

Judges Series

Lesson #66

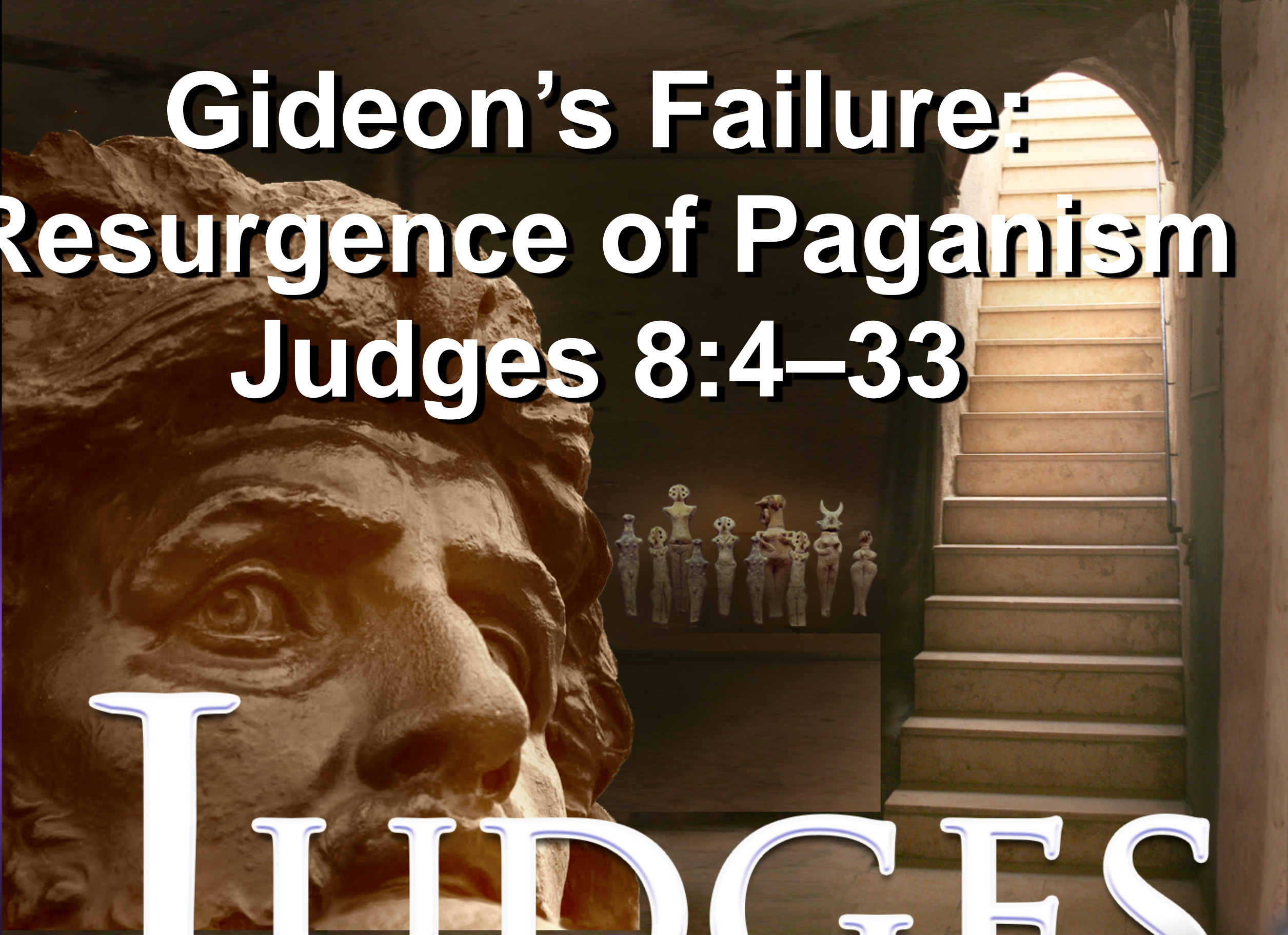
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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Gideon's Failure:  
Resurgence of Paganism  
Judges 8:4–33**

