

Bible Study

Catch Up

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Introduction to Scripture

Introduction to Scripture

The Basics

- Bible and Scripture are interchangeable terms
- Two basic divisions
 - Old Testament: main subject is Israel, the chosen people of God
 - New Testament: main subject is Jesus, the only begotten Son of God
- Each division contains “books” (hence Bible, from Greek *biblia*)
 - OT: 46 books
 - NT: 27 books

Introduction to Scripture

The Canon

- The 16th century Council of Trent “closed” the canon
- OT books (Jewish scripture) available in Greek were included (a slightly longer list than those available only in Hebrew)
- NT books were included if they passed three tests:
 1. Apostolic origin
 2. Orthodoxy
 3. Widespread use in the liturgy

Introduction to Scripture

Studying Scripture

- **Interpretation**

- What is the author's message?
 - Remember Scripture has both divine and human authorship
- Scripture's basic purpose is to reveal God, especially God's plan of human salvation
- Application follows interpretation

- **Navigation**

- Chapter and verse
 - Book (e.g., I Corinthians)
 - Chapter (e.g., I Corinthians 13)
 - Verse (e.g., I Corinthians 13:13)
 - Verse partitions (e.g., I Corinthians 13:13a)

The Old Testament

The Old Testament Canon

- **Pentateuch**

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

- **Historical Books**

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings

- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Tobit
- Judith
- Esther
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees

- **Writings**

- Job
- Psalms

- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Wisdom of Solomon
- Sirach

- **Prophets**

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Baruch
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea

- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

Why Christians Should Study the OT

- We can learn more about the NT from the OT

The Pentateuch

Introduction to the Pentateuch

- The first five books of the OT are known as the Torah, from Hebrew *tôrâ*, meaning “instruction”
- They are also known as the Pentateuch, from Greek *pentateuchos*, meaning a five-book work
- Traditionally, Moses (~1300 BC) wrote the Pentateuch
- Modern scholarship proposes that multiple primary sources dating from the 10th, 9th, and 6th centuries BC were edited to form the Pentateuch
- There are holes in this theory but no new consensus has formed

Genesis

Outline

I. Chapters 1-11: Primeval History

- Chapters 1-2: The Creation
- Chapter 3: The Fall
- Chapter 4: Cain and Abel
- Chapter 5: Genealogy of Adam
- Chapters 6-9: The flood
- Chapters 10-11: Other genealogies

II. Chapters 12-50: Patriarchal History

- Chapters 12-25: Abraham
- Chapters 25-26: Isaac
- Chapters 27-50: Jacob and Joseph

Genesis 1-11

Primeval History

- These chapters contain myths
 - They may not be historically accurate (they are prehistory)
 - But they do teach truths about God's plan of salvation

