



Archaeology and Geography

Speaker is using slides or pictures from a variety of sources, as well as his own.



Importance of TEXT in CONTEXT

- Christianity rests upon the affirmation that a series of **events happened** at specific locations...
this means that geography, history and faith are inextricably bound together.
- Geography heightens the impact on our senses and emotions of **the reality** of these Bible places and events.
- Geography provides rich and decorative **illumination** for Bible reading, Bible study and especially for Bible translation.
- Enhanced awareness of the nuances in the biblical context makes **more accurate translation** of biblical text possible.

Introduction to

Physical

Geography

Definition

1. From Greek: Earth Description
2. Carl Laney: "The science that describes the surface of the earth and its associated phenomena, including its climates, peoples, animals and products."

Importance

1. Provides a rich and decorative backdrop ... heightens the sensory and emotional impact
2. Geography, history and religion are so inextricably bound together...
3. Christianity rests upon the affirmation that a series of events happened...

Ancient Cartography

- a. Genesis 10 - "Table of Nations"

<http://www.bible-history.com>



*The Settlement
Of Noah's Descendants*

Ancient Cartography

Genesis 10 - "Table of Nations"
Tribal City Lists (Joshua 13-19)

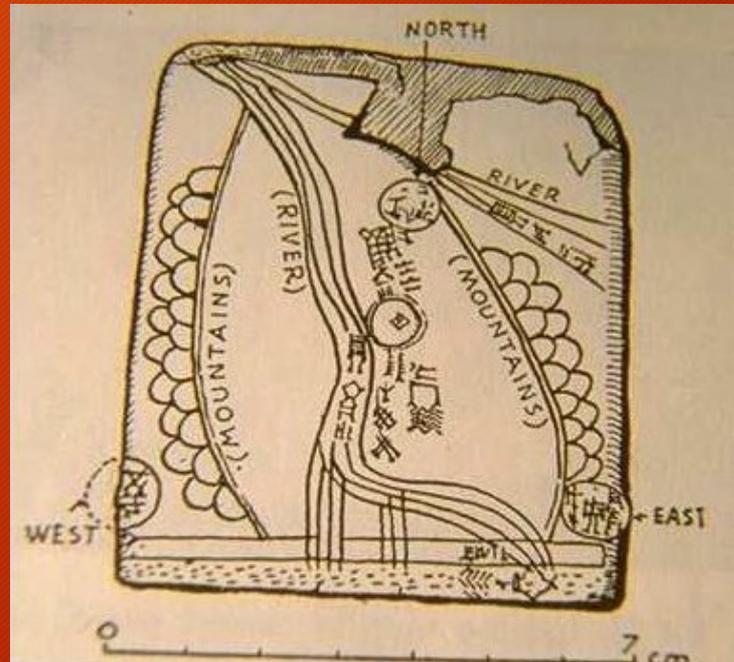
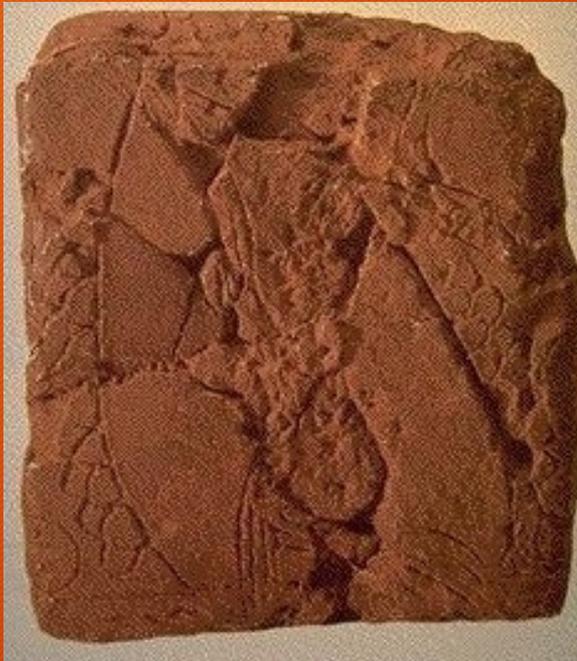
II. Biblical Geography

Ancient Cartography

Genesis 10 - "Table of Nations"

Tribal City Lists (Joshua 13-19)

Earliest visual map - Nuzi, 2200 B.C.



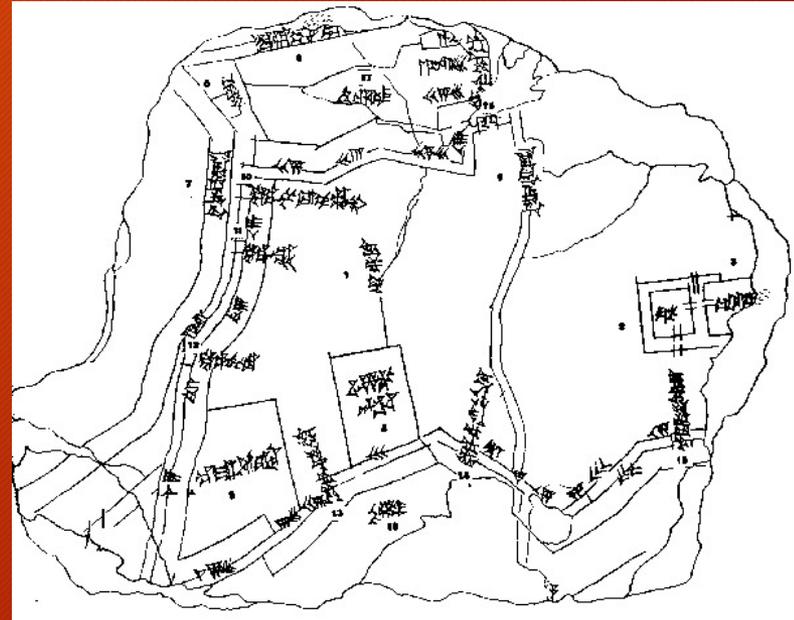
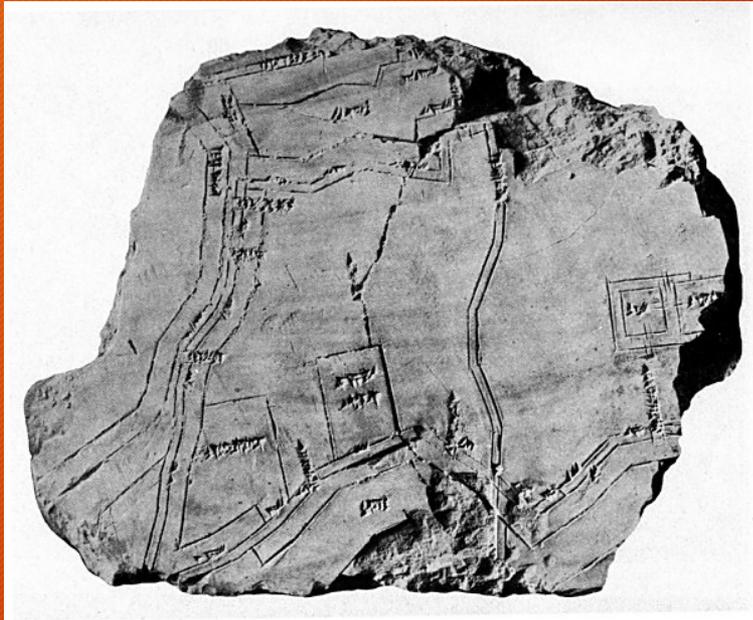
Ancient Cartography

Genesis 10 - "Table of Nations"

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Earliest city map - Nippur, 1900 B.C.



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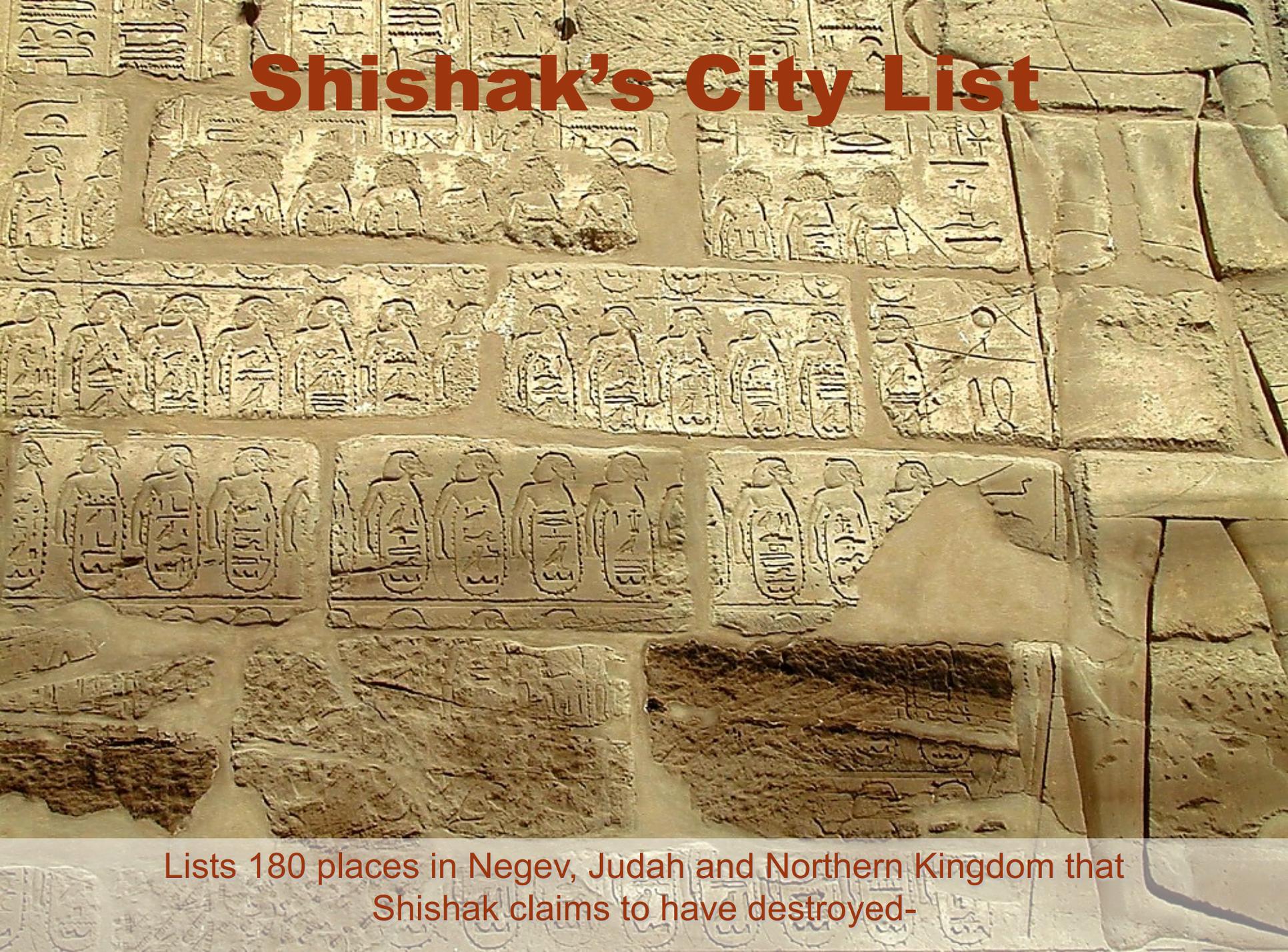
Earliest city map - Nippur, 1900 B.C.

