

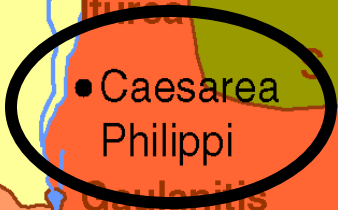
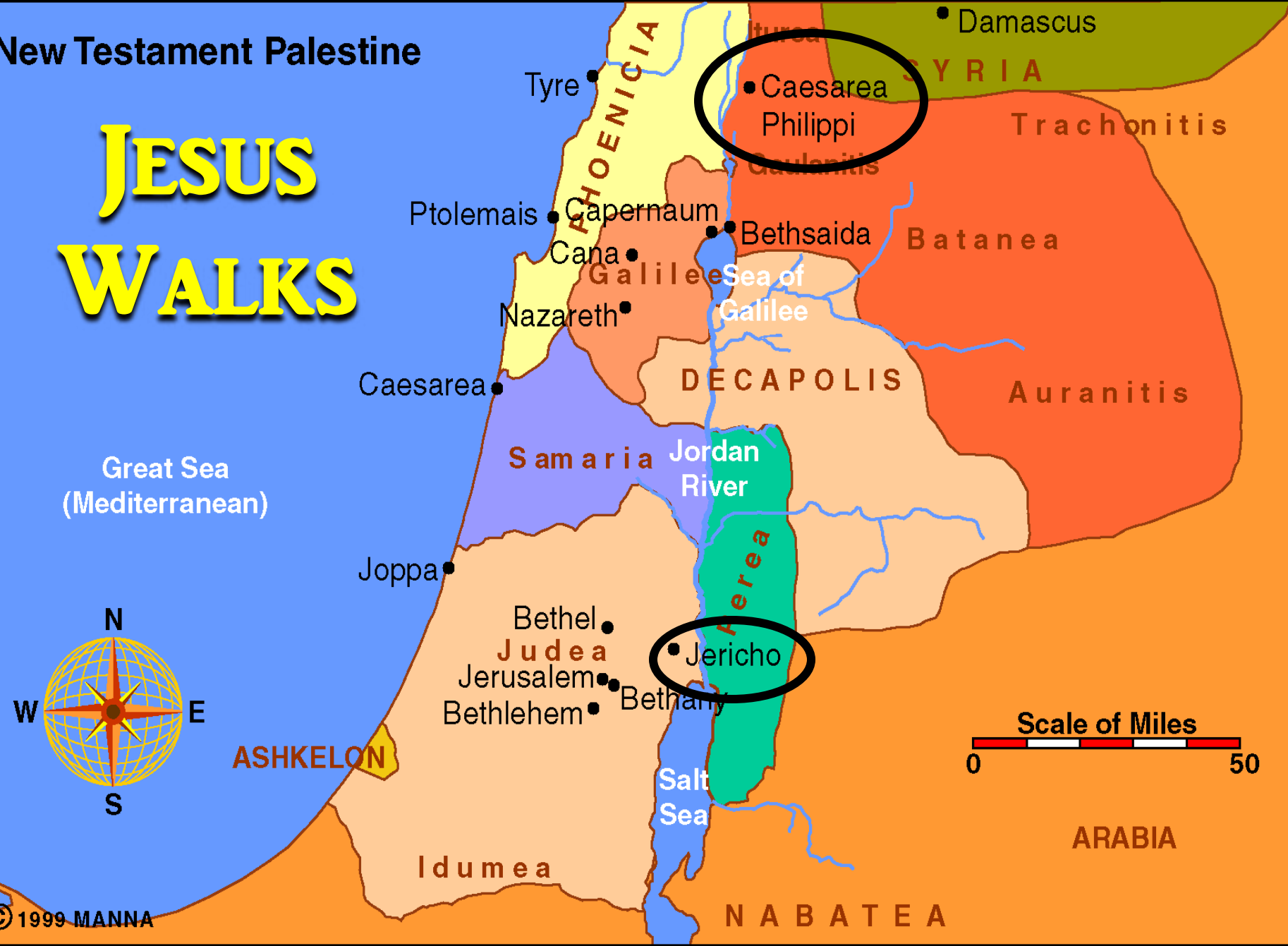
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 Kingdom of Saul
c. 1020 B.C.

