

# Bible Stories for Adults

## The Conquest of the Promised Land

### Joshua 7 - 24

## Opening

Gathering: Share a time when you were victorious only by God's help.

Today's Focus: God has a plan for us, His people, and He works through us to fulfill it.

Key Verses: *Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. ...  
As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.* Joshua 24:15

*If God is for us, who can be against us?* Romans 8:31

Opening Prayer

## Lesson

God's Fullness of Time (*Deuteronomy 2*)

After wandering in the wilderness for years, how did Israel decide it was time to head north?

Deuteronomy 2:1-3 = God told them to

How long had passed when Israel reached Moab (Zered Brook)? = Almost 2 years from Egypt to Kadesh

Deuteronomy 2:14-15 = 38 years since Kadesh (Israel failed to trust God), Entire generation died

What was significant about the date that God brought them across the Jordan River?

Joshua 5:10 = Arrived on the Passover, 40 years to the day, Celebrated and remembered

Joshua's Executive Summary of Our Stories Thus Far (*Joshua 24:1-11*)

How did Joshua summarize the stories of the Israelites in the book of Genesis?

Joshua 24:2-4 = God picked Abraham, led him to Canaan, sent Jacob to Egypt

How did Joshua summarize the stories in the book of Exodus? = Then lived in desert a long time

Joshua 24:5-7 = God sent Moses & Aaron with plagues, saved from Egyptians in Red Sea

How did Joshua summarize our stories from last week?

Joshua 24:8-11 = God gave them Amorite land east of Jordan, plus Jericho and others

A Summary With a Bit More Detail (*Deuteronomy 2-3*)

Why didn't God give to the Israelites the first lands they reached when they came out of the desert?

Deuteronomy 2:5, 9, 19 = God gave these lands to descendants of Esau & Lot

How did the Israelites later feel about these people? = Accepted Edomites as brothers

Deuteronomy 23:3-7 = They despised Moabites and Ammonites for attempted Balaam curse

To whom did God give the next land the Israelites encountered?

Deuteronomy 2:24 = God gave the southern land of the Amorites to Israel (from Sihon)

To whom did God give the northern land of the Amorites ?

Deuteronomy 3:1-2 = God gave the northern land of the Amorites to Israel (from Og)

How did God bless the Israelites through these victories? = Large territory of Arnon Gorge to Mt Hermon

Deuteronomy 2:25; 3:7-8 = Put fear in the hearts of others, Gave them the livestock & plunder

What did Moses do with this land? = Men of Reuben, Gad & Manasseh had to help with rest of conquest

Deuteronomy 3:12-13a, 18 = Gave it to tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh

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### Israel Crosses the Jordan River (*Joshua 3-4*)

What was God's plan to get land for the rest of the tribes?

Joshua 1:1-5 = He replaced Moses with Joshua, promised to be present and give victories

How would God make sure Israel looked to Joshua as their leader as they entered the Promised Land?

Joshua 3:1, 7, 15-16a, 17 = God exalted Joshua with river parting - like Moses & Sea of Reeds

Did this impact anyone besides the Israelites that Joshua was to lead?

Joshua 5:1 = Others heard about it and feared the Israelites

What happened right after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?

Joshua 4:20-24 = Joshua stood up 12 stones as a memorial of God's power and love for Israel

Joshua 5:3 (2-9) = Males were circumcised - reminder to be set apart from other people for God

Joshua 5:10 = Celebrated the Passover and remembered what God did

Joshua 5:11-12 = Manna stopped, they ate the produce of the land

Joshua 5:15 (13-15) = Angel met Joshua and told him, Promised Land is holy (God's)

### 🏰 Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho 🏰 (*Joshua 2, 6*)

What was the first city-state that Israel encountered across the Jordan and to whom did God give it?

Joshua 6:1-2 = Jericho, God gave it to the Israelites

How were the Israelites able to break into this heavily fortified city?

