Bible Geography

BIBLE GEOGRAPHY

(A Study of The Bible Lands)

Course taught by:
Pastor Vincent Sawyer

Faith Bible Institute
105-01 37th Avenue
Corona, NY 11368

Bible Geography
Semester Requirements

3 Videos:

Ready to Rebuild
O.T. Bible Lands
N.T. Bible Lands

Map Making: Each student will be required to draw by hand or computer a Map of the Middle east stretching from Mount Hermon to the Red Sea and from the Mediterranean Sea into the Land of modern day Jordan. Your map will be due on the week before final exams.

Tests: Mid-Term & Final Exam over class notes.

Bible Geography

INTRODUCTION

Bible Geography - A study of the physical, topographical & geological features of the Lands of the Bible in Bible times.

Goals for the Course:

1. To get a mental perception of the lands of the Bible.

2. To more carefully and accurately interrelate the land with the historical events of the Bible. (To provide a historical & cultural context for the events of the Bible)

> "The Biblical drama was acted out on the stage of geography. Just as stage props help to put one in the right mood for watching a play or promote understanding of it or become an integral part of the presentation of the drama, a knowledge of biblical geography is essential to an appreciation of the Biblical story." (Vos, Beginnings in Bible Geography, p.7)

A study of distances, land layout, terrain, water fall, rivers, cities, mountains etc. will greatly enhance one's understanding of the travels of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul etc.

3. To appreciate the geographical perspective of the human writers of the Bible.

4. To confirm or authenticate many of the important historical and cultural passages of the Bible.

5. To create a greater appreciation for and interest in the Land of Israel, which will greatly enhance a trip to the Holy Land.

The Naming of the Land:

1. The most ancient name: Canaan

This land became populated by Canaan, who was the son of Ham, and the cursed grandson of Noah (Gen.9:25).

Genesis 9:26 predicted the eventual conquest and subjection of the Canaanites by the Shemites (Israel).

Abraham would eventually come into the land of Canaan (Gen.11:31)

Joshua would eventually conquer the people of the land, known as Canaanites

2. A later name: Palestine

This word comes from the word *"Palaistine*", which was the Greek word

for "Philistines"

In the second century A.D., this became the official designation for the land of the Jews.

Today, Palestine is a word used to refer to the land posses by Israel.

3. The official name: Israel

God gave Jacob the name "Israel" [strength with God] in Genesis 32:28 when he wrestled with the Lord and prevailed.

The name "Israel" then became the national name of the 12 tribes of Jacob in Exodus 3:16; the name of the people became associated with the land.

After the division of the land, "Israel" became the title of the northern kingdom, composed of 10 tribes who rebelled from Judah.

This is the official name of the republic established in 1948, the capital of which is Jerusalem.

4. Other names:

a. The Holy Land (Zech. 2:12)

b. The Promise Land (cp. Gen.15:18)

The Importance of studying the land of Israel

(Why is a study of the Land of Israel so important?)

Though small in size, Israel has historically been . . .

1. A land of Prominence

Israel is a vitally important land because of it's location
"This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations, with lands around her" (Ezek.5:5)

Israel was literally a "land bridge" between the northern & southern continents.

Israel was a major travel & trade route (from north to south)

This trade route would provide great tax revenue for the people who controlled it.

The people who controlled this area would also have great influence on the world. God's people could influence strangers who would travel through this land and impart righteous principles & precepts.

A major <u>war zone</u> (from between the northern & southern continents)

Rather than fighting down in Egypt or up in Mesopotamia, an invading army could be headed off and stopped in this piece of land between the 2 super powers.

Israel occupies the south western most part of the <u>Fertile Crescent</u>.

The "Fertile Crescent is a huge sickle of inhabitable and cultivable land stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea.

The reason this "crescent" of land was livable was because of the adequate <u>water</u> supply here (rivers & rain fall).

4 Vital Criteria for Settlement include:

1. Adequate water supply

2. Fertile soil for agriculture

3. Strategic defense from invaders

4. Easy travel thoroughfares for commerce

2. A land of Pressure

Pressure from other nations to seize control of this land has been a constant tribulation for the Jewish Race for the following reasons:

a. The land was a good land

"For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land" (Deut. 7)

"For the land whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt" (Deut.11)
"...into a land that I had selected for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands." (Ezek.20:6,15)

b. The land is God's land

"...The land is mine..." (Lev.25:23)
"...a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year even to the end of the year." (26:1-15) (27:2-3) (28:8)
It is the place "*where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell" (Neh.1:9)*

Since God gave this "good land" to Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 15:7,18; 17:8), Satan has instigated other nations to be envious over this piece of property and be a constant thorn in her side.

This land will be the location of much Bible prophesy and tribulation in the future

The future Antichrist will establish his place of rule ("palace") in this land (Daniel 11:45)

The desecration of the "holy place" by the Antichrist will occur in this land (His abomination - Mt.24:15; cp. Dan.9:27)

The great tribulation upon Israel will flow out of this land (Persecution Mt.24:16-f; Rev. 12 etc);

The final Battle of Armageddon will be fought in this land (Rev.16:14-16; 19:19)

The Lord Jesus Christ will descend to this land to fight for Israel (Zech. 14:4,5)

This land will be renovated, Mount Zion will be exalted, and Jesus Christ will rule during the Millennium from this area. (Psalm 2:6; 132:13-14; 137:1-6; Is.40:1-5; 60, 62)

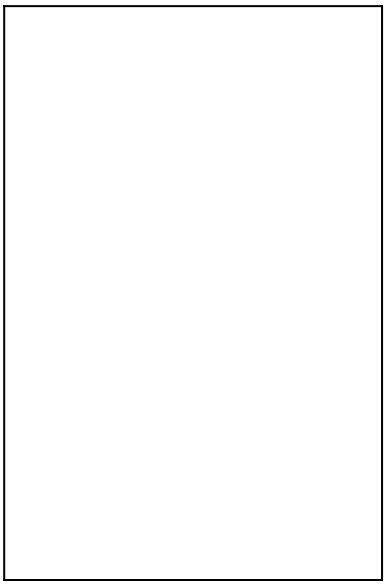
General Characteristics of the Geography of Palestine

1. The Dimensions of Palestine

North to South

Palestine, known in the O.T. as Canaan, extended from **Dan** [in the North] to **Beersheba** [in the South "Negev"]. This distance is **150** miles.

The distance from **Dan** to **Ezion-geber** on the Gulf of Aqaba at the Red Sea is a total of **300** miles.

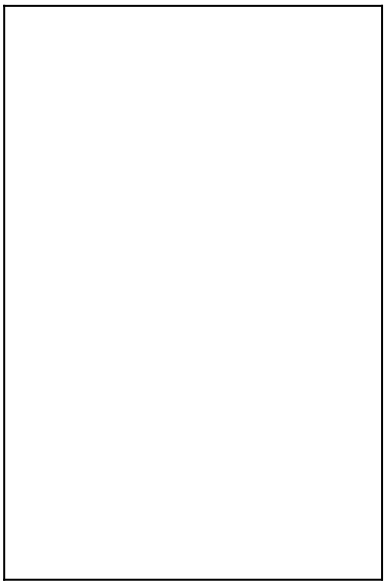


West to East

From the **Mediterranean** sea on the West to the Western end of the **Sea of Galilee** is **25** miles.

From the Mediterranean sea to the Northern tip of the **Dead Sea** is approximately **50** miles.

From the Mediterranean sea to the Southern tip of the **Dead Sea** is approximately **70** miles.



O.T. Palestine is a very small area in itself, only 10,000 Square Miles at its greatest extent. None-the-less this small piece of land is divided up by drastically varying features of geography and topography that make the different regions so diverse and unique from each other.

2. The Topography of Palestine

The most dramatic characteristic of the topography of Palestine is it's diversity.

There are four great geographical/topographical regions in Palestine.