The Sorek Valley The Valley of Elah



Samson

Judges 13-16

1118-1078 BC, 40 Years

- Zorah + Ashtaol: home
- Timna: wants woman
- Zorah: home
- Timna: riddle
- Ashkelon: kills 30, pay off debt
- Zorah: home
- Timna: Burns crops
- Etam: 1000 jawbone ass
- Gaza: harlot
- Hebron: Gaza gates
- Valley of Sorek: Delilah
- Gaza: blinded, jailed
- 3000 killed
- Zorah + Ashtaol: buried

Philistine Empire
Five capital cities:
Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, Gath

Ashdod
 (Azotus)

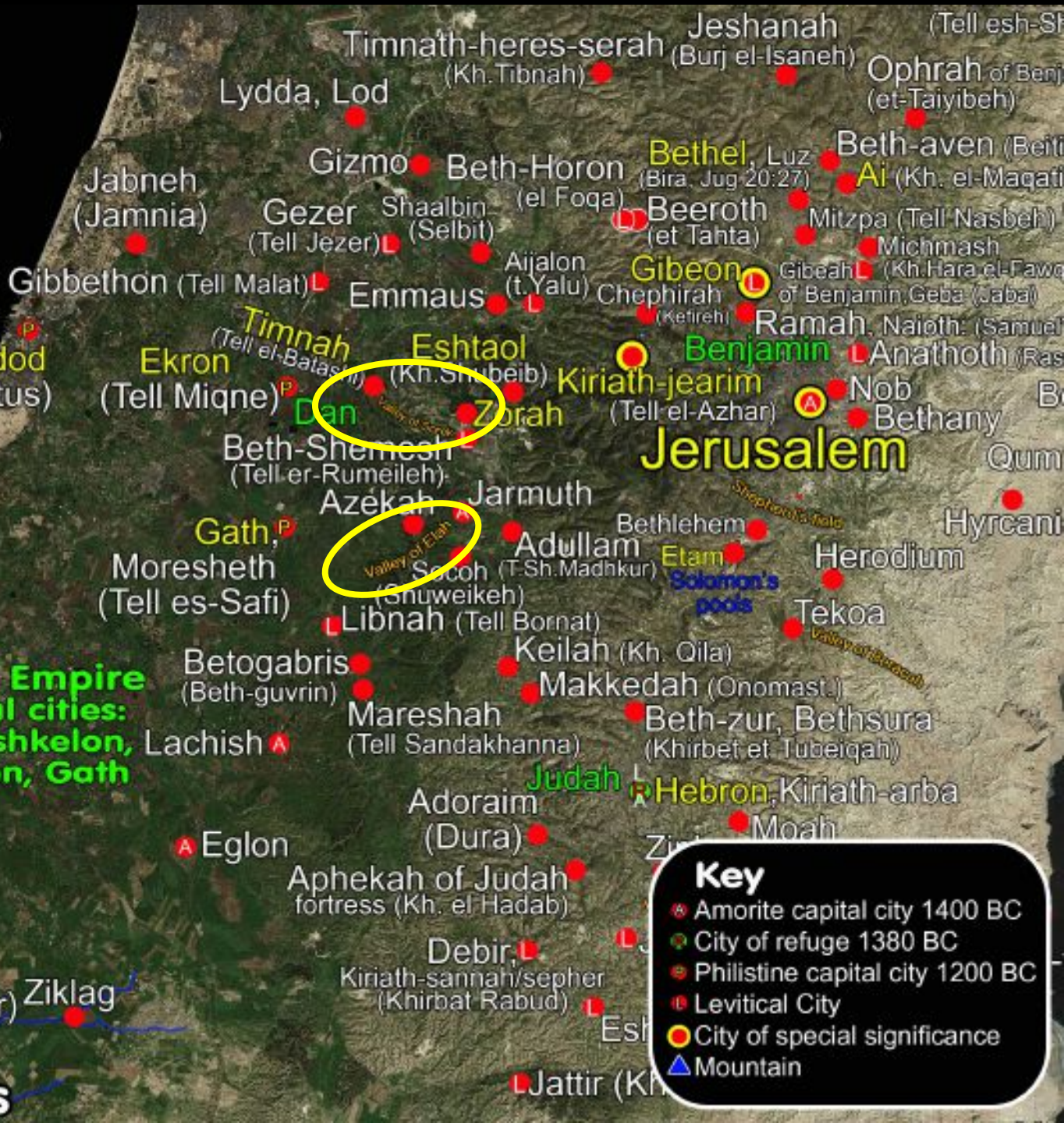
Ashkelon

Gaza

Besor River

Steve Rudd

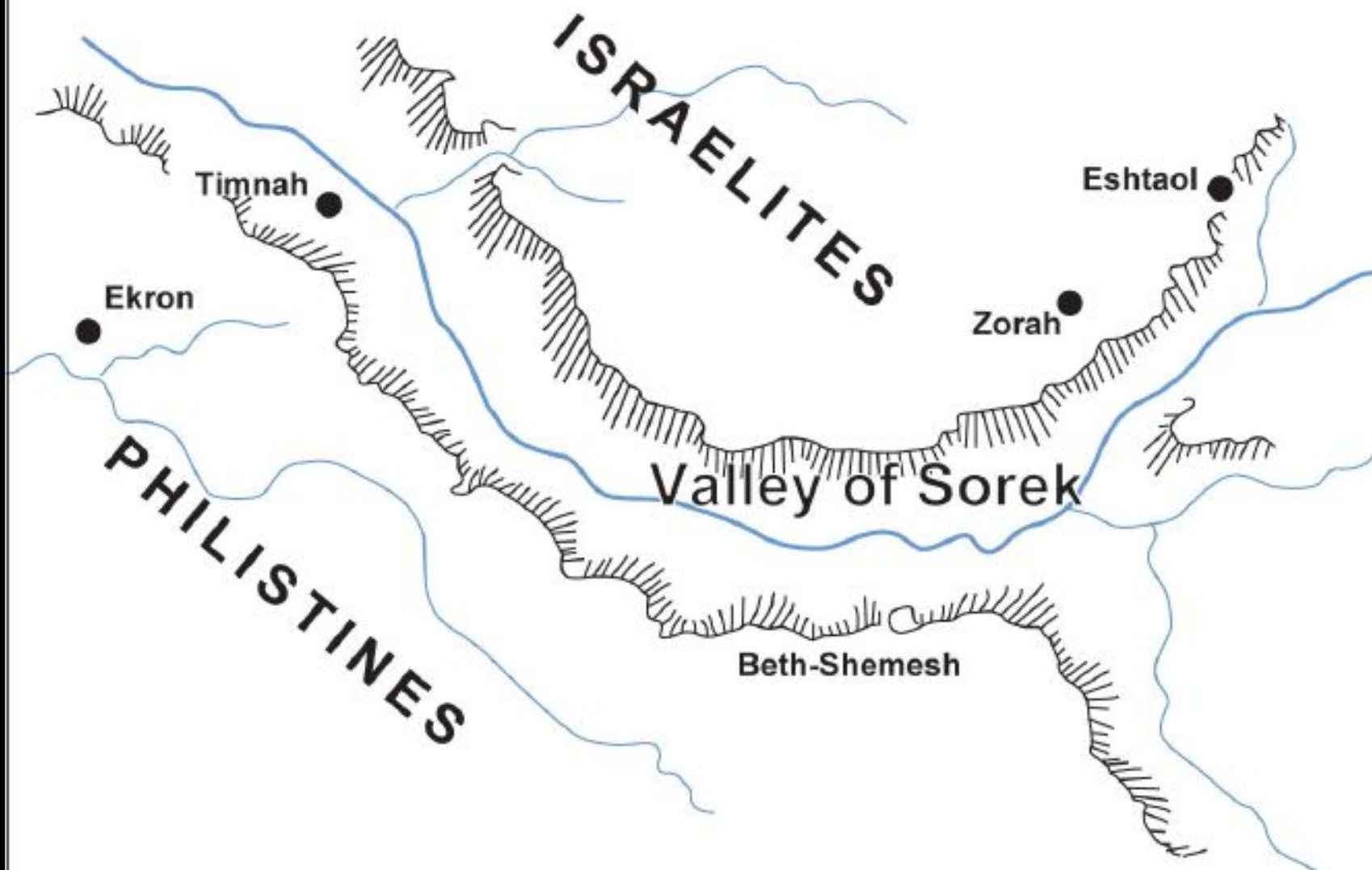
www.bible.ca/maps



Key

- ⊛ Amorite capital city 1400 BC
- ⊙ City of refuge 1380 BC
- ⊕ Philistine capital city 1200 BC
- ⊙ Levitical City
- ⊙ City of special significance
- ▲ Mountain

