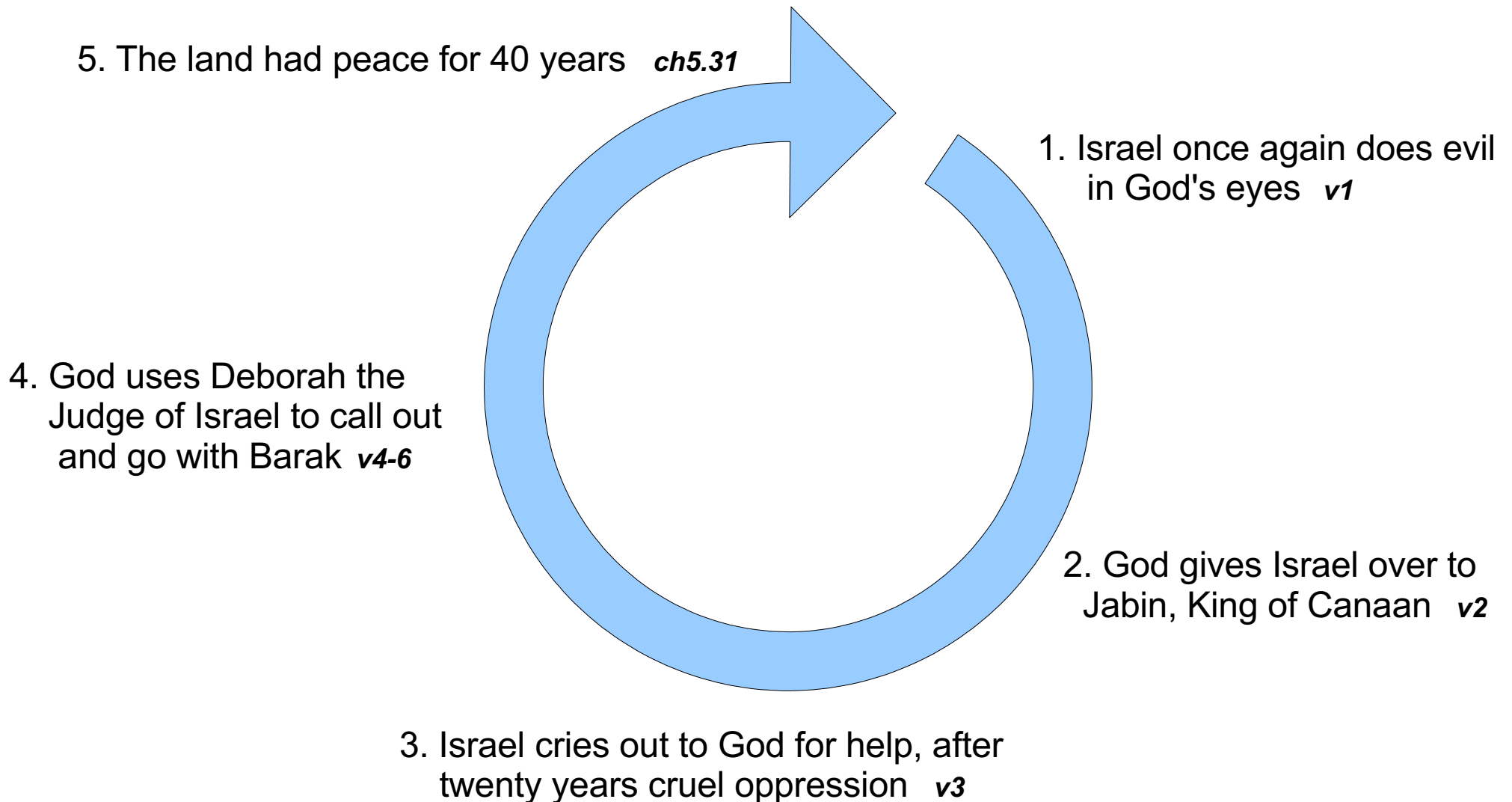


# A familiar pattern ...

## Judges chapter 4-5

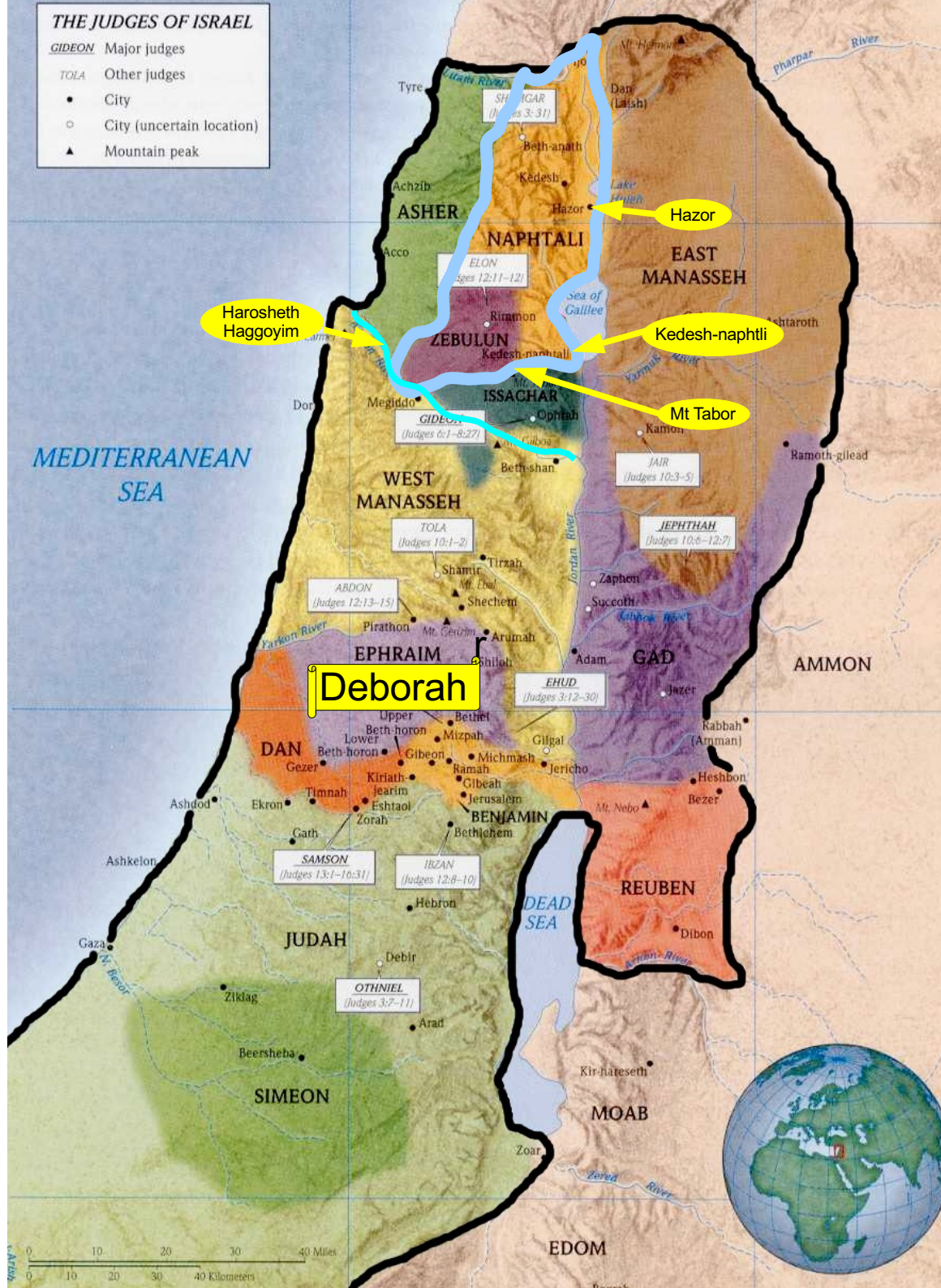


**THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL**


*GIDEON* Major judges

*TOLA* Other judges

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak



# Whose victory is it ?

- 4.7 And **I will draw out Sisera**, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and **I will give him into your hand**.”
- 4.9b ...for **the LORD will sell** Sisera into the hand of a woman.
- 4.14 ... And Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day in which **the LORD has given Sisera** into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?”
- 4.15 And **the LORD routed Sisera** and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword.
- 4.23 So on that day **God subdued Jabin** the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.
- 5.11 To the sound of musicians at the watering places, there they repeat **the righteous triumphs of the LORD**,
- 5.20 **From heaven** the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.
- 5.31 “In the same way **let all your enemies perish, O LORD!**”
- 

# Singing victory songs ...

- Queen – often sung for personal and selfish victories
- Fats Waller – WWII victory song
- Deborah & Barak

5.24 Most blessed of women be Jael,  
the wife of Heber the Kenite,  
of tent-dwelling women most blessed.

25 He asked for water and she gave him milk;  
she brought him curds in a noble's bowl.

26 She sent her hand to the tent peg  
and her right hand to the workmen's mallet;



# Leadership


## ➤ **Women**

- 4.4 Now Deborah, **a women**, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgement.

## ➤ **If you are theologically against women preaching in church and being the primary leaders of God's people ...**

- Christian life is not about law or rules – exceptions exist
- God would be a hopeless legalist, and he won't be put in your box theological or otherwise

## ➤ **If you are pro women preaching in Church and being the primary leaders of God's people ...**

- *“Hard cases make bad law”*
  - (God spoke through a donkey Num 22.28), no one thinks that it is to become the normal pattern
- 

# Leadership

- **Barak's lost opportunity emphasised**

4.8 Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” 9 And she said, “I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.”

