

# JOSHUA 1

STRENGTH AND COURAGE  
IN THE LORD

# INTRODUCTION

- Israel stood ready at the river Jordan along the border of the Promised Land.
- Their readiness was not only evidenced by their physical posture, but by the posture of their hearts under their new leader, Joshua.
- Joshua is commissioned by Moses, encouraged by the LORD, and respected by the people because he hears God's decree, believes and obeys.

# GOD COMMISSIONS JOSHUA

JOSHUA 1:1-9

# A CAREER SHIFT

- Both Moses and Joshua had:
- Battled and defeated the Amalekites (Ex. 17:8–16).
- This is the first appearance of Joshua in the Bible and a picture of God's willingness and ability to provide victory for His people.
- Moses holding his staff over his head with both hands and Joshua was given the responsibility of leading the army into battle.

# A CAREER SHIFT

- Both Moses and Joshua had:
- Climbed Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments (Exodus 24:13, 32:17).
- Joshua accompanied Moses up at least a portion of the mountain.

# A CAREER SHIFT

- Both Moses and Joshua had:
- Entered the Tent of Meeting (Exodus 33:7–11).
- When Moses would enter the tent, a pillar of cloud would reside over it.
- There, Moses would meet with God.
- When Moses left the tent, Joshua would remain in it.

# A CAREER SHIFT

- Joshua was the clear candidate to take Moses' mantle; an observation that was confirmed by God in Numbers 27:18–33.
- The LORD had appointed Joshua as leader; Moses had officially commissioned him before the people of Israel as the new head of state but in Joshua 1 it appears that he is faltering.
- Everything about Joshua was so entwined with Moses and now Joshua is on his own.

# GOD'S PROMISE

- As Joshua mourns and waits, God speaks to him. In this monologue, God provides three things:
- First, a reality check. The LORD states: “Moses my servant is dead” (Joshua 1:2).
- There you have it. Moses is dead. Thankfully, this was not the end of the speech: “Arise! Cross the Jordan and take the land I am giving to you.”

# GOD'S PROMISE

- The LORD helps Joshua to see two things: one season has passed and another is waiting to begin.
- God did not degrade Moses or discount the value of Joshua's time as his second in command.
- However, that wonderful period of life had passed, and there is now a new work to be done.

# GOD'S PROMISE

- Joshua could not remain huddled over the body of Moses and lead the people.
- Moses' purpose was fulfilled and he is now at rest but Joshua is still present; when one of God's people is present, he also is purposed.

# GOD'S PROMISE

- Second, comfort through promises. The conversation continues in verse 3 as God begins to comfort Joshua with three promises:
  - Everywhere Joshua steps in the Promised Land has been given to Israel (v. 3).
  - Specific land would belong to Israel (vv. 3–4).
  - God would provide victory over enemies (v. 5).

# GOD'S PROMISE

- Third, a job description.
- God had confronted Joshua with reality, comforted him with promises, and He challenges the new leader with criteria for his new position.
- Like most jobs, Joshua needed a particular attitude, he would be required to accomplish tasks and would be provided with tools to get things done.

# GOD'S PRINCIPLES

- Joshua had principles for living right in his hands.
- Moses had received these principles from God and passed them on to Joshua. Now he must think about God's law, do it, and speak it to others.
- This would bring him success as a leader.
- Three times God repeats His command to be strong and courageous.

VERSES	ATTITUDE	TASK	TOOLS
6	Be strong and courageous	Lead Israelites into Promised Land	God promised victory
7-8	Be strong and very courageous	Obey the Scriptures	Power found in God's Word
9	Be strong and courageous	Refuse to be afraid or dismayed	God's presence

# GOD'S COMMAND

- Notice that the LORD begins and ends the details of Joshua's assignments with a promise of His presence (vv. 5, 9).
- Every one of us is tasked with work to accomplish.
- But no matter how daunting the task, God's presence is enough.
- Where the Lord goes, He brings His power and provision.

