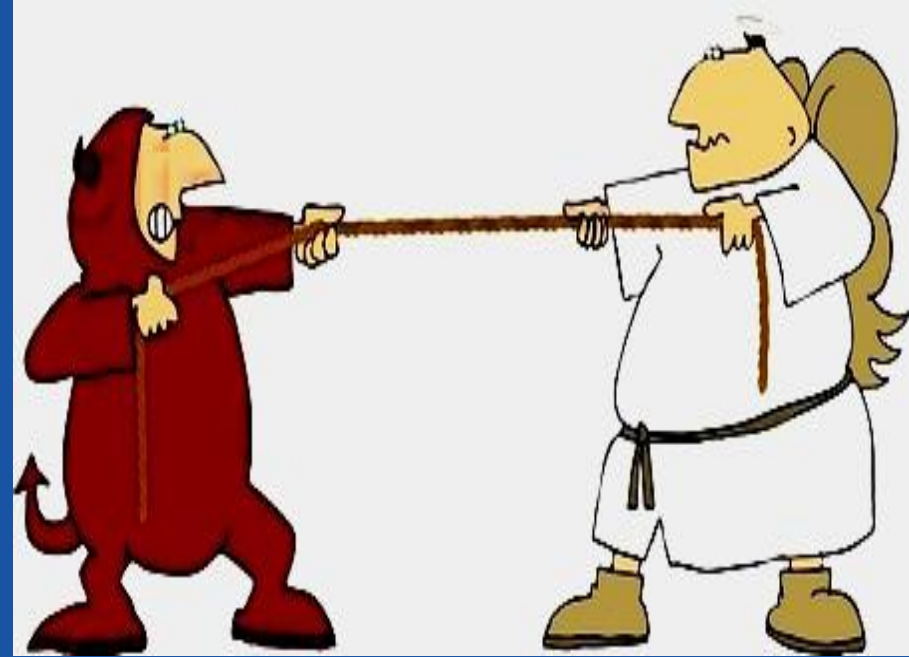


1st SAMUEL 11

- God's redemptive agenda is carried out in the free will of both evil and righteous humans
- Behind the many stories of important events in Bible history are real people living in real communities
- The Bible is a reality of duality
- There is as much humanity as divinity in the Bible
- God still acts upon our lives in hidden ways



