

Judges Series

Lesson #69

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Abimelech the Bramble King**  
**Judges 9:1–22**

# JUDGES

2021

**When Chaos Was King**

# Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

**1:1–3:6**

## **Introduction**

**How Israel went from  
spiritual victory  
to being worse than  
the Canaanites**

**Incomplete obedience**

**Compromise**

**Failure**

**Cycles of discipline**

**3:7–16:31**

## **Paganization of the Leadership**

**Othniel (the best)**

**Ehud**

**Shamgar**

**Deborah**

**Gideon**

**Tola, Jair**

**Jephthah**

**Ibzan, Elon, Abdon**

**Samson (the worst)**

**17:1–21:25**

## **Paganization of the Priests**

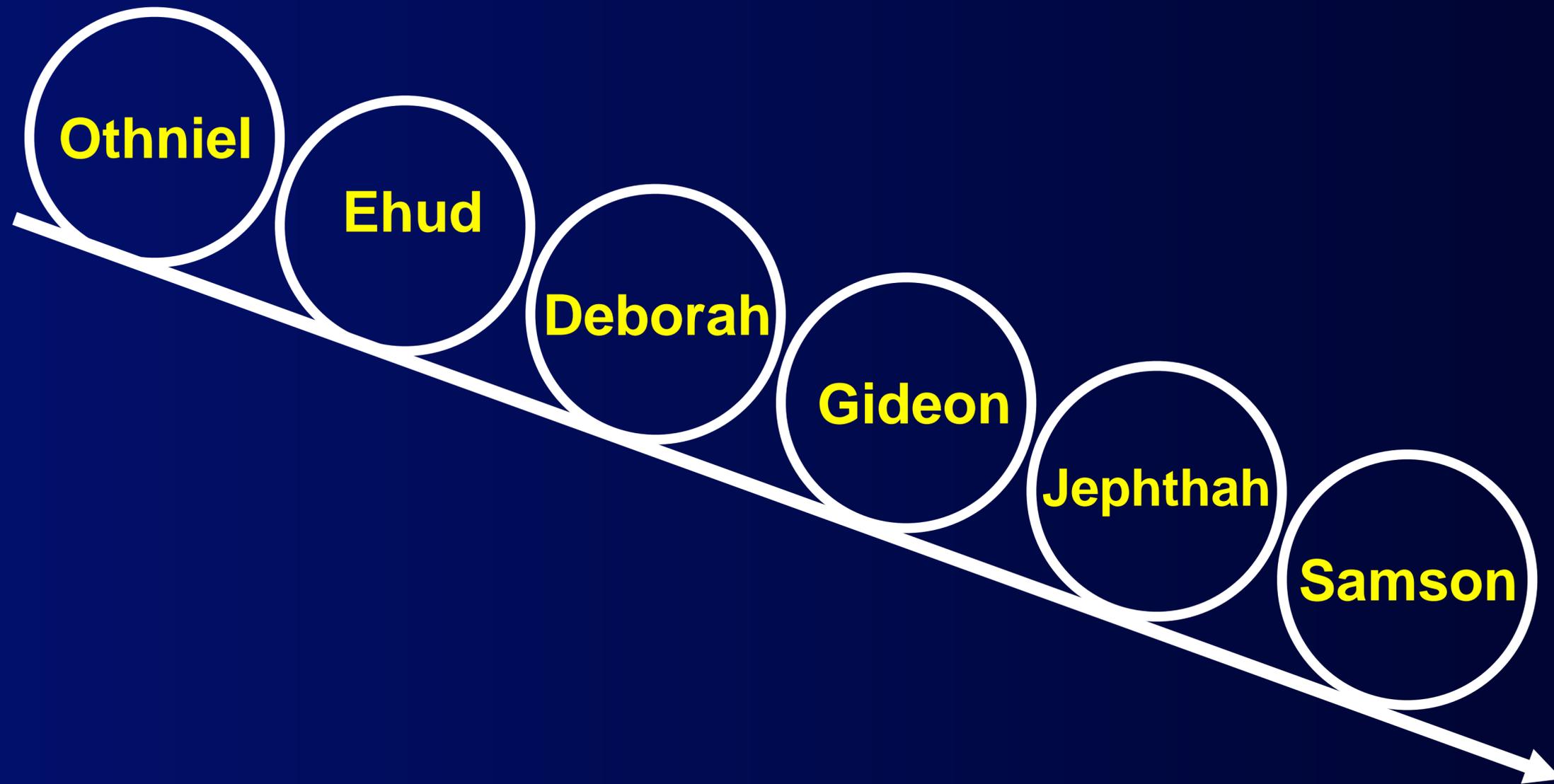
