

Judges Series

Lesson #69

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Abimelech the Bramble King
Judges 9:1–22

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

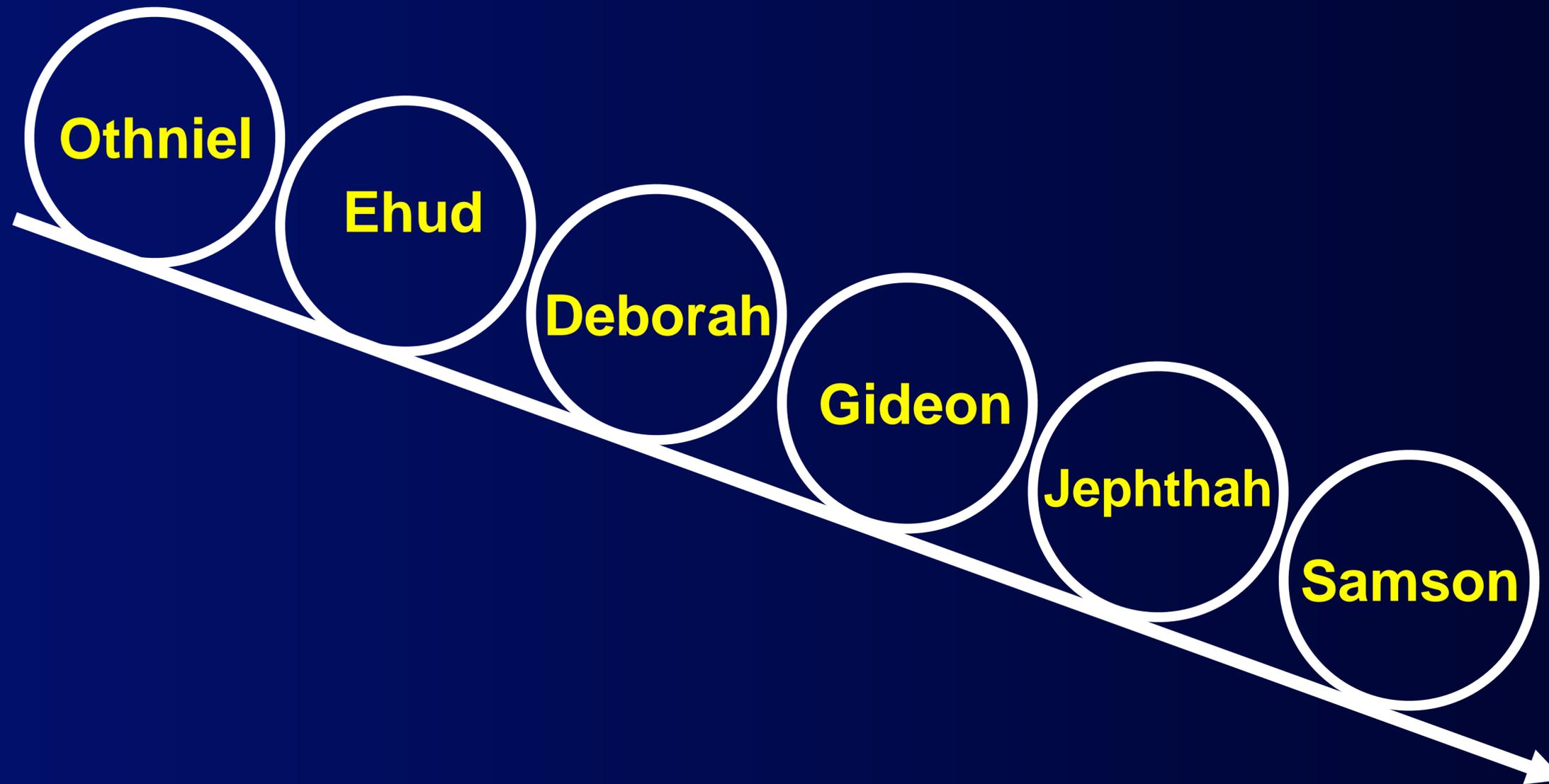
Chap. 17–18

and the

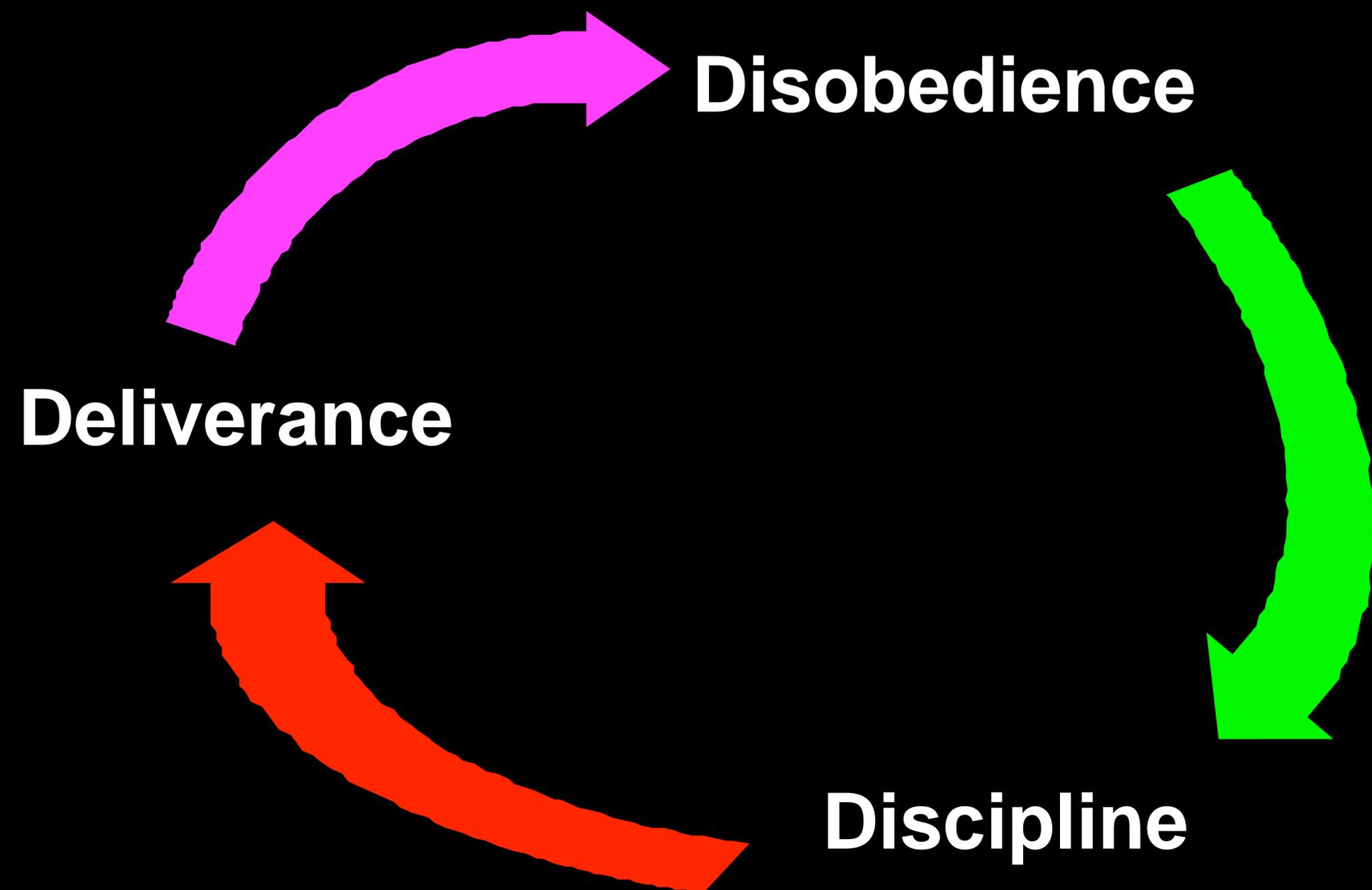
People

Chap. 19–21

Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges



The Cycles of the Judges



Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judg. 18:1, “In those days there was no king in Israel;”

Judg. 19:1, “Now it came about in those days, when there was no king in Israel,”

*******Judges is an argument as to why a human king was necessary in Israel. God had previously been Israel's king (1 Sam. 8:7). The Book of Judges is one of the key Books in the Bible for the purpose of laying the foundation for a Christian philosophy of politics, government, society, and the impact of a nation's spirituality on its culture.*******

What is a Divine Institution?

