Judges

In those days there is no king in Israel everyone did that which was right in his own eyes, Judges 21:25

Meet the Judge

* Deut 16:18-20 establish justice / no bribes
* Military deliverers leading Israel to war
  + Judges 2:16
* Tribal or regional Chieftan: ruled for 40 years

Participation of each Generation

* Joshua took the all the land (Jos 21:43-45)
* Tension with Judges:--not really (Jud 1:19; cf. 1:21)
* Conditionality of the covenant (Jud 2:20-22), some left to test Israel
* Cross generational communication (Jud 2:10f)—teach each generation warfare (3:1f)

Main Themes

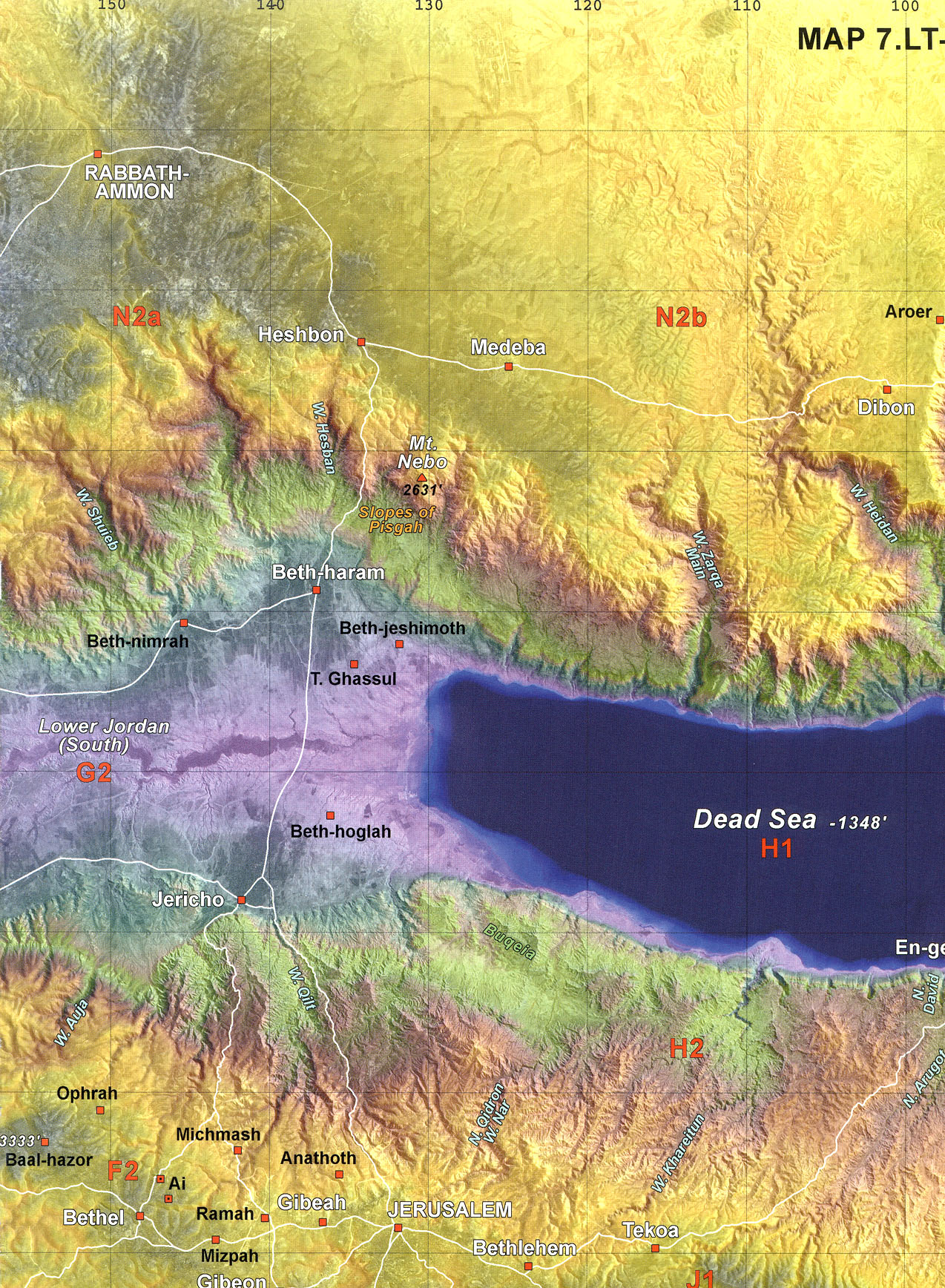
* Need for a king (Judg 17:6)—Judah pushed (northern tribes negative)
* Main theme: everyone did what was right in his own eyes (Judg 21:25)

Judges cycle: ROC DR

* Rebellion: people did evil in eyes…
* Oppression: sold into the hands of ...
* Cry: people cry to the LORD
* Deliverance: God raises up a judge
* Rest: judge ruled for x years

