

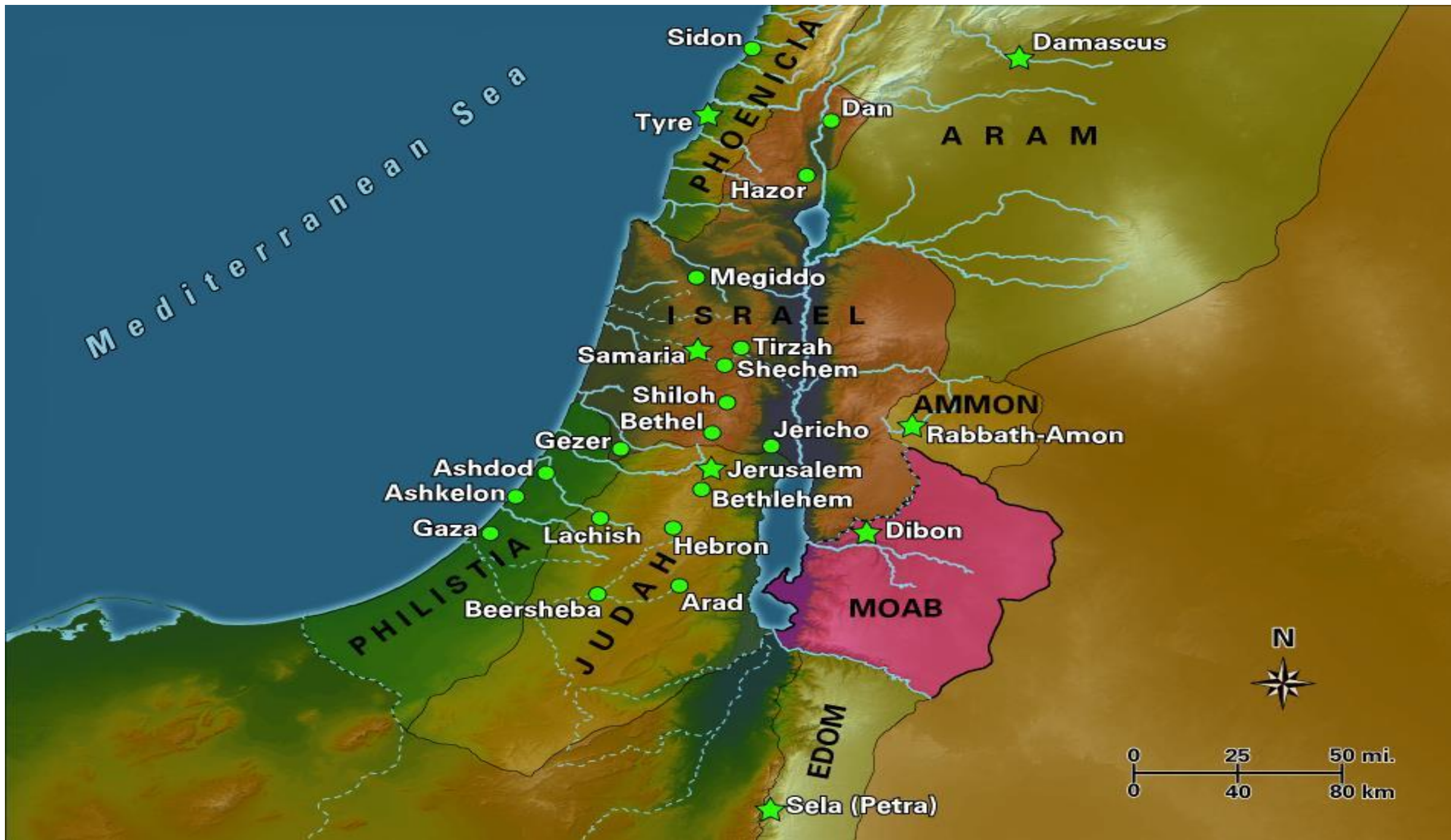
## Trouble in Israel

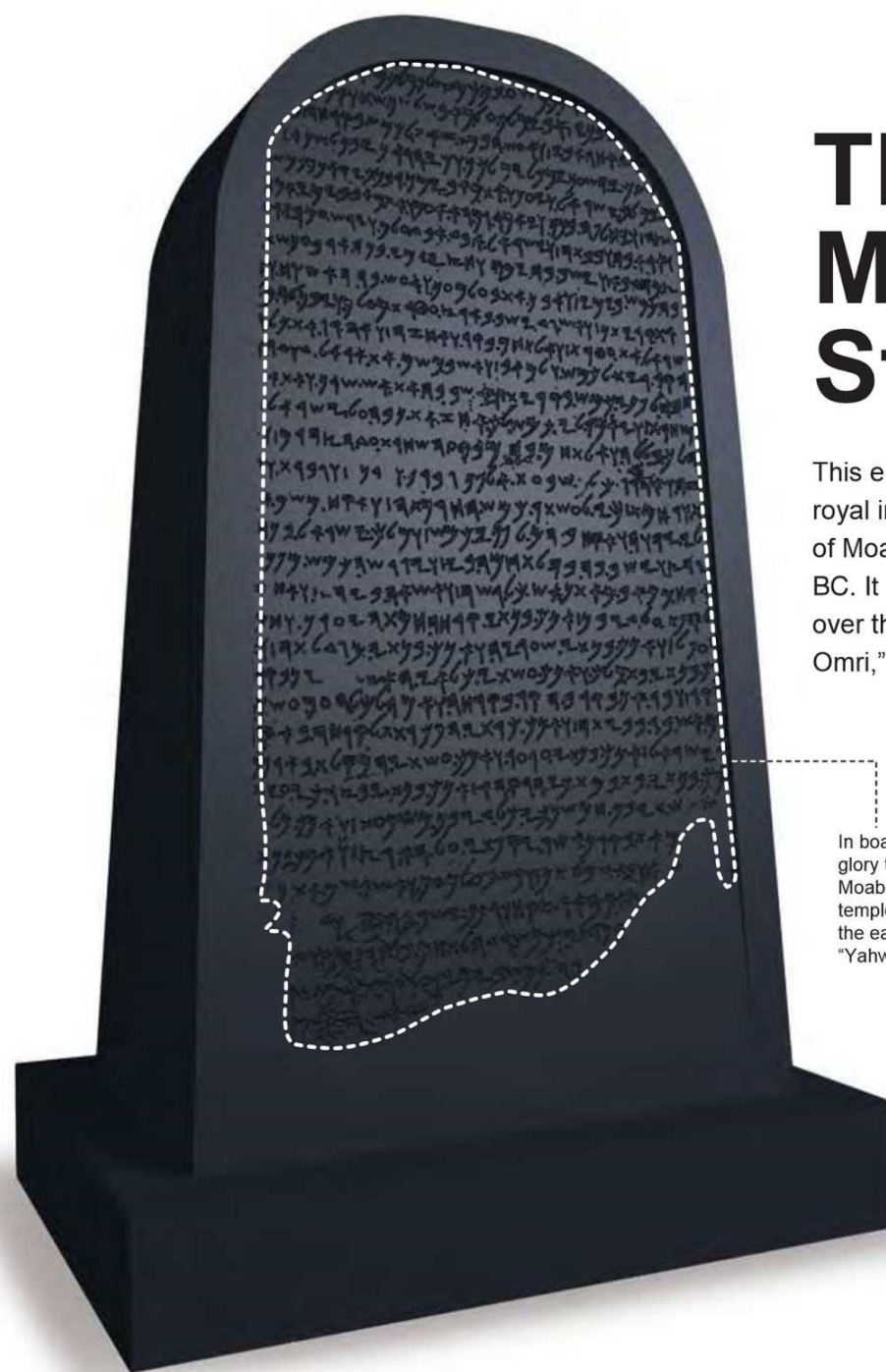
- A time of national cyclical unfaithfulness (Judges 21:25)
- Famine for unfaithfulness (Lev. 26:19ff, Deut. 11:17; 28:23)
- Ruth 1:1 “There was famine in the land”

- Nation that descended as a result of Lot's drunken, incestuous relationship (Gen. 19:37)
- Semitic blood but excluded from Jehovah's congregation to the tenth generation (Deuteronomy 23:3-4)
- Balak the King of Moab hired a Mesopotamian diviner named Balaam to sabotage the Israelites (Numbers 22,24)
- Refused passage of the Israelites into the promised land (Judges 11:15ff)
- Constantly oppressed the Israelites during the period of the judges assigning victory to their god Chemosh.

WHO WERE THE

MOABITES?





# The Mesha Stele

This engraved stone contains a royal inscription by Mesha, king of Moab during the ninth century BC. It celebrates Mesha's victory over the "son [or descendant] of Omri," probably Joram (Jehoram).

In boasting of his victories, Mesha gives glory to Chemosh—the chief god of the Moabites—and describes his looting of the temple vessels of Judah. The stele contains the earliest known reference to the name "Yahweh" outside of the Old Testament.

The stele supports the biblical account of events during Joram's reign of Israel. Second Kings 3:21–27 describes the king of Moab offering his son as a sacrifice, after which "great wrath came upon Israel." On the stele, Mesha credits his god, Chemosh, as conquering his enemies.



But Ruth said:

*“Entreat me not to leave you,  
Or to turn back from following after you;  
For wherever you go, I will go;  
