

Judges Series


Lesson #76

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Jephthah's Character
Judges 10:7–11:11

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

Deut. 12:31, “You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.”

Deut. 18:10, “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,”

Deut. 32:17, “They sacrificed to demons, not to God, gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals that your fathers did not fear.”

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him. ~NKJV

Judg. 10:7, “And the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the sons of Ammon.”

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. 3:12, “Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.”

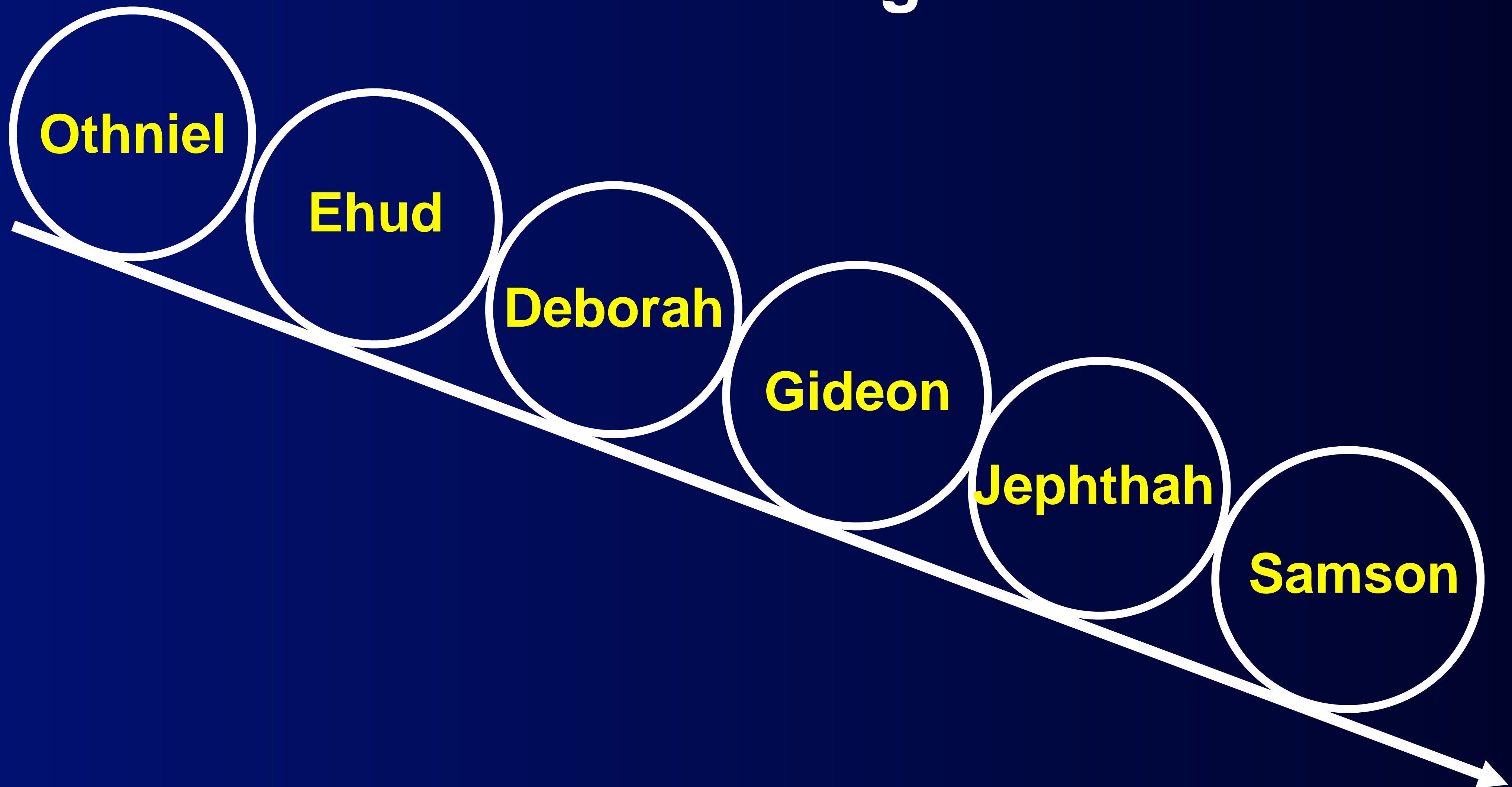
Judg. 4:1, “Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.”

