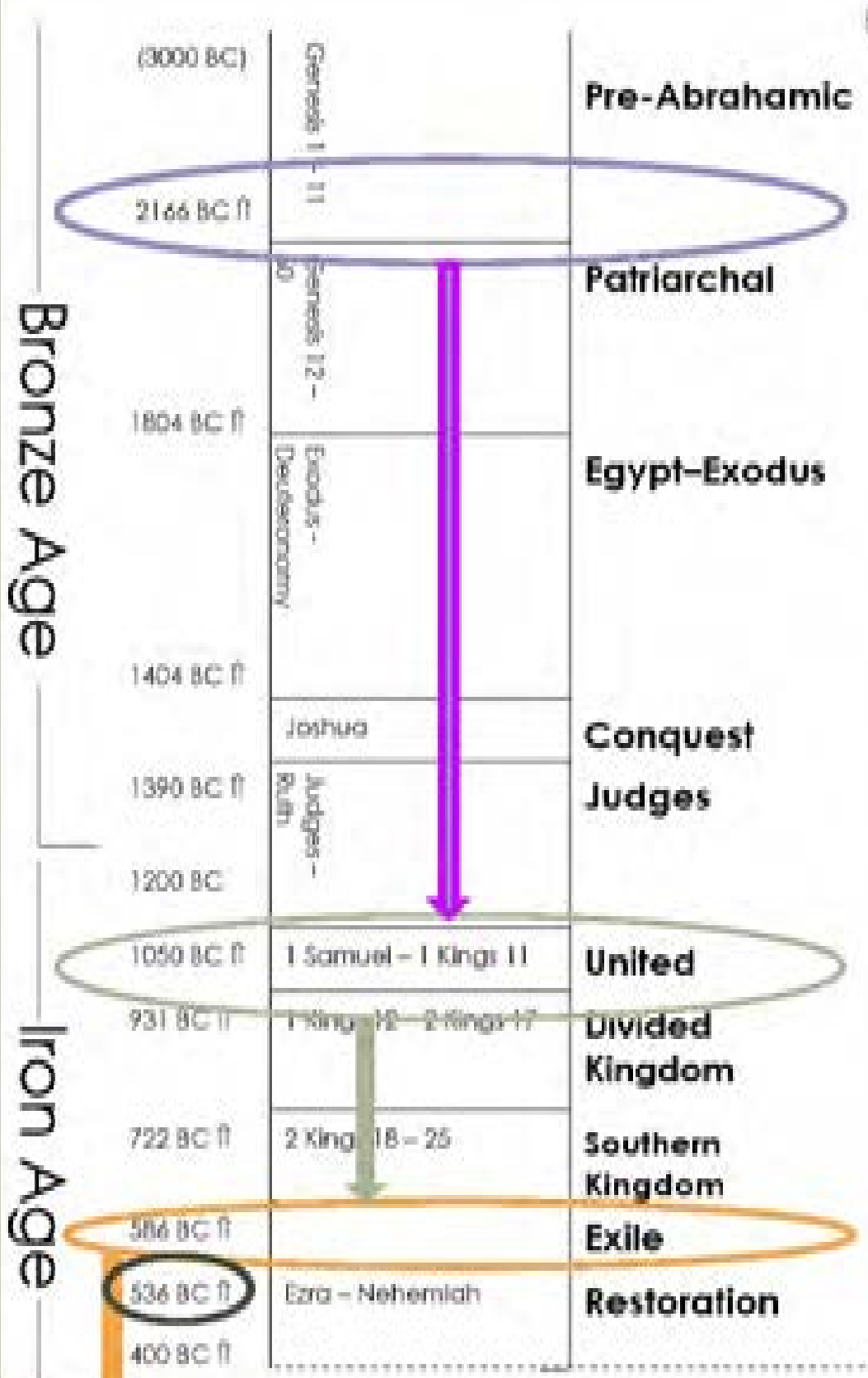


The History of Israel

United Kingdom to AD 70



Bronze Age

Iron Age

The History of Israel

Abraham through Judges

Samuel: Last of the Judges

Transition to a Kingdom

Samuel

Circumstances of His Birth Ephraimite or
Levite? (1 Sam 1.1)

