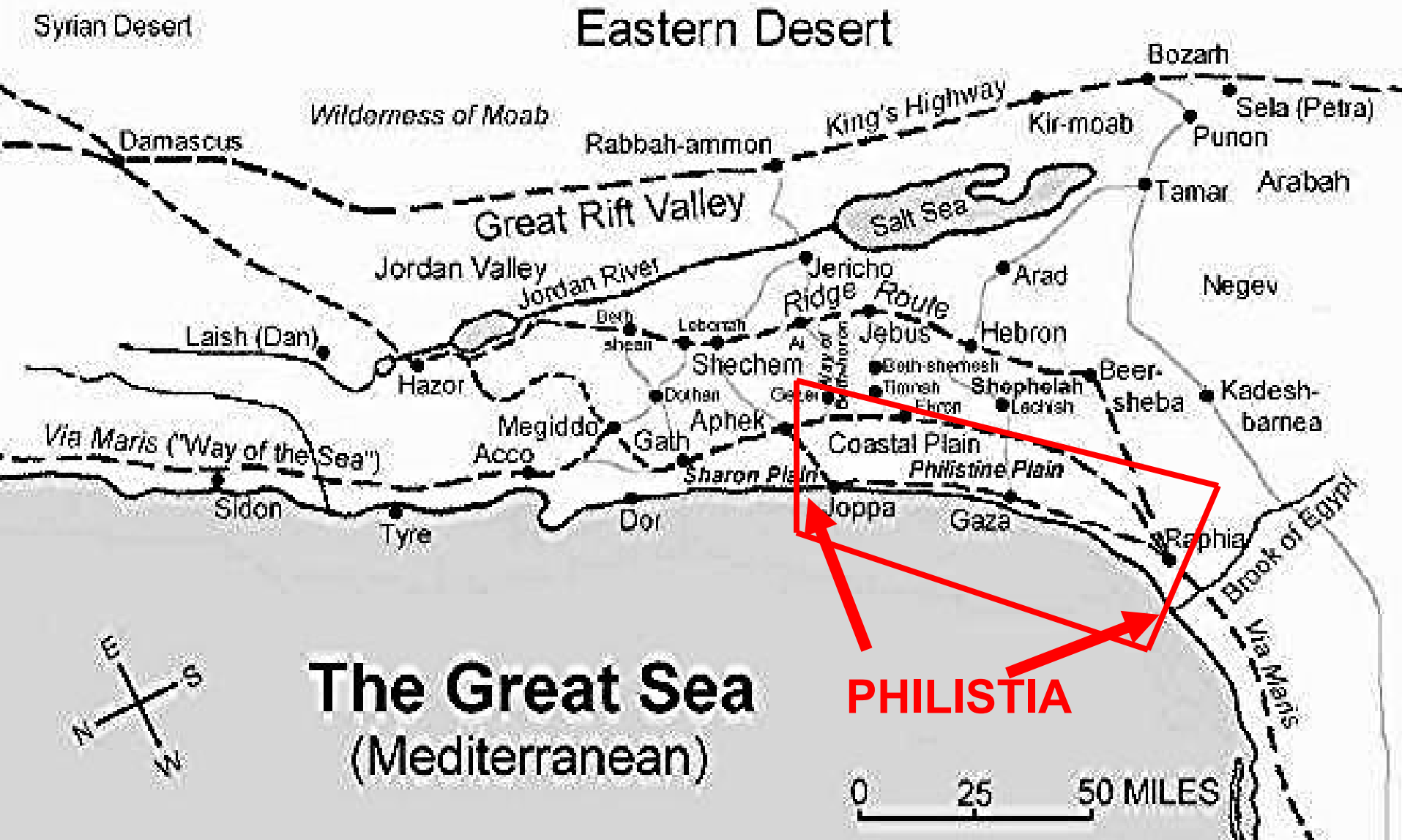