Egypt: Cartouches of conquered cities

Shishak's City List



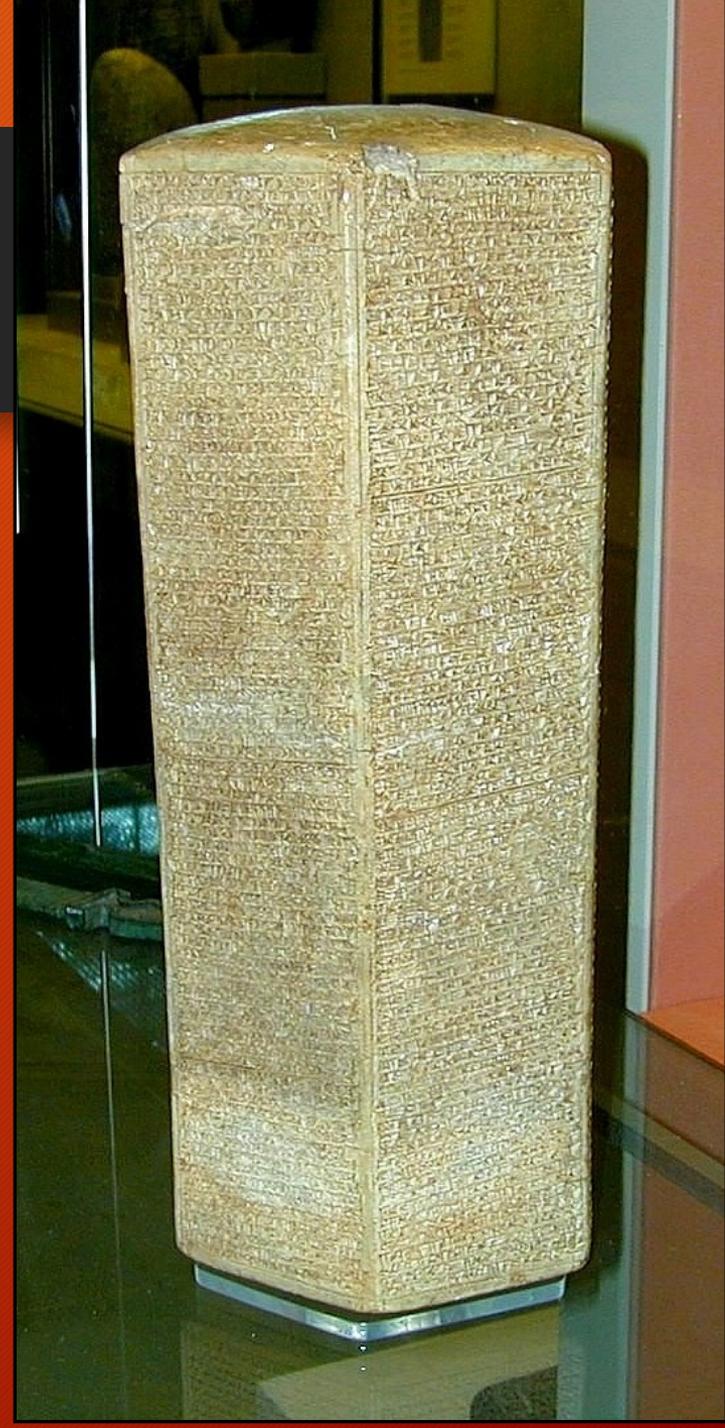
Shishak's City List

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs carved into stone blocks. The hieroglyphs are arranged in horizontal rows and include various symbols such as birds, lotus flowers, and human figures. The stone is a light tan color, and the hieroglyphs are deeply etched into the surface.

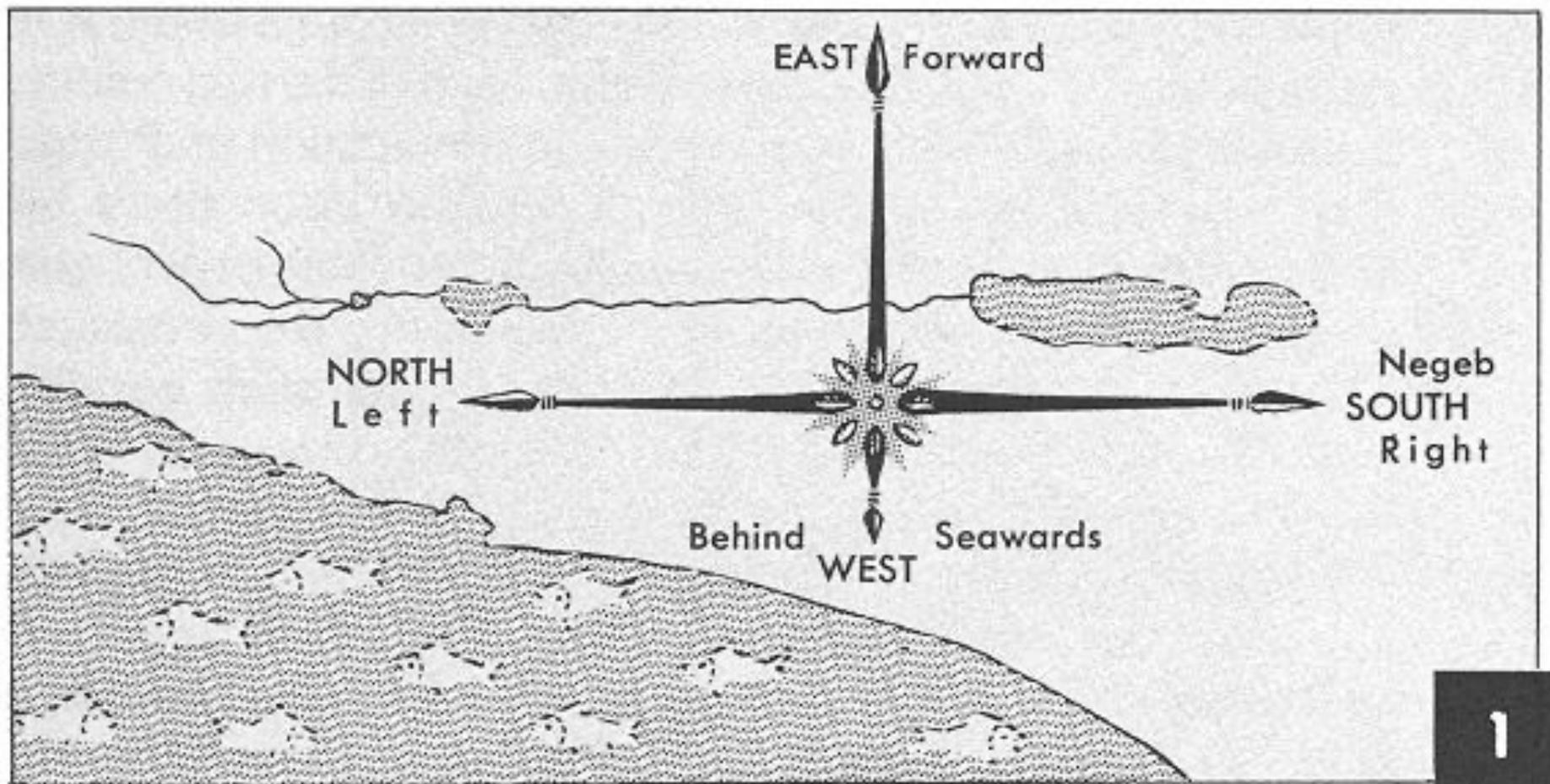
Lists 180 places in Negev, Judah and Northern Kingdom that Shishak claims to have destroyed-

Ancient Cartography

- Genesis 10 - "Table of Nations"
- Tribal City Lists (Joshua 13-19)
- Earliest visual map - Nuzi, 2200 B.C.
- Earliest city map - Nippur, 1900 B.C.
- Egypt: Cartouches of conquered cities
- Assyria: List of defeated cities



East Orientation



Early Travelogues (Byzantine)

- Eusebius - Onomasticon
 - Bishop of Caesarea
 - Alphabetical list of cities with directions and distances
 - Translated by Jerome into Latin (original Greek is lost)
- Pilgrims
 - Pilgrim of Bordeaux, Egeria, Pilgrim of Piacenza, Arculf

Byzantine Descriptions, cont.

- Talmud
- Madaba Map

Medeba Map



Medeba Map

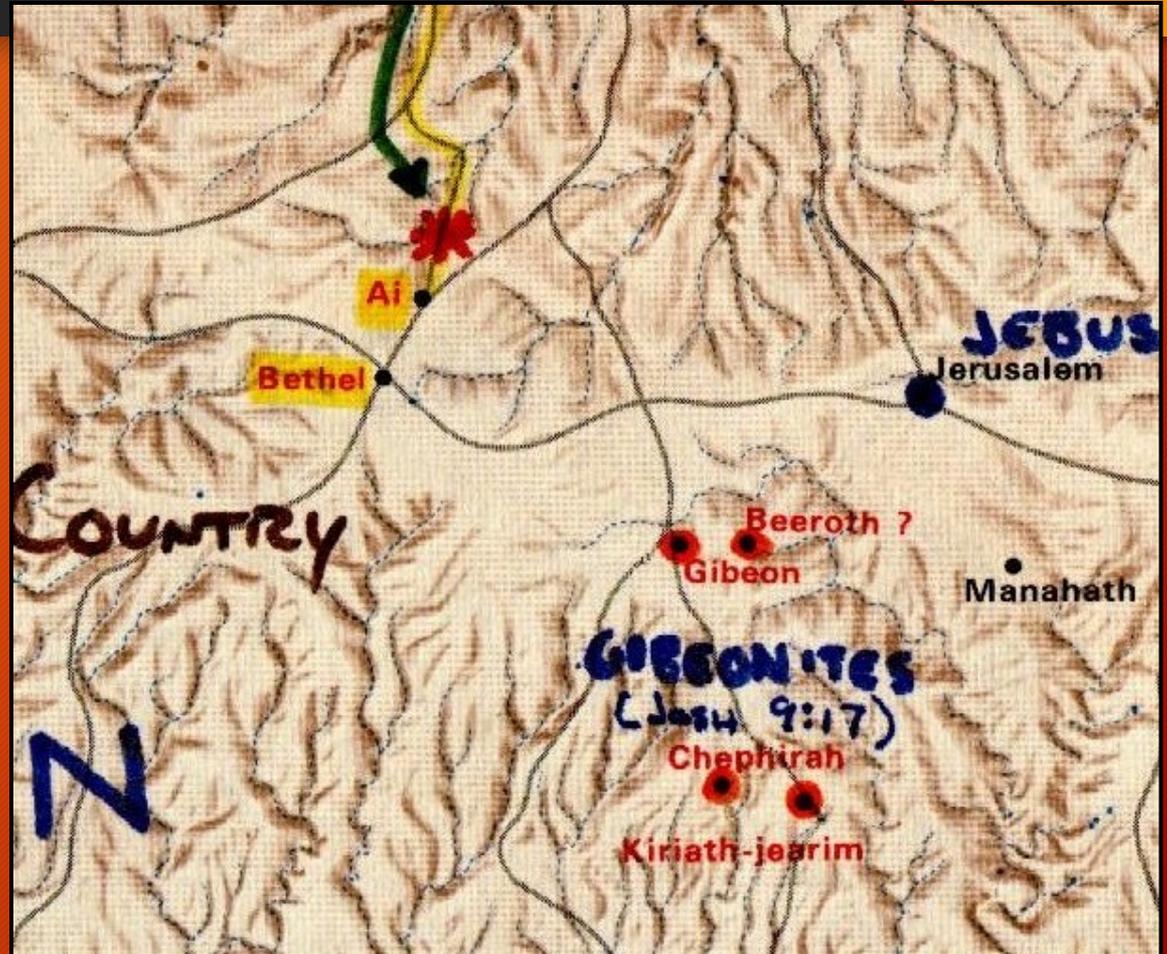


III. Biblical Geography

Method of Historical Geography

How to put place names on the map?

