



**“Rain
Down
Fire!”**

1 Kings 16:29–33

²⁹Now **Ahab**, the son of Omri, became king over Israel in Year 38 of Asa, King of Judah, and **Ahab** the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria 22 years. ³⁰**Ahab**, the son of Omri, practiced evil in the sight of He-who-is **more than all who were before him**. ³¹It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, [‘with **Baal**’] King of the **Sidonians**. So he went, and he served **Baal**, and he bowed down to him. ³²Then he erected an altar for **Baal** in the temple of **Baal** that he built in **Samaria**. ³³**Ahab** also fashioned the **Asherah**. Thus, **Ahab** did more to provoke He-who-is, God of Israel, than all of the kings of Israel who were before him.

Omri (885/4–874/3 BC)

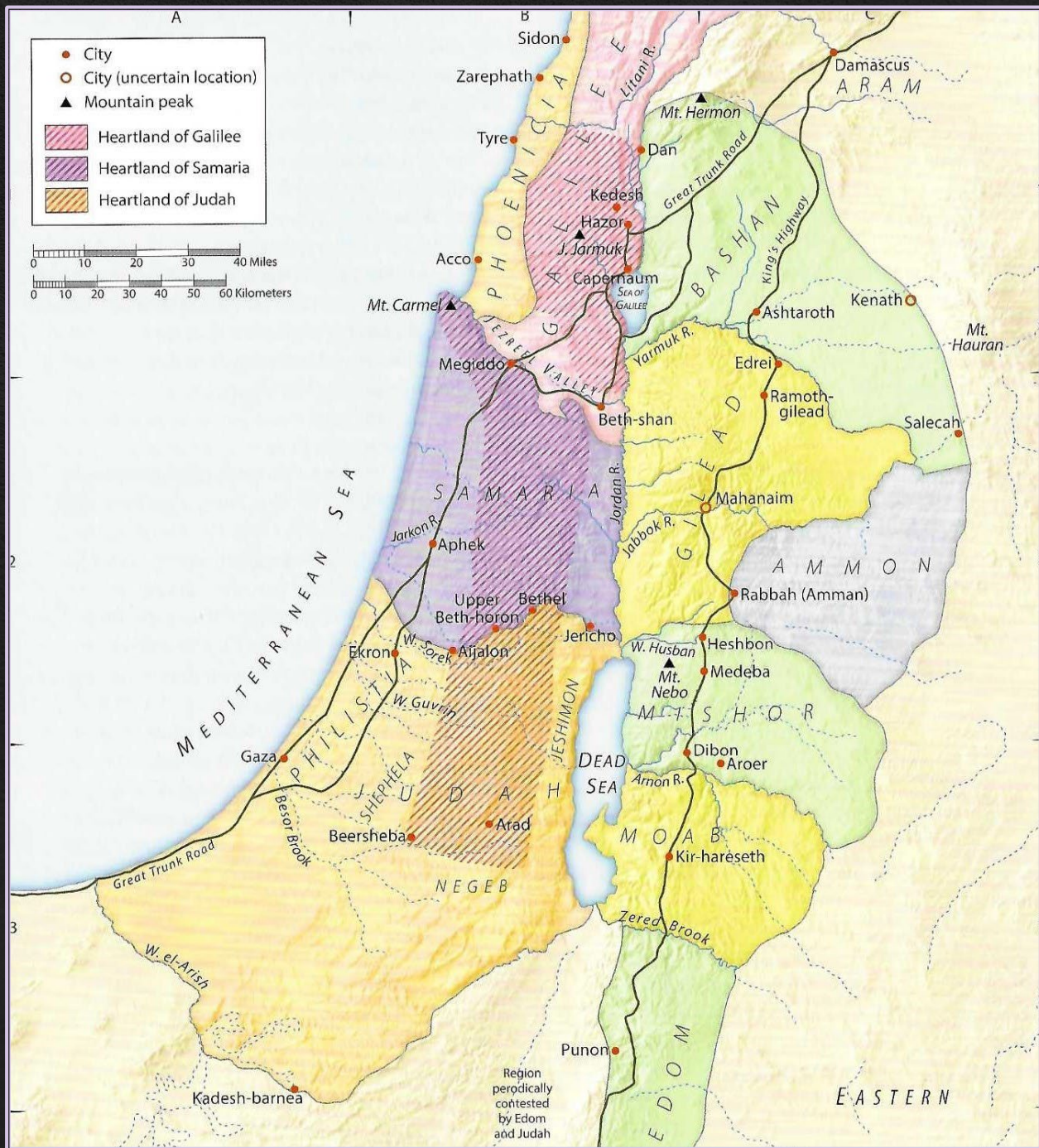
Ahab (874/3–853 BC)

Israelite-Phoenician Relations

2 Samuel 5:11: Then Hiram, King of **Tyre**, sent messengers to David with cedar trees and carpenters and stonecutters, so they built a palace for David.