# JOSHUA ASSUMES COMMAND

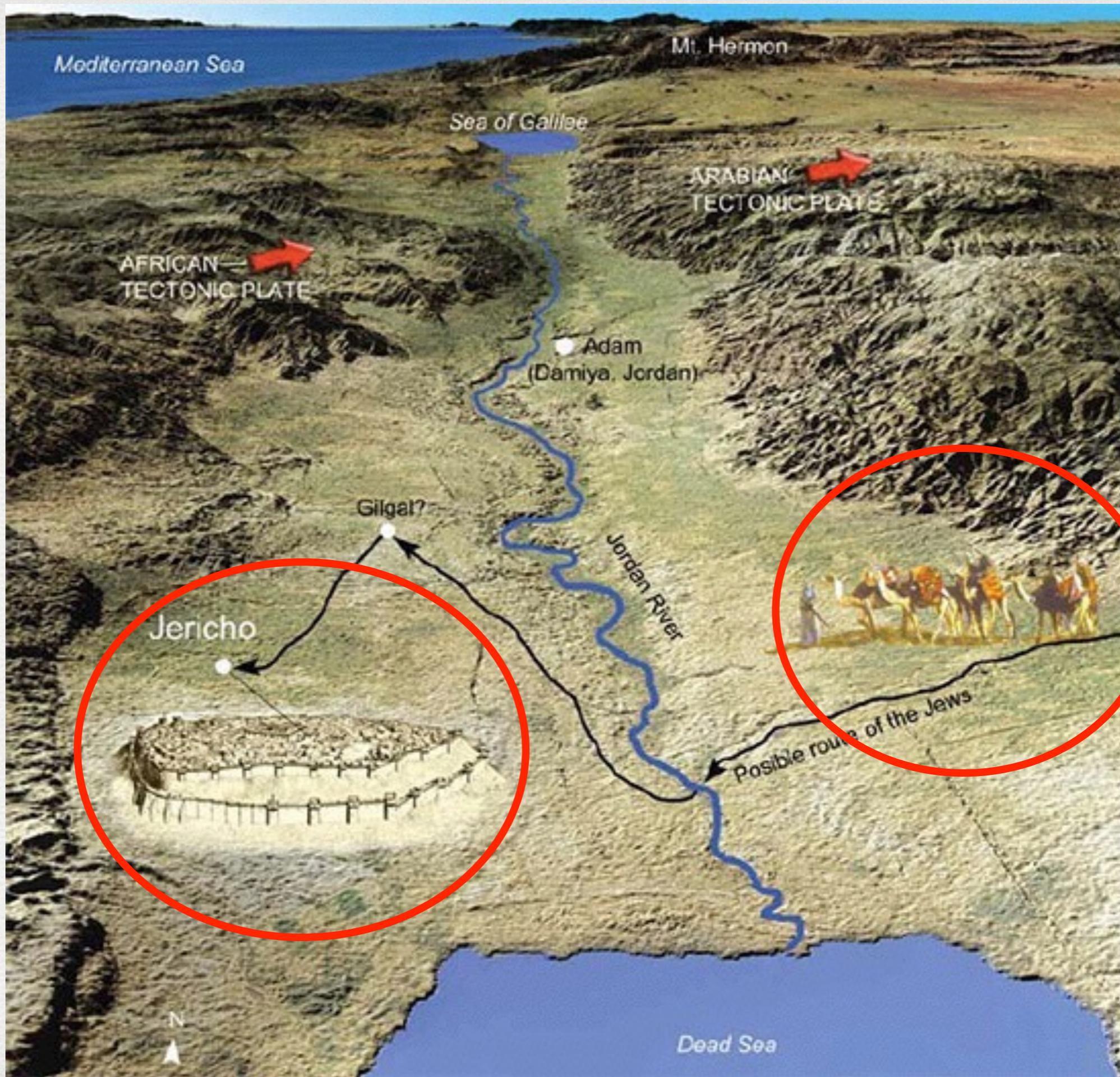
JOSHUA 1:10-18

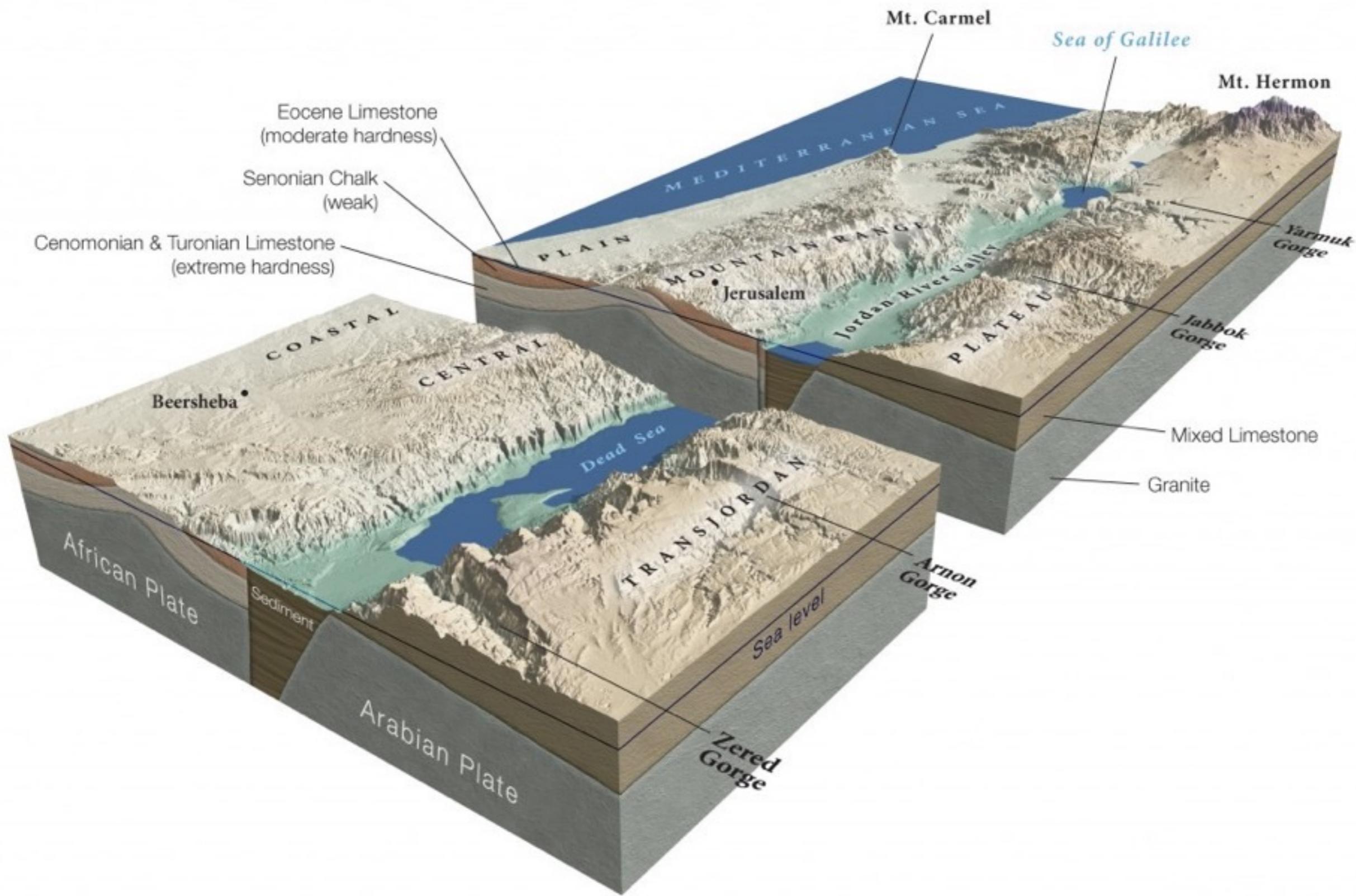
# GOD'S PRESENCE

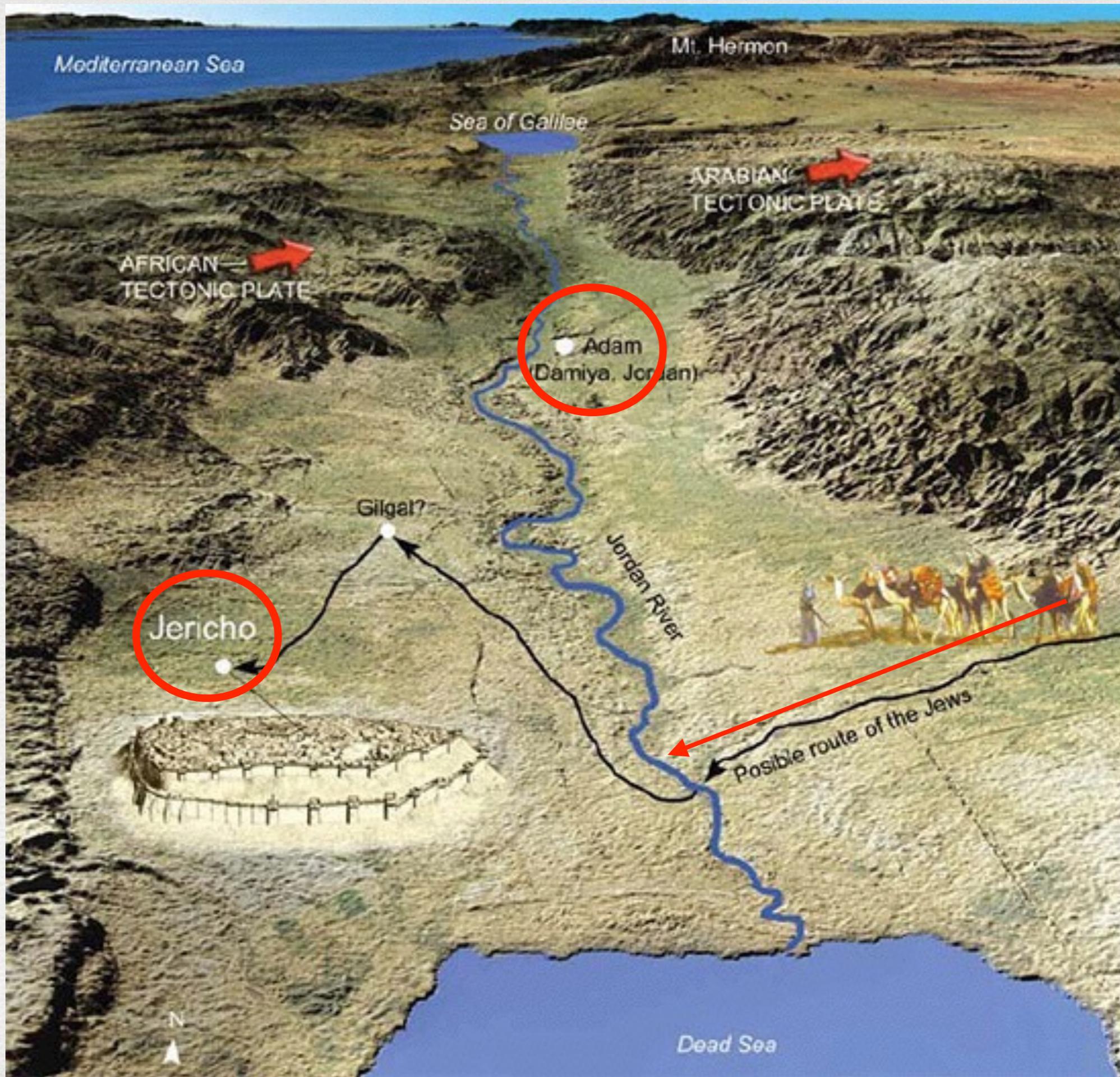
- God's challenge to be strong and courageous is not just a suggestion. It is a command.
- And Joshua had to pass on those orders to the officers and leaders.
- For forty years, Joshua had experienced a gigantic visual aid from God to help and accept the reality of the heavenly presence (pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night)

# GOD'S PRESENCE

- God now requires obedience. The people would take possession of the land.
- God's command was clear: prepare provisions, we are going into the Promised Land.
- There is a time to be ready. This is the time to gather food and materials to cross the river and take the land.







# GOD'S PLAN

- Taking the land was not just for those who had lived there but for all twelve tribes.
- Some of them received a land grant of land east of the Jordan River, but they were also to fight.
- It was essential that Reuben, Gad, and one-half of the tribe of Manasseh help their brothers conquer the promised land before they settled east of the Jordan River.

