

Elijah & the Widow

1 Kings 17

Background

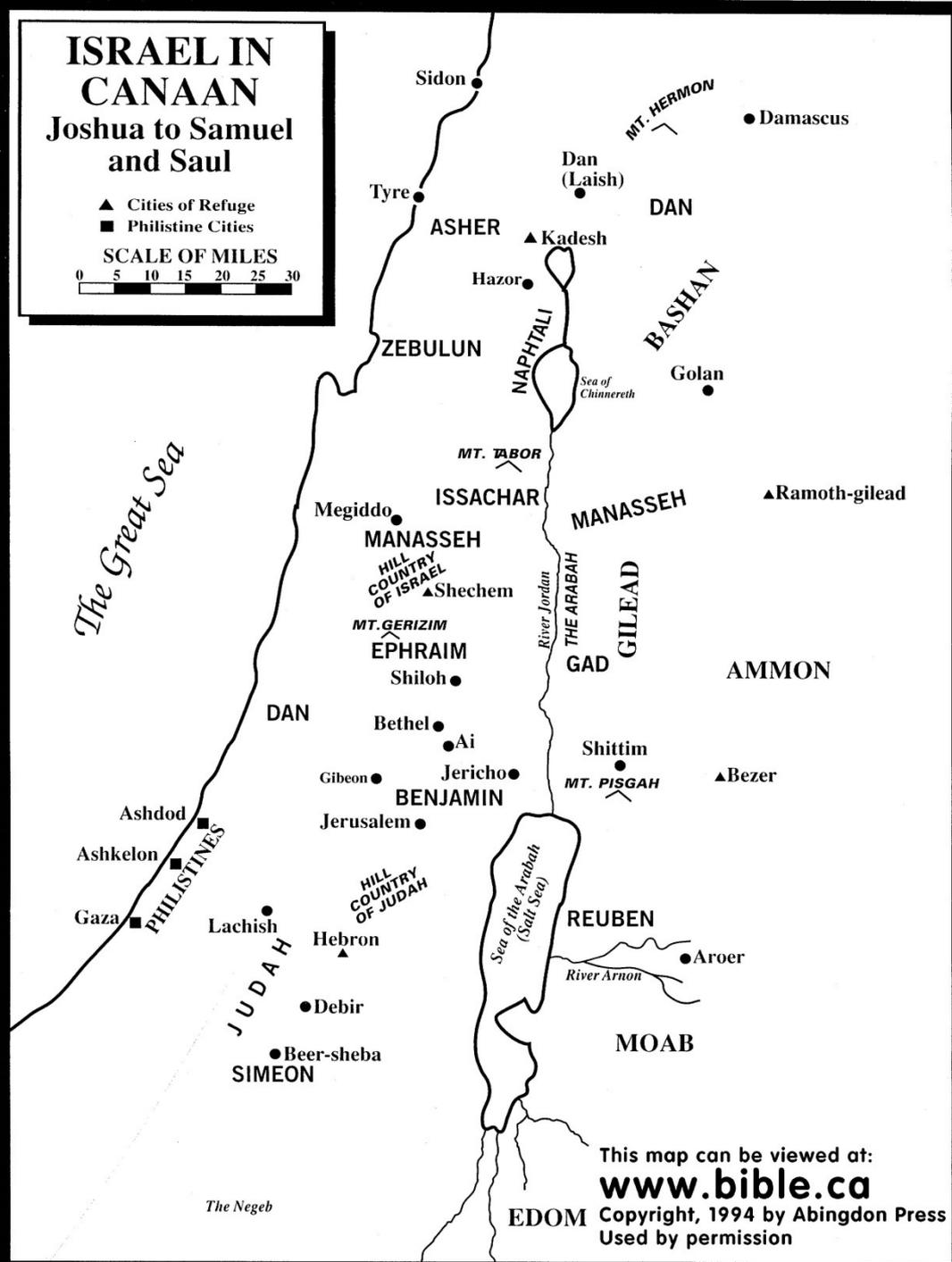
- *The name Elijah means “Jah is God” or “my God is Jehovah.”*
- *Elijah was from the city or area of Tishbeh according to **1 Kings 17:1.***

