

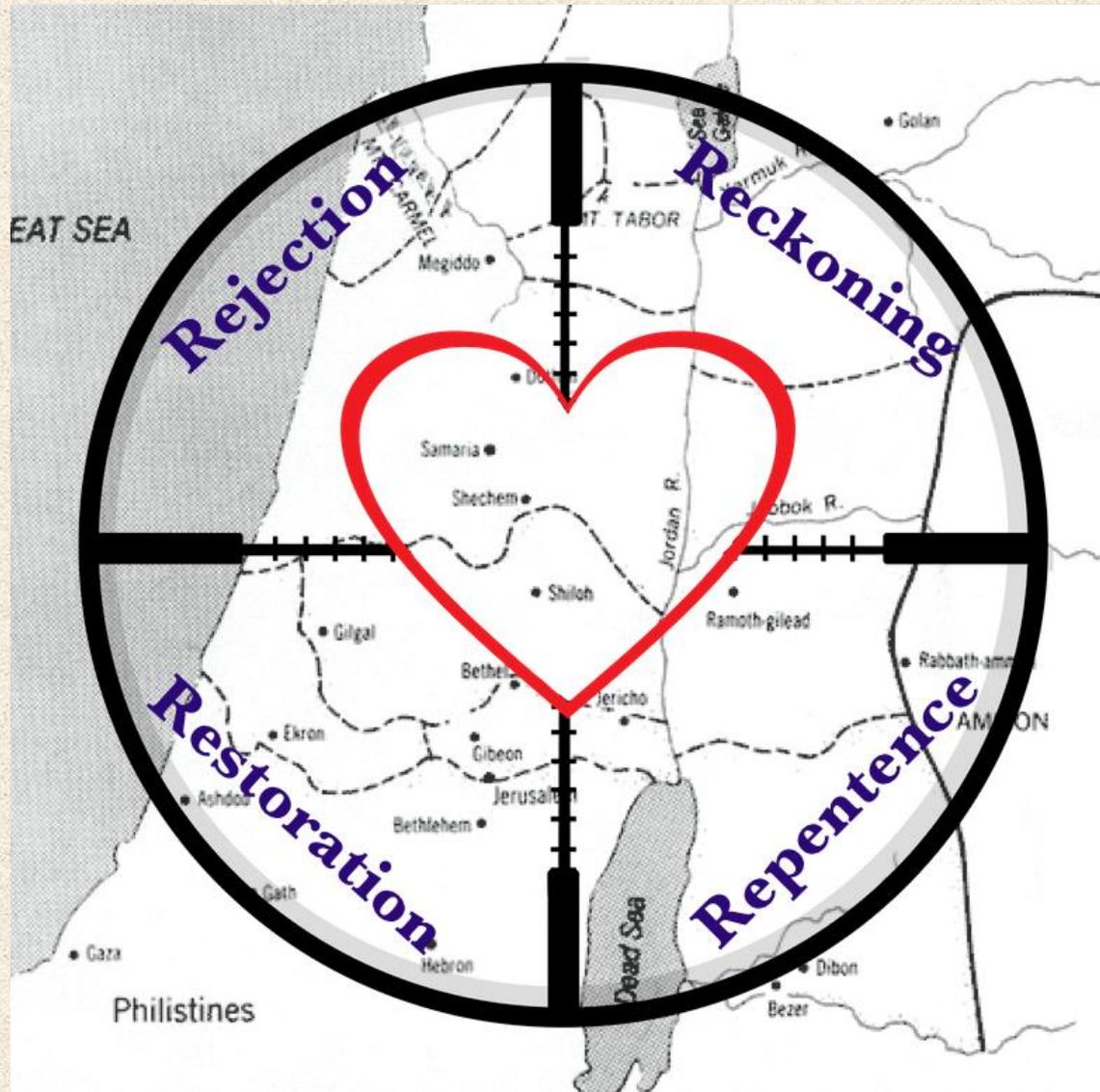
MINOR PROPHETS

JOEL ♦ OBADIAH ♦ JONAH

Series Overview

