

JOSHUA

A Friend in Need

Joshua 10:1-14



VS.



Dr. Albert Mohler:

JOSHUA

“We have to recognize that...trends looked great when our neighbors gained social capital by joining our churches. They gained social status and trust within the community by joining the First Baptist Church or another evangelical congregation. That is no longer the case. Now, given secularization and the sexual and moral revolutions utterly reshaping our culture, our neighbors may well lose social capital by joining our churches. The age of cultural or nominal Christianity is fast coming to a close. Until recently, most people wanted to claim some kind of Christian identity or affiliation, even if they rarely attended church. That is increasingly no longer the case...The [church] gained millions of members it could not find and did not know due to the phenomenon of cultural Christianity. We knew it wasn't real and most knew it couldn't last. Well, it wasn't and it didn't.”

4 Costs of Identification

JOSHUA

1. Opposition

2. Attention

3. Pleasing Others

4. Perseverance



A Large Coalition (9:1-2)

JOSHUA

- Geographically:

“in the hill country and in the lowland and on all the coast of the Great Sea towards Lebanon”

- Six Canaanite people groups:

1. Hittites

2. Amorites

3. Canaanites

4. Perizzites

5. ~~Philistines~~

6. Jebusites

Joshua 9:15

JOSHUA

15 Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live; and the leaders of the congregation swore an oath to them.

Based on the Text:

JOSHUA

**What are the
Terms of this
Covenant?**

Joshua 10:1-2

JOSHUA

1 Now it came about when Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai, and had utterly destroyed it (just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king), and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were within their land, **2** that he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty.

Jerusalem (Jebus)

JOSHUA

- First mention of the city by this name in Scripture.
 - **Genesis 14:18 – “Salem”**
- David does not take the city and make it the capital of Israel until 2 Samuel 5.

What's in a Name?

JOSHUA

Adoni-zedek

אֲדֹנִי־צֶדֶק

“lord of righteousness”

Does this name sound similar to
someone else we know from the
Hebrew Scriptures?

“he feared greatly”

JOSHUA

- Remember that much of the fear of the Israelites had dissipated after their setback at Ai.
- However, it seems that the covenant made with the Gibeonites has renewed the fear of the Canaanite people.
- And we find out that Gibeon and its men are held in high regard in the land –
“Gibeon was a great city...and all its men were mighty.”