REALITY OF DUALITY

HEAVEN AND THE
SPIRITUAL WORLD

← SPIRITUAL REALITY →



← PHYSICAL REALITY →

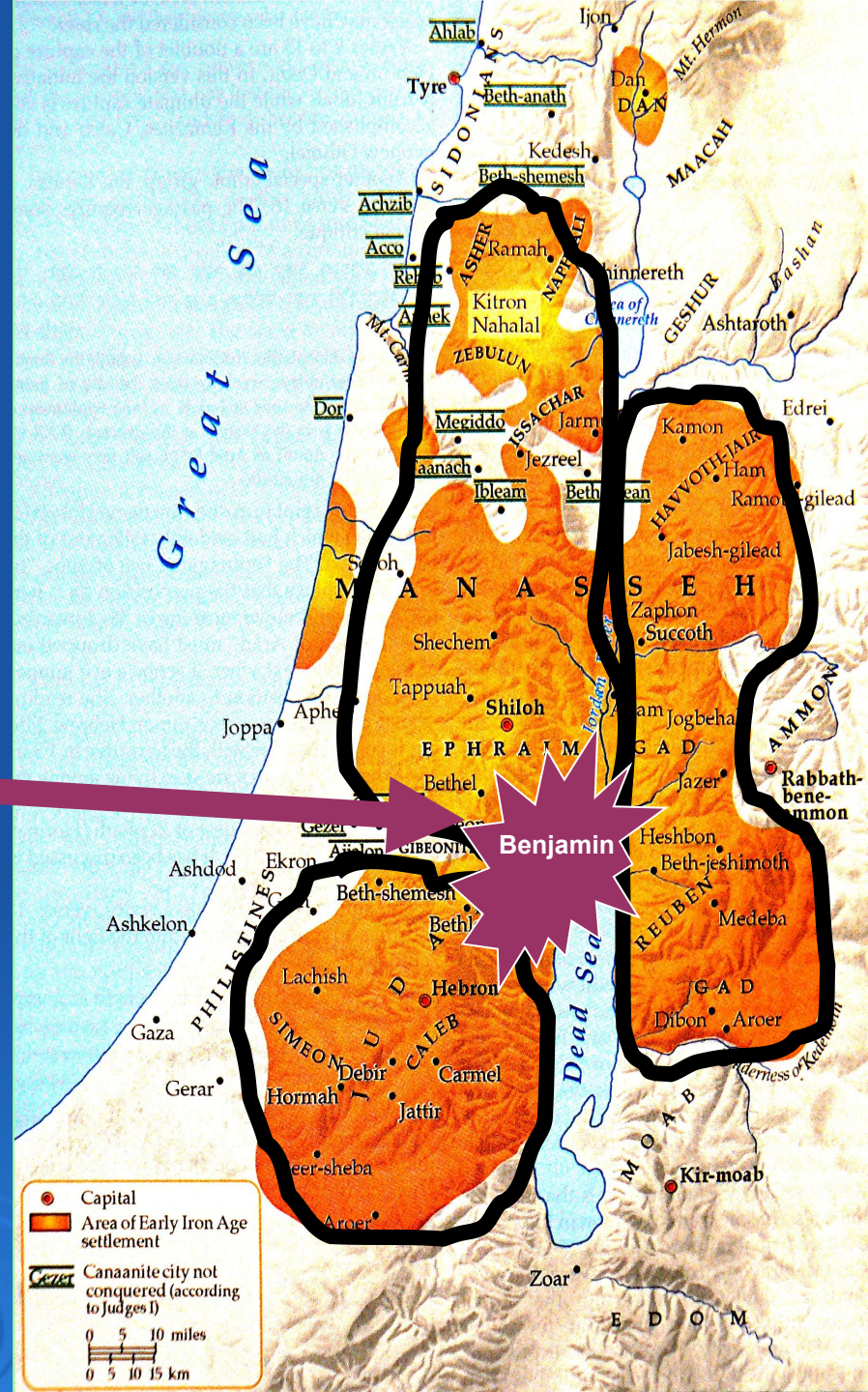
SAMUEL GIVES ISRAEL “A KING LIKE THEIR NEIGHBORS”



- King Sha'ul was the answer to the Israelite leadership's demand for a king
- Samuel warned Israel of the unintended consequences that would await them for this action
- Saul not hailed by all 12 tribes as Israel's new leader'
- Many tribal leaders were unhappy because a king would impinge on their personal sovereignty and authority