The four regions are:

1) The Coastal Plain

2) The Central Range

3) The Jordan Rift

4) The Eastern Range

1.	**The COASTAL PLAIN**:	A region of shifting sand dunes, merging into low flatlands, and then into the foothills of the central range, which foothills were known as the Shephalah. Israel never occupied very much of this district, as the Philistines controlled the area to the south, and the Phoenicians that to the north. In ancient times, Israel did not possess even one harbor. Major land routes followed this plain.
2.	**The CENTRAL RANGE**:	A ridge of hills rising sharply from the coastal plain (to the north) and from the Shephalah (to the south). The highlands are broader and more spacious to the north, narrower, more difficult to travel to the south. In ancient times, this region was largely forested; today this region is mostly barren. This area is divided into 4 sections from north to south: (1) GALILEE (very fertile, 40 in. annual rainfall) (2) SAMARIA (fertile plateaus; rugged hills) (3) JUDAH (populated; very hilly: 2000-3000 ft.) (4) JESHIMON (a deserted area known as the "wilderness of Judea" marked by rock and decline: the land drops 3000 ft. [about 190 feet per mile])
3.	**The JORDAN RIFT**:	The most important feature of Palestine geography. In the space of 65 miles, it plunges 9,000 feet above sea level to 1,200 feet below. The rift is from 2 to 15 miles wide, with a barrier of cliffs on either side.
4.	**The EASTERN RANGE**:	This area known as "Transjordan", is an elevated plateau, higher and steeper as it moves southward. The climate is more temperate and rainfall more abundant. The desert to the east sends a scorching wind across this region in the spring and fall, and an icy wind in the winter.

The 4 major regions of palestine are very narrow and very distinct. Thus as one moves from West to East in Palestine, the diversity of terrain, soil, topography, and even climate is remarkable.

A West to East section of NORTHERN Palestine

A West to East section of SOUTHERN Palestine

By the same token, moving from north to south along the Jordan Rift exposes one to dramatic topographical features.

A SOUTH to NORTH section of Palestine

3. The Geological Features of Palestine

The "Geo-morphology" (Study of Land Formation) of Israel

a. The ROCK of Israel

Three Types of Rock on the Earth

1. Metamorphic — Rock which was originally igneous or sedimentary, but was changed through pressure, heat, water, etc. (None in Israel)
2. Igneous — Formed by Fire deep in the molten core of the earth (volcanic rock).
3. Sedimentary — Made up of material that has been moved (smaller particles laid down through stratification or bedding; The flood of Noah's day being the primary cause) [virtually all rock in Israel is sedimentary]

There are 2 types of sedimentary rock:

a. Sandstones — Rock layers made up of sand particles formed from dry land
b. Limestones — Rock layers made up of sand particles formed from the Ocean Sea

The main type of rock found throughout Palestine is limestone.

3 types of limestone rock is found in Israel:

a.	Eocene	(Soft Limestone)	Located near the coast; in the lowlands; very porous.
b.	Senonian	(Chalk)	Very soft; Located in the Wilderness and valleys; Good for travel & making plaster.
c.	Cenomanian	(Hard Limestone)	Located on high places & ridges; excellent for building blocks.

General rule: The further East you go, the Harder the rock.

b. The <u>LAND FORMATIONS</u> in Israel

The primary Biblical explanations for the shaping of the Earth's Formations are:

-- When God separated the dry land from the waters (Gen.1)
-- When the Flood of Noah's day greatly restructured the earth's surface (cp. Ps.104:8)
-- When God has sent earthquakes, volcanoes & other dramatic catastrophic judgements (Gen 19-20)

Other natural explanations for the shaping of the Earth's surface include:

-- Faulting
-- Folding
-- Arches
-- Erosion

Faulting	Places where the subsurface of the earth cracks or slips moving land masses horizontally, or vertically.	An example: The Jordan River Valley & the Great Rift	3 main types of Faults: Horizontal Fault: Vertical Fault: Block Fault:

Folding	The compression of rock strata laterally (up or down), producing ridges or troughs.	Examples: Mount Ebal Machtesh Ramon	
Arches	A ridge of impenetrable rock stretching for miles beneath the surface of the earth. Affects the run off of water (ex. the "watershed ridge) and the location of springs.	Examples: The Ephraim Arch The Judean Arch	
Erosion	The wearing away of the top surface of land due to wind, water and/or gravity. *A simple equation:* wind water + Time = erosion gravity	Most erosion in Israel is due to water. The places where there is softer rock, erodes more easily. [primarily western palestine]	

4. The Climate in Palestine

The climate of Palestine is comparable to that of southern California.

SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
May to September	Sept. to November	December to Feb.	March to May
Hot & Very Dry	Hot Desert winds & unpredictable weather (Acts 27)	Comfortable & unpredictable	Very Comfortable Rains taper off
No Rain	* "Former Rains"	Intermittent Rain	* "Latter Rains"
As the sun rises the land quickly becomes hot which in turn triggers the sea breeze off of the Mediterranean causing a bearable climate	The hot dry east sirocco winds blow in off of the Arabian desert. (Biblical References to the East Wind: Jer.4:11; Is.27:8; Jonah 4:8; Luke 12:55; Ps.103:16; Hos.13:15)	This is the growing season for grain crops. The rain is very important to Israel at this time. Israel can be chilly at this time, but when the sun shines the days warm up nicely.	Israel's foliage is most beautiful at this time.

* The Scriptures speak of the "Former & Latter Rains" as being very important to the people of Israel:

"Former (early) **Rains"** - These rains are absolutely necessary to Israel's agriculture. The summer bakes the ground, and the rains were necessary to soften the ground to the farmer could "break up the fallow ground" These "former rains" were promised by God to obedient Israel in the O.T. (Deut.11:13,14; Hos.6:3; Joel 2:23)

"Latter Rains" - These rains are less dependable than the "former rains"

but are important because they mature the grains, cause them to swell up, and come to maturity for the harvest. [Note: Too much rain, especially heavy storms, can be harmful as they beat down the grain]

Harvest time:

April/May = Barley
May/June = Wheat

Too much rain during harvest time could be disastrous to the crop since it would lead to the crop mildewing and then rotting (cp. I Samuel 12:16-25)

In Palestine the amount of annual moisture tends to DECREASE as you go south, east, and down in elevation.

Six basic rules for determining WEATHER in Palestine:

RAIN FALL:

1. Rain fall tends to decrease as one goes from north to south.
2. Rain fall tends to decrease as one goes from west to east.
3. Rain fall tends to increase as one goes up the mountains.
4. Rain fall tends to decrease on the east side of the mountains.

TEMPERATURE:

1. Temperatures tend to decrease with an increase in elevation.
2. Temperatures ranges tend to increase with a decrease in rain fall.

There are 3 main sources of water in Palestine:

1. **A Well** - A hole dug through several layers of rock till you reach the water table (usually the cenomanean layer in Palestine); The water is retrieved either by Bucket (John 4:11) or by Steps going down to the well.

2. **A Spring** - A continuous flow of water, usually on the sides of a hill. [Often referred to "living waters" in the Bible - cp.John 7:37]

3. **A Cistern** - An artificial (man-made) reservoir dug out to the ground and then plastered to collect and retain water which flows into it. [More common in the Negev (south)]

The Main Crops in Palestine:

1. **Grapes** (ex. "New Wine")

2. **Wheat and Barley** (ex. The harvest in the Book of Ruth)

3. **Olives** (ex. The mount of Olives)

The Main livestock in Palestine:

1. **Sheep**(raised for wool)
2. **Goats** (raised for milk & meat)
3. **Camels** (raised for ancient travelling)

5. The TRAVEL in Palestine:

Palestine is often referred to as a land bridge between Europe/Asia and Egypt/Africa. In ancient times all traffic converged in this little piece of land, causing Israel to be a "bottle-neck" country.

This map demonstrates that not only land routes - but sea routes as well - converge on Palestine. Notice, however, that within Palestine the only travel is by land. This is why the international routes that passed through Israel are so strategic.

a. INTERNATIONAL Routes

1) The most important international route in ancient times was the Via Maris ["The way of the sea"]

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1 - "The Way of the Sea"

The Via Maris runs the length of the country's coastline, and is the most important of 2 main highways through Palestine. "It was in use during all historical periods, and along it there arose the most important and most ancient cities of the country. Over it passed messengers, caravans, and countless military expeditions in ever age. This route and its branches were always the great power' prime objective in their conquests of Palestine-Syria." (Aharoni, p.45)

Because the importance of this route, it was often heavily fortified; wells were dug and protected; and control of this route was a main objective of military powers who invaded Palestine.

The Via Maris is part of a highway which runs all the way from Egypt to the Euphrates river.

