

ISRAEL & JUDAH

Lessons in Faith

The history of Israel and Judah

is richer than any on earth.



MODERN MAP OF THE LOCATION OF ISRAEL



MODERN MAP OF THE LOCATION OF ISRAEL



The focus of these lessons . . .

will be on the Biblical period when Israel divided into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah, but first here is a quick summary of its beginnings . . .

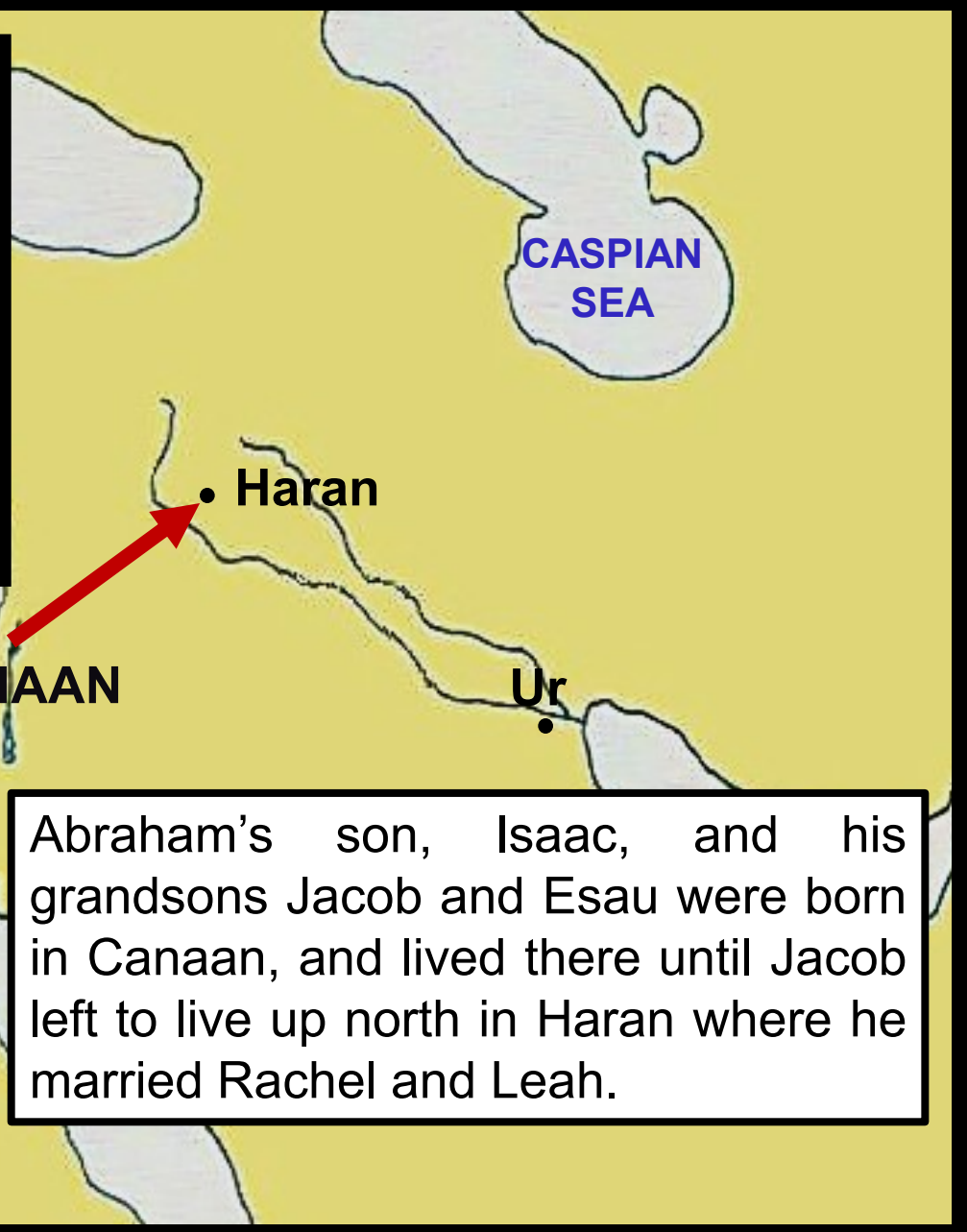


God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees (modern day Iraq) and told him to go to a land that he would show him. God promised that land to Abraham and his descendants.





God loved Abraham because of his faithfulness. It is said of him that his travels could be followed by the smoke from his offerings.



CASPIAN
SEA

• Haran

• Ur

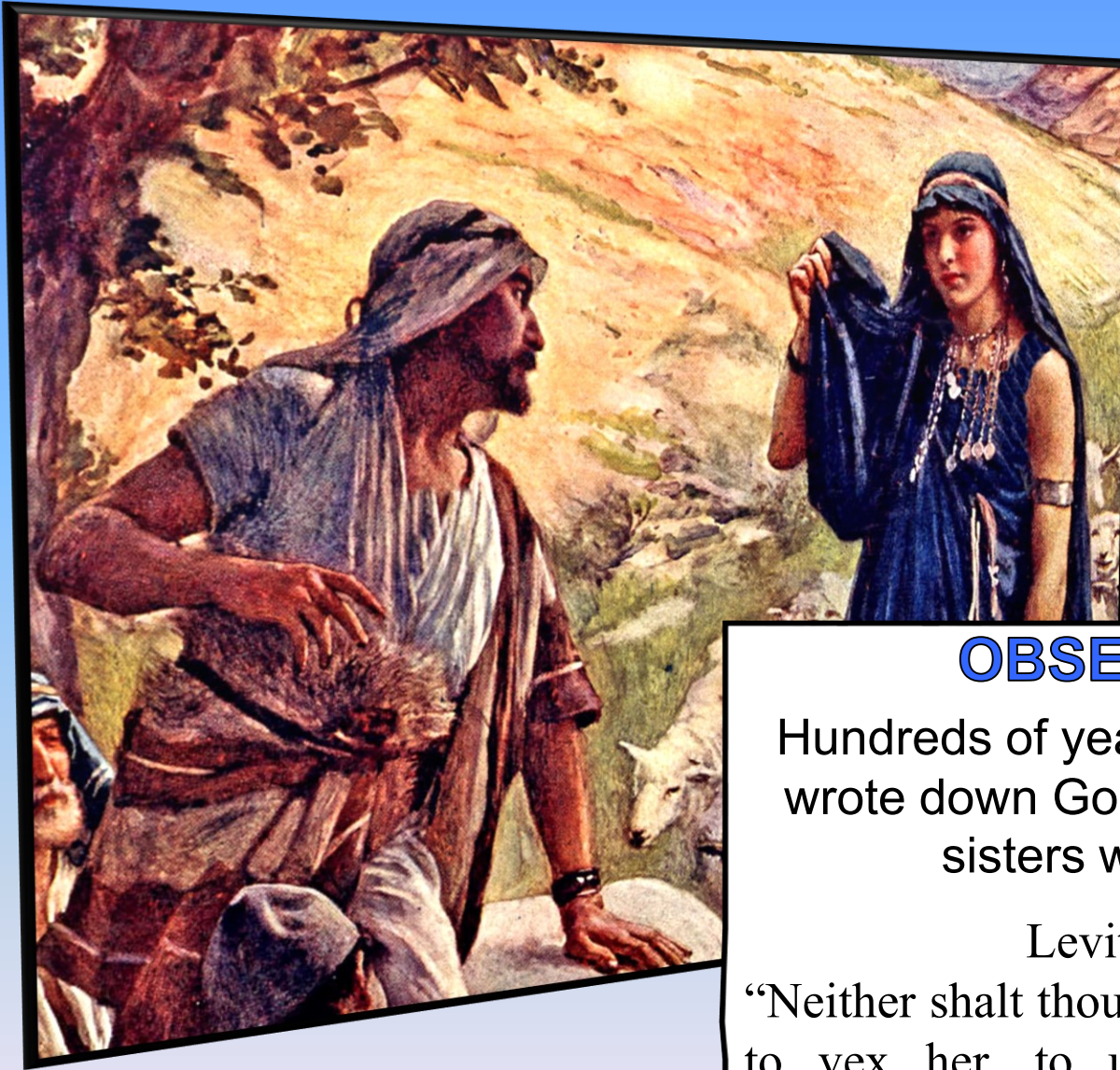
MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

CANAAN

EGYPT

AFRICA

Abraham's son, Isaac, and his grandsons Jacob and Esau were born in Canaan, and lived there until Jacob left to live up north in Haran where he married Rachel and Leah.



OBSERVATION:

Hundreds of years later when Moses wrote down God's law, marrying two sisters was forbidden.

Leviticus 18:18

“Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time.”

Archaeology And The Bible



Excavation of Nuzi, a small ancient site in northern Iraq produced many texts written in cuneiform script and they confirm the legal and social conditions prevailing in the time of the patriarchs. These texts contain many parallels to biblical narratives, specifically the custom of slaves bearing children for their masters.

The patriarchs in the Bible practiced this strange custom— if a wife was barren she would give her slave girl to her husband to conceive a child through her, as in the case of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar the Egyptian slave and then later with Jacob and his two wives Rachel and Leah both giving their slaves to bear children for them.

Archaeology And The Bible



The Nuzi cuneiform records show this custom being practiced among the Mesopotamian people in the patriarchal period.



Cuneiform Tablet

CODE OF HAMMURABI



The famous Code of Hammurabi (also from Mesopotamia and in cuneiform script) contains several laws that deal with this very custom. It decrees that if a wife is barren it is her duty to give her slave girl to her husband to receive a child through her. It also makes legal provisions with regard to the slave girl who became a mother in this way, and for the children she conceives.

Archaeology And The Bible



These archaeological findings which confirm the ancient social custom of multiple wives and children from slaves seems strange to us

BUT

it helps explain why Sarah, Rachel, and Leah found it only natural and customary to request that their husbands should conceive children by their slave girls.

Archaeology And The Bible



The Code of Hammurabi also explains why Abraham was reluctant to send Hagar, his wife's slave, away after she had given birth to Ishmael, although she became overbearing and despised her mistress, Sarah.

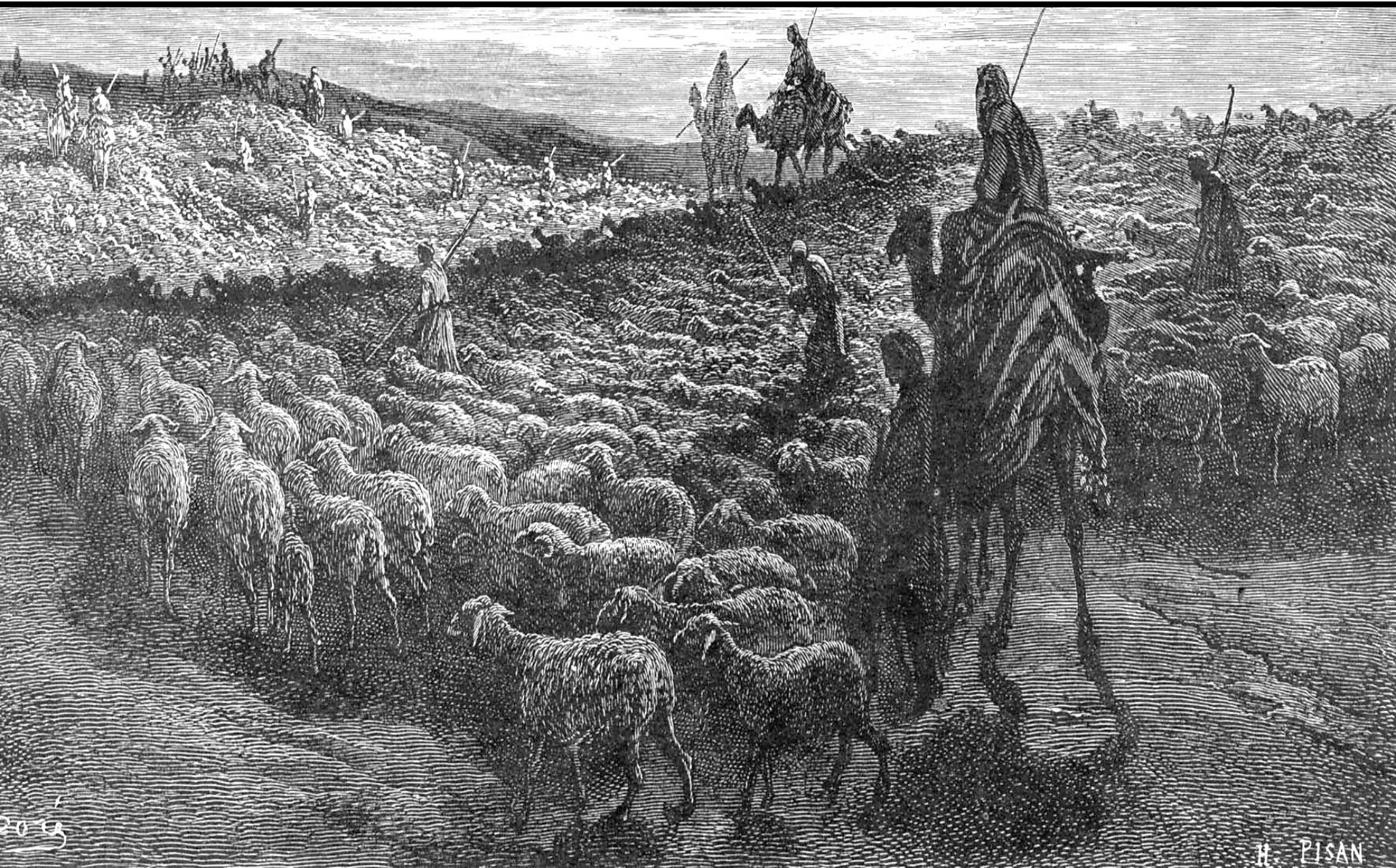
According to Hammurabi's law the slave girl could be punished and treated like an ordinary slave but not expelled from her master's house. It was for that reason that a specific command from God was needed to bring Abraham to the point to agree to his wife's wishes and act against the legal customs of his time (Genesis 21).