ISRAEL IN CANAAN

Joshua to Samuel and Saul

- ▲ Cities of Refuge
- Philistine Cities

SCALE OF MILES



This map can be viewed at:

www.bible.ca

Copyright, 1994 by Abingdon Press
Used by permission

Background

- *The name Elijah means “Jah is God” or “my God is Jehovah.”*
- *Elijah was from the city or area of Tishbeh according to **1 Kings 17:1**.*
- *He was a very hairy man who dressed in a leather girdle. **2 Kings 2:8***
- *He was a prophet of God during the reign of Ahab, who was king of Israel from about 876 B.C. to 854 B.C.*

Background

- *He was a very passionate man who feared and served God faithfully.*
- *He was a type of John the baptizer.*
 - ***Malachi 4:5***
 - ***Matthew 11:11–13; Mark 9:1–13***
- *He was with Jesus and Moses at the transfiguration.*
 - ***Matthew 17:1–5***

1st mention of Elijah

- *He tells Ahab about the impending drought*
 - ***1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17-18***
 - *He said it was brought from God*
 - *He said it would last three years*
 - *He said it would not rain again except at his word*

1st mention of Elijah

- *He then goes into exile*
 - ***1 Kings 17:2–7***
 - *He drinks from the Brook Cherith that flows from the Jordan (muddy river)*
 - *He is fed by ravens – (they only eat decaying meat) thus they were good servants of God to feed Elijah*

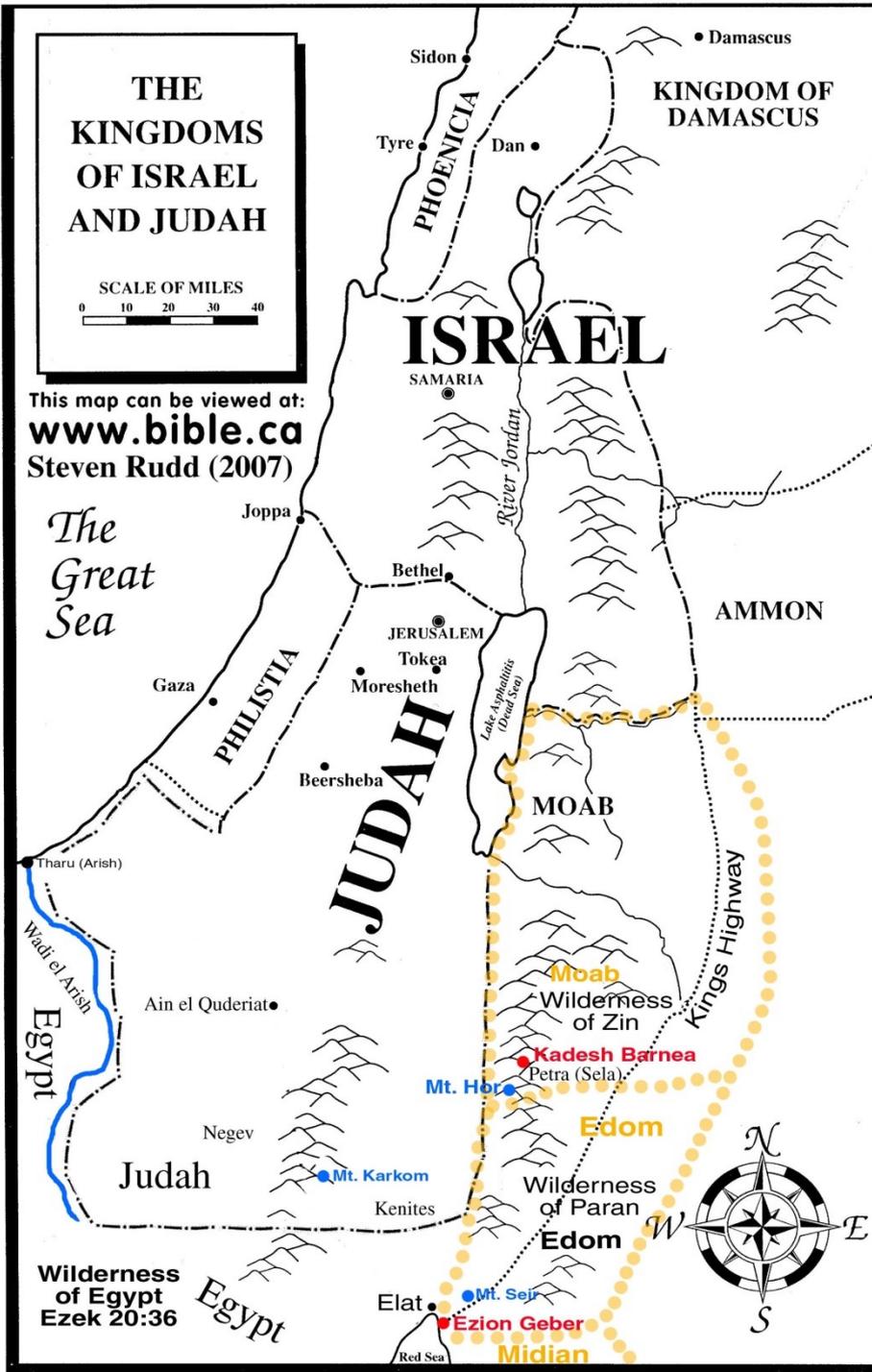
Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