1 Kings 5:1: Then Hiram, King of **Tyre**, sent his servants to Solomon, when he had heard that they anointed him as king in place of his father, because he [Hiram] went on loving David the entire time [of his reign].

1 Kings 5:6: So now, command that they cut down for me cedars from Lebanon, and my servants will be with your servants, and I will give you wages for your servants according to all that you say, because you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the **Sidonians**.



1 Kings 16:29–33

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Omri (885/4–874/3 BC)

Ahab (874/3–853 BC)

Baal

(storm-god)



Baal on Limestone Stele (Ugarit)



Baal Replica on Limestone Stele (Ugarit)

Qualities:

- ❑ Ugaritic texts know him as 'storm god'
- ❑ God of wind, rain, lightning, thunder
- ❑ Responsible for fertility (via rainfall)
- ❑ Resided in underworld in summer
- ❑ Phoenicians identified Baal with El, the king of the gods

Ishtar/Hathor/Aštar/Asherah

Levantine Cultic Sites:

- 1) Byblos
- 2) Sidon
- 3) Tyre



BEAUTY

FERTILITY

Hathor (Israel
Museum, Jerusalem)



LOVE

WAR

Aštar/Asherah (Louvre, Paris)

Sinai 345b

Biblical Hebrew Transcription:

הני איל בעלת

Petrovich Translation:

My wealth is the strength of the Lady (= Baalath = Hathor).

Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim

הון¹ = wealth

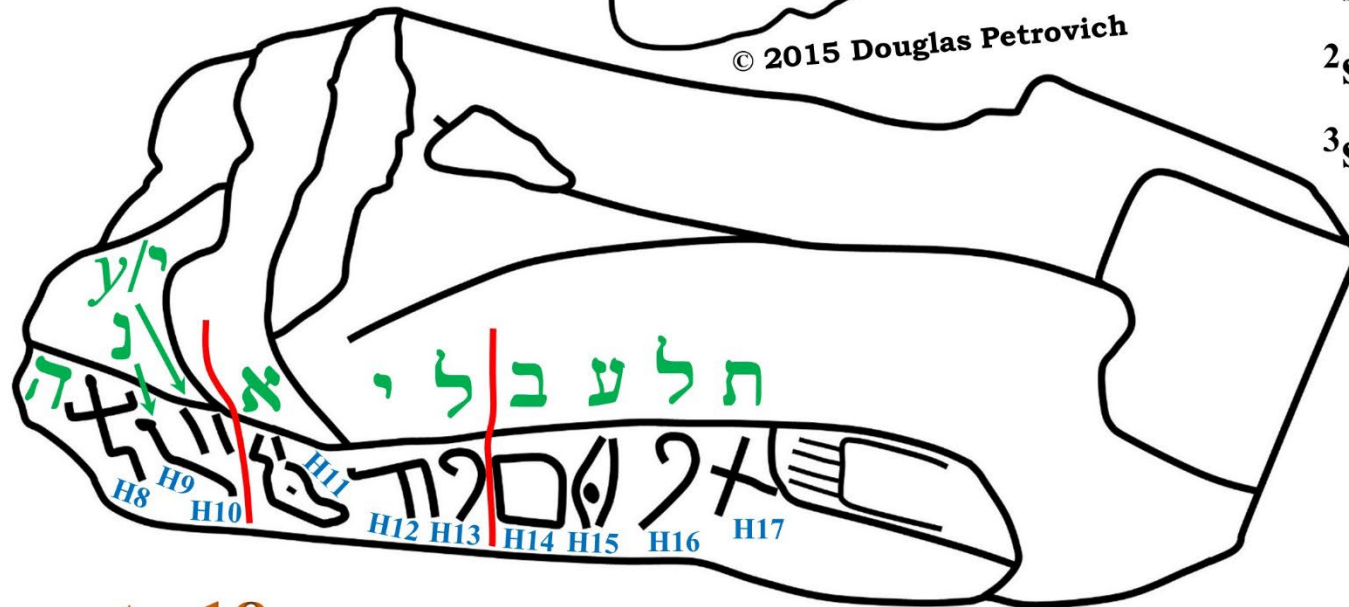
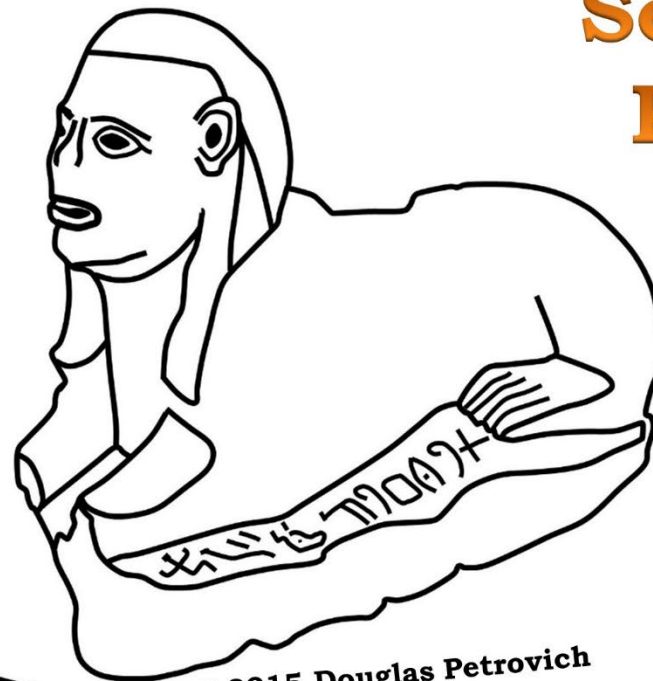
איל² = strength

