

Judges Series

Lesson #31

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**The Cattle Prod
Massacre**

Judges 3:31

JUDGES

**Moral Relativism
Destroys a Nation**

2021 Series

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

**How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites**

Incomplete obedience

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson (the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

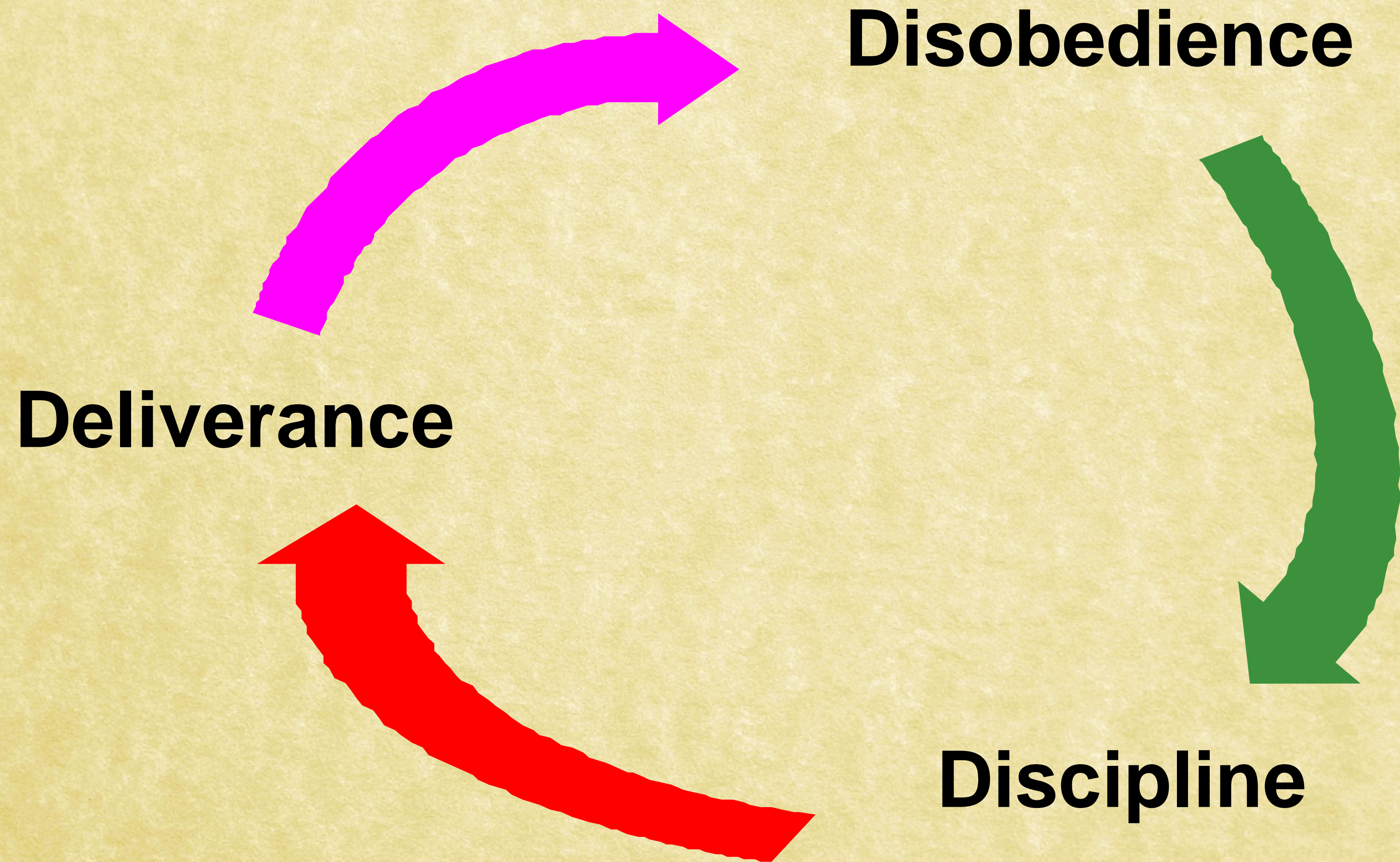
Chap. 17–18

and the

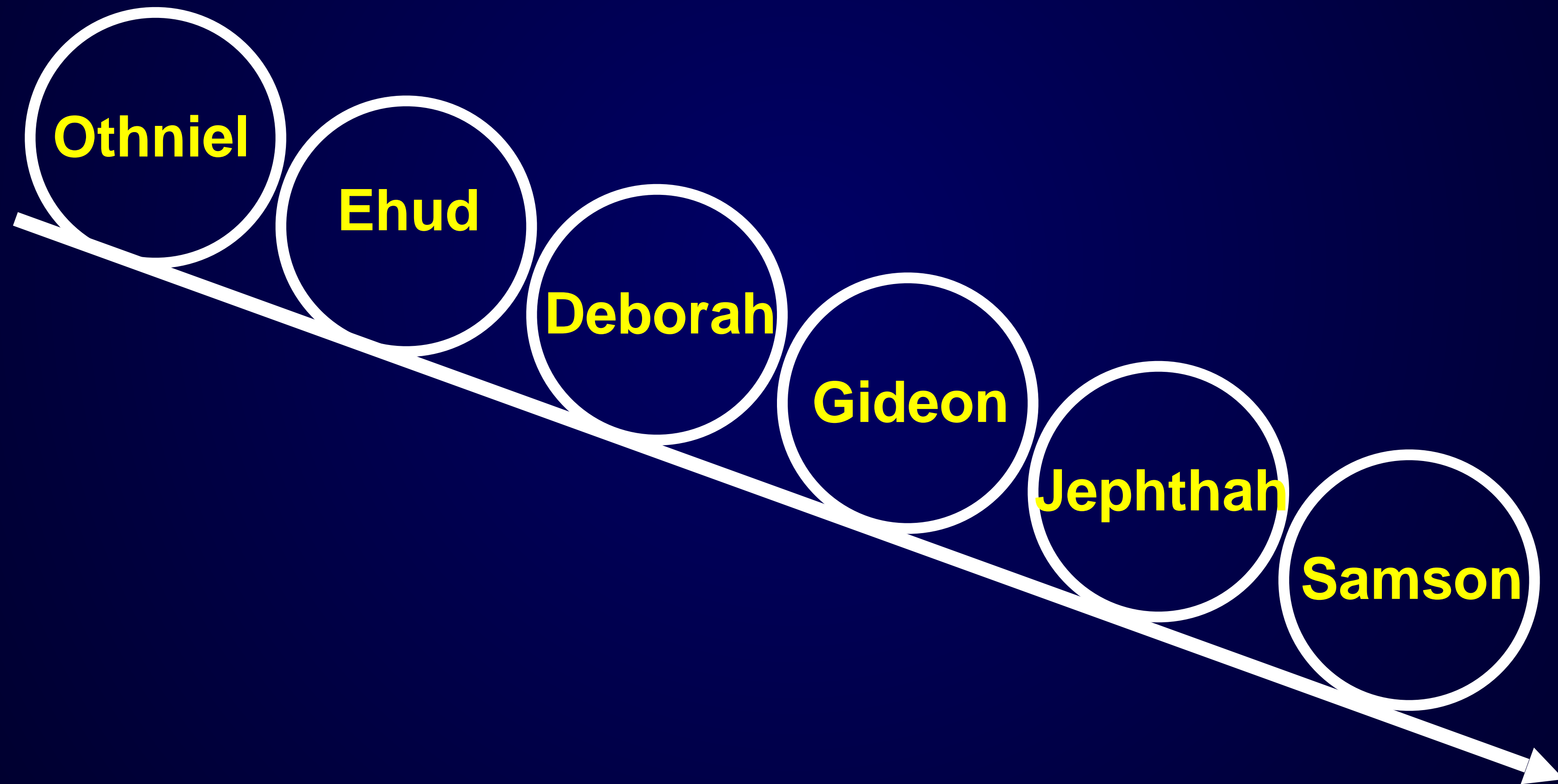
People

Chap. 19–21

The Cycles of the Judges



Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges





MEDITERRANEAN SEA



PHILISTIA

SAMARIA

AMMON

JUDAEA

MOAB

EDOM

EASTERN DESERT

Joppa

Ashdod

Ekron

Gath

Lachish

Raphia

Beersheba

Negeb

Azekah

Adullah

Hebron

Jerusalem

Engedi

DEAD SEA

Jericho

Gezer

Aphek

Samaria

Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Shechem

Dor

Jokneam

Megiddo

Beth-shan

Jabesh-gilead

Mahanaim

Beth-arbel

Ramoth-gilead

Ashtaroth

Mt. Hauran

G I L E A D

Rabbah (Amman)

