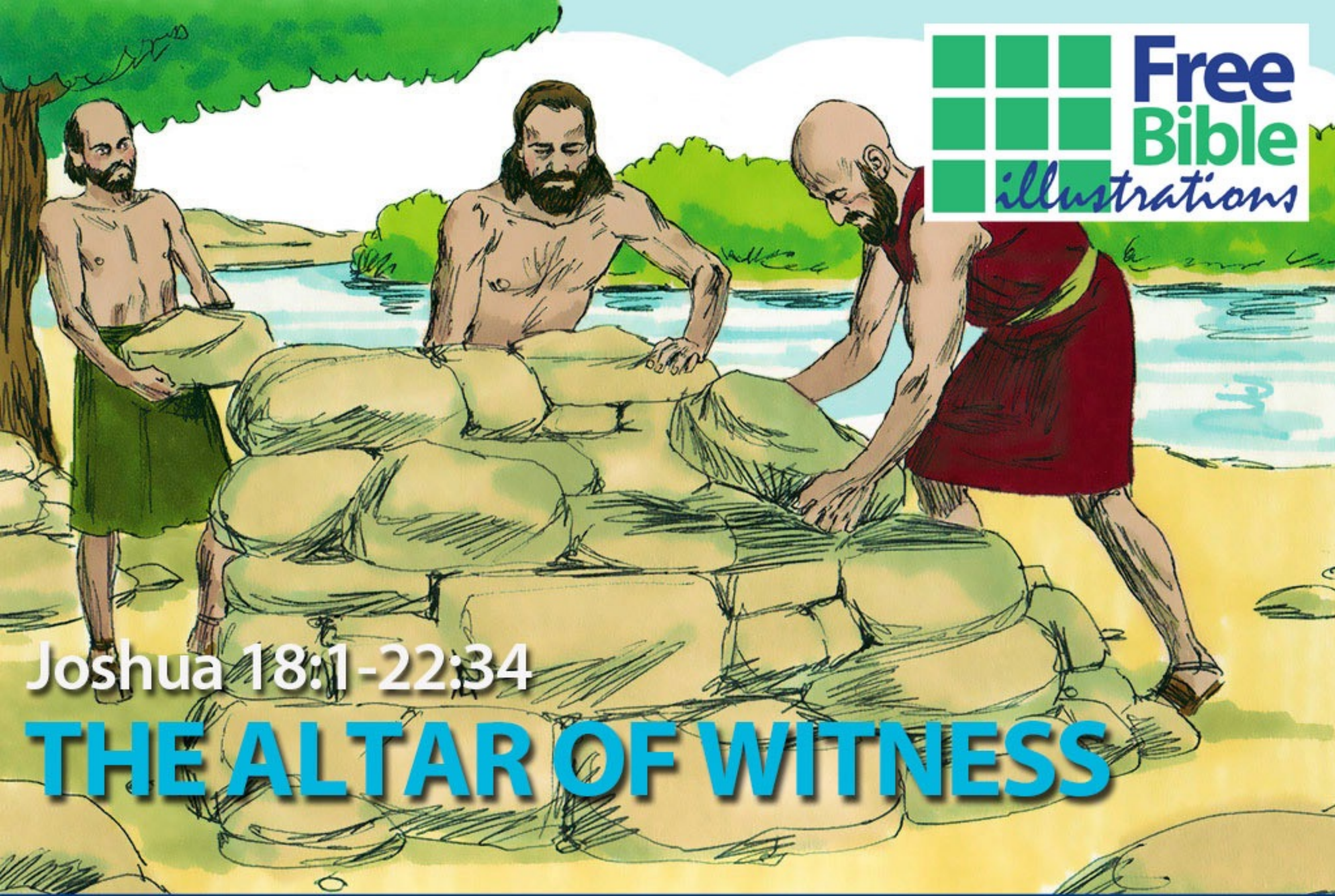


Lesson 5: Division of the Land West of the Jordan Part 2 Joshua 18-22

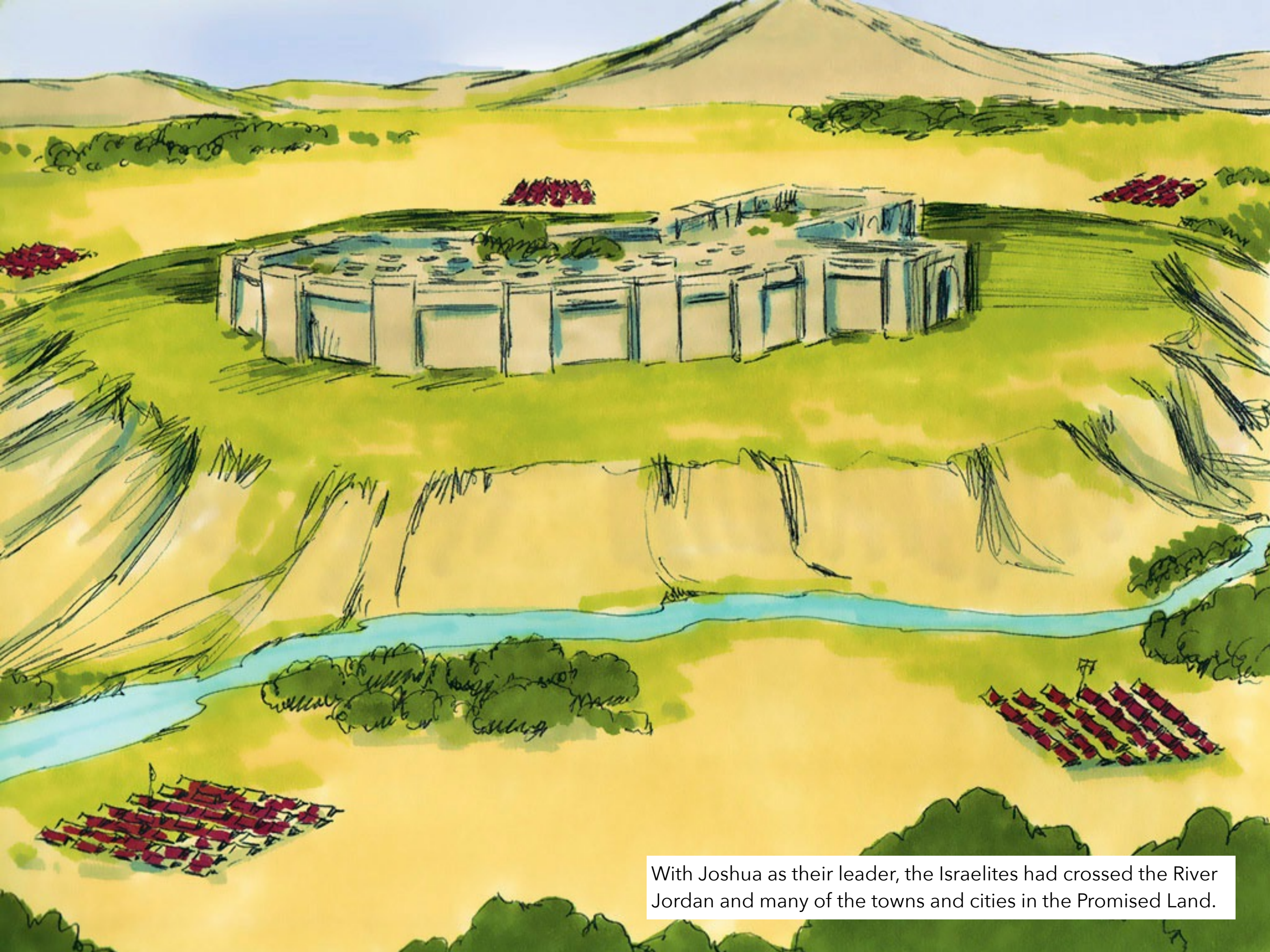
4th and 5th Grade Class

Jordan Park church of Christ

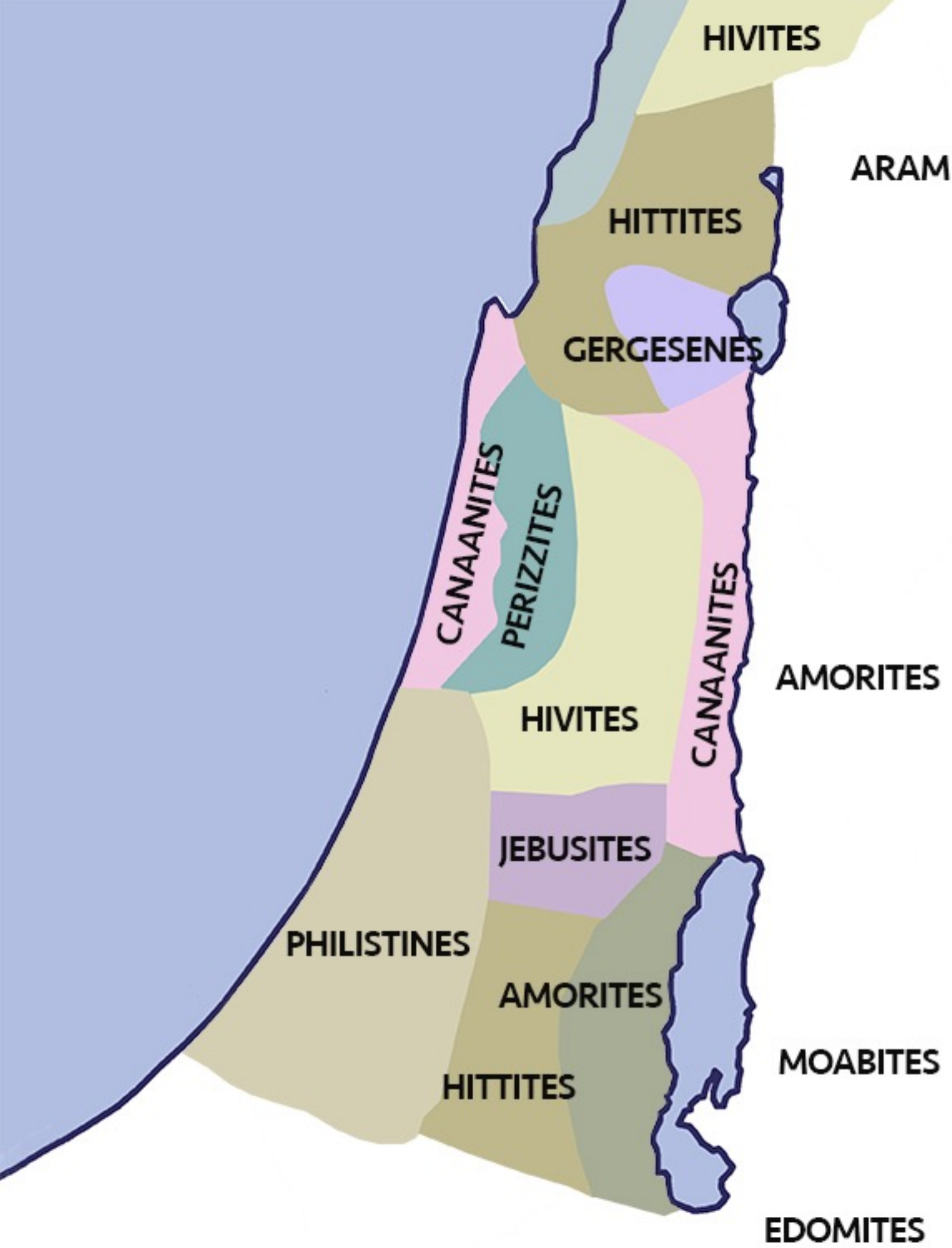


Joshua 18:1-22:34

THE ALTAR OF WITNESS



With Joshua as their leader, the Israelites had crossed the River Jordan and many of the towns and cities in the Promised Land.



CANAAAN

PRIOR TO JOSHUA

Living in that land that God had promised to His people were many nations and people who worshipped idols and were known for their wicked ways.



The Israelites, with God's help, captured much of the land but there were still seven tribes of Israel that had not yet captured the territory they had been allocated.