Joshua 6:3-5 = March around the city 6 days, 7 times on 7<sup>th</sup>, blow trumpets & shout

How did they respond to God with this first victory on the west of the Jordan River?

Joshua 6:20-21, 24 = Devoted everything to God - killed everything, valuables in God's treasury  
"Devoted" (*herem*) is same word as used for "completely destroyed" (Joshua 2:10)

With Jericho destroyed and gutted, did they intend to rebuild a city for themselves? = Rebuilt 1Kings 16:34

Joshua 6:26 = No. Remain dedicated to God. Joshua cursed anyone who would rebuild it.

### Ai, Yai, Yai (*Joshua 7*)

What was the next city-state for Israel to conquer and how did Israel feel about their chances?

Joshua 7:2-3 = Ai (*the ruin*) - east of Bethel (Abraham & Jacob worshipped God) - easy win

How did the battle go?

Joshua 7:4-5 = Israel was routed

What was the cause of this loss? = All Jericho was to be devoted to God

Joshua 7:6, 10-11 = Someone had taken valuables from the Jericho plunder

How did they find the offender?

Joshua 7:14, 19-21 = They threw lots for God to tell them who - Achan confessed

What rigid discipline did God prescribe to cleanse Israel from this sin? = *Achor* means *trouble*

Joshua 7:15, 25-26 = They stoned, then burned, Achan, his family and everything he had

### Ai Win (*Joshua 8*)

What plan did God give Joshua for defeating Ai with His help?

Joshua 8:3-8 = They drew the army out of the city and then attacked with an ambush

How did this work?

Joshua 8:18-22 = Joshua held out his javelin and God gave them a complete victory

Was Ai to be devoted to the Lord like Jericho?

Joshua 8:2 = No, they were to kill all people, but could take the plunder for themselves

What did Joshua do in response to God's gift of victory? = Moses gave instructions in Deut 27

Joshua 8:30, 32, 34 = Joshua renewed God's covenant on Mount Ebal, the people listened

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### Gibeon Deceives Israel into Treaty (*Joshua 9*)

- How did the nearby city of Gibeon respond to the Israelite threat? = Joshua 10:2 - large, powerful city  
Joshua 9:3-6 (10:2) = Looked like distant travelers to trick Israel into making a treaty with them
- How did the Israelites respond to this request for a treaty?  
Joshua 9:7 (7-13) = Afraid to do so in case they were neighbors
- Why were they afraid to make a treaty with a neighbor?  
Numbers 33:51-53 = God commanded Israel to wipe Canaan clean & take the land
- What would happen if they left natives in the land?  
Numbers 33:55-56 = Those remaining would become a snare, Israel would be punished by God
- What did Joshua and the leaders decide to do?  
Joshua 9:14-16 = Made a treaty since apparently distant, didn't inquire of God, learned bad news
- What did Israel do with the Gibeonites after learning of the trick?  
Joshua 9:18b-21 (17-27) = Let them live, became woodcutters & water bearers

### Israel Defeats Southern Coalition (*Joshua 10*)

- What did 5 southern kings do in response to Gibeon siding with the enemy?  
Joshua 10:5 (1-5) = They joined forces and attacked Gibeon – for allying with Israel
- How was this a bad mistake?  
Joshua 10:7-10 (6-10) = Israelites came to the rescue and God gave them victory
- Besides confusing the armies during the surprise attack, how else did God act to give Israel a victory?  
Joshua 10:11-13 (11-28) = God killed most with hailstones, Stopped the sun to give more time
- What happened as a result of the clean-up attacks on the cities that these armies protected?  
Joshua 10:40-42 (29-43) = Israel captured southern region - KB to Gaza (west), G to G (east)

