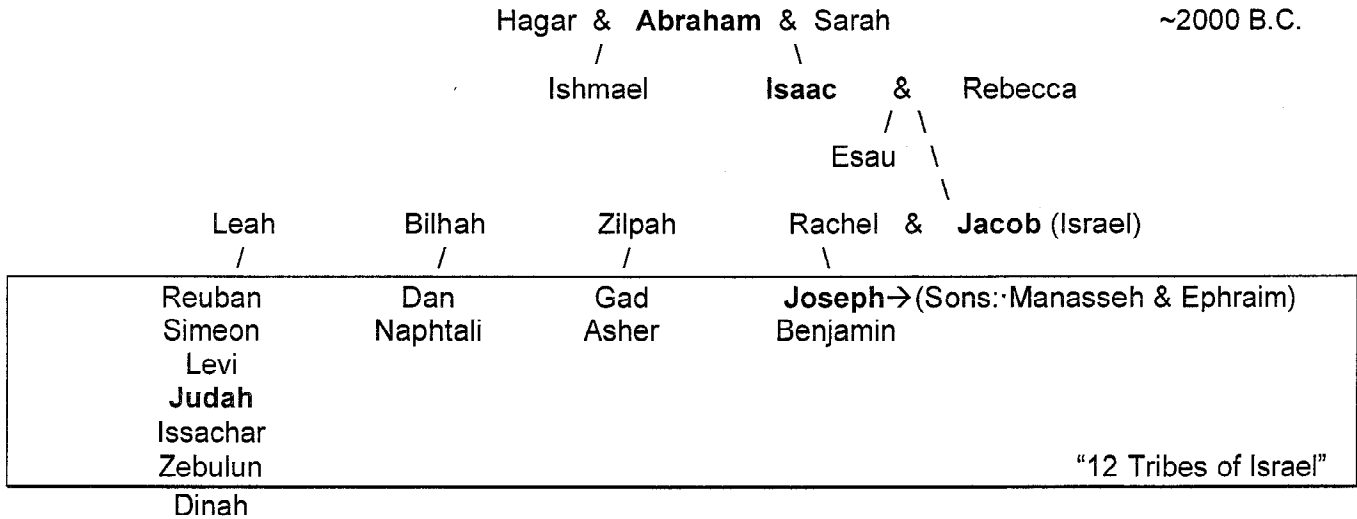


WEEK #1 OF 3 “JUDGES—INTRODUCTION” (HANDOUT #1 OF 2)

Encountering the Bible: Book of Judges—By Pastor Daren Erisman

PLACING JUDGES WITHIN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

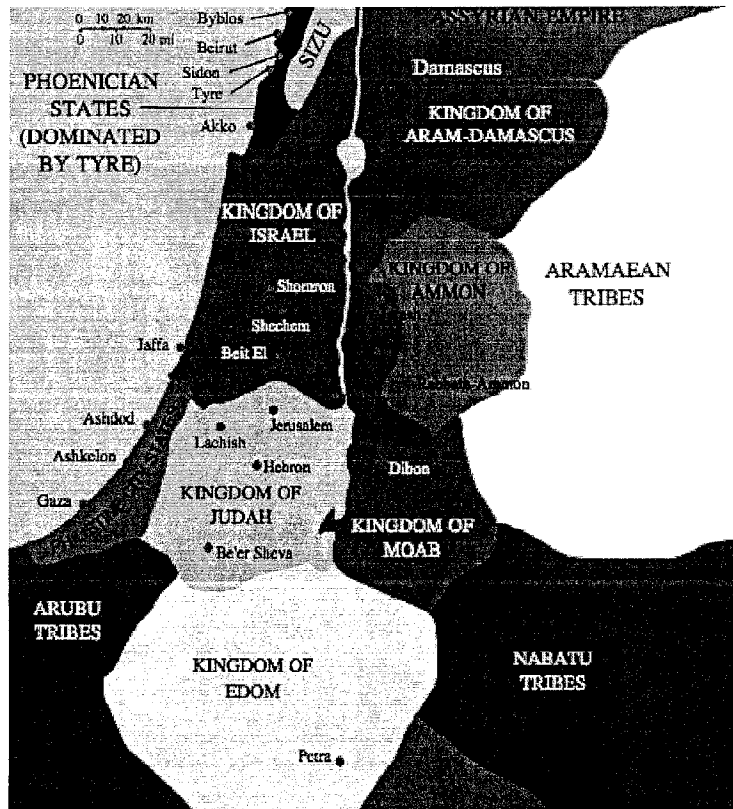
- **Israel’s beginnings are innately tribal** *(refer to Genesis 12-50)*
 - Semitic tribes held together by common lineage and language—**Hebrew**
 - Note: Aramaic (the everyday language Jesus spoke) and Arabic are Semitic languages as well.



