

KINGS AND PROPHETS

King Solomon

971-931 BC

THE STORY SO FAR...

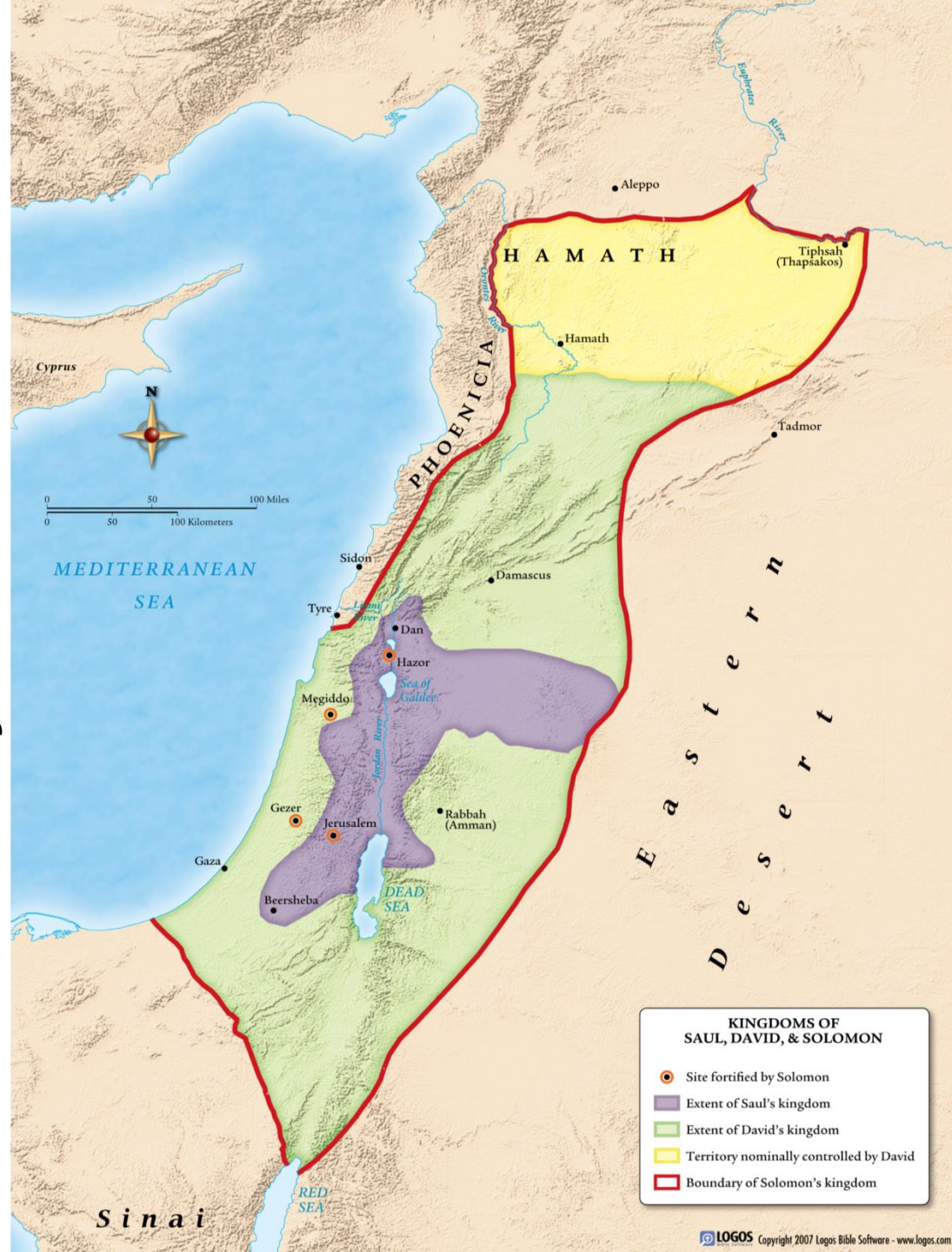
- ◉ Paul's sermon in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:17-22)
- ◉ The God of this nation of Israel chose our ancestors and made them multiply and grow strong during their stay in Egypt. Then with a powerful arm he led them out of their slavery.
- ◉ He put up with them through forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Then he destroyed seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to Israel as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years.

