

Message #7

Reflections on the Judges of Israel

July 27, 2025
Pastor Mike Coss

series

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Final
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A dramatic painting depicting a man with long, dark, wild hair and a beard, wearing a simple grey tunic, wrestling a large lion. The man is shown from the waist up, leaning over the lion with a determined and fierce expression. The lion is on its hind legs, roaring with its mouth wide open, showing sharp teeth. The background is a dark, stormy sky with swirling clouds, and the ground is rocky and uneven. The overall tone is epic and heroic.

Abimelech

Judges 9

"Abimelech ruled over Israel three years."

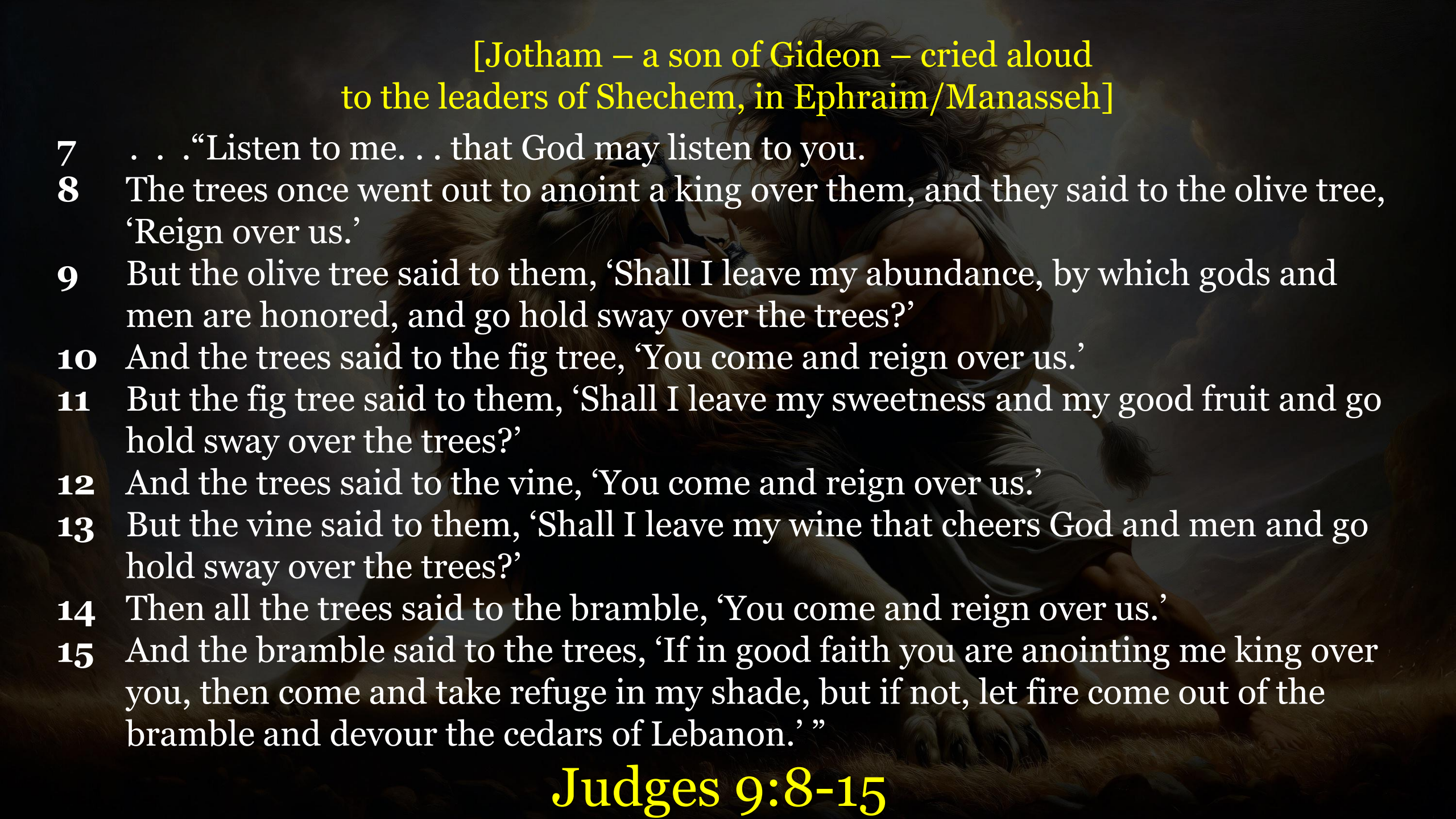
Judges 9:22

THE 12 JUDGES OF ISRAEL

JUDGE	VERSES	TRIBE	ENEMY/ OPPRESSOR	YEARS	PROPOSED DATES (BC)*