- **The leaders do fulfil their responsibilities in the end**


5.2 “That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the LORD!

5.9 My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel, who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the LORD.


- **Though some tribes are reproached for not helping**

5.15 Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

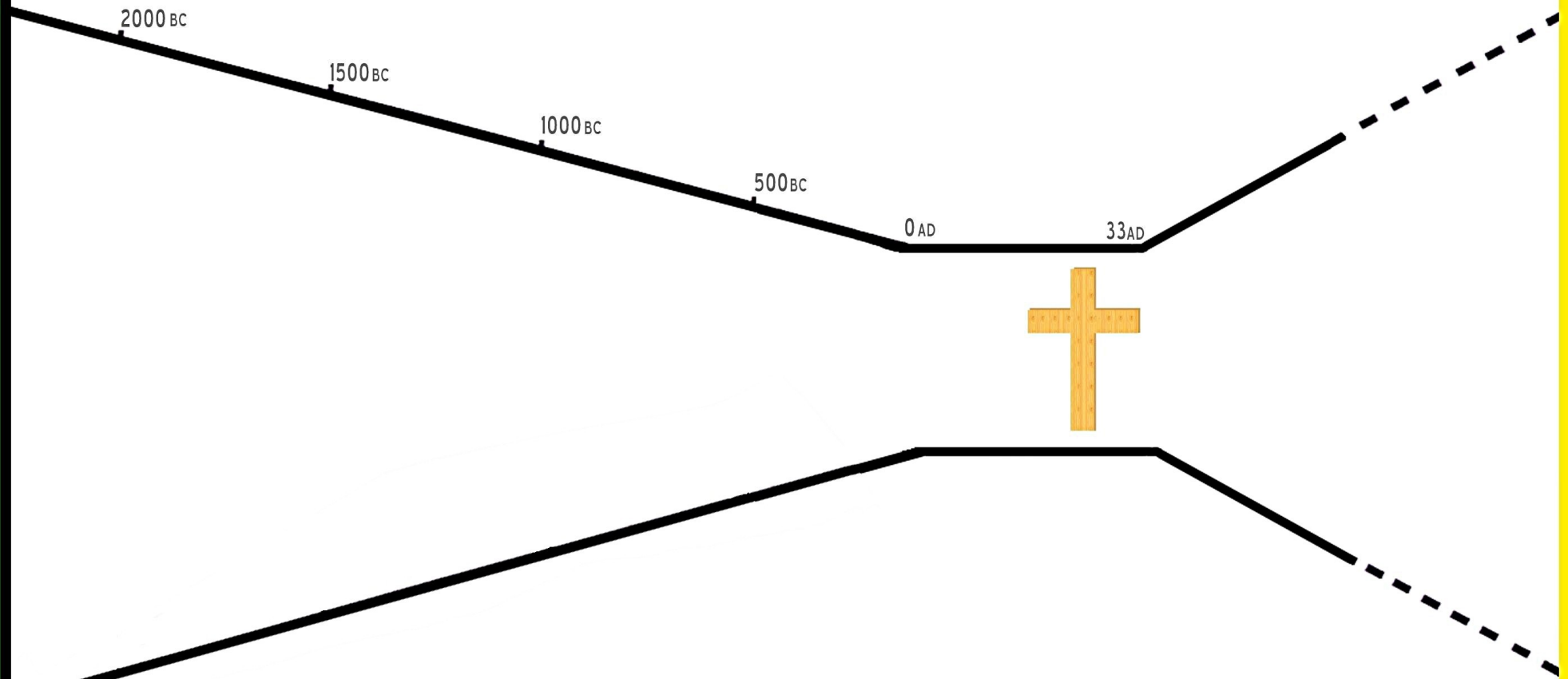
5.17 Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan, and Dan, why did he stay with the ships? Asher sat still at the coast of the sea, staying by his landings.



# So what about us today ... ?

- Judges 5.31 The land had peace for 40 years.
    - and we aren't in the OT !
  - Categories & concepts
    - God, Israel & victory
    - land, nation, blessing - now by promise but not yet
    - Peace & the need to win that peace through a deliverer
    - Leadership temporary vs everlasting
  - Progressive revelation
    - Israel's peace after Deborah, Barak & Jael was temporary
    - There is a much better peace still to come
- 

# Victory & Peace today



- 1John 5.4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world **our faith**. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



# Victory & Peace today

2000 BC

1500 BC

1000 BC

500 BC

0 AD

33 AD

Jesus did what a man needed to do, but what only God could do, 'God the Man' he has won the victory and established peace for us!

NOW

But  
Not  
Yet

- John 16.33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. *In the world you will have tribulation* . But take heart; I am victorious over the world.