

JUDGES: A DOWNWARD SPIRAL

- God sets down immutable patterns and cycles
- The end of the era of Judges is marked by the anointing of a king
- The end of our present era will be marked by the anointing of a king
- The world cannot understand our crumbling foundation of confusion and immorality
- But Believers are without excuse!

ISRAEL:

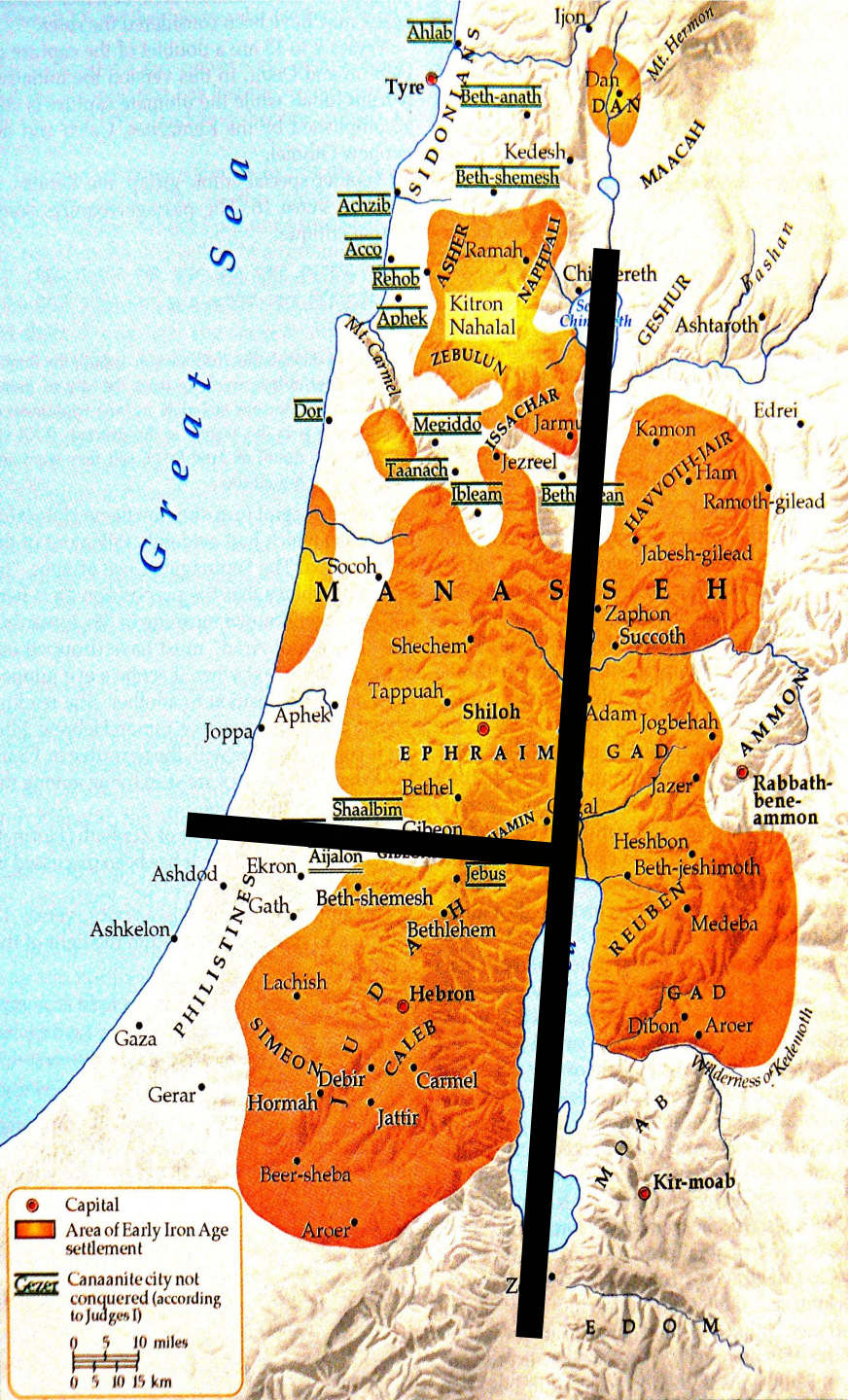
***God's
Timepiece***

ONLY SECONDS
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!!

