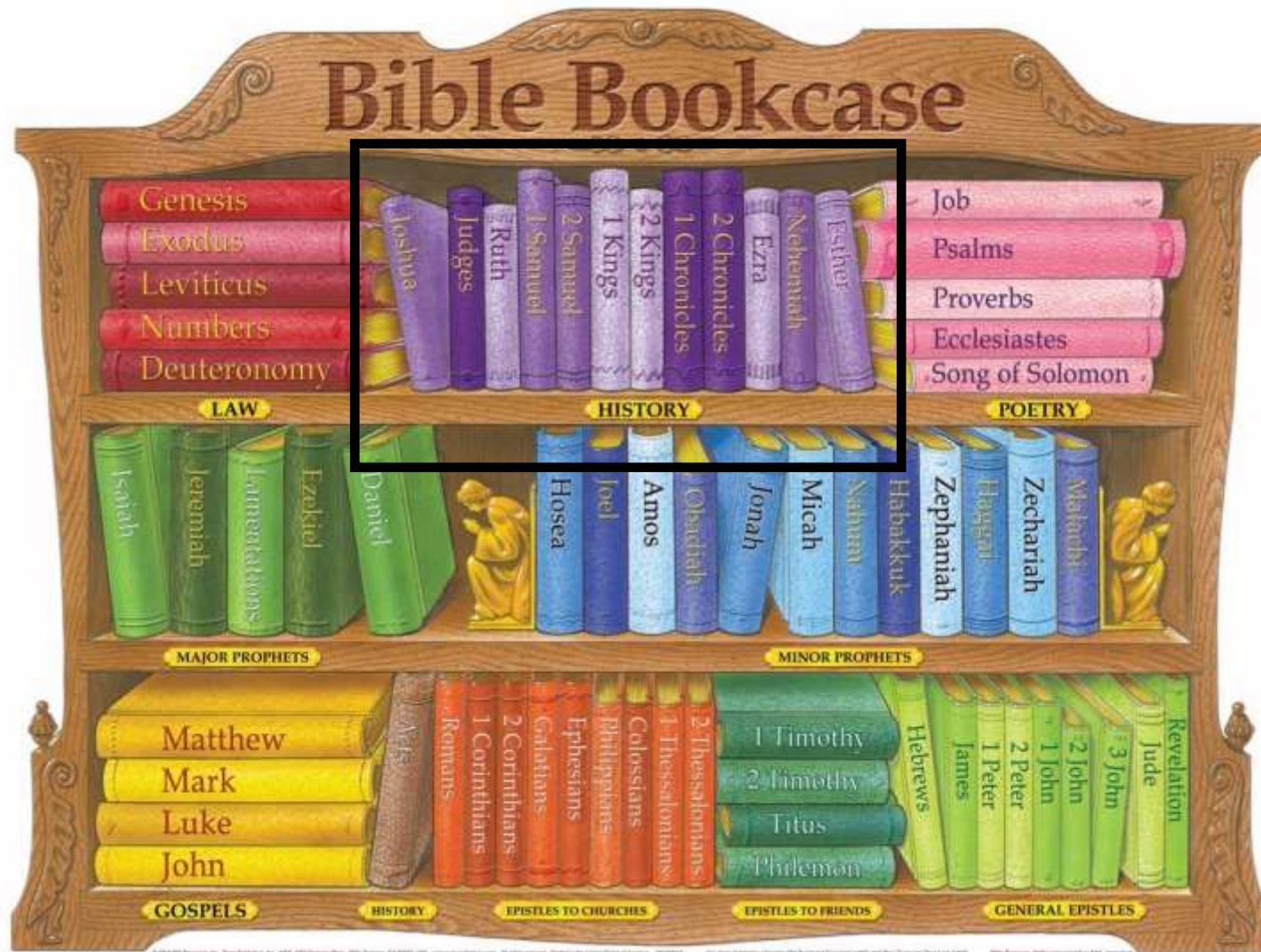


Introduction to Old Testament Historical Books

Daniel Arnold

Introduction

Historical Books of the Old Testament



30% of the Old Testament

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1-2 Samuel
- 1-2 Kings
- 1-2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

**Almost 1000 years:
from 1406 to 432 B.C.**

Historical books of the OT: overview

A.1	Joshua	One generation	Speedy conquest	
B.1	Judges	350 years	Immediate sanctions Redeemer judges	Ruth
C	1-2 Samuel	One generation	The King-Messiah	Psalms, Ecc, Proverbs, Song
B.2	1-2 Kings	400 years	Delayed sanctions Prophetic warnings	The prophets Lamentations
		Exile		Daniel
A.2	Ezra Nehemiah Esther	One generation+	Slow return	1-2 Chronicles

Know your geography



Selection of events (stories)



Arrangement of stories



Searching for pairs

(people)



Pairs of activities

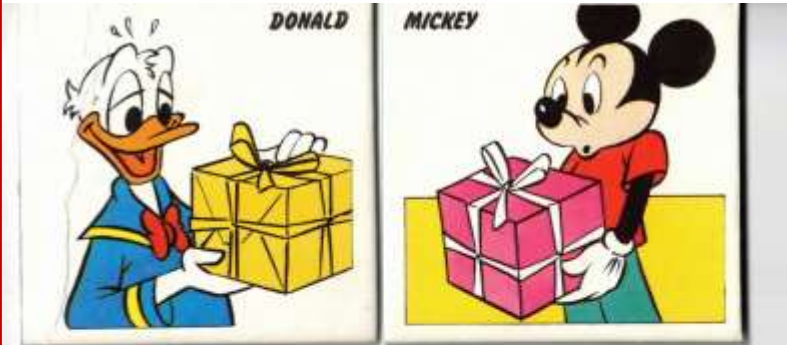
Pairs of people



Finding



Receiving



Jumping



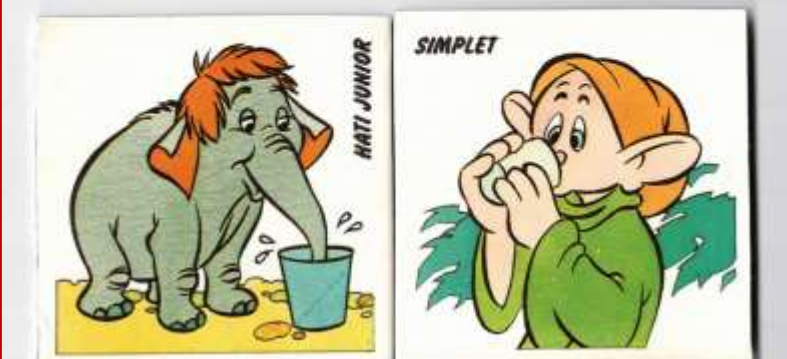
Picking



Gardening

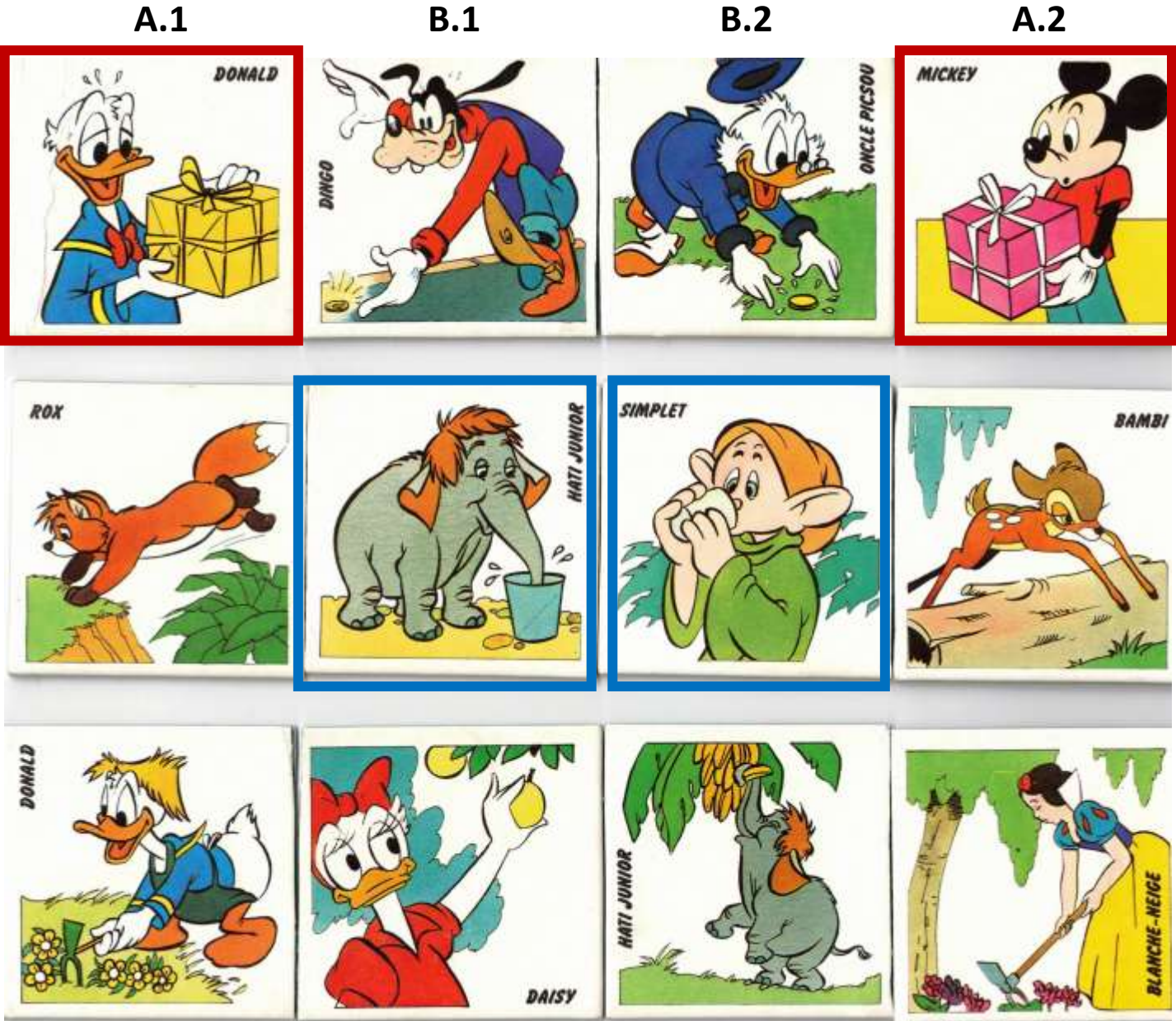


Drinking



Chiastic arrangement

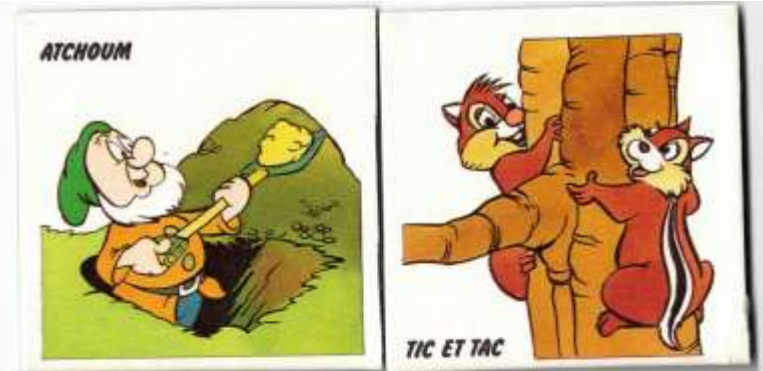
Receiving / finding / finding / receiving



Jumping / drinking / drinking / jumping

Planting / harvesting / harvesting / planting

Pairs of opposites



Chiastic arrangement of opposites



Comparing pairs

- Two sentences (1 Sam 2.3)
 - Talk no more so very proudly;
Let no arrogance come from your mouth,
For the LORD is the God of knowledge;
And by Him actions are weighed.
- Two miracles: Crossing the Jordan and conquering Jericho
- Two kings: Saul and David
- Two sons: Jonathan and Absalom
- Two heroes: Mordecai and Esther
- Two books: 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles
- Two periods: judges and kings

God's action: immediate vs delayed



Immediate consequences



The book of Joshua

The book of Joshua: Conquest of the Promised Land

- Blessing vs Judgement



A time to wait
for the promise
to be accomplished

From Abraham's call to Isaac's birth	25 years
From Isaac's birth to Jacob's birth	60 years
From Jacob's birth to the descent into Egypt	130 years
Time in Egypt	430 years
Time in the wilderness	40 years
	685 years

Get out of your country,
from your family
and from your father's house,
to a land that I will show you (Gen 12.1)

