

Judges 1

Verses 1 - 7

Now it came about after the death of Joshua that the sons of Israel inquired of the Lord, saying, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” ² The Lord said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.” ³ Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted me, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I in turn will go with you into the territory allotted you.” So Simeon went with him. ⁴ Judah went up, and the Lord gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands, and they defeated ten thousand men at Bezek. ⁵ They found Adoni-bezek in Bezek and fought against him, and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. ⁶ But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. ⁷ Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to gather up scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me.” So they brought him to Jerusalem and he died there.

In the Book of Joshua Israel fought a 7 year war against 31 kings in the land of Canaan. But at that time there was still a lot of land to be taken over. However, there was a time of peace in the land until the death of Joshua.

See chart 105

Chapter	Event	Year	Other
10	Sothern cities conquered	1406 - 1403	
11	Northern Kings defeated	1403 - 1400	
13	Still a lot of land to be taken over	1400	Joshua is very old
22	Eastern tribes return home	1392	14 years from home
24	Joshua dies	1375	

After Joshua died it was time for Israel to war once again to capture some of the land that had not been taken over.

¹ Now it came about after the death of Joshua that the sons of Israel inquired of the Lord, saying, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?”

Joshua died and God had not chosen a successor so how did the 12 tribes inquire of the Lord?

Most likely the leaders of the 12 tribes went to the High Priest who would use the Urim and Thummin to find out which tribe would be the first to lead the charge.

See pic 110



The high priest would ask yes and no questions and then choose one of the stones to get an answer to the question.

² The Lord said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.”

We can see from this that Judah had become the pre-eminent tribe in Israel.

Judah became the leading tribe for the following reason:

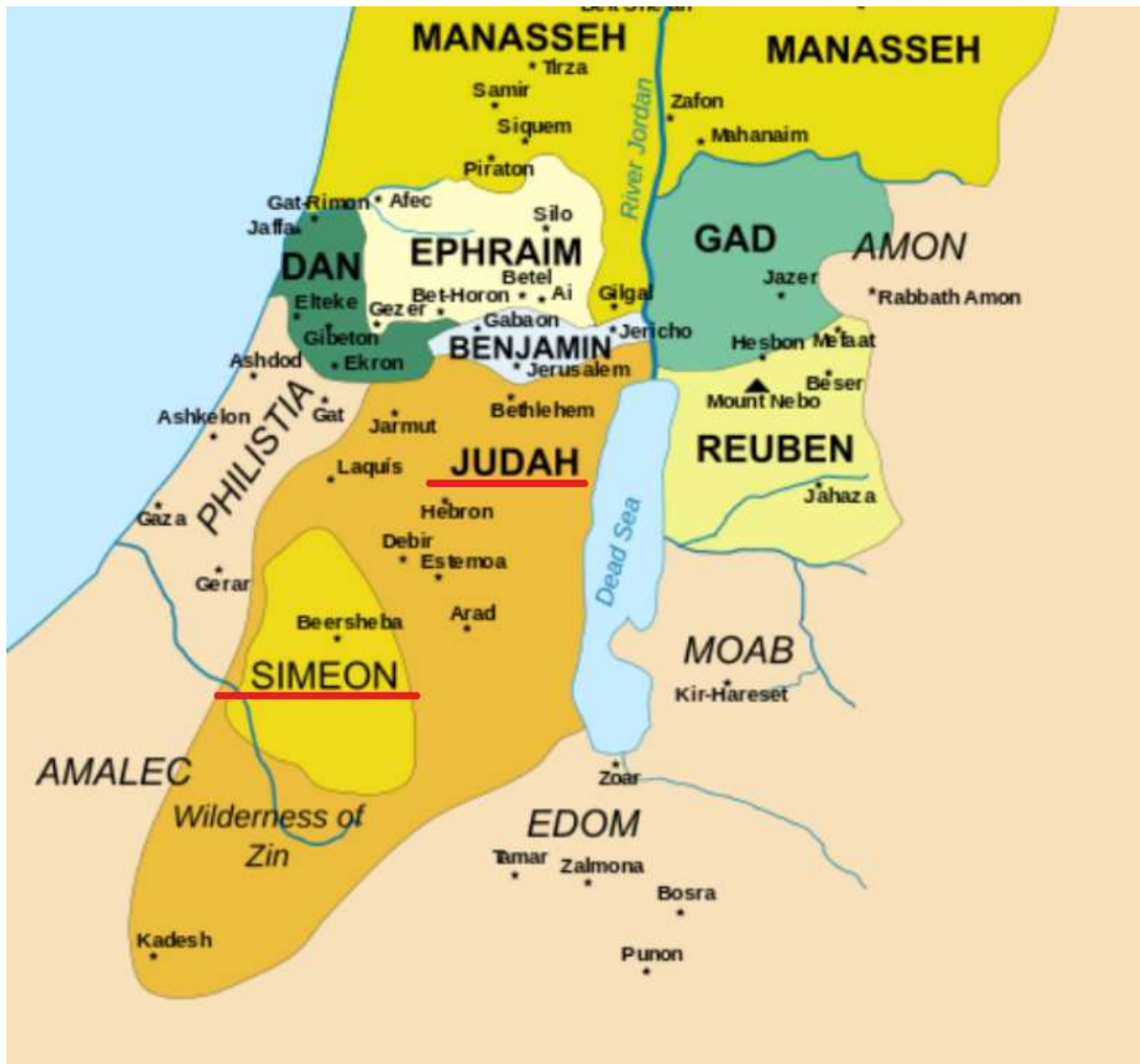
Reuben, the first born, defied his father’s bed and lost his role as leader.