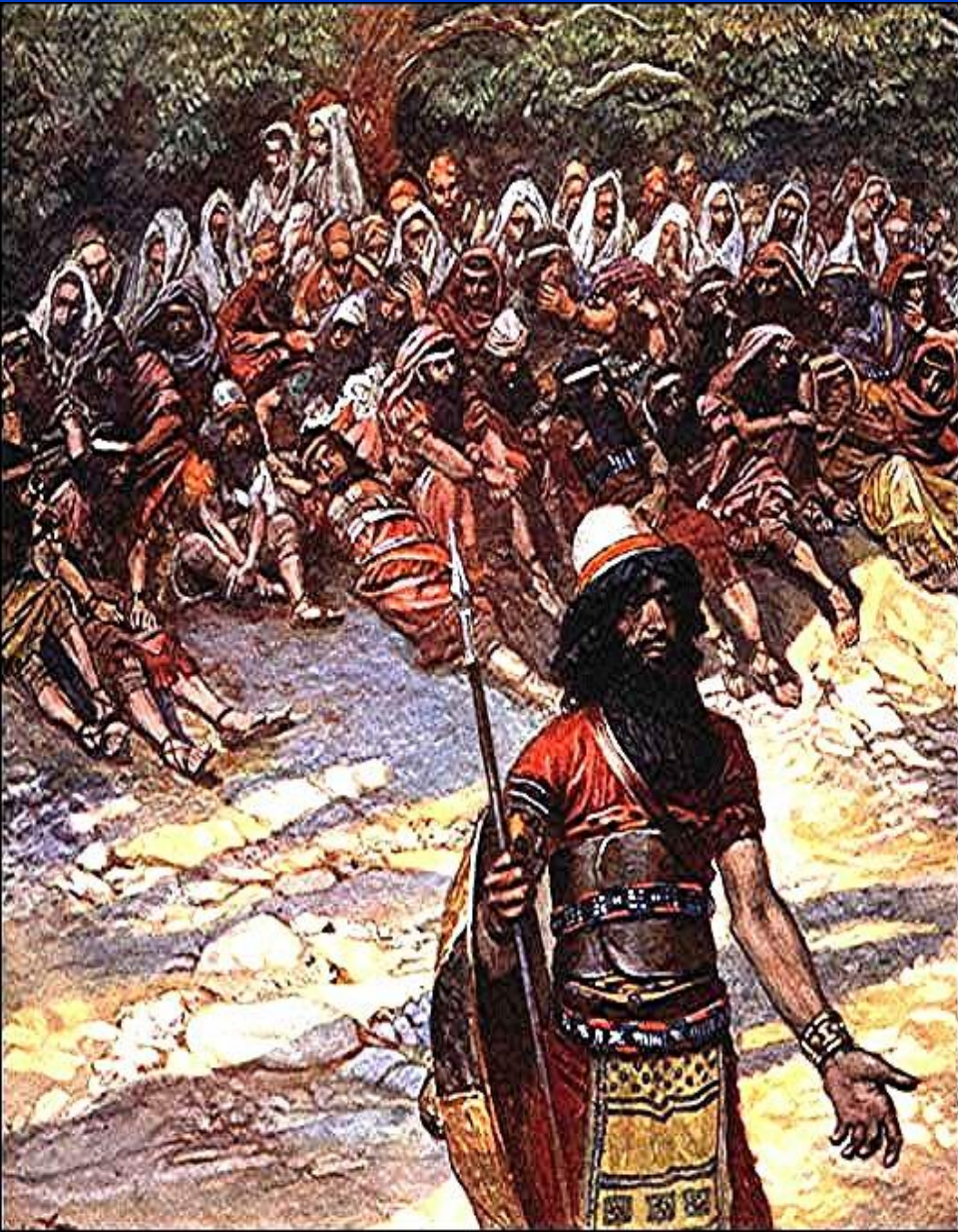


EPHRAIM'S COMPLAINT

- Ephraim made a phony complaint to Gideon that they weren't included
- Gideon forced to kowtow to Ephraim to avoid inter-tribal war
- Promised Land divided into loyalties
- Judah in the south
- Ephraim in the north
- 2 ½ tribes to the east, 9 ½ tribes to the west