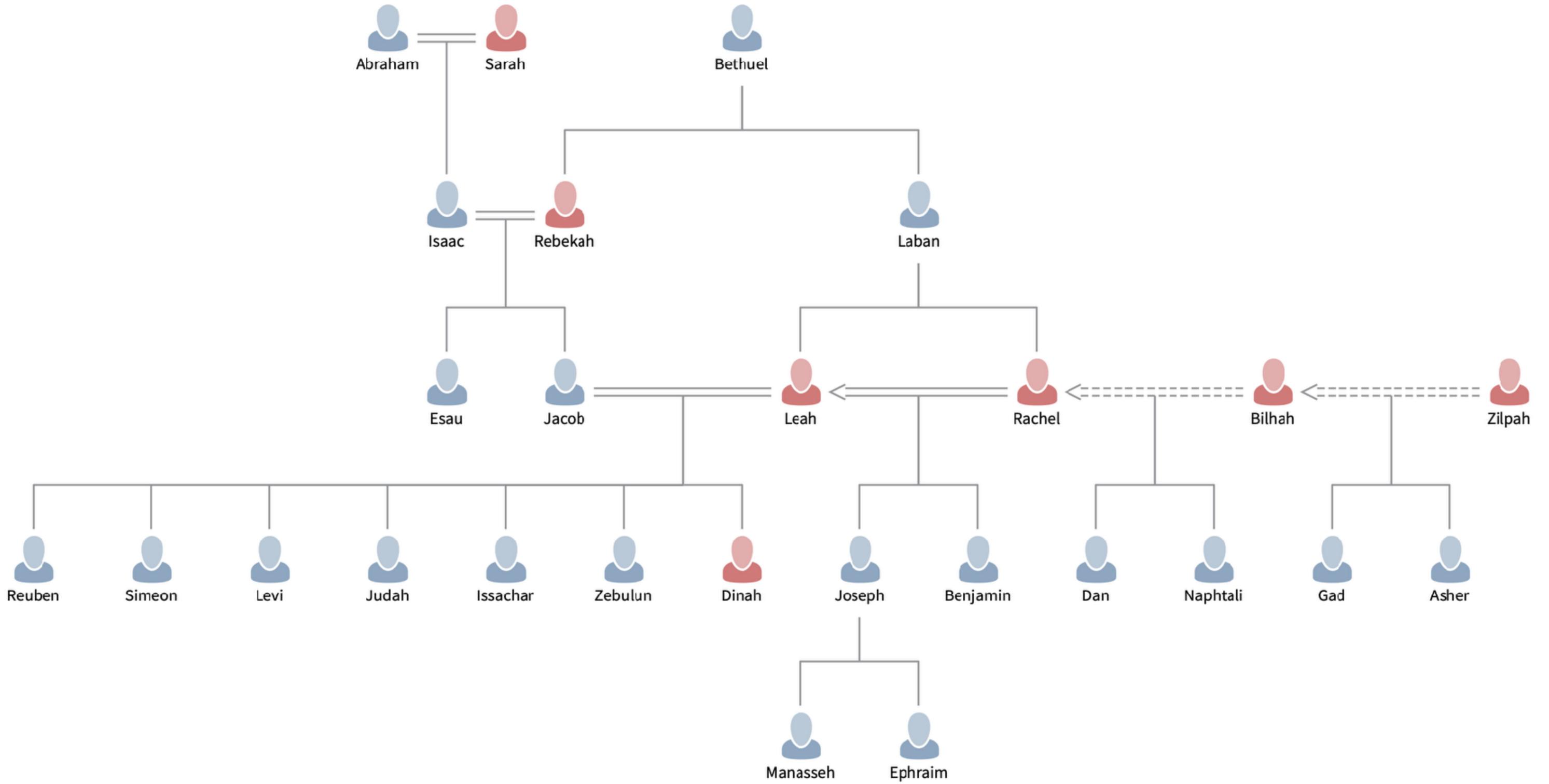
Genesis 12-50

Patriarchal History

- The historicity of the primeval history was not as important as its message
- But the historicity of the patriarchal history (Gen 12-50) **is** as important as its message
- The same God who created the universe (Gen 1-11) wants a relationship with humanity, so he began revealing himself to Abraham (Gen 12-50)
- God calls Abram to Canaan and promises he will be the father of a great nation; he changes his name to Abraham

The biblical world





Genesis 22:1-18

The sacrifice of Isaac

- One of the most famous stories in the entire Bible
- God forbids the human sacrifices common among the pagan religions. He prefers animal sacrifices.
- Mount Moriah is also known as Mount Zion (in Jerusalem), future location of the Temple where the Jews will sacrifice animals
- The story sets a biblical precedent for substitutionary atonement or vicarious redemption
- The last great test of Abraham's faith leads to the most generous blessing

Exodus

Exodus

- The main characters in Gen 12-50 were the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph
- Now the main character is Moses
- God reveals his name to Moses, a key development in the relationship between God and his people

Exodus 3

The revelation of the divine Name

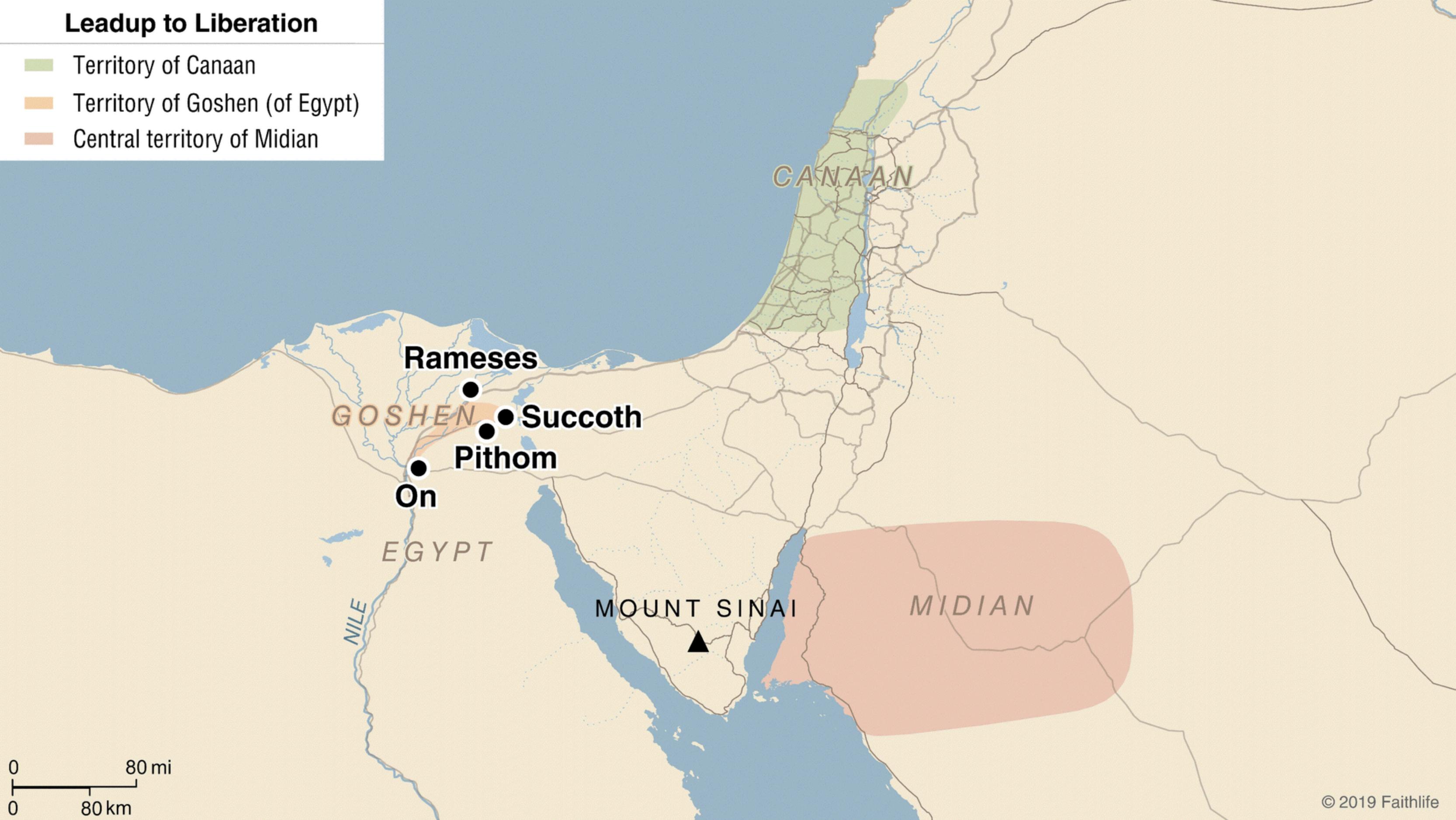
“Moses’ request for God’s name is important because the Israelites believed that the name reflected an individual’s essence. Unlike previous names, ‘Yahweh’ does not limit God’s nature to any particular characteristic: he is what he is.