2) The second major international highway in Palestine was the King's Highway

Scripture: Numbers 20:17; 21:22

The King's Highway ran along the length of the Trans-jordanian range, close to the desert fringe. For long periods this route was the exclusive possession of nomads, who kept it free of any settlement or fortification. But at other times a chain on important settlements also developed along its length which were able to compete with those on the Via Maris. (Aharoni, p.45)

There was stiff competition between Israel and Aram-Damascus over control of the King's Highway, and at every opportunity the Arameans tried to gain Control of this region (II Kings 10:33; 16:6) (Aharoni, p.56-57)

Cities and Places in Palestine

TRAVEL ALONG THE VIA MARIS

1. Tel Aviv (lit. Hill of the Spring)

In 1909 some Jewish settlers moved from Jaffa in the south to form a new city, and called it Tel Aviv. It is the home for many immigrants, having a population of 400,000. Greater Tel Aviv is the largest city in Israel, with approximately 15% of Israel's 3,100,000 Jewish people. Tel Aviv is a cultured city of museums, art galleries, concert halls, theaters, and a vigorous commercial and industrial center.

2. Jaffa (Joppa, lit. Beautiful)

Jaffa is an ancient city dating back at least 3,500 years named after Japheth, the son of Noah. It was part od Dan's inheritance when the Israelites settled the land. Joppa was known as Japho in Joshua's time (Josh. 19:46). During Solomon's reign, it was a chief seaport used to float the cedars of Lebanon to Jerusalem for use in building the Temple.

1. Zerubbabel brought cedars here to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 3:7)

2. Jonah sailed from here to Tarshish rather than obey God (Jon. 1:3)

3. Dorcas lived, died, and was raised from the dead by Peter here (Acts 9:36-42)

4. Simon the tanner lived here (Acts 9:43)

5. Peter's vision and commission to take the gospel to the Gentiles occurred here (Acts 10:8-22)

3. Caesarea (named in honor of Caesar Augustus)

It is located on the Mediterranean coast and was originally a Phoenician trading post called Strato's Tower. In 25 B.C. Herod the Great build an artificial harbor and a large city. It was designed to link Decapolis with Rome. After Herod's death, Caesarea became the seat of the Roman government in Judea, and Pilate resided here during his terms as procurator. Vespasian was proclaimed emperor here. It is famous for its palace, theater, hippodrome, and aqueducts.

1. Philip the evangelist took the gospel to Caesarea (Acts 8:40)

2. Peter took the gospel to Cornelius and the Gentiles (Acts 10)

3. Herod Agrippa I was eaten by worms here (Acts 12:19-23)

4. Paul sailed from here to Tarsus after his conversion (Acts 9:30)

5. Paul stopped here while traveling from Ephesus to Jerusalem (Acts 18:22)

6. Agabus prophesied that if Paul went to Jerusalem he would be bound (Acts 21:10-13)

7. Paul was taken here by soldiers when 40 Jews sought his life (Acts 23:23-33)

8. Paul's three defenses were made here:

    a. Before Felix, the governor of Judea (Acts 24)
    b. Before Festus, Paul appeals his case to Caesar (Acts 25:1-12)
    c. Before King Agrippa (Acts 26)

4. Haifa (lit. Beautiful Coast)

Israel's sea gateway, it is here where thousands of pilgrims and immigrants first saw the land on the return. Israel's third largest city, Haifa has a population of 207,000 and is a center for heavy industry, international trade, technological training and research. Linears and cargo ships unload in Haifa.

5. Mount Carmel (lit. The Vineyard of God)

This is a triangular-shaped wooded range running 13 miles to the southeast. It is pictured in the Bible as a beautiful and fruitful area (II Chron. 26:10; Song 7:5; Isa. 35:2; Jer. 46:18, 50:19). When the mountains are spoken of as languishing, this is a sign of God's judgment on the land (Nah. 1:4; Amos 1:2; Isa. 33:9)

1. Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal (I Ki. 18:19-39)

2. Elijah interceded until the three-year drought had ended (I Ki. 18:41-45)

3. Elijah ran before Ahab's chariot to Jezreel, some 18-20 miles (I Ki. 18:46)

4. The cave of Elijah is located at the foot of Carmel, where it is believed he hid from the anger of King Ahab.

6. Acre

It is located 9 miles north of Haifa at the crescent-shaped bay. It was assigned to the tribe of Asher, but was not taken at that time (Josh. 19:24-31). It was called Acco in Judges 1:31. It was named Ptolemais after the Ptolemies of Egypt. Napoleon captured it after a two-month siege in 1799. Today the town is called Akko.

1. Paul stopped here on his final trip to Jerusalem (Acts 21:7)

2. During the Crusades, Acre was the capital of the Crusaders for 100 years

Cities on the PHILISTINE Plain

In the days of the Conquest, under Joshua, 5 important cities joined forces against Israel (Joshua 13:1-3)

5 great Philistine cities:

1. Ashdod
2. Ashkelon
3. Gaza
4. Ekron
5. Gath

1. Ashdod

a. During the late Bronze Age Ashdod was an important commercial and military center. This city was violently destroyed in the middle of the 13th century B.C.

b. This city was called "Azotus" in the N.T. by the Greeks (Acts 8:40)

c. The Philistines occupied Ashdod and worshipped the famed god Dagon (the fish god) here

d. Home of the famed Anakims (Philistine Giants) (Joshua 11:22)

e. The Philistines brought the ark of the covenant to this city (I Sam.5:1-7)

f. Prophets spoke against this city for its enmity to Israel (Amos 1:8; Zeph.2:4)

g. Nehemiah rebuked the Jews who had intermarried with the women of Ashdod (Neh.13:23-27)

2. Ashkelon

a. A coastal city with a harbor. It was a cultural & religious center.

b. Because of the many wells in Ashkelon, it became a major trading center rather than a military strong point.

c. Samson slew thirty men here and took their clothes and property to pay off the discoverers of his riddle (Jud.14:19)

d. At King Saul's death, David said that news of his death not be told in Ashkelon lest the Philistines there rejoice (II Sam.1:20)

e. Prophets spoke against Ashkelon (Jer.25:20; 47:6,7; Amos 1:8; Zeph.2:4,7)

3. Gaza

a. A major philistine trading city which also had a great temple of Dagon

b. The tribe of Judah captured it (Jud.1:18), but didn't hold it.

c. Samson carried off the gates of Gaza to Hebron (38 miles away) (Jud.16:3)

d. Delilah seduced him here; And it was from here that he was blinded, ground

grain & died (Jud.16:21-f) (The supporting pillars of the place Samson destroyed and committed suicide have been discovered)

e. The Prophet spoke against Gaza (Amos 1:7; Zeph.2:4)

f. Philip met the Ethiopian Eunuch here (Acts 8:26)

4. Gath

a. The home of Goliath the "Gittite" (I Sam.17:4)

b. The Ark of God was carried to Gath (I Sam.5:8)

c. David fled here from Saul (I Sam.21:10) and dwelt here (I Sam.27:3,4)

d. Goliath's enormous sons were born here and were defeated by David and his servants (II Sam.21:20,22; cp. I Chron.20:6-8)

5. Ekron

a. The northern-most Philistine city (Joshua 15:11)

b. The Ark of God was taken to Ekron and a deadly destruction of "emerods" (tumors) broke out on the Philistines (I Sam.5:10-f)

c. Ahaziah enquired of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether he would recover of his disease (II Kings 1:2).

UPPER AND LOWER GALILEE

1. Tiberias

Tiberias is located on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee, 10 miles south of Capernaum. It was built by Herod Antipas in 20 A.D. as his new capital and named for the then-ruling emperor of Rome, Tiberius. No record is given of Jesus ever visiting here, though it is referred to in John 6:23. It is noted for its therapeutic hot springs. This is the reason so many Jewish people who were sick came to Jesus for healing during His Galilean ministry. The cities of Chorazin, Capernaum and Bethsaida came under Christ's judgment, but Tiberias did not. They have been destroyed, but Tiberias still remains. it became the sea of Jewish learning after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The Palestinian Talmud (Jerusalem Talmud) was compiled here. Tiberias gave its name to the lake it borders (Jn. 6:1, 21:1).

2. Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is 13 miles long, 7 miles wide and 32 miles in circumference. It is 700 feet below sea level and 200 feet deep. Rabbis would say, "Jehovah has created seven seas, but the Sea of Galilee is His delight." Josephus called it "The Ambition of Nature." The Sea of Galilee has five names: Chinnereth (Num. 34:11; Josh. 12:3); Kennereth (modern name); Gennesaret (Lk. 5:1); Sea of Tiberias (Jn. 6:1, 23, 21:1); and Sea of Galilee (Mt. 4:18; Mk. 1:16; Jn. 6:1).

