

Judges Overview



God's Will Prevails In Spite Of The Sins Of Sinful Leaders

Samuel Succeeds—Eli Falls and Dies "The Blessed man will succeed in ALL that he does..."

CHANGE FROM BARRENNESS TO FERTILITY 1:1-2:10

God blesses those who put Him first
Hannah obeys when she fulfills her vow
Eli's sons disobey their vows as priests
Hannah's obedience results in blessing.

A Blessed Son—Fertility—More Children

Hannah's song

"The mighty are broken — the feeble become strong" God turns barrenness into fertility

2:10 "The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed." The first mention in the Bible of a "Messiah King"

CONTRAST SAMUEL AND ELI'S SONS 2:11-36

Samuel is a channel of blessing—he is "fruitful"

Eli's sons are a source of frustration, corruption—they "will perish"

Eli's sons discourage the Israelites with their corruption

Eli does not restrain, or discipline, the sinful behavior of his sons

Eli's sons are growing in disfavor with both God and the men

Samuel is growing in favor with both God and men

Eli enjoys the fruits of his sons corruption and extortion

"Children can grow up in an ungodly environment away from parental supervision and still become godly." Tom Constable

CALLING SAMUEL TO BE GOD'S VOICE TO THE PEOPLE 3:1-21

Samuel's first message as a prophet is an announcement of Eli's doom.

God decides who will prosper and who will perish

The end Eli's line of priests

The beginning of Samuel's line of prophets

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT 4:1-7:2

Does losing the Ark means losing God?

The nation ignored God's covenant

The nation disregarded God's Law

Israel lost God's blessing—but not His presence

God's Glory departs from Israel—not God Himself

God demonstrates His Glory in the land of Philistia (Ch. 5—6)

He destroys dagon and he inflicts pain

SAMUEL AS ISRAEL'S JUDGE 7:3-17

Samuel is faithful—like Hannah
Samuel's leadership was a blessing Israel "he gives fruit in his season"
Samuel calls his people to repentance, confession, and cleansing and intercession through the blood of a Lamb—
and then there is victory!

