

1st Samuel

A Transition In National Leadership



“And the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.’” (1 Samuel 8:7)

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OUTLINE OF FIRST SAMUEL

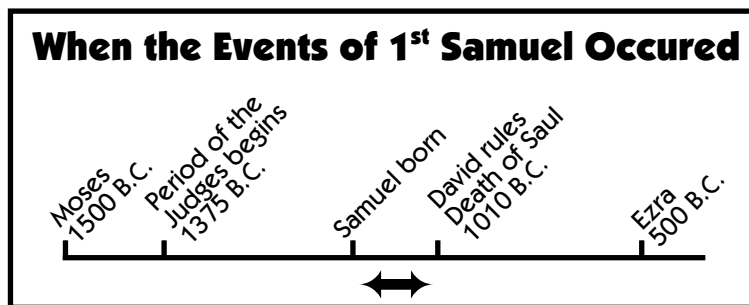
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(The above outline is from *Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts*, p. 93)



PART ONE: SAMUEL, THE LAST JUDGE (1:1—7:17)

I. THE FIRST TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP: ELI—SAMUEL (1:1—3:21)

A. The Birth of the New Leader (1:1—2:11)

1. How would you describe Elkanah as a father?
2. Describe the vow that Hannah made to God.
3. Describe the conversation between Eli and Hannah.
4. How was Samuel dedicated to God?
5. Describe the elements of Hannah's prayer to God.

B. The Need for the New Leader (2:12—2:36)

1. Describe the immoral conduct of the sons of Eli.
2. Describe the childhood years of Samuel.
3. Describe the parenting skills of Eli.

4. What did the man of God tell Eli?

C. The Transition from Eli to Samuel (3:1–18)

1. How did God reveal Himself to Samuel? Describe this event.

2. What message did God give to Samuel?

3. How did Eli react to God’s message?

D. Samuel Is Recognized as the New Leader of Israel (3:19–21)

1. What is meant by the phrase, “the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground”?

2. How far did the fame of Samuel spread?

II. THE JUDGESHIP OF SAMUEL (4:1—7:17)

A. The Need for Samuel’s Leadership (4:1—6:21)

1. How did Israel react to the loss to the Philistines?

2. Why was the ark of the covenant brought onto the battlefield? What happened to it?

3. Describe how Eli died.

4. How did Ichabod get his name?

5. What happened in the temple of Dagon at Ashdod? Why?

6. What happened in the city of Gath? Why?

7. What happened in the city of Ekron? Why?

8. How long was the ark of the covenant held by the Philistines?

9. Describe how the Philistines returned the ark of the covenant to Israel.

10. Why did the Lord strike the men of Beth Shemesh?

B. The Victories Under Samuel's Leadership (7:1–17)

1. What did Samuel convince the children of Israel to do?

2. What did the Philistines seek to do to Israel?

3. Why did Samuel name a stone “Ebenezer”?

4. Describe the work Samuel performed as a judge in Israel.

PART TWO: SAUL, THE FIRST KING (8:1—31:13)

I. THE SECOND TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP: SAMUEL—SAUL (8:1—12:25)

A. The Causes of the Transition (8:1–9)

1. What was the problem with Joel and Abijah?

2. What was the *real* problem with Israel requesting a king?

3. What was Samuel to warn the people about?

B. The Transition from Samuel to Saul (8:10—12:25)

1. How did Samuel describe the behavior of kings?

2. What did the people of Israel want a king to do for them?

3. How is Saul described as we are introduced to him?

4. How did Saul make his way to the man of God?

5. What did God tell Samuel before Saul arrived?

6. What was the purpose of Samuel anointing Saul with oil?

7. Where and how did the "Spirit of the Lord" come upon Saul?

8. How did Samuel proclaim Saul as king?

9. What did Nahash the Ammonite demand from the people of Jabesh Gilead?

10. How did Saul motivate the men of Israel to help him in battle?

11. How did Saul show mercy after the battle?

12. Before Saul's coronation, what did Samuel remind the people of?

13. What would cause “the hand of the Lord” to be against Israel?

II. THE REIGN OF KING SAUL (13:1—15:9)

A. The Early Success of King Saul (13:1–4)

1. What did Saul do in the second year of his reign?
2. How did the Philistines regard the people of Israel?

B. The Failures of King Saul (13:5—15:9)

1. What foolish act did Saul commit in Gilgal?
2. What problem arose due to a lack of blacksmiths in Israel?
3. What bold action did Jonathan make against the Philistines?
4. What was the consequence of Saul’s rash oath?
5. How was Jonathan saved from death?

