

Joshua 10

Verses 1 - 5

Now it came about when Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai, and had utterly destroyed it (just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king), and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were within their land, ² that he feared greatly because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty. ³ Therefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, ⁴ “Come up to me and help me, and let’s attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the sons of Israel.” ⁵ So the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it.

Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and all its men were mighty.

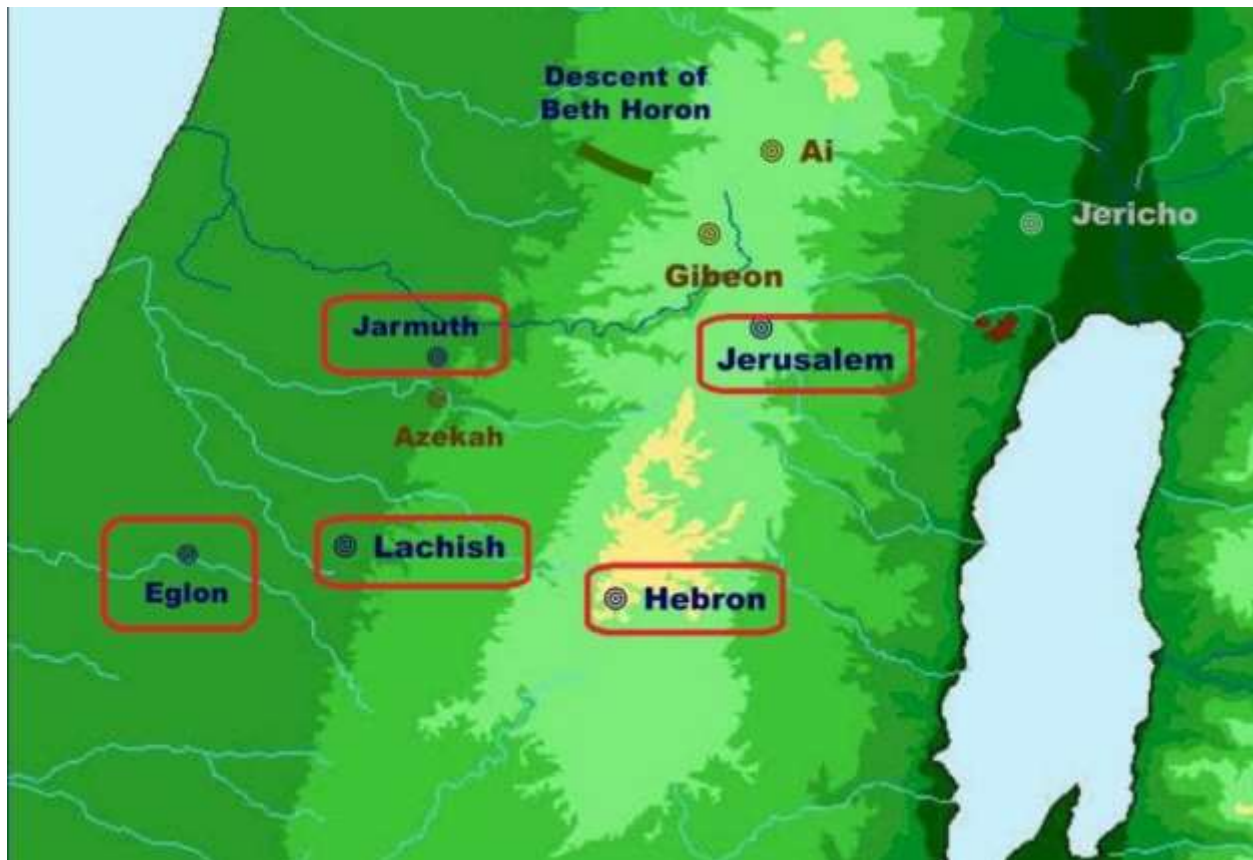
There was good reason why the King of Jerusalem wanted some help. When a great city with mighty men submits to slavery to avoid war they didn’t come to that decision lightly.

Come up to me and help me, and let’s attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the sons of Israel.

The king of Jerusalem wanted to discourage other cities from siding with Joshua so he decided to punish Gibeon for their defection.