# 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**



**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,**

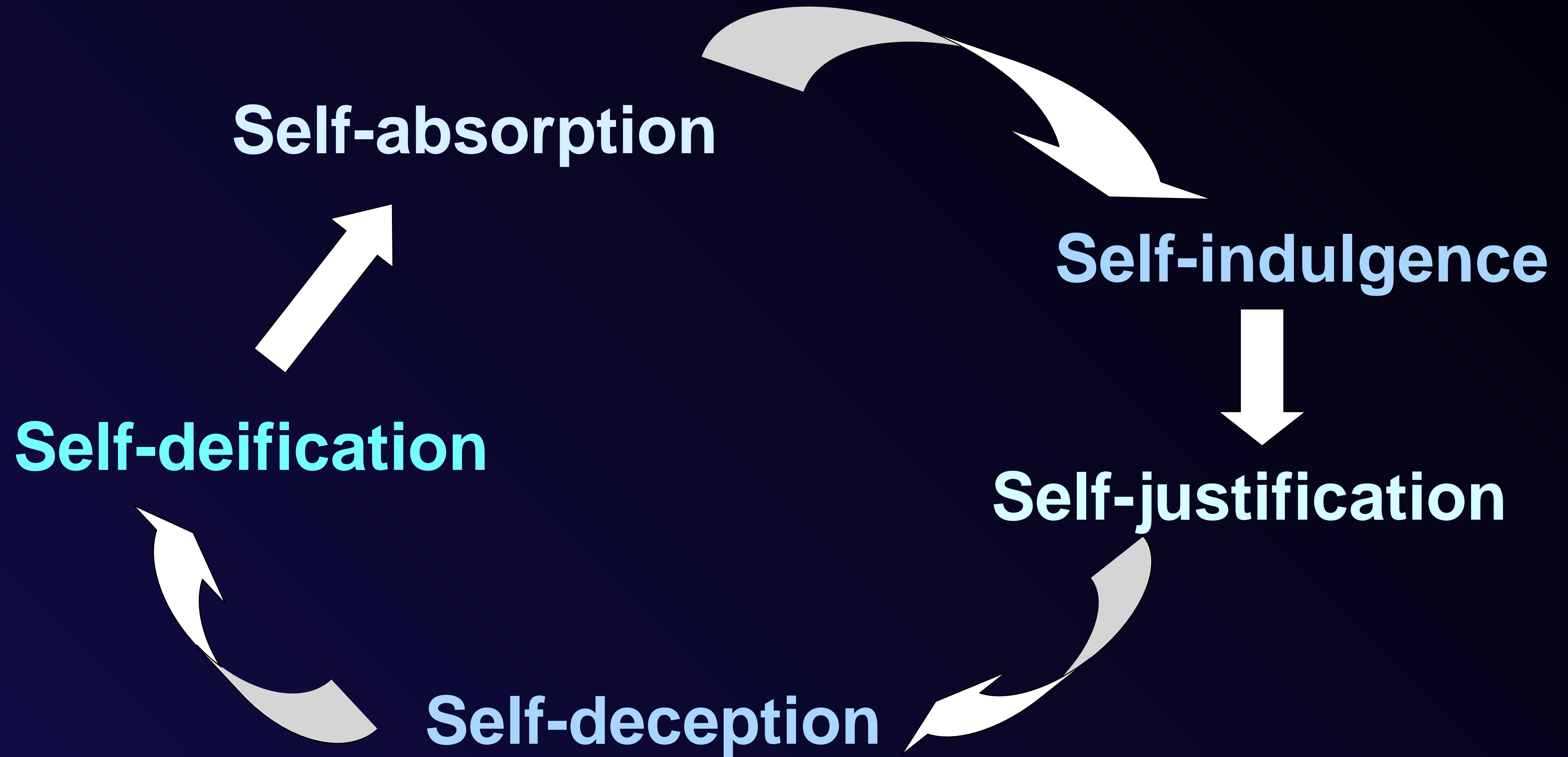
**Heb. 11:34, “quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”**



**Judg. 6:34, “But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.”**



# The Cycle of Arrogance Skills





## **Ephraim's Anger**

**Judg. 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.**

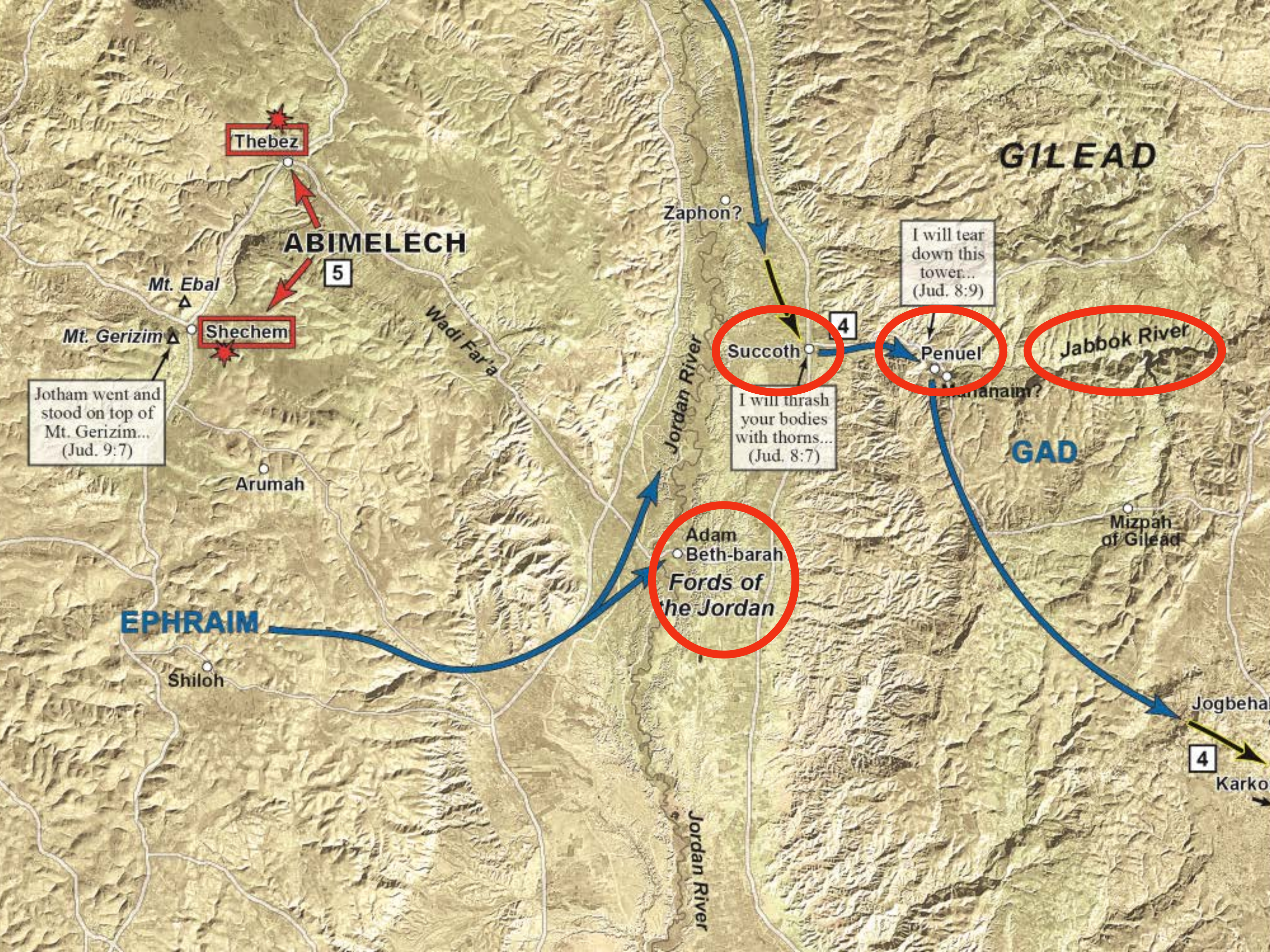
**Judg. 8:2, “So he said to them, ‘What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?’**