Archaeology And The Bible



The Code of Hammurabi deals in detail with regard to inheritance rights. Only the children of the first wife would automatically inherit the property of their deceased father. Children obtained through a slave girl would become heirs only if they were legally and explicitly adopted. Since Ishmael was sent away by Abraham and not adopted, he could therefore not become one of Abraham's heirs according to the secular law.

After living twenty years in Haran God told Jacob to return to Canaan.



2019

H. PISAN

On his journey back, Jacob went away from the camp where his wives, children, and servants slept, and there he wrestled with an angel.

During this amazing encounter, the angel of God changed Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 32:28). That is why his descendants were called "the children of Israel" and why the land of Canaan eventually became known as the land of Israel.



Jacob had twelve sons, and one daughter with his two wives, Leah and Rachel and their handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpha.



Leah was the mother of **Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah**
Rachel's handmaid, Bilhah was the mother of **Dan and Naphtali**
Leah's handmaid, Zilpha was the mother of **Gad and Asher**
Rachel was the mother of **Joseph and Benjamin**

Reuben
Simeon
Levi
Judah
Issachar
Zebulun
Dinah
Dan
Naphtali
Gad
Asher
Joseph
Benjamin



The families of Jacob's sons are called "the tribes of Israel" (Genesis 49:28).

Reuben
Simeon
Levi
Judah
Issachar
Zebulun
Dan
Naphtali
Gad
Asher
Joseph
Benjamin



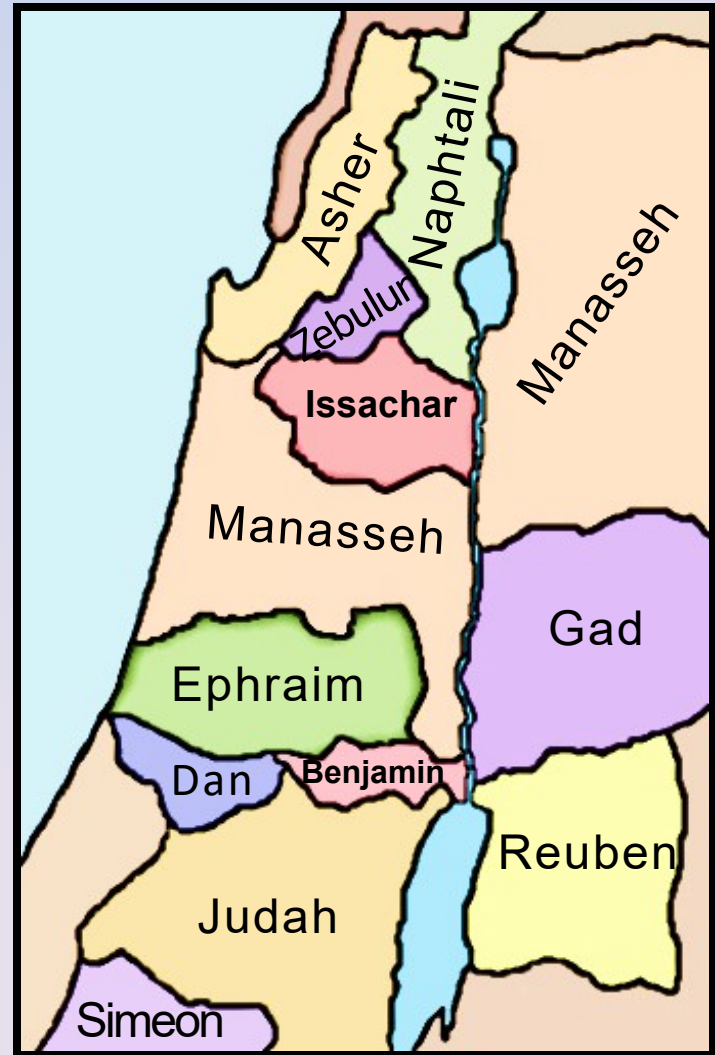
When you look at the names of the land divisions and the names of Jacob's sons the lists are different.

1. Reuben
2. Simeon
3. Judah
4. Dan
5. Naphtali
6. Gad
7. Asher
8. Issachar
9. Zebulun
10. **Manasseh**
11. **Ephraim**
12. Benjamin

LAND DIVISION

1. Reuben
2. Simeon
3. **Levi**
4. Judah
5. Dan
6. Naphtali
7. Gad
8. Asher
9. Issachar
10. Zebulun
11. **Joseph**
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JACOB'S SONS



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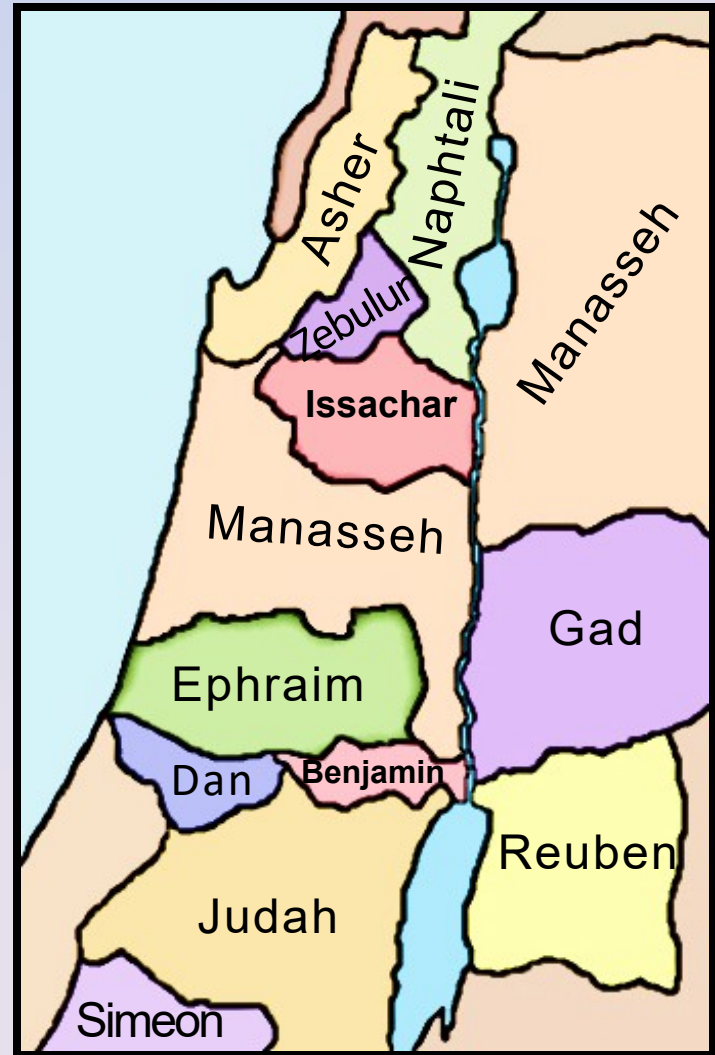
LAND DIVISION

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JACOB'S SONS

The explanation for the different names is that Levi is not in the land division list because it was the priestly tribe and they were given 48 cities through-out Israel rather than a division of land. Also, Joseph's tribe is given two sections of land, one for each of his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

The land of Israel was divided between the tribes [families/descendants of Jacob] but not until hundreds of years after Jacob died.



TIMELINE—

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Joseph

They left Canaan and lived in Egypt where Joseph ruled.

400 years of slavery in Egypt.

Moses and the Exodus

Wandering in the wilderness.

Joshua and the conquering of Canaan.

The land division.

BACK TO THE STORY OF JACOB

Jacob had a favorite son, Joseph.

