

# Judges

broken people :: faithful God

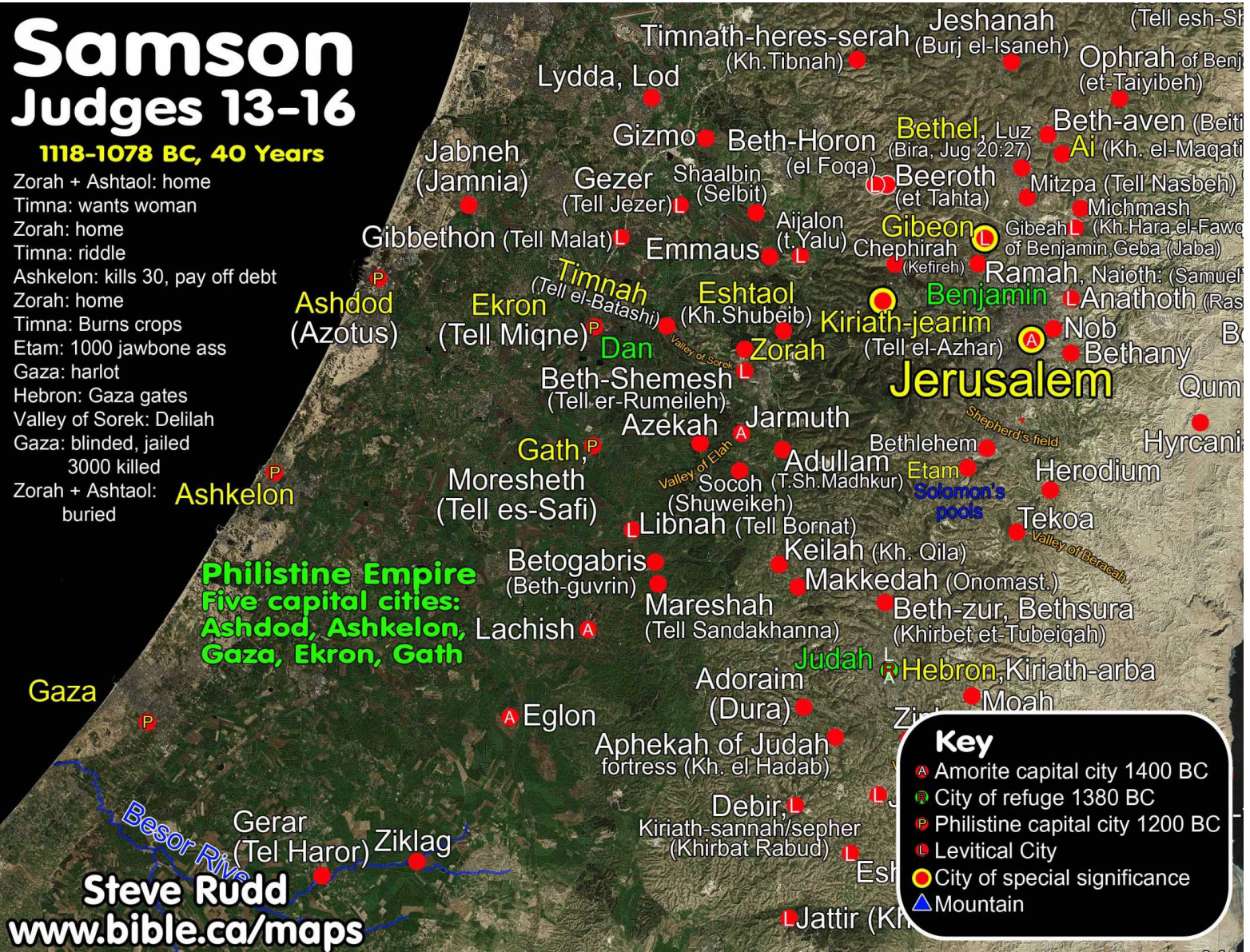
# Samson

## 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**



**Key**

- A Amorite capital city 1400 BC
- R City of refuge 1380 BC
- P Philistine capital city 1200 BC
- L Levitical City
- O City of special significance
- ▲ Mountain

Steve Rudd  
[www.bible.ca/maps](http://www.bible.ca/maps)