“The name is regarded as sacred by Jews, who spell it using only the consonants YHWH (the Tetragrammaton) and substitute the name Adonai, “Lord,” rather than utter the actual name. Modern scholars have tried to approximate the original pronunciation with the spelling Yahweh (formerly it was pronounced Jehovah).”

The New Bible Commentary

Leadup to Liberation

- Territory of Canaan
- Territory of Goshen (of Egypt)
- Central territory of Midian



Exodus 20

The Ten Commandments

Commandment	Catechism of the Catholic Church	Citation	Westminster Larger Catechism (Protestant)	Citation
First	I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.	2-6	Thou shalt have no others gods before me.	3
Second	You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.	7	Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...	4-6
Third	Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.	8-11	Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain...	7
Fourth	Honor your father and your mother.	12	Remember the sabbath-day, to keep it holy...	8-11
Fifth	You shall not kill.	13	Honor thy father and thy mother...	12
Sixth	You shall not commit adultery.	14	Thou shalt not kill.	13
Seventh	You shall not steal.	15	Thou shalt not commit adultery.	14
Eighth	You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	16	Thou shalt not kill.	15
Ninth	You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.	17b	Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.	16
Tenth	You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.	17a, c	Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife...	17

Exodus 25-27

Instructions for the tabernacle

- The tabernacle (“tent”) is the original place of Jewish worship
- The First Temple was built by Solomon in 959 BC and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, in 587 BC
- The Second Temple was built by 516 BC, considerably enlarged by Herod beginning in 20 BC, and destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD

The Tabernacle

Circa 1450 BC

Pillar of smoke

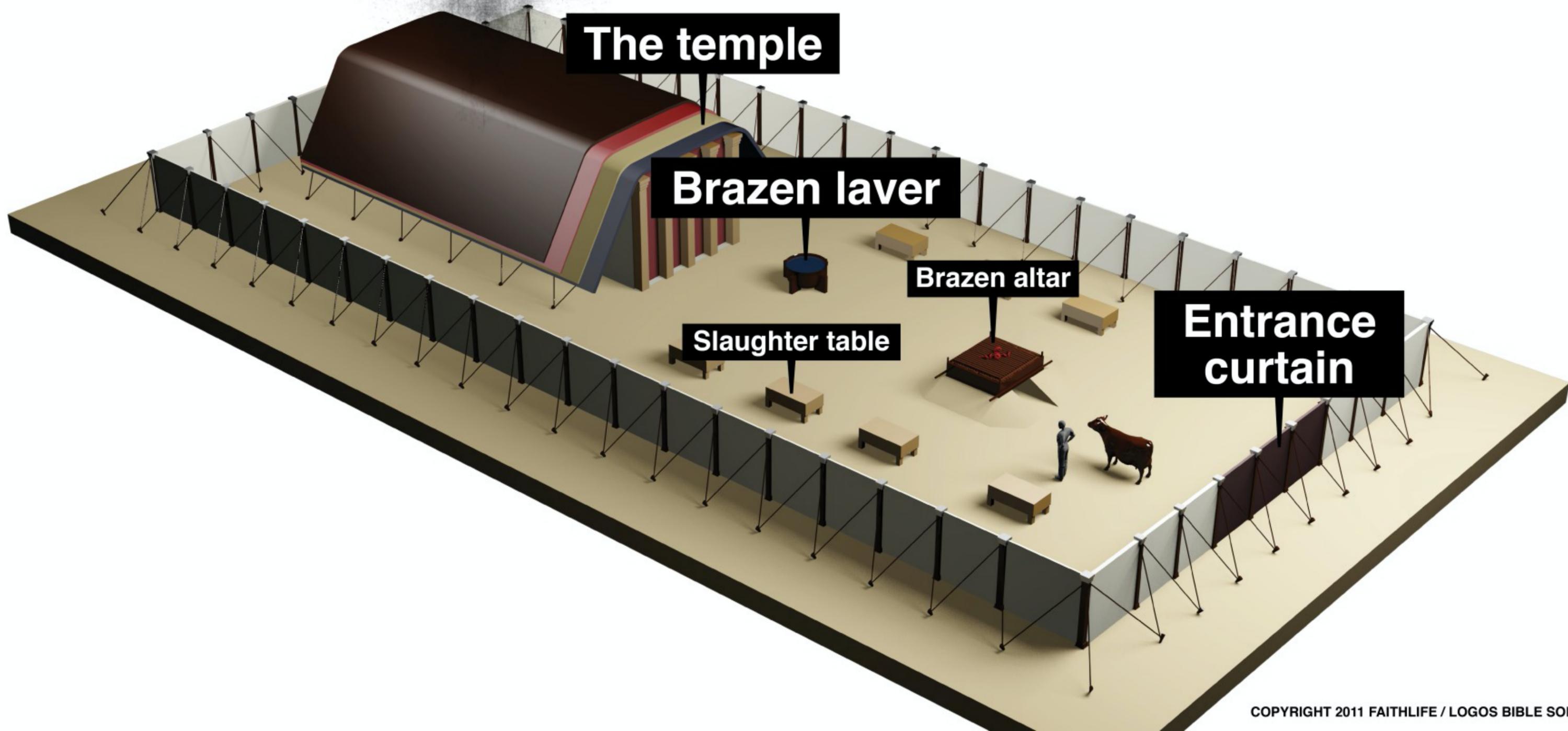
The temple

Brazen laver

Brazen altar

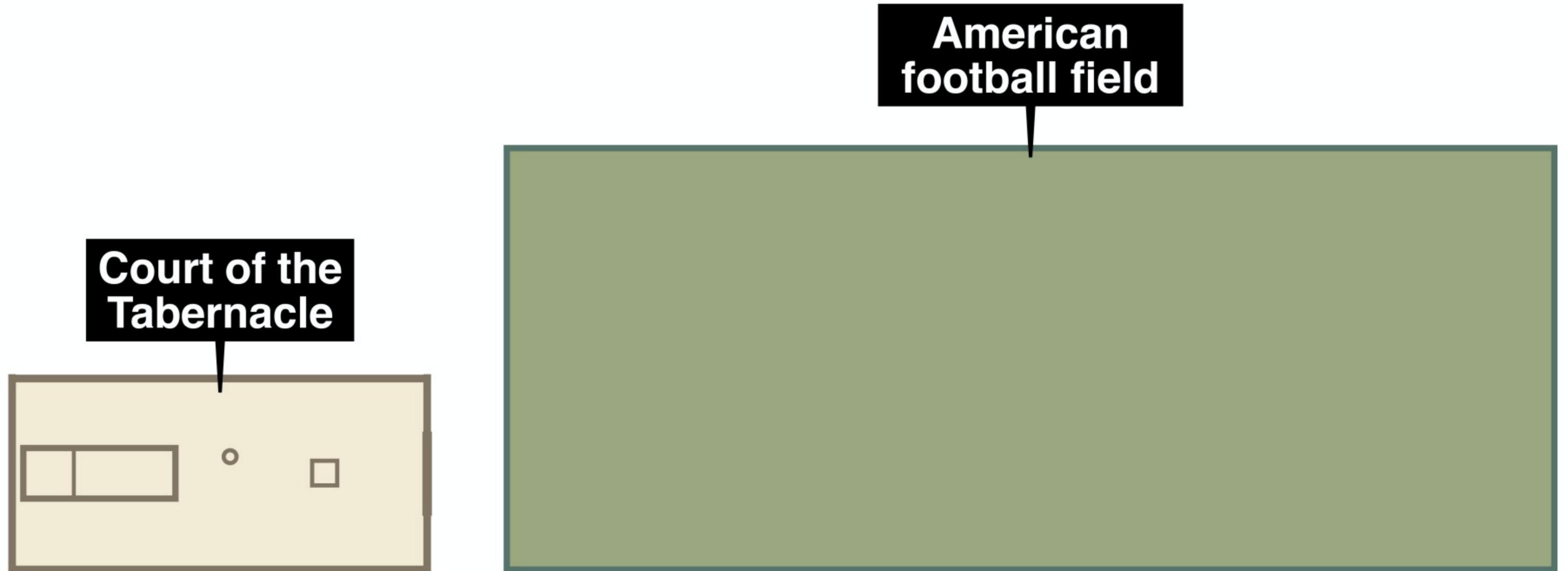
Slaughter table

Entrance curtain



The Tabernacle

Approximate size comparison



Leviticus

Main ideas

- The book is mostly divine speech containing laws to be obeyed in the Promised Land - types of offerings, requirements for priests, and various festivals
- Obedience to these laws is Israel's response to God's presence among them