בעלת³ = Baalath

¹see Prov 18:11

²see Psa 88:4

³see Josh 19:44



Dynasty 18 (ca. 1480 BC)

Sinai 346a

Petrovich Translation:

“The apostate has regarded his pasture lightly, because of po[ssession]s [off]ered up to the Lady (= Baalath = Hathor).”

עַל = because of
 נַחְלָה⁵ = possession
 רוּמַ⁶ = offer up
 לַ = to/for
 בַּעֲלַת⁷ = Baalath

⁵see Gen 31:14

⁶see Psalm 18:27

⁷see Josh 19:44

⁷Baalath = Hathor

Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim

Dynasty 18

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(ca. 1480 BC)

JE 38268

Biblical Hebrew Transcription:

זָלַל סָג מֵרְעִיתוֹ
 עַל נַחְלֹת
 רֹמַ לְבַעֲלַת

זָלַל¹ = despise

סָג² = command

סָגַ³ = turn away

מֵרְעִית⁴ = pasture

רֹמַ⁴ = his

¹see Lam 1:8

²Middle Egyptian

³see Prov 14:14

⁴see Psalm 95:7



Biblical Hebrew Transcription:

אָנָה תִּזְצַח שְׂפֵי רִבְנוֹ
צִבְנוֹ מִשְׁעָר כְּמוֹ
לְבַעַל־תְּלִי
אֲחִינוֹ זָלַל [וְ]
עָשָׂה אִימָה עַל
אֲשַׁפֵּם וְעָשָׂה צַעֲקָה

Petrovich Translation:

“He sought occasion to cut away to barrenness our great number, our swelling without measure. They yearned for Hathor, but the quiver of our brothers was thoroughly despised, [so] he performed terror against their quiver and brought about a cry of wailing.

Sinai 349 Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim

(1 of 2)



- אָנָה¹ = seek occasion
- תִּזְצַח² = cut away
- שְׂפֵי³ = barrenness
- רִבְנוֹ⁴ = number
- צִבְנוֹ⁵ = swelling
- מִשְׁעָר⁶ = measure
- כְּמוֹ⁷ = yearn

¹see 2 Kgs 5:7

²see Isa 18:5

³see Jer 12:12

⁴see 2 Chr 32:5

⁵see Num 5:21

⁶see Gen 26:12

⁷see Psalm 63:1

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Dynasty 18 (ca. 1480 BC)

