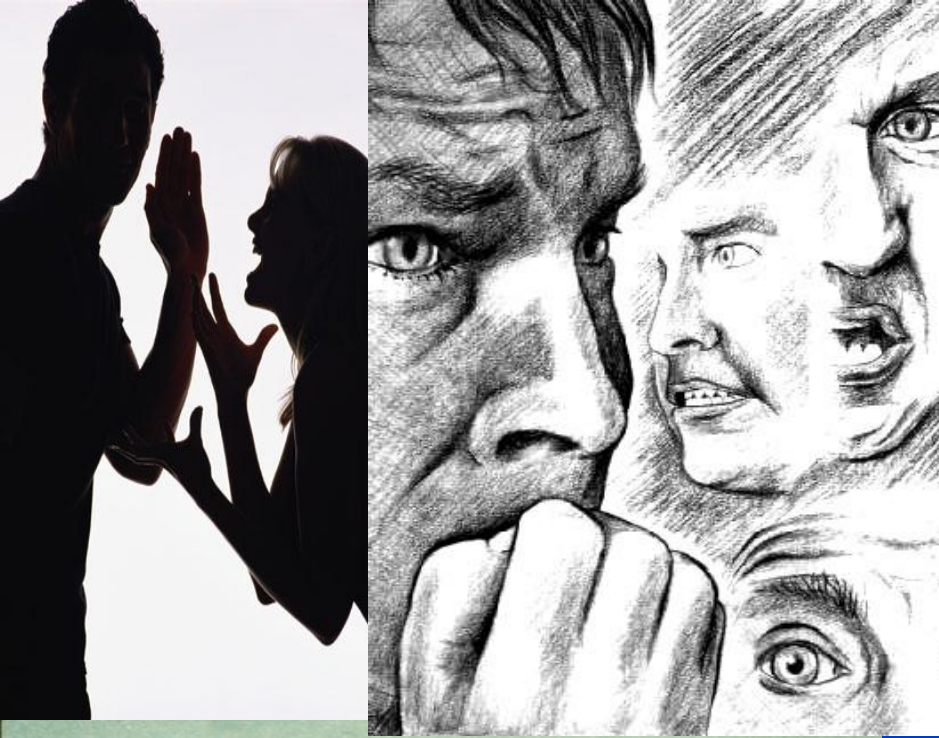


A TIME OF TRANSITION

- 5 “minor” Judges lived before or during the time of Jephthah
- Israel was transitioning from a typical tribal structure towards a monarchy
- Transition periods messy and full of turmoil
- Israel was in a state of deteriorating morality, values, and faithfulness to YHWH



NATIONAL APOSTASY

- Vs. 6 is the general condition of ALL Israel
- Idolatry was the result of syncretism
- Israel chose to show tolerance and respect for the Canaanites rather than drive them out
- “From God’s perspective”
- Humans have an amazing capacity to rationalize bad behavior
- People rarely ever think they are doing evil at the time they are doing it!