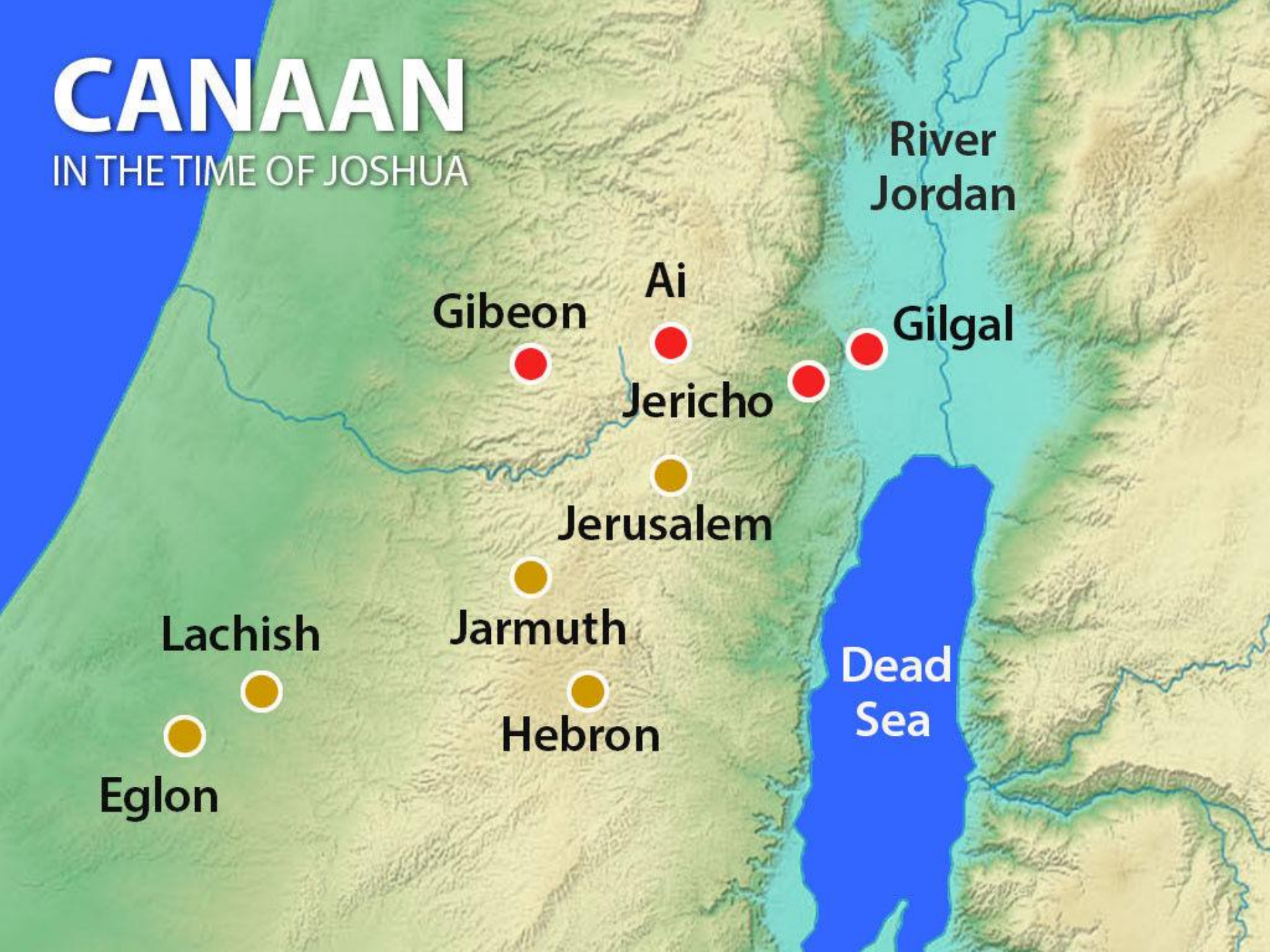
Joshua 10:3-5

JOSHUA

3 Therefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of Hebron and to Piram king of Jarmuth and to Japhia king of Lachish and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, **4** “Come up to me and help me, and let us attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the sons of Israel.” **5** So the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it.

CANAAN

IN THE TIME OF JOSHUA



River
Jordan

Gilgal

Ai

Gibeon

Jericho

Jerusalem

Jarmuth

Hebron

Lachish

Eglon

Dead
Sea

Parallel Battle Accounts

JOSHUA

- Section 1:

Joshua 10:6-11

- Section 2:

Joshua 10:12-15

Joshua 10:6-7

JOSHUA

6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not abandon your servants; come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites that live in the hill country have assembled against us.” 7 So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him and all the valiant warriors.

Gibeon is Besieged

JOSHUA

- Imperatives in Gibeon's appeal:

“Do not abandon **your servants;**
come up to us quickly and save us
and help us, for all the kings of the
Amorites that live in the hill country
have assembled against us.”

“save” is an emphatic imperative,
which communicates “you *must* save
us!”

Joshua 10:8-9

JOSHUA

8 The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands; not one of them shall stand before you.”

9 So Joshua came upon them suddenly by marching all night from Gilgal.

Once Again:

JOSHUA

“Do not fear them, for I
have given them into
your hands; not one of
them shall stand before
you.”

Joshua Marched, But...

JOSHUA

10 And the Lord confounded them before Israel, and He slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and pursued them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

Every verb in this verse is singular.