The sacrificial act

1	Layperson (offerer)	Opening of the tent of meeting	Bring animal to sanctuary
2			Lay hands on animal
3			Slaughter animal (including cutting up animal and cleaning the insides)
4	Priest	Altar	Toss the blood
5			Burn the animal (or part of it)
6			Dispose of remains

Numbers

Outline

- I. **Chapters 1-10:** Preparation to go to the Promised Land
- II. **Chapters 11-25:** Journeying to the Promised Land, but failure to enter
 - There is a 38-year gap between chapters 19 and 20!
- III. **Chapters 26-36:** New preparation to go to the Promised Land

From Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea

-  Probable route of the Israelites from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea
-  Possible alternate route of the Israelites from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea



0 40 mi
0 40 km

Numbers 1

Census

Tribe	Count	Relative Size	Remarks
Reuben	46,500	7.7%	Israel's (Jacob's) firstborn
Simeon	59,300	9.8%	
Gad	45,650	7.6%	
Judah	74,600	12.4%	Largest tribe
Issachar	54,400	9%	
Zebulun	57,400	9.5%	
Ephraim	40,500	6.7%	Half-tribe named after Joseph's second son
Manasseh	32,200	5.3%	Half-tribe named after Joseph's first son
Benjamin	35,400	5.9%	Smallest tribe
Dan	62,700	10.4%	
Asher	41,500	6.9%	
Naphtali	53,400	8.8%	
Total	603,550	100%	

Deuteronomy

Main ideas

- **God is one** (cf. 6:4) - Israel may not worship other gods in addition to, or alongside, the worship of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- **Election** - God's choice of Israel as his "covenant partner"
- **God may be known** (cf. 1:3) - God revealed himself to Israel on Mt. Sinai (aka Mt. Horeb in Deuteronomy)
- **God is spiritual** (cf. 5:8-10) - Israel may not make images of him
- **God controls both nature and history** (cf. 7:13) - God is not identified with one aspect of nature like the Egyptian and Canaanite gods, but he controls all of it!
- **A righteous life and a good** (read: prosperous) **life can coexist** (cf. 6:24-25)

Joshua

Main ideas

Who: Joshua is the main character. He is Moses' successor. His name is a variation of Jesus and means "God's salvation." Joshua is one of the few OT figures without major character flaws or sins.

