

Divine Providence



Isaiah 46

9 remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
10 declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'
11 calling a bird of prey from the east,
the man of my counsel from a far country.

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I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;
I have purposed, and I will do it.

1 Samuel 4

1 Samuel 3

11 Then the LORD said to Samuel,

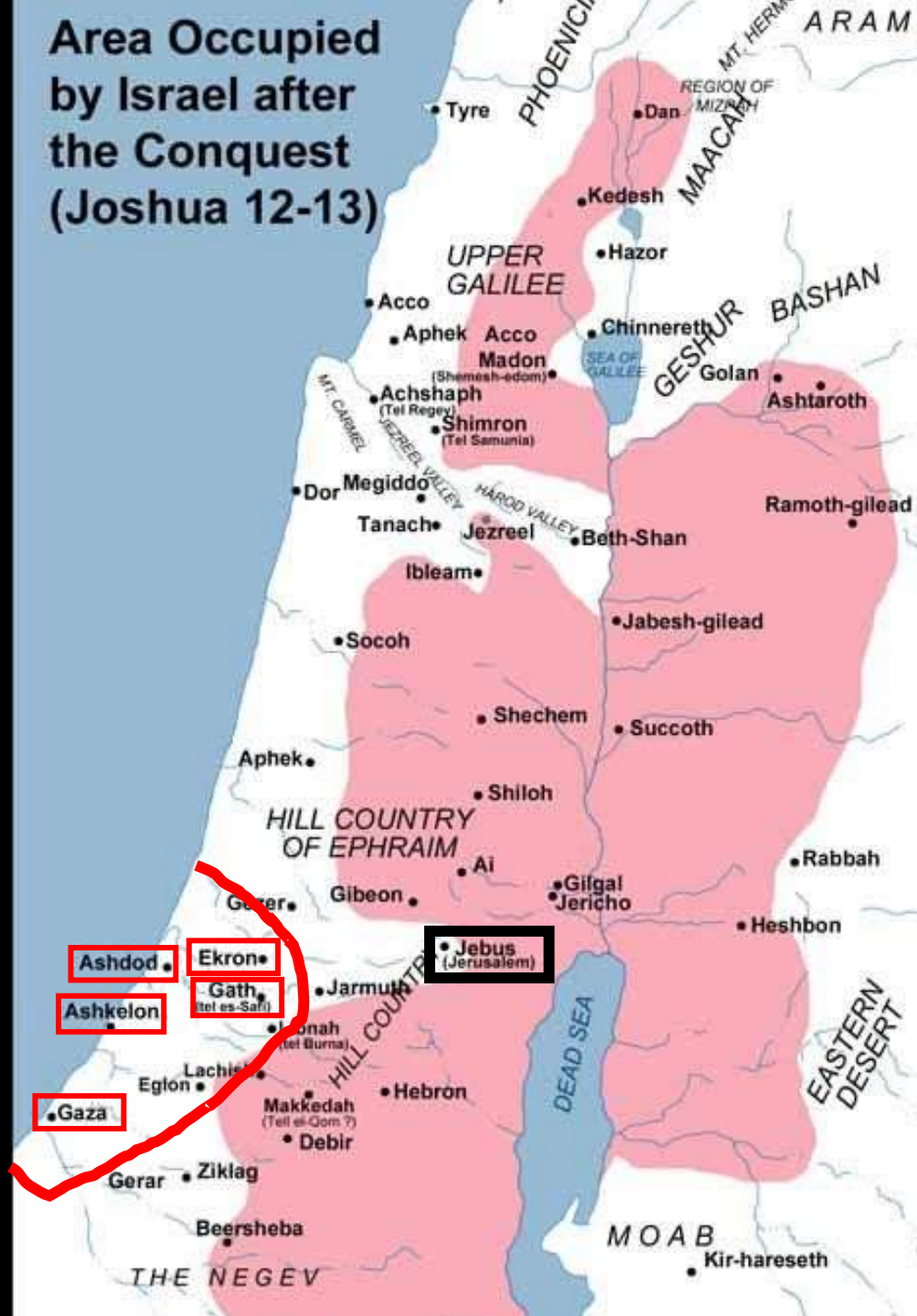
“I am about to do something in Israel at which the ears of all who hear it will tingle.