1. The cities surrounding the lake are Magdala (mt. 15:39), home of mary Magdalene; Plain of Gennesaret (Mt. 14:34; Mk. 6:53); Tabgha, the place where Jesus fed the 5,000 (Mt. 14:13-21); Tiberias (Jn. 6:23); Capernaum (Mt. 11:23); Mount of Beatitudes (Mt. 5-7)

2. Jesus performed the miracle of the draught of fish (Lk. 5:1-11)

3. Jesus stilled the winds and waves (Mt. 8:23-27)

4. Jesus walked on the stormy water to His disciples (Mt. 14:22-33)

5. Swine plunged to their death after Jesus healed the demoniac (Mt. 8:28-34)

6. Jesus promised to meet His disciples in Galilee after His resurrection (mt. 28:16)

3. Capernaum

It is located northwest of the Sea of Galilee, two miles from where the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee. Called the Lord's "own town," it is situated along a trade route from Damascus to the Mediterranean coast and Egypt. Tolls were collected by the Roman government, and it was here that Jesus called Matthew (Levi, Mt. 9:9). It was a military center for the Romans in Jesus' day, having 10,000 inhabitants.

1. Jesus paid the tribute money from the mouth of a fish (Mt. 17:24-27)
2. Jesus made His headquarters here (Mt. 4:13-16)
3. Centurion's servant healed (Mt. 8:5-13)
4. Peter's mother-in-law healed (Mt. 8:14-15)
5. Great multitudes brought to be healed (Mt. 8:16-17)
6. Paralytic healed (Mt. 9:1-8)
7. Woman with an issue of blood healed (Mt. 9:20-22)
8. Raising of Jairus' daughter (Mt. 9:18-19, 23-26)
9. Healing of the two blind men (Mt. 9:27-30)
10. Healing of the demoniac (Mt. 9:32-34)
11. Capernaum failed to repent and came under Christ's judgment (Mt. 11:23-24)
12. Nobleman's son healed (Jn. 4:46-54)
13. Jesus' "Bread of Life" discourse (Jn. 6:24-71)
14. The synagogue at Capernaum is believed to have been built by the Roman Centurion in Luke 7:1-6, although it was probably built in the second century A.D., over the same spot as the other one.

4. Hula Valley

Lake Hula was the most northern, the highest, and the smallest of the three bodies of water in the Jordan rift. The drainage of this swampy lake was completed in 1957. It is about sea level.

1. Also called the "Water of Merom" (Josh. 11:7)

2. One of Joshua's great victories was won here (Josh. 11:5-9)

5. Caesarea Phillipi

Augustus Caesar presented the town with the surrounding country to Herod the Great, who built a temple there in honor of the emperor. Herod's son, Phillip the Tetrach, enlarged the town and named it Caesarea Philippi, to distinguish it from the Caesarea on the shores of the Mediterranean. Today it is called Banyas, this being the corrupted Arabic form of the Greek name of an historical site known as Panyas after Pan, the god of the shepherds, flocks and forests.

1. One of the three sources of the Jordan River

2. Peter uttered his great confession, and Christ spoke prophetically concerning the Church (Mt. 16:13-18)

6. Golan

The name given to the mountainous range on the eastern coast of the Sea of Galilee and running northward along the Upper Jordan, the Hula Valley and as far as the mountains of Hermon.

1. Was settled by the half tribe of Manesseh (Josh. 13:29-31)

2. One of the cities of refuge was here (Dt. 4:41-43)

7. Mount of Beatitudes

Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount here (Mt. 5-7). The church on this site was built in 1937 by Benito Mussolini. The convent and church belong to Italian Franciscan nuns.

8. Hazor (lit. An Enclosed Place)

Hazor is nine miles north of the Sea of Galilee. The first city was built over 4,500 years ago.

1. Joshua burned it to the ground (Josh. 11:1-13)

2. Deborah and Barak led Israel to a victory over Sisera (Jud. 4)

3. Solomon rebuilt Hazar (I Ki. 9:15)

4. Hazor was destroyed by the Assyrian King Tiglath Pileasare in 732 B.C.

9. Cana

Present day Kfar Cana, not the actual site of New Testament Cana. It is located four miles northeast of Nazareth on the road to Tiberias.

1. Jesus' first miracle of changing water to wine (Jn. 2:1-11)

2. Jesus healed the nobleman's son from Capernaum in Cana (Jn. 4:46-54)

3. It was the home of Nathanael, one of Jesus' disciples (Jn. 21:2)

10. Mount Tabor

A cone-shaped mountain northeast of the Jezreel Valley, five miles southeast of Nazareth and 12 miles north of Mount Gilboa. It stands 1,843 feet above sea level. It formed the boundary between Issachar and Zebulun (Josh. 19:22).

1. Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera here (Jud. 4:14-16)

2. Gideon slew Zebah and Zalmunna, Midianite kings, here (Jud. 8:18-21)

3. Heathen worship took place on the mountain (Hos. 5:1)

4. The traditional spot of Jesus' transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-13)

11. Nazareth

It is midway between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea. It is an obscure village on the regular trade route, about 1,230 feet above sea level.

1. Annunciation of Jesus' birth to Mary by the angel (Lk. 1:26-35)

2. Nathanael said, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (Jn. 1:46)

3. Joseph and Mary left here to go to Bethlehem (Lk. 2:1-7)

4. Joseph and Mary came back here to live after flight into Egypt (Mt. 2:19-23)

5. Jesus' early years were spent here (Lk. 2:51-52)

6. Jesus preached His first sermon here (Lk. 4:16-30)

7. Jesus was called the "Nazarene" here by His enemies (Mt. 21:11; Acts 2:22, 10:38)

8. After His sermon and the people's rejection of Him, Jesus never returned

12. Valley of Jezreel

This is a valley between two mountain ranges, those of Galilee in the north and Samaria to the south. It formed a land bridge for armies who marched to war between the Euphrates and Nile Rivers. Pharaohs of Egypt, Hittites, Israelites, Philistines, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Crusaders, Turks and the British have fought on its plains.

1. Gideon and 300 soldiers routed the Midianites (Jud. 6:33, ch. 7)
2. Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera and His army (Jud. 4)
3. Hosea prophesied great blessing upon the nation in this place (Hos. 1:10-11)
4. Battle of Armageddon to be fought here (Rev. 16:13-16)
5. Israel will look forward to millennial blessing after Armageddon (Hos. 2:21-23)



13. Megiddo

It is located on the south edge of the Jezreel Valley. It is the most famous battlefield in the world. The mound has been extensively excavated and covers 13 acres, revealing 20 cities built on the ruins. It is an important military stronghold because of the water system which is possesses, dating back some 2,800 years. The shaft is 120 feet deep, connecting with springs outside the city walls by a tunnel 215 feet long.

1. Royal City of the Canaanite King Taanach, whom Joshua killed (Josh. 12:21)
2. Sisera and his army defeated here (Jud. 4)
3. Solomon fortified it as an important defense post (I Ki. 9:15)
4. Solomon and his chariots and 450 horses here (I Ki. 10:26)
5. Ahasiah, king of Israel, was slain here (II Ki. 9:27)
6. Josiah unwisely fought Pharaoh-Neco and was slain (II Chr. 35:20-24)
7. The Battle of Armageddon will be fought near here (Rev. 16:13-16)

14. Jordan River

The sources of the Jordan are at the foot of Mount Hermon, about 1,700 feet above sea level. In a distance of 12 miles, it drops nearly to sea level at Lake Hula. The descent continues six miles until it enters the Sea of Galilee, which lies 685 feet below sea level. Although the distance from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea is only 65 miles, the river twists and turns so that it is about 200 miles in length. It is only about 100 to 200 feet wide except at flood time.

