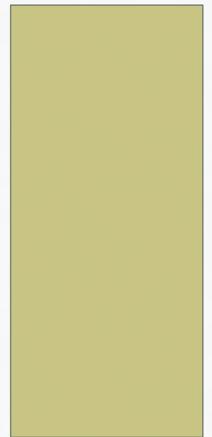


THE BOOK OF JUDGES

THE ISREALITES' FIRST YEARS IN THE PROMISED
LAND



AUTHOR

- Unknown, according to the Jewish Talmud, it was written by Samuel but the events occurred after his death.
- May have been compiled by Samuel, then edited by prophets Gad and Nathan.

AUDIENCE

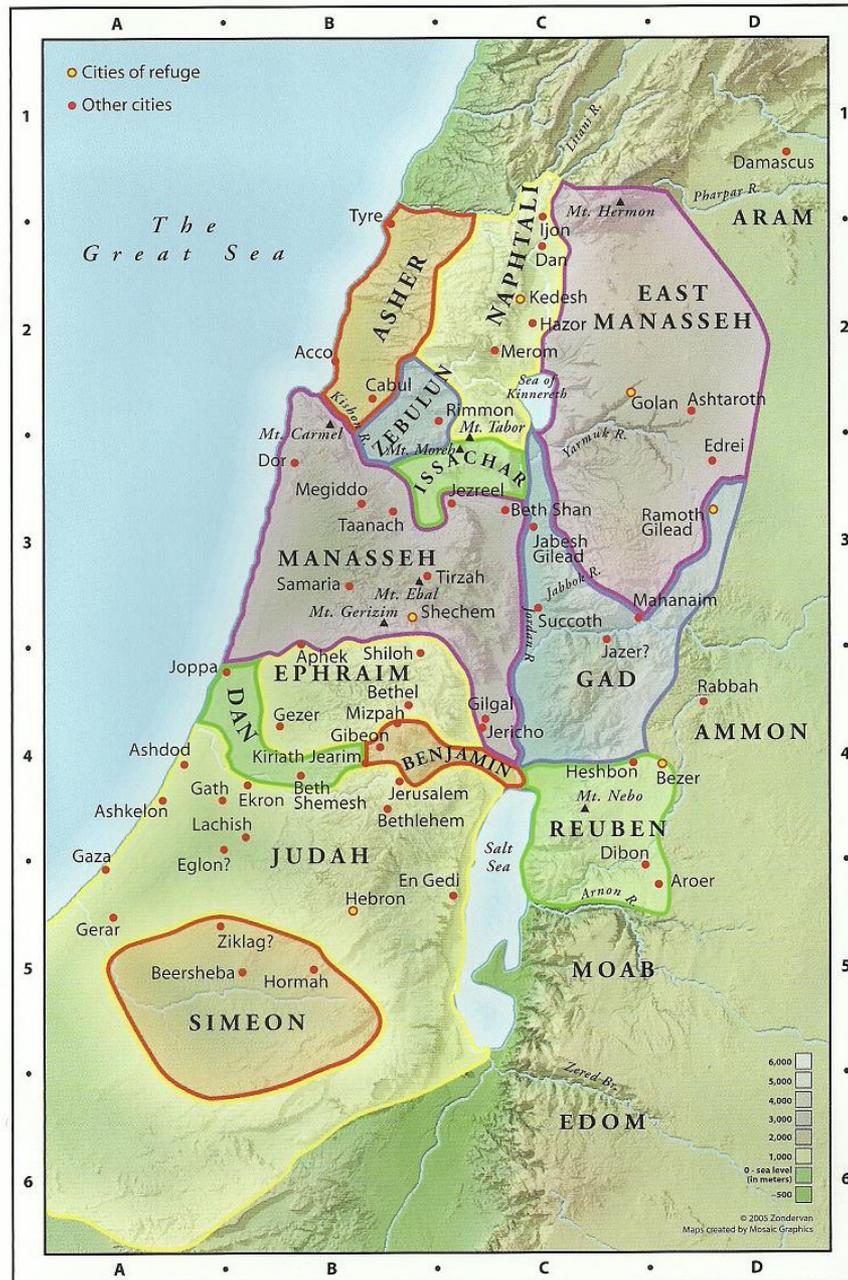
- Generations of Israelites after the time of the judges who read this book were reminded of their ancestors' rebellion against God and of their own need of His divine deliverance.

