

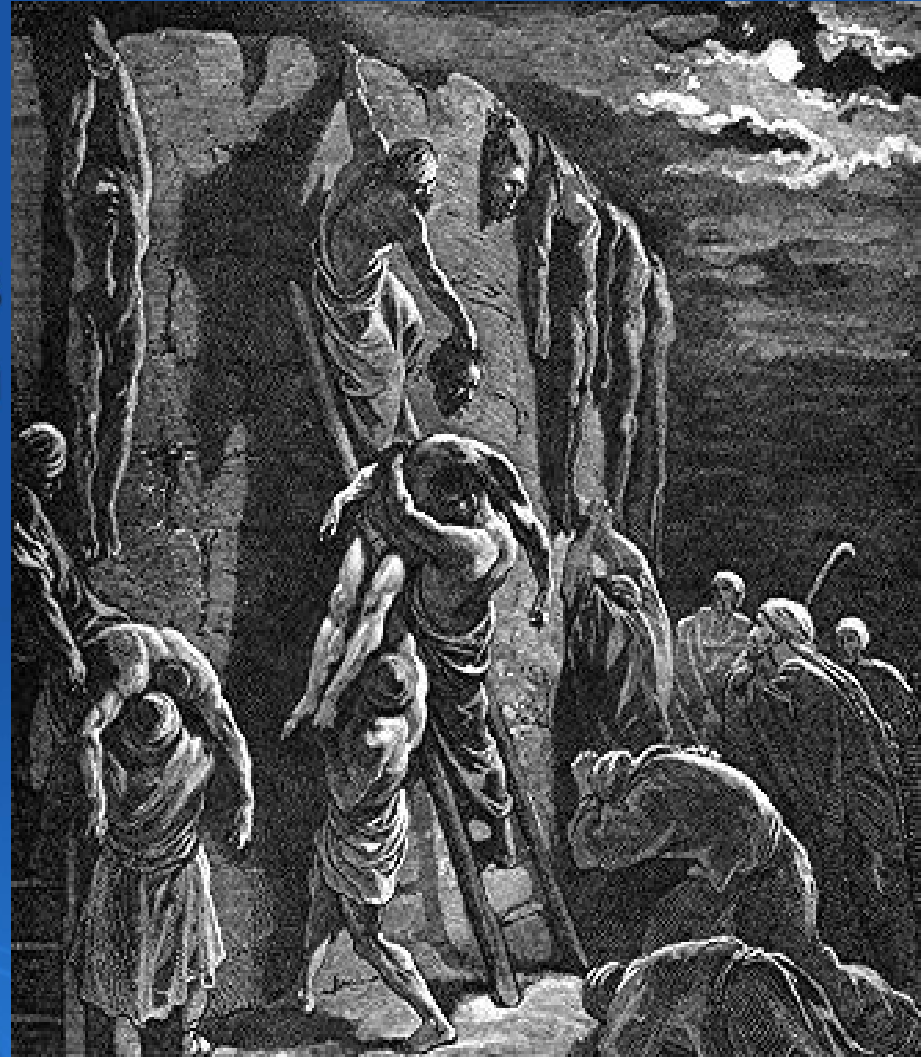
DAVID, KING OF JUDAH

- David is king and residing in Hebron
- Why would a tribe want to have king instead of a tribal leader?
- Probably to have a power balance with the north
- In that era having a king brought prestige



2nd SAMUEL 2: THE POLITICAL INTRIGUE GROWS

- David is informed of the brave men of Jabesh-Gilead who retrieved Saul's dead body from Beit-Shean
- Usually a new king purged all evidence of the former king
- But David reached out to those who were faithful to King Saul



CHESED

- David sent messengers to Jabesh because of the kindness they showed to Saul
- **Chesed** = righteous deed, beyond everyday kindness
- In the Middle East **chesed** is to be repaid
- Since Saul is dead he can't repay Jabesh's kindness, so David offers to do it
- Ruth 1:8 – 9



