

# Historical Content

## Judges 17

# People

## **Micah the Ephraimite**

- Lived in the hill country of Ephraim (Jg 17:1)
- Stole silver from his mother and after returning it to her and confessing, she had some of the silver melted and made into carved images which Micah kept in a shrine in his home. (Jg 17:2–6)
- He hired a Levite to be his priest (Jg 17:7–13)

## **Micah's Priest**

- A descendent of Levi from Bethlehem in (Jg 17:7)
- Was hired by Micah the Ephraimite to be a priest in his home (Jg 17:7–13)

# Places

## **Mountains of Ephraim**

- "The mountainous area of the territory of Ephraim, located above the territory of Benjamin. Also: Ephraim; Hill Country Of Ephraim; Mount Ephraim; Mountains of Ephraim; Mountains of Ephraim." <sup>1</sup>

## **Territory of Judah**

- The land that was allotted to the tribe of Judah as their inheritance (Jos 15:5–11; 59–61)

<sup>1</sup> Faithlife, LLC. "Hill Country of Ephraim." Logos Bible Software, Computer software. *Logos Bible Software Factbook*. Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, LLC, July 26, 2022. <https://ref.ly/logos4/Factbook?ref=bk.%40HillCountryOfEphraim>.

# Places

## **Bethlehem (in Judah)**

- Bethlehem means “House of Bread”
- Jacob’s wife, Rachel, died giving birth to Benjamin and was buried in Bethlehem (Ge 35:16-20; 48:7)
- The man named Bethlehem was from the line of the tribe of Judah. He was the son of a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah was hired to be a personal priest by Micah the Ephramite who had set up a shrine in his house to false idols (Jg 17:1-13)
- Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, was from Bethlehem, Judah. (Ru 1:1-2)
- Boaz (relative of Elimelech who redeemed and married Ruth) was from Bethlehem, Judah. (Ru 2:1-4)
- Jesse (the son of Obed and grandson of Ruth & Boaz) was from Bethlehem, Judah, and became the father of David, King of Israel. (Ru 4:11, 13-22; 1 Sa 17:12)
- David grew up in Bethlehem, Judah as a shepherd in his father’s fields and was anointed his home in Bethlehem by Samuel to be the King of Israel. (1 Sa 16:1-13; 1 Sa 17:15)
- When Zerubbabel returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile, with him came people from Bethlehem to go back to their home. (Ez 2:21; Ne 7:26)
- The prophet Micah prophesied that the coming Messiah would come from Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)
- Joseph was from the tribe of Judah and the line of King David. Therefore, he and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, Judah to register when Caesar decreed a census. (Lk 2:1-5)
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem. (Mt 1:25; 2:1; Lk 2:6-7)

# Key Dates / Timelines

- **1446 B.C.** The Exodus: Israelites are Delivered from Egypt
- **1250 B.C.** Beginning of the Conquest of Canaan
- **1220-1051 B.C.** The period of the Judges over Israel
- **1051 B.C.** The Prophet Samuel Anoints Saul to be King of Israel (United Kingdom)
- **1051–1011 B.C.** The reign of King Saul
- **1020 B.C.** The Prophet Samuel anoints David to be King of Israel (United Kingdom)
- **1011–971 B.C.** The reign of King David
- **971 B.C.** The Prophet Samuel anoints Solomon to be King of Israel (United Kingdom)
- **971–931 B.C.** The reign of King Solomon
- **922 B.C.** The United Kingdom of Israel divides into two Kingdoms: Israel (north) and Juda (south)
- **722 B.C.** The Northern Kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians
- **605 B.C.** Battle of Carchemish (Nebuchadnezzar defeats the Egyptians on the Euphrates River)
- **605 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar invades Jerusalem and takes exiles to Babylon (including Daniel and his companions)
- **597 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem and takes King Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) as prisoner
- **588 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar begins his final siege of Jerusalem
- **586 B.C.** Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon; Judah in exile in Babylon

911 - 609 B.C. Assyrian Empire | 626 – 539 B.C. Babylonian Empire | 539 – 358 B.C. Persian Empire

# Cross References

## Key References:

- **Genesis 31:19** | “Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father’s.”
- **Judges 18:1** | “In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them.”
- **Judges 18:19** | “And they said to him, ‘Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?’”
- **Judges 19:1** | “And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.”
- **Judges 21:25** | “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