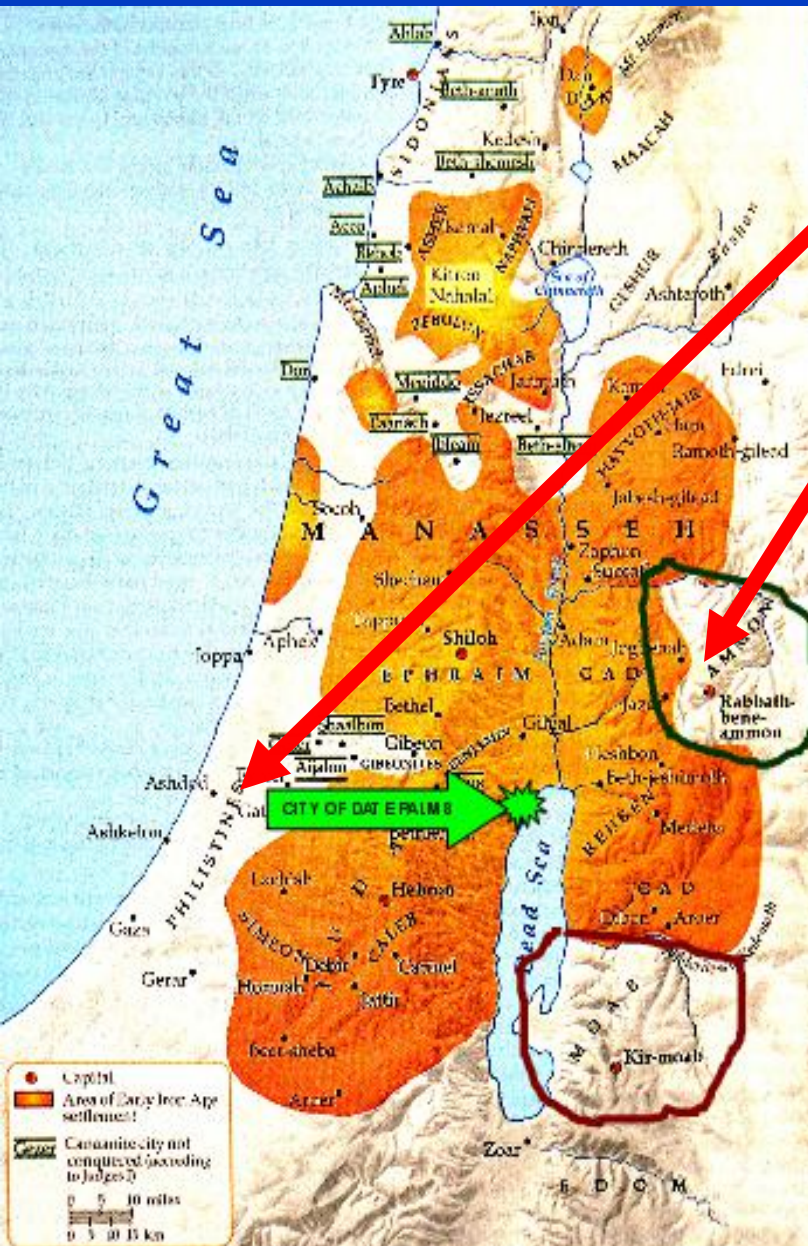


LOTS OF GODS TO CHOOSE FROM

- Choice depended on where a person lived
- Canaan : Ba'al Ashtoreth
- Syria: Hadoth, Ba'al, Moath and Anath
- Moab: Chemosh
- Phillistia: Dagon
- Israel did NOT stop worshipping YHWH, that added other gods to their worship
- God calls this illicit mixing of other gods “abandoning Him”