# GOD'S PLAN

- Not only would the Reubenites, Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh be required to fight, they were to be on the front lines (Numbers 32:16–32; Deuteronomy 3:12–20).
- Joshua is tasked with reminding and motivating this group to fulfill the promises made.
- Here are three key principles:

# GOD'S PLAN

- First, unity is imperative.
- These tribes settled in land east of the Jordan during Moses' time with the stipulation that they fight as one with Israel when entering the land of Canaan (Numbers 32:20–28).
- Joshua called on these men to fulfill their commitment because solidarity is key to victory.

# GOD'S PLAN

- Second, peace is the goal.
- The men are called on to fight until peace is achieved. Then they can return to their wives, children and livestock.
- This underlies the ultimate goal of conquest as rest from war so that Israel could serve her God: “The LORD your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land” (1:13).

# GOD'S PLAN

- Third, honor is empowering.
- The men were called to obey the Word of the Lord in honor. Honor inspires obedience by way of dignity, rather than fear and punishment.
- Joshua communicated respectfully with these “men of valor” (1:14) and they responded in kind: “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go” (1:16).

# GOD'S PLAN

- These tribes were facing a daunting task.
- Acting as shock troops for Israel, they would be risking their lives for their brothers' inheritance.
- One might expect a list of excuses as to why the men could not fulfill their obligation or even perhaps a rebellion reminiscent of Numbers 14.
- Instead, the men confirmed that they would wholeheartedly fulfill their obligation.

# GOD'S PLAN

- They vowed allegiance to Joshua and exhorted him to be strong and courageous.
- However, they were following the man with the expectation that the Lord would be with him.
- With enthusiasm, the people are prepared to march.
- The time has come to cross the threshold into the Promised Land.

# THE MIRACLE OF ISRAEL

Miracle of  
**ISRAEL**  
The Shocking, Untold Story of God's Love for His People



Gary Frazier & Jim Fletcher

# GOD'S PLAN

- **The Past**

- Abraham, Judges, Kings, and Prophets

- **The Present**

- The Jesus Years, State of Israel is Born

- **The Future**

- Prophecies, Millennial Kingdom, Glory

# THE PAST

- God makes His promise to Abram (Genesis 12:1-4)
- God says that He will bless Ishmael and his descendants but He will establish His covenant with Isaac (Genesis 17:19; 21:11-12).
- After the Exodus, Moses is dead and God raises up Joshua to lead them to the Promised Land.

# THE PAST

- Israel is ruled by judges (Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Sampson, and Samuel).
- Israel wants a king (Saul, David, Solomon, Ahaz, Rehoboam, Hezekiah, and Josiah).
- Israel is also taken into captivity and God speaks through various prophets

# THE PRESENT

- Jesus is born in Israel and continued His earthly ministry while the nation of Israel still existed.
- Jesus also predicted the fall of Jerusalem (Luke 19).
- This happened in September, A.D. 70
- In an effort to erase biblical history, Roman emperor Hadrian renamed Israel as “Syria Palestina.” This is where we get the name Palestine.

# THE PRESENT

- The Jewish people are now scattered in what has come to be known and a “diaspora.”
- But there is the promise in Deuteronomy 30 that God would gather the Jews from “all the nations” and bring them back to the land. The Sabbath prayer for Jews included the words: “Next Year in Jerusalem.”
- By the middle of the 19th century about 10,000 Jews did live in the Palestinian region.

# THE PRESENT

- Although there were attempts to provide a homeland for the Jews after World War I, the real progress toward establishing a nation of Israel happened after World War II because of the holocaust.
- Precisely at 4 PM on May 14, 1948, the nation of Israel was born. This took place in Independence Hall in Tel Aviv. This is where David Ben-Gurion read Israel's declaration of independence.

# INDEPENDENCE



1st of May 1948  
14.5.1948

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## STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

### Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred European men and women in the Kfar Station line of settlements near Hebron. They surrendered to a fully equipped superior force from the desert in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and by what means the Red Cross and the United Nations would secure civilized conditions for the prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Decisions on scores of these agonizing questions have now been reached.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and its official naming at birth, "Medinat Yisrael"—State of Israel, with the meaning is of the first Council of Government. The proclamation of the State was made at midnight, coinciding with the ending from Haifa of Britain's last High Commissioner. Within an hour, President Truman announced in Washington that the Government of the United States had decided to give its formal recognition to the Jewish State, with

### Jews Take Over Security Zones

The British set boundaries, when they began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, contained all the Jewish and Palestinian. The practice of small-scale fire and expressions of mutual animosity were still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle raged in Hebron.