Aroer

Kir-hareseth

Zered River

Arnon River

Jabbok River

Jordan River

W. Faria River

Yarmuk River

Galilee

Besor Brook

Judg. 3:30, “So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land was undisturbed for eighty years.”

After Ehud was Shamgar the son of Anath



“Shamgar Street” sign in Jerusalem

Judg. 3:31, “After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.” ~NKJV

No mention of the formulae or the structure which we have seen.

- **Israel's evil in the sight of the Lord**
- **An oppression by the Philistines**
- **God raising up an oppressor**
- **The people crying out to the Lord**
- **God raising up a deliverer, although Shamgar is said to deliver Israel**
- **Though Shamgar delivers Israel, he is not identified as a Judge**
- **The Holy Spirit does not come upon him**
- **God is not mentioned at all**

Judg. 3:10a, “The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel. ...”

Judg. 4:4, “Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.”

Questions to answer:

What's going on here with the Philistines? How did they attack? Where was it felt? When did it occur?

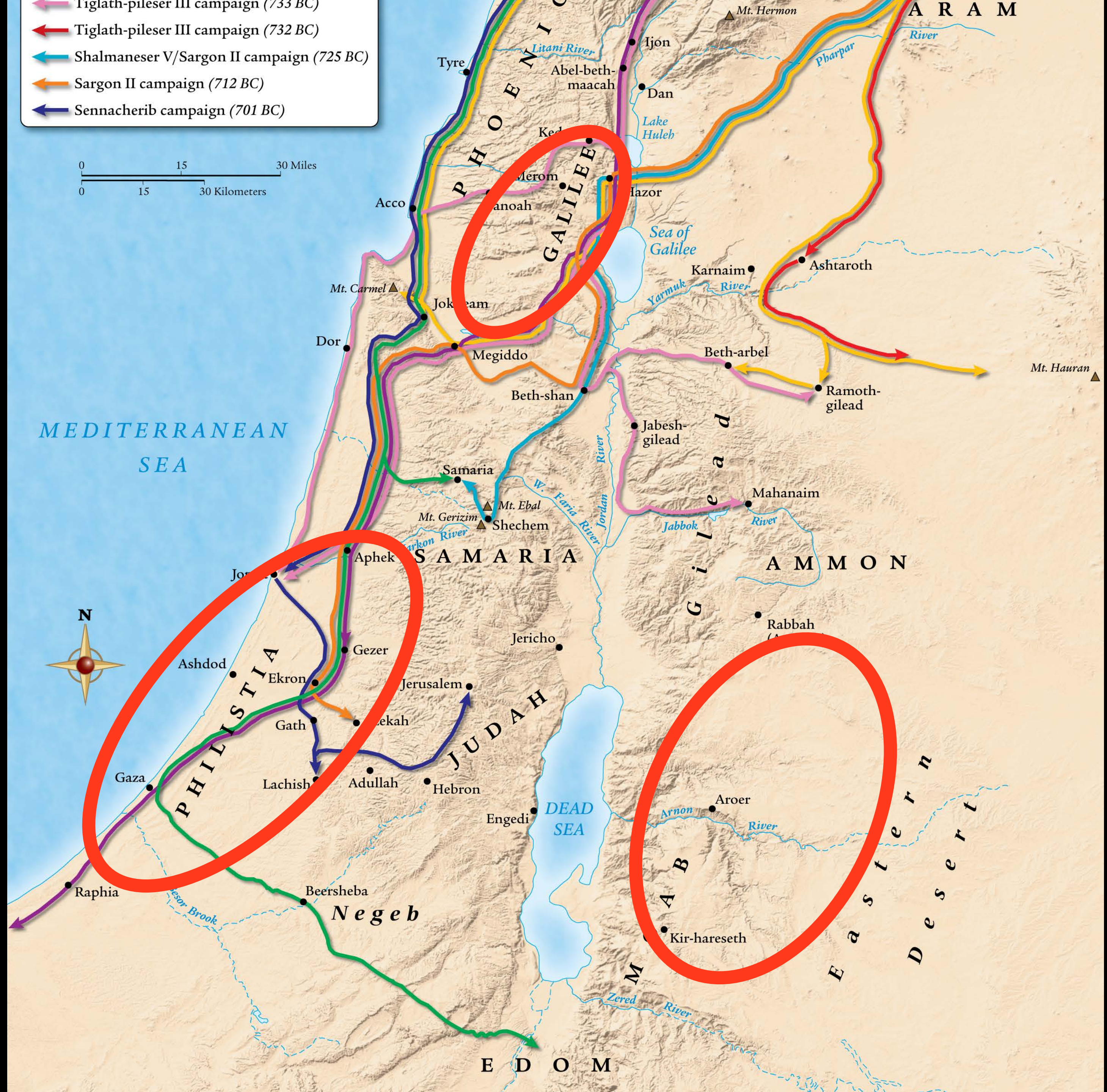
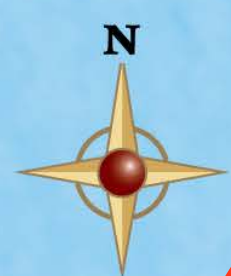
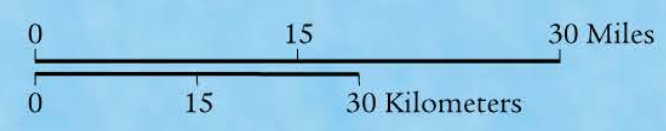
- **Who is Shamgar?**
- **Is he an Israelite or not?**
- **From whence does he come? And**
- **How does he emerge as a champion of Israel?**
- **How did he manage to slaughter 600 Philistines who were known for their military might, for their advanced technology, iron, and their ruthlessness. He defeats them with an ox goad, i.e., a cattle prod.**