- Jesus is from the lineage of King David, from the tribe of Judah:
Judah → ... → King David → King Solomon →
 ... → Mary & Joseph (Jesus’ adoptive father) → **Jesus**
- **Abrahamic Covenant with God** *(refer to Genesis 12-17)*
 - God makes covenant with Abram (Abraham): Blessing & curse of all peoples through Abram (12:1-3); Abram’s descendents promised land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates (15:13-21); “father of many nations” (17:1-8); circumcision as sign (17:9-14)
 - God makes promise to Hagar: many descendents, a nation (21:18).
- **Exodus** *(refer to Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)*
 - The exodus from Egypt a pivotal moment for the Hebrews → **Law and Worship**
 - Now a loosely united Hebrew people → The Israelites
 - Temple worship developed and laws given (10 commandments & ~600 laws)
 - **Establish boundaries: Sacred & Profane** (Ex: Kosher food)
 - Moses, their leader dies before making it to the Promised Land
- **Joshua and the Conquest of the Promised Land**
 - Joshua, the appointed successor to Moses leads the Israelites in a series of battles with the original inhabitants of land
 - Citizens of Jericho, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites
- **Judges and Tribes**
 - God calls Judges to assist the floundering Israelite tribes as they struggle with the original inhabitants and their gods

- **Kings and Kingdoms** *(refer to 1,2 Samuel and 1, 2 Kings, 1, 2 Chronicles)*
 - The twelve tribes of Israel were briefly united under the Kings **Saul, David and Solomon** in a United Monarchy (around 1010 to 931 BCE) or the **Kingdom of Israel**.
 - Unfortunately, Solomon, who built the **1st Temple** in Jerusalem, spent the Kingdom's resources on extravagant projects and shortly after his death, there was a revolt and the southern part of the kingdom split itself off from the rest of Israel.
 - This southern or lower kingdom was inhabited mostly by the tribe of Judah and therefore became known as the **Kingdom of Judah** (region of Judea). The tribes of Simeon, Benjamin and part of the tribe of Levi were also within the southern kingdom.
 - The northern or upper kingdom remained as the **Kingdom of Israel**
 - Made of the remaining tribes and the rest of the tribe of Levi.

Kingdom of Israel (or United Monarchy) → Kingdom of Israel (upper kingdom)
→ Kingdom of Judah (lower kingdom)



Map of the two Kingdoms in 830s BCE after the split of the United Monarchy

WEEK #1 OF 3 “JUDGES—INTRODUCTION” (HANDOUT #2 OF 2)

Encountering the Bible: Book of Judges—By Pastor Daren Erisman

BASIC OUTLINE & INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JUDGES

- I. Introduction: from invasion to stalemate (1:1-3:6)
 - II. The Judges (3:7-16:31)
 - A. Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar (3:7-31)
 - B. Deborah and Barak versus royal coalition (4:1-5:31)
 - C. Gideon (chaps. 6-8) and King Abimelech (chap. 9)
 - D. Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Iabnan, Elon, and Abdon (10:1-12:15)
 - E. Samson (13:1-16:31)
 - III. Supplements: more lessons from the past (17:1-21:25)
- **5-Fold theme throughout Judges, exemplified in 2:10-23**
 - 2:10-13 The Israelites forgot God's past deliverance & began worshipping other gods
 - 2:14-15 God gave them into the hands of their enemies
 - 2:18 They cried out to God for deliverance... and God listened
 - 2:16 God raised up a judge to deliver them
 - 2:19 When that judge died, they would again worship other gods
 - **Two Perspectives on the Conquest of the Promised Land**
 - **From the perspective of the Book of Joshua 24:11-15**
 - ¹¹ When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I handed them over to you. ¹² I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. ¹³ I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.
 - ¹⁴ “Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; *but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.*”
 - **From the perspective of the Book of Judges 3:1-6**
 - **3** Now these are the nations that the LORD left to test all those in Israel who had no experience of any war in Canaan ² (it was only that successive generations of Israelites might know war, to teach those who had no experience of it before): ³ the five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath. ⁴ They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their ancestors by Moses. ⁵ So the Israelites lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; ⁶ and they took their daughters as wives for themselves, and their own daughters they gave to their sons; and they worshiped their gods.



