

Judges Series

Lesson #80

November 29, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

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**The Fragmentation
of the Nation
Judges 12:1–15**

JUDGES
2021

When Chaos Was King

Ephraim vs. Gilead

Judg. 12:1, “Then the men of Ephraim gathered together, crossed over toward Zaphon, and said to Jephthah, ‘Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you with fire!’ ”



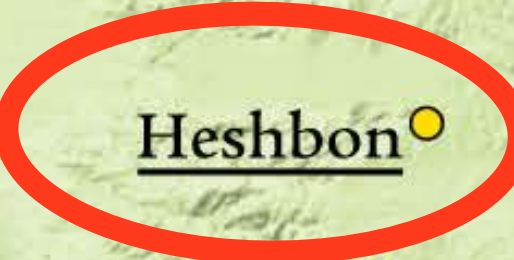
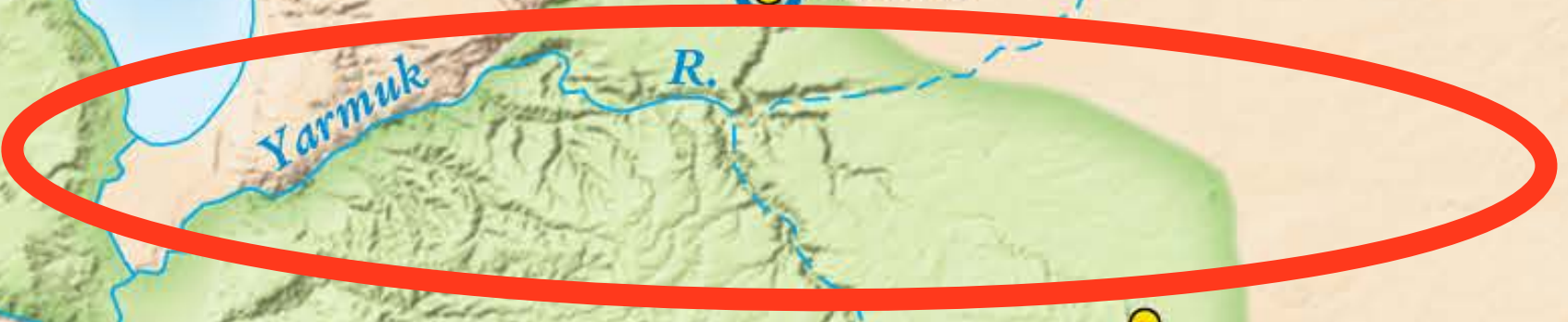
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

