

Judges Series

Lesson #52

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Gideon: Overview
Judges 6–8**

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

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

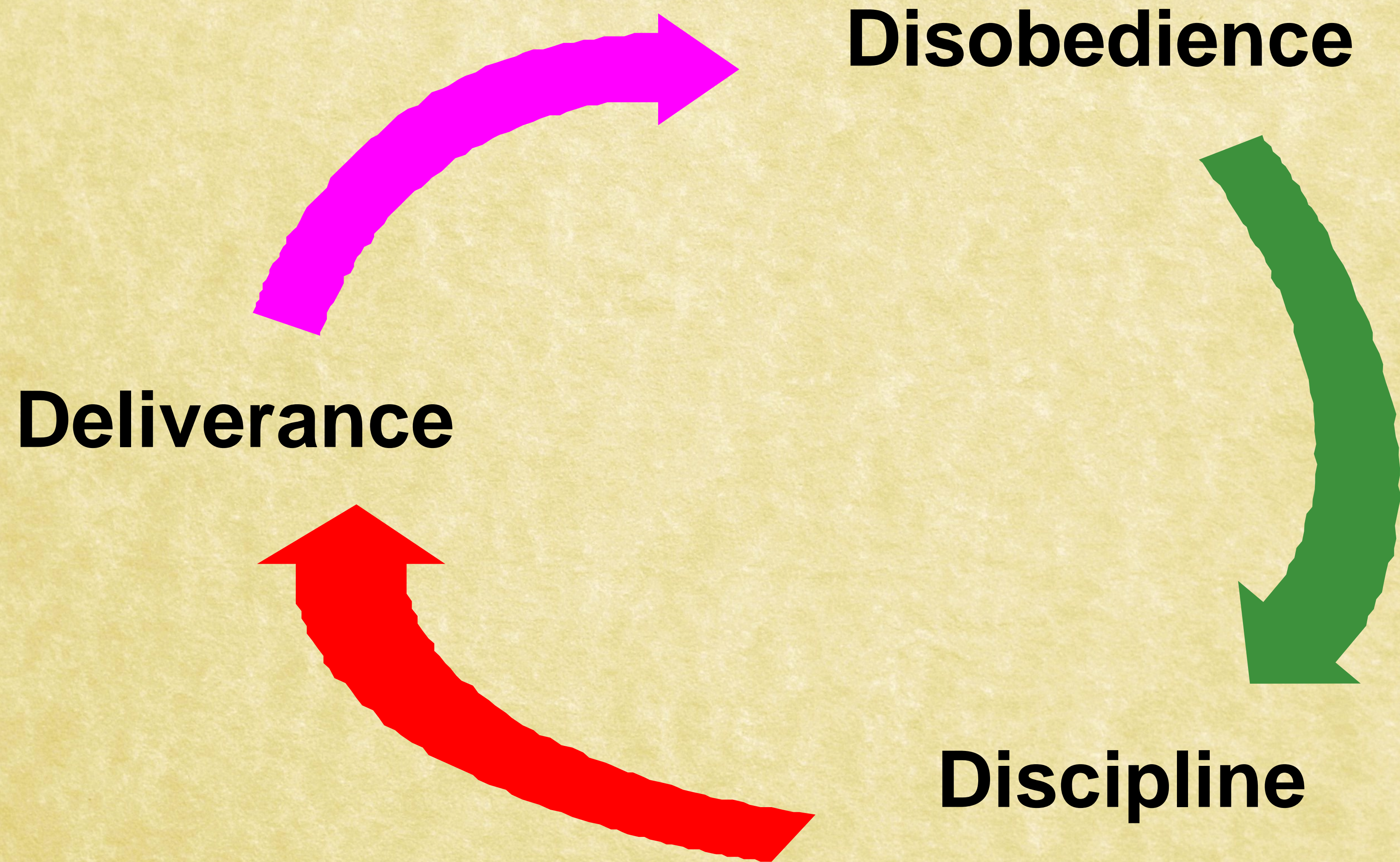
Chap. 17–18

and the

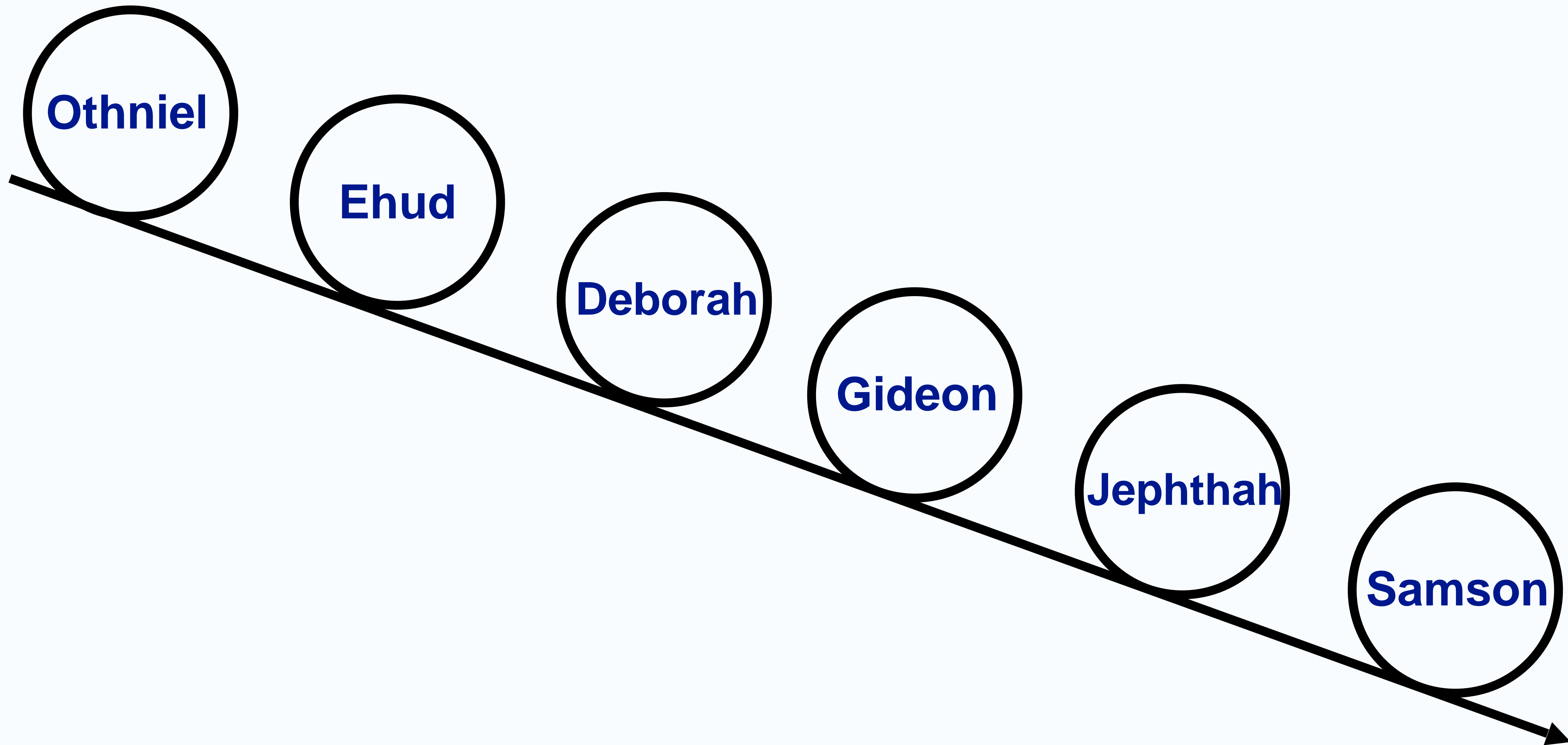
People

Chap. 19–21

The Cycles of the Judges



SLIDING into Paganism in the time of the JUDGES



The Gideon Cycle:

Part 1: The deliverance from the Midianite oppression.

- 1. Apostasy – Judges 6:1—————ONE verse**
- 2. Discipline – Judges 6:1b–6————FIVE verses**
- 3. Deliverance – Judges 6:7–8:35—NINETY-FOUR verses**

Total: 100 verses

Part 2: The story of the first king of Israel, Judges 9

The Disobedience, 6:1a

Judges 6:1, “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.”