1. Joshua passed over into Canaan (Josh. 3:13-17)
2. Elijah smote the waters so that Elisha might pass over (II Ki. 2:6-8)
3. Naaman was healed of leprosy in the Jordan River (II Ki. 5:10-14)
4. Elisha caused the ax head to swim (II Ki. 6:4-7)
5. John the Baptist ministered there (Jn. 1:19-28)
6. John Baptized Jesus (Jn. 1:29-34)

THE EPHRAIM HILL COUNTRY

This land extends south of Esdralon and Jezreel down to Bethel and Ai; from the Plain of Sharon on the west to the Jordan River on the east.
The main cities in the Ephraim Hill Country include the following:

1. Samaria

The highlands of "Samaria" were assigned to the two tribes of Israel: Manasseh and Ephraim. This land was most often referred to as "Ephraim" after it's predominant tribe which settled here. However, after Solomon's death this area split off from Judah and

became the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and was called "Samaria" into N.T. times. Samaria continued as Israel's capital until 722 B.C. when Sargon took the city (II Kings 17:3-6,23). The Assyrians brought Gentiles into Samaria after 722 B.C. and they intermarried with the Jews. This is why Judean Jews hated Samaritans and referred to them as "half breeds" (cp. II Kings 17:6; v.23,24). The Jews refused to allow the Samaritans any part in the rebuilding of Jerusalem (Neh.2:19-20; 4:1-9; 6:1-14). The city was destroyed in 331 B.B. by Alexander the Great and again in 108 B.C. by John Hyrcanus. Pompey of Rome in 63 B.C. rebuilt it. It was given to Herod the Great in 27 B.C. He renamed it Sebaste after Emperor Augustus. The highest elevations of this region are Mt. Ebal (3,084 feet) and Mt. Gerizim (2,890 feet).

1. Omri, King of Israel bought the hill and built Samaria (I Kings 16:24)
2. Ahab listened to Jezebel his wife and built a temple to Baal in the capital city with its palace of ivory (I Kings 16:31-33)
3. Jehoram, Ahab's son put away the image of Baal here (II Kings 3:2)
4. Jehu destroyed Baal worship and its priest and all the house of Ahab (II Kings 10:1-11; 17-28)
5. Naaman came to Samaria to healed of leprosy (II Kings 5:3-5)
6. Elisha blinded the Syrian army and led them here (II Kings 6:18-23)
7. Four lepers told of God's deliverance from famine (II Kings 6:24-33; 7:1-16)
8. Philip preached here and saw a great revival (Acts 8)

2. Shechem (Nablus)

1. Abraham built an altar here (Gen. 12:6,7)
2. Jacob purchased the land from the Canaanites (Gen.33:18-20)
3. Dinah, Jacob's daughter was raped here (Gen.34)
4. Joseph came here to seek his brothers (Gen.37:12-14)
5. Joseph was buried here (Joshua 24:32)
6. Israel reaffirmed the covenant here (Dt.26,27; Josh.8:30-35)
7. Joshua gave his farewell here (Josh.24:15)
8. This city was one of the six cities of refuge (Josh.20:7;21:21)
9. Rehoboam came to be crowned king but Jeroboam led a revolt and made Shechem his capital (I Kings 11:26 12:3-25)

3. Sychar

1. Located about 1/2 mile northwest of Jacob's well at the foot of Mt. Ebal.
2. Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman here at Jacob's well (John 4:3-42)

4. Shiloh

1. The Tabernacle and Ark was set up at Shiloh during the time of the Judges (Josh.18:1)
2. Joshua divided the land of Canaan from here (Josh.18:2-10; 19:51; 21:1-3)
3. Shiloh was a rallying point for the tribes of Israel for almost 3 1/2 centuries before its fall (Josh. 21:12; Jud.21:19; I Sam.1:3).
4. Samuel learned under Eli and served God here (I Sam.1,3)

5. Bethel

1. Bethel means the "house of God" Bethel was an important city in the days of the Patriarchs but was replaced by Jerusalem.
2. Abraham built his second altar here (Gen.12:8) and returned here after the Egyptian famine (Gen.13:3-4)
3. Jacob spent his first night fleeing from Esau (Gen.28:11-22) and he returned here (Gen.31:13; 35:1-15).
4. Bethel was on Samuel's yearly circuit (I Sam.7:16).
5. Jeroboam placed a golden calf here (I Kings 12:26-33; Jer.48:13)
6. Elisha went with Elijah to Bethel before Elijah was translated into Heaven (II Kings 2:2,3)
7. Elisha was mocked and the teenagers who mocked him were devoured by two female bears (II Kings 2:23,24)

6. Ai

Ai was the site of Joshua's second battle (Josh.7:8)

7. Dothan

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers at Dothan (Gen.37:14-17)

8. Tirzah

1. Tirzah was called a place of beauty in the Song of Solomon (6:4)
2. Jeroboam moved the capital here (I Kings 14:17) and this city saw the reign of Nadab (I Kings 15:25), Baasha (I Kings 15:33), and Elah (I Kings 16:18)

TRAVEL IN JUDEA

1. En-Gedi (lit. Fountain of the Goat)

1. It is located just west of the Dead Sea, 10 miles north of Masada.
2. In the Bible it is called Hazaron-Tamar (II Chr. 20:2).
3. Its cliffs rise 2,000 feet and are filled with caves.
4. It is noted for its vineyards made possible by springs of water coming out of limestone cliffs (Song 1:14).
5. It was to En-Gedi that David fled from Saul (I Sam. 24:1-2).

2. Masada (lit. Fortress)

1. It was built by Herod the Great, who fortified it with a high wall interspersed with a great defense of towers.
2. He constructed an elaborate palace on the northeast corner. The top of Masada was used for cultivation, and a great cistern and cellar system was hewn out of the rock for storage of water and food.

3. The mountain is 2.5 miles from the Dead Sea, one-half mile long and 220 yards wide.
4. When Jerusalem fell in 70 A.D., the Jewish patriot Eliezer Ben Yair and 960 people with him escaped to the top of Masada. The Romans sought for 3 years to get to the top; thus they built a ramp up one side in order to do so. After reaching the top of Masada, they found that all but five of the 960 people had taken their own lives rather than become slaves to the Romans. Two women and three children survived told the story.
5. Some scholars believe that the Hebrew word *Imetsada*, translated "stronghold," is referring to Masada in I Chronicles 12:8. It is the place where David fled from Saul.

3. Dead Sea

1. The Dead Sea is the lowest spot on earth, 1,292 feet below sea level (the lowest point in the United States is Death Valley, California, 282 feet below sea level).
2. The sea is formed from the Jordan River and other small streams. It is 50 miles long, about 10 miles wide, and 1,300 feet deep. It has no outlet, and about the same amount evaporating daily.
3. The fresh water which evaporates leaves a salinity and mineral content of 30% in the water. The salt content is 7%, or 22,000,000,000 tons.
4. Sodom and Gomorrah existed at the lower end of the sea, called the tongue.

4. Qumran Caves

Qumran is located northwest of the Dead Sea. In 1947 a bedouin goat herdsman tossing a stone across a valley into one of the caves broke a piece of pottery. Investigating what happened, he came across pots full of leather scrolls. He gave them to a merchant in Bethlehem, who took them to the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem. Essenes living at Qumran had copied the scrolls. They contain the Book of Isaiah (at least 1,000 years older than other Isaiahs), portions of all Old Testament books except Esther, and some sectarian documents. The scrolls had been copied between 170 B.C. and the first century A.D. Essenes, hearing of invading Romans in 68 A.D., put them in clay pots, hoping to come back, but they were killed by the Romans. The scrolls also tell of the type of communal living kept by the Essenes.

5. Bethlehem (lit. House of Bread)

Bethlehem is located five miles south of Jerusalem. Neither Joshua nor Nehemiah mention Bethlehem as among the cities of Judah, suggesting that this was possibly an insignificant village in most of Old Testament history.