MAP OF THE PHILISTINE VALLEY OF SOREK



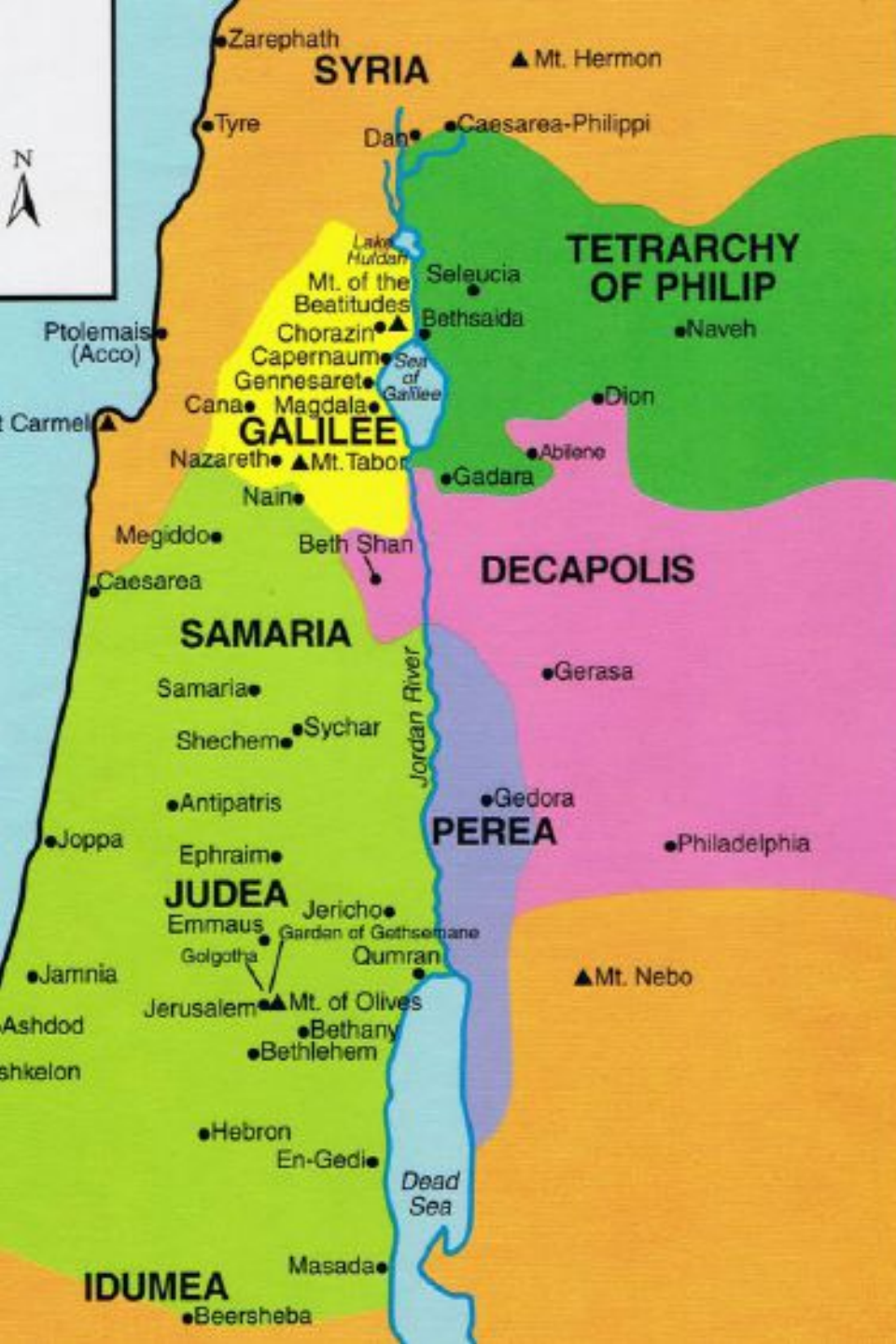
THE SOREK VALLEY

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- This was a dark period for Israel (Judges 21:25).
- Samson was born near here.



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THE SOREK VALLEY

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- It served as a border between the tribe of Dan and the Philistines (not far from Zorah and Eshtaol).
- Living near Sorek allowed God to use Samson to be in constant conflict with the Philistines. All of their major cities were near this valley.



THE SOREK VALLEY

- Samson loved a woman from Sorek named Delilah (Judges 16:4).