The Discipline, Judges 6:1b–6,

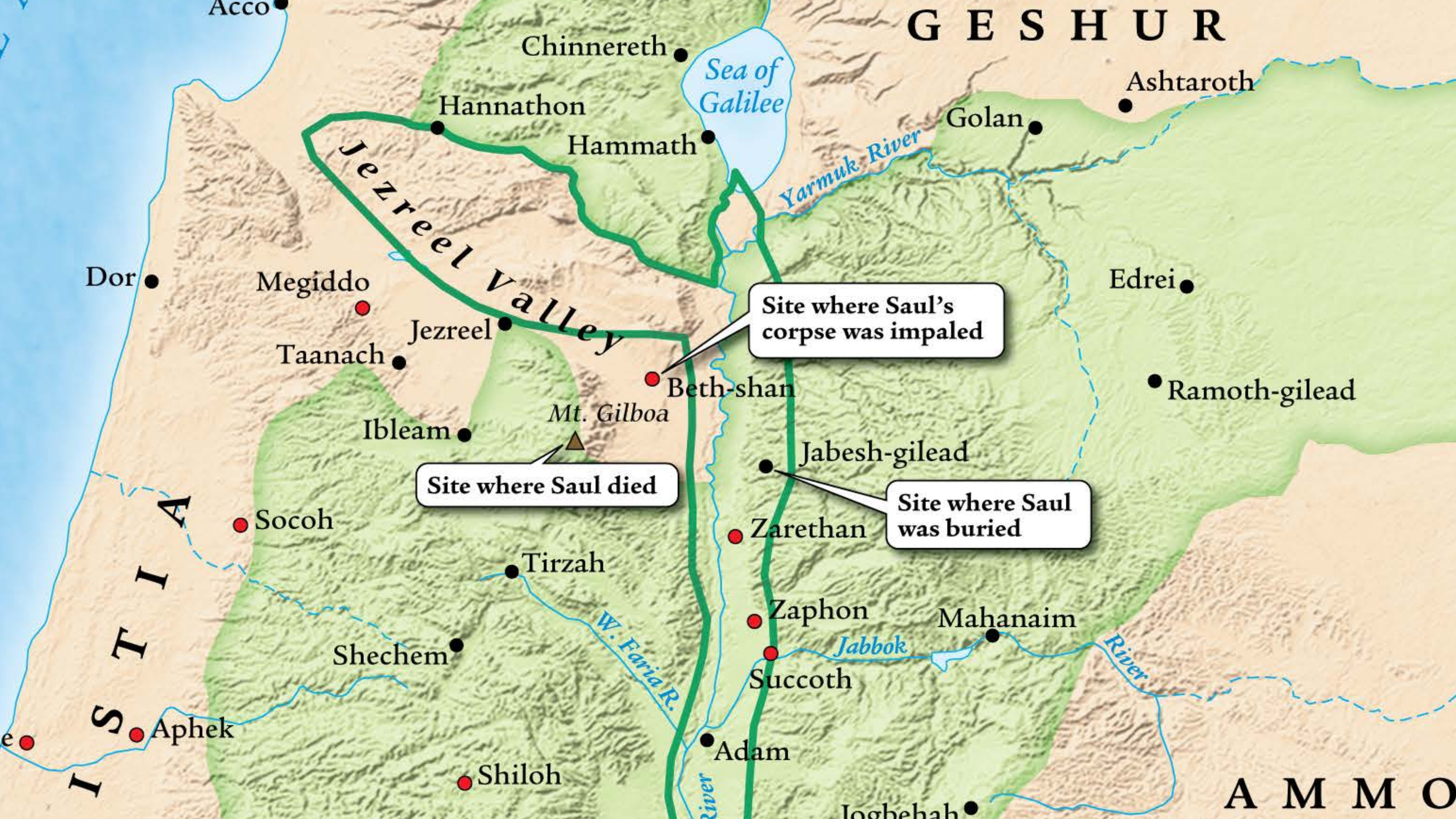
“So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, Judges 6:2, “and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.

Judges 6:3, “So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.

Judges 6:4, “Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.

Judges 6:5, “For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.

Judges 6:6, “So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord.”



G E S H U R

Sea of Galilee

Yarmuk River

Jezreel Valley

Site where Saul's corpse was impaled

Site where Saul died

Site where Saul was buried

I S T I A

A M M O

Lev. 26:13, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.”

Lev. 26:13, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.”

