



LIVING IN THE PROMISED LAND



hen Joshua was dividing up the land for each of the tribes of Israel to live in, he also set up some special cities according to God's command. God told Moses in Numbers chapter 35 to set aside cities for the Levites and also cities of refuge. Before he died, Joshua did as God had commanded.

LEVITICAL CITIES

You will remember that the Levites were the one tribe of Israel that was chosen to serve God by protecting the Tabernacle and the priests. They were paid with the tithes and sacrifices that the people brought to the Tabernacle. But they and their families still needed places to live. So Joshua, according to God's command, set aside forty-eight cities, some from each of the other tribes' land, according to the size of each tribe. These cities were to be an offering to the service of God. The Levites living in each of these cities would be teachers and judges for the people who lived nearby.

CITIES OF REFUGE

God had also commanded that six cities should be chosen out of the Levitical cities to be cities of refuge. They were to be evenly spaced throughout the land, three on the east side of the Jordan River and three on the west side. These cities were set aside to be places of safety for anyone who had accidentally caused someone to die. God was very

clear about this. The cities were not for murderers, people who had planned ahead to kill someone. The Law said that murderers had to be stoned to death. But someone who had unintentionally killed someone (as when the head of their axe flew off while they were chopping wood and hit someone) was to run to the closest city of refuge for safety. They were to tell their story to the elders of the city, and be allowed to live there. This was to protect them from the family of the person who was killed, who might want to take revenge. The manslayers (as the Bible calls them) had to live in the city of refuge until the High Priest died. Then they were allowed to go back to their home and family.

CITIES OF REFUGE:

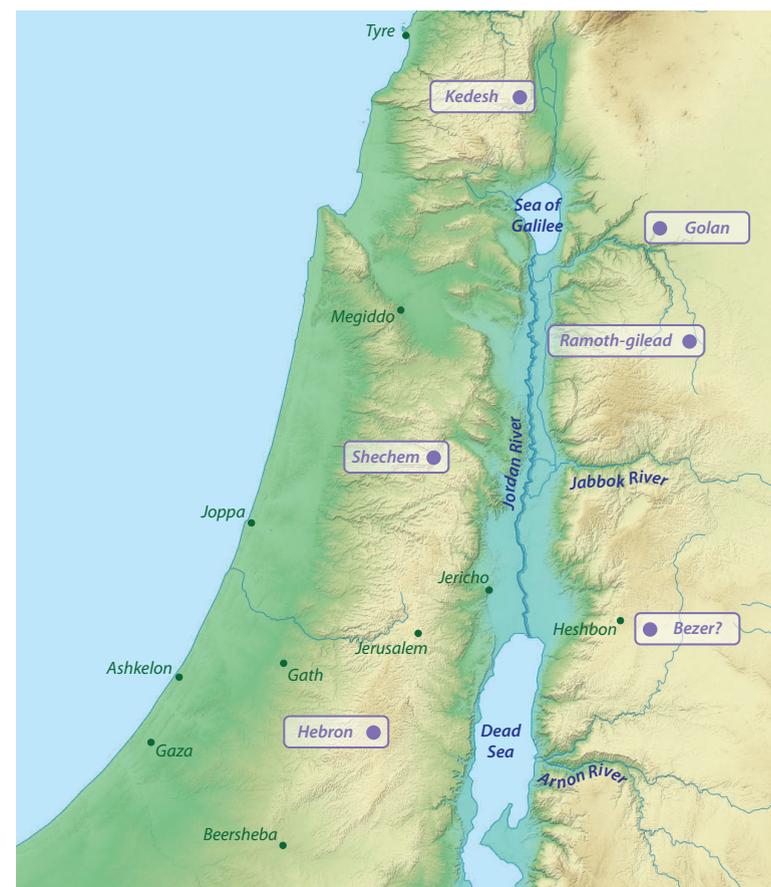
East of the river Jordan:

- Golan
- Ramoth-Gilead
- Bezer

West of the river Jordan:

- Hebron
- Shechem
- Kedesh

THE SPECIAL CITIES



TIMELINE: JUDGES

ISRAELITES FAIL TO COMPLETELY CONQUER CANAAN AFTER JOSHUA'S DEATH



The Israelites settled in their allotted land but made the Canaanites their servants instead of driving them out. Then many Israelites began to join in the pagan rites of the Canaanite religion.

Judges 1:27-36

KING OF MESOPOTAMIA INVADES ISRAEL



In judgment for their sin, God allowed Israel to be invaded.

