

13.10 Other Victories (Joshua 10:28–13:6)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to hamstring*: “severing the Achilles tendon of the hind legs of captured horses, making them useless . . . as war horses” (<https://christiananswers.net/dictionary/hough.html>)
- *to devote to destruction*: at the command of God, to destroy totally a city and its inhabitants because of wickedness

Scripture: (ESV)

Joshua 10:28 As for Makkedah, Joshua captured it on that day and struck it, and its king, with the edge of the sword. He devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining. And he did to the king of Makkedah just as he had done to the king of Jericho.

29 Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah and fought against Libnah. 30 And the Lord gave it also and its king into the hand of Israel. And he struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it; he left none remaining in it. And he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

31 Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish and laid siege to it and fought against it. 32 And the Lord gave Lachish into the hand of Israel, and he captured it on the second day and struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it, as he had done to Libnah.

33 Then Horem king of Gezer came up to help Lachish. And Joshua struck him and his people, until he left none remaining. 34 Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon. And they laid siege to it and fought against it. 35 And they captured it on that day, and struck it with the edge of the sword. And he devoted every person in it to destruction that day, as he had done to Lachish.

36 Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron. And they fought against it 37 and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword, and its king and its towns, and every person in it. He left none remaining, as he had done to Eglon, and devoted it to destruction and every person in it.

38 Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned back to Debir and fought against it 39 and he captured it with its king and all its towns. And they struck them with the edge of the sword and devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining. Just as he had done to Hebron and to Libnah and its king, so he did to Debir and to its king.

40 So Joshua struck the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings. He left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the Lord God of Israel commanded. 41 And Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, as far as Gibeon. 42 And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel. 43 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

11:1 When Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph, 2 and to the kings who were in the northern hill country, and in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, and in the lowland, and in Naphoth-dor on the west, 3 to the Canaanites in the east and the west, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites under Hermon in the land of Mizpah. 4 And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on

the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. 5 And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

6 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire." 7 So Joshua and all his warriors came suddenly against them by the waters of Merom and fell upon them. 8 And the Lord gave them into the hand of Israel, who struck them and chased them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far as the Valley of Mizpeh. And they struck them until he left none remaining. 9 And Joshua did to them just as the Lord said to him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

10 And Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword, for Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms. 11 And they struck with the sword all who were in it, devoting them to destruction; there was none left that breathed. And he burned Hazor with fire. 12 And all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua captured, and struck them with the edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded. 13 But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned. 14 And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder. But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed. 15 Just as the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

16 So Joshua took all that land, the hill country and all the Negeb and all the land of Goshen and the lowland and the Arabah and the hill country of Israel and its lowland 17 from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. And he captured all their kings and struck them and put them to death. 18 Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. 19 There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle. 20 For it was the Lord's doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the Lord commanded Moses.

21 And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities. 22 There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain. 23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.

12:1 Now these are the kings of the land whom the people of Israel defeated and took possession of their land beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise, from the Valley of the Arnon to Mount Hermon, with all the Arabah eastward. . . . 6 Moses, the servant of the Lord, and the people of Israel defeated them. And Moses the servant of the Lord gave their land for a possession to the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

7 And these are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the people of Israel defeated on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, that rises toward Seir (and Joshua gave their land to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their allotments, 8 in the hill country, in the lowland, in the Arabah, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the Negeb, the land of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. . . .24 . . . in all, thirty-one kings.

13:2 This is the land that yet remains: all the regions of the Philistines, and all those of the Geshurites 3 (from the Shihor, which is east of Egypt, northward to the boundary of Ekron, it is counted as Canaanite; there are five rulers of the Philistines, those of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron), and those of the Avvim, 4 in the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians, to Aphek, to the boundary of the Amorites, 5 and the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal-gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo-hamath, 6 all the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth-maim, even all the Sidonians..

Introduction/Review:

Israel had basically divided their promised land in two, separating the north from the south, when they had defeated Jericho and Ai (which included Bethel). When five kings and their armies from southern Canaan attacked Gibeon, Israel went to aid Gibeon against them, but God is the One who really helped. How did God fight the battle? [By sending large stones (hailstones) from heaven that slew more enemy soldiers than Israel's soldiers did.] Joshua prayed that the sun would stand still, and it did about an additional day. That miracle gave Israel time to gain victory over the five enemy kingdoms in one l-o-n-g day.