Reuben

Simeon

Levi

Judah

Issachar

Zebulun

Dan

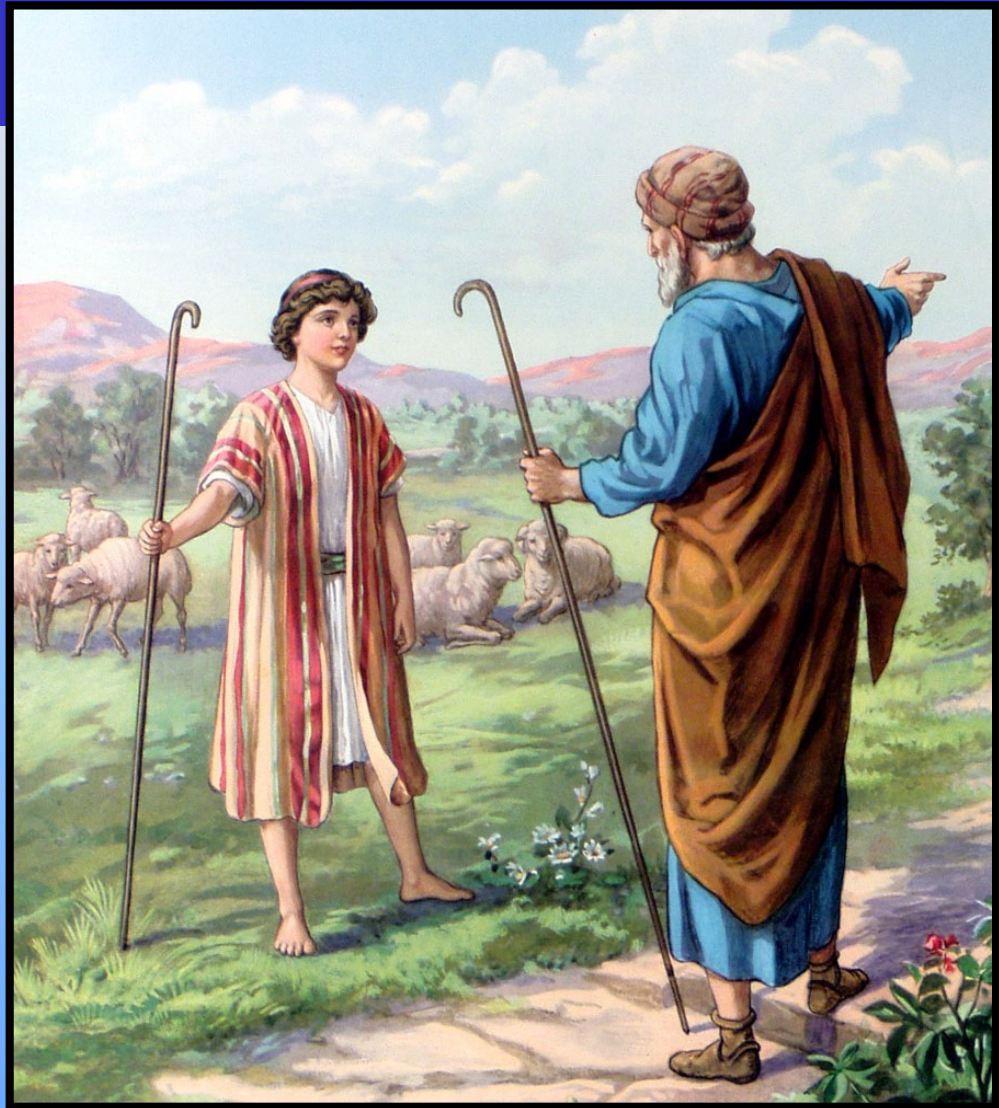
Naphtali

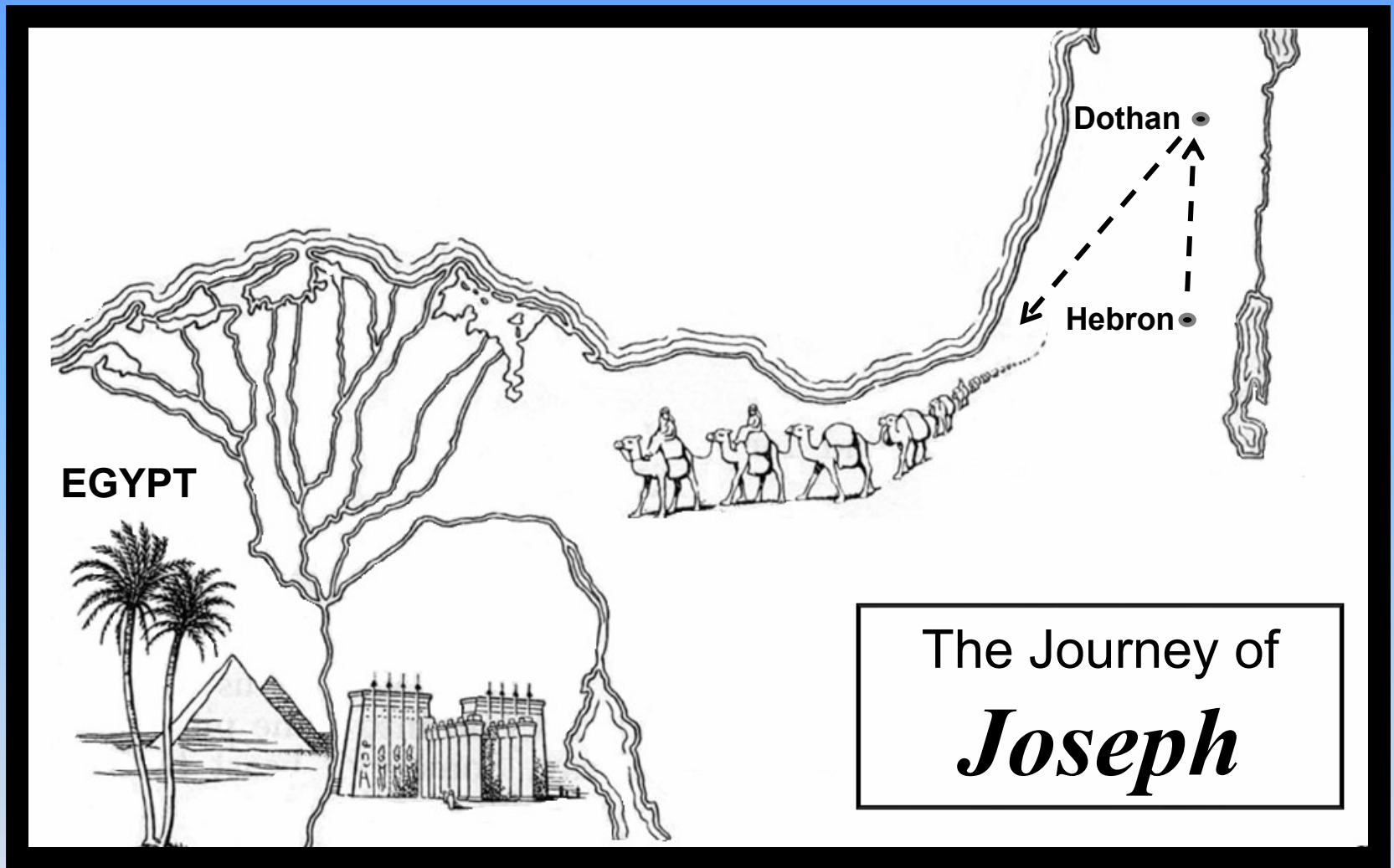
Gad

Asher

Joseph

Benjamin



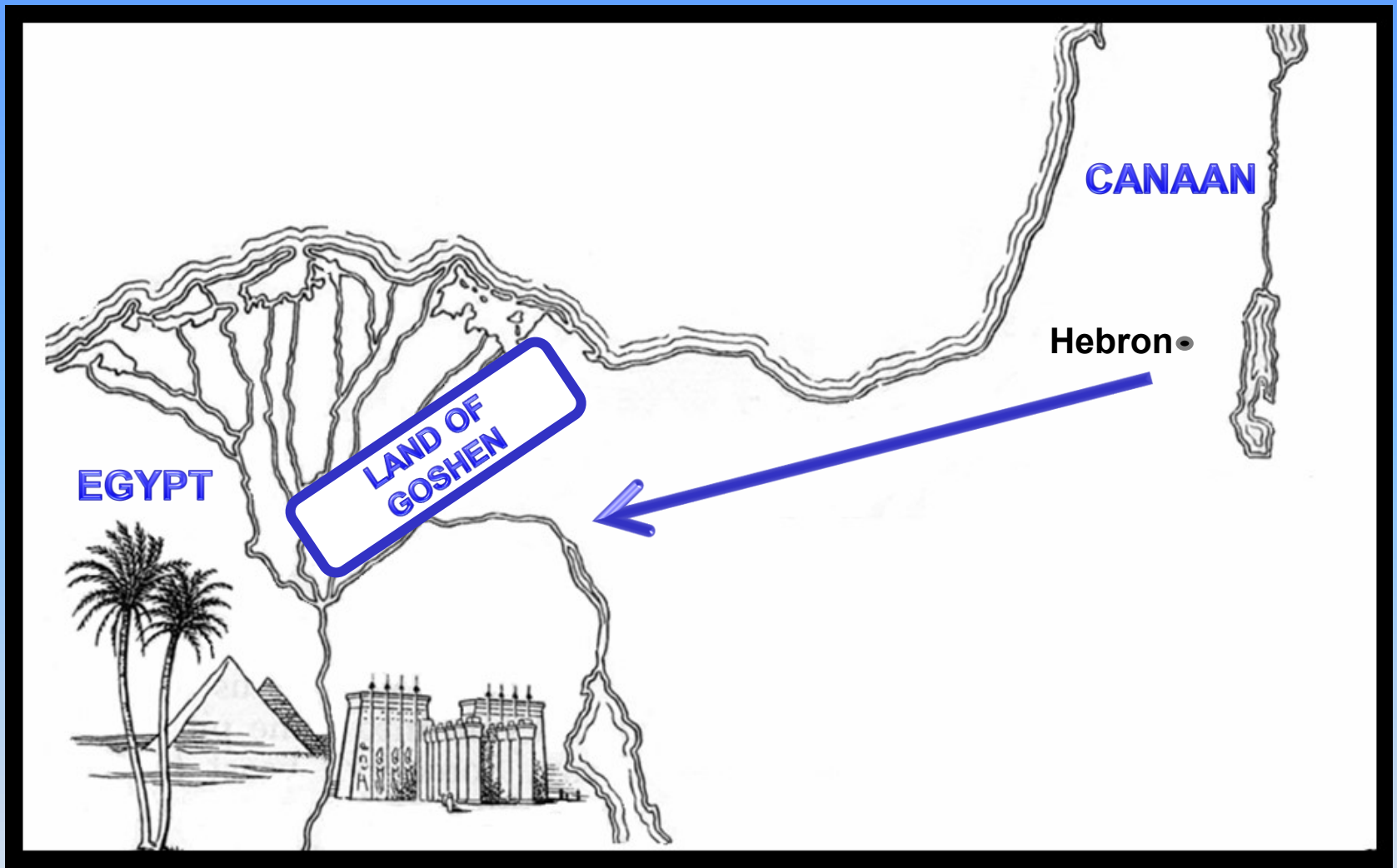


Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and sold him to men that took him to Egypt. They lied to their father, Jacob, and told him he had been killed by a wild animal.

Joseph was blessed in Egypt and became a ruler.

Eventually, he was reunited with his family.





Joseph brought his father and brethren to live with him in Egypt. Pharaoh gave them the land of Goshen.

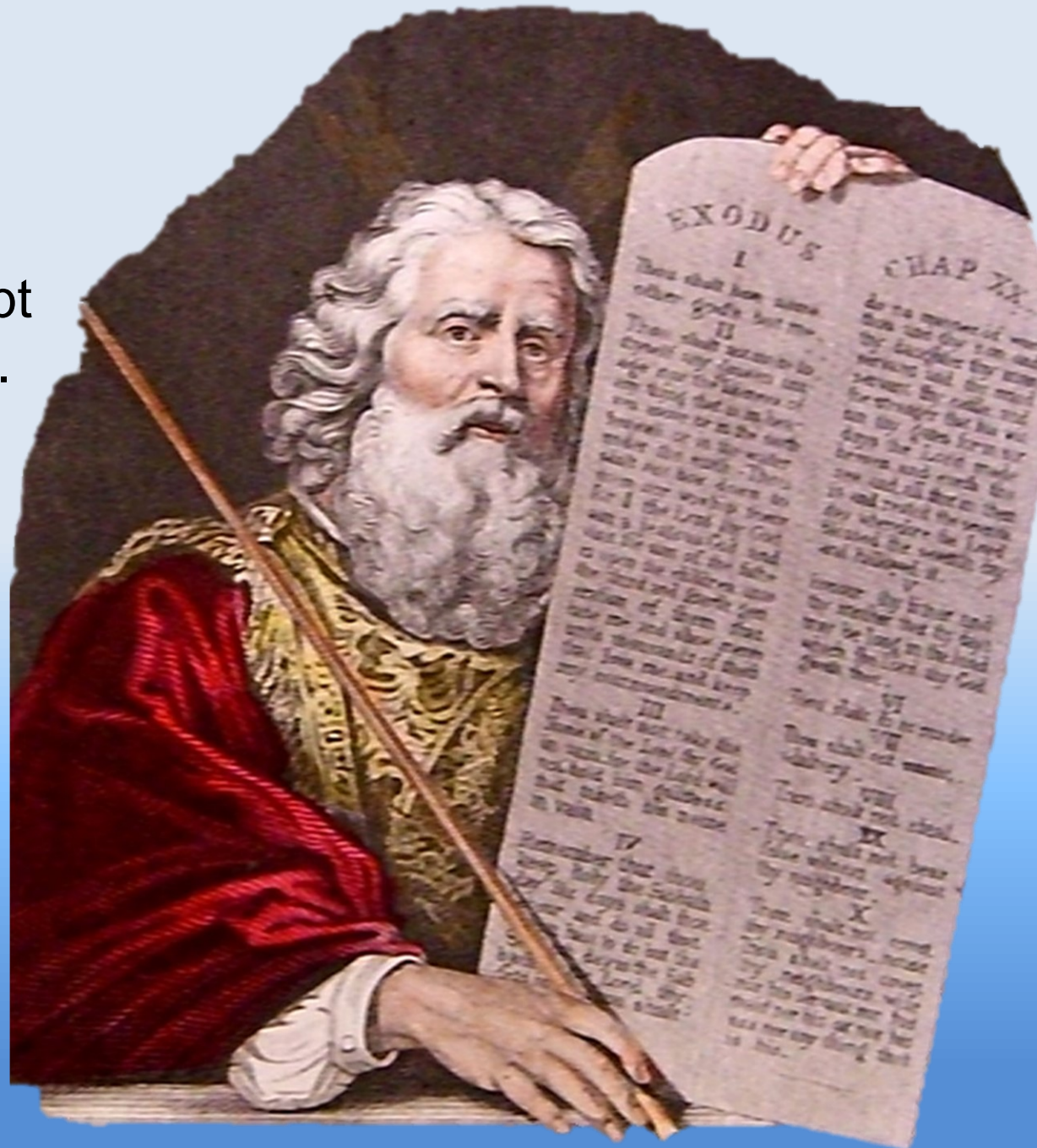
Jacob's family stayed in Goshen of Egypt even after his death.