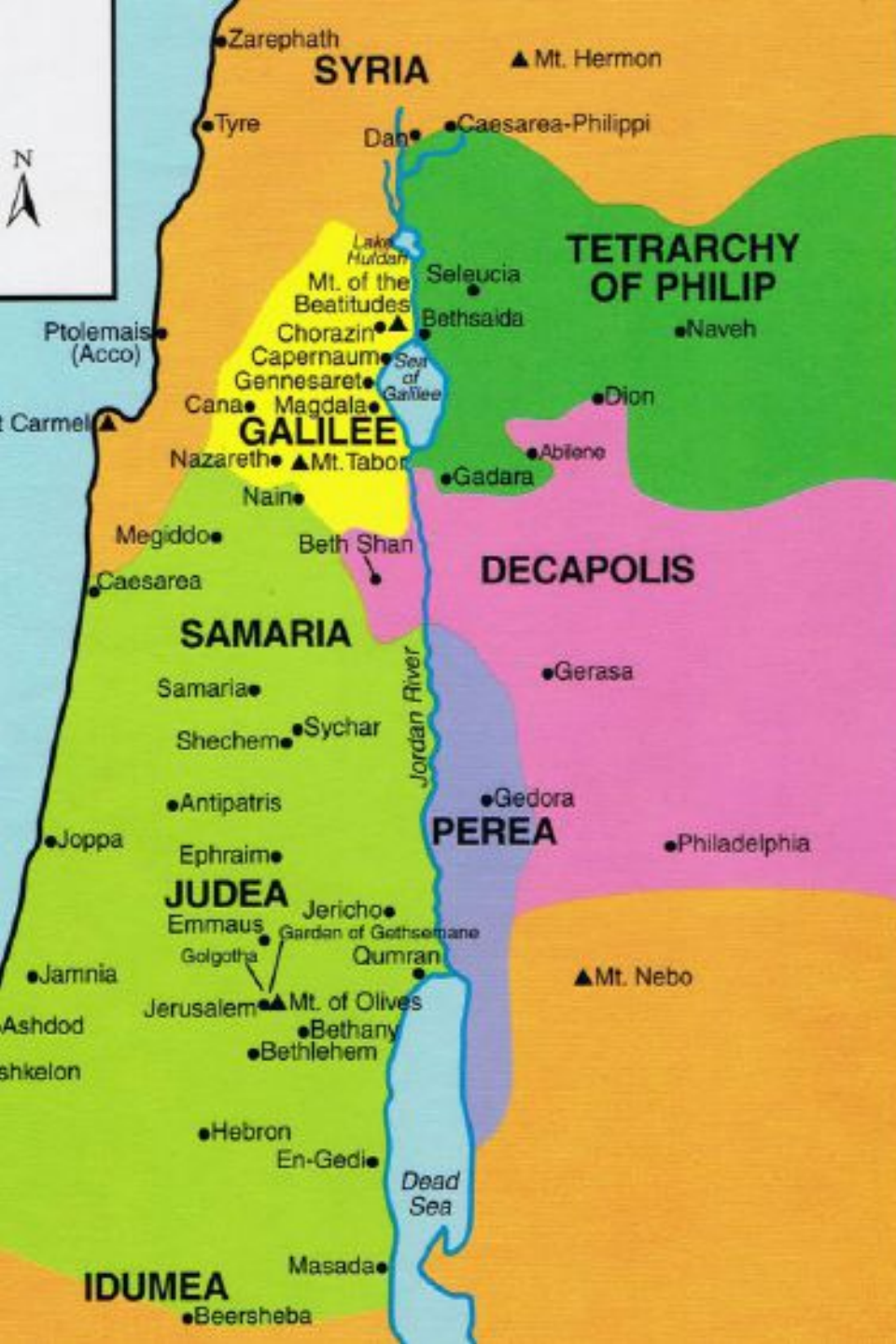


THE SOREK VALLEY

- Samson loved a woman from Sorek named Delilah (Judges 16:4).
- It was here that Delilah enticed Samson to tell her the source of his strength. Samson eventually gave in to her, and God allowed him to be captured by the Philistines.