- Childless mother
- Her supplication and vow
- Birth of Samuel
she called his name [Heb., *shāmō*],
Samuel [*shāmuel*] = “name of God” (≈
belonging to God)
- Dedicated to the LORD once weaned
- Hannah had three more sons, and two daughters (2.21)

Samuel

Eli

- High Priest
- Tabernacle at Shiloh
- Worthless sons, Hophni and Phinehas
 - robbing the meat offerings
 - Eli's participation (1 Samuel 2.29)
 - prophecy against Eli's family (1 Samuel 2.30-31), pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Samuel 2.35)
 - Fulfilled when Solomon dismissed Abiathar from being priest (1 K 2.27)

Call of Samuel (3.1-18)

- Setting
 - “word from the LORD was rare in those days; visions were infrequent”
 - Samuel lay beside the lamp outside the veil
- Three calls from the LORD:
 - Word against Eli’s family confirming what the Lord had spoken to Eli

Philistine Activity

TAKING THE ARK

- The battles at Aphek
- The curse of the Ark
 - At Ashdod
 - At Gath
 - At Ekron



Tabernacle



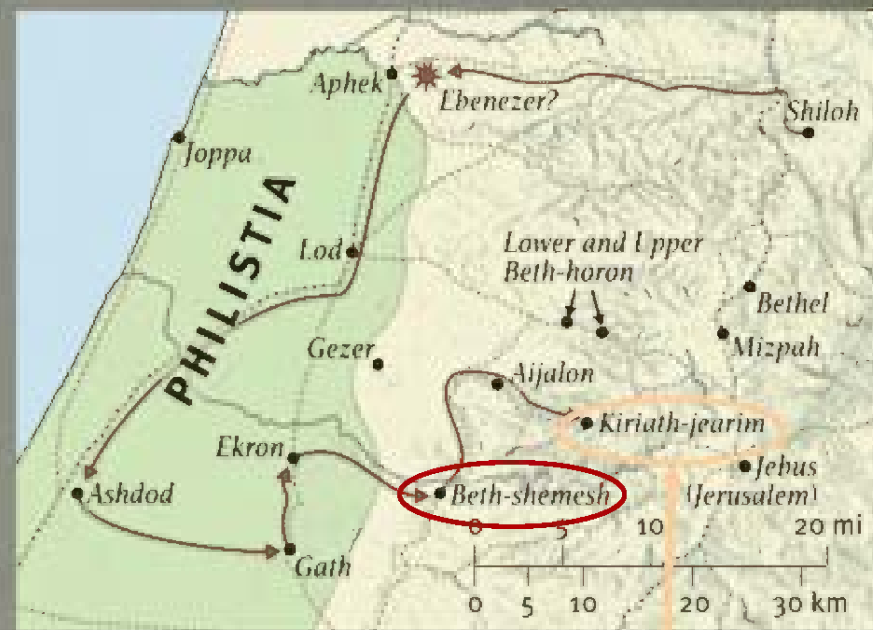
Ark returned to Israel

- Philistine priests and diviners suppose oppression from Yahweh

- the Ark sent away from Ekron

At **Beth-shemesh**

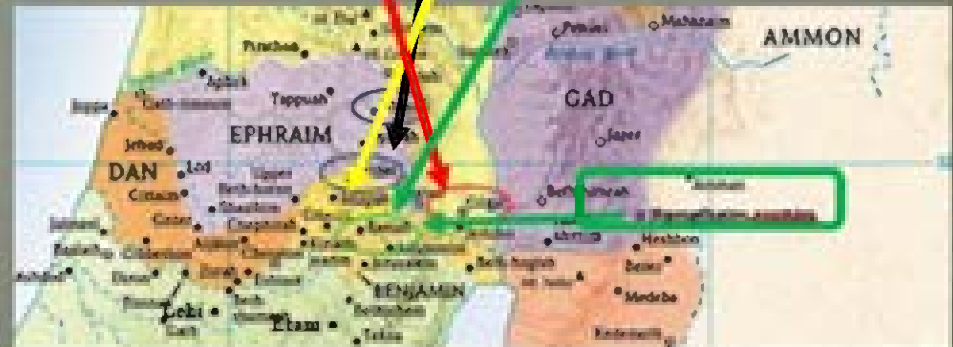
- presumptuous sin: looking into the Ark
- Those who looked + 50,070 die
- To Kiriath-jearim