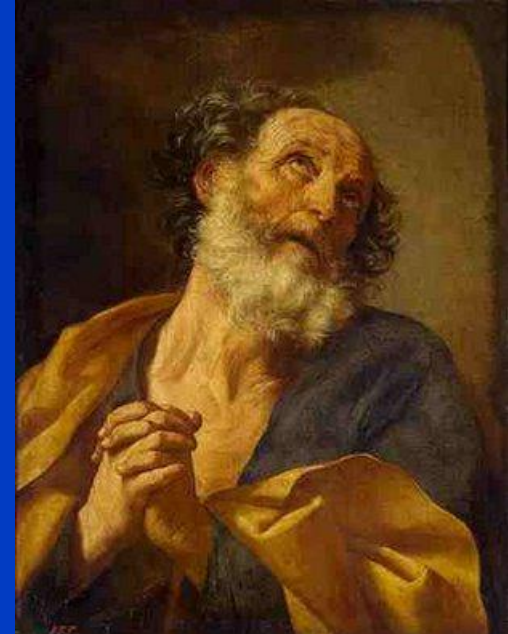


ISRAEL CAUGHT IN A VISE

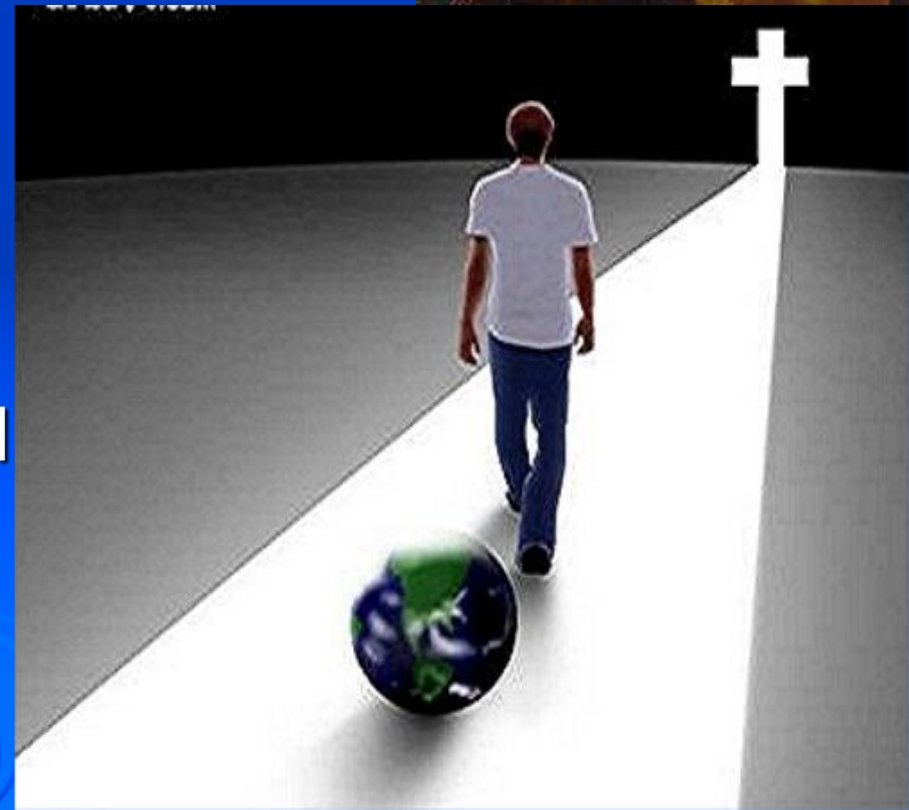


- Philistines pressed Israel from the west
- Ammonites pressed Israel from the east
- Israel under tribulation for 18 years before they cried out to God
- Crying to God for help has no merit without our being in proper relationship with Him

THE NATURE OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE



- Confession = agreeing with God that we have broken His commandments
- Repentance = is NOT a promise to do better
- Repentance is REAL CHANGE
- God would not rescue Israel until they rid themselves of the false gods they worshipped



GILEAD



- Israel's army located in Mizpah
- Ammon's army in Gilead
- Israel did not have field general
- Chiefs of Israel sat in council and decided they would offer whoever would be the general to position of "head" over Gilead



JUDGES 11: STORY OF YIFTACH

- **Yiftach** = Jephthah
- Jephthah a Hebrew man, but a son of a prostitute
- **Yiftach** driven out of his father's household by his brothers (legitimate sons of Gideon)
- **Ishshah zonah** = female harlot.....NOT a concubine
- Children of prostitutes were social outcasts
- Gideon's other sons did not want to share their inheritance



