

CrossTrek

Start Your Bible Journey

Presentation by
Marmy A. Clason, Ph.D.
John A. (Jack) Beck, Ph.D.

For
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Introduction

- Goal

Create a conversation that will answer basic questions about the Bible and prepare you to read and study God's Word

Introduction

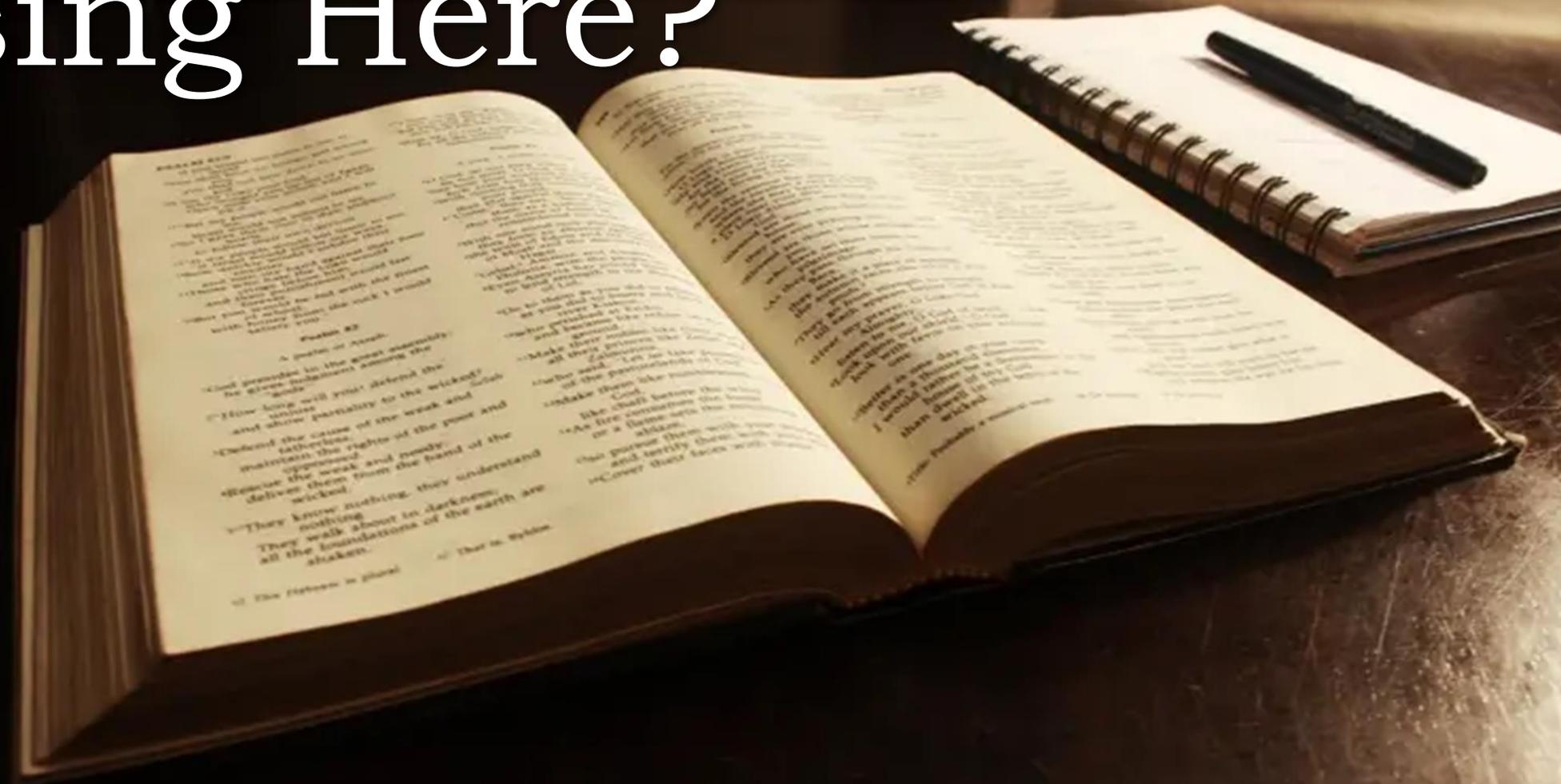
- Questions, comments, or concerns from previous sessions

Introduction

- Overview

- 1) What is the Bible?
- 2) How is the Bible Organized?
- 3) How is God Speaking?
- 4) What am I Missing Here?**
- 5) How Can I Read for Application?
- 6) What Resources Are Most Helpful?

