

The Structure of Judges

Judges: Between Conquest and Kingdom

1:1-3:6, Prolog

1:1-2:5, **Social** Disintegration

2:6-3:6, **Spiritual** Departure

3:7-16:31, The Judges

3:7-11, Othniel

3:12-32, Ehud and Shamgar

4:1-5:31, Deborah and Barak

6:1-8:32, Gideon

8:33-10:5, Abimelech, Tola, Jair

10:6-12:15, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

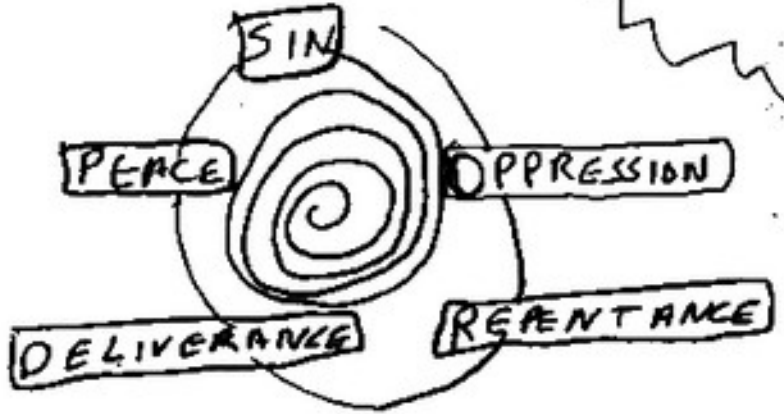
13:1-16:31, Samson

17:1-21:25, Epilog and Diagnosis

