

Sunday Night Message

July 22, 2018

Judges 5 – *The Song of Deborah*

Series – *Judges*

Text – Judges 5

Introduction

Judges five records the song of praise sang by Deborah and Barak after the victory that God recorded in chapter four wrought against Jabin the King of Canaan, and Sisera the captain of Jabin's army. You might say that chapter five is the poetic form of what we examined in prose in chapter four. This chapter reads much like any of the songs in the psaltery. It also reminds us of Moses song of praise in Exodus 15 for God's deliverance over the Egyptians. This chapter is important for a couple of reasons:

1. It provides additional historical data that was not given to us in chapter four. In other words, it helps to paint a more vivid picture of Israel's victory against the Canaanites.
2. It teaches the importance of praising God and even the recording our praise to God. Deborah and Barak took the time to write this song of appreciation for what God had done for Israel. We need to take time to appreciate the Lord, and we need to remember our appreciation by recording what God has done for us. When times become tough in our lives, we can look back on what we have recorded and remember and be encouraged by the goodness of God.
3. Sometimes, the truth put to song can be remembered more easily than the truth recorded in prose. That is why we often sing Scripture songs.

I An Introduction to the Song of Praise (vs. 1 – 5)

Notice that an emphasis is placed here at the very beginning of this song to recognize the people who chose to side with God, and were willing to give themselves to the battle.

Notice the references to Mt. Sinai and Mt. Seir. Sinai is a clear reference to the place where God met with Moses and gave the Law. Seir is in Edom. It is within the route that Israel travelled on their way from Sinai to Kadeshbarnea and entrance into the Promised Land. Seir belonged to the descendents of Esau, and God refused to give Israel any of their land. (Deuteronomy 22) These two locations – Sinai and Seir – are referenced together in Deuteronomy 33:2:

"And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them." (Deuteronomy 33:2)

II The Inhospitable Condition of Israel (vs. 6 – 9)

The inhabitants of Israel were in a bad way. Israel was an unsafe place because the people had “[*chosen*] *new gods*.” God raised up Deborah and Barak to deliver the people from the oppression.

Note – the inhabitants of Israel had to get to the place where they recognized their sin and the consequences of their sinful condition, and then they could call upon God for help. People have to come to themselves before they can see clearly to get the help that they need. (See Luke 15:11 – 32 – the Prodigal Son had to come to himself.)

III An Invitation to Praise (vs. 10 – 12)

The song is encouraging both the rich (those that ride on the white asses) and the poor (the places of drawing water) to praise.

IV A Report of Individual Tribes (vs. 13 – 18)

Naphtali, Zebulun, Issachar, Benjamin, Ephraim, and west Manasseh responded and volunteered to help the Lord’s people.

However, Reuben, Manasseh East (Gilead), Dan, and Asher refused to help. Reuben apparently pondered going forth to the battle but in the end decided not to go. (See Deuteronomy 20:1 – 9) Notice also v. 23 – the people of Meroz were cursed because of their lack of help.

VI An Inundation with Water from God (vs. 19 – 23)

The Battle took place in the Valley of Megiddo. The River Kishon apparently overflowed its banks and flooded out the army of Sisera.

VII The Initiative of Jael (vs. 24 – 27)

Jael, though not an Israelite and also not necessarily a worshipper of God made the right decision to fight for God. God praises her here.

VIII The Imaginations of the Enemy (vs. 28 – 31)

Sisera’s family imagines that the delay of Sisera’s return was due to the fact that they had too much spoil to carry.

Conclusion

Three things we can take away from this beautiful son:

1. When God calls you into His service as He did here with Israel, He guarantees the success of the mission.

2. God's people need to choose to willingly give themselves to the cause of Christ.

Jesus said if we are not with him, we are against Him. (Luke 11:23) Notice in this song, the people who participated were praised and the people who did not participate were pitied. The people of Meroz were actually punished for their lack of participation. Note – the exact location of Meroz is unknown, but represents a group of people who chose to side with Sisera rather than God.

3. God's people need to recognize after the battle that all of the glory belongs to the Lord.

4. Our reward comes only from being:

willing to go

"Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." (Ephesians 6:5-8)

"Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass," (Exodus 35:5)

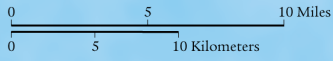
"And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever." (1 Chronicles 28:9 KJV)