So the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it.

See map 1005



Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem

Melchizedek was the king of Jerusalem during the time of Abraham. His name meant king of righteousness.

Adoni-zedek means lord of righteousness but his actions fell far short of Melchizedek.

Hoham king of Hebron

Hebron was a powerful city from very ancient times. Moses tells us that Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.

See Numbers 13:22

The Cave of the Patriarchs is located at Hebron. The cave and adjoining field were purchased by Abraham in 1859 BC as a burial plot.

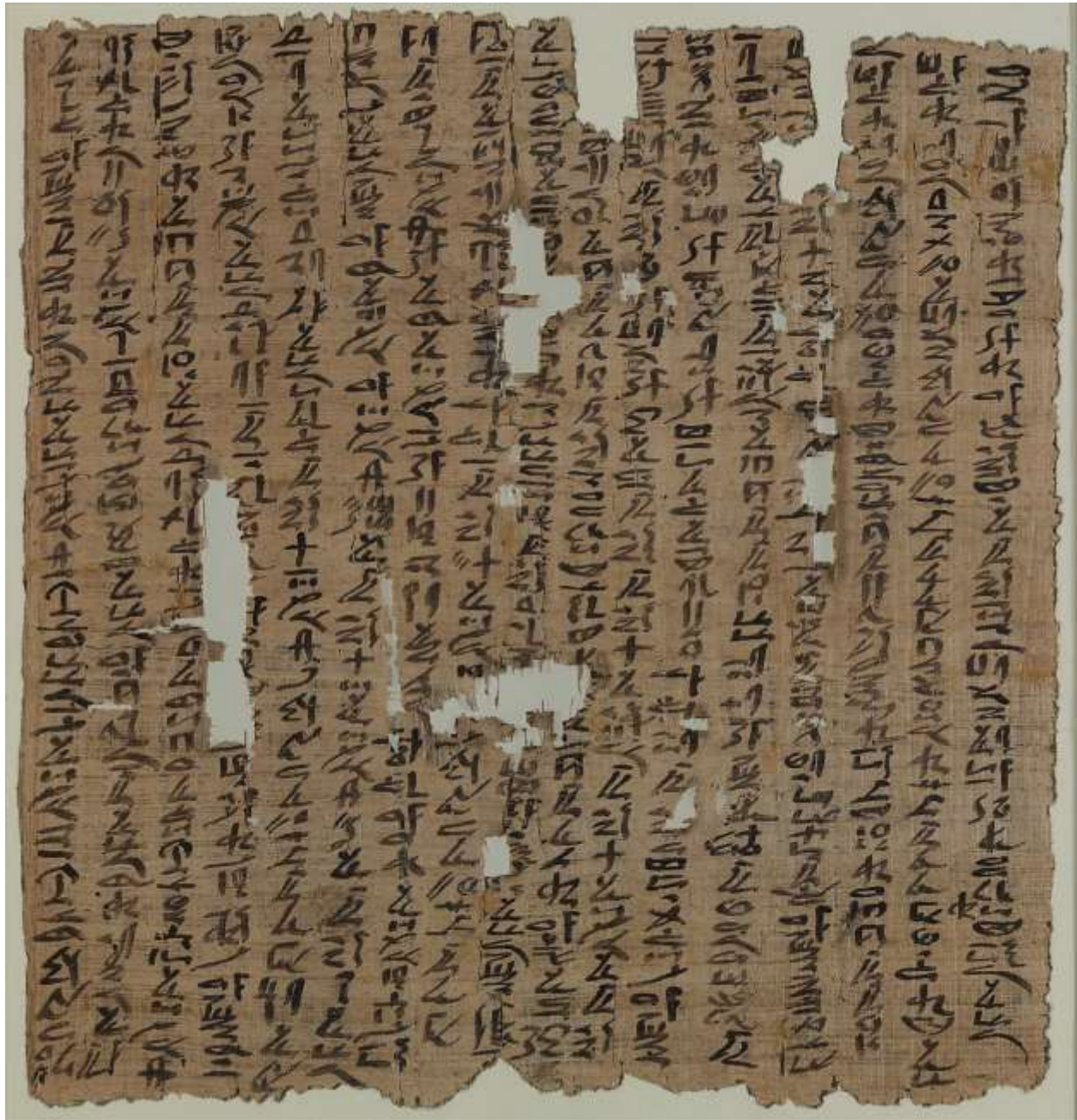
See video 1010 8.4 Tombs of the Patriarchs

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.4.html>

When Israel entered Canaan there were more than 25 of these city-states but Israel destroyed most of them during the 7 year war.