Absolute social structures instituted by God for the entire human race—believers and unbelievers alike.

These are given for the for the perpetuation, stability, protection, and freedom of the human race.

The Divine Institutions

1. Individual responsibility

2. Marriage

3. Family

PRE-FALL

Designed to promote productivity, and advance civilization

4. Government, judicial

5. Nations

6. Israel

POST-FALL

Designed to restrain evil

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1 Sam. 8:4, “Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,

1 Sam. 8:5, “and said to him, ‘Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.’ ”

1 Sam. 8:6, “But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’ So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

1 Sam. 8:7, “And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

1 Sam. 8:8, “ ‘According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.’ ”

Kingship in the Ancient World

Examples: Egypt and Mesopotamia

Egypt: Pharaoh was a god-king

Mesopotamia: sons of the gods

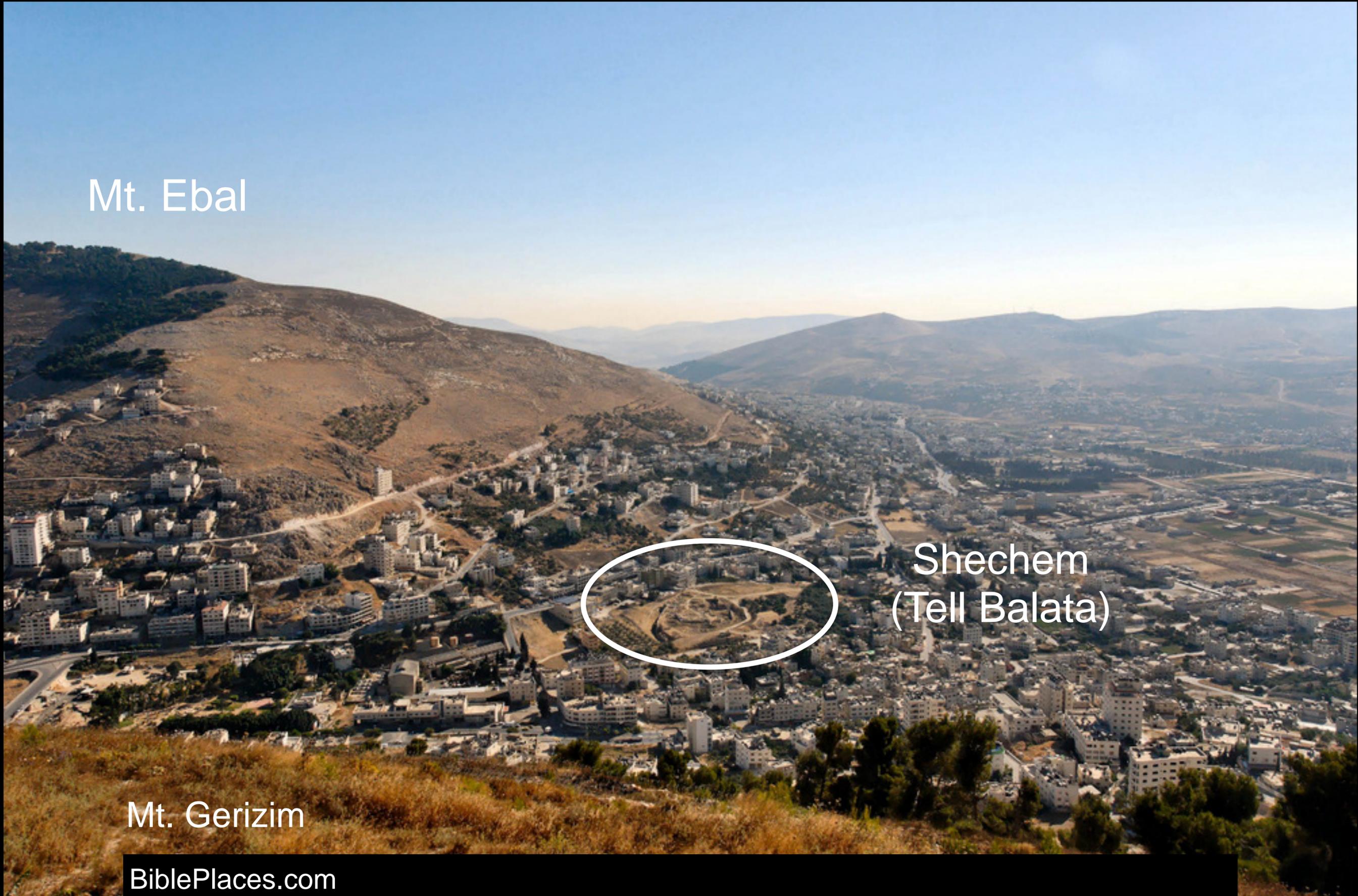
Both deified the State.