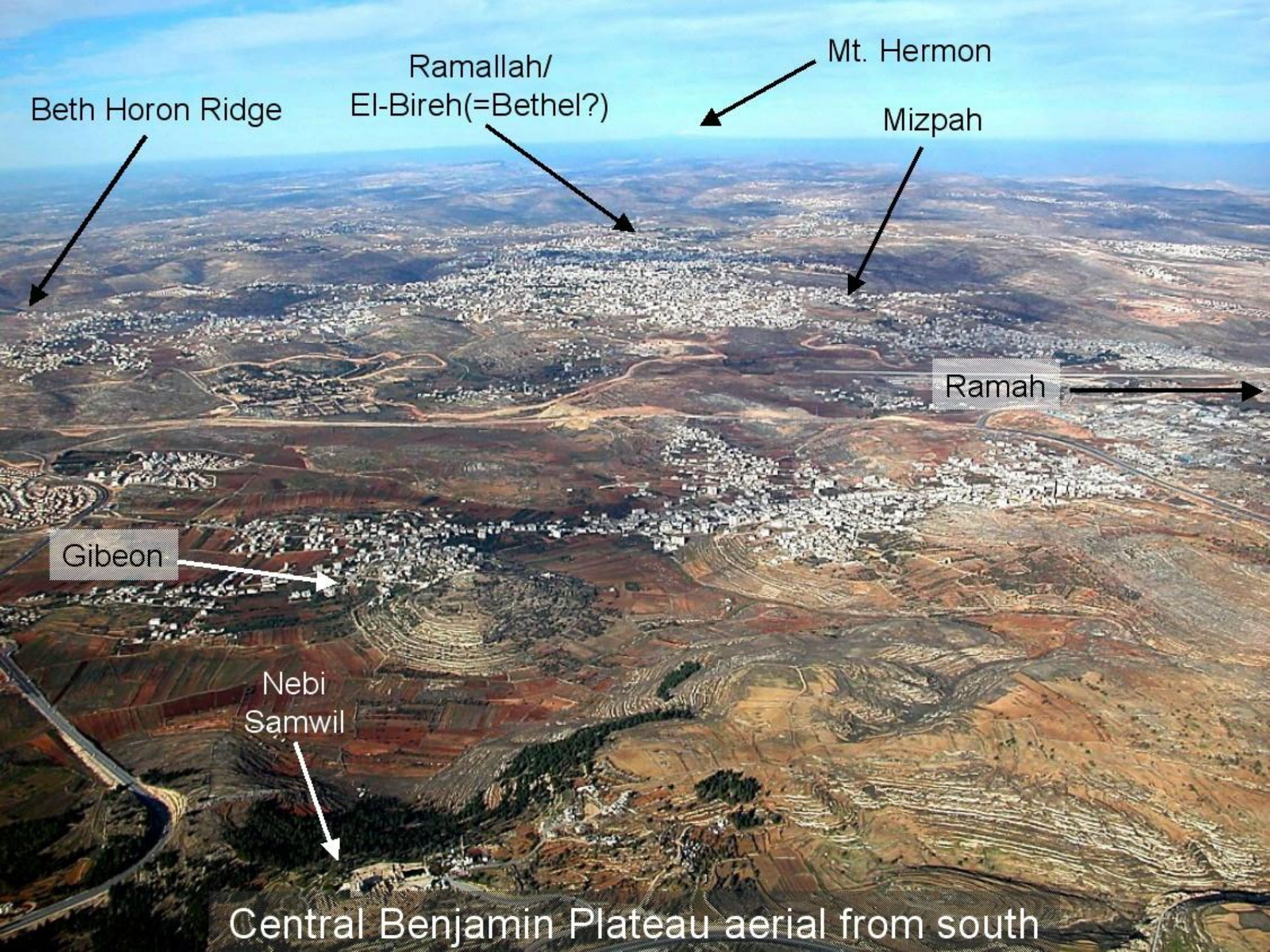
A Little Geography

JOSHUA

“He slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and pursued them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah.”

THE SHEPHELAH





Beth Horon Ridge

Ramallah/
El-Bireh(=Bethel?)