JE 52511

1 Kings 18:1–8

¹Now it happened *after* many days that the word of He-who-is came to Elijah in Year 3, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth.” ²So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine *was* severe in Samaria. ³Ahab called Obadiah, who *was* over *his* household. (Now, Obadiah feared He-who-is greatly, ⁴because when Jezebel cut down the prophets of He-who-is, Obadiah took 100 prophets and hid them by 50s in a cave and provided them with bread and water.) ⁵Then Ahab said to Obadiah, “Go through the land to all of the springs of water and to all of the valleys. Perhaps we will find grass and keep the horses and mules alive, and not have to kill some of the cattle.” ⁶So they divided the land between them to survey it. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went *the* other way by himself. ⁷Now, as Obadiah was on the road, notice, Elijah met him, and he [Obadiah] recognized him and fell on his face and said, “Is this you, Elijah, my master?” ⁸He said to him, “It is I. Go, say to your master, “Notice, Elijah *is here.*”

1 Kings 18:9–15

⁹He [Obadiah] said, “What sin have I committed that you are giving your servant into the hand of Ahab to put me to death? ¹⁰As He-who-is, your God, lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent to search for you. So, when they said, ‘He is not *here*,’ he [King Ahab] made the kingdom or nation swear that they could not find you. ¹¹And yet now you are saying, ‘Go, say to your master, «Behold, *Elijah is here*.»’ ¹²It will come about when I leave you that the Spirit of He-who-is will carry you where I do not know. So when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although *I* your servant have feared He-who-is from my youth. ¹³Has it not been told to my master what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of He-who-is, that I hid 100 prophets of He-who-is by 50s in a cave and provided them with bread and water? ¹⁴Yet now you are saying, ‘Go, say to your master, «Behold, *Elijah is here*.»’” ¹⁵Elijah said, “As He-who-is of armies lives, before whom I stand, surely I will show myself to him today.”

1 Kings 18:16–22

¹⁶So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah.
¹⁷When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is this you, you troubler of Israel?”
¹⁸So he [Elijah] said, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house *have*, because you have forsaken the commandments of He-who-is, and you have followed the Baals. ¹⁹Now then, send *and* gather to me all of Israel at Mount Carmel, *together* with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.” ²⁰So Ahab sent *a message* among all of the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹Elijah came near to all the people and said, “**How long will you hesitate between two positions?** If He-who-is is God, follow him, but if Baal, follow him.” Yet the people did not answer him a word. ²²Then Elijah said to the people, . . . “I alone am left a prophet of He-who-is, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men.

1 Kings 18:23–27

²³Now, let them give us two oxen, and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire *under it*. Now, I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire *under it*.

²⁴Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of He-who-is, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” So all the people said, “That is a good idea.”

²⁵Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire *under it*.”

²⁶Then they took the ox that was given to them, and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, “O Baal, answer us.” Yet there was no voice, and no one answered.

²⁷Then they jumped around the altar that they had made. It came about at noon that Elijah mocked them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, because he is a god. Either he is occupied, or he stepped away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.”

1 Kings 18:28–34

²⁸So they screamed with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances, until the blood poured out on them. ²⁹When midday was past, they ranted until the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, but there was no voice. No one answered, and no one paid attention. ³⁰Then Elijah said to all of the people, “Come close to me.” So all of the people came close to him, and he fixed the altar of He-who-is that had been torn down. ³¹Elijah took 12 stones—according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of He-who-is had come, saying, “Israel will be your name.”—³²so with the stones, he built an altar in the name of He-who-is, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. ³³Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid *it* on the wood, ³⁴and he said, “Fill four pitchers with water and pour *it* on the offering and on the wood.” Then he said, “Do it a second time.” So they did it a second time. Then he said, “Do it a third time.” So they did it a third time.

1 Kings 18:35–40

³⁵The water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

³⁶At the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O He-who-is, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. ³⁷Answer me, O He-who-is, answer me, that this people may know that you, O He-who-is, are God, and *that you have turned their heart back again.*” ³⁸Then the fire of He-who-is fell and consumed the offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹When all of the people saw it, they fell on their faces, and they said, “He-who-is, he is God. He-who-is, he is God.” ⁴⁰Then Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Do not let one of them escape.” So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and killed them there.

[Because whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed **of him** when he comes in his glory and the glory of the father and the holy angels. (Luke 9:26)]



King Ahab?
Obadiah?
Israelites?
Elijah?

**“Rain
Down
Fire!”**