What: Israel's entry into Canaan until Joshua's death

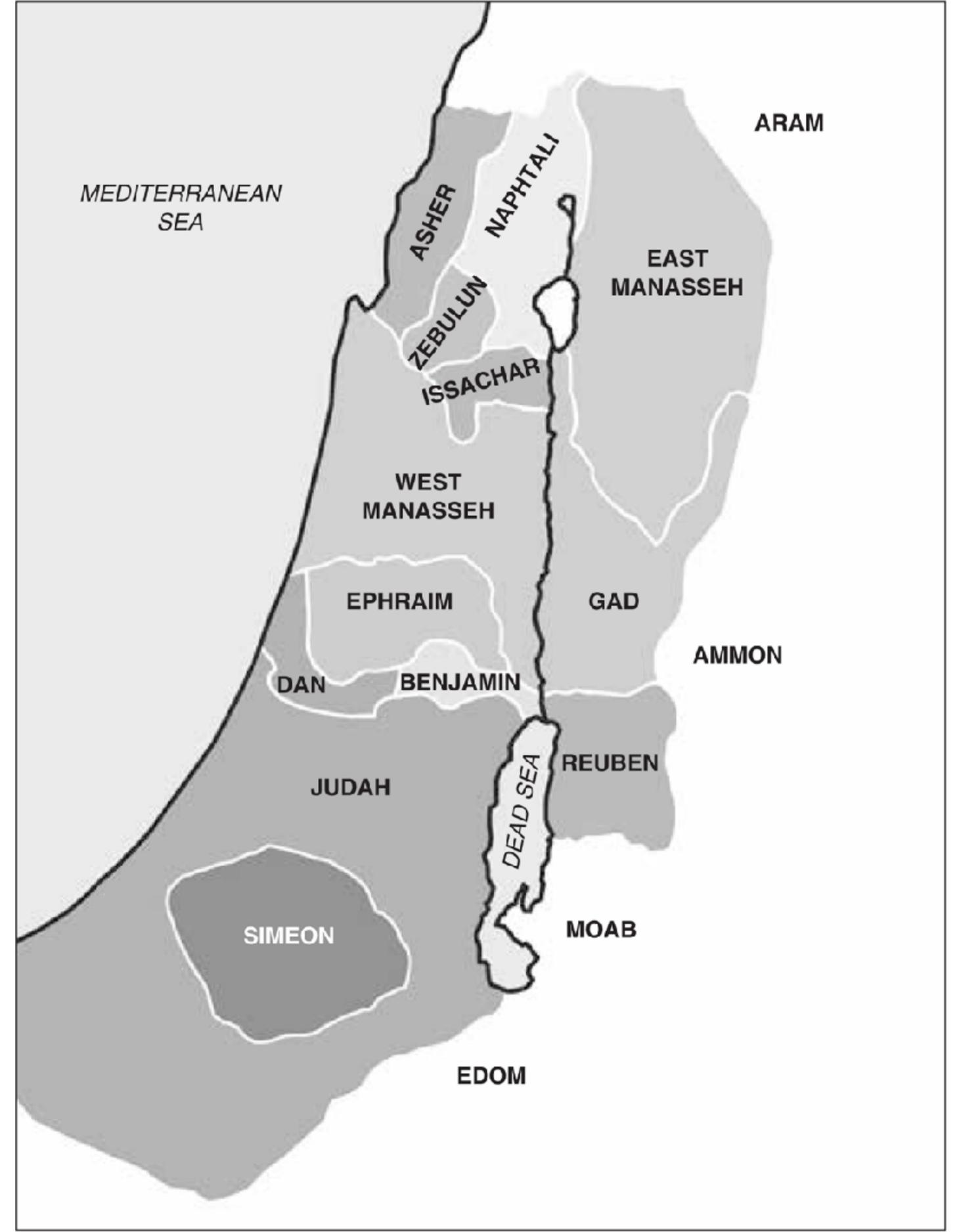
Where: see maps

When: about 1406–1380 BC

World history context: Late Bronze Age (1550–1200 BC)

Why: The book demonstrates that Israel's God is the one true God because his people Israel conquers the pagan nations of Canaan

The division of the land among the tribes



Judges

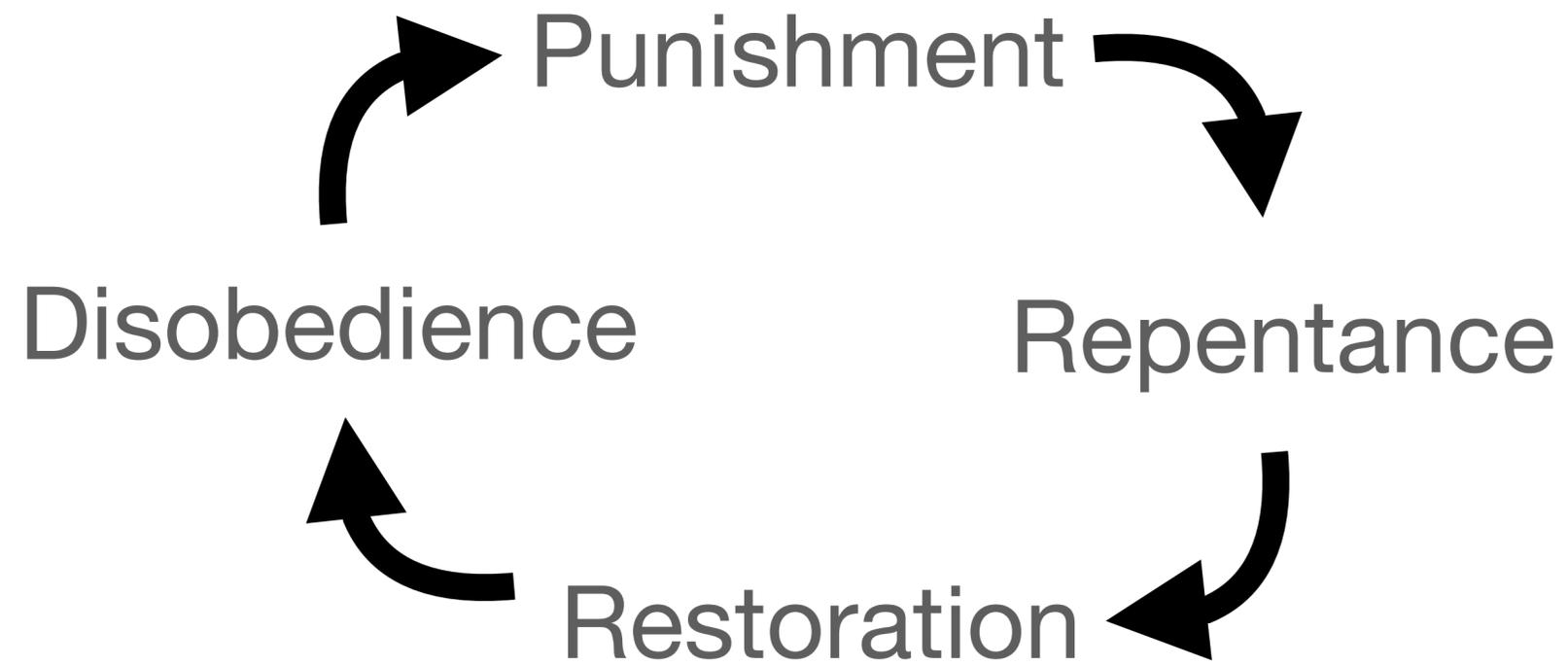
Israel in the time of the judges

- There was little effective unity among the tribes after Joshua's death
- The tribes were sometimes separated by settlements of unconquered Canaanites
- Some Israelites were attracted to the Canaanite harvest gods and increasingly mixed the worship of them with their worship of the Lord
- This attraction weakened their loyalty to God and to each another and resulted in a spiritual and moral decline that was so serious that it threatened to destroy Israel from within
- "Judges" arose among the people to lead them in times of national crisis