THE STORY SO FAR...

- ◉ After that, God gave them judges to rule until the time of Samuel the prophet.
- ◉ Then the people begged for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.’
- ◉ Paul’s sermon in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:17-22)

SOLOMON'S KINGDOM

- David had fought to expand boundaries
- Philistines, Edom, and Moab were subdued
- Hittite and Assyrian empires were in decline
- space for Solomon to expand his kingdom
- he did not need to fight wars to expand
- culture, construction, governance, arts



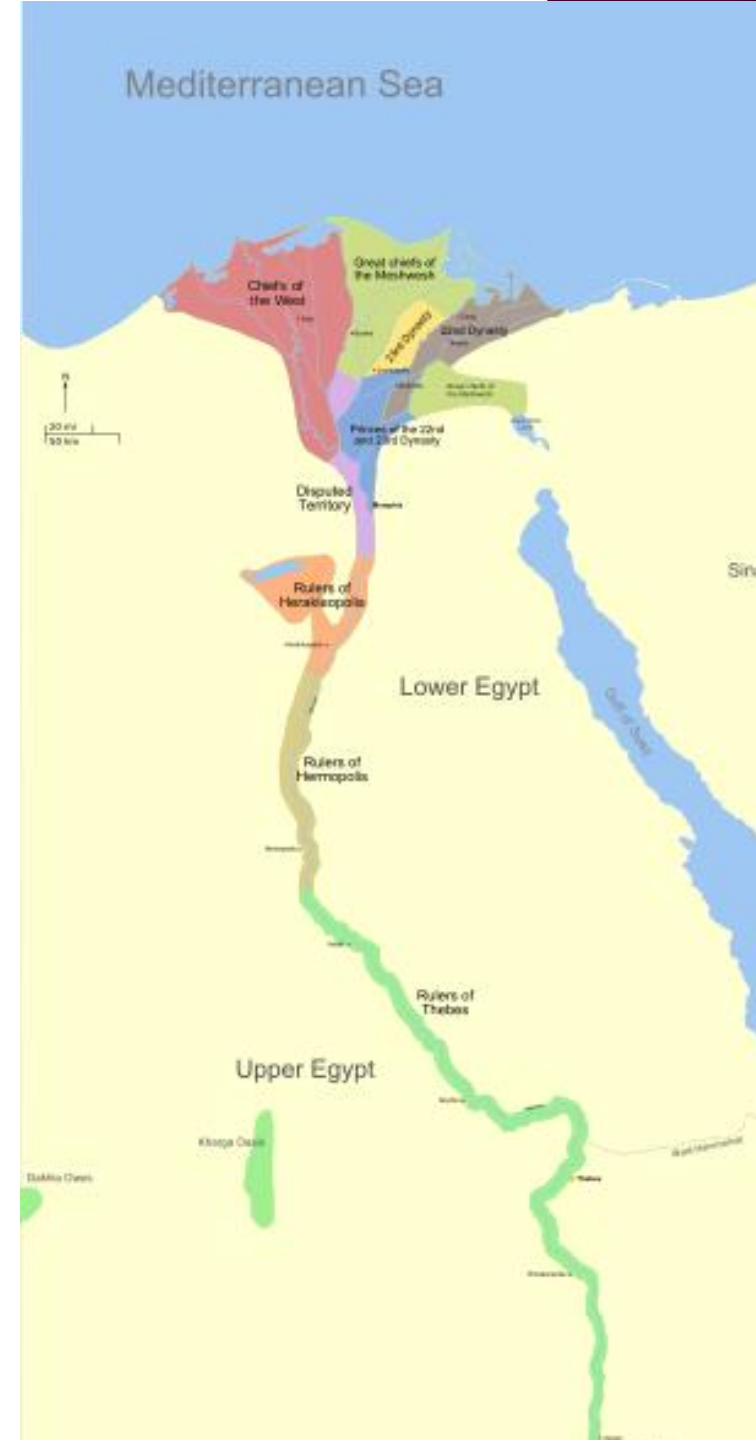
SOLOMON'S NEIGHBORS: PHONECIA

- ⦿ not a nation
- ⦿ a group of independent port cities on the Mediterranean Sea
 - Byblos
 - Sidon
 - Tyre
- ⦿ King Hiram of Tyre was a close ally for both David and Solomon