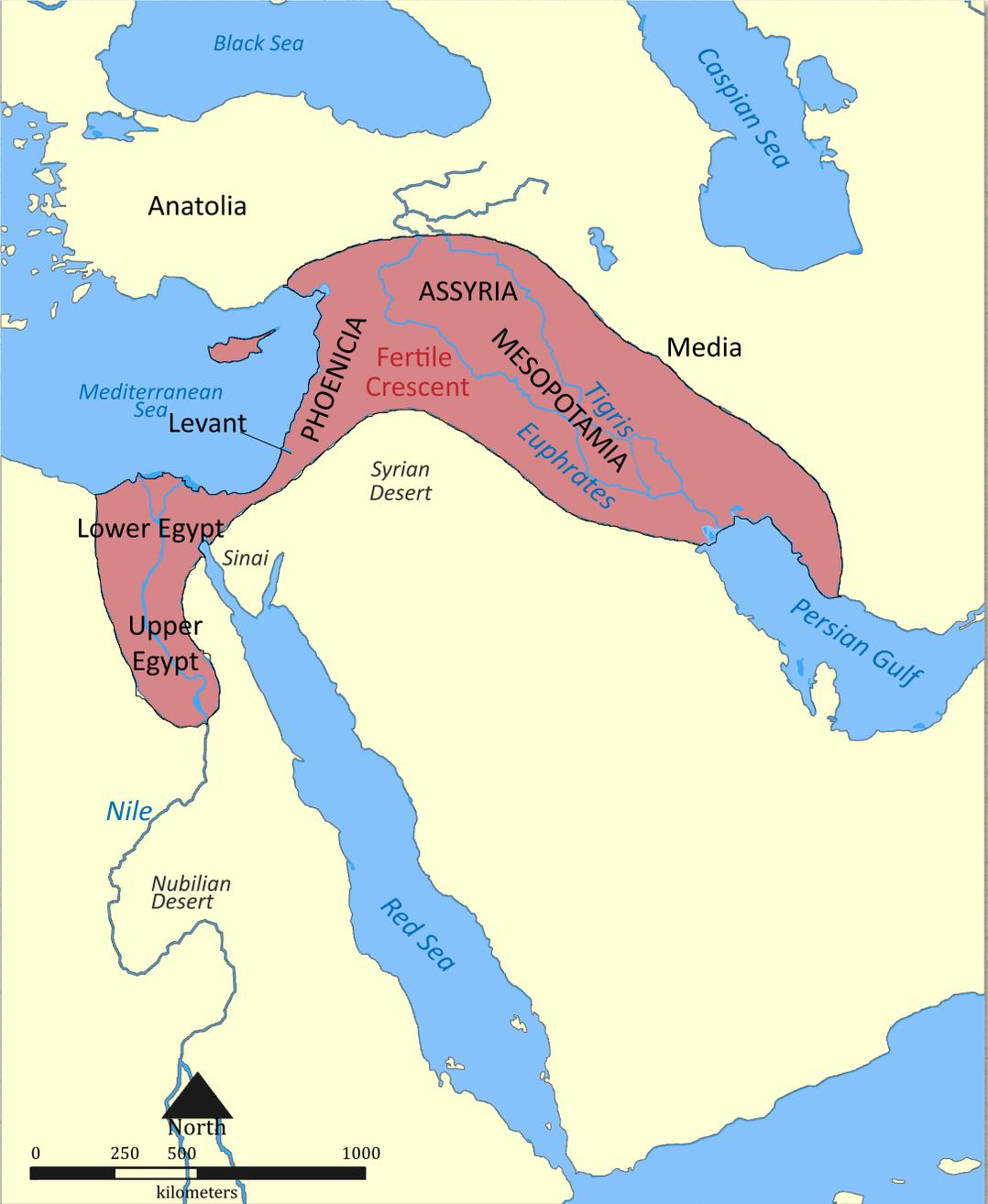
The Divided Kingdom

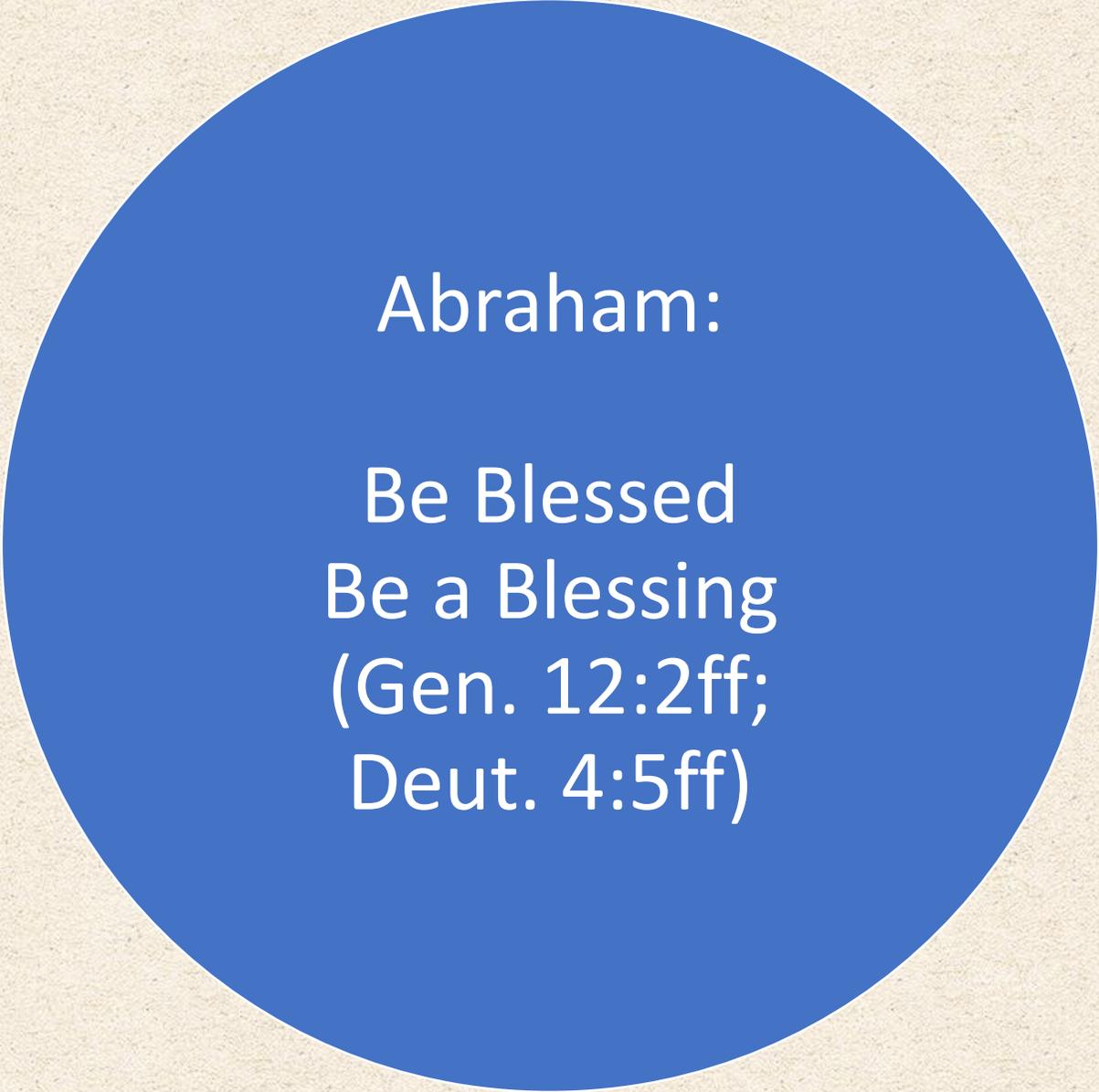
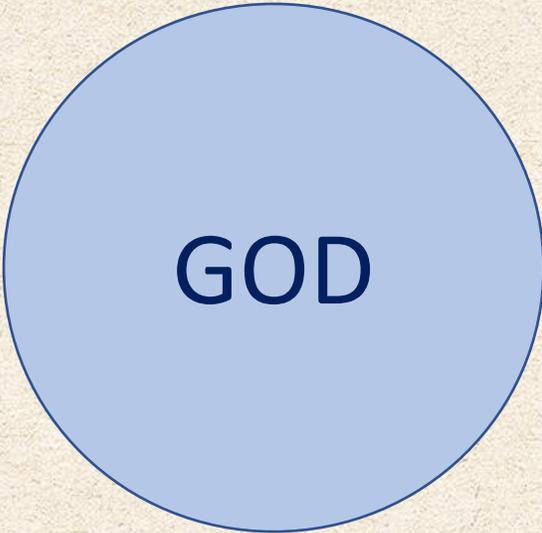
Setting of the Minor Prophets