The list of judges

	Chapter and Verse	Name	Tribe
1	3:7-11	Othniel	Judah
2	3:12-30	Ehud	Benjamin
3	3:31	Shamgar	Dan?
4	4:1–5:31	Deborah	Ephraim
5	6:1–8:32	Gideon	Manasseh
6	10:1-2	Tola	Isaachar/Ephraim
7	10:3-5	Jair	Gad
8	10:6–12:7	Jephthah	Gad
9	12:8-10	Ibzan	Judah
10	12:11-12	Elon	Zebulun
11	12:13-15	Abdon	Ephraim
12	13:1–16:31	Samson	Dan

The repeating cycle in Judges



Ruth

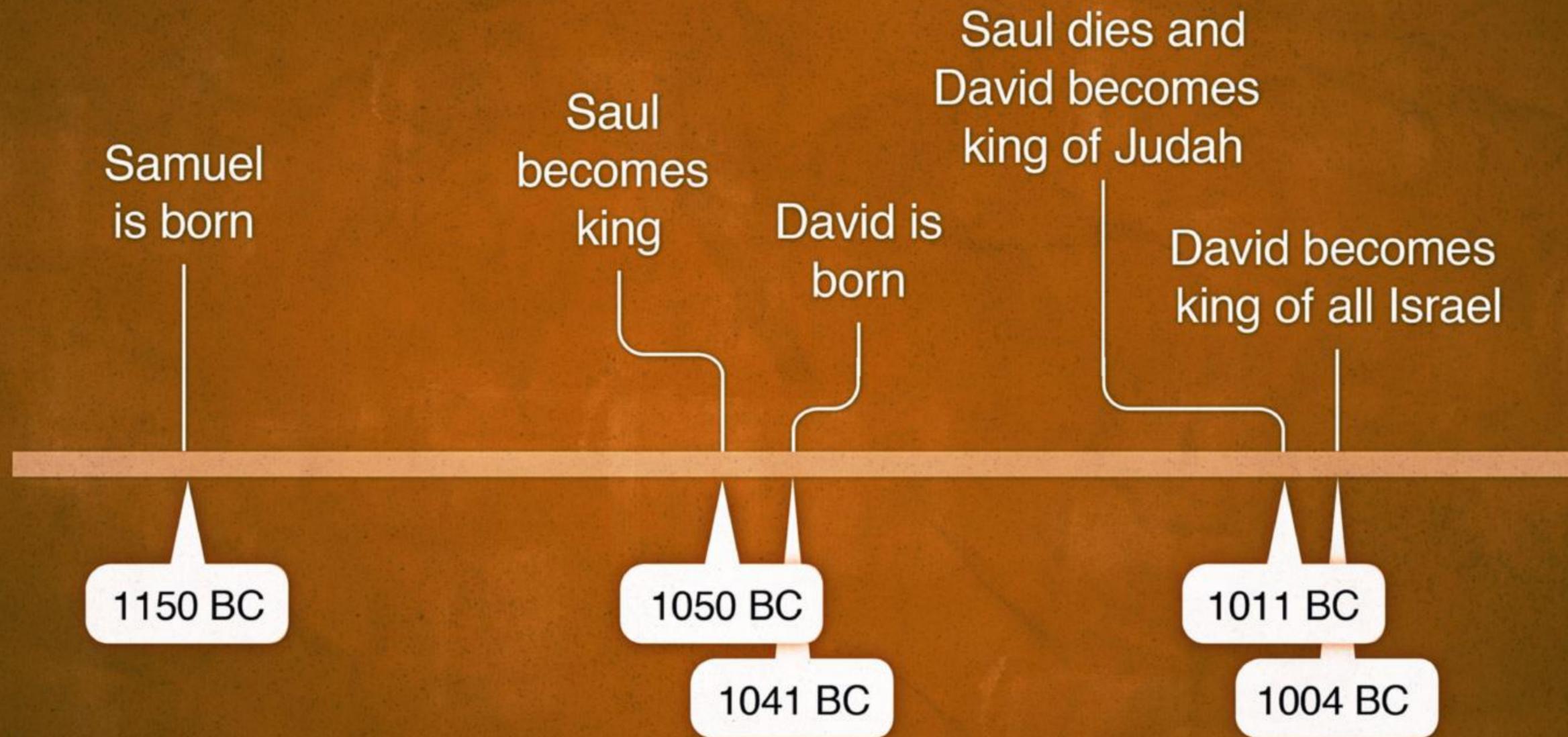
Synopsis

- The Book of Ruth is not simply a cute little story about an unimportant family
- The book begins with Elimelech's line seemingly ending with the death of his sons
- Its surprise ending is birth of the grandfather of King David!
- Thus, the line will never end because it leads to Jesus who lives forever

