

Judges Series

Lesson #70

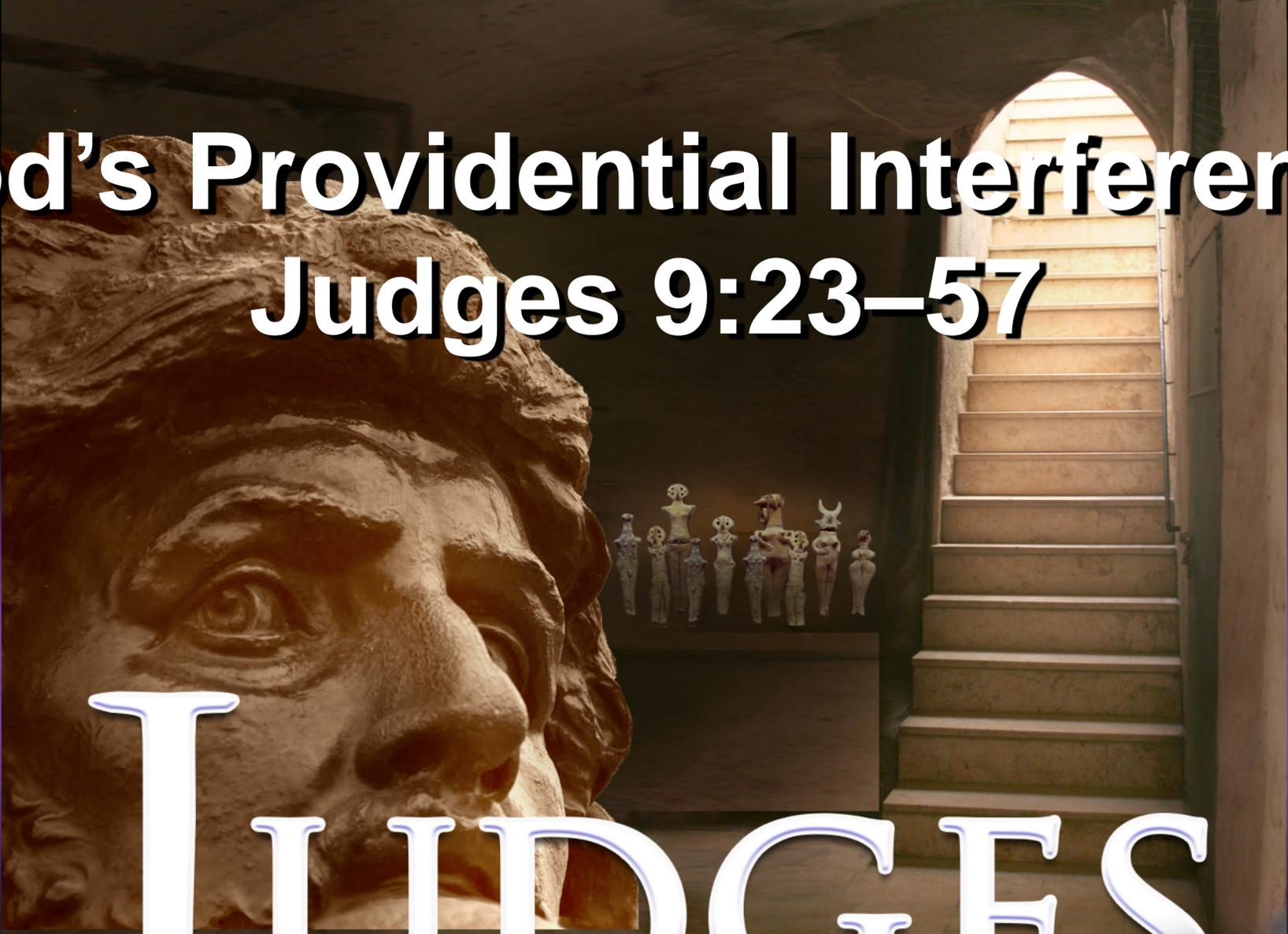
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Dean Bible Ministries

