

Judges Series

Lesson #65

July 19, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

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**Testing: God's Refining
Process
Judges 7:1–8:3**

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

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

Heb. 11:32, “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

Heb. 11:33, “who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Heb. 11:34, “quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

Judg. 6:34, “But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.”

Psa. 56:4, “In God (I will praise His word), in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?”

Psa. 56:11, “In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Zech. 4:6, “So he answered and said to me: ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

The Setting:

Judg. 7:1, “Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.”

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6:34: “the **Abiezrites** gathered behind him,
6:35: “He also sent messengers to **Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali**; and they came up to meet them.”

Judg. 6:33, “Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.” ~NKJV



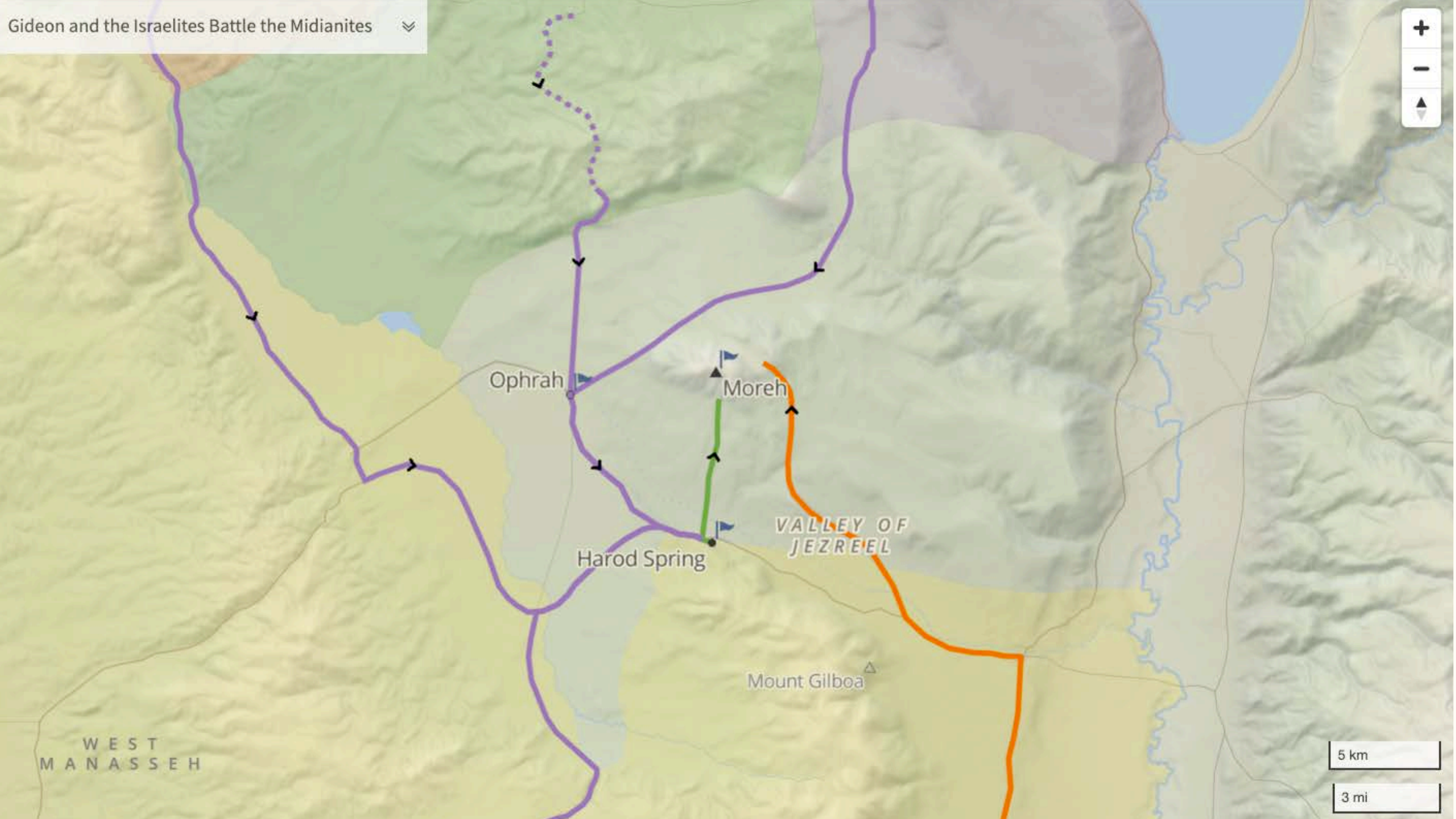
Site where Saul's
corpse was impaled

Site where Saul died

Site where Saul
was buried



Pictorial Library Vol. 2: Jezreel Valley



Ophrah

Moreh

Harod Spring

VALLEY OF JEZREEL

Mount Gilboa

WEST
MANASSEH

5 km

3 mi

God's plan is to make it clear that the victory is His, not Gideon's, not the Israelite's, but God alone gave the victory.

Judg. 7:2, “And the LORD said to Gideon, ‘The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’” ’ ”

Midian had 135,000 soldiers.

Gideon had 32,000.

