

judges

broken people :: faithful God

A Vengeful Prank

- **Judges 15:1-8**
- **He goes back to “see her”**
- **I will be blameless! (15:3)**
- **Samson: Devoted Prankster**
- **Escalation of Response, Getting even**
- **Whole family burned (15:6)**
- **Attacks the city with a great slaughter...**
- **Runs to a cave!**

Men Who would be Slaves

- **Judges 15:9-13**
- **Intention to bring trouble to Judah?**
- **Hidden price of sin!**
- **3000 men gather, not for battle but a manhunt**
 - **Only about ~73 years since Gideon liberated Israel with 1/10th against**
 - **We sneer at Samson's love for Philistine women but Israel was just as bad**
 - **Samson was not an isolated incident but the reflection of a generation**
 - **Willing to betray and sacrifice their salvation to maintain the status quo**

Wasted Opportunity

- **Judges 15:14-15**
- **Philistines rejoice! Their enemy bound!**
- **The Spirit of God falls mightily on Samson**
- **1000 Philistines die against 1 man with a bone**
- **And the Israelites stand there doing nothing**
- **Dare we wonder what might have been?**

Puns & Paleontology

- **Judges 15:16-17**
- **Bad poetry? Worse! Puns!**
- **Donkey's Jawbone as a weapon?**
- **Victory by the Spirit of God**
- **He throws the Jawbone away**
- **He names the battlefield *Ramath-Lehi***

A Thirsty man and His God

- **Judges 15:18-20**
- **A miracle of Stamina**
- **No illusions about the source of Samson's strength**
 - **Gives Glory to God**
 - **Brings His need before God**
 - **Appeals to God's Character and Reputation**
- **God comes through**

Judge Who Sleeps Around

- **Judges 16:1-3**
- **Progression of Sin**
 - **Going places you should not go**
 - **Looking where he shouldn't look**
 - **Sexual relationships in ways and at times that are sinful**
- **Samson finds out**
- **Presence of the Holy Spirit not mentioned...**

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:

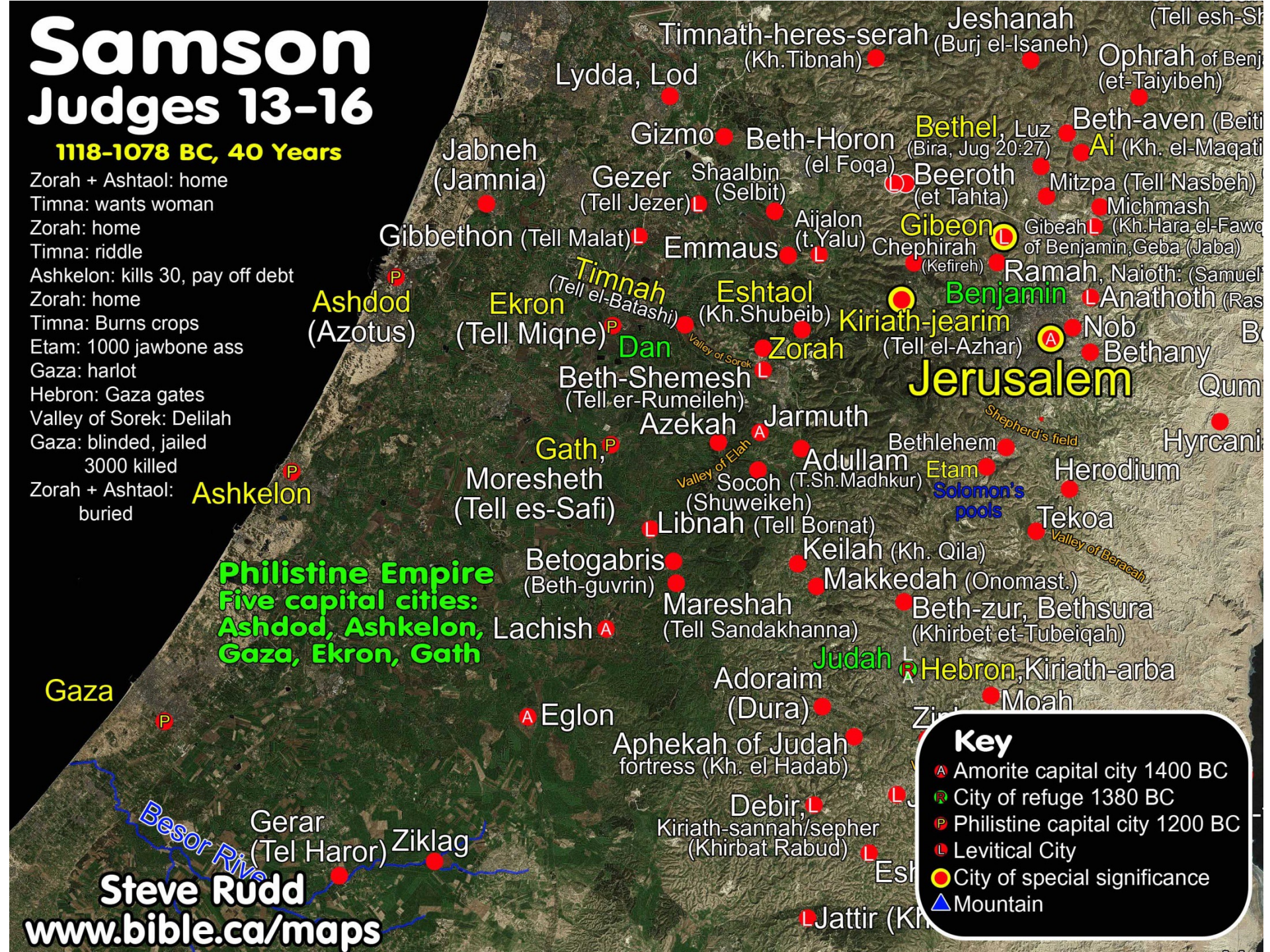
buried

Ashkelon

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

Gaza

Steve Rudd
www.bible.ca/maps



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

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- **Presence of the Holy Spirit not mentioned...**
- **Samson's feat of strength and endurance**
- **Humiliations Galore!**

Next week:



Samson meets his match!

Judges