1. Jacob buried Rachel near here after she had given birth to Benjamin (Gen. 35:16-20; I Sam. 10:2) Rachel's Tomb is the first memorial erected to the dead mentioned in the Bible.
2. Ibzan, the tenth judge in Israel, was from Bethlehem (Jud. 12:8-10)
3. Story of Ruth centers in Bethlehem (Ruth 1-4)
4. David was anointed to be king by Samuel (I Sam. 16:4, 11-13)
5. David tended his father's sheep in Bethlehem (I Sam. 17:15)

6. David killed a lion and a bear in Bethlehem (I Sam. 17:34-37)
7. David poured out a drink offering from Bethlehem (II Sam. 23:14-16)
8. Micah prophesied that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Mt. 2:4-6)
9. Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Lk. 2:1-7)
10. Shepherds worshipped Jesus (Lk. 2:15-16)
11. Wise men presented their gifts to Jesus in Bethlehem (Mt. 2:7-11)
12. Herod the Great slew innocent babes in Bethlehem (Mt. 2:16-18)

6. Hebron (lit. Fellowship)

Located 19 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

1. Known as Kiriath-Arba in ancient times (Josh. 14:15, 20:7)
2. In Arabic it is called el Khalil, the Friend (II Chr. 20:7; Isa. 41:8)
3. Abraham came here to dwell after separation from Lot (Gen. 13:18)
4. Hebron was built in 1700 B.C. (Num. 13:22)
5. God appeared to Abraham confirming Isaac's birth (Gen. 18:1-15)
6. Abraham made intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:16-33)
7. Sarah died at Hebron and was buried in the Cave of Machpelah (Gen. 23:1-20); Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Leah are also buried here (known as the tomb of the Patriarchs)
8. Isaac lived here for a time (Gen. 35:27)
9. Jacob lived here after the death of Rachel (Gen. 37:14)
10. Spies took a branch of grapes from Kadesh-barnea back to their area (Num. 13:22-23)
11. Joshua captured Hebron when he took the land (Josh. 10:36-37)
12. Caleb received Hebron for an inheritance (Josh. 14:10-15)
13. One of the six cities of refuge (Josh. 20:7, 21:13)
14. David was crowned king of Judah at Hebron (II Sam. 2:1-4)
15. David reigned here for seven years before being made king of Jerusalem (II Sam. 15:7-12)
16. Absalom's headquarters were here after he revolted against David (II Sam. 15:7-12)
17. The huge Haram (sanctuary) was built by Herod the Great over the Cave of Machpelah

7. Beersheba (lit. Well of the Oath)

It is the most southern city of Israel in the Old Testament (Jud. 20:1; I Sam. 3:20).

1. Abraham lived in Beersheba (Gen. 22:19)
2. Abraham made a covenant with Abimelech (Gen. 21:22-34)
3. The Lord appeared to Hagar in the wilderness of Beersheba (Gen. 21:9-20)
4. Isaac made a covenant with the king of the Philistines (Gen. 26:23-33)
5. Jacob began his journey to Haran at Beersheba (Gen. 28:10)

6. Jacob offered sacrifices to God on his journey to Egypt (Gen. 46:1-5)
7. Simeon inherited Beersheba as a portion of his allotted land (Josh. 19:1-2)
8. Elijah sat under a juniper tree after his threat from Jezebel (I Ki. 19:1-8)
9. Samuel's two unworthy sons were judges at Beersheba (I Sam. 8:1-3)

8. Jericho

It is located north of the Dead Sea and west of the Jordan, 17 miles from Jerusalem. It is 853 feet below sea level.

1. Called the City of Palm Trees (Dt. 34:3; II Chr. 18:15)
2. Rahab received the spies in Jericho (Josh. 2)
3. Jericho was the first city Joshua captured (Josh. 2)
4. Jericho's destruction (Josh. 6)
5. Joshua pronounced a curse against all who would try to rebuild Jericho (Josh. 6:26); Judgment fell on a man who did so (I Ki. 16:34)
6. Elijah's translation (II Ki. 2:4-15)
7. Herod the Great built a luxurious palace and made it his winter capital
8. The Mount of Temptation can be seen from Jericho (Mt. 4:1-11)

9. Bethany

Bethany has three meanings: House of Dates; House of the Poor; and House of Misery. It is also called El-Azariyeh or House of Lazarus

1. Home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (Lk. 10:38-42)
2. Lord's Prayer probably given near there (Lk. 11:1-4)
3. Raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-46)
4. Christ anointed by Mary (Jn. 12:1-8)
5. Jesus stayed here when He came to Jerusalem for Passover (Mt. 21:17)

TRAVEL IN JERUSALEM

1. Mount of Olives

The Mount of Olives is just east of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley. It stands 2,641 feet above sea level and is 318 feet higher than the Temple Mount area. Its northern summit is marked by the Ascension of the Russian Orthodox Church.

1. Called the Mount of Offense (I Ki. 11:4-8; II Ki. 23:13)
2. David fled from Absalom's rebellion (II Sam. 15:20-32)
3. Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, gave David provisions on the Mount (II Sam. 16:1-2)
4. Jesus' triumphal entry (Mt. 21:1-11)
5. Jesus abode here for the last week of His ministry (Lk. 21:37)
6. Jesus wept of Jerusalem here (Lk. 19:41-44)
7. Jesus cursed the fig tree (Mt. 21:18-22)
8. Jesus gave the End Times "Olivet Discourse" (Mt. 24-25)
9. Jesus went to the Mount after eating the last Passover (Mt. 26:30)
10. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples (Lk. 24:49)
11. The ascension (Acts 1:9-11)
12. Jesus will return to the Mount at His second coming (Zech. 14:4)

2. Gethsemane (lit. Oil Press)

The garden is maintained by Franciscans. It is doubtful that the eight ancient olive trees existed in Jesus' day, because Titus cut down all the trees in 70 A.D. when he destroyed Jerusalem. The trees you see today are an outgrowth of the trees in Jesus' day.

1. Jesus agonized in prayer in Gethsamane (Mt. 26:36-56)
2. Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested by the soldiers (mt. 26:47-56)

3. Kidron Valley (also called Valley of Jehoshaphat)

The valley runs 2-3/4 miles along the east wall of Jerusalem. During the reforms by Israel's kings, idols and other pagan items used in worship were disposed of in the valley.

1. Asa burned his mother's idols (I Ki. 15:13)
2. Josiah destroyed vessels made for Baal worship (II Ki. 23:4, 6)
3. Hezekiah cast all unclean items from the Temple (II Chr. 29:16; 30:14)
4. People loyal to David fled from Absalom across the valley (II Sam. 15:23)
5. Valley associated with God's judgment of the nations (Joel 3:2, 12)

4. Hezekiah's Tunnel

Hezekiah (702 B.C.), realizing that the Gihon Spring was very vulnerable because it was outside of Jerusalem, made a channel so the water would flow into the Pool of

Siloam within the city wall. He cut an *S*-shaped tunnel from Gihon to the Pool of Siloam (II Ki. 20;20; II Chr. 32:30)

Jerusalem

IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

20 B.C. - 70 A.D.

5. Pool of Siloam

The pool is at the end of Hezekiah's Tunnel and was inside the city wall until Hadrian rebuilt Jerusalem in 135 A.D. Jesus healed the man who was born blind at this pool (Jn. 9:11).

6. Pool of Bethesda

Jesus healed the impotent man here (Jn. 5:1-15).

7. Gihon Spring

The spring goes back 3,000 years when the Jebusites sank an underground waterway to the spring which was outside the city of Jerusalem. David captured Jerusalem by sending his men up the water shaft (II Sam. 5:7-8). Solomon was crowned king at this spot.

8. Bakeldama (also called Field of Blood and Potter's Field

It was bought with the thirty pieces of silver given to Judas to betray Jesus. Judas had returned the money, after betraying our Lord (Mt. 27:3-10; Acts 1:19)

9. Mount Zion

It was once within the walls of ancient Jerusalem located at the southwest corner of the city. It is very sacred to the Jewish people because it is the traditional spot of David's tomb.

1. The upper room where Jesus ate the last Passover (Lk. 22:7-13)
2. The Holy Spirit came upon the 120 Jewish people (Acts 1:12-15, 2:1-4)

10. Temple Mount (Mount Moriah, comprises about 35 acres)

1. Abraham offered Isaac on Mount Moriah (Gen. 22:1-2)
2. David bought the Jebusite threshing floor of Araunah (II Sam. 24:18-25)
3. Solomon built the First Temple (II Chr. 3:1-2)
4. The second Temple built by Zerubbabel (Ezra 3:8-13, 4:23-24, 5:1-5)
5. Herod the Great rebuilt and enlarged the Temple in 20 B.C.
6. Jesus was presented in the Temple (Lk. 2:22) and returned at the age of 12 (Lk. 2:42)
7. Our Lord drove out the money changers (Jn. 2:13-15)
8. Jesus attended the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn. 7:10)
9. Jesus' judgment on the Pharisees and Sadducees (Mt. 21:23, 23:26)
10. The disciples mentioned Herod's Temple to Jesus (Mt. 24:1-2)
11. Peter and John went to the Temple to pray (Acts 3:1)

11. Golden Gate (also called Eastern Gate, facing the Mount of Olives)

1. Jesus triumphal entry (Mt. 21:1-11)
2. Only gate leading to the Temple area, closed by the Turkish government in 1530, hoping to postpone the day of world judgment.
3. Jesus will return through this gate into Jerusalem at His Second Coming (Ezek.