Simeon and Levi were 2nd and 3rd but they killed the men of Shechem in their anger.

³ Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted me, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I in turn will go with you into the territory allotted you.” So Simeon went with him.

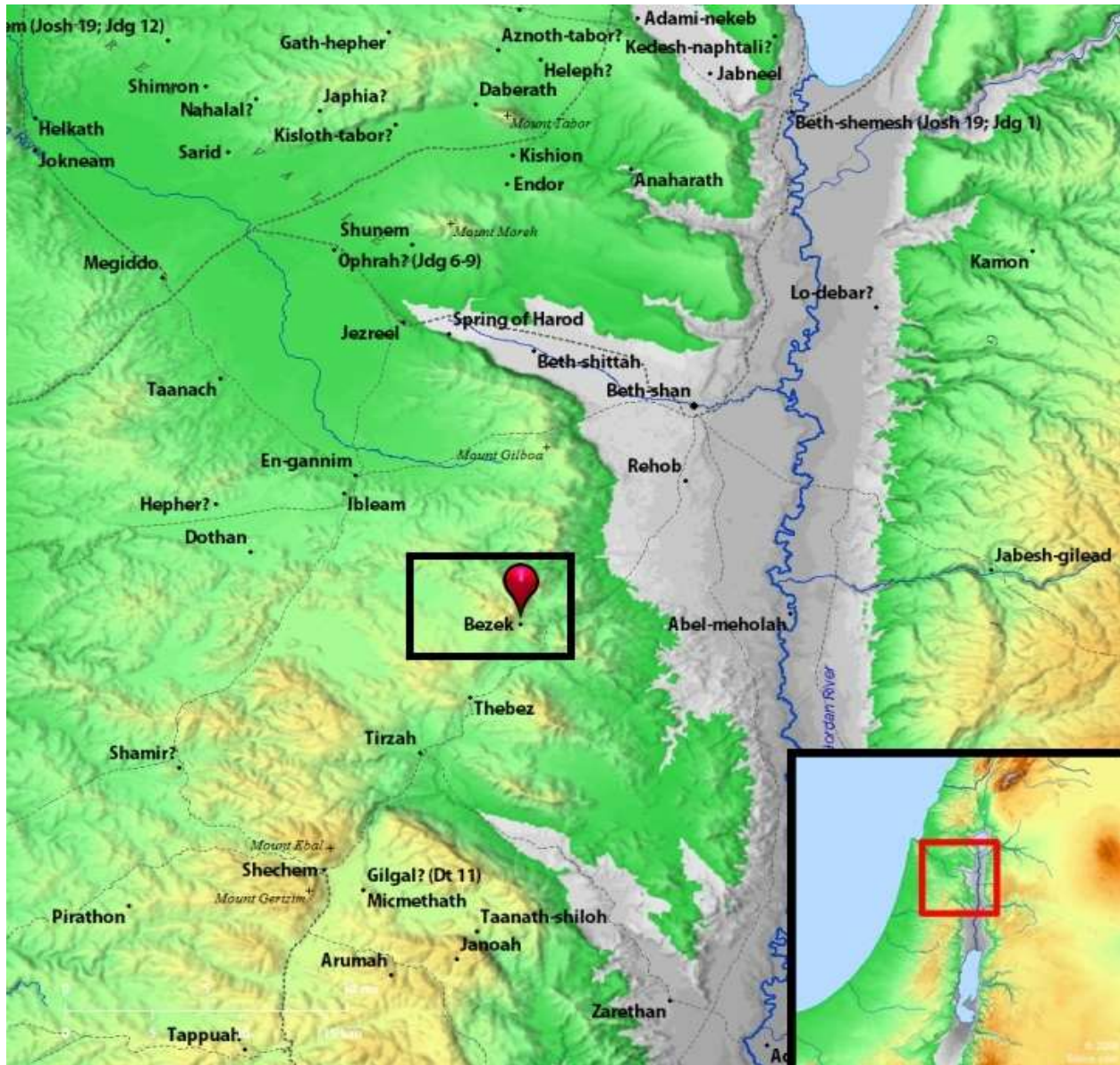
The tribe of Simeon was within the border of Judah.