- *He is sent to the widow who lives in Zarephath, Sidon*
 - *The same area where Jezebel was born - 1 Kings 16:31-35*

THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

SCALE OF MILES
0 10 20 30 40

This map can be viewed at:
www.bible.ca
Steven Rudd (2007)



Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

- *He is sent to the widow who lives in Zarephath, Sidon*
 - *The same area where Jezebel was born – **1 Kings 16:31-35***
 - *She is a Gentile - **Luke 4:16–29 (24–26)***

Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

She has tremendous faith in God

1 Kings 17:10–16

Matthew 8:5–13 (10)

- *When he first sees her she is picking up sticks*
- *He asks for water, she stops what she is doing and goes to get him water*

Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

She has tremendous faith in God

1 Kings 17:10–16

- *As she goes to get it, he asks for a morsel of bread*
- *She says she only has a little flour & oil left & she has a few sticks with which to prepare the bread*
 - *She planned to prepare it for her son & herself before they die*

Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

She has tremendous faith in God

1 Kings 17:10–16

- *Elijah tells her*
 - *To prepare him a small cake*
 - *Then to prepare some for her son & herself*
 - *As long as there is a drought, the Lord God of Israel will:*
 - *Not allow the bin of flour to empty*
 - *Not allow the jar of oil to run dry*

Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

***She has tremendous faith in God
1 Kings 17:10–16***

- *She obeys – what generosity!!!
– Matthew 10:41-42*
- *The bin of flour does not empty*
- *The jar of oil does not run dry*
- *She did not complain because she did not have steak*

Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

Her son gets very sick and dies

- *She accuses Elijah*
 - *Of taking her son's life to remind her of her sin – (Avon, aw-vone') perversity, i.e. (moral) evil, fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment (of iniquity), sin.*
 - *Job's friends – **Job 8:4–7***

Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

Her son gets very sick and dies

- *Elijah asks her to bring her son to him*
 - *He takes him to his room to talk to God*
 - *He prays the following:*
 - ***“O Lord (Jehovah – Self Existent One) my God (Elohiym – Supreme Deity), have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?”***

Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

Her son gets very sick and dies

- *He then stretches himself out on the child three times and prays*
 - *“O **Lord** my **God**, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.”*
- *Then the Lord hears Elijah and the soul returns and the child is revived*
 - ***Genesis 2:7***

Elijah & the Widow 1 Kings 17:8-24

Her son gets very sick and dies

- *Elijah brings him back to his mother*
- *The mother says*
 - *“I know you are a man of **God**”*
 - **John 3:2**
 - *I know the word of the **Lord** is in your mouth*
 - **John 6:68**

Making Application

***Man does not control the climate,
God does***

- 1 Kings 17:1***
- Job 37:1–2***
- Job 38:34–38***
- Mark 4:35–41 (Jesus – the storm)***

Making Application

Man can affect his local environment

- *Because of his actions (dust bowl) (well next to leach field)*
- *Because of sin*
 - ***Job 37:10-13***
 - ***Nahum 1:1–8***
 - ***Genesis 19:24-25***

Making Application

Prayer has consequences

James 5:17–18

- *Elijah had to suffer as well because of the drought*
 - *Exiled*
 - *Fed by ravens*
 - *Depend on a poor widow for food*

Making Application

We should not always want a life of ease

- *During hard times faith is increased*
 - ***Hebrews 11***
- *We only get stronger during adversity*
 - ***Romans 5:3-4***

Making Application

God cares for all of us and seeks constantly to improve us

- *The widow and Elijah, although very good people, needed to work on their faith*
- *God chastens those He loves - **Hebrews 12:5-8***

Making Application

Where is our generosity?

- *Another widow gave all she had*
– ***Mark 12:41–44***
- *She literally gave “the shirt off her back.”*
- *She was like the early disciples*
– ***Acts 2:44-45***
- *She was like David*
– ***2 Samuel 24:21–24***

Making Application

Our dependency on God increases with our need

- *We can exist well with the basics – food, water, shelter - **1 Timothy 6:7–8***
- *Sometimes too much gets in the way*
 - *Our focus changes - **1 Timothy 6:10***
 - *We start depending on our riches instead of God - **Matthew 6:20 – 21***
- *God will only provide what we can not provide for ourselves - **Acts 17:25***

Making Application

When bad things happen

- *Don't blame it on God (Elijah)*
 - ***Job 2:10; Job 10:1-2***
- *Don't assume it is because of sin on our part*
 - ***Luke 13:16***
- *Turn it over to God*
 - ***Daniel 9:3–19***

Making Application

Don't question God!

Job 38:1-3

- *His ways are right and past finding our*
– ***Isaiah 55:8–9***
- *His wisdom and knowledge are the very depth of riches*
– ***Romans 12:33–36***

Making Application

Instead turn to God for all our needs

- *He will reward us with what we actually need*
– ***Malachi 3:10–11***
- *He will abundantly pardon*
– ***Isaiah 55:7***

- *Elijah, a man of God, prayed and God answered his prayer.*
- *God shows His power by having ravens take food to Elijah.*
- *As conditions worsen, Elijah is sent to the same area that Jezebel was born.*
- *He is to allow a poor widow to take care of him during the drought (3 ½ years).*
- *She is a Gentile who believes in God.*
- *She is just one day away from running out of food for her son and herself.*

- *After he asks, she is willing to give him water and the last of the food.*
- *God continues to provide the things she can not provide for herself and her son during the drought.*
- *When the son dies, she believes it is because of her sin.*
- *Elijah first questions God.*
- *Then he lies on the child three times and prays fervently to God concerning the child.*
- *God returns the child's life to him.*

- *When God punishes a group of people for their sins, others who are doing His will suffer as well.*
- *Those who trust in God become stronger.*
- *Those who lose their trust, lose their faith, because their faith only existed when everything was going well.*
- *Their faith was not in God in the first place.*

- *We should be thankful to God that He cares so much for us.*
- *He loves us so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross for our sins.*
- *All He asks in return is to obey Him until we die.*
- *Where is our trust and obedience?*