But in the fourth generation they shall return
here, for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet
complete (Gen 15.16)

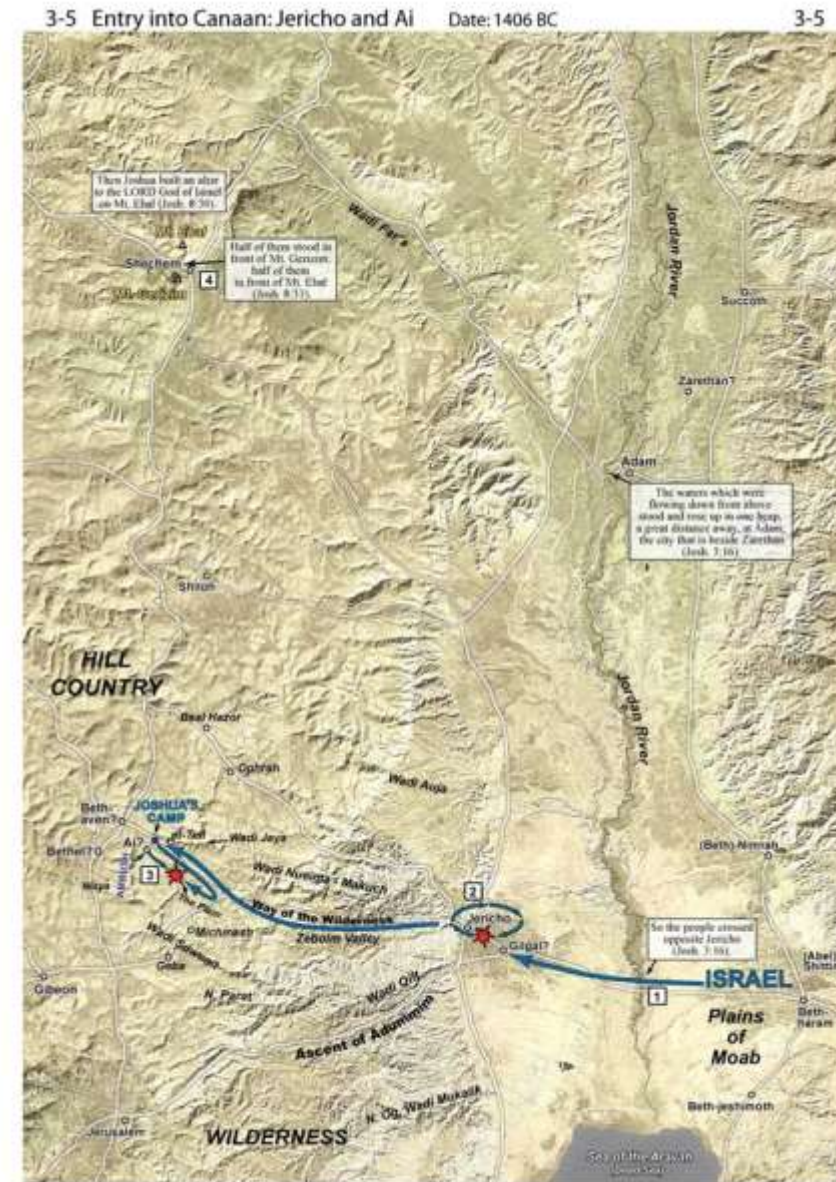
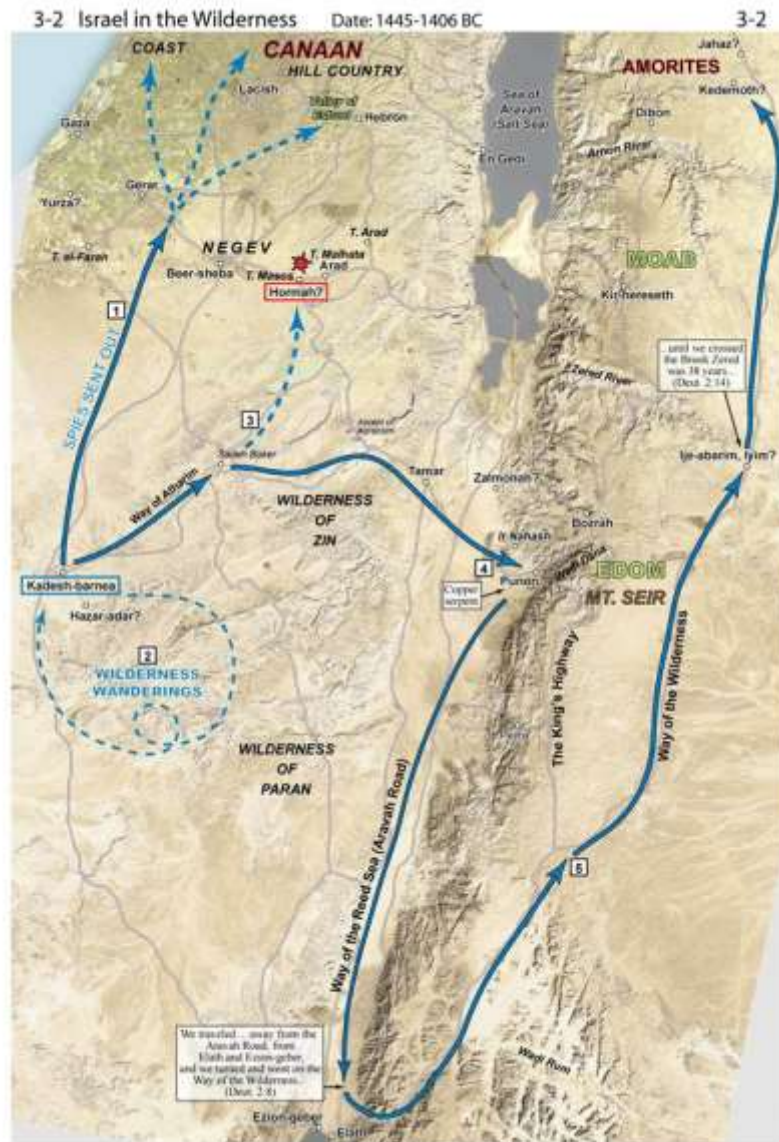
The book of Joshua

Two parts	Four parts
Historical section(1-12)	Introduction (1)
	Conquest of the land (2-12)
Geographical section (13-24)	Division of the land (13-21)
	Conclusion (22-24)

Detailed structure of Joshua

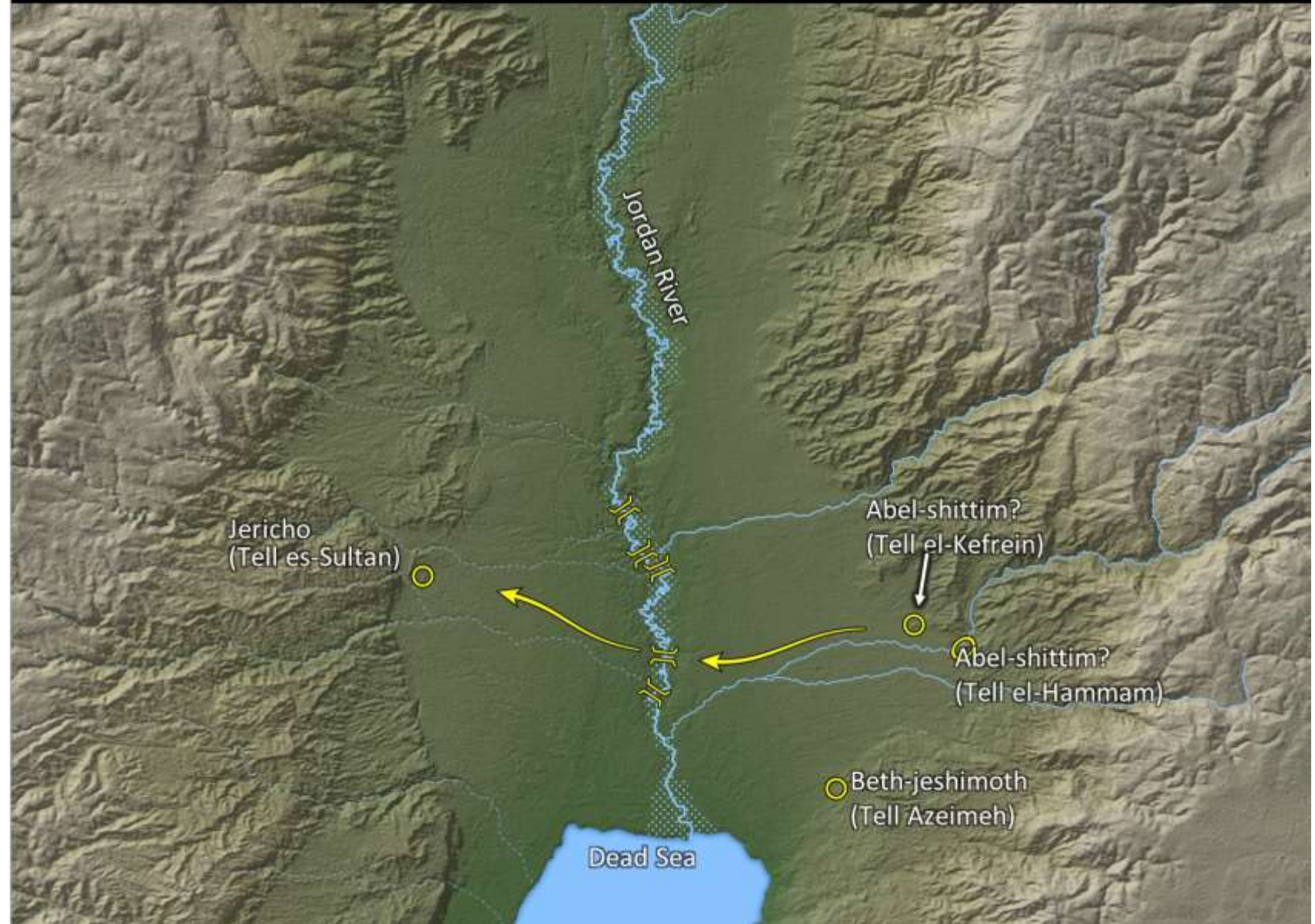
	Introduction : exhortation to follow the covenant (1)
A.1	Exhortation given to Joshua for Israel (1.1-11)
B.1	Exhortation given by Joshua to the Transjordan tribes (1.12-18)
	Conquest of the land (2-12)
C.1	An exception: A woman is saved (2)
D.1	Entrance into the land : crossing the Jordan (3-4)
E.1	Individual sign of the covenant: circumcision for all men (5)
F.1	Conquest of Jericho (6)
G	A failure : Defeat at Ai (7)
F.2	Conquest of Ai (8.1-29)
E.2	Collective renewal of the covenant at Mount Ebal (8.30-35)
D.2	Conquest of the North and the South (9-11)
C.2	Summary: A list of defeated kings (12)
	Division of the land (13-21)
H.1	Introduction concerning the inheritance (13.1-14)
I.1	Particular status: the Transjordan tribes (13.15-33)
J.1	Introduction on the inheritance in Canaan (14.1-5)
K.1	Inheritance of a hero : Caleb (14.6-15)
L.1	Inheritance of three faithful tribes (15-17)
M	Exhortation to take what God has promised (18.1-10)
L.2	Inheritance of seven negligent tribes (18.11-19.48)
K.2	Inheritance of a hero: Joshua (19.49-51a)
J.2	Conclusion on the inheritance in Canaan (19.51b)
I.2	Particular status: cities of refuge and cities of the Levites (20-21)
H.2	Conclusion concerning the inheritance (21.43-45)
	Conclusion : exhortation to follow the covenant (22-24)
B.2	Joshua's exhortation given to the Transjordan tribes (22)
A.2	Joshua's exhortation given to Israel (23-24)

Geographical context of the conquest



Joshua 2

And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men as spies secretly



Jordan river



Jordan valley



Modern Jericho



Spies leaving the city



Spies return to Shittim

Then the two men returned, and descended from the hills . . . and came to Joshua the son of Nun



Then the two men returned, and descended from the hills . . . and came to Joshua the son of Nun