Story:

Southern campaign

The day after Joshua's long day, Israel went out to fight against the following cities in the south and swiftly won battles against them [locate on Map 1]: Makkedah was captured in one day. Libnah was next. It took two days to subdue Lachish, and when the king of Gezer came to help Lachish, Joshua decimated his army also. More cities in the south were Eglon, vanquished in one day; Hebron with its surrounding towns; and Debir with its surrounding towns. ✓The battles at Hebron and Debir might have taken longer than one or two days. So in one campaign of ✓possibly less than one month, Israel had conquered the whole southern region—[locate the following on Map 4] the hill country, the Negeb (also spelled Negev), the lowlands (also called Shephelah, pronounced SHEF ee lah), the slopes (✓east of the hill country), and all their kings. From Kadesh Barnea to Gibeon, Joshua and his men “devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the Lord God of Israel commanded.” Why were they able to do this in ✓just a few weeks? Because “the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel.”

The Israelite army marched back to Camp Gilgal, where ✓they might rest a while with their families.

Northern campaign

Meanwhile, you can imagine the horrible dread being experienced by the rest of the city states—those farther north in Canaan. One king, who ruled Hazor [locate on Map 5] and several other cities, called together several other kings for the purpose of warring against Israel. Listen to this long list of cities and areas [locate on Map 5 or ask students to find]: Madon, Shimron, Achshaph, the northern (Ephraim) hill country, the plains south of Chinneroth (*Ch* is pronounced with a |K| sound; the Sea of Galilee), the lowland or Shephelah, Naphoth-dor or Dor on the west, [locate the following people groups on Map 2] the Canaanites in the east and the west, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites under Mount Hermon. That's a total of fourteen cities and regions, and the Bible states, “All their hosts (were) like sand on the sea shore with very many horses and chariots.”

This huge horde gathered at the waters of Merom [see Map 3], preparing to fight against Israel.

When Joshua heard about this coalition of military forces, the Lord said to him, “Do not be afraid. Tomorrow about this time I will deliver them to you all slain. You will hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.”*

Joshua and Israel wasted no time. They made a surprise attack against the enemy where they were camped at the waters of Merom and put many of them to death. Again, it was the Lord who fought for Israel. The surviving enemy soldiers ran, and Israel struck them, chasing them far away [see Map 3] and striking them down.

Joshua did just as the Lord had said: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots. Then Israel later went back to the city of Hazor and burned it, but they did not burn the other cities. Scripture specifically mentions that fortified cities on hills remained, no doubt ✓for Israelite habitation. The spoils and cattle now belonged to Israel.

Continued fighting

The war to control all the land continued “a long time” and ✓may have lasted as much as seven years (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/joshua-11-18.html>). The Bible states, “There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the inhabitants of Gibeon. Israel took them all in battle.”

Israel destroyed even the giants, known as Anakim. These mighty men also ran away in fright, but many were destroyed. Only a few were left in the [Map 5] Philistine cities of Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

Cause for conquest

Some people have a hard time understanding why Israel would take all these cities by force from the people who already lived there. First in importance in answering this question is the fact that if God said to do it, and He did, we know that He does all things well. Anyone who studies Scripture can see this fact over and over. In fact, God was so involved with this takeover that we read, “It was the Lord’s doing to harden the hearts of the enemies that they should come against Israel in battle.” In other words, Israel, for the most part, did not initiate battles; rather, the nations came out against them, and Israel won those battles.

Another answer is often overlooked. These city states ✓were so wicked that they needed to be destroyed so that the effects of their sin not contaminate society.² God said these people should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy.

Extent of conquest

Thirty-one kings were destroyed. They are listed for us in Joshua 12. Although Joshua conquered most of the land, there were still regions that were not taken at this time. The tribes who would live in certain areas would become responsible for defeating the enemies in those places. [Map 5 shows unconquered land.] Would those tribes defeat their enemies? Would they trust God to fight for them? We will see.

¹“The use of chariots was probably the pinnacle of military technology at the time. In telling the Israelites to essentially destroy the things that could help them, God was telling them that they didn’t need excessive technology or weapons to achieve what they wanted to achieve. They only needed God. If the Israelites were to take and use the horses and chariots of their enemies, they may have ended up trusting in their superior equipment or technology rather than God” (<https://joeldetlefsen.blogspot.com/2010/12/hamstring-horses-and-burn-chariots.html>).

²[For the teacher’s information]: “Their ‘cultic practice was barbarous and thoroughly licentious’ (Unger, 1954, p. 175). Their ‘deities...had no moral character whatever,’ which ‘must have brought out the worst traits in their devotees and entailed many of the most demoralizing practices of the time,’ including sensuous nudity, orgiastic nature-worship, snake worship, and even child sacrifice (Unger, p. 175; cf. Albright, 1940, p. 214). As Moses wrote, the inhabitants of Canaan would ‘burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods’ (Deuteronomy 12:30). The Canaanite nations were anything but ‘innocent.’ In truth, ‘[t]hese Canaanite cults were utterly immoral, decadent, and corrupt, dangerously contaminating and thoroughly justifying the divine command to destroy their devotees’ (Unger, 1988). They were so nefarious that God said they defiled the land and the land could stomach them no longer—‘the land vomited out its inhabitants’ (Leviticus 18:25)” ([Apologetics Press - God’s Just Destruction of the Canaanites](#)).

