

# BIBLICAL SURVEY

## Judges - Archaeology



Dec. 2010  
National  
Geographic

# America's courts: The best search for truth





*Participants in the Albright/ASOR Centennial Symposium,  
held May 29–31, 2000, at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem*



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How reliable is the Bible's history?

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What does the evidence show about how the Israelites settled Canaan?

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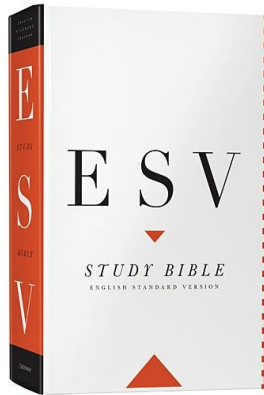
What does the evidence show about how the Israelites settled Canaan?



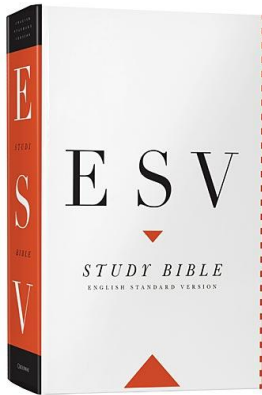
What does the evidence show about how the Israelites settled Canaan?



The evidence fully supports the Biblical narrative



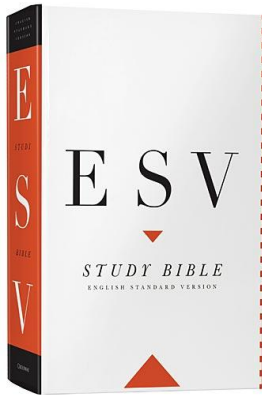
# The Biblical Model



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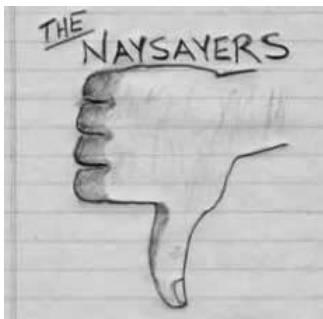
# Key Evidence



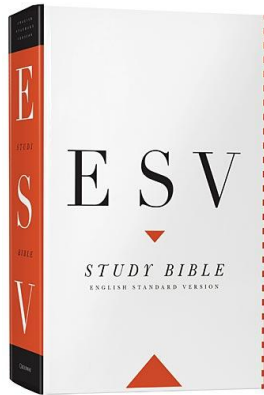
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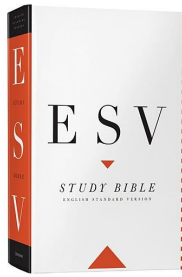


# The Naysayers

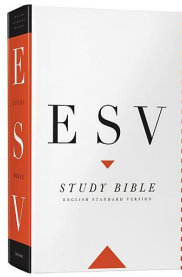


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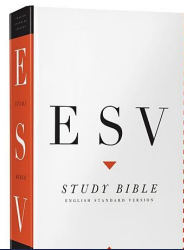


# The Biblical Model



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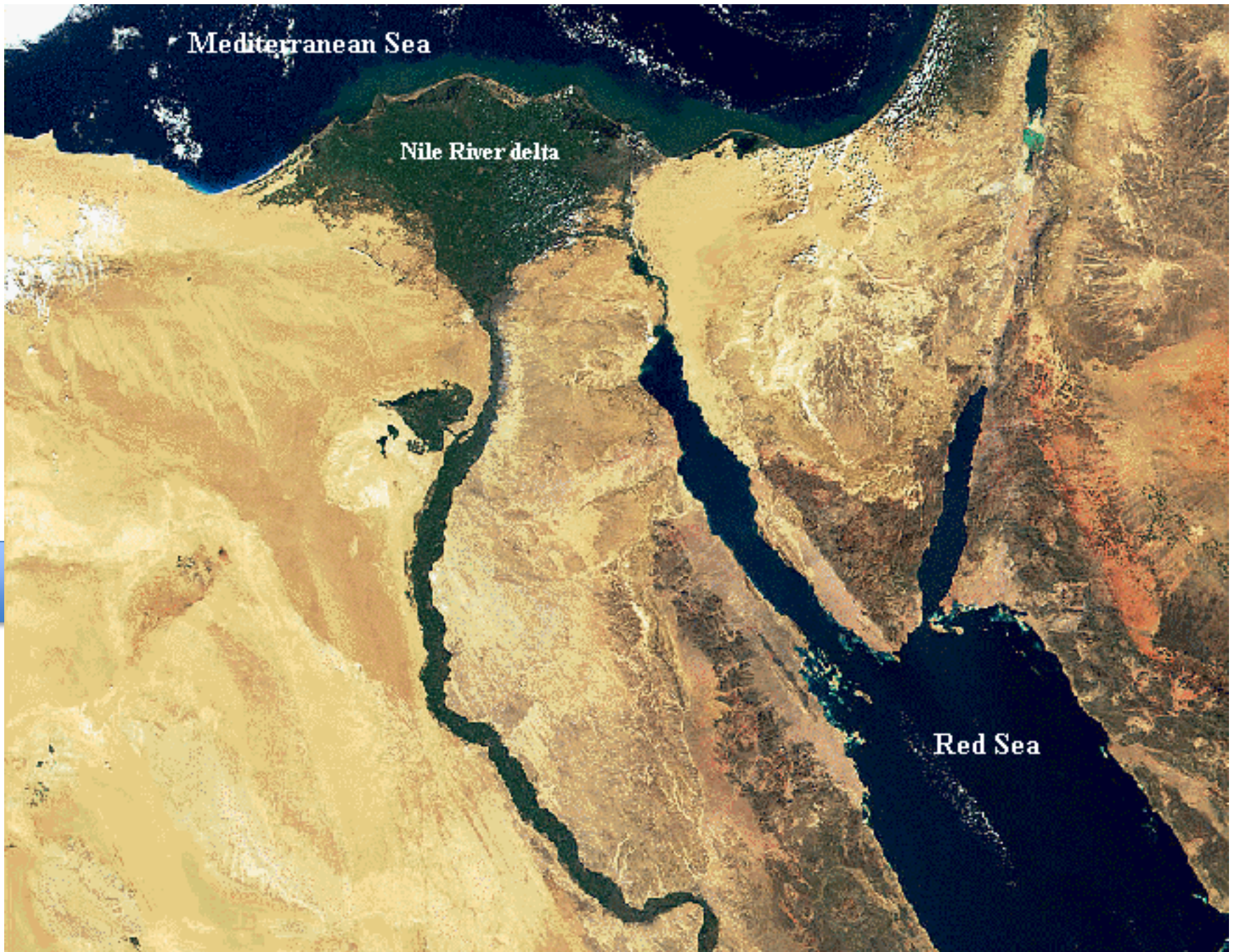