PHILISTIA

Jezreel Valley

AMMON

desert

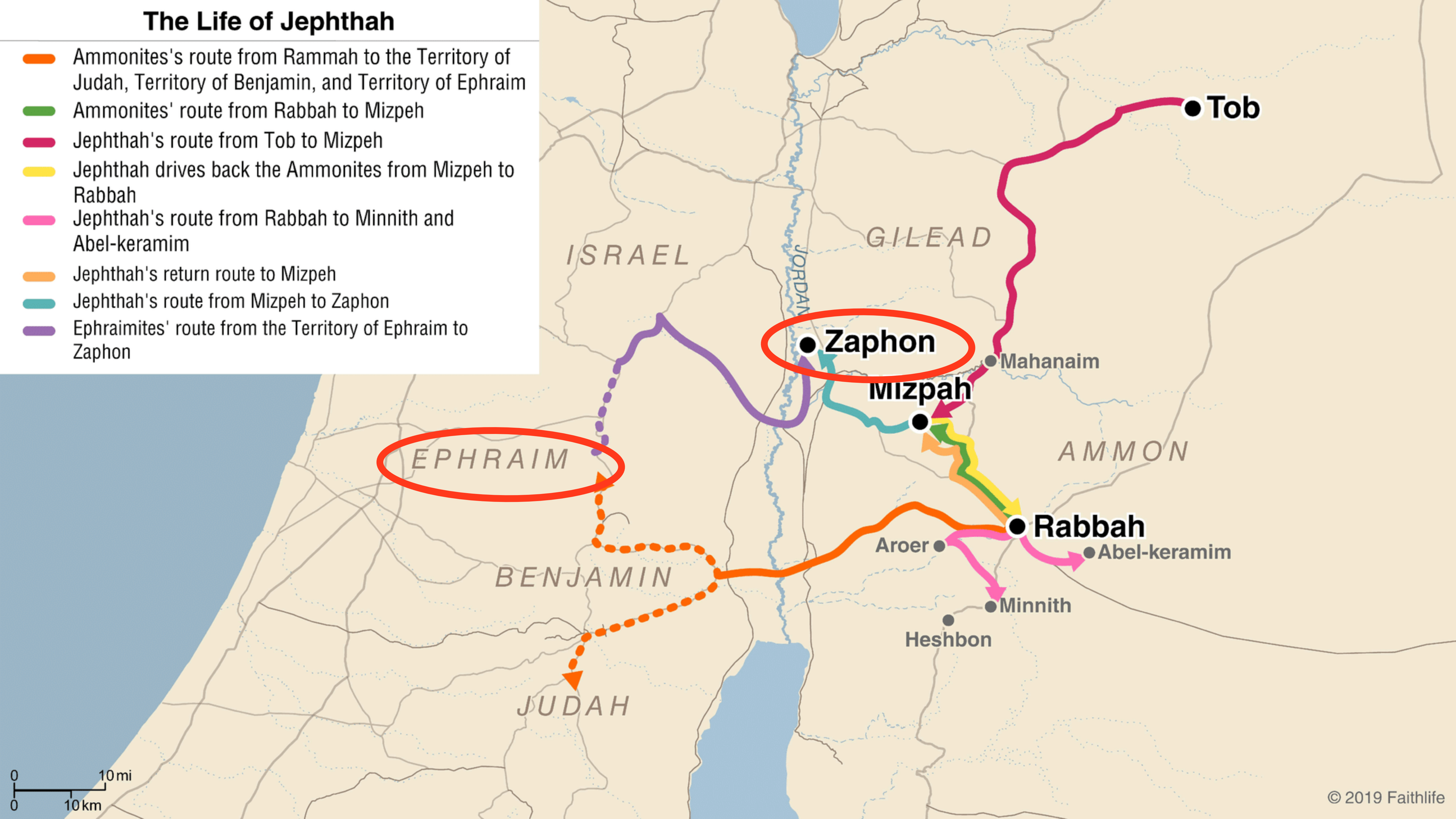


Map labels: Aphek, Shimron, Endor, Megiddo, Taanach, Jezreel, Beth-shan, Ibleam, Hephher, Socoh, Tirzah, Shechem, Tappuah, Joppa, Aphek, Bethel, Ai, Gezer, Shaalbim, Aijalon, Ekron, Beth-shemesh, Jerusalem, Jarmuth, Adullam, Libnah, Lachish, Hebron, Makkedah, Eglon, Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Dor, Jokneam, Jabesh-gilead, Succoth, Jogbehah, Jazer, Rabbah (Amman), Bezer, Medeba, Dibon, Aroer, Ramoth-gilead, Edrei, Ashtaroth, Golan, Galilee, Yarmuk R., Jordan River, Faria R., Jabbok River, Mananaim River, Arnon River, DEAD SEA.



The Life of Jephthah

- Ammonites' route from Rabbah to the Territory of Judah, Territory of Benjamin, and Territory of Ephraim
- Ammonites' route from Rabbah to Mizpah
- Jephthah's route from Tob to Mizpah
- Jephthah drives back the Ammonites from Mizpah to Rabbah
- Jephthah's route from Rabbah to Minnith and Abel-keramim
- Jephthah's return route to Mizpah
- Jephthah's route from Mizpah to Zaphon
- Ephraimites' route from the Territory of Ephraim to Zaphon