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

“[Joshua] would hereby give a type and figure of Christ’s victories over the powers of darkness, and believers’ victories through him. All the enemies of the Redeemer shall be made his footstool” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/joshua/10.html>).

Activities:

- Play dough: horses; chariots
- Snack: Army rations of canned beans (if you dare) or canned fruit
- Learn Bible land geography. First, locate Israel on a globe or world map. Then, using Map 4 found below, identify the following areas and features in Israel: Maritime or Coastal Plains; hill country; lowlands or Shephelah; Negev or Negeb or south country; Chinnereth or the Sea of Galilee; Jordan River; Salt or Dead Sea; and the Mediterranean or Great Sea.

On Map 5 identify nations surrounding Israel: Philistia, Moab, Bashan, Geshur, Phoenicia, and Aram or Syria.

- Review questions: (Game: Print on cardstock and cut apart the small Roman helmets found below. Each student who answers a question correctly may place a helmet in a pocket chart.)
 1. Name one physical feature of Israel. [Maritime or Coastal Plains; hill country; lowlands or Shephelah; Negev or Negeb or south country; Chinnereth or the Sea of Galilee; Jordan River; Salt or Dead Sea; and the Mediterranean or Great Sea.]
 2. Where did Israel camp? [Gilgal.]
 3. What region of Israel next fought against Israel? [Northern.]
 4. How many northern soldiers gathered against Israel? Hint: “All their hosts (were) like . . .” [Sand on the sea shore with very many horses and chariots.]
 5. Fill in the blank. A few _____ escaped into three cities of Philistia. [Anakim or giants.]
 6. What was the final number of kings destroyed both east and west of Jordan? [Thirty-one.]

Memory Verse[s]:

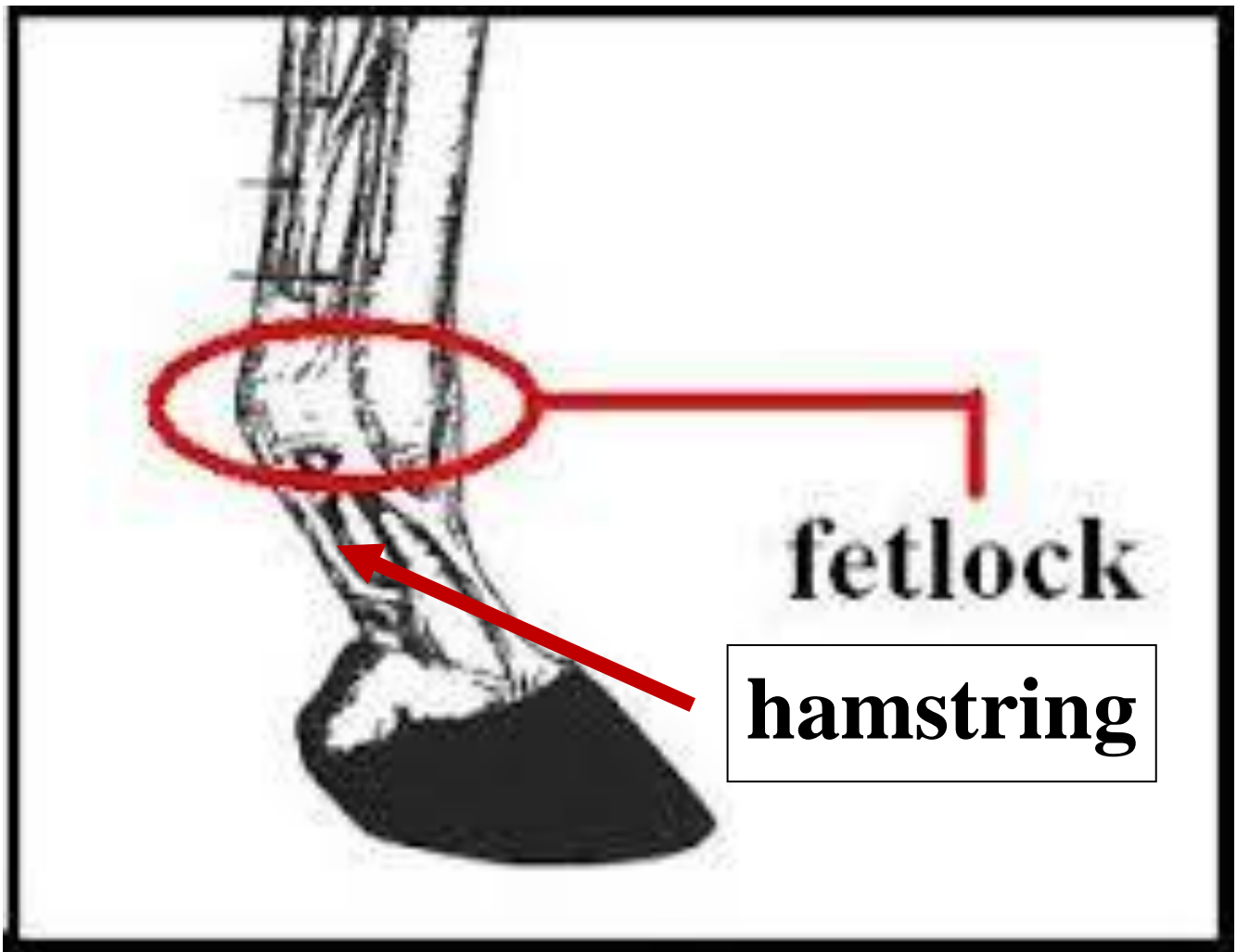
- Joshua 1:6, 7: Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.
- Or Joshua 1:5, 7–9; 24:14, 15, 20, 24–26 (KJV), learning one section at a time throughout lessons on the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth and using the song, “Keeping Covenant,” found on the “Songs” page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.