CULTURAL FACTS, CANAAN

- The nation experienced repeated periods of chaos caused by political disunity, infighting, and outside invasions as well as spiritual and moral depravity.
- When the Israelites lost sight of their identity and broke their covenant with God, they were punished, cried out for relief and God answered with great leaders, the judges.
- Judges 2: ¹⁸Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. ¹⁹But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

MAP

Map 4: LAND OF THE TWELVE TRIBES



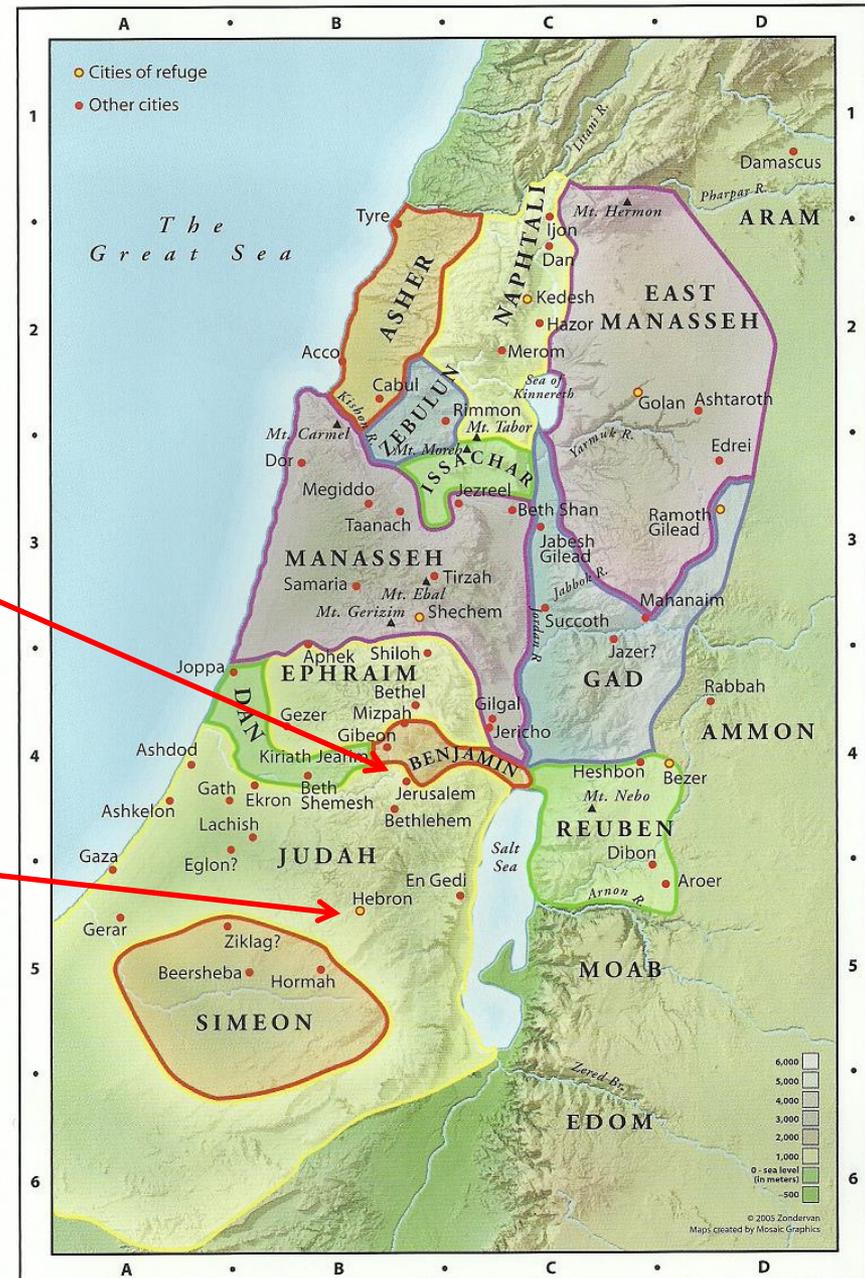
TIMELINE

- 1446 BC: Exodus from Egypt
- 1446-1406 BC: Israelites wander in the desert
- 1406 BC: Israelites enter Canaan
- 1209-1169 BC: Deborah's rule
- 1162-1122 BC: Gideon's rule
- 1105 BC: Samuel's birth
- 1078-1072 BC: Jephthah's rule
- 1075-1055 BC: Samson's rule
- c. 1000 BC: Book of Judges written
- 930 BC: Division of the kingdom

CHAPTER 1

- 8 The men of Judah attacked **Jerusalem** also and took it. They put the city to the sword and set it on fire. 9 After that, the men of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites living in the hill country, the Negev and the western foothills. 10 They advanced against the Canaanites living in **Hebron** (formerly called Kiriath Arba) and defeated Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmi.