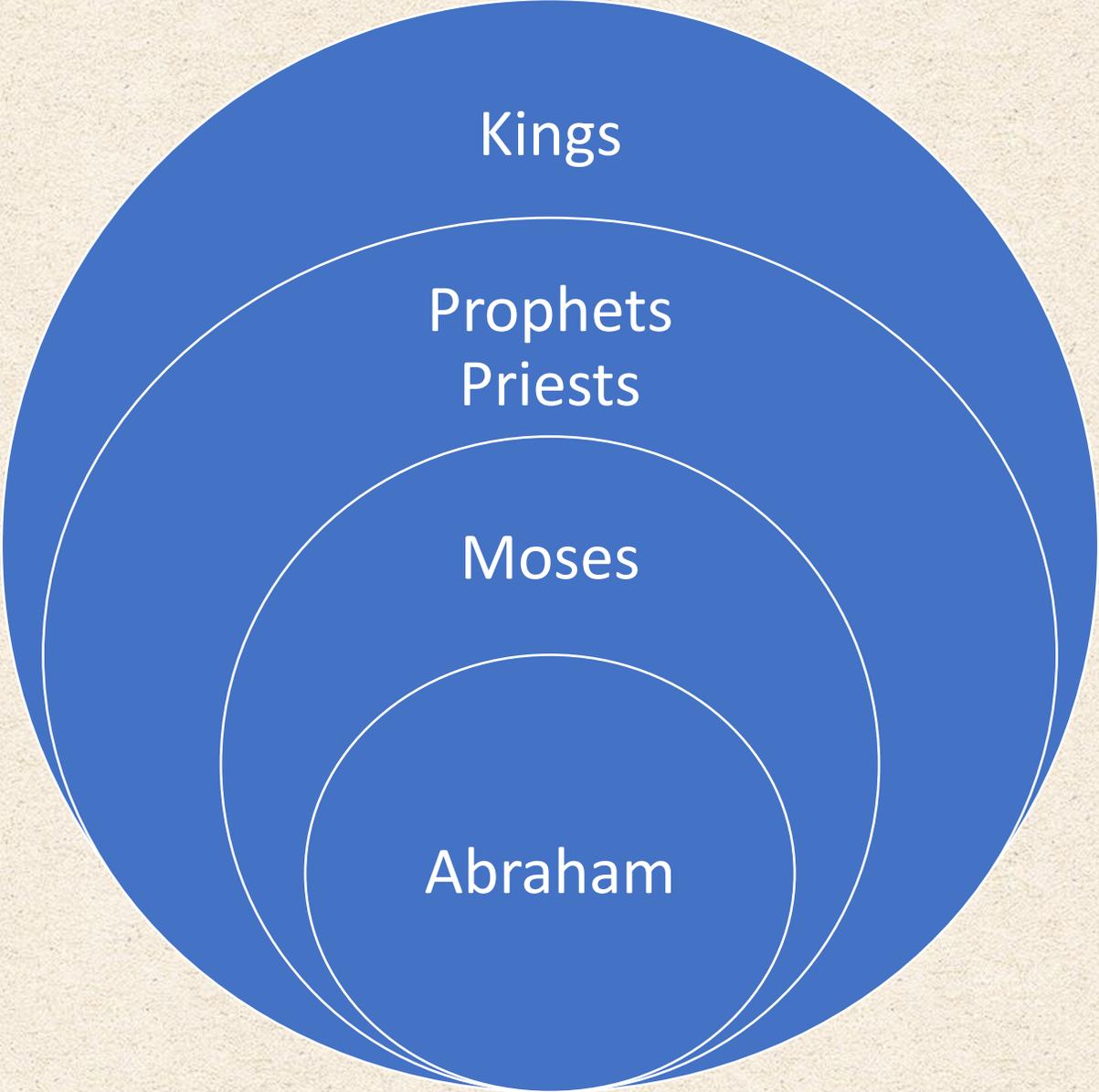
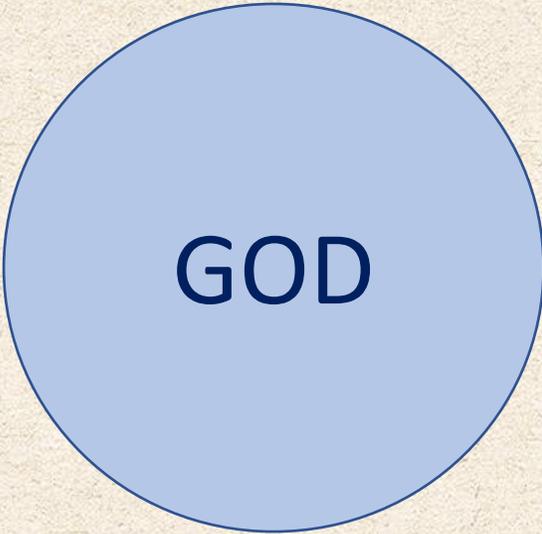


