

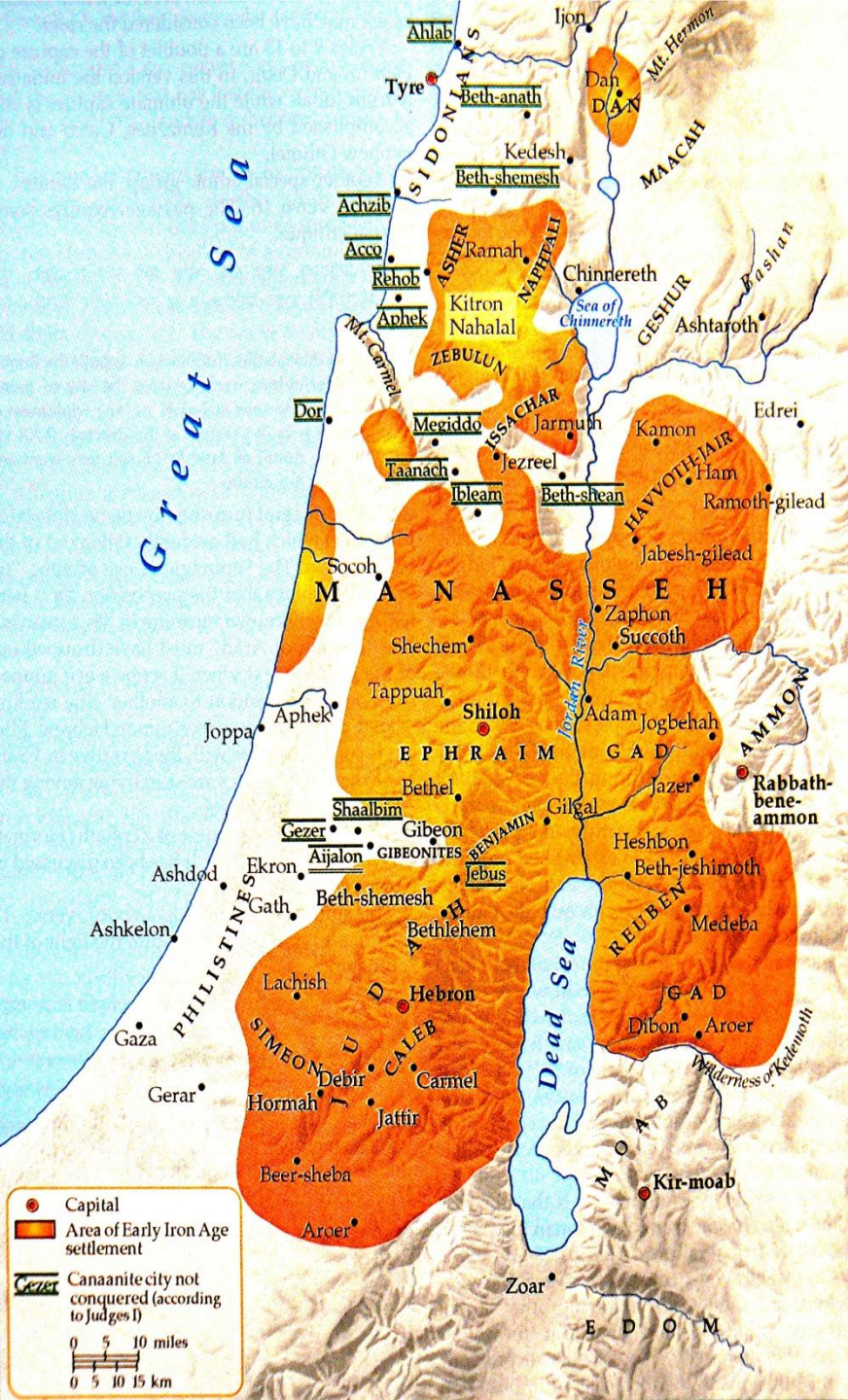
JOSHUA 22: SINCERITY VERSUS OBEDIENCE

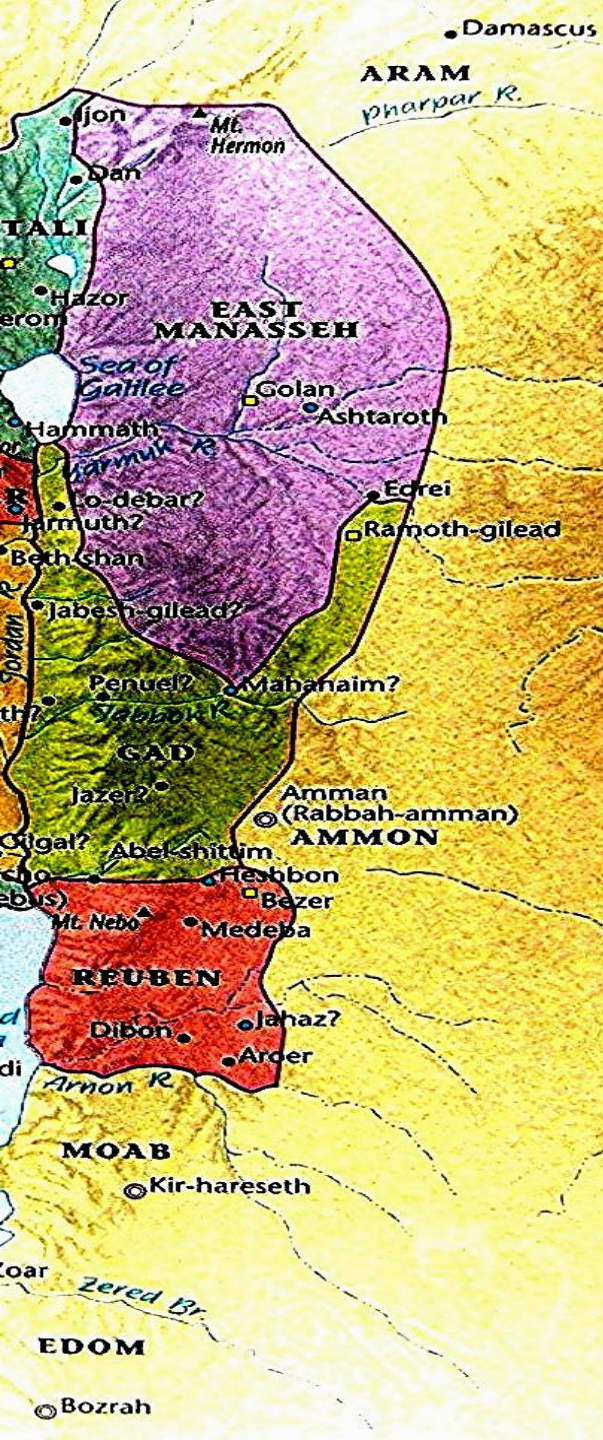
- Chapter 22 framed by concern for those living OUTSIDE of the Promised Land
- Questions asked in this chapter:
 - 1) What is proper worship?
 - 2) Where is proper worship to happen?
 - 3) Who are God's people?
 - 4) Does our sincerity trump God's written commands?



CANAAN AT REST FROM WAR

- Northern and Southern Canaanite armies defeated
- Israel concluded many peace treaties
- Living in a state of Cold War with the coastal nations
- Lack of hostilities permitted Joshua to finish dividing up Canaan among the tribes
- God is mysterious, but humans are predictable





GAD, REUBEN AND THE 1/2 TRIBE OF MANASSEH

- These 3 tribes helped the other tribes conquer Canaan
- Since the conquest is completed, they are no longer needed in the army
- Joshua 1:10 enlisting the 2 1/2 tribes
- The 3 Tribes can keep their land on the east side of the Jordan if they help the other tribes
- By being obedient to God, God fulfilled His promises to them in a timely manner
- “return to tents” a leftover saying from their days as wanderers in the Wilderness

MANESSAH GIVEN LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE JORDAN RIVER

- Partly answers the question: WHO are God's people?
- Joshua tells the 3 tribes they can take their spoils of war home with them
- The 9 ½ tribes and the 2 ½ tribes don't trust each other
- An "us" and "them" mentality was just under the surface



WHERE IS THEIR GOD?

- Most Israelites still did not grasp that there was **ONLY ONE GOD!**
- Still pictured gods as territorial
- 3 Trans-Jordanian tribes were anxious and worried
- Crossing a river could mean encountering a different god
- Were the 3 tribes still under Joshua's authority?
- Were the 3 tribes still part of Israel?



3 TRIBES' SOLUTION: BUILD AN ALTAR TO YHWH



- Trans-Jordanian tribes built a large, grand altar to YHWH
- WHY??? What does building an altar do?
- 9 ½ tribes considered this rebellion and a great affront to God
- Altar was built NOT on in the Trans-Jordan, but in Canaan!!