Ehud: mini cycle

* Rebellion 3:12 “once again Israel did evil in eyes of Lord”
* Retribution 3:12b-14 sold into hands of Eglon fat king of Moab (geography)
* Relents: Ehud’s left-handed weirdness is God’s opportunity
  + Escape 3:23f—NLT—latrine escape
* Rest: 3:30

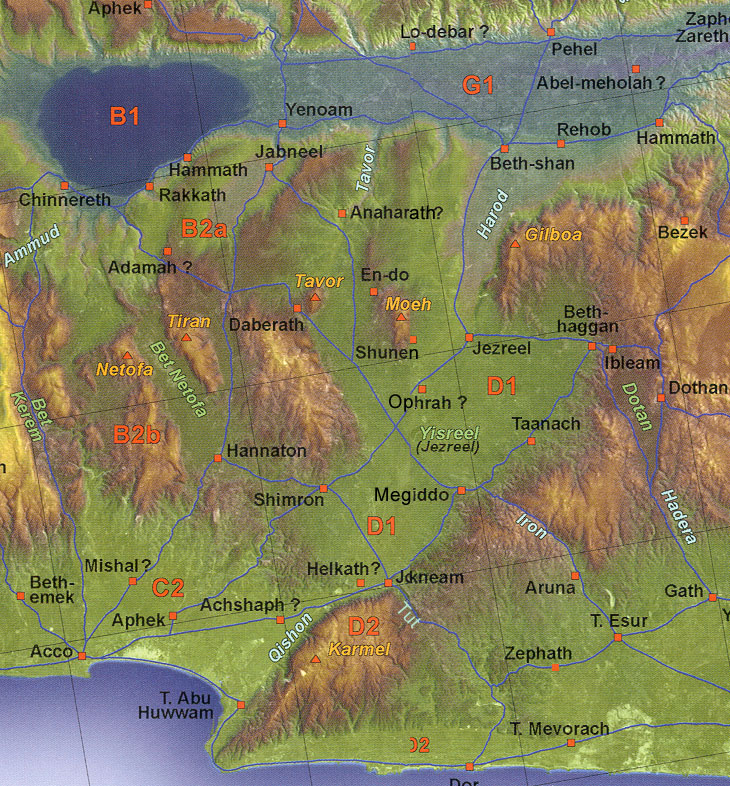


Deborah: women in leadership?

* Jud 4:4: she’s married, she’s a leader, she tells men what to do, she’s approved by God.
* How do you explain that?
* How do you fit that with 1 Cor 14:33f and 1 Tim 2:11-15

Answers?

* God uses women when there are no good men. --Barak whimpish
* Deborah is an exception. Exceptions prove the rule
* Progressive revelation: Paul’s statements tell the way it should be
* Gal. 3:28 principle; Eph. 5:21—Scriptural dissonance-cultural issue
* Competence and gifts not gender (Huldah, Philip’s prophesying daughters)



Woman with a hammer

* Sisera (Jabin of Hazor’s general) - Jael

Gideon and Midian: Judg 6

* Threshing in the wine press? (6:11)
* Call of Gideon: (6:12f)—Jeru-Baal 6:31f
* Gideon’s fleece and determining God’s will 🡪 testing (6:36ff)

How does one determine God’s will?

* Guidelines: with moral/divine will?—good?,
* Pursue passions, gifts/calling,
* Wisdom (self, culture, opportunities, risks, potential);
* Open/closed doors,
* Open/closed hands—divine guidance,
* Family/friend’s advice, needs

Gideon and Midian: Judg 7

* God’s getting the victory
  + Too many warriors (7:2)
  + Eliminating fearful (7:3)
  + Drinking separation (7:5f 🡪 300):
  + few good warriors?
  + 7:19ff Sword of the Lord and Gideon

Are there fables in the Bible? (Jud 9)

* Jotham’s fable to Abimelech (killed 70 brothers): love it (9:6ff) trees elect a king
* Thornbush rule: On power’s ability to corrupt
* First Kingship attempt—Abi-melech?

Jephthah

* Does God ever say the opposite of what He means? Jud 10:14
  + On using context to interpret
* On making great vows to God (11:30f; cf. Eccl 5:2-6)
* Does Jephthah smoke his daughter?
  + –virgin, mourn not marrying, ”or”, Num. 8:11 dedicating (Rom. 12:1f), Heb 11/1 Sam. 12:11
* Shibboleth // sibboleth--Ephraimites versus Gileadites (12:6)

Samson (Σαμψων)

* Rebellion (13:1) -- retribution (13:1)
* Three women in Samson’s life

Wife from Timnah (Jud 14)

* Parents inability to say “no”
* Samson’s riddle
* Why are tears so powerful?
* How not to treat a woman 14:16, 18
* What is the relation of the Spirit to people in the OT? (Jud 14:19)