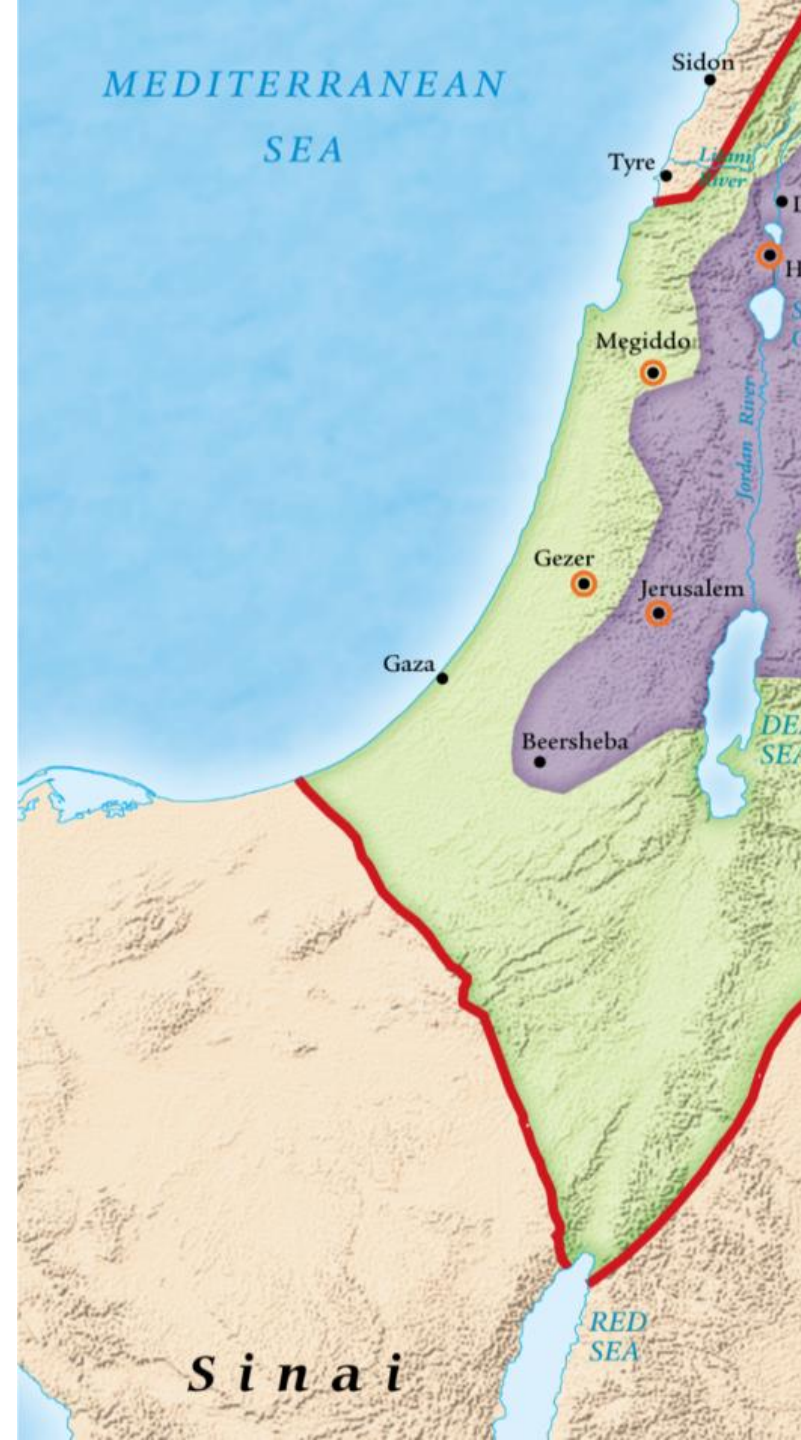
SOLOMON'S NEIGHBORS: EGYPT

- New Kingdom period, during which a powerful Egypt had exercised power over Canaan, was over.
- Egypt in decline in the Third Intermediate Period, the XXI Dynasty.
- The dynasty rulers based in the delta region did not control the whole country.
- Southern Egypt controlled by the High priest of Amun in Thebes. Other rulers controlled other regions.
