

## Biblical Economics – 3

**Dynasty XIX:** 1292 to 1189

Ramses II, 1279–1213

**Dynasty XX:** 1189–1077

**Dynasty XXI:** 1077–943

Samuel, c. 1060 - c. 1005

Saul, c. 1020 – c. 1000

David, 1000–961

Solomon, 961–922

**1 Samuel 8** <sup>1</sup> When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel’s leaders. . . . <sup>3</sup> But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. <sup>4</sup> So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup> They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.” <sup>6</sup> But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. <sup>8</sup> As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.”

**1 Samuel 8** <sup>10</sup> Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup> He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. <sup>12</sup> Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. <sup>15</sup> He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. <sup>16</sup> Your male and female servants and the best of your livestock and donkeys he will take for his own use. <sup>17</sup> He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. <sup>18</sup> When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

<sup>19</sup> But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us.

<sup>20</sup> Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

<sup>21</sup> And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the Lord. <sup>22</sup> So the Lord said to Samuel, “Heed their voice, and make them a king.”

And Samuel said to the men of Israel, “Every man go to his city.”

**Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 6.5.1** — Nahash did much harm to the Jews that lived beyond Jordan by the expedition he had made against them with a great and fearsome army. He also reduced their cities into slavery, and that not only by subduing them for the present, which he did by force and violence, but by weakening them by subtlety and cunning, that they might not be able afterward to get clear of the slavery they were under to him; for he put out the right eyes <sup>1</sup> of those that either delivered themselves to him upon terms, or were taken by him in war; and this he did, that when their left eyes were covered by their shields, they might be wholly useless in war.

**1 Samuel 11**<sup>1</sup> Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and besieged Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, “Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you.” <sup>2</sup> And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, “On this condition will I do it: I will gouge all your right eyes and bring reproach on all Israel.” <sup>3</sup> Then the elders of Jabesh said to him, “Hold off for seven days, that we may send messengers to all the territory of Israel. And then, if there is no one to <sup>[b]</sup>save us, we will come out to you.”

<sup>4</sup> So the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and told the news in the hearing of the people. And all the people lifted up their voices and wept. <sup>5</sup> Now there was Saul, coming behind the herd from the field; and Saul said, “What troubles the people, that they weep?” And they told him the words of the men of Jabesh.

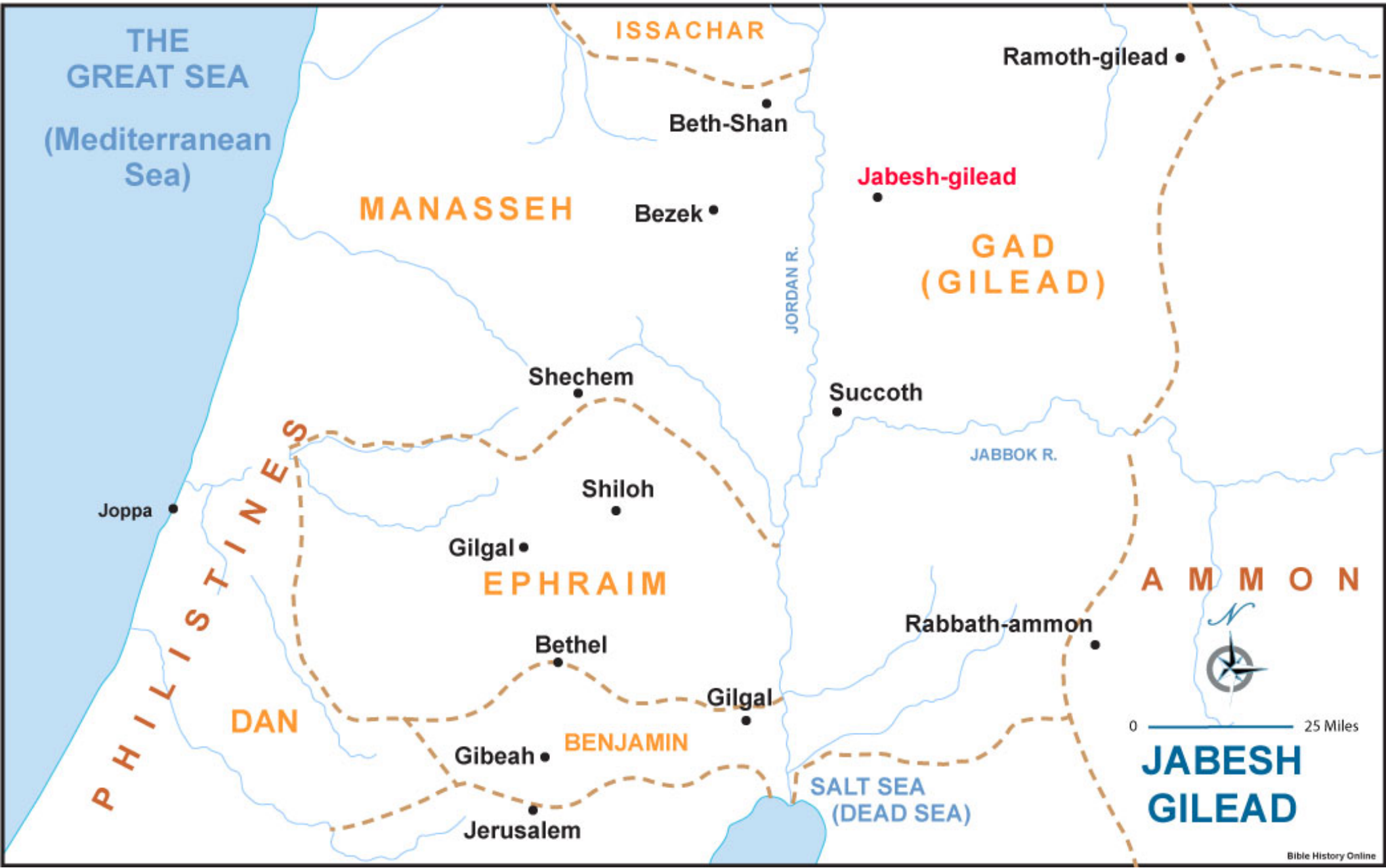
<sup>6</sup> Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was greatly aroused. <sup>7</sup> So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, “Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen.”

And the fear of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out, as one man. <sup>8</sup> When he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. <sup>9</sup> And they said to the messengers who came, “Thus you shall say to the men of Jabesh Gilead: ‘Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have help.’ ” Then the messengers came and reported it to the men of Jabesh, and they were glad. <sup>10</sup> Therefore the men of Jabesh said, “Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do with us whatever seems good to you.”

<sup>11</sup> So it was, on the next day, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and killed Ammonites until the heat of the day. And it happened that those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

<sup>12</sup> Then the people said to Samuel, “Who is he who said, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring the men, that we may put them to death.”





THE GREAT SEA  
(Mediterranean Sea)

ISSACHAR

Ramoth-gilead •

Beth-Shan

Jabesh-gilead

MANASSEH

Bezek •

GAD  
(GILEAD)

JORDAN R.

Shechem

Succoth

JABBOK R.

Joppa •

Shiloh

Gilgal •

EPHRAIM

A M M O N

P H I L I S T I N E S

DAN

Bethel

Rabbath-ammon

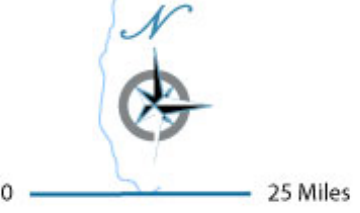
Gilgal

Gibeah •

BENJAMIN

Jerusalem

SALT SEA  
(DEAD SEA)



JABESH  
GILEAD