

Event 9: Saul's Battles

Event 9 illustrates the battles that Saul had with the Ammonites and Philistines. The blue arrow east of Jordan is the advance of the Ammonites towards Jabesh(J beach) - Gilead (blue arrow up on the east side). The goal of the Ammonite's push was to reach trade routes in the region of Beth-shan and the Harod Valley. Saul came up from his capital, Gibeah to Jabesh-Gilead to stop this Ammonite advance (orange arrow up from Gibeah and acrid Jordan). Towards the end of Saul's reign, the Philistines mobilized at Aphek along the Coastal Highway, they marched north, crossed the Megiddo Pass and set up their camp at Shunem. Saul again proceeded north through the center of the country and encamped by the Jezreel Spring. In this battle, Israel was defeated and Saul died on Mount Gilboa. The Philistine and Ammonite thrusts toward Beth-shan illustrate how the Jezreel Valley is a corridor which controls trade and manages northern traffic in the Land Between.