- Egypt was a network of small states.



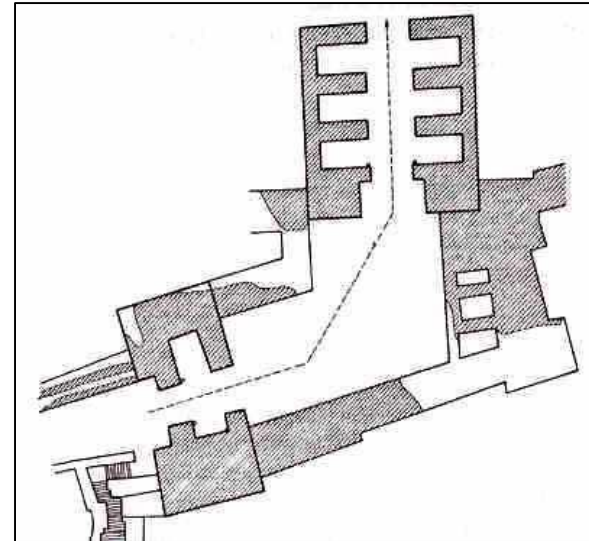
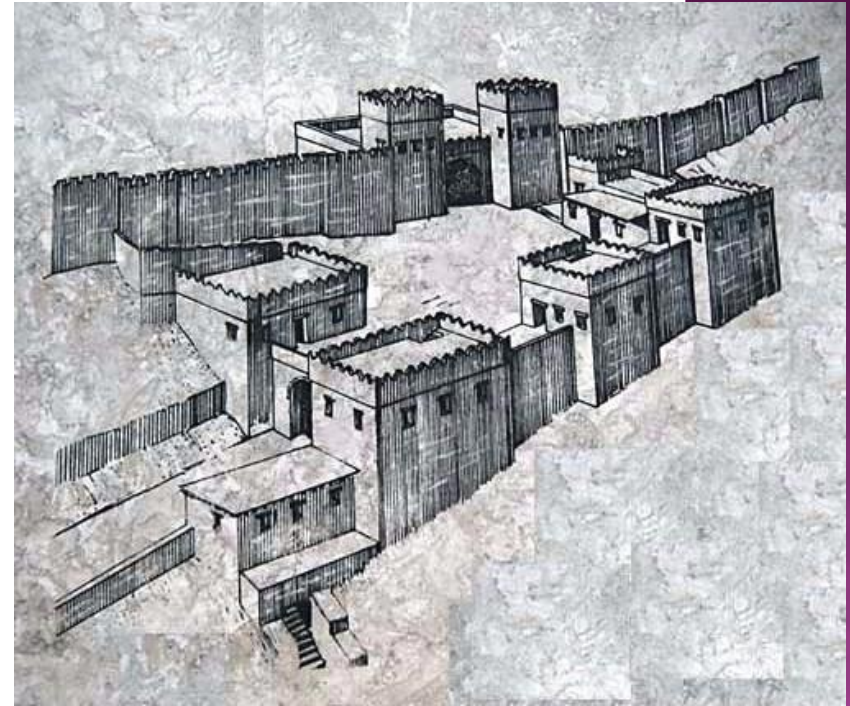
SOLOMON'S NEIGHBORS: EGYPT

- ◉ Solomon married an Egyptian princess
- ◉ possibly daughter of Pharaoh Siamun, ruler of the XXI Dynasty from 979-960 BC
- ◉ Gezer, an city controlling the coastal trade route, was conquered by this Pharaoh.
- ◉ He gave the city to his daughter as a dowry (1 Ki 9:16).
- ◉ Solomon later rebuilt Gezer.