Gideon was outnumbered over 4 to 1, but God thought Gideon had too many.

So they are reduced to 10,000.

BUT 13.5 to 1; still too many.

So they are reduced to 10,000.

BUT 13.5 to 1; still too many.

Then they will be reduced to 300.

450 to 1, those are now odds in God's favor.

1. God gives the analysis: If Israel wins with 4 to 1 odds against them, they can claim a tremendous victory and take all of the credit. “My own hand has saved me.”

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2. God knows that both Gideon and many of the men are trembling and in fear.

Judg. 7:3, “Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.’ And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.”

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יָרֵא *yare'* masc sing abs fear

**חָרַד *chared* masc sing
abs tremble, afraid,
fearful**

Judg. 7:4, “But the Lord said to Gideon, ‘The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, “This one shall go with you,” the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, “This one shall not go with you,” the same shall not go.’

Judg. 7:5, “So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, ‘Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.’ ” ~NKJV

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צָרַף *tzaraf* qal imperf 1 com sing cohortativeM to refine

Isa. 1:25, “I will turn My hand against you, and thoroughly purge away your dross, and take away all your alloy.”

Jer. 9:7, “Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, I will refine them and try them; For how shall I deal with the daughter of My people?’ ”

צָרַף *tzaraf* qal imperf 1 com sing cohortativeM to refine

Zech. 13:9, “I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”

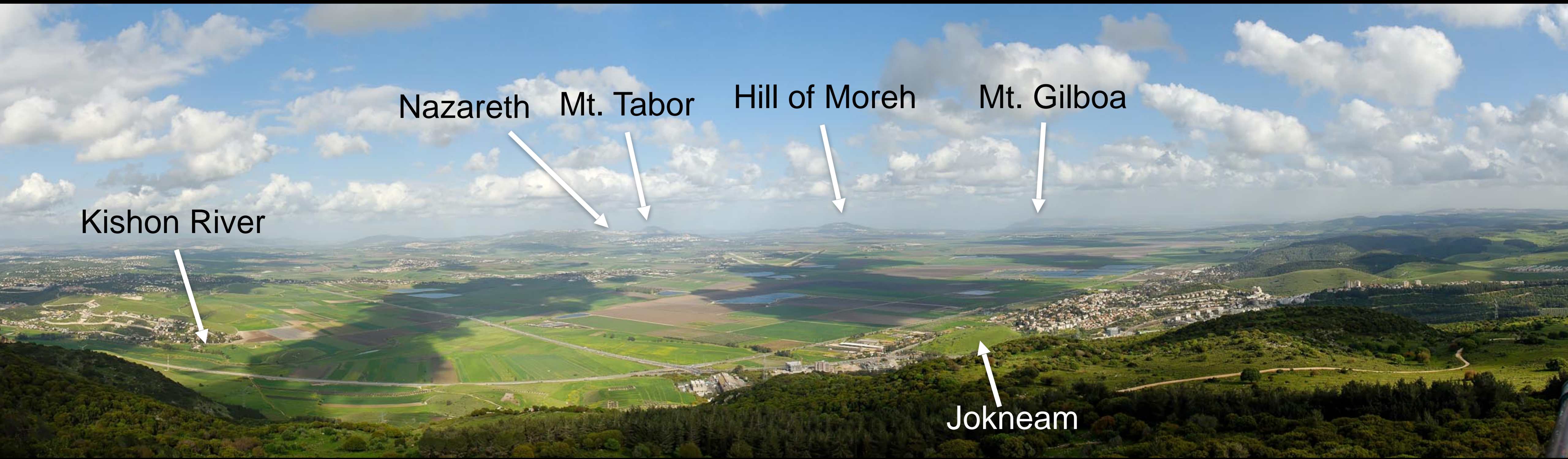
Mal. 3:2, “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap.”