What am I Missing Here?



Language Economy

I can use fewer words when I am speaking with someone who shares my context and experiences.

Language Economy

“I am going to become a polar bear!”



Language Economy

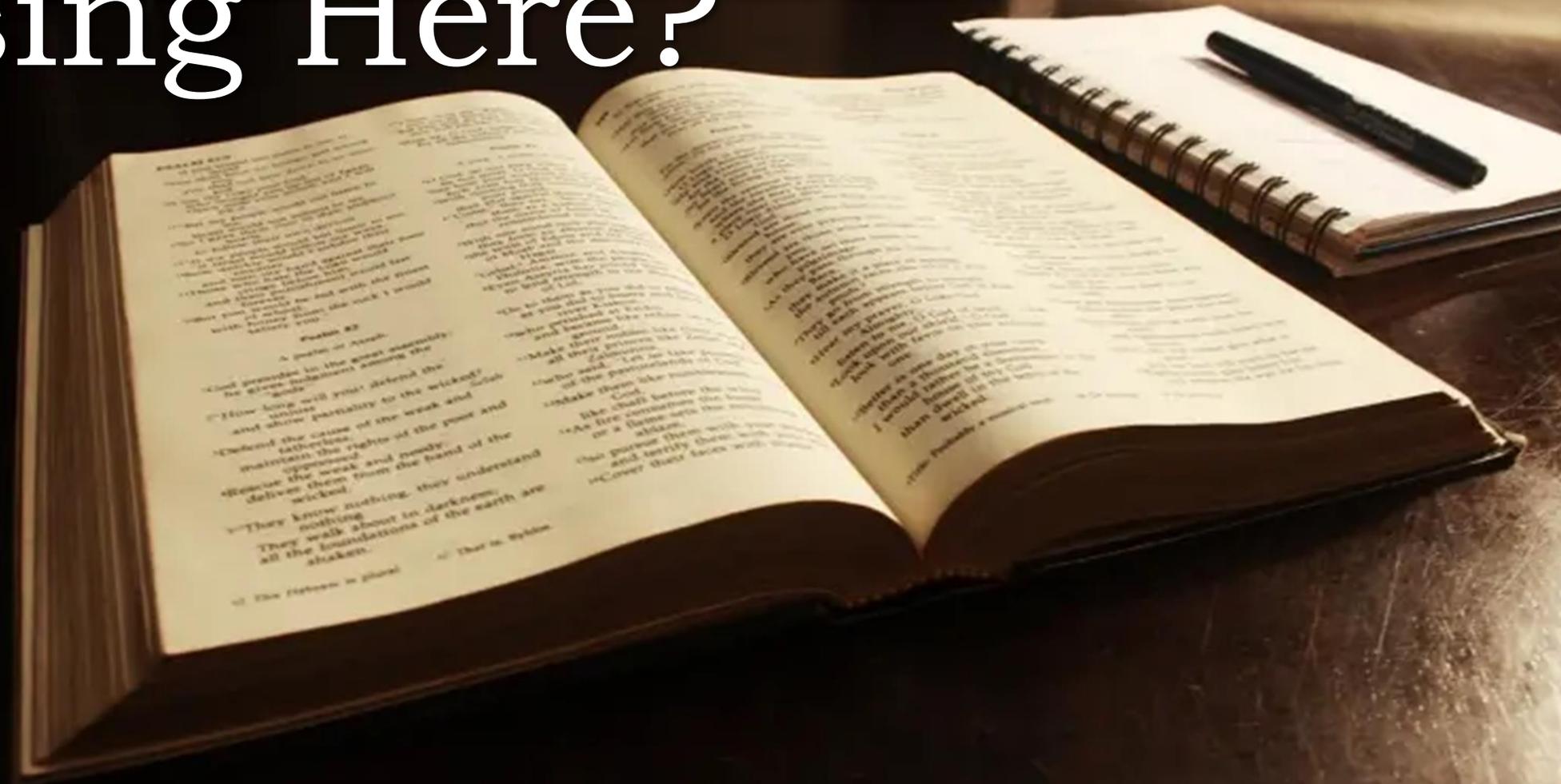
- Language economy works against me as a 21st century Bible reader because the thought world of the Bible comes from a different time, place, and cultural context.