The Amarna letters tell us that only 4 independent states remained after the war.

See pics 1015 The Amarna Letters



The Amarna letters are a group of several hundred clay tablets inscribed with cuneiform writing that date to the 14 century BC. These were found in Tell el-Amarna, the capital of Egypt at that time.

Verse 6 - 11

⁶ Then the men of Gibeon sent *word* to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not abandon your servants; come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites that live in the hill country have assembled against us.” ⁷ So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the valiant warriors. ⁸ And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have handed them over to you; not one of them will stand against you.” ⁹ So Joshua came upon them suddenly by marching all night from Gilgal. ¹⁰ And the Lord brought them into confusion before Israel, and He struck them down in a great defeat at Gibeon, and pursued them by the way of the ascent to Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹ And as they fled from Israel, *while* they were at the descent of Beth-horon, the Lord hurled large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; *there were* more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

Then the men of Gibeon sent *word* to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying; come up to us quickly and save us and help us

The Gibeonites had been sent back to their cities and Israel was still at the Gilgal campsite by Shechem.

The Gibeonites were either under attack or soon would be so they sent a message to Joshua hoping Israel would help them in this conflict.

And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have handed them over to you; not one of them will stand against you.” ⁹ So Joshua came upon them suddenly by marching all night from Gilgal.

Joshua must have learned from his mistake at Ai and sought the Lord’s will before he took any action. The Lord gave him a big 🖱

The distance from Gilgal to Gibeon was about 25 to 30 miles.

And the Lord brought them into confusion before Israel, and He struck them down in a great defeat at Gibeon

The first thing God did was confuse the army of the Amorites.

And as they fled from Israel, *while* they were at the descent of Beth-horon, the Lord hurled **large stones** from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; *there were* more who died from the **hailstones** than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