# Samson Prepared!

- **Samson has been born:**
  - Filled with the influence of his parents
  - Holy Spirit stirs “upon” him
  - What undermined this Nazarite?
  - Power, Possessions, Partners...
- **Samson grew, but had a “limp”**
  - We all tend to have a weak area...
  - The power of prayer partners! Ecc 4:9-12

## Ecclesiastes 4:

**9 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.**

**10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.**

**11 Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone?**

**12 And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.**

# **Samson, a reflection**

- **...Of Israel's unfaithfulness?**
- **...Of our "affairs" with the world?**
- **...Of our generation and world too???**
- **As soon as Samson is mentioned:**
  - **I have seen a woman...**
  - **She looks good to me...**
  - **Guided by his sight... irony...?**
  - **No one among God's people???** (vs 3)

# God uses it...

- **God planned “an occasion”**
  - **His will considers our failures!**
  - **No approval of our sin! Not of Him!!**
  - **If Samson had been different...**
- **A trip to get a bride... mom and dad go**
  - **Did they do right?**
  - **Young lion vs. Spirit of the Lord! (5,6)**
  - **Parents do not see the battle...**

# **She still was a “looker”**

- **She had not changed!**
- **..when he returned later (~1 year later)**
- **On the way back, he “looks”...**
- **Lion would have been consumed...**
- **“skeleton shell”**
  - **Dead body was forbidden to Nazarite...**
  - **...but he had LOTS of those in his battles**
  - **Honey was allowed...**

# **Bachelor party**

- **One week of celebration**
- **30 “companions” show up... whose?**
  - **No friends of Samson...!**
  - **Provided by the family to... disapprove?**
  - **Game of Riddles... common for festivities**
  - **Wager of garments...**
- **4 days go by...**

