

14.12 7th Judge, Tola (Judges 10:1, 2)

(Three of the briefly-noted judges—Shamgar, Tola, and Jair—are combined in Lesson 14.13a.)

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

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. 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 materials.

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

- (none for this lesson)

Scripture: (ESV)

Judges 10:1 After Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, and he lived at Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim. 2 And he judged Israel twenty-three years. Then he died and was buried at Shamir.

Introduction/Review:

Abimelech, the son of Jerubbaal/Gideon, put sixty-eight of his brothers to death so that he could become king over the people. Despite our disgust for ✓his utter disdain for his father, shown by this act against his family, we are pleased that Abimelech did rid the country of some pockets of false worship.

Story:

The Bible tells us that after Abimelech a judge named Tola arose to save Israel. His name was the same as the first son of Jacob’s son, Issachar, the tribe [locate] from which Tola came.

The Bible names no enemies of Israel for Tola to fight, but it does say he *defended* Israel. This fact indicates that ✓he prevented invading armies from doing harm before they established themselves in the land. Perhaps he was a judge in the sense that we think of today—a judge making decisions between conflicts. His term as judge lasted twenty-three years, quite a long time for someone who has so little recorded about himself.

✓We assume he judged with honor, unlike Abimelech.

A town named Shamir in Mount Ephraim [locate] was his home, and that is where he was buried.

The most interesting thing we read about Tola is the names of his father and grandfather—Puah [pronounced POO ah] and Dodo [pronounced DOH doh]. We shouldn’t laugh at someone’s name, but some of us just can’t help it with *Dodo*. However, we wouldn’t dare laugh in the presence of Tola or his relatives from Issachar, for they were mighty warriors of their generations (1 Chronicles 7:2).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

(With only two verses to tell us about Tola, we have to stretch a bit to find a similarity to Jesus.) The Bible tells us Tola was buried in his hometown. Jesus was buried in a tomb outside Jerusalem, but He did not stay buried. He arose from the dead.

Activities:

- Play dough: the letters *T O L A*
- Snack: Small tomatoes for *T*; orange sections for *O*; lettuce for *L*; and apple slices for *A*

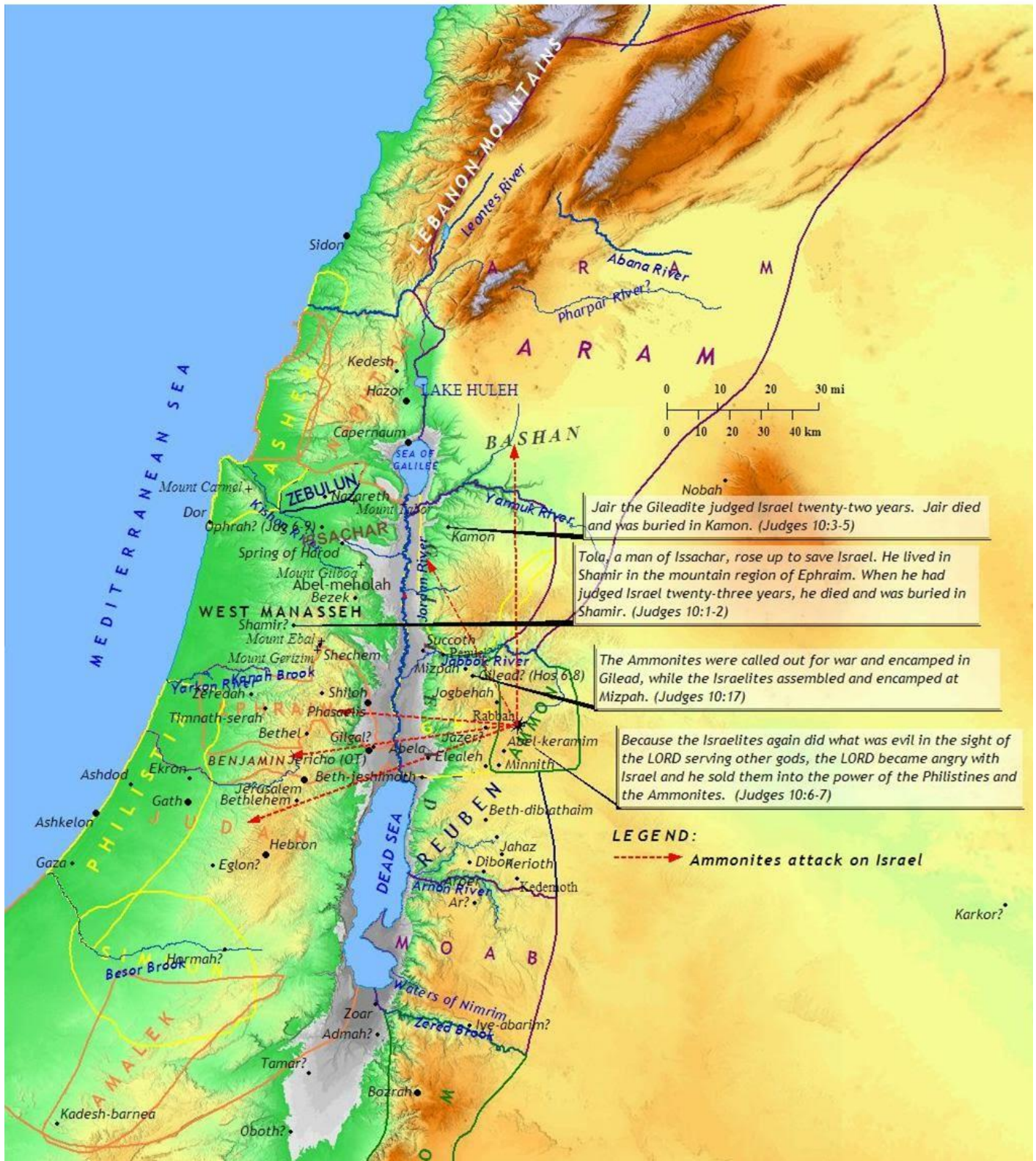
- Tell of some of the unusual names (to us) found in the Bible. Some examples are Eliphelet, Mephibosheth, Mushi, Hoglah, Onesiphorus, and Mahershalalhashbaz. However, these names often have very significant meanings.
- Review questions: (Game: Print and color the letters *TOLA* found below. A correct answer to a question allows a student to place a letter in a pocket chart or on the flannel board.)
 1. Who was the judge after Abimelech? [Tola.]
 2. Tell one way he was different from Abimelech. [He was not greedy for power; he defended Israel.]
 3. Tell the name of either Tola's father or grandfather. [Puah; Dodo.]
 4. How many years did Tola judge Israel? [Twenty-three.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Revelation 2:10—Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Handwork:

- Color the shield found below.



https://sites.google.com/site/biblereader77/_/rsrc/1344534991218/judges-chapter-10/Tola%20and%20Jair.jpg





**Tola
defended
Israel.**

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