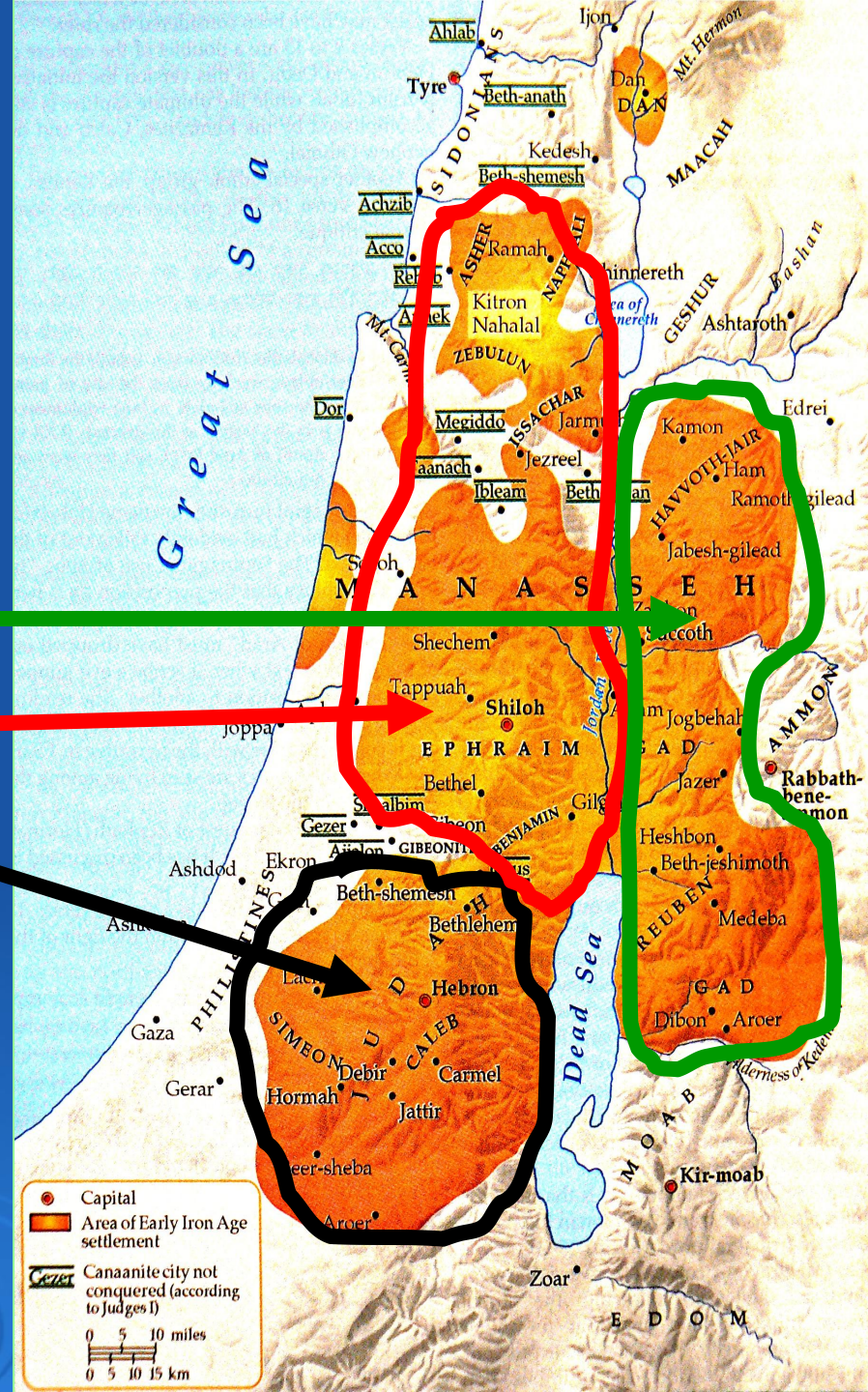


# A DIVIDED ISRAEL

- Serious rivalries, unhappiness over territorial boundaries
- TransJordan confederation
- Northern confederation
- Southern confederation
- All these Bible stories done in the context of world, national, family, and individual circumstances



# BENJAMIN: THE BUFFER STATE

- Northern border was Ephraim (northern tribal faction)
- Southern border was Judah (southern tribal faction)
- Jordan River fording points
- Important sacred locations (Mitzpah, Jericho, Bethel)





# WHY SAUL?

- Look for the patterns!!
- Benjamin part of the northern coalition
- Saul was a Benjamite
- The North is the least status of the compass directions
- The North is where Israel was always exiled
- The North is where the enemies will come from at Armageddon