6. Why was Saul sent to destroy Amalek?

7. Did Saul obey God's command to destroy the Amalekites?

III. THE THIRD TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP: SAUL—DAVID (15:10—31:13)

A. The Transition of Kingship from Saul to David (15:10—18:9)

1. What excuse did Saul give for sparing Agag?

2. Describe Samuel's rebuke of Saul.

3. Did Saul truly repent of his sin? Prove your answer!

4. Why did Samuel hesitate in going to Jesse the Bethlehemite?

5. How was David selected to be king of Israel?

6. Why did God send a "distressing spirit" to Saul?

7. Describe Goliath, the champion of the Philistines.

8. Describe the physical appearance and character of David.

9. How did David kill Goliath? Describe the scene.

10. Why did Saul dislike to song of the women of Israel?

B. The Attempts of Saul to Slay David (18:10—20:42)

1. Why was Saul afraid of David?

2. How did Saul plot against David?

3. What form of dowry did David present to his future father-in-law?

4. What did Jonathan warn David about?

5. How did Michal protect David?

6. What happened to the men Saul sent to kill David?

7. What covenant was made between Jonathan and David?

8. Why was Saul so angry at Jonathan?

9. What caused Jonathan and David to weep?

C. The Rise of David in Exile (21:1—28:2)

1. What all did David get from Ahimelech the priest?

2. Why did David flee to Gath? How did he behave there?

3. What happened at the cave of Adullam?

4. Why did Saul murder the priests of God?

