

## THE LAND POSSESSED

Joshua 11:1 - 21:45

When Jabin the king of Hazor heard how the Israelites had defeated the coalition of kings from the Jerusalem area, he sent a message to the kings of Madon, Shimron, and Achshaph, and to the kings that were in the north of the mountains, the kings of the plains south of Chinneroth, the kings in the valley, and the kings in the borders of Dor on the west. Jabin sent messages to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and to the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perrizite, and the Jebusite in the mountains, and to the Hivite under Hermon in the land of Mizpeh. All these kings gathered together a very great army, and went to fight against Israel.

This great army made its camp at the waters of Merom. Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at about this time I will deliver them to you already killed. You will hamstring their horses and burn their chariots."

By God's command, Joshua and his army came upon the camp of their enemies suddenly and destroyed them all, because the Lord gave them the victory. Joshua did as the Lord commanded and utterly destroyed all the people of the cities of these kings, but he burned only the city of Hazor.

Joshua did exactly as the Lord told him. He left nothing undone that the Lord had told him to do. Joshua took the hills and the valleys, the mountains and the plains.

There was not one city that made peace with Israel, besides Gibeon, for the Lord had hardened the hearts of the inhabitants of the land, so that they came to fight against Israel. In this way the Lord destroyed all the inhabitants of the land of Canaan, for their rebellion against him. This is what the Lord had commanded Moses to do.

Now Joshua was old and stricken in years, and the Lord said to him, "You are old, and there is still very much land to be conquered. Now divide the land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and the half tribe of Manassah. The Reubenites and the Gadites have received their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan by the hand of Moses.

The tribe of Levi did not receive an inheritance of land as did the other tribes, for their inheritance was the Lord, and they would be cared for out of the offerings that the people brought to God.

During this time of conquest, that wicked Balaam the son of Beor, the fortuneteller, was killed by the nation of Israel, for he had caused great judgment to come upon Israel by the counsel he gave to Balak king of Moab. Balaam had claimed to speak for God, but his claim was false, for he only wanted to gain riches and power for himself, and he did not wish to obey and serve the Lord. Balaam was willing to try to destroy the people of God for money. But the Lord God is greater than any man, and he did not allow Balaam to achieve his evil purposes. In the end, Balaam died an early death because of his rebellion against the Lord.

Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the leaders of the people distributed the inheritance to the children of Israel. It was done by lot, so that it was the Lord who choose where each family would live. He had a particular place where he wanted each of his people to live. Each tribe was placed in a particular area, somewhat like a small state, and then each family was given their own land within the area of their tribe. This land was to be kept in the family for all time, and to be passed down to each succeeding generation.

Now the children of Manasseh had difficulty in driving out those people that possessed the land promised to them. When the tribe of Manasseh did become strong enough to drive out their enemies, they compromised and disobeyed God. Instead of driving the Canaanites out of the land, so that they would not lead the people of Manasseh into sin with their wickedness, Manasseh allowed the Canaanites to stay in the land and pay them tribute money. That money was not worth the sin that the people of Manasseh stumbled into, and the judgment it brought on them from God. How foolish it is to compromise for convenience sake, for what seems the easy way at the time will always lead to disaster later. It is so important to obey the Lord completely.

Once the land was divided, the Lord set aside special cities, called cities of refuge. These cities were places where a person could flee to if he had accidentally caused the death of someone. For example, if a man was cutting down a tree, and that tree accidentally fell on his neighbor and killed him, the person who had caused the neighbor's death could run to the nearest city of refuge and be safe from the revenge of the dead person's family. In a city of refuge the person could get a fair hearing, and as long he stayed in the refuge city he was safe from retribution. If, however, the person decided to leave the city of refuge before his time there was over, then the dead person's family could pursue and kill him. There were six cities of refuge, placed around the land, so everyone could easily get to a safe place. How wise and good of the Lord to provide the cities of refuge.