**Judg. 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.” ~NKJV**



# **Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9**





**Judg. 8:4**,  
“When Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him crossed over, wearily pursuing.”  
~RD







## **Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9**

**Succoth (“booths”) part of the territory of the tribe of Gad (Josh. 13:27), just north of the Jabbok River and 3 miles east of the Jordan.**

**Mentioned in Jacob's movements after wrestling with the Lord face to face at Peniel.**

**Gen. 32:30, “So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: ‘For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.’ ”**



# Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9

**Judg. 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.’ ” ~NKJV





## **Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9**

**Judg. 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?’**

**Judg. 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 briars!’ ” ~NKJV**























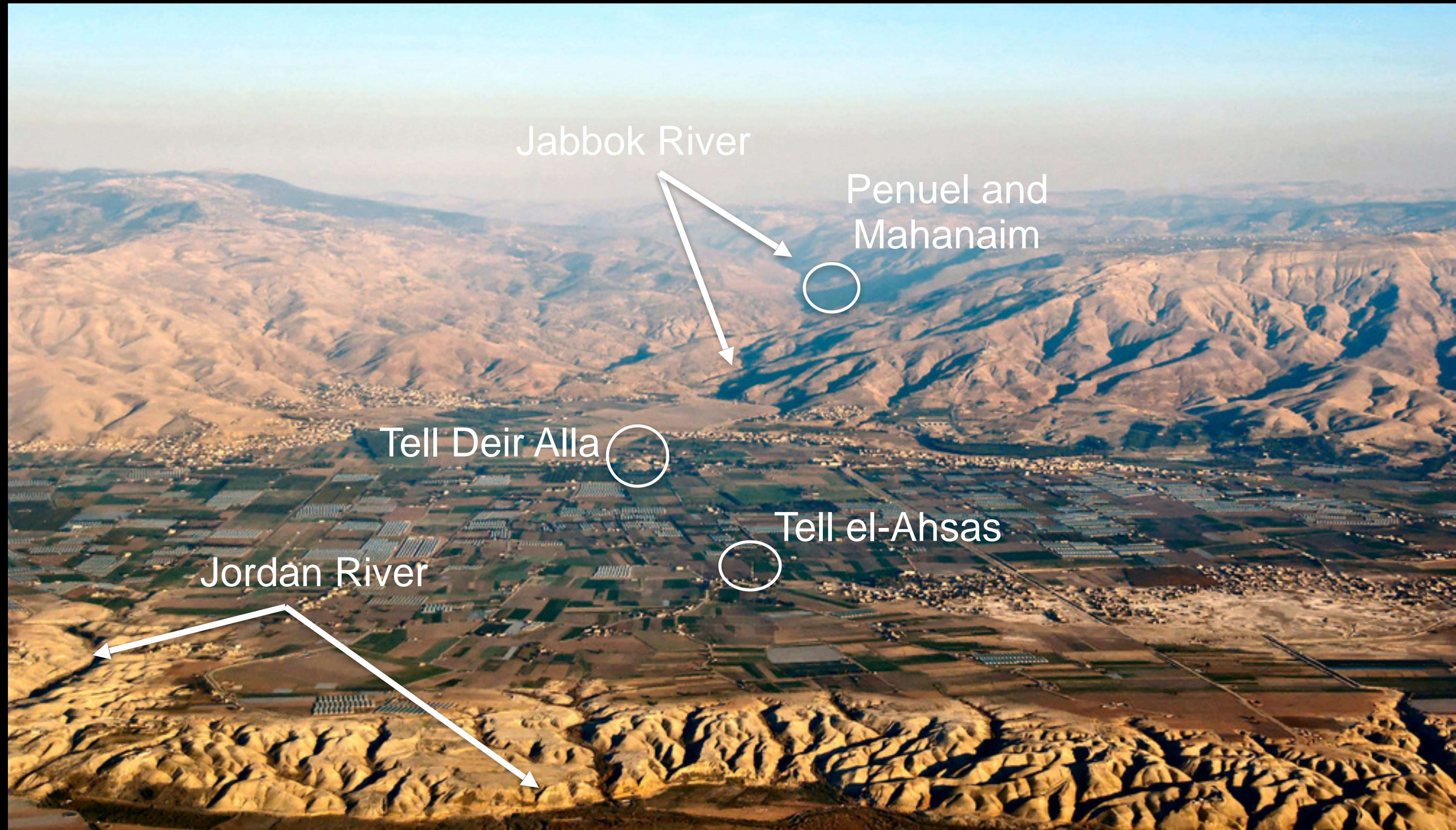
# **Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9**

**Judg. 8:8, “Then he went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in the same way. And the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered.”**