44:1-3)

12. Stephen's Gate (also called Sheep Gate and Lion's Gate

The site of Stephen's martyrdom (Acts 7:56-60).

13. Solomon's Quarries

The stones for the building of Solomon's Temple were taken from here (I Ki. 6:7).

14. Solomon's Stables

This is called the Pinnacle of the Temple (Mt. 4:5). It is located at the southeast corner of the Temple area and extends 170 feet above the Kidron Valley.

15. Via Dolorosa (also called Way of the Cross; lit. Way of Sorrows)

1. The Tower of Hananel in Nehemiah's day (Neh. 3:1, 12:39; Jer. 31:38)
2. Jesus walked out of the judgment hall at the beginning of the Via Dolorosa (Jn. 19:13)
   The convent of the Sisters of Zion was constructed beside an ancient arch of the Via Dolorosa in the belief that this arch marked the spot where Pilate said, *"Ecce Home"* ("Behold the man" - Jn. 19:5) on presenting Jesus after He had been flogged, dressed in a purple robe and crowned with thorns. The convent contains the remains of the floor, an impressive paved square ("Ilithostrotos" in Greek), which was used by Rome's legionnaires for training and parades. Christian tradition placed the Praetorium (Place of Judgment) of the Roman procurator on this square associated with Jesus' trial and condemnation. The fortress of Antonia was built by Herod the Great in 36 B.C. on this spot in honor of Mark Antony.
3. Paul made his speech to the people at Jerusalem at the site of Herod's fortress, Antonia (Acts 21:35-40)

16. Calvary

There are two places pointed out to visitors to the Holy Land as the place where our Lord was crucified (Mt. 27:33-50).

a. Church of the Holy Sepulchre

This is the traditional site of the crucifixion and burial of Christ. However, the evidence is inconclusive. The question can never be settled until the location of the second wall of the city can be determined. Upon this depends the fact as to whether this site was inside or outside of the city, for Christ was crucified "outside the gate" (Heb. 13:12).

b. Gordon's Calvary

This place was pointed out by General Gordon, the hero of Khartoum, as the probable place of Christ's death and burial. Jeremiah's grotto beneath, the appearance of a skull in the rock formation, the continuation of the mountains of Moriah (where Abraham offered up Isaac), and the neighboring tomb all pointed

to this area as the true Calvary. Whatever may be said for the Holy Sepulchre, Gordon's Calvary gives one a clearer picture of what these places must have looked like in the time of our Lord.

17. The Garden Tomb

Located at the foot of the rock knoll known as Gordon's Calvary is a rock-cut tomb dating from the Roman period. It is thought to have been the tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea where Jesus was buried (Mt. 27:57-60).

NEW CITY OF JERUSALEM

1. Wailing Wall (better, Western Wall)

Since June 1967, this has been known as the Western Wall, and by many it is called the Joy Wall. This retaining wall of the huge platform where both Solomon and Herod built their Temples stood nearest to the sanctuary.

Only a portion of it was preserved by Romans when they destroyed the city in 70 A.D. to show how formidable they were. It is 50 yards long and 60 feet high. One stone is 16 feet long and 13 inches wide. Jewish people gather at the wall to wail the loss of their Temple and the Holy Ark and to pray for the coming of the Messiah.

2. Dome of the Rock (also called Mosque of Omar)

An octagonal-shaped mosque with brilliant blue Persian tiles erected over the site of the Jewish Temple. The mosque was built in seventh century over the immense rough-hewn rock about 40 feet by 52 feet which rises 7

feet above the level of the Temple area. It formed the base of the Jewish altar where the burnt offerings were offered. The grooves and hole in the middle of the rock were used to carry the blood and refuse out of the Temple into the Kidron Valley.

3. Shrine of the Rock

This is the home of the Dead Sea Scrolls which were discovered at Qumran in 1947. It is near the main building of the Israel Museum and houses seven of the invaluable scrolls, the Bar Kochba letters and other documents and artifacts dating back to Bar Kochba's revolt against the Romans. The subterranean sanctuary, with only a portion of its double parabolic dome emerging above the ground from a pool of water, symbolizes the emergence of the State of Israel after centuries of dormancy. The black basalt wall rising from the cavern below the upper plaza, in contrast with the white dome, accents the heavy burden which lay on the people of Israel for more than 2,000 years. The white dome itself is patterned after the top of the jars in which the scrolls were found. Under the 70 foot wide dome, the scroll of Isaiah is on view, wound around an enormous metal drum which can be lowered deep into the ground in the even of emergency.

4. Yad Vashem (Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority

This memorial was erected in memory of the six million Jews who were slaughtered in World War II. Built in 1967, the name was taken from the prophecy of Isaiah 56:5. Connected with the memorial there is an institute building containing photographic and filmed material. Her is kept the registry of all Jews from all over the world. The purpose of this German registry was to destroy all Jews. A copy of the ovens is also housed there.

5. Knesset (Parliament)

The Knesset building, which is the home of Israel's governing body, is located near the Israel Museum and Shrine of the Book.

6. The Menora

A huge menora (candlestick) stands opposite the entrance to the Knesset. It has seven branches which are decorated with 29 panels on which are illustrated highlights of the history and revival of the Jewish people.

7. Model of Jerusalem

The model city is a reconstruction of the city of Jerusalem as it was in the first century. The model was built using some of the original materials such as marble, stone, wood, copper and iron. The scale is 1 to 50.

Travel in Southern Israel

1. RED SEA

The name is taken from the Septuagint (Greek) translation of the Hebrew which means *Sea of Reeds (or rushes).* It is evidently so called because of the Reeds which grew close to the water's edge. When the Red Sea is referred to in the Old Testament, one of its two northern branches is meant.

1. The Gulf of Suez, the northwestern branch of the Red Sea west of the Sinai

Peninsula, was the body of water which the Israelites crossed as they were leaving Egypt (Ex. 15:4, 22)

2. The Gulf of Elat (called Gulf of Aqabah by the Arabs) is the northwestern branch of the Red Sea east of the Sinai Peninsula

   a. After dwelling by Kadesh Barnea (Num. 13:26), the Hebrews were commanded to go by the way to the Red Sea (Num. 14:25), then to go around the land of Edom
   b. King Solomon's ships plied these waters on their way to the land of Ophir (1 Ki. 9:26-28)
   c. The Israeli city of Elat and the Jordanian city of Aqaba are at the northern tip of this branch of the Red sea

2. ELAT

A town (meaning *palm grove*) on the northern end of the eastern finger of the Red Sea, which is the southernmost town in the State of Israel. Across the border is the Jordanian town of Aqaba.

1. Elat is mentioned in connection with Ezion-geber as a site which the Israelites passed through in their wilderness journey (Dt. 2:8)
2. King Solomon built a fleet of ships at Ezion-geber, which is near Elat on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom (1 Ki. 9:26)
3. Jehoshaphat's fleet of ships was wrecked here (2 Chr. 20:35-37; 1 Ki. 22:48)

3. KING SOLOMON'S PILLARS

The pillars are Nubian sandstone cliffs carved and separated by the streams of rushing floods into tall, reddish-gray pillars. Nearby are King Solomon's mines.

SPIRITUAL LESSONS

WHICH GOD HAS BUILT INTO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

But the land, to which ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven, A land which the Lord thy God careth for. The eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year (Dt. 11:11-12).

It is evident that there is no land like Israel. God built the land in every intricate detail. It is the center of the nations. Every little hill, lake and valley was specially placed by God in this land. There are dozens of spiritual lessons to be learned from the land -- Eretz

Israel. Following are just a few:

<u>THE SEA OF GALILEE AND THE DEAD SEA:</u> A LESSON ON GIVING AND RECEIVING

Both seas originate from the same waters at Mount Hermon. One sea gives and the other only receives. The giving Sea of Galilee lives, but the taking Salt Sea is called the Dead Sea. If we give, we will live. If we only receive, we get salty.

<u>MOUNT HERMON:</u> A LESSON IN DEPENDENCE

The Jordan River is the water source of Israel. It begins north of Galilee at the base of Mount Hermon. It is the snows of the Mount Hermon range in the winter which fill the Jordan. Without the snows of Mount Hermon, Israel would die. Without the blessing of God, man dies.

