

I Samuel 4-7

Historical Books II
Lecture #4

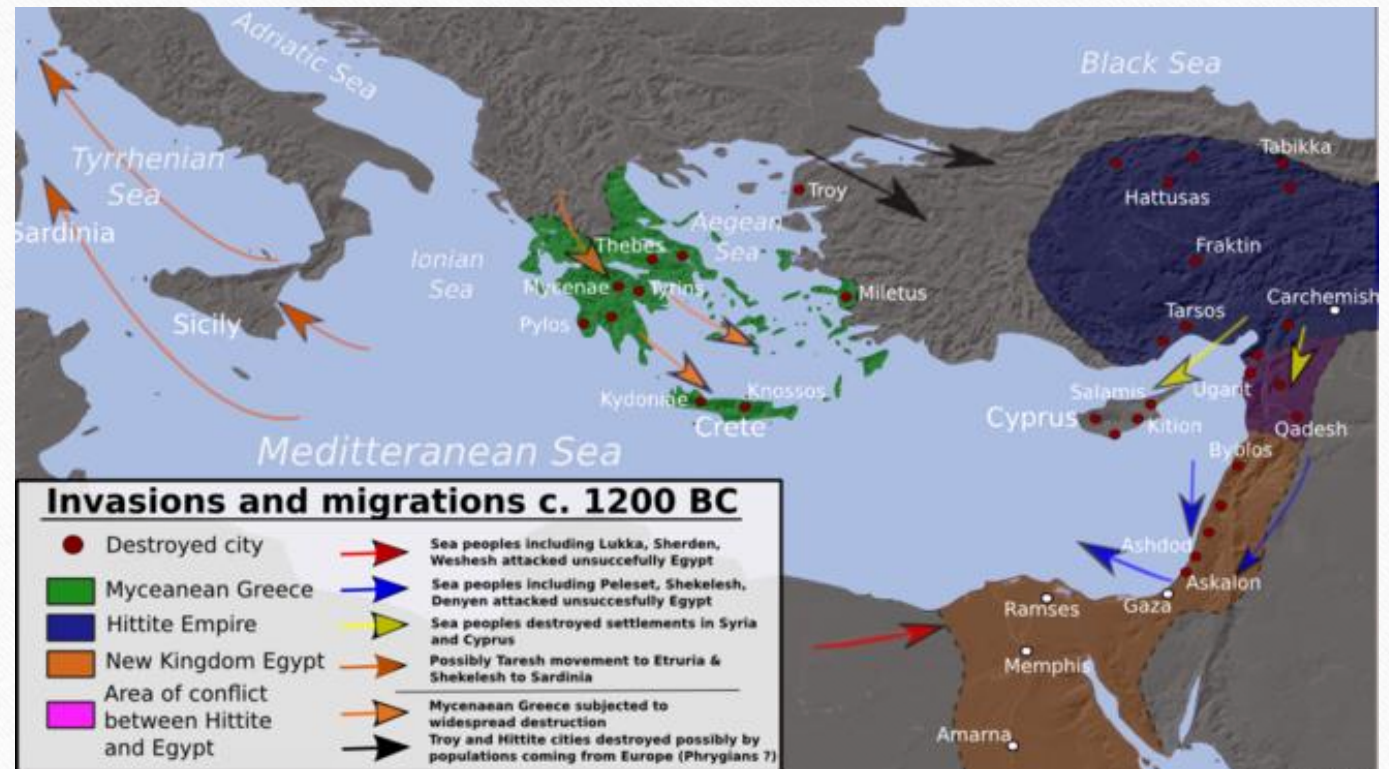
I Samuel

Chapter 4

The Ark of the Covenant is Lost

The Philistines

- Part of the “Sea Peoples” that invaded much of the Mediterranean world around 1200 B.C.
- Sometimes identified as the *Peleset*.
- DNA tests confirm a European link.



The Philistines

- They absorb some local culture through syncretism and intermarriage.
- They do very “proto-Greek” things:
 - They have a confederacy of cities (a *pentapolis*): Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath
 - They engage in heroic one-on-one combat.
- The Trojan War of *The Iliad* is thought by some to be around 1200 B.C.