# Cross References

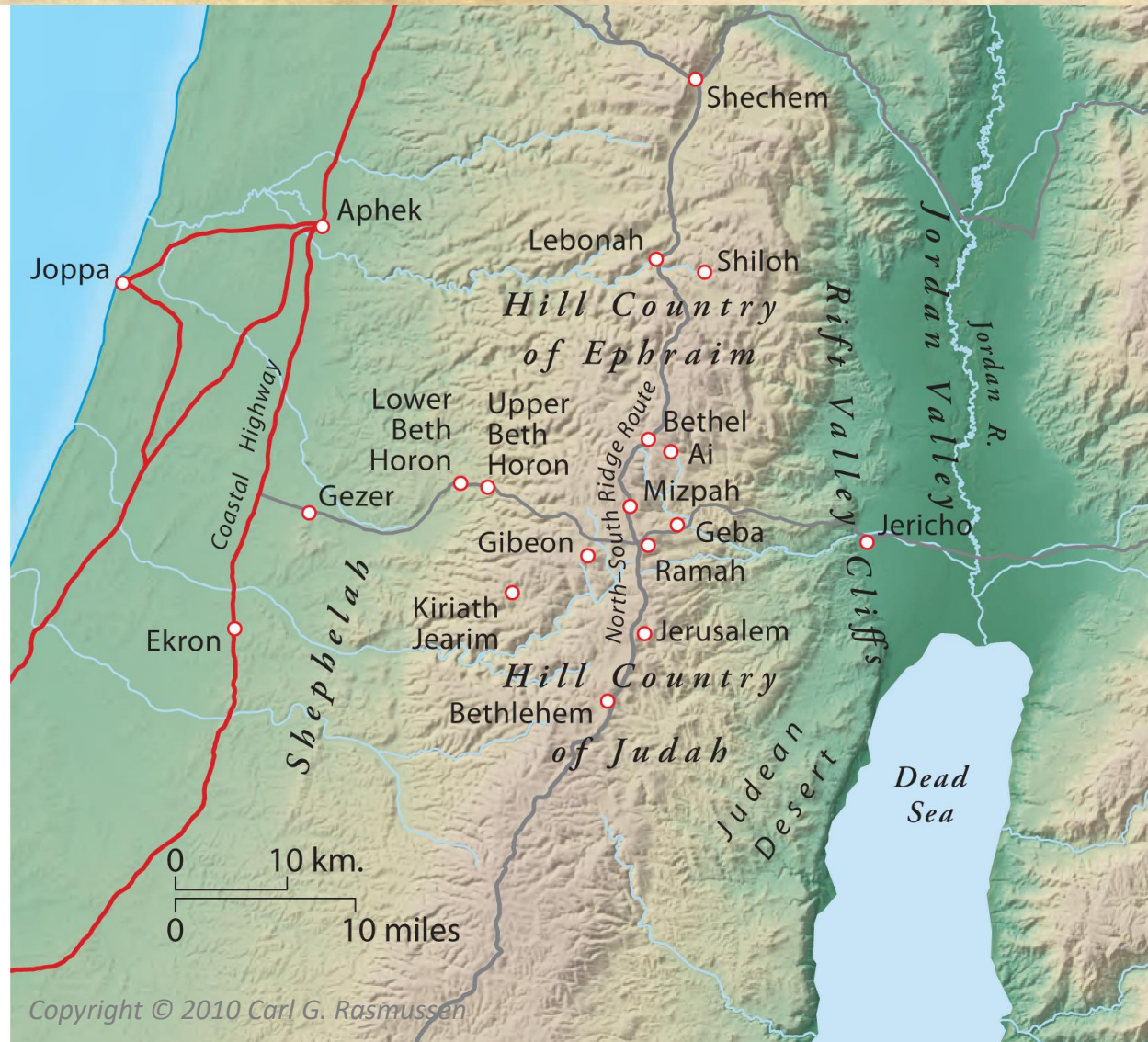
## Full List:

- **Genesis** 14:19; 31:19, 30, 34–35; 35:19; 45:8
- **Exodus** 2:21; 20:4, 23; 28:6–35; 29:9; 32:4; 34:17
- **Leviticus** 5:1; 19:4; 22:2–3; 27:14–19
- **Numbers** 3:10; 16:10; 18:1–7
- **Deuteronomy** 12:8; 18:6–7
- **Joshua** 19:15; 24:33
- **Judges** 8:27; 11:40; 12:8, 10; 18:1–4, 13–14, 17, 19, 24, 30; 19:1; 21:20–25
- **Ruth** 1:1–2; 2:20; 3:10
- **1 Samuel** 15:13; 19:13; 23:21
- **2 Samuel** 2:5
- **1 Kings** 13:33; 22:8
- **2 Kings** 5:13; 23:24
- **1 Chronicles** 18:11; 26:26–28
- **2 Chronicles** 30:17
- **Job** 29:16
- **Isaiah** 17:8; 40:19; 44:13; 46:6
- **Jeremiah** 3:19
- **Ezekiel** 8:10
- **Hosea** 3:4
- **Micah** 5:2
- **Matthew** 2:1, 5–6

Images / Maps / Graphs



# The Hill Country of Ephraim



**THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL**  
*JOSH 13:8-19:49*

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak



# The Tribal Allotments of Israel



# Judges According to Their Tribes