SOLOMON'S CONSTRUCTION: FORTIFIED CITIES

- ◉ Solomon fortified the cities of Megiddo, Hazor, Gezer (1 Ki 9:15)
- ◉ 6-chambered gate found at all 3 of these (this artist's sketch based on Megiddo)
- ◉ the gate was located where the road entered the city
- ◉ the gate narrowed and controlled the entrance for better city defense



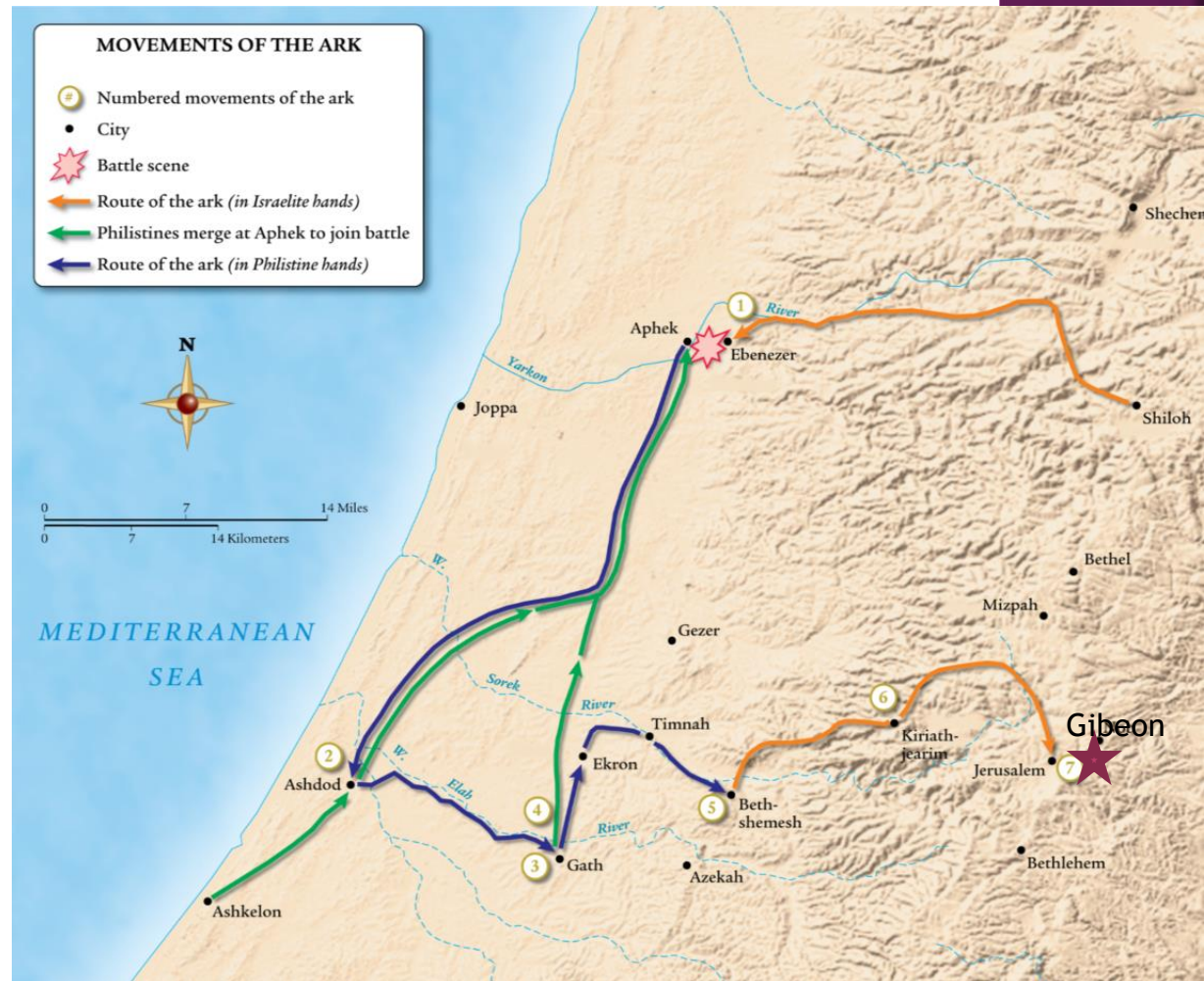
SOLOMON'S CONSTRUCTION: FORTIFIED CITIES

- ◉ casemate walls:
a defensive
double wall
- ◉ could be filled
with earth to
make it stronger
- ◉ this is the
casemate wall at
Hazor



SOLOMON'S CONSTRUCTION: FROM TABERNACLE TO TEMPLE