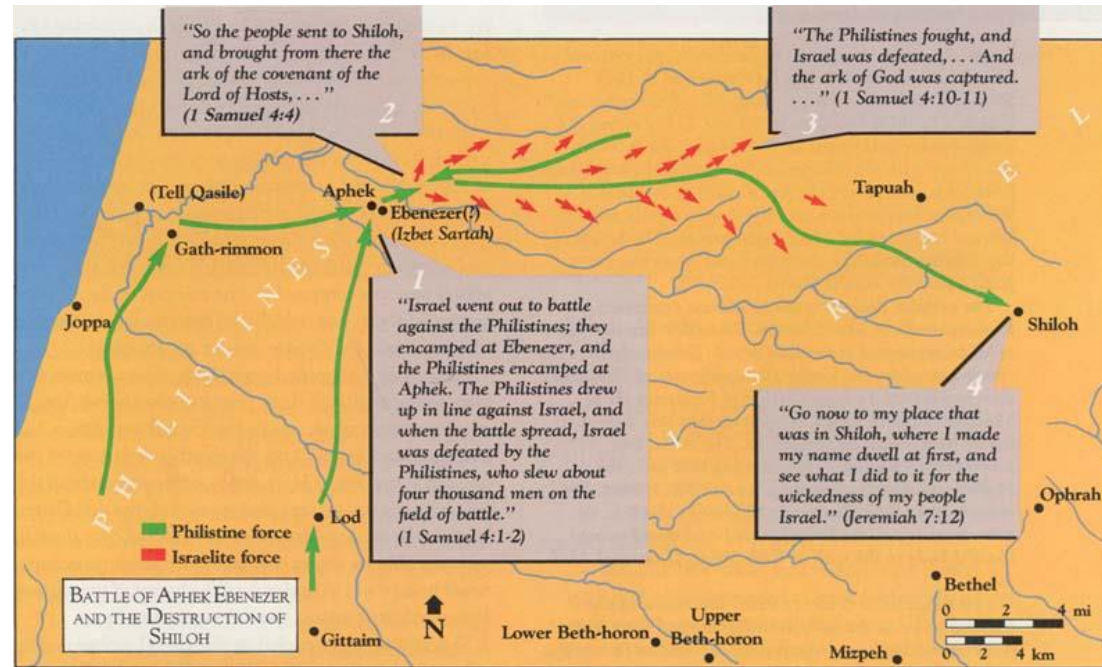


On Ancient Warfare

- Very different than modern or even Classical times.
- No standard uniform or armament
- No true standing army - men answered call to arms and gathered.
- Little organization
- Two sides faced off and met in chaotic melee combat.



Battle of Aphek



- The first encounter sees 4,000 Israelites killed
- The Ark is brought from Shiloh.
- The second encounter sees 30,000 Israelites killed, the Ark lost, and Hophni and Phinehas slain.
- It appears that Shiloh was destroyed by the advancing Philistines.

Eli and Ichabod

- Eli dies after hearing about the loss of the Ark.
- Phinehas's wife gives birth and names the boy *Ichabod*, meaning “no glory”. This highlights the disastrous day.



WHY DID THIS HAPPEN? – Psalm 78

⁵⁶ Yet they [Israel] tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

⁵⁷ But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

⁵⁸ For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.



WHY DID THIS HAPPEN? – Psalm 78

⁵⁹ When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel:

⁶⁰ So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men;

⁶¹ And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand.

⁶² He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance.

⁶³ The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage.

⁶⁴ Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation.