Judges 3:7-8

OTHNIEL



After the invasion, the people repented, so God appointed Othniel, Caleb's brother, to be their Judge (military leader). He led the people into battle and defeated the King of Mesopotamia. Then Israel had forty years of peace.

Judges 3:9-11

EGLON, KING OF MOAB



Once more the Israelites began to worship Canaanite idols, so God allowed the Moabites, Ammonites and Amalekites to form a huge army to invade Israel. The Israelites had to serve King Eglon for eighteen years.

Judges 3:12-14

EHUD



Again the Israelites called out to God to deliver them, so God sent Ehud as his Judge. Ehud smuggled a sword into King Eglon's presence and after his servants left, Ehud killed the king. After he escaped from the palace, he led the Israelites against the Moabites and won a victory. There was peace for two generations.

ca.1370 BC / Judges 3:15-30

GOD CALLS SAMUEL



Samuel went to serve in the tabernacle with Eli, the High Priest, when he was a boy. One night God spoke to Samuel and told him about the judgment he had planned for Eli and his sons. As Samuel grew up, everyone became aware that God had chosen Samuel to be His prophet.

1 Samuel 3

SAMSON



Samson was chosen by God before he was born to be a Judge. However, when he grew up, Samson did not always follow God's commands. He was able to cause the Philistines many problems, but they eventually captured him. With God's help he pulled down the pillars of a pagan temple and killed over 3,000 Philistines and himself.

ca.1075 BC / Judges 13-16

JEPHTHAH



After the Ammonites oppressed Israel for forty years, the people asked Jephthah, a mighty warrior, to free them from the Ammonites. He agreed after the people consented to let him be their ruler once they were free. God filled him with great power and he defeated the Ammonite army. He ruled for six years.

ca.1078 BC / Judges 10:6-12:7

BIRTH OF SAMUEL AND HANNAH'S SONG



Hannah prayed to God, asking him for a son. When God answered her prayer, she sang a song of praise to him and dedicated Samuel to God's service.

1 Samuel 1-2

JABIN, KING OF CANAAN



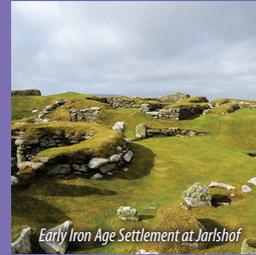
Jabin, King of Canaan, invaded from the north and he ruled over the Israelites very harshly for twenty years. God allowed this because Israel once more began to forget God and his commandments.

DEBORAH

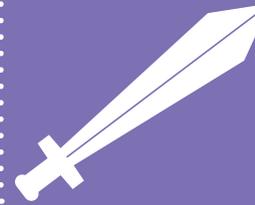


Deborah was the only woman judge and a prophetess. She directed Barak to assemble an army to defeat King Jabin and his commander, Sisera. Barak hesitated, saying he would only go if Deborah went with him. She agreed and God gave them the victory. There was peace for forty years.

EARLY IRON AGE BEGINS



HITTITES ARE DEFEATED BY THE ASSYRIANS



MIGRATION OF THE SEA PEOPLE



Tribes of people began to arrive on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It is thought they originally came from Greece. They tried invading Egypt but were driven back by the Egyptian army. After that some of the Sea People tribes settled on the coast of Canaan, and became known as the Philistines. Their land was called Philistia.

Judges 4:1-3

ca.1209 BC / Judges 4:4-5:31

1200 BC

ca.1175 BC

ABIMELECH'S PLAN TO BECOME KING



Abimelech was Gideon's son, and he decided since his father had been a Judge, he should be even greater. He had all his brothers murdered, except for the youngest, Jotham, who escaped. Abimelech ruled Israel with cruelty for three years and was killed when some of his cohorts turned against him.

RETURN TO ISRAEL



Naomi returned to her homeland with her daughter-in-law Ruth. Ruth met and married Boaz, a kinsman and wealthy landowner. Ruth and Boaz's descendant was King David.

ELIMELECH AND HIS FAMILY LEAVE ISRAEL

Elimelech and his family left Israel because of a famine. They settled in Moab, where his two sons married Moabite women. After ten years Elimelech and his sons died, leaving only Naomi, Elimelech's wife, and Ruth and Orpah, her daughters-in-law.

ELAMITE KING SHUTRUK-NAHHUNTE OF SUSA INVADES BABYLON



GIDEON



The Midianites invaded Israel and held the land captive for seven years. The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and told him to save Israel, but Gideon offered all sorts of excuses. When he finally agreed, God told him he had too many soldiers. After following God's instructions, Gideon defeated the Midianites with three hundred men. But Gideon failed to serve God in his old age.