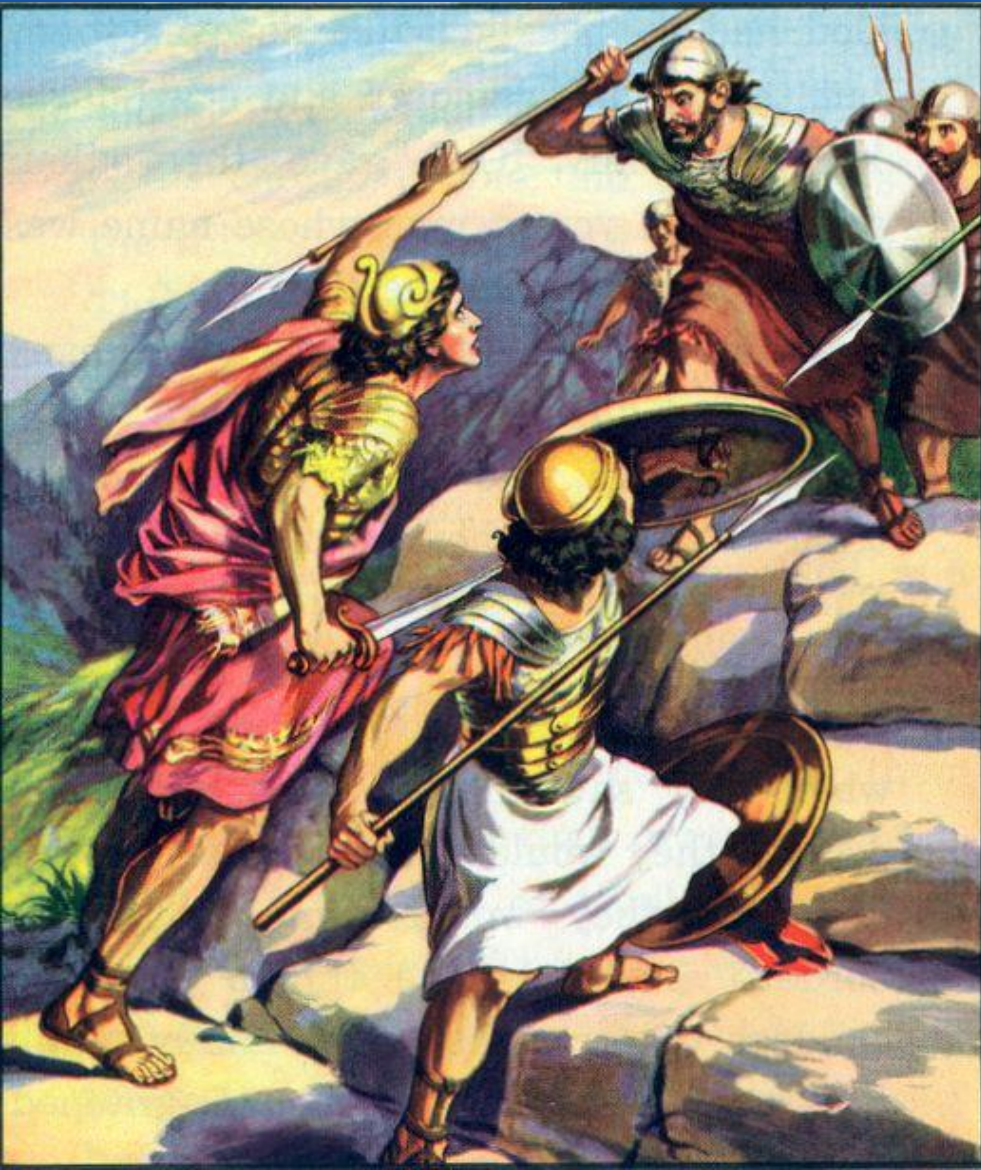