Handwork:

- Make a Roman soldier’s helmet out of corrugated cardboard and red cardstock or construction paper. A simpler helmet than the one found in the video referenced below will consist of one straight cardboard strip to go around the head and one to hold the red “plume.” Glue to the helmet the printed memory verses found below. A very short video at the following site gives instructions:
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=ancient+hebrew+soldier%27s+helmet+craft&&view=detail&mid=2ABBE926FC552C324FAC2ABBE926FC552C324FAC&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dancient%2Bhebrew%2Bsoldier%2527s%2Bhelmet%2Bcraft%26FORM%3DHDRSC3>

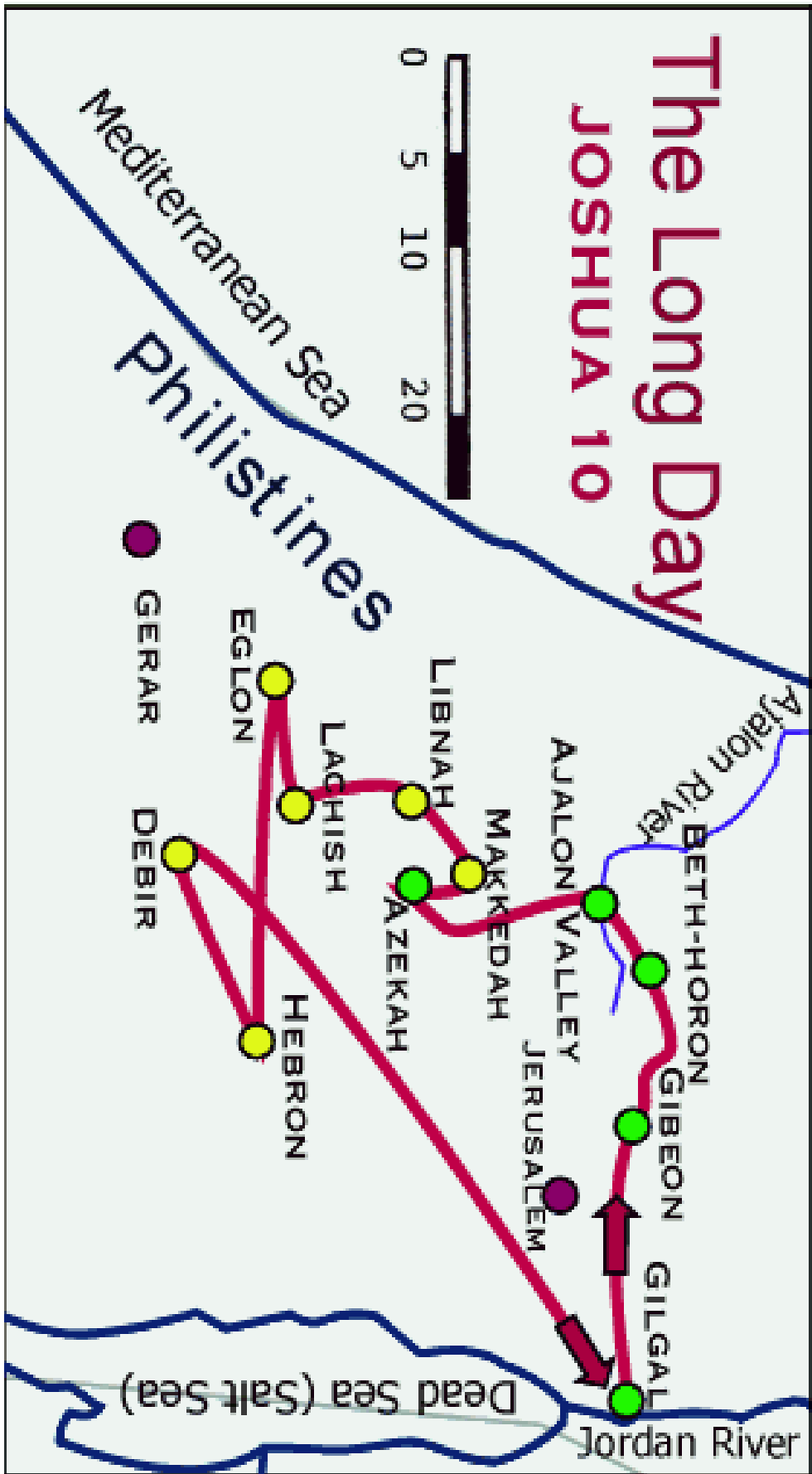
to hamstring

to devote to destruction



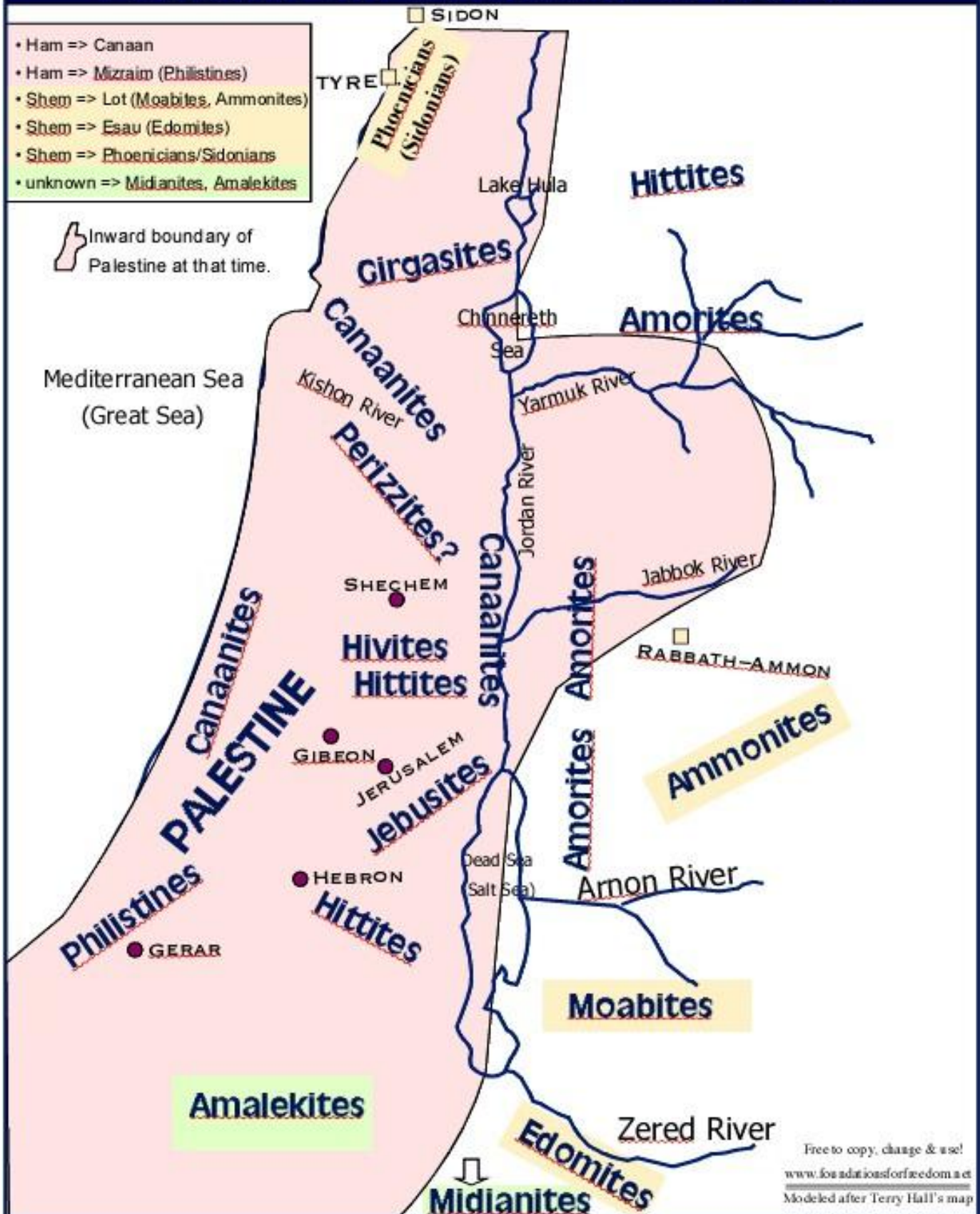
THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN

The Long Day JOSHUA 10

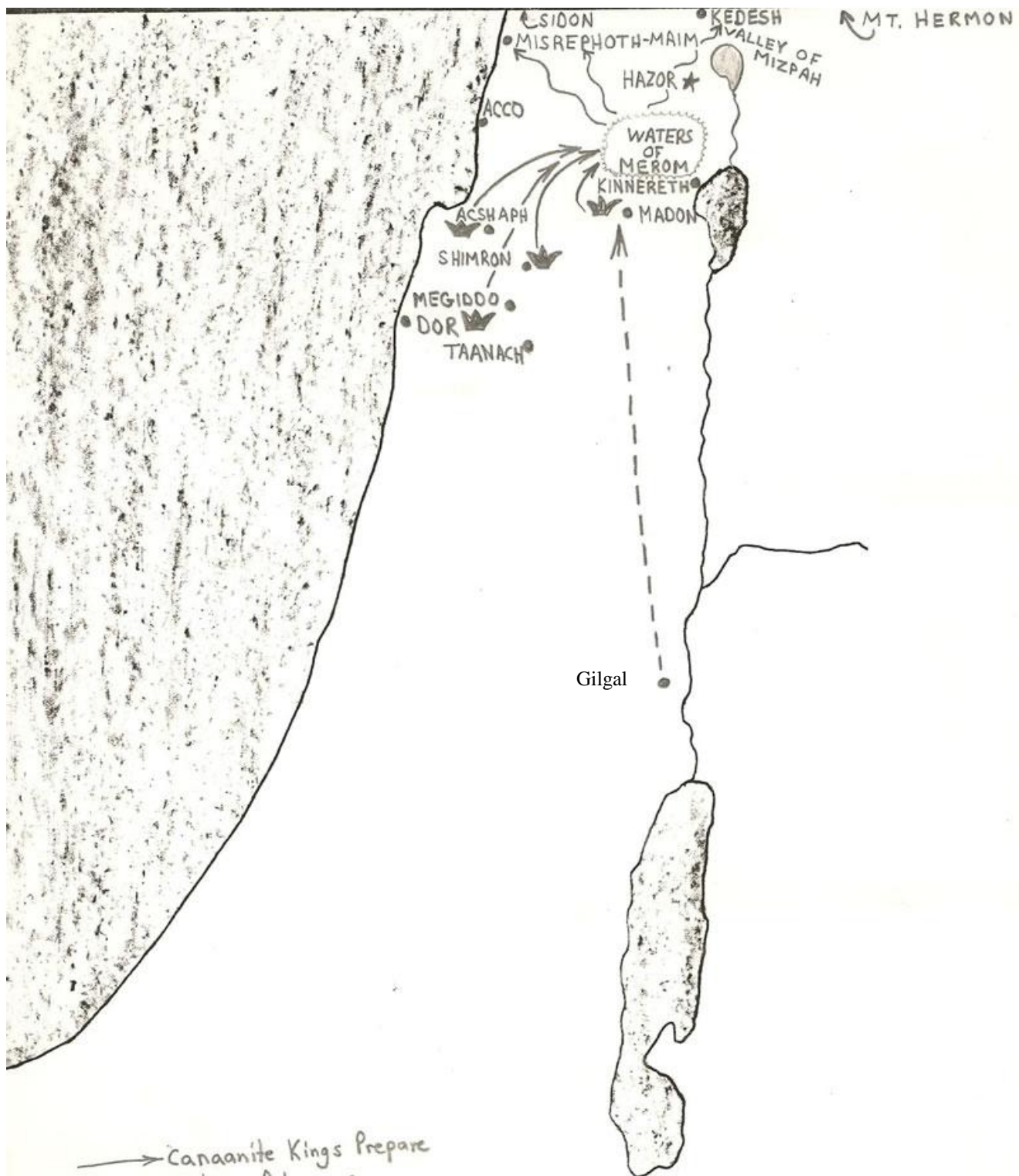


Map 1

PALESTINE AT THE TIME OF CONQUEST



Map 2



- Canaanite Kings Prepare
- Joshua Advances
- ~→ Canaanites Flee
- ☙ = King

"JOSHUA'S NORTHERN CAMPAIGN"
(J.s. 11:1-15)