Samuel

- Last of the Judges (1 Samuel 7.15-17)
 - Also served as prophet (1 Samuel 3.20)
- More 'national' than other judges
 - Known from Dan (in the north) to Beersheba (in the south)
 - Nevertheless, more active locally

he used to go annually on circuit to Bethel and **Gilgal** and **Mizpah**, and he judged Israel in all these places. Then his return was to **Ramah**



Samuel

Samuel's Ministry (7.3 – 8.3)

- Samuel assembles Israel to Mizpah (7.5ff)
 - Proclamation of repentance
 - Cleansing of the land

Samuel

- Philistines attack Israel at Mizpah (7.5ff)
 - Defeat of Philistines
 - Peace in the land
- Samuel's sons: Joel, Abijah
 - set up as "judges" in Beersheba
 - took bribes, perverted justice



Samuel

The Call for a King (8.4-22)

- Occasioned by the actions of Samuel's sons
- Other predominate reason
 - Fear of outside oppression
- It was God, not Samuel, whom the people rejected for a King (8.7)

Call for a King

Earlier indications of a King in Israel

- Scepter shall not depart from Judah (Gen. 49.10)
- Balaam's prophecy: A star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel (Num 24.17)
- Prophesied by Moses (**Deu 17.14-17**)
- Hannah's prayer (1 Sam 2.10)

Background

Summary of Samuel's ministry

- rescued tribes from complete disaster
- restored morale
- renewed their faith in Yahweh

Greatest need: unity

- tribes were separate entities with deep-seated differences and jealousies
- Examples

No Central sanctuary

On to a King

King Saul

Sovereign Call and Anointing of Saul

- The lost donkeys (9.1-14)
- Anointing by Samuel at Ramah (9.15 – 10.1)
- Confirming signs (10.2-16)
- Saul identified as king at Mizpah (10.17-27)

Coronation of Saul

Establishment of Saul (11.1-15)

- Distinguished at Jabesh-gilead
 - Struck down the Ammonites who were camped against them
- Coronation ceremony at Gilgal

Saul

Samuel's Exhortation to the People (12.1-25)

- Samuel relinquishes role as head of Israel
- The people confirm Samuel's integrity
- Historical review
- Call to obedience
- Warning (12.13-15)
- Commitment to pray (12.22-25)


The Early Rule of Saul

- Capital at Gibeah
- Simple administration
 - kept taxes low
 - eased people into kingdom
- Old tribal borders remain
- No real policies of unification
- Standing army



The LORD's Rejection of Saul

1 Samuel 13 – 16

- Old Testament chronology
 - First rejection (13.1-14)
 - Jonathan's defeat of the Philistines (13.15 – 14.46)
 - Saul's early exploits (14.47-48)
 - Saul's second rejection (15.1-35)
- 

Saul and David

1 Samuel 16 – 31

- David's choosing and anointing
- David in Saul's court
- Goliath
- David's friendship with Jonathan
- David's place
 - commander of a thousand
 - marriage to daughter
- Deterioration of the relationship between Saul and David

Deterioration of the relationship between Saul and David

- David's protectors
 - Jonathan
 - Samuel and the prophets
 - Ahimelech the high Priest (→ Saul later murdered 85 priests)
 - Philistines
- David and his merry band of men
- David spares Saul's life

Further Developments

- The death of Samuel (25.1)
- David's wives (1 Sam 25.42-44)
 - Michal
 - Abigail
 - Ahinoam
 - Recall the instruction of Moses in Deuteronomy 17 that the king should not multiply wives for himself

Deterioration of the relationship

David as Philistine vassal

- raiding and plundering Judah's tormentors
- kept from combat against Saul
 - revenge on the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30)

