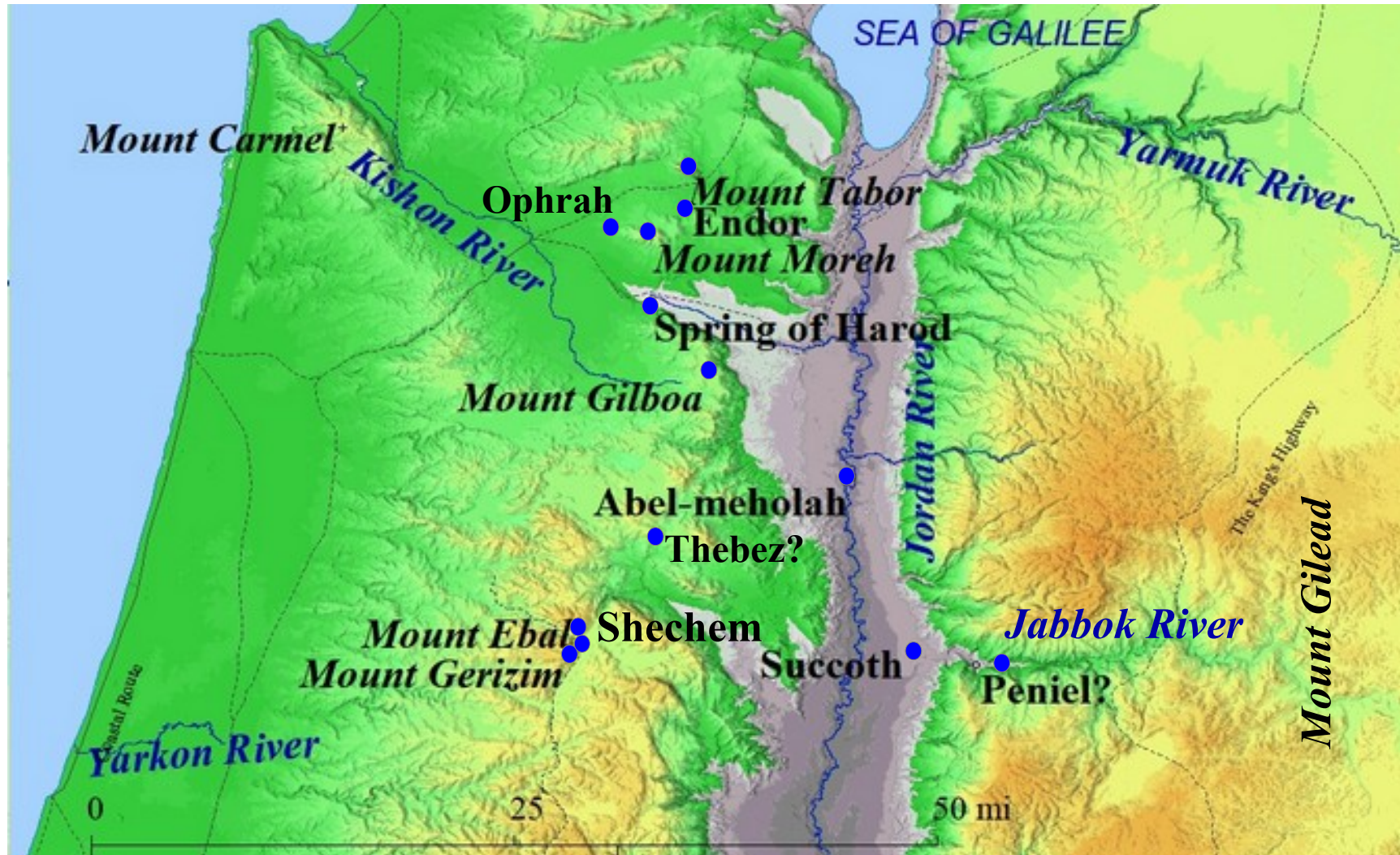


# Geographical Context for Abimelech, Judges 9



8:30 ... for he had many wives ...

Deut. 17:16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

# Gideon and Shechem

8:31 [Gideon's] concubine that was in Shechem, she also bare him a son.

9:28 And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? is not he the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve **the men of Hamor the father of Shechem**: for why should we serve him?

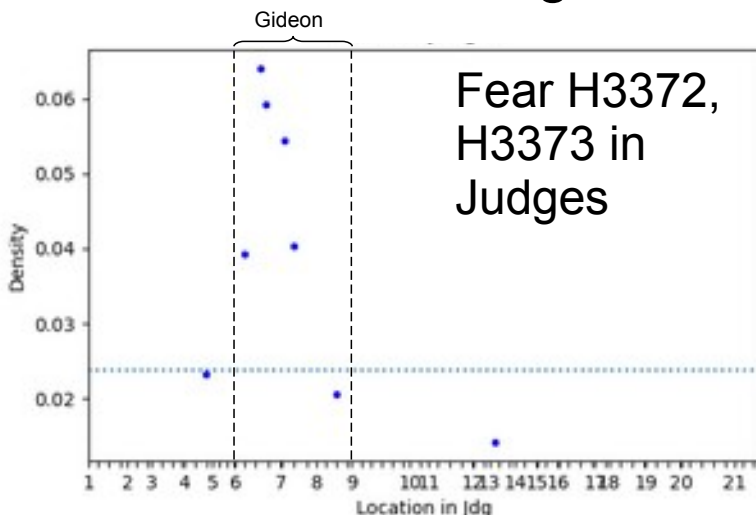


Van and Anita Parunak, November 1974



# Lessons from Gideon

- **Fear** hinders God's work
- God Spirit can turn **fear** into faith
- God works with a few faithful servants rather than many **fearful** ones
- The objective of the Lord's work is his own glory
- Spiritual success can lead to carnal stumbling



# The Judges Cycle with Abimelech

|             |         |   |
|-------------|---------|---|
| Rebellion   | 8:33-35 | Whoring after Baalberith                            |
| Retribution | 9:1-6   | Shechem, led by Abimelech                           |
| Repentance  |         | (Lacking)   |
| Rebuke      | 9:7-21  | Jotham's Fable                                      |
| Restoration | 9:22-55 | Abimelech destroys Shechem<br>Woman kills Abimelech |
| Rest        |         | (Lacking)   |

# 9:6 the memorial oak in Shechem

Gen 12:6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of **Sichem**, unto the ~~plain~~ **oak** אלון H436 of Moreh. ... 7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Gen 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the **terebinth** אלה H424 which was by **Shechem**.

Josh. 24:25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in **Shechem**. 26 And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an **terebinth** אלה, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

# Jotham's Rebuke from Mt Gerizim

Deu 11:29 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon **mount Gerizim**, and the curse upon mount Ebal.



Mt Gerizim from ancient Shechem. Van and Anita Parunak, November 1974



# The Olive



Al Khadr. Van and Anita Parunak, Sept 1974

# Three of Jotham's "Trees"

## The Bramble



## The Vine



Near Kfar Etzion. Van and Anita Parunak, June 1975



Thorny burnet in hills above Beit Netofa valley. 11/23/1974, Van and Anita Parunak