5. How did David save the inhabitants of Keilah?

6. What did the Ziphites tell Saul?

7. Where did David stay in En Gedi? What happened there?

8. Why did Saul weep at the voice of David?

9. What did David swear to Saul?

10. What did David request of Nabal?

11. What kindness did Abigail show towards David and his men?

12. How did Nabal die? Please explain.

13. What did David do after the death of Nabal?

14. What did David prevent Abishai from doing? Why?

15. How does David taunt Abner?

16. Describe the conversation between Saul and David.

17. How long did David stay at Gath? How did David spend his time there?

18. What job did Achish give David?

D. The Final Decline of Saul (28:3—31:13)

1. After the death of Samuel, how did Saul seek to inquire of the Lord?

2. Why did Saul go to En Dor? How did he travel there?

3. What did the woman at En Dor see? Was she surprised?

4. What bitter message did Samuel give to Saul?

5. How did Saul react to the message of Samuel?

6. How did the princes of the Philistines react when they saw David?

7. What happened at Ziklag? How did the men who were with David react to this?
How did David react?

8. How did David obtain direction from God?

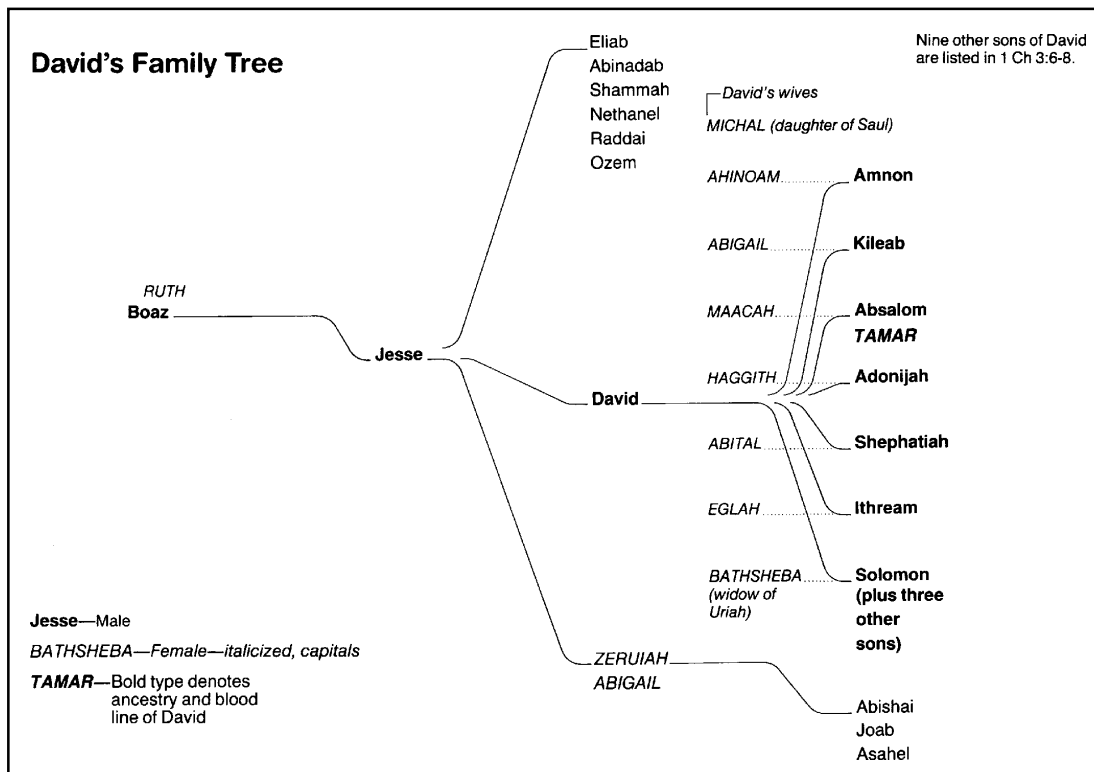
9. How did an Egyptian help David recover what he had lost?

10. What new statute and ordinance was made in Israel?

11. Where did David send some of the “spoil of the enemies of the Lord”?

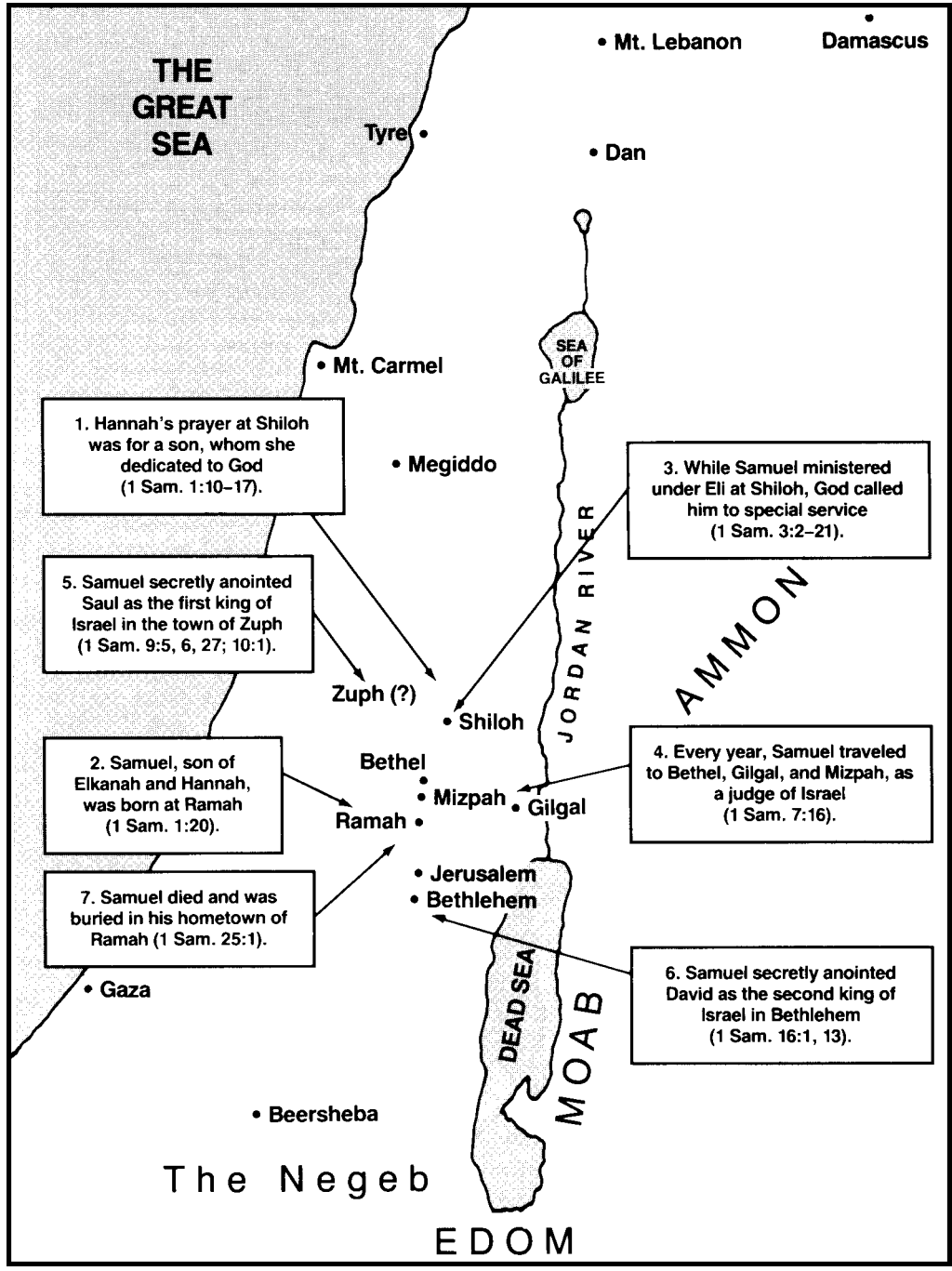
12. Describe the death of Saul and his sons.