Judges 6:8, “that the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;

Judges 6:9, “ ‘ “and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.” ’ ”

Lev. 26:24, “then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

Lev. 26:25, “And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

Lev. 26:26, “When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.”

Judges 6:7, “And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord because of the Midianites,

Judges 6:8, “that the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;” ’ ”

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

The Angel of the Lord



Judges 6:22, “Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, ‘Alas, O LORD God! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face.’

Judges 6:23, “Then the LORD said to him, ‘Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.’

Judges 6:24, “So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.”

Judges 6:14, “Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’

Judges 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’

Judges 6:16, “And the Lord said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’ ”

Gideon prepares a sacrifice and follows the divine instructions, Judges 6:19–21

Judges 6:22, “Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face.’ ”

Judges 6:25, “Now it came to pass the same night that the Lord said to him, ‘Take your father’s young bull, [and a] second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;

Judges 6:26, “and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down.’

Judges 6:27, “So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the Lord had said to him. But because he feared his father’s household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.”

Judges 6:28, “And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built.

Judges 6:29, “So they said to one another, ‘Who has done this thing?’ And when they had inquired and asked, they said, ‘Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing.’

Judges 6:30, “Then the men of the city said to Joash, ‘Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it.’ ”

Judges 6:32, “Therefore on that day he called him *Jerubbaal*, saying, ‘Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar.’ ”

Judges 6:33, “Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.”

Judges 6:34, “But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.

Judges 6:35, “And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.”

Gideon and the Fleece (Judges 6:36–40)

Judges 6:36, “So Gideon said to God, ‘If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—

Judges 6:37, “ ‘look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.’

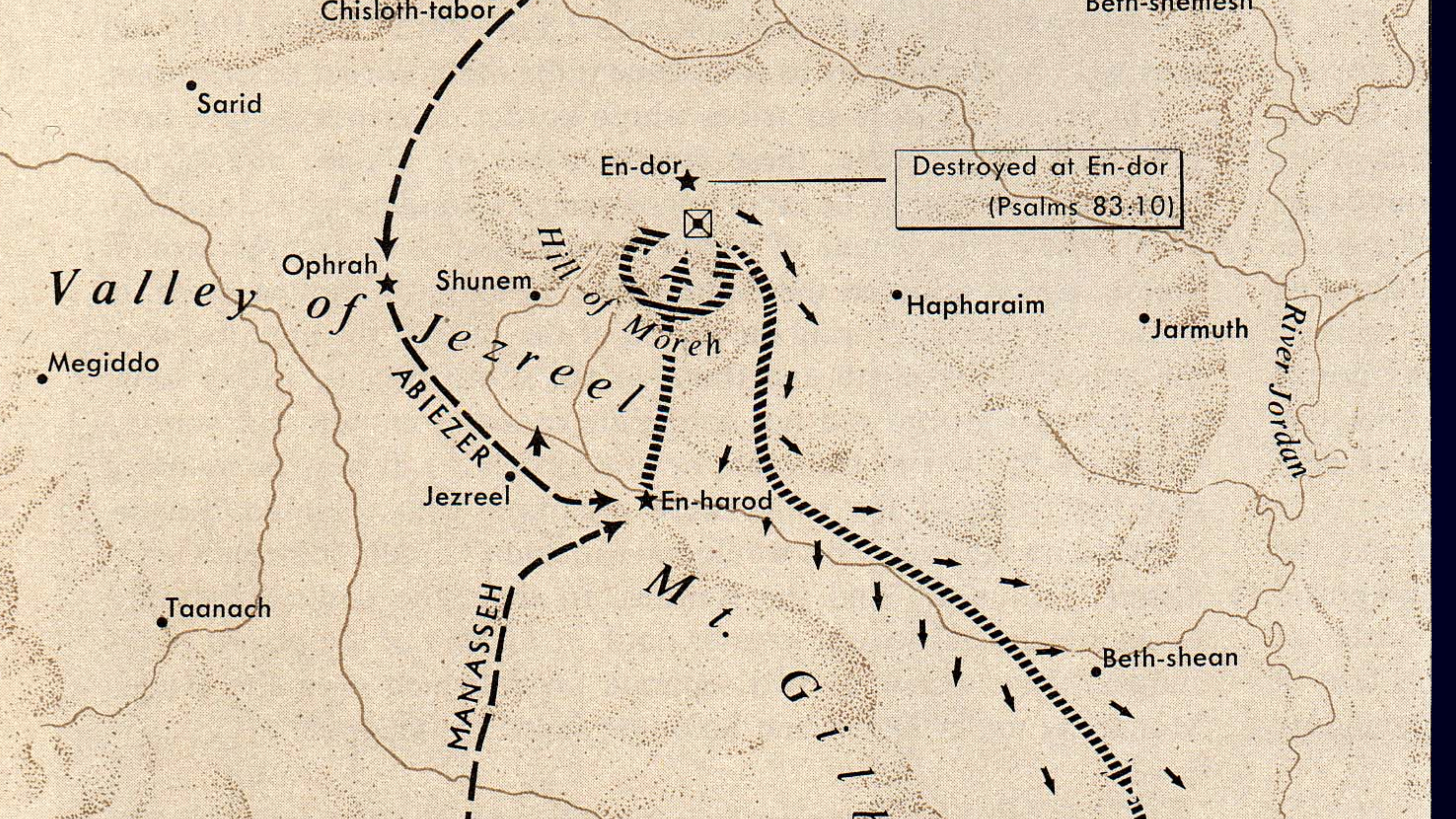
Judges 6:38, “And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.”