12 On that day I will carry out against Eli everything I have spoken about his family, from beginning to end.

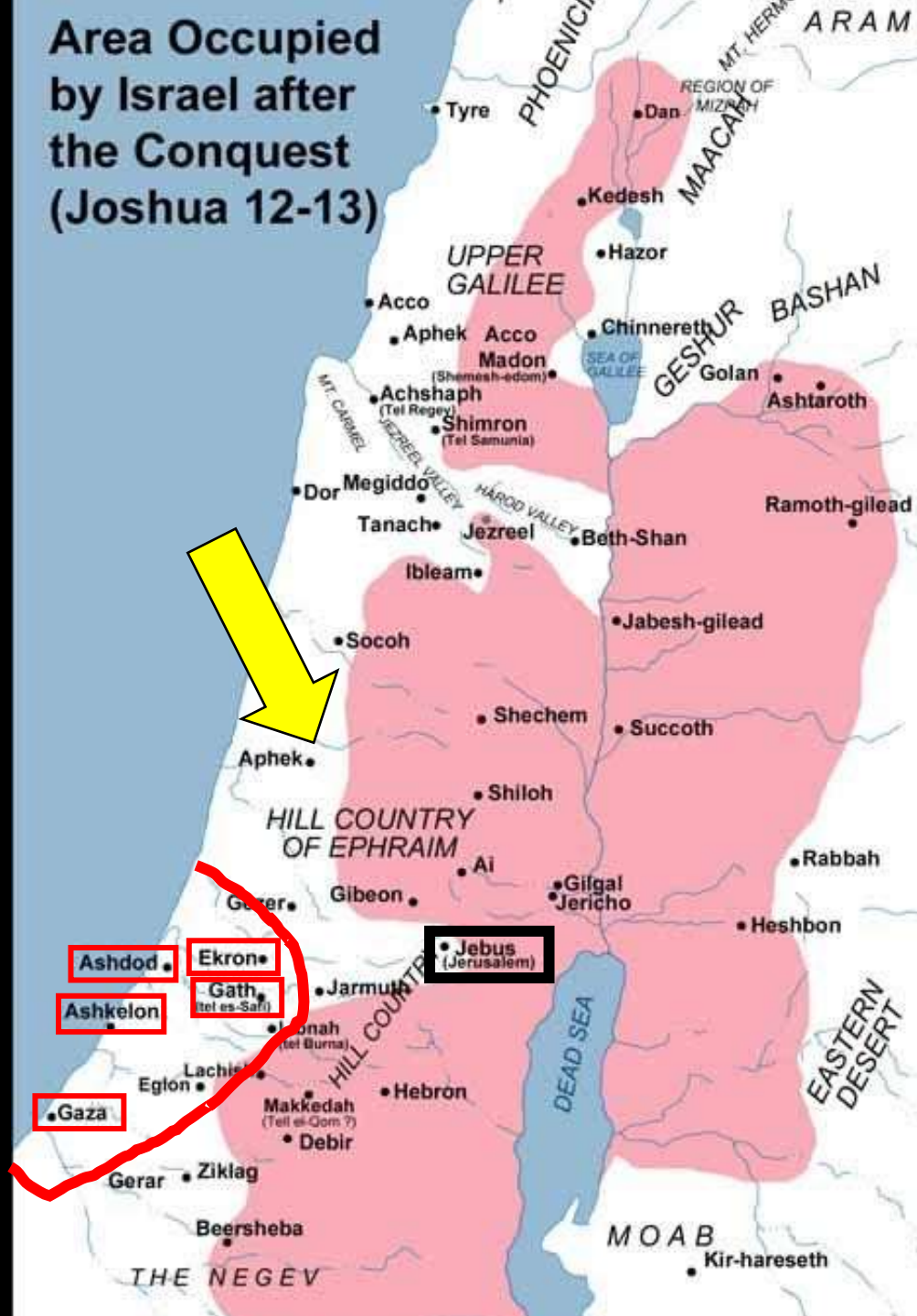
1 Samuel 4

1 Now the Israelites went out to meet the Philistines in battle and camped at Ebenezer, while the Philistines camped at Aphek.

