

# 1 & 2 Samuel Series

## Lesson #118

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Dean Bible Ministries

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1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup>  
**SAMUEL**

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S  
**ARROGANCE OF VENGEANCE**

**2 SAMUEL 2:10–32**

**1A God blesses David and he unites and expands the kingdom. 2 Sam. 2–10**

**2A God disciplines David for his sins and David reaps the consequences. But God transforms cursing into blessing.  
2 Sam. 11–20**

**3A Six appendices that evidence the greatness of the Davidic Covenant.  
2 Sam. 21–24**

**1A God blesses David and he expands and unites the kingdom, 2 Sam. 2–10**

**1B The beginning of David's kingdom,  
2 Sam. 2:1–4a**

**1C David's move to Hebron,  
2 Sam. 2:1–4a**

**2C David's overtures to Jabesh-  
Gilead, 2 Sam. 2:4b–7**

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**1C David's move to Hebron, 2 Sam. 2:1–4a**

**2C David's overtures to Jabesh-Gilead, 2 Sam. 2:4b–7**

**3C Ish-bosheth's coronation over Israel, he reigns for 2 years, 2 Sam. 2:8–11**

**4C The conflict between Abner and Joab, 2 Sam. 2:12–32**

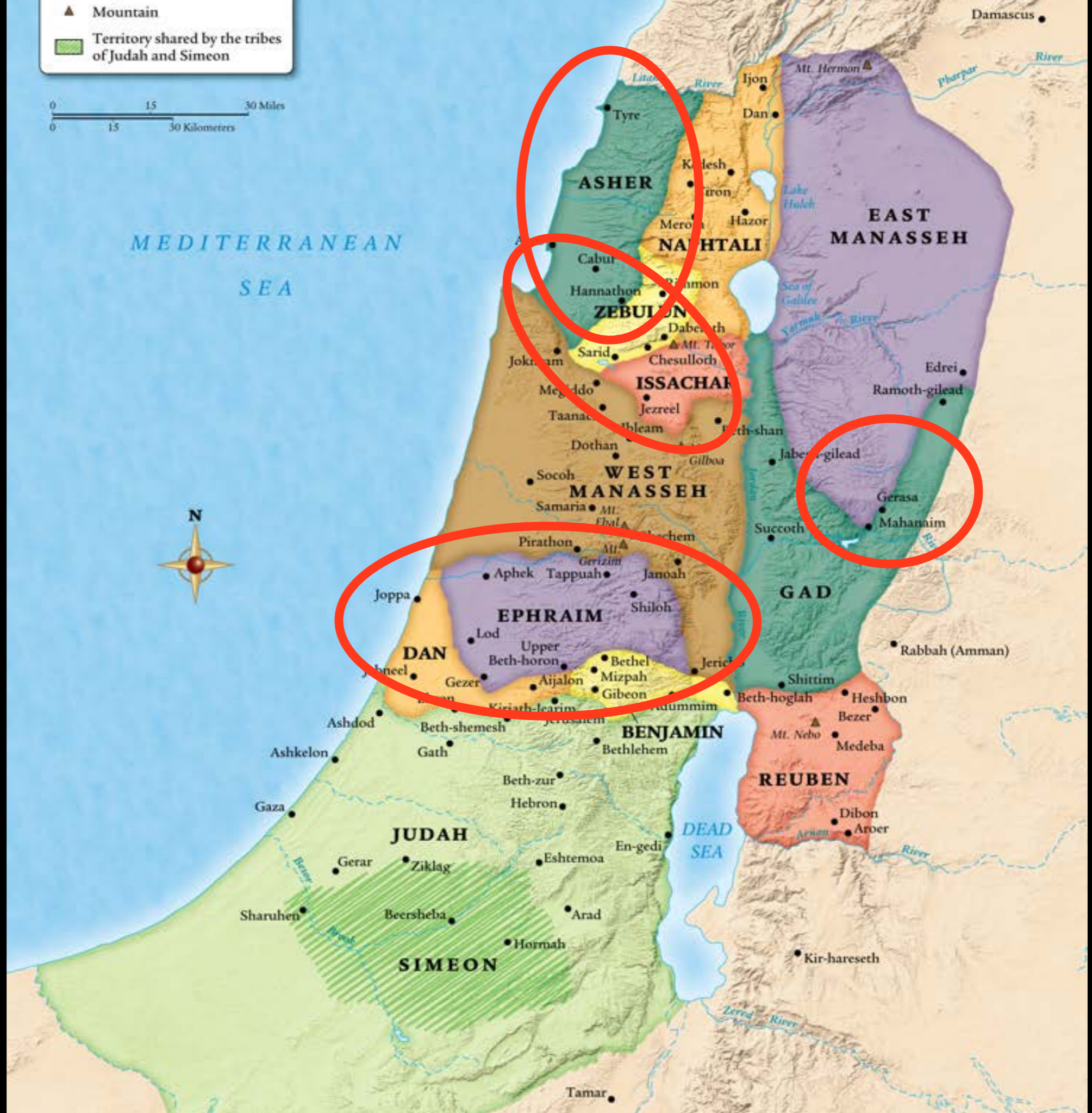
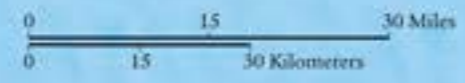
## **Key people on the Saulide side.**