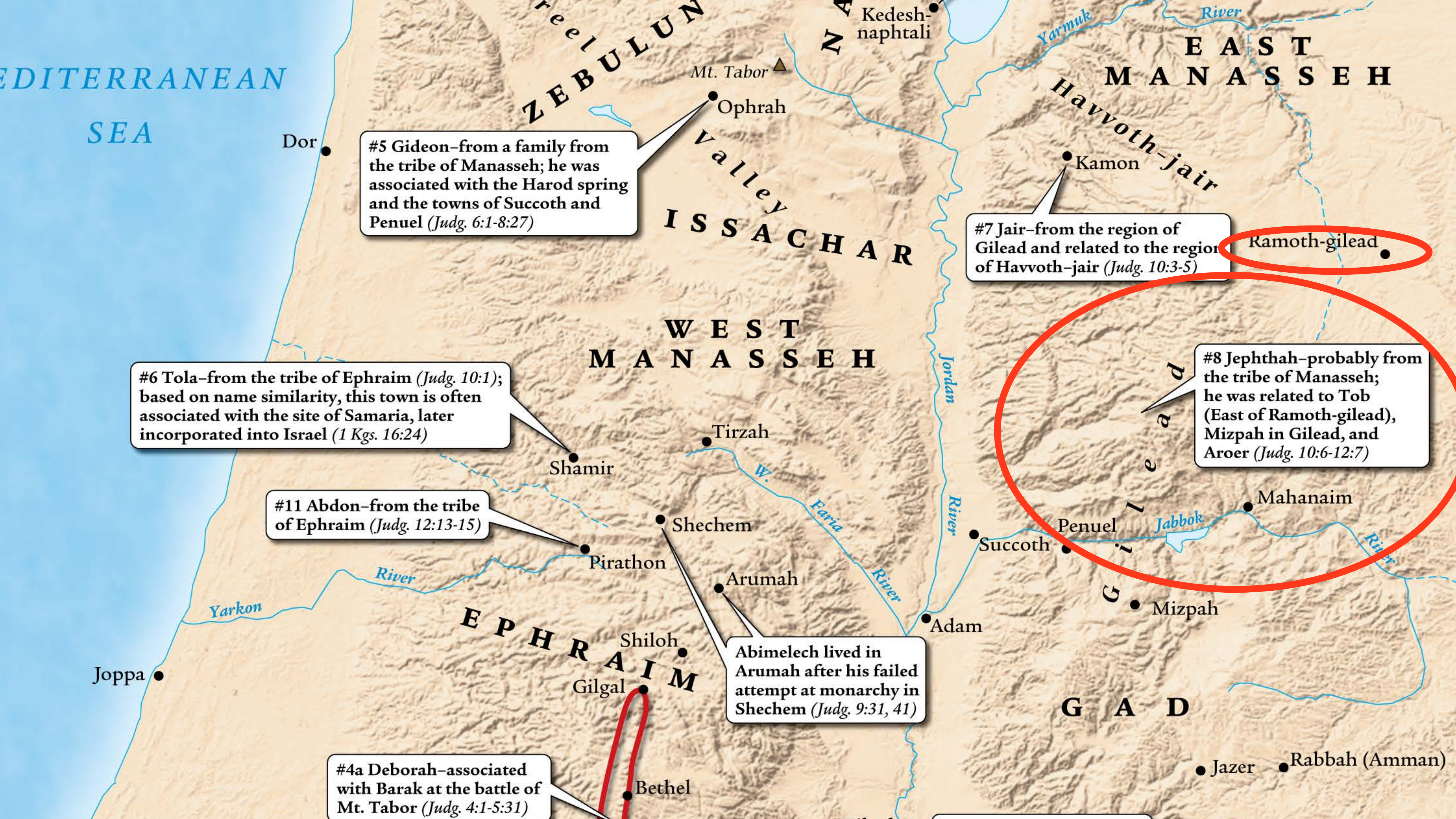
Judg. 6:1, “Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD gave them into the hands of Midian seven years.”

Judg. 13:1, “Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, so that the LORD gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.”