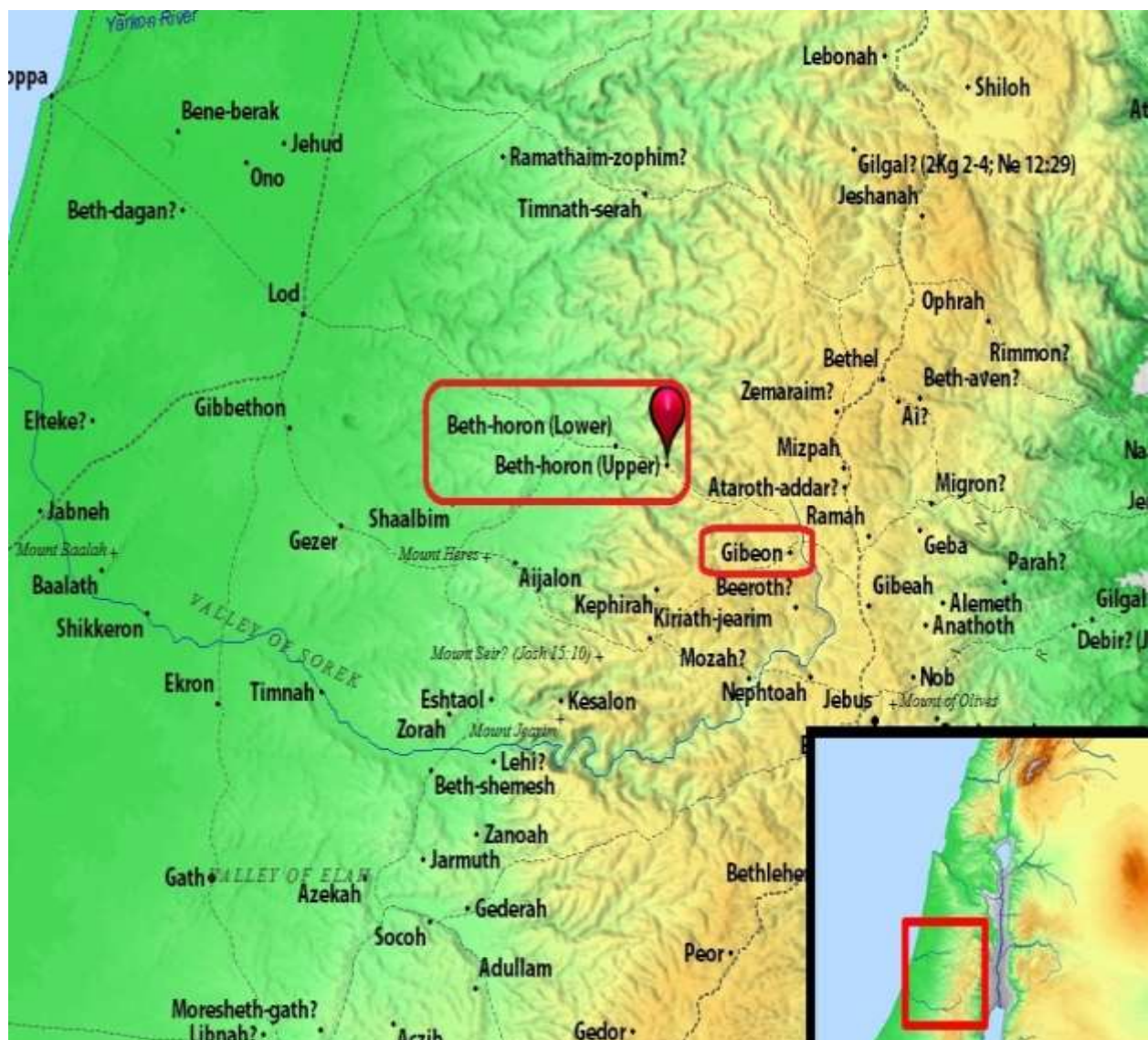
The second thing God did was kill many of the Amorites with hailstones.

It seems odd that the NAS uses the term “large stones” here and then calls them “hailstones” in the same sentence.

In the Septuagint they are referred to as hailstones in both cases.

Israel was chasing the Amorites toward the North West

See map 1020



Verse 12 - 15

Then Joshua spoke to the Lord on the day when the Lord turned the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

**“Sun, stand still at Gibeon,
And moon, at the Valley of Aijalon!”**

**¹³ So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies.**

Is it not written in the Book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hurry to go *down* for about a whole day. ¹⁴ There was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

¹⁵ Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.

**¹³ So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies.**

Some believers struggle with this because they can't understand how the sun & moon could possibly stand still.

Here are some common explanations from those who struggle with these verses:

1. This is poetry and was never intended to be understood literally.
2. There was a total eclipse of the sun
3. This is a bad translation of the Hebrew text.

However, none of these explanations pass the smell test for the following reasons:

1. Some people use this same explanation for Genesis 1. But Genesis 1 and the verses here are written in prose not poetry.
2. A total eclipse would not lengthen the day.
3. Hebrew scholars agree that these verses show no signs of being corrupted in any way.

For those who struggle with these verses do you also struggle with the fact that God is going to raise every person that has lived from the beginning of time until the day that Christ returns? Which one is harder to do?

See video 1025 The words of scripture

<https://www.levickfamily.com/3.2.html>

Ken Ham is right when he says we believe in the resurrection and the virgin birth because of the words of scripture.

We believe in the countless miracles that took place in the Old & New Testament because God does not and cannot lie.

Verses 16 - 21

Now these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in the cave at Makkedah. ¹⁷ And it was told to Joshua, saying, “The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah.” ¹⁸ So Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and post men by it to guard them, ¹⁹ but do not stay *there* yourselves; pursue your enemies and attack them from behind. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the Lord your God has handed them over to you.” ²⁰ It came about when Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them down in a very great defeat, until they were destroyed, and the survivors of them *who* escaped had entered the fortified cities, ²¹ that all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah in peace. No one uttered a word against any of the sons of Israel.