OTHNIEL	Jg. 3:7-11	Judah	King Cushan-rishathaim (Aram)	8 of oppression 40 of peace	1367-1327
EHUD	Jg. 3:12-30	Benjamin	King Eglon (Moab)	18 of oppression 80 of peace	1309-1229
SHAMGAR	Jg. 3:31	?	Philistines	?	?
DEBORAH	Jg. 4-5	Naphtali	King Jabin & General Sisera (Canaan)	20 of oppression 40 of peace	1209-1169
GIDEON	Jg. 6-8	Manasseh	Generals Zebah & Zalmunnah (Midian)	7 of oppression 40 of peace	1162-1122
<i>Abimelech**</i>	<i>Jg. 9</i>	<i>Gideon (Manasseh)</i>	<i>Shechem and Thebez</i>	3	?
TOLA	Jg. 10:1-2	Issachar	?	23	?
JAIR	Jg. 10:3-5	Gilead	?	22	?
JEPHTHAH	Jg. 10:6-12:7	Gilead	Philistines, Ammonites, Ephraimites	18 of oppression 6 under Jephthah	1078-1072
IBZAN	Jg. 12:8-10	?	?	7	?
ELON	Jg. 12:11-12	Zebulun	?	10	?
ABDON	Jg. 12:13-15	?	?	8	?
SAMSON	Jg. 13-16	Dan	Philistines	40 of oppression 20 under Samson	1075-1055

* These dates are highly speculative based on calculating backwards from David.

