

**WHY
DOES
LOCAL
CHURCH
MATTER?**

WHY GIVING TO THE LOCAL CHURCH MATTERS



GIVING AND THE PATRIARCHS

“In the ancient Near East lie the origins of a sacred offering or payment of a tenth part of stated goods or property to the deity. Often given to the king or to the royal temple, the ‘tenth’ was usually approximate, not exact. The practice is known from **Mesopotamia, Syria-Palestine, Greece** and as far to the west as the Phoenician city of **Carthage.**”

- **Encyclopedia of Religion, Mircea Eliad, editor, 1987, s.v. “tithe.”**

[Referring to a ten per cent tax levied on garments by the local ruler:] "the palace has taken eight garments as your tithe (on 85 garments)"
"...eleven garments as tithe (on 112 garments)"
"...(the sun-god) Shamash demands the tithe..."
"four minas of silver, the tithe of [the gods] Bel, Nabu, and Nergal..."
"...the tithe of the chief accountant, delivered to [the sun-god] Shamash"
"...why do you not pay the tithe to the Lady-of-Uruk?"
"...(the official Ebabbar in Sippar) who is in charge of the tithe..."

The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Vol. 4 "E"

GENESIS 14:17-20

17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." **Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.**

GENESIS 28: 19-22

19 He called that place Bethel though the city used to be called Luz. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21 so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God 22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and **of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.**"



