

Thesis Statement

During the time of the judges,
the Israelites became like the Canaanites,
but God preserved them as a distinct, surviving
people and nation
by raising up judges who saved them from their
enemies.

WHY DID ISRAEL WANT TO WORSHIP IDOLS?

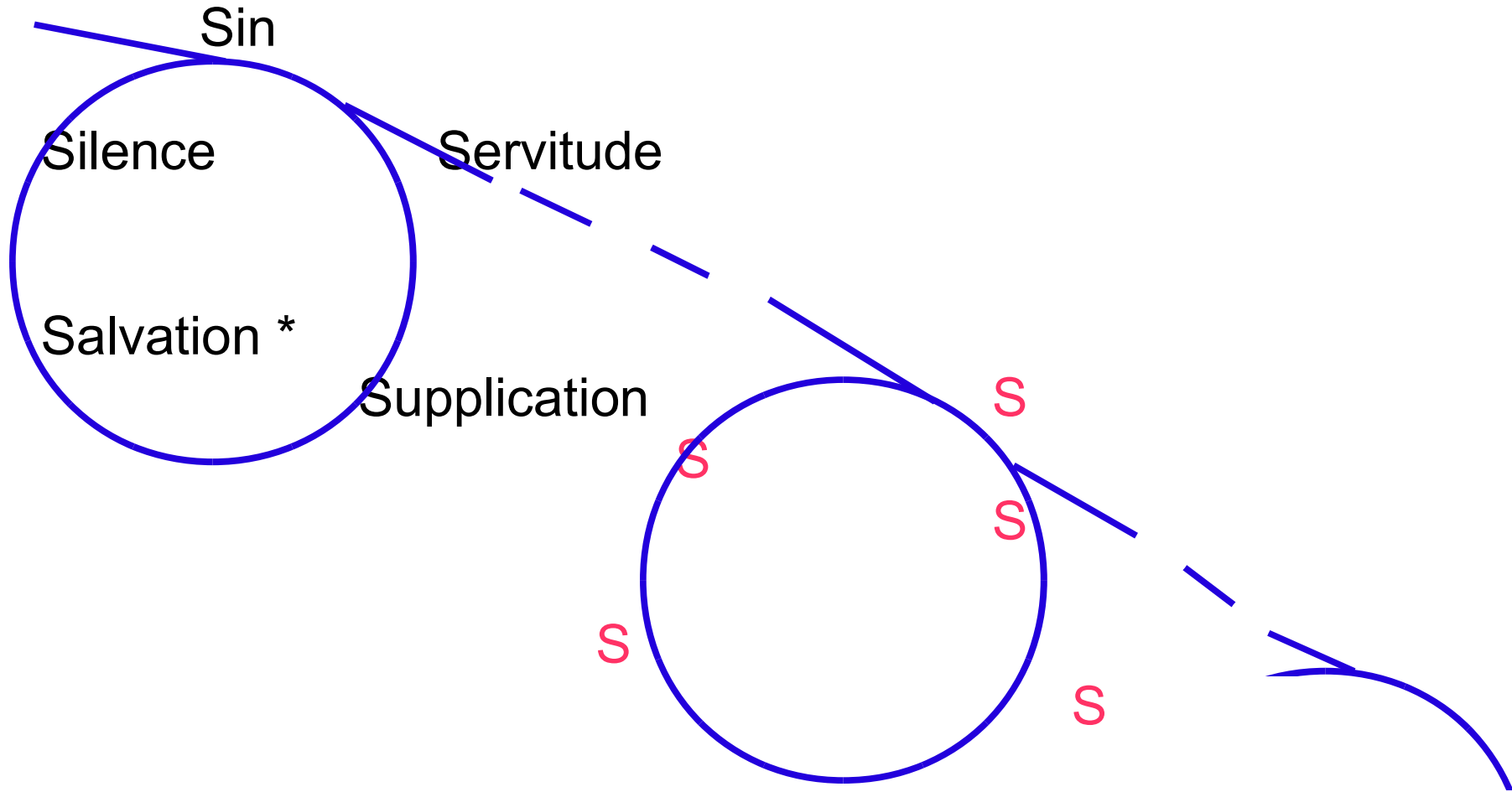
Judges 2:10

The temptation to follow false gods because of short-term benefits, good feelings, easy “rules,” or convenience was always present. But the benefits were deceptive because the gods were false. We worship God because he is the one and only true God.

| Worshiping God | Worshiping Idols |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Long-range benefits | Short-range benefits |
| Gratification postponed | Self-gratification immediate |
| Morality required | Sensuality approved |
| High ethical standards demanded | Low ethical standards tolerated |
| Neighbors' sins disapproved | Neighbors' sins approved |
| Unseen God worshiped | Visible idols worshiped |
| Unselfishness expected | Selfishness condoned |
| Business relations hindered | Business relations improved |
| Strict religious practices maintained | Religious practices loosely regulated |
| Changed life demanded | Changed life not demanded |
| Ethical stand expected | Compromise and cooperation practiced |
| Concern for others taught | No concern for others expected |

Judges – A Downward Spiral of Depravity

3:7 – 11



Spiral of Depravity – Judges 10 – 12

10:6 SIN

10:7 – 9 SERVITUDE

10:10 SUPPLICATION

(10:11 SURPRISE!)



