

IDOLATRY AND DISOBEDIENCE

- YHWH will allow the Canaanites to remain in the Land
- Cause was Israel's idolatry
- BUT...the Lord said He would NOT break His Covenant with Israel!
- Book of Judges as a clarion call to the Church
- Judges expresses what God did to REDEEMED people, not to the pagans

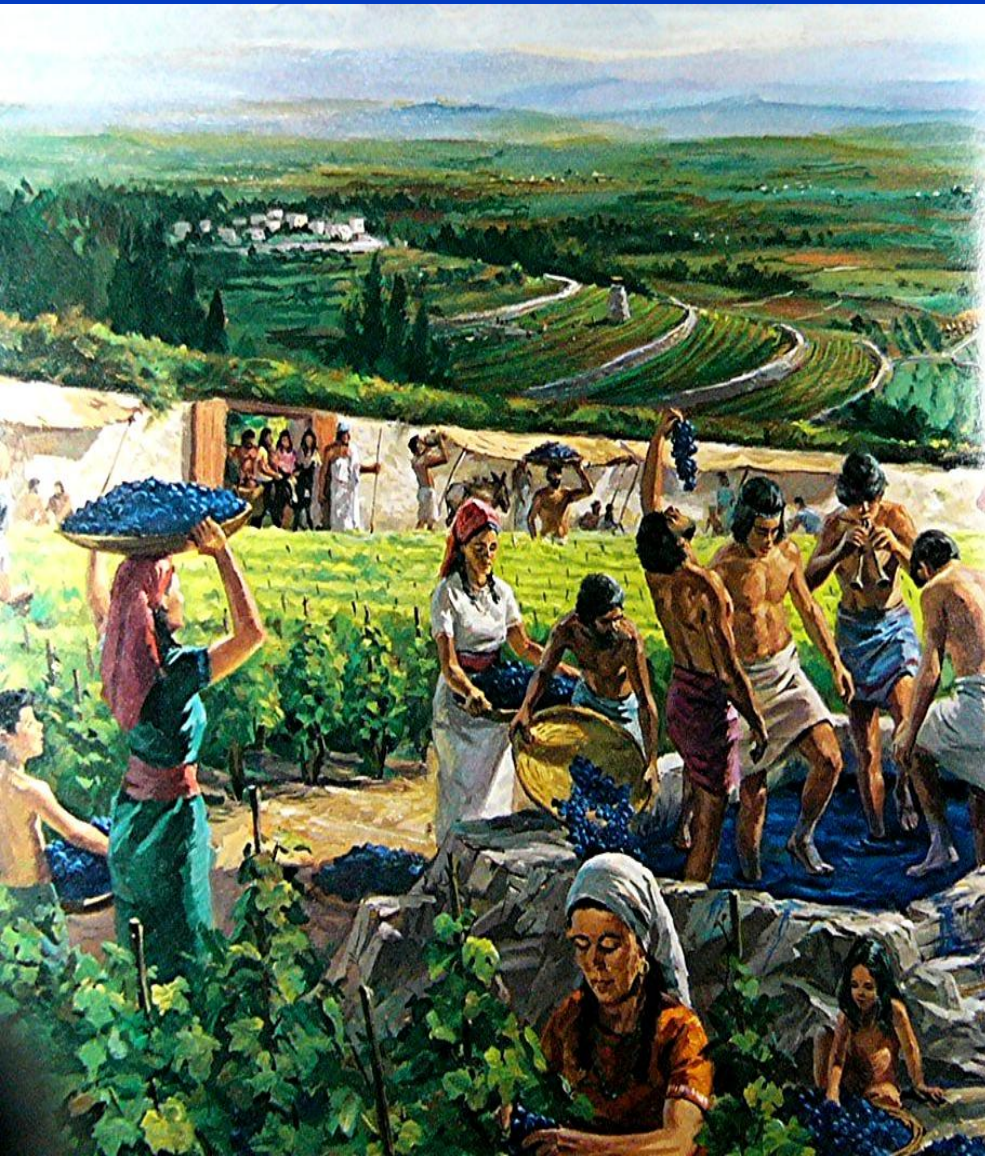


HOPE

- Judges an extended time of depravity and darkness
- Easy for people to turn-off to this constant gloom and doom
- ***DO WE HAVE EYES TO SEE, EARS TO LISTEN?***
- The HOPE in Judges is implied
- A better future with obedience and regeneration
- The *Shophetim* were imperfect saviors
- The Lord took PITY on Israel