Approximate areas of the 12 Tribes of Israel (Levites were distributed)

WEEK #2 OF 3 “JUDGES—JUDGING THE JUDGES” (HANDOUT #1 OF 1)

Encountering the Bible: Book of Judges—By Pastor Daren Erisman

Cycle: → Idolatry → Calamity → People Cry out →
|
← Judge Dies ← Judge Sent ← God Hears ←

THE JUDGES

Major Judges = The *most* talked about → Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson
Minor Judges = The *least* talked about → Shamgar, Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Refer to the Handout: THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

- **Othniel** (Judah) Son of Kenaz who is the younger brother of Caleb
 - The Book of Judges presents the tribe of Judah in the best light → Pro-monarchial
- **Ehud** (Benjamin)
 - Left handed
 - Ironically “Benjamin” = “Son of the right hand [the South]”
 - And, many Benjamites were left handed.
 - Left-handedness considered a tactical advantage in fighting
- **Shamgar?** Not a Hebrew name
 - Did Yahweh choose Shamgar to be a judge? No specific claim.
- **Deborah** (Ephraim)
 - A prophetess/judge → One of the most remarkable women mentioned in the Bible
 - “Song of Deborah” (chap. 5) Is likely one of the oldest parts of the Bible (written in the 12th century B.C.)
- **Gideon** (Manasseh) Father Joash is an apostate, a Baal worshiper
 - Called by an angel
 - Also named Jerrubaal, “Let Baal sue” or “Let Baal press his own case”
 - A savior judge who refuses to be king → God alone is King
 - Though not a priest, he has a gold ephod, a priestly garment, made out of the captured booty → The Israelites worship it
- **[Abimelech]** (Manasseh) Son of Gideon
 - Killed all but one of his half-brothers
 - Not counted as a judge
- **Tola** (Issachar)
- **Jair** (Manasseh)
 - 30 sons were itinerant judges
- **Jephthah** (Manasseh)
 - A mighty warrior
 - Inter-tribal tensions with Ephraimites
- **Ibzan** (Judah? or Zebulun?)
- **Elon** (Zebulun)
- **Abdon** (Ephraim)
- **Samson** (Dan?)
 - A consecrated Nazarite with immense strength



The “judge-savior”

- Leads the people into right relationship with God and therefore into a time of peace
- Often militaristic
- What kind of a Messiah were the Jews expecting? → Likely someone like a judge-savior

THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Judge and Tribe	Scripture reference	Major Events	Enemies of Israel	Period of Oppression	Period of Rest
1. Othniel (Judah) Son of Kenaz the younger brother of Caleb	Judges 1:11-15; 3:1-11; Joshua 15:16-19; 1 Chron. 4:13	Othniel was the nephew of Caleb (Judges 3:11) and became his son-in-law after the capture of Kirjath Sepher (Judges 1:12-13)	Cushan-Rishathaim, King of Mesopotamia (Judges 3:8)	8 Years (Judges 3:8)	40 years (Judges 3:11)
2. Ehud (Benjamin) Son of Gera	Judges 3:12-30	Ehud was a left-handed Benjamite who personally killed Eglon the fat king of Moab (Judges 3:21-22) He led in the slaying of 10,000 Moabites (3:29).	Eglon King of Moab; the Ammonites; the Amalekites (Judges 3:12-13)	18 years (Judges 3:14)	80 years (Judges 3:30)
3. Shamgar (?) His name is not Hebrew. Son of Anath	Judges 3:31-5:6	He killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad (Judges 3:31). The "Song of Deborah refers to "In the days of Shamgar ben Anath" in Judges 5:6; possibly the son of a mixed marriage = Hurrian/Israelite?	Philistines (Judges 3:31)	Not given	Not given
4. Deborah /Barak (Ephraim and Naphtali)	Judges 4:1-5:31; 1 Samuel 12:11; Hebrews 11:32	Deborah was a prophetess and a judge. She was the wife of Lapidoth (Judges 4:4; 5:7). Deborah and her general, Barak, defeated Sisera, the general of the Army of Canaanite King Jabin of Hazor at the Battle of Kishon on Mt. Tabor (4:13-16). The Song of Deborah (ch 15) recounts the great victory. Barak is listed among the "Heroes of the Faith" in Hebrews 11:32	Jabin, Canaanite king of Hazor (Judges 4:2) Sisera, general and vassal of Jabin; may have been a Hittite (Judges 4:2-22; 5:26-28)	20 years (Judges 4:3)	40 years (Judges 5:31)
5. Gideon (Manasseh) Son of Joash the Abiezrite.	Judges 6:1-8:32 Hebrews 11:32	The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon at Ophrah (Judges 6:11-18). Gideon destroyed the altar of Baal (Judges 6:25-27). Seeking God's will Gideon put out a fleece twice for a sign (6:36-40) On God's command he reduced the size of his army from 32,000 to 10,000 to 300 (7:2-8), and successfully routed the Midianite army (7:16-25). He took revenge on the men of Succoth and Penuel for not giving his army bread (8:5-9, 14-17). He killed the Midianite kings Zebah and Zalmunna in revenge for the killing of his brothers at the battle of Mt. Tabor (8:18-21). He made a gold ephod that led the people into idolatry (8:24-27).	Midianites (Judges 6:1,3,33; 7:12) Amalekites (Judges 6:3; 33; 7:12) "People of the East"[some translations say Kedemites] (Judges 6:3,33; 7:12)	7 years (Judges 6:1)	40 years (Judges 8:28)
*Abimelech (Manasseh). Son of Gideon (*He usurped power & should not be counted as Yahweh's judge)	Judges 8:33-9:57 2Samuel 11:21	Abimelech killed all his half brothers with the exception of Jotham, the youngest (Judges 9:5). He defeated Gaal (Judges 9:26-41), captured and then razed the city of Shechem (Judges 9:42-49). He was severely injured when a Thebezen woman threw down a millstone from the besieged city wall, which struck him on the head. He then had his armorbearer kill him with a sword (Judges 9:50-54).	Civil War		Abimelech usurped power and ruled 3 years (Judges 9:22)