**AN OVERVIEW OF TITHES IN
ISRAEL**

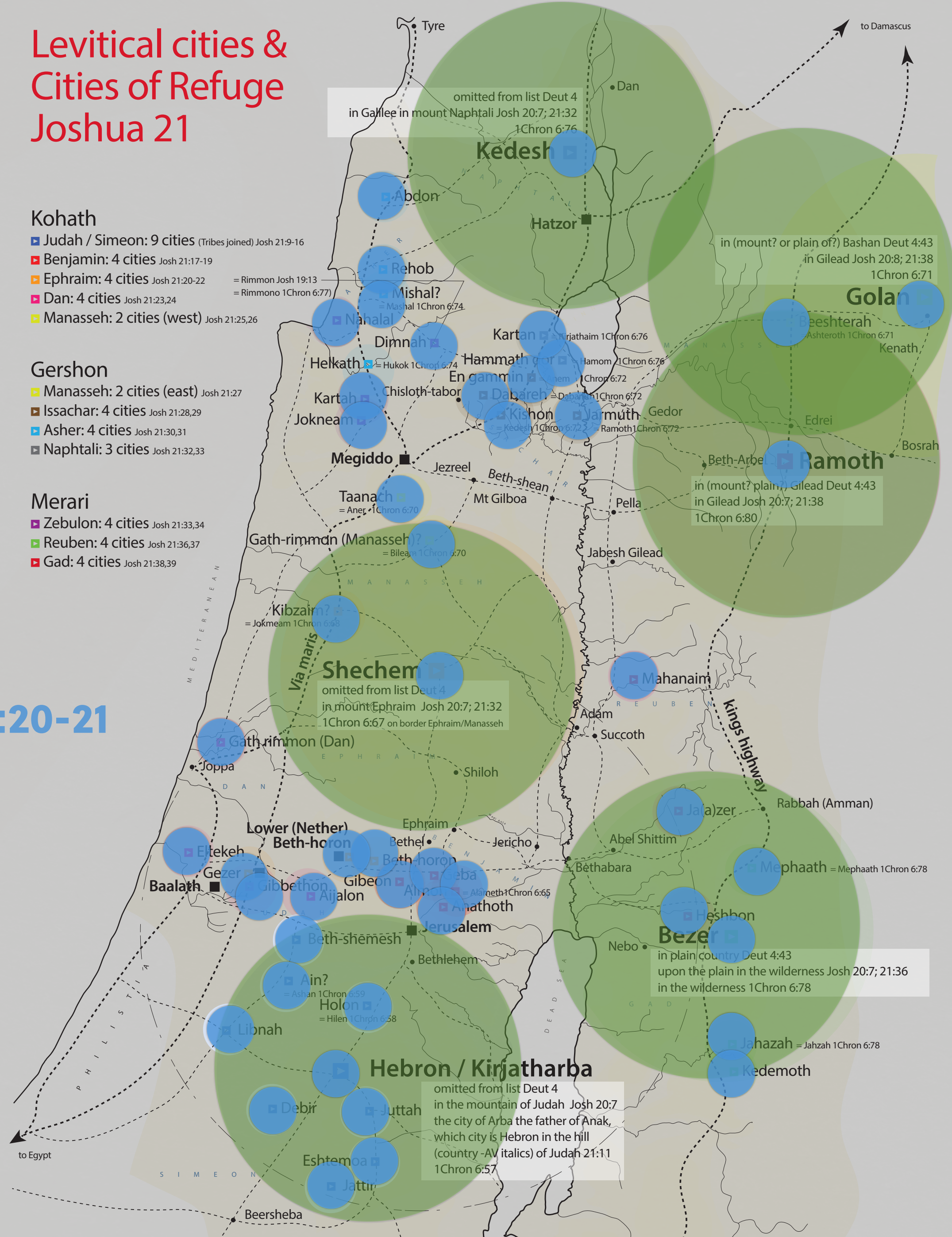
**TIED TO PRODUCE FROM THE
LAND OF ISRAEL**

LEVITICAL OR SACRED TITHE

10% OF THE PRODUCE OF THE LAND BROUGHT TO LEVITICAL CITIES

Levitical cities & Cities of Refuge Joshua 21

Numbers 18:20-21

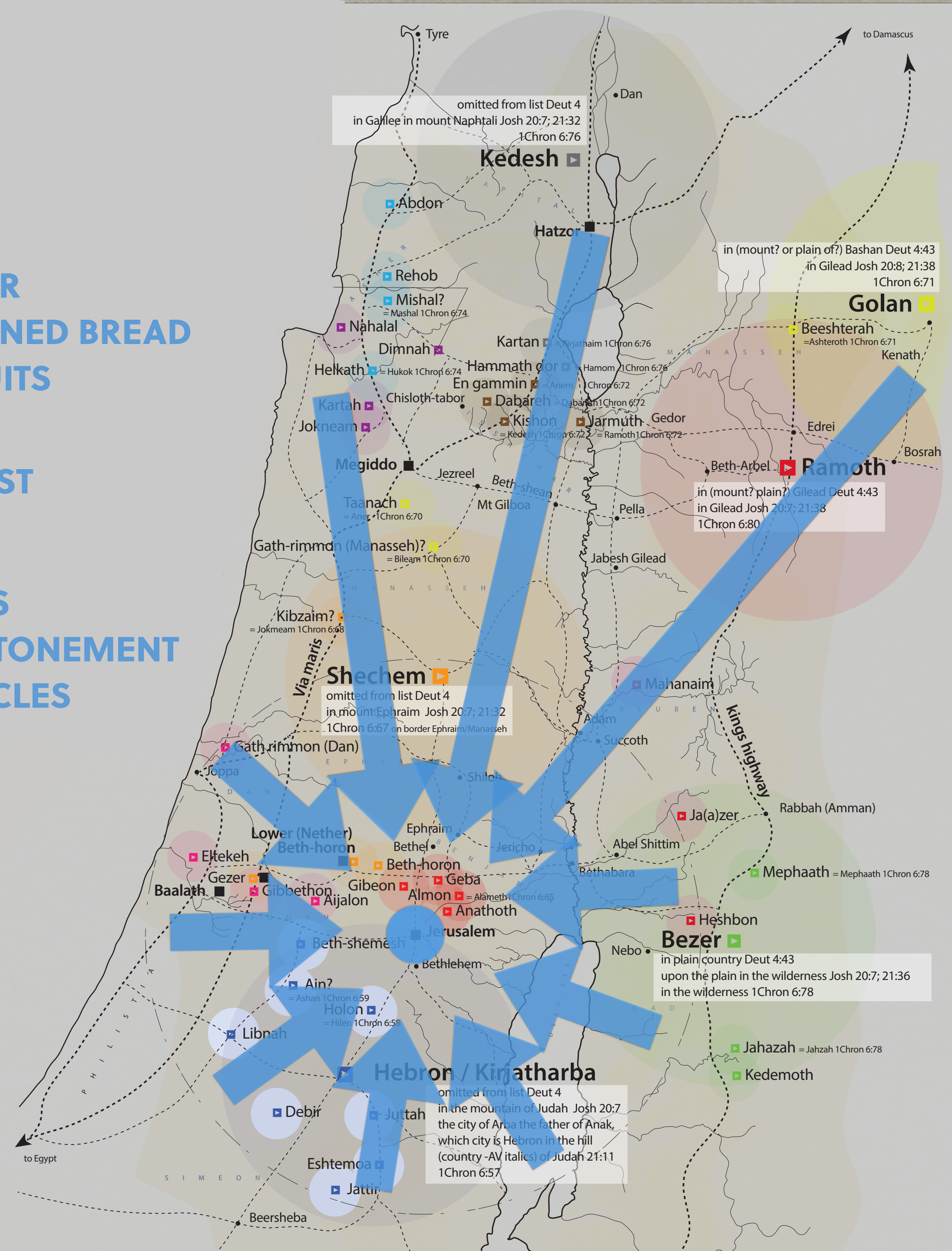


FESTIVAL

TITHE

10% OF THE
PRODUCE OF THE
LAND BROUGHT
TO JERUSALEM
FOR THE 7 FEASTS

1. PASSOVER
2. UNLEAVENED BREAD
3. FIRST FRUITS
4. PENTECOST
5. TRUMPETS
6. DAY OF ATONEMENT
7. TABERNACLES





**AN OVERVIEW OF GIVING
FOR BELIEVERS IN THE NEW
TESTAMENT**

1.