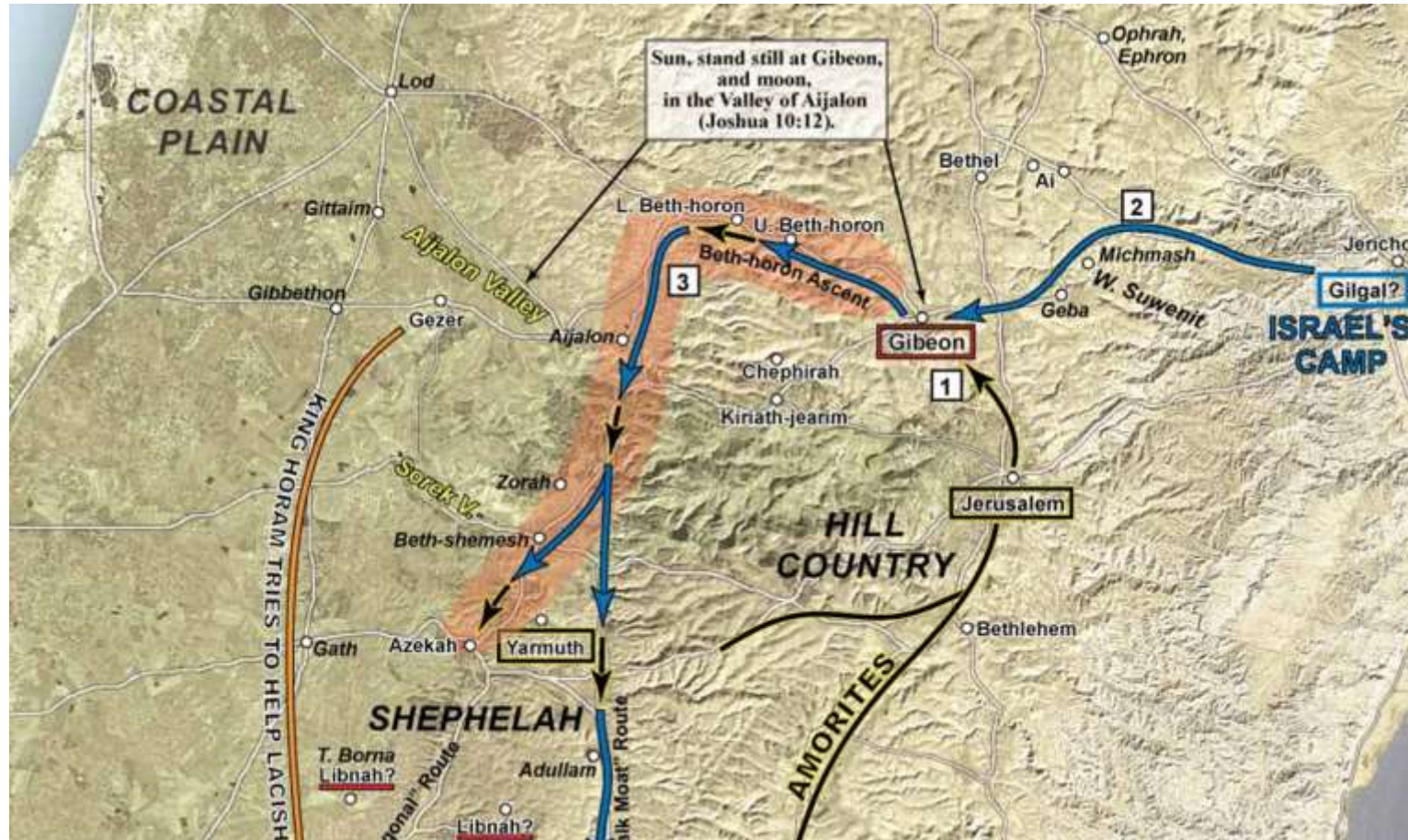
Rahab vs Achan

Rahab	Achan
Canaanite woman	Israelite man
Was a prostitute	Was apparently a good man
Sides with the God of Israel	Steals from God
Is treated like a believing Israelite	Is treated like a Canaanite sinner
Saves believing family members (parents, brothers, and sisters)	Leads sinful family members to death sentence (wife and children)
Helps two Israelite spies to escape Jericho	Is responsible for Israel's defeat at Ai
Is included in Christ's ancestry	Was a member of Juda, the future messianic tribe

The first two miracles and the ark of the covenant

Crossing the Jordan	Conquering Jericho
The priests carrying the ark stand still in the middle of the river	The priests carrying the ark walk around Jericho
Israel finally enters the promised land (after centuries of waiting and suffering)	Jericho falls after seven days of being warned
First sign of blessing	First sign of judgement
Water stops flowing as soon as the priests walk into the river	Thick city walls collapse (start moving) as soon as the priests blow the trumpets for the seventh time and the people shout.
The Israelites approach the ark, pass nearby the priests, and enter the land	The Israelites precede and follow the ark
Twelve rocks are piled up as a memorial of the event	Jericho has to remain in ruins as a memorial of the event

Joshua's prayer for the sun to stand still (Jos 10.12-14)



Long day vs long night

Traditional translation (NKJV) vs alternate translation (Jos 10.12-14)

- 12 Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel:
- “Sun, ~~stand still~~ (be silent) over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”
13 So the sun ~~stood still~~ (be silent), And the moon ~~stopped~~ (ceased), Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.
- Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun ~~stood still~~ (ceased) in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten ~~to go down~~ (to come) for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

דָּמָם (damam) «stand still»
= be silent

דָּמָם ('amad) «Stopped, stood still»
= stop, cease

בָּוֹ (bow') «go down»
= come

Twelve Tribes of Israel



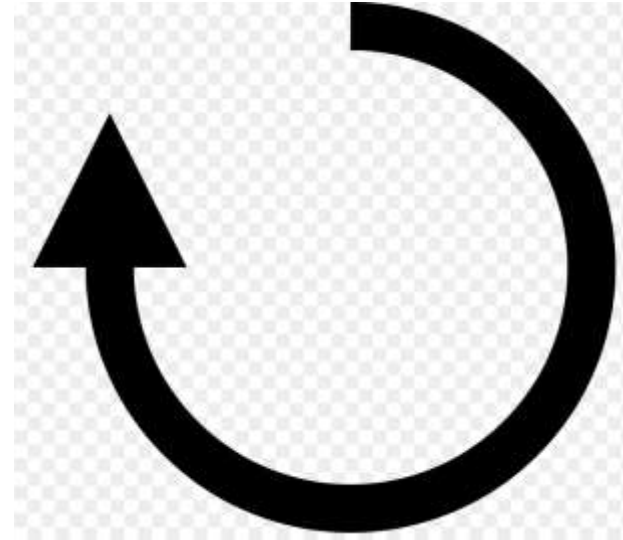
The book of Judges

The book of Judges and the Theology of immediacy

- Faithfulness = God's blessing = military victory
- Unfaithfulness = God's judgement = military defeat

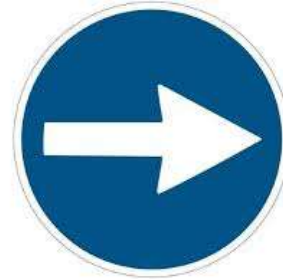
From sin to salvation: five steps

1. Rebellion
2. Ruin
3. Repentance
4. Redemption
5. Rest



Seven references to God's spirit

1. Othniel (3.10)



2. Gideon (6.34)

3. Jephthah (11.29)

4. Samson (13.24)

5. Samson (14.6)

6. Samson (14.19)

7. Samson (15.14)



Judges' structure: 2-7-2

Two introductions

1. Joshua's generation (1.1-2.5)
2. Following generations (2.6-3.6)

Seven cycles

1. Othniel (3.7-11)
2. Ehud (3.12-30)
3. Debora (4 – 5)
4. Gideon (6.1-8.28)
5. Abimelech (8.29-9.57)
6. Jephthah (10.10-12.7)
7. Samson (13 – 16)

Two appendices

1. Tribe of Dan (17- 18)
2. Tribe of Benjamin (19 – 21)

Twelve judges

1. Othniel (3.7-11)
2. Ehud (3.12-30)
3. *Schamgar* (3.31)
4. Debora (4 – 5)
5. Gideon (6.1-8.28)
 ~~Abimelech~~ (8.29-9.57)
6. *Thola* (10.1-2)
7. *Jair* (10.3-5)
8. Jephthah (10.10-12.7)
9. *Ibtzan* (12.8-10)
10. *Elon* (12.11-12)
11. *Abdon* (12.13-15)
12. Samson (13 – 16)

Othniel (3.7-11)

Rebellion

- 7 So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.

Ruin

- 8 Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.

Repentance (and call)

- 9 When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war,

Redemption

- and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim.

Rest

- 11 So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

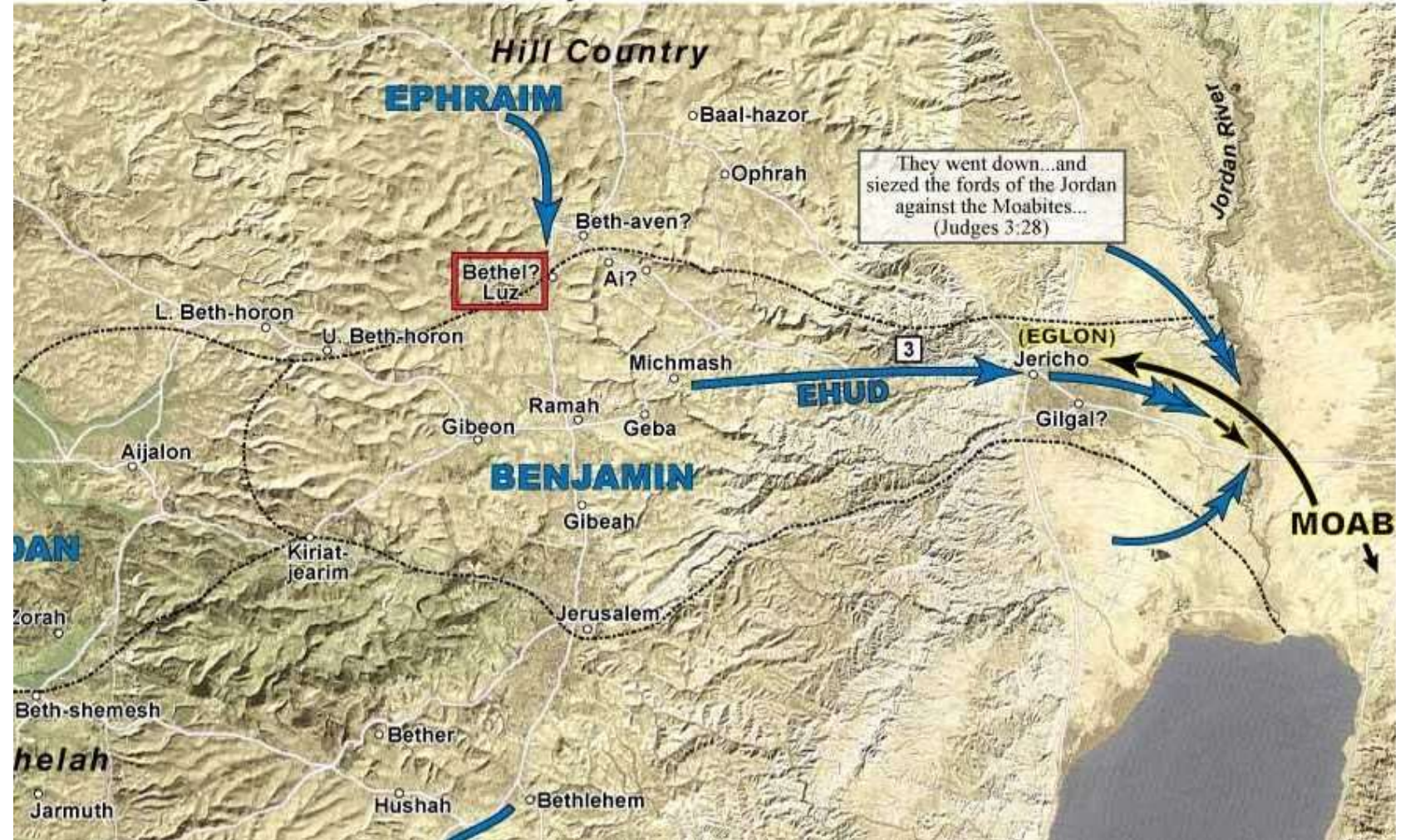
Ehud

- The main action is done by the judge
- Ehud stabs Eglon
- All the people respond the Ehud's call.

