

Judges 10

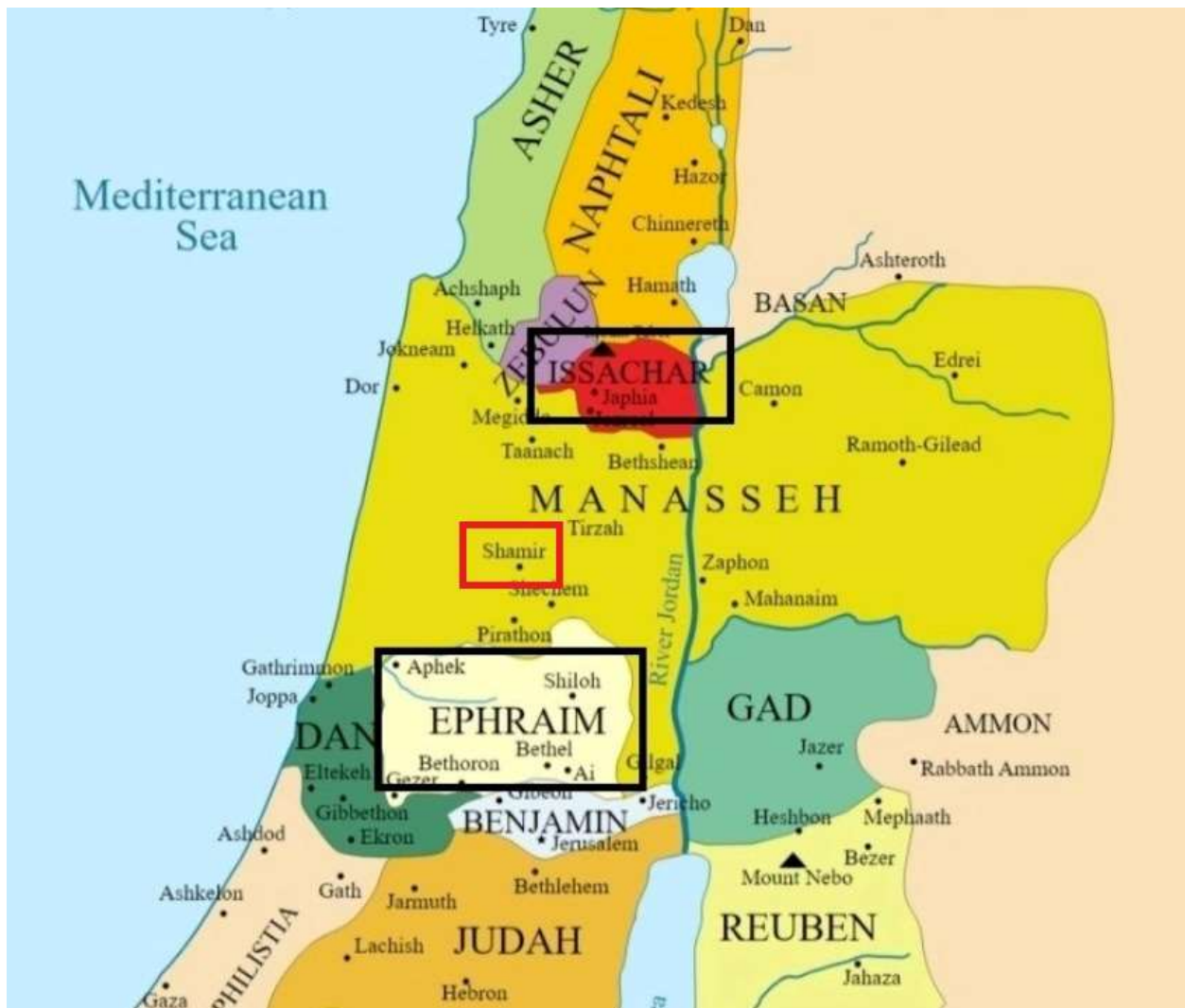
Verses 1 - 2

Now after Abimelech died, Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, arose to save Israel; and he lived in Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim. ² He judged Israel twenty-three years. Then he died and was buried in Shamir.

Judge # 6 TOLA 1141 to 1118 BC

He was a man of Issachar but he lived in Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim.