Judges 6:39, “Then Gideon said to God, ‘Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.’

Judges 6:40, “And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.”

Judges 7:4, “But the Lord said to Gideon, ‘The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, “This one shall go with you,” the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, “This one shall not go with you,” the same shall not go.’ ”

Zech. 4:6, “So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts.’ ”



Chisloth-tabor

Bern-shebes

Sarid

En-dor

Destroyed at En-dor
(Psalms 83:10)

Valley of Jezreel

Ophrah

Shunem

Hill of Moreh

Hapharaim

Jarmuth

River Jordan

Megiddo

ABIEZER

Jezreel

En-harod

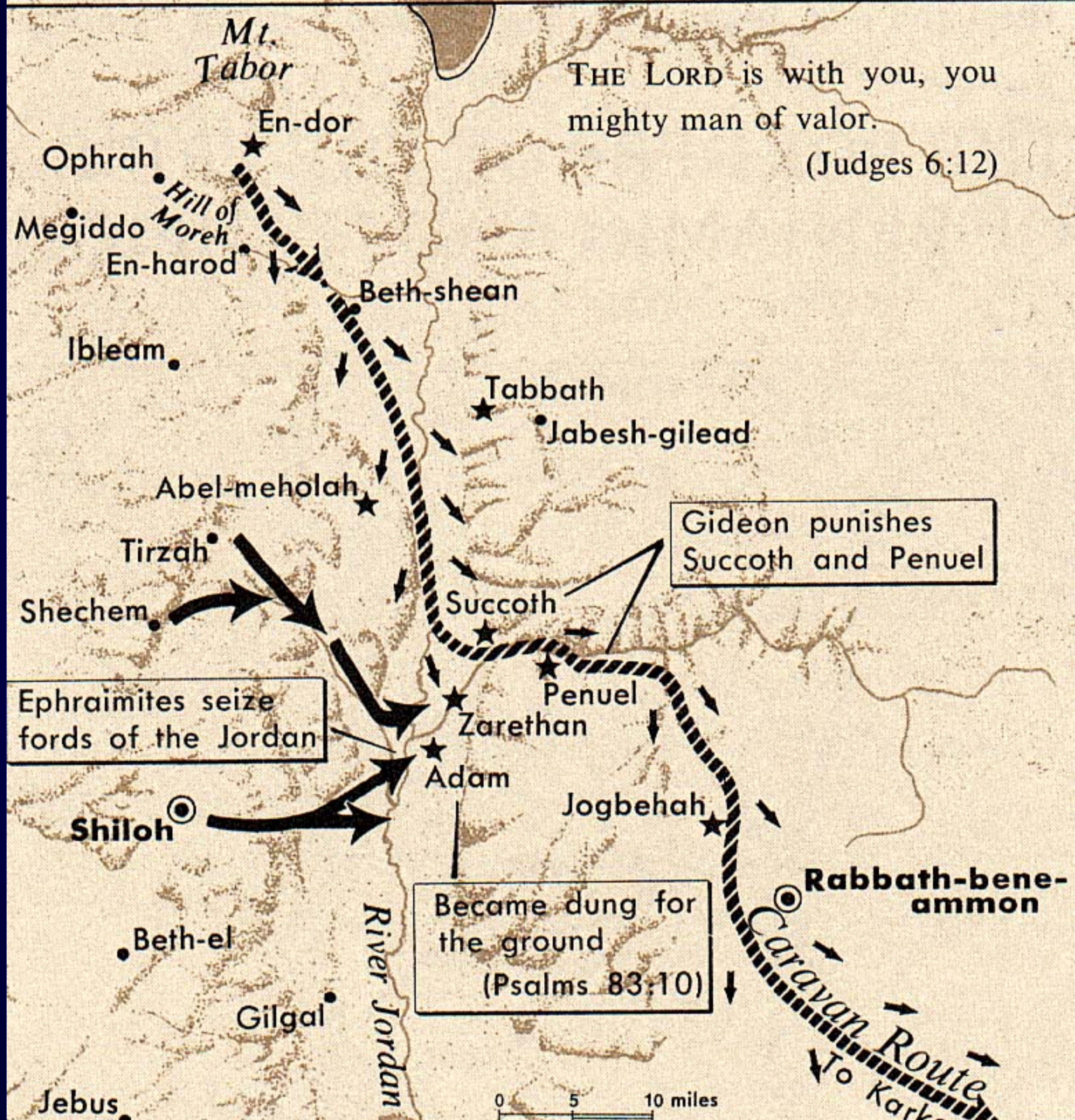
Taanach

MANASSEH

Mt.

Gilboa

Beth-shean



THE LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor.
(Judges 6:12)

Gideon punishes Succoth and Penuel

Ephraimites seize fords of the Jordan

Became dung for the ground
(Psalms 83:10)

Rabbath-bene-ammon

Caravan Route
To Kark

0 5 10 miles

Mt. Tabor
En-dor
Ophrah
Hill of Moreh
Megiddo
En-harod
Beth-shean
Ibleam
Abel-meholah
Tirzah
Shechem
Shiloh
Beth-el
Gilgal
Jebus

Tabbath
Jabesh-gilead
Succoth
Penuel
Zarethan
Adam
Jogbehah

Rabbath-bene-ammon
Caravan Route
To Kark

River Jordan

Judges 7:4, “But the Lord said to Gideon, ‘The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, “This one shall go with you,” the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, “This one shall not go with you,” the same shall not go.’ ”

Judges 7:7, “Then the Lord said to Gideon, ‘By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.’ ”

The Vision of the Midianite Guard

Judges 7:13, “And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, ‘I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.’”

Judges 7:14, “Then his companion answered and said, ‘This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.’”

Judges 7:15, “And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, ‘Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.’ ”

The Strategy

Judges 7:16, “Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.

Judges 7:17, “And he said to them, ‘Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do:

Judges 7:18, “ ‘When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!” ’ ”

Judges 7:21, “And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

Judges 7:22, “When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the Lord set every man’s sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

Judges 7:23, “And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.”

The Inclusion of the Ephraimites

Judges 7:24, “Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, ‘Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.’ Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.

Judges 7:25, “And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.”

Ephraim's Anger

Judges 8:1, “Now the men of Ephraim said to him, ‘Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?’ And they reprimanded him sharply.

Judges 8:2, “So he said to them, ‘What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?

Judges 8:3, “ ‘God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?’ Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.”

Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the Two Kings, Judges 8:5–7

Judges 8:5, “Then he said to the men of Succoth, ‘Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.’

Judges 8:6, “And the leaders of Succoth said, ‘Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?’

Judges 8:7, “So Gideon said, ‘For this cause, when the Lord has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers!’ ”

Gideon's Failure

Judges 8:21, “So Zebah and Zalmunna said, ‘Rise yourself, and kill us; for as a man is, so is his strength.’ So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments that were on their camels’ necks.

Judges 8:22, “Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, ‘Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.’

Judges 8:23, “But Gideon said to them, ‘I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.’ ”

Judges 8:27, “Then Gideon made it into an ephod and set it up in his city, Ophrah. And all Israel played the harlot with it there. It became a snare to Gideon and to his house.

Judges 8:28, “Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.”