1 Samuel

TIMELINE

1 SAMUEL



*All dates are approximate

2 Samuel

Outline

- **Chapters 1-4:** The House of David v. the House of Saul
- **Chapters 5-10:** The Triumphs of David
- **Chapters 11-20:** The Tragedies of David
- **Chapters 21-24:** A Retrospect on David's Reign

1 Kings

Outline

- Chapter 1: David names his son Solomon as his successor
- Chapter 2: Solomon consolidates power
- Chapter 3: Solomon prays for wisdom
- Chapter 4: Solomon redistricts Israel
- Chapter 5: Solomon makes trade deals with the nearby kingdom of Tyre
- Chapter 6: Description of the Temple
- Chapter 7: Description of Solomon's palace

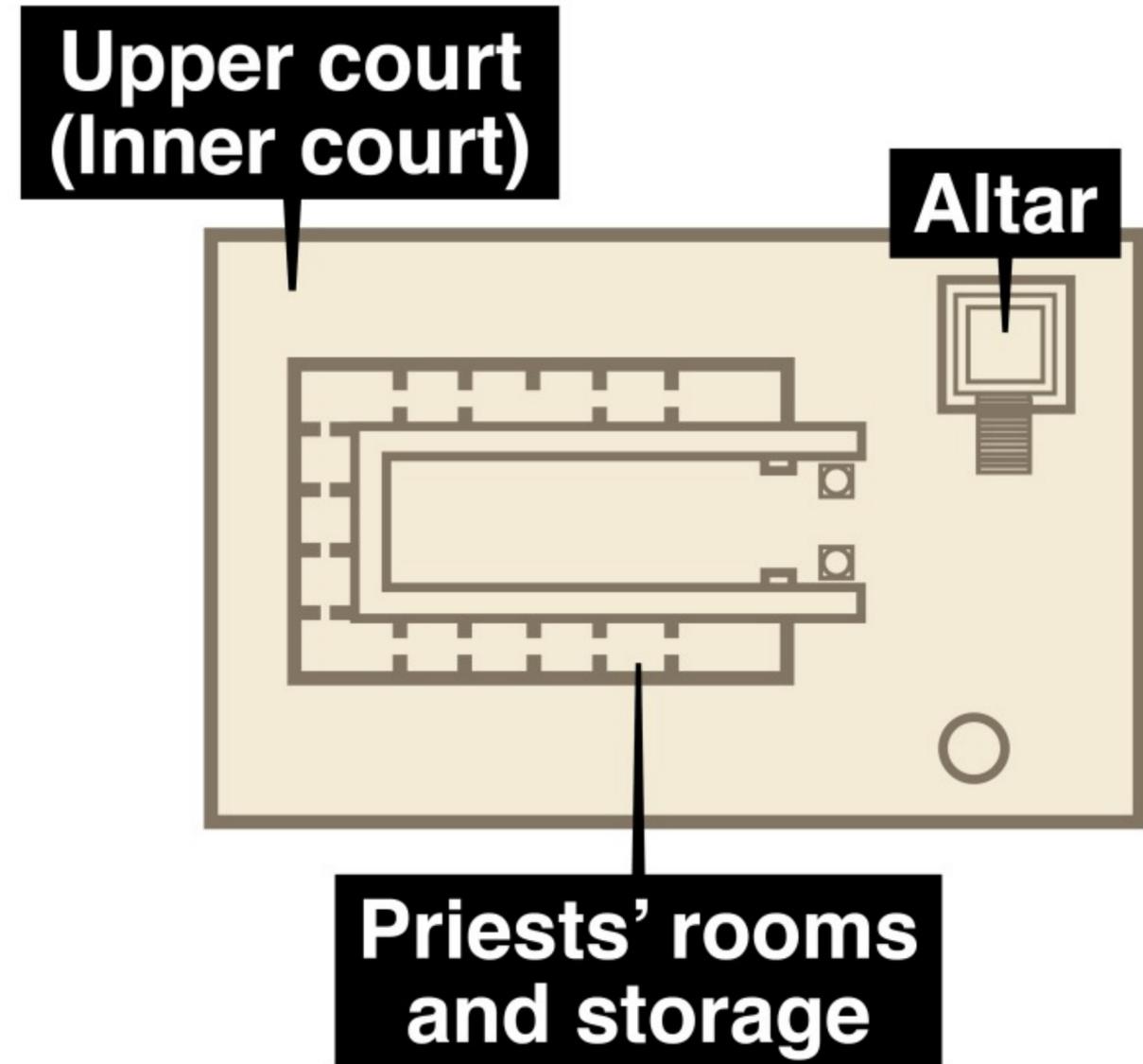
Outline

- Chapter 8: Solomon dedicates the Temple
- Chapter 9: More negotiations with Tyre
- Chapter 10: The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon

Solomon's Temple

Approximate size comparison

Temple



American
football field