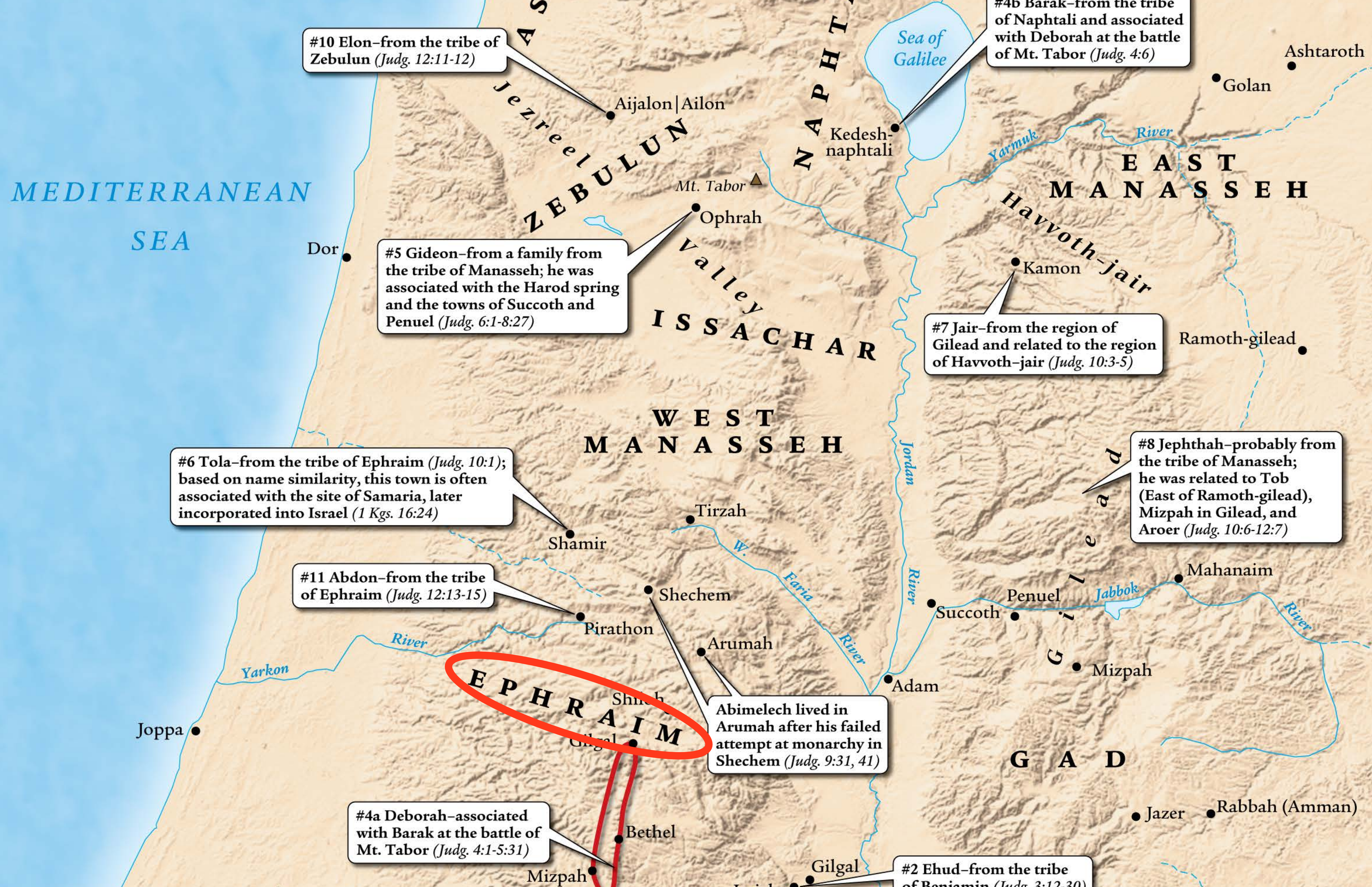
- **Jephthah owns the negotiations with the Ammonites, they lose. Judg. 11:12–28**
- **Jephthah's win-lose attempt to manipulate God. Judg. 11:29–33**
- **Jephthah's pagan vow. Judg. 11:34–40**
- **Jephthah's civil war with the Ephraimites. Judg. 12:1–7**

Judg. 12:1, “Then the men of Ephraim gathered together, crossed over toward Zaphon, and said to Jephthah, ‘Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you with fire!’

Judg. 12:2, “And Jephthah said to them, ‘My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands.