ZEVACH AND TZALMUNA



- Gideon and the 300 pursued the remaining 15,000 enemy to Karkor
- Events took place on the EAST side of the Jordan
- Midianites were now a prominent nation, but Gideon essentially wiped them out
- Gideon returned to Succoth and Penuel to exact revenge

SUCCOTH AND PENUEL'S POOR CHOICE

- To not aid Gideon in the Holy War was a great sin against God
- To NOT stand with Israel and with God, is to REBEL against Him!
- Neutrality is not a legitimate option
- It is the Torah where God's divine principles are established and explained



THE VALUE OF PERSISTENCE

- Gideon is one of the finest examples of persistence
- The current enemies of Israel weren't even supposed to exist today!
- Only 8% of the Midianite forces remained, but Gideon still determined to eradicate them
- The biggest source of Gideon's discouragement was NOT the enemy, it was his brethren!



NEVER GIVE UP

ISRAEL STANDS ON THE FRONT LINES

Israel doesn't need your sympathy...

I S R A E L



NEEDS YOU!

- 200 million Arabs and 1 Billion Muslims surround 6 million Jews!
- You and I are at relatively small risk compared to them
- We are (as were Succoth and Penuel) only being asked to support Israel with money and love
- God's vengeance WILL be manifest on those who refuse to stand with Israel

GIDEON THE BLOOD AVENGER

- *“Tell me about the men you killed at Tabor...”*
- Those killed at Mt. Tabor were Gideon's siblings
- The killings were unjust so Gideon would execute the 2 Midianite leaders
- **Yeter**, Gideon's son, didn't have the courage to execute the leaders