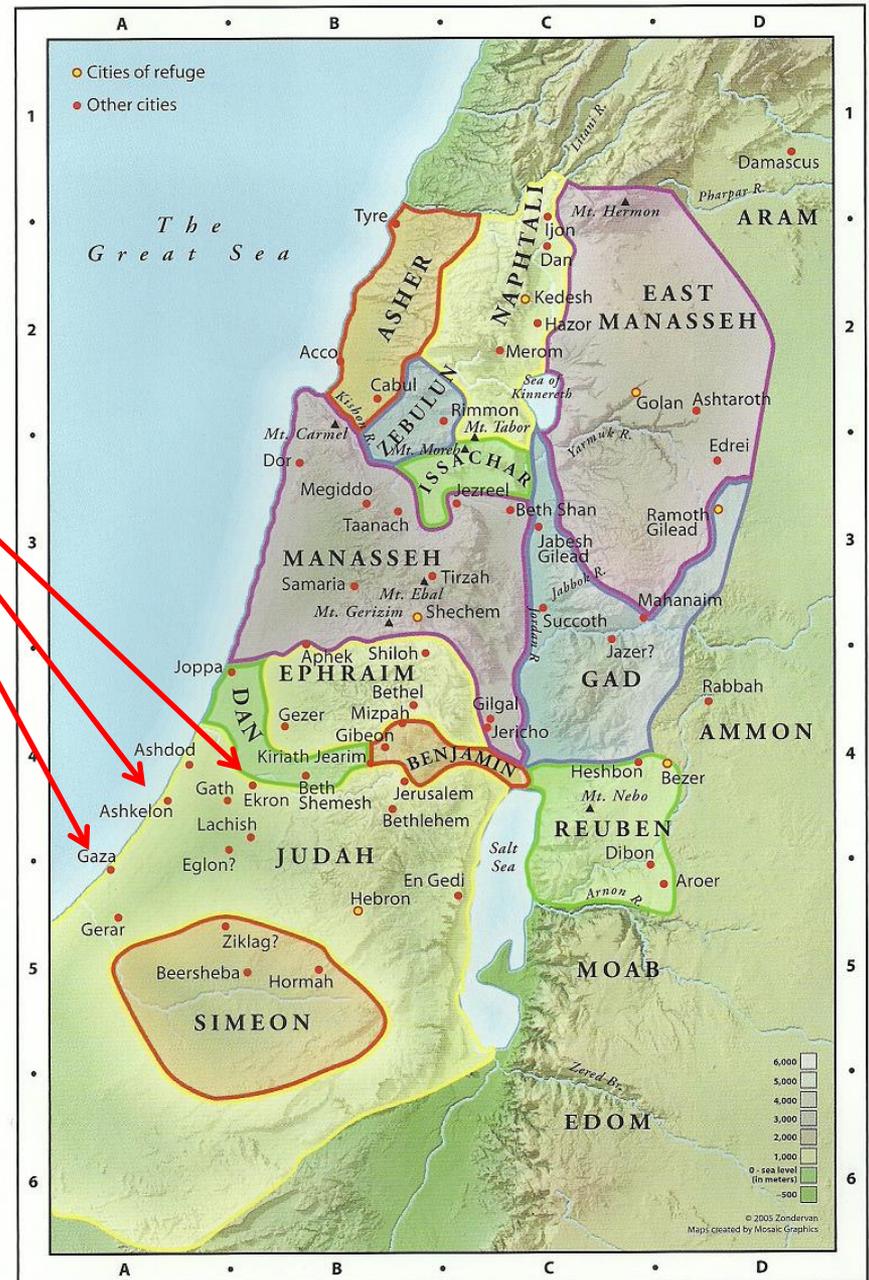
Map 4: LAND OF THE TWELVE TRIBES



CHAPTER 1

- 1⁸The men of Judah also took **Gaza, Ashkelon and Ekron**-each city with its territory.