- Original Sources
- Toponymy
- Tradition
- Archaeology



Introduction to the Fertile Crescent and Importance of Israel's Location

Significance of Location in The Fertile Crescent

The Cradle of Civilization
32nd century B.C. WRITING
15th century ALPHABET

The Fertile Crescent

- The Cradle of Civilization
- Boundaries

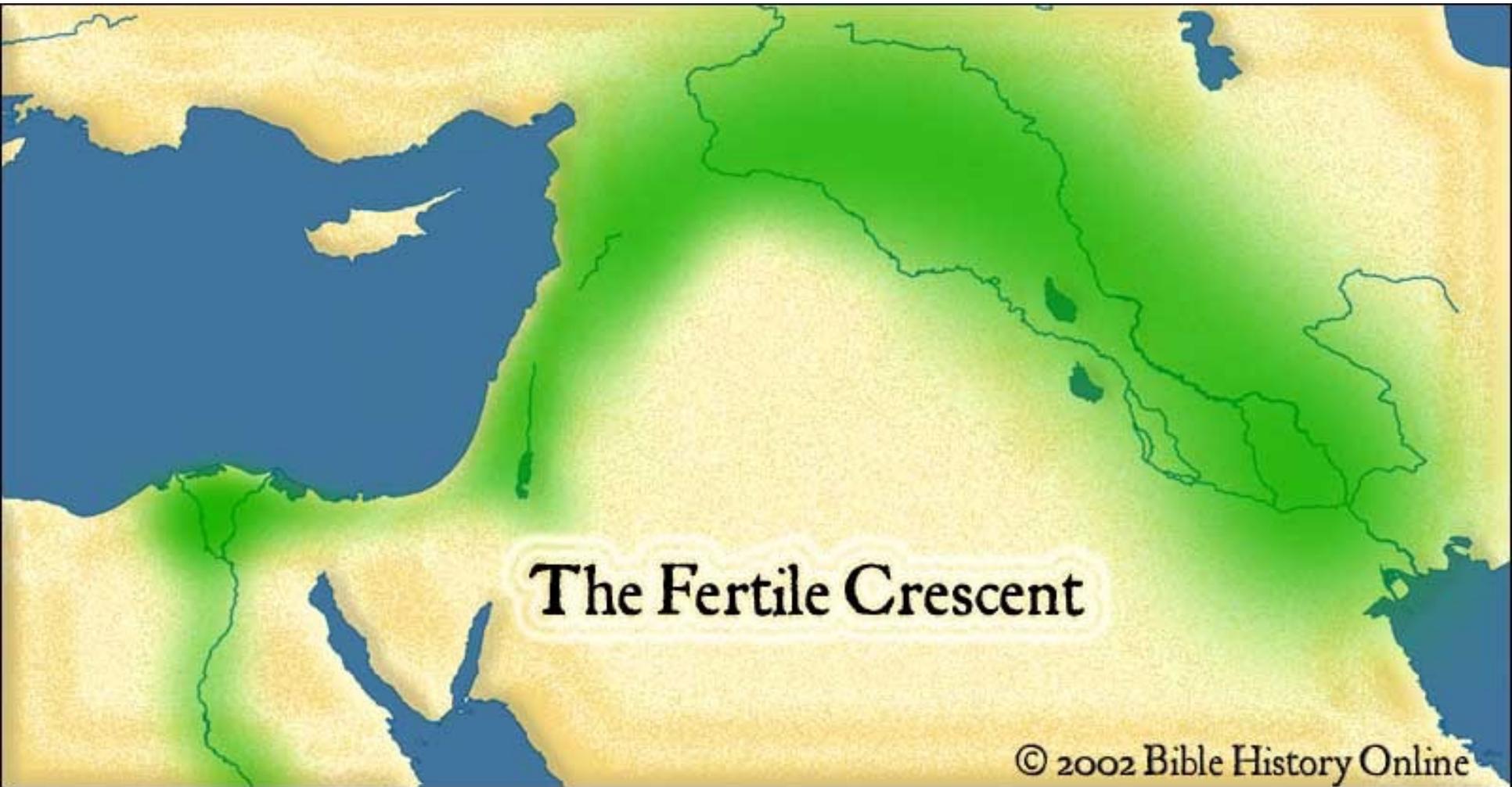
<http://www.bible-history.com>



*The Settlement
Of Noah's Descendants*

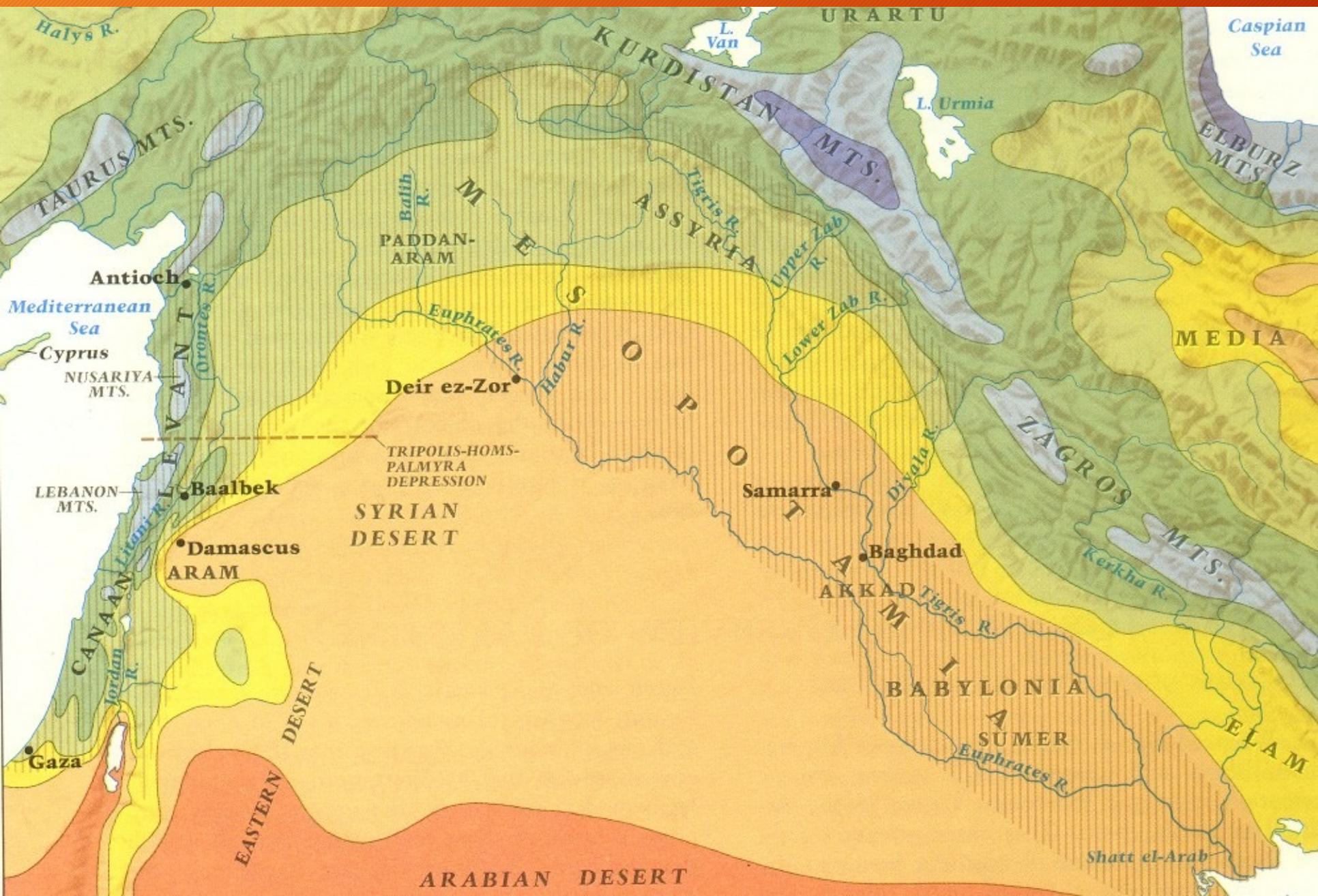


Fertile Crescent



The Fertile Crescent

© 2002 Bible History Online



Halys R.

URARTU

Caspian Sea

TAURUS MTS.

KURDISTAN MTS.

L. Urmia

ELBURZ MTS.

Antioch

Mediterranean Sea

Cyprus

NUSARIYA MTS.

Balikh R.

PADDAN-ARAM

ASSYRIA

Tigris R.

Upper Zab R.

Lower Zab R.

MEDIA

LEBANON MTS.

Baalbek

Deir ez-Zor

TRIPOLIS-HOMS-PALMYRA DEPRESSION

SYRIAN DESERT

Samarra

ZAGROS MTS.

Damascus ARAM

Baghdad

AKKAD

BABYLONIA

SUMER

ELAM

Gaza

Jordan R.

EASTERN DESERT

Tigris R.

Euphrates R.

Kerkha R.

ARABIAN DESERT

Shatt el-Arab

Mesopotamia



Assyria

Persia

Babylonia

Chaldea

Euphrates

Tigris

Persian Gulf

Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait
 0 100 200 300 400
 Kilometers
 © World Sites Atlas (sitesatlas.com)

The Ancient Near East

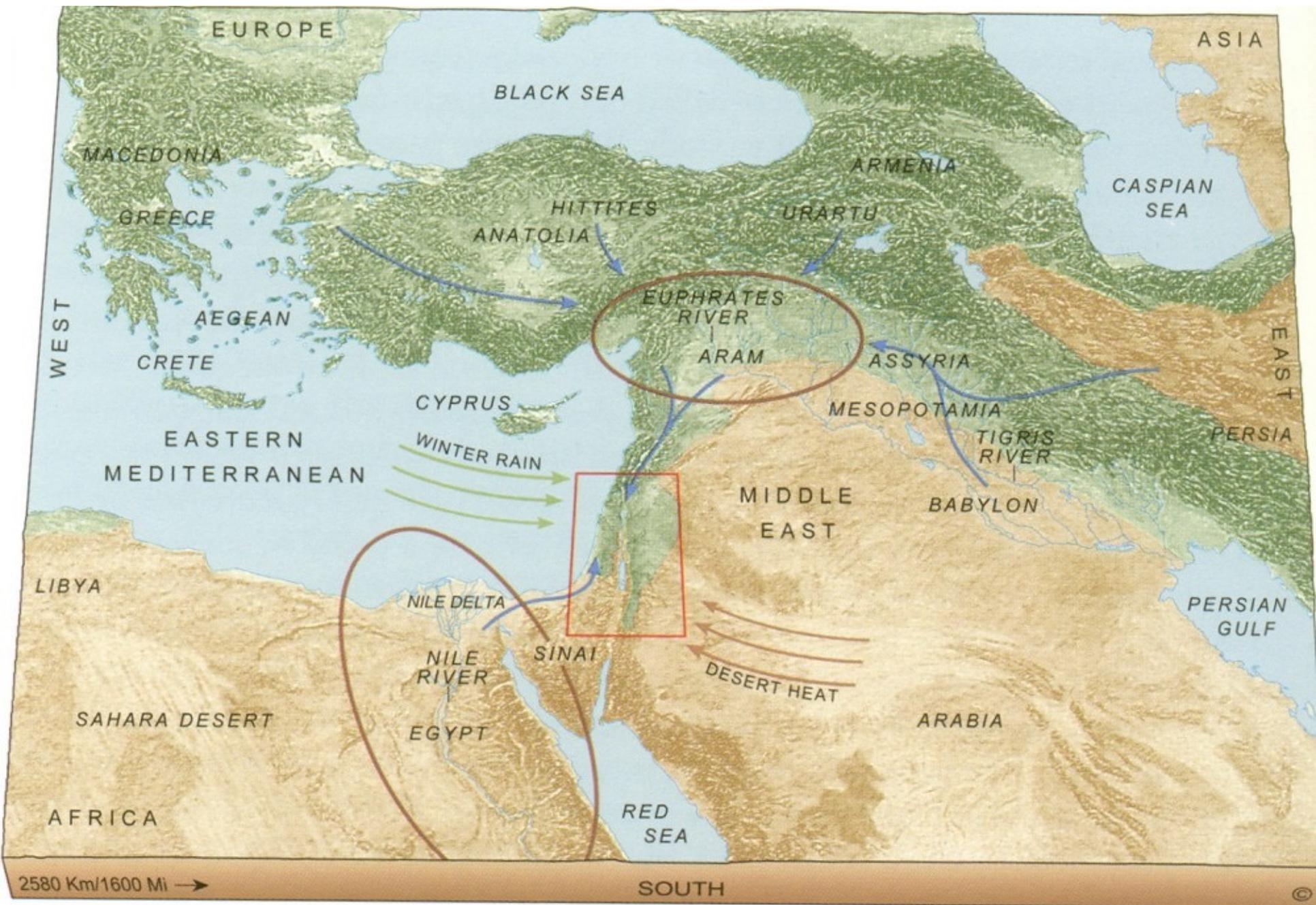


Names for the “Land Between”

1. Levant
2. Canaan
3. Israel
4. Palestine (or Syro-Palestine)
5. “Beyond the River”
6. Promised Land
7. Holy Land
8. Transjordan

Location

- Israel is in the “middle”
 - Land bridge



Israel's Strategic Location

Thought Question:

How has God placed *you* in a strategic place for His purposes?