See map 115



⁴ Judah went up, and the Lord gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands, and they defeated ten thousand men at Bezek.

See map 120



If the location of Bezek is correct then it was located in the tribe of Manasseh.

⁶ But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. ⁷ Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to gather up *scraps* under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me.” So they brought him to Jerusalem and he died there.

The men of Judah most have heard how this king had mutilated 70 kings so they decided to do the same to him.

The king recognized that he had reaped what he had sown.

Verses 8 - 15

⁸ Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire. ⁹ Afterward the sons of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites living in the hill country and in the Negev and in the lowland. ¹⁰ So Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba); and they struck Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmi. ¹¹ Then from there he went against the inhabitants of Debir (now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher). ¹² And Caleb said, "The one who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will even give him my daughter Achsah for a wife." ¹³ Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah for a wife. ¹⁴ Then it came about when she came *to him*, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. Then she alighted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?" ¹⁵ She said to him, "Give me a blessing, since you have given me the land of the Negev, give me also springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

⁸ Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.

After defeating the king of Bezek in the land of Manasseh, the tribe of Judah headed south and fought against the city of Jerusalem.

During the time of Joshua, Judah could not drive out the Jebusites.

See Joshua 15:63

⁶³ Now as for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the sons of Judah could not drive them out; so the Jebusites live with the sons of Judah in Jerusalem to this day.

In this battle, Judah & Simeon had a clear victory over the people of Jerusalem.

However, we know this victory was temporary because David had to retake the city of Jerusalem during his reign.

And even during David's reign there was still a Jebusite presence in the city. Araunah, a Jebusite, owned the threshing floor on Mount Moriah which David purchased and used as the site for assembling an altar to God.