**GIVING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS IS
NOT AN OBLIGATION TO OBEY**

**BUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF**

2 CORINTHIANS 8:8

I am not commanding you

2 CORINTHIANS 8:10

And **here is my advice** about what is best for you in this matter:

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Each of you should **give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

2.

**GOD'S FAVOR AND BLESSING ON US
PROCEEDS FROM THE CROSS**

**BUT WE GET A CHOICE ON HOW WE
ADMINISTER HIS FAVOR ON OUR
FINANCES**

LUKE 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

GALATIANS 6:7

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows.**

PROVERBS 3:9

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
10 **then** your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim
over with new wine.



**WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY
ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD GIVE?**



1. GIVE WILLINGLY

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-4

... their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty **welled up in rich generosity**. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 **they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege** of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, **not reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God loves a cheerful giver.



1. **GIVE** WILLINGLY

2. **GIVE** GENEROUSLY

2 CORINTHIANS 9:11-13

11 You will be enriched in every way **so that you can be generous on every occasion**, and through us **your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God**. . . .13 Because of **the service** by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for **the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ**, and for **your generosity in sharing with them** and with everyone else.



1. **GIVE** WILLINGLY

2. **GIVE** GENEROUSLY

3. **GIVE** CHEERFULLY



2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**



1. **GIVE** WILLINGLY

2. **GIVE** GENEROUSLY

3. **GIVE** CHEERFULLY

4. **GIVE** SYSTEMATICALLY

1 CORINTHIANS 16:1

1 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do **what I told the Galatian churches to do.** 2 On the **first day of every week,** each one of you should **set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up,** so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

- 
1. **GIVE** WILLINGLY
 2. **GIVE** GENEROUSLY
 3. **GIVE** CHEERFULLY
 4. **GIVE** SYSTEMATICALLY
 5. **GIVE** PROPORTIONATELY

1 CORINTHIANS 16:2

2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money **in keeping with your income**, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:11-12

11 Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. 12 For if the willingness is there, **the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.**

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1. **GIVE WILLINGLY**
 2. **GIVE GENEROUSLY**
 3. **GIVE CHEERFULLY**
 4. **GIVE SYSTEMATICALLY**
 5. **GIVE PROPORTIONATELY**
 6. **SOMETIMES SECRETLY**

MATTHEW 6:2-4

2 "So **when you give to the needy**, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

3 But **when you give to the needy**, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so **that your giving may be in secret**. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



**WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY
ABOUT WHERE WE SHOULD GIVE?**



1. TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 9:4-14

4 Don't we have **the right to food and drink**? 5 Don't we have the right to take **a believing wife along with us**, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? 7 Who serves as **a soldier at his own expense**? Who plants **a vineyard and does not eat its grapes**? Who **tends a flock and does not drink the milk**? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "**Do not muzzle an ox** while it is treading out the grain." Yes, this was written for us, because when **the plowman plows** and the

1 CORINTHIANS 9:4-14

thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of **sharing in the harvest**. 11 If we have **sown spiritual seed** among you, is it too much if we **reap a material harvest** from you? . . . 13 Don't you know that **those who work in the temple get their food from the temple**, and **those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar**? 14 In the same way, **the Lord has commanded** that those who preach the gospel **should receive their living from the gospel**.



1. TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

2. **APOSTOLIC MINISTRY**

APOSTOLIC GIVING - FOR LOCAL NEEDS

ACTS 4:34-35

34 There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, **brought the money** from the sales 35 and **put it at the apostles' feet**, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

APOSTOLIC GIVING - OFFERINGS FOR OTHER CHURCHES

ROMANS 15:25-26

25 Now, however, I am **on my way to Jerusalem** in the service of the saints there. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to **make a contribution** for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

APOSTOLIC GIVING - TRAVEL AND PREACHING THE GOSPEL

2 CORINTHIANS 1:16

16 I planned to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to **have you send me on my way** to Judea.

PHILIPPIANS 4:18

18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that **I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent**. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.



1. **TO THE LOCAL CHURCH**

2. **APOSTOLIC MINISTRY**

3. **HOLY SPIRIT PROMPTINGS**

ACTS 20:35

35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**

ACTS 4:32

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but **they shared everything they had.**



1. TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

2. APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

3. HOLY SPIRIT PROMPTINGS

4. OUR FAMILIES

1 TIMOTHY 5:3

3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to **put their religion into practice by caring for their own family** and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for **this is pleasing to God. . . .**

8 Anyone **who does not provide for their relatives**, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



1. TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

2. APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

3. HOLY SPIRIT PROMPTINGS

4. OUR FAMILIES

5. OUR TESTIMONIES

ROMANS 13:6

6 This is also **why you pay taxes**, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 **Give everyone what you owe him**: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. 8 **Let no debt remain outstanding**, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.



OUR ASK OF YOU TODAY

1. **GIVE** WILLINGLY
2. **GIVE** GENEROUSLY
3. **GIVE** CHEERFULLY
4. **GIVE** SYSTEMATICALLY
5. **GIVE** PROPORTIONATELY
6. **SOMETIMES** SECRETLY

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