- **Abner, Saul's uncle, General of his army.**
- **Ish-bosheth, Saul's son.**
- **Michal, Saul's daughter, formerly married to David, now to Paltiel, and being sent back to David.**

**2 Sam. 2:8, “But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul’s army, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim;**

**2 Sam. 2:9, “and he made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, over Benjamin, and over all Israel.”**

▲ Mountain  
 Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon



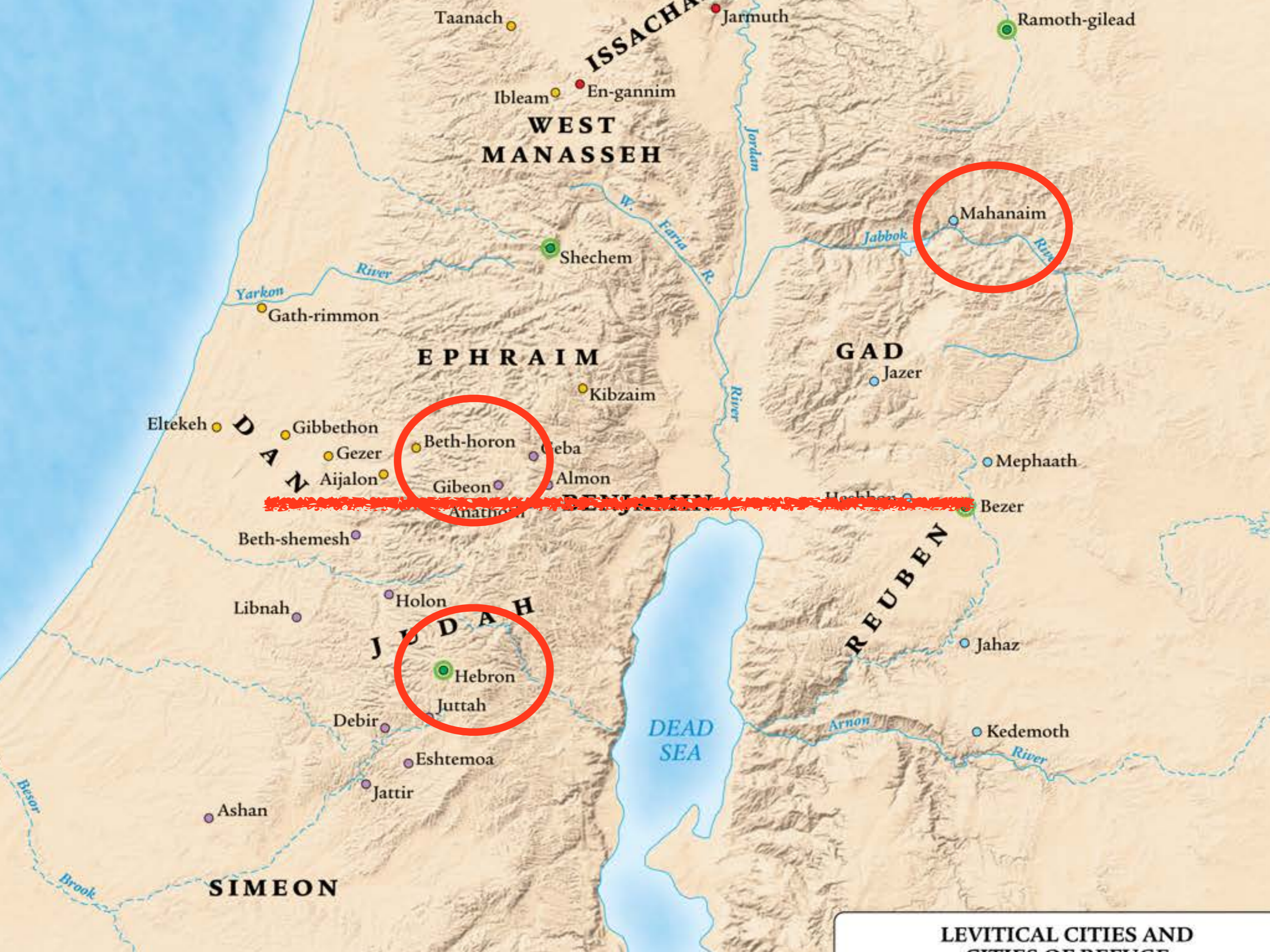


**2 Sam. 2:10, “*Ishbosheth*, Saul’s son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. Only the house of Judah followed David.”**

# David's Team

## The three sons of Zeruah

- ***Joab*, David's sometimes out-of-control General.**
- ***Abishai*, Joab's brother.**
- ***Asahel*, youngest of the three brothers.**