6. Toia (Issachar) Son of Puah	<u>Judges 10:1,2</u>	Toia was probably from one of the leading clans of Issachar (<u>Genesis 46:13</u> ; <u>Numbers 26:23</u>)			He judged Israel 23 years (<u>Judges 10:2</u>)
7. Jair (Gilead-Manasseh)	<u>Judges 10:3-5</u>	Jair may have been a descendant of the same Jair who distinguished himself during the days of Moses and Joshua (see <u>Numbers 32:41</u> ; <u>Deuteronomy 3:14</u> ; <u>Joshua 13:30</u> ; <u>1 Kings 4:13</u> ; <u>1 Chronicles 2:21</u>). He had 30 sons who were itinerant judges (<u>10:4</u>).			He judged Israel 22 years (<u>Judges 10:3</u>)
8. Jephthah (Gilead-Manasseh) Son of Gilead by a harlot (<u>Judges 11:1</u>)	<u>Judges 10:6-12:7</u> ; <u>Hebrews 11:32</u>	Jephthah was the son of Gilead by a prostitute (<u>Judges 11:1</u>); he was driven away by his half brothers (<u>Judges 11:2, 3</u>). The Elders of Gilead brought him back and made him their chief at Mizpah (<u>Judges 11:4-11</u>). Jephthah refused to give up Gilead to the Ammonites (<u>Judges 11:26</u>). He fought the Ammonites and conquered some 20 cities (<u>Judges 11:32,33</u>). The swearing of a foolish vow cost him his daughter (<u>11:31-40</u>). He defeated the tribe of Ephraimites (<u>12:1-16</u>) who had been offended because they had not been asked to join in the battle against the Ammonites.	Philistines (<u>Judges 10:7</u>) Ammonites (<u>10:7</u>) Civil war with the tribe of Ephraim (<u>12:4</u>)	18 years (<u>Judges 10:8</u>)	He judged Israel 6 years (<u>Judges 12:7</u>)
9. Ibzan (?Judah or Zebulun) see Joshua 19:15	<u>Judges 12:8-10</u>	Ibzan was a socially prominent man who had 30 sons and 30 daughters for whom he arranged marriages. Jewish tradition identifies him with Boaz of Bethlehem-Judah.			Judged Israel 7 years (<u>Judges 12:9</u>)
10. Eion (Zebulun)	<u>Judges 12:11, 12</u>	He was buried at Ajlalon in Zebulun (<u>Judges 12:12</u>)			Judged Israel 10 years (<u>Judges 12:12</u>)
11. Abdon (Ephraim) Son of Hillel	<u>Judges 12:13-15</u>	Abdon, the son of Hillel was a man of wealth and prominence. He had 40 sons and 30 grandsons (<u>Judges 12:14</u>). He was a native of Prathon and was later buried there (<u>Judges 12:13, 15</u>)			Judged Israel 8 years (<u>Judges 12:14</u>)
12. Samson (Dan)? Son of Manoah	<u>Judges 13:1-16:31</u> ; <u>Hebrews 11:32</u>	An angel announced Samson's birth. He was consecrated as a Nazirite from birth (<u>Judges 13:5,7, 16:16</u> ; <u>Numbers chapter 6</u>). Samson was a man of immense strength: he killed a lion bear-handed (<u>Judges 14:5,6</u>); he killed 30 Philistines at Ashkelon (<u>14:19</u>), and "thousand" with a jawbone of an ass (<u>Judges 15:14-19</u>). Other amazing deeds included catching 300 foxes, tying them in pairs with torches and turning them loose to burn the gain fields of the Philistines (<u>Judges 15:1-8</u>), and carrying off the gate of Gaza (<u>Judges 16:1-3</u>). Samson was conquered by the Philistine girl, Delilah, who cut his hair, the source of his strength. He was blinded and imprisoned at Gaza (<u>Judges 16:4-22</u>). He called out to God who allowed his strength to return. He pulled down the Temple of Dagon killing himself and about 3,000 Philistines (<u>Judges 16:23-31</u>).	Philistines (<u>Judges 13:1</u>)	40 years (<u>Judges 13:1</u>)	?Judged Israel 20 years (<u>Judges 15:20, 16:31</u>)

WEEK #3 OF 3 “JUDGES—THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL” (HANDOUT #1 OF 2)