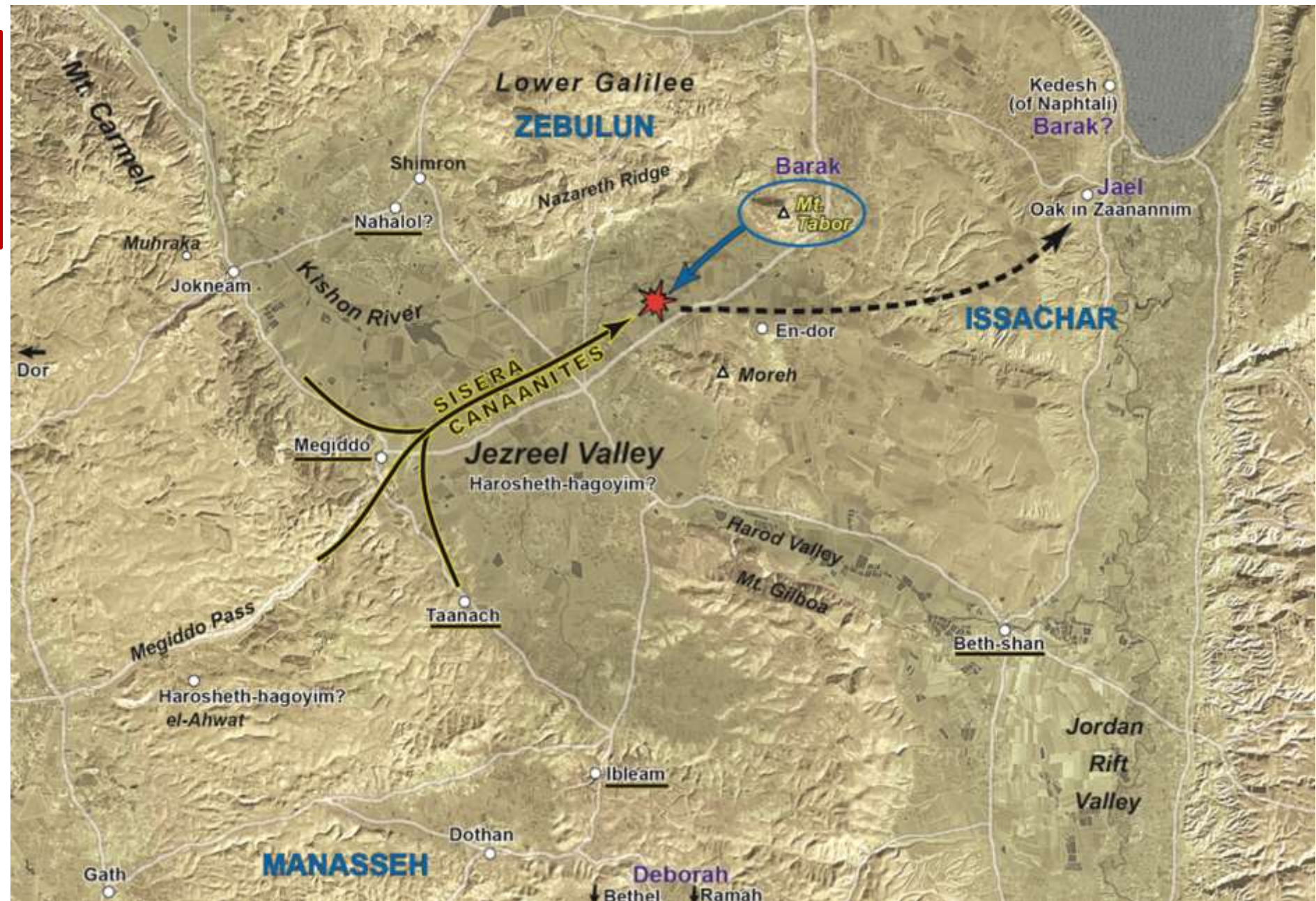
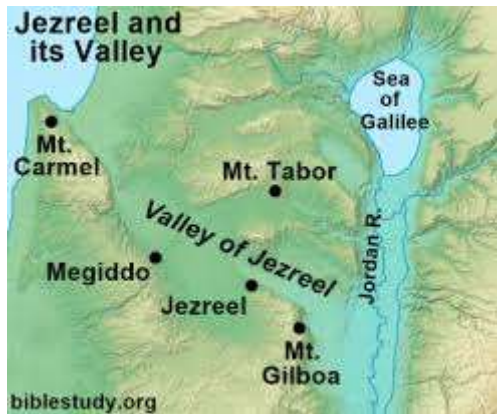
Early Judges in Judah and Benjamin

Date: Othniel, c. 1350 BC; Ehud c. 1300 BC

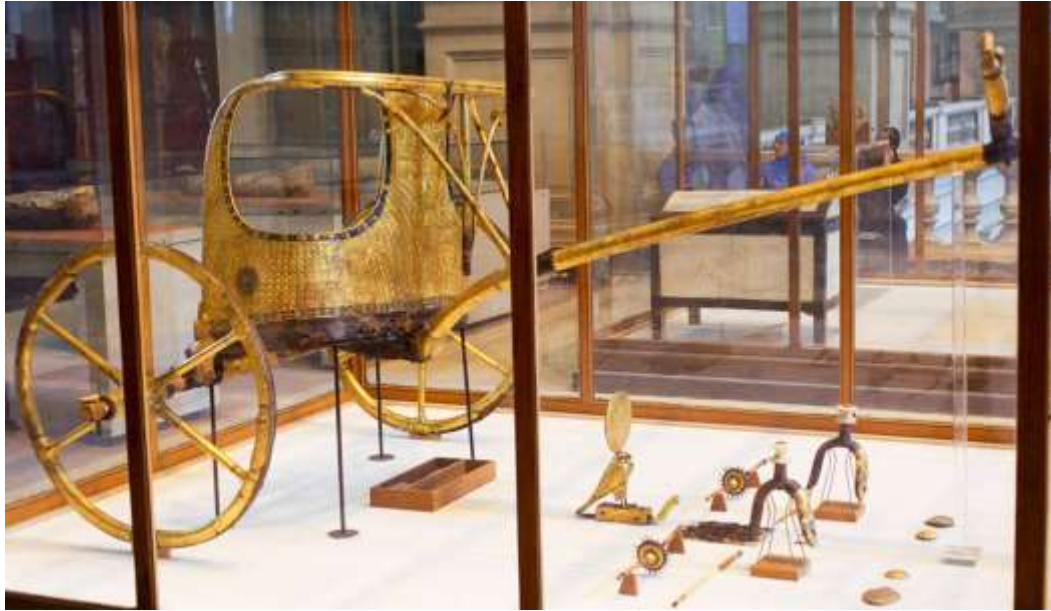
4-3

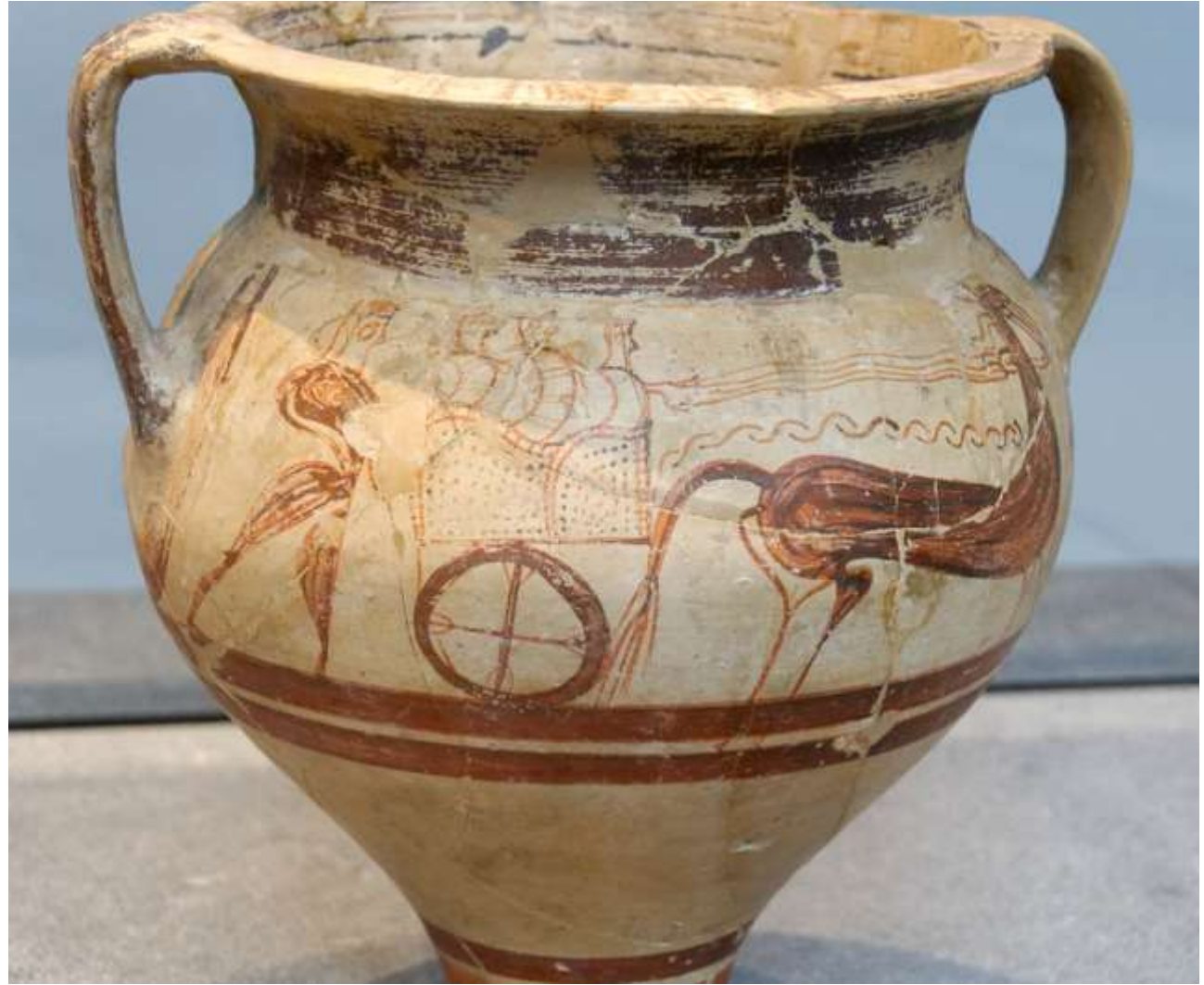


Deborah (Judges 4-5)