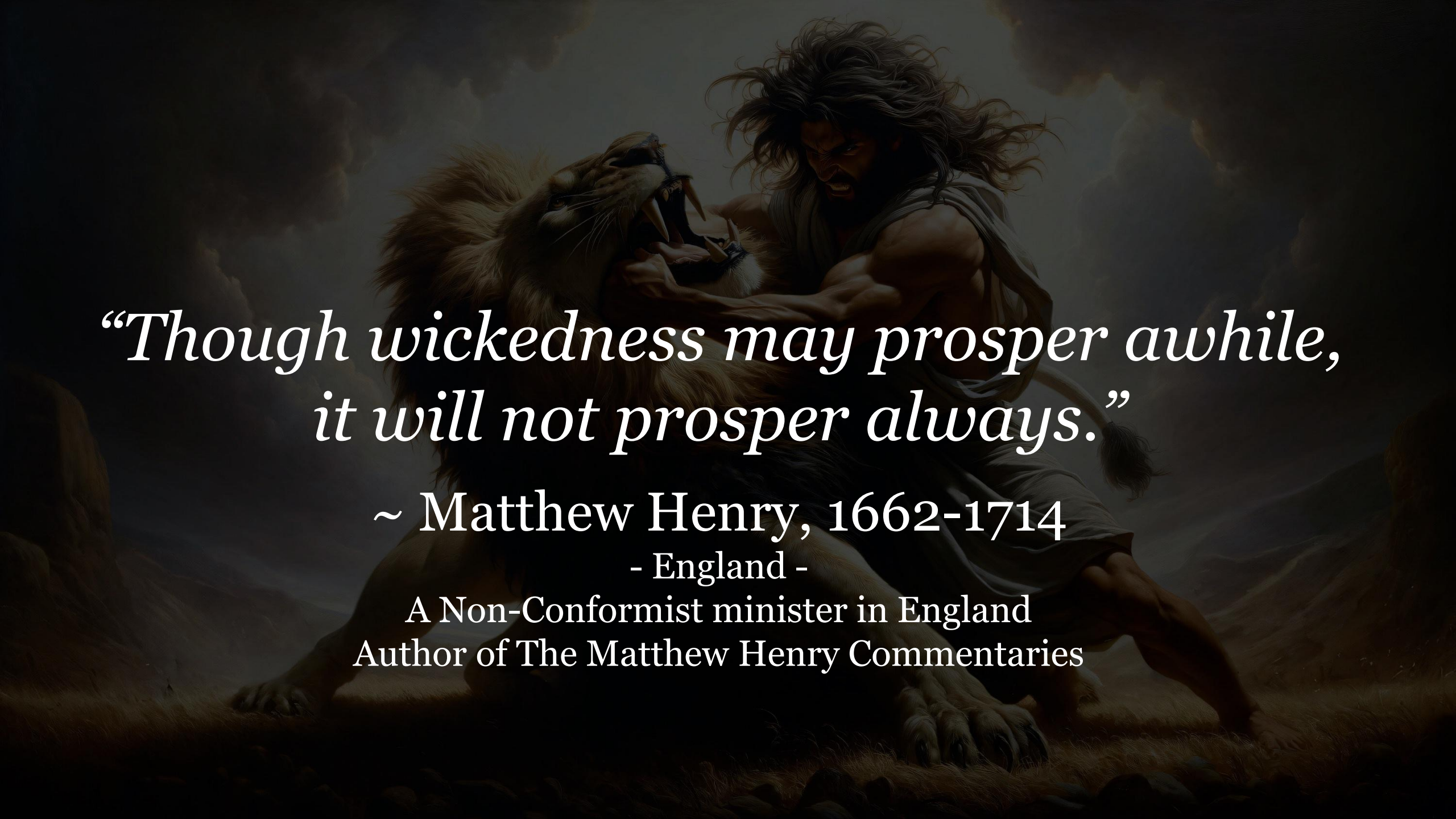
** Abimelech is often excluded from the list of judges, as his leadership was especially ignoble and short-lived.



[Jotham – a son of Gideon – cried aloud
to the leaders of Shechem, in Ephraim/Manasseh]

- 7 . . . “Listen to me . . . that God may listen to you.
- 8 The trees once went out to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree, ‘Reign over us.’
- 9 But the olive tree said to them, ‘Shall I leave my abundance, by which gods and men are honored, and go hold sway over the trees?’
- 10 And the trees said to the fig tree, ‘You come and reign over us.’
- 11 But the fig tree said to them, ‘Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit and go hold sway over the trees?’
- 12 And the trees said to the vine, ‘You come and reign over us.’
- 13 But the vine said to them, ‘Shall I leave my wine that cheers God and men and go hold sway over the trees?’
- 14 Then all the trees said to the bramble, ‘You come and reign over us.’
- 15 And the bramble said to the trees, ‘If in good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade, but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.’ ”

Judges 9:8-15

A dramatic painting of a man wrestling a lion in a desert landscape. The man, with long, dark, wild hair and a beard, is wearing a simple, light-colored tunic. He is in a powerful, muscular pose, wrestling a large lion. The lion is roaring with its mouth wide open, showing its teeth. The background is a dark, stormy sky with swirling clouds, and the ground is rocky and uneven. The overall mood is intense and heroic.