"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." (2 Corinthians 8:12 KJV)

being obedient in the battle, and

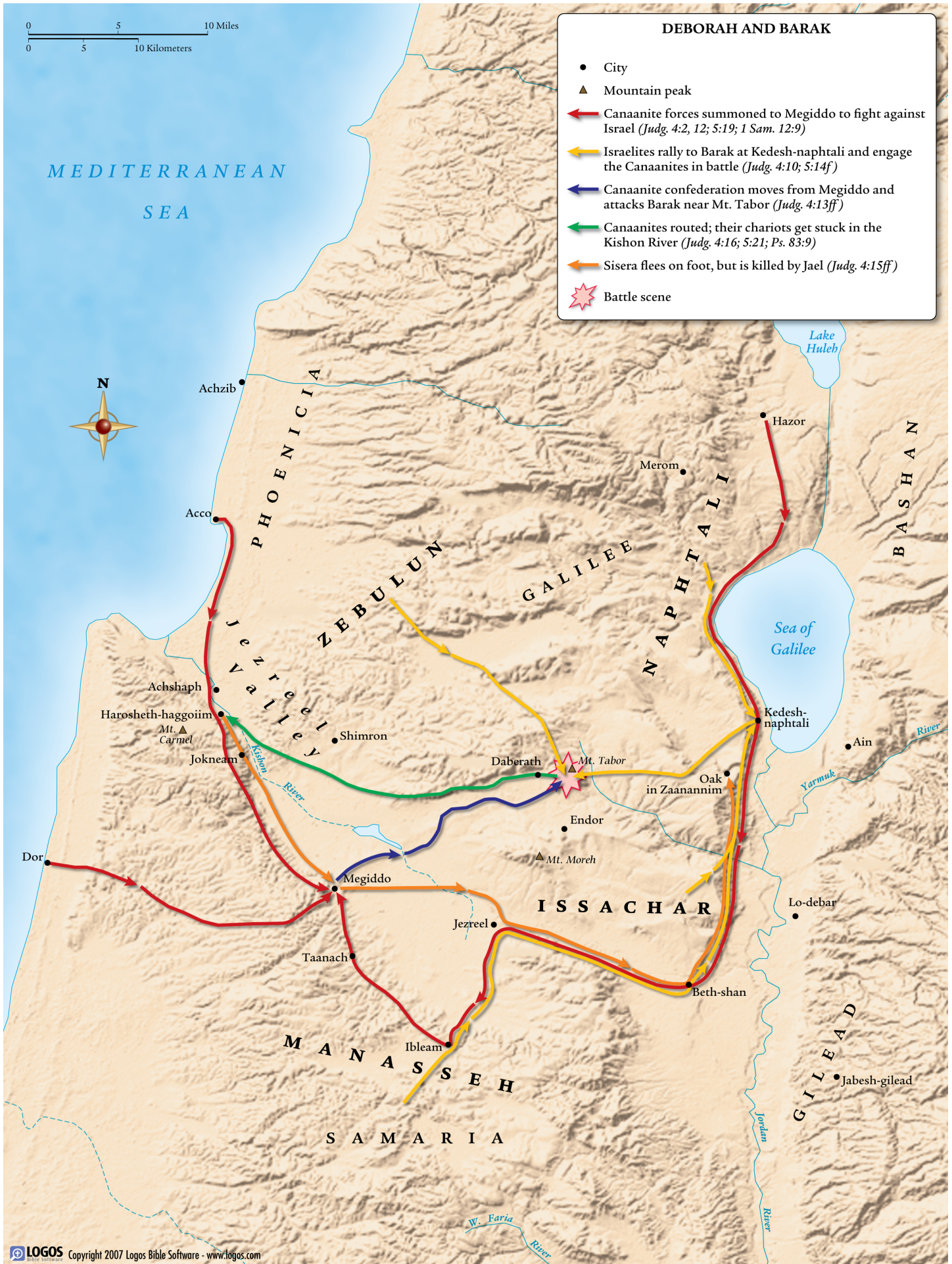
remaining faithful until the end.