California Water Wars









80 Years of The Golden Age



“The united monarchy was a time in which Israel became the dominant nation in the ancient Near East. David’s successful military campaigns extended his control over neighboring and distant lands, while Solomon’s administration capitalized upon Israel’s strength to bring vast wealth and cultural resources into the kingdom. Israel became a mini-empire that conformed to the conventional New Eastern model, complete with alliances, cosmopolitan influences and fortified administrative centers with palaces and military garrisons.”

(NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, Craig Keener)

345 Years of Division & Finally Exile



- ***“Your father put a heavy yoke on us” (1 Kings 12:4; 9:15) – taxation, compulsory service***
- ***David’s united kingdom divides along tribal lines, resulting in two weakened states***
- ***Pressure from Assyrian and Babylonian militaries***
- ***Assyria conquers Israel***
- ***Babylon conquers Judah***

Decline Rooted in Religious Compromise

- **Solomon – blatant disobedience (11:1ff)**
- **Jeroboam – made religion the servant of the state (12:26ff)**

“Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals.”
(1 Cor. 15:33)

**The environment set up by the leaders led Israel & Judah
away from God rather than toward Him. (1 Kings 14:16, 22)**



Kings

King's
Priests

Nations &
their gods

**Bring back that lovin' feelin'
Whoa, that lovin' feelin'
Bring back that lovin' feelin'
'Cause it's gone, gone, gone**

The Righteous Brothers, 1967

God Sent Prophets to Call His People Back

- **Joel** – God uses natural disasters to get Israel’s attention. Will they respond in repentance?
- **Obadiah** – Can we trust God to be just, to return the favor to our enemies?
- **Jonah** – Will Jonah serve a God who has mercy on their enemies?
- Call to Repentance

After Rehoboam's position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the law of the LORD. Because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem in the fifth year of King Rehoboam.

Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what the LORD says, 'You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.'"

The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, “The LORD is just.”

When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: “Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak. They will, however, become subject to him, so that they may learn the difference between serving me and serving the kings of other lands.” (2 Chron. 12:1ff)

What Does This Have to Do With Us?

Neither the Body of Christ nor the USA are Israel !

True

We are under the blood of Christ, free from all of this judgment stuff, right?