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God's Providential Interference
Judges 9:23–57



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

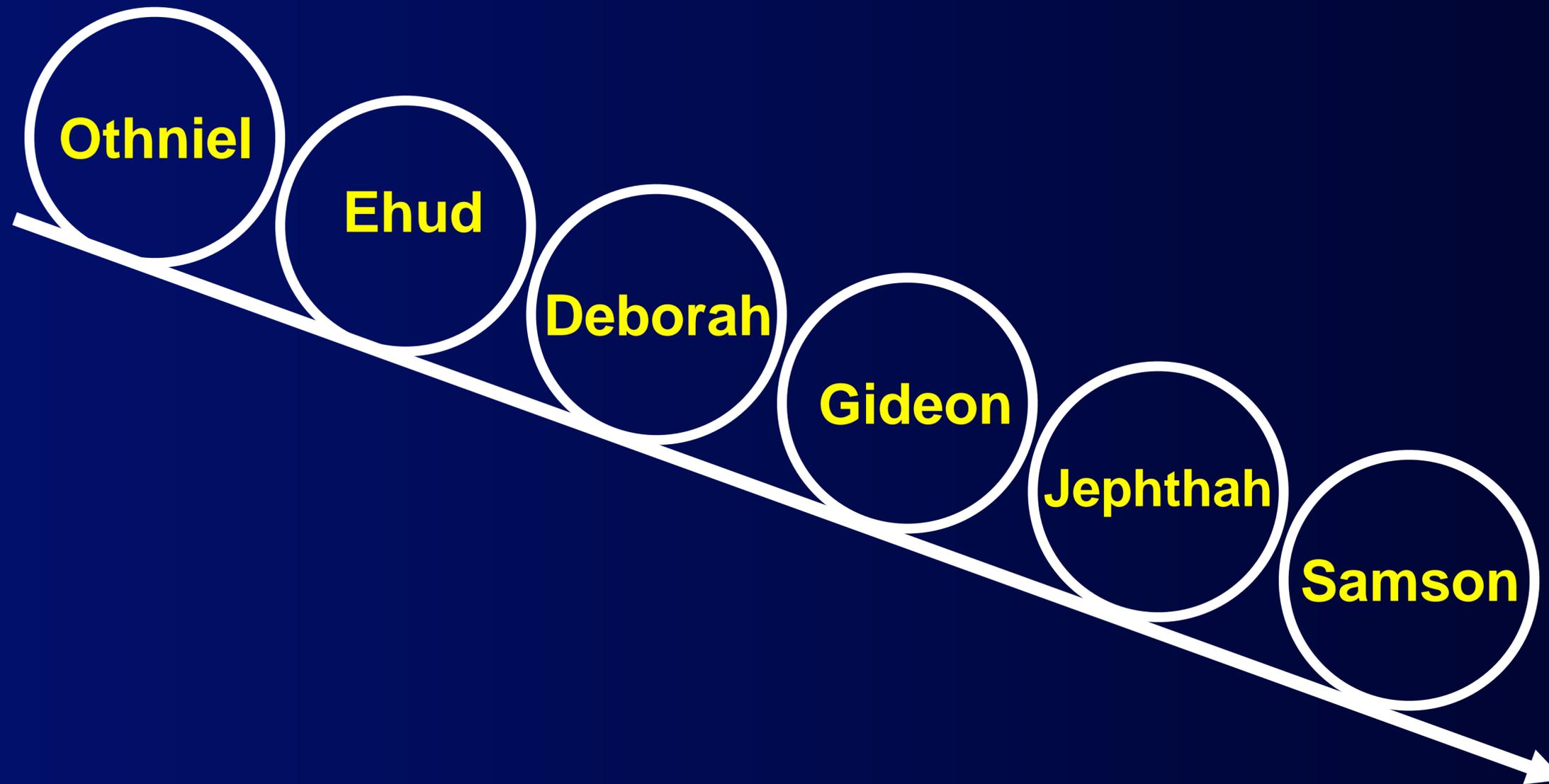
Paganization of the Priests

Chap. 17–18