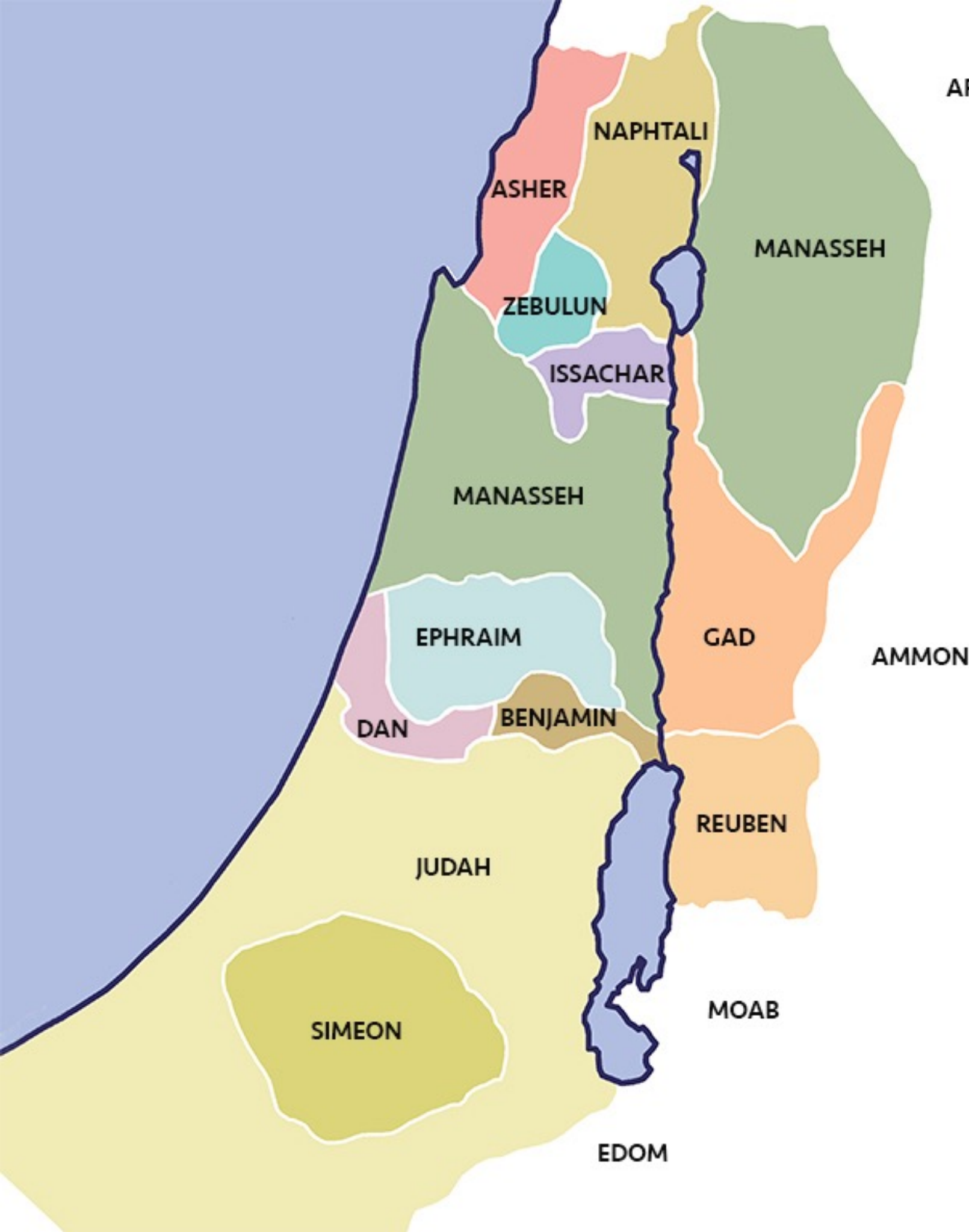


ARAM

Joshua and the Israelites set up the Tabernacle in a place called Shiloh in the middle of the Promised Land. From here Joshua sent out three men from each of the seven tribes without territory to scout out the land so it could be divided up between them.



**TABERNACLE
LOCATED AT SHILOH**



ARAM

When they returned, the Lord showed Joshua by the drawing of sacred lots which parts of the land should be allocated to each of the tribes.