Mt. Hermon

Mizpah

Ramah

Gibeon

Nebi
Samwil

Central Benjamin Plateau aerial from south



Lower Beth Horon

Upper Beth Horon

Jordan

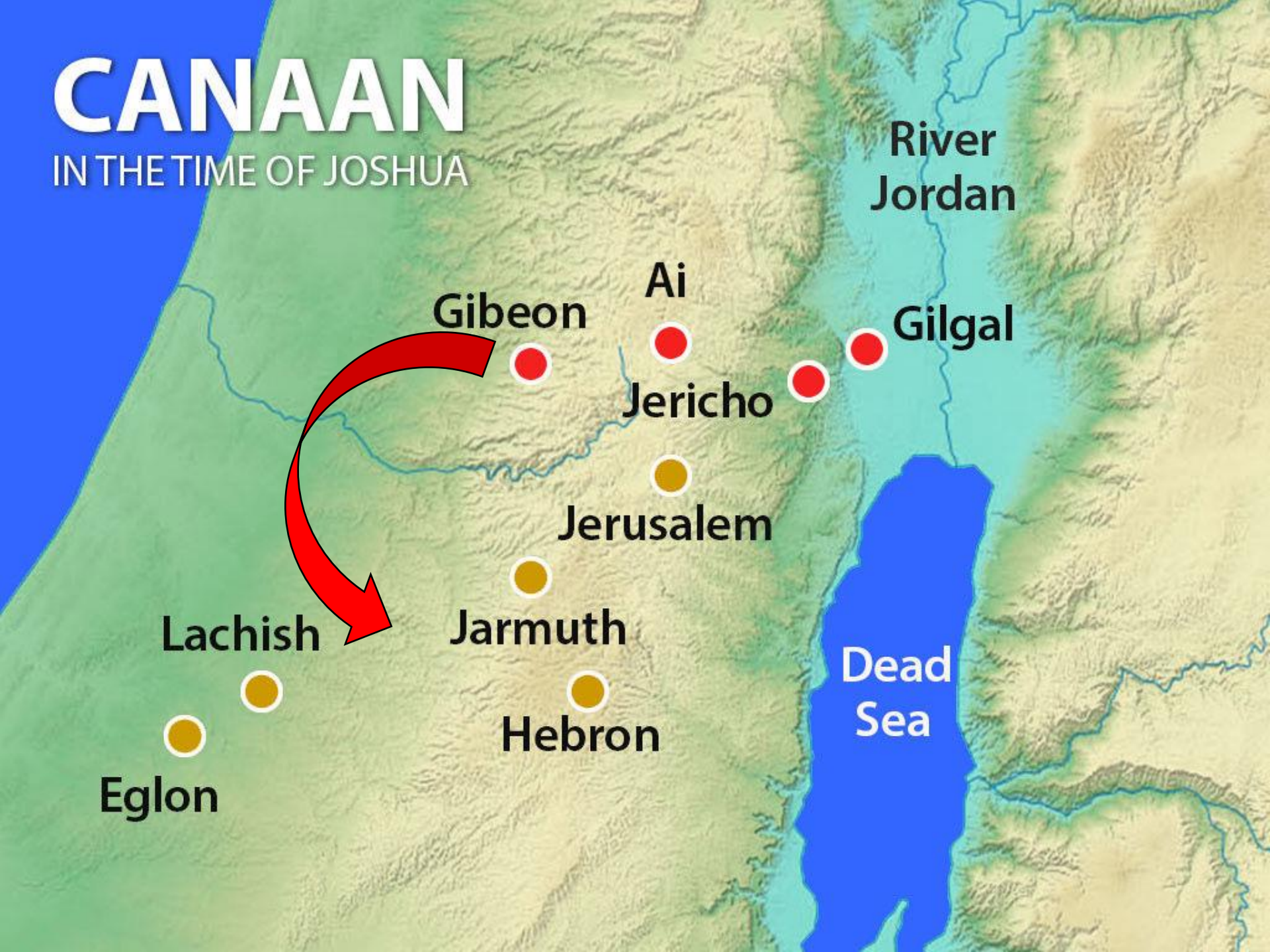
Gibeah of Saul

Aijalon
Valley

Beth Horon ridge aerial from west

CANAAN

IN THE TIME OF JOSHUA



River
Jordan

Gilgal

Ai

Gibeon

Jericho

Jerusalem

Jarmuth

Hebron

Lachish

Eglon

Dead
Sea

Joshua 10:11

JOSHUA

11 As they fled from before Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth-horon, the Lord threw large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

Victory is Yahweh's

JOSHUA

- We Read:
 - “the Lord threw large stones from heaven on them”
 - “there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword”

The Perfect Storm

JOSHUA

“The crossing of the Jordan at high flood and the cyclonic hail storm at Aijalon are of special theological significance, for Baal was the great Canaanite storm god who was supposed to control the rain, the hail, the snow and the floods of Palestine. These episodes proved that Baal was as powerless before Yahweh in Palestine as he had been in the episode of the plagues in Egypt.”