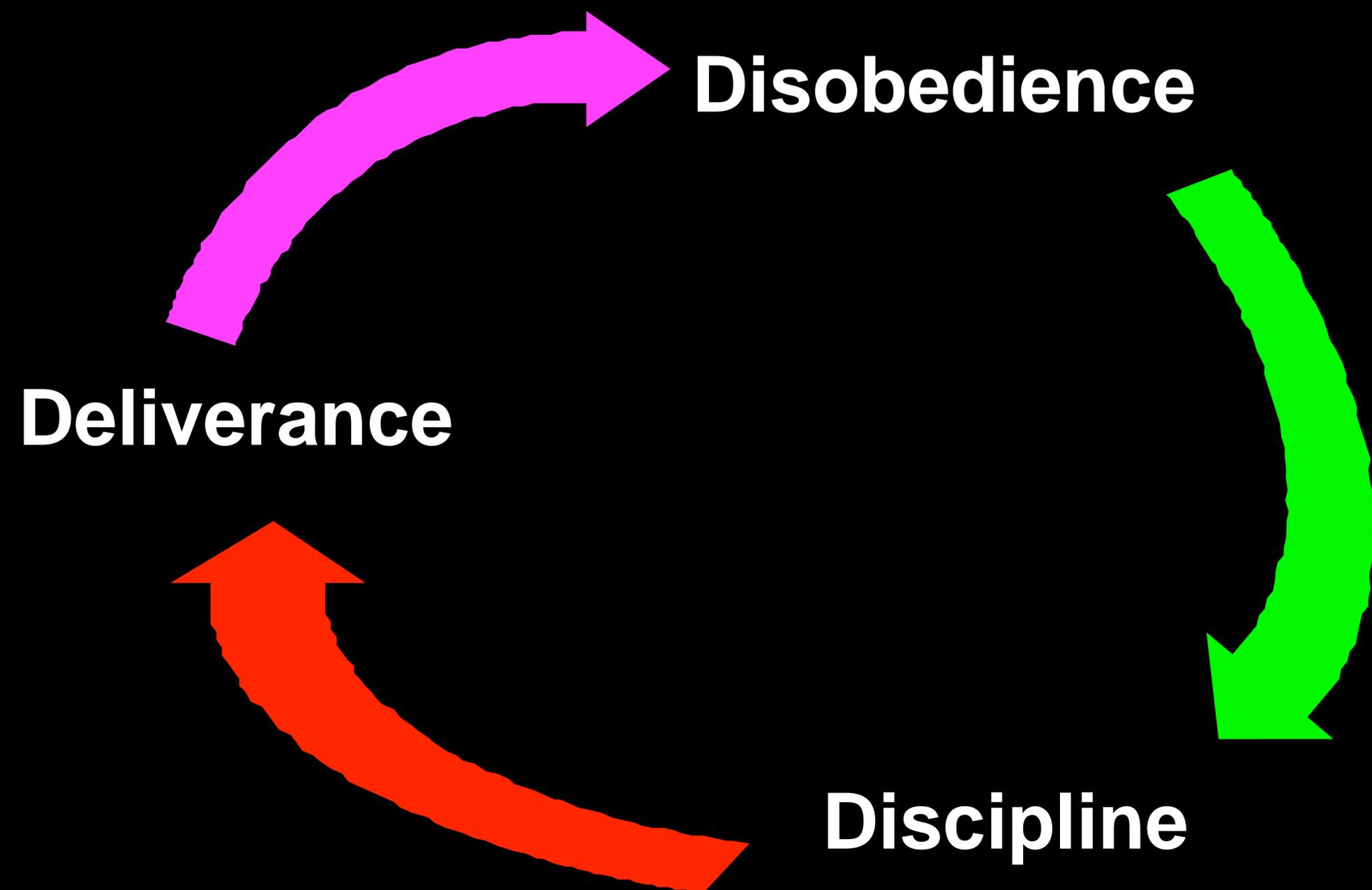
**and the
People**

Chap. 19–21

Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges



The Cycles of the Judges



Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Nablus

Shechem
(Tell Balata)