- during the desert wanderings, the Ark traveled with the Tabernacle
- Once in Canaan, the Tabernacle was at Shiloh (Jos 18:1)
- Eli and Samuel ministered there (1 Sam 3:3)
- Ark captured in battle by the Philistines (1 Sam 4:17)
- returned to Judah on a wooden cart (1 Sam 6)
- stayed in Kiriath-Jearim for 20 years (1 Sam 7:2)
- David brought it to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6)
- Meanwhile, the Tabernacle and bronze altar, built by Moses, were at Gibeon. Solomon went there to sacrifice to the Lord.

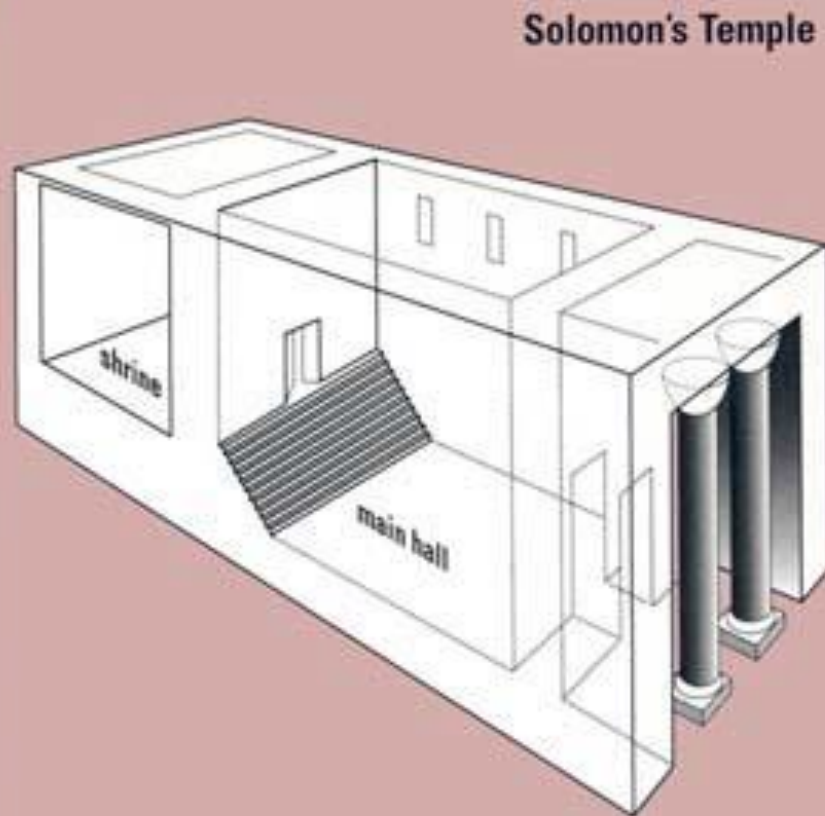
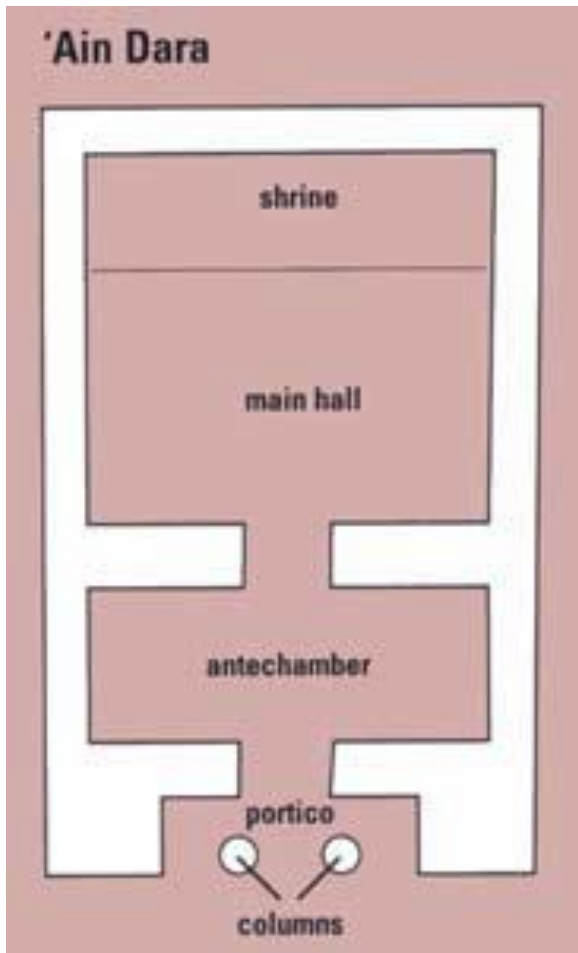