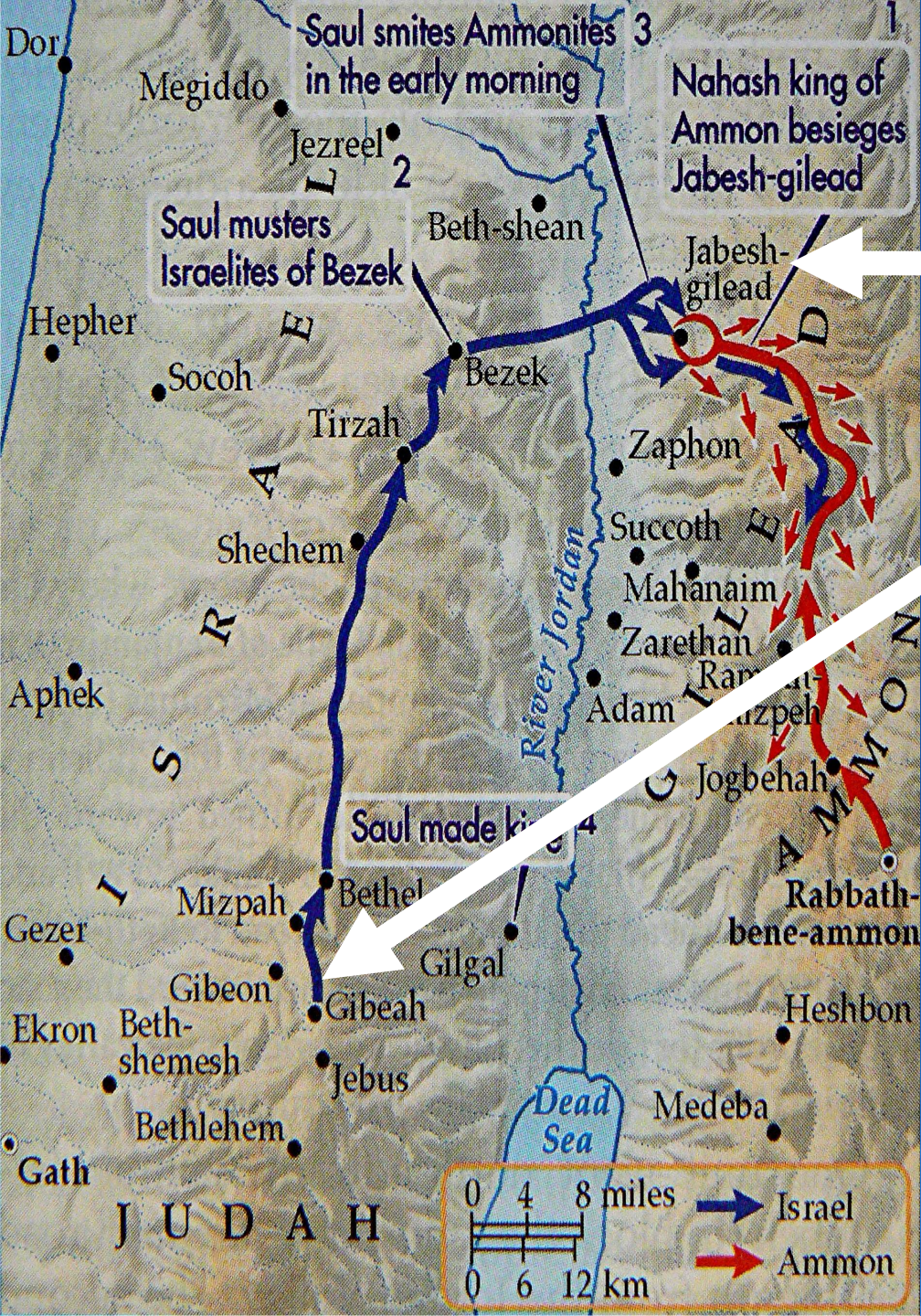
A DIVIDED ISRAEL

- Israel was divided into 3 political factions
- TransJordan confederation
- Northern confederation
- Southern confederation
- Benjamin lay at the center of the 3 factions so it was strategically important
- Benjamin aligned with the northern tribes
- Also had strong connection with Yavesh-Gilead