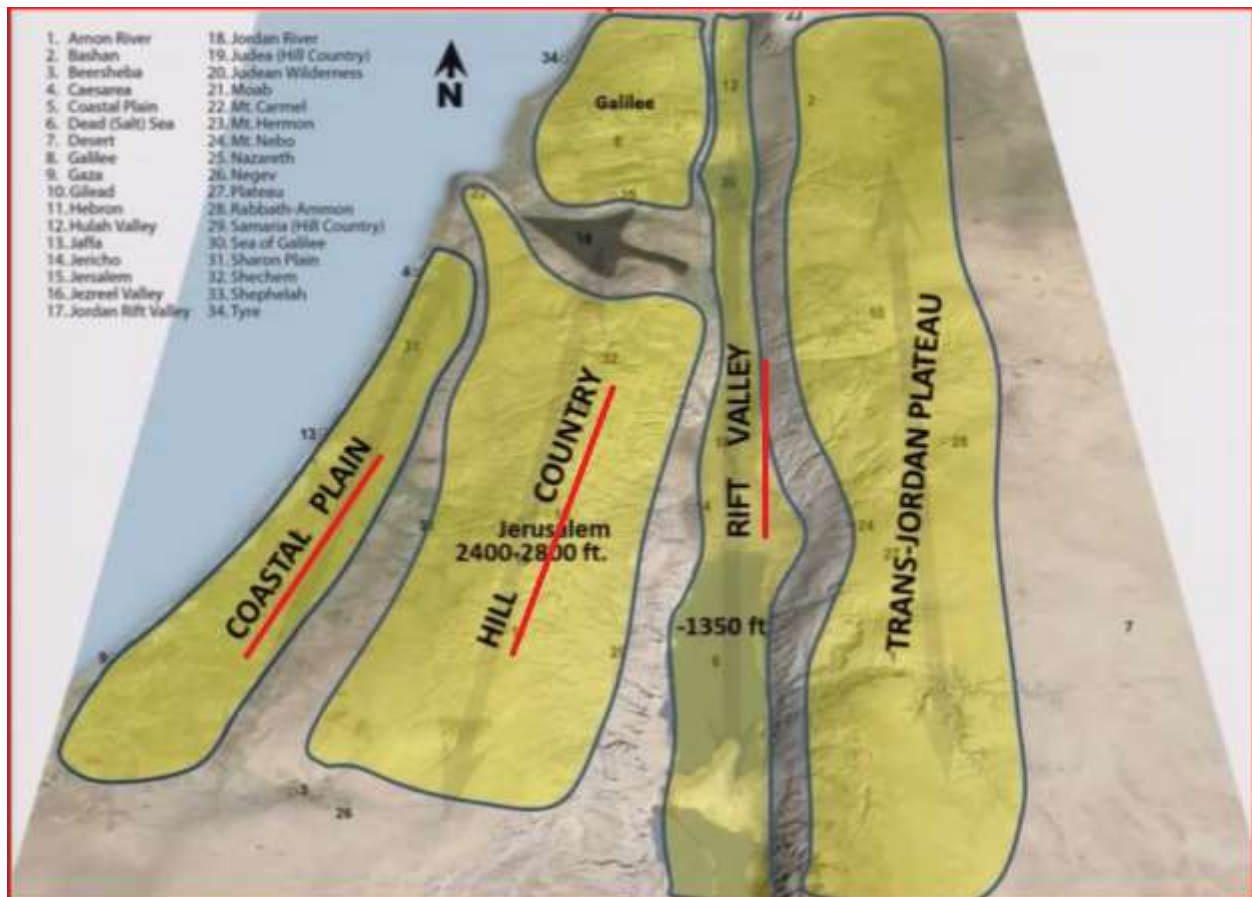
See 2 Samuel 24

⁹ Afterward the sons of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites living in the hill country and in the Negev and in the lowland.

After capturing Jerusalem even the hill country of Canaan was at a lower elevation.

There are four geographical regions in Canaan.

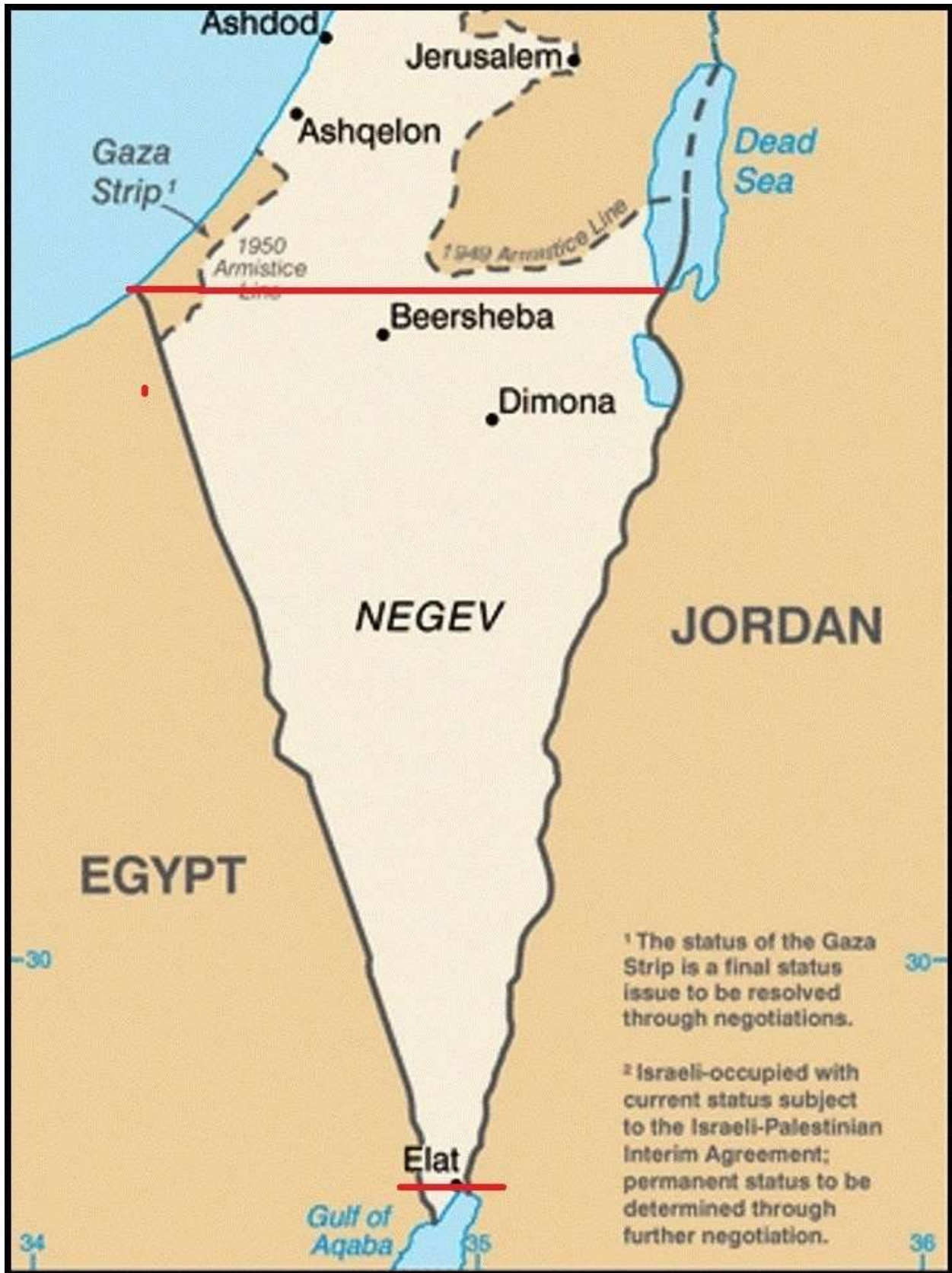
See Map 125



The 4 regions of Canaan were quite distinct.