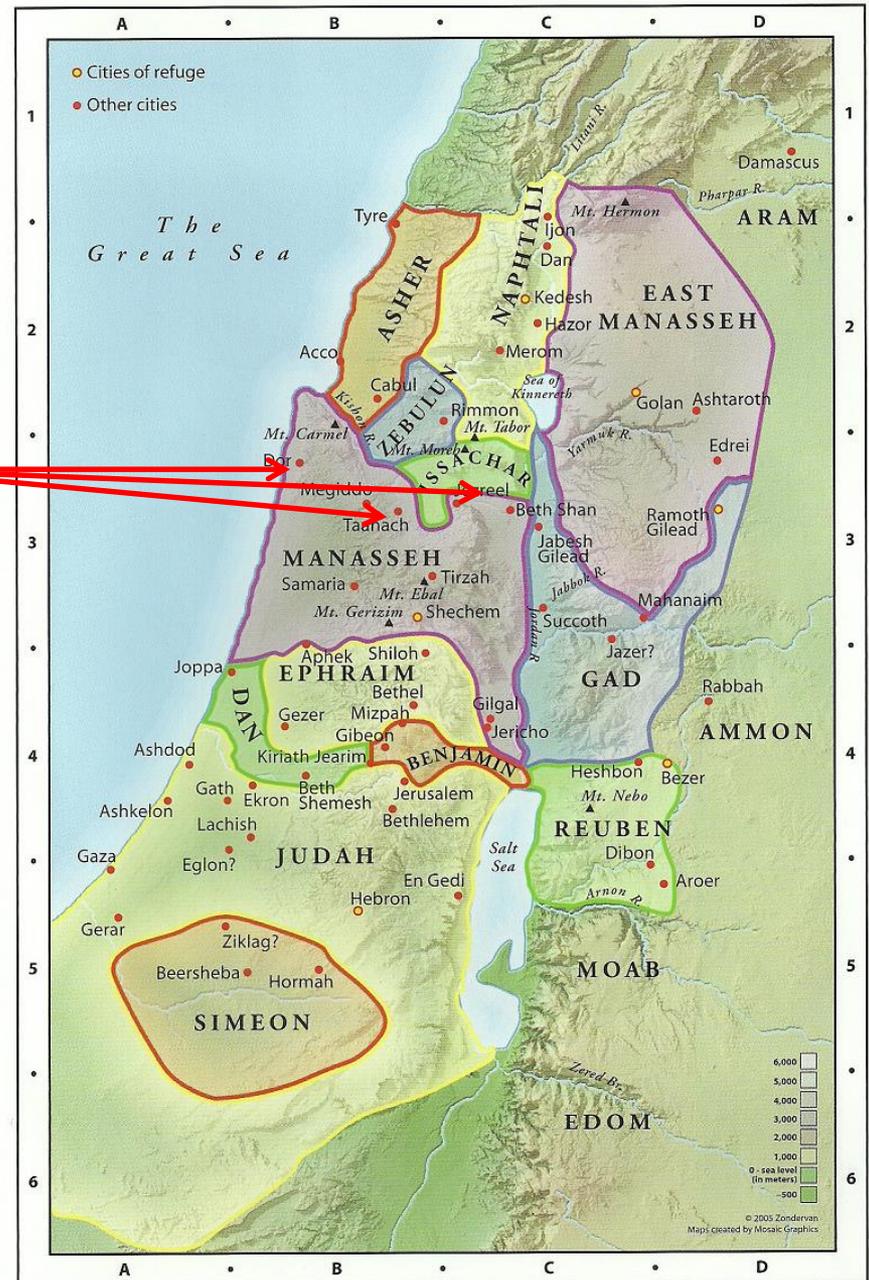
Map 4: LAND OF THE TWELVE TRIBES



CHAPTER 1

- 27 But Manasseh did not drive out the people of **Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor** or Ibleam or Megiddo and their surrounding settlements, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that land.
- Goes on to list areas that were not conquered, but the inhabitants were made slaves.

Map 4: LAND OF THE TWELVE TRIBES



CHAPTER 2

- Describes how the Israelites behaved with regard to the judges who were sent by God.
- Judges 2: ¹⁸Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. ¹⁹But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

CHAPTERS 3-12

- The Israelites repeatedly disobey God and are put under Canaanite rule as a result.

CHAPTERS 13-16

- Chapter 13: Samson's birth
- 13: ¹Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. ... ⁵because you will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines."
- Chapter 14: Samson's marriage
- Chapter 15: Samson's vengeance on the Philistines
- Chapter 16: Samson and Delilah, and Samson's death

CHAPTERS 17-21

- The Israelites act as they do with no king.
- 17: ⁶ In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.
- 18: ¹ In those days Israel had no king...
- 19: ¹ In those days Israel had no king. Now a Levite who lived in a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.
- 20: ⁶ I took my concubine, cut her into pieces and sent one piece to each region of Israel's inheritance, because they committed this lewd and disgraceful act in Israel.
- Final verse 21: ²⁵ In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

MODERN-DAY ISRAEL

יִשְׂרָאֵל · ISRAEL

- National capital
- District (mehoz) centre
- City, town
- Airport
- International boundary
- Boundary of former Palestine Mandate
- Armistice Demarcation Line
- District (mehoz) boundary
- Main road
- Secondary road
- Railroad
- Oil pipeline

- Districts of Israel**
- 1 North district
 - 2 Haifa district
 - 3 Central district
 - 4 Tel Aviv district
 - 5 Jerusalem district
 - 6 Southern district



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SAUDI ARABIA

POPULAR REFERENCES

- Leonard Cohen “Hallelujah” lyrics reference Samson and Delilah. Performed by Justin Timberlake to encourage support for Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.
- Many other references to the story of Samson and Delilah

DISCUSSION...

QUESTIONS?