The Location: Shechem

Mt. Ebal

Shechem
(Tell Balata)

Mt. Gerizim



Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Shechem
(Tell Balata)

Nablus



Jacob's Well

Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's relatives



Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Shechem
(Tell Balata)

Nablus

Jacob's Well

Shechem (from the east)

BiblePlaces.com



Northwest Gate

Iron Age houses

East Gate

Middle Bronze
city wall

Standing stone

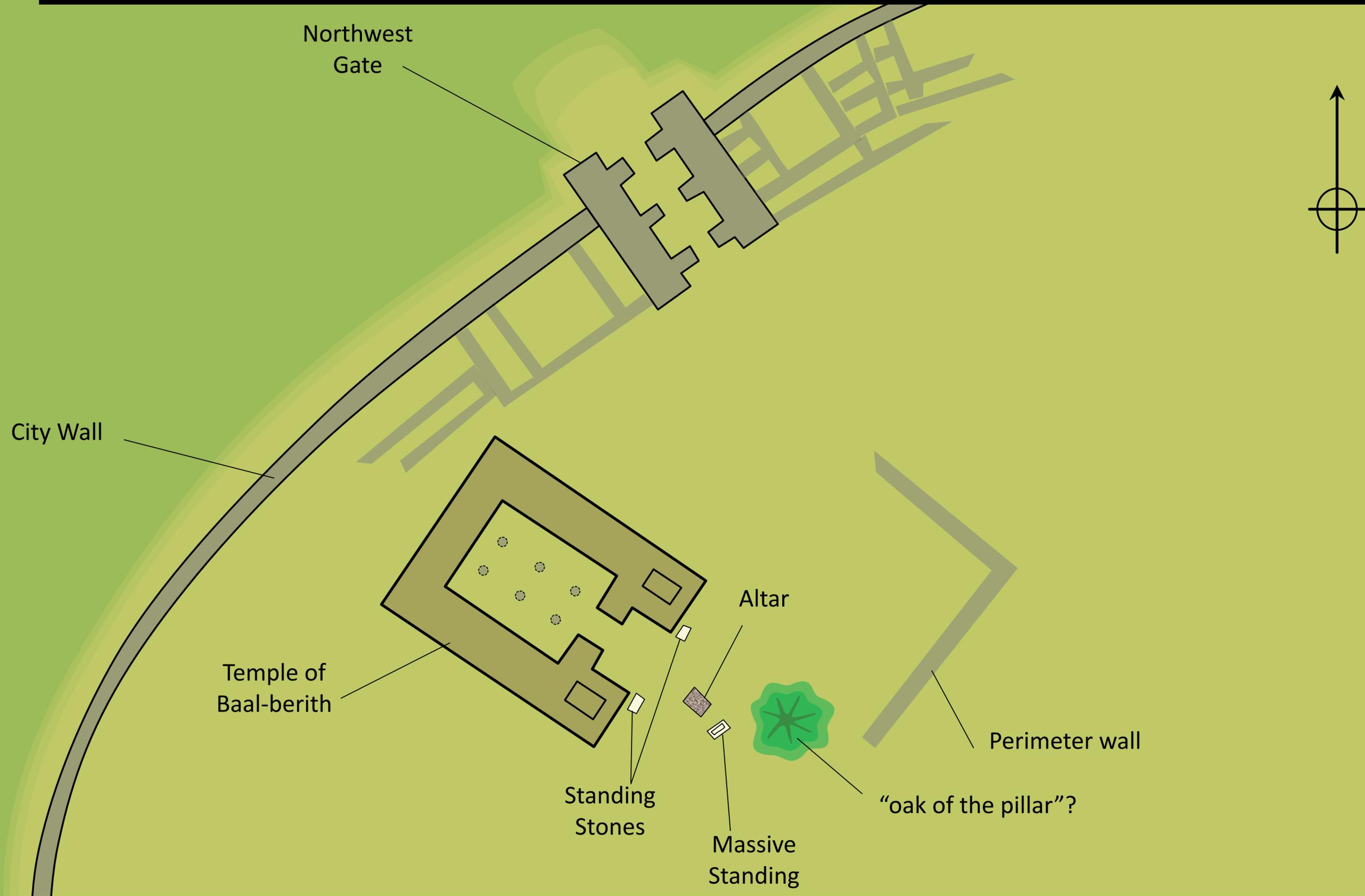
Baal-berith temple

They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith



Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem (from the east)

They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith



Plan of the Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem

Judg. 9:1, “Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother’s brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother’s father, saying,”

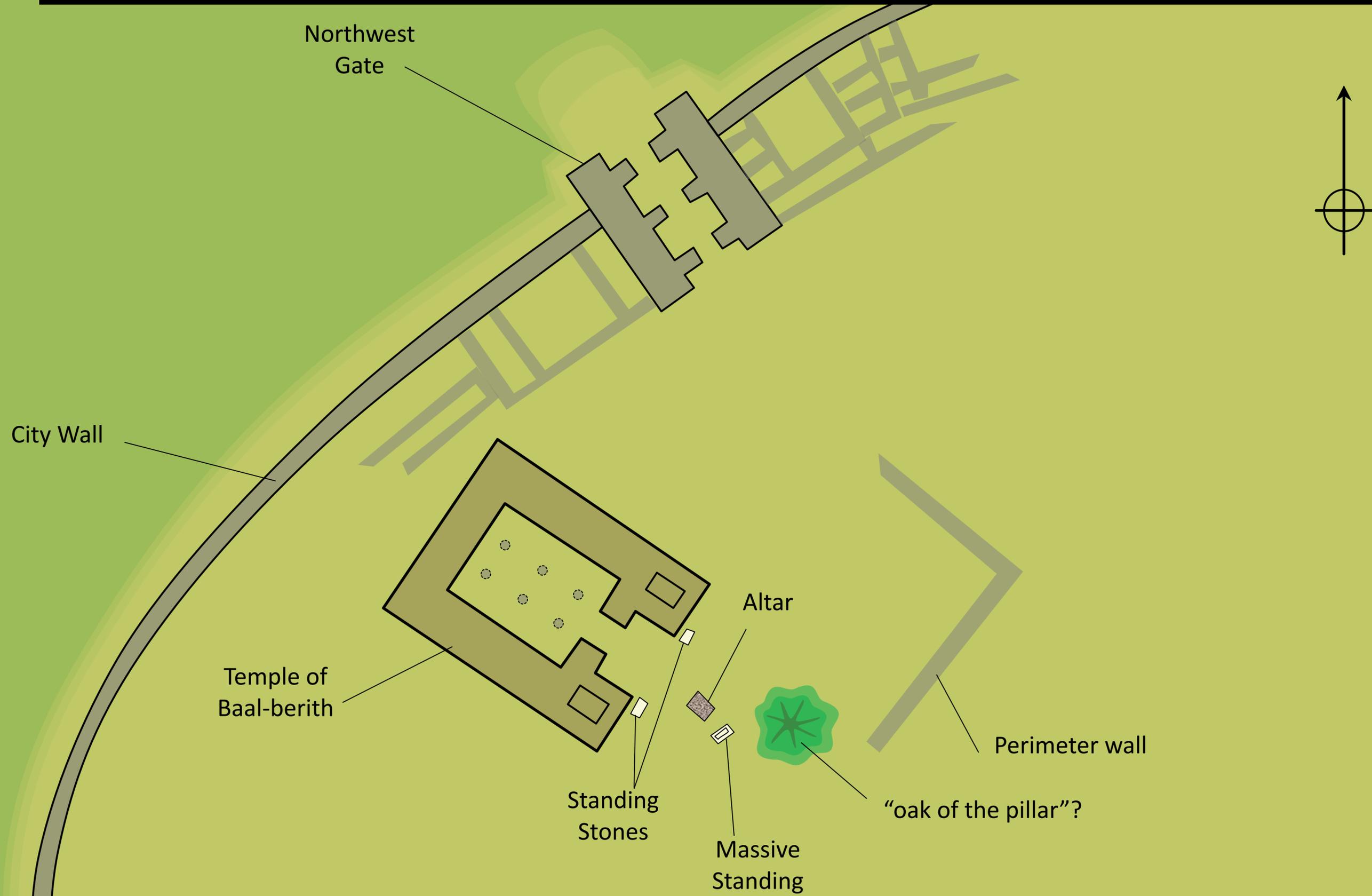
Judg. 9:2, “Please speak in the hearing of all the men of Shechem: ‘Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you?’ Remember that I am your own flesh and bone.”