צָרַף *tzaraf* qal imperf 1 com sing cohortativeM to refine

Judg 7:6, “And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.

Judg 7:7, “Then the Lord said to Gideon, ‘By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.’”

Judg 7:8, “So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.” ~NKJV



Jezreel Valley from Mount Carmel panorama



Jezreel Valley from Muhraqa to Mount Tabor and Hill of Moreh to Mt. Gilboa



Tel Jezreel aerial from west



Jezreel Valley, Hill of Moreh from Nazareth Ridge



Ein Harod and Mt. Gilboa aerial



Ein Harod closeup aerial



Ein Harod, Gideon's Fountain

AMERICAN COLONY
JERUSALEM

Ein Harod,
Gideon's
Fountain





Ein Harod spring cave





Kishon River
and Mount
Carmel



Ein Harod stream



Ein Harod with soldiers as Gideon's men

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Prophetic Interlude, Judges 7:8–15

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צֵדָה *tzedah* comm fem sing abs food

Judg. 7:9, “It happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, ‘Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand.

Judg. 7:10, “ ‘But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant,

Judg. 7:11, “ ‘and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.’ Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp.”

Judg. 7:12, “Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.”

Judg. 7:13, “And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, ‘I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.’

Judg. 7:14, “Then his companion answered and said, ‘This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.’ ”

Judg. 7:15, “And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, ‘Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.’ ”

Judg. 7:16, “Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.

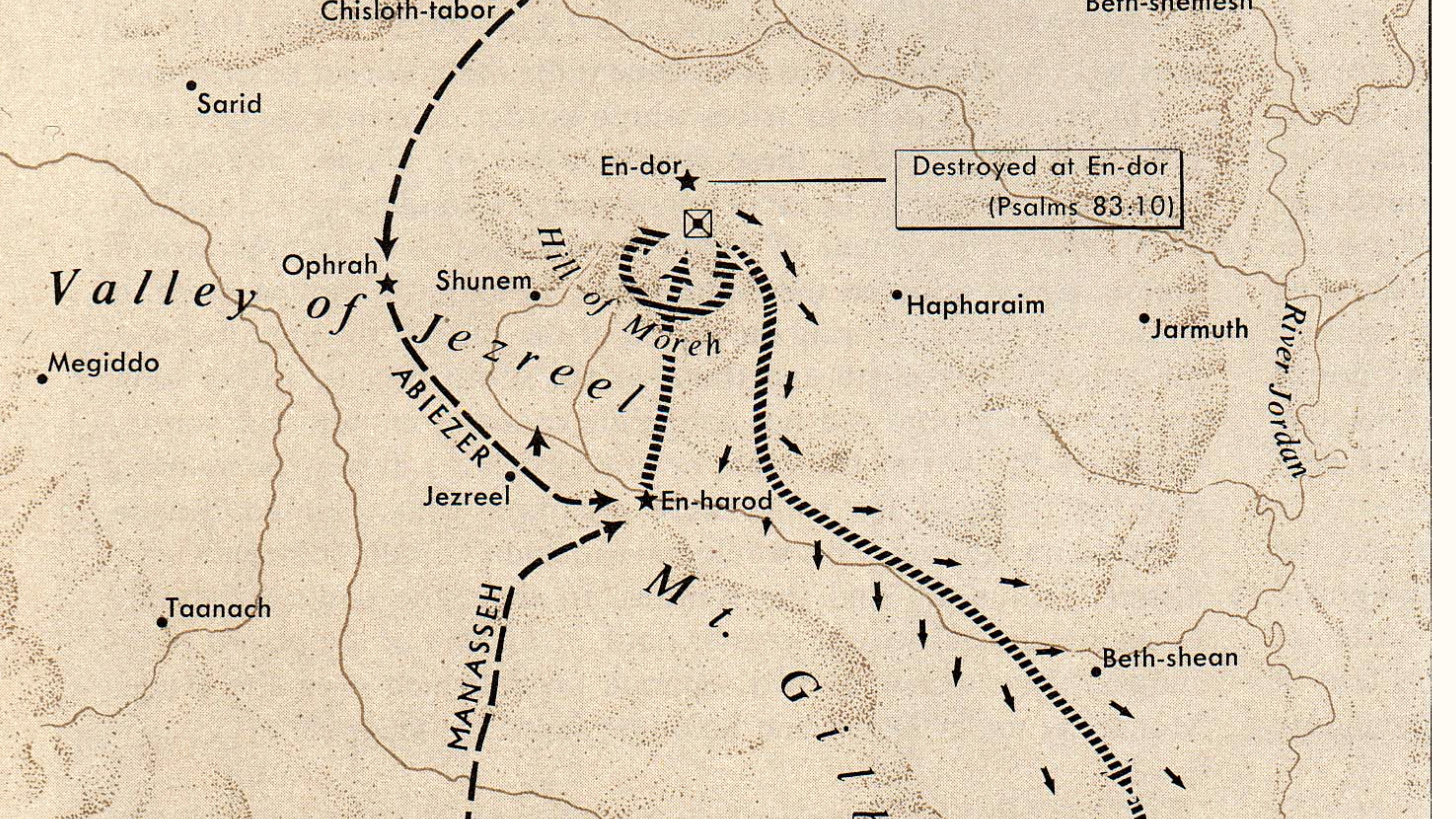
Judg. 7:17, “And he said to them, ‘Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do:

Judg. 7:18, “ ‘When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, “*The sword* of the LORD and of Gideon!” ’ ” (idea of possession)

Judg. 7:19, “So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands.

Judg. 7:20, “Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, ‘*The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!*’ ”

~NKJV



Sarid

Chisloth-tabor

Bern-shebes

En-dor

Destroyed at En-dor
(Psalms 83:10)

Valley of Jezreel

Ophrah

Shunem

Hill of Moreh

Hapharaim

Jarmuth

River Jordan

Megiddo

ABIEZER

Jezreel

En-harod

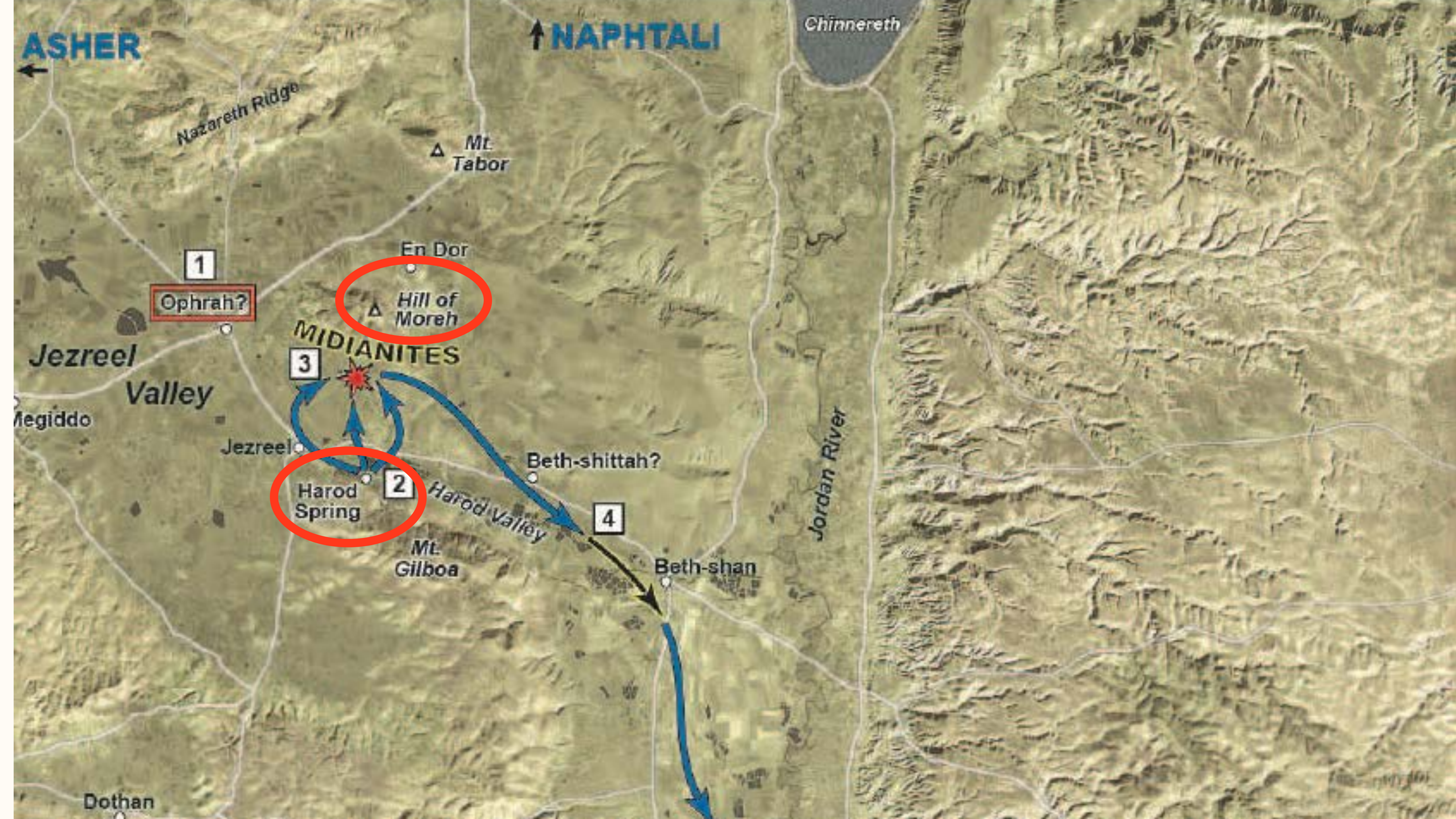
Taanach

MANASSEH

Mt.

Gilboa

Beth-shean



ASHER

NAPHTALI

Chinnereth

Nazareth Ridge

Mt. Tabor

1

Ophrah?

En Dor

Hill of Moreh

MIDIANITES

3

Jezreel Valley

Megiddo

Jezreel

Harod Spring

2

Harod Valley

Beth-shittah?

4

Mt. Gilboa

Beth-shan

Jordan River

Dothan

Judg. 7:21, “And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

Judg. 7:22, “When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the Lord set every man’s sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.” ~NKJV



Site where Saul's
corpse was impaled

Site where Saul died

Site where Saul
was buried

G E S H U R

A M M O N

M E D I T E R R A N E A N S E A

I L I S T I A

Jezreel Valley

Kedesh

Hazor

Lake Huleh

Acco

Chinnereth

Ashtaroth

Hannathon

Hammath

Golan

Kenath

Sea of Galilee

Yarmuk River

Dor

Megiddo

Edrei

Taanach

Jezreel

Beth-shan

Ramoth-gilead

Mt. Gilboa

Jabesh-gilead

Ibleam

Site where Saul died

Site where Saul
was buried

Socoh

Zarethan

Tirzah

Zaphon

Mahanaim

Shechem

W. Faria R.

Succoth

Jabbok

River

Tel Qasile

Aphek

Joppa

Shiloh

Adam

Jogbehah

★ Rabbah
(Amman)

Bethel

Jericho

Gezer

Aijalon

Shittim

Judg. 7:23, “And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

Judg. 7:24, “Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, ‘Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.’ Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.” ~NKJV

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6:35: “He also sent messengers to **Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.”**

Judg. 7:25, “And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.” ~NKJV

Judg. 8:1, “Now the men of Ephraim said to him, ‘Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?’ And they reprimanded him sharply.

Judg. 8:2, “So he said to them, ‘What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?’

Judg. 8:3, “ ‘God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?’ Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.” ~NKJV