Ancient chariots





Mount Tabor



Mt Tabor,
viewed from
the Nazareth
ridge





Sisera attacks Barak with 900 chariots



Barak attacks Sisera



Sisera fled on foot



Bedouin tents

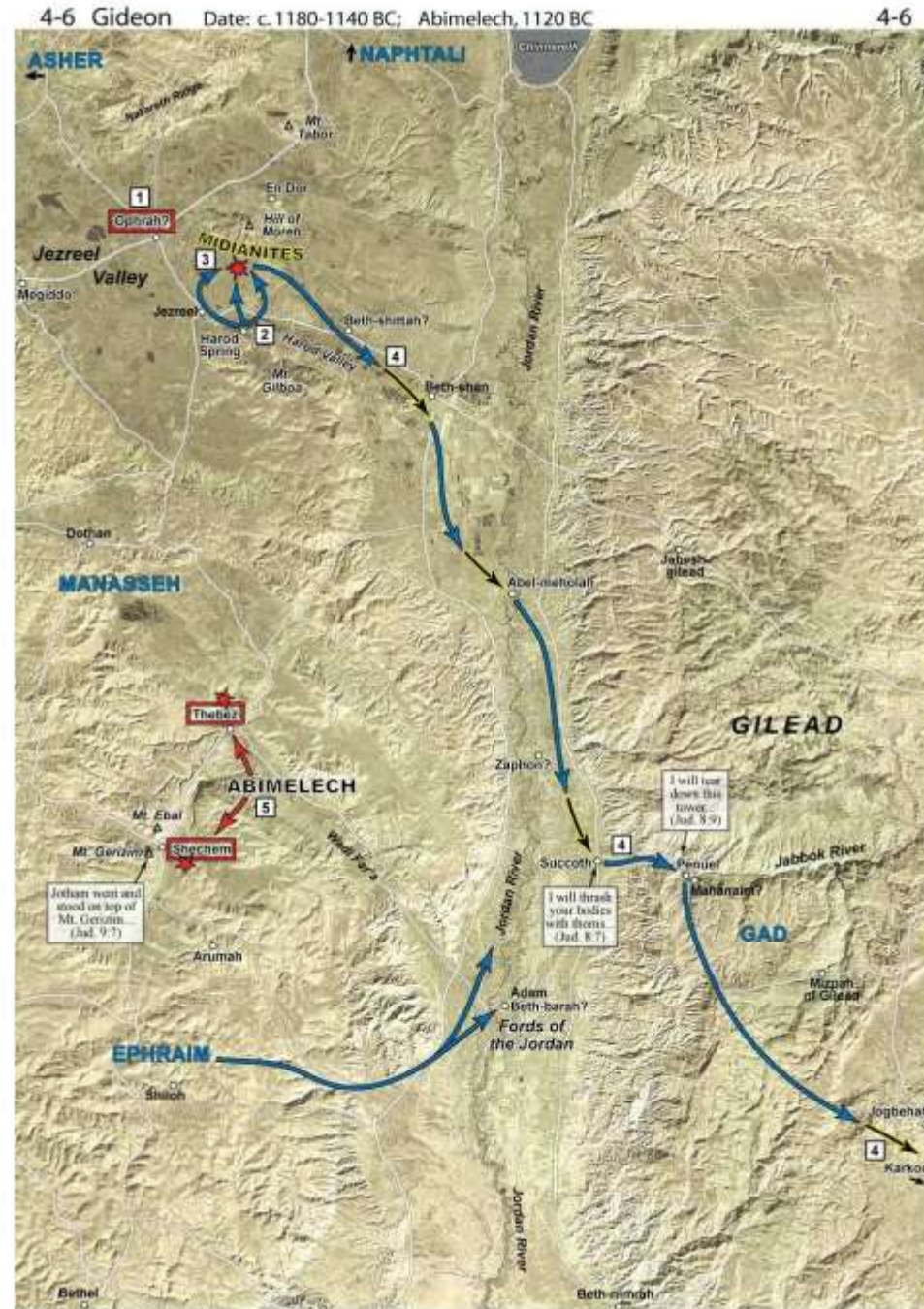


Paintings of Jael killing Sisera



Ehud vs Jael

Ehud	Jael
Man	Women
Leader of Israel	Wife, in a marginal family
Ehud comes to Eglon	Sisera goes to Jael
Planned killing	Unplanned opportunity
Special weapon	Common tool
Ehud promises a secret	Jael shows hospitality
Eglon stands up	Sisera is a sleep
Killing in the enemy's headquarter	Killing in Jael's home
Horizontal strike	Vertical strike
Illustrates courage and planning	Illustrates courage and quick reaction
Illustrates qualities of a leader	Illustrates importance of the average person
Jericho	Jezreel valley



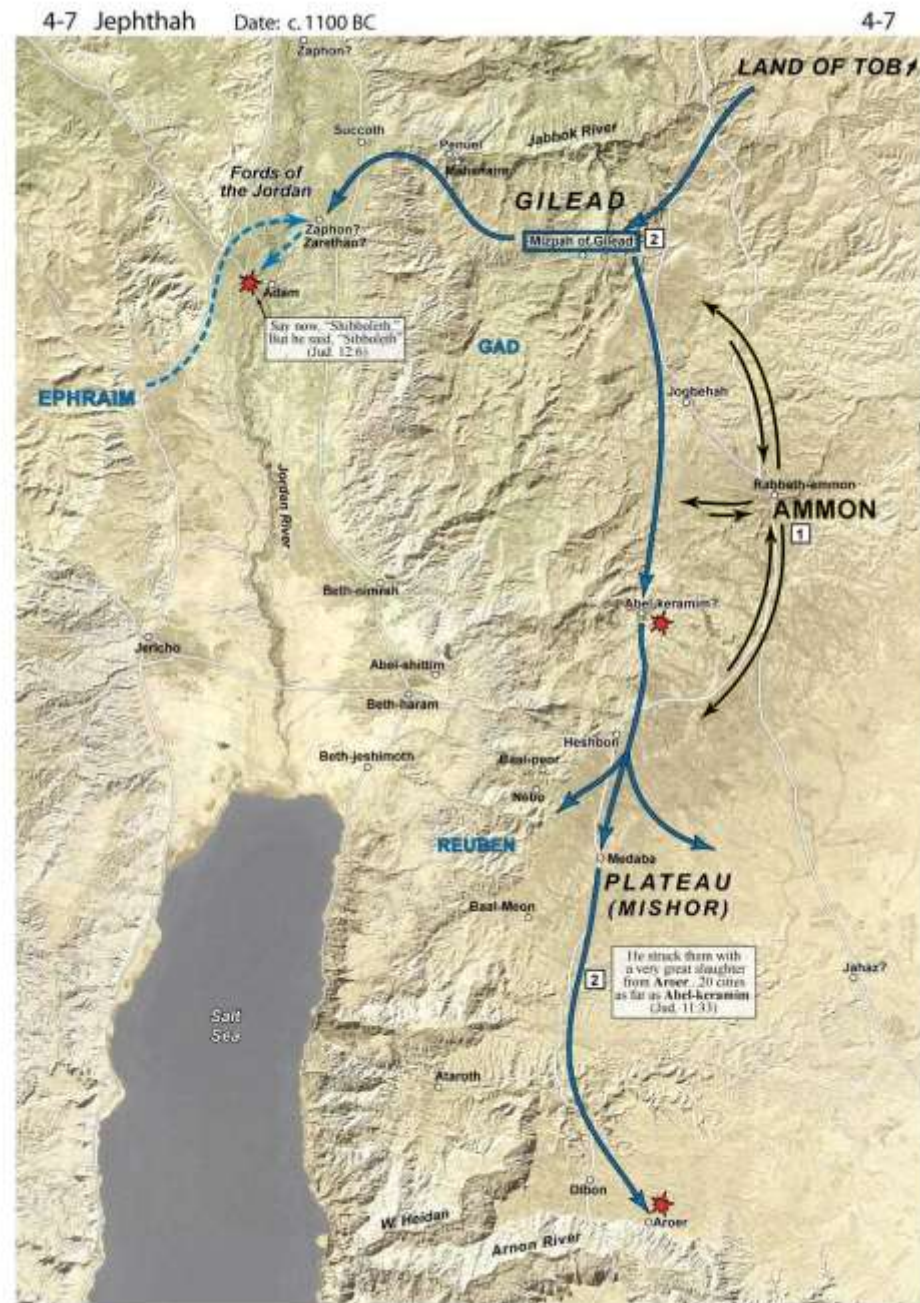
Jephthah

What happened to his daughter?

She was offered as a “sacrifice”:

A/ Burnt alive (11.31)?

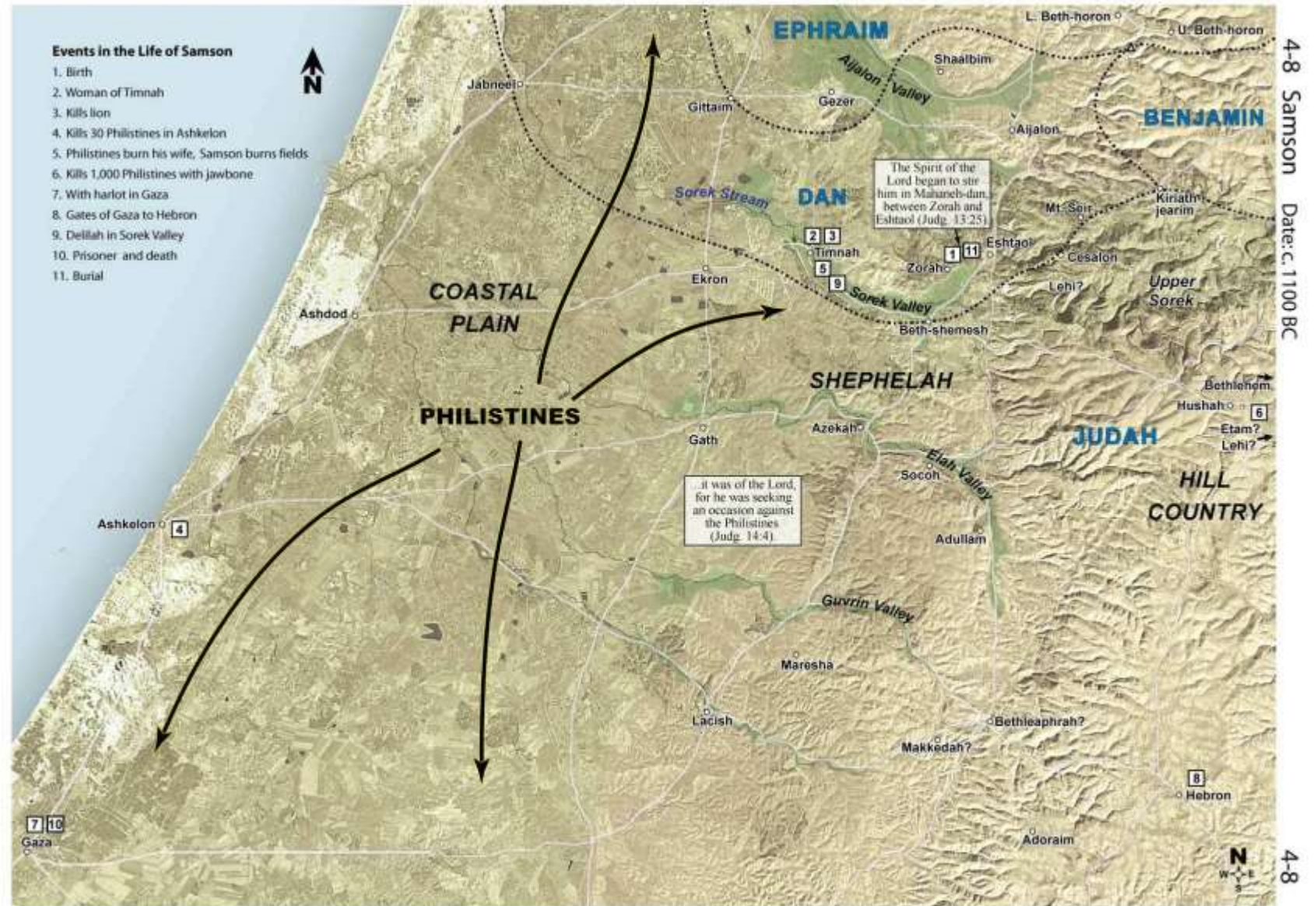
B/ Consecrated to serve at the tabernacle?



Samson

- Long Philistinian oppression
- Samson's consecration since birth
- His extraordinary power
- Limited deliverance
- Rejected by his people
- Misunderstood
- Spirit of the Lord

Samson's ministry:
To teach Israel about the danger of compromise



The book of 1-2 Samuel

Overview of 1-2 Samuel

- **The two books are one in Hebrew**
- **Many characters**
- One main character
 - His family, friends, and enemies
- One basic theme
- The importance of Samuel
- His birth
- His call
- His ministry
- **The ark of the covenant**
- The establishment of Kingship
- **The choice of Saul**
- **The rejection of Saul**
- **The behavior of Jonathan**
- The choice of David
- David's character
- **David's miseries (persecution)**
- The covenant with the house of David
- David's sin
- David's repentance
- David's sufferings
- **Closing story**

1-2 Samuel

One scroll in Hebrew = two scrolls in Greek

Example: 1 Samuel 2.2-3

English

2“No one is holy like the LORD, For *there is none* besides You, Nor *is there* any rock like our God.

3“Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD *is* the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.

Greek

2ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἅγιος ὡς Κύριος, καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν δίκαιος ὡς ὁ θεὸς ἡμῶν, οὐκ ἔστιν ἅγιος πλὴν σοῦ.

3μὴ καυχᾶσθε καὶ μὴ λαλεῖτε ὑψηλά, μὴ ἐξελθάτω μεγαλορημοσύνη ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν· ὅτι θεὸς γνώσεως Κύριος, καὶ θεὸς ἐτοιμάζων ἐπιτηδεύματα αὐτοῦ.