Location

- Israel is in the “middle”
 - Land bridge
 - Buffer zone

Location

- Israel is in the “middle”
 - Land bridge
 - Buffer zone
 - Testimony to the world (Ezek 5:5-8)

Location

- Israel is in the “middle”
 - Land bridge
 - Buffer zone
 - Testimony to the world (Ezek 5:5-8)
 - “I have set you [Jerusalem] in the center of the nations, with countries all around”



SEPTENTRIO.

Engelland.

Deutemark. Schweden.

Frankreich.

Italien.

Nispanien.

Lotharingen.

Deutschland.

Russen.

Neuland.

EVROPA.

Dagern/

Moskow

Welschland.

Türcker.

Griechenland.



JERUSALEM

Das grosse Mittelmeer der Welt.

ARMENIA.

MEDEN.

MESOPO-DAMIA.

Quide 121.

Rages 147.

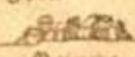
ASIA.

PER-SIA.

INDIA.

SYRIA.

Caran 110.



CHALDEA.

Babylon 170.

Casa 170.

Antioch 4.

Damasko 40.

Dr 116.

ARABIA.

Seb 112.

Das Rote Meer

A. Pontica 67.

Egypten.

Erene 224.

LYBIA

Moree 240.

Morenland

AFRICA.

Königreich Melinde.

CAPUT bonz spai.

AMERICA Die Neue Welt.



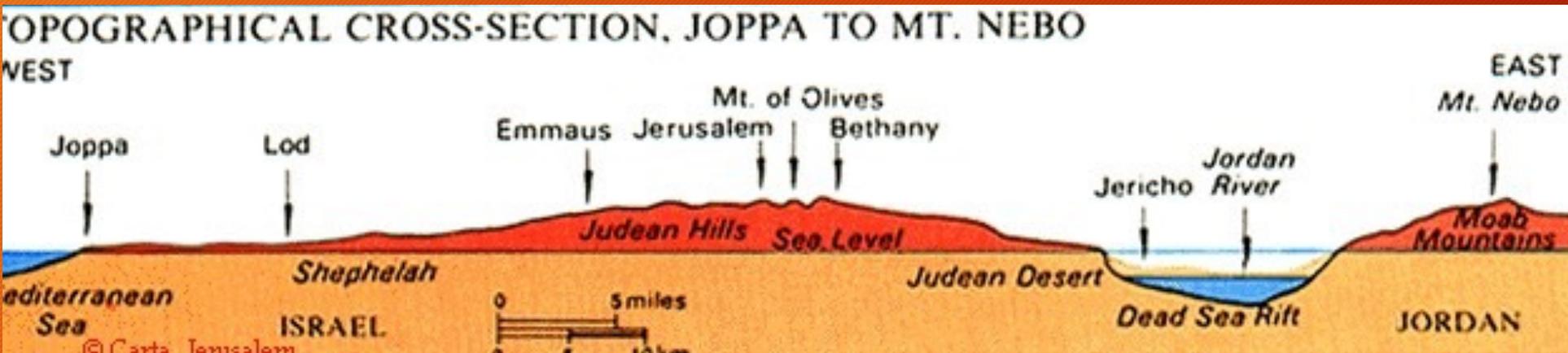
Location

- Israel is in the “middle”
 - Land bridge
 - Buffer zone
 - Testimony to the world (Ezek 5:5-8)
 - “I have set you [Jerusalem] in the center of the nations, with countries all around”
 - “I will inflict punishment on you in the sight of the nations”

The Biblical World and God's Sovereign Purposes

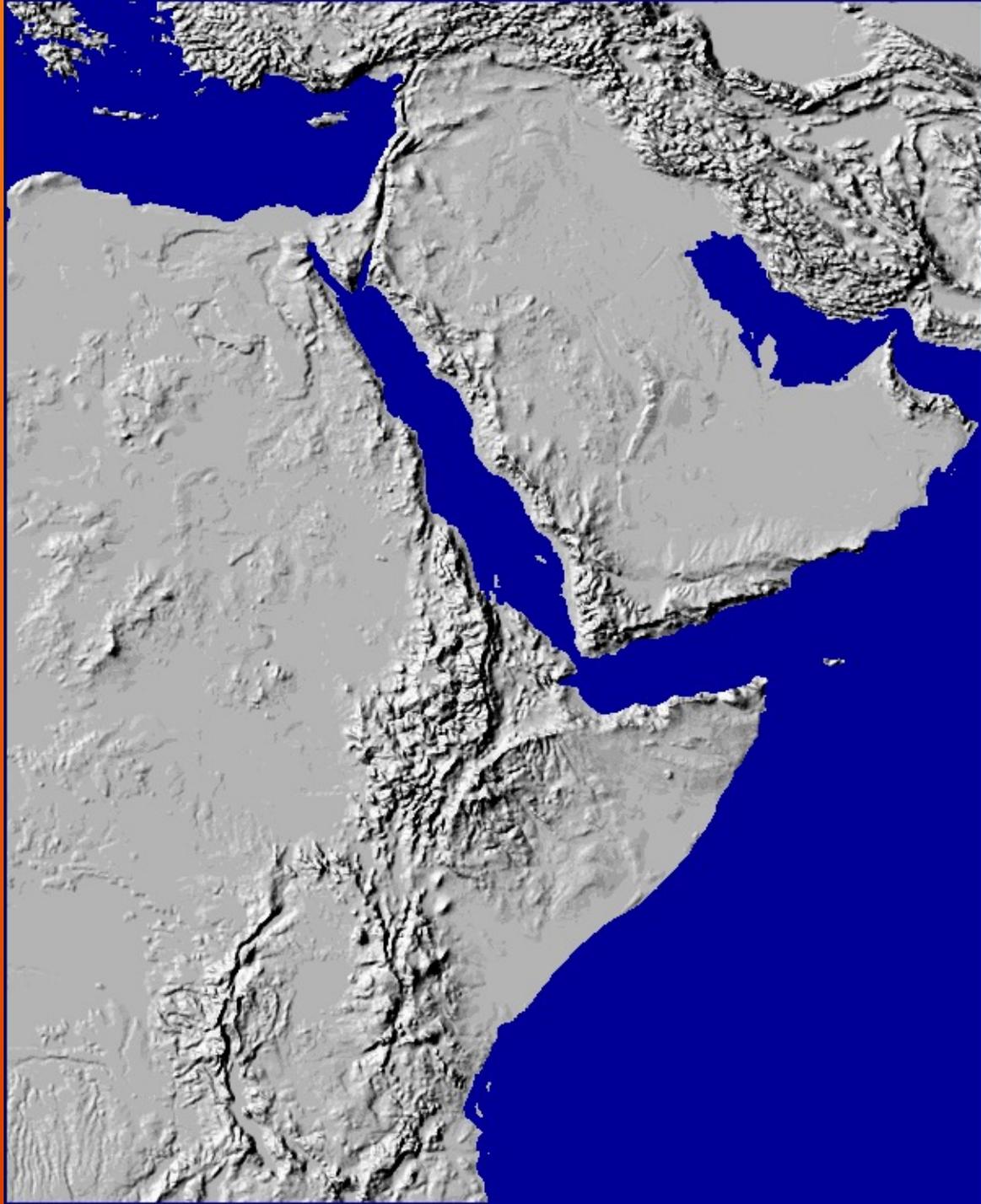
- Why did God choose THIS land for his chosen people?
 - Not intrinsically superior
 - Namely, to test their faith; they would have to trust God to...
 - Protect them
 - Provide for them
 - Display his glory among the nations

The impressive “valley” The great “depression”

