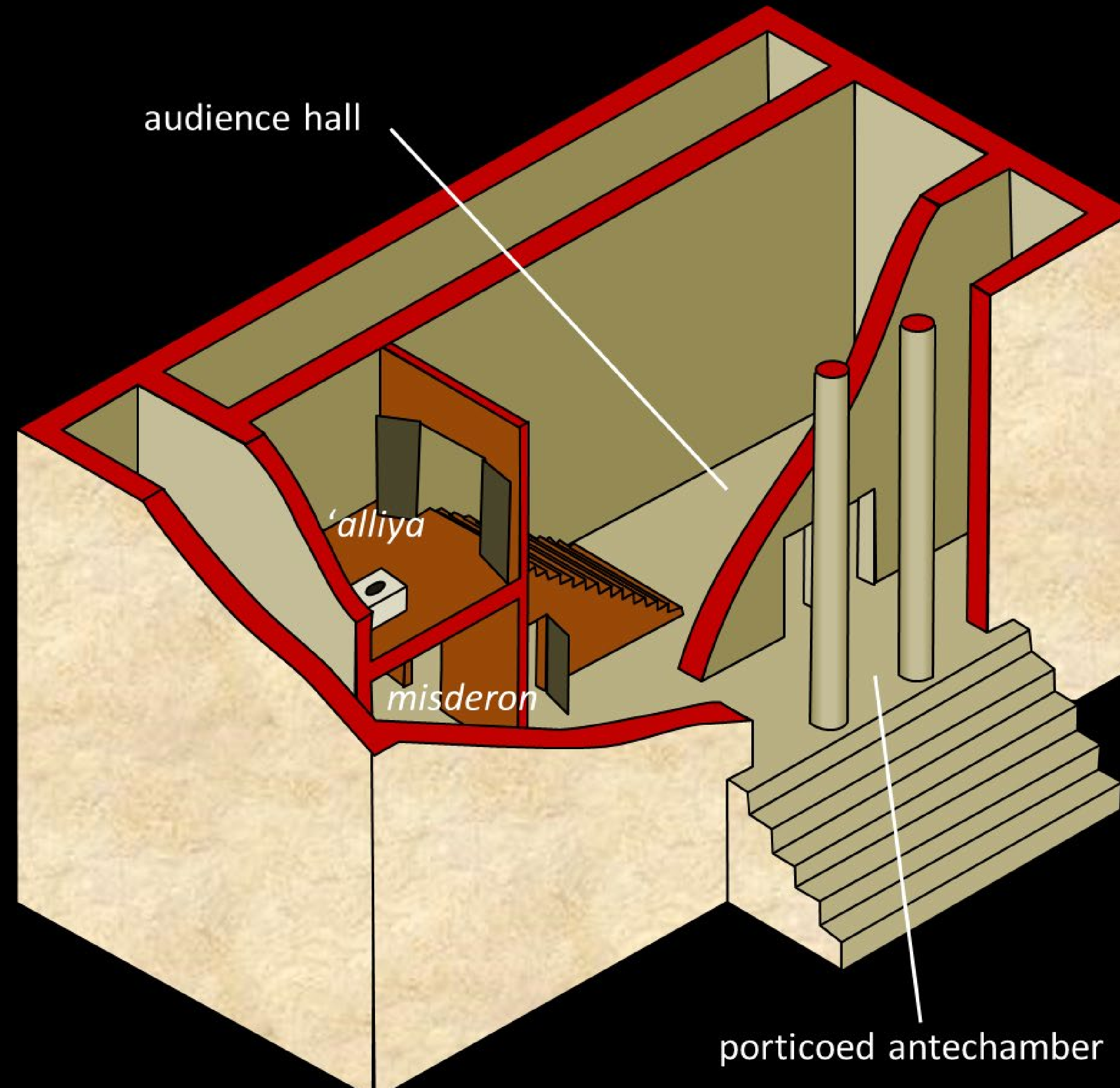


Plan of Eglon's palace at Jericho, based on the "Middle Building" found by Garstang

hammischerona,

**Not vestibule, but certainly some
architectural feature related to the latrine
or privy.**

And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber



Isometric plan of Eglon's palace at Jericho, based on the "Middle Building" found by Garstang



Judg. 3:21, “And Ehud stretched out his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh and thrust it into his belly.

Judg. 3:22, “The handle also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly; and the refuse came out.

Judg. 3:23, “Then Ehud went out into the vestibule and shut the doors of the roof chamber behind him, and locked them.”

Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his body



Depiction of Ehud killing Eglon

Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his body



Depiction of Ehud killing Eglon

Judg. 3:24, “When he had gone out, his servants came and looked, and behold, the doors of the roof chamber were locked; and they said, ‘He is only relieving himself in the cool room.’”

Judg. 3:25, “And they waited until they became anxious; but behold, he did not open the doors of the roof chamber. Therefore they took the key and opened them, and behold, their master had fallen to the floor dead.”

And the dung came out



Toilet sign at St. Anne's Church in Jerusalem

Ehud went out into the porch and shut the doors of the upper room and locked them



Reconstructed four-room house at Tell Qasile

His servants saw that the roof chambers were shut, they thought, “. . . he is covering his feet”



Men's bathrooms at the convent on the Hill of Offense in Jerusalem

They waited until they were ashamed, but he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber



Model of a two-story house, from Syria, about 1300 BC

Judg. 3:26, “Now Ehud escaped while they were delaying, and he passed by the idols and escaped to Seirah.

Judg. 3:27, “And it came about when he had arrived, that he blew the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was in front of them.”