# The Biblical Model



Egypt 1664 BC

Canaanites invade  
and take over Egypt  
(the “Hyksos”)



Mediterranean Sea

Nile River delta

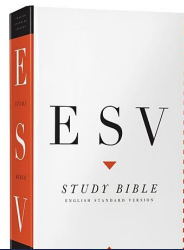
Red Sea



Mediterranean Sea

Nile River delta

Red Sea

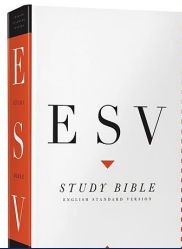


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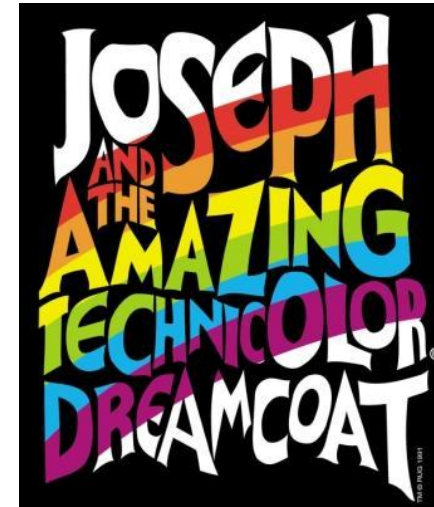


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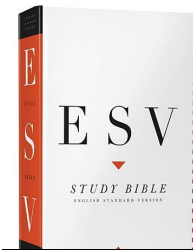
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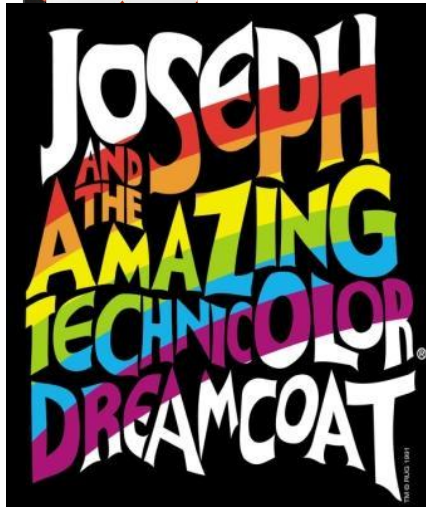


c. 1660 BC

Joseph and family  
move to Egypt

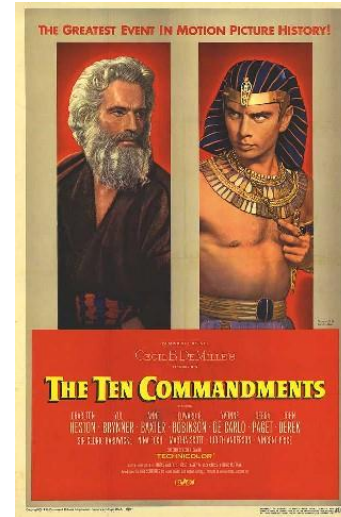


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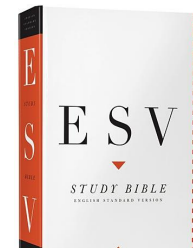
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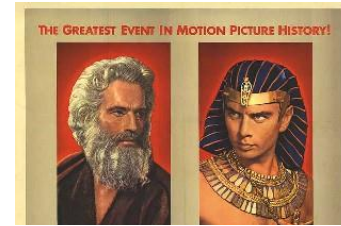
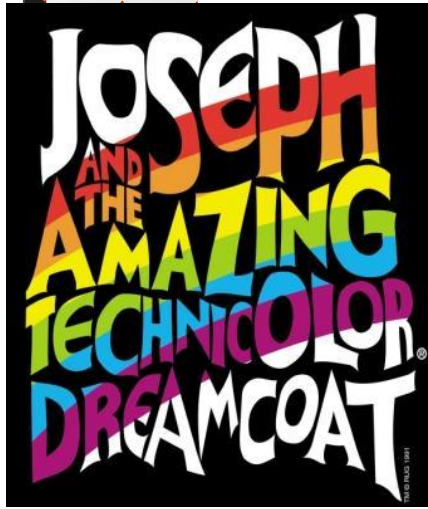
c. 1260 BC

