

Joshua 24:14 (NLT)

So fear the LORD and serve Him
wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols
your ancestors worshiped when they lived
beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt.
Serve the LORD alone.

Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

But if you refuse to serve the LORD,
then choose today whom you will serve...

...But as for me and my family, we **WILL**
serve the LORD.

Judges 21:25 (NLT)

In those days Israel had NO KING;
all the people did whatever seemed right
in their own eyes.

Ruth 1:16 (NLT)

But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Ruth 1:20 (NLT)

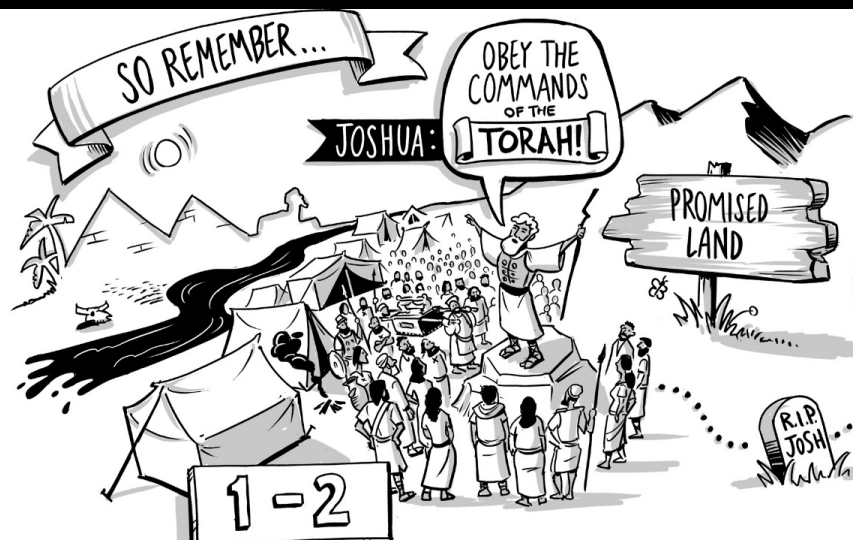
Don't call me Naomi, she responded.
"Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty
has made life very bitter for me.

Ruth 1:21 (NLT)

I went away full, but the LORD has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the LORD has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?"

WHY ME?