### Israel Defeats Northern Coalition (*Joshua 11*)

- What did the northern kings do in response to this powerful threat?  
Joshua 11:4-5 (1-5) = They joined forces to fight Israel, a huge army
- What happened at the Waters of Merom?  
Joshua 11:6-8 (6-9) = God gave the coalition forces to Israel
- What happened as a result of the clean-up attacks on the cities that these armies protected?  
Joshua 11:12-14 (10-15) = Israel wiped northern region clean  
Note: Hazor was a huge city, Archaeology confirms the destruction and burning in verse 11

### Settling Down (*Joshua 11-22*)

- Were there any other specific towns that the Israelites targeted for attack?  
Joshua 11:21-22 (Numbers 13:33) = Anakite (giants seen by the spies) towns in the south
- What territory did Joshua and the Israelites conquer in these battles?  
Joshua 11:16-17 (16-20) = Southern Negev to Mount Hermon
- Did Israel conquer the entire Promised Land under Joshua? = Philistine coastline, north of Mt Hermon, +  
Joshua 13:1 (2-5) = Large areas of land remain to be taken
- What details are given in Joshua Chapters 13 through 21?  
Joshua 13:8 (9-33) = Reuben, Gad, Manasseh land as defined by Moses  
Joshua 14:1-2 (Chapters 14-19) = Land for rest of tribes assigned by Joshua & Eliezar  
Joshua 20:1-3 (1-9) = Cities of refuge defined - protection for those who accidentally kill another  
Joshua 21:3 (1-42) = Levite towns defined

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Oh, Gad! What Did Reuben Manasseh To Do? (*Joshua 22*)

What did Joshua allow after these major victories?

Joshua 22:1-2, 6 (1-34) = Eastern tribes (Reuben, Gad & 1/2 of Manasseh) to return home

What did these tribes do on the way home?

Joshua 22:10 = They built an altar by the Jordan River

How did the other Israelites respond when they heard about this, and why?

Joshua 22:11-12, 16, 19 = They prepared to fight them for building an altar in place of God's altar

Was this the intention of the altar?

Joshua 22:26-27 = No, they did it to remind their descendants to worship only Yahweh

Did this satisfy the Israelites? = Faithfulness was so important they were willing to even attack their own

Joshua 22:31 = Yes, they were thrilled that Reuben, Gad & Manasseh were still faithful

Joshua's Final Acts (*Joshua 23-24*)

Did Joshua feel he had completed the conquest before he died?

Joshua 23:1-5 = No, he reminded the leaders that God would give them victories

What instructions & warnings did Joshua give the Israelites before he died?

Joshua 23:6-8, 12-13 (6-16) = Obey God & remain separate from others still left

What choice did Joshua ask the Israelites to make?

Joshua 24:14-15 = *Choose this day whom you will serve*

What choice did the Israelites make?

Joshua 24:24-25 (16-27) = *We will serve & obey*, Covenant renewed at Shechem

How faithful did the Israelites remain?

