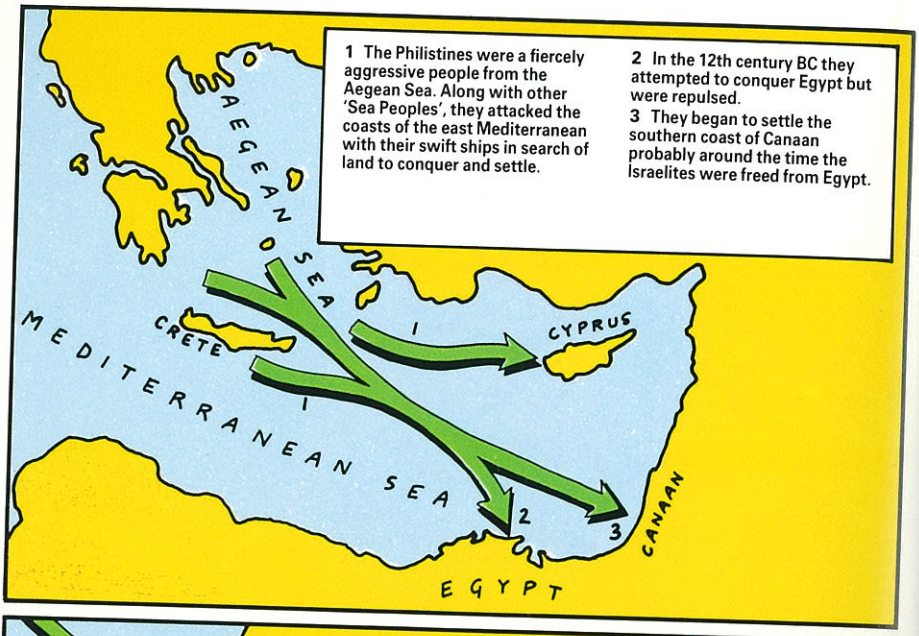
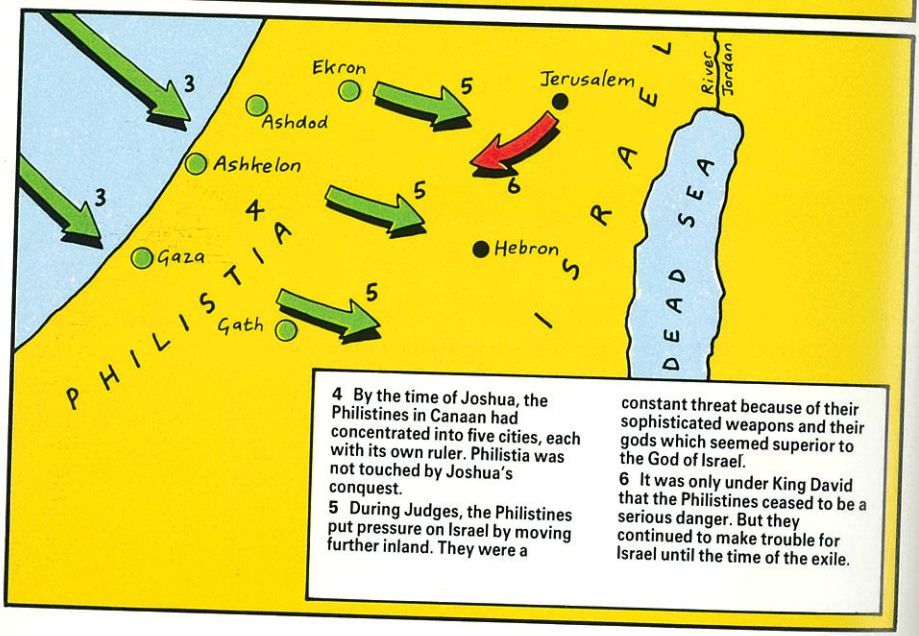
Philistine Sea Raiders



1 The Philistines were a fiercely aggressive people from the Aegean Sea. Along with other 'Sea Peoples', they attacked the coasts of the east Mediterranean with their swift ships in search of land to conquer and settle.

2 In the 12th century BC they attempted to conquer Egypt but were repulsed.

3 They began to settle the southern coast of Canaan probably around the time the Israelites were freed from Egypt.



4 By the time of Joshua, the Philistines in Canaan had concentrated into five cities, each with its own ruler. Philistia was not touched by Joshua's conquest.

5 During Judges, the Philistines put pressure on Israel by moving further inland. They were a constant threat because of their sophisticated weapons and their gods which seemed superior to the God of Israel.

6 It was only under King David that the Philistines ceased to be a serious danger. But they continued to make trouble for Israel until the time of the exile.