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

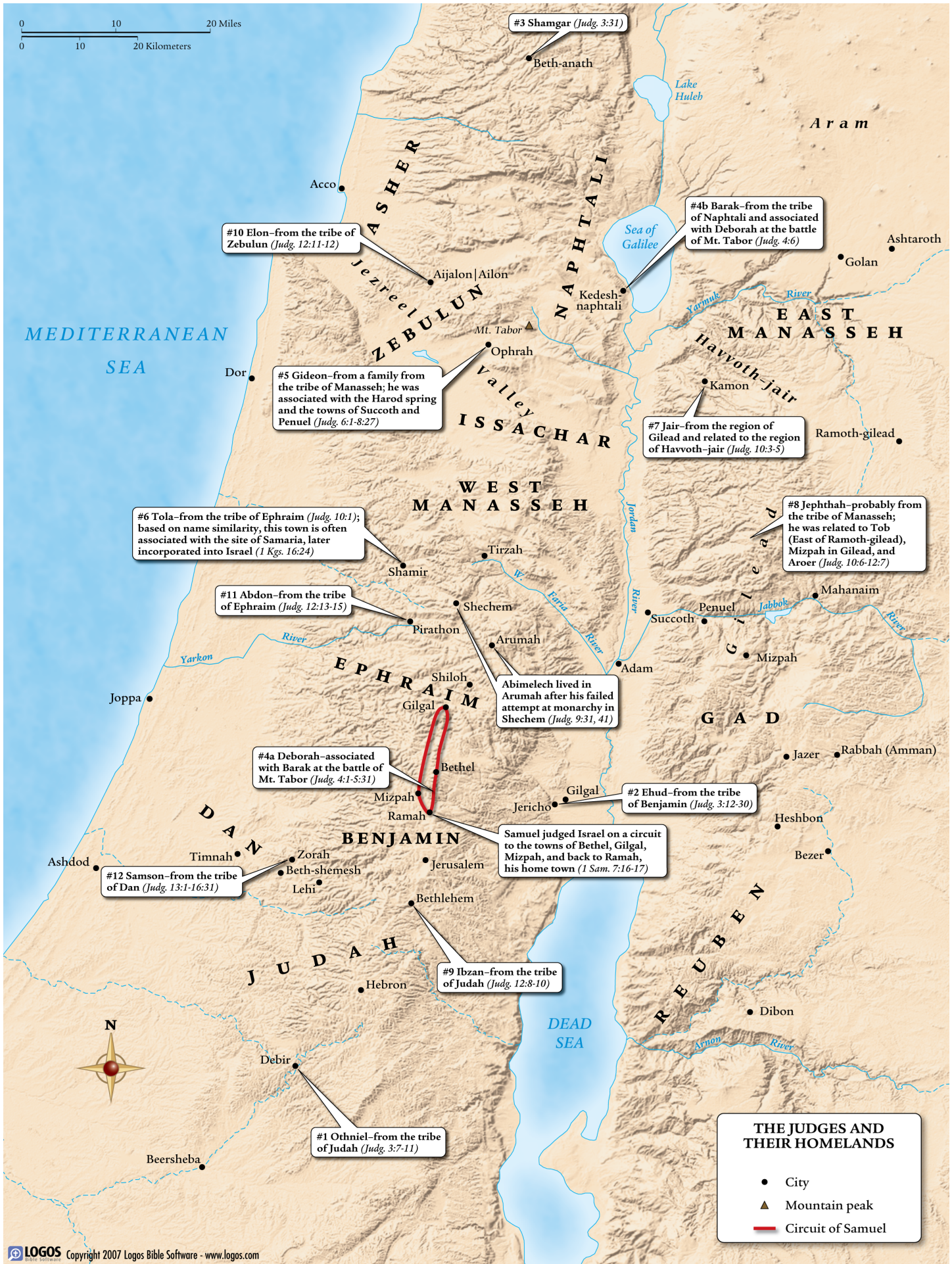


DEBORAH AND BARAK

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Red arrow: Canaanite forces summoned to Megiddo to fight against Israel (*Judg. 4:2, 12; 5:19; 1 Sam. 12:9*)
- ← Yellow arrow: Israelites rally to Barak at Kadesh-naphtali and engage the Canaanites in battle (*Judg. 4:10; 5:14f*)
- ← Blue arrow: Canaanite confederation moves from Megiddo and attacks Barak near Mt. Tabor (*Judg. 4:13ff*)
- ← Green arrow: Canaanites routed; their chariots get stuck in the Kishon River (*Judg. 4:16; 5:21; Ps. 83:9*)
- ← Orange arrow: Sisera flees on foot, but is killed by Jael (*Judg. 4:15ff*)
- ★ Battle scene



0 10 20 Miles
0 10 20 Kilometers



#3 Shamgar (Judg. 3:31)
Beth-anath

#10 Elon—from the tribe of Zebulun (Judg. 12:11-12)
Aijalon|Ailon

#4b Barak—from the tribe of Naphtali and associated with Deborah at the battle of Mt. Tabor (Judg. 4:6)
Kedesh-naphtali

#5 Gideon—from a family from the tribe of Manasseh; he was associated with the Harod spring and the towns of Succoth and Penuel (Judg. 6:1-8:27)
Ophrah

#7 Jair—from the region of Gilead and related to the region of Havvoth-jair (Judg. 10:3-5)
Kamon

#6 Tola—from the tribe of Ephraim (Judg. 10:1); based on name similarity, this town is often associated with the site of Samaria, later incorporated into Israel (1 Kgs. 16:24)
Shamir

#8 Jephthah—probably from the tribe of Manasseh; he was related to Tob (East of Ramoth-gilead), Mizpah in Gilead, and Aroer (Judg. 10:6-12:7)
Mahanaim

#11 Abdon—from the tribe of Ephraim (Judg. 12:13-15)
Pirathon

Abimelech lived in Arumah after his failed attempt at monarchy in Shechem (Judg. 9:31, 41)
Arumah

#4a Deborah—associated with Barak at the battle of Mt. Tabor (Judg. 4:1-5:31)
Bethel

#2 Ehud—from the tribe of Benjamin (Judg. 3:12-30)
Jericho

Samuel judged Israel on a circuit to the towns of Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah, and back to Ramah, his home town (1 Sam. 7:16-17)
Bethel, Gilgal, Mizpah, Ramah

#12 Samson—from the tribe of Dan (Judg. 13:1-16:31)
Timnah

#9 Ibzan—from the tribe of Judah (Judg. 12:8-10)
Bethlehem

#1 Othniel—from the tribe of Judah (Judg. 3:7-11)
Debir

THE JUDGES AND THEIR HOMELANDS

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Circuit of Samuel