**Chap. 17–18**

**and the**

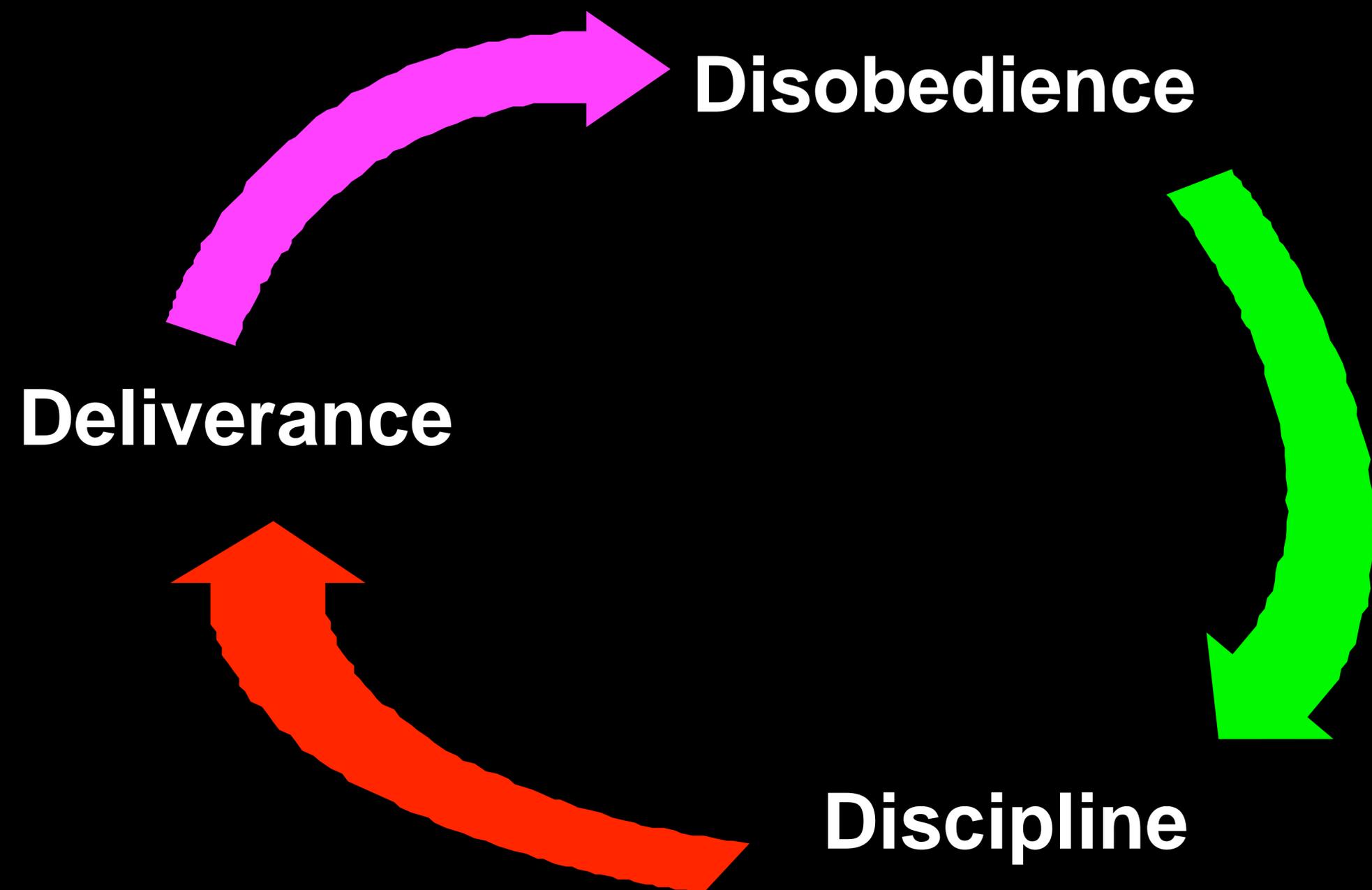
**People**

**Chap. 19–21**

# Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges



# The Cycles of the Judges



**Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.”**

**Judg. 18:1, “In those days there was no king in Israel;”**

**Judg. 19:1, “Now it came about in those days, when there was no king in Israel,”**

**\*\*\*\*\*Judges is an argument as to why a human king was necessary in Israel. God had previously been Israel's king (1 Sam. 8:7). The Book of Judges is one of the key Books in the Bible for the purpose of laying the foundation for a Christian philosophy of politics, government, society, and the impact of a nation's spirituality on its culture.\*\*\*\*\***