**WEST  
MANASSEH**

**EPHRAIM**

**GAD**

**JUDAH**

**REUBEN**

**SIMEON**

**ISSACHAR**

**LEVITICAL CITIES AND  
CITIES OF REFUGE**

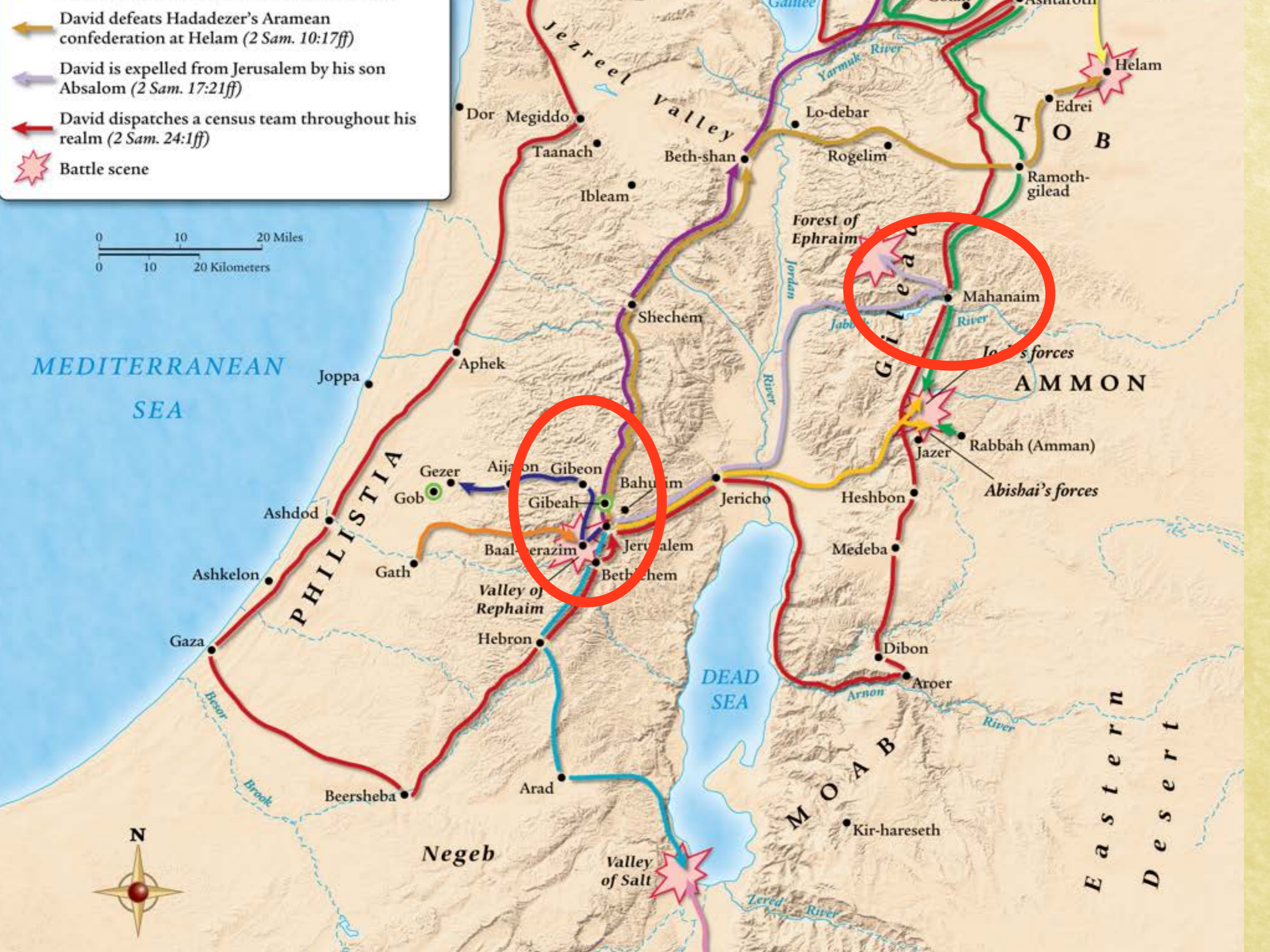
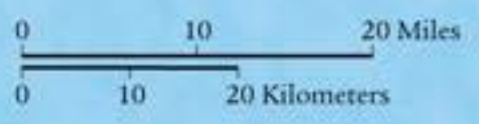


