

Judges Series

Lesson #88

February 7, 2023

Dean Bible Ministries

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**God Uses Jackasses  
Judges 15:1–20**



# JUDGES

2021

**When Chaos Was King**

## **Overview**

- 1. The birth of the unique deliverer, Judges 13:1–24  
(Nazarene vow, Angel of YHWH, God's undeserved grace)**
- 2. Samson and the Timnite woman, Judges 13:25–15:20  
(Intermarriage with a Canaanite, intermarriage with an unbeliever, Samson breaks his vow)**
- 3. Samson in Gaza, Judges 16:1–31**

**Judg. 13:25, “And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”  
[NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:20, “So he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.”**

**Judg. 13:25, “And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”  
[NKJV]**

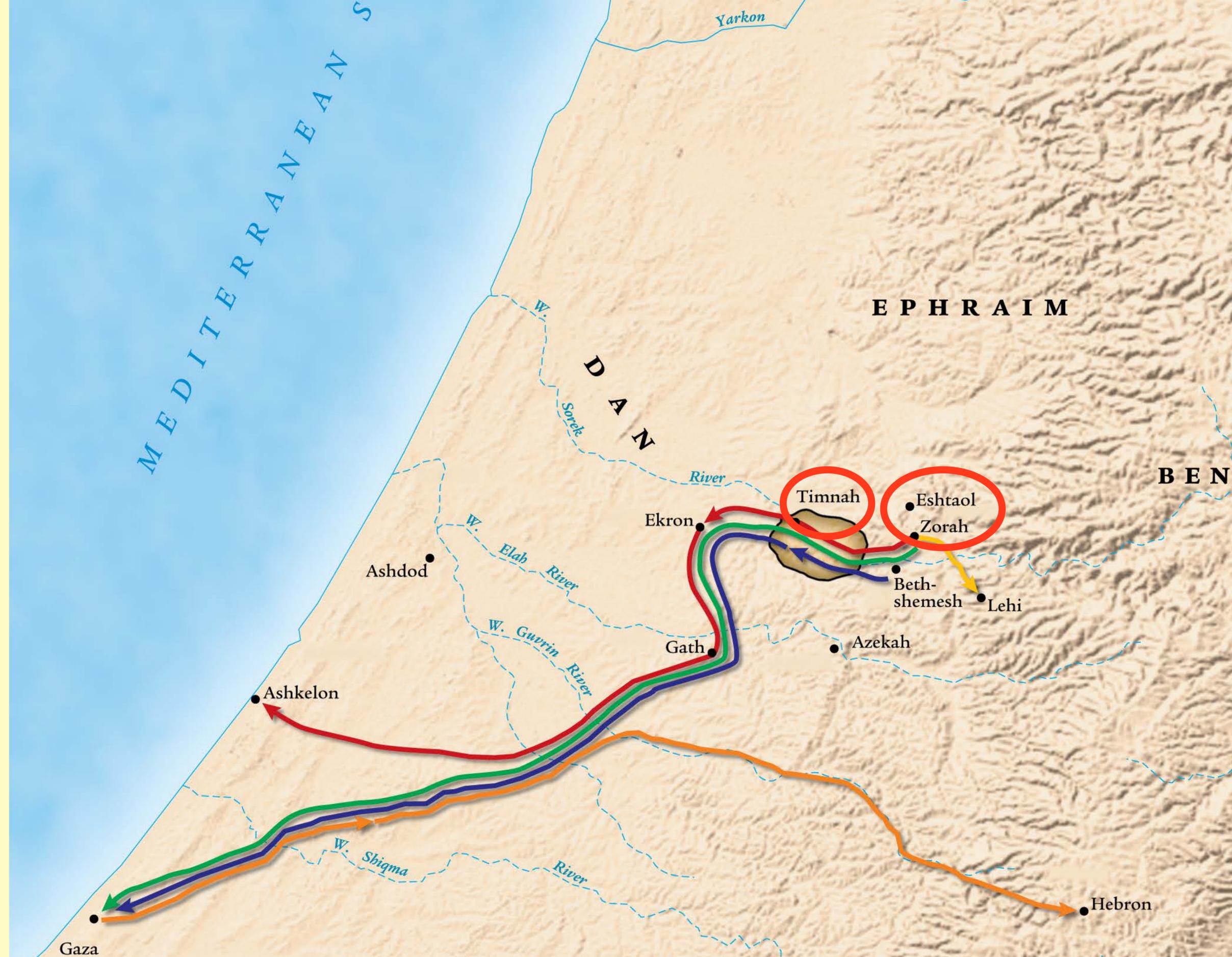
**פָּעַם *pa'am***

**qal infinitiveConst  
to disturb, trouble, feel  
troubled, stir up**

**Judg. 13:25,**  
**“And the Spirit**  
**of the LORD**  
**began to stir**  
**him in**  
**Mahaneh-dan,**  
**between Zorah**  
**and Eshtaol.”**