## **What is a Divine Institution?**

**Absolute social structures instituted by God for the entire human race—believers and unbelievers alike.**

**These are given for the for the perpetuation, stability, protection, and freedom of the human race.**

# The Divine Institutions

1. Individual responsibility

2. Marriage

3. Family

**PRE-FALL**

**Designed to promote productivity, and advance civilization**

4. Government, judicial

5. Nations

6. Israel

**POST-FALL**

**Designed to restrain evil**

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**1 Sam. 8:4, “Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,**

**1 Sam. 8:5, “and said to him, ‘Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.’ ”**

**1 Sam. 8:6, “But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’ So Samuel prayed to the LORD.**

**1 Sam. 8:7, “And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.**

**1 Sam. 8:8, “ ‘According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.’ ”**

# **Kingship in the Ancient World**

**Examples: Egypt and Mesopotamia**

**Egypt: Pharaoh was a god-king**

**Mesopotamia: sons of the gods**

**Both deified the State.**

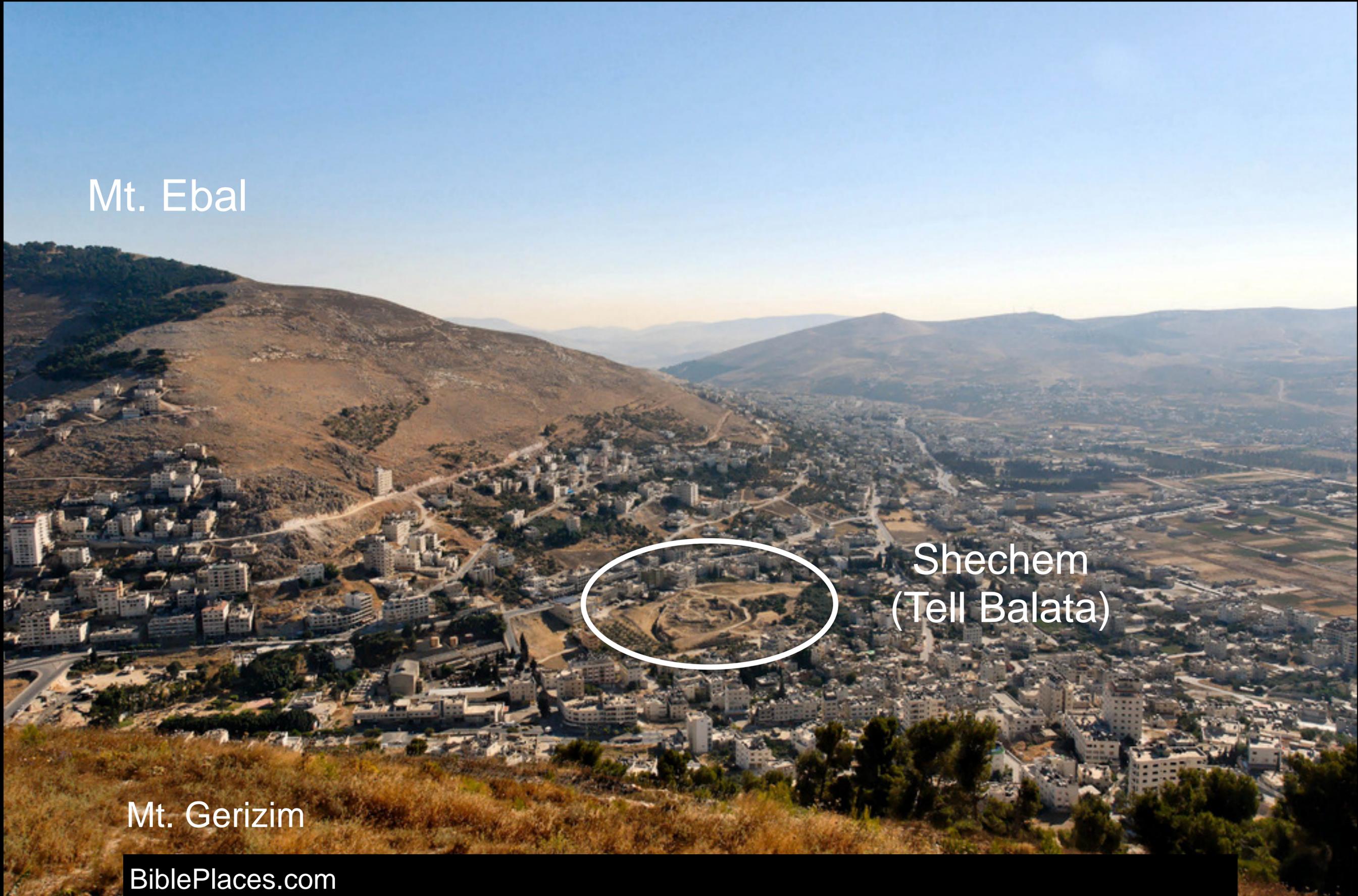
# **The Location: Shechem**

Mt. Ebal

Shechem  
(Tell Balata)

Mt. Gerizim

BiblePlaces.com



Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Shechem  
(Tell Balata)

Nablus



Jacob's Well

*Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's relatives*



Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Shechem  
(Tell Balata)

Nablus

Jacob's Well

Shechem (from the east)