See map 1005



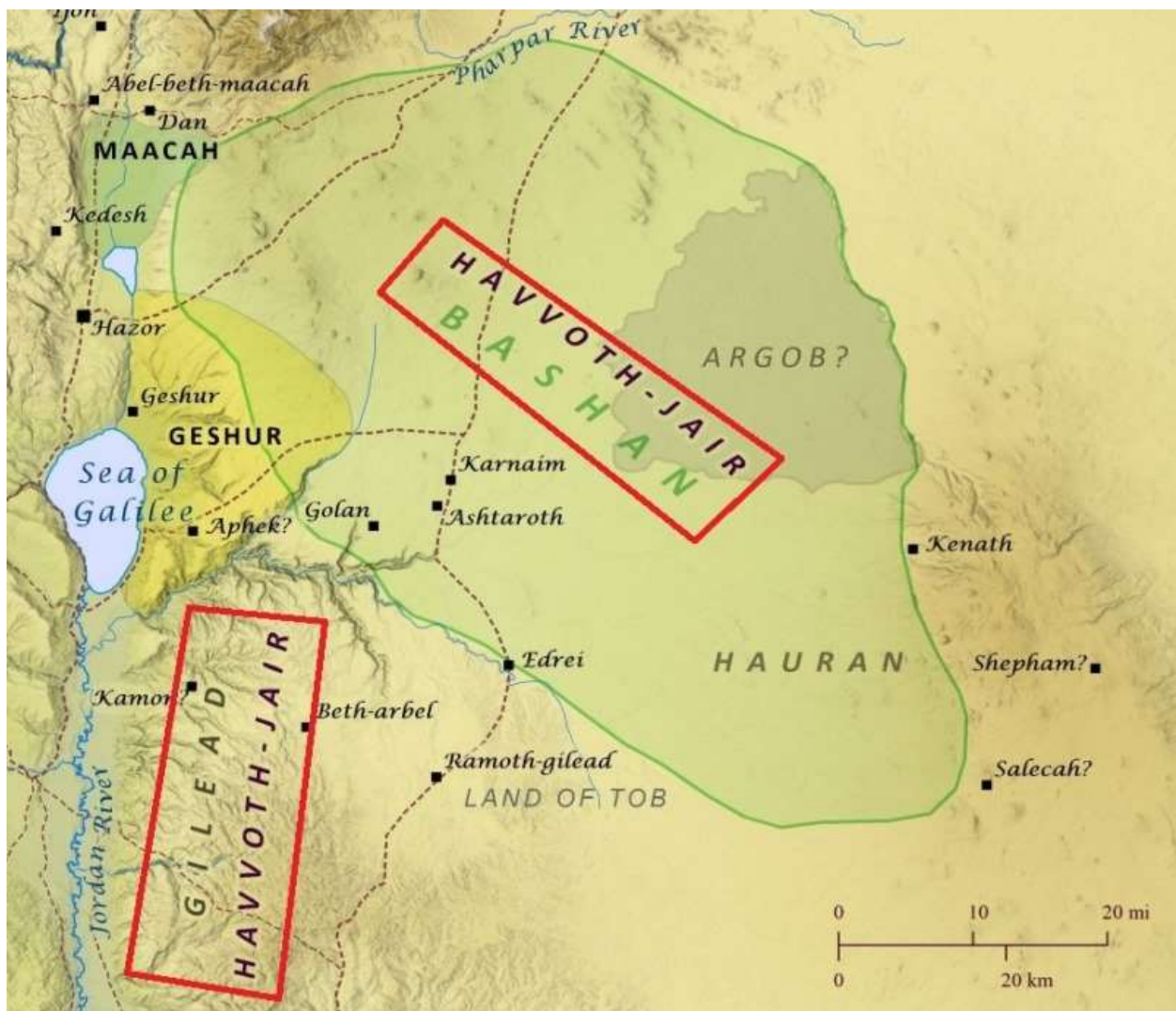
Verses 3 - 5

³ After him, Jair the Gileadite arose and judged Israel twenty-two years. ⁴ He had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities in the land of Gilead that are called Havvoth-jair to this day. ⁵ And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

Judge # 7 JAIR 1118 to 1096 BC

⁴ He had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities in the land of Gilead that are called Havvoth-jair to this day.

See map 1010



The northern half of Gilead (which is shown here) belonged to Manasseh and the southern half (not on this map) belonged to Gad.