Pursue your enemies and attack them from behind. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the Lord your God has handed them over to you.

When Joshua was told about the 5 kings in the cave he told his men to secure the cave with some large stones and to post some men to guard them. By doing this the army could continue pursuing the enemy so they wouldn't escape to their cities.

²⁰ It came about when Israel had finished striking them down in a very great defeat, and the survivors of them *who* escaped had entered the fortified cities, ²¹ that all the people returned to the camp at Makkedah in peace.

Despite the extended daylight, the hailstones, and good advice from Joshua some of the Amorites avoided being killed and took refuge in the fortified cities.

So the army returned to the temporary headquarters at Makkedah

Verses 22 - 27

Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring these five kings out to me from the cave.”²³ They did so, and brought these five kings out to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, *and* the king of Eglon.²⁴ When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the leaders of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come forward, put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came forward and put their feet on their necks.²⁵ Joshua then said to them, “Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for the Lord will do this to all your enemies with whom you fight.”²⁶ So afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees; and they were hung on the trees until evening.²⁷ Then it came about at sunset that Joshua gave the command, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and put large stones over the mouth of the cave, to this very day.

Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the leaders of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come forward, put your feet on the necks of these kings

Usually a king took the honor for a victory in war but Joshua decided to let the military leaders take that honor.

So afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees; and they were hung on the trees until evening.

Joshua had the kings hung on five trees but he was careful to follow the Law.

See Deuteronomy 21:22-23

²² “Now if a person has committed a sin *carrying* a sentence of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,²³ his body is not to be left overnight on the tree, but you shall certainly bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is cursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

The 5 kings were killed but the cities they governed had not been captured or destroyed yet. Lachish, Eglon and Hebron will be destroyed shortly but Jerusalem & Jarmuth are not mentioned. We know Jerusalem will not be captured until the time of David around 1000 BC.

Verses 28 - 30

²⁸ Now Joshua captured Makkedah on that day, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword; he utterly destroyed it and every person who was in it. He left no survivor. So he did to the king of Makkedah just as he had done to the king of Jericho. ²⁹ Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah, and fought against Libnah. ³⁰ And the Lord also handed it over to Israel, with its king, and he struck it and every person who was in it with the edge of the sword. He left no survivor in it. So he did to its king just as he had done to the king of Jericho.

After dealing with the 5 kings of the Amorites Joshua captured the city of Makkedah and Libnah and killed everyone.

Verses 31 - 35

³¹ And Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish, and they camped by it and fought against it. ³² And the Lord handed Lachish over to Israel; and he captured it on the second day, and struck it and every person who was in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah.

³³ Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish, and Joshua defeated him and his people until he had left him no survivor.

³⁴ And Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon, and they camped by it and fought against it. ³⁵ They captured it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; and he utterly destroyed on that day every person who was in it, according to all that he had done to Lachish.

Joshua went from Libnah to Lachish

Israel killed everyone in the city with the sword as God had commanded.

Then the king of Gezer came up to Lachish to help and was defeated by Joshua

Joshua then went from Lachish to Eglon

The same thing happened in Eglon that had taken place in Lachish.

Lachish and Eglon were 2 of the 5 cities that suffered the loss of their king when Israel answered the call of Gibeon.

See map 1030 4 cities destroyed



Verses 36 - 39

³⁶ Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron, and they fought against it. ³⁷ And they captured it and struck it and its king and all its cities and all the persons who were in it with the edge of the sword. He left no survivor, according to all that he had done to Eglon. And he utterly destroyed it and every person who was in it. "And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir, and fought against it: and he took it, and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof; and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed all the souls that were therein; he left none remain, as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir, and to the king thereof; as he had done also to Libnah and the king thereo

Joshua had already put the king of Hebron to death (1 of the 5 kings) but a new king had taken the throne. The new king had a very short reign.

The city of Debir suffered the same fate as the other cities in this military campaign.

There were a number of smaller satellite cities under the protection of Hebron & Debir.

In both cases it says all its cities.