Shamgar ben Anath

- **Anath was the goddess of war, the consort of Ba'al.**
- **In the Egyptian 19th Dynasty, she was part of the Egyptian pantheon, the personal protectress of Pharaoh.**
- **An inscription at Wadi Hammamat (1166–1160 BC) a troop (800 men) of 'Apiru mercenaries are "the sons of Anath".**



- Tiglath-pileser III campaign (733 BC)
- Tiglath-pileser III campaign (732 BC)
- Shalmaneser V/Sargon II campaign (725 BC)
- Sargon II campaign (712 BC)
- Sennacherib campaign (701 BC)



Judg. 4:5, “And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

Judg. 4:6, “Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, ‘Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, “Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;” ’ ”

Judg. 4:7, “ ‘ “and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand” ’?”

Judg. 4:8, “And Barak said to her, ‘If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 4:9, “So she said, ‘I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.’ Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.” ~NKJV

Judg. 3:31, “After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.” ~NKJV

He killed 600 men of the Philistines



Philistine captives depicted on an Egyptian temple, 12th century BC

He killed 600 men of the Philistines with an oxgoad



Plow, forks, and farm tools

He killed 600 men of the Philistines with an oxgoad



Man plowing with a cow and a donkey, holding an oxgoad

He killed 600 men of the Philistines with an oxgoad



Reconstructed plow with oxgoad

He killed 600 men of the Philistines with an oxgoad



Man plowing with a horse in eastern Samaria, holding an oxgoad

He killed 600 men of the Philistines with an oxgoad



Illustration of a man plowing, oxgoad in hand

James 1:27, “Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their misfortune and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

James 3:15, “This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, soulish, demonic.” ~NKJV

James 4:4, “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” ~NKJV

Rom. 12:1, “I implore you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, set apart, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ~NKJV

Rom. 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this spirit of this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the thinking of your mind, that you may demonstrate that God’s will is good and acceptable and perfect.”