Hebrew

אֵין-קְדוֹשׁ כִּיהוָה כִּי אֵין בְּלִתִּי וְאֵין צוּר כְּאַלְהֵינוּ:

אֶל-תִּרְבּוּ תִדְבְּרוּ גְבוּהָה גְבוּהָה יֵצֵא עַתָּק מִפִּיכֶם כִּי אֶל דַּעוֹת יְהוָה 'וְלֹא' "וְלֹא" נִתְּנָה עַל־לִוִּית: ³

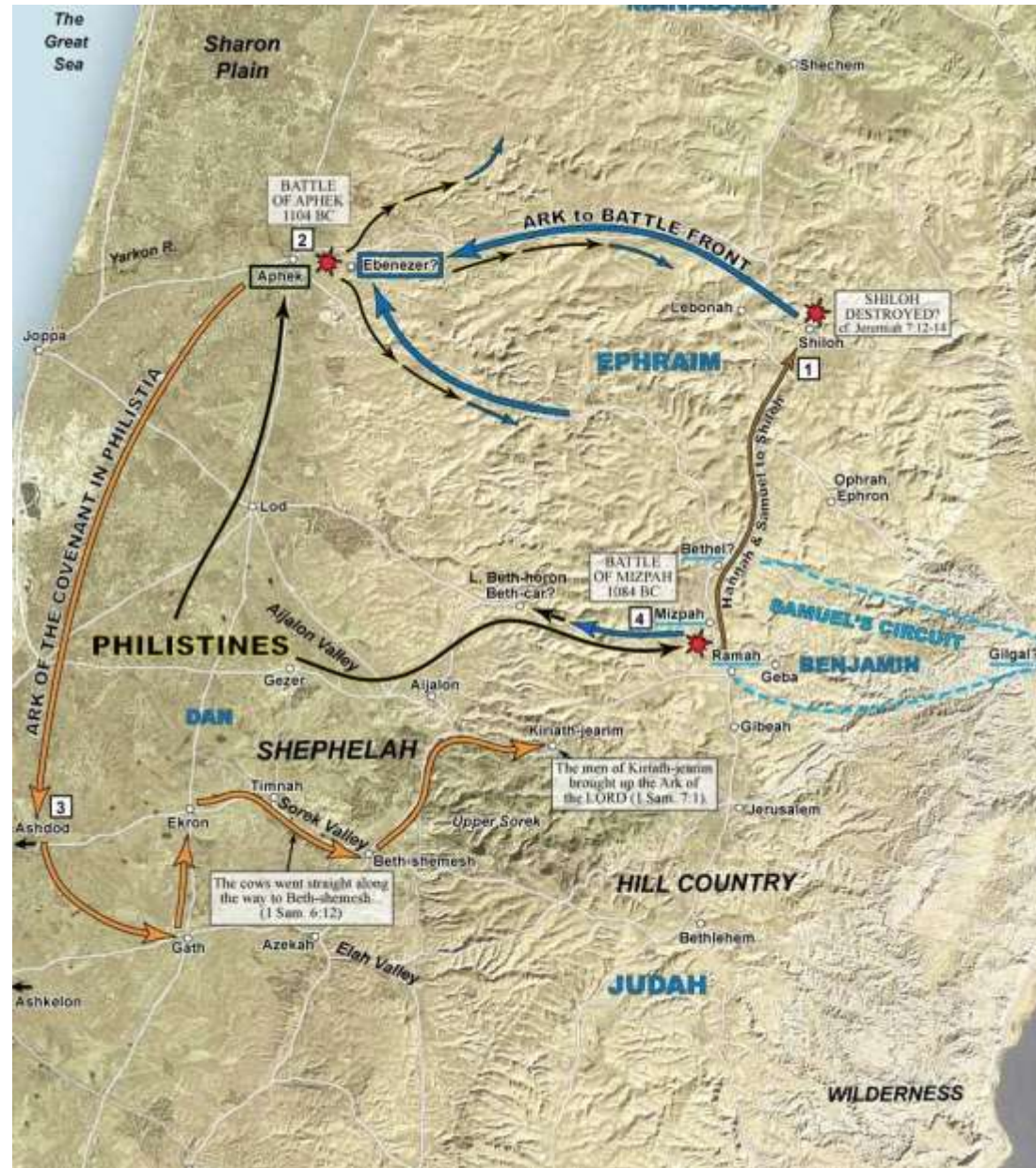
People named in 1-2 Samuel

450	David	13	Anne	5	Cuschi	3	Eliab
307	Saul	13	Tamar	5	Achinoam	3	Schimea
112	Samuel	13	Tsadok	5	Hophni	3	Abinadab
85	Joab	13	Achimaats	5	Agag	2	Abinadab
83	Absalom	12	Tsiba	5	Goliath	2	Adriel
77	Jonathan	12	Mephiboscheth	5	Uzza	2	Bath-Schéba
50	Abner	11	Isch-Boscheth	4	Jonathan	2	Salomon
30	Eli	11	Husaï	4	Ritspa	2	Malkischua
27	Jesse	11	Achimélek	4	Mérab	1	Jischvi
21	Amnon	10	Asaël	4	Doëg	1	Abinadab
20	Abischai	10	Nathan	4	Baana	1	I-Kabod
20	Urie	9	Amasa	4	Récab	1	Hiram
19	Nabal	9	Hadadézer	4	Hanun	1	Schobi
19	Ackish	8	Elkana	4	Jonadab	1	Jedidja
18	Scheba	7	Barzillai	3	Schamma	1	Mica
15	Ahithophel	7	Phinéas	3	Peninna	1	Joram
15	Tseruja	7	Ittai	3	Kimham	1	Joël
14	Abiathar	7	Schimei	3	Makir	1	Abija
14	Michal	6	Nachasch	3	Obed-Edom	1	Jonathan
13	Abigail	6	Gad	3	Kéniens	1	Abigaïl

Pairs of people

Two kings	Saul	David
The king's main son	Jonathan	Absalom
Saul's two important sons	Jonathan	Ich-Boscheth
David's two important sons	Amnon	Absalom
The king's main general	Abner	Joab
Deux counselors of David	Ahitophel	Hushai
Deux informers	Doeg	Hushai
Two men helped by David	Mephibosheth	Tsiba
Ich-Boscheth's two murders	Baanah	Recab
Two prophets	Nathan	Gad
David's two priests	Tsadok	Abiathar
The son of two priests	Achimaats (Tsadok)	Jonathan (Abiathar)
Tension within a couple	Nabal	Abigail
Two faithful wives of David	Michal	Abigail
Elkana's two wives	Peninnah	Hannah
Eli's two sons	Hophni	Phinehas

The Ark taken captive (1 Samuel 4-6)



Saul's call (1 Samuel 9 - 10)

- **Background information about the first king**

- The reader is told many things about the first king (9.1-2)
- **Saul sees nothing**
 - He doesn't find the donkeys after looking everywhere (9.4)
 - Yet, Saul is taller (9.2)
 - He doesn't know that Samuel lives next door (5 km between Ramah and Gibeah): 9.6
 - He thinks you have to pay a seer (9.7)
 - He doesn't recognize the seer when facing him (9.18)
 - He doesn't believe that he is going to be the next king (9.21)

Samuel knows everything

- He is called the seer (9.9, 11, 18, 19)
- He knows that Saul is coming (9.15)
- He knows Saul has been looking for the donkeys for three days (9.20)
- He knows the donkeys have been found (9.20)
- He knows that Saul is going to be the next king (9.16)
- He knows what is going to happen when Saul leaves him (10.3-6)

Saul sees God's word coming true

- All the events announced happen (10.9)
- A new heart is given to Saul (10.9)
- Later, there is confirmation of Saul's call through the casting of the lot (10.17-27)

Spiritual lessons

- God calls a man that represents the people. A man that is attractive according to human values, yet the man doesn't know God
- God reveals himself to Saul and gives him all he needs to trust Him.

Saul and Jonathan: fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 13 – 14)

Saul (13.2-15)	Jonathan (14.1-15)
Saul dismisses his troops (13.2)	Israel has only two swords (13.22)
Jonathan attacks a Philistine outpost at Geba (13.3)	Jonathan plans to attack the Philistines secretly (14.1)
Philistines assemble 3000 chariots (13.5)	The Philistine outpost is perched on a rock
Israelites desert the army (13.6-7)	The Philistines think Jonathan is deserting Israel (14.11-12)
Saul waits for Samuel to offer a sacrifice (13.8)	Jonathan doesn't consult the priest wearing the ephod (14.3)
After seven days, Saul offers the sacrifice himself (13.9-10)	Jonathan looks for a sign to climb the rock (4.6-10)
Samuel rebukes Saul and declares that Saul's dynasty is rejected (13.11, 13-14)	Jonathan creates a 'panic sent by God' and saves Israel (14.15)

Who is guilty ? (1 Samuel 14.16-45)

1. Saul sees the Philistines running away and wants to pursue them (14.16-17)
2. To be sure of his action, Saul asks the priest to bring the ark and consult God (14.18)
3. As the news is confirmed that the Philistines are fleeing, Saul asks the priests not to consult God (14.19)
4. The Philistines are in great confusion, and Israel is encouraged (14.20-23)
5. Israelites soldiers are weak because Saul had ordered them to abstain from all food (14.24)
6. Jonathan sees honey and eats it, but not the soldiers (14.27)
7. Jonathan is strengthened (14.27) and he criticizes his father's orders (14.29)
8. At the end of the days, the exhausted Israelites eat meat with the blood (14.32)
9. When informed, Saul drains the animals' blood on a rock (14.33-35)
10. Saul wants to resume the battle against the Philistines, but the priest wants to ask God's will (14.36)
11. Saul asks God, but God doesn't answer (14.37)
12. Saul assembles the people to see who sinned against God (14.38)
13. Saul promises to kill the guilty person (14.39)
14. The cast designates Jonathan (14.40-42)
15. Jonathan confesses he ate honey (14.43)
16. Saul wants to kill Jonathan (14.44)
17. But the people prevent Saul for doing this (14.45)

Ways by which David stayed alive (1 Samuel)

- David's agility (18.11)
- David returns alive from war (18.17)
- David returns alive from a commando mission (18.27)
- Jonathan warns David (19.1-2)
- Jonathan speaks on behalf of David (19.4-6)
- David's agility (19.10)
- Mikal (David's wife) tricks the king's servants to save her husband (19.11-17)
- Samuel's prophetic ministry (19.18-24)
- Jonathan risks his life to help David (20)
- David hides and lies to the high priest (21.1-10)
- David pretends that he is crazy during his stay at Akish (21.11-16)
- The prophet Gad advises David to return to his country (22.1-5). We are not told the nature of the danger.
- David consults the Lord who warns him of specific dangers (23)
- God prevents Saul from finding David (details are not given: 23.14)
- Jonathan encourages David (23.16-18)
- The Philistines unknowingly provoke a diversion (23.19-28)
- God helps David to prove his innocence (24)
- David succeeds in proving his innocence (26).
- God puts Saul's army to sleep (26.12).
- David's strategy helps him to survive while staying among the Philistines (27)

Structure of 1-2 Samuel

Introduction

(1 Sam 1-15)

David's problems before his reign

(1 Sam 16:1-2 Sam 2:7)

David's reign

(2 Sam 2:8-10:19)

David's problems after his sin

(2 Sam 11-20)

Conclusion

(2 Sam 21-24)

I.1 Introduction (1S. 1-15)

- A1 A covenant rejected (with Eli's house) and a covenant kept (the ark): (1-7)
- B Establishment of kingship in Israel and the call of the first king (8-12)
- A2 Saul and his house rejected (13-15)

II. 1 David's problems before his reign (1S.16:1-2S.2.7)

- A1 David's call and anointing (16-17)
- B1 David's family (wife and brother in law) delivers him from the enemy (18.1-21.1)
- C1 David's problems abroad (21.2-23.28)
- D David's remarkable attitude : he spares evil men three times (24-26)
- C2 David's problems abroad (27-29)
- B2 David delivers his family (wives and children) from the enemy (30)
- A2 David is anointed and ascends to the throne (1S.31.1-2S.2.7)

III. David's reign (2S.2:8-10:19)

- A1 Civil war: successful battle against one of Saul's sons (2.8-3.39)
- B1 David shows respect for a son of Saul (Ish-Bosheth) (4)
- C1 Wars of conquest (5)
- D1 David's respect for God : the ark is brought back in the middle of the nation (6)
- E **God makes a covenant with the house of David (7.1-17)**
- D2 David's respect for God: his praise to God (7.18-29)
- C2 Wars of conquest (8)
- B2 David shows respect for a son of Jonathan (Mephibosheth, Saul's grand-son) (9)
- A2 Conflict with a friend: successful battle against Hanun, the son of the king of the Ammonites (10)

II. 2 David's problems after his sin (2S.11-20)

- A1 David's sin (11)
- B Proclamation of God's judgement (12)
- A2 David's problems (12-20)

I. 2 Conclusion (2S.21-24)

- A1 Saul's past sin: judgement and forgiveness (21.1-14)
- B1 David's faithful friends (21.15-22)
- C1 David's song of praise at the end of his difficulties (22)
- C2 David's thankful words at the end of his life (23.1-7)
- B2 David's faithful friends (23.8-39)
- A2 David's sin : judgement and forgiveness (24)

David's second sin: the census of his army (2 Samuel 24)

1. God is angry at David "again" (24.1)
 2. David orders to count his army
 3. Joab discourages David to make such a census (24.2-3)
 4. Afterwards, David confesses he committed a great sin (24.10)
 5. God proposes to choose one of the three types of punishment (24.11-13)
 6. David puts his trust in God's mercy (24.14)
 7. 70'000 people die (24.15)
 8. When judgement reaches Jerusalem, David asks the Angel of the Lord to withhold the judgment and bring it down on him and his family (24.16-17)
 9. The prophet Gad orders David to buy Araunah's threshing floor and build an altar there (24.18)
 10. David obeys and insists on paying Araunah for the land (24.19-24)
 11. He pays "50 shekels of silver" (24.24) or "600 shekels of gold" according to 1Ch 21.25.
 12. David builds an altar, offers sacrifices, and God is appeased (24.25).
- Araunah's threshing floor is the place where the temple of God was built by Salomon (2Ch 3.1). This place is also called Mt Moriah, and is the place where Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice (Genesis 22.1-14), around 2050 B.C.
 - The book of Samuel ends at the place where the Angel of the Lord suspends his judgment on Jerusalem, but will accomplish it fully, a thousand years later, on Himself, when Jesus dies on the cross on Mt Golgotha.
 - The difference in price between 2 Sam 24 and 1 Chron 21 (see point 11), may be due to the fact that 2Sam indicates the amount for the place where the altar was built, and the temple later erected; 1Chr indicates the price for the larger area, which included Golgotha, the place where Jesus died on the cross.