- **The indictment of Israel's idolatrous paganization in violation of the Torah; Judg. 10:6**
- **The justice of God in fulfillment of His promise of judgment in Lev. 26, Deut. 28; Judg. 10:7–9**
- **Israel's not so sincere confession; Judg. 10:10**
- **God's rejection of their confession; Judg. 10:11–14**
- **Israel's continued plea and turning to God; Judg. 10:15–16**
- **Israel's discipline arrives; Judg. 10:17–18**

Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges





#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*)

Ramoth-gilead

#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*)

- **The indictment of Israel's idolatrous paganization in violation of the Torah; Judg. 10:6**

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths —the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.” ~NKJV

יָסַף *yasaf*

hif wawConsec impf

3 masc plur

to add, do again

רָעָה *ra' lit hara'*

masc sing abs

bad, evil

**Mostly defined in context
as idolatry**

- **The indictment of Israel's idolatrous paganization in violation of the Torah; Judg. 10:6**
- **The justice of God in fulfillment of His promise of judgment in Lev. 26, Deut. 28; Judg. 10:7–9**

Judg. 10:7, “So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon.”

וַיִּחַר-אַף *Vayichar-'aph*

1-חַרָּה *charah-1* qal wawConsec 3 masc sing

apoc

Literally, to burn; figuratively, be angry

אַף-2 *'af-2* comm masc sing constr

lit. nose, fig. anger

Judg. 10:8, “And they afflicted and crushed the sons of Israel that year; for eighteen years they afflicted all the sons of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in Gilead in the land of the Amorites.”

Judg. 10:9, “And the sons of Ammon crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah, Benjamin, and the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was greatly distressed.”

רָעַץ *ra'atz* qal wawConsec 3 masc plur “to shatter”

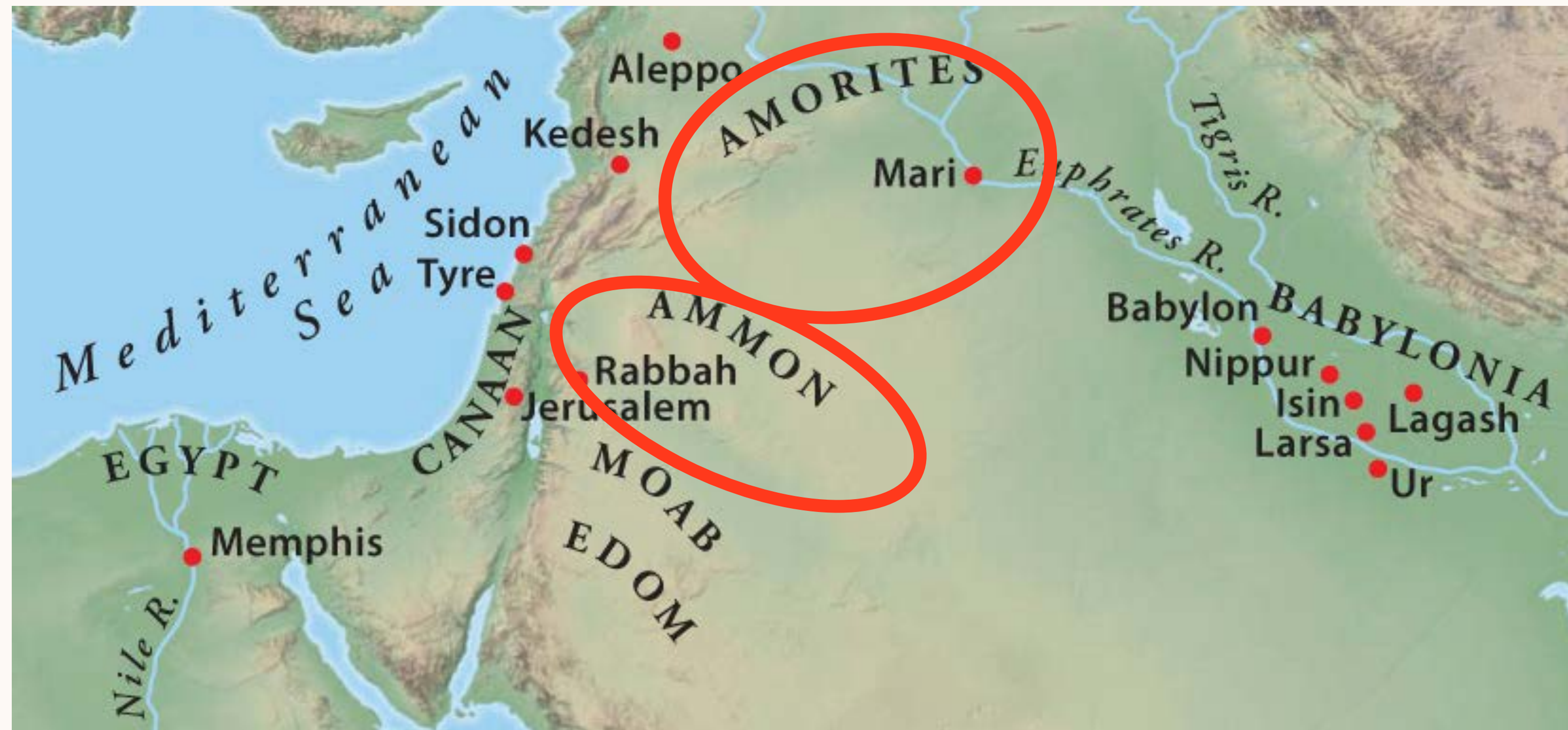
רָצַץ *ratzatz* poel wawConsec 3 masc plur “to crush”