*“Though wickedness may prosper awhile,
it will not prosper always.”*

~ Matthew Henry, 1662-1714

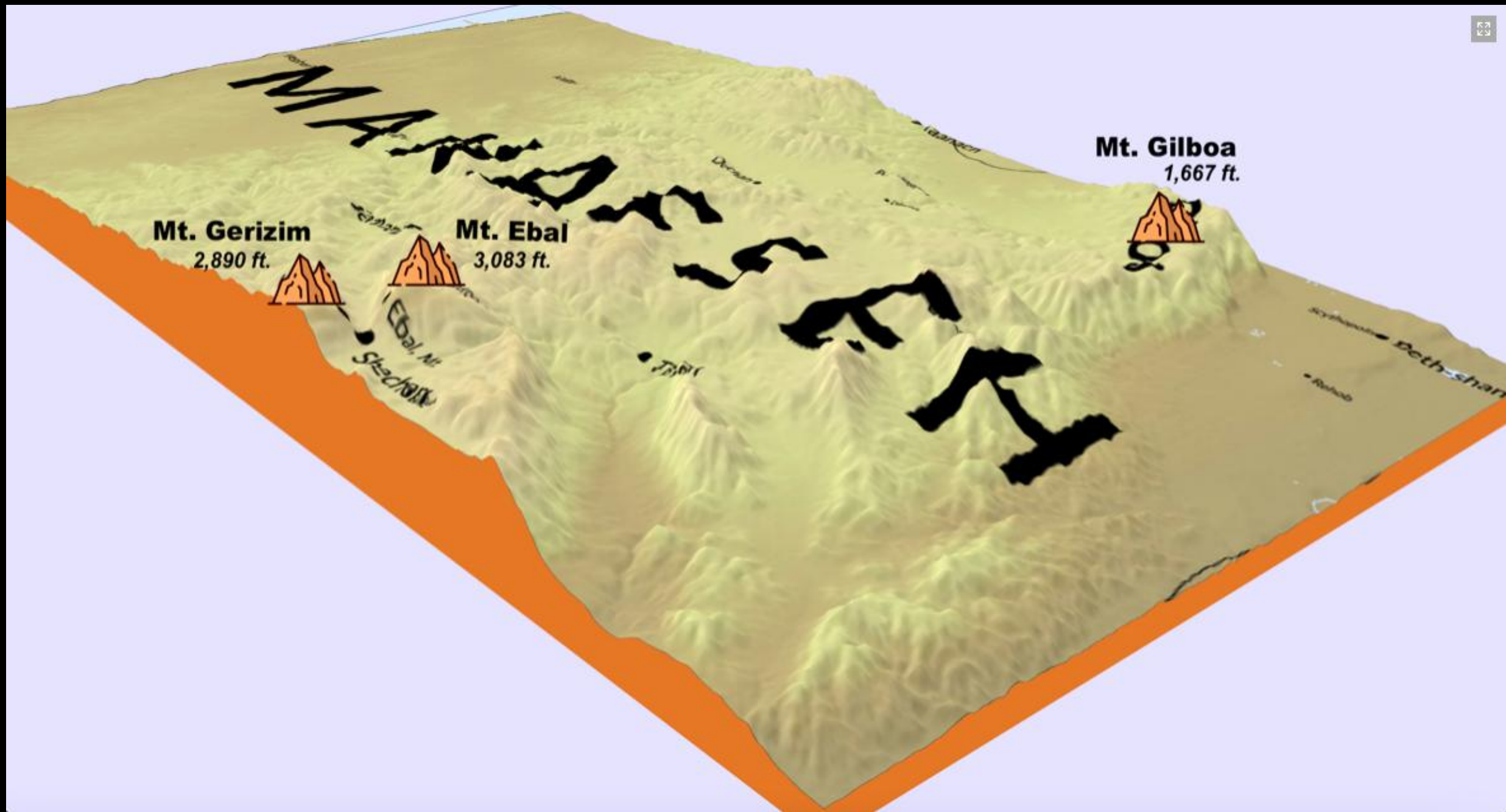