So they took the key and opened them, and their lord had fallen dead on the ground



House keys from the Cave of the Letters in Nahal Hever, early 2nd century AD

Ehud escaped while they tarried and passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah



Hittite clay idol shaped like a bull, 14th–13th centuries BC

Ehud escaped while they tarried and passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah



Hill country of Ephraim near Ophrah (modern Taybe; aerial view from the south)

He blew a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim



Priest blowing the shofar

He blew a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim



Valley of Lebonah in hill country of Ephraim



MEDITERRANEAN SEA



PHILISTIA

SAMARIA

JUDAEA

AMMON

MOAB

EDOM

EASTERN DESERT

Joppa

Jerusalem

Engedi

Jericho

Rabbah (Amman)

Kir-hareseth

Gezer

Lachish

Azekah

Adullah

Hebron

Beersheba

Raphia

Gaza

Ashdod

Ekron

Gath

Aphek

Samaria

Samaria

Shechem

Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Beth-shan

Megiddo

Jokneam

Dor

Mt. Carmel

Jabesh-gilead

Beth-arbel

Ramoth-gilead

Mahanaim

Karnaim

Ashtaroth

Mt. Hauran

Gilead

Aroer

Zered River

Arnon River

W. Faria River

Jordan River

Jabbok River

Yarmuk River

Galilee

Besor Brook

Negeb

DEAD SEA

Judg. 3:28, “And he said to them, ‘Pursue them, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands.’ So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan opposite Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross.

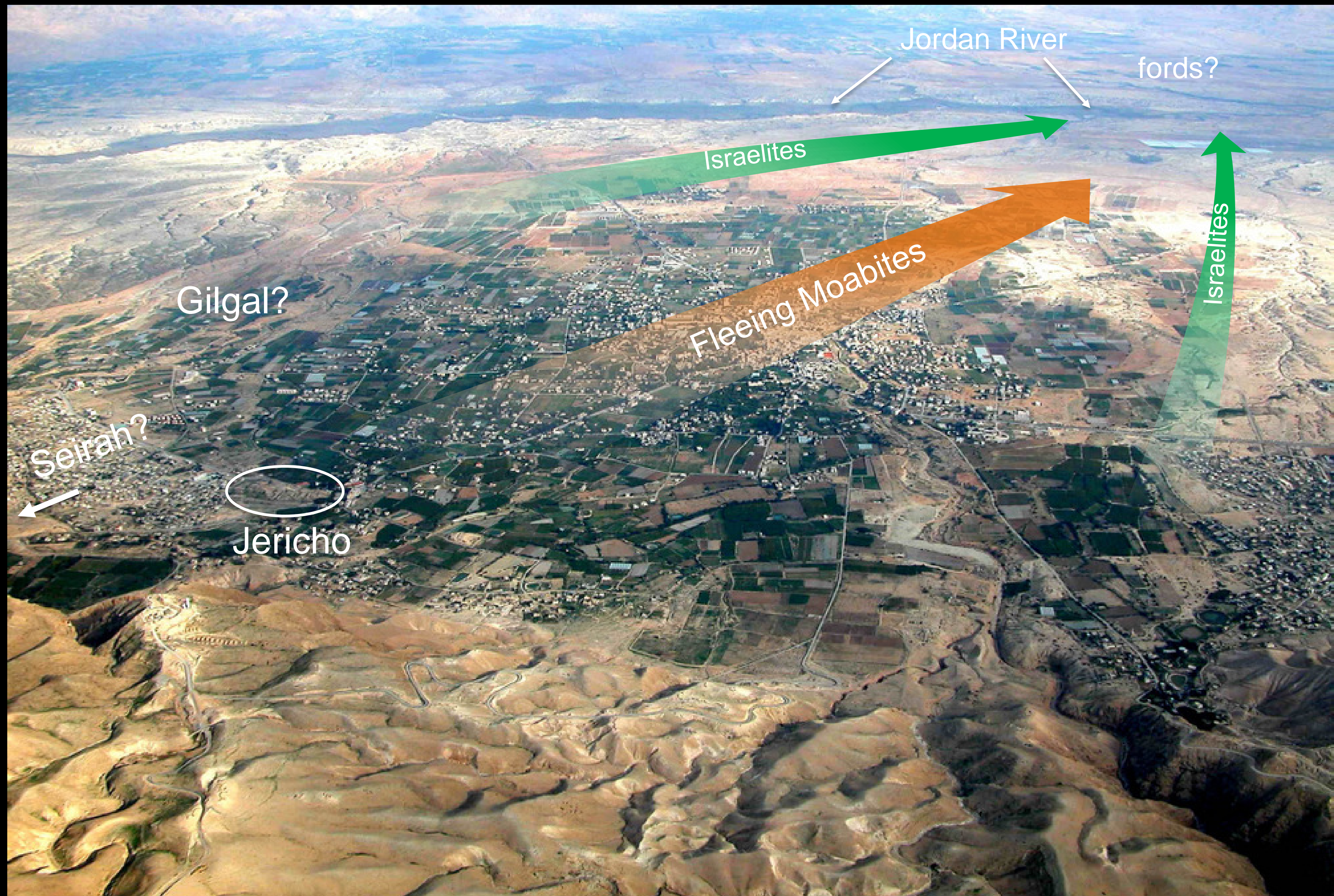
Judg. 3:29, “And they struck down at that time about ten thousand Moabites, all robust and valiant men; and no one escaped.”

They took the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow a man to pass over



Jericho and the area of Gilgal (aerial view from the west)

They took the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow a man to pass over



Jericho and the area of Gilgal (aerial view from the west)

Judg. 3:30, “So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land was undisturbed for eighty years.”

After Ehud was Shamgar the son of Anath



"Ehud Street" sign in Jerusalem

After Ehud was Shamgar the son of Anath



“Shamgar Street” sign in Jerusalem