Jacob's Well



The Message of the Fable

- 1. In the civilizations of the ancient world kingship was viewed as a positive. The king was either divine or the son of a deity. But in this parable, government is viewed as not only self-destructive, but as destructive to a nation. 1 Sam. 8**

The Message of the Fable

- 2. People of integrity are engaged in the constructive business of living and benefitting their community. Those in rulership are often there for their power lust or approbation lust.**

The Message of the Fable

- 3. Rulers are often attracted to power, they make promises they cannot fulfill, they appeal to the lust patterns of the sin natures of their subjects, and have only their self-interest in mind.**

The Message of the Fable

- 4. More often than not God in His permissive will allows nations to have the leaders they deserve. Good and godly leaders are the exception and rarely deserved, but God in His grace provides them, and they are usually unappreciated.**

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

Judg. 9:56, “Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers.

Judg. 9:57, “And all the evil of the men of Shechem God returned on their own heads, and on them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.” ~NKJV

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

Judg. 9:28, “Then Gaal the son of Ebed said, ‘Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal, and is not Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem; but why should we serve him? (Gen. 34:25–29, 33:19ff)

Judg. 9:29, “ ‘If only this people were under my authority! Then I would remove Abimelech.’ So he said to Abimelech, ‘Increase your army and come out!’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:30, “When Zebul, the ruler of the city, heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was aroused.

Judg. 9:31, “And he sent messengers to Abimelech secretly, saying, ‘Take note! Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and here they are, fortifying the city against you.’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:32, “Now therefore, get up by night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in wait in the field.

Judg. 9:33, “And it shall be, as soon as the sun is up in the morning, that you shall rise early and rush upon the city; and when he and the people who are with him come out against you, you may then do to them as you find opportunity.” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:34, “So Abimelech and all the people who were with him rose by night, and lay in wait against Shechem in four companies.

Judg. 9:35, “When Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood in the entrance to the city gate, Abimelech and the people who were with him rose from lying in wait.” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:36, “And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, ‘Look, people are coming down from the tops of the mountains!’ But Zebul said to him, ‘You see the shadows of the mountains as if they were men.’”

Judg. 9:37, “So Gaal spoke again and said, ‘See, people are coming down from the center of the land, and another company is coming from the Diviners’ Terebinth Tree.’ ”
~NKJV