1. The hill country was around 2400 to 2800 feet above Sea Level
2. The lowland (rift valley) was below Sea Level (1350 at the Dead Sea).
3. The coastal plain is not mentioned in these verses.
4. The Negev begins in the south part of Canaan just above Beersheba and continues down to the Gulf of Aqaba in the form of a triangle.

See maps 130



¹⁰ So Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba); and they struck Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai. ¹¹ Then from there he went against the inhabitants of Debir (now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher).

These two battles were covered in Joshua 15:13-15.

The writer of Joshua included these two events in the book of Joshua, even though they took place after the death of Josh, because he was describing the cities and boundaries of Judah and how they came to be inhabited.

The details of verses 12 thru 15 of this paragraph are the same as those in Joshua 15:16-19.

Verses 16 - 21

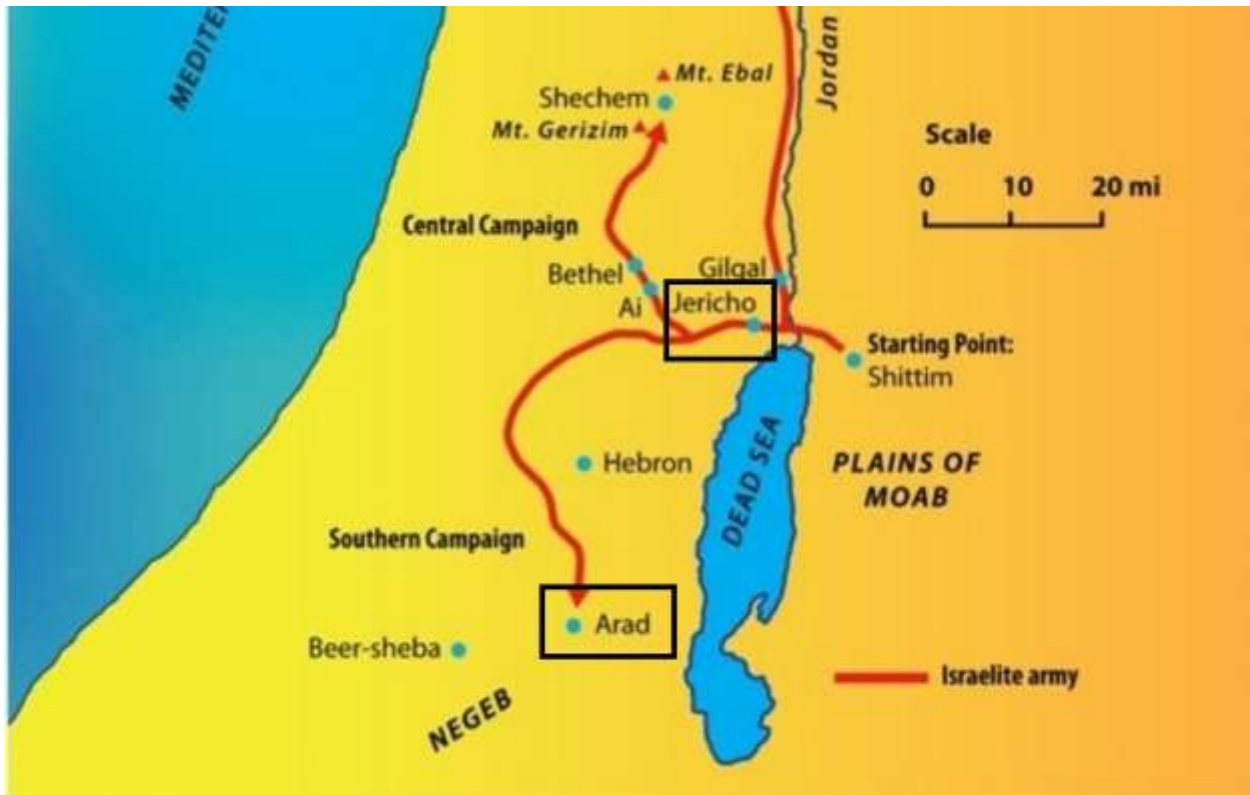
The descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the city of palms with the sons of Judah, to the wilderness of Judah which is in the south of Arad; and they went and lived with the people. ¹⁷ Then Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they struck the Canaanites living in Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah. ¹⁸ And Judah took Gaza with its territory and Ashkelon with its territory and Ekron with its territory. ¹⁹ Now the Lord was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had iron chariots. ²⁰ Then they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had promised; and he drove out from there the three sons of Anak. ²¹ But the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; so the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

The descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the city of palms with the sons of Judah, to the wilderness of Judah which is in the south of Arad; and they went and lived with the people.