A wicked Pharaoh forced the family of Jacob (Israelites) to be slaves.

Moses was born into a family of Israelite slaves.



Moses, the great lawgiver, led the Israelites out of Egypt and back to Canaan.



Moses was 120 years old upon reaching Canaan.

He was allowed to see it from a mountain top before he died, but not to enter.

Leadership was handed over to Joshua.



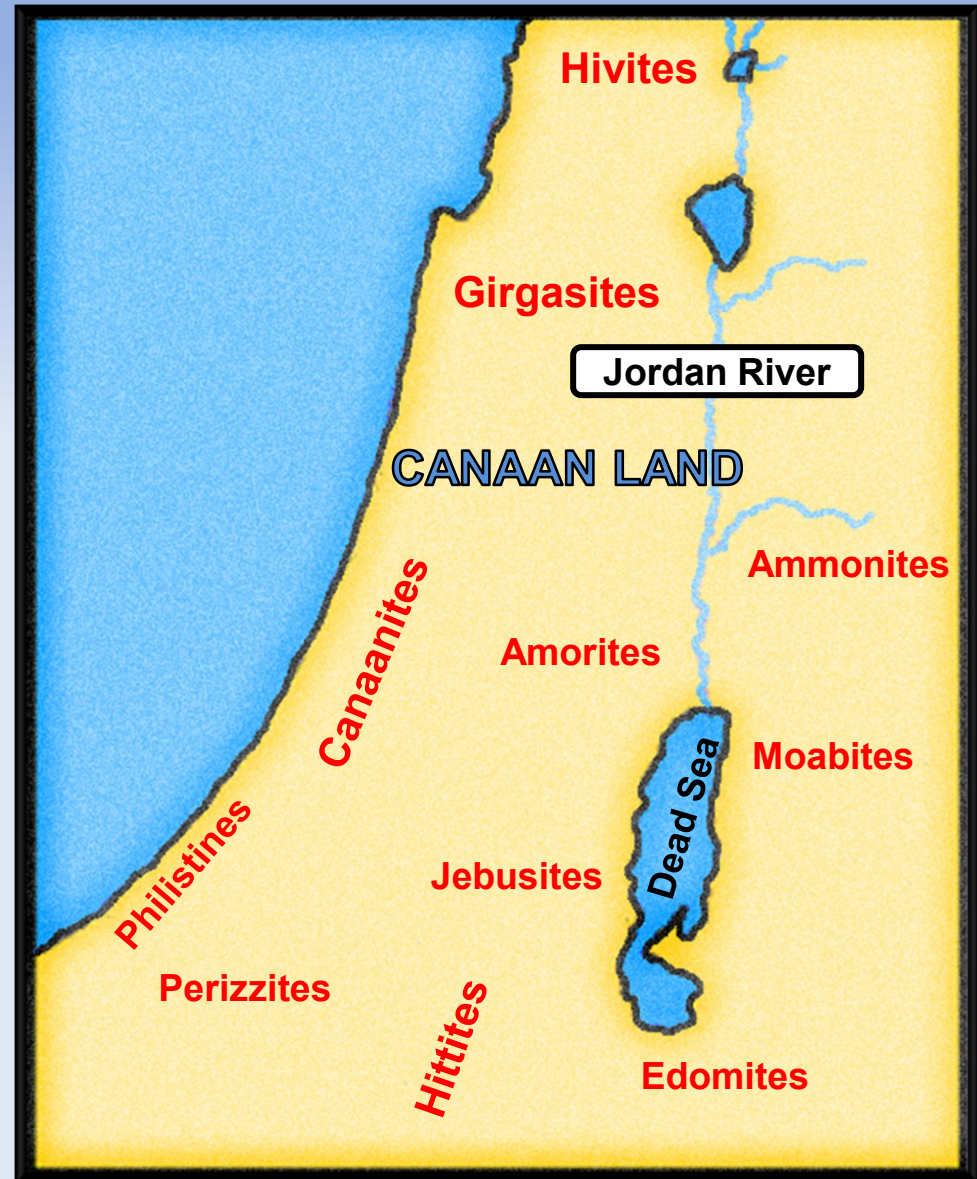
Joshua led Israel as they conquered the land by destroying and driving out the evil idolaters.

Before he died he followed the instructions of God in dividing the land among the tribes.



After the death of Joshua the Israelites compelled the Canaanites which were still in the land to pay taxes (Judges 1:28).

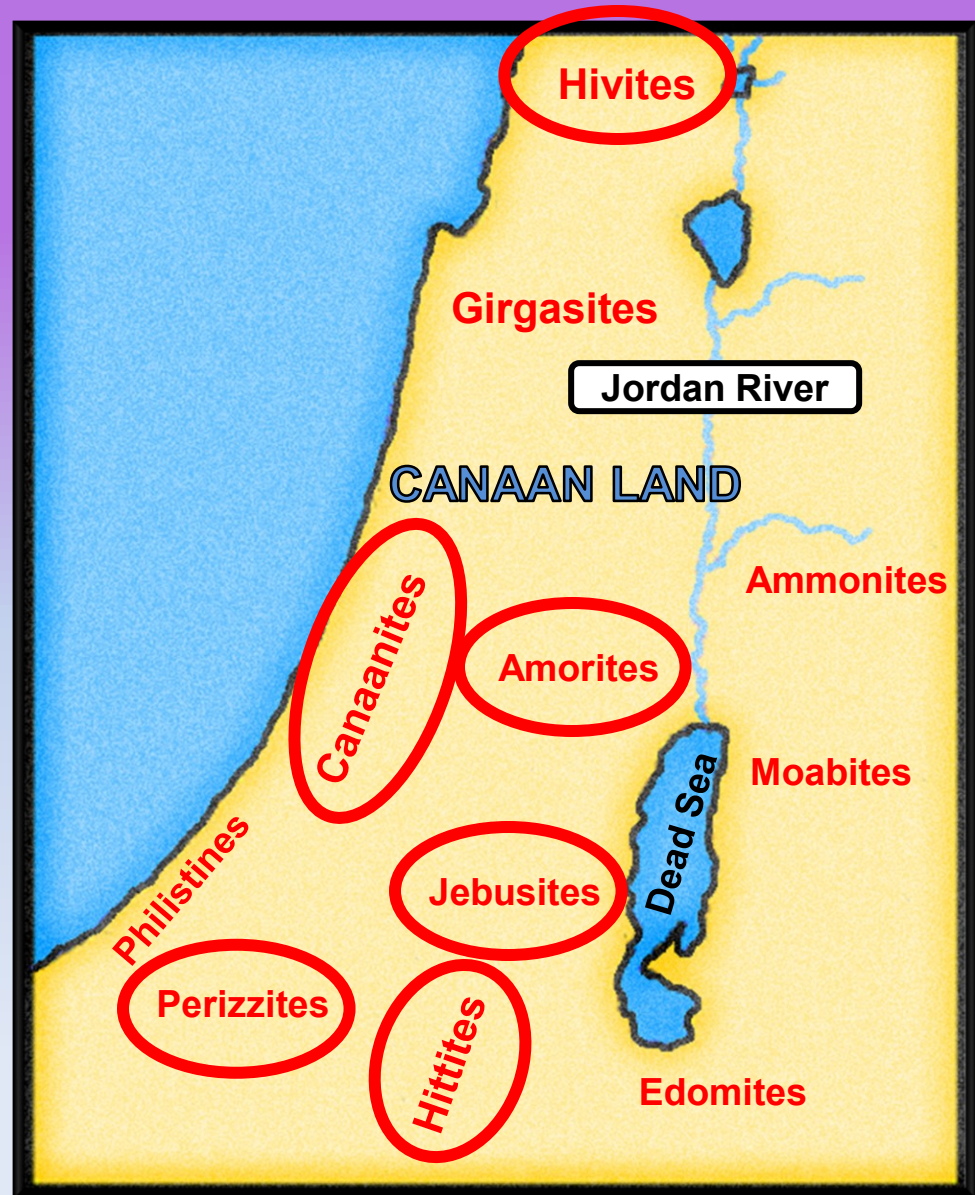
This was not God's will for he had warned Israel about the Canaanites' idolatry. God wanted Israel to utterly destroy the Canaanites.

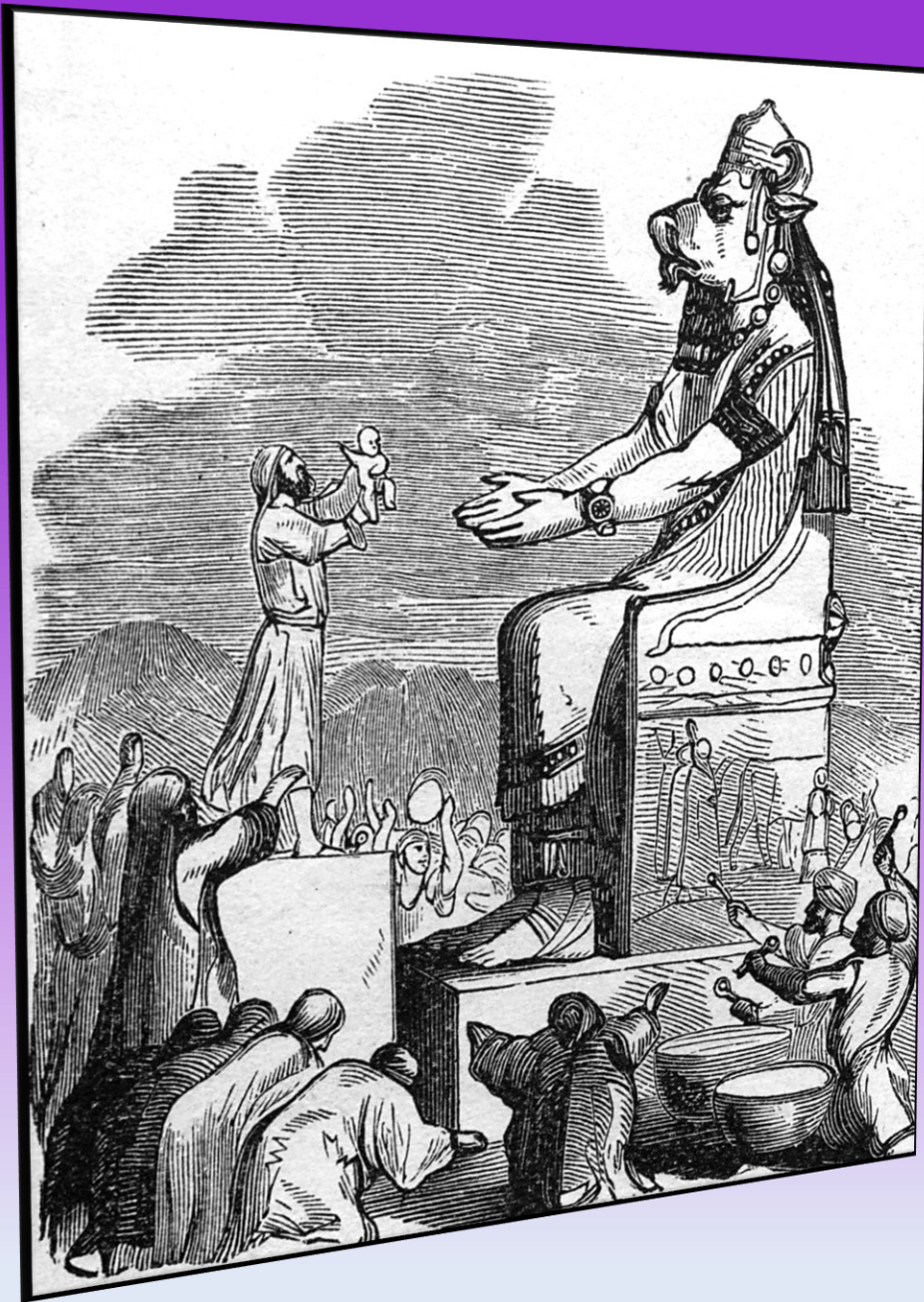


Judges 3

“⁵And the children of Israel dwelt among the **Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:**

⁶And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods.”





Judges 2

“¹¹And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim:

¹²And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger.”