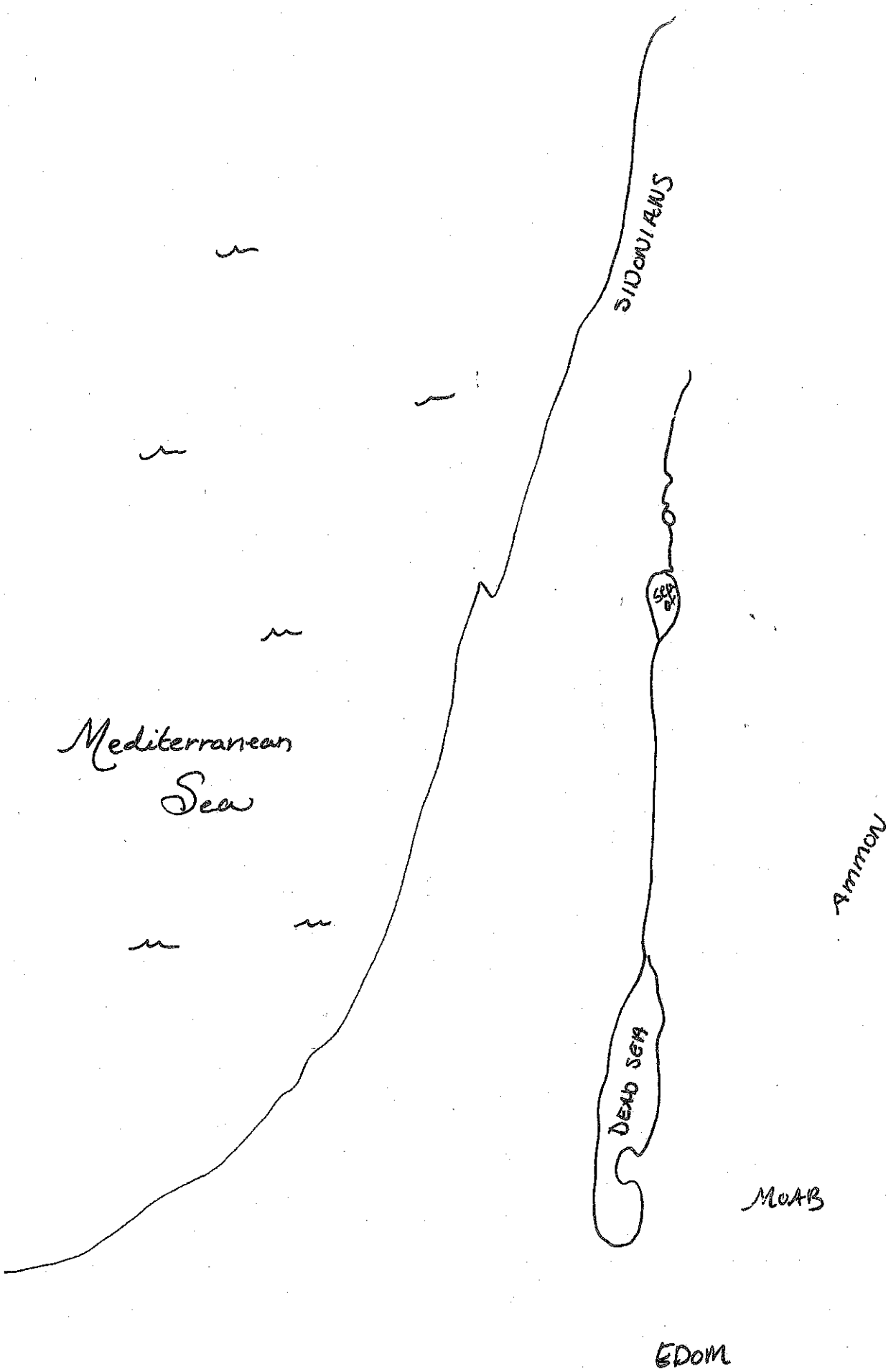
In the same way that the Lord provided a place of refuge for the people of Israel, so he provides a place of refuge from his judgment for each man and, woman and child. But, each person must claim that refuge for himself. If we refuse God's way of escape, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no other hope for us to avoid eternal judgment. Just as the Israelite had to flee to the city of refuge be saved from revenge of the slain person's family, so each of us must flee to the Lord Jesus in order to escape the just judgment of God on us for our rebellion against him.

We see then, that the Lord gave to Israel all the land which he had promised their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. The Lord gave them rest all around, and not one of their enemies could stand against them. The Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the promises which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel failed. Every one of the good things that the Lord had promised them came to pass.