<u>THE DESERT BLOSSOMING AS A ROSE:</u> A LESSON IN WORK

No land is infertile. With water and work, the desert will blossom. If you seek God in the water of the Word, your life will blossom even if it is now a desert. Work in the Word will grow roses in your soul.

<u>JERUSALEM:</u> A LESSON IN GOD'S KINGSHIP

God built Jerusalem as ". . . a city that is compact together" (Ps. 122:3). It is 2,500 feet high on Mount Zion and is formed in the shape of a crown. God put it into David's heart to take Jerusalem. After ruling 7 years in Hebron, he ruled for 35 years in Jerusalem after evicting the Jebusites. Jesus will one day return and enter the city through the Eastern Gate. He will rule as King of kings in the city built for the King -- "Jerusalem, a city with a heart of gold."

<u>THE RIVER JORDAN:</u> A LESSON IN SIMPLICITY

The Jordan is a tiny, narrow rivulet. It can be swum across in about 2 minutes. During the rainy season, it overflows to fertilize the land. It winds over 200 miles on the 100-mile journey from Galilee to the Negev, and what great events occurred there -- Joshua, Elijah, John the Baptist. A thing need not be big to be great.

<u>THE EARLY AND LATTER RAINS:</u> A LESSON IN OPPORTUNITY

It rains only twice a year in Israel, in the spring and in the winter, and so the farmer must use the opportunity to plant and harvest by the season. The time of the Apostles was like the

early rain. The present outpouring of the Holy Spirit is like the latter rain. After this will come the harvest at the time of the Rapture. You must get the rain when it comes. ". . . behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

GOLGOTHA, PLACE OF THE SKULL: A LESSON IN SIN

Gordon's Calvary is at Skull Hill and looks like death. Jesus died at "the place of a skull" (Jn. 19:17). Sin always kills, it never uplifts. Sin brings death. God hates sin but loves the sinner. All men are sinners. Christ's death proved that God is just, yet He justifies those who believe in Jesus. The cross s the only way to Heaven.

THE JERICHO ROAD: A LESSON IN LISTENING

After God, through Joshua, destroyed Jericho, it was cursed and a warning was issued never to re-build it. It has been re-built again and again by those who failed to listen. In this life, without Jesus we are in the city of destruction. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is always downhill. The man who fell among thieves learned this, as did the prodigal son. But my Jesus walked the Jericho Road and pulled me out of the ditch where Satan had beaten me and left me to die. Praise His name. Listen and avoid the city of destruction.

THE VALLEY OF JEZREEL: A LESSON ON COMING JUDGMENT

This has been called, "The world's most natural battlefield," and here all the armies of the world will converge at the battle of Armageddon (see Zech. 12-14). It all began in Nazareth at the northern end of the valley of Jezreel, and it will all end right there in the valley. God has fore-ordained it. He is in control.

THE SINAI DESERT: A LESSON IN THE BITTERNESS OF THE LAW

The law was given at Sinai -- a desert, desolate. The law is desolate, it cannot save. The law shows us to be sinners, just as a mirror shows us to be dirty. The mirror doesn't cleanse, nor can the law. The law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. The blood of Christ, not the bitter law, cleanses away sin.

MOUNT HERMON AND THE DEAD SEA: A LESSON IN REALITY

In the Promised Land there are highs and lows -- from 3,000+ feet above sea level at Mount Hermon to 2,700+ feet below sea level at the Dead Sea. As a believer, you can't always stay up on Mount Hermon, but you won't always be down at the Dead Sea. Your
Shepherd will lead you to green pastures and still waters, but you must pas through the highs and lows.

***SHEPHERD'S LAND:* A LESSON IN GUIDANCE**

Sheep are grazing everywhere on the rocky hills with sparse growth. The shepherd guides them. They go up the hills and down into the valleys only through his eyes. A sheep is the world's most helpless animal, much like the human being.

***THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY:* A LESSON IN FRUIT-BEARING**

The land of Israel will grow anything if the rocks are removed and the farmer observes the Sabbath year and obeys the laws of God. Israel's dairy cows produce more milk than cows anywhere else in the world. In the Christian life, if you abide in Jesus moment-by-moment and stay away from sin, you can bear fruit for God.

***ISRAEL, CENTER OF THE WORLD:* A LESSON IN PROVIDENCE**

Tiny Israel is the land-crossroad of 3 continents, the center of the world. God will never abandon that land. He has said in His Word, "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee . . ." (Gen. 12:3). Woe to those who try to harm God's chosen land and its people.

***THE NEGEV:* A LESSON IN HOPE**

You become very thirsty in the Negev, where the temperature once reached 154 degrees. Without "streams in the desert" (Isa. 35:6), there is death in the Negev. But hope dictates that there will always be "streams in the desert." Above every cloud is a blue sky, and in every desert there is a stream. God made it so. Jesus is our hope in the desert of barrenness in which we often find ourselves.

***THE VALLEY OF HINNOM (GEHENNA):* A LESSON ON HELL**

In Christ's day a garbage dump lay burning outside Jerusalem's gates in the valley of Hinnom. Jesus said hell is like that, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mk. 9:44). Sinner, do you know my Jesus? He can save you from hell, but only He can do it (Jn. 14:6).

***MOUNT MORIAH AND THE KIDRON VALLEY:* A LESSON IN SALVATION**

It was to Mount Moriah that Abraham came to sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22). All 3 monotheistic religions place significance on the rock of Moriah. The sacrifices from the Holy of Holies

flowed down Moriah through a cleft in the rock into a cave, and then into the Brook Kidron. Each Yom Kippur, the blood literally covered Israel. Likewise Jesus blood will cove all who repent and put their faith in Him.

<u>THE MOUNT OF OLIVES:</u> A LESSON IN EXPECTANCY

Jesus left the earth from the Mount of Olives. He will return to the earth at the Mount of Olives, after destroying the world's armies in Jezreel (Zech. 12-14; Rev. 19). At that time a split will occur in the earth from Olivet to the sea, and a river will run from the Mediterranean Sea through Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. All nations will come to Jerusalem to worship the King. Seismologists say that a gigantic rift in the earth's crust is directly under Olivet, but the believer in the Word of God already knows that. We have great expectancy. The King is coming to the Mount of Olives and will enter Jerusalem through the Eastern Gate (see Ezek. 43-44). What a hope! ". . . Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

RECOMMENDED

READING & LISTENING

BOOKS:

Not without Design	Marvin Rosenthal
It is No Dream	Elwood McQuaid
ZVI	Elwood McQuaid
The Journey	Myrna Grant
Our Man in Damascus:	Eli Cohen; Eli Ben-Hanan
Myths and Facts 1980	Near East Report
Israel in the Spotlight	Charles Feinberg
Israel in Prophecy	John Walvoord
Oil and the Middle East Crisis	John F. & John E. Walvoord
Archaeology and the Bible	Joseph Free

CASSETTES:

Middle East in Perspective	Marvin Rosenthal

SHEFELAH
A Hebrew term meaning *foothills* (*vale* in Joshua 10:40, *low country* in 1 Chr. 27:28). A region of slowly rising foothills between the Plain of Philistia and the mountains of Judea. The Shefelah served as a buffer zone between the Israelites and their enemies, the Philistines. Most of the exploits of Samson were performed here.

LACHISH
A town of Judah in the Shefelah, 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem, identified today with Tell ed-Duweir, a large 18-acre mound, 15 miles west of Hebron.

1. This Amorite city joined in a league with four other kings against Joshua, but was defeated and destroyed (Josh. 10), and allotted to the tribe of Judah (Josh. 15:30)
2. In the days of Hezekiah (ca. 710 B.C.), Lachish was taken by Sennacherib the Assyrian, who then sent a message to Hezekiah demanding surrender (2 Ki. 8:14-17, 19:8; Isa. 36:2, 37:8)
3. Lachish and Azekah were the last cities to withstand the Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar's attack, ca. 587 B.C. (Jer. 34:7)
4. An important archaeological discovery was made here, letters on ostraca describing the conditions prior to the Babylonian siege

VALLEY OF ELAH
A valley in the Shefelah, about 14 miles southwest of Jerusalem. "Elah" means *oak,* and the area is rich in acacias and oaks. Here was the scene of the combat between David and Goliath (1 Sam. 17:2 ff.). Coursing through the valley is a wadi (annual stream) from which David took his five stones (1 Sam. 17:40).