Area Occupied by Israel after the Conquest (Joshua 12-13)



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The map illustrates the territory of Israel after the conquest, with regions and cities labeled. A yellow arrow points to the coastal strip, which is outlined in red. The coastal strip includes the cities of Ashdod, Ekron, Gath (Tel es-Safi), Ashkelon, and Gaza. Other regions shown include Upper Galilee, Hill Country of Ephraim, Hill Country of Judah, and The Negev. Cities like Tyre, Hazor, Shechem, and Jerusalem (Jebus) are also marked. The map also shows the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, and the Eastern Desert.



1 Samuel 4

1 Now the Israelites went out to meet the Philistines in battle and camped at Ebenezer, while the Philistines camped at Aphek.

2 The Philistines arrayed themselves against Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who struck down about four thousand men on the battlefield.

3 When the troops returned to the camp, the elders of Israel asked,

“Why has the LORD brought defeat on us before the Philistines today?”

1 Samuel 4

3 Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh, so that it may go with us to save us from the hand of our enemies.”

4 So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the LORD of Hosts, who sits enthroned between the cherubim.

And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5 When the ark of the covenant of the LORD entered the camp, all the Israelites raised such a great shout that the earth resounded.

1 Samuel 4

6 On hearing the noise of the shout, the Philistines asked, “What is this loud shouting in the camp of the Hebrews?”

And when they realized that the ark of the LORD had entered the camp, 7 the Philistines were afraid.

“The gods have entered their camp!” they said.

“Woe to us, for nothing like this has happened before.

8 Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods?

These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness.

1 Samuel 4

9 Take courage and be men, O Philistines! Otherwise, you will serve the Hebrews just as they served you. Now be men and fight!”

10 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and each man fled to his tent.

The slaughter was very great—
thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell.

11 The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

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11 **The ark of God was captured**, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

1 Samuel 4

19 Now his (Eli's) daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth.

And when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son."

But she did not answer or pay attention.

21 And she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

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1 Samuel 5

1 After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod, **2** carried it into the temple of Dagon, and set it beside his statue.

3 When the people of Ashdod got up early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on his face before the ark of the LORD.

1 Samuel 5

1 After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod, 2 carried it into the temple of Dagon, and set it beside his statue.

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Acts 17

24 The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by human hands.

25 Nor is He served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

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3 When the people of Ashdod got up early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on his face before the ark of the LORD.

So they took Dagon and set him back in his place.

4 But when they got up early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on his face before the ark of the LORD, with his head and his hands broken off and lying on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.

1 Samuel 2

10 For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's,
and upon them He has set the world.

9 He guards the steps of His faithful ones,
but the wicked perish in darkness;
for by his own strength shall no man prevail.

10 **Those who oppose the LORD will be shattered.**

He will thunder from heaven against them.

The LORD will judge the ends of the earth
and will give power to His king.

He will exalt the horn of His anointed.”

1 Samuel 5

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1 Samuel 5

6 Now the hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashdod and its vicinity, and He terrified them and afflicted them with tumors.

LXX - And rats appeared in their land,
and death and destruction were throughout the city.

7 And when the men of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said,

“The ark of the God of Israel must not stay here with us, because His hand is heavy upon us and upon our god Dagon.”

1 Samuel 5

8 So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and asked,

“What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?”

“It must be moved to Gath,” they replied.

So they carried away the ark of the God of Israel.

9 But after they had moved the ark to Gath, the LORD’s hand was also against that city, throwing it into a great panic and afflicting the men of the city, both young and old, with an outbreak of tumors.

10 So they sent the ark of God to Ekron, but as it arrived, the people of Ekron cried out,

1 Samuel 5

“They have brought us the ark of the God of Israel in order to kill us and our people!”

11 Then the people of Ekron assembled all the rulers of the Philistines and said,

“Send away the ark of the God of Israel.

It must return to its own place, so that it will not kill us and our people!”

For a deadly panic had pervaded the city; the hand of God was heavy upon it.

12 The men who did not die were afflicted with tumors, and the outcry of the city went up to heaven.

1 Samuel 5

“They have brought us the ark of the God of Israel in order to kill us and our people!”

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For a deadly panic had pervaded the city; the hand of God was heavy upon it.