Joshua 24:29, 31 = They stayed faithful while this generation lasted

Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

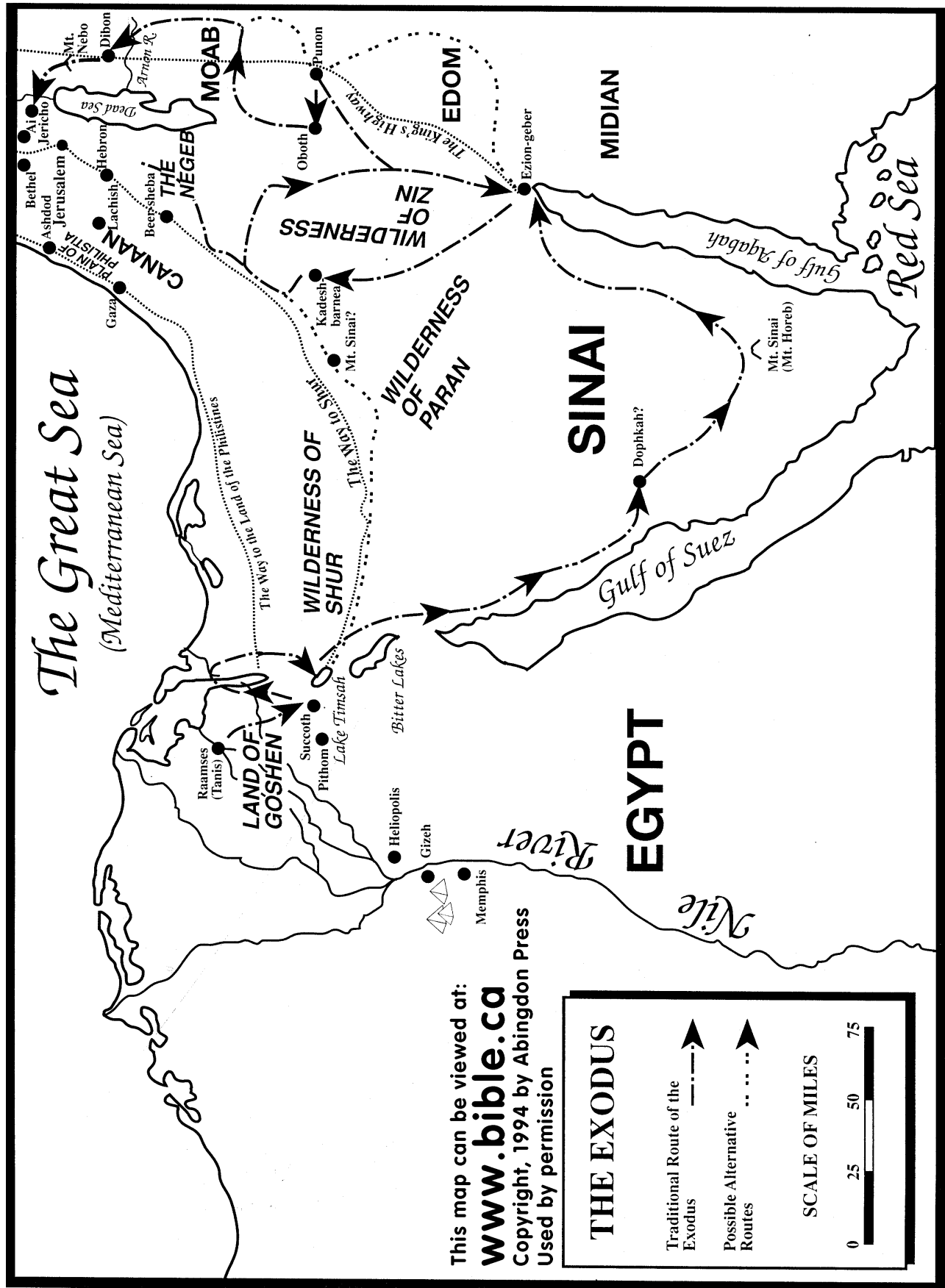
1. Do I see the Bible as a book of interesting stories, or do I recognize the unfolding of God's eternal plan for His people and how I am a part of that plan?  
(*Joshua 23:14-24:15; Deuteronomy 29:29; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Ephesians 3:2-6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*)
2. When have I wanted something so much that I was willing to sin to have it?  
(*Joshua 7; Genesis 3; Romans 7:7-11; James 1:13-17*)
3. Do I look to God for guidance or do I rely on my own *wisdom* to make decisions?  
(*Joshua 9; 1 Kings 22:1-40; Jeremiah 10:21; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25*)
4. When has God made me victorious over something in a way that only He could have done?  
(*Joshua 10:10-14; Judges 7; 2 Kings 6:8-23; Luke 18:24-27; John 14:12*)
5. Do I read God's word regularly? Can people see God's Word active in me?  
(*Joshua 8:30-35; 24:25-31; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Romans 15:4; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3*)