13. What happened to the body of Saul?



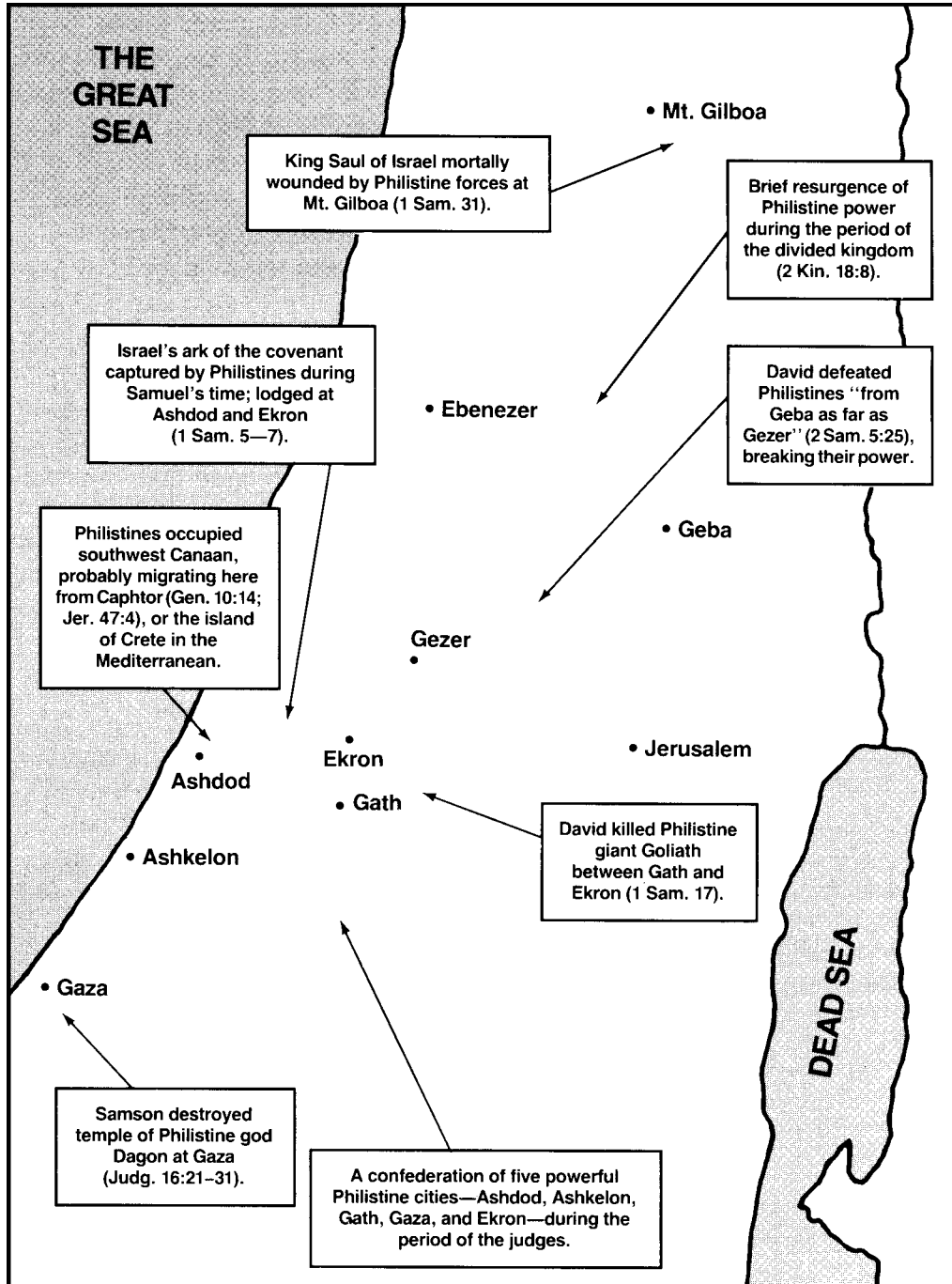
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SAMUEL'S LIFE