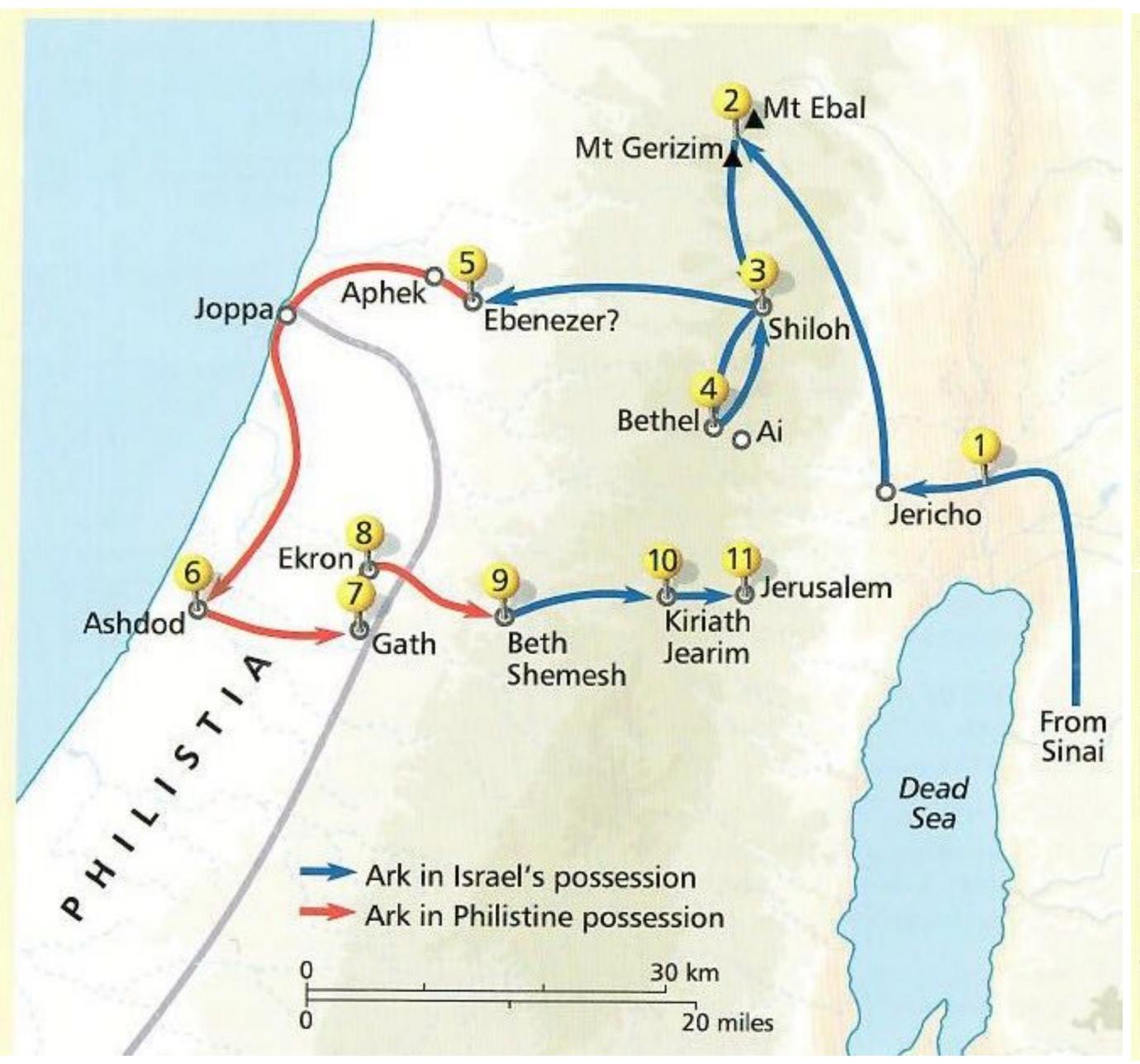
THE ARK IS CAPTURED

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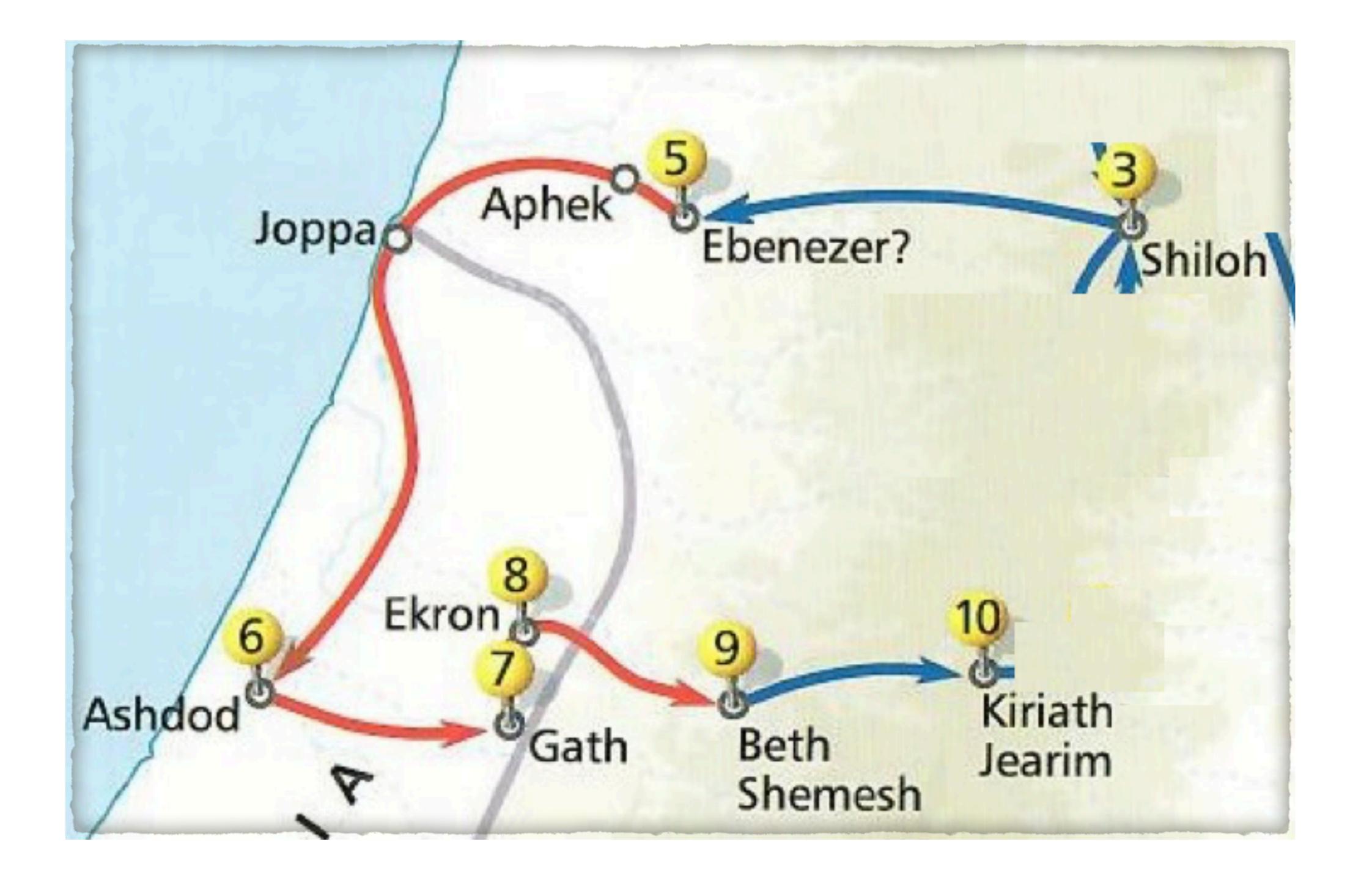
When the Israelites invaded Canaan the ark of the covenant was carried to the fore. After the land was conquered, it was placed in the shrine at Shiloh. And there it stayed, apart from a brief trip to Bethel, until it was taken into battle by the Israelite forces who were fighting the Philistines. It was a disastrous move. The Israelites were decimated, and the ark was captured and taken to the Temple of Dagon in Ashdod.