**Judg. 14:1,**  
**“Now**  
**Samson went**  
**down to**  
**Timnah, and**  
**saw a woman**  
**in Timnah of**  
**the daughters**  
**of the**  
**Philistines.”**  
**[NKJV]**



**Judg. 14:20, “And Samson’s wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.” [NKJV]**

## **Six Basic Divisions**

- 1. In Samson's father-in-law's house (Judges 15:1–3)**
- 2. Economic destruction by jackals (Judges 15:4–8)**
- 3. Samson is captured (Judges 15:9–13)**
- 4. Jackasses killed by a jackass jaw (Judges 15:14–15)**
- 5. God's blessing even on a rebel (Judges 15:16–19a)**
- 6. Self-absorbed Samson (Judges 15:19b–20)**

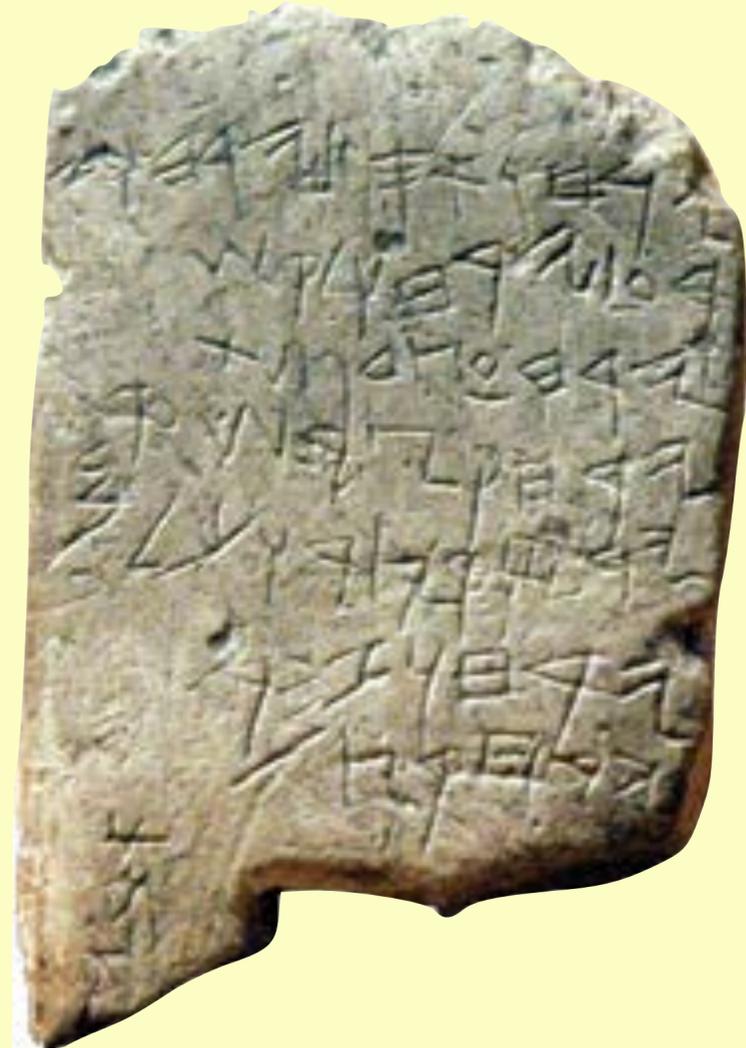
**Judg. 15:1**, “After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, ‘Let me go in to my wife, into her room.’ But her father would not permit him to go in.

**Judg. 15:2**, “Her father said, ‘I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead.’

**Judg. 15:3**, “And Samson said to them, ‘This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!’ ”

**[NKJV]**

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**Judg. 15:2, “Her father said, ‘I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:2, “Her father said, ‘I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead.’ [NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:3, “And Samson said to them, ‘This time I shall be guiltless regarding the Philistines when I bring mischief to them!’ ” [RD]**

**Judg. 15:4**, “Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails.

**Judg. 15:5**, “When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves.” [NKJV]



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**שׁוּׁעָלִים *shuʿol*-1 comm masc plur abs**

**“fox”**

**HALOT “ • *šūʾāl*, the animal mentioned in the Bible, is not the fox known in Europe but the jackal (see p. 225); DCH I 7 n.m. jackal (rather than fox)—pl. (שׁוּׁעָלִים) —jackal, an omnivorous mammal of the genus *Canis*)**

**Judg. 15:6, “Then the Philistines said, ‘Who has done this?’**

**And they answered, ‘Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion.’**

**So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:7, “Samson said to them, ‘Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease.’**

**Judg. 15:8, “So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:9, “Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi.**

**Judg. 15:10, “And the men of Judah said, ‘Why have you come up against us?’**

**So they answered, ‘We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us.’**

**Judg. 15:11, “Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, ‘Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?’**

**And he said to them, ‘As they did to me, so I have done to them.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:12, “But they [men of Judah] said to him, ‘We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines.’**

**Then Samson said to them, ‘Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:13, “So they spoke to him, saying, ‘No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you.’ And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:14**, “When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands.