The Lord is just the same today as he was in the days of Joshua. He will keep every promise that he makes to his children, and he will not fail to do even one of the good things for us that he has said. For the Lord is the God of truth.

**LEARN:** That by two immutable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.

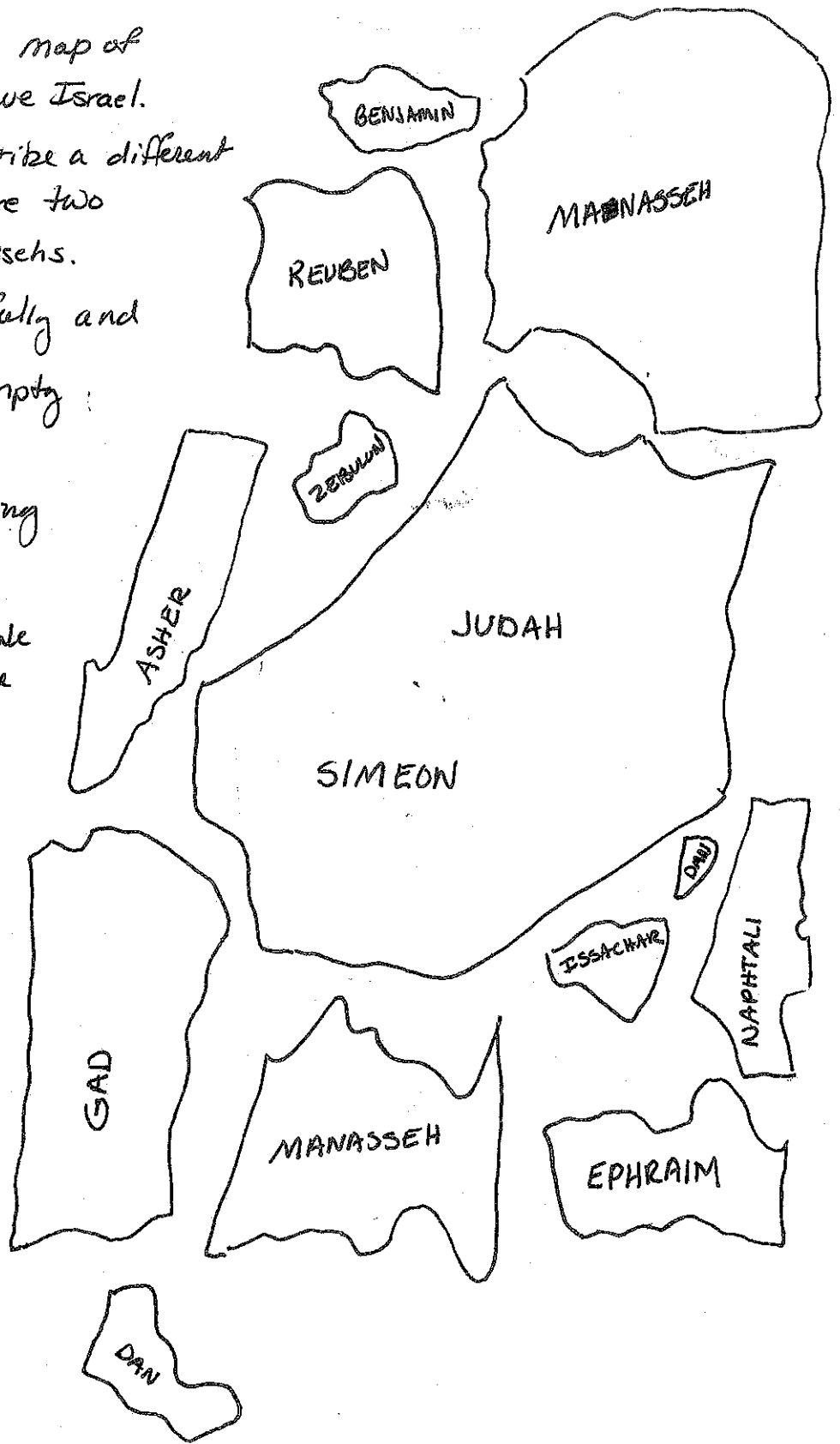
Hebrews 6:18



1. Color your pieces of the map of the land that God gave Israel.
2. Color the land of each tribe a different color - notice there are two Dons and two Manassehs.
3. Cut the pieces out carefully and paste them on the empty map of Canaan in the appropriate place by fitting them.
4. Place any cities you think are important at this time on the map.