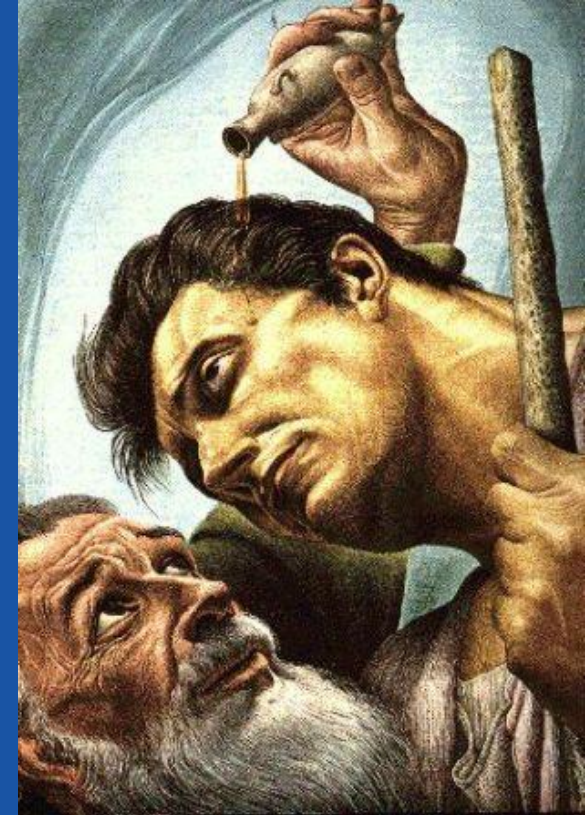
# BENJAMIN NOT DESTINED TO RULE



- Tribe of Judah was divinely intended to provide the ruler of Israel, NOT Benjamin
- Gen. 49:8 – 11 “.....*the scepter will not pass from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff....*”
- Gen. 49:27 “*Benjamin is a ravenous wolf.....*”
- Benjamin destined to be warlike, tending to attack the weak and interested in wealth

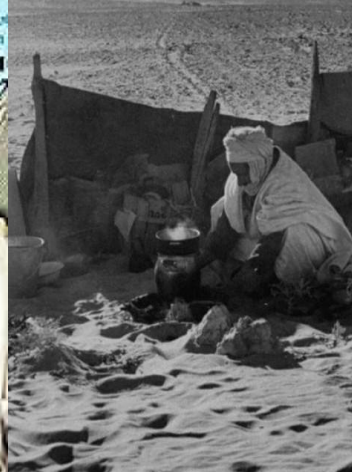
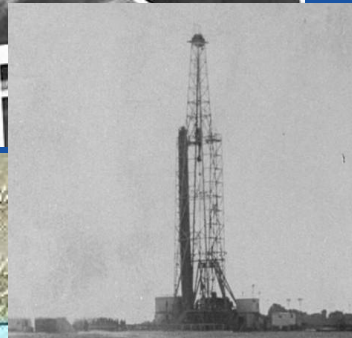
# MONARCHIES AND TRIBALISM DON'T MIX

- Transition from Samuel's judgeship to Saul's kingship
- After coronation Saul returns to regular life at home (Gibeah)
- Too much resistance from dissenters to act as a king
- For a monarchy to exist, tribalism has to diminish
- Israel's 12 tribal princes had no intention of giving up any significant amount of their own sovereignty



# THE SAUDI EXPERIMENT

- 1700's Saud family became dominant tribe
- 1902 Saud family formed an Arabian monarchy
- Arab tribes fought against it
- Oil, wealth, Arabs' hatred of Saudi monarchy forced alliance with the West



# NACHASH ATTACKS YAVESH-GILEAD

- Nachash, king of Ammon
- Extra verse found in the Dead Sea Scrolls 4QSam
- Ammonites were Semites, descendants of Lot
- Lived to the east of the Jordan River
- Capital city was Rabbath-Amman, which is now the capital city of Jordan



# YAVESH-GILEAD



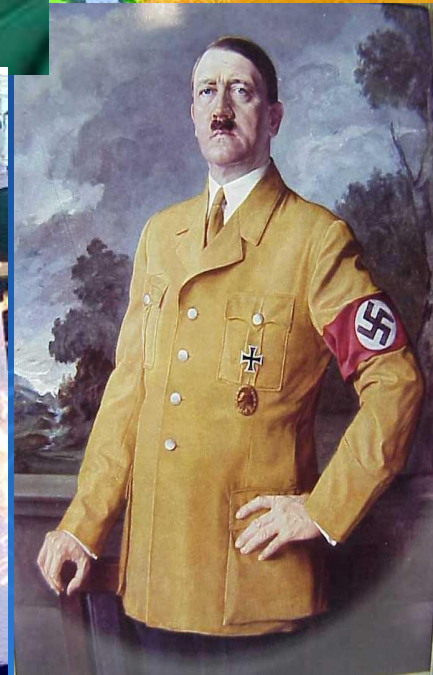
- A fortified city in the territory of Gad
- Gilead's forces had no chance to survive against Nachash
- Nachash demanded to cut-out the right eye of all males in Jabesh-Gilead
- Savage irony: cutting a covenant