**~NKJV**



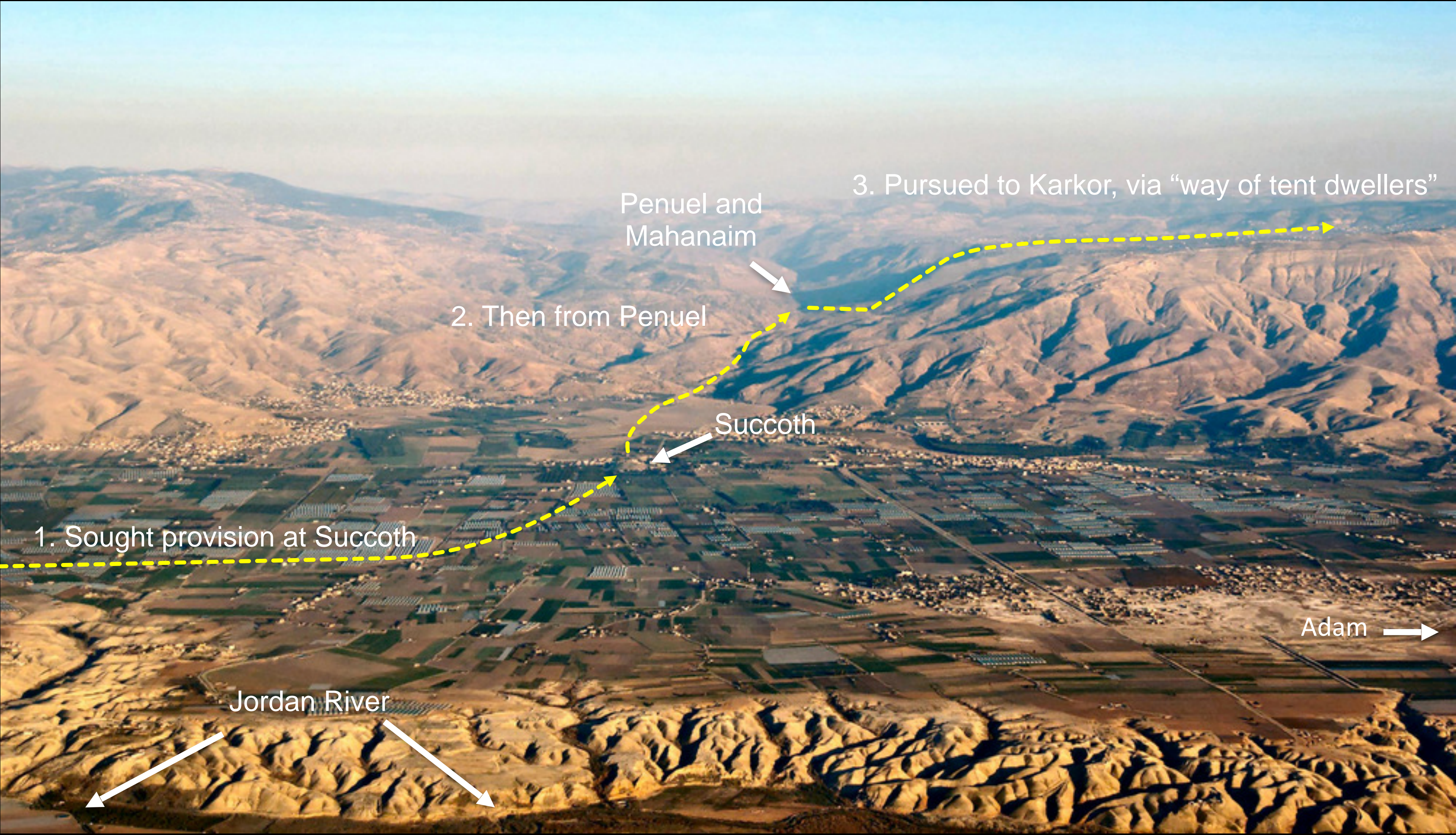
*And he said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people that follow me"*



Area of Succoth and Jabbok River (aerial view from the west)



*He went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in like manner*



Succoth, Penuel, and the Jabbok River (aerial view from the west)



*He went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in like manner*



Tell adh-Dhahab al-Garbiyya, possible location of Penuel (from the northwest)



*He went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in like manner*



Tell adh-Dhahab al-Garbiyya, possible location of Penuel (from the south)