Northwest Gate

Iron Age houses

East Gate

Middle Bronze  
city wall

Standing stone

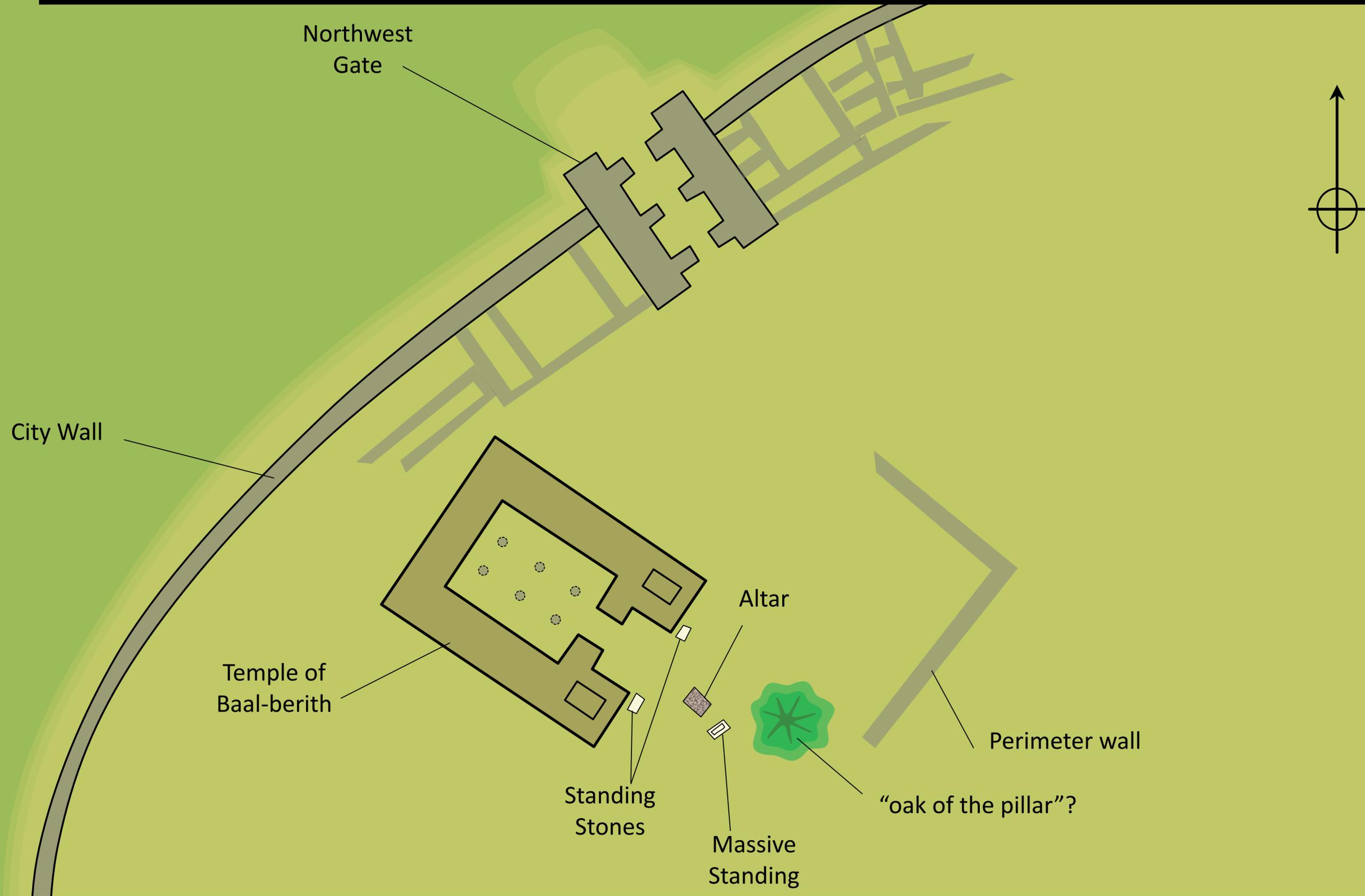
Baal-berith temple

*They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith*



Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem (from the east)

*They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith*



Plan of the Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem

**Judg. 9:1, “Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother’s brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother’s father, saying,”**

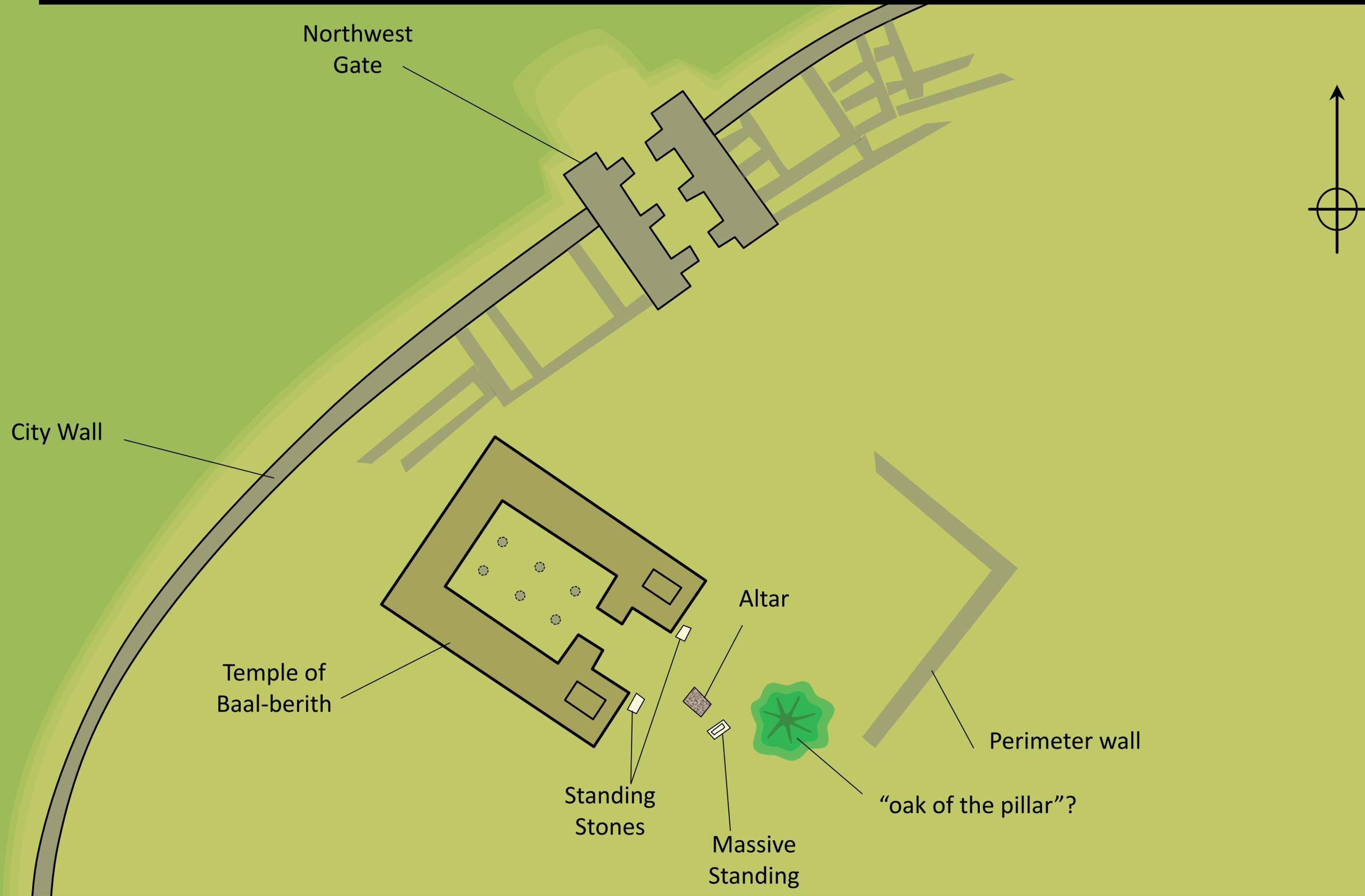
**Judg. 9:2, “Please speak in the hearing of all the men of Shechem: ‘Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you?’ Remember that I am your own flesh and bone.”**