The exodus under  
Ramesses II





# The Biblical Model



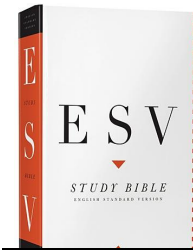
20,000 – 50,000  
Israelites

c. 1660 BC

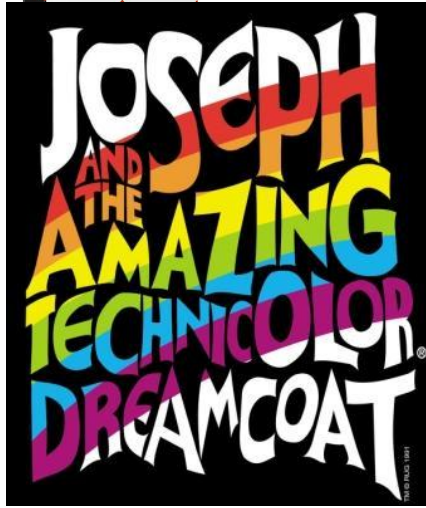
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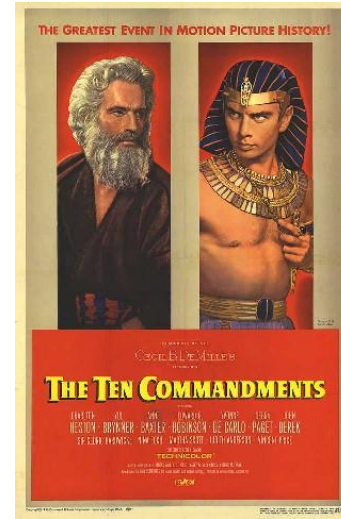


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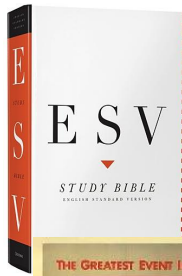
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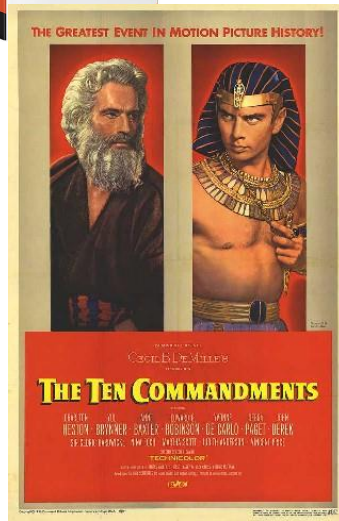


c. 1260 BC

The exodus under  
Rameses II



# The Biblical Model



c. 1260 BC

c. 1220 BC

The exodus under  
Rameses II

Israel invades  
Canaan



Jd

BC

eder

II



Canaan: a loose affiliation of city-states



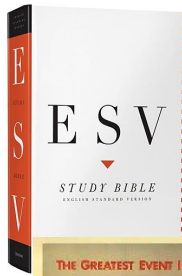
Jd



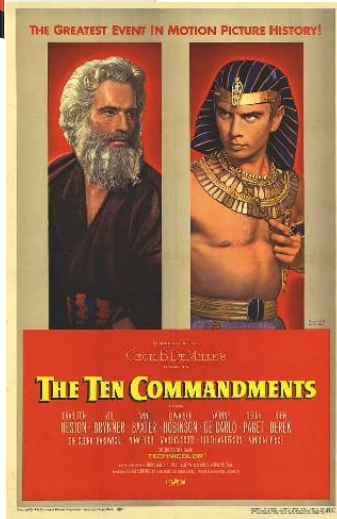
BC

eder

II



# The Biblical Model

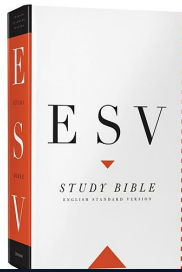


c. 1260 BC

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The exodus under  
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Israel invades  
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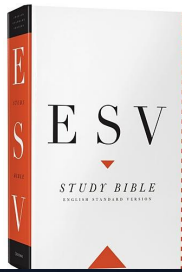


c. 1220 BC

Israel invades  
Canaan

c. 1220 BC

Battle 1:  
Jericho



# The Biblical Model



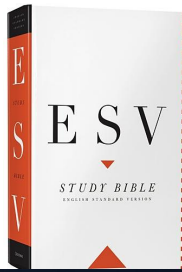
c. 1220 BC

Israel invades  
Canaan

c. 1220 BC

Battle 2: Ai  
("Heap of ruins")





# The Biblical Model



Fighting in  
valleys, more  
than towns

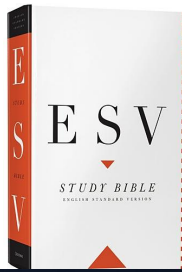


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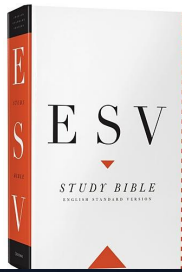


c. 1220 BC

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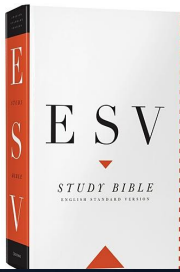


# The Biblical Model



c. 1220 BC

Israel invades  
Canaan



# The Biblical

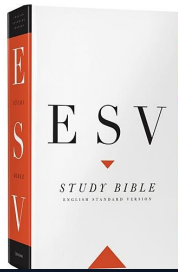
Tribes allotted  
land



c. 1220 BC

Israel invades  
Canaan





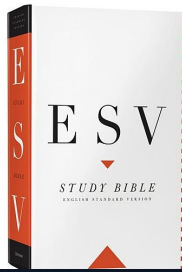
# The Biblical



Dan has trouble  
c. 1 securing its land

Israel invades  
Canaan





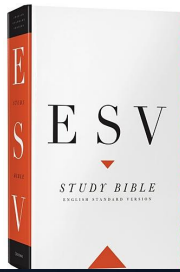
The Dan conquers  
“Laish” and  
renames it Dan



Dan has trouble  
c. 1200 securing its land

Israel invades  
Canaan





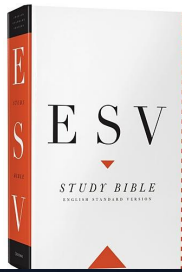
# The Biblical



c. 1220 BC

Israel invades  
Canaan





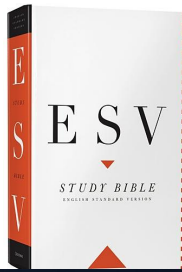
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c. 1220 BC