The Gibeonites Love:

JOSHUA

Psalm 46

Joshua 10:12

JOSHUA

12 Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, “O sun, stand still at Gibeon, And O moon in the valley of Aijalon.”

Parallel Account

JOSHUA

- “Then” = “At that time”
- So, the “hailstones” of v. 11 and the miracle of v. 13 are occurring simultaneously.

And By The Way...

JOSHUA

The Canaanites recognized the sun and the moon as gods, so Yahweh's control over them would have been another event that delegitimized the pagan gods of the land.

A Possible Parallel

JOSHUA

- 1 Kings 17:1 –

Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”

Joshua 10:13

JOSHUA

13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

The Book of Jashar?

JOSHUA

- Referenced again in 2 Samuel 1:18.
- Most likely a historical book known to Hebrew readers, but we do not possess any manuscripts of it.

So, What Happened?

JOSHUA

1. The Earth stopped rotating
(Supernatural)
2. The light of the sun lingered
(Natural)
3. The light of the sun was blocked
(Eclipse)
4. Astrological Sign (Good Omen)
5. Figurative Language (Allegory)

14 There was no day like that before it or after it, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

The Sun Stood Still!

JOSHUA

But It Is v. 14 That
Amazes Joshua More
Than Anything Else In
This Overwhelmingly
Supernatural Chapter.

Psalm 8:3-4

JOSHUA

3 When I consider Your heavens,
the work of Your fingers, The
moon and the stars, which You
have ordained; **4** What is man
that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You
care for him?

Didn't God Hear Moses?

JOSHUA

- **Numbers 14:19-20** – “Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.” So the Lord said, “I have pardoned them according to your word”
- **Deuteronomy 9:19** – “For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the Lord was wrathful against you in order to destroy you, but the Lord listened to me that time also.”
- **Deuteronomy 10:10** – “I, moreover, stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights like the first time, and the Lord listened to me that time also”

A Little Grammar

JOSHUA

The wording in v. 14 is especially strong: “the Lord *listened to the voice* of a man”

This exact wording is only found three times in the OT with “the Lord” as the subject.

The Other Two:

JOSHUA

1. Numbers 21:3a – “The Lord *heard the voice* of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites”
2. 1 Kings 17:22 – “The Lord *heard the voice* of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived.”



And in this Case...

The Lord
honored
Joshua's
request exactly.

Now We Also Know...