- England -

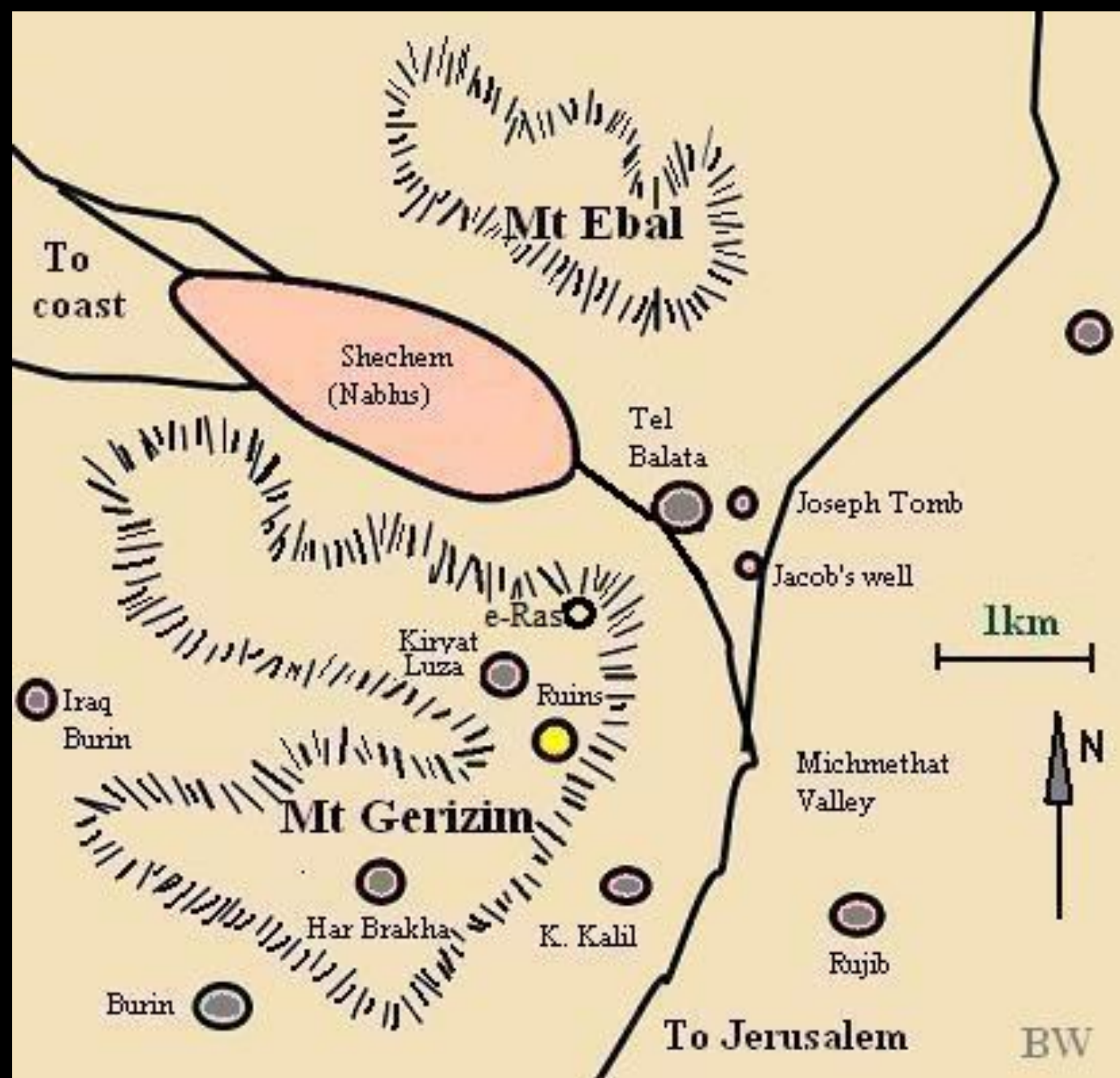
A Non-Conformist minister in England
Author of The Matthew Henry Commentaries