SOLOMON'S CONSTRUCTION: TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

- We have no remnants of this great architectural construction. Why not?
- However, other temples in the region at that time have a similar plan and carved decorations.
- 'Ain Dara temple near Aleppo, Syria.
 - 3-division, long-room plan
 - similar size
 - 2 pillars on sides of porch
 - side corridors and chambers
 - floral reliefs and carvings of winged creatures



SOLOMON'S CONSTRUCTION - TEMPLE



SOLOMON'S ORGANIZATION: 12 DISTRICTS

high officials

- priests
- secretaries, historian
- army commander
- overseer of labor force

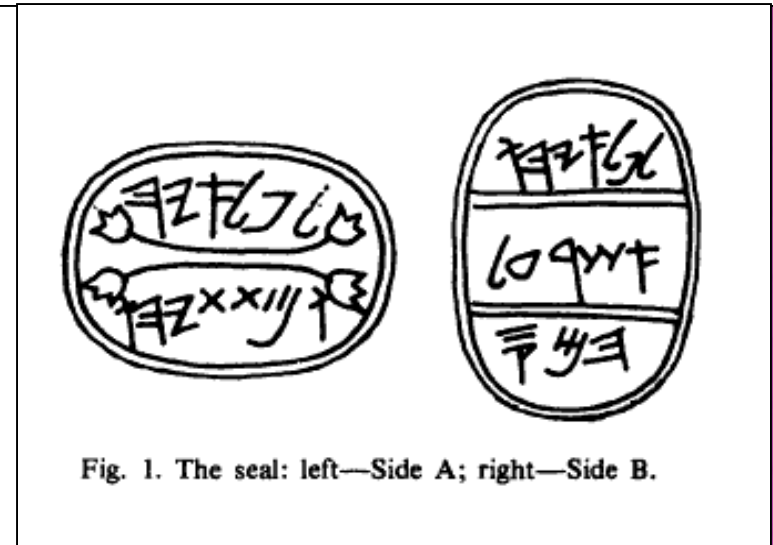
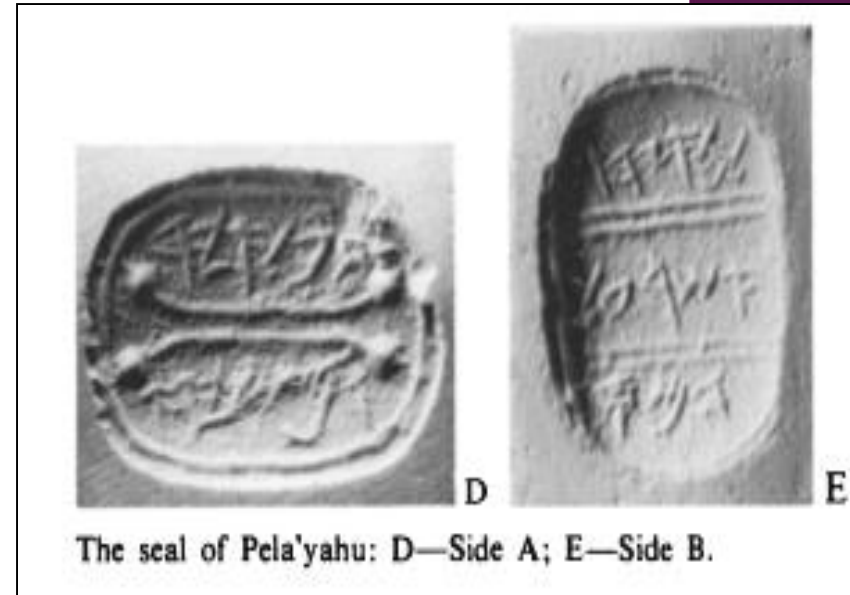
12 districts