**Judg. 9:3, “And his mother’s brothers spoke all these words concerning him in the hearing of all the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, ‘He is our brother.’”**

**Judg. 9:4, “So they gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men; and they followed him.”**

**~NKJV**

*They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith*



Plan of the Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem

**Judg. 9:5, “Then he went to his father’s house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, because he hid himself.**

**Judg. 9:6, “And all the men of Shechem gathered together, all of Beth Millo, and they went and made Abimelech king beside the terebinth tree at the pillar that was in Shechem.”**

**~NKJV**

*They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith*



Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem (from the southeast)

**Judg. 9:7, “Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and cried out. And he said to them: ‘Listen to me, you men of Shechem, that God may listen to you!’ ” ~NKJV**

*They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith*



Temple of Baal-berith at Shechem (from the east)

**Judg. 9:8, “The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive tree, ‘Reign over us!’ ”**  
**~NKJV**

**Judg. 9:9, “But the olive tree said to them, ‘Should I cease giving my oil, with which they honor God and men, and go to sway over trees?’**

**Judg. 9:10, “Then the trees said to the fig tree, ‘You come and reign over us!’**

**Judg. 9:11, “But the fig tree said to them, ‘Should I cease my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to sway over trees?’**

**Judg. 9:12, “Then the trees said to the vine, ‘You come and reign over us!’**

**Judg. 9:13, “But the vine said to them, ‘Should I cease my new wine, which cheers both God and men, and go to sway over trees?’ ” ~NKJV**

**Judg. 9:14, “Then all the trees said to the bramble, ‘You come and reign over us!’**

**Judg. 9:15, “And the bramble said to the trees, ‘If in truth you anoint me as king over you, then come and take shelter in my shade; But if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon!’ ” ~NKJV**

**Judg. 9:16, “Now therefore, if you have acted in truth and sincerity in making Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him as he deserves—**

**Judg. 9:17, “for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;” ~NKJV**

**Judg. 9:16, “Now therefore, if you have acted in truth and sincerity in making Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him as he deserves—**

**Judg. 9:17, “for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;” ~NKJV**

**אֱמֶת *’emet***

**comm fem sing  
abs truth,  
integrity**

**תָּמִים *tamim***

**masc sing abs  
blameless,  
perfect, good  
faith, absolute  
and total fidelity**

**Judg. 9:19**, “if then you have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.

**Judg. 9:20**, “But if not, let fire come from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth Millo; and let fire come from the men of Shechem and from Beth Millo and devour Abimelech!”

**Judg. 9:21**, “And Jotham ran away and fled; and he went to Beer and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.”

~NKJV

**אֱמֶת *emet* comm  
fem sing abs  
truth, integrity**

**תָּמִים *tamim* masc sing abs  
blameless, perfect, good faith,  
absolute and total fidelity**

**Judg. 9:22, “After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years,**

**Judg. 9:23, “God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,**

**Judg. 9:24, “that the crime done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might be settled and their blood be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers.**

**Judg. 9:25, “And the men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who passed by them along that way; and it was told Abimelech.” ~NKJV**