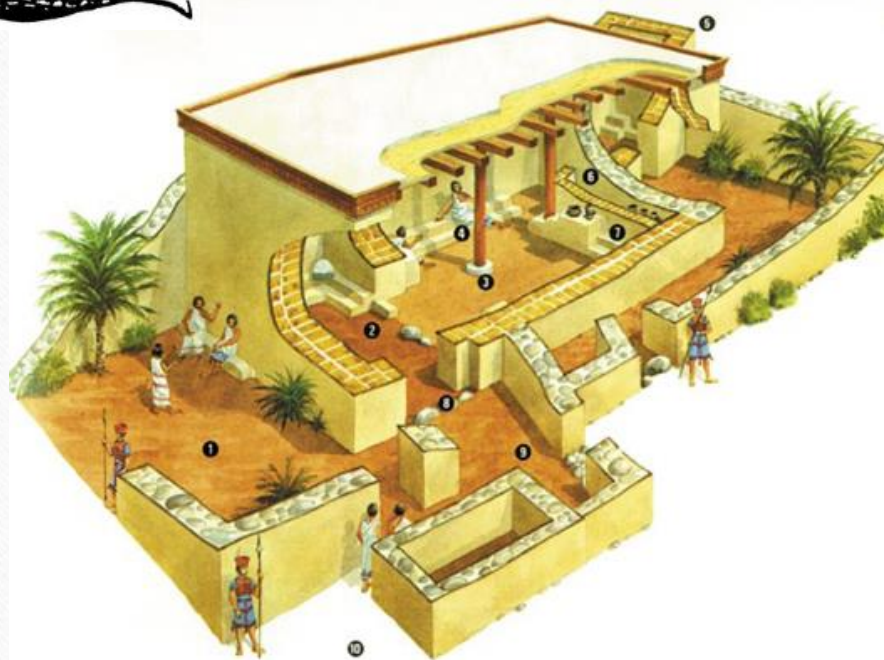
I Samuel

Chapter 5

The Ark in Philistia



Temple of Dagon at *Tel Qasile*

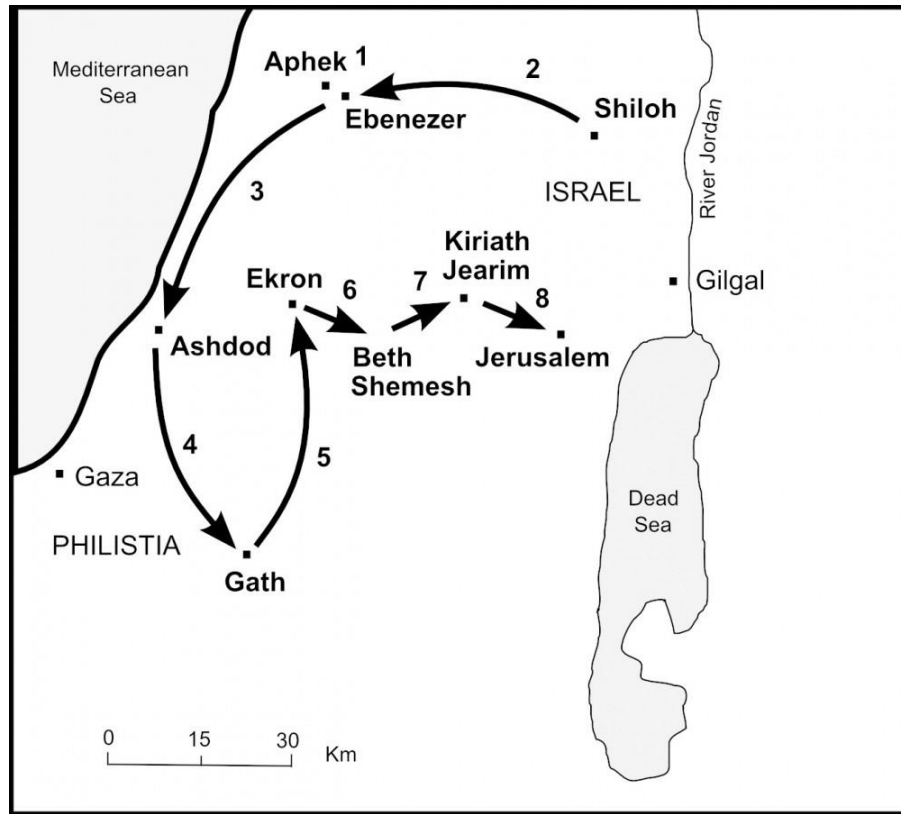


Great Events of Bible Times, ed. James Harpur (London: Marshall Editions, 1987), p. 69



David A. Dosev

Travels of the Ark



I Samuel

Chapter 6

The Ark of the Covenant is Returned

The Ark Returned

- Following heathen customs, a “we’re sorry” offering of five golden mice and five golden emeralds are sent.
- Placed on a new cart pulled by two nursing milk cows.



The Ark at Bethschemesh

- A city of Levites – Joshua 21:16
- They look in the Ark.
 - The only person allowed to see the Ark is the High Priest on the Day of Atonement.
 - It was covered when it was moved.



How many died?