The book of 1-2 Kings

Kings of Judah and Israel

	Judah			Israel	
Years of reign					Years of reign
40	Solomon				
17	Rehoboam (41)				
				Jeroboam	22
3	Abijah	18 ^e			
41	Asa	20 ^e			
			2 ^e	Nadab	2
			3 ^e	Baasha	24
			26 ^e	Elah	2
			27 ^e	Zimri	7 days
			31 ^e	Omri	12
			38 ^e	Ahab	22
25	Jehoshaphat (35)	4 ^e			
			17 ^e	Ahaziah	2
			18 ^e	Joram	12
8	Jehoram (32)	5 ^e			
1	Ahaziah (22)	12 ^e			
				Jehu	28
	Athaliah				
41	Joash (7)	7 ^e			
			23 ^e	Jehoahaz	17
			37 ^e	Jehoash	16
29	Amaziah (25)	2 ^e			
			15 ^e	Jeroboam II	41

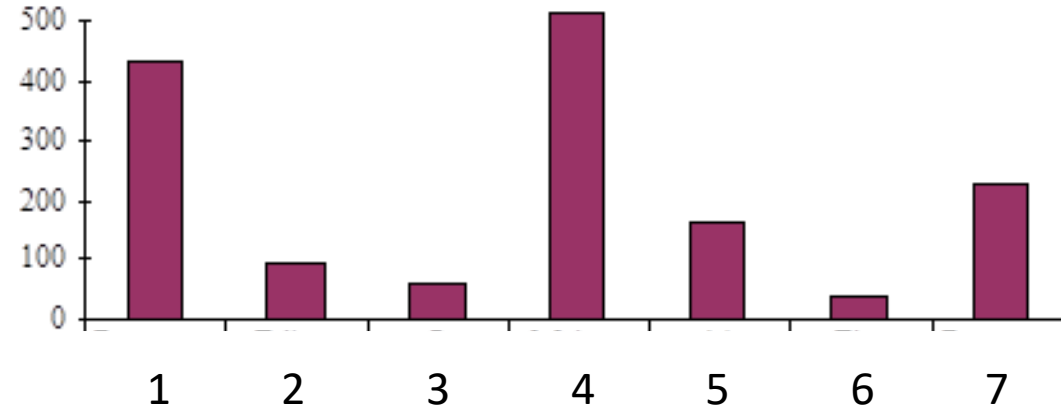
	Judah			Israel	
			15 ^e	Jeroboam II	41
52	Azariah/ Uzziah (16)	27 ^e			
			38 ^e	Zechariah	6 months
			39 ^e	Shallum	1 month
			39 ^e	Menahem	10
			50 ^e	Pekahiah	2
			52 ^e	Pekah	20
16	Jotham (25)	2 ^e			
16	Ahaz (20)	17 ^e			
			12 ^e	Hoshea	9
29	Hezekiah (25)	3 ^e			
55	Manasseh (12)				
2	Amon (22)				
31	Josiah (8)				
3 months	Jehoahaz (23)				
11	Jehoiakim (25)				
3 months	Jehoiachin (18)				
11	Zedekiah (21)				

Structure of 1-2 Kings

A.1	The united kingdom of Solomon, descendant of David (1 Kings 1-11)
B.1	Beginning of the northern kingdom (1 Kings 12-14): important Prophets
C.1	First transition: seven reigns from Abijam to Omri (1 Kings 15:1-16:28)
D	The house of Ahab (1 Kings 16:29-2 Kings 10:27)
C.2	Second transition: fourteen reigns from Jehu to Ahaz (2 Kings 10:28-16:20)
B.2	End of the northern kingdom: prophetic explanations (2 Kings 17)
A.2	The unique kingdom of Judah: the last seven kings (2 Kings 18-25)

Length of each section in 1-2 Kings

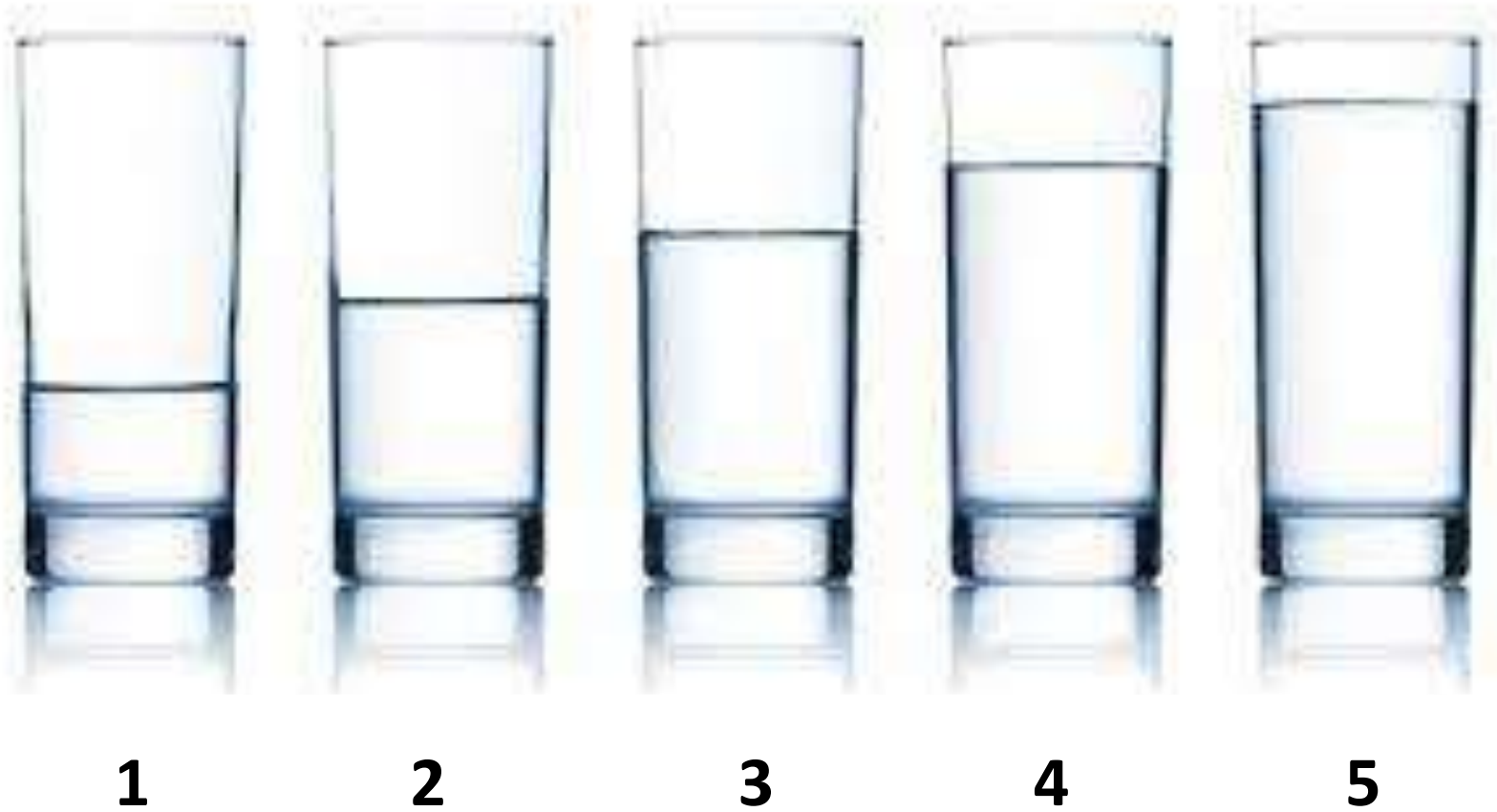
		verses
1	United kingdom (1 Kings 1-11)	434
2	Beginning of schism (1 Kings 12-14)	98
3	7 transitions (1 Kings 15:1-16:28)	62
4	House of Ahab (1 Kings 16:29-2 Kings 10:27)	512
5	14 transitions (2 Kings 10:28- 16:20)	163
6	End of schism (2 Kings 17)	41
7	Kingdom of Juda (2 Kings 18-25)	228



Judgement is postponed to future generations

- Because of Solomon's sin, his kingdom was divided during his son's reign (1Kings 11.11-12)
- Because of Jeroboam's sin, his dynasty ends during his son's reign (1Kings 15.29-30; cf. 14.9-11)
- Because of Ahab's sin, his dynasty ends during his second son's reign (Joram), who was better than his father and brother (1Kings 16.30-33; 22.1-37; 2Kings 3.2)
- After two centuries of infidelities, the kingdom of Israel is deported during Hosea's reign, the least evil of all the kings of Israel (2Kings 17.1)
- Manasseh was the most evil of all kings of Judah, yet he ruled longer than any other king (2Kings 23.25-26)

God delays judgement until...



Elijah, the solitary prophet of judgement

- A time for judgement during Ahab's reign
- No rain
- Ravens feed Elijah
- Elijah's message at Mt Carmel before the return of the rain
- Reformation started but not finished
- Elijah runs away to save his life
- God's message at Mt Horeb

Elijah vs Elisha

Elijah	Elisha
The prophet of judgement	The prophet of grace
The solitary prophet	The prophet of the people
The prophet and temporary solutions	The prophet of perfection
Events linked to time	The timeless prophet
The prophet struggling with God's will	The prophet of knowledge
	The prophet of signs
	The prophet of magnified generosity
The rebuking prophet	The prophet as a Prime Minister
The wilderness prophet (like John the Baptist)	The prophet who is the forerunner of Jesus Christ

Structure of Elisha's account

LONG STORIES	Short stories	The Structure of the Elisha Account
A.1		SUCCESSION AMONG THE PROPHETS (2:1-18)
	a1	The purified waters (benediction of the people: 2:19-22)
	a2	Punishment of the mockers (malediction of the people: 2:23-25)
B.2		ARMED CONFLICT AGAINST MOAB (3)
	b3	A prophet's wife is helped (4:1-7)
C.3		BLESSING FOR A HIGH-RANKING JEWESS (4:8–37)
	c4	The sons of the prophets are healed (4:38-41)
	c5	The sons of the prophets are fed (4:42-44)
C.4		BLESSING FOR A HIGH-RANKING STRANGER (5)
	b6	A prophet's son is helped (6:1-7)
B.5		FIRST ARMED CONFLICT WITH THE SYRIANS (6:8–23)
B.6		SECOND ARMED CONFLICT WITH THE SYRIANS (6:24-7:20)
	a7	Return to the country is possible (blessing and curse of individuals: 8:1-6)
A.7		SUCCESSION AMONG THE KINGS (8:7-9:10)

Assyria attacks
Jerusalem
(2 Kings 18-19)



Hezekiah (701 B.C.)

