

1 & 2 Samuel Series

Lesson #096

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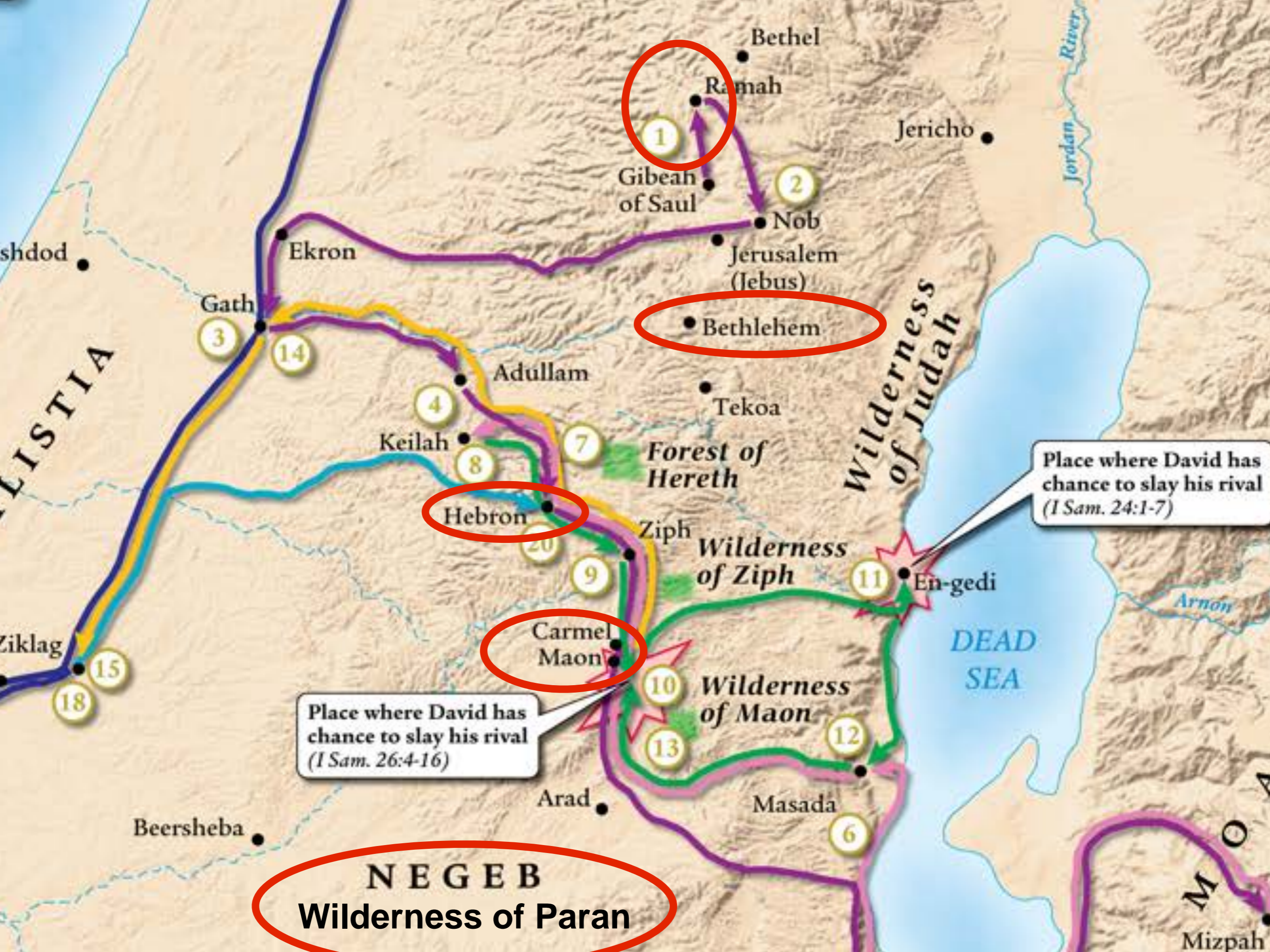
Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

DAVID: EXTENDING THE CONQUEST

1 SAMUEL 27:1–12



1

Bethlehem

Hebron

Carmel Maon

NEGEB
Wilderness of Paran

Place where David has chance to slay his rival (I Sam. 24:1-7)

Place where David has chance to slay his rival (I Sam. 26:4-16)

1 Sam. 27:1, “And David said in his heart, ‘Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.’ ”

“The lack of any mention of him inquiring of God here is not evidence that his decisions are wrong. The Samuel narratives are more subtle than that.”

~Harry Hoffner, *Evangelical Exegetical Commentary, 1 Samuel*

Prov. 3:5, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

Prov. 3:6, “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

“Saul exercised complete authority over all areas of the Israelite occupation, including Judah. Yet he evidently did not try to expand his rule to take in the foreign population, either in Transjordan or among the Canaanites and Philistines. When David escaped to Gath, Saul did not try to pursue him further (1 Sam. 27:4). Although Saul’s capital was at Gibeah of Benjamin, there is no intimation that Jebusite Jerusalem caused him any trouble, and the presence of that enclave did not prevent his complete control over Judah.”

