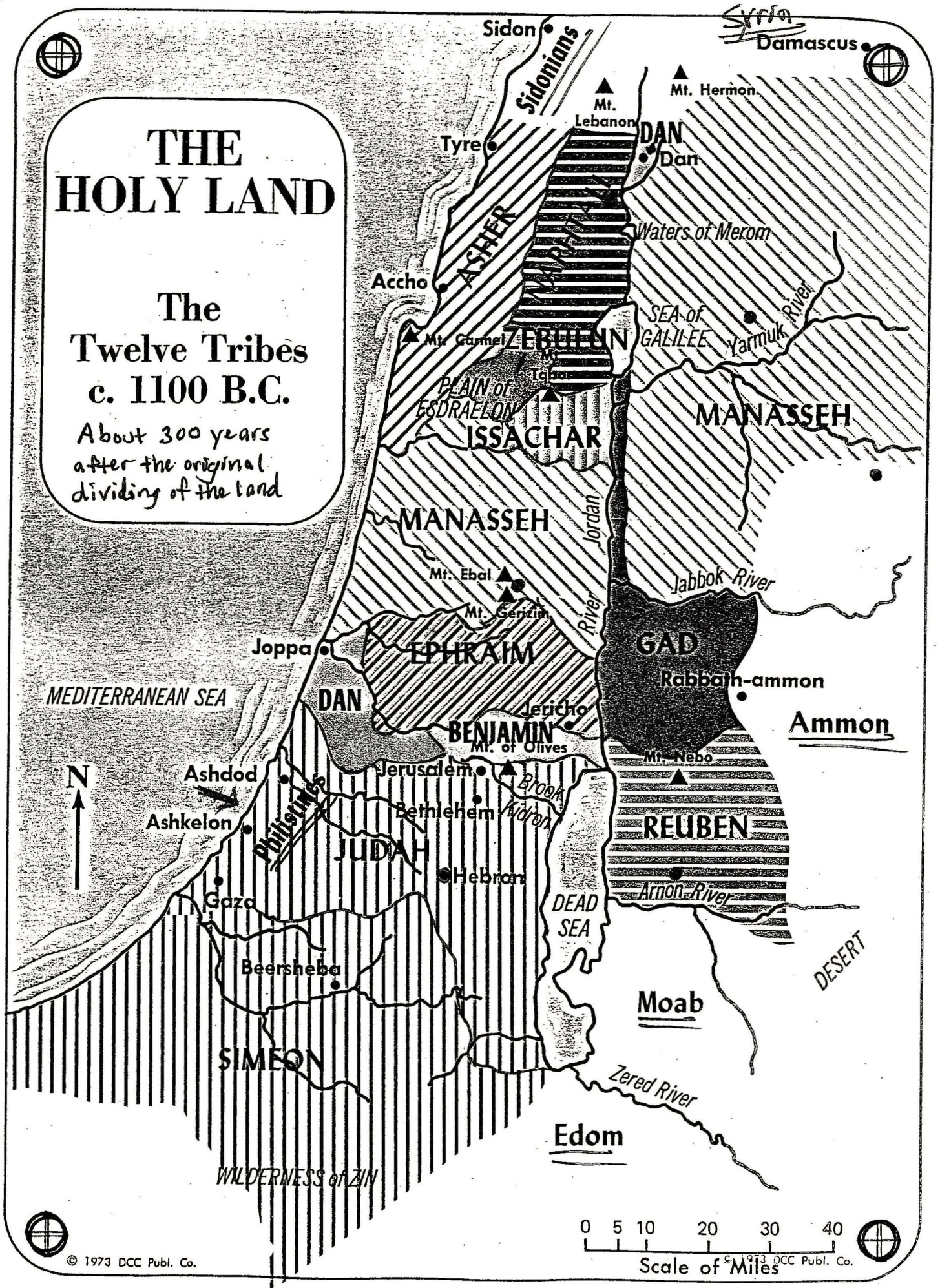


# THE HOLY LAND

## The Twelve Tribes c. 1100 B.C.

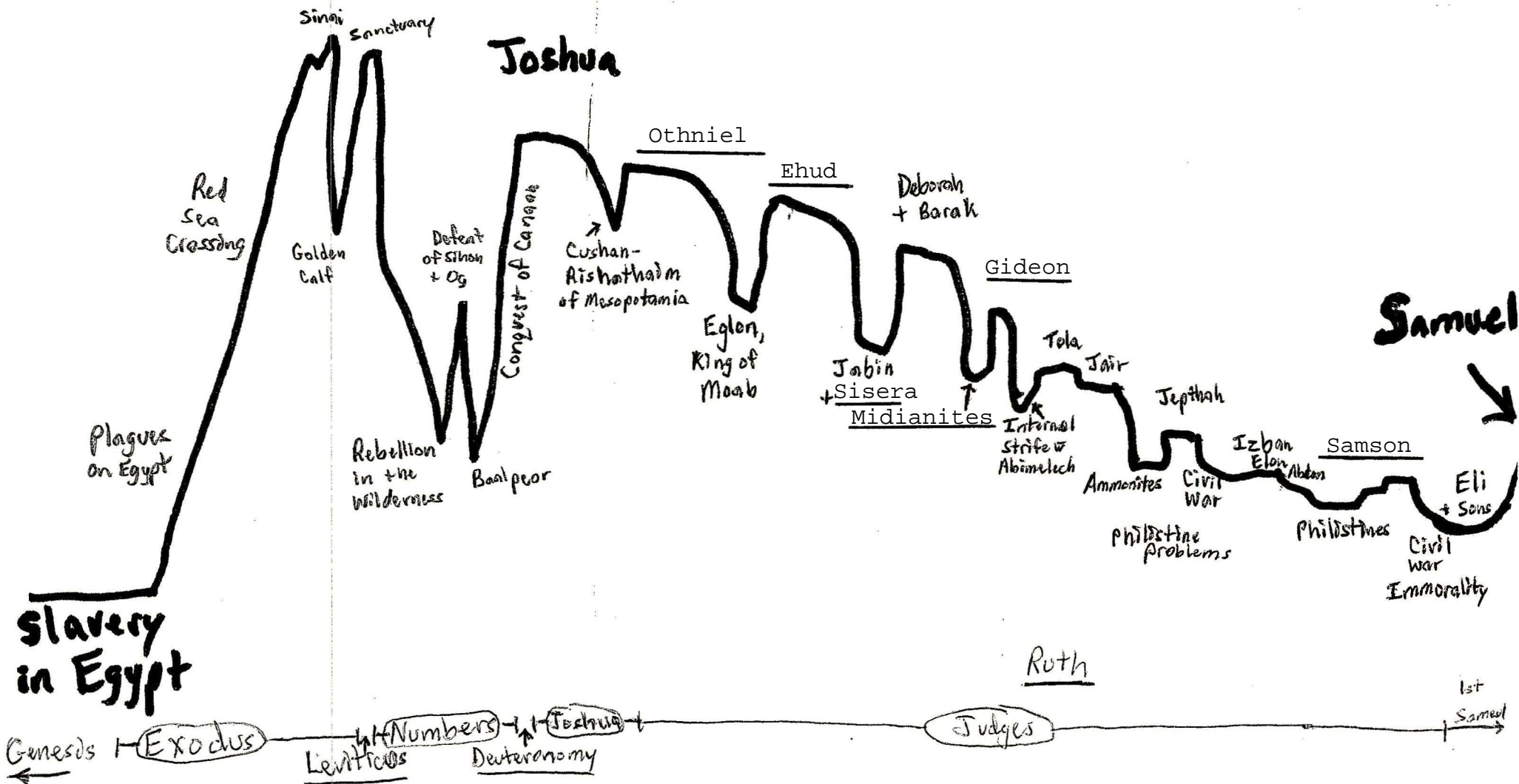
About 300 years  
after the original  
dividing of the land



1450 B.C.

# The Exodus Moses

# The Judges



# Why God Destroys: *Questions and Notes*

**Issue:** Joshua 6:21. Why were the Israelites to “utterly destroy” the Canaanites: the women as well as the men, the elderly, children, and in some cases, even the animals? How can a loving, gracious God also destroy?

Is it a matter of favoritism: mercy for Israel, but justice for the heathen? If not, how do we know? (See Joshua 7:24,25 and Numbers 16:31-33)

**1. First Principle:** All sin and wickedness deserve **destruction**  
(Romans 6:23).

**Explanation:** Humanity has been given a period of probation by the grace of God to allow for time for learning and to work out the plan of salvation. All sin will be destroyed at the end of the world. Extreme cases of wickedness have sometimes received destruction earlier (examples: The flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, the Canaanites, and some individuals). Fair warnings were always given. Those who persisted in extreme wickedness were the ones who were destroyed.

**2. Second Principle:** Destruction may be necessary in order to save.

**Explanation:** It may be unavoidable for God to destroy wicked people, societies or nations if they are trying to destroy those who are following God and praying to Him for help. In some extreme cases, destruction of wicked opponents of God became necessary to preserve truth and a witness in the world of the true God or all would have been lost. The destruction of evil is actually a story of deliverance and salvation for those following God.

*Note of interest:* How did God originally plan to drive the Canaanites out of Canaan? (See Exodus 23:28-33)

Why was this plan abandoned? Why was war now necessary?

What Bible verse tells us that God never delights in destruction because He doesn't want anyone to be lost, but for all to repent and be saved?

2 Peter 3:9. We must always remember this truth about God.

**The Third Principle:** The corporate nature of the full cup principle. This is an important factor to consider in why God destroys and why it sometimes includes entire families and societies.

**Explanation:** Our western ways of thinking are nearly entirely focused on individual sins, individual responsibility and individual consequences for our actions. We sometimes forget that individual actions and influence spread and become the set ways of entire nations and societies. Over generations, inherited tendencies to evil (DNA), wicked environment, and perverse willfulness to do evil become societal; everyone has become a part of the wickedness. Rebellion, perversion, and hardheartedness toward God and truth become fixed ways of living. Probationary time no longer serves a purpose.

**Judgment then becomes necessary.** This can be national, regional, or worldwide. It includes violence toward God's people which becomes normal to the wicked and must be stopped by a loving God.

1. Stories of violence and sex are portrayed in both the Bible and in most music, literature and movies today. What's the difference between the Bible accounts compared to our media?
2. Why are violent themes so common and popular in music and movies today?
3. Where are we in western society today on the three above principles?