THE 12 JUDGES

Judges 3:8 - 11	Othniel --served 40 years
Judges 3:15-31	Ehud --served 80 years
Judges 3:31 - 4:3	Shamgar --served 10 years
Judges 4:4 - 6:6	Deborah --served 40 years
Judges 6 - 9	Gideon --served 40 years
Judges 10:1-2	Tola --served 23 years
Judges 10:3-6	Jair --served 22 years
Judges 10:10-12:7	Jephthah --served 6 years
Judges 12:8-10	Ibzan —served 7 years
Judges 12:11-12	Elon --served 10 years
Judges 12:13-15	Abdon --served 8 years
Judges 13:2-16:31	Samson --served 20 years

God punished Israel for their sin of idol worship by allowing their enemies to dominate them.

When the servitude to foreigners became unbearable the Israelites would cry to the Lord for mercy, and he would call up a judge to rule and defend their nation.

Archaeology And The Bible

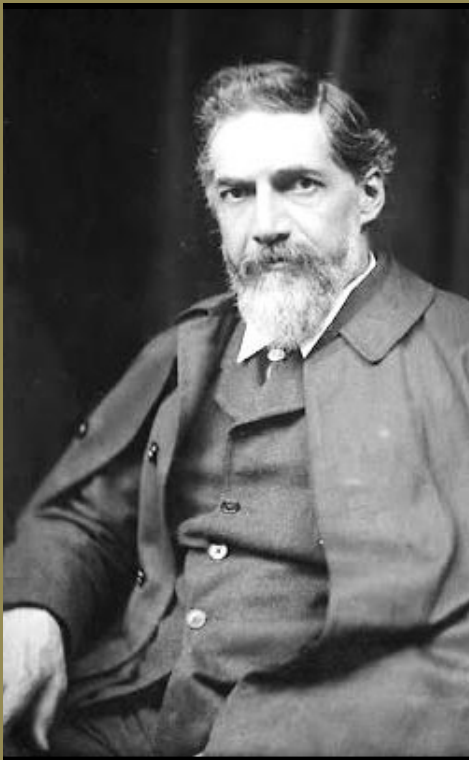


Archaeology has repeatedly demonstrated the reliability of the Bible.

Though unnecessary for those of us with biblical faith it is satisfying to have evidence with discoveries like the one at Thebes which confirms the existence of Israel during the time of the Judges.

Thebes was an ancient Egyptian city. It's ruins lie within the modern city of Luxor.

KING OF EGYPT DURING THE TIME OF THE JUDGES



Sir Flinders Petrie

Photo--Wikimedia: Public Domain / Author Unknown / THE PETRIE MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

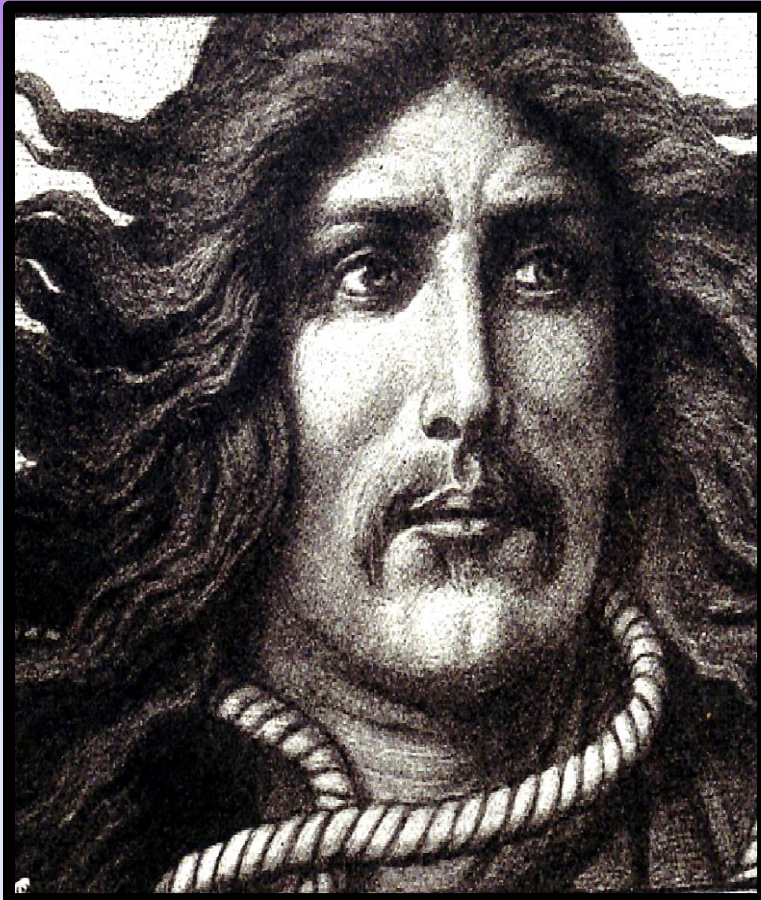
In 1896 Flinders Petrie, the father of scientific excavations in Egypt, while digging in western Thebes, discovered a large stone monument of King Merneptah.

King Merneptah reigned in Egypt during the time of the Judges and the stone which Petrie found listed Israel among his many victorious campaigns, thus verifying foreigners afflicting Israel because of their sins.



Photo--Wikimedia: AUTHOR—Webscrib / Merneptah Stele known as the Israel stela (JE 31408) from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

Samson was the last judge in the book of Judges.
Following his death Eli the priest judged the people.



THE 12 JUDGES

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Eli was the priest that trained Samuel who then served as priest, prophet, and judge all of his life.



When Samuel grew old the people decided they wanted a king to rule them that they might be like the nations around them (1 Samuel 8:20). Samuel went to God with their request.



1 Samuel 8

“⁷And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for **they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me**, that I should not reign over them.”



God was not pleased with this request, but he allowed it, and Israel was given their first king, Saul of the tribe of Benjamin.



SAUL



DAVID



SOLOMON



Saul reigned 40 years (Acts 13:21)

David reigned 40 years (2 Sam. 5:4)

Solomon reigned 40 years (1 Kings 11:42)

THEN THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

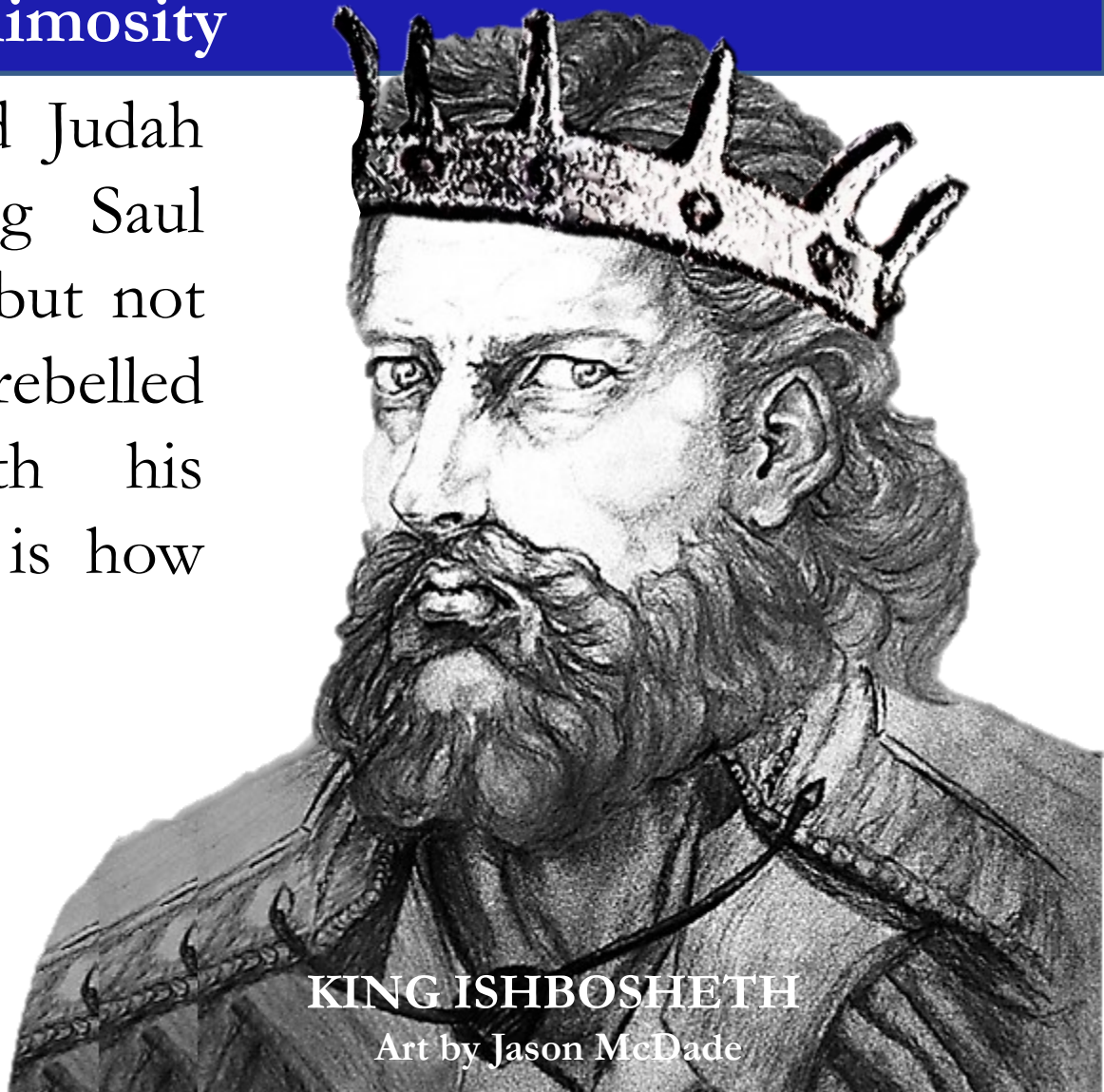
All the world loves a story . . .

So, the approach that has been taken with this study of the divided kingdom is that of emphasizing the stories of God's dealings with mankind; stories which intrigue because of their vivid portrayal of good and evil and that hopefully will stimulate one's interest in biblical history.

THE STORY OF ISHBOSHETH

The Origin Of Animosity

between Israel and Judah began when King Saul sinned, was sorry but not repentant, and rebelled when faced with his punishment. Here is how it all began . . .