Israel invades  
Canaan





# The Biblical Model

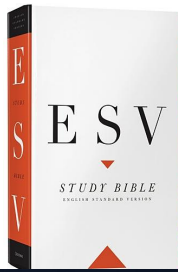


c. 1220 BC

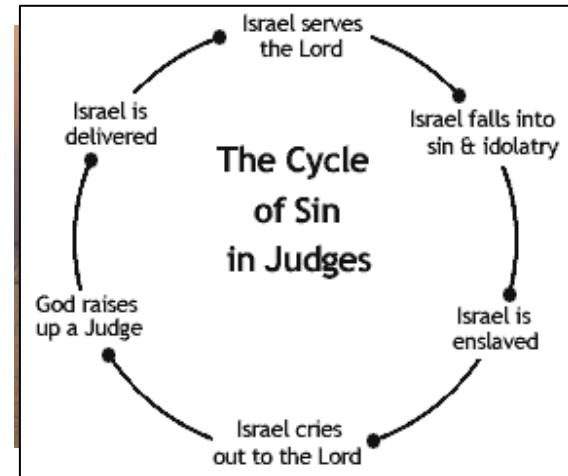
Israel invades  
Canaan

c. 1213 BC

Joshua dies;  
Israel relaxes



# The Biblical Model

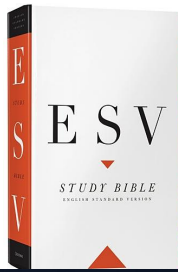


c. 1220 BC

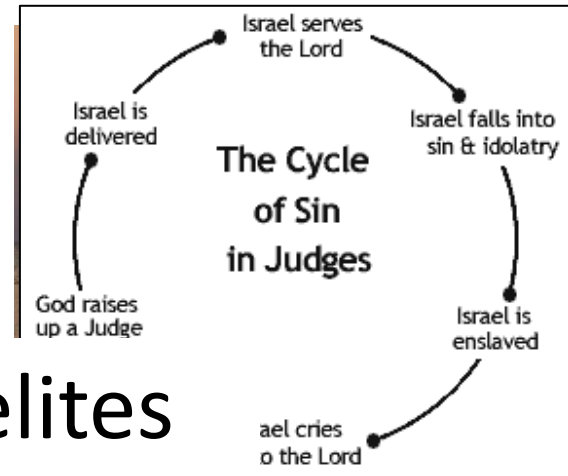
Israel invades  
Canaan

c. 1210 BC

The time  
of Judges



# The Biblical Model



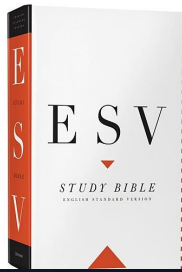
c. 1220 BC

The Israelites  
intermarry

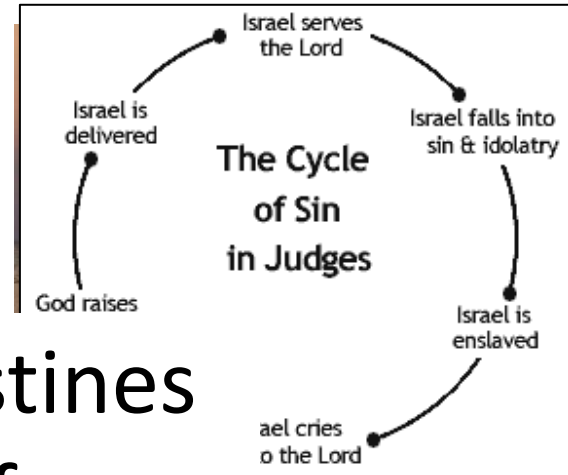
210 BC

Israel invades  
Canaan

The time  
of Judges



# The Biblical Model



c. 1220 BC

Israel invades  
Canaan

The Philistines  
oppress from  
the coast

210 BC

The time  
of Judges



Israel falls into  
sin & idolatry

Israel is  
enslaved

BC

E

S



BC

es;  
xes

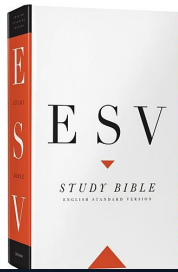


el falls into  
n & idolatry

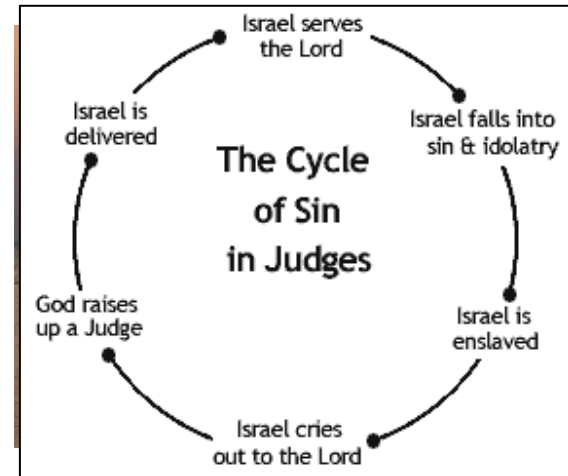
Israel is  
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BC

es;  
xes



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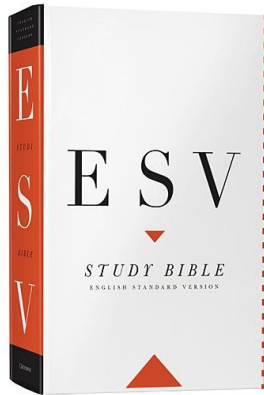
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Israel invades  
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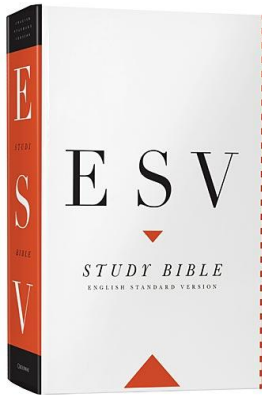
c. 1210 BC