AMMON

ALLOCATION OF LAND TO 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

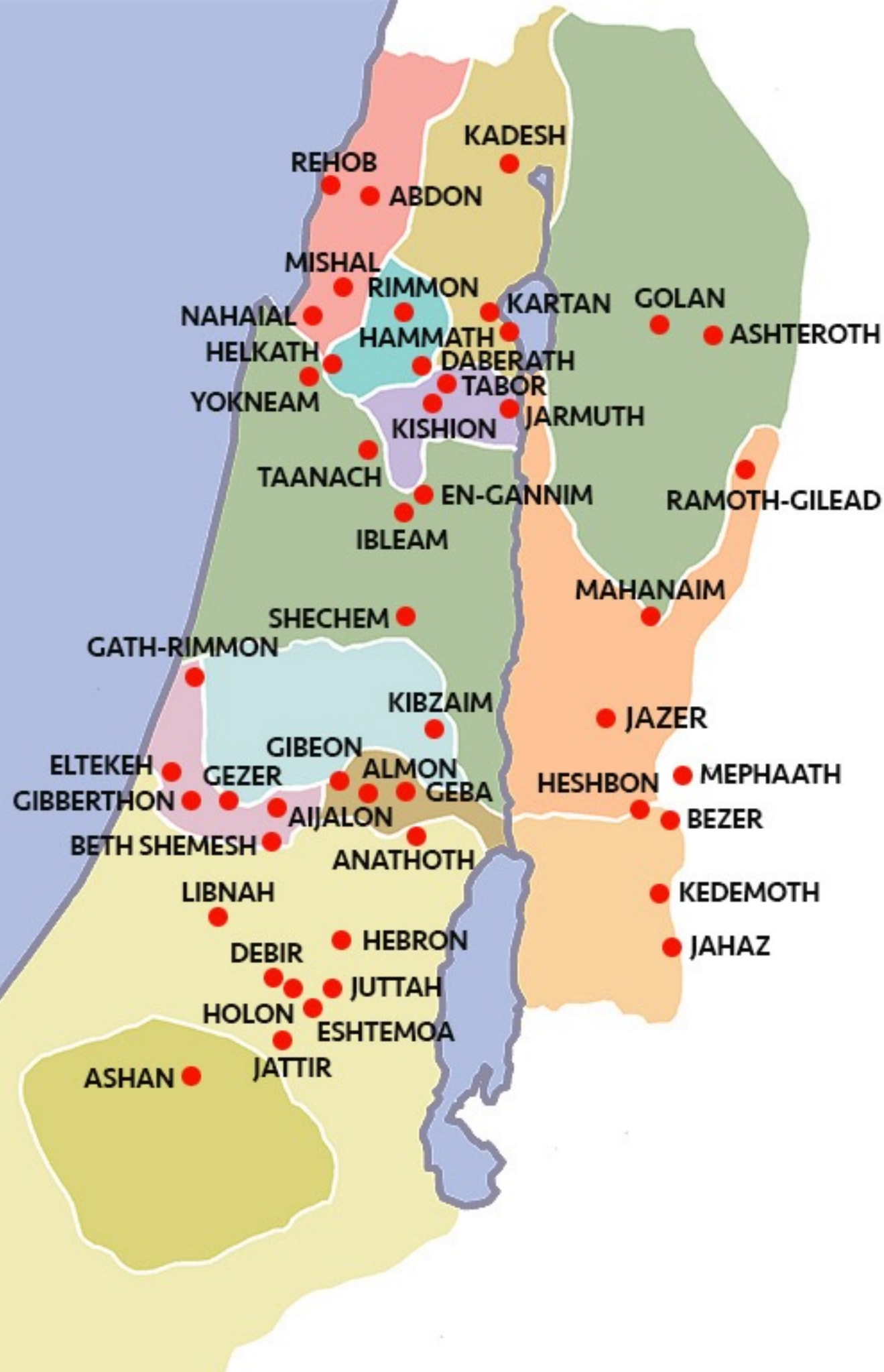
MOAB

EDOM

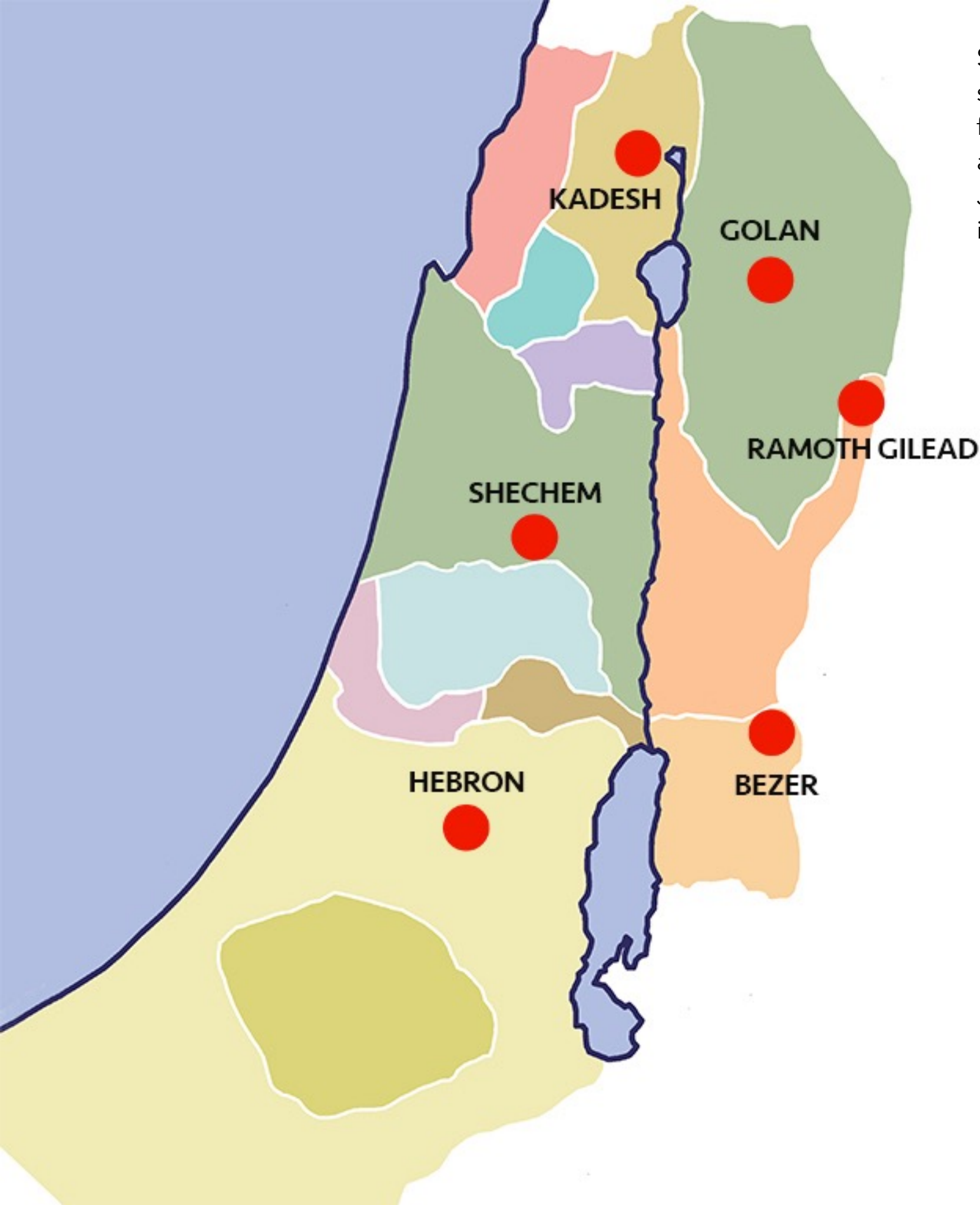


One tribe however, the Levites, were not to be given land as they were priests of the Lord. They consulted with Eleazar the High priest, Joshua and leaders of the other tribes. saying, 'The Lord instructed Moses to give cities to the Levites for our homes, and pasture land for our cattle.'

So the Levites were given cities, spread throughout the Promised Land, where they could live and have land for their animals.