“Amorite” derives from a term for “westerners.”

One of many ethnic groups described as Canaanites, because of where they lived.

Also known as the “Amurru.”

Chief deity was Dagon, as well as the Hurrian god Teshub, also known as Martu, related later to Mardu.



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1־ָרָרָר *tzarar-1*

**qal wawConsec 3 fem sing apoc
to bind, restrict, distress
to be in a tight spot, severely stressed**

Jephthah, 1150–1100 BC

Samson, 1123–1084 BC

Samuel, 1115–1020 BC

1124 BC

1106 BC

**Ammonite
Oppression**

Saul, 1075–1011

1084 BC 1050 BC

**Philistine
Oppression**

**Battle of
Aphek
1104 BC
(1 Sam. 4)**

**Battle of
Mizpah
1084 BC
(1 Sam. 7:11)**

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- **The justice of God in fulfillment of His promise of judgment in Lev. 26, Deut. 28; Judg. 10:7–9**
- **Israel's not so sincere confession; Judg. 10:10**

Judg. 10:10, “And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, ‘We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!’ ”

- **The indictment of Israel's idolatrous paganization in violation of the Torah; Judg. 10:6**
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- **God's rejection of their confession; Judg. 10:11–14**

Judg. 10:11, “So the LORD said to the children of Israel, ‘Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines?’ ”

Judg. 10:12, “ ‘Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand.’ ”

Judg. 10:13, “ ‘Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore I will deliver you no more.

Judg. 10:14, “ ‘Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress.’ ”

1־ָרָרָר *tzarar-1*

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- **Israel's continued plea and turning to God; Judg. 10:15–16**

**Judg. 10:15, “And the children of Israel said to the LORD,
‘We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You;
only deliver us this day, we pray.’ ”**

Judg. 10:16, “So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.”

Judg. 10:16, “So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.”

**“and His soul was short (short on patience) with Israel”
i.e., God is no longer patient, but is expressing frustration with Israel’s ongoing disobedience.**

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- **Israel's discipline arrives; Judg. 10:17–18**

Judg. 10:17, “Then the people of Ammon mustered the troops and set up camp in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and camped at Mizpah. ~RD

Judg. 10:18, “And the people, that is, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, ‘Who is the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.’ ”

Judg. 10:18b, “Who is the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon?”

Who is this man, Jephthah?

What qualifies him to lead?

What is his character?

Judg. 11:1, “Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead begot Jephthah.” ~NKJV

Judg. 11:2, “Gilead’s wife bore sons; and when his wife’s sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, ‘You shall have no inheritance in our father’s house, for you are the son of another woman.’”

Judg. 11:3, “Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob; and worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out raiding with him.”

Judg. 11:4, “It came to pass after a time that the people of Ammon made war against Israel.

Judg. 11:5, “And so it was, when the people of Ammon made war against Israel, that the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

Judg. 11:6, “Then they said to Jephthah, ‘Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon.’ ”

Judg. 11:7, “So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, ‘Did you not hate me, and expel me from my father’s house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?’ ”

1־77 צָרָר *tzarar-1*

**qal wawConsec 3 fem sing apoc
to bind, restrict, distress
to be in a tight spot, severely stressed**

Judg. 11:8, “And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, ‘That is why we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.’ ”

Judg. 11:9, “So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, ‘If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and the LORD delivers them to me, shall I be your head?’ ”

Judg. 11:10, “And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, ‘The LORD will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words.’”

Judg. 11:11, “Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD in Mizpah.” ”