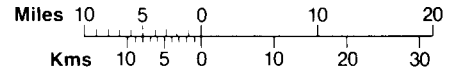
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THE PHILISTINE THREAT



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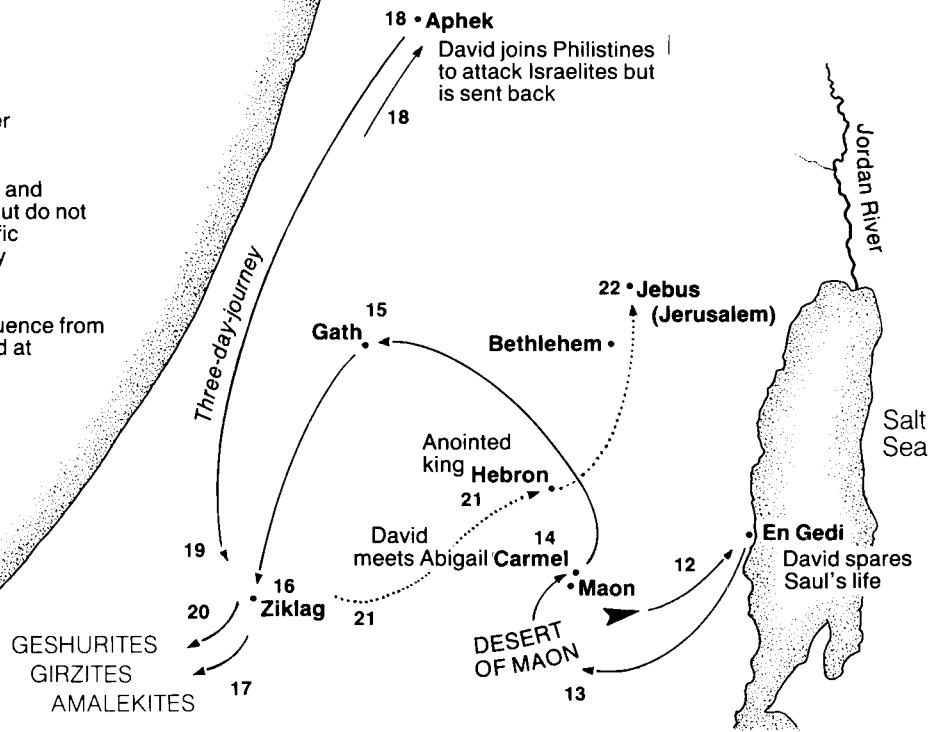
Exploits of David