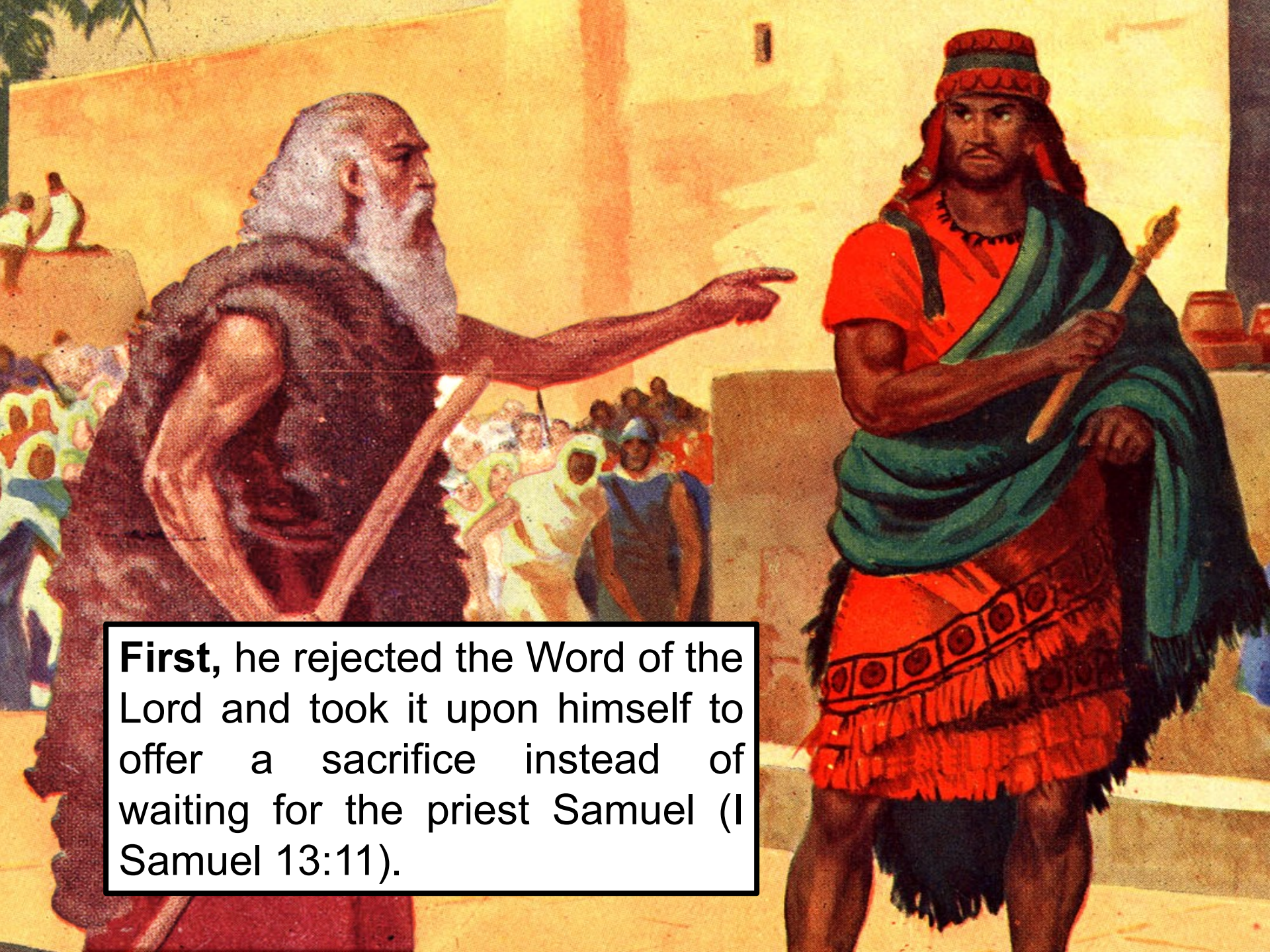


KING ISHBOSHETH

Art by Jason McDade

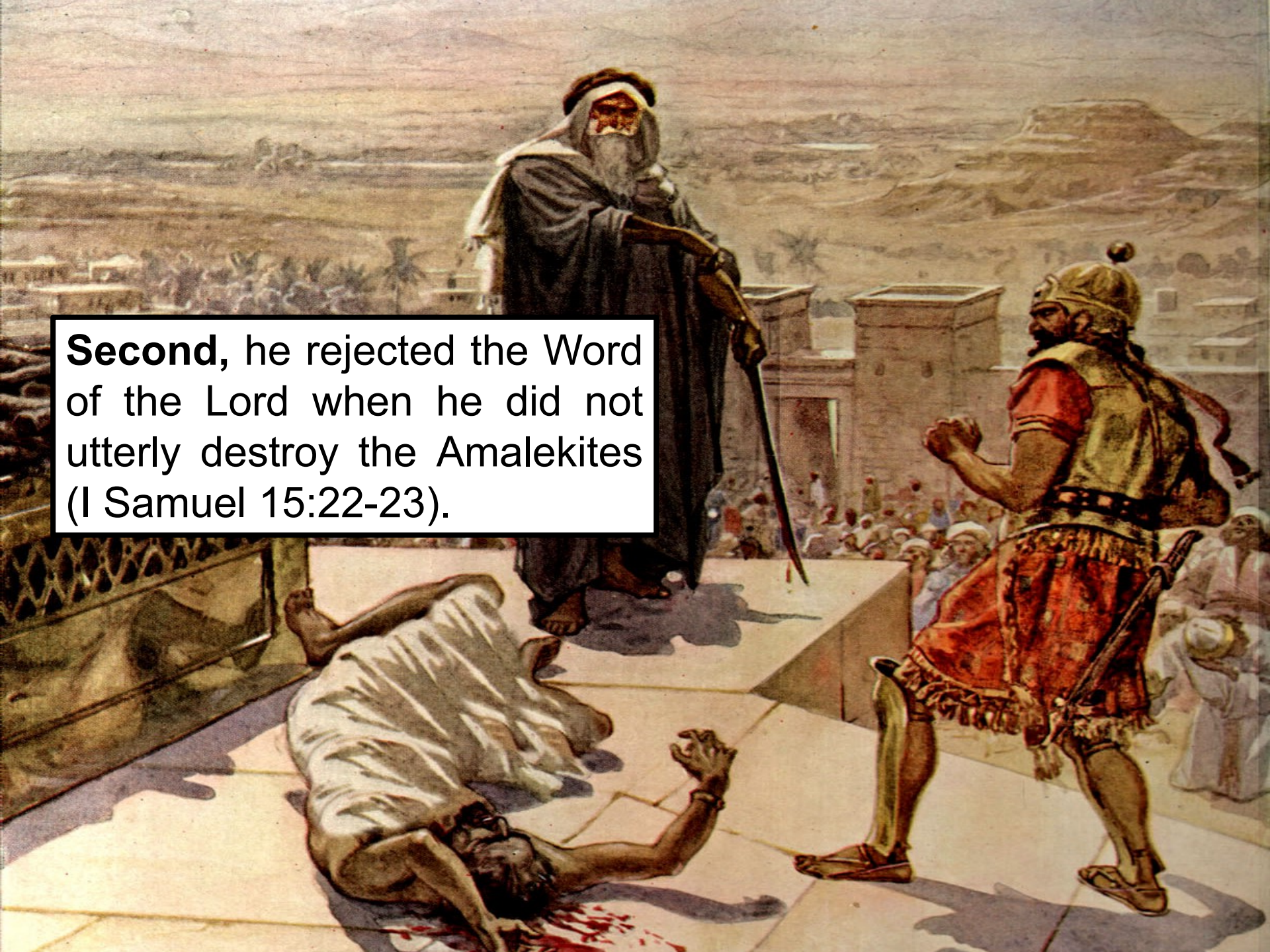
King Saul reigned from his hometown, Gibeah, after being anointed King of Israel. His reign was plagued by the continual threat of Israel's enemies, especially the Philistines. He called the men of Israel to arms and had a powerful army, but King Saul sinned on two specific occasions.





First, he rejected the Word of the Lord and took it upon himself to offer a sacrifice instead of waiting for the priest Samuel (I Samuel 13:11).

Second, he rejected the Word of the Lord when he did not utterly destroy the Amalekites (I Samuel 15:22-23).



Saul's punishment for the first infraction was that the kingdom would not continue long with him and the consequence for the second trespass was that the kingdom was going to be taken from him and given to another; thus, the royal dynasty would not continue through his lineage.



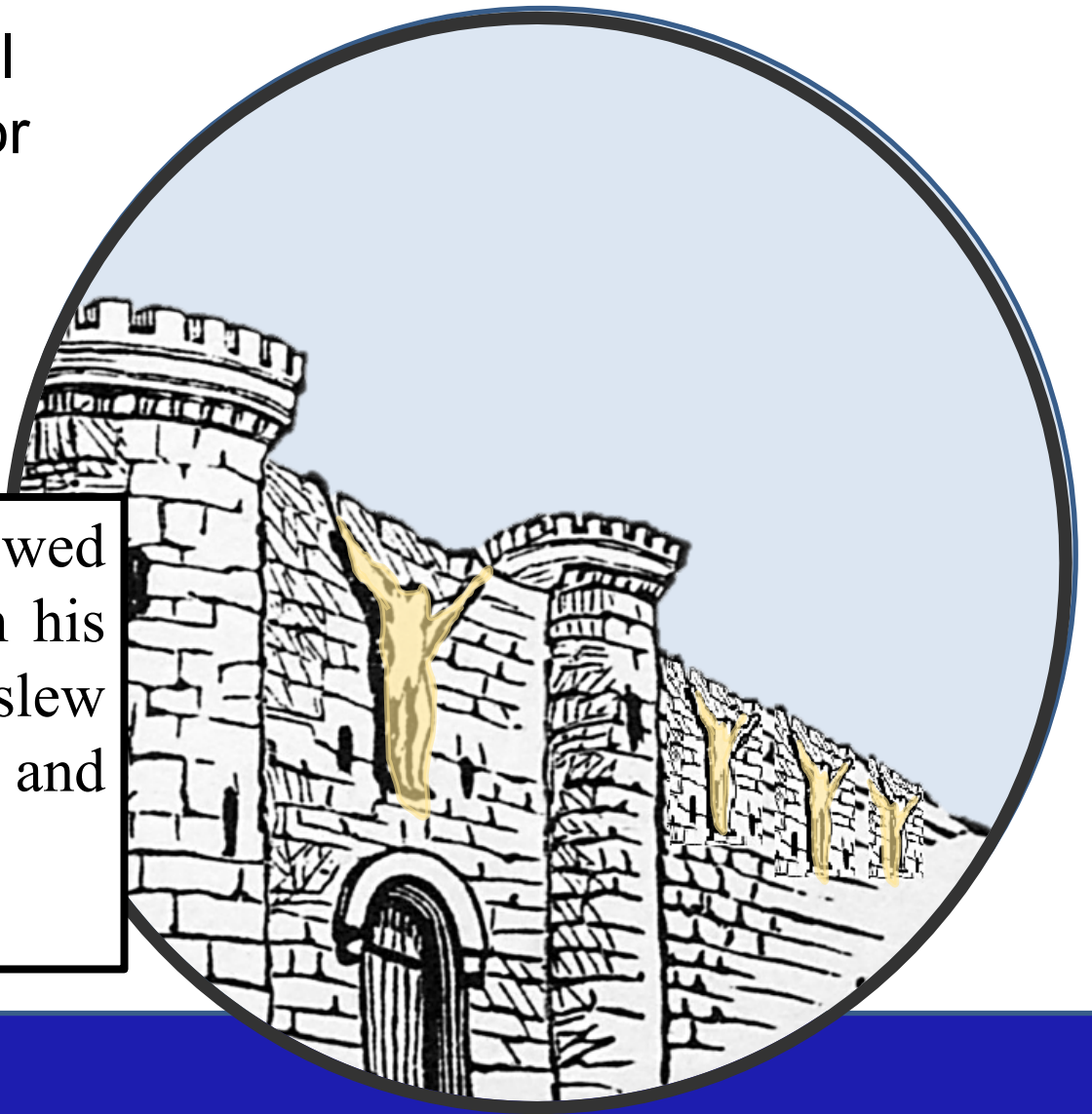
Saul ignored God's judgment against him. Above all he wanted his son, Jonathan, to reign after him, so he set about trying to kill David, God's choice as the next king.

For years David fled from King Saul to avoid being assassinated.



Saul was not successful in securing the crown for his son, Jonathan, for they were killed in the same battle along with two other sons.

“And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchishua, Saul’s sons”
(I Samuel 31:2).



But Saul had another son, Ishbosheth.

After the death of Saul, David went to Hebron in Judah where he was at once anointed king, but Abner, captain of Saul's army, took it upon himself to anoint Saul's son **Ishbosheth** as king over Israel. His royal city was Mahanaim.

So, David was king in Judah and **Ishbosheth** was king in Israel.



**For 2 years
Abner was loyal
to Ishbosheth
and served as
the captain of his
army though he
lost every battle
against David.**



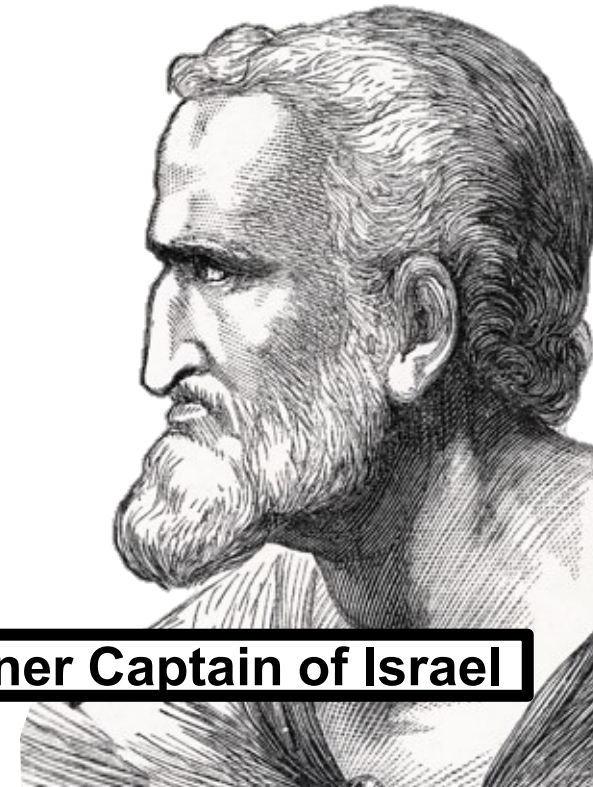
II Samuel 3:7ff

Abner's loyalty to King Ishbosheth ended because Ishbosheth accused him of taking deceased King Saul's concubine named Rizpah.