The Bible was written *for us*,
but it was not written *to us*.

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

(Luke 14:34-35 NIV)

What am I Missing Here?



Bible Background

- 1) Historical Context
- 2) Cultural Context
- 3) Geographical Context

Historical Context

- The Bible does not provide a comprehensive history of the world.
- The biblical authors/poets often presume we are familiar with the historical backstory to what they are writing.



Historical Context

Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the *Roman governor*.

(John 18:28 NIV)

“If you let this man go, *you are no friend of Caesar*. Anyone who claims to be a king *opposes Caesar*.”

(John 19:12 NIV)



Historical Context

- Rome ruled Judea from 63 BC until 6 AD using a client king.
- By 6 AD, Rome was ruling Judea with a Roman governor.
- Pontius Pilate (26-36 AD) was the fifth Roman governor to rule since the governorship was initiated.
- The principal role of the Roman governor was not to better the lives of the locals but to collect taxes for Rome and keep the peace.

Historical Context

- Why would the Jewish religious leaders bring Jesus before Pontius Pilate for trial ?
 - As a judge, his verdict was essentially final.
 - As a politician, he had made grave mistakes that left him politically vulnerable and so malleable.

Historical Context

“Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the *Roman governor*.”

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Bible Background

- 1) Historical Context
- 2) **Cultural Context**
- 3) Geographical Context

Cultural Context

- Culture is defined by the set of social customs that guide the way we live our lives.
- Examples:
 - The clothing we wear
 - How we get married
 - The holidays we celebrate and how we celebrate them



Cultural Context

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was **pledged to be married** to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind **to divorce her quietly**.
(Matthew 1:18-19 NIV)

Marriage in First Century Nazareth

- Marriages were arranged by the parents.
- The *mohar* offered by the groom and dowry offered by the bride were established in a legal document called a *ketubah*.

בט ויזלוחו

MS 167

שבתות מצד זהים שנים ארבע

דחצור דעל זך ימא דחלחה אדמ

יפת זך אמר מן דעתינה ומן רעוניה ומן טבוריה ומן

זר המו לי לאנול כנימוס יהודאין ומעם אהווי ואיין ומפלגים

ומעיקרין ית נשיהון בקושטא ורעה הדין כלל

מבד יפת וקניא על שדה ליקדוריה ושמעיה ואל

עד ויזלין שפנייה ויהי וזך קריב

לזרע שדה ויהי וזך קריב

ויהי וזך קריב

Marriage in First Century Nazareth

- A young couple was “pledged to be married” when they signed the *ketubah*.
- The public wedding typically followed within one year.

Cultural Context

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(Matthew 1:18-19 NIV)

Divorce in First Century Nazareth

- Publicly

Divorce document

Was not father!

Return of the *mohar*

- Quietly

Annul the *ketubah*

Was father?

Loss of the *mohar*

Bible Background

- 1) Historical Context
- 2) Cultural Context
- 3) **Geographical Context**

What do you mean by geography?

- Physical Geography
- Human Geography
- Natural History

What do you mean by geography?

- Physical Geography—
natural features and forces that
shape life on the surface of the
earth





Physical Geography

As the mountains surround
Jerusalem so the Lord surrounds his
people both now and forevermore.

(Psalm 125:2 NIV)

What do you mean by geography?

- Physical Geography—
natural features and forces
- Human Geography—
human use of, impact on, and
response to physical geography

Human Geography (Culture)

- Growing food
- Processing food
- Securing water
- Building homes
- Traveling
- Labeling locations
- Burial of family members







Human Geography

Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

(Luke 19:62 NIV)

What do you mean by geography?

- Physical Geography—
natural features and forces
- Human Geography—
human use of, impact on and
response to physical geography
- Natural History—
animals, insects, and plants









Natural History

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

(Psalm 92:12 NIV)

Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.