JUDGES CHAPTER 3: THE CYCLES OF APOSTASY



- Current generation of Israel did not know war
- They were indifferent and naïve
- The Joshua generation had to learn about war
- **Lesson #1**: Holy War is fought under Holy rules
- God ONLY aids Israel WHEN they are obedient to Him

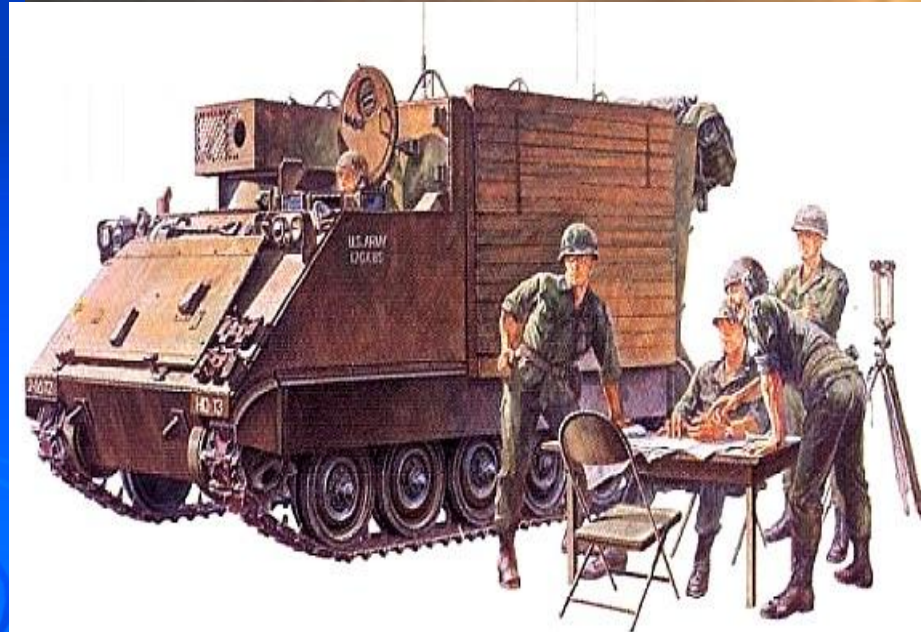
HOLY WAR!

- Israel today is like the time of the Judges
- Current generation sees no relevance to their past
- Holy War is unlike any other kind of war
- Declared by God, not men
- The **OUTCOME** is not the issue, the **PROCESS** is the issue
- Law of Herem
- Holy War does not end at a treaty table
- Holy War ends when God's people obey and evil is eradicated