CITIES FOR LEVITES IN TIME OF JOSHUA

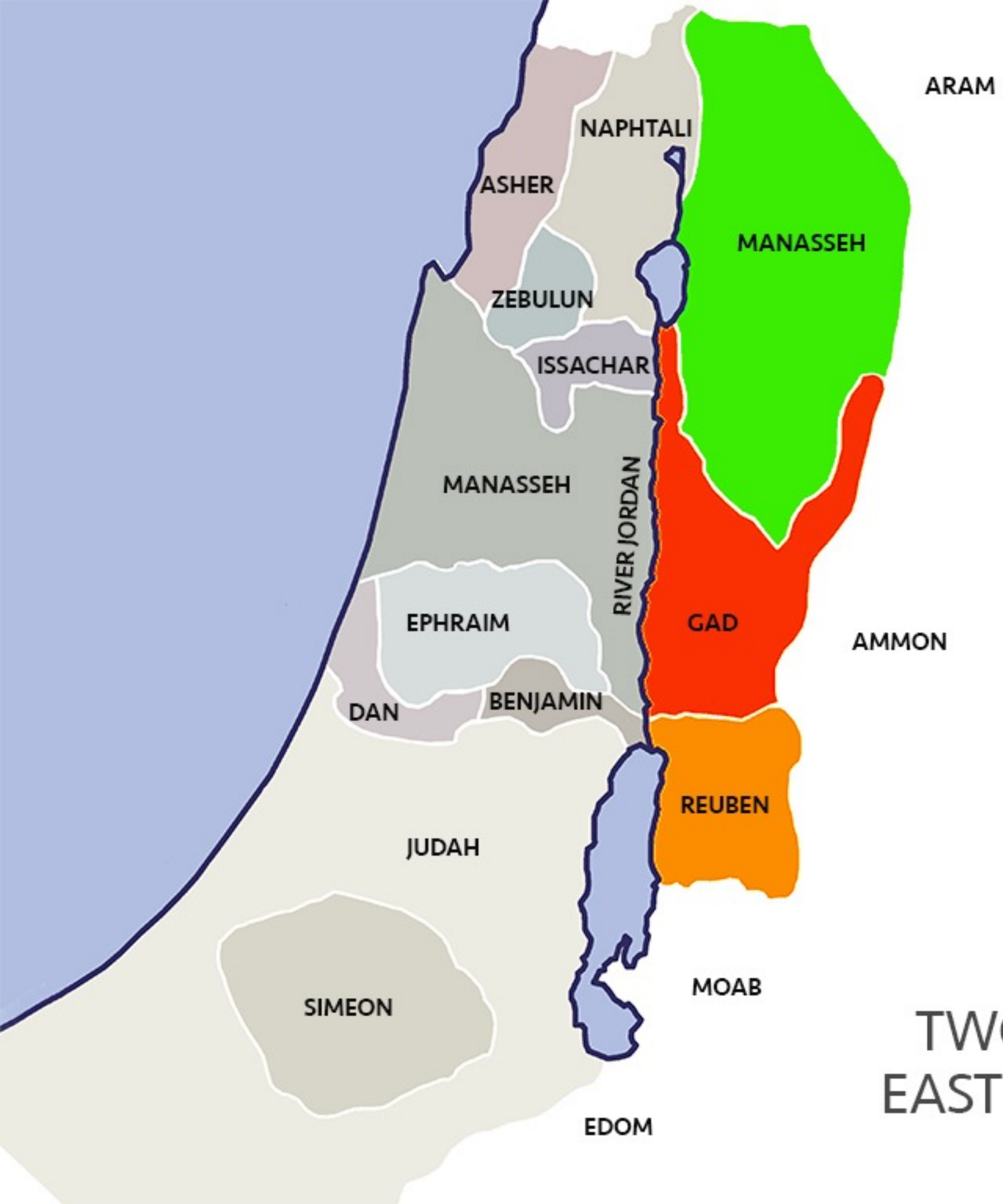


Six cities were chosen as places of refuge. If someone accidentally killed someone they could flee to a city of refuge and be protected from anyone wanting revenge. In a city of refuge both Jews and foreigners would be given a fair trial, and if innocent they could live there in safety.

12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL CITIES OF REFUGE



So in this way, the Lord gave to Israel all the land He had promised. They conquered it and lived there. The Lord gave them peace, just as He had promised.