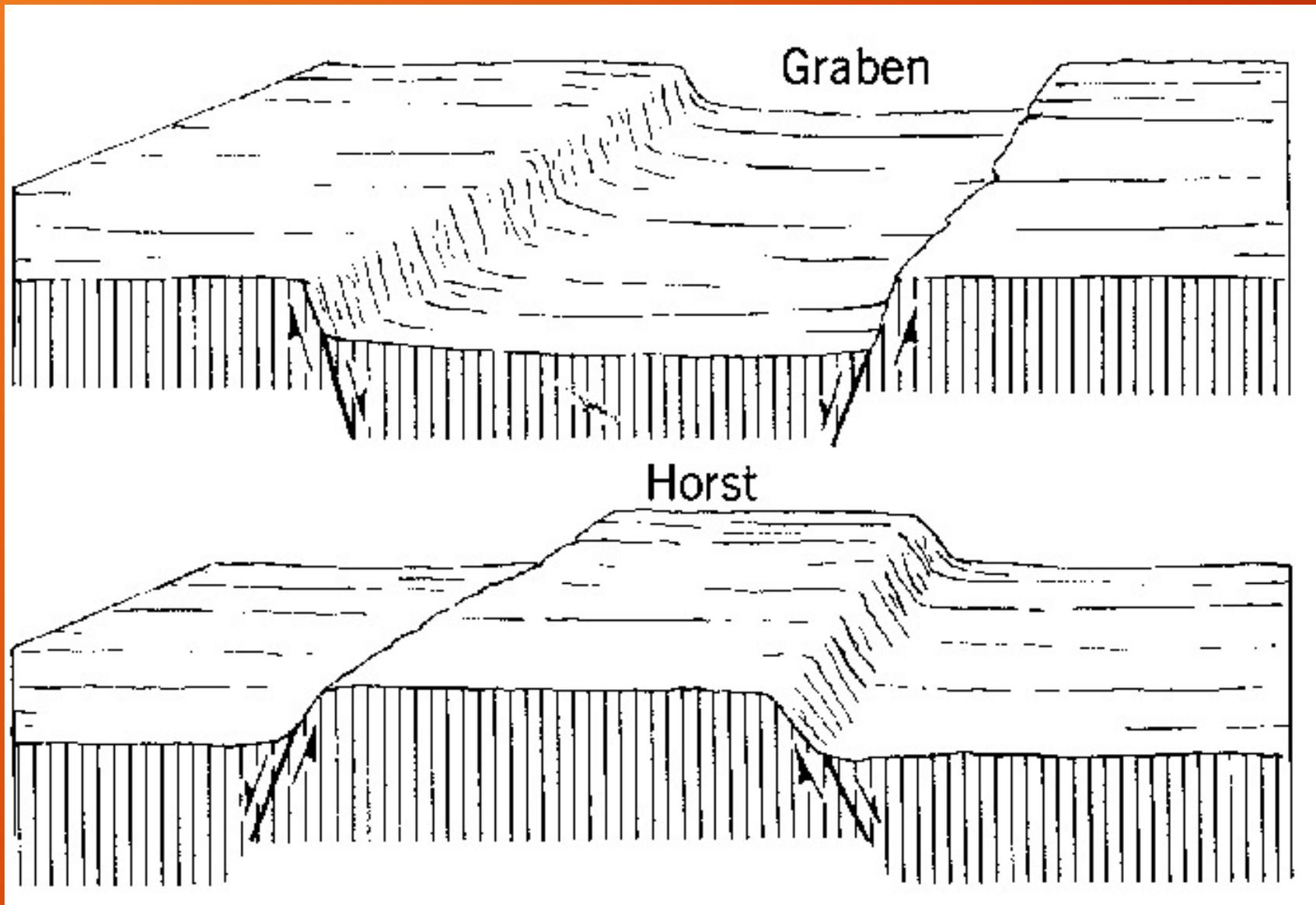


Syro-African Rift





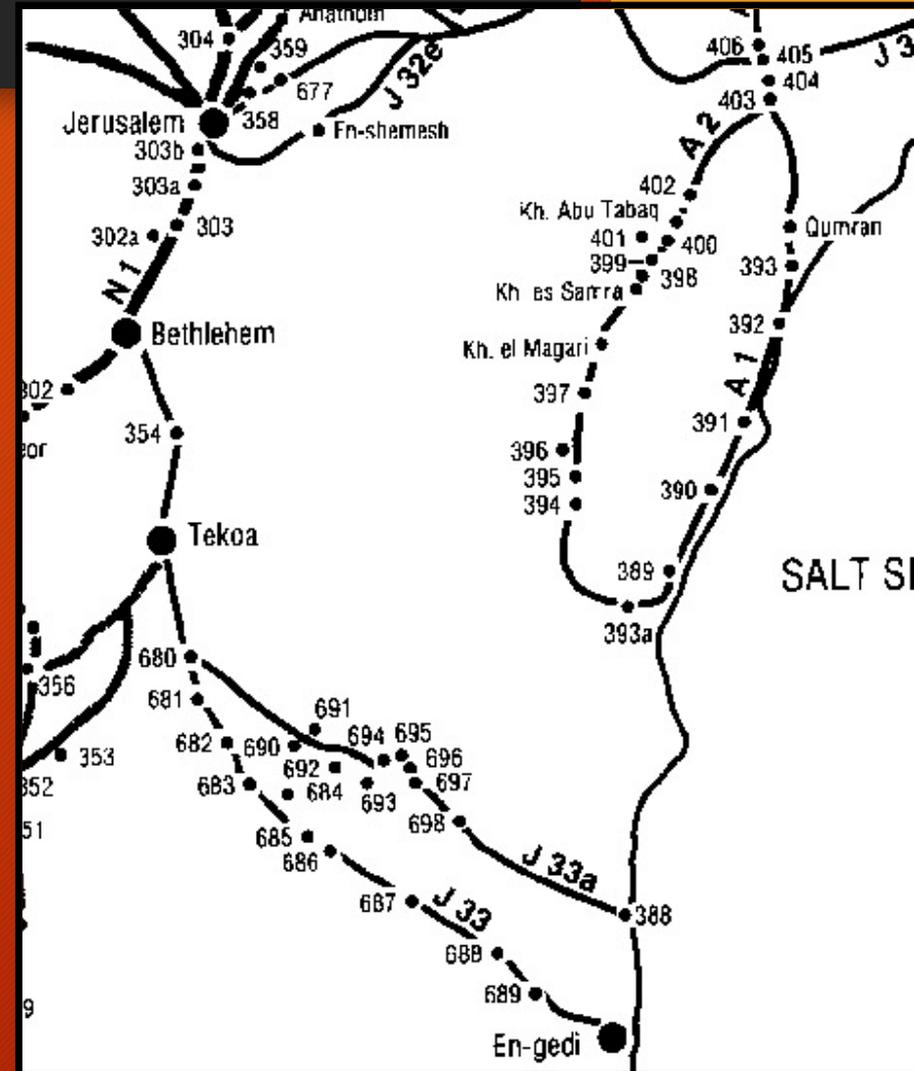
Rifts



Ancient Roads and Fragmentation in the Geography of Israel

Identifying Ancient Roads

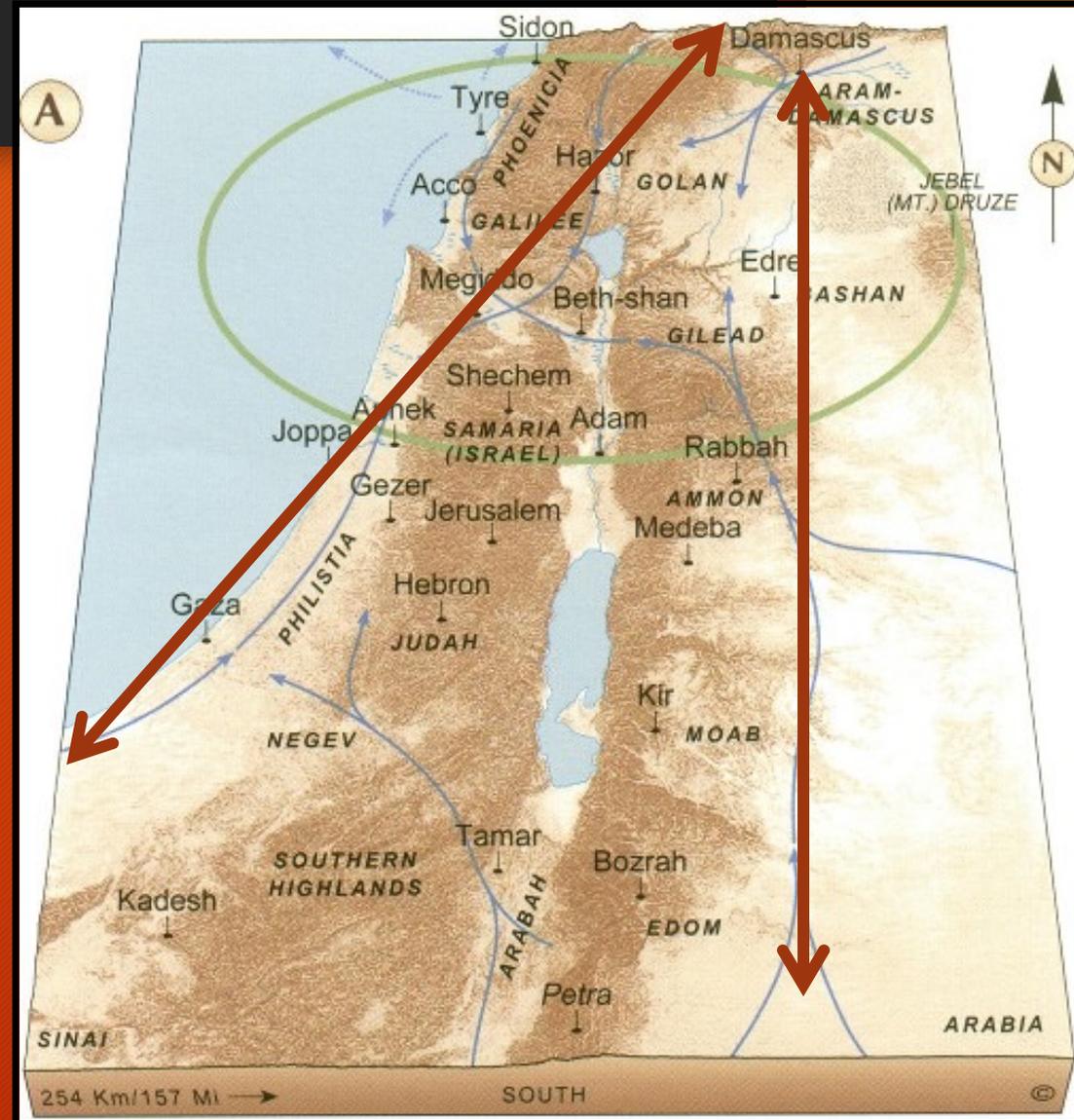
- Path of least resistance
- Routes continued to be used, fixed because of topographical considerations
- Descriptions in ancient sources
- Archaeological discovery of chain of settlements



III. Major Routes

International Highways

- International Coastal Highway
- Transjordanian Highway



Physical Geography

- Small Size
- Great Variety
- Six Strips

Fragmentation

- Land fragmentation, people fragmentation
 - Tribal independence
 - Divided Monarchy
 - Land in days of Jesus
 - Today's diversity of ethnic, religious, social groups
- Problem of unity
 - Success only during David and Solomon
 - Compare: Egypt

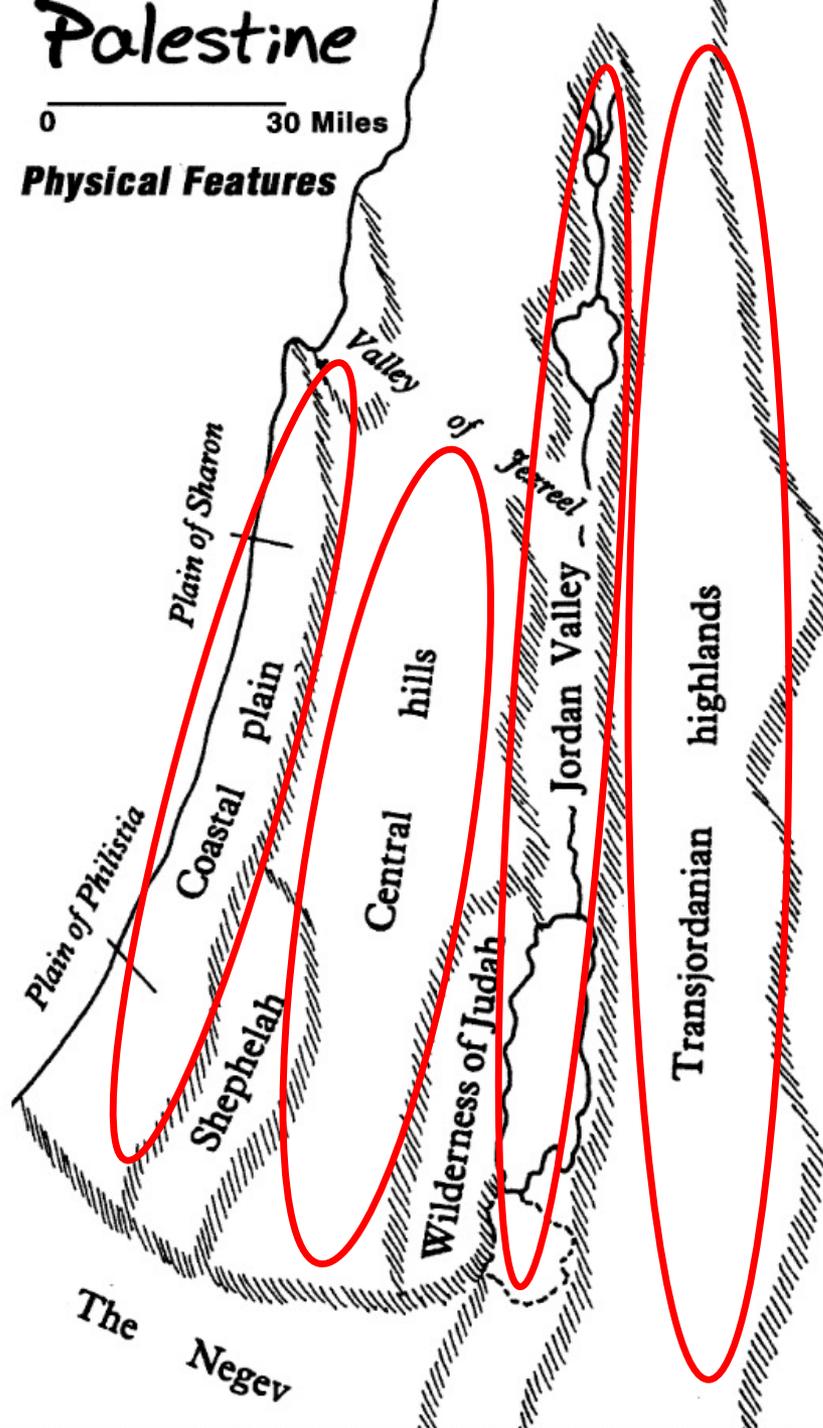
THE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF PALESTINE