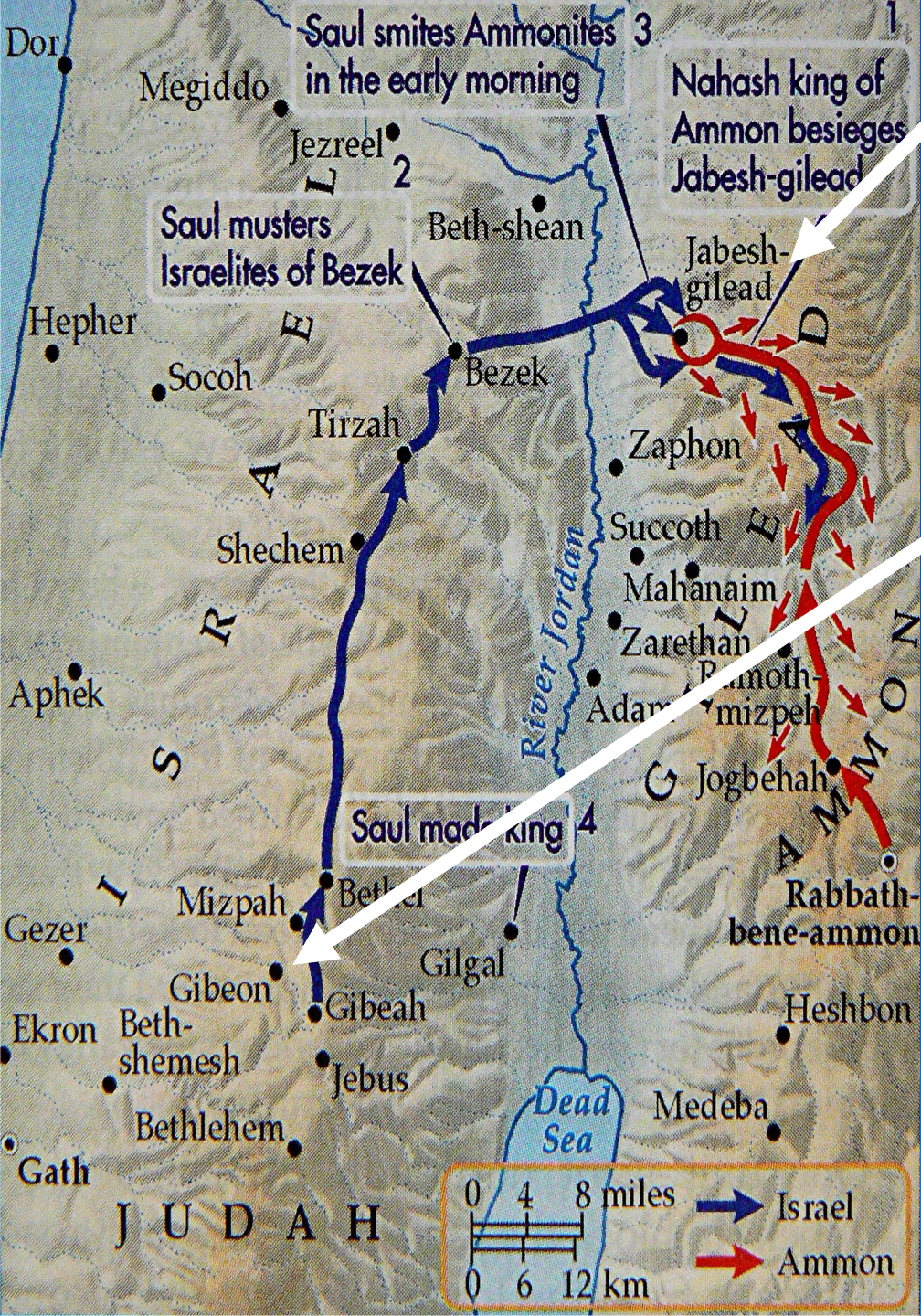
# IRRATIONAL HATRED OF ISRAEL

- Nachash HATED Israel and wanted to humiliate them
- Nations have hated Israel down thru the ages
- Islam will destroy themselves if it can bring destruction of Israel
- When Palestinians were given Gaza, they destroyed their own food supply and infrastructure out of hatred!



# JABESH-GILEAD SENDS FOR HELP

- Inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead sent messengers to Gibeon of Benjamin
- Nachash set up a siege on Yavesh-Gilead
- People of Gibeah wailed and cried when word reached them
- Since Gibeah was not in danger, WHY all the anguish?



# CLOSE FAMILY TIES BETWEEN GIBEON AND YAVESH-GILEAD



- Judges 20 and 21
- All Israel gathered to punish Benjamin for its Sodom-like behavior
- Yavesh-Gilead refused to join in
- After Benjamin was decimated, Israel struck Yavesh-Gilead
- 400 surviving virgins given to few surviving males of Benjamin so tribe didn't die out

# PATTERNS!!

- Saul is plowing in fields and hears the wailing from Gibeon
- Spirit of God falls upon him
- Saul cuts up his Oxen and sends pieces to the 12 tribes
- Did Spirit of God bring ANGER to Saul? No.
- Holy Spirit gave Saul resolve and capability to lead
- Judges 19
- Saul patterned his actions after the Concubine incident