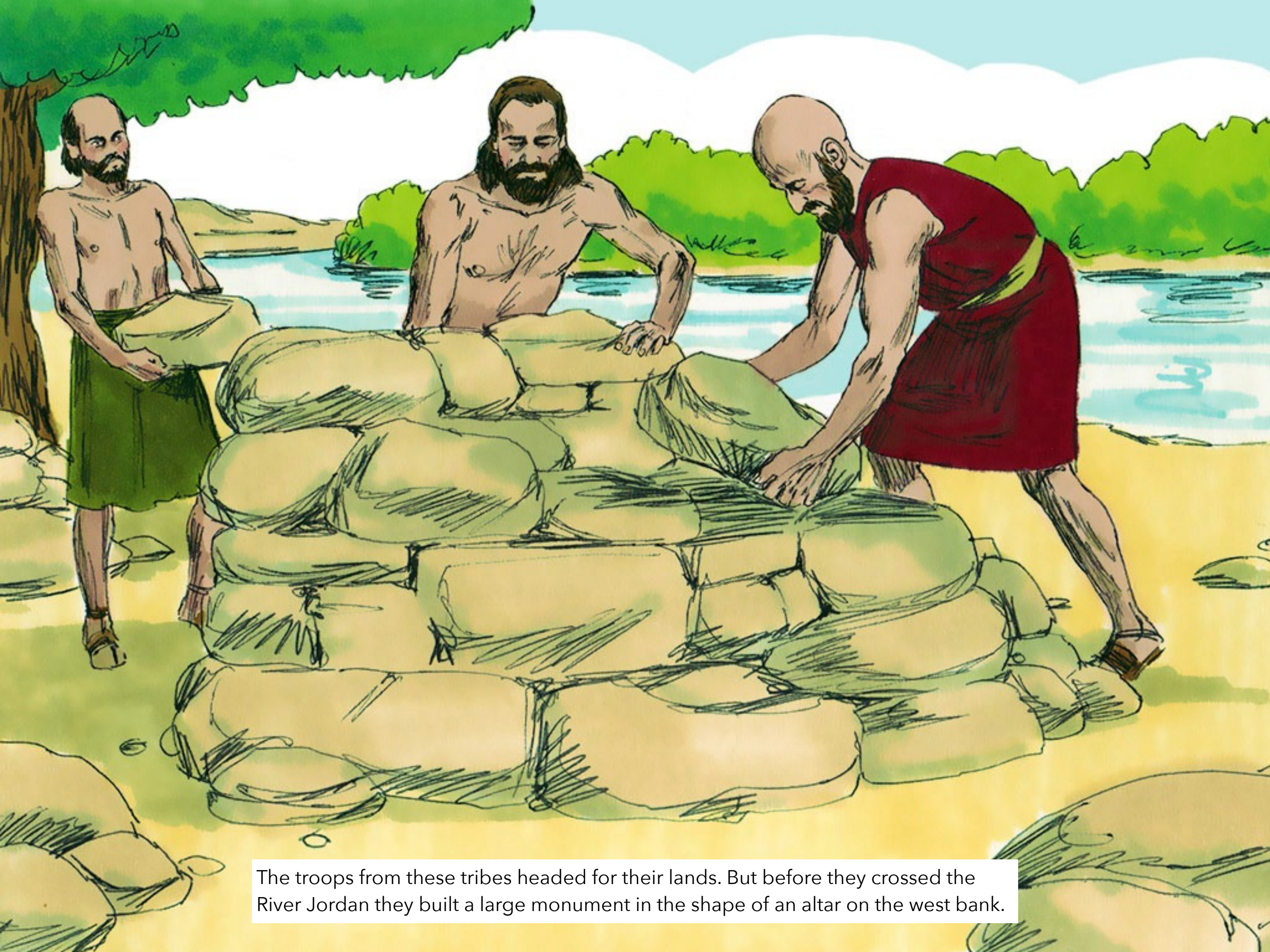


The River Jordan ran north to south through the land. Moses had promised the land to the east of the river Jordan to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh. The other half of the tribe of Manasseh had land to the west of the river Jordan. These tribes on the east had crossed the river Jordan to help the other tribes fight to gain their land.