Palestine

0 30 Miles

Physical Features

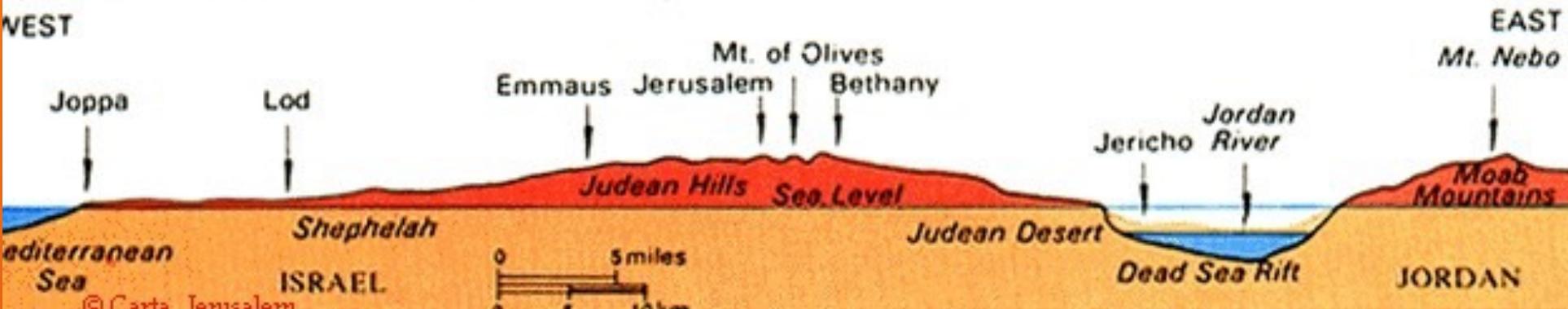


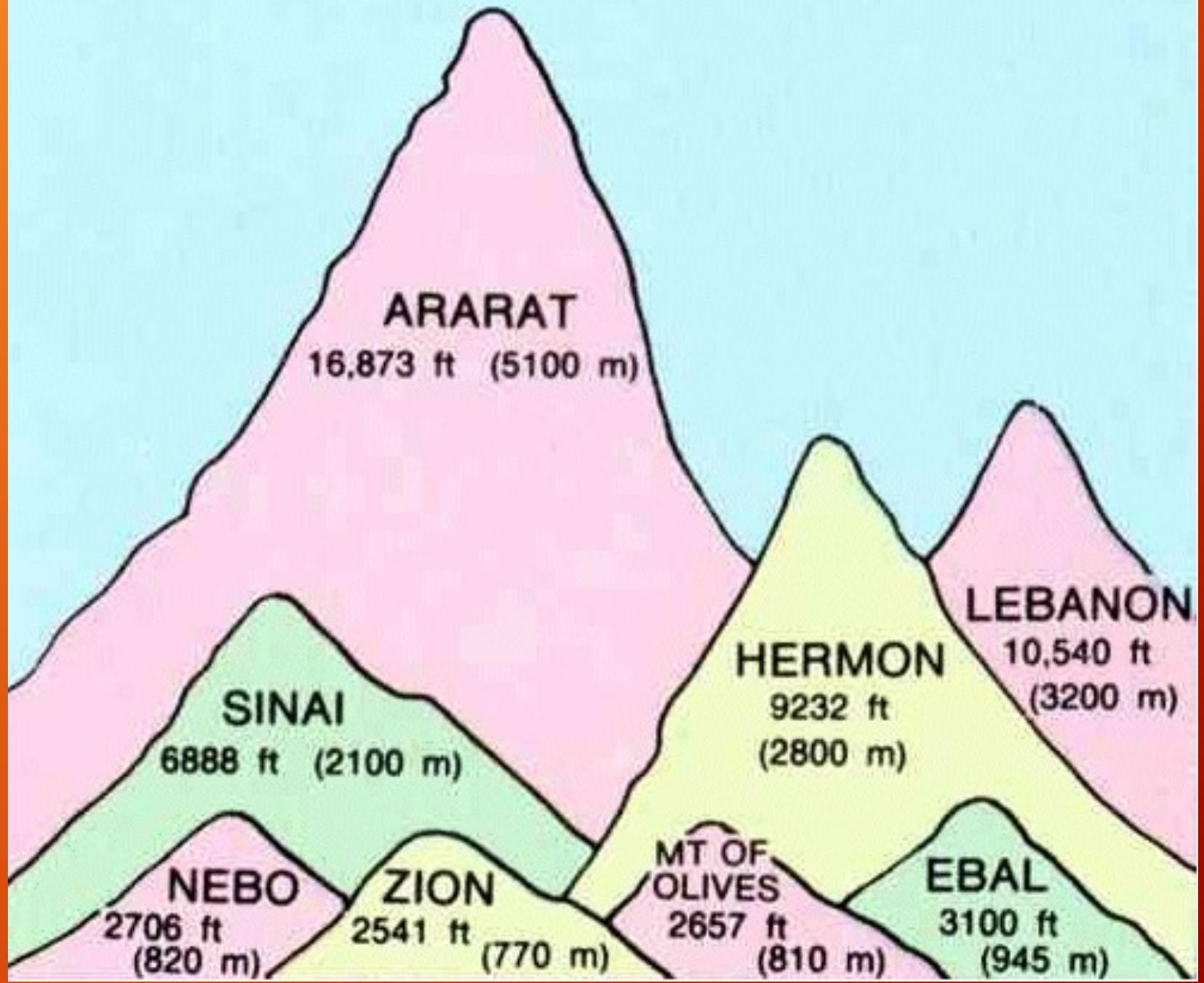


**THE HILLS AND VALLEYS
OF PALESTINE**

TOPOGRAPHICAL CROSS-SECTION, JOPPA TO MT. NEBO

WEST





Why It Matters

- Geology is concerned with composition of the land
- Composition (rock type) affects topography (canyons, ridges, valleys, plains)
- Topography determines natural routes, settlement location, water sources
- Routes, site locations, water sources affect history

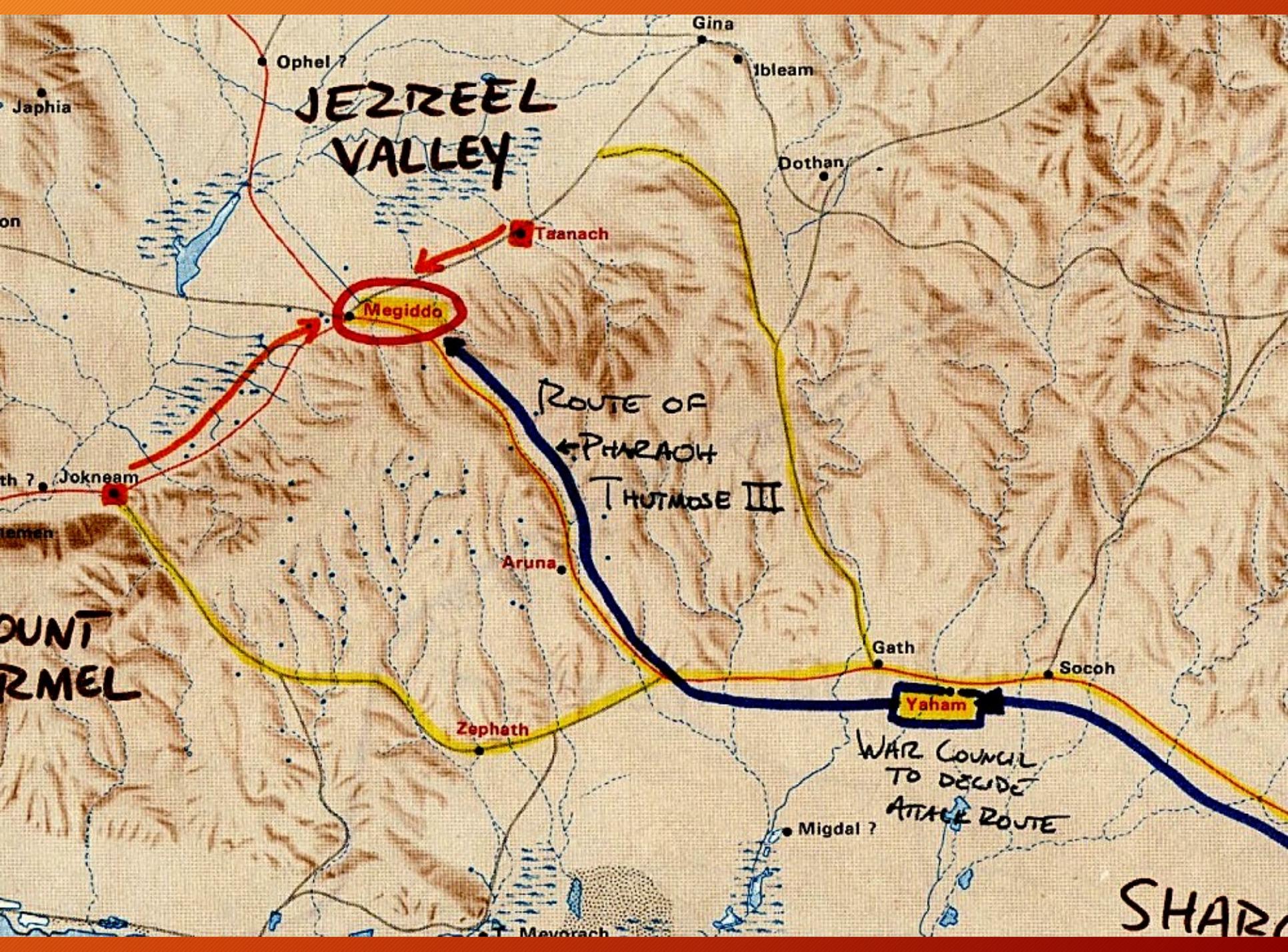
V. Geology and Topography

Geology Affects History

SMM 4-5



MITANNI VIA (NAAW)
PRIORITIES
FROM THUTMOSE III AND CAMPAIGNS OF HIS SON, AMENHOTEP II)
ARMY



JEZREEL VALLEY

Megiddo

ROUTE OF
PHARAOH
THUTMOSE III

Yaham

WAR COUNCIL
TO DECIDE
ATTACK ROUTE

SHARON

MOUNT
CARMEL

Ophel ?

Gina

Ibleam

Dothan

Taanach

Aruna

Zephath

Gath

Socoh

Migdal ?