JOSHUA

**God is Not Beholden
to Us or Our
Requests, However
Noble We Believe
Them to Be.**

Isaiah 46:9-11

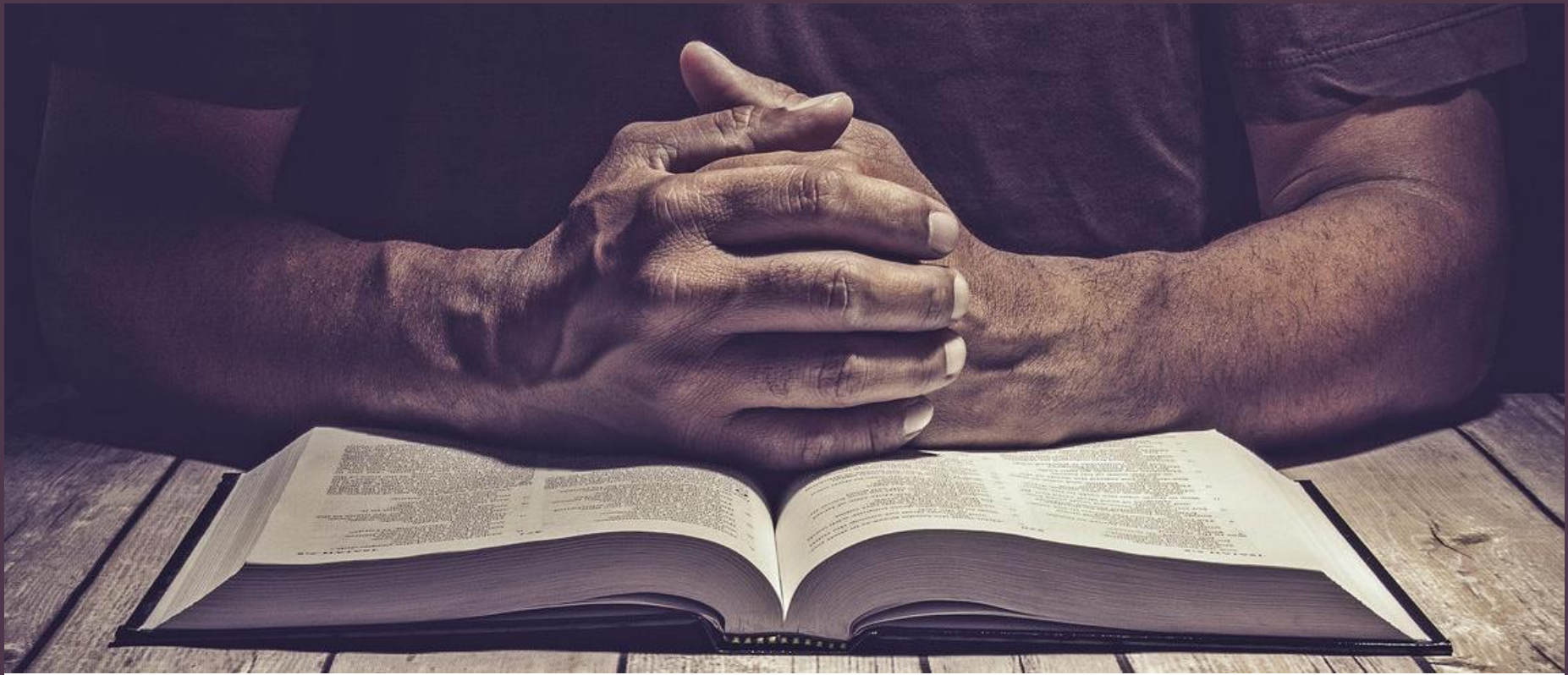
JOSHUA

9 “Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other; I am
God, and there is no one like Me, 10
Declaring the end from the beginning, And
from ancient times things which have not
been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be
established, And I will accomplish all My
good pleasure’; 11 Calling a bird of prey from
the east, The man of My purpose from a far
country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will
bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I
will do it.

Psalm 5:1-3

JOSHUA

1 Give ear to my words, O Lord,
Consider my groaning. **2** Heed the
sound of my cry for help, my King
and my God, For to You I pray. **3** In
the morning, O Lord, You will hear
my voice; In the morning I will
order my prayer to You and eagerly
watch.



“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

James 5:16b

The image depicts a desert scene with a clear blue sky and a range of low, reddish-brown mountains in the background. The foreground is a vast, flat, orange-brown desert floor. Overlaid on this landscape is the text "NOW A NEW COVENANT" in a white, hand-drawn, slightly irregular font. The text is arranged in three lines: "NOW" on the top line, "A NEW" on the middle line, and "COVENANT" on the bottom line. The overall composition is simple and evocative, suggesting a sense of new beginnings or a significant event in a desolate, open environment.

NOW
A NEW
COVENANT

1 Timothy 2:5-6a, 8

JOSHUA

5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave Himself as a ransom for all... **8** Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

Romans 8:26-27

JOSHUA

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; **27** and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

When You Belong to God

JOSHUA

- You Hear His Voice
- He Hears Your Prayers
- He Will “never desert you, nor...forsake you”
- He “causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose”
- You Are Part Of His Church!

JOSHUA