MAIN REASON FOR PHILISTINE AGGRESSION WAS ECONOMICS

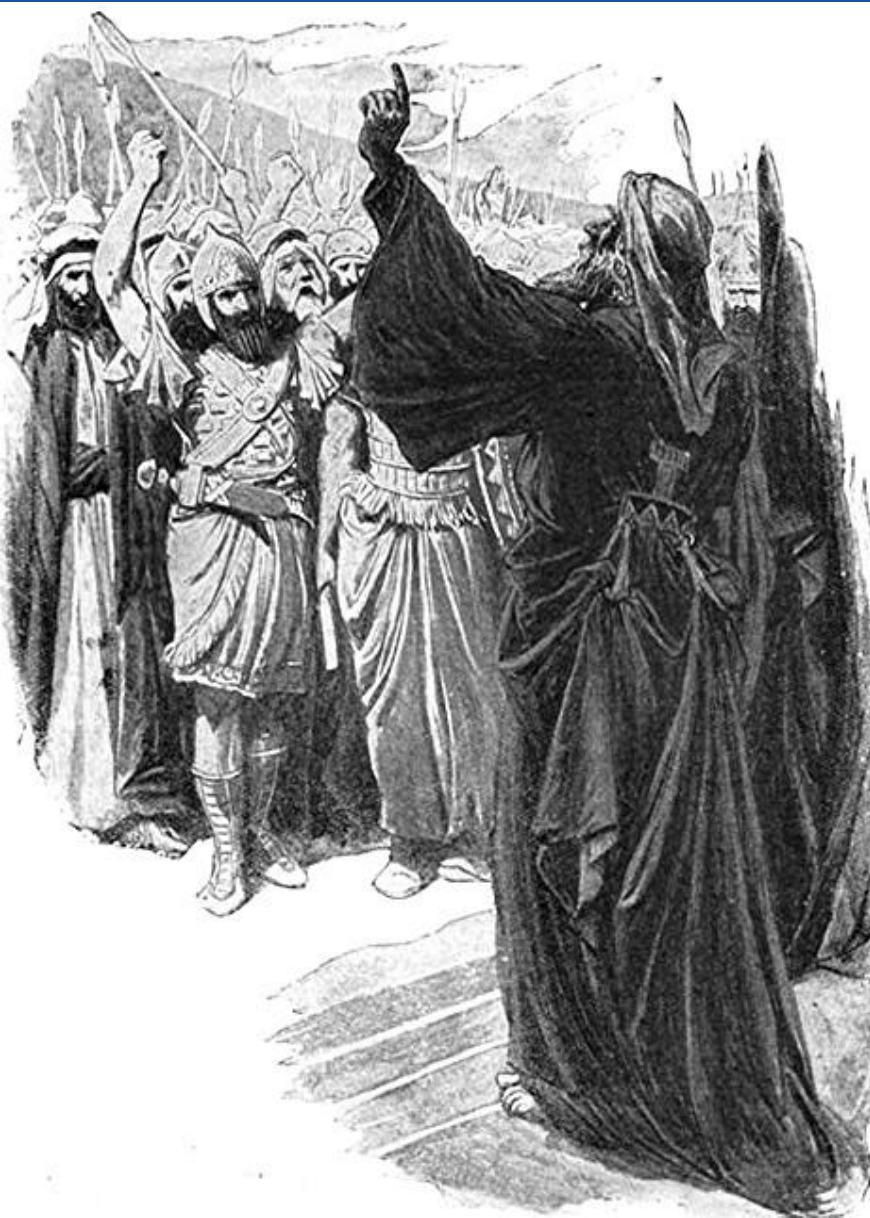


SAUL'S 1ST WAR WITH THE PHILISTINES



- Necessary for Saul to push Philistines out of Canaan if he wanted a real “Kingdom”
- Jonathan instigated the battle at Mikhmas Pass
- King Sha’ul ordered his army to vow not to eat until the day of fighting was over
- When the day ended and his men ate, Saul asked God if they should continue their pursuit of the Philistines in the darkness of night
- The Lord didn’t respond

DIVINE TRIAL BY LOTS



- Israel's military chiefs were asked to confess their sin
- King Saul makes another rash vow: “*even if it proves to be Jonathan... he must be put to death!*”
- Literal does NOT mean: word for word as it means in our time
- Literal DOES mean: what it meant in the time it was written

“Behold! I must die ?!”

- First round of lots indicates that “all Israel” is innocent
- Second round of lots will be between Saul and Jonathan
- The “sin” King Saul was trying to discover was, who broke the oath by eating?
- Lots did NOT uncover sin, it merely uncovered who ATE
- ***Hinneh amuth***: Behold, I must die?!



KING SHA'UL MAKES ANOTHER RASH VOW!

- King Saul vows that if he doesn't kill Jonathan then God should kill Saul, and do WORSE!
- Reminds us of Jephthah and his rash vow to sacrifice the first thing that comes to greet him as he comes home from the battlefield
- Saul has sealed his own fate
- King Saul is a sympathetic figure; not depraved, just ego-driven and a slave to his evil inclination
- Saul, the Anti-King was NOT born with a soul or spirit any different than ours
- The future Anti-Christ will be born as a man, not supernatural, and then turn himself over to the Evil One



ARMY REFUSES TO LET SAUL KILL JONATHAN



- King Saul's army knew the truth and they rebelled and refused to let Jonathan be unjustly executed
- The night operation was canceled, the remnant of the Mikhmas Philistine garrison returned to Phillistia, Saul went home
- Saul continued to fight and win battles against Moab, Edom, Ammon and the Philistines
- **Avner** was Saul's top general
- **Av-ner** = my father is **Ner**

“Saul continued to make progress in strengthening Israel’s military....”

- The defeat of the Philistines at Mikhmas was ONLY about ONE garrison of Philistines, not the whole army
- Saul strengthened Israel’s military and power, but was constantly disobedient to God
- It was Saul’s NEGLECT of the God of Israel that proved to be fatal for Saul and his sons





LESSONS NOT LEARNED



- Modern Israel refuses to learn and so allows the worship of pagan gods on their holy soil
- The Church prefers to hang on to false doctrines that proclaim obedience to God's Word is Legalism
- Salvation is individual, but in all other ways our fates are interconnected, especially as a nation



WHO BEARS THE GREATER SIN?

- We are given the ability to CHOOSE our leaders and to REMOVE them
- Other nations have their leaders forced upon them
- Which people bear the greater sin for the direction and actions of their nation?
- We who have full liberty think we can absolve ourselves, and be separate from our leaders. **WRONG!**



1ST SAMUEL 15: THE PATTERN OF ARMAGEDDON



- Just as King Saul is a kind of “Anti-King”, so is the War with Amalek a type of Battle of Armageddon
- Sha’ul’s War with Amalek sets the God-pattern for the final Holy War
- The DIFFERENCE is that while Saul did NOT prosecute it in obedience, Messiah will prosecute it PERFECTLY!