

# JUDGES 5: THE SONG OF DEBORAH



- We are re-living the era of the Judges
- Biblical “Song” exaggerates and takes liberties with words and phrases
- Songs capture moods, and must be understood in the context of the historical time they were written
- Song of Deborah is a victory song of Barak and Israel over Sisera and the Canaanites

## THE ELDERS IN ANCIENT ISRAEL

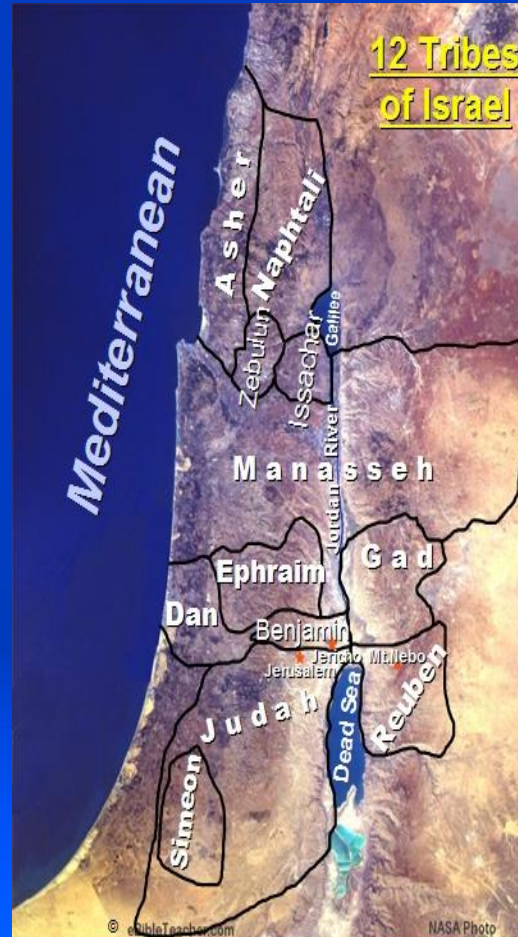


# LEADERSHIP

- Deborah blames Israel's lack of leadership for their present circumstances
- She also extols the virtues of those who have risen up to lead Israel to fight the good fight
- Leaders are NOT to follow their own humanitarian ideologies, but RATHER they are to obey the Word of God
- Roadmap to Peace, giving up land, is a wrong minded attempt of a President to be fair and promote peace according to his own values, apart from God

# ROLL CALL OF THE TRIBES

- Some Israelite tribes accepted Deborah's call to arms, others didn't
- Deborah was the Prophet, while Barak was the Deliverer
- Israel was in a state of apathy at this time
- Ephraim "rooted in Amalek"
- May be copyist error of the word "*emek*"
- Ephraim was Joshua's and Deborah's tribe with NO connection to Amalek



## Twelve Tribes of Israel

Manasseh	Asher
Naphtali	Zebulun
Issachar	Gad
Ephraim	Dan
Benjamin	Reuben
Simeon	Judah