Saul's End

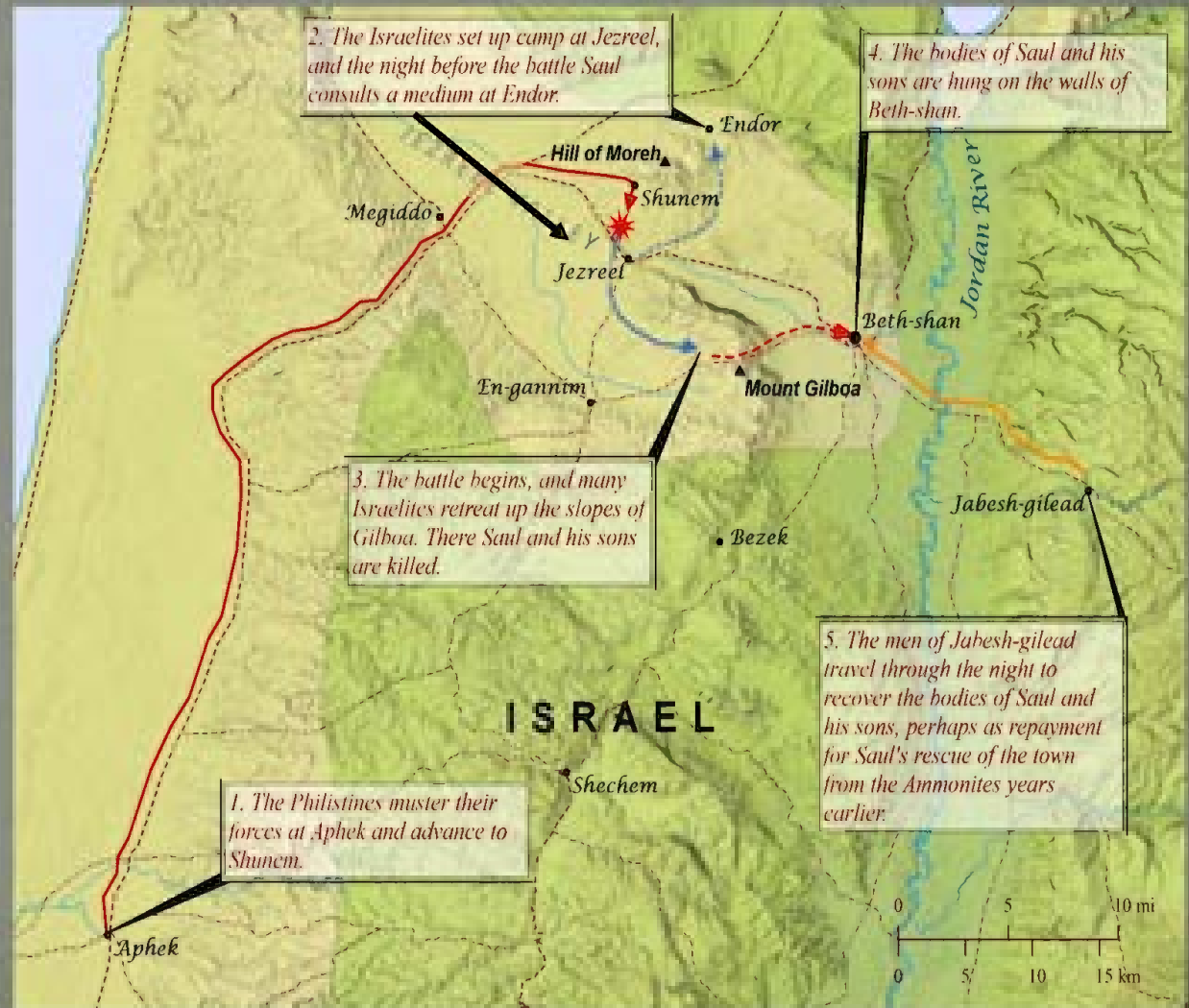
Consulting the medium at Endor

- “Now Samuel was dead” (1 Sam 28.3)
- No answer from God (28.5-6)
- God's law (Leviticus 20.27)
- Saul's regulation outlawing mediums (1 Samuel 28.9)

➡ “Samuel” appears

Saul's End

- Philistine battle at Mt. Gilboa
- Death of Saul's three sons
- His wounding and suicide
- The valor of the men of Jabesh-gilead



Evaluation of Saul

- Pride/self-centeredness: the frequent characteristic of those in power
- Rebellion against the LORD
- Refused accountability for the causes of his rejections by the LORD