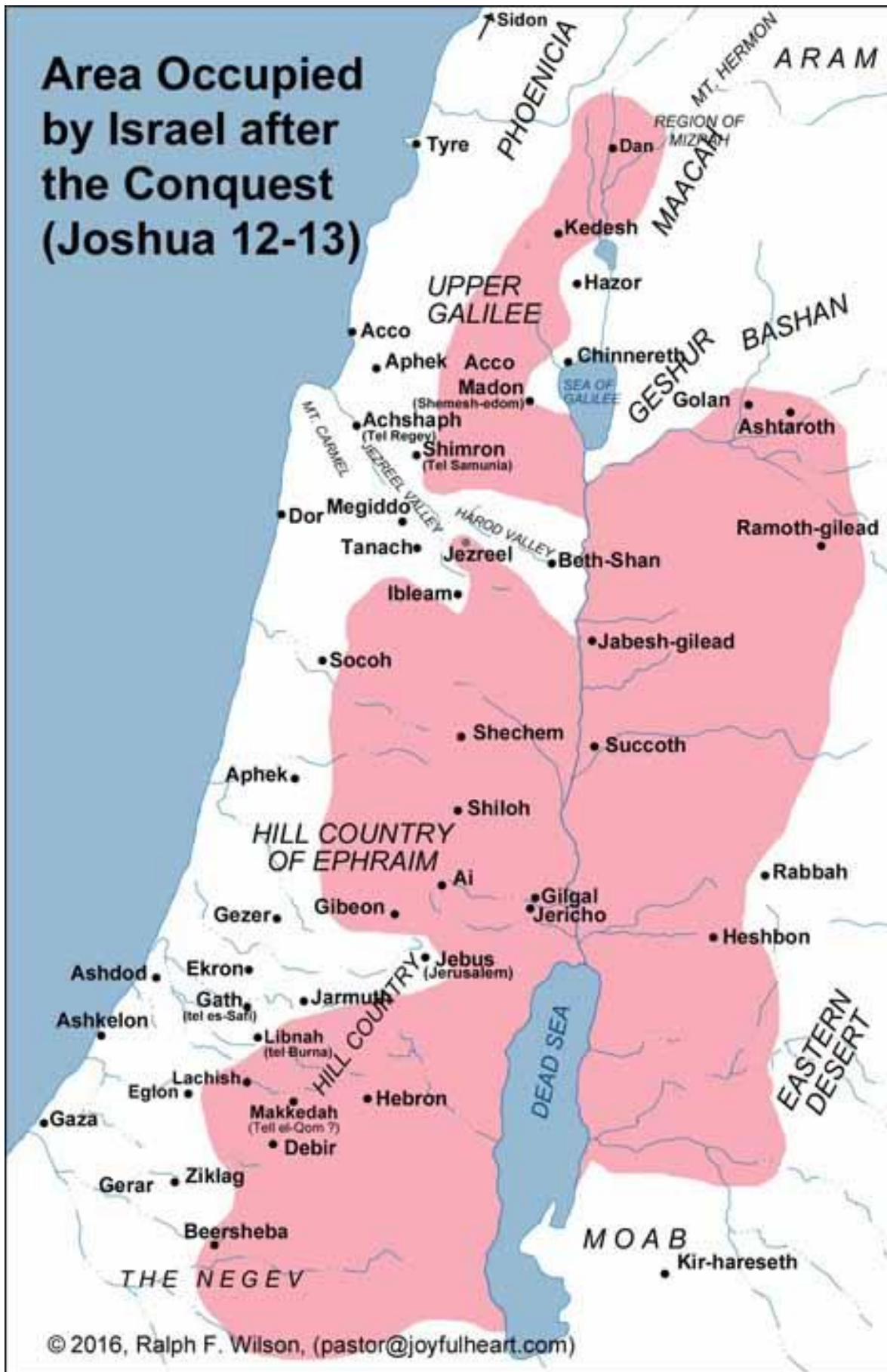
Map 3



Map 4

<https://www.bible-history.com/maps/4-israel-natural-features.html>

Area Occupied by Israel after the Conquest (Joshua 12-13)