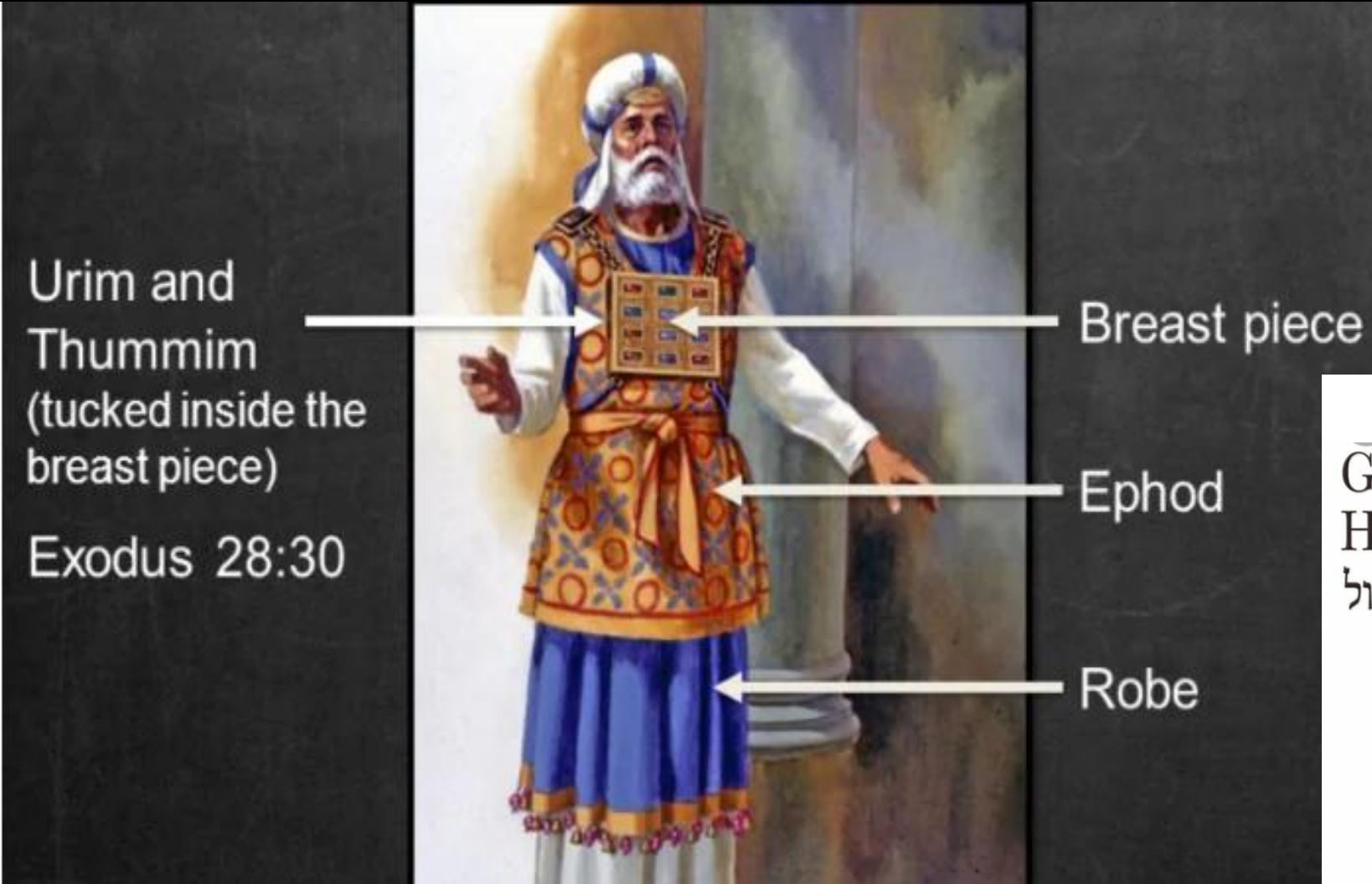
THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Around 1200-1050 B.C.
(according to the Book of Joshua)