The time  
of Judges





# The Biblical Model



# The Biblical Model



# Key Evidence



# Key Evidence



# Key Evidence



# Key Evidence

Peaceful  
Infiltration



# Key Evidence

Military  
Conquest

Peaceful  
Infiltration

Canaanite  
Source



Key Evidence

Military  
Conquest

Peaceful  
Infiltration

Biblical  
Model

Canaanite  
Source



Key Evidence

Military  
Conquest

Peaceful  
Infiltration





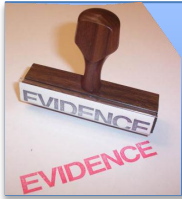
# Key Evidence



## Key Evidence



## Ex. A The Merneptah Stele



## Key Evidence



## Ex. A The Merneptah Stele

By 1209 BC Israel is a  
land-based people  
group



## Key Evidence



## Ex. B The Highland Settlements

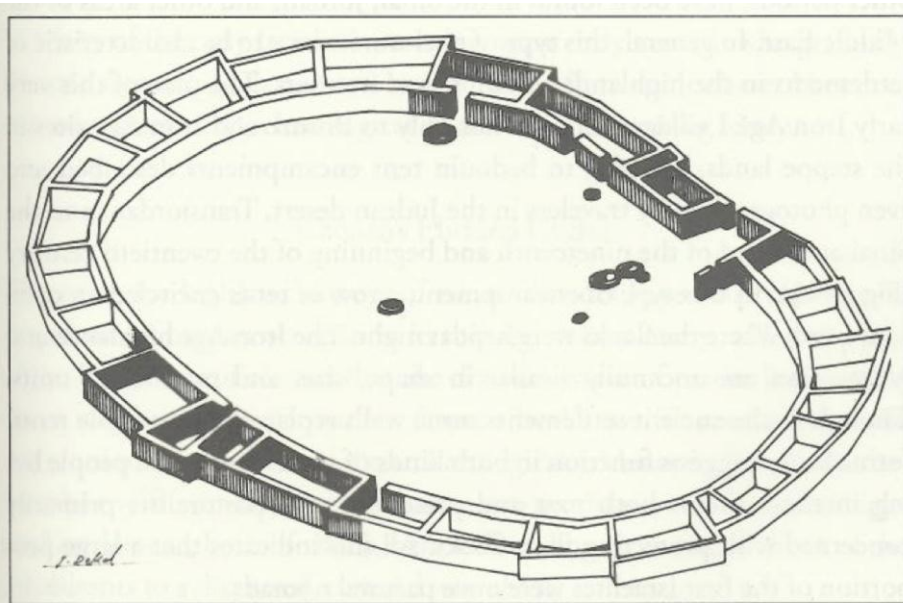


Figure 13: The Early Iron Age I phase at Izbet Sartah. The oval layout indicates the pastoral origins of the inhabitants.



## Key Evidence



## Ex. B The Highland Settlements

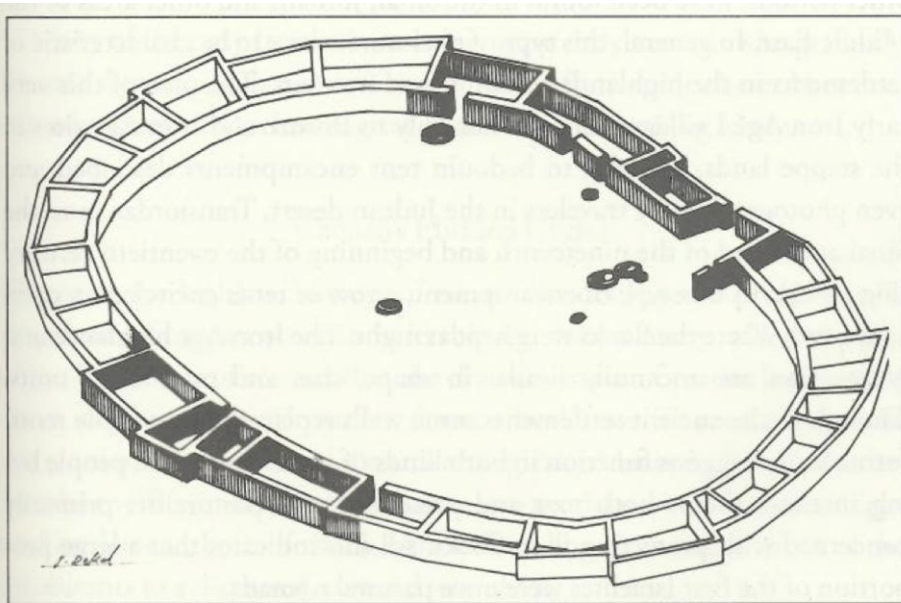


Figure 13: The Early Iron Age I phase at Izbet Sartah. The oval layout indicates the pastoral origins of the inhabitants.