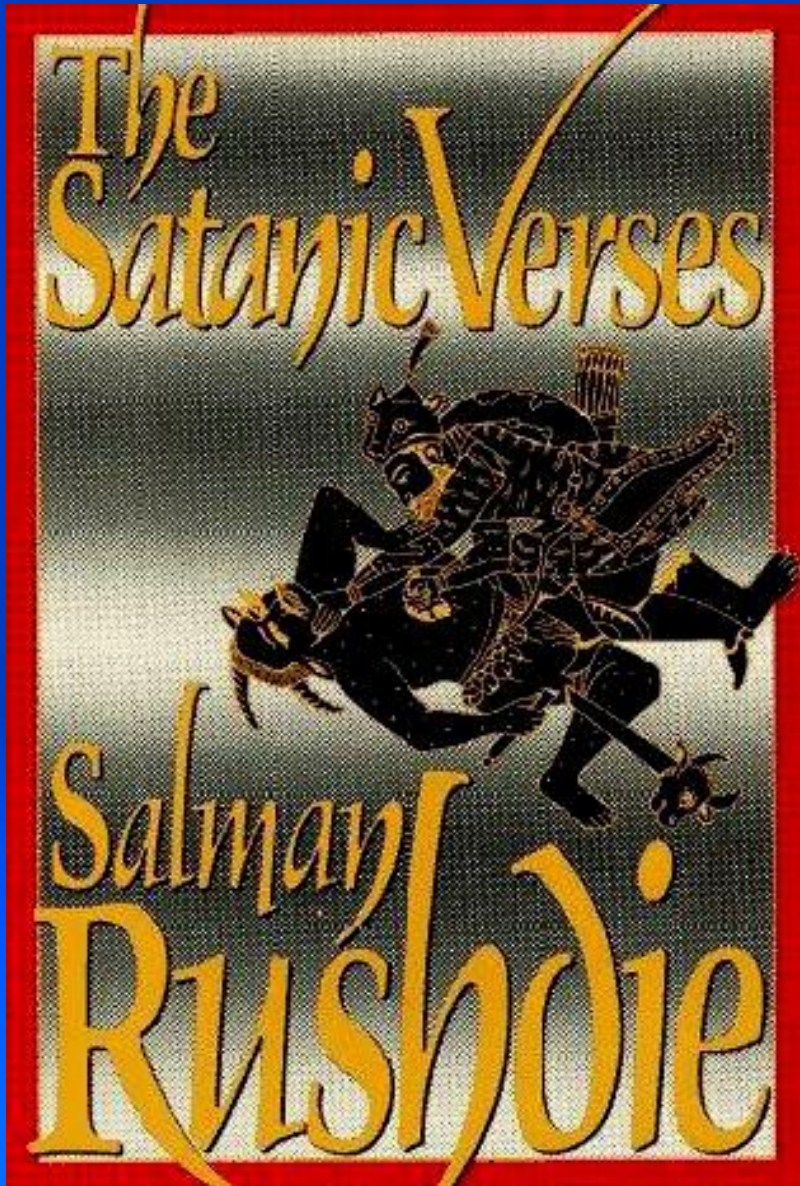


THE CRESCENTS

- Gideon took the ornamental crescents as spoils of war
- Islam's symbol is the crescent moon
- Mohammed born in 6th century A.D.
- Sabeans were moon-god worshippers
- By 1300 B.C. (time of Gideon), Arabs were already worshipping the moon-god

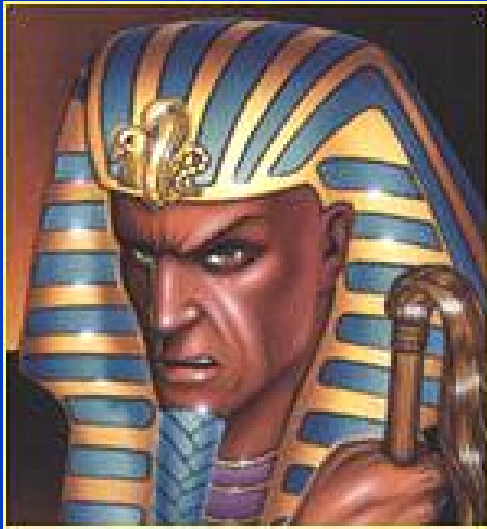


ISLAM'S TIES TO THE MOON-GOD



- Islam became embarrassed about their moon-god beginnings
- Satanic Verses removed from Koran by some Muslim sects
- Over 3000 years ago moon-god worshipping Ishmaelites were doing violence to Israel
- History is cyclical!

THE DESIRE FOR A KING



- Purpose for era of the Judges was to convince Israel that a king was needed
- First God approved king was David, the next God approved king will be Yeshua
- Some tribal leaders of Israel asked Gideon to be their king
- Gideon refused and told them that YHWH was their king

THE WORLD WANTS A KING

- Israel was desirous of a continuing leadership
- A Judge ONLY arose AFTER foreign oppression began
- Our world system is not being changed by coup, but by a series of crises
- Europe hailed Obama as almost a global Messiah
- The world will soon anoint a man as king: the Anti-Christ
- Not long thereafter God will send His king, Yeshua



GIDEON MAKES AN EPHOD



- Gideon was intrigued by the trappings of royalty
- Gideon asks for tribute in the form of all the earrings that were taken from the enemy
- Gideon established himself as a kind of High Priest, with headquarters in Ofrah
- The priesthood was not functioning well at this time
- The people eventually made Gideon's ephod an object of worship

GIDEON HAS 70 WIVES!



- Only a wealthy man can have a harem of 70 wives
- Earlier Gideon told God he couldn't be Israel's savior because his family was poor
- Also had a concubine from Shechem who produced a son
- ***Avimelech*** was NOT illegitimate, but did have a lower status

AVIMELECH: THE FATHER IS KING



- Gideon lived to a ripe old age and then died
- Immediately after Gideon's death Israel returned to idolatry
- OFFICIALLY claimed Ba'al Brit as their god
- ***Avimelech*** is a title NOT a name
- Astounding how fast a person, family, or nation can forget God's blessings
- Israel could not resist Ba'al because they lived among Canaanites
- NEVER overlook the power of Satan to bring delusion!