(Matthew 8:20 NIV)

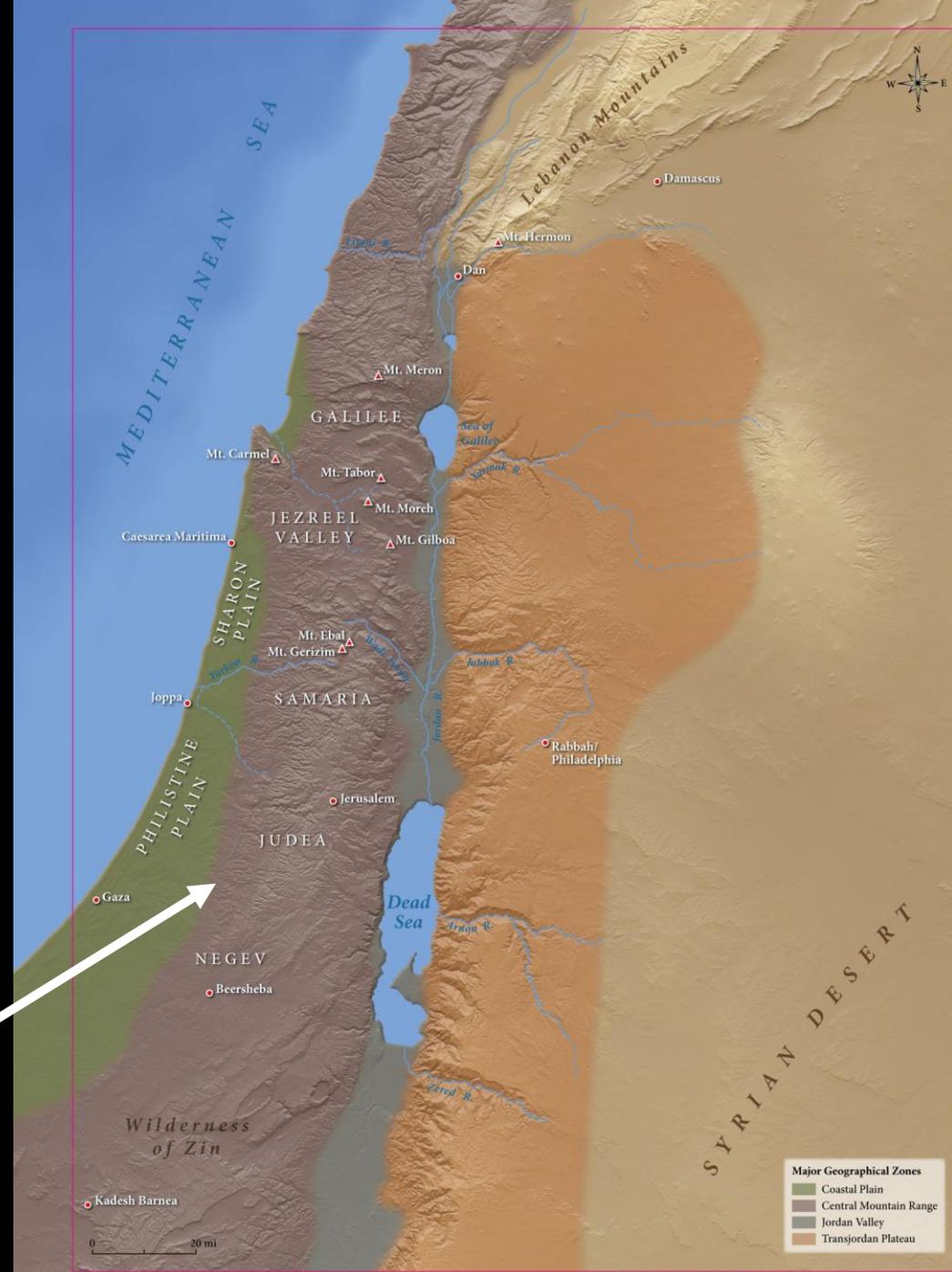


Geographical Context

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at **Sokoh in Judah**. They pitched camp at **Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah**. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the **Valley of Elah** and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. **The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.**

(1 Samuel 17:1-3 NIV)

Shephelah
or Foothills



Very Valuable and Strategic

- Agriculturally productive valleys
- Timber laden ridges
- Natural passageway from the coastal plain to the mountain interior