Next Week - *Judges Rule Israel*

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**THE EXODUS**

Traditional Route of the Exodus ———→

Possible Alternative Routes - - - - -→

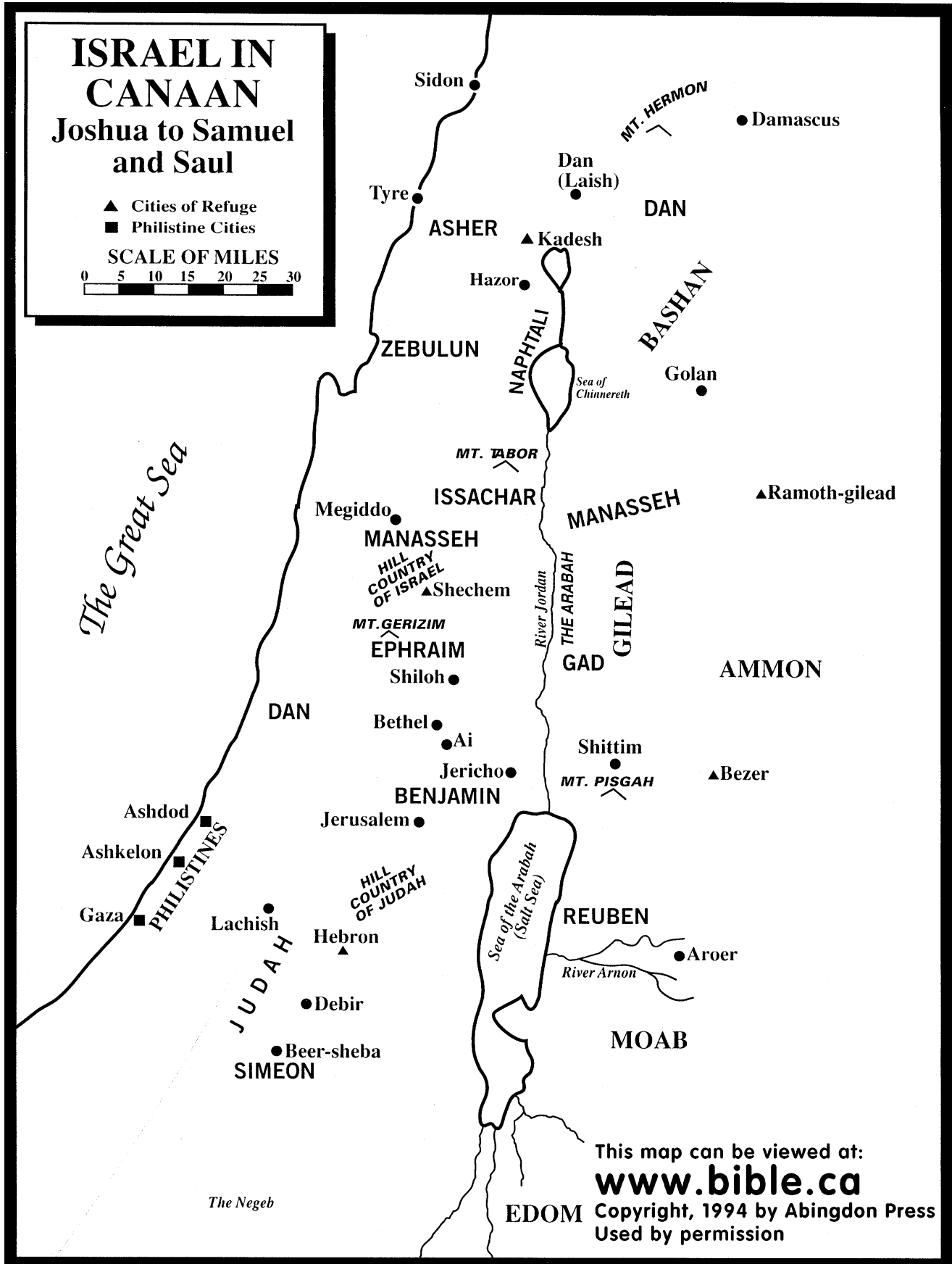
SCALE OF MILES

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