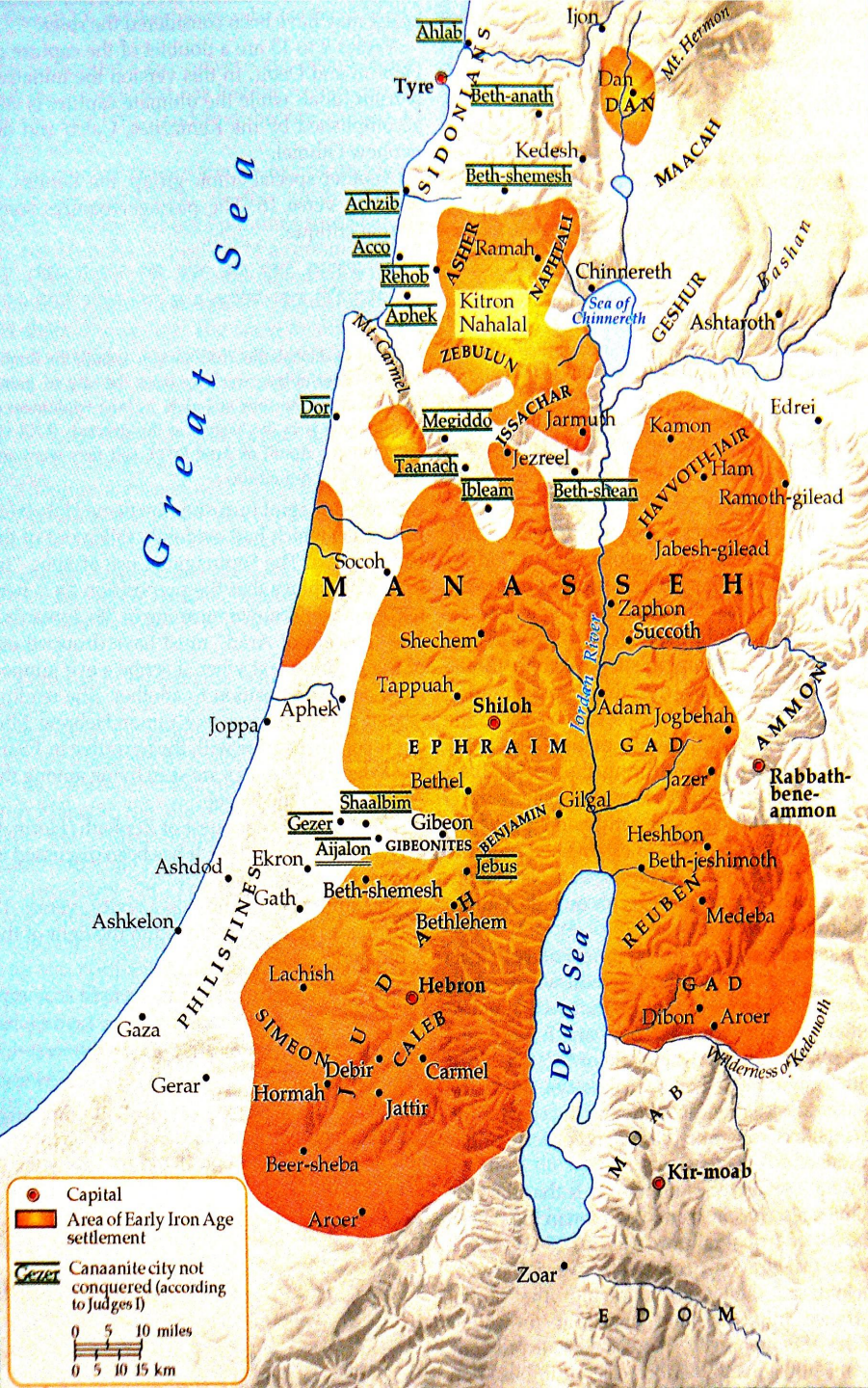
SPIRITUAL WAR

- **PRINCIPLE:** The Lord will **FORCE** all Believers to learn the art of war!
- It will involve **PHYSICAL** acts, danger, personal sacrifice
- There **ARE** no cushy jobs behind the front lines in God's Army
- Will we serve, or will we hide?
- Israel **TRIED** to make peace, but the Lord would **NOT** allow it