- Reese- “Many people have found issue with this verse, thinking the number 50,070 would be too high for a small village population. However, the Hebrew text separates out 50,000 Philistines (I Sa 5:11) and 70 men of Bethshemesh, to indicate the total number afflicted.”
- 50,000 Philistines from the plague(s)
- 70 Israelites in Bethshemesh

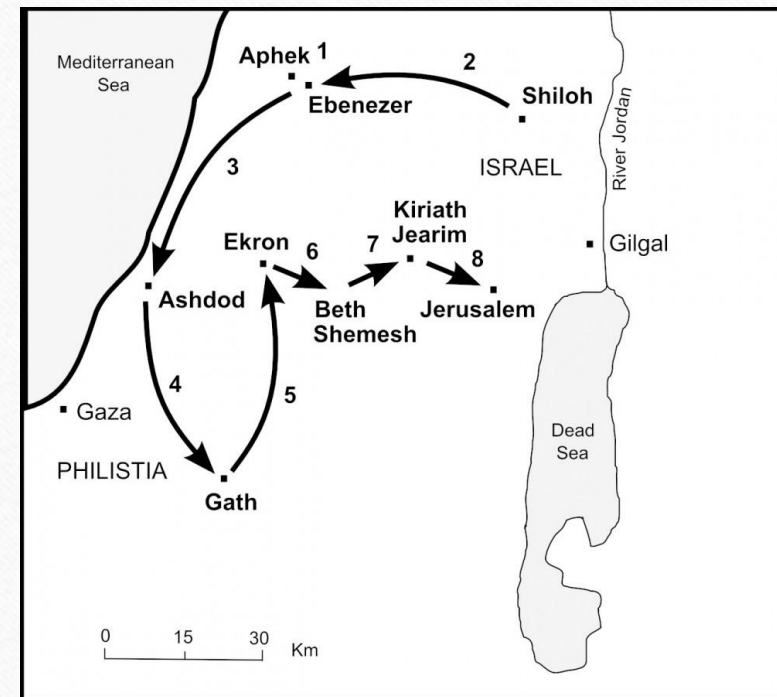
I Samuel

Chapter 7

The Revival at Mizpeh

The Ark at Kirjathjearim

- The Ark will stay in the house of Abinadab for the next 75 years.
- The 20 years in vs. 2 is between vs. 2 and 3, not the total time the Ark is there.