The villages possessed by Jair's sons, were probably the same towns which Jair, the son of Manasseh, took in the days of Moses.

See Deuteronomy 3:14

¹⁴ Jair the son of Manasseh took all the region of Argob as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, *that is, Bashan*, and named it after his own name: Havvoth-jair, as *it is* to this day.) ¹⁵ To Machir I gave Gilead.

See Numbers 32:40-41

⁴⁰ So Moses gave Gilead to Machir the son of Manasseh, and he lived in it. ⁴¹ Jair the son of Manasseh went and took its towns, and called them Havvoth-jair.

The family line of Jair had lived in these two areas since it was first conquered in 1407 BC. See map 1010 above.

And now, three centuries later, one of his relatives became a judge of Israel.

Verses 6 - 9

⁶ Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, served the Baals and the Ashtaroath, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; thus they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him. ⁷ The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the sons of Ammon. ⁸ They afflicted and crushed the sons of Israel that year; for eighteen years they *afflicted* all the sons of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in Gilead in the land of the Amorites. ⁹ The sons of Ammon crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah, Benjamin, and the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was greatly distressed.

⁶ Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, served the Baals and the Ashtaroath, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; thus they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.

Previous to this time Israel had severed the Baals and the Ashtaroath but here we see that they are serving the gods of 5 other nations.

See map 1015



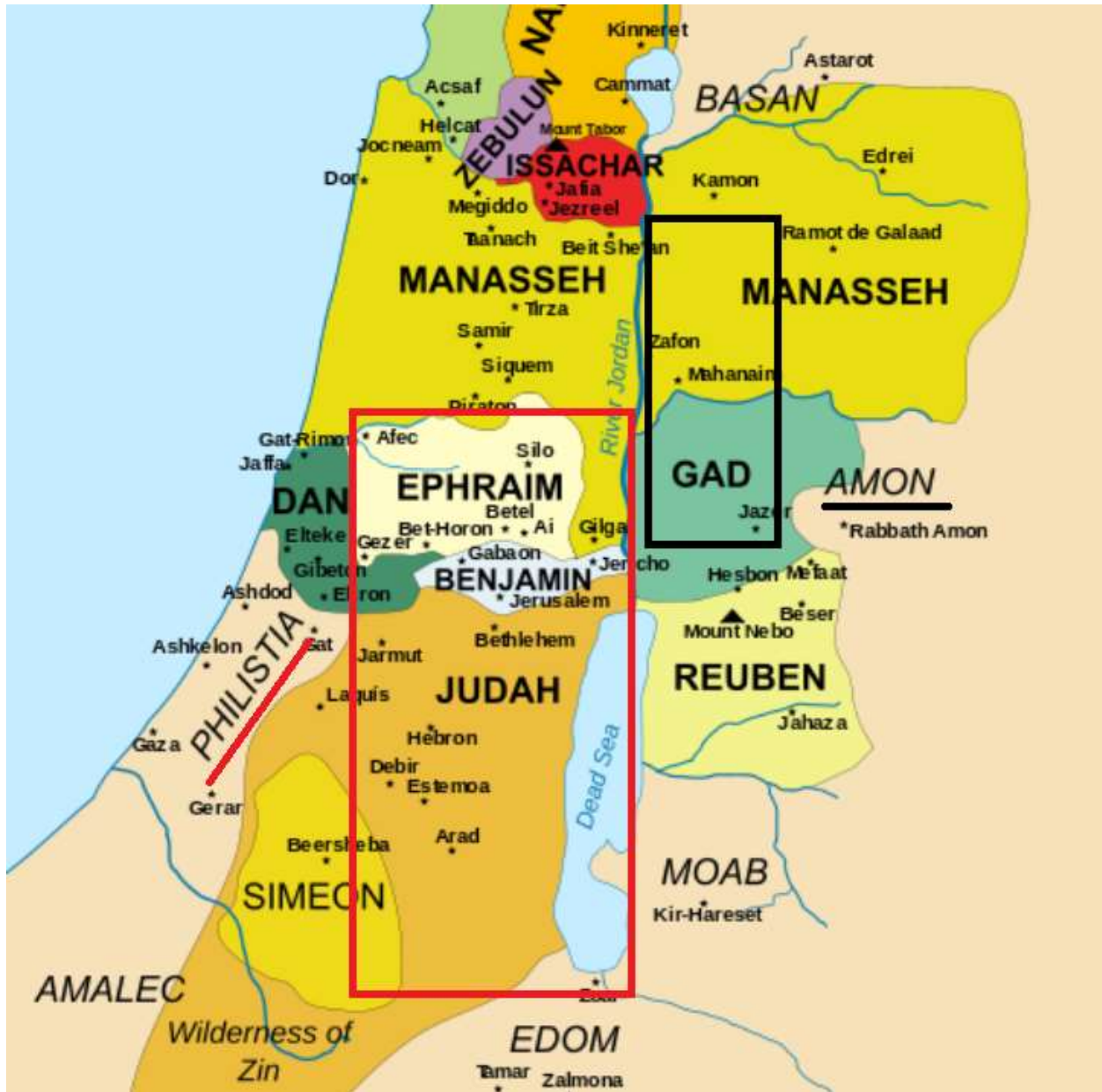
Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words.