1200 BC sees a  
massive number of  
new settlements  
and people



## Key Evidence



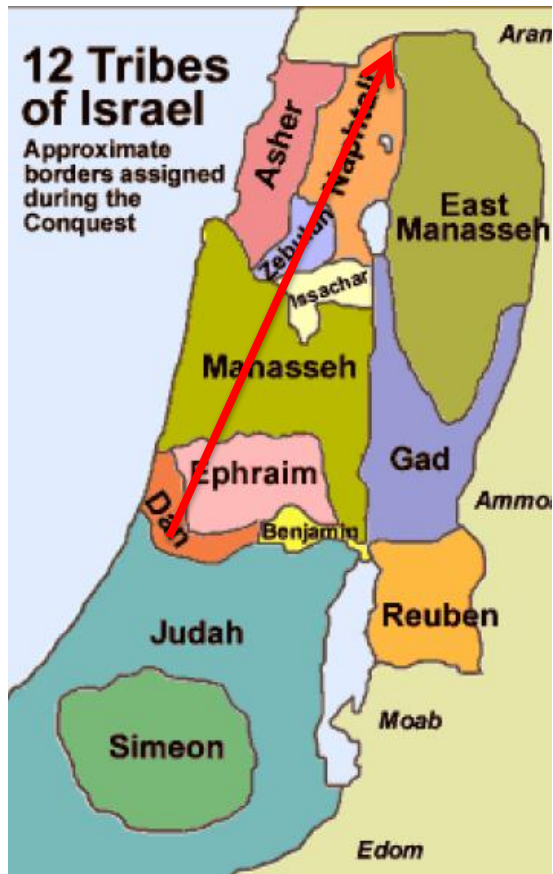
## Ex. C The Findings at Dan



## Key Evidence



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## Key Evidence



## Ex. C The Findings at Dan



Archaeology shows  
the 1200 BC  
conquering of  
Laish/Dan

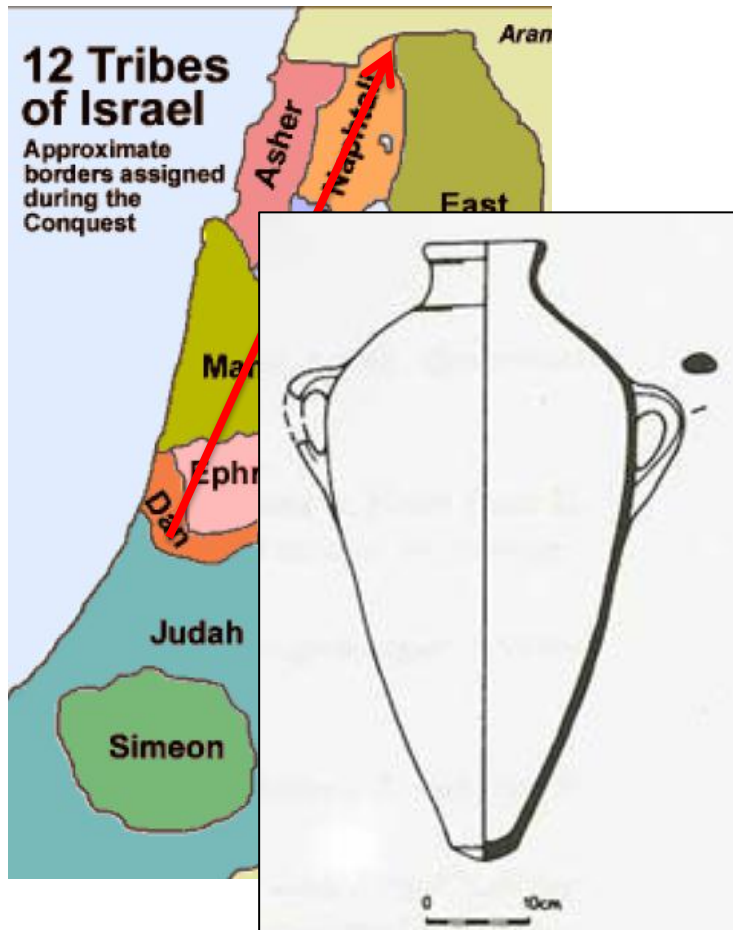




## Key Evidence



## Ex. C The Findings at Dan



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## Key Evidence



## Ex. C The Findings at Dan



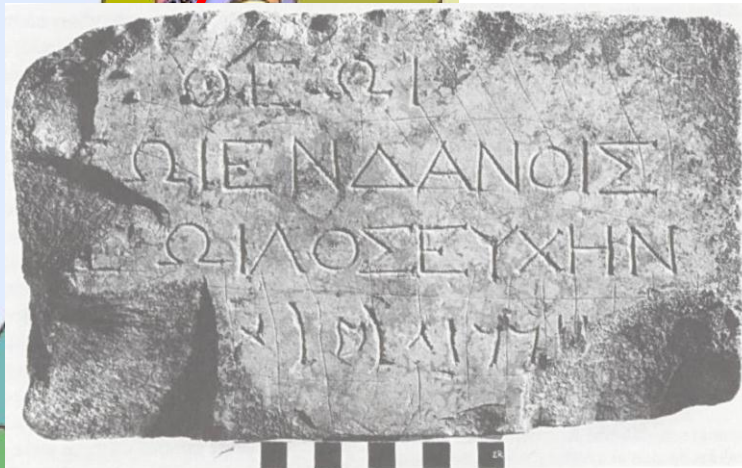
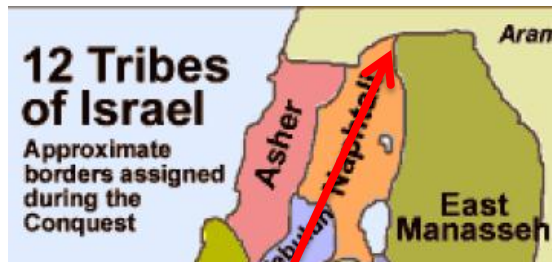
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## Key Evidence



## Ex. C The Findings at Dan



DAN. Figure 2. *Bilingual inscription*. Found in the cultic precinct; Greek above, Aramaic below. The text reads “To the God who is in Dan, Zoilos made a vow” and comprises forceful evidence for the identification of Tell el-Qadi with biblical Dan. Dated c. 200-150 BCE. (Courtesy Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, Jerusalem)