False

- **Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children... God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. (Heb. 12:7, 10)**
- **To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ... If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. (Rev. 2:1, 5)**

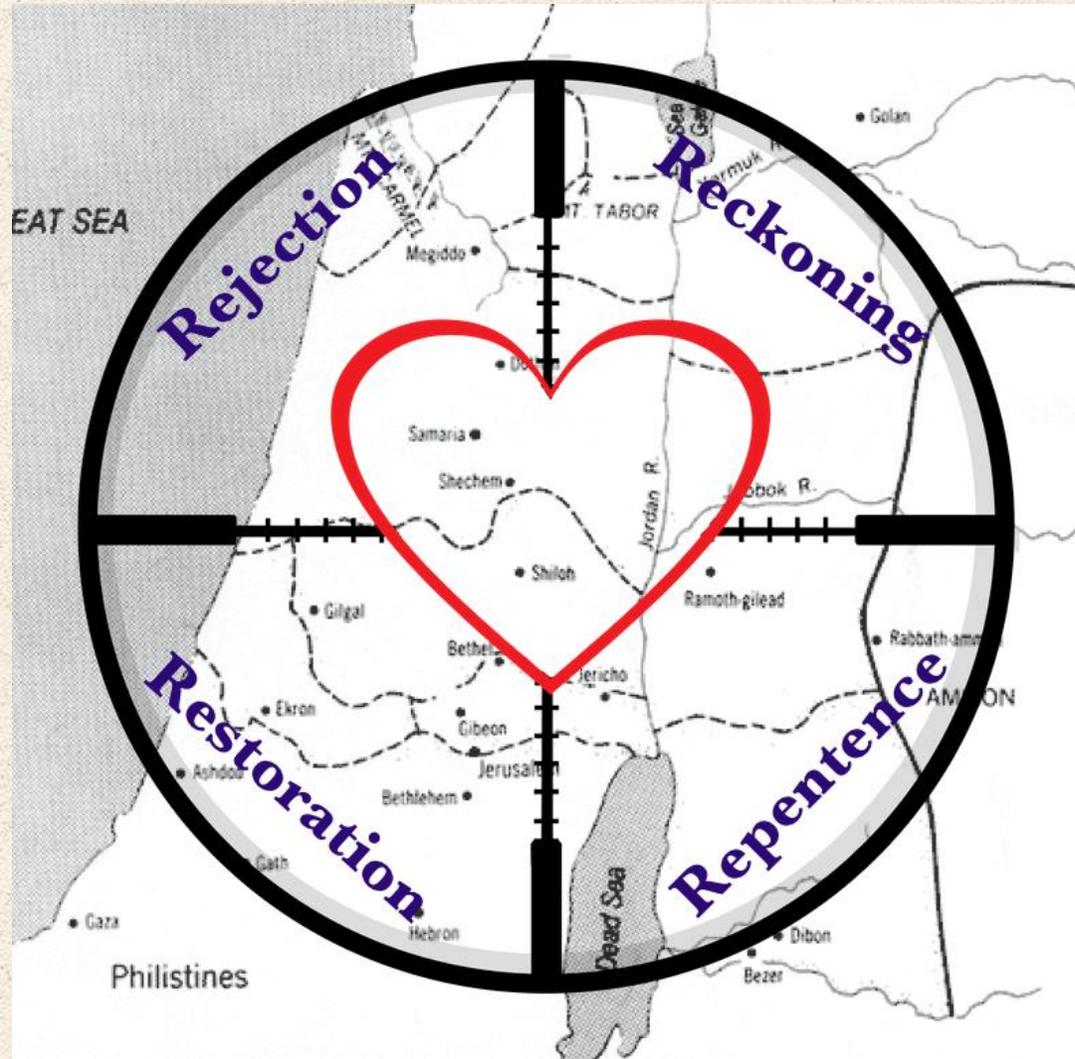
What Can We Learn From Israel's Example?

Negative:

- There are consequences to spiritual deafness and misplaced trust.

Positive:

- "The LORD is just." ... They humbled themselves.
- When has the Lord disciplined you?
How did you respond?



**Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.
(Joel 2:13)**