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;  
Your people shall be my people,  
And your God, my God.  
<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die,  
And there will I be buried.  
The Lord do so to me, and more also,  
If anything but death parts you and me.”*

Ruth 1:17-18

## Ruth: Decisive Faith

### ➤ A New Conviction

- *“Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go.”*
- She was determined (Ruth 1:18)
- She sought refuge in the Lord God (Ruth 2:11-12)
- She is a forerunner of all whose faith convicts them (Acts 4:20)

## Ruth: Decisive Faith

### ➤ A New Communion

- *“wherever you lodge I will lodge; Your people shall be my people”*
- I want to serve the God you serve!
- Paul: “Imitate me as I imitate Christ”
- She is turning her back on an idolatrous and cursed people.
- Hebrews 10:23 is the motivating factor of :25





## Ruth: Decisive Faith

### ➤ A New Commitment

- *“Your God, my God. Where you die, I will die”*
- This is no half hearted, false, or hypocritical decision!
- This faith is carried out to the very end (Heb. 10:39; Rev. 2:10)

## Ruth: Decisive Faith

### ➤ A New Conclusion

- *“there will I be buried.”*
- This is about more than a burial plot, it is tying her legacy to God and His people.
- Boaz saw his mother Rahab change her legacy. Now his wife Ruth becomes David’s great grandmother! (Matt. 1:5)

## Ruth: Decisive Faith

- A New Conviction
- A New Communion
- A New Commitment
- A New Conclusion

*“They said...’May you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem” (Ruth 4:11)*

*“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2)*