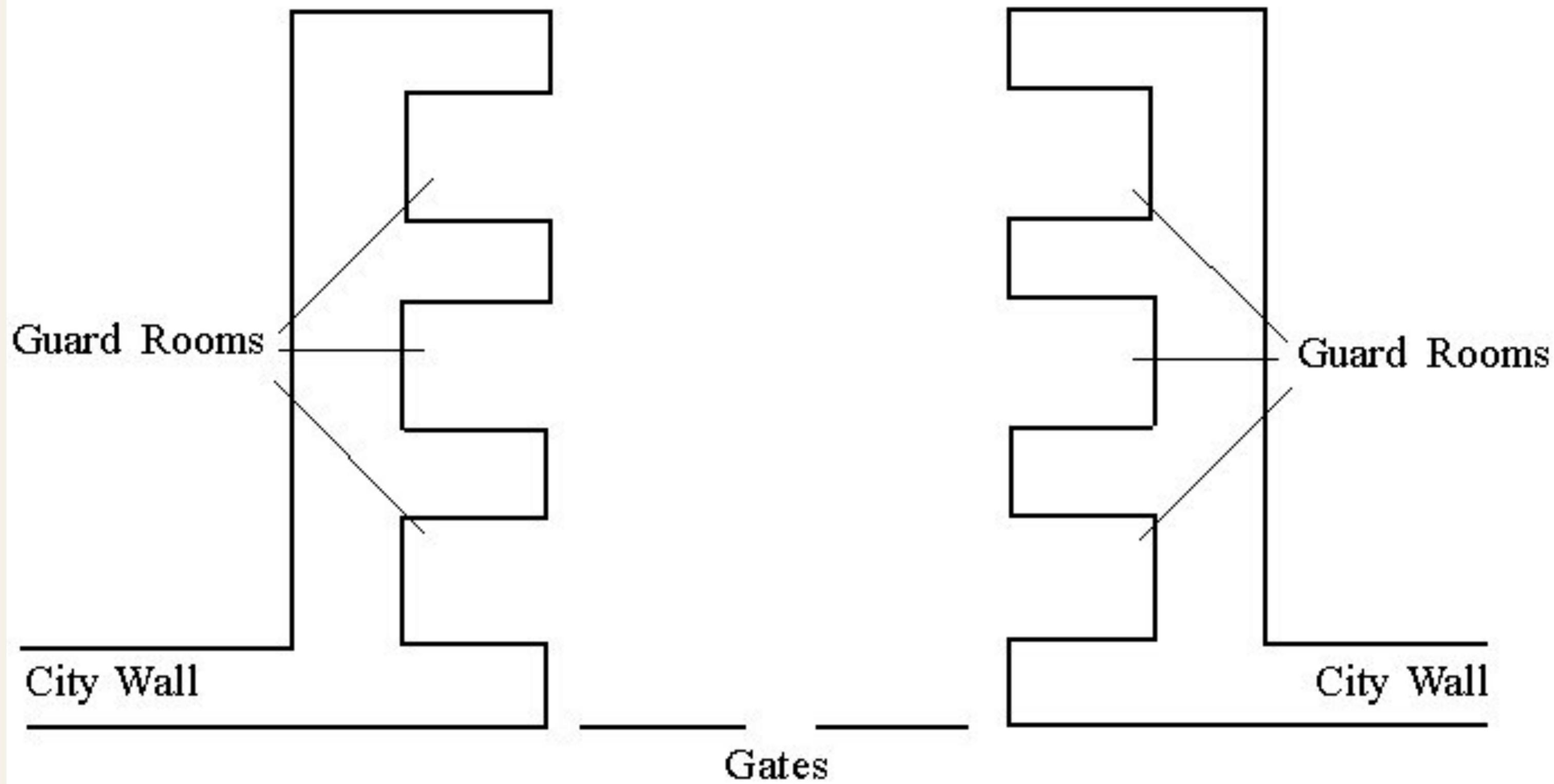
Judg. 9:38, “Then Zebul said to him, ‘Where indeed is your mouth now, with which you said, “Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?” Are not these the people whom you despised? Go out, if you will, and fight with them now.’ ”

~NKJV

Judg. 9:39, “So Gaal went out, leading the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.

Judg. 9:40, “And Abimelech chased him, and he fled from him; and many fell wounded, to the very entrance of the gate.

Judg. 9:41, “Then Abimelech dwelt at Arumah, and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers, so that they would not dwell in Shechem.” ~NKJV



The City-Gate

(The Iron II Period)

שער העיר

(תקופת הברזל II)

במאה ה-10 או ה-9 לפסה"ג הפכה מגידו לעיר ישראלית, והייתה למרכז המנהלי של עמק יזרעאל. זמן מה לאחר מכן, הוקמו בה חומה חדשה (1) ושער מונומנטלי (2-4). על פי השקפה אחת, יש לייחס את השער לימי שלמה, במאה ה-10 לפסה"ג. על פי דעה אחרת, יש לתארו לימי אחאב, במאה ה-9 או לימי ירבעם השני, במאה ה-8 לפסה"ג.