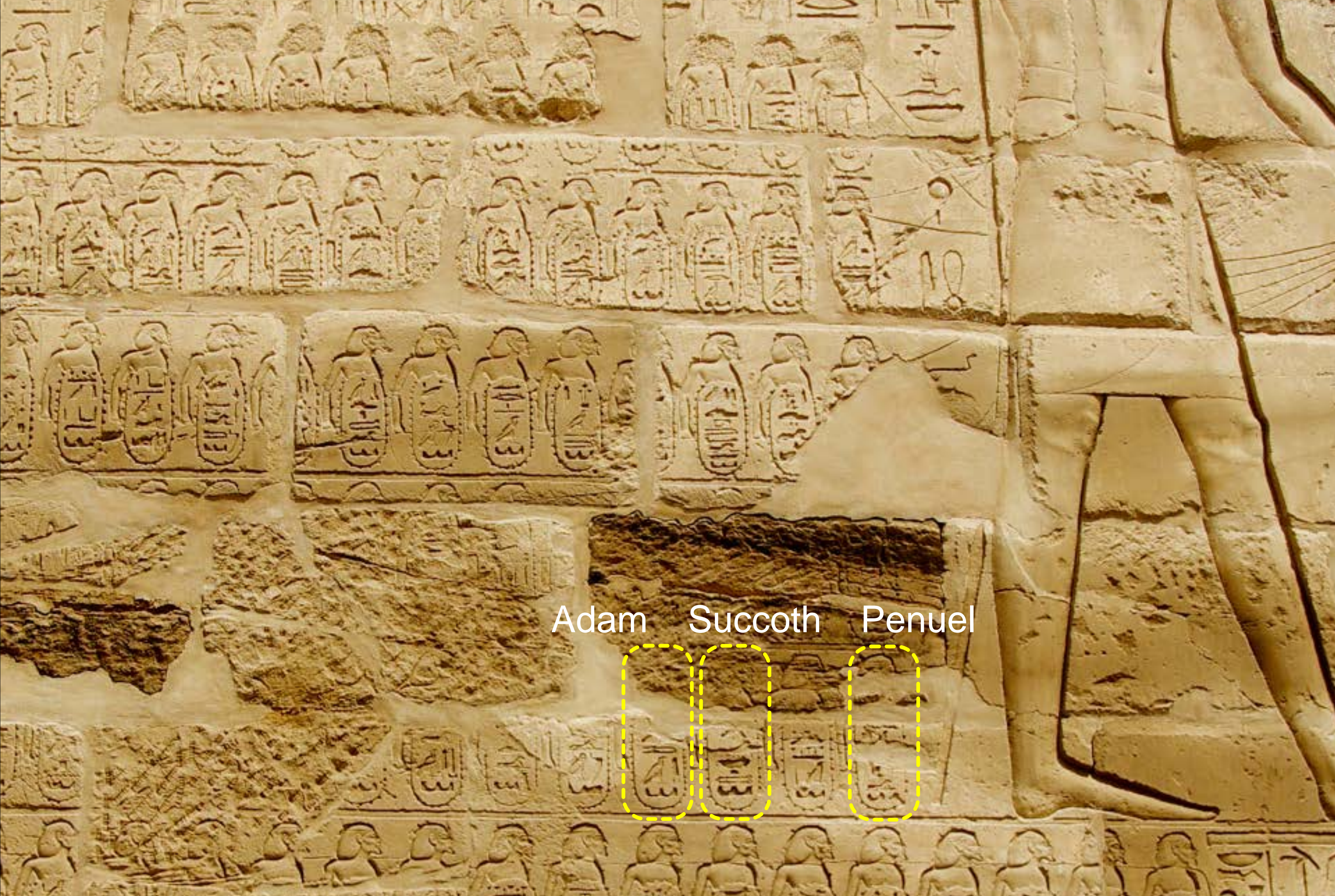
*He went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in like manner*



Summit of Tell adh-Dhahab al-Garbiyya, possible location of Penuel (from the west)



*He went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in like manner*



Adam, Succoth, and Penuel on Shishak's campaign list at Karnak, 925 BC



# **Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9**

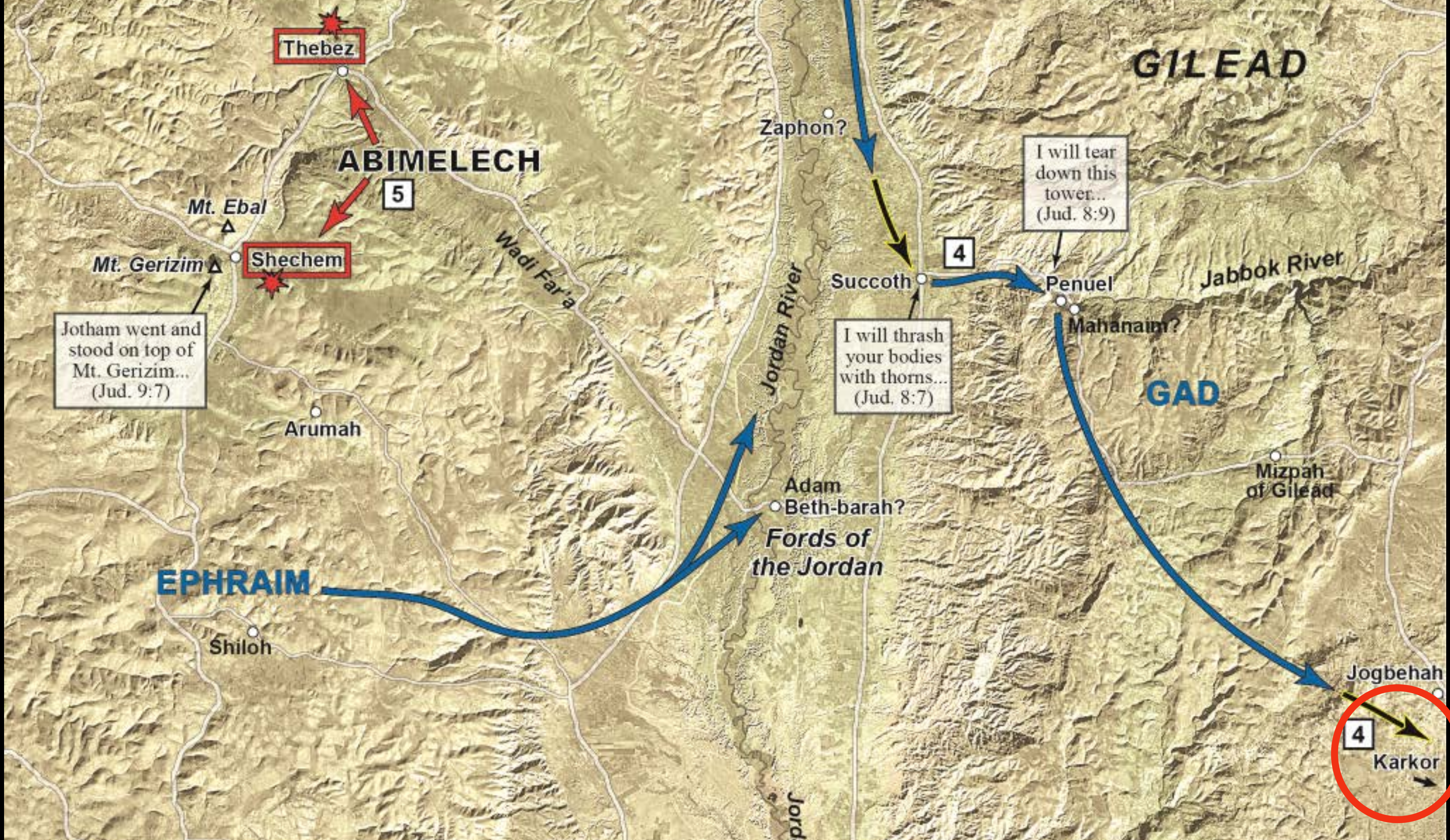
**Judg. 8:9, “So he also spoke to the men of Penuel, saying, ‘When I come back in peace, I will tear down this tower!’ ”**