- A dangerous time: Assyrians attack Jerusalem (2 Kings 18 – 19)
- God delivers the city: 185'000 Assyrians are killed during the night
- The story is told in Isaiah 36-39
- Jeremiah copies the story in Kings (2 Kings 18-20)
- Hezekiah leads a reform (2 Chronicles 29 – 31)
- Hezekiah trusts the Lord (2 Kings 18 – 19)
- Isaiah encourages the king and prays for the king
- Jerusalem is delivered (2 Kings 19.35-37)
- Two appendices: 2 Kings 20
- A/ Hezekiah's sickness and healing
 - The king is sick, is warned of his death, prays, is healed
 - The signs: 15 years are added, the figs are placed on his boil, the shadow goes back, 10 steps on the stairway of Ahaz.
- B/ Hezekiah's political plans
 - A delegation from Babylon is welcomed by Hezekiah. The king shows his treasures, then Isaiah rebukes the king and says the treasures will be deported to Babylon.
 - Hezekiah asks if it will happen during his time. No, his life will be peaceful.
- Both stories happen before Jerusalem's deliverance

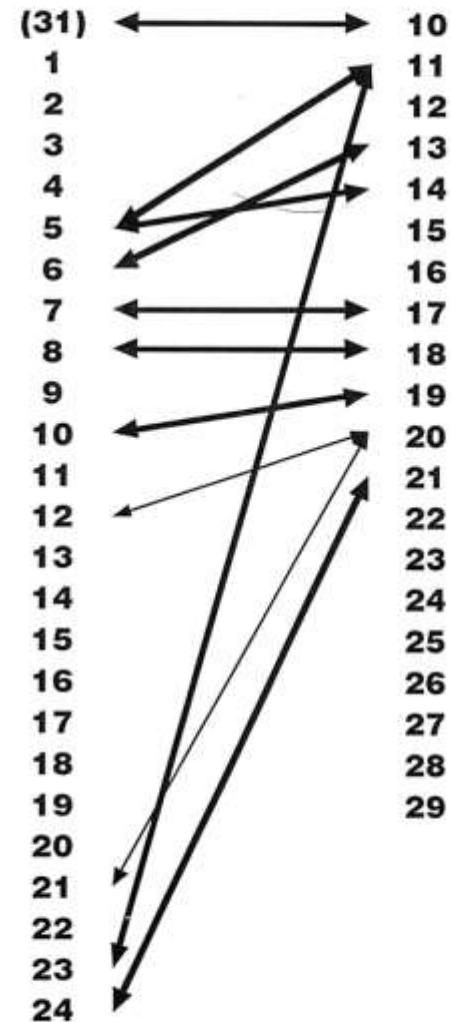
The book of 1-2 Chronicles

Comparison between 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles

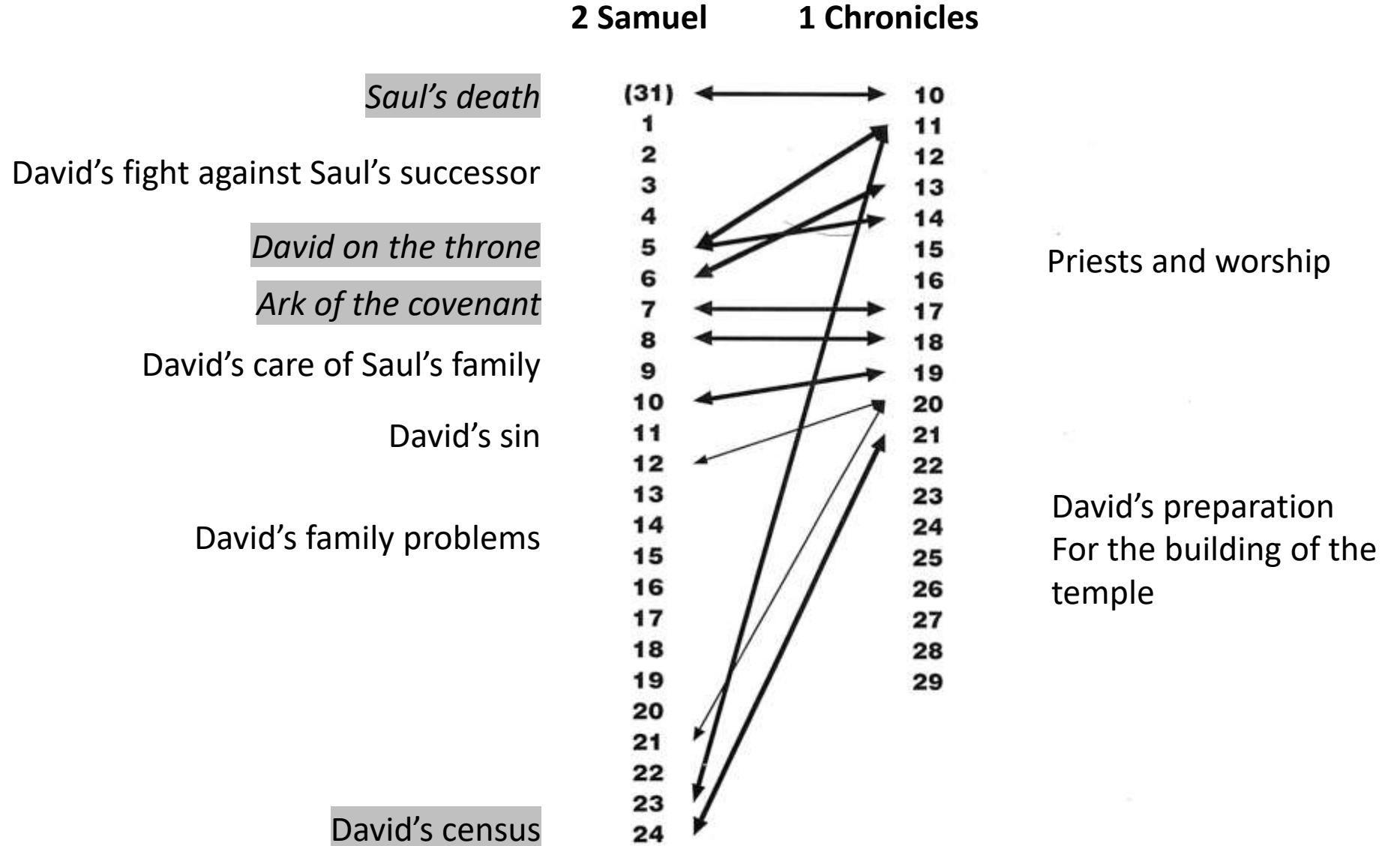
	1-2 Kings	1-2 Chronicles
Period described	From Salomon to exile	From David to return
	970-561	1010-539
Date of writing	During the exile	After the exile
Kingdoms described	Juda et Israel	Juda
Purpose of writing	Explains the exile	Encourages reconstruction
Themes	Delayed justice	Immediate justice
		Repentance
	Prophets	Scribes
		Constructions
		Offerings
Author according to tradition	Jeremiah	Ezra

David's life according to 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles

2 Samuel 1 Chronicles



David's life according to 2 Samuel and 1Chronicles



Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

Chronology of Post-exilic Events

539-536	Fall of Babylon (Daniel 5); beginning of Persian empire (Daniel 6)
	Cyrus's decree: Jews are allowed to return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1)
	40 000 Jews return to Jerusalem under the leadership of Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel et Jeshua (Ezra 2)
	The altar is rebuilt in Jerusalem (Ezra 3)
536-520	Efforts to rebuild the temple (Ezra 4)
520-515	Ministry of Haggai and Zechariah
	Exhortations to resume temple work (Ezra 5)
516	The temple is rebuilt (Ezra 6)
483	Big banquet in Susa (Esther 1)
	Persians invade Greece
479	Esther become queen (Esther 2)
474-473	Genocide planned against the Jews (Esther 3-10)
	Mordecai becomes prime minister (Esther 10)
458	Ezra returns to Jerusalem with 1700 men (Ezra 7-10)
444	Nehemiah learns that nothing has changed (Nehemiah 1)
	Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2)
	Jerusalem city walls are rebuilt in 52 days (Nehemiah 3-6)
	Public reading of the law, inauguration of the walls, organization (Nehemiah 7-12)
	Encouragement to repopulate Jerusalem
432-431	Nehemiah goes to Susa, then comes back to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 13)
431 ?	Malachi prophesies in Jerusalem and condemns corruption
336-187	Partial fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 11.3-19)

Post-exilic times

Pagan political leadership

- Persian kings and governors
- Unchanging Persian decrees

God is discreet

- God's name is not mentioned in Esther
- No miracles
- God uses pagans' decrees (Cyrus: Ezra 1.1)
- God guides through circumstances
- God protects with or without escorts
- The "good hand" of God

Voluntary involvement

- No obligation to return home
- Zealots return
- God uses dedicated people

Exhortations to get involved

- One must admire and honor generosity
- Free gifts are underlined (already in 1-2 Chronicles)
- Future rewards are mentioned ("remember me")

Materialistic environment

- Many are tempted to stay in exile
- Often priority is given to personal prosperity (Haggai)
- Some collaborate too easily with local pagan authorities (Nehemiah)

Respect of the law

- Jewish specificity needs to be preserved
- No collaboration with pagans
- Importance to obey the law
- Idolatry is gone

The book of Esther

Structure of Esther

1.A	Feast which emphasizes the power of Ahasuerus, king of the earth + royal edict (1)
2.A	Esther becomes queen, two evildoers are killed (2)
3.A	Letter which condemns the Jews (written by Haman) (3:1-15)
4.A	Esther's commitment before the king, who extends his golden scepter (4:1-5:3)
5.A	The first meal , followed by an unfortunate encounter (5:4-9)
6.A	Haman goes home; Zerech and his family encourage him with regard to Mordecai (5:10-14)
7.A	The king remembers Mordecai's services (6:1-3)
7.B	The king honors Mordecai (6:4-11)
6.B	Haman goes home; Zerech and his family discourage him with regard to Mordecai (6:12-14)
5.B	The second meal , followed by a happy encounter (7:1-8.2)
4.B	Esther's commitment before the king, who extends his golden scepter towards her (8:3-6)
3.B	Letter which authorizes the Jews to defend themselves (written by Mordecai) (8:7-17)
2.B	Israel can exercise its independence (its sovereignty), many pagans die (9:1-17)
1.B	Feast which testifies to the redeeming God's greatness + royal edict (9:18-10:3)

Book's drama

9 years between the beginning and the end of the book



70 days between both edits



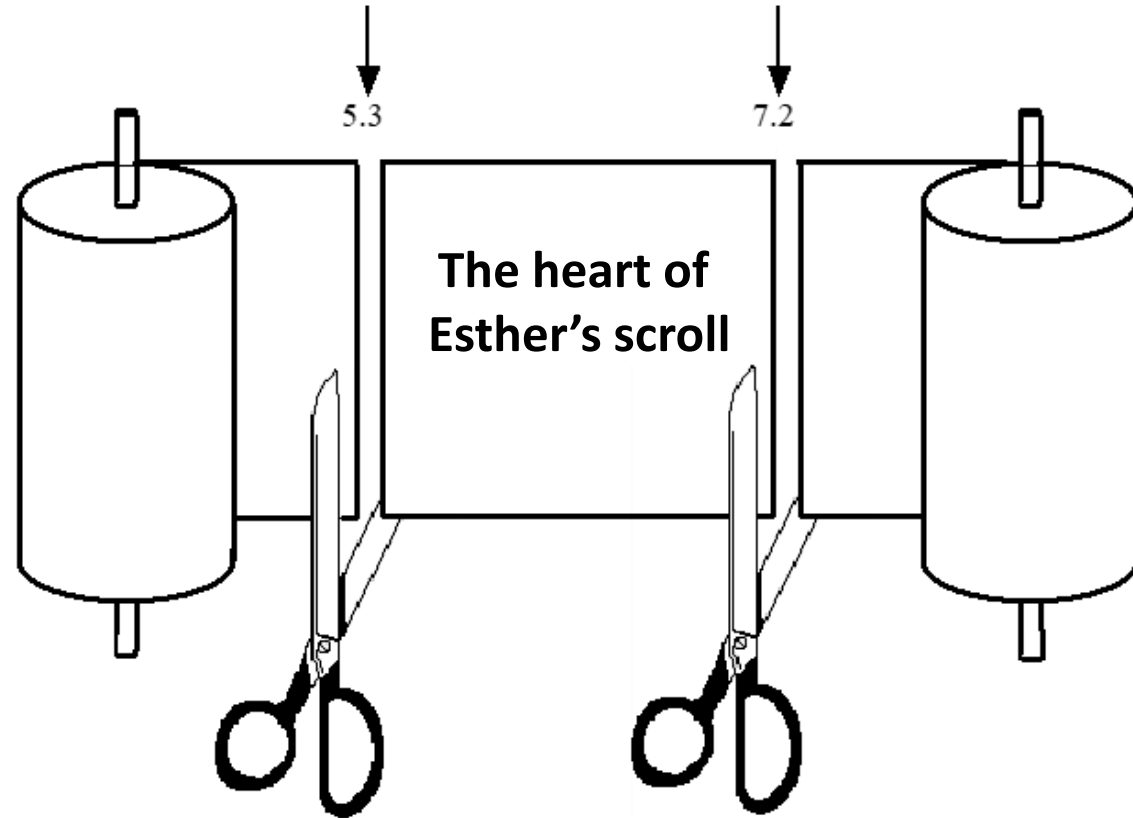
24 hours between both meals



One night between Mordecai's humiliation and elevation



Then the king asked, 'What is it Queen Esther? What is your request?
Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given to you' (5.3; 7.2)



Даниил Арнольд

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