“As a rule, it appears that Saul maintained normal relations with the neighbouring foreign population, as long as they did not bother the Israelites. The ‘land of Israel’ in Saul’s day was still confined to the precincts of the Israelite settlements, i.e., it was still a limited term (cf. 1 Sam. 13:19). The Philistines must have finally become reconciled to this situation, that is, until the balance of power in the Jezreel Valley was broken. When Saul gained control over the central part of the Jezreel Valley, it was tantamount to closing off the Via Maris against the Philistines in that area.”

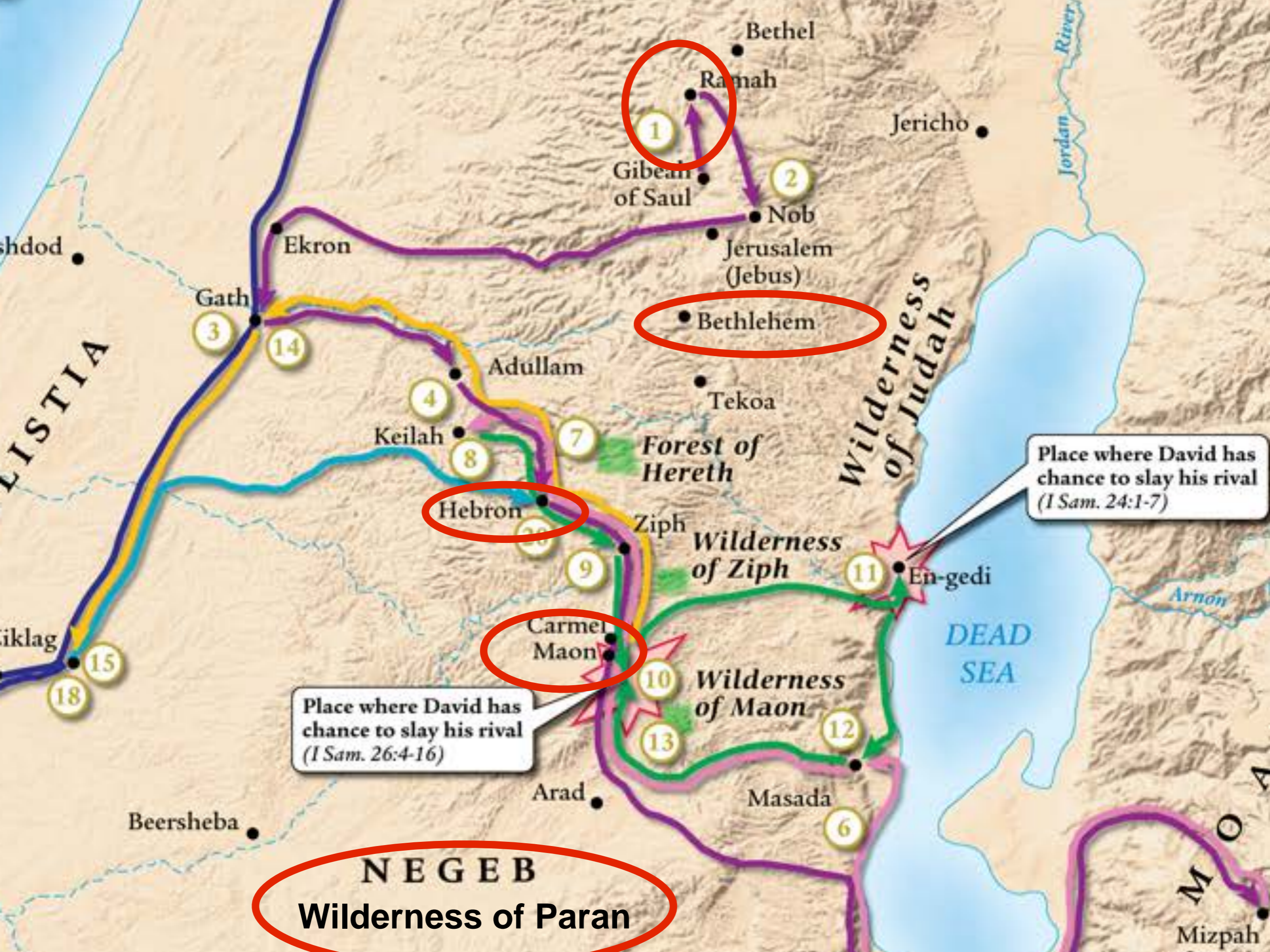
~Y. Aharoni, *The Land of Israel*, 1949

1 Sam. 27:2, “Then David arose and went over with the six hundred men who were with him to Achish the son of Maoch, king of Gath.