Abner was very angry over the accusation and immediately changed his loyalties to King David.



King Ishbosheth



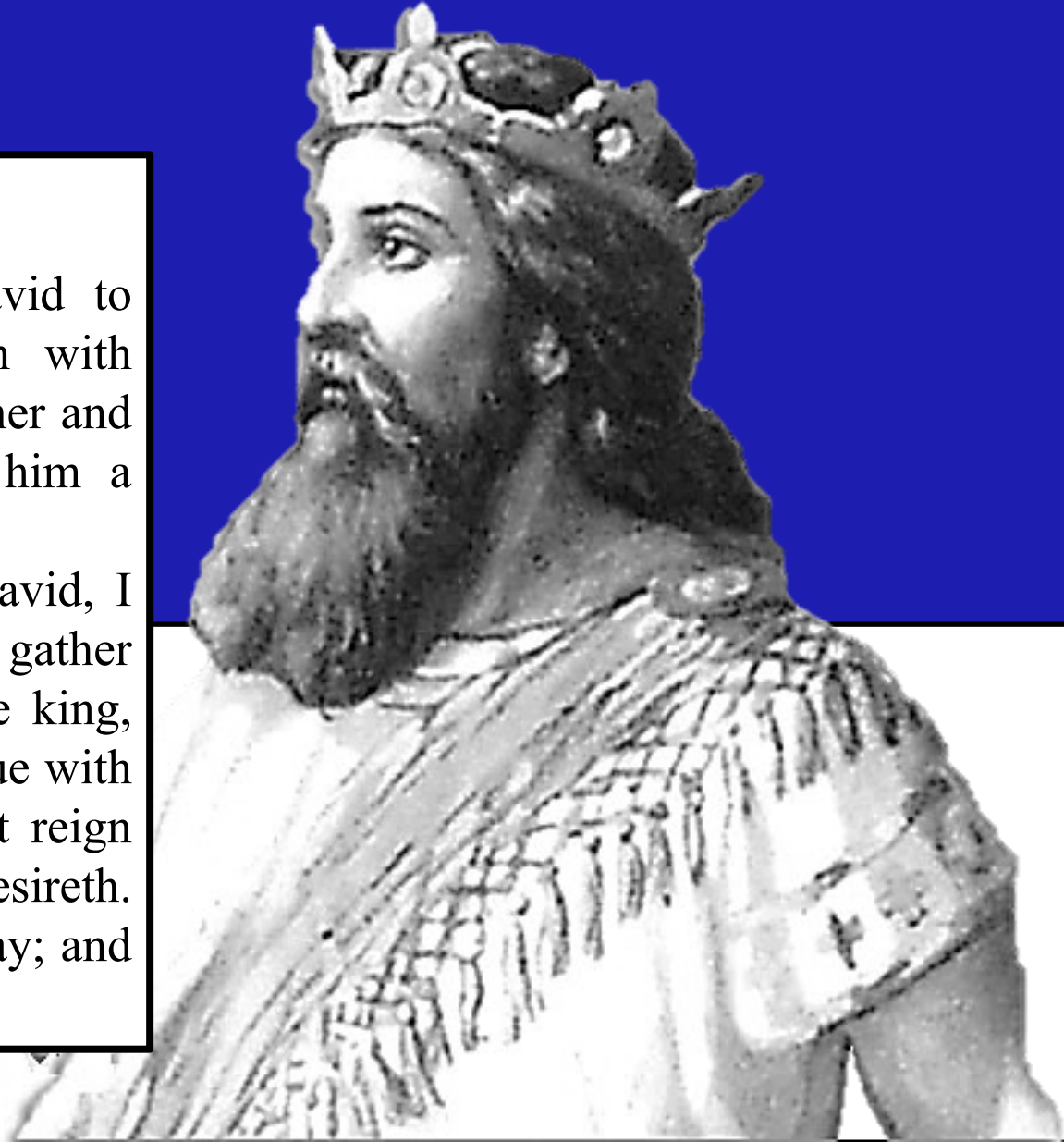
Abner Captain of Israel

David and Abner Make a League

2 Samuel 3

“²⁰So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and the men that were with him a feast.

²¹ And Abner said unto David, I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth. And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.”

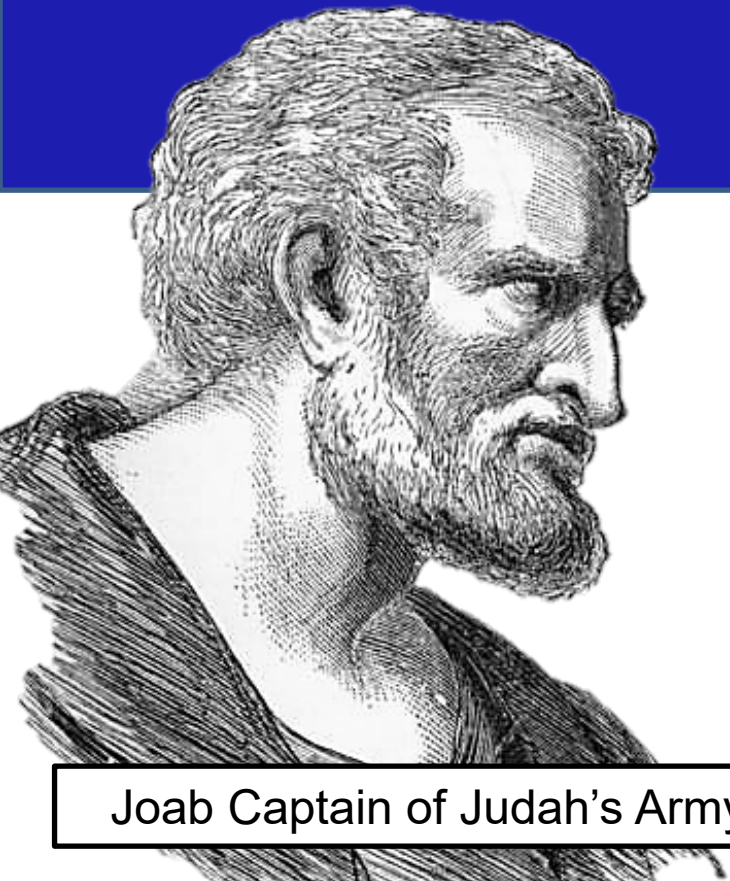


Joab was not present for the agreement between King David and Abner. He had been out with the troops.

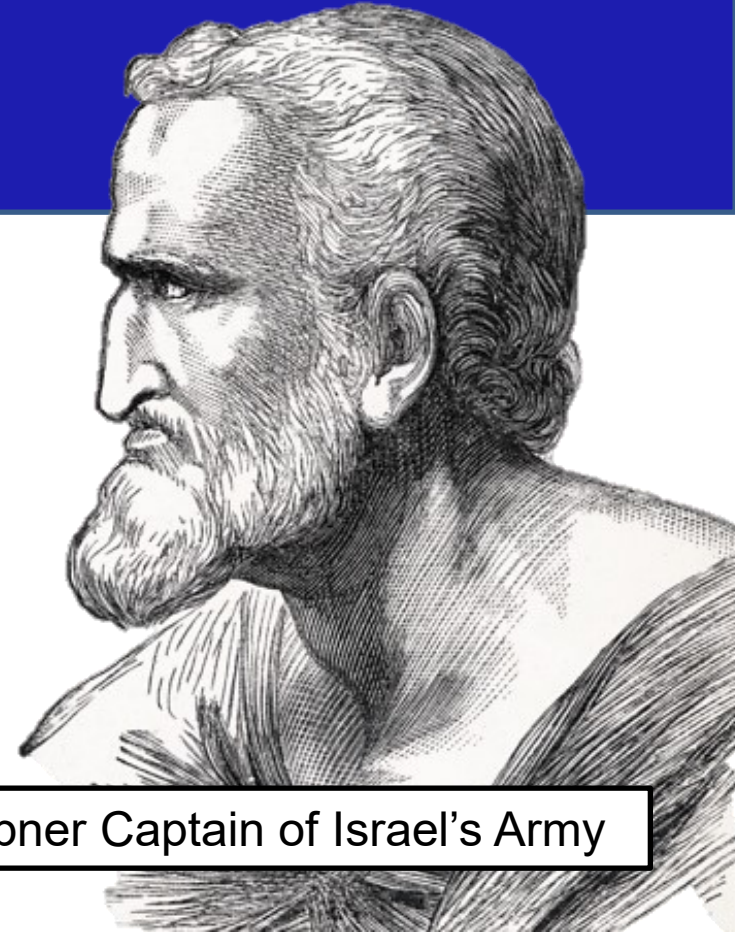
He was not pleased by David's decision. His reaction to David was, "What have you done?"



Joab hated Abner not only because he had led Ishbosheth's army and was the enemy of Judah but also because Abner had killed Joab's brother Asahel during the wars between Israel and Judah.



Joab Captain of Judah's Army



Abner Captain of Israel's Army

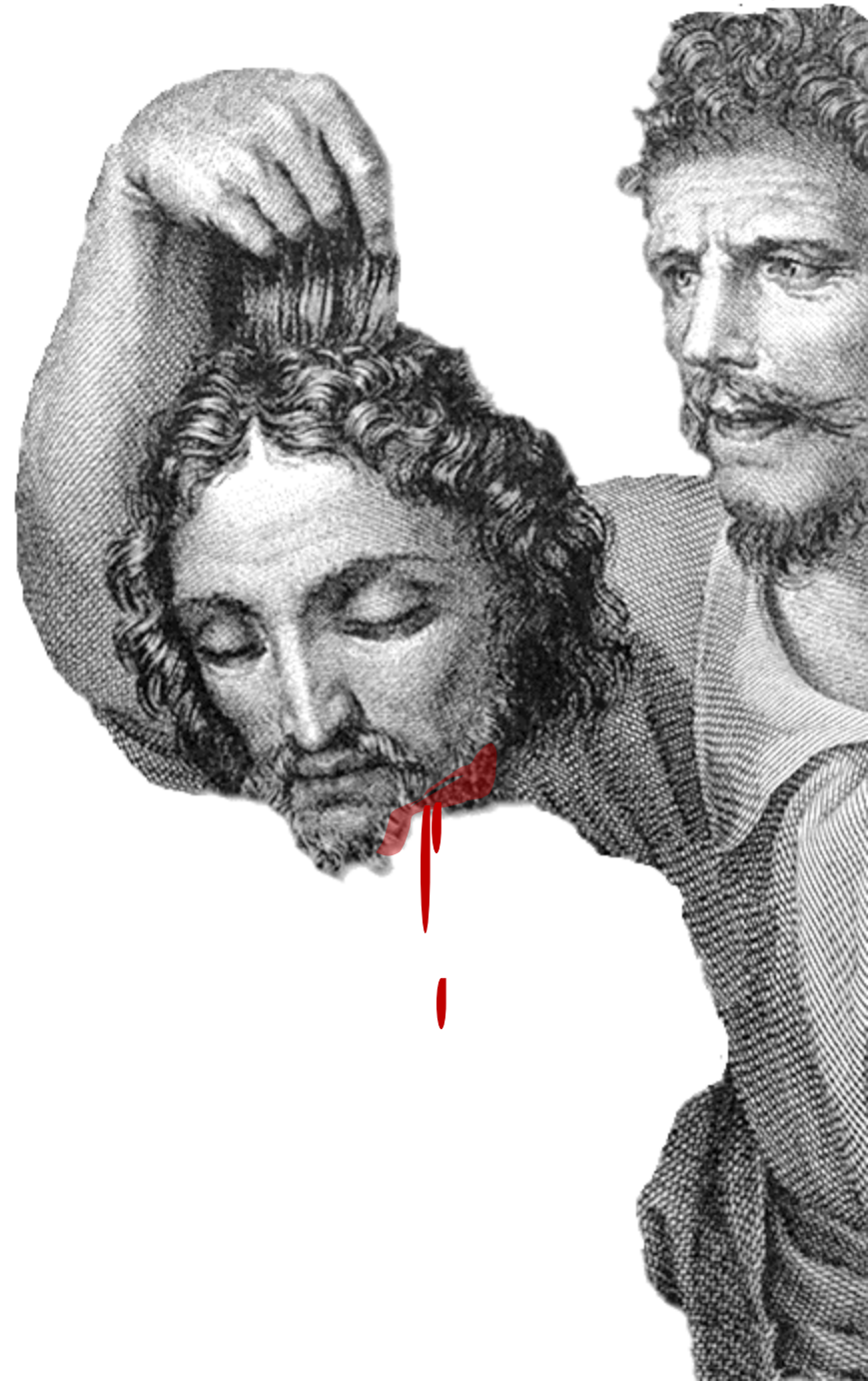
Joab was not ready to accept Abner's word that he had changed his loyalty to David. Joab sent for Abner, met him at the gate of Hebron and publicly assassinated him there (2 Samuel 3:27).