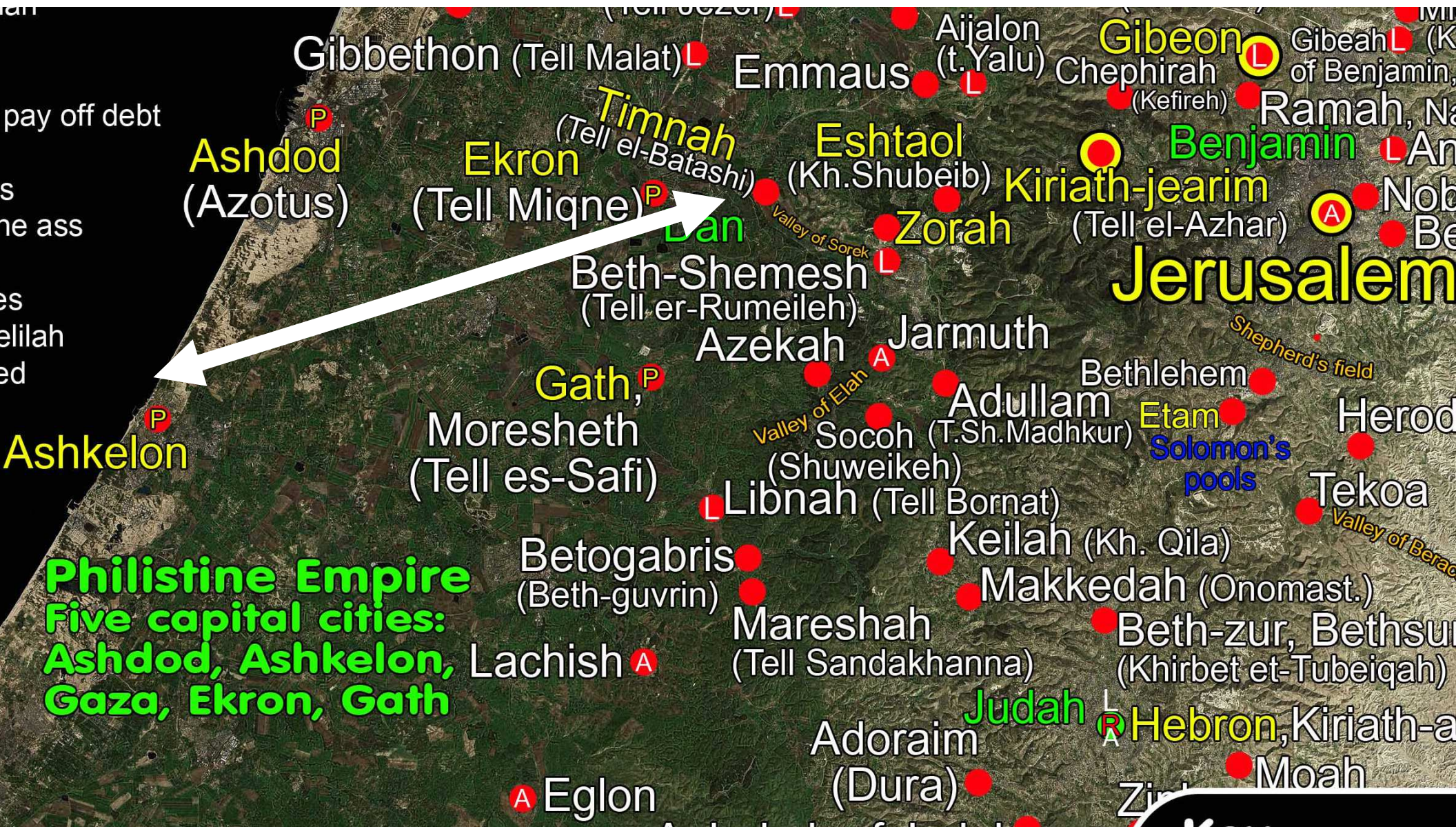


# **Wife influenced...**

- **She “looked”, but failed in honesty!**
  - **Deception and mistrust...**
  - **She could have told Samson!**
  - **They threaten her and her father... friends?**
- **They say “entice”, she weeps!!!**
  - **Hate/Love get thrown around a lot...**
  - **7 days of weeping on your honeymoon?**
  - **He tells her, she tells them!**

# **Wife found out...**

- **“plowed with my heifer”!!!**
  - **Bet she did not look good then!**
- **Spirit of the Lord...**
  - **This is not about “his vengeance”**
  - **God has a purpose in the act...**
  - **Kills 30 men of Ashkelon (costal city)**
  - **A long walk! (24 miles each way!)**



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

**Ashdod**  
(Azotus)

**Ekron**  
(Tell Miqne)

**Gath**

**Moresbeth**  
(Tell es-Safi)

**Betogabris**  
(Beth-guvrin)

**Lachish**

**Eglon**

**Gibbethon** (Tell Malat)

**Timnah**  
(Tell el-Batashi)

**Beth-Shemesh**  
(Tell er-Rumeileh)

**Azekah**

**Betogabris**  
(Beth-guvrin)

**Mareshah**  
(Tell Sandakhanna)

**Adoraim**  
(Dura)

**Emmaus**

**Eshtaol**  
(Kh.Shubeib)

**Dan**

**Jarmuth**

**Socoh** (T.Sh.Madhkur)  
(Shuweikeh)

**Libnah** (Tell Bornat)

**Mareshah**  
(Tell Sandakhanna)

**Aijalon**  
(t.Yalu)

**Eshtaol**  
(Kh.Shubeib)

**Zorah**

**Jarmuth**

**Adullam**  
(T.Sh.Madhkur)

**Keilah** (Kh. Qila)

**Makkedah** (Onomast.)

**Judah**

**Gibeon**

**Kiriath-jearim**  
(Tell el-Azhar)

**Bethlehem**

**Etam**  
**Solomon's pools**

**Beth-zur, Bethsur**  
(Khirbet et-Tubeiqah)

**Hebron, Kiriath-a**

**Ramah, Na**

**Benjamin**

**Jerusalem**

**Shepherd's field**

**Herod**

**Tekoa**

**Valley of Berac**

**Moah**

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  - **A long walk! (24 miles each way!)**
  - **Pays his debt, leaves in anger...**

# And the end...

- **Ch 15...**
  - **He goes back to “see her”**
  - **Father prevent him... “younger sister”**
  - **“more beautiful” – still appealing to eyes**
- **I will be blameless! (15:3)**
  - **Burns the harvest... “little foxes...”**
  - **Whole family burned (14:15)**
  - **Attacks the city... runs to a cave!**

**Next week:**



**Samson meets his match!**

Judges