1 Sam. 27:3, “So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal’s widow.”

1 Sam. 27:5, “Then David said to Achish, ‘If I have now found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?’

1 Sam. 27:6, “So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day.”



1

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NEGEB
Wilderness of Paran

Place where David has chance to slay his rival (1 Sam. 24:1-7)

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Tell Sera (Tell esh-Sharia), Tell Halif (Tell Khuweilifeh), and Tell Beersheba (Tell es-Seba) have been suggested as possibilities and are shown on this map.



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

DEAD SEA

Negeb

MOAB

EDOM

SINAI

MIDIAN

Wilderness of Shur

Wilderness of Zin

Wilderness of Paran

Wilderness of Sin

AQABA/ELAT

Kadesh-barnea

Punon

Petra

Timnah

Ezion-geber

J. Baqir

J. el-Lawz

al-Qurayya

Ashkelon

Gaza

Arad

Dibon

Aroer

Kir-hareseth

Ije-abarim

J. Karkom

J. Kharif

J. Helal

Azmon

J. Magharah

J. Yeleq

J. Sin Bisher

J. esh-Sha'ira

Serabit el-Khadim

Rephidim

J. Serbal

T. el-Farana

T. el-Herr

Migdol (T. el-Borg)

Sile (T. Hebua)

Daphnae (T. Defana)

T. Abu Sefeh

Succoth/Tjeku (T. el-Maskhuta)

Large Bitter Lake

Small Bitter Lake

W. Tumulat

Lake(s) Ballah

Lake Timsah

W. Feiran

W. of Arish

W. of Arish

W. of Arish

Hamat Gader

Lake Manzaleh

Lake Sirbonis

Arnon River

Zered River

Hamat Gader



**Tell Sera, the mound shown here,
is one of the possible sites for biblical Ziklag.**

1 Sam. 27:8, “And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt.

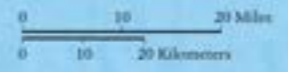
1 Sam. 27:9, “Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.”

1 Sam. 15:3, “ ‘Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ ”

**1־חַרַם *charam*-1 hofal
imperf 3 masc sing
to ban, devote, destroy**

THE KINGDOM OF KING SAUL

- ★ Capital city
- City
- Site with Philistine presence
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ▭ Valley nominally controlled by Saul
- ▭ Saul's kingdom



Ex. 17:14, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.’”

Ex. 17:15, “And Moses built an altar and called its name, *The–LORD–Is–My–Banner*;

Ex. 17:16, “for he said, ‘Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.’”

Deut. 25:17, “Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt,

Deut. 25:18, “how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.

Deut. 25:19, “Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.”

Is there such a thing as biblical Holy War?

1. The term *Holy War* is not used in the Bible.

2. The biblical term is

1-חרם *charam*-1 hof imperf 3 masc sing
to ban, devote, destroy

“The basic meaning is the exclusion of an object from the use or abuse of man and its irrevocable surrender to God. The word is related to an Arabic root meaning ‘to prohibit, especially to ordinary use.’ The word ‘harem,’ meaning the special quarters for Muslim wives, comes from it. It is related also to an Ethiopic root, meaning ‘to forbid, prohibit, lay under a curse.’ Surrendering something to God meant devoting it to the service of God or putting it under a ban for utter destruction.”

~(TWOT)

3. In the Bible there is a period of intense warfare between Israel and her neighbors, where God is authorizing Israel to destroy specific peoples because of their horrible sins and years of hostility toward God. These were the Canaanite groups who were guilty of the grossest religious sins of all time—infant sacrifice, sexual orgies, and temple prostitution. These religions embody the worst that human history had to offer.

4. God's promise to Abraham in Gen. 15 foreshadows what will come.

Gen. 15:13, “Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.’”

Gen. 15:16, “But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

5. From a spiritual standpoint, God is looking at this as a battle between the kingdom of Satan/man vs. the establishment of His theocratic kingdom. As such, biblical *cherem*, is a type or picture of spiritual warfare in the Church Age when the believer is to annihilate areas of sinful and human viewpoint thinking in the soul.

1 Sam. 27:8, “And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt.

1 Sam. 27:9, “Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.”

1 Sam. 27:10 , “Then Achish would say, ‘Where have you made a raid today?’ And David would say, ‘Against the southern area of Judah, or against the southern area of the Jerahmeelites, or against the southern area of the Kenites.’

1 Sam. 27:11, “David would save neither man nor woman alive, to bring news to Gath, saying, ‘Lest they should inform on us, saying, “Thus David did.” ’ And thus was his behavior all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.”

1 Sam. 28:1, “Now it happened in those days that the Philistines gathered their armies together for war, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, ‘You assuredly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men.’”

1 Sam. 28:2, “So David said to Achish, ‘Surely you know what your servant can do.’ And Achish said to David, ‘Therefore I will make you one of my chief guardians forever.’ ”