See map 1035



Verses 40 - 43

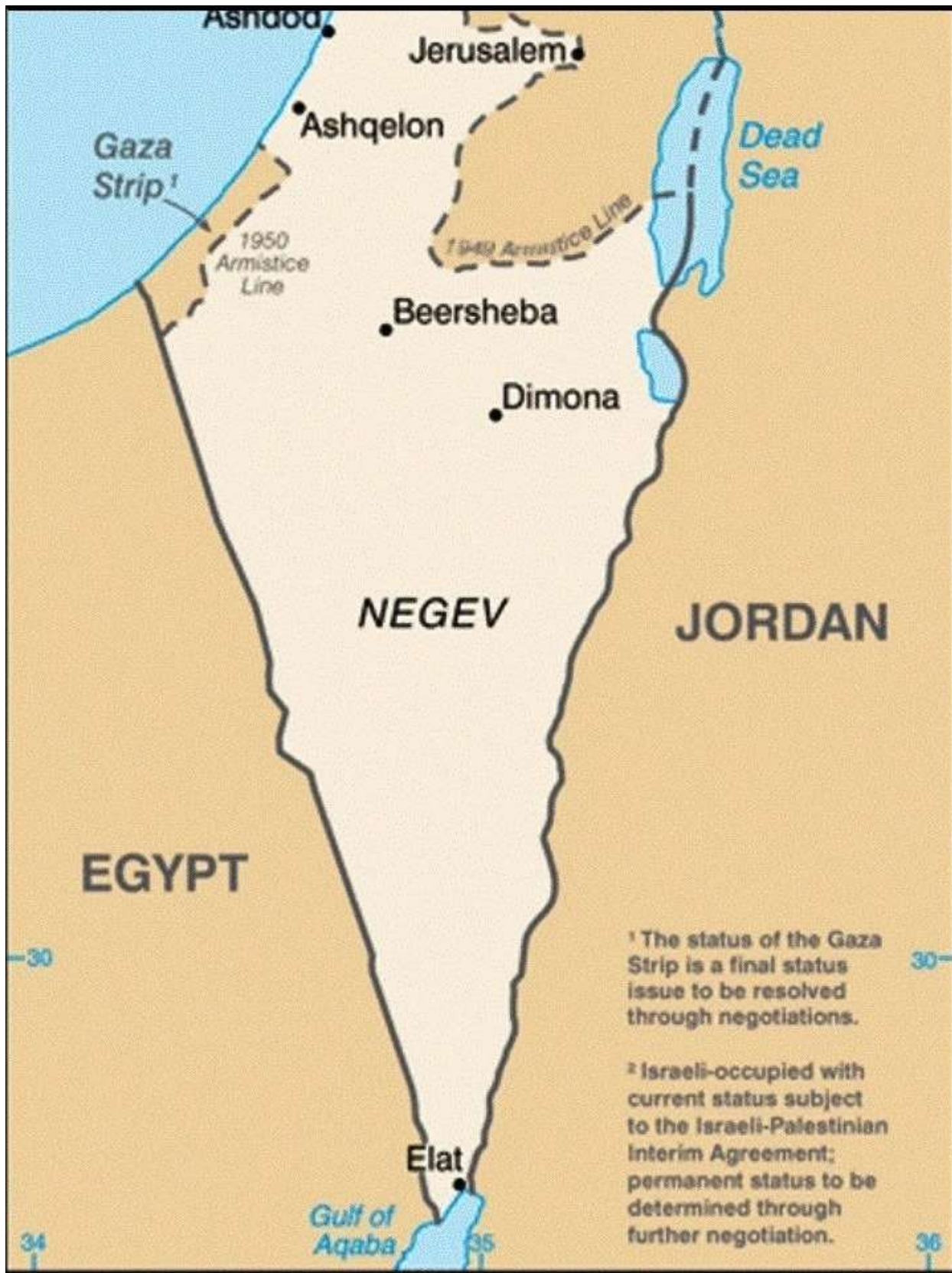
⁴⁰ So Joshua struck all the land, the hill country and the Negev and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings. He left no survivor, but he utterly destroyed all who breathed, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded. ⁴¹ Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea even as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen even as far as Gibeon. ⁴² Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel. ⁴³ So Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.