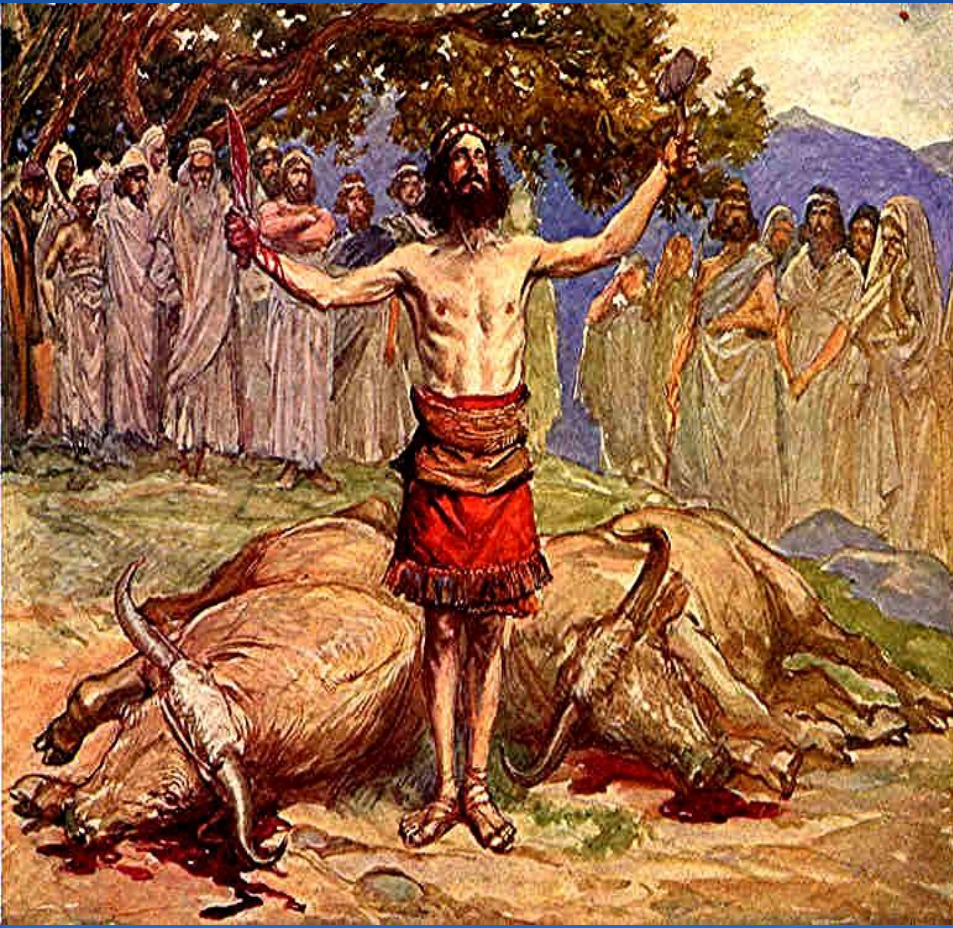


KING NACHASH ATTACKS YAVESH-GILEAD

- Inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead sent messengers to Gibeah of Benjamin
- People of Gibeah wailed and cried when word reached them
- 400 virgins from Jabesh-Gilead given to survivors of Gibeah to repopulate the decimated tribe of Benjamin



SAUL DETERMINES TO RESCUE YAVESH-GILEAD



- King Saul had close relatives in Jabesh-Gilead as did most residents of Gibeah
- Patterned after the Levite and his concubine Saul cuts up his oxen and sends pieces to the tribes as a call to battle
- Saul's anger NOT a righteous anger

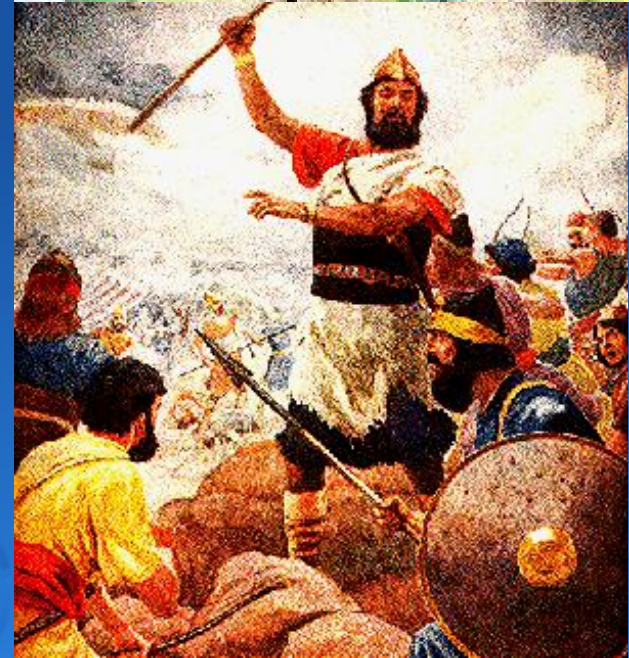
ISRAEL AND JUDAH

- The 3 political factions identified more with their alliances than as a unified national entity of 12 tribes
- Northern alliance = Israel
- Southern alliance = Judah
- Northern alliance was seeking “nation” status so a king was a necessary national symbol
- Meaning of Israel changed over time and context



ISRAEL'S MILITIAS MUSTER AT BEZEK

- Leaders of Jabesh-Gilead tell Nachash: “tomorrow we will come out to you.....”
- An ambivalent statement that could mean fight or surrender
- Nachash assumes they are surrendering
- Saul divides his large army into 3 groups and attacks before dawn