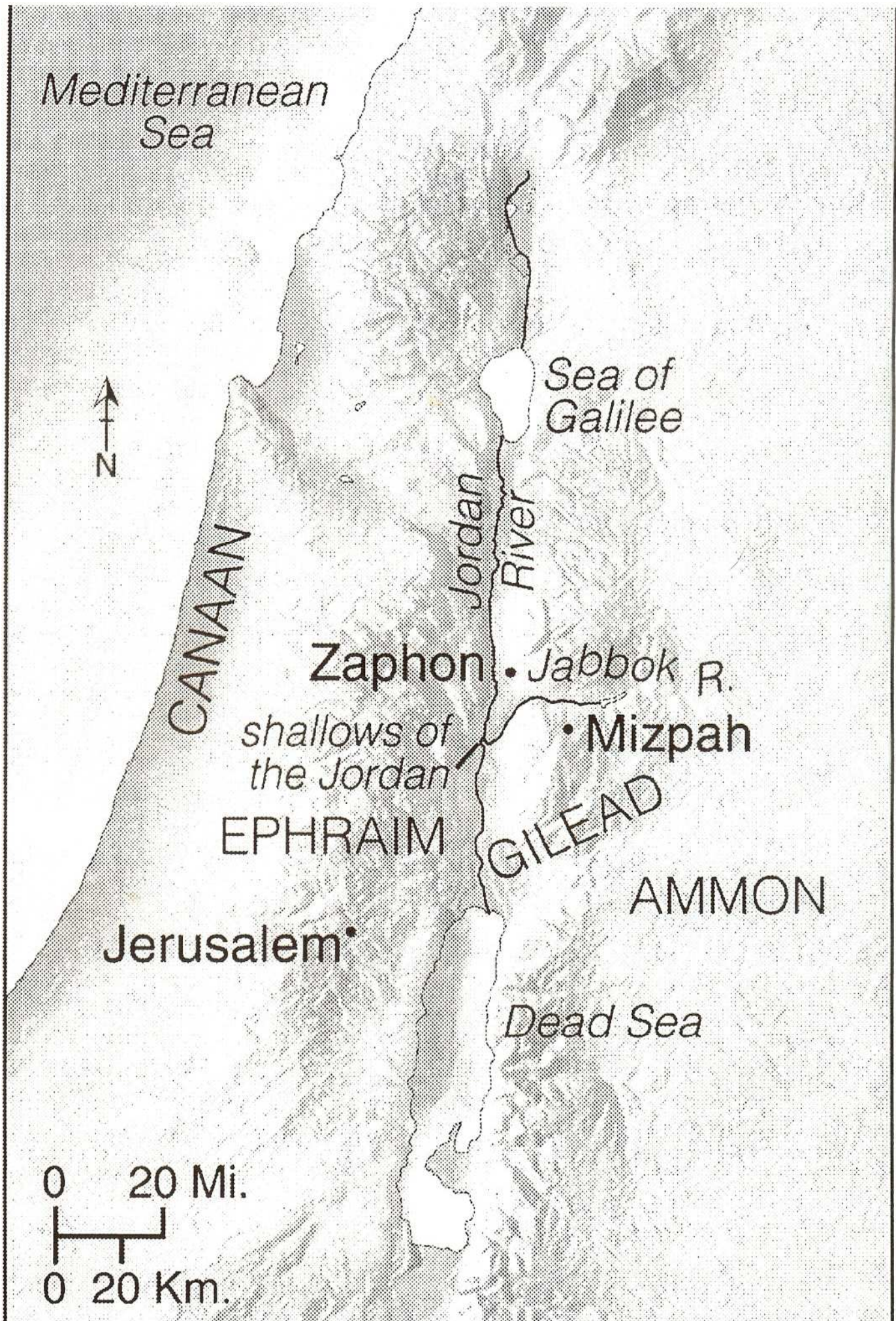
10:16b – SALVATION – Jephthah
12:6

12:7 SILENCE

JUDGES 11 AND 12

(Ammonite threat 10:17-18)

- Jephthah becomes head and commander of Gilead 11:1-11
- Attempts at Negotiation with Ammon 11:12-28
- Jephthah's vow and Yahweh's victory 11:29-33
- Jephthah pays his vow 11:34-40
- Civil War in Israel 12:1-7
- Next three judges 12:8-15
 - Ibzan
 - Elon
 - Abdon



Jephthah

Gideon

Abimelech

Saul

| | | | | |
|---|-------|--------|--|-------------------|
| – mighty / valor | 11:1 | x 6:12 | | |
| – angered Ephraim | 12:1 | x 8:1 | | |
| – outcast son of harlot | 11:1 | | outcast son of concubine 8:31 | |
| – wicked, worthless followers | 11:3 | | x 9:4 | |
| – was pursued for leadership | 11:5 | | selfishly pursued leadership 9:5 | |
| – made leader in Mizpah | 11:11 | | | x I Sam. 10:17 |
| – initial enemy: Ammon | 11:12 | | | x I Sam. 11:1 |
| – rash vow threatened his firstborn | 11:30 | | | x I Sam. 13:8 |
| – offered unlawful sacrifice | 11:39 | | | x I Sam. 14:14 |

SOME BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION CONCERNING VOWS AND THE USE OF ONE'S WORDS

Numbers 30:2

If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

Deuteronomy 23:21-23

“When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you. That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Ecclesiastes 5:2-5

Do not be rash with your mouth,
And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.
For God *is* in heaven, and you on earth;
Therefore let your words be few.
For a dream comes through much activity,
And a fool's voice *is known* by *his* many words.
When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it;
For *He has* no pleasure in fools.
Pay what you have vowed—
Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

James 1:19

So then,^[a] my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

Matthew 12:33-37

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit. ³⁴ Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart^[g] brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

NKJV

The Inheritances of the Twelve Tribes of Israel

Tribal Origins of the Judges