Israel was serving the gods of every nation around them.

Or in this case 10 words. 😊

⁷ The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the sons of Ammon. ⁸ They afflicted and crushed the sons of Israel that year; for eighteen years they *afflicted* all the sons of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in Gilead in the land of the Amorites. ⁹ The sons of Ammon crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah, Benjamin, and the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was greatly distressed.

See map 1020



Israel served the gods of Philistia and Ammon but that did not stop Philistia or Ammon from attacking them? Then what did Israel gain by serving the gods of these nations?

Verses 10 - 16

¹⁰ Then the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord, saying, “We have sinned against You, for indeed, we have forsaken our God and served the Baals.” ¹¹ The Lord said to the sons of Israel, “*Did I not deliver you* from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the sons of Ammon, and the Philistines? ¹² Also when the Sidonians, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hands. ¹³ Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods; therefore I will no longer deliver you. ¹⁴ Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your distress.” ¹⁵ The sons of Israel said to the Lord, “We have sinned, do to us whatever seems good to You; only please deliver us this day.” ¹⁶ So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord; and He could bear the misery of Israel no longer.

¹⁰ Then the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord, saying, “We have sinned against You, for indeed, we have forsaken our God and served the Baals.”

It took Israel 18 years of oppression and humiliation before Israel was willing to see the error of their way and repent of their sin.

¹¹ The Lord said to the sons of Israel, “*Did I not deliver you* from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the sons of Ammon, and the Philistines? ¹² Also when the Sidonians, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hands.

The Septuagint has Madiam (Midianites) in place of Maonites.

These 7 nations had oppressed Israel and when Israel cried out to the Lord He would deliver them.

In verse 6 God mentioned 7 gods and here He mentions 7 nations.

¹³ Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods; therefore I will no longer deliver you.

God warned Israel that He should not be treated like a magic charm.

Israel would live as they pleased, serving other gods, but when their bad behavior finally caught up with them, they would then run back to the Lord knowing He would help.

¹⁴ Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your distress.”

Israel wanted to have it both ways. They wanted to serve these false gods that didn't put any restrictions on their behavior but when they found themselves in deep trouble they could then turn to the one God that could actually help them. That is not how a covenant with God works.

¹⁵ The sons of Israel said to the Lord, “We have sinned, do to us whatever seems good to You; only please deliver us this day.” ¹⁶ So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord; and He could bear the misery of Israel no longer.

The people of Israel repented of their sin, and God was willing once again to help them.

It should be noted here that this history of going back and forth between serving and not serving the Lord in the Book of Judges has covered a period of 250 years so far. It seems that each generation has to learn this lesson for themselves rather than learning from the previous generation. This confirms the saying “Live and Learn”.

Verses 17 - 18

¹⁷ Then the sons of Ammon were summoned and they camped in Gilead. And the sons of Israel gathered together and camped in Mizpah. ¹⁸ The people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, “Who is the man who will begin to fight against the sons of Ammon? He shall become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