Moses' father-in-law was a Midianite by family lineage but a Kenite by his place of residence.

They went up from the city of palm trees (Jericho) to Arad.

See map 135



It says they went up because Jericho is the lowest city in the world at 850 feet below Sea Level.

¹⁷ Then Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they struck the Canaanites living in Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah.

See map 110



¹⁸ And Judah took Gaza with its territory and Ashkelon with its territory and Ekron with its territory.

These were three of the five leading cities of the Philistines.

See map 145



Judah held on to these cities for at least a century.

When the Egyptian Pharaoh, Rameses III (1269-1244 B.C.) took Ashkelon, he found it inhabited not by Philistines, but by Hebrews.

¹⁹ Now the Lord was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had iron chariots.

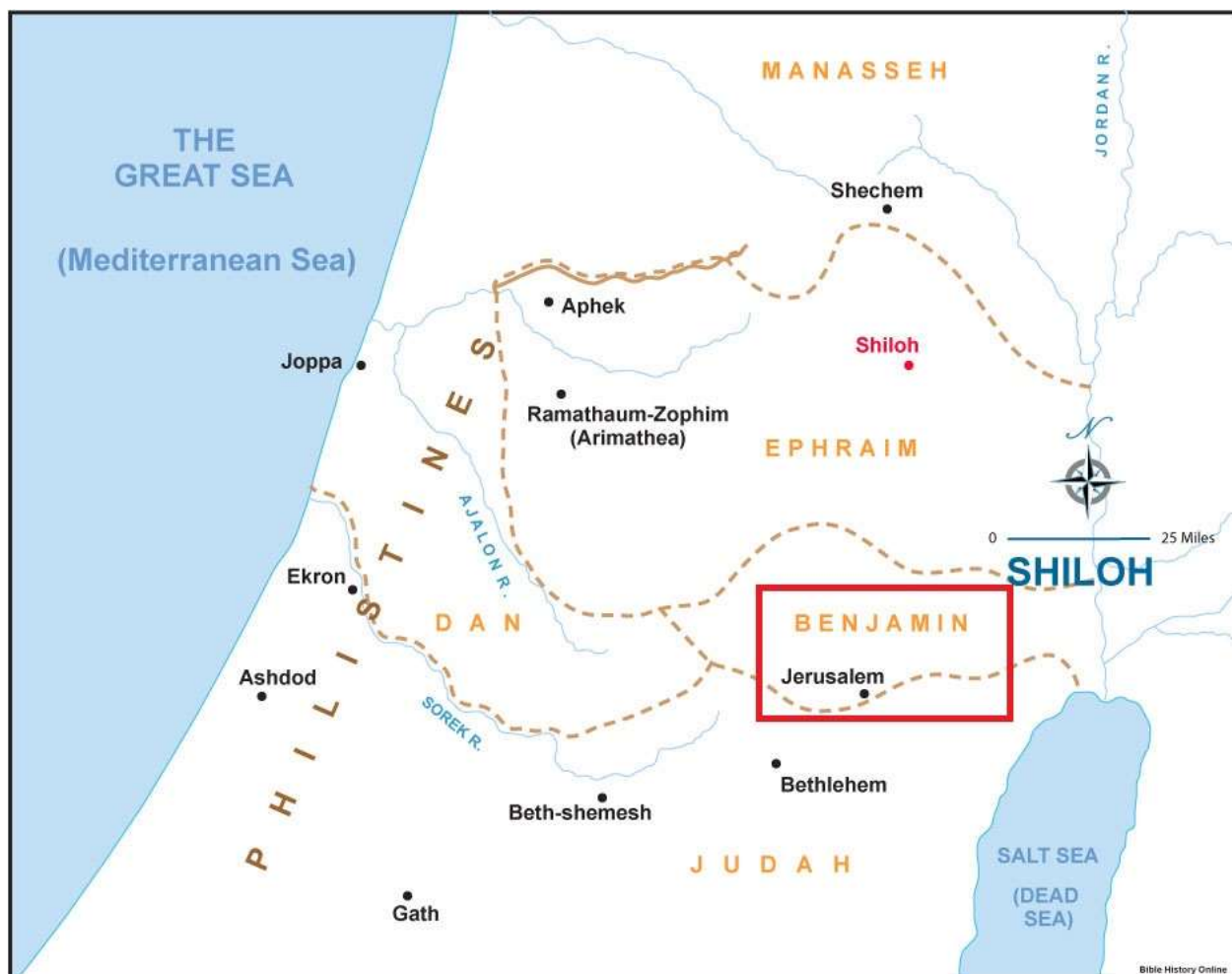
The iron chariots were effective in the valley but could not be used in the hill country.