Archaeology shows  
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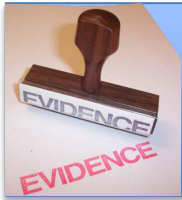


## Key Evidence



## Ex. D The Philistines





## Key Evidence



## Ex. D The Philistines



Archaeology shows  
the precise timing,  
placement, and  
culture of the  
Philistines



## Key Evidence



## Ex. E The Transjordan





## Key Evidence



## Ex. E The Transjordan





## Key Evidence



## Ex. E The Transjordan



Archaeology show  
consistent and timely  
settlements in the  
Transjordan





## Key Evidence



## Ex. F The unconquered cities





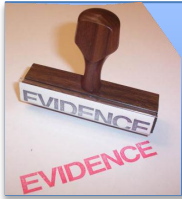
## Key Evidence



## Ex. F The unconquered cities



Beth-shean



## Key Evidence



## Ex. F The unconquered cities



Beth-shean

Dor



## Key Evidence



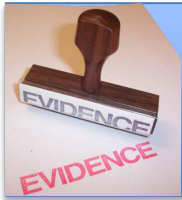
## Ex. F The unconquered cities



Beth-shean

Dor

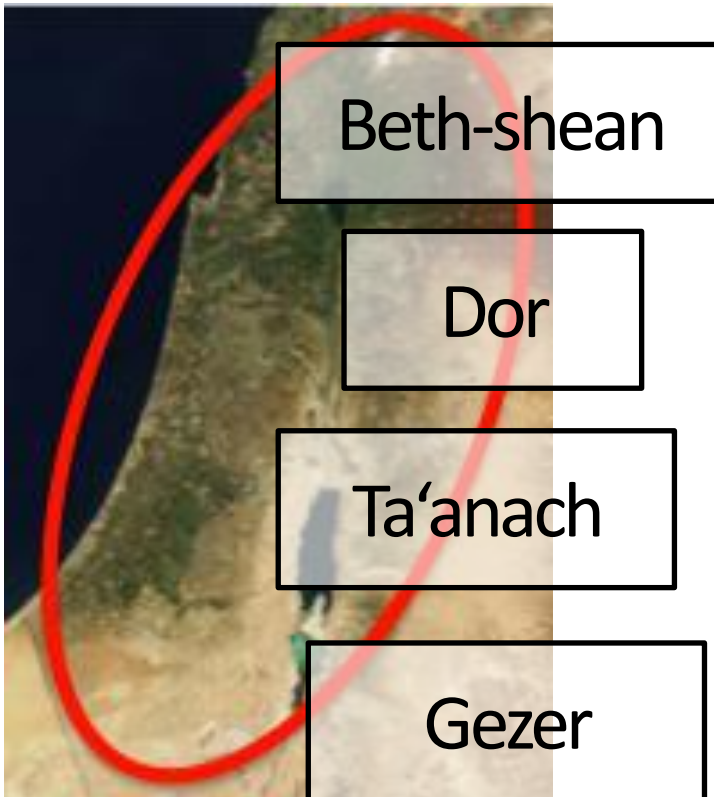
Ta'anach



## Key Evidence



## Ex. F The unconquered cities

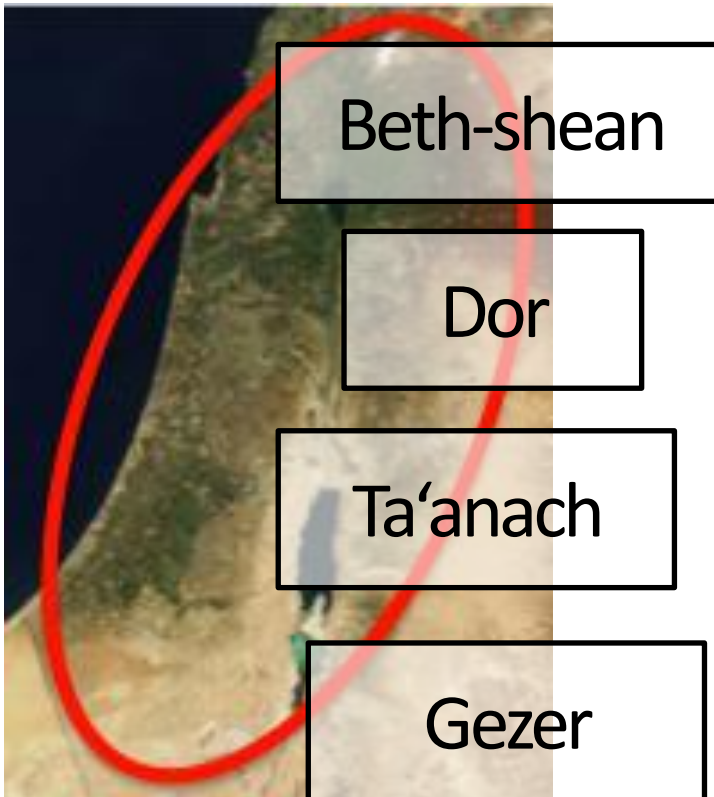




## Key Evidence



## Ex. F The unconquered cities



Archaeology shows  
continued Canaanite  
possession until the  
late 1000's



## Key Evidence



## Ex. G The questions of ethnicity





## Key Evidence



## Ex. G The questions of ethnicity



Archaeology is  
consistent with the  
Biblical Model



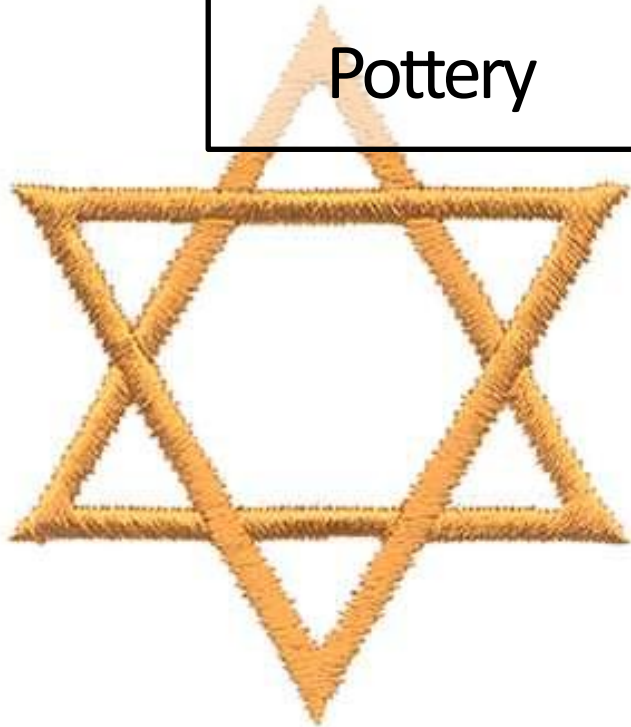


## Key Evidence



## Ex. G The questions of ethnicity

Pottery



Archaeology is  
consistent with the  
Biblical Model