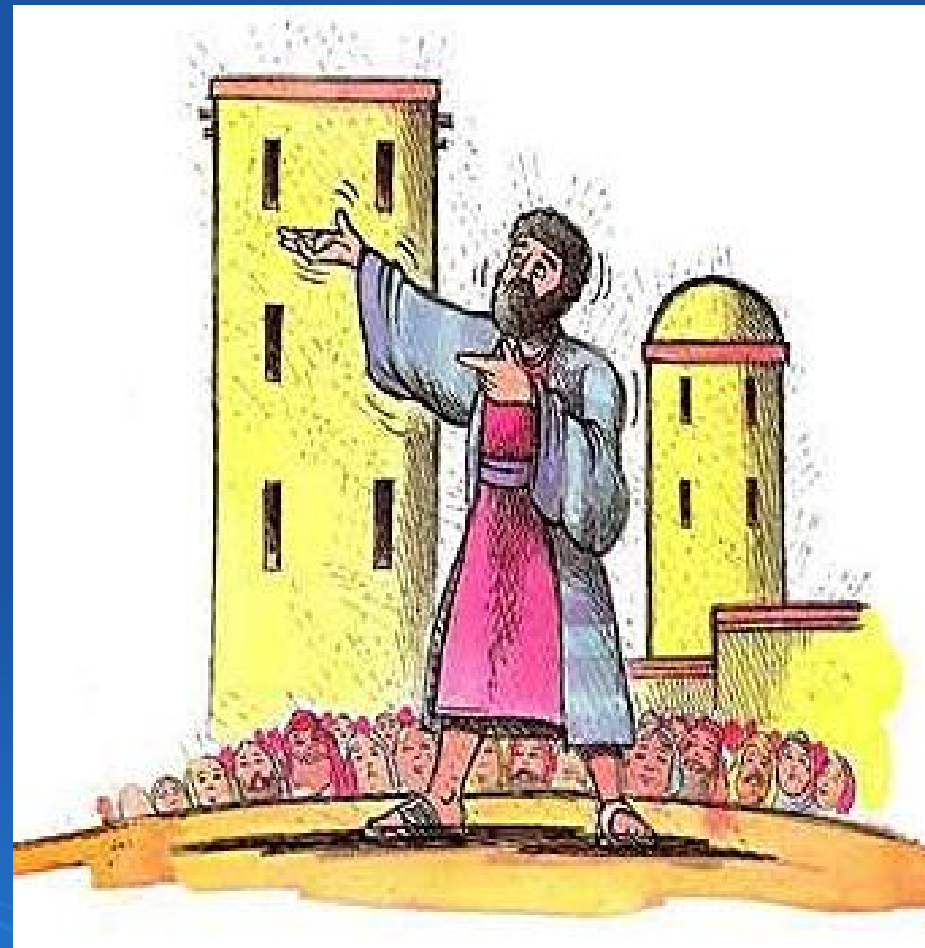
“No one will be put to death today because today YHWH rescued Israel”



- The victory of Yavesh-Gilead gave Saul the notoriety he needed
- Samuel was asked if they could kill the former dissenters, but it was Sha'ul who answered, “NO!”
- The torch of leadership has passed
- Samuel's time as a Judge ends
- The era of the Kings begins here at Gilgal
- “Before YHWH” = in the presence of the Ark

1ST SAMUEL CHAPTER 12: SAMUEL'S FAREWELL ADDRESS?

- Samuel is NOT saying farewell !!
- His role is changing from Judge to Prophet
- Samuel is “settling his account” before the people
- Chapter 12 is still located at Gilgal
- This is a kind of covenant renewal ceremony
- More than a change in leadership, we have a change in how God’s justice will be administered (king instead of a Judge)



POLITICAL AUTHORITY OVER ISRAEL HANDED TO SHA'UL



- Samuel demonstrates that he was not at fault
- He did not take anything from the people
- *Laqah* = take
- Contrasts Samuel serving but not taking, with a king who takes but does not serve
- Samuel invokes YHWH as his spiritual witness, and King Saul as his earthly witness

GOD'S GRACE



produces



RIGHTEOUSNESS



produces



TZEDEKAH

- *Tzedekah* = righteousness
- Righteousness Kind #1
a status or a condition bestowed upon us by God
- Righteousness Kind #2
acts (works) that we actively perform for the benefit of our fellow man
- Kind #1 can NOT be attained by doing Kind #2
- But....Kind #2 is a duty that comes from receiving Kind #1

SAMUEL'S WARNING

- The era of the Judges was characterized by constant backsliding
- *Yeruba'al* is Gideon
- *Yiftach*
- *Bedan* is probably *Barak*
- Samuel is the last Judge who defeated the Philistines
- Nachash played a key role in the northern tribes wanting a king for protection