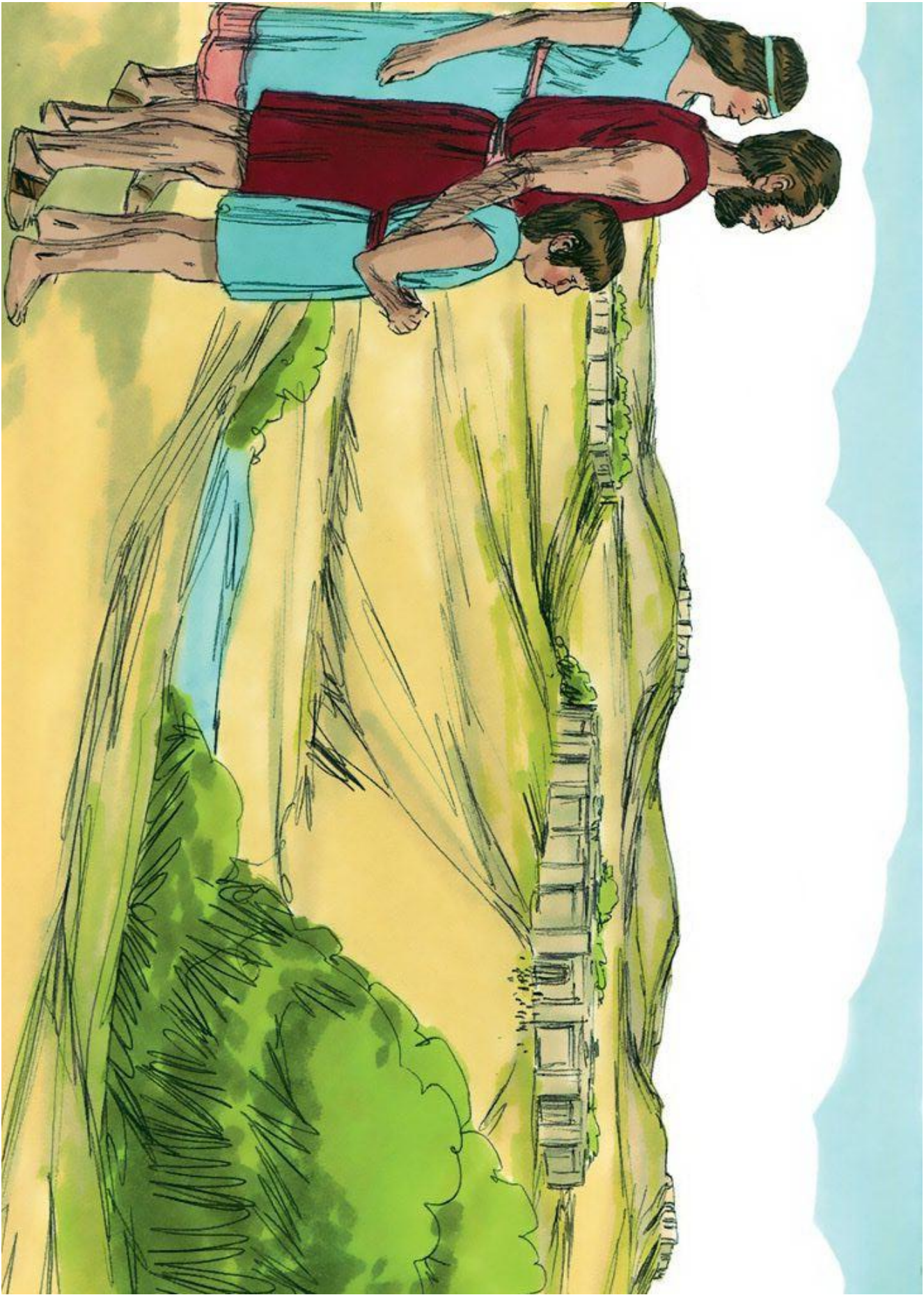
Map 5





<https://st-takla.org/Gallery/Bible/Illustrations/Bible-Slides/OT/Joshua/Bible-Slides-joshua-532.html>







www.firstpalette.com



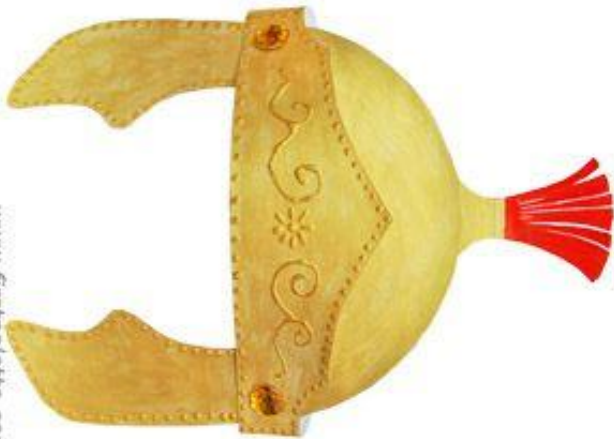
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Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go (Joshua 1:6, 7).

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