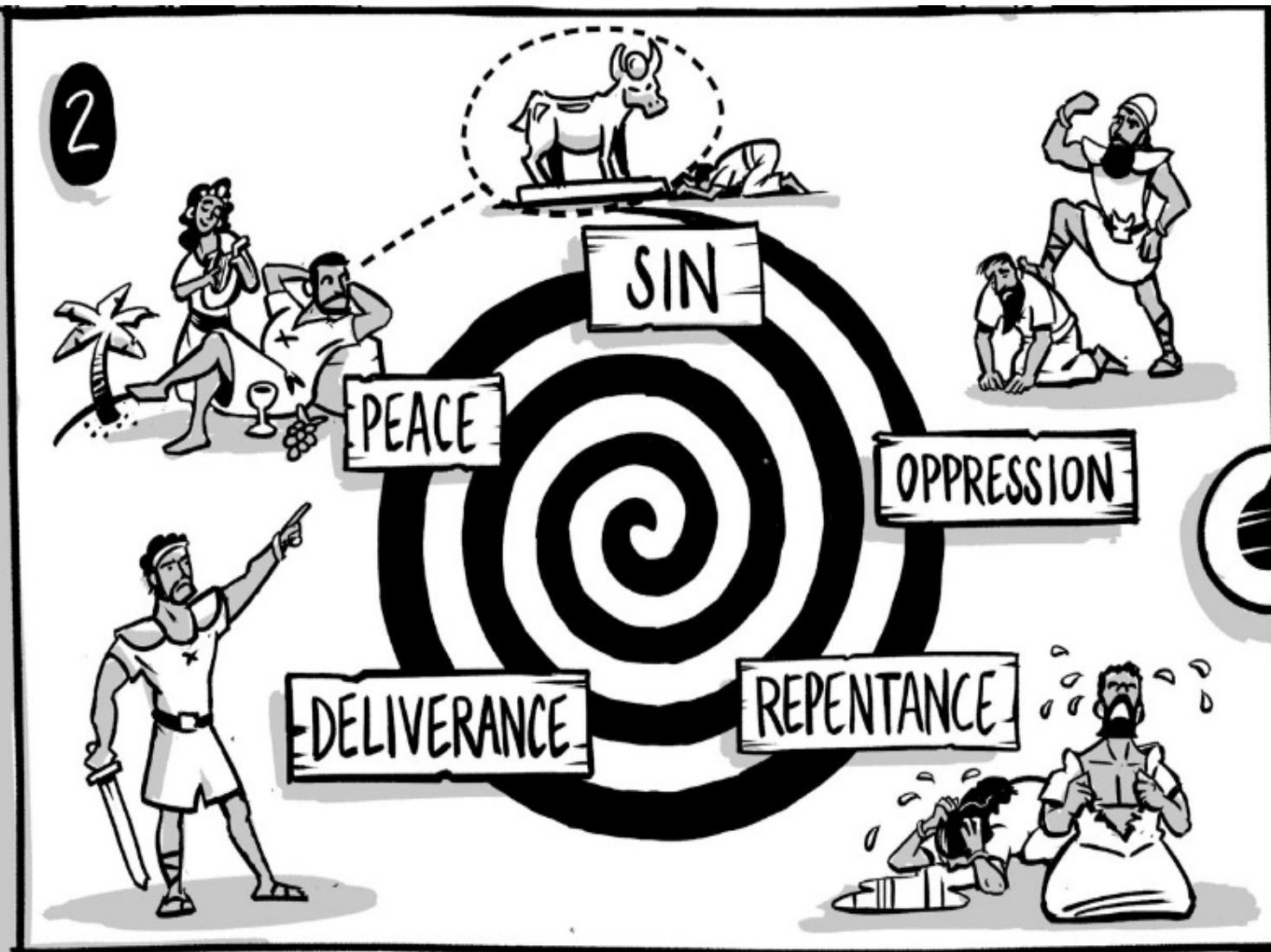
Ruth 1.1-22



JUDGES

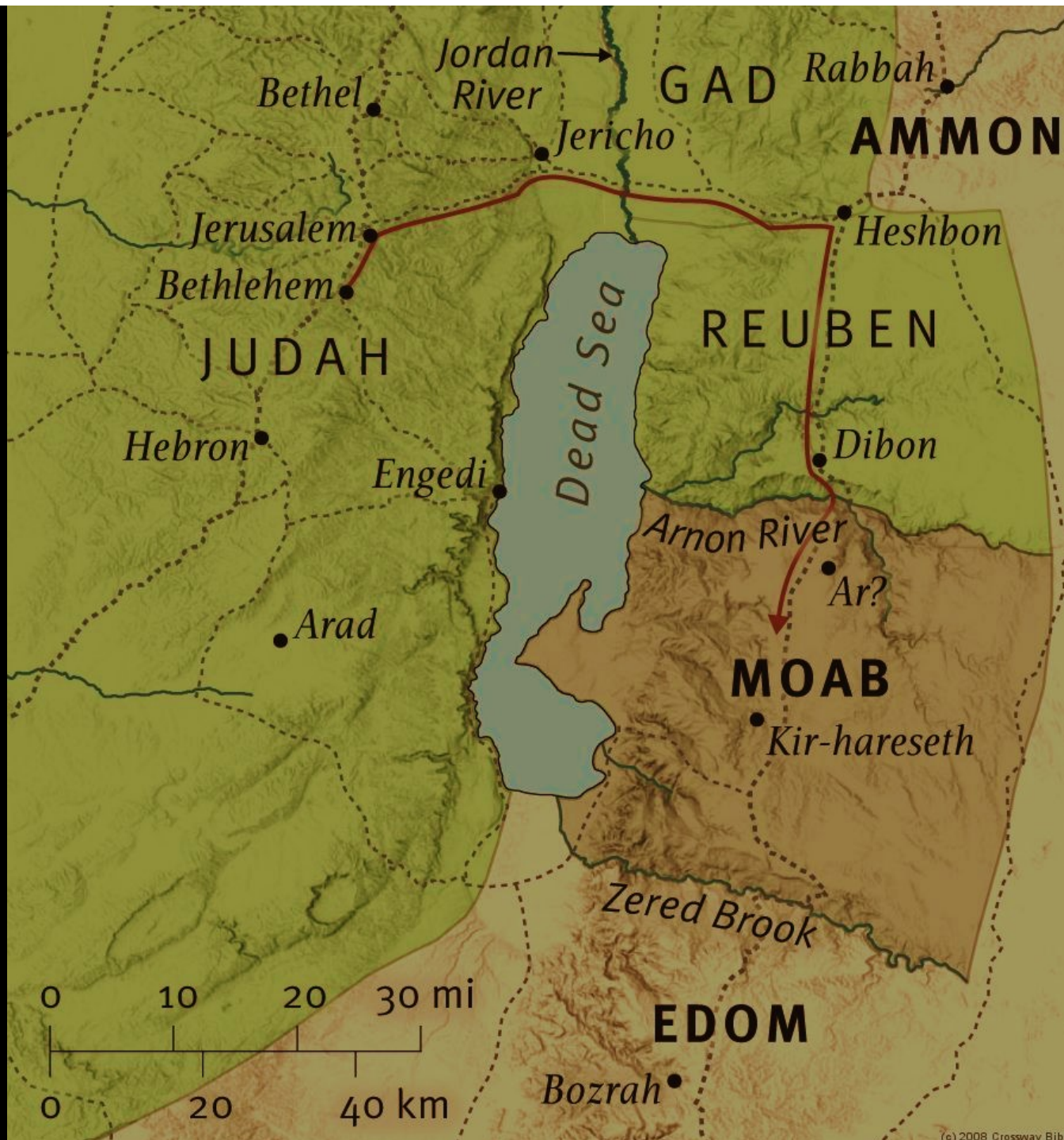
ISRAEL'S TOTAL FAILURE

3-16



ISRAEL FAILS TO DRIVE
OUT THE CANAANITES





¹³...Things are far more **BITTER** for me
than for you, because **the LORD**
Himself has raised **His FIST**
AGAINST me.

(NLT)



→ **SEEING** our lives **THROUGH** our
Struggles and Pain **COLORS** How
we see God

¹³...the **LORD's hand** has gone out
against me!"

²⁰ ...Call me Mara, because **the Almighty**
has made my life very bitter.

21 I went away **FULL**, but **the LORD**
has brought me back empty.

Why call me Naomi? **The LORD** has
afflicted me; **the Almighty** has
brought misfortune upon me."

Naomi's Lament...

- The LORD is **AGAINST** me
- God has made my life **BITTER**
- The LORD brought me back **EMPTY**
- God Has **AFFLICTED** me
- The Almighty brought **MISFORTUNE** to me

→ We can **CHOOSE** to show
Compassion to those who are Hurting
and Struggling

²¹...the Almighty has made my life very
BITTER. ²¹ I went away full, but the
LORD has brought me back EMPTY.

⁶ When she heard IN Moab that the **LORD**
had come to the aid of **HIS** people...

²²...arriving in Bethlehem as the
BARLEY HARVEST was beginning.

This Simple Statement ...

- gives **HOPE**
- shows God is **IN CONTROL**
- shows God's **PLAN** is at work