- each with governor
- provided food for 1 month
- Judah seemed exempt



SOLOMON'S ORGANIZATION: ADMINISTRATION

- ◉ forced labor for cutting trees, quarrying stone
- ◉ building the temple, the palace in Jerusalem, and the fortifications in key cities
- ◉ 1 month on duty, 2 months off. As many as 30,000 men! (1 Kings 5)
- ◉ official seal of Pela'yahu, the overseer of forced labor under a later king (7th C)
- ◉ different name but same title "Overseer of forced labor"
- ◉ note the use of official seals, literacy, government administration



SOLOMON'S ORGANIZATION: TRADE

- Hiram of Tyre (1 Ki 5:10-11)
 - Tyre to Israel - cedar and pine logs
 - Israel to Tyre - wheat, olive oil
- ships at Ezion Geber
 - traded in the Red Sea, E. Africa
 - joint venture - Hiram of Tyre
 - brought back gold, silver, ivory, and even apes!
- horses
 - bought from Egypt
 - sold to Aram and Hittites



TABLE DISCUSSION

- ◉ God spoke to Solomon directly, rather than through prophets.
- ◉ Read one of the 3 conversations God had with Solomon.
- ◉ What was Solomon's spiritual state at the time of this conversation?
- ◉ What did God promise to Solomon?
- ◉ How did God warn Solomon?
- ◉ What was Solomon's response to God?

LARGE-GROUP DISCUSSION

- ◉ Tell the group what you learned about the conversation you read.
- ◉ How did God's messages to Solomon change across the course of his life?
- ◉ Why did they change?
- ◉ How did Solomon change over his life?
- ◉ What caused that change?
- ◉ What were the consequences of Solomon's spiritual decline?
- ◉ How could Solomon have stayed close to God?
- ◉ How can a leader stay faithful to God?

LARGE-GROUP DISCUSSION

- ◉ Moses' instructions to the people (Deut 17:14-20)
- ◉ You are about to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you. When you take it over and settle there, you may think, 'We should select a king to rule over us like the other nations around us.' If this happens, be sure to select as king the man the LORD your God chooses. You must appoint a fellow Israelite; he may not be a foreigner.
- ◉ The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself or send his people to Egypt to buy horses, for the LORD has told you, 'You must never return to Egypt.' The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the LORD. And he must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself.

LARGE-GROUP DISCUSSION

- When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the priests. He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives.
- That way he will learn to fear the LORD his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.

FOR NEXT WEEK

- Rehoboam, Solomon's son
- the king under whom the United Monarchy divided in two
- the beginning of the Divided Monarchy
 - Israel in the north
 - Judah in the south
- His story is told in:
 - 1 Kings 12, 14
 - 2 Chronicles 10-12