17:1-18:31, **Spiritual** Weakness—Micah's Idol

19:1-21:25, **Social** Strife—Civil War

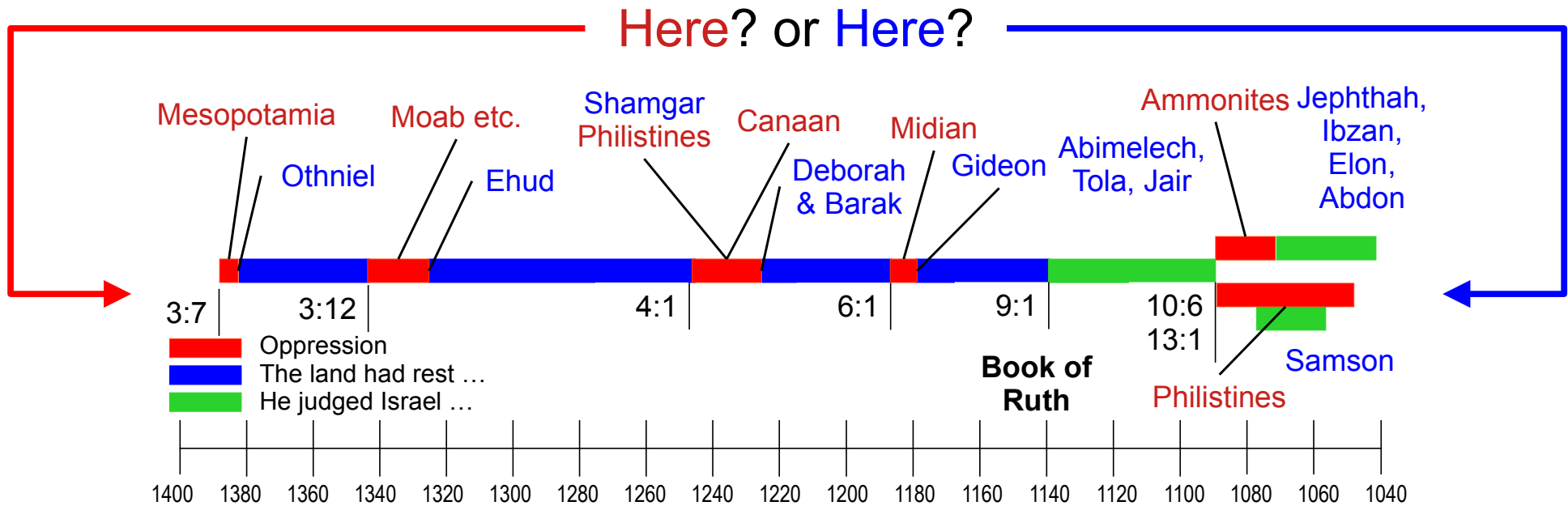
JUDGES



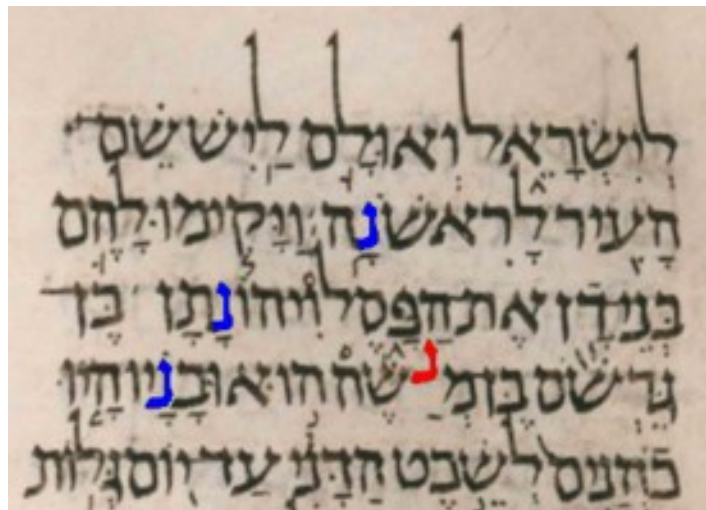
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Dating the Events of Judges 17-21



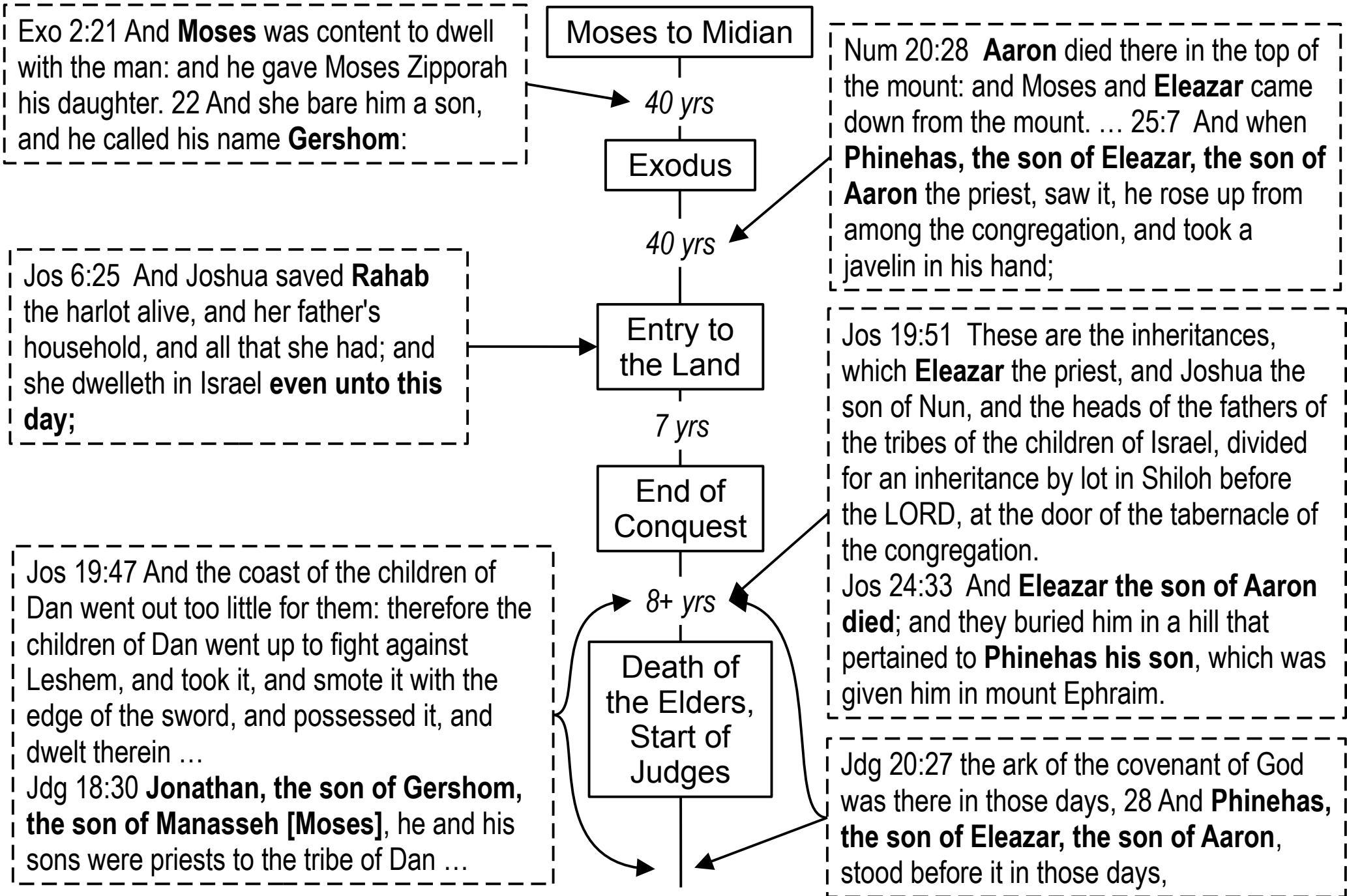
Jdg 18:30 And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and **Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Ma[n]asseh**, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.