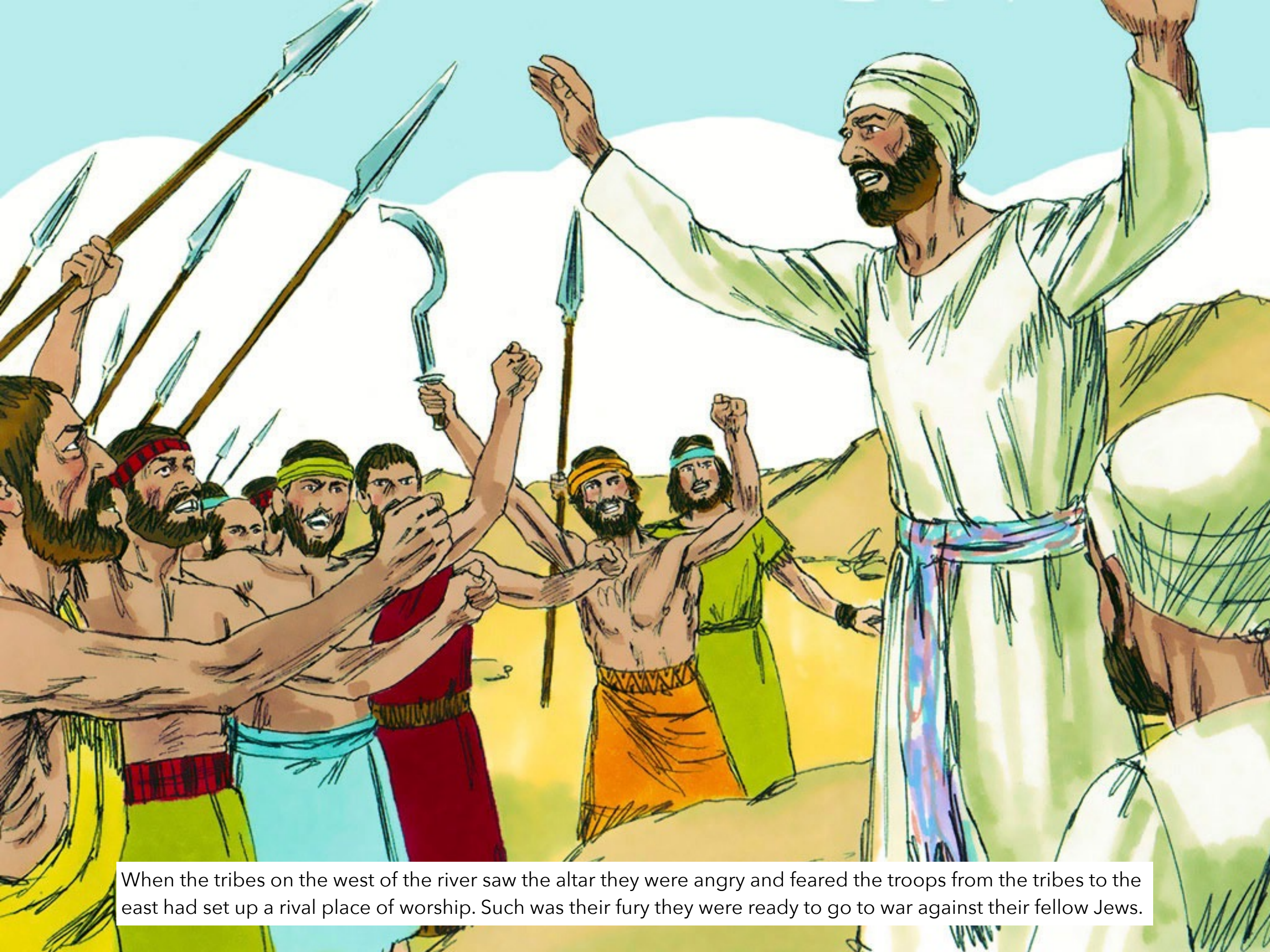
TWO-AND-A-HALF TRIBES EAST OF THE RIVER JORDAN



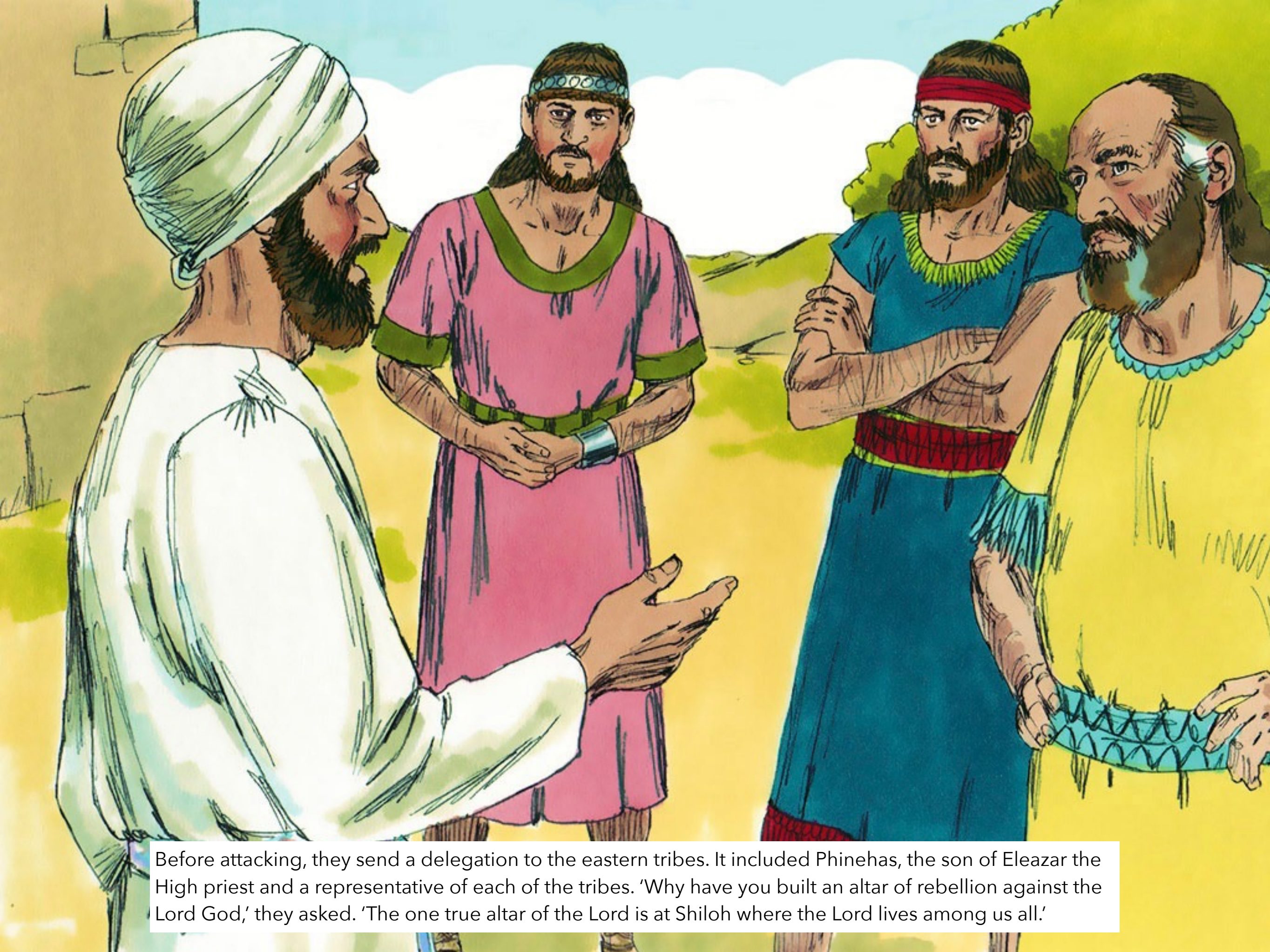
Joshua called together the troops from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh living east of the Jordan. 'You have obeyed the Lord in every order I have given you,' Joshua told them. 'Even though the campaign has lasted a long time you have not deserted the other tribes. Now go and live in the land Moses promised you on the east of the river Jordan and continue to obey the Lord your God.'



The troops from these tribes headed for their lands. But before they crossed the River Jordan they built a large monument in the shape of an altar on the west bank.



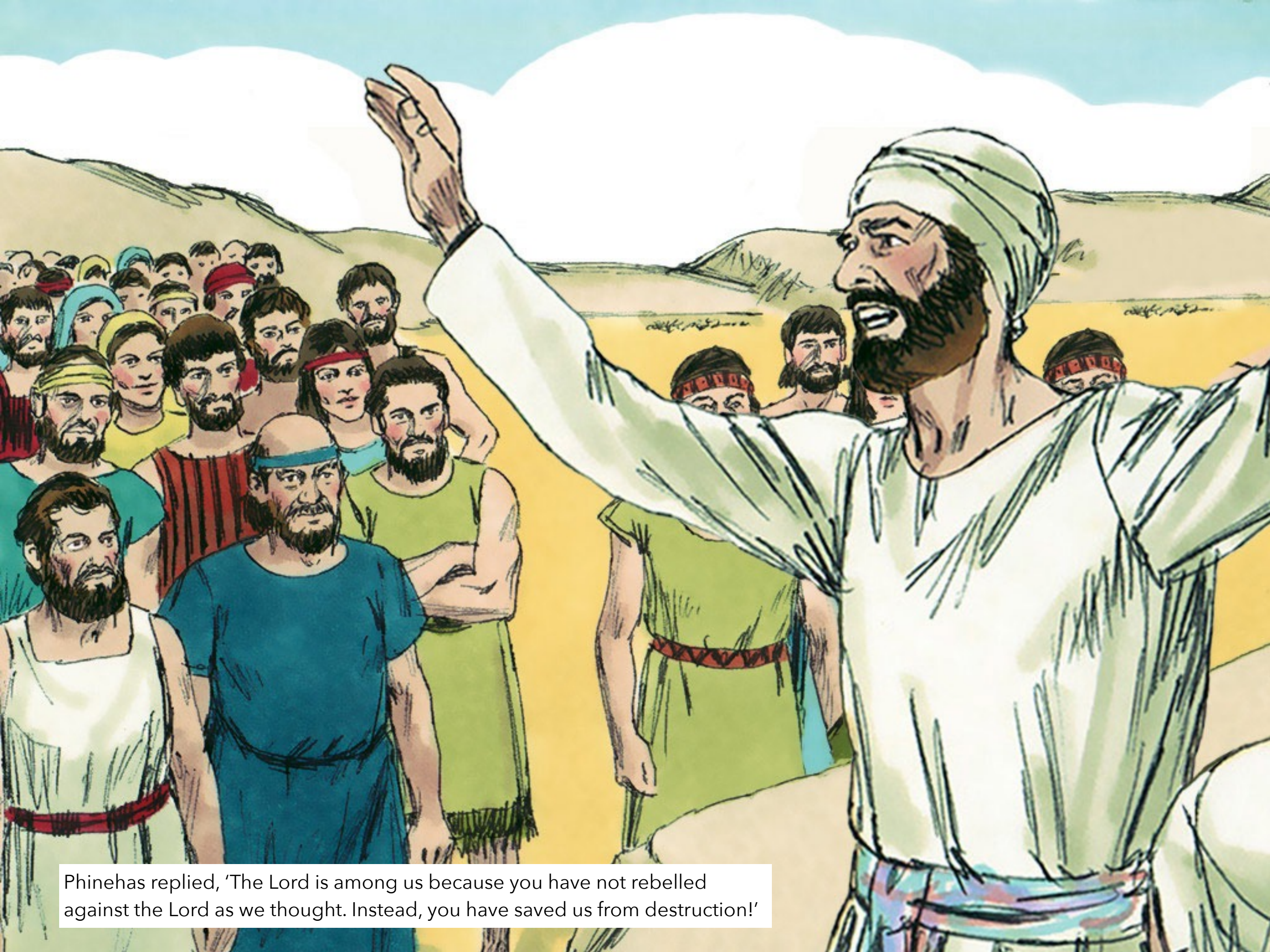
When the tribes on the west of the river saw the altar they were angry and feared the troops from the tribes to the east had set up a rival place of worship. Such was their fury they were ready to go to war against their fellow Jews.