Judg. 12:3, “ ‘So when I saw that you would not deliver me, I took my life in my hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the LORD delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?’ ” ~NKJV

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#10 Elon—from the tribe of Zebulun (*Judg. 12:11-12*)

#4b Barak—from the tribe of Naphtali and associated with Deborah at the battle of Mt. Tabor (*Judg. 4:6*)

#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*)

#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*)

#2 Ehud—from the tribe of Benjamin (*Judg. 3:12-30*)

Judg. 12:1, “Then the men of Ephraim gathered together, crossed over toward Zaphon, and said to Jephthah, ‘Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you with fire!’ ” ~NKJV

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

רִיב *riv*

comm masc sing abs

strife, dispute; contention

Judg. 12:2, “And Jephthah said to them, ‘My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands.’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 12:2, “And Jephthah said to them, ‘My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon [who oppressed us (LXX, Old Latin, Syriac)]; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands.’ ” ~NKJV

Literally, the Hebrew begins, “I am a contentious man.”

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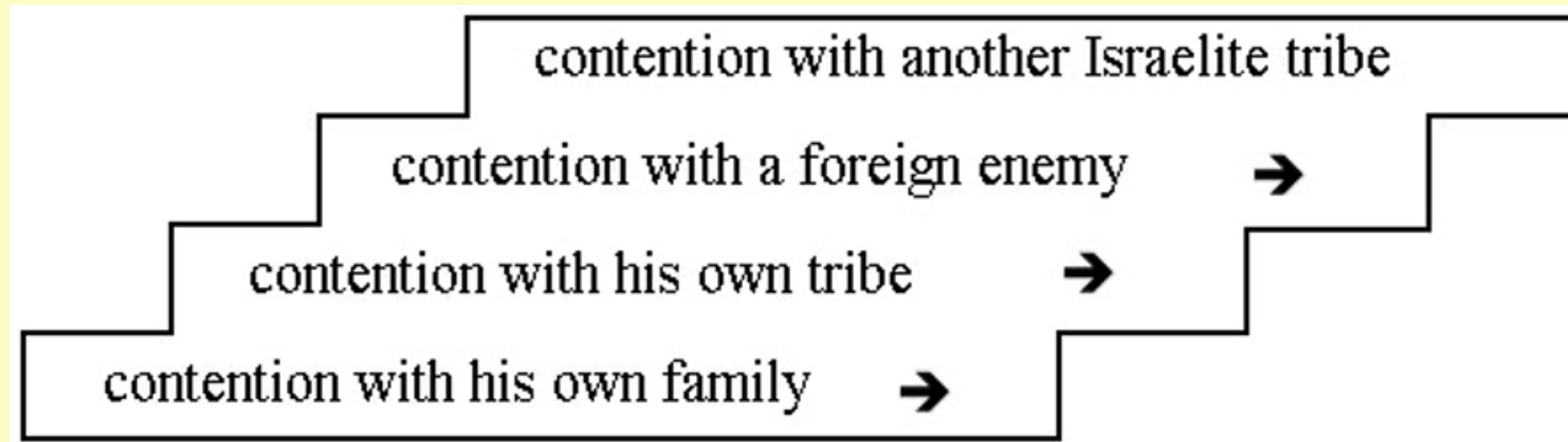
Literally, the Hebrew begins, “I am a contentious man.”

רִיב *riv*

**comm masc sing abs
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“And he said to them, ‘Ephraim, I was a contentious man [a warrior], I and my people, and the sons of Amon who humbled (or oppressed) me greatly, and I cried out to you and you did not deliver me from their hands.’ ”

~LXX



chart, Block, *Judges*, 382.

Judg. 12:3, “ ‘So when I saw that you would not deliver me, I took my life in my hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the Lord delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?’ ” ~NKJV