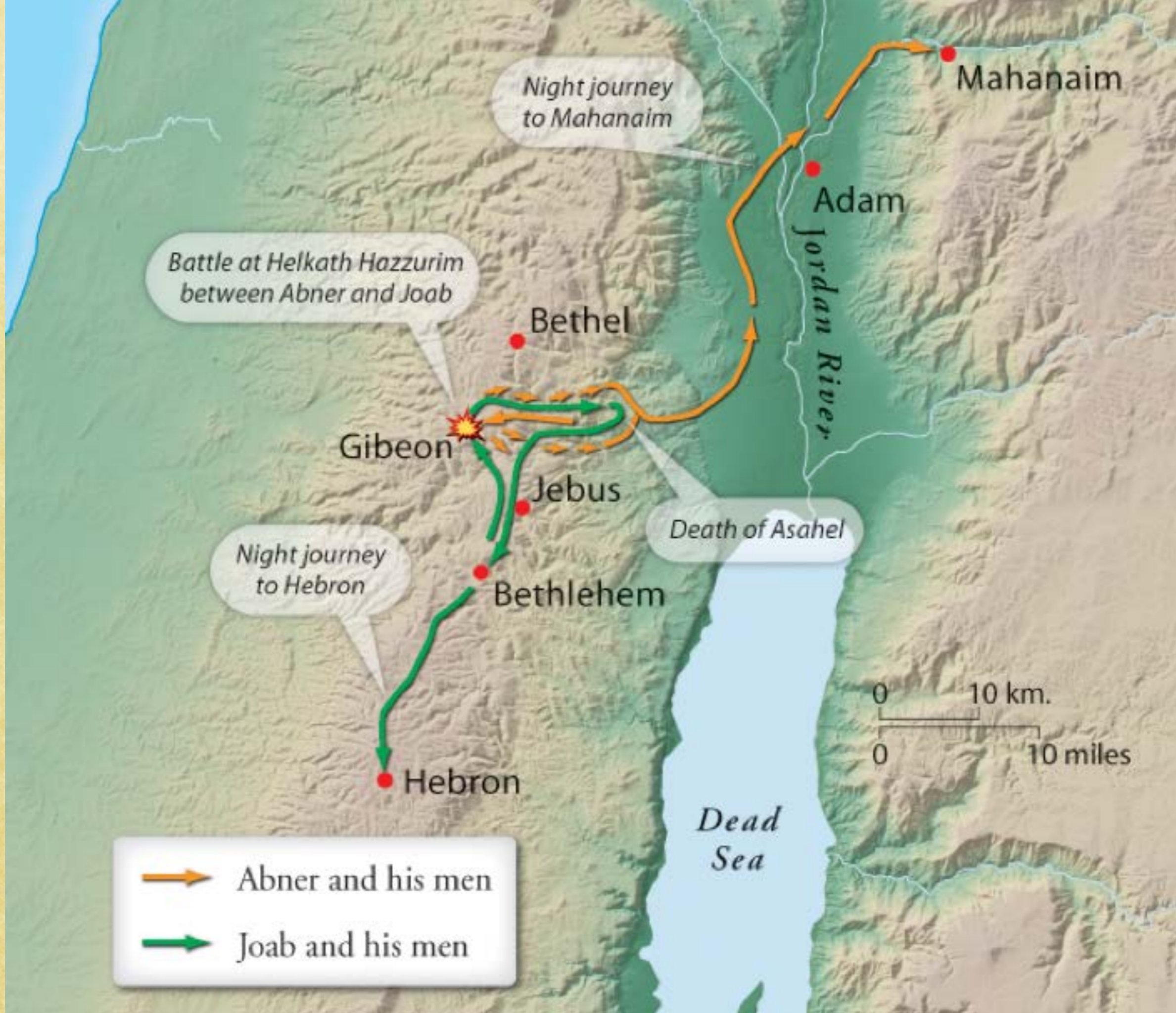
**2 Sam. 2:10, “Ishbosheth, Saul’s son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. Only the house of Judah followed David.**

**2 Sam. 2:11, “And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.”**

**2 Sam. 2:12, “Now Abner the son of Ner,  
and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of  
Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.”**

- David defeats Hadadezer's Aramean confederation at Helam (2 Sam. 10:17ff)
- David is expelled from Jerusalem by his son Absalom (2 Sam. 17:21ff)
- David dispatches a census team throughout his realm (2 Sam. 24:1ff)
- Battle scene





Mahanaim

Adam

Jordan River

Night journey to Mahanaim

Battle at Helkath Hazzurim between Abner and Joab

Bethel

Gibeon

Jebus

Death of Asahel

Night journey to Hebron

Bethlehem

Hebron

0 10 km.

0 10 miles

Dead Sea

- Abner and his men
- Joab and his men

**2 Sam. 2:13, “And Joab the son of Zeruah, and the servants of David, went out and met them by the pool of Gibeon. So they sat down, one on one side of the pool and the other on the other side of the pool.”**







**2 Sam. 2:14, “Then Abner said to Joab, ‘Let the young men now arise and compete before us.’ And Joab said, ‘Let them arise.’**

**2 Sam. 2:15, “So they arose and went over by number, twelve from Benjamin, followers of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve from the servants of David.”**

**2 Sam. 2:16, “And each one grasped his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent’s side; so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called the Field of Sharp Swords, which is in Gibeon.”**