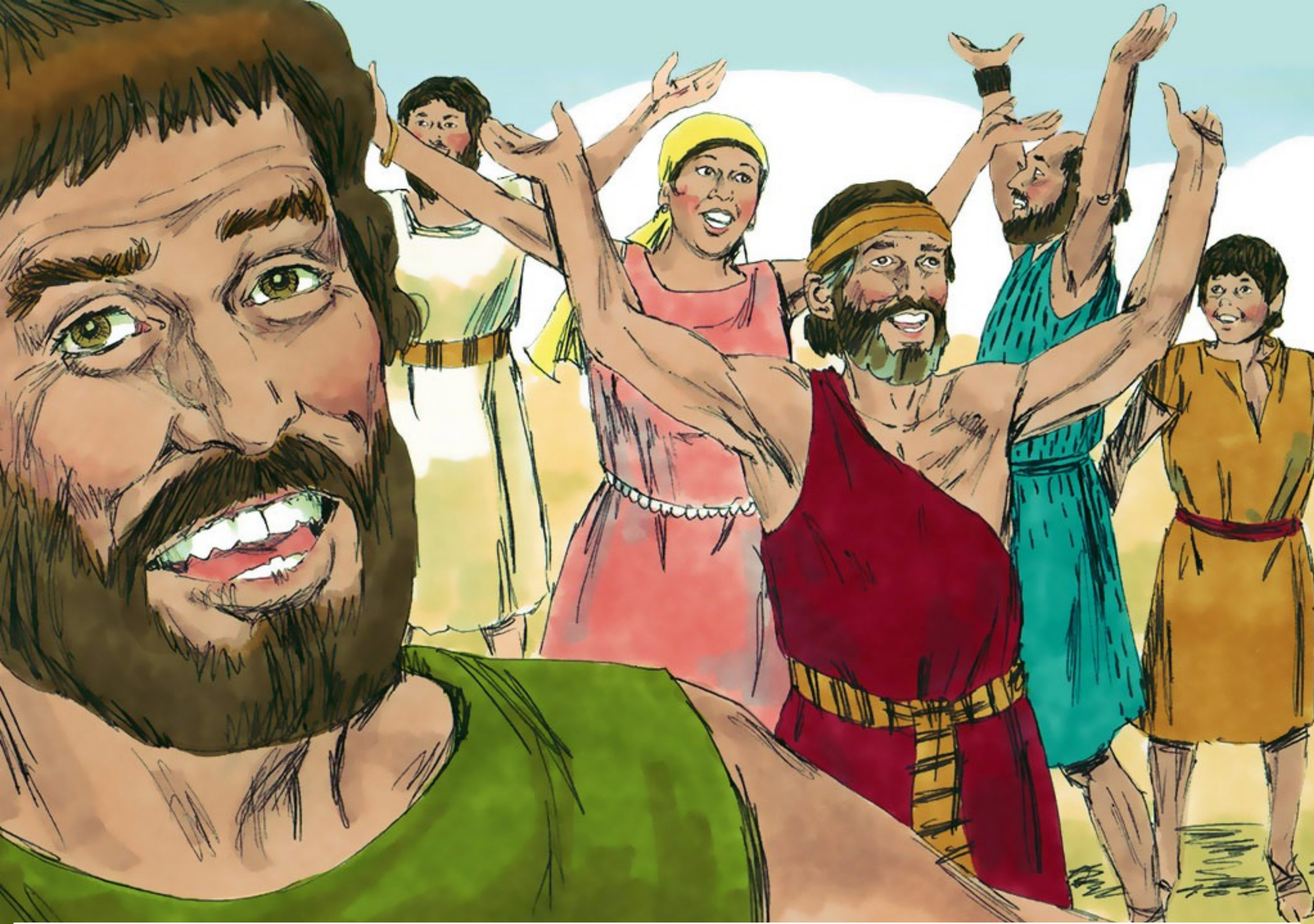
Before attacking, they send a delegation to the eastern tribes. It included Phinehas, the son of Eleazar the High priest and a representative of each of the tribes. 'Why have you built an altar of rebellion against the Lord God,' they asked. 'The one true altar of the Lord is at Shiloh where the Lord lives among us all.'