Judg. 9:3, “And his mother’s brothers spoke all these words concerning him in the hearing of all the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, ‘He is our brother.’”

Judg. 9:4, “So they gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men; and they followed him.”

~NKJV

They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith



Plan of the Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem

Judg. 9:5, “Then he went to his father’s house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, because he hid himself.

Judg. 9:6, “And all the men of Shechem gathered together, all of Beth Millo, and they went and made Abimelech king beside the terebinth tree at the pillar that was in Shechem.”

~NKJV

They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith



Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem (from the southeast)

Judg. 9:7, “Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and cried out. And he said to them: ‘Listen to me, you men of Shechem, that God may listen to you!’ ” ~NKJV

They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith



Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem (from the east)

Judg. 9:8, “The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive tree, ‘Reign over us!’ ”

~NKJV

Judg. 9:9, “But the olive tree said to them, ‘Should I cease giving my oil, with which they honor God and men, and go to sway over trees?’

Judg. 9:10, “Then the trees said to the fig tree, ‘You come and reign over us!’

Judg. 9:11, “But the fig tree said to them, ‘Should I cease my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to sway over trees?’

Judg. 9:12, “Then the trees said to the vine, ‘You come and reign over us!’

Judg. 9:13, “But the vine said to them, ‘Should I cease my new wine, which cheers both God and men, and go to sway over trees?’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:14, “Then all the trees said to the bramble, ‘You come and reign over us!’

Judg. 9:15, “And the bramble said to the trees, ‘If in truth you anoint me as king over you, then come and take shelter in my shade; But if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon!’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:16, “Now therefore, if you have acted in truth and sincerity in making Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him as he deserves—

Judg. 9:17, “for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;” ~NKJV

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Judg. 9:17, “for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;” ~NKJV

אֱמֶת *’emet*

**comm fem sing
abs truth,
integrity**

תָּמִים *tamim*

**masc sing abs
blameless,
perfect, good
faith, absolute
and total fidelity**

Judg. 9:19, “if then you have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.

Judg. 9:20, “But if not, let fire come from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth Millo; and let fire come from the men of Shechem and from Beth Millo and devour Abimelech!”

Judg. 9:21, “And Jotham ran away and fled; and he went to Beer and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.”

~NKJV

אֱמֶת *emet* comm
fem sing abs
truth, integrity

תָּמִים *tamim* masc sing abs
blameless, perfect, good faith,
absolute and total fidelity

Judg. 9:22, “After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years,

Judg. 9:23, “God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

Judg. 9:24, “that the crime done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might be settled and their blood be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers.

Judg. 9:25, “And the men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who passed by them along that way; and it was told Abimelech.” ~NKJV