## Key Evidence

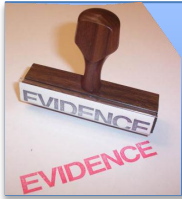


## Ex. G The questions of ethnicity

Pottery

Architecture

Archaeology is  
consistent with the  
Biblical Model



## Key Evidence



## Ex. G The questions of ethnicity

Pottery

Architecture

Foodstuff

Archaeology is  
consistent with the  
Biblical Model



## Key Evidence



## Ex. G The questions of ethnicity

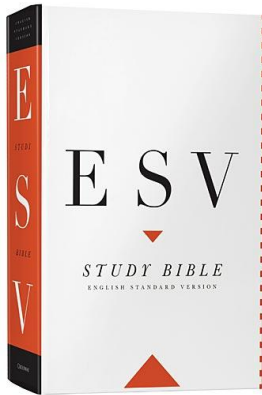
Pottery

Architecture

Foodstuff

Religion

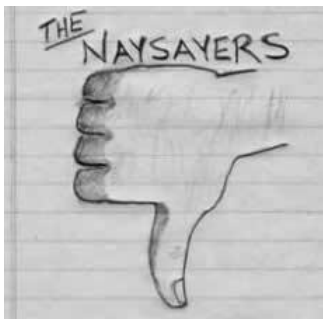
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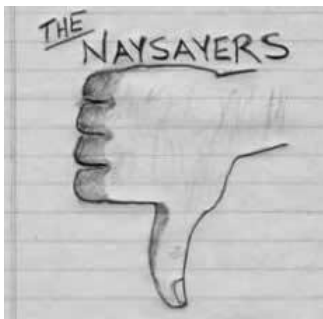
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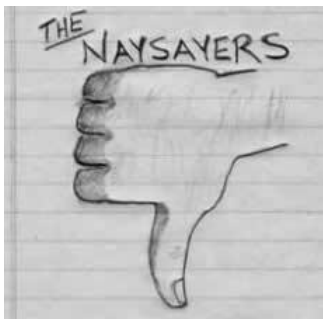


# The Naysayers



# The Naysayers

Distinguish fact  
from opinion



The Naysayers



## Points for home

*“The people did what was evil...served the  
baals...abandoned the LORD...”*

*(Jdg. 2:11-12)*





## Points for home

*“The people did what was evil...served the  
baals...abandoned the LORD...”*

*(Jdg. 2:11-12)*

**Be a light set on a hill**



## Points for home

*"You have not obeyed my voice"*  
(Jdg 2:2)



## Points for home

*"You have not obeyed my voice"*  
(Jdg 2:2)

Move when he says "Move"!



## Points for home

*“Their daughters they took as wives...”*  
(Jdg 3:6)

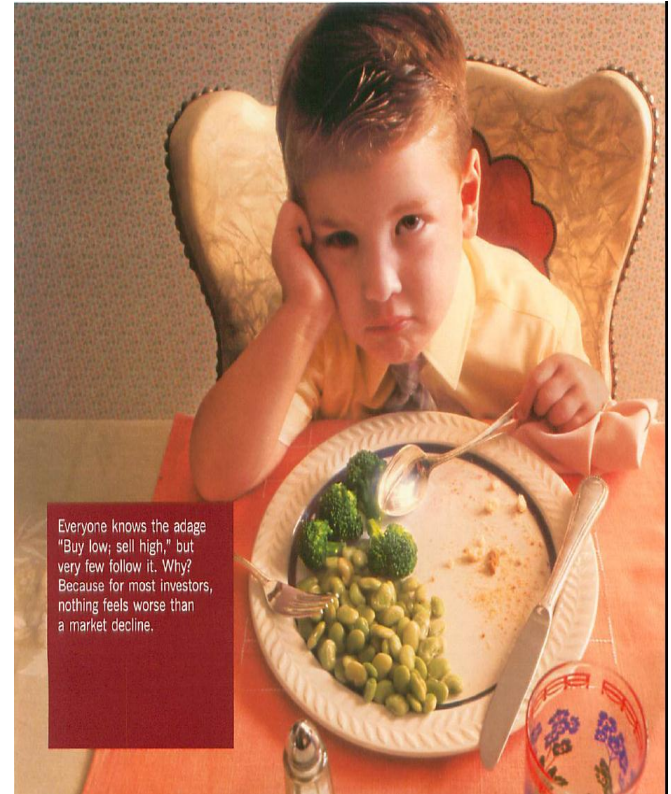


## Points for home

*“Their daughters they took as wives...”*  
(Jdg 3:6)

Thank God for the godly people in your life  
(And get more!)

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