**~NKJV**



**Judg. 8:10, “Now Zebah and Zalmunna were at Karkor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand, all who were left of all the army of the people of the East; for one hundred and twenty thousand men who drew the sword had fallen.” ~NKJV**





Thebez

ABIMELECH

5

Mt. Ebal

Mt. Gerizim

Shechem

Jotham went and stood on top of Mt. Gerizim... (Jud. 9:7)

Arumah

EPHRAIM

Shiloh

Zaphon?

Jordan River

Succoth

I will thrash your bodies with thorns... (Jud. 8:7)

4

I will tear down this tower... (Jud. 8:9)

Penuel

Mahanaim?

GAD

Jabbok River

Mizpah of Gilead

Adam Beth-barah?

Fords of the Jordan

Jogbehah

4

Karkor



*Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their hosts were with them*



Map of Penuel and Wadi Sirhan, possible location of Karkor



*Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their hosts were with them*



Streams and marshes in Wadi Sirhan, possible location of Karkor

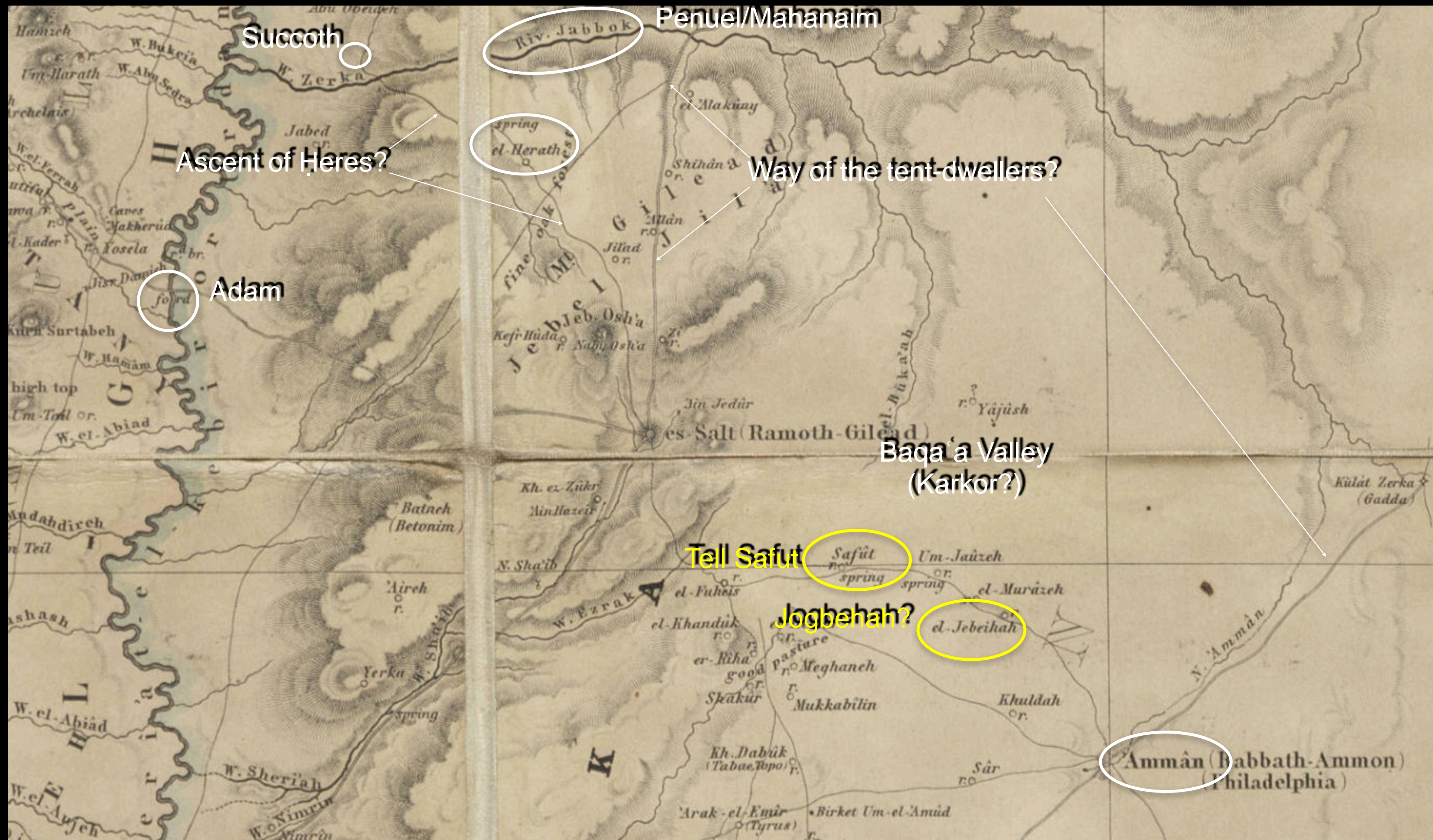


**Judg. 8:11, “Then Gideon went up by the road of those who dwell in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah; and he attacked the army while the camp felt secure.**