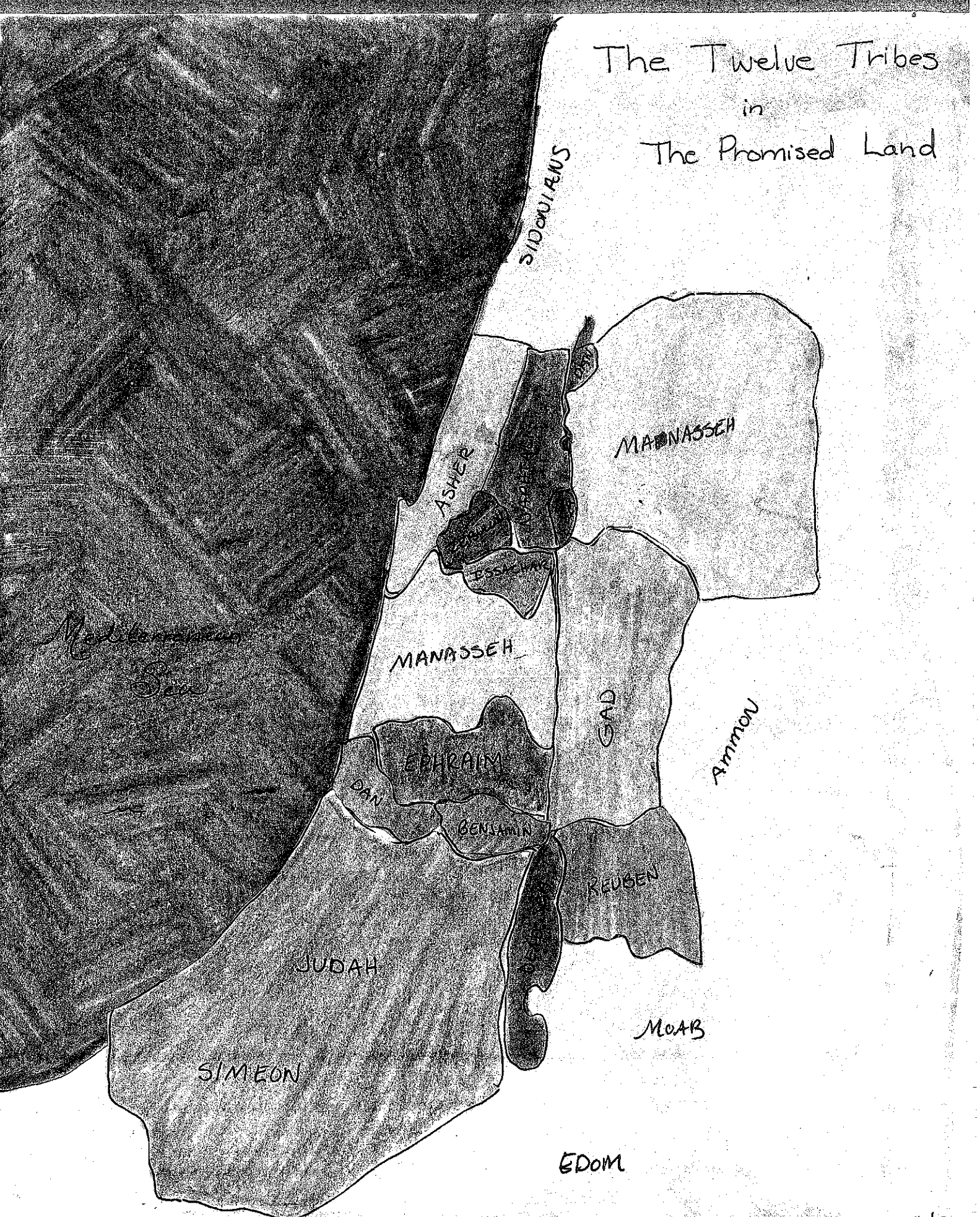
example:

- Jericho
- Gibeon
- Jerusalem
- Gilgal





# The Twelve Tribes in The Promised Land



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for God to lie we might have strong consolation, who have fled