12 The men who did not die were afflicted with tumors, and **the outcry of the city went up to heaven.**

1 Samuel 6

1 When the ark of the LORD had been in the land of the Philistines seven months,

**2 the Philistines summoned the priests and diviners, saying,
“What shall we do with the ark of the LORD?
Tell us how to send it back to its place.”**

**3 They replied, “If you return the ark of the God of Israel,
do not send it away empty, but by all means return it to
Him with a guilt offering.**

**Then you will be healed, and you will understand why His
hand has not been lifted from you.”**

1 Samuel 6

4 “What guilt offering should we send back to Him?” asked the Philistines.

“Five gold tumors and five gold rats,” they said,
“according to the number of rulers of the Philistines,
since the same plague has struck both you and your rulers.

5 Make images of your tumors and of the rats that are ravaging the land.

Give glory to the God of Israel, and perhaps He will lift His hand from you, your gods and your land.

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1 Samuel 6

6 Why harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened theirs?

When He afflicted them, did they not send the people on their way as they departed?

7 Now, therefore, prepare one new cart with two milk cows that have never been yoked.

Yoke the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up.

8 Take the ark of the LORD, set it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending Him as a guilt offering. Then send it off and let it go its way

1 Samuel 6

Plan #1 – Two cows who have never been yoked will not work.

7 Now, therefore, prepare one new cart with two milk cows that have **never been yoked**.

Yoke the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up.

8 Take the ark of the LORD, set it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending Him as a guilt offering. Then send it off and let it go its way

1 Samuel 6

Plan #1 – Two cows who have never been yoked will not work.

Plan #2 – The two cows will be inclined to stay with their calves.

7 Now, therefore, prepare one new cart with two milk cows that have **never been yoked**.

Yoke the cows to the cart, but **take their calves away and pen them up**.

8 Take the ark of the LORD, set it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending Him as a guilt offering. Then send it off and let it go its way

1 Samuel 6

Plan #1 – Two cows who have never been yoked will not work.

Plan #2 – The two cows will be inclined to stay with their calves.

Plan #3 – Do not guide or direct the cows, but just release them.

7 Now, therefore, prepare one new cart with two milk cows that have **never been yoked**.

Yoke the cows to the cart, but **take their calves away and pen them up**.

8 Take the ark of the LORD, set it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending Him as a guilt offering. **Then send it off and let it go its way**

1 Samuel 6

Then send it off and let it go its way 9 but keep watching it. If it goes up the road to its homeland, toward Beth-shemesh, it is the LORD who has brought on us this great disaster. But if it does not, then we will know that it was not His hand that punished us and that it happened by chance.”

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Then send it off and let it go its way ⁹ but keep watching it. If it goes up the road to its homeland, toward Beth-shemesh, it is the LORD who has brought on us this great disaster. But if it does not, then we will know that it was not His hand that punished us and that it happened by chance.”

¹⁰ So the men did as instructed.

They took two milk cows, hitched them to the cart, and penned up their calves.

¹¹ Then they put the ark of the LORD on the cart, along with the chest containing the gold rats and the images of the tumors.

1 Samuel 6

12 And the cows went straight in the direction of Bethshemesh along one highway, lowing as they went. They turned neither to the right nor to the left,

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12 And the cows went straight in the direction of Beth-shemesh along one highway, lowing as they went. They turned neither to the right nor to the left, The rulers of the Philistines followed behind them to the border of Beth-shemesh.

13 Now the people of Beth-shemesh were harvesting wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they were overjoyed at the sight.

14 The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh and stopped there near a large stone.

1 Samuel 6

The people chopped up the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

15 And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD and the chest containing the gold objects, and they placed them on the large stone.

That day the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the LORD.

16 And when the five rulers of the Philistines saw this, they returned to Ekron that same day.

1 Samuel 6

18 The great stone beside which they set down the ark of the LORD is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh.

19 But God struck down some of the people of Beth-shemesh because they looked inside the ark of the LORD. He struck down seventy men, and the people mourned because the LORD had struck them with a great slaughter.

1 Samuel 6

**20 The men of Beth-shemesh asked,
“Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God?
To whom should the ark go up from here?”**

**21 So they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath-jearim,
saying, “The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD.
Come down and take it up with you.”**

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Hebrews 10

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,
20 by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain of His body,
21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

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