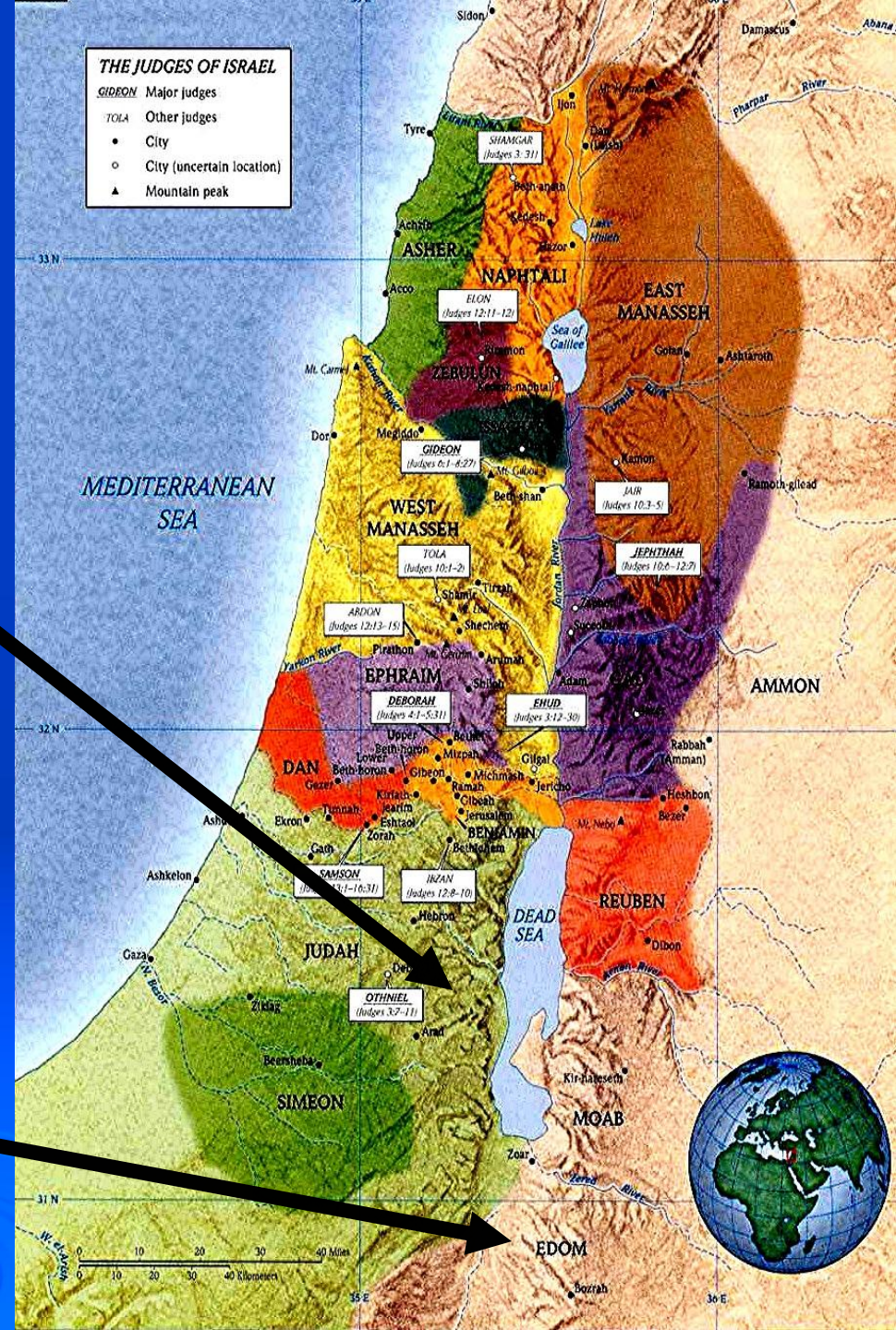
THE NATIONS THAT REMAINED

- 5 Philistine kings, the southern sea coast
- Sidonians, the northern sea coast
- Hivites, northern hill country
- God said that Israel was doing evil, but THEY said they were not!
- Idolatry was at the bottom of Israel's disobedience



KUSHAN- RISH'ATAYM

- Descendant of Cush
- Means “double-wicked Cushite”
- Attacked the southern tribes of Israel
- Edom and Aram get transposed in the Bible
- Edom = ת ד
- Aram = א ד
- Kushan was from the area of Edom, not Aram



OTHNIEL, AKHSAH AND CALEB

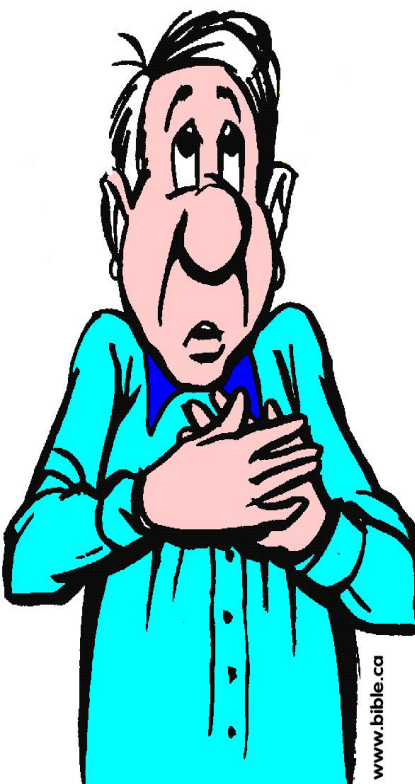


- The Judges Pattern:
- His people sin, God punishes them with oppression, people cry out to God, God has pity and raises up a Savior
- Savior = *yahshah*
- Othniel the 1st Judge
- Younger brother of Caleb, husband of Caleb's daughter



THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Vs. 10** “...*The spirit of YHWH came upon him*”
- Holy Spirit UPON, Holy Spirit AROUND, Holy Spirit DWELLING IN
- Spirit creates life in nature and in humans
- In Humans, Spirit operates to create the life spark for physical life
- Also provides the means for eternal spiritual life



SPIRIT AN ENABLING POWER ON THE JUDGES



- A power given for a task that could not happen in God's will otherwise
- Judges 6:34 “..the spirit of YHWH covered Gideon..”
- Judges 3:10 “..the spirit of YHWH came upon him...”
- **Hayyah** = came upon
- **Labesh** = covered
- Since the Shavuot after Yeshua died, the work of the Spirit DWELLING WITHIN US fundamentally changes our souls, so we can be with God



THE NEW GENERATION



- Othniel defeated Kushan-Rish'atayim
- Israel was at rest for 40 years until Othniel died
- It is the pattern in Judges that one or two generations pass and after the death of a Judge, they apostize
- Vs. 12 begins a new cycle of apostasy that always centers on IDOLATRY!



APOSTIZING SHOWS UP IN OUR BEHAVIOR and OUR CHOICES



- Apostizing is to break faith with God, not to completely renounce Him
- When Israel looked no different than the Canaanites, God acted **HARSHLY!**
- If we are outwardly indistinguishable from the World, then how must God see us?