Jokneam

Japhia

on

th ?

temen

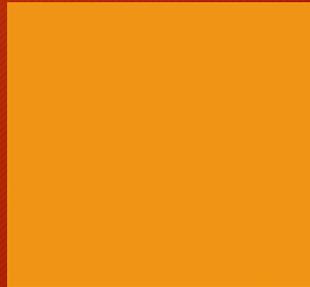
Meyorach

The Chosen Land

- “God prepared the Promised Land for His chosen people with the same degree of care that He prepared His chosen people for the Promised Land.
- “God prepared a certain kind of land positioned at a particular spot, designed to elicit a specific and appropriate response.”

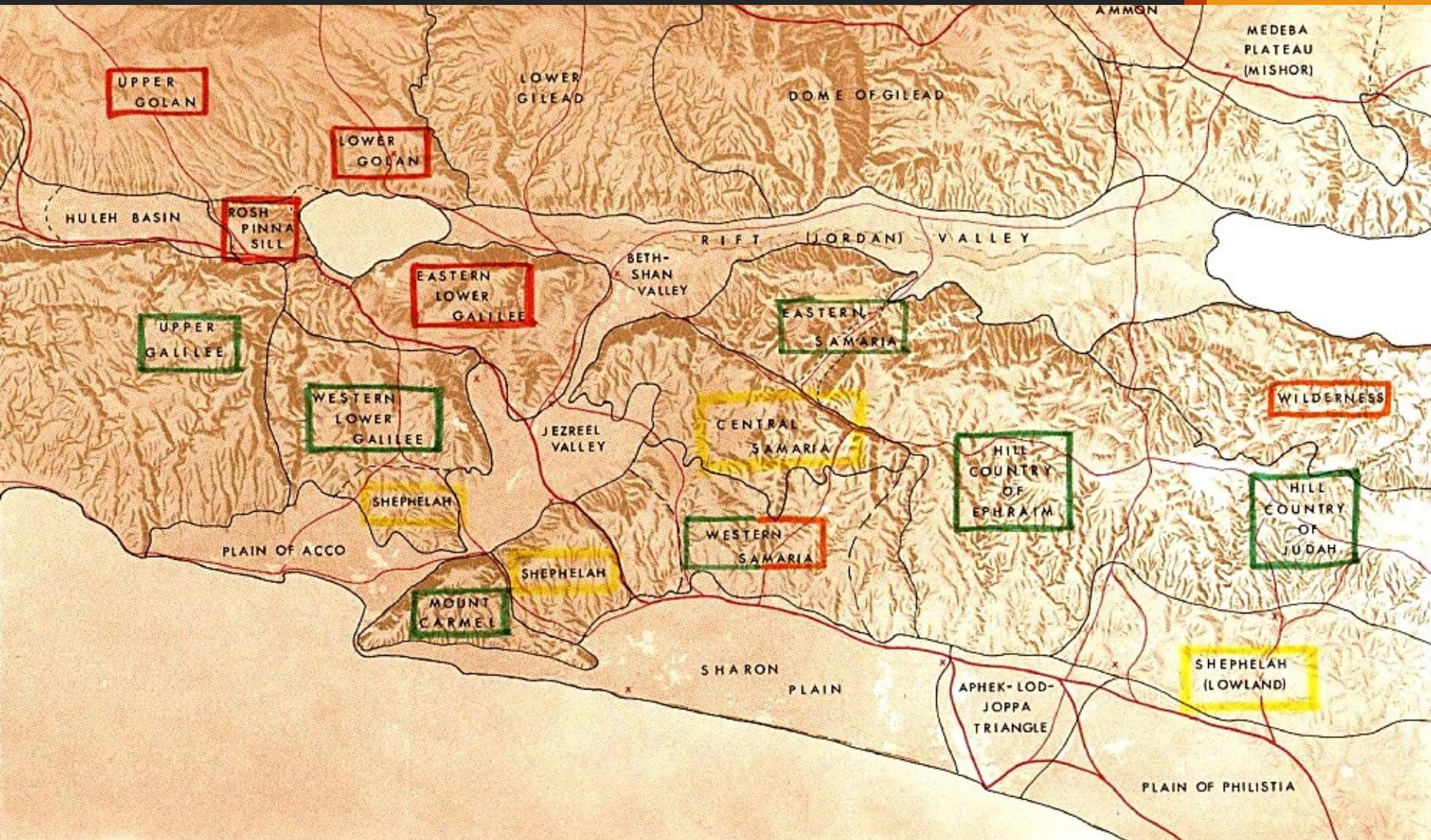
Beitzel, Moody Atlas, p. xv

Introduction to the Topography and Climate of Israel



V. Geology and Topography

Look at Israel from West to East



Left Stage

Life in Ancient Israel

Right Stage

Farmers

Land of Honey

Herdsmen

Land of Milk

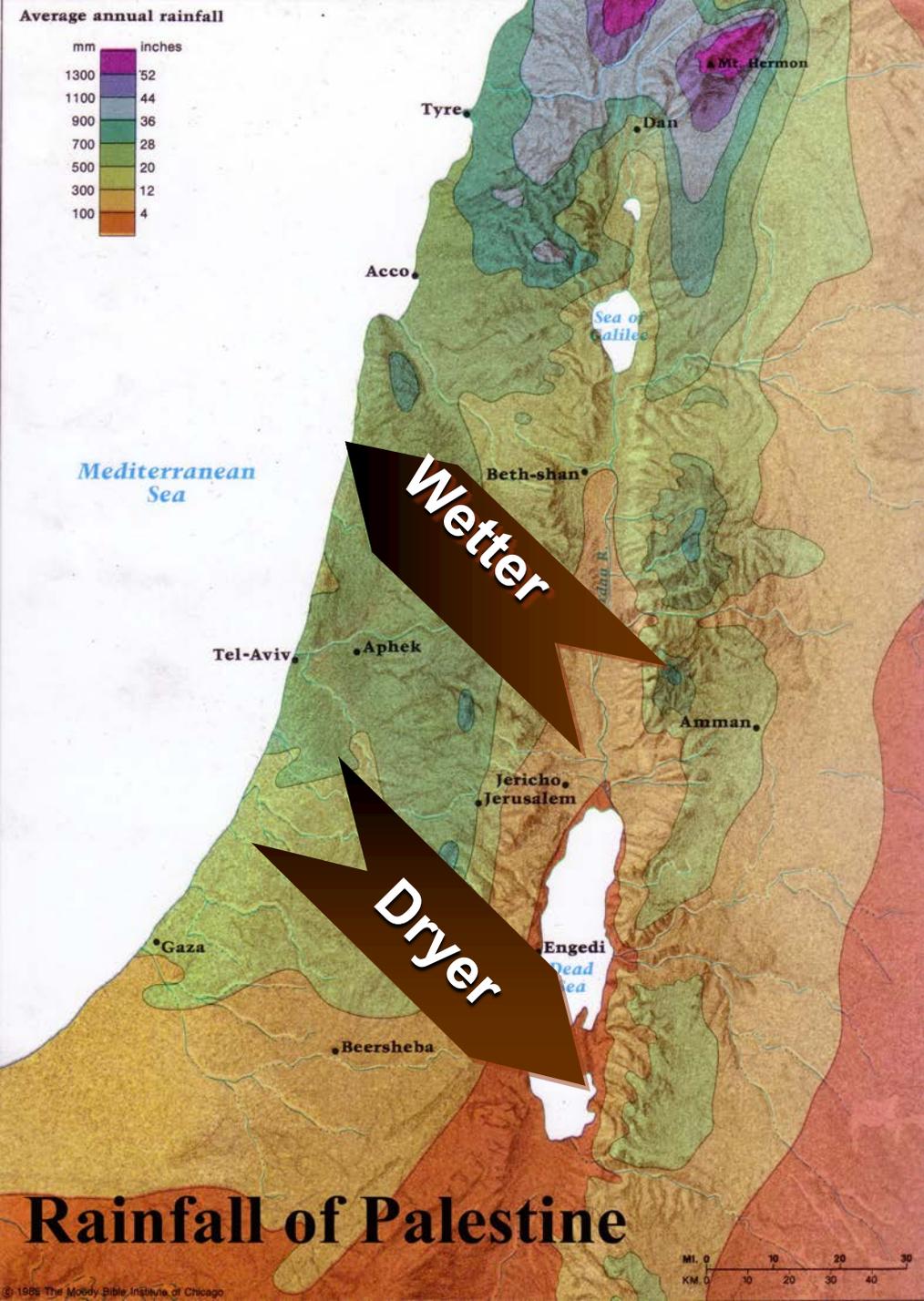


Climate

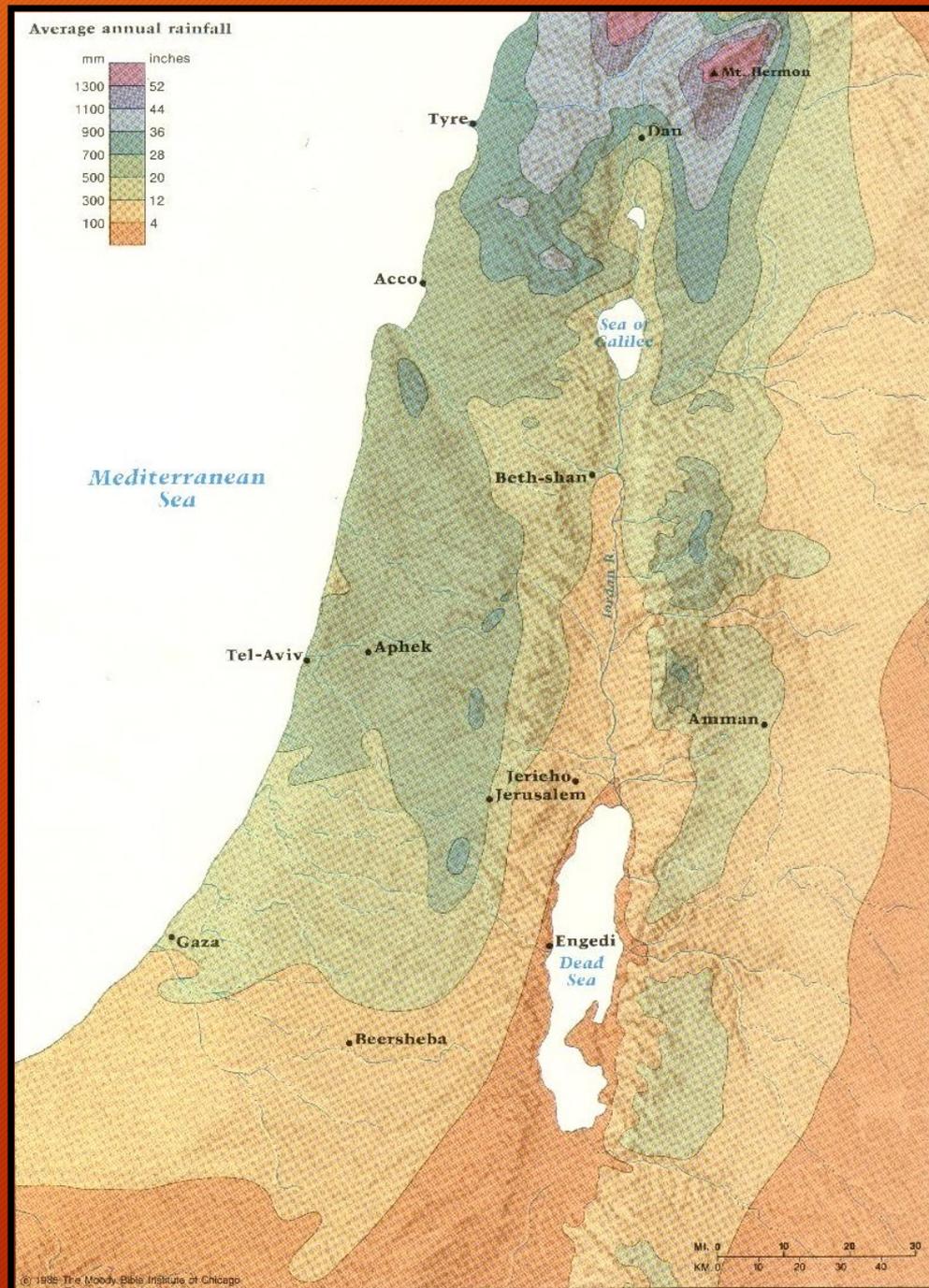
- East vs. West
- North vs. South
- Watershed Ridge (Seaward/Leeward)