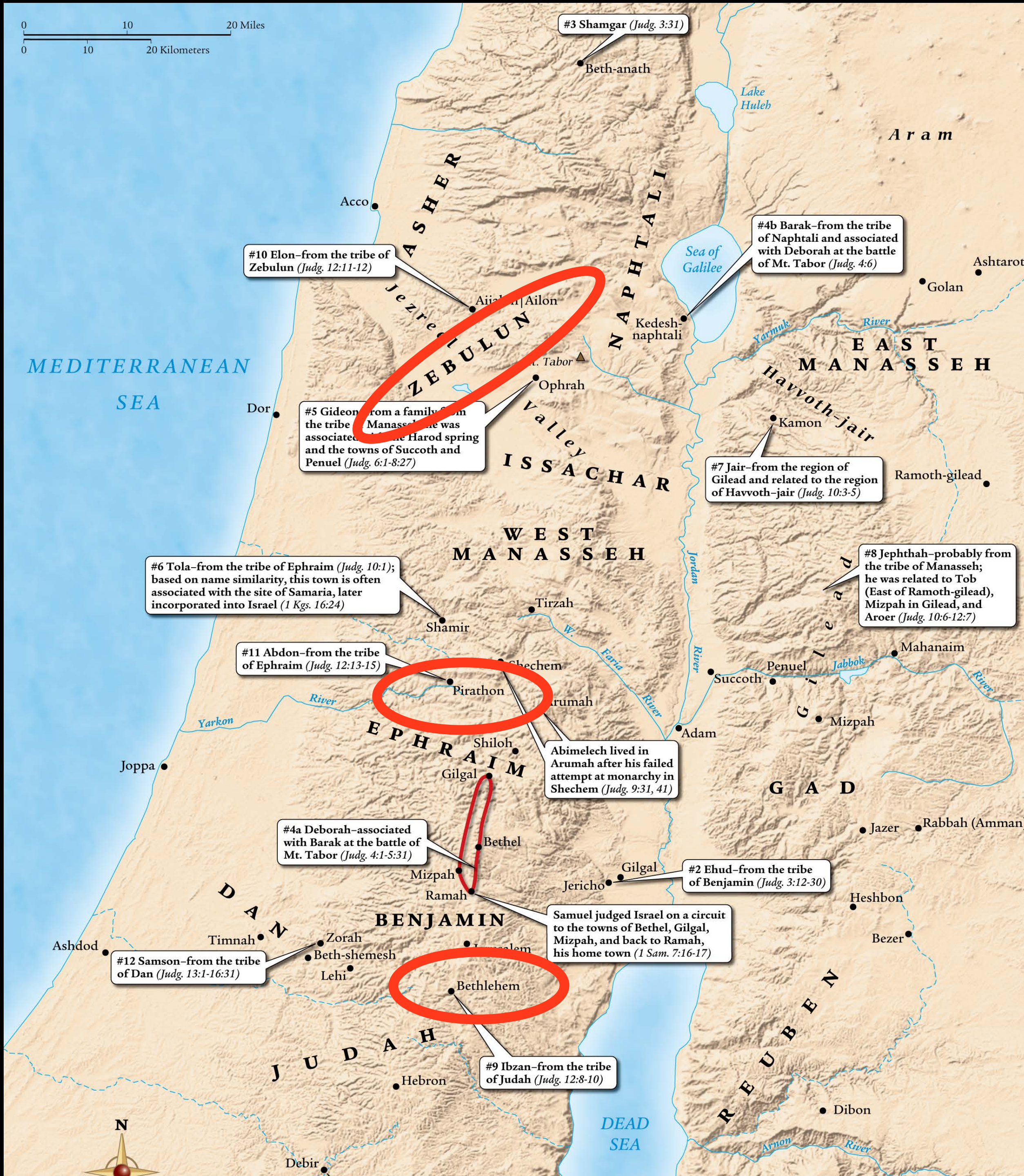
Judg. 12:4, “Now Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, ‘You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites.’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 12:5, “The Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan before the Ephraimites arrived. And when any Ephraimite who escaped said, ‘Let me cross over,’ the men of Gilead would say to him, ‘Are you an Ephraimite?’ If he said, ‘No,’

Judg. 12:6, “then they would say to him, ‘Then say, “Shibboleth”!’ And he would say, ‘Sibboleth,’ for he could not pronounce it right. Then they would take him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan. There fell at that time forty-two thousand Ephraimites.” ~NKJV

Judg. 12:7, “And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried among the cities of Gilead.” ~NKJV

**Transitional Judges
Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon
Judges 12:8–15**



Judg. 12:8, “After him, Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

Judg. 12:9, “He had thirty sons. And he gave away thirty daughters in marriage, and brought in thirty daughters from elsewhere for his sons. He judged Israel seven years.

Judg. 12:10, “Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem.”

Judg. 12:11, “After him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. He judged Israel ten years.

Judg. 12:12, “And Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.”

Judg. 12:13, “After him, Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel.

Judg. 12:14, “He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy young donkeys. He judged Israel eight years.”