Joab was deprived of his position as David's captain as part of his punishment but was able to regain it later; see 1 Chronicles 11:6.



King Ishbosheth was vulnerable after losing Abner as the leader of his army. His people had lost confidence in him as their king.

Two other captains in Ishbosheth's army, Baanah and Rechab, changed their allegiance to David, went into Ishbosheth's house at noon and while he lay on his bed, they killed him, and beheaded him (II Samuel 4:5-6).



Baanah and Rechab took the grizzly severed head of Ishbosheth and presented it to David.

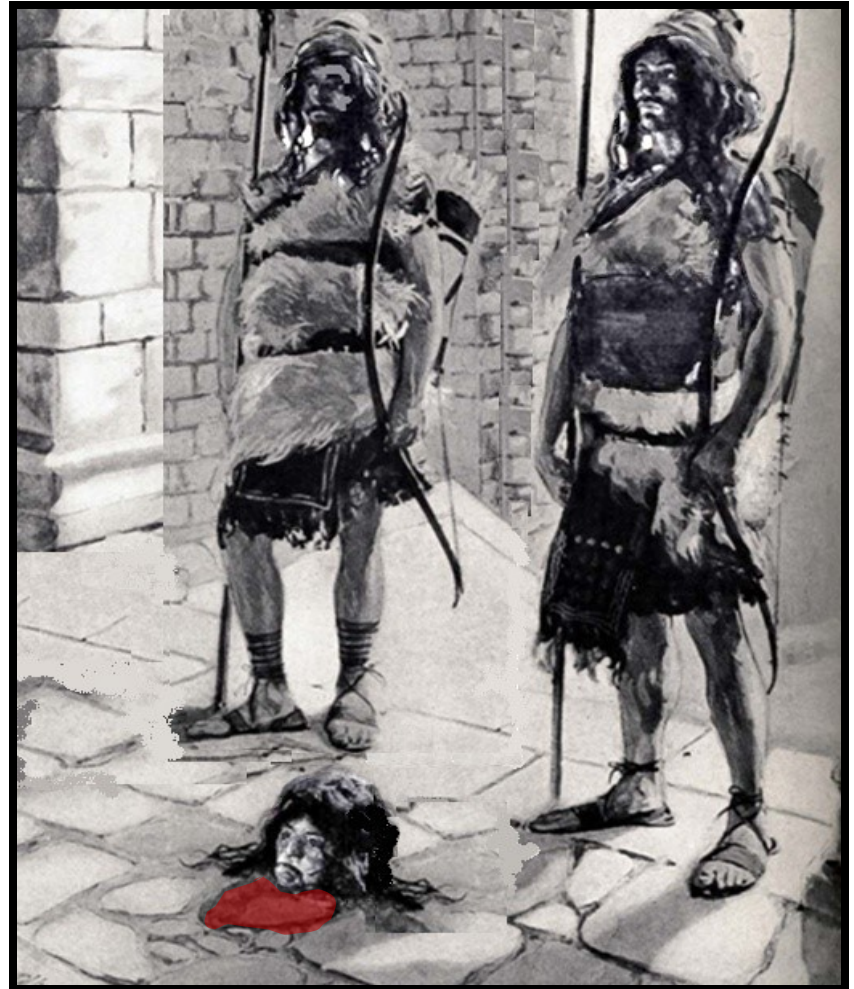
Possibly they were trying to avoid Abner's fate; for Joab had assassinated Abner when he attempted to change allegiance from Ishbosheth to David.



They must have thought killing Ishbosheth would demonstrate they could be trusted to be loyal to David.

But they did not get the reaction they anticipated, for David did not tolerate royal assassins.

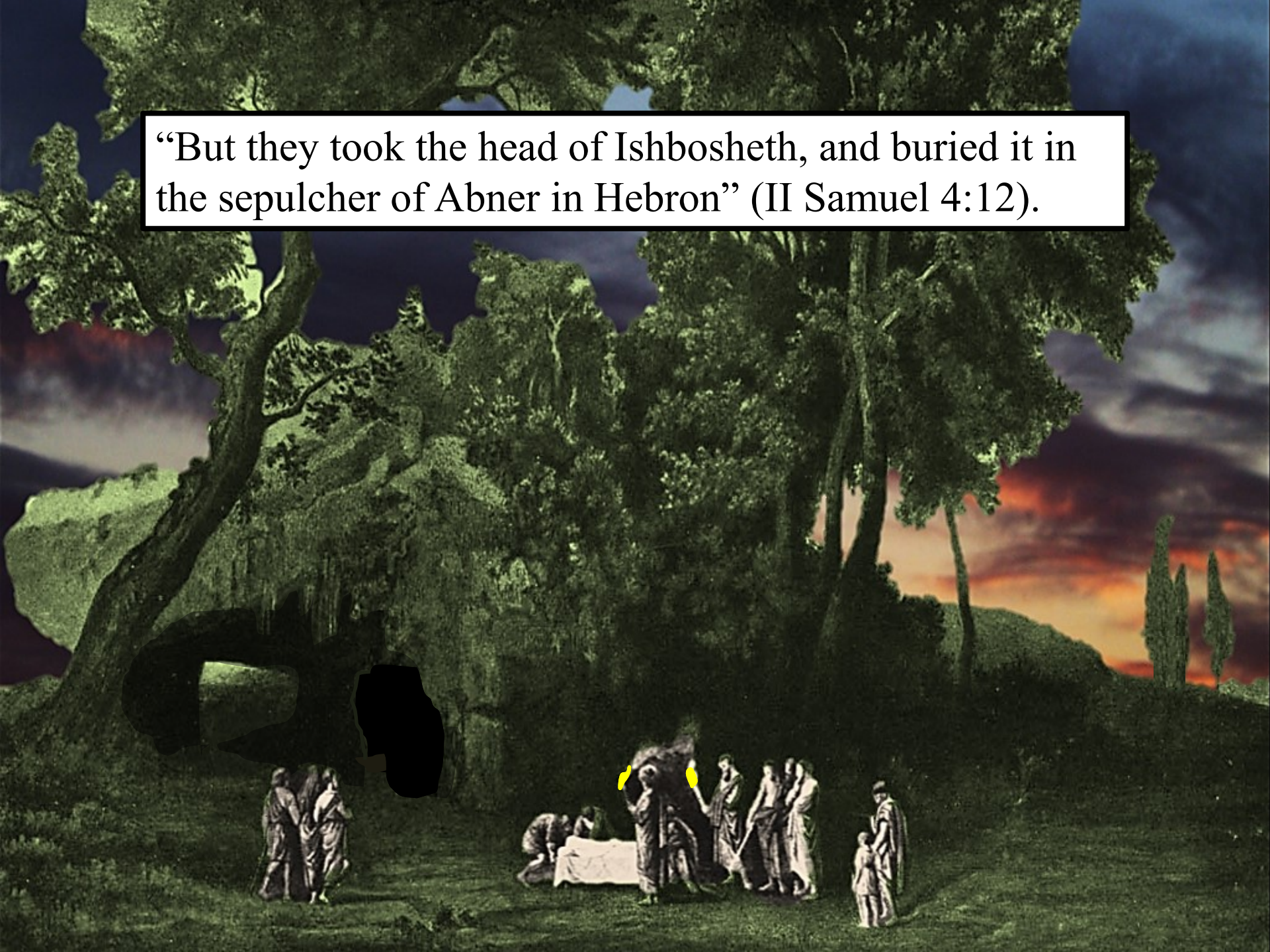
David ordered Baanah and Rechab's execution.



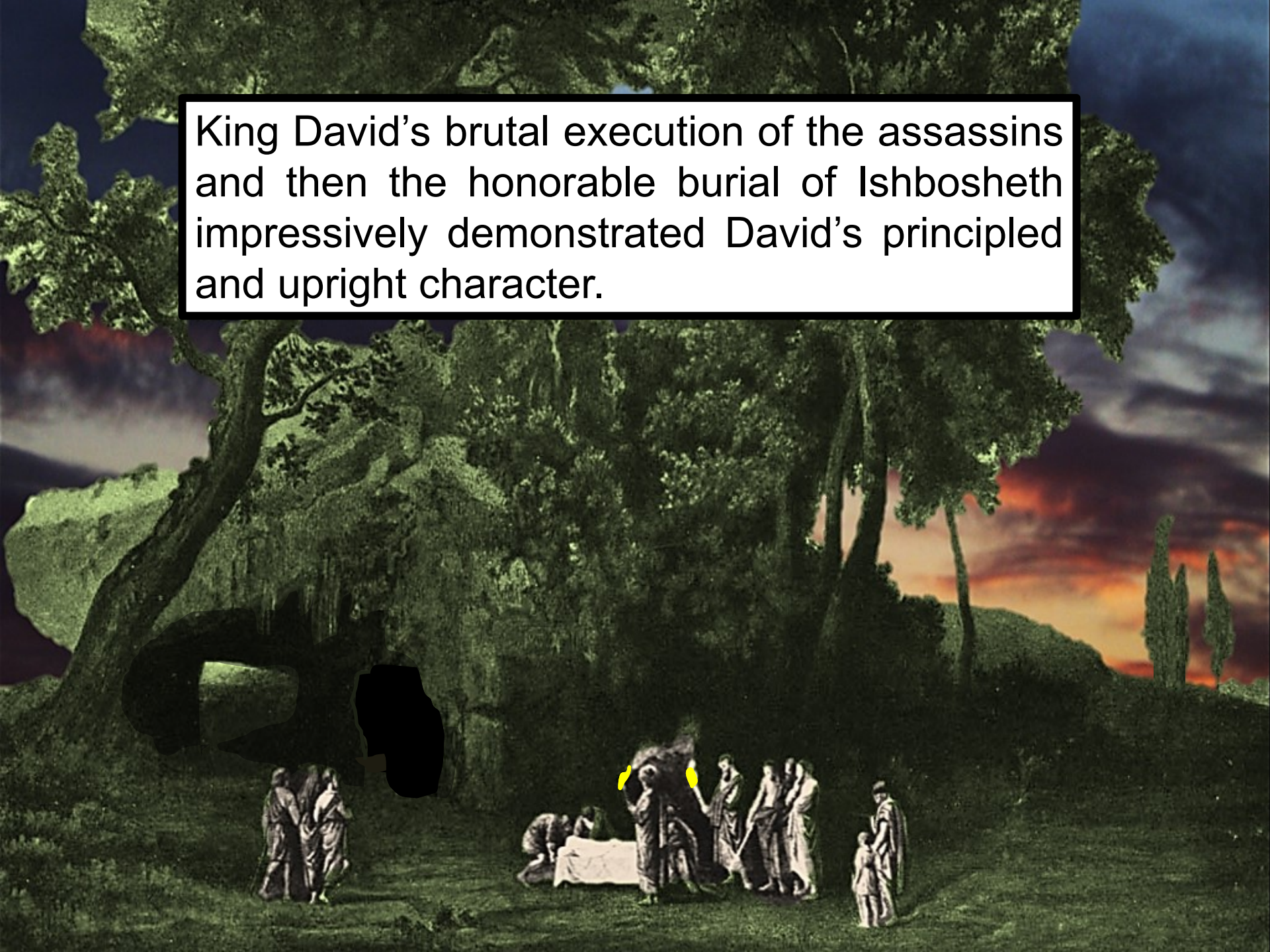
David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron.



“But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried it in the sepulcher of Abner in Hebron” (II Samuel 4:12).



King David's brutal execution of the assassins and then the honorable burial of Ishbosheth impressively demonstrated David's principled and upright character.



Thus King David gained respect, established Jerusalem as his royal city, and ruled over the United Kingdom of Israel.

But, the animosity between Judah and Israel would one day raise its ugly head again.



THE END