So Joshua struck all the land, the hill country and the Negev and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings.

The hill country, the lowland and the slopes includes all of the geographical regions in the southern part of Canaan.

The Negev was the most southern part of Canaan

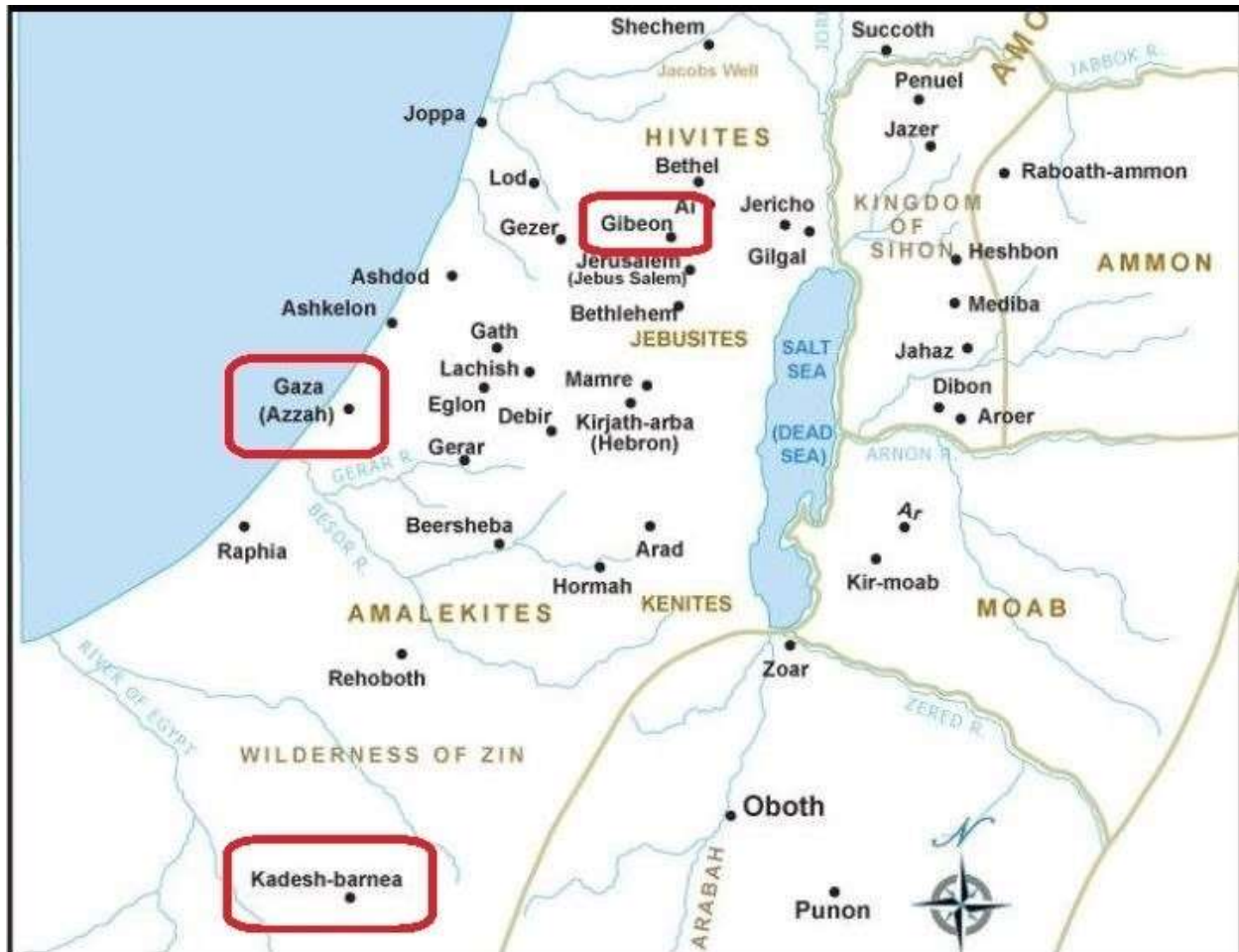
See maps 1040 below



Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea even as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen even as far as Gibeon.