**Judg. 8:12, “When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army.” ~NKJV**



Gideon went up by the way of tent dwellers on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah



Map of the area of Gideon's pursuit of the Midianites







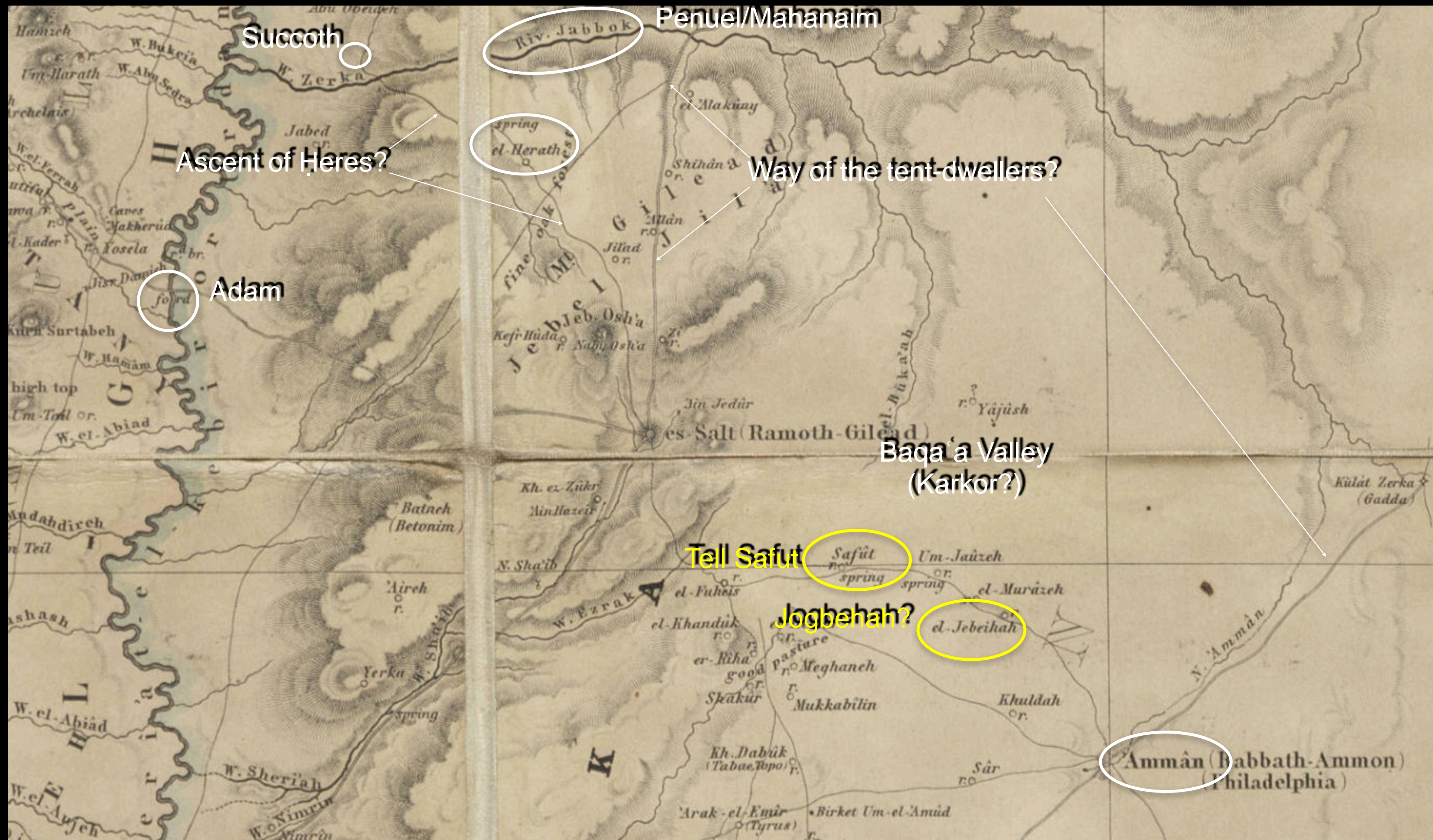
**Judg. 8:13, “Then Gideon, the son of Joash, returned from battle, from the Ascent of Heres.**

**Judg. 8:14, “And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth and interrogated him; and he wrote down for him the leaders of Succoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.**

**Judg. 8:15, “Then he came to the men of Succoth and said, ‘Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you ridiculed me, saying, “Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your weary men?” ’ ” ~NKJV**