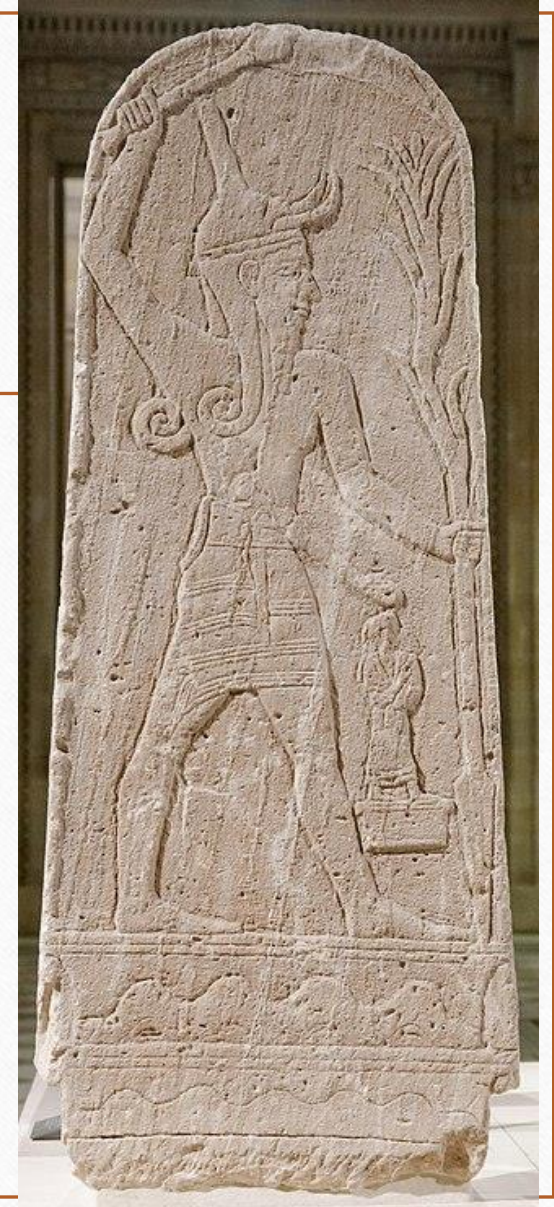


Mizpeh



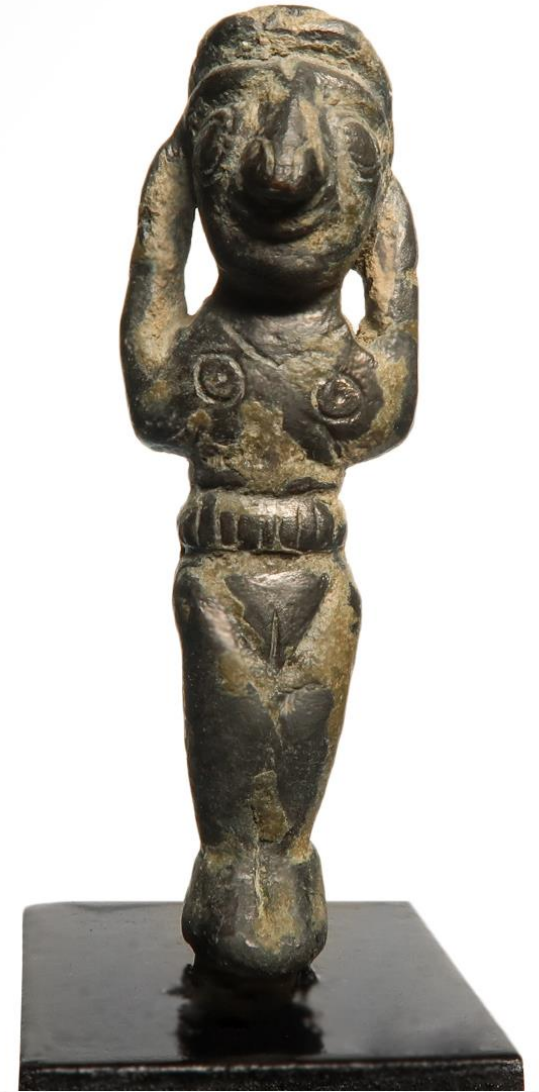
Baal

- Name means “lord” or “master”
- Very common and popular god with many localized versions.
- Associated with sun, storms, and fertility.
- Somewhat equates to the Greek Zeus



Ashtaroth

- Modern spelling *Astarte*
- Somewhat equates to Babylonian Ishtar and the Greek Aphrodite.
- Associated with fertility and moon.
- It is believed that she was worshipped as an idol carved onto a tree trunk, leading to her association with groves.



Revival at Mizpeh

- Verse 6
 - They willingly gathered
 - They poured water out – “a symbolical act showing the undone and helpless condition of Israel”
 - They fasted
 - They confessed their sins.
 - They were judged of Samuel
- I think this is among the greatest revivals to ever place.

