

SAUL: UNDISPUTED KING OF ISRAEL

- Saul's main support was the 8 northern tribes
- Saul had neutralized the main eastern threat of Ammon
- The Philistines were bolder and more aggressive
- Several clans and tribes made pacts with the Philistines to live peacefully



KING SAUL'S SONS WERE HIS SENIOR MILITARY STAFF



- Saul correct to decide that he had to deal with the Philistines or lose Israel
- People are always reluctant to go to war
- Y'honatan the most prominent of Saul's sons
- Y'honatan killed a Philistine governor at Geba to incite the Philistines to attack
- Israelite tribes now had no choice but to join Sha'ul's army



1ST SAMUEL 13: THE WAR BEGINS

- Philistines saw governor's assassination as open rebellion
- Tribes assembled at Gilgal
- “.....*grains of sand on the seashore*” = hyperbole, not literal
- Philistines set up camp at Mikhmas
- Israelites fled to Trans-Jordan or hid in caves

KING SAUL MAKES AN ILLEGAL SACRIFICE AT GILGAL

- Israelites gathered at Gilgal to prepare for war
- Samuel told Saul to wait there for him for 7 days
- Both Geba and Gibeah are spelled the same in Hebrew
- ***Gimel -vet- ayin*** ע ב ג
- Geba = Geh- bah
- Gibeah = Gee- bah
- Saul got impatient and did the sacrifice himself



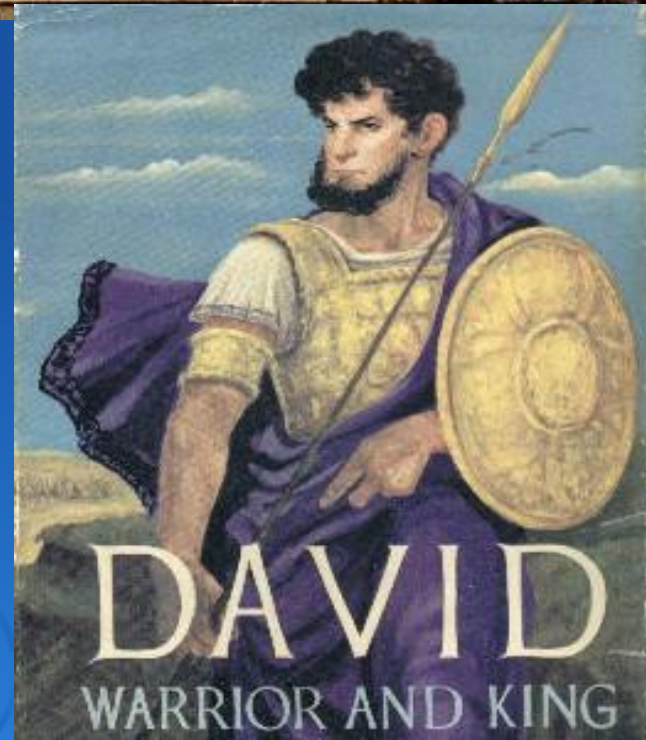
SAMUEL INDICTS KING SAUL



- Sha'ul ordered the 'Olah and Shelamim sacrifices brought to him
- '**Olah** is the highest offering and ONLY the High Priest may perform it
- Samuel arrives, confronts Saul, and Saul says "he forced himself" to do it !!
- Samuel judges Sha'ul and says "Your kingship will not be established"
- Means, no dynasty

“You did a foolish thing....”

- Some scholars question which mitzvot Sha'ul broke
- It was that Saul offered a sacrifice, when it was only a priest who could do that
- No response or remorse from King Saul
- David is the prince who will replace Saul
- Prince = *nagid* = king in waiting