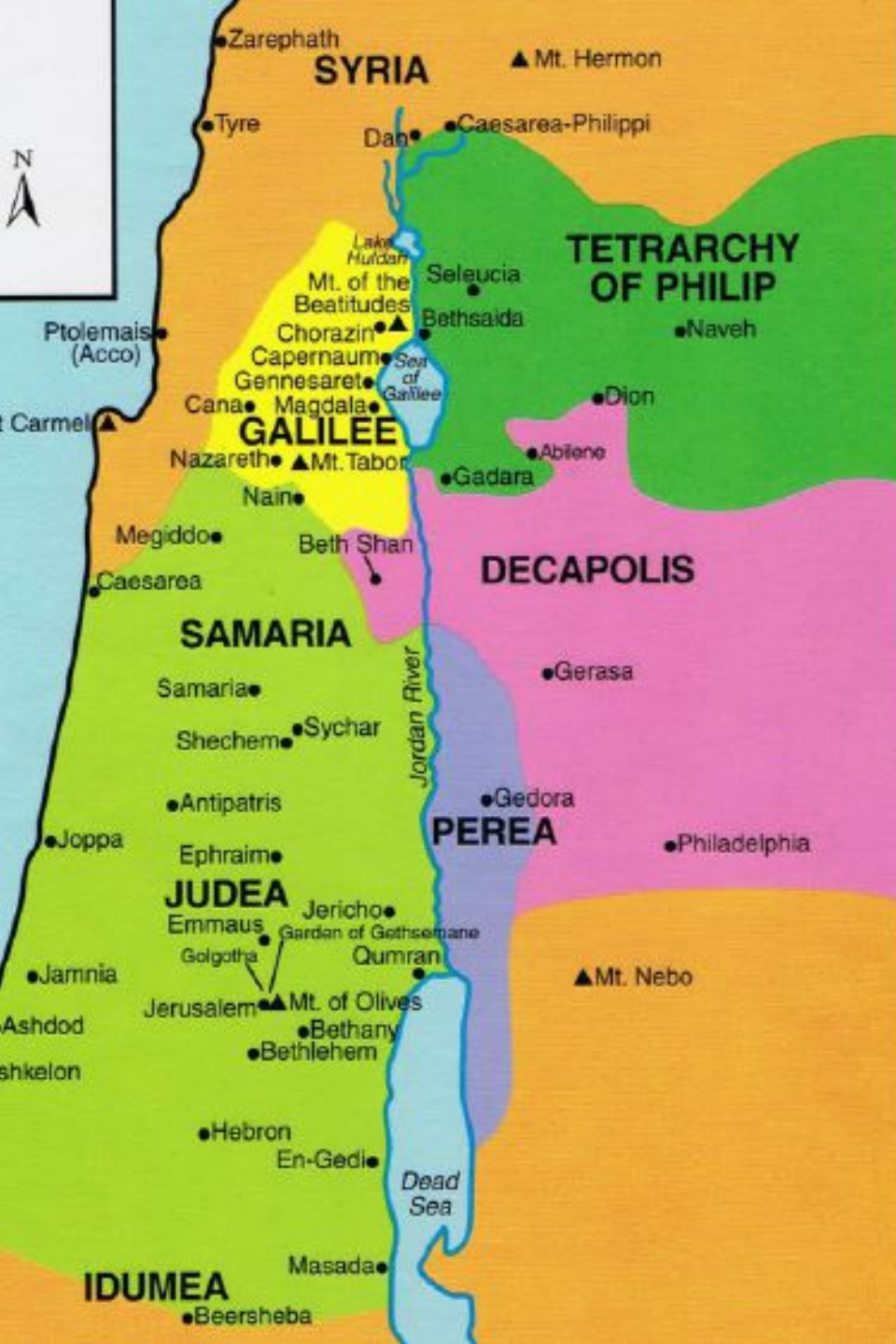
THE SOREK VALLEY

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THE SOREK VALLEY

- After his capture, Samson was put in prison in Gaza.
- Eventually, God gave Samson his strength back. He then killed 3,000 Philistines in their temple. Samson's family then buried his body in the tomb of his father (Judges 16:31).



Sorek



Sorek



Sorek



Sorek



Sorek



Elah



Elah



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Elah



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Elah



- **1 Samuel 17:1 says Elah was near Azekah and Socoh.**
- **This is a triangle-shaped valley, located on the western edge of the Judah low hills.**
- **It is best known as where the Israelites were encamped when David went out to fight the Philistine giant Goliath.**

Elah



- For forty days, the Philistine giant Goliath taunted and mocked Israel's army (1 Samuel 17:16).

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Elah



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- David was disturbed by this after being sent by his father to bring food to his brothers (2 Samuel 17:26).
- Jesse also wanted David to bring word back concerning his brother's condition (1 Samuel 17:17-19).

Elah



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Elah



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Elah



- **When David heard no Israelite soldier dared to fight Goliath, he volunteered.**
- **David persuaded Saul to allow him to fight by describing his work as a shepherd (1 Samuel 17:34-37).**
- **It was in the brook of Elah, where David found the five smooth stones he used to fight Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40).**

Elah



- **David put his trust in God and, with a slingshot, sank a stone in the giant's head.**

Elah



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- **Israel was inspired to pursue their enemy to the gates of Ekron (1 Samuel 17:52).**

Elah



- **Adullam is located to the south-east of Elah. David hid in a cave here while being pursued by Saul (1 Samuel 22:1).**

Elah



Elah



Elah



Elah



Elah



Elah



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Great Sea
(Mediterranean)