This was the southern half of Canaan

See maps 1045



Gaza is on the western coast of Canaan in the land of the Philistines.

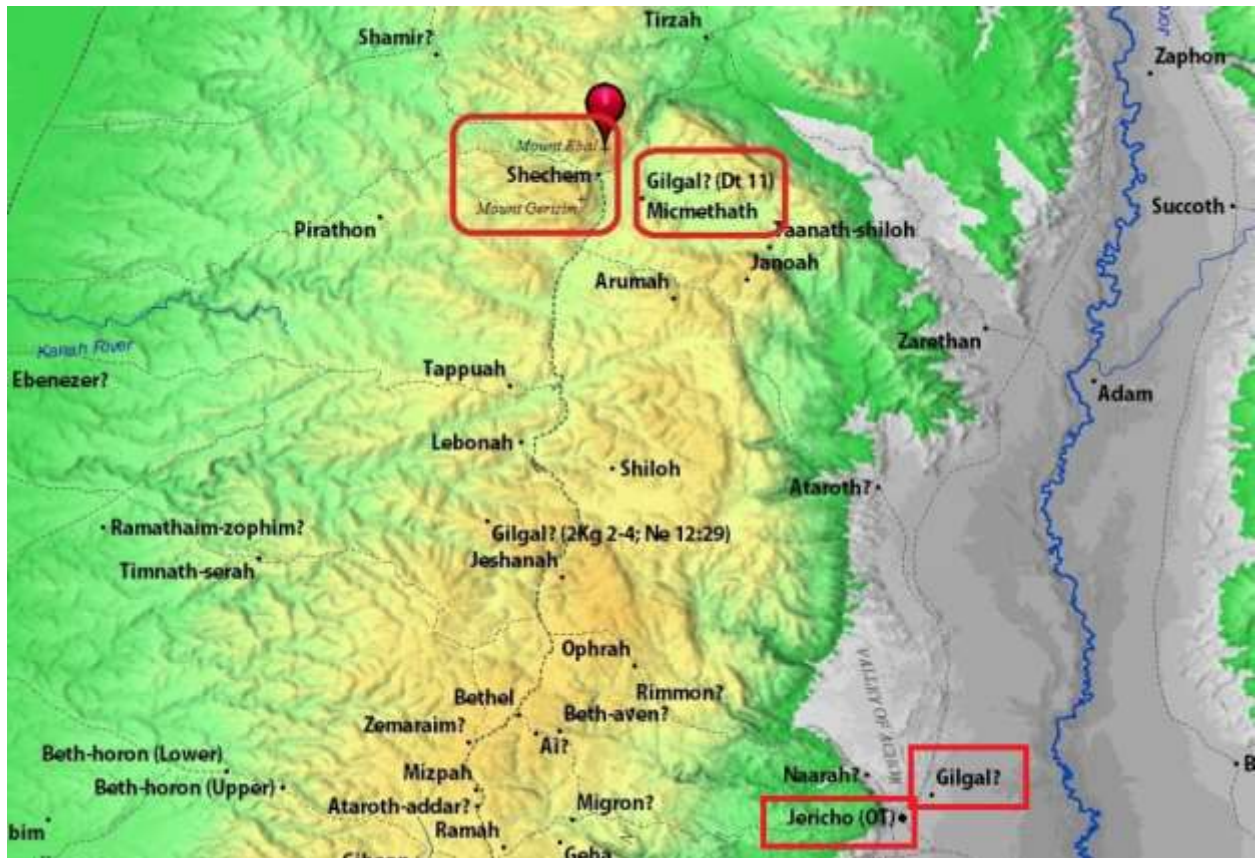
It would be interesting to know more details about the battles with the Philistines.

⁴³ So Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.

After the southern campaign was complete Israel went to the camp at Gilgal.

This was most likely the camp near Shechem not Jericho.

See map 1050



If the campaign in the south took about the same amount of time as the one about to take place in the north (the next chapter) then 3½ years have passed since they crossed the Jordan.