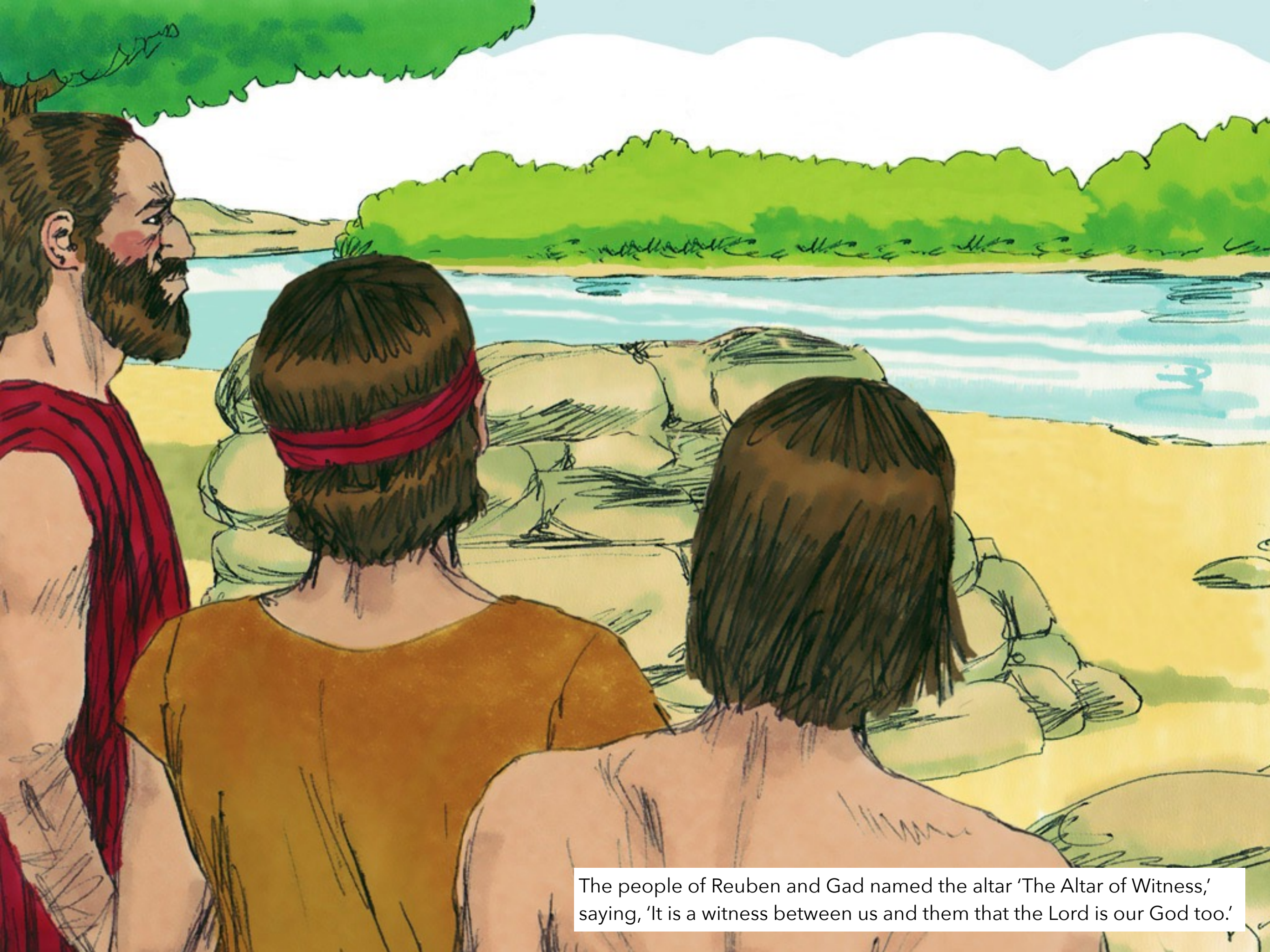
'We have not built this altar in rebellion,' the eastern tribes protested. 'The river Jordan acts as a barrier between our tribes and yours. We wanted this monument to remind your children that we too worship the Lord God. The altar is not for burnt offerings or sacrifices but a symbol of the relationship with God that both of us have. We will only worship God at the altar in front of the Tabernacle.'



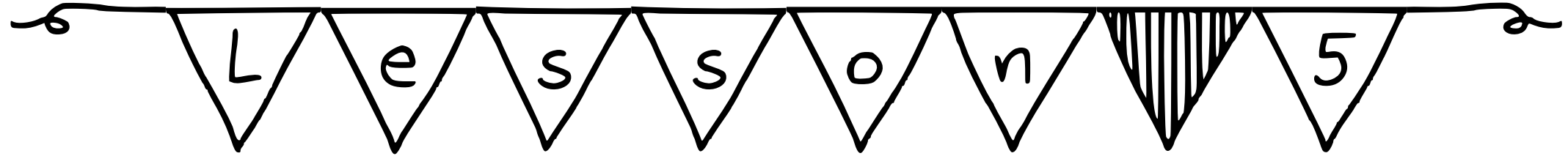
Phinehas replied, 'The Lord is among us because you have not rebelled against the Lord as we thought. Instead, you have saved us from destruction!'



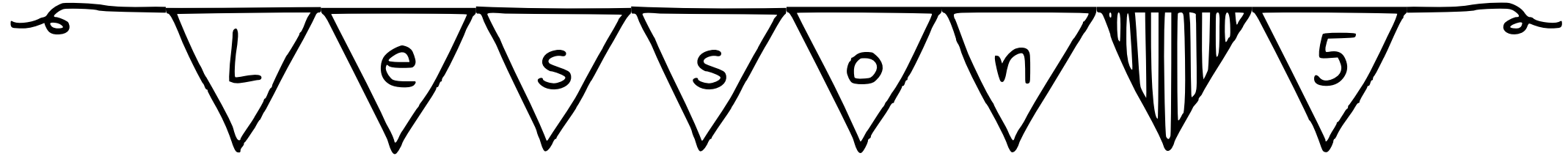
Phineas and the delegation returned to the tribes on the west side of the River Jordan and explained why the monument had been built.



The people of Reuben and Gad named the altar 'The Altar of Witness,' saying, 'It is a witness between us and them that the Lord is our God too.'



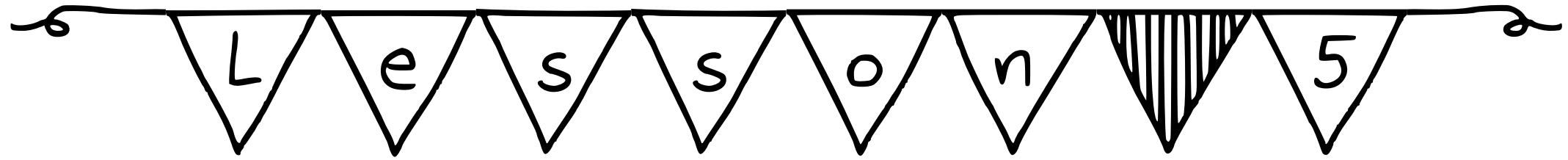
It would be very hard to recreate the exact borders of this map today. With designations like “to the fountain,” “to the slope,” “to the stone,” “from the oak” it would be impossible. We can only estimate the land given to each tribe.



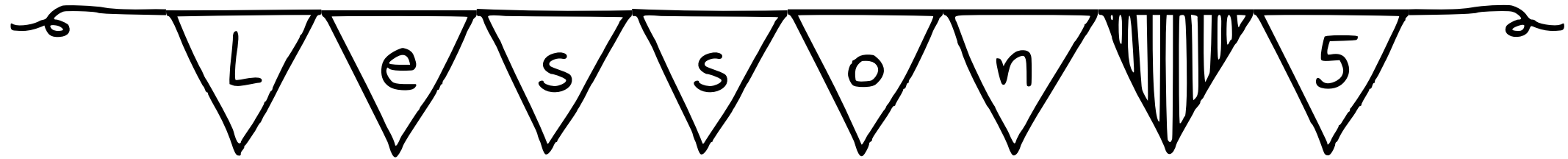
Joshua said to the people of Israel, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you?"

Joshua 18:3

How often do we also "put off" what God wants us to do? Or "put off" doing the things that we know are right? Too often do we not follow through God's plan for us.



The Israelites checked out the land and every division was decided by lot, meaning they asked God's guidance in this. Should we ask for God's guidance when we make a big decision like moving or choosing a new city to live in?



In Joshua 22:3-5, Joshua gives his admonition. He tells the Israelites that it is important to keep one's promises.

"You have not forsaken your brothers these many days, down to this day, but have been careful to keep the charge of the Lord your God. And now the Lord your God has given rest to your brothers, as he promised them. Therefore turn and go to your tents in the land where your possession lies, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan. Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Joshua 22:3-5