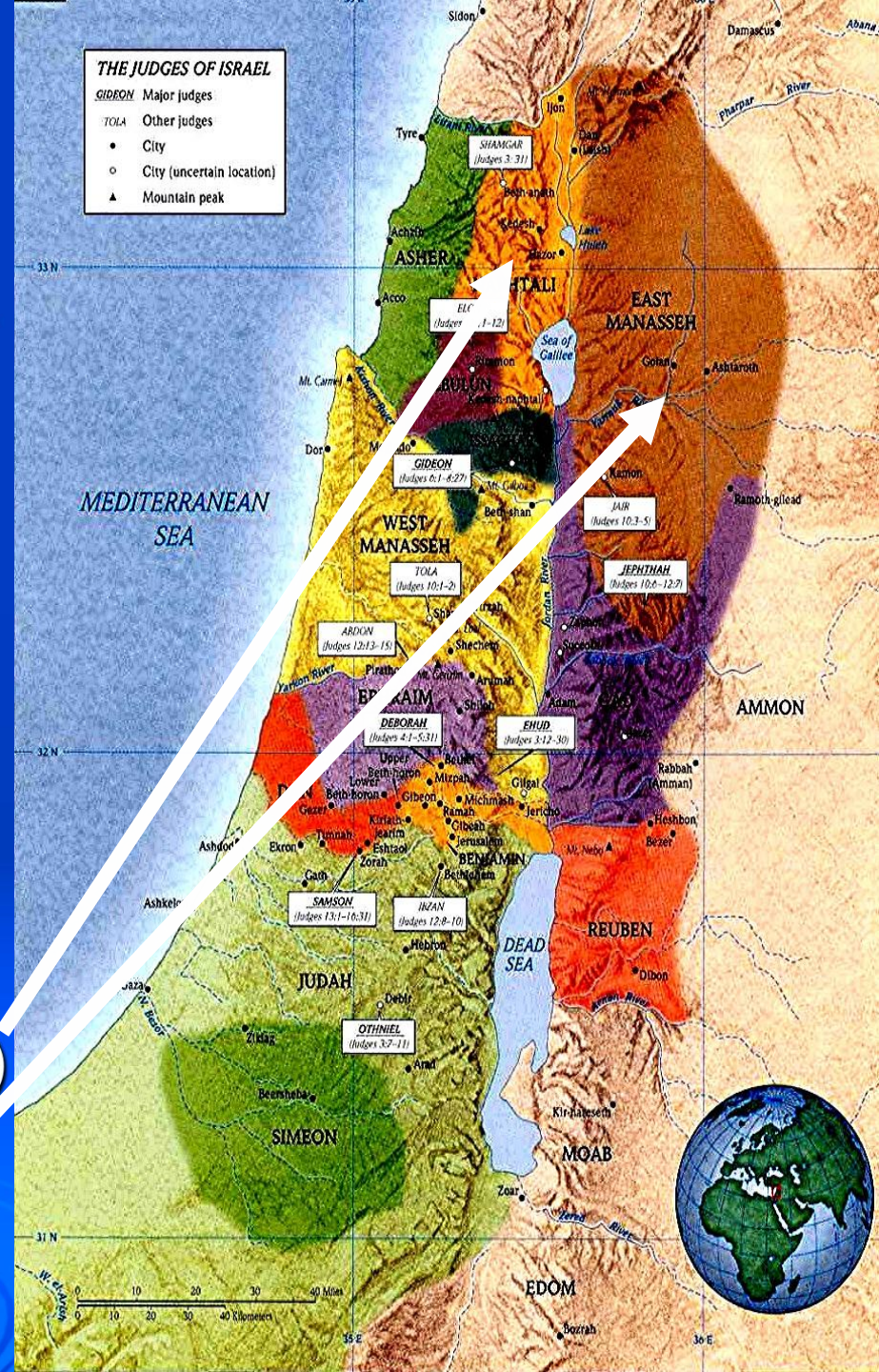
# BENJAMIN

- King Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin
- Rabbis say that mention of Benjamin is prophetic, when Saul would fight to claim more territory
- “Behind” may be a geographical reference
- Looking from the north, Benjamin is “behind” Ephraim



# MAKHIR = MANESSAH

- Tribe of Manessah went by the name of Makhir in Deborah's era
- Makhir was Manasseh's only son
- The clan of Makhir stayed on the EAST side of the Jordan
- Tribe of Makhir (Manessah) located on BOTH side of the Jordan River



# THE MUSTERER'S STAFF?



- Zevulun comes holding the “musterer’s staff”
- KJV says “pen of the writer”
- Literally says, “*..the rod of they who handle the pen of the scribe...*”
- The rod of the Scribe was his PEN
- This is NOT referring to Scribes, but to merchants who also used a pen

# REUBEN REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN HOLY WAR

- Beginning with Reuben a group of tribes is listed that will not fight
- *Peleggah* = divisions of rivers
- Reuben sat by the brooks and discussed the matter
- Decided to stay safe and sound in the Trans-Jordan
- Reuben was disavowing his obligations to support his brothers