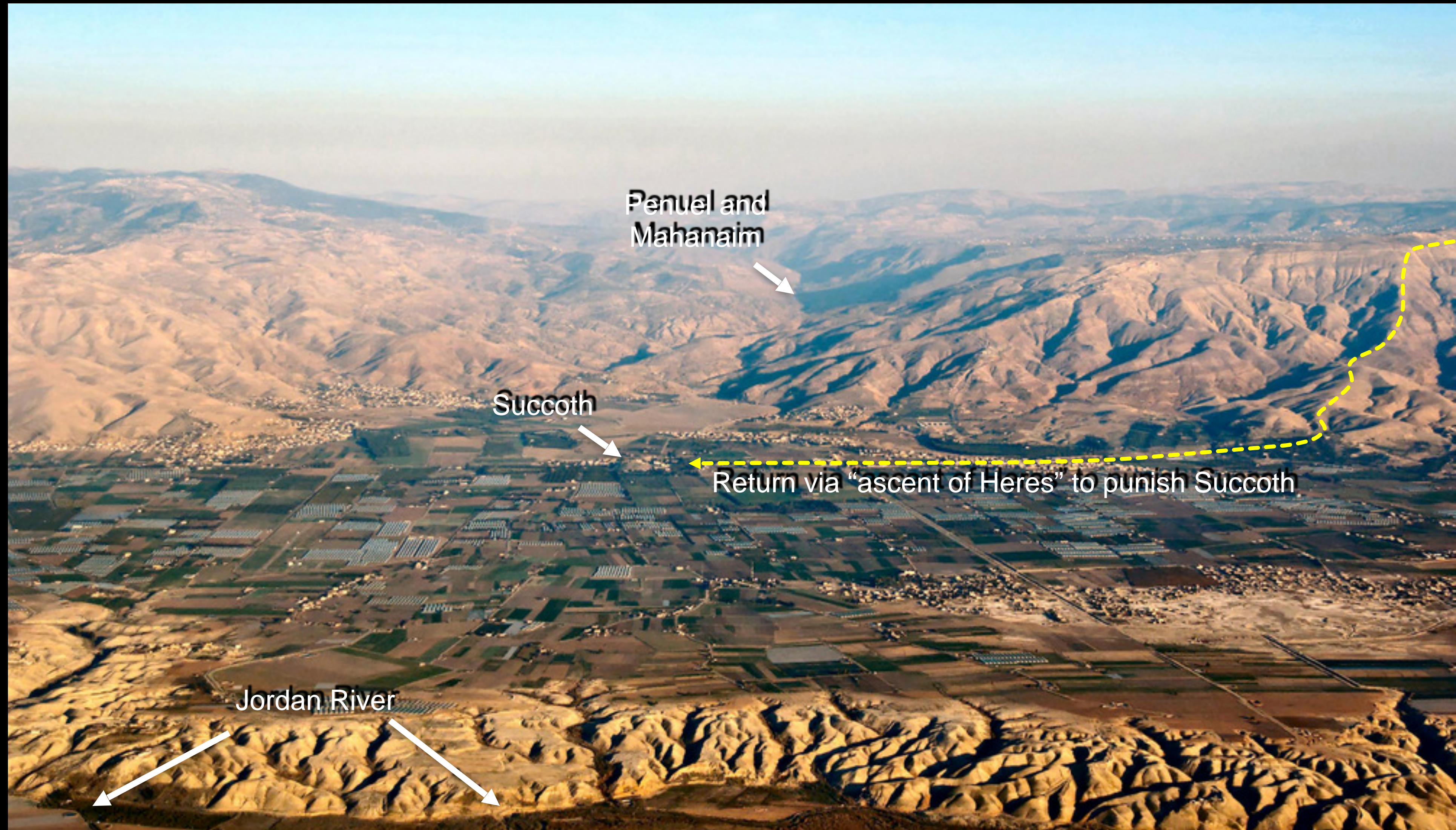
Gideon went up by the way of tent dwellers on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah



Map of the area of Gideon's pursuit of the Midianites



*And Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle by the ascent of Heres*



Area of Succoth and Penuel (aerial view from the west)



**Judg. 8:16, “And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.**

**Judg. 8:17, “Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.” ~NKJV**

**הרג *harag* qal  
perf 2 masc  
plur  
“destroy, kill,  
murder, slay,  
execute  
judicially”**



**II. Justice Transformed into Vengeance:  
Self-centeredness is at the core of paganism,  
Judges 8:18–21**



**Judg. 8:18**, “Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, ‘What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?’ And they said, ‘They were like you, each one resembling the son of a king.’

**Judg. 8:19**, “And he said, ‘They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the LORD lives, if only you had let them live, I would not kill you.’

**Judg. 8:20**, “So he said to Jether his first-born, ‘Rise, kill them.’ But the youth did not draw his sword, for he was afraid, because he was still a youth.

**Judg. 8:21**, “Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, ‘Rise up yourself, and fall on us; for as the man, so is his strength.’ So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments which were on their camels’ necks.”



*And he took the crescents that were on their camels' necks*



Bronze crescent standard from Tel Sera, 7th century BC



*And he took the crescents that were on their camels' necks*



Crescent standard from Temple E at Nuzi, 14th century BC



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**Judg. 8:19, “Then he said, ‘They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the Lord lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you.’**

**Judg. 8:20, “And he said to Jether his firstborn, ‘Rise, kill them!’ But the youth would not draw his sword; for he was afraid, because he was still a youth.**

**Judg. 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.” ~NKJV**



**Deut. 19:21, “Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”**



## **Gideon's Failure**

**Judg. 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.’**

**Judg. 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.’ ” ~NKJV**



## Gideon's Failure

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**Judg. 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.’ ” ~NKJV**



**Judg. 8:24, “Yet Gideon said to them, ‘I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his spoil.’ (For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)**

**Judg. 8:25, “And they said, ‘We will surely give them.’ So they spread out a garment, and every one of them threw an earring there from his spoil.**

**Judg. 8:26, “And the weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the neck bands that were on their camels’ necks.”**



**Judg. 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.**

**Judg. 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.”**

**~NKJV**



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~NKJV**

**Judg. 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.’ ”**



**Judg. 8:29, “Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.**

**Judg. 8:30, “Gideon had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives.**

**Judg. 8:31, “And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.**

**Judg. 8:32, “Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” ~NKJV**



**Judg. 8:33, “So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god.**

**Judg. 8:34, “Thus the children of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;**

**Judg. 8:35, “nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.” ~NKJV**