CIVIL WAR PROPOSED

- 10 tribal leaders met at Shiloh and decided to make war on their brethren
- The same relatives who had just fought side-by-side on the battlefield would now fight each other
- Pinchas, High Priest's son, to be in charge of a delegation sent to investigate



THE CONCERN IS THAT ALL ISRAEL WILL PAY



- 3 tribes accused of treachery
- Building of Altar might cause God to punish all Israel
- Sin of Achan, idolatry at Ba'al Peor remembered



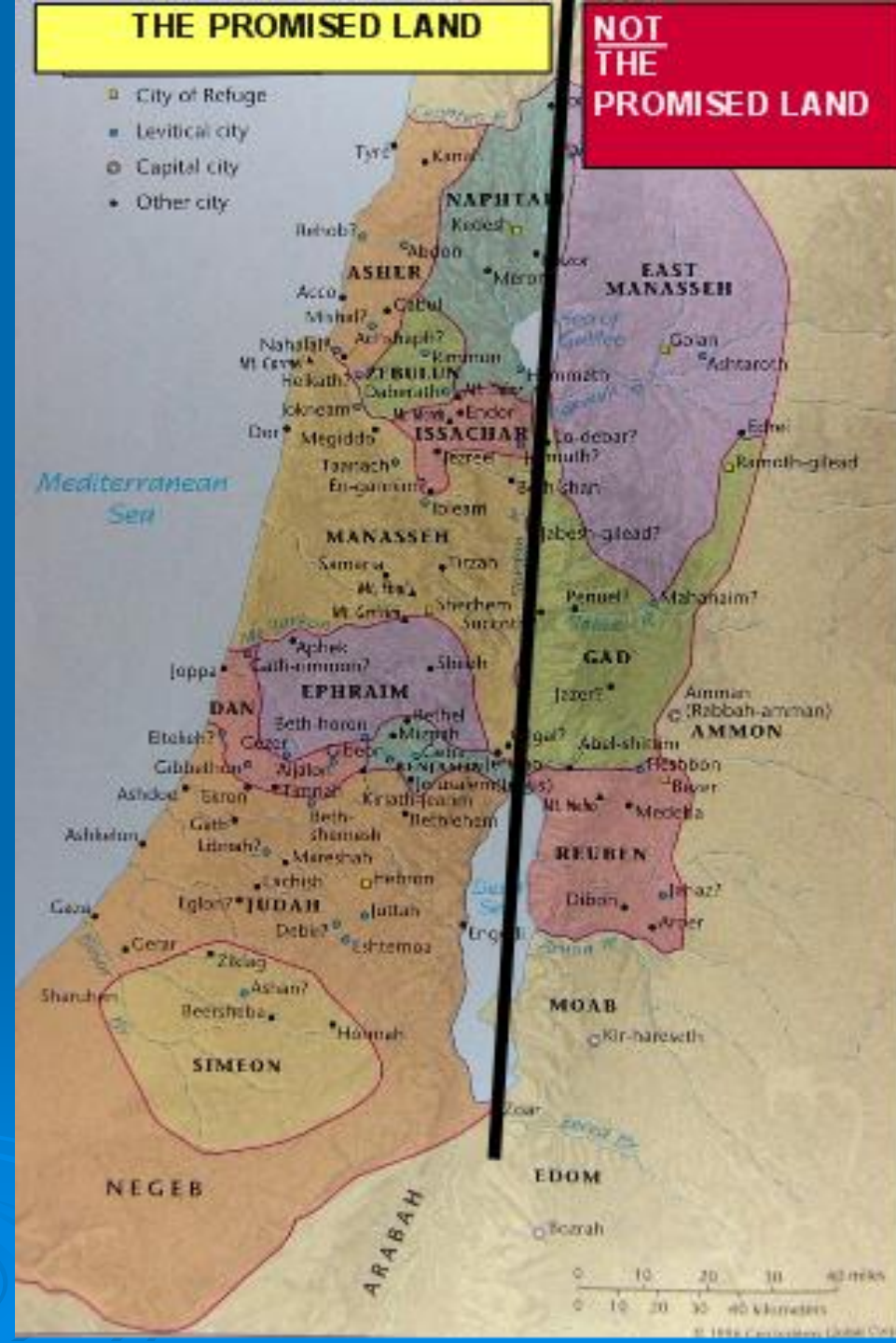
***“....if your land is unclean, then
cross back over.....”***

- 3 tribes SAY they want to be identified with Israel and YHWH
- But, they build an unauthorized altar NOT in their own land, but in Canaan
- Pinchas wants to know why if their land isn't clean enough for their altar, it is clean enough for them to live in?