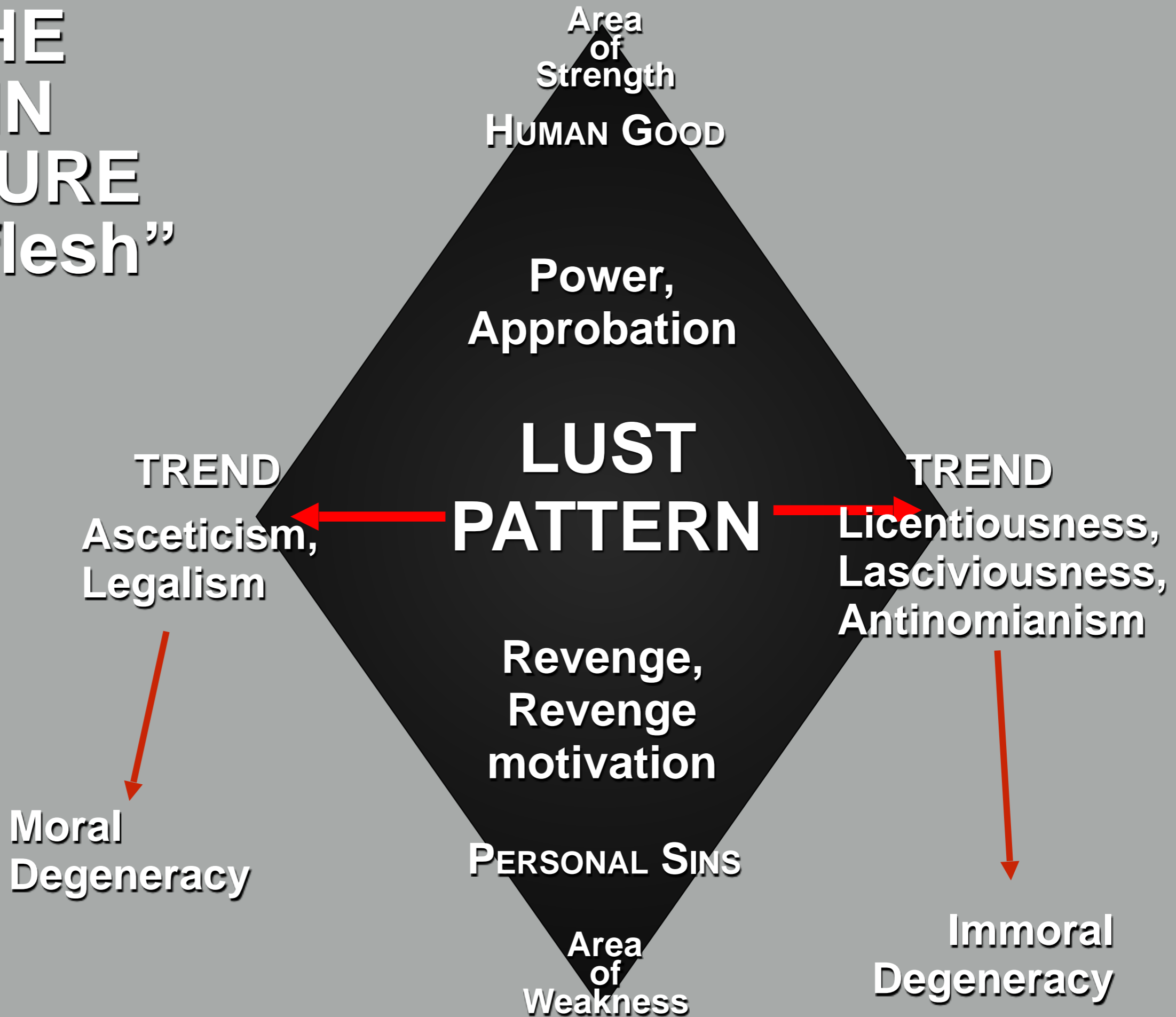


**2 Sam. 2:17, “So there was a very fierce battle that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.”**

**What the Bible Teaches  
About  
*Revenge and Vengeance***



# THE SIN NATURE “the flesh”



# 1. Definitions of Revenge, Vengeance, Vindictiveness

**Revenge**: retaliation for an injury or wrong; the desire to repay for an injury or wrong, or a perceived injury or wrong. (COED)

**Vengeance**: punishment inflicted or retribution exacted for an injury or wrong. (COED)

**Vindictive**: having or showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge (COED); characterized by spite or rancor. (Collins)



**But when it comes to Revenge as a sin we are restricting this to the desire to personally repay an injury or wrong without recourse to constituted authority.**