Judges 9

Ruth 2-4

Ruth 1

ca.1158 BC

ca.1162 BC / Judges 6-8

THE “ITES” AND “STINES”

When the Israelites came to the Promised Land, God told them that they were to defeat the various tribes of people and take over the land. God said this for two reasons; first, because he had promised this land to Abraham and his descendants, who became known as Israel. The second reason was to punish those various tribes that tried to harm God’s chosen people and prevent them from entering the Promised Land.

These tribes come with some odd names, so let’s take a look at where they came from and where they lived when the Israelites arrived.

- 1 **Moabites:** One of Lot’s sons, Moab, became father of the Moabites (Genesis 19:36-37). They settled southeast of the Jordan River. They tried to stop the Israelites coming into the Promised Land by hiring Balaam to curse them (Numbers 22-24).
- 2 **Ammonites:** Lot’s other son was Ben-Ammi, who became father of the Ammonites (Genesis 19:38). This tribe settled east of the Jordan River.
- 3 **Edomites:** Esau, Jacob’s twin, became the father of the Edomites (Genesis 36:9). The Edomites lived south of the Moabites, and

they refused to let the Israelites pass through their land on the way to the Promised Land.

- 4 **Amalekites:** lived in the Negev, the southern part of what would be Israel (Numbers 13:29).
- 5 **Jebusites:** lived in the hill country (Numbers 13:29).
- 6 **Hittites:** originally lived in Anatolia (Turkey) and over the years they spread out, some coming to live in the hill country of the Promised Land (Numbers 13:29, Joshua 12:7-8).
- 7 **Amorites:** lived in the hill country (Numbers 13:29).
- 8 **Canaanites:** were descendants of Ham (Noah’s son) and his son Canaan. They lived near the sea and along the Jordan (Numbers 13:29).
- 9 **Philistines:** were descendants of Ham and his son Egypt (Genesis 10:6-14). They were also called the Caphtorim (Deuteronomy 2:23, Jeremiah 47:4). They were part of a group called the Sea People, who eventually settled along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. They remained enemies of Israel until King David completely defeated them.

- 10 **Girgashites:** also descended from Canaan, this time through his son Sidon (Genesis 10:16). They were defeated by Joshua and the Israelites (Joshua 24:11).
- 11 **Perizzites:** lived in the hill country of Canaan since Abraham’s time. They were finally defeated by Joshua and the Israelites (Deuteronomy 20:16-17 & Joshua 24:11).
- 12 **Hivites:** lived from Mount Hermon to Lebanon. They were defeated by Joshua (Deuteronomy 20:16-17 & Joshua 24:11).



The central part of Israel

Quite a few books in the Bible have long lists of strange and hard-to-pronounce names, especially in the Old Testament. Those long lists are called genealogies. Genealogies or family trees are a way of tracing our ancestors: our grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents and so on. Our own family tree interests us and our family, but probably not too many other people. They have their own genealogies that they care about.

So why did God tell the writers of the Bible to put them there? Because God cares about genealogies, especially those of his chosen people Israel, for several reasons.

GOD CARES ABOUT EACH AND EVERY PERSON

In the verse below, Jesus told the people who had gathered to hear him speak about how much God cared for them.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (Luke 12:6-7)

If God cares to know how many hairs we each have on our head, then he cares about all parts of us. Those lists of names are people God knew and cared for just like us.

WHAT'S WITH THOSE LONG LISTS OF NAMES?

GOD CARES ABOUT HISTORY

History is the true account of events that have happened in the past. The Bible contains the history of humanity – what actually happened to real people. We can trust that the Bible is true by reading those lists of real people.

GENEALOGIES SHOW GOD'S PROMISE OF A MESSIAH

God promised Adam and Eve that he would send a Messiah. The first genealogy began with their son Seth. From there the list of names followed down to Noah, then from Noah to Jacob. When Jacob blessed his sons, he prophesied that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah. David, whose genealogy showed he was from the tribe of Judah, wrote about the coming of the Messiah in some of his Psalms (2, 22, 110 are just a few). When the people of Israel returned from their exile, the genealogies were important to place them in

their families that had been separated. And so it continued until Jesus was born. The genealogies at the beginning of Matthew and Luke showed that all the prophecies were true. Jesus' family tree could be traced back to the very beginning.