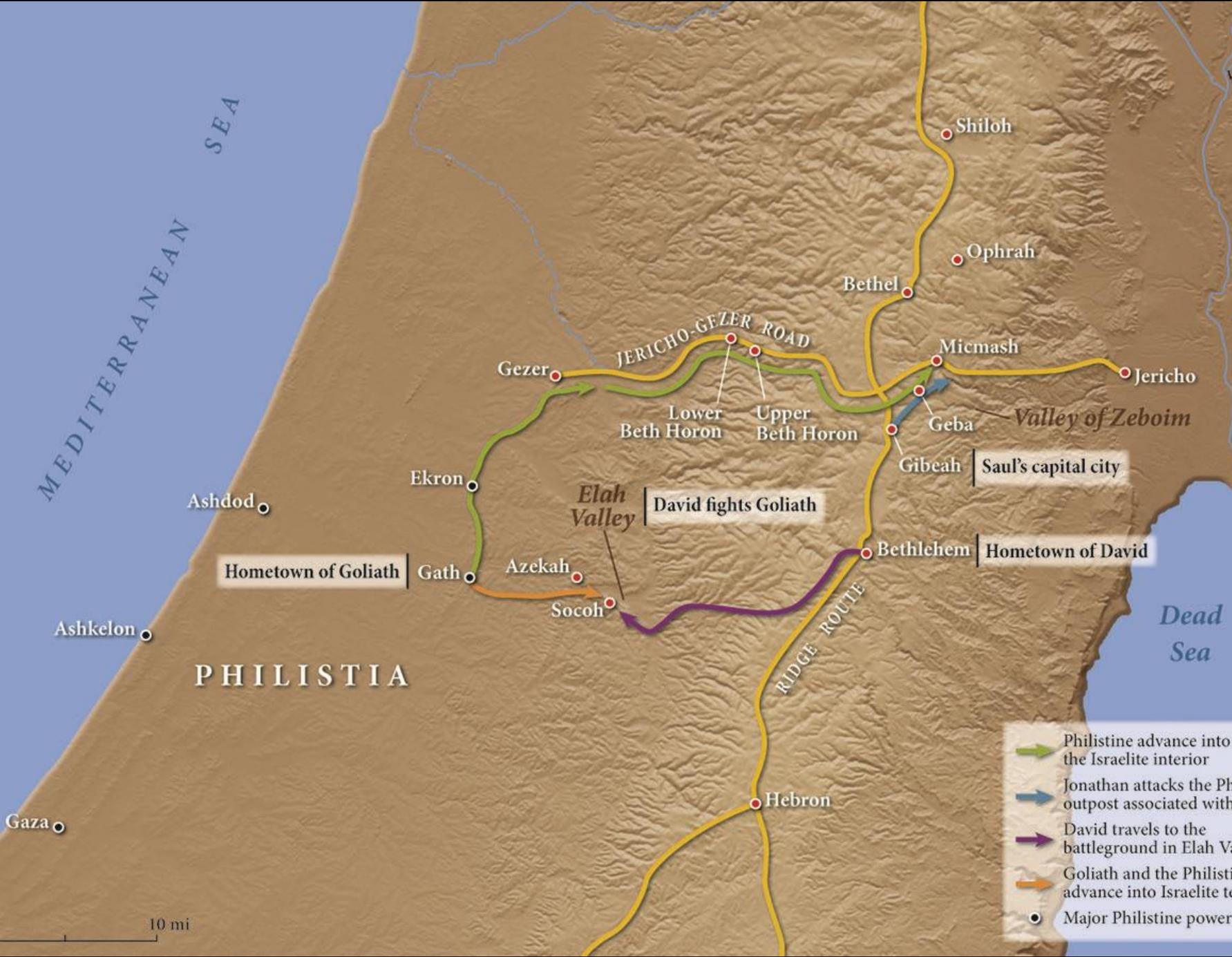


MEDITERRANEAN SEA



PHILISTIA

0 10 mi



- Philistine advance into the Israelite interior
- Jonathan attacks the Philistine outpost associated with Micmash
- David travels to the battleground in Elah Valley
- Goliath and the Philistines advance into Israelite territory
- Major Philistine power centers



Sokoh

Elah Valley

Azekah

Illustration: Story of David and Goliath

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Conclusion:

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What am I missing here?

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- 2) Cultural Context
- 3) Geographical Context

What am I Missing Here?