Special efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission, to bring about a "cease fire" were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning Jewish forces entered the Ramat Hashikma and Beit O'f to reoccupy the buildings recently handed from Jews last year. They spent the night in the town, but beyond the western edge of Beit O'f, Arabs engaged the Jews in Hebron. The Arabs were forced back and the Hebron town area was taken.

In other parts of the city fighting raged in some areas, but one after another the areas were taken by the British. By last night, the quarters, and

### Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

A country-wide blackout was ordered by Air Base Palestine Headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Mr. David Ben-Gurion, the Prime Minister, broadcast from Tel Aviv to the people of America yesterday morning. As he spoke, Egyptian planes were bombing the city.

In the north, the settlements of Ein Yotz and Haar Hagat and Ein Yotz had been shelled, but no further details were available.

At the same time, the Jewish army on Friday morning shelled after the High Commissioner had there to place for Hebron. The field was straddled, in addition with the accompanying armaments of Akko, on Friday night. The armaments had been taken by Arab forces.

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### U.S. Recognizes Jewish State

WASHINGTON, Sunday.—The United States today announced its recognition of the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering lifting the arms embargo but it is not known whether it will do so in the near Middle East, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Jewish Provisional Government.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, said one respondent today that reaction so far to the recognition had been overwhelmingly favorable. He said the only had been discussed with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Luce before action was taken, and it had their complete support.

Mr. Ross said that the President had decided several days ago to give American recognition to the Jewish State.

### Proclamation by Head of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael", the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben-Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.

The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by its head, was to affirm its recognition of the 1948 White Paper of the International Commission on Palestine, particularly the Commission's terms relating to immigration and land transfer.

In the declaration of independence, Mr. Ben-Gurion called on the Arab people of Palestine to receive Jews, and full representation in all governmental organs of the State.

Mr. Ben-Gurion proclaimed the declaration with a message of the historic connection of the Jewish people with the Land of Israel and of their efforts to return, which were continued throughout the generations of their dispersal, and the final settlement of the Jewish people in their own land.

The High Commissioner of Palestine, Sir Bernard Mott, had given explicit instructions regarding the

### 2 Columns Cross Southern Border

By WALTER CHAGALL, U.S. Correspondent

HAIFA, Saturday.—A small

### Etzion Settlers Taken P.O.W.

By WALTER CHAGALL, U.S. Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Saturday.—The

### Special Assembly Adjourns

By WALTER CHAGALL, U.S. Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Saturday.—The

# THE PRESENT

- Harry Truman and the Jews - when Truman was in the clothing business, he worked with Eddie Jacobson, a Jew.
- He taught Truman about God's promises to the Jews.
- As soon as Israel declared its independence, President Harry Truman formally recognized the newly formed nation just 11 minutes later.

# RECOGNITION

This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the <sup>provisional</sup> Government thereof.

The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new ~~Jewish~~ <sup>State</sup> of ~~state.~~ <sup>Israel.</sup>



*Harry Truman*

*Approved,  
May 14, 1948.*

# THE WARS

- 1948-1949 - War of Independence
- 1967 - Six Day War
- 1973 - Yom Kippur War
- 1976 - Entebbe



# THE FUTURE

- Jesus said that as we are closer to the End Times, the signs will come as birth pangs (Matthew 24:8).
- Here are some of the signs: spiritual deception, wars, rumors of wars, famine, earthquakes, disease, ethnic strife, hatred of Jews and Christians, advances in technology.
- Although Christians will be caught up in the Rapture, there will still be a place for the Jews.

# THE FUTURE

- The Jewish people will rebuild the Temple.
- There will be a peace treaty that the Antichrist will break in the midst of the Tribulation.
- Before it is all through, God will pour out 21 successive judgments on the world followed by a battle that takes place in Israel.
- This will be followed by a Millennial Kingdom.

Miracle of  
**ISRAEL**  
The Shocking, Untold Story of God's Love for His People



Gary Frazier & Jim Fletcher

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