Holding the ark, however, proved problematic for the Philistines. Their temple was damaged, and a plague was visited on the vicinity. They moved it from city to city, but eventually they were forced to return it. It was placed on a cart and sent back into Israelite territory, eventually resting at Kiriath Jearim.

It was to stay there for several decades, until David secured the kingdom, captured Jerusalem and brought the ark into his new capital.



- 1. The ark dries up the Jordan (Joshua 3:7–13), c. 1400 BC.
- 2. The ark between the mountains (Joshua 8:33), c. 1400 BC.
- 3. The ark rests in the shrine at Shiloh (1 Samuel 3:2–3), c. 1350–1050 BC.
- 4. The ark "visits" Bethel (Judges 20:26–27), c. 1200 BC.
- 5. The ark is captured by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:1–11), c. 1050 BC.
- 6. The ark in the Temple of Dagon (1 Samuel 5:1–5), c. 1050 BC.
- 7. The ark is moved to Gath (1 Samuel 5:6–9), c. 1050 BC.
- 8. The ark is moved to Ekron (1 Samuel 5:10–12), c. 1050 BC.
- 9. 70 people die when the ark arrives at Beth Shemesh (1 Samuel 6:13–19), c. 1050 BC.
- 10. The ark rests at Kiriath Jearim (1 Samuel 7:2), c. 1050–980 BC.
- 11. David brings the ark to the house of Obed (2 Samuel 6:1–11), then into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:12–19), c. 980 BC.



The Proud <--> The Humble The family if Eli <--> The family of Elkanah The Priests <--> Samuel

1 Samuel 1—7

The History of Israel's continued its downward spiral into corruption and decay from within. The Ark of the Covenant, the place of God's Presence, was captured by Philistines. Eli's Priesthood was captured by the sin and greed of his sons. When Eli's grandson is born, his dying mother names him "I-chaBOD"—*The Glory Departed*.

Israel has reached one of the lowest points in its history. It is through Samuel that the Lord will raise it up.