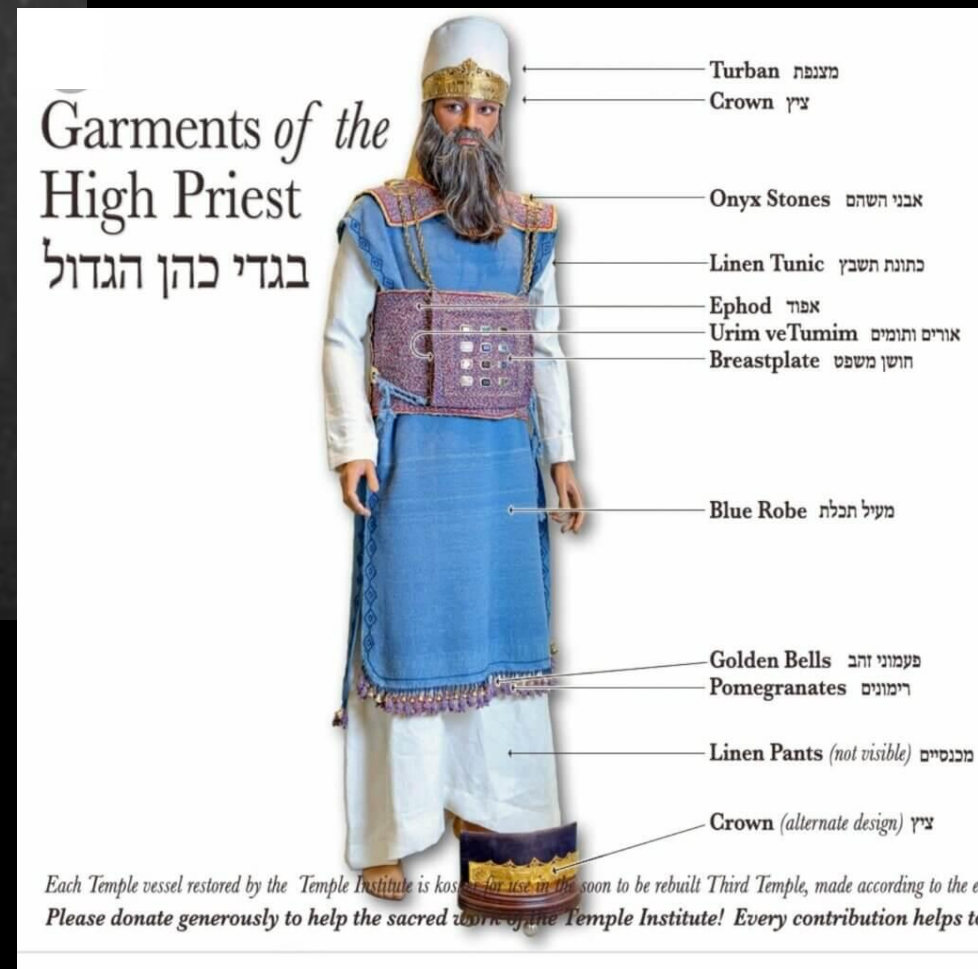






Exodus 28:6-7

“Make the ephod of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen—the work of skilled hands. It is to have two shoulder pieces attached to two of its corners, so it can be fastened.



*"Jehovah would raise up judges,
and they would save them out of
the hand of their pillagers."
—Judges 2:16*

JUDGES

1. Othniel
2. Ehud
3. Shamgar
4. Barak
5. Gideon
6. Tola
7. Jair
8. Jephthah
9. Ibzan
10. Elon
11. Abdon
12. Samson