²¹ But the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; so the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

In verse 8 it says, And Judah fought against Jerusalem ... took it ... set the city on fire.

Apparently some the Jebusites returned to Jerusalem after Judah left and they could not be driven out by the sons of Benjamin.

See Map 150



Verses 22 - 26

²² Likewise the house of Joseph went up against Bethel, and the Lord was with them. ²³ The house of Joseph spied out Bethel (now the name of the city was formerly Luz). ²⁴ The spies saw a man coming out of the city and they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city and we will treat you kindly." ²⁵ So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go free. ²⁶ The man went into the land of the Hittites and built a city and named it Luz which is its name to this day.

The house of Joseph spied out Bethel.

The house of Joseph consisted of two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim.

The spies saw a man coming out of the city and they made a deal with him in exchange for some information.

They struck the city with the edge of the sword

They attack Bethel (formerly Luz) and killed all the people but let the man and his family go free.

The man went into the land of the Hittites and built a city and named it Luz

When Rahab, a woman of faith, helped the spies that spied out Jericho she remained among the Israelites. See Joshua 6:25

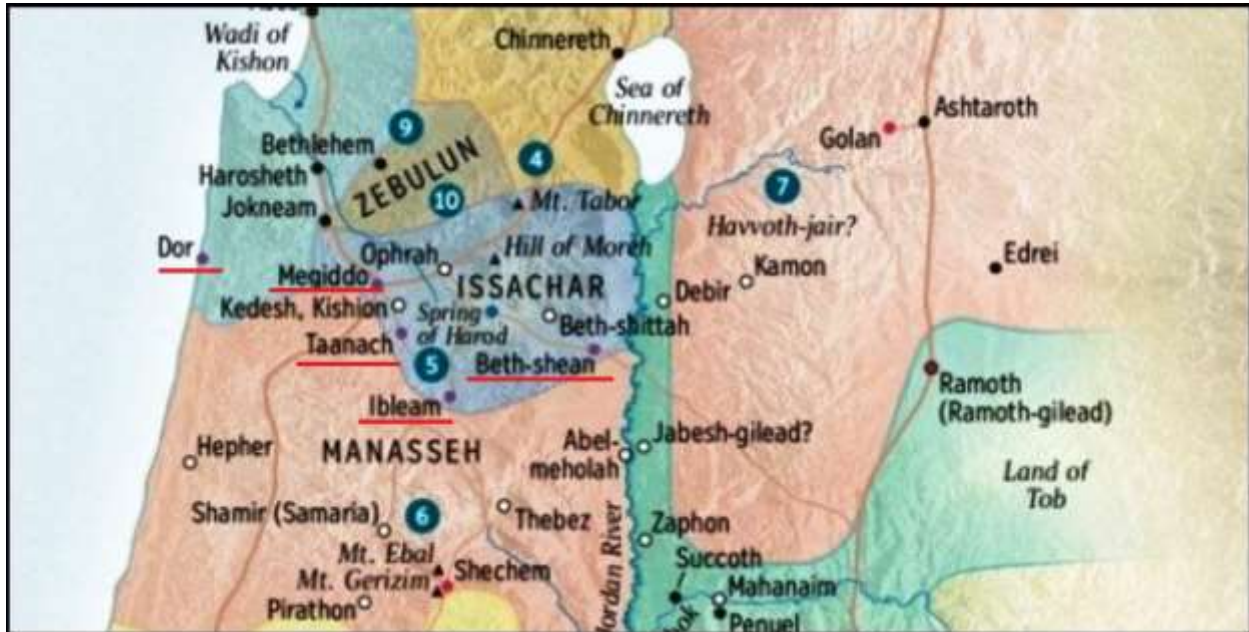
But this man went to the land of the Hittites suggesting he was not a believer.

Verses 27 - 28

²⁷ But Manasseh did not take possession of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; so the Canaanites persisted in living in that land. ²⁸ It came about when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely.

²⁷ But Manasseh did not take possession of Beth-shean, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, or Megiddo; so the Canaanites persisted in living in that land.

See Map 155



²⁸ It came about when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely.

If Israel had the power to enslave the Canaanites one would think they had the power to drive them out.

Perhaps this was more about their prosperity than doing Gods' will.

Do people today desire cheap labor more than doing what is right?