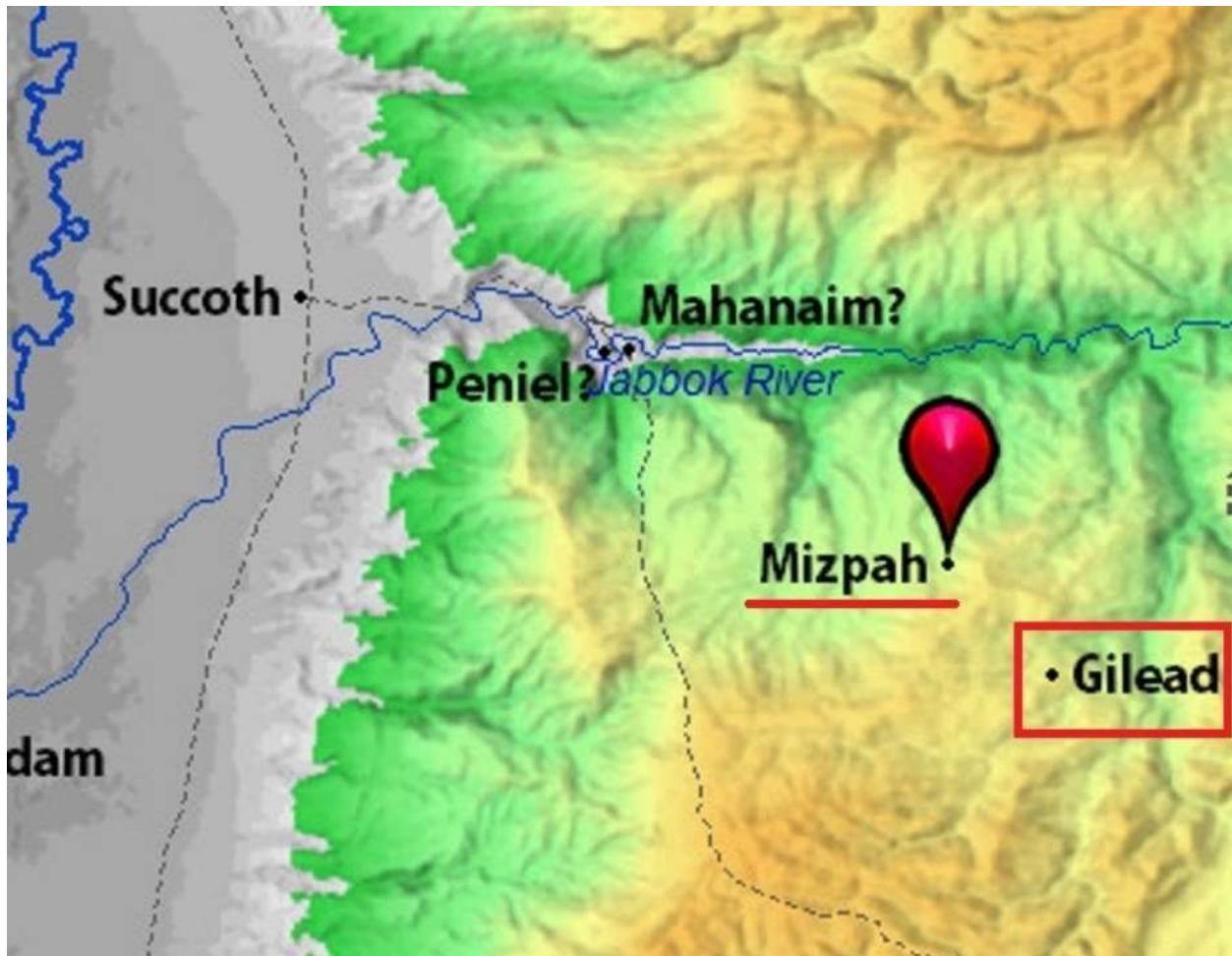
¹⁷ Then the sons of Ammon were summoned and they camped in Gilead. And the sons of Israel gathered together and camped in Mizpah.

The Septuagint has the following for this verse,

17 And the children of Ammon went up, and encamped in Galaad; and the children of Israel were gathered together and encamped on the hill.

Gilead was a mountainous area so when it says Israel was encamped on a hill it leads one to assume that they were in a lower altitude relative to the Ammonites.

See map 1025



If the location of these two towns is correct, it does appear that Israel is at a lower position in the mountain range when compared with Gilead.

¹⁸ The people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, “Who is the man who will begin to fight against the sons of Ammon? He shall become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

The leaders of Israel in Gilead wanted to find a capable commander to lead them. As an inducement, they promised that whoever consented to do this would be recognized as their ruler.

This leads us into the next chapter and the next Judge of Israel