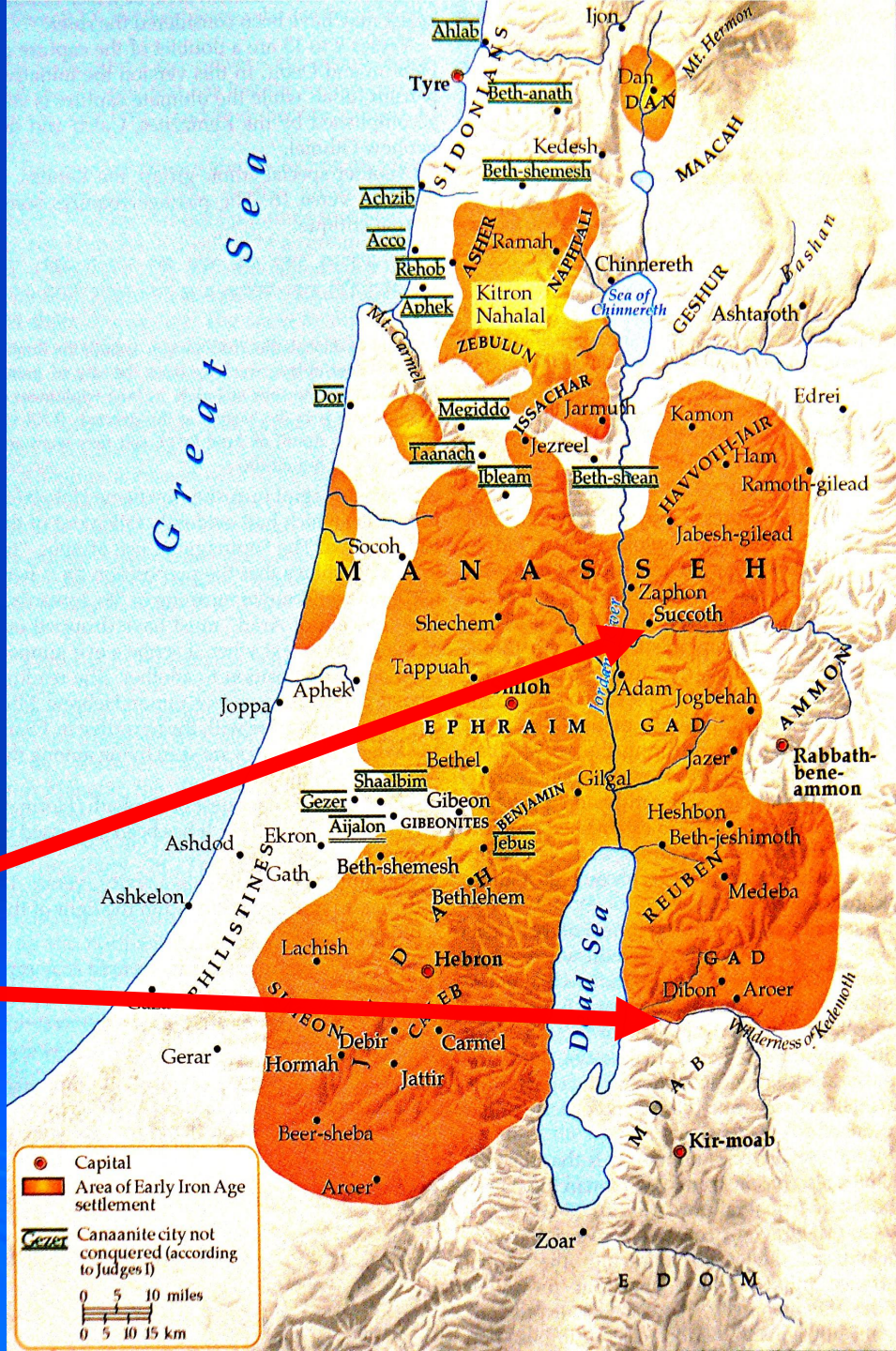
COUNCIL OF CHIEFS MAKE A CONVENANT WITH JEPHTHAH

- *Yiftach* went to Tov to live, and there formed a “gang”
- Ammonites make war on Israel
- Israel Council seeks *Yiftach* to come back and lead Israel against Ammon
- *Yiftach* to become the “head” over Gilead as a reward if victorious



AMMON'S FALSE CLAIMS TO ISRAEL

- *Yiftach* attempts to negotiate with the king of Ammon
- *Yiftach* responds to the king as a patriot, not a mercenary
- Jabbok, northern border
- Arnon, southern border
- Amorites and Ammonites NOT related





- Ammon NEVER held the territory they now claim
- Yiftach says Israel did NOT conquer Moab and Ammon because God instructed them not to
- During Exodus, Israel marched around Edom, Moab, and Ammon
- Sichon, king of the AMORITES attacked Israel
- Israel won and took the territory that the Amorites held

THE REASONS JEPHTHAH SAYS AMMON HAS NO LEGAL CLAIM

- Israel did NOT attack Edom, Moab, or Ammon
- The Amorites who controlled that region made war against Israel
- Israel beat the Amorites so Israel took control of the Amorites' territory
- Since the God of Israel won the battle, Israel had no obligation to turn the land over to Ammon
- Israel should live where the God of Israel is god of the land
- Ammon should live where the god of Ammon is god of the land

ILLEGITIMATE CLAIMS TO THE LAND

- The story of Jephthah is being replayed in our era
- Perhaps someone might have a reasonable claim over Israel's land, but it is NOT Ammon
- Palestinians never existed before 1967
- Never possessed Israel's land, never conquered it, never ruled over it
- Media and Arab League created the myth of the "Palestinians"