Leningrad Codex of Jdg 18:30 (ca. 1008 AD)

Jdg 20:27 And the children of Israel enquired of the LORD, (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, 28 And **Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron**, stood before it in those days,)

When did Jonathan and Phinehas Live?



The Failed Institutions of Judges 17-21

“no king in Israel” 17:6; 18:1;
19:1; 21:25

Ex. 15:18 **The LORD shall reign** [as king] מֶלֶךְ H4427 for ever and ever.

Num. 23:21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the **LORD his God** is with him, and **the shout of a king** is among them.

Deut. 33:5 **And he [the Lord] was king in Jeshurun** [or: there was a king in Jeshurun], when the heads of the people and the tribes of Israel were gathered together.

Psa 24:10 Who is this King of glory? **The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

Priests and Levites

Mal 2:7 For **the priest's** lips should keep knowledge, and **they should seek the law at his mouth:** for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

2Ch 17:7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, ... **to teach** in the cities of Judah. 8 And with them he sent Levites, ...; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests. 9 And **they taught in Judah**, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and **taught** the people.

2Ch 30:22 And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all **the Levites that taught** the good knowledge of the LORD:

2Ch 35:2 And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD, 3 And said unto **the Levites that taught** all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD,

Neh 8:9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and **the Levites that taught the people,**

The Territory of Judges 17-21

1:29 Neither did **Ephraim** drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

3:27 And it came to pass, when [Ehud] was come, that he blew a trumpet in the **mountain of Ephraim**, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

5:14 Out of **Ephraim** was there a root of them against Amalek;

8:1 And the men of **Ephraim** said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.

Judg. 12:1 And the men of **Ephraim** gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said unto Jephthah, Wherefore passedst thou over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thine house upon thee with fire.



Ephraim as title for the Northern Kingdom

1Ki 12:25 Then Jeroboam built **Shechem in mount Ephraim**, and dwelt therein;

Isa 7:2 And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with **Ephraim**. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind.

... 9 And the head of **Ephraim** is **Samaria**, ...

Jer 7:15 And I will cast you [Judah] out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of **Ephraim**.

Hos 5:3 I know **Ephraim**, and **Israel** is not hid from me: for now, O **Ephraim**, thou committest whoredom, and **Israel** is defiled.