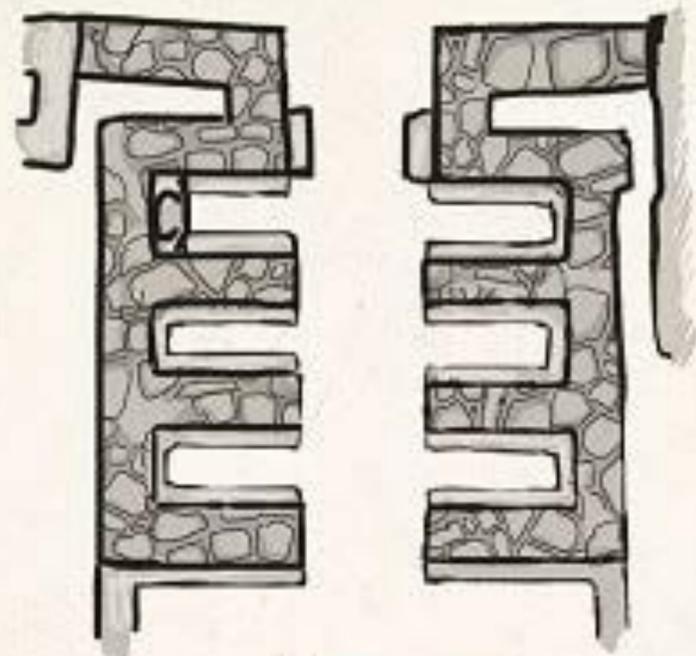
Megiddo became an Israelite city sometime between the 10th and 9th centuries B.C., and functioned as an administrative center for the fertile Jezreel Valley. Some time later, a massive wall (1) and a monumental city-gate (2-4) were built. According to one opinion, the gate dates to the reign of Solomon (10th c. B.C.). Other scholars postdate the gate to the reign of either Ahab (9th c.) or Jeroboam II (8th c. B.C.).



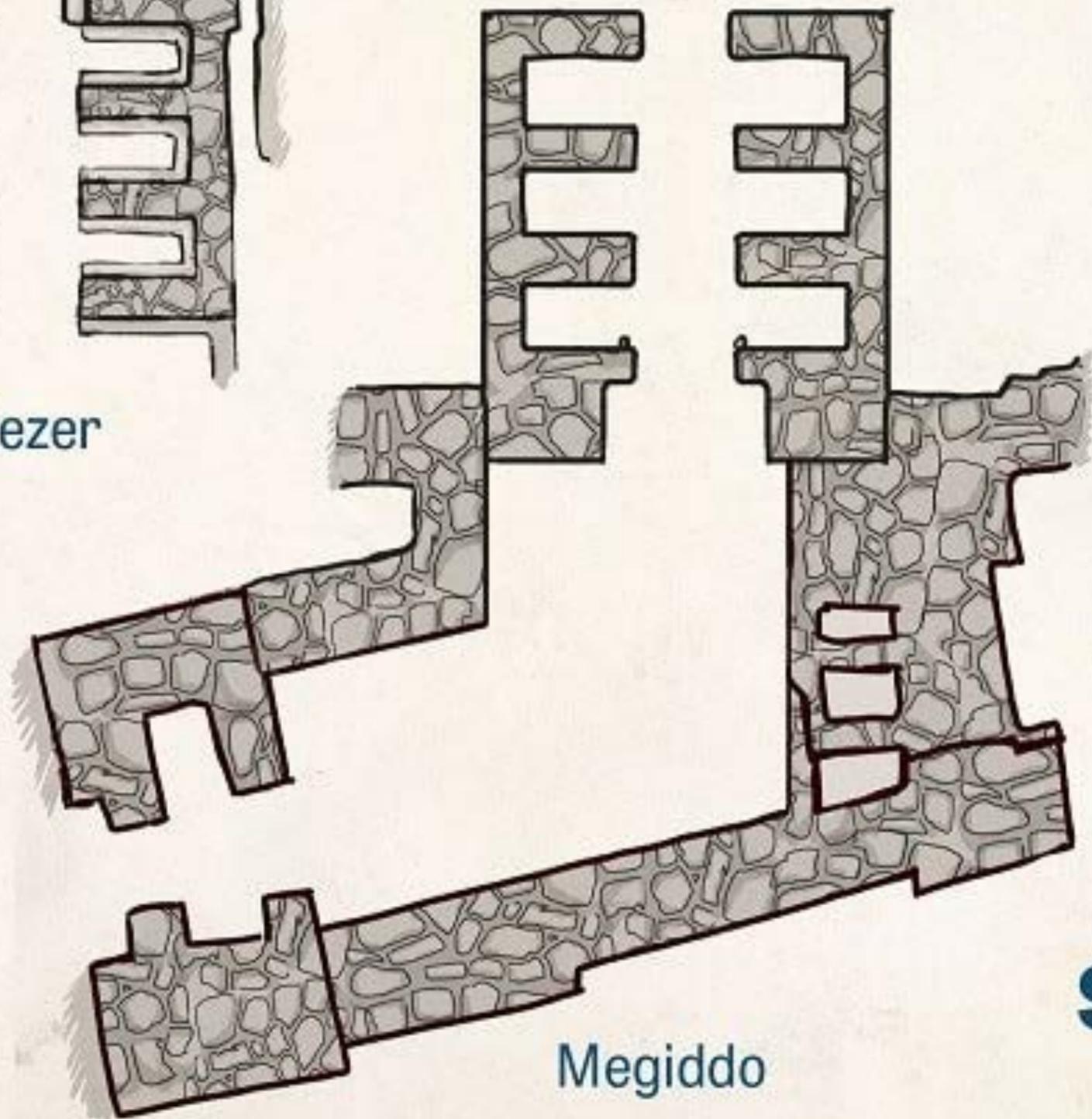
(1) insets-offsets wall חומת קדומת ונגזרת
(2) outer gatehouse שער חיצוני
(3) inner courtyard חצר פנימית
(4) inner six-chambered שער פנימי בעל ששה חדרים