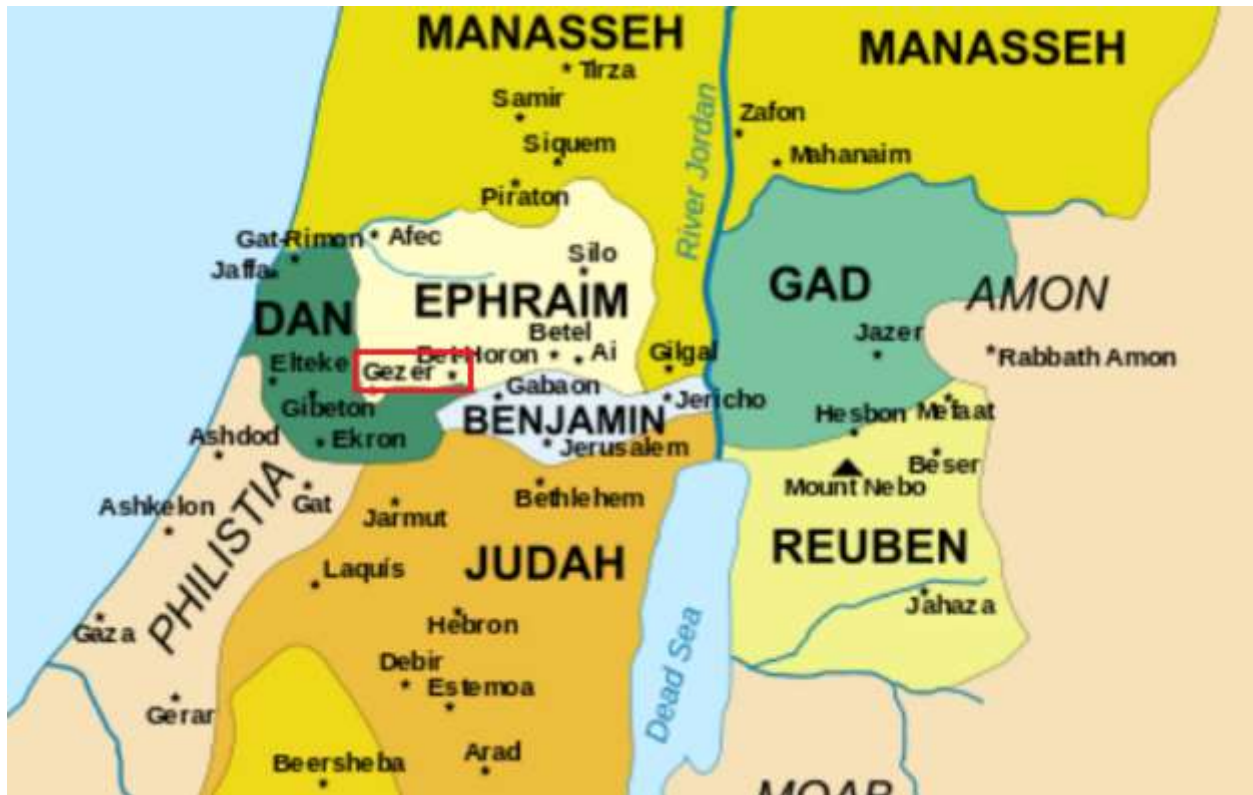
Verse 29

²⁹ Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who were living in Gezer; so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.

We know this was a very old town.

Have you ever heard of a young Gezer? 😊

See Map 160



Verses 30 - 33

³⁰ Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites lived among them and became subject to forced labor.

³¹ Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, or of Helbah, or of Aphik, or of Rehob. ³² So the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.

³³ Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; and the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath became forced labor for them.

There were Canaanites in Zebulun & Naphtali that became forced labor for these tribes.

In Asher the Canaanites were not driven out and did not become forced labor.

The text says the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, which seems to suggest the Canaanites outnumbered or had more control than the Asherites.

See map 170



Verses 34 - 36

³⁴ Then the Amorites forced the sons of Dan into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the valley; ³⁵ yet the Amorites persisted in living in Mount Heres, in Aijalon and in Shaalvim; but when the power of the house of Joseph grew strong, they became forced labor. ³⁶ The border of the Amorites ran from the ascent of Akkrabbim, from Sela and upward.

³⁴ Then the Amorites forced the sons of Dan into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the valley;

This may be why part of the tribe of Dan left that area and took over the town of Laish in the north.

See Judges 18 for the details.

See map 175

B6

Settlement of the Promised Land



Judges

- 1 Othniel
- 2 Ehud
- 3 Shamgar
- 4 Barak
- 5 Gideon
- 6 Tola
- 7 Jair
- 8 Jephthah
- 9 Ibzan
- 10 Elon
- 11 Abdon
- 12 Samson

GREAT SEA,
WESTERN SEA