# ALL TRANS-JORDAN TRIBES REFUSE TO HELP

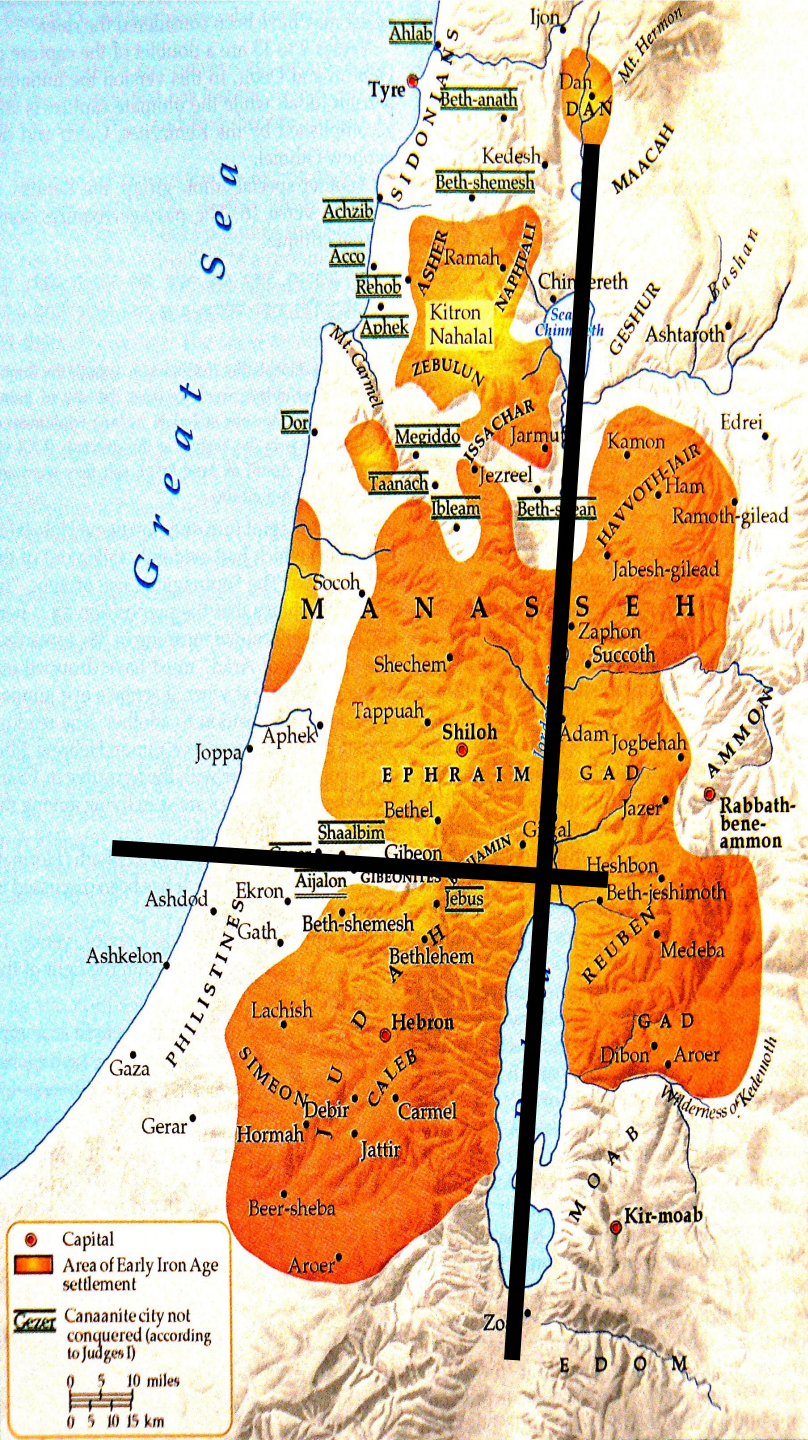
- In Moses' day 2 ½ tribes decided to settle on the EAST side of the Jordan
- 9 ½ tribes went on into the Promised Land
- The 2 ½ tribes were now in process of disassociating themselves from the other Israelite tribes
- Dan had formed an alliance with Phoenicia
- Asher lived on the seacoast and traded with the gentiles





# A FRACTURED ISRAEL

- A north versus south mentality had formed in Canaan, and then an east versus west division also arose
- Gad, Reuben, 1/2 Manessah was the east and all others were the west
- Judah, Simeon the south
- Benjamin vacillated between north and south
- Remainder were the north



# LET SOMEBODY ELSE DO IT!!



- 6 ½ of the tribes of Israel decided to “let somebody else do it”
- Didn’t want their everyday comforts interrupted
- Reuben discussed it, but ultimately decided to take the easy way
- Asher and Dan had ties with the “world” and didn’t want to risk those profitable relationships
- Gad and the Trans-Jordan tribes wanted to keep their Hebrew identity, but hoped they could stay separate and dodge any troubles

# THE BATTLE

- Vs. 19 about the Canaanite coalition army
- Stars in heaven a metaphor for Angels
- Kishon River was BOTH the place of the war AND God's vehicle for victory!
- Without doubt the Kishon overflowed from an enormous flash flood
- The immobilized chariots were easy prey for the Israelite foot soldiers