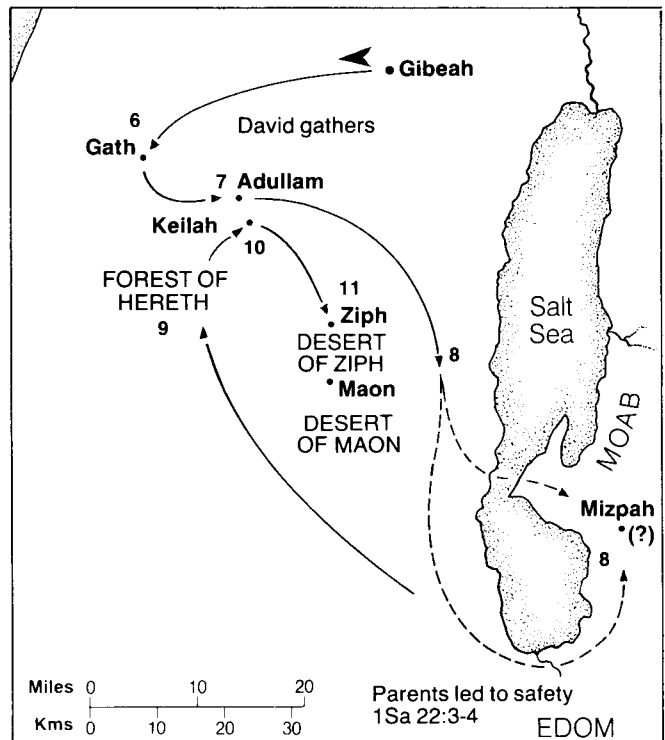
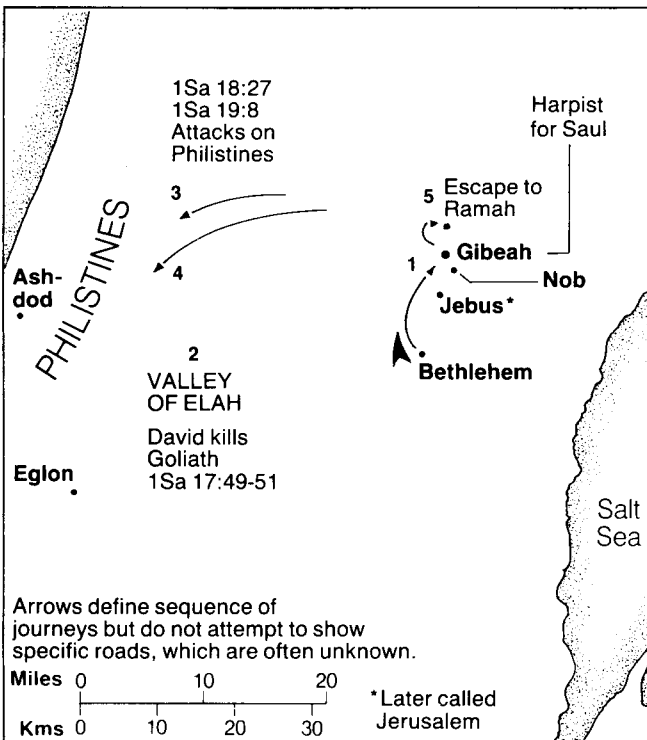
- ▶ Journeys
-▶ Journeys after Saul's death

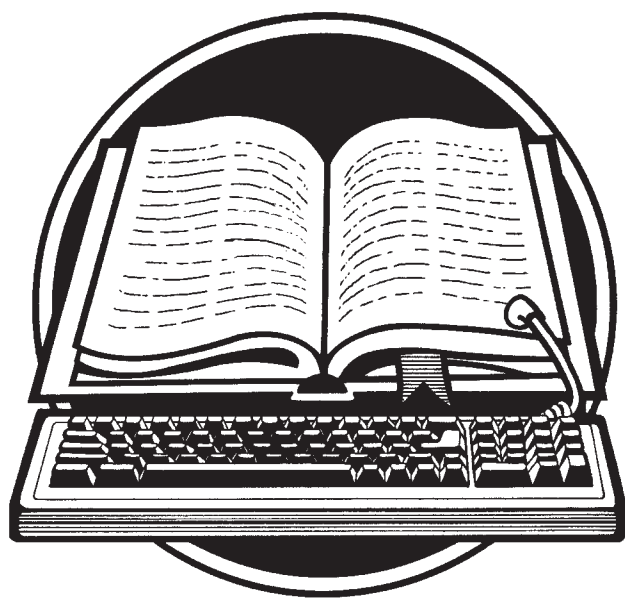
Arrows show directions and sequence of journeys but do not attempt to define specific roads, which are largely unknown.

Numerals follow in sequence from the previous map, found at 1 Samuel 19:18.



David the Fugitive





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