**Judg. 15:15**, “He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.” [NKJV]



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צִלַּח *tzalach*

qal wawConsec 3 fem sing  
to rush upon (1 Sam. 10:6)



**Judg. 15:16, “Then Samson said: ‘With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!’ ” [NKJV]**

**1-חֲמֹר *chamor*-1 comm masc sing abs “donkey”**

**2 חֲמֹר *chamor*-2 comm masc sing abs “heap”**

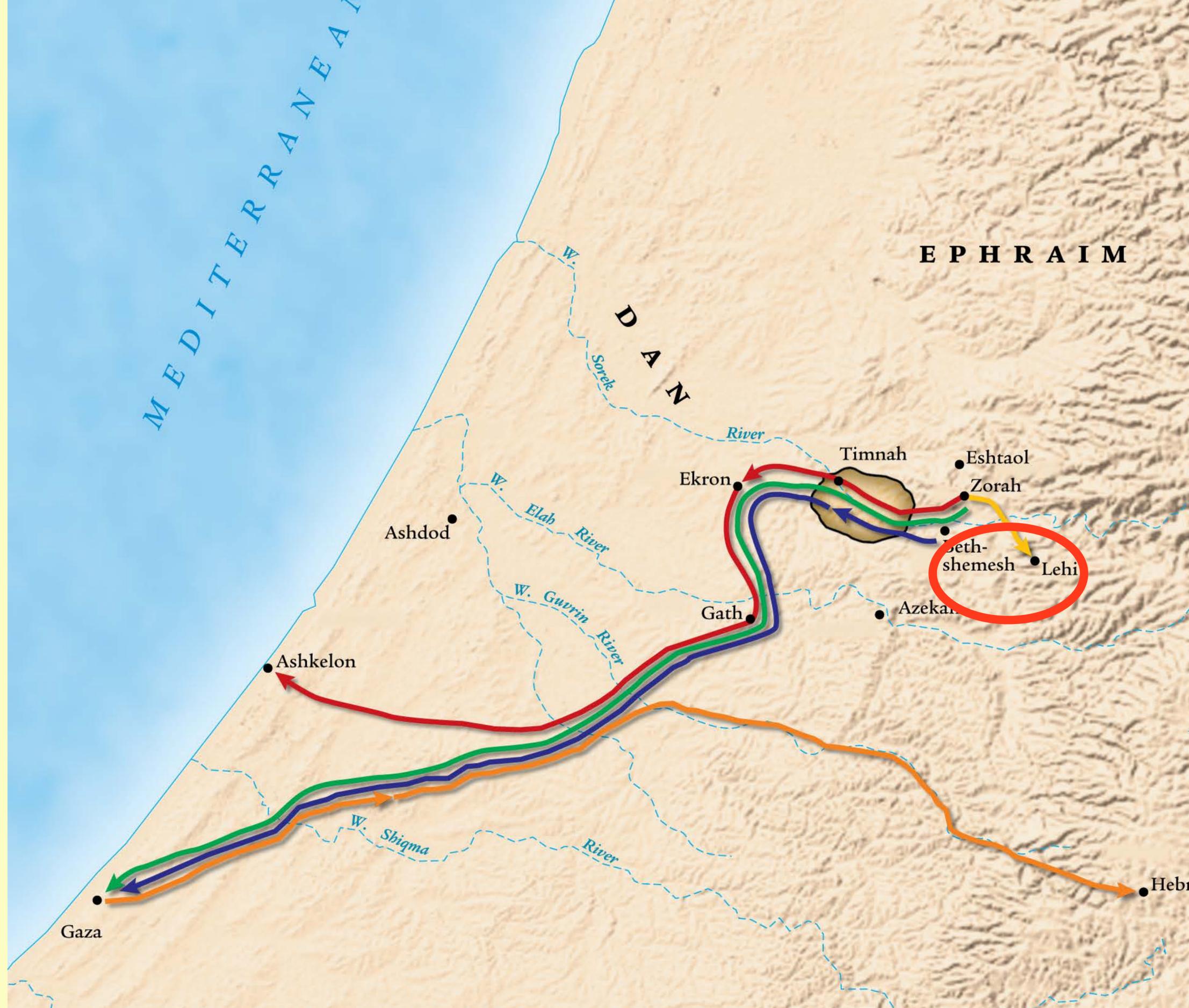
**Judg. 15:16, “Then Samson said: ‘With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!’ ” [NKJV]**

**“ ‘With a jackass’s jawbone I have made jackasses [or heaps] of them, with a jackass’s jawbone I have killed a thousand men.’ ”**

**1-חֲמֹר *chamor*-1 comm masc sing abs “donkey”**

**2 חֲמֹר *chamor*-2 comm masc sing abs “heap”**

**Judg. 15:17, “And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi.”  
[Jawbone Hill]  
[NKJV]**



**Judg. 15:18, “Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the Lord and said, ‘You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?’**

**Judg. 15:19, “So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name *En Hakkore*, which is in Lehi to this day.” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 15:20, “And he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.” [NKJV]**