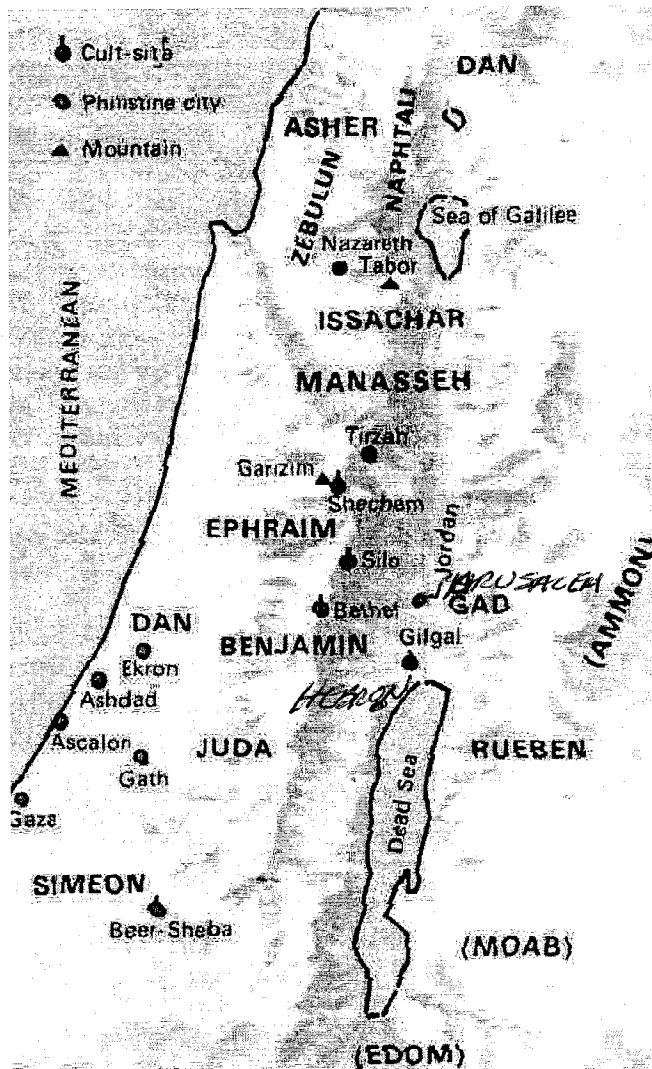
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The Sanctuaries of Israel

- There were key cities that were the central places of worship and pilgrimage for the individual tribes and clusters of tribes. Certain cities were particularly important centers of power and would come to prominence particularly with the sanctuary of the Ark of the Covenant.
- **The Ark of the Covenant**
 - Built at the command of God according to Moses' encounter with God on Mount Sinai (Ex 25:10-16), according to Hebrews 9:4, the Ark held “the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.”
 - It was meant to be carried and was made of wood, gold plating and two golden cherubim on top. The Ark was kept in the Tent of Meeting or Tabernacle and was understood to convey the presence of God. Shaped like a box it was thought of as the “footstool” of the kingly God, YHWH (1 Chr 28:2).
 - The most sacred object in all of Israel, it was also one of power and would be carried ahead of the army. When Joshua crossed into Canaan, priests carried the Ark into the river Jordan and the waters parted (Josh 3:15-16). The Ark was later paraded around the city of Jericho for seven days with trumpet blasts (Josh 6:4-20).
 - Over time, the Ark would travel to different cities. After crossing the Jordan River it would be kept in **Gilgal** (Josh 4:19), **Bethel** (Judges 20:18, 26-27) and **Shiloh**. Carried into battle near Shiloh, it was captured by the Philistines but was given back after 7 months because it brought trouble and a terrible plague upon the Philistines (1 Samuel 4-6). After being in **Kirjath-jearim**, the Ark would eventually be placed in the Temple in Jerusalem and later lost through Babylonian incursions. Some traditions report that the Ark was hidden away before the Babylonians could take it... (2 Macc 2:4-8 is an example).
- **Penuel** (Gad)
 - The place that Jacob struggled with God and became “Israel” (Gen 32:24-32)
- **Beer-Sheba** (Judah)
 - The southernmost city in Israel. Isaac built an altar there (Gen 26:23-33)
- **Hebron** (Judah)
 - Previously a royal Canaanite city, Hebron was a central city for the tribe of Judah.
- **Gilgal** (Ephraim)
 - First place the Ark was kept after crossing the Jordan River (Josh 4:19)
- **Shechem** (Ephraim)
 - Jacob built an altar here and was the place where the tribes gathered under Joshua to make a new covenant with God (Josh 24).
- **Bethel or Beth-El** (Ephraim/Benjamin)
 - Where the Ark was kept (Judges 20:26-28).
- **Shiloh** (Ephraim)
 - The central worship site and place for the Ark before Jerusalem (Josh 18:1-8; Judges 21:19; 1 Sam 1:3)