**2. Revenge in this sinful sense, is thus motivated by self-absorption, which is the heart of arrogance. Thus the arrogance skills of self-absorption, self-indulgence, self-justification, self-deception, and self-deification. We elevate our personal desires above the law.**

# Arrogance Skills

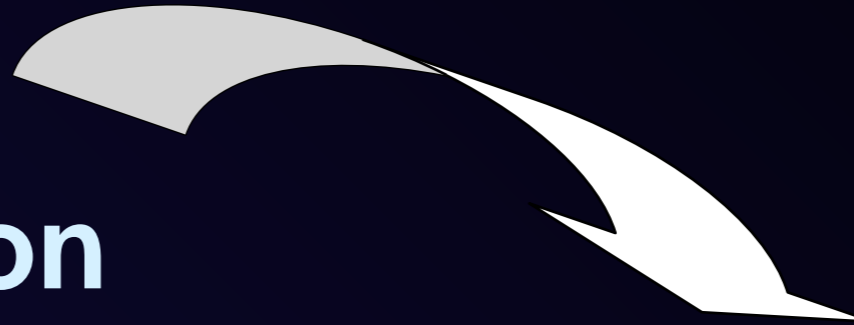
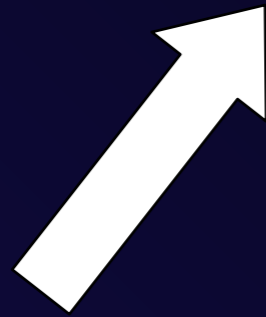
Self-absorption

Self-indulgence

Self-deification

Self-justification

Self-deception



**3. Revenge can be a mental attitude sin where we fantasize about getting even with someone over a real or perceived injury; as such we only hurt ourselves by initiating a complex of sins related to anger, hatred, jealousy, bitterness, which in turn manifests sins of the tongue such as slander, gossip, maligning, and judging others. These can then develop into horrific overt sins of violence and destruction.**

**4. All sins left unchecked by either moral self-control or the self-control of the walk by the Spirit will metastasize and fragment the soul.**

**5. The solution for revenge is love for others. Lev. 19:18**

**Lev. 19:18, “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”**

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**נָקַם (*nāqam*) take vengeance, revenge, avenge oneself, be avenged, be punished (cf. *gōʿēl* as the “avenger of blood”)**

**Gen. 4:15, “And the LORD said to him,  
‘Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance  
shall be taken on him sevenfold.’ And the  
LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone  
finding him should kill him.”**



**“Vengeance and revenge are ideas that would appear to have no good ethical validity whether coming from God or man. But such is not the case when the use of this root is properly understood in its Old Testament setting and New Testament application.”**

**~TWOT**

**6. Often “vengeance” in the legal and ethical sense is mediated through human government and legitimate lines of authority, where man is the secondary source, but God is the ultimate source. Ezek. 25:14; Josh. 10:13, Num. 31:2–3.**

**7. As such, the term often refers to God's justice enacted on rebellious mankind.**

**Isa. 1:24, “Therefore the Lord says, The LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, ‘Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries, and take vengeance on My enemies.’ ”**

**Jer. 5:9, “ ‘Shall I not punish them for these things?’ says the LORD. ‘And shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?’ ”**

**Jer. 5:29, “ ‘Shall I not punish them for these things?’ says the LORD. ‘Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?’ ”**

**Jer. 9:9, “ ‘Shall I not punish them for these things?’ says the LORD. ‘Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?’ ”**

**Psa. 99:8, “You answered them, O LORD  
our God; You were to them God-Who-  
Forgives, though You took vengeance on  
their deeds.”**

**8. However, in other passages, humans are warned not to take vengeance into their own hands.**

**Deut. 32:35, “Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things to come hasten upon them.”**

**Rom. 12:19, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*’ says the Lord.”**



**Heb. 10:30, “For we know Him who said,  
‘*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*’ says the  
Lord. And again, ‘*The LORD will judge His  
people.*’ ”**

**2 Sam. 3:1, “Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.”**