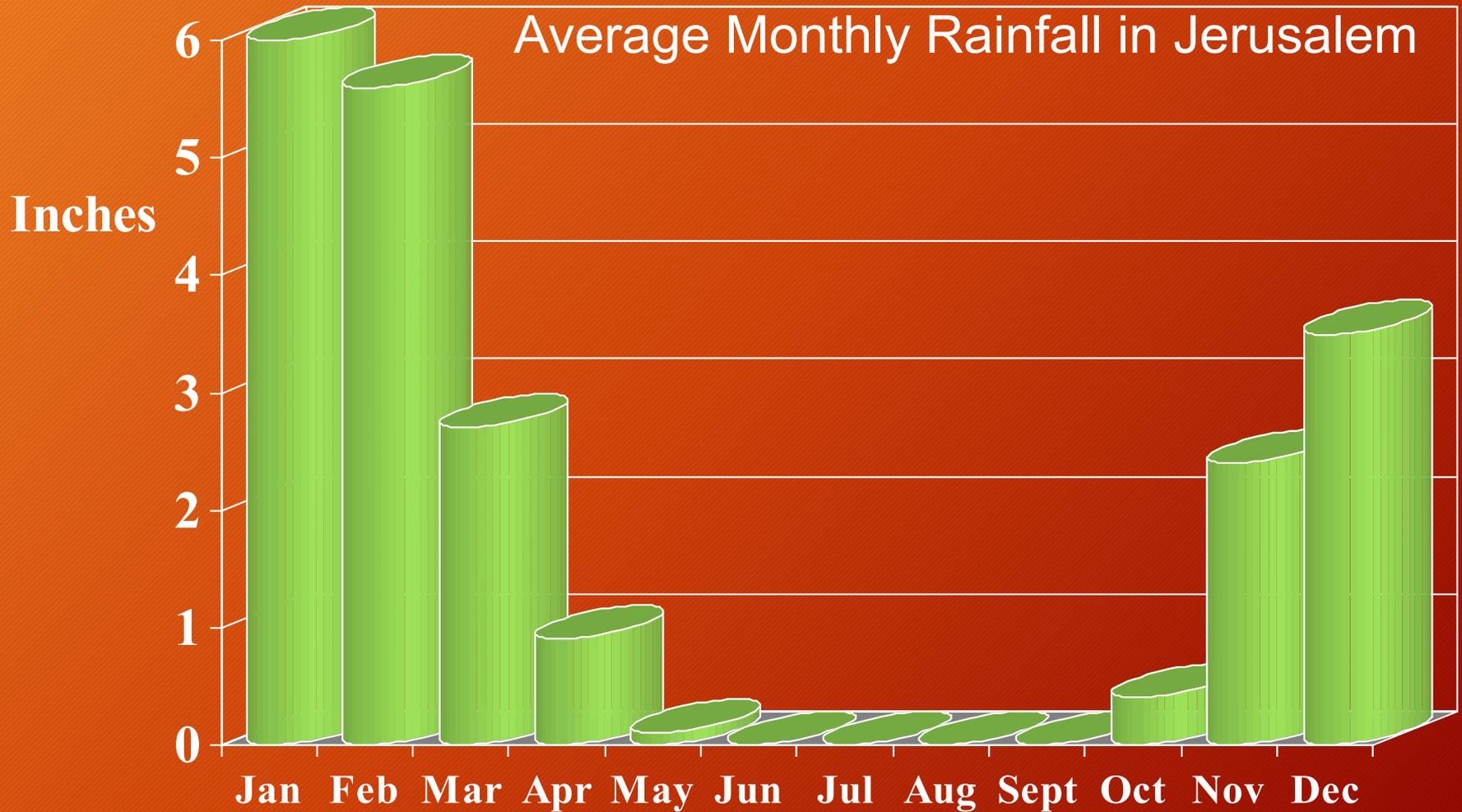
Rainfall in Israel



Rainfall in Israel

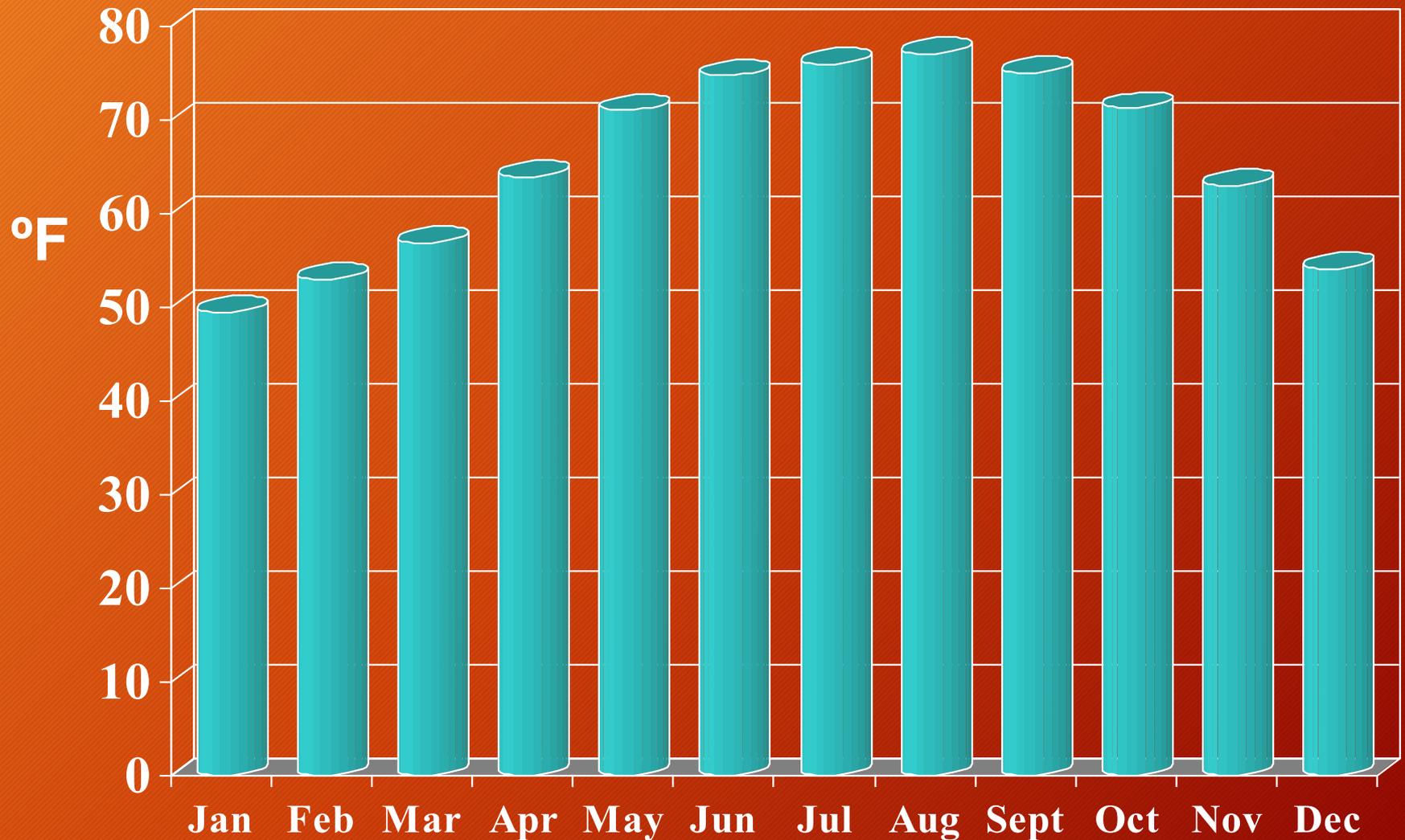


Effect of the Seasons



Effect of the Seasons

Average Temperatures in Jerusalem



Effect of the Seasons



Effect of the Seasons



The Seven Species (Deut 8:7-10)

⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills;

The Seven Species (Deut 8:7-10)

⁸ a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey;

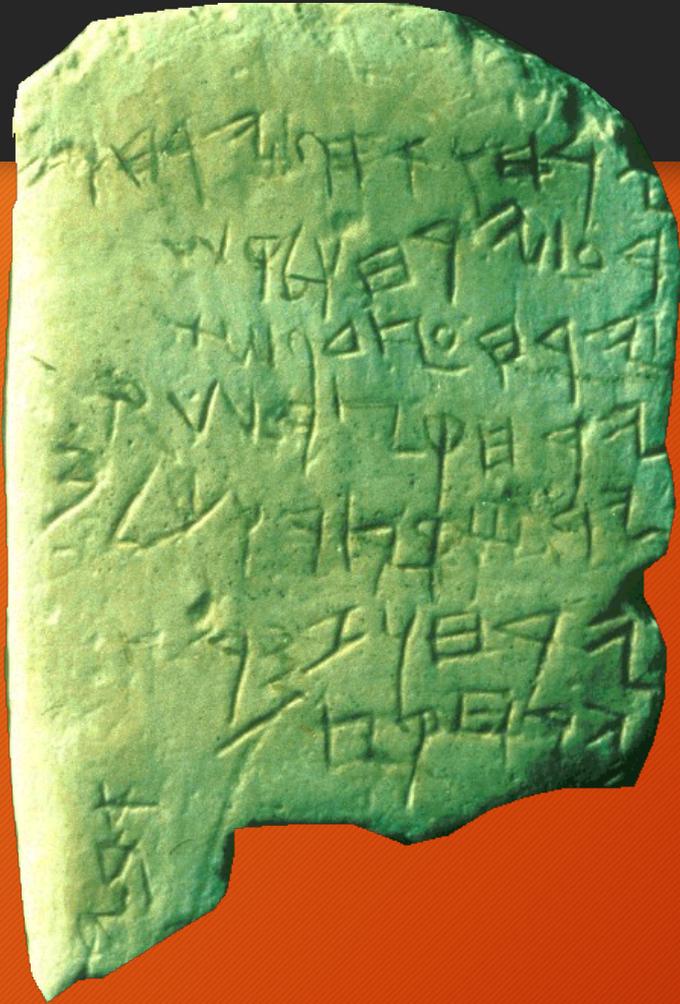
The Seven Species (Deut 8:7-10)

° a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

The Seven Species (Deut 8:7-10)

¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

Gezer Calendar



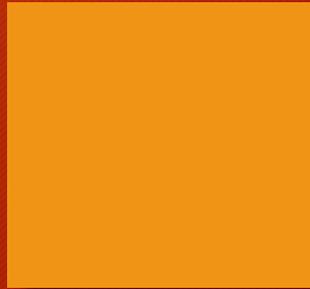
- 950 B.C.
- One of earliest Hebrew inscriptions
- Poem describes agricultural year

Habakkuk 3:17-18

- Though the fig tree does not bud
- and there are no grapes on the vines,
- though the olive crop fails
- and the fields produce no food,
- though there are no sheep in the pen
- and no cattle in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Introduction to New Testament Geography



New Testament Geography



Bodies of Water in Israel

NT: Sea of Galilee

105 km. (65 mi.)