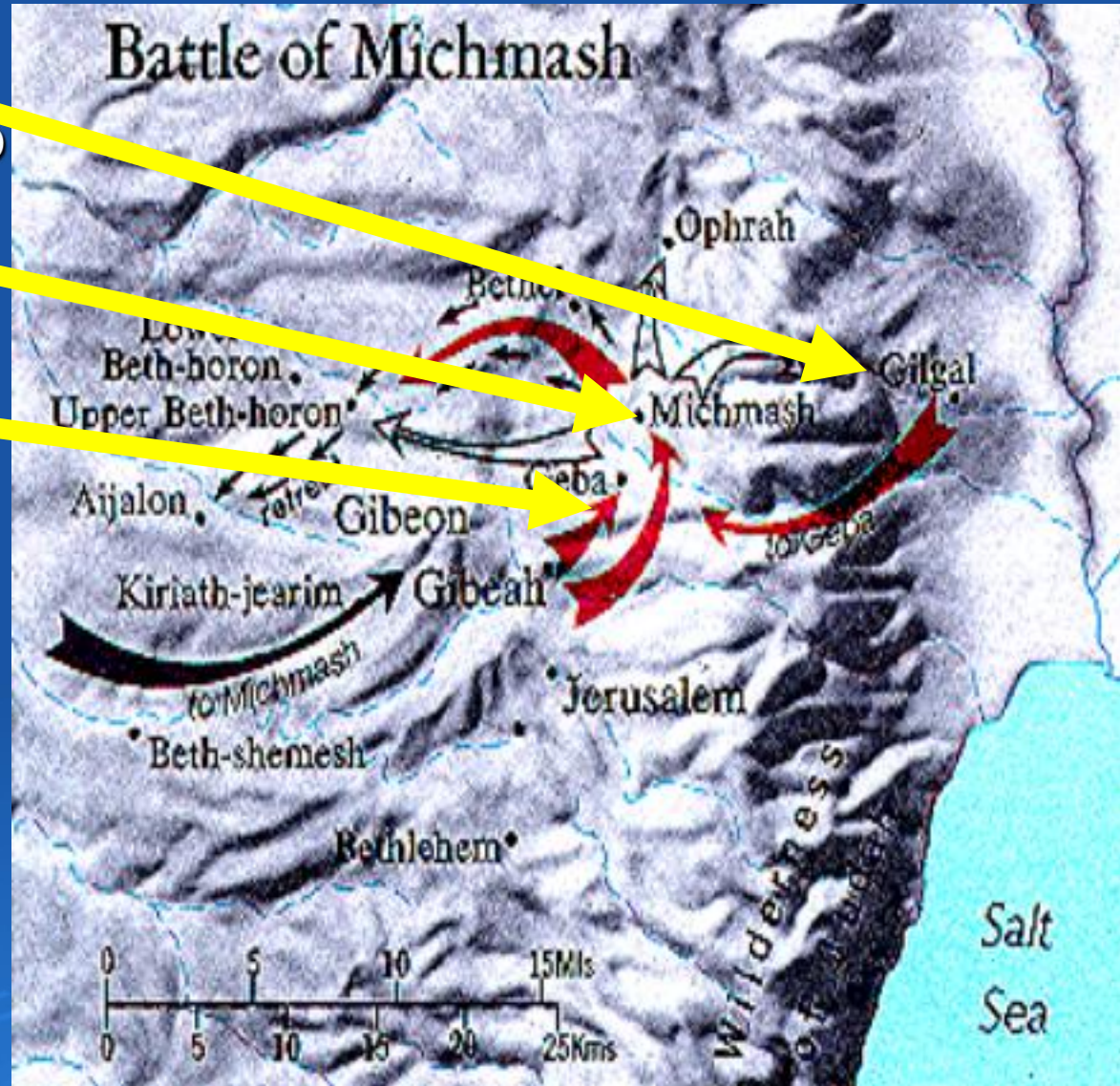
THE ANTI-KING ATTEMPTS TO KILL GOD'S *NAGID*



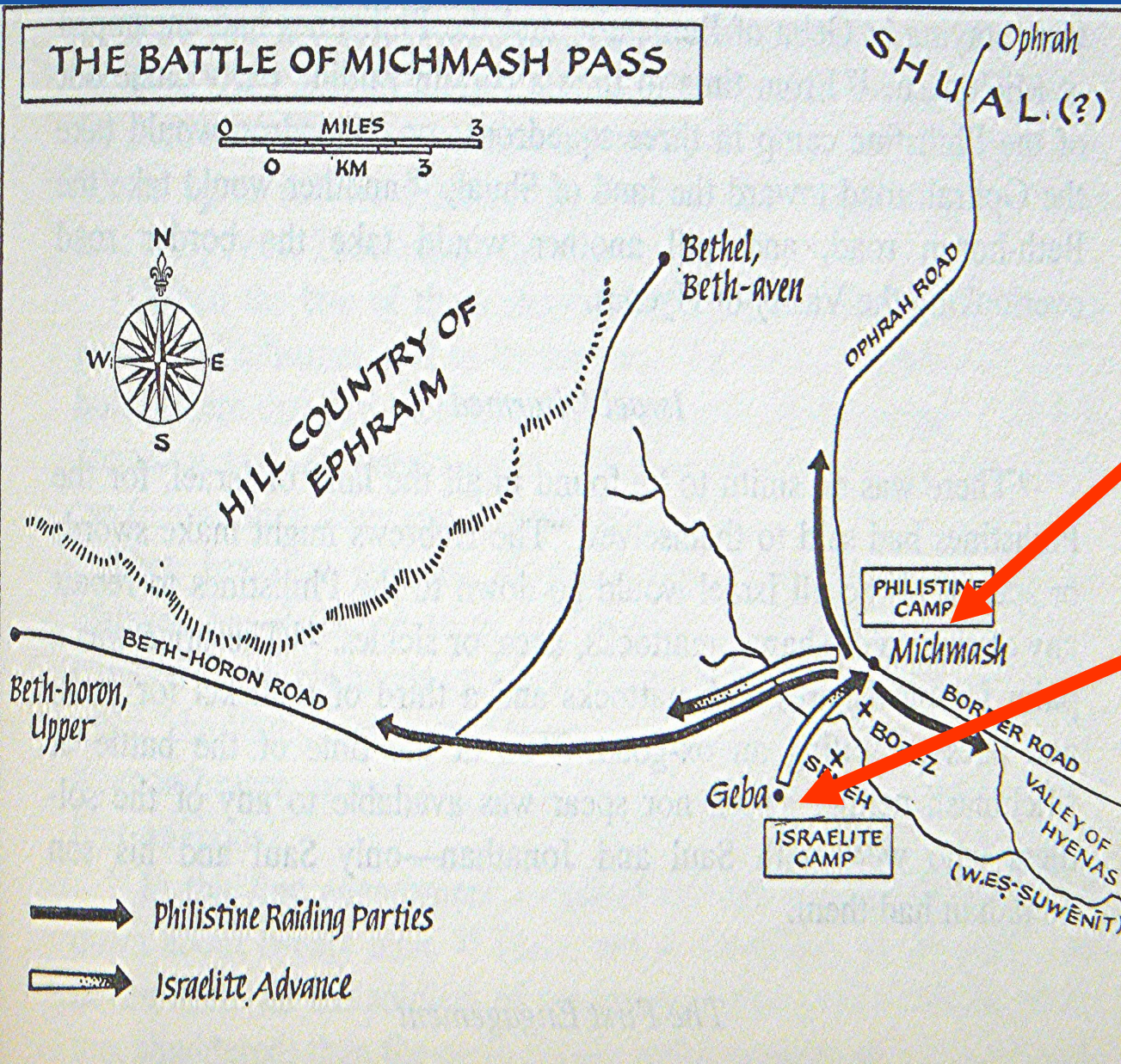
- King Saul will try to thwart God's will by killing David, God's *nagid*
- Later Satan will try to thwart God's will by killing Yeshua, God's spiritual *nagid*
- The Prophet's job is to present the heavenly King's agenda to the human King
- This inevitably results in conflict between Prophet and King

THE WAR WITH THE PHILISTINES

- Saul left Gilgal
- Philistines set up camp at Mikhmas
- Saul too 600 men to Geba
- Philistines sent out raiding parties to the north, west, and south
- Israel not allowed to have metal workers and metal equipment
- Israel had no metal swords or spears



1st SAMUEL 14



- Deep ravine separated Geba and Mikhmas
- Philistines on the north side
- Israelites on the south side
- “On that day” does NOT mean that VERY day

THE ISSUE OF THE HIGH PRIEST



- *Y'honatan* introduced as being very similar to his father, Saul
- *Achiyah*, great grandson of *Eli*, was Saul's High Priest
- *Achiyah* was NOT of the proper lineage (*Ithamar*)
- Proper lineage came from *Eleazar*
- TWO High Priests in existence at the time of King Saul

TWO HIGH PRIESTS?

- Eli's family was allied with the northern tribes
- Saul's tribe was allied with the northern tribes
- So Achiyah was Saul's logical choice
- When David became king, he was from the southern tribe of Judah
- Zadok's family was allied with the southern tribes
- So Zadok was David's logical choice