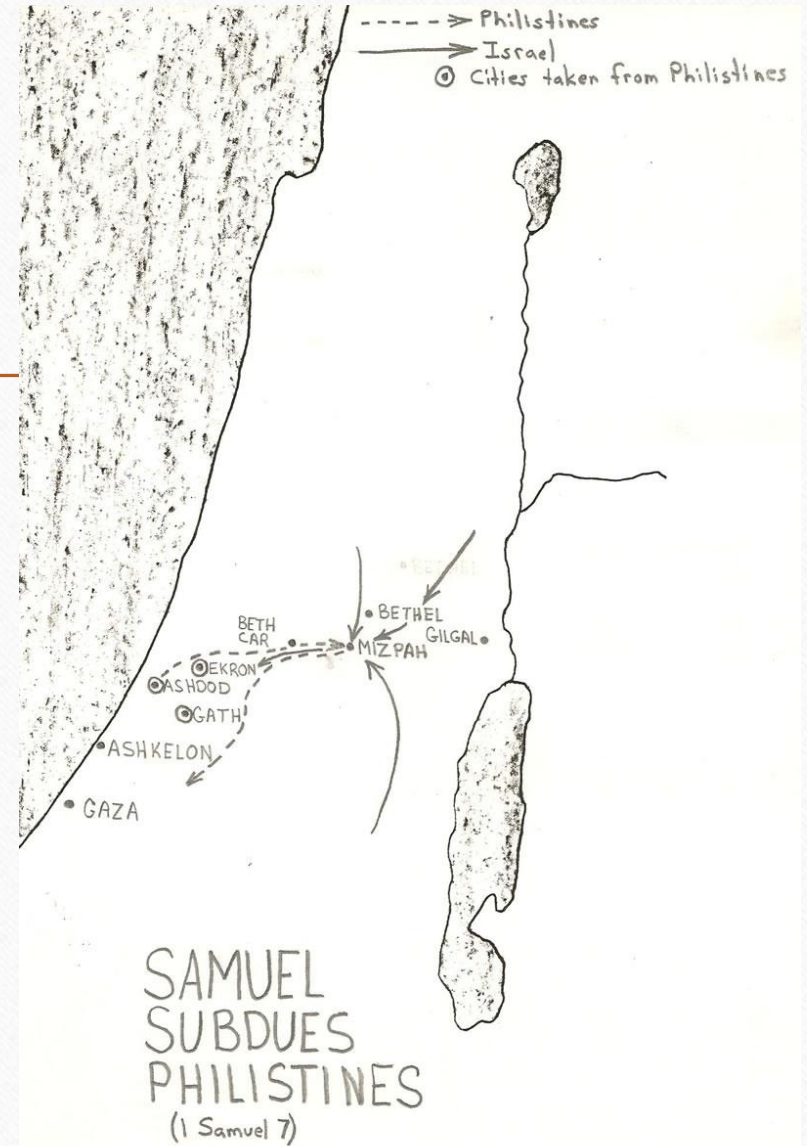
The Philistine Attack

- The Philistines likely fear a revolt and speed to the attack on the gathering.
 - Had Samson just died?
- The Israelites fear.
- Samuel prays and offers sacrifice.
- God hears.



The Great Victory

- God thunders and sends the Philistines into retreat
 - A slap at Baal, the god of storms?
- The Philistines are driven back to their fortified capitals, losing much territory.
- The Philistines are subdued through the days of Samuel.



Samuel's Circuit

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THE MINISTRY OF SAMUEL AND ANOINTMENT OF SAUL

1 SAM. 7:15-17; 9:15-10:1



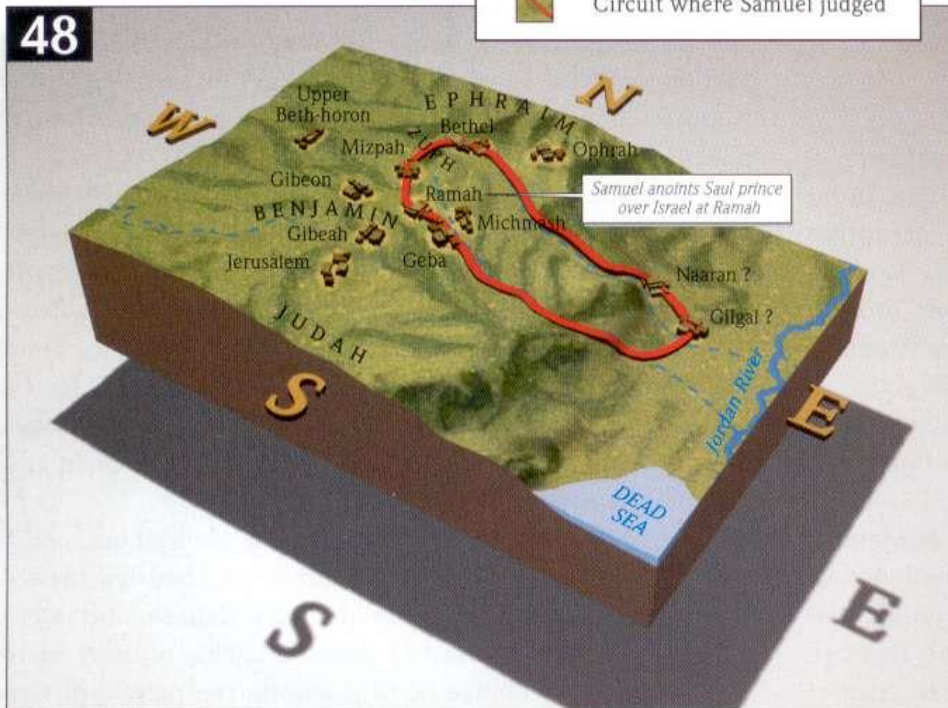
City



Gilgal ? City (uncertain location)



Circuit where Samuel judged



- Samuel lived at Ramah but travelled in a circuit better judge the people.