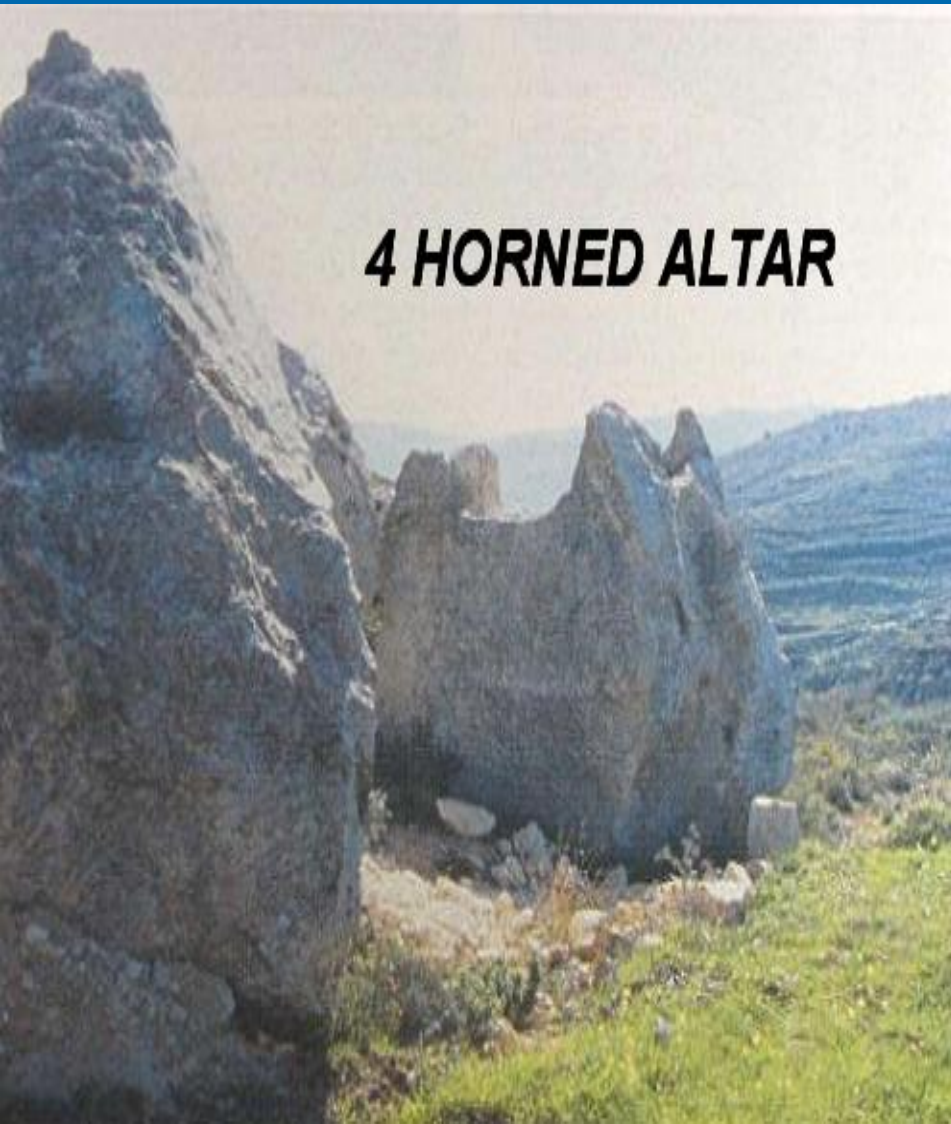


TRANS-JORDAN IS NOT THE PROMISED LAND

- Since their land is NOT the Promised land, maybe YHWH is not with them?
- Maybe they won't receive YHWH's blessings?
- Their land is NOT sanctified?
- 3 tribes CHOSE to NOT live in the Promised Land
- They chose a precarious situation for themselves



3 TRIBES INSIST THEIR INTENTIONS WERE SINCERE



- 3 tribes admit to building altar but say they were not going to worship another god OR sacrifice on the altar
- El Elohim YHWH
- Sacrifices to occur ONLY at the Great Altar
- ONLY one place where an altar was to exist
- ONLY Levite priests could offer sacrifices
- Not an altar for sacrifice, but as a WITNESS