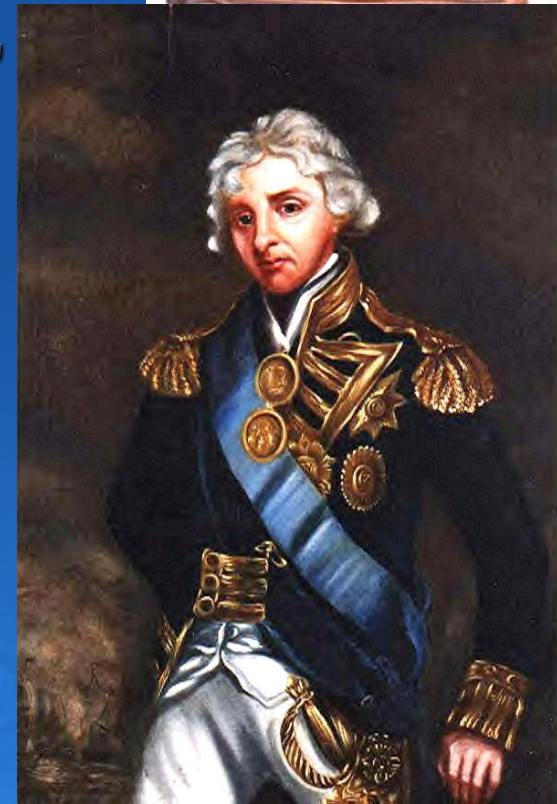
ABNER: THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE



- “Be strong and be courageous”
- Jabesh-Gilead is an ally of the north, and David is asking them to become his ally instead
- Abner was Saul’s military commander
- Ishbosheth is Saul’s sole surviving son
- *Ishbosheth* = man of shame
- Not his real given name, an epithet
- *Eshba’al* is the same person, and is probably his original given name

THE EVOLVING OF THE WORD “BA’AL”

- *Eshba'al* = Fire of Ba'al
- *Ba'al* = lord, gods in general, Chief Canaanite Male god
- Modern term lord can mean: a person with authority, God in a general sense, or a personal reference to God (The Lord)
- The Hebrews borrowed the word *ba'al*
- Reflected a very casual and un-pious attitude towards the Law of Moses
- The word *ba'al* became offensive and so the Bible scribes changed it to *bosheth*



The Twelve Tribes

- City of Refuge
- ◆ Levitical city
- Capital city
- Other city

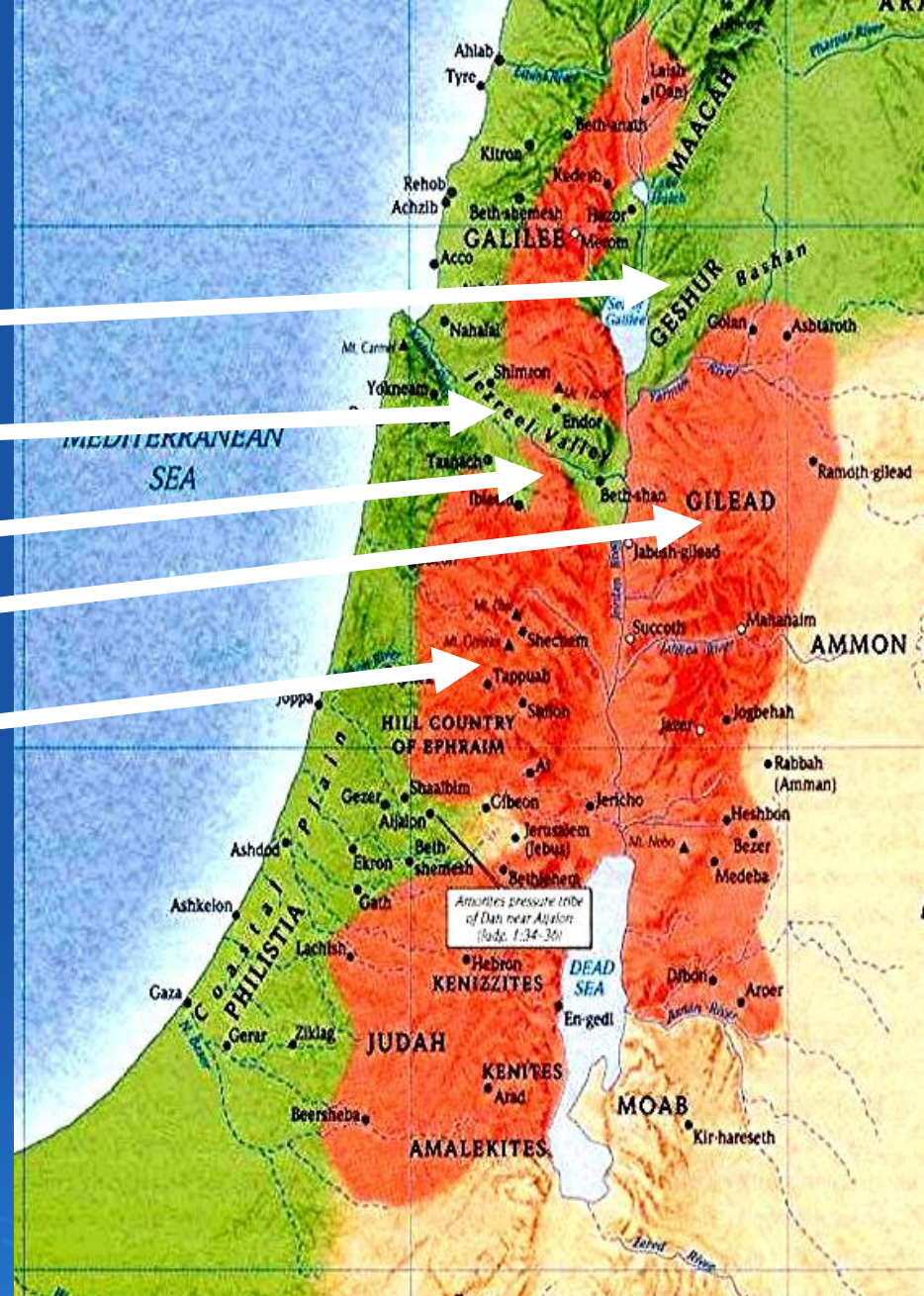


THE MOVE TO MAHANAIM

- Mahanaim in the Trans-Jordan
- Trans-Jordan safer from the Philistines, and it was not territory claimed by David (tribe of Judah)
- ***Bereishis Rabbah*** says that Abner did not deny that David should be king
- Rabbis say Abner being righteous since he thought there must be at least 2 Benjamite kings BEFORE David could be king
- Genesis 35:11

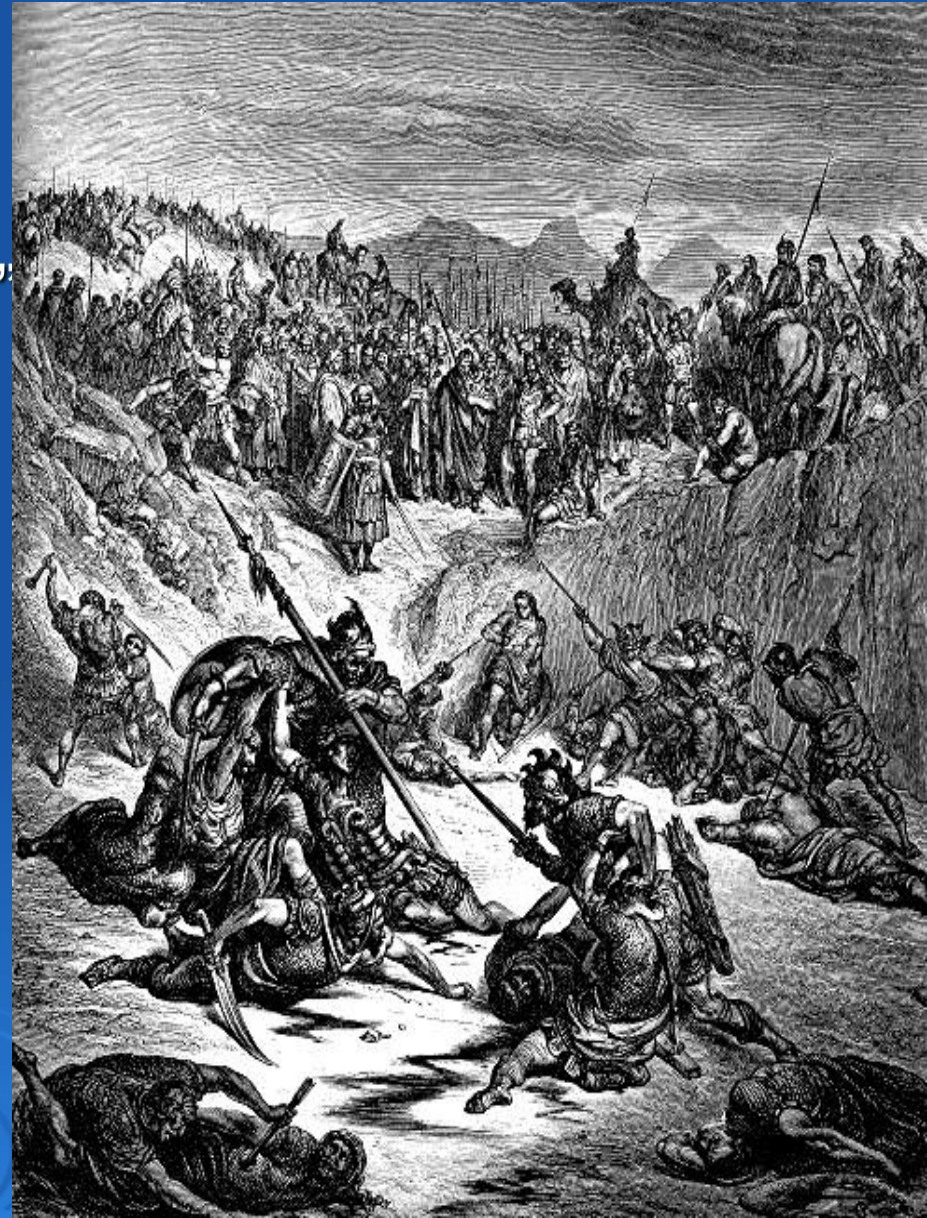
WHAT IS “ALL ISRAEL”?

- Geshur
- Jezreel
- Yisakhar
- Gilead
- Ephraim
- “All Israel” means all the northern tribes but NOT the southern tribes
- King Saul’s old kingdom would be restored step by step under Ishbosheth



COMBAT AT THE POOL OF GIBEON

- It took 5 ½ years for Ishbosheth to rebuild the kingdom
- Then he reined over “Israel” for only 2 years
- A chance meeting between Abner’s men and Yo’av’s men at the Pool of Gibeon
- Abner impulsively suggested representative combat between 12 men on each side to determine the outcome



POOL OF GIBEON



- Manmade cistern
- 40 feet diameter, 80 feet deep with stairs
- 12 pairs of opponents fought to a draw
- Joab, Avishai, Asahel were brothers, nephews of David
- Abner and his men fled, Yo'ab's men gave chase

ABNER KILLS ASAHEL



- Abner told Asahel to choose someone else to fight!
- Abner used an old military trick
- He had sharpened the handle of his spear, and he stopped abruptly and Asahel impaled himself on the spear
- When Avishai and Yo'av found their dead brother they took off in pursuit of Abner

THE BLOOD FEUD BEGINS

- Abner and his men regroup at Ammah Hill
- Yo'av and his men arrive and Abner says the bloodshed should end
- Yo'av agrees and blows the battle Shofar to end the fighting
- David's army lost 20 men
- Abner's army lost 360 men
- Now there was a formal blood feud between Joab's family and Abner's family