בתקופת האשורית (732-630 לפסה"ג לערך) הוחלף השער הפנימי בשער בעל שני חדרים. שבשריטו ניתן להבחין חלל השער הקדום.
In the Assyrian period (732-ca 630 B.C.), the inner gatehouse was replaced by a two-chambered gate, whose remains can be seen on top of the older gatehouse.

אשר - העלה כלך שלכה לבנות את בית ה' ואת - ב
פת ירושלה ואת - חצר ואת - פגדו ואת - ג



Gezer



Megiddo



Hazor

Judg. 9:42, “And it came about on the next day that the people went out into the field, and they told Abimelech.

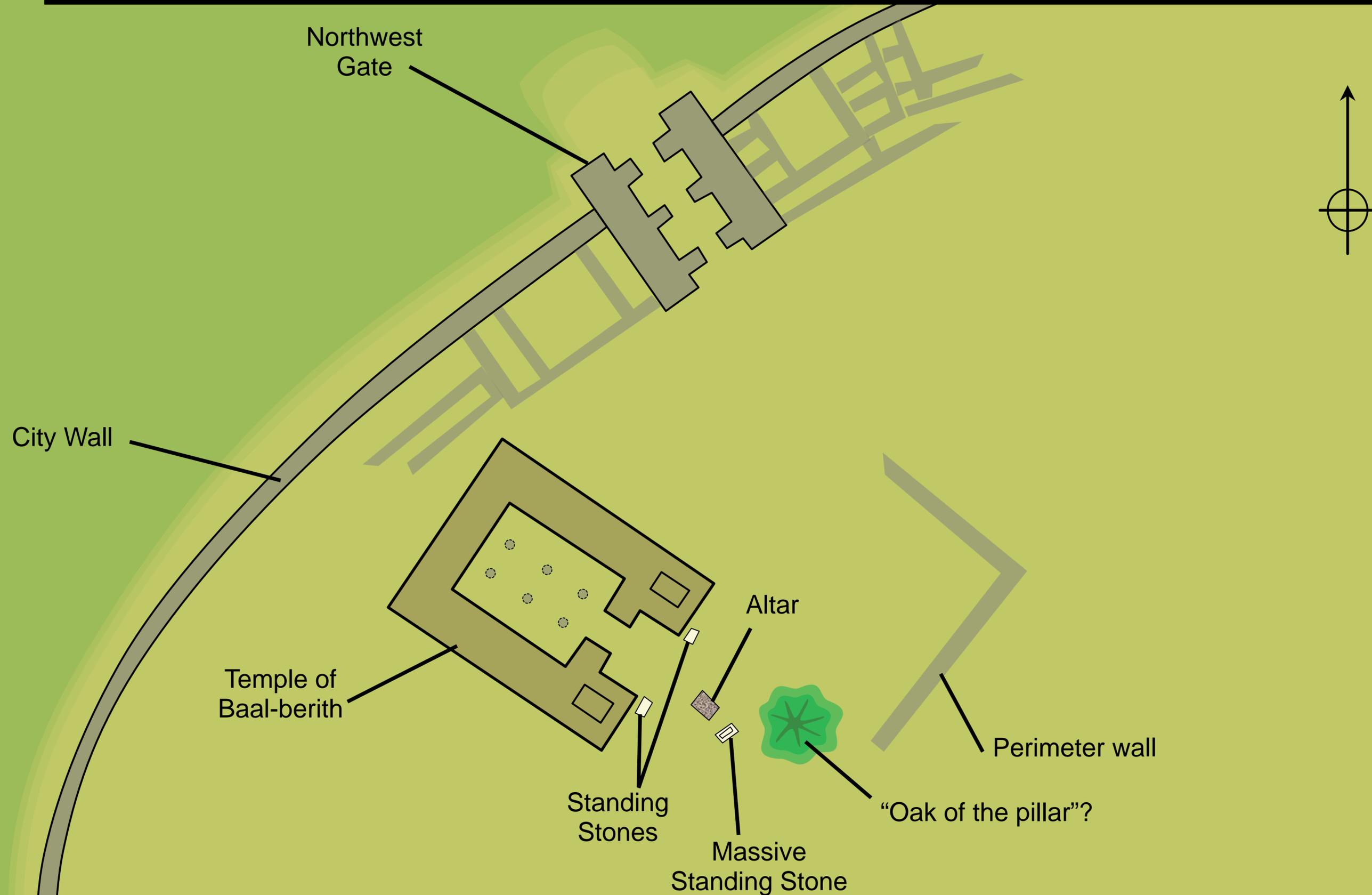
Judg. 9:43, “So he took his people, divided them into three companies, and lay in wait in the field. And he looked, and there were the people, coming out of the city; and he rose against them and attacked them.

Judg. 9:44, “Then Abimelech and the company that was with him rushed forward and stood at the entrance of the gate of the city; and the other two companies rushed upon all who were in the fields and killed them.” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:45, “So Abimelech fought against the city all that day; he took the city and killed the people who were in it; and he demolished the city and sowed it with salt.

Judg. 9:46, “Now when all the men of the tower of Shechem had heard that, they entered the stronghold of the temple of the god Berith.” ~NKJV

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



Plan of the Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem

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



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

Judg. 9:47, “And it was told Abimelech that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

Judg. 9:48, “Then Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him. And Abimelech took an ax in his hand and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it and laid it on his shoulder; then he said to the people who were with him, ‘What you have seen me do, make haste and do as I have done.’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:49, “So each of the people likewise cut down his own bough and followed Abimelech, put them against the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire above them, so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died, about a thousand men and women.” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:50, “Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and he encamped against Thebez and took it.

Judg. 9:51, “But there was a strong tower in the city, and all the men and women—all the people of the city—fled there and shut themselves in; then they went up to the top of the tower.

Judg. 9:52, “So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire.” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:53, “But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech’s head and crushed his skull.

Judg. 9:54, “Then he called quickly to the young man, his armorbearer, and said to him, ‘Draw your sword and kill me, lest men say of me, “A woman killed him.” ’ So his young man thrust him through, and he died.

Judg. 9:55, “And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed, every man to his place.” ~NKJV

Judg. 9:56, “Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers.

Judg. 9:57, “And all the evil of the men of Shechem God returned on their own heads, and on them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.” ~NKJV