Clusters of Tribes centered around these Sanctuary Cities

- Sanctuary cities formed the hubs of tribal clusters. Importantly, there were Canaanite settlements that separated the tribes, particularly between the southern and central tribes, which contributed to clusters of tribal associations.
- **Southern Tribes (Judah, Simeon)**
 - Centered around Beer-Sheba and Hebron (Gen 13:18; Josh 21:10-11; 2 Sam 2:1-4)
- **Central Tribes (Ephraim, Manasseh → “House of Joseph”)**
 - Centered around Shechem (Josh 21:20), Shiloh and Gilgal (Josh 5:9-10; 1 Sam 11:14-15; 13:4-15)
- **Northern Tribes (Dan, Naphtali, Asher?, Issachar?)**
 - Centered around shrine at Dan (Judges 18:30-31)



Tribes of Israel

Leah	Bilhah	Zilpah	Rachel & Jacob (Israel)
Reuban	Dan	Gad	Joseph → (Sons: Manasseh & Ephraim)
Simeon	Naphtali	Asher	Benjamin
Levi			
Judah			
Issachar			
Zebulun			

"12 Tribes of Israel"

Early Hierarchy of Tribes

- There seems to be an early hierarchy of the tribes based on birth order and which matriarch they came from.
- **Higher:** From the wives of Jacob → Leah and Rachel
- **Lower:** From their handmaids → Bilhah and Zilpah

WEEK #3 OF 3 “JUDGES—THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL” (HANDOUT #2 OF 2)

Encountering the Bible: Book of Judges—By Pastor Daren Erisman

Three tribes that will lead/influence the rest

- **Tribe of Reuban**
 - Firstborn from Leah, the tribe of Reuban led the other tribes and is prominent up until the conquest of the land (Gen 30:14; 35:22; 37:21; 42:22, 37; Num 16:1ff)
 - However, the tribe seems to lose prominence during the time of Judges providing no judges from the tribe, and in Deborah’s war against King Sisera, Reuban “sat among the sheepfolds” giving no assistance (Judges 5:16). Perhaps its geographical location on the fringe isolated it from the other tribes.
- **Tribe of Ephraim**
 - Named from the son of Joseph (and forming the “House of Joseph” with the **tribe of Manasseh**), this tribe played a critical role in the periods of settlement and the Judges. Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim (Num 13:8) and Samuel came from the hill country of Ephraim (1 Sam 1:1).
 - The tribe of Ephraim would lead the other tribes in nearly wiping out the **tribe of Benjamin** after inhabitants of Ephraim were mistreated (**Judges 19-21**).
 - With the important cities of Shechem and Shiloh within its borders, the tribe of Ephraim was a dominant force amongst the tribes. 1 Chron 5:1-2 narrates the shift in power from Reuban to Ephraim and then to Judah.
 - Following the break up of the United Monarchy (~920 B.C.) after King Solomon’s death, Shechem would become the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) under King Jeroboam with Shiloh an important place of worship.
- **Tribe of Judah**
 - They were cut off from the other tribes by a strip of Canaanite settlements that separated the mountains of Judah and Ephraim.
 - The **tribe of Simeon** was absorbed by Judah.
 - At the beginning of the Monarchy (~1000 B.C.), leadership of the tribes of Israel transferred to Judah through the line of King David. David, conquered the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and made it the center of the United Monarchy with his son, Solomon carrying out an enormous building program including the Temple. This is also the time that many of the books of the O.T. were put together. Therefore, the perspective of the Tribe of Judah heavily influences the Bible. Also, when the Monarchy breaks up, the other 10 tribes will form the Northern Kingdom of Israel, which will then meet its untimely demise with the invasion of the **Assyrians** in (~730 B.C.). Judah will later be invaded and its leadership carried off in diaspora by the **Babylonians** (~590 B.C.) but some of the Judean leadership will later return to rebuild the Temple (the 2nd Temple), hence becoming the “Jews.”
 - Mary, Joseph and Jesus are all from the tribe of Judah.

The Tribe Without Land

- **Tribe of Levi**
 - Because of sacral duties, the Levites were spread throughout Israel and would not have a geographic center of their own.
 - Moses and Aaron were Levites. Descendants of Aaron would form a priestly class called the Kohanim. The rest of the Levites would have other duties around the Tabernacle worship life.

Monarchial Ambitions: “In those days, when there was no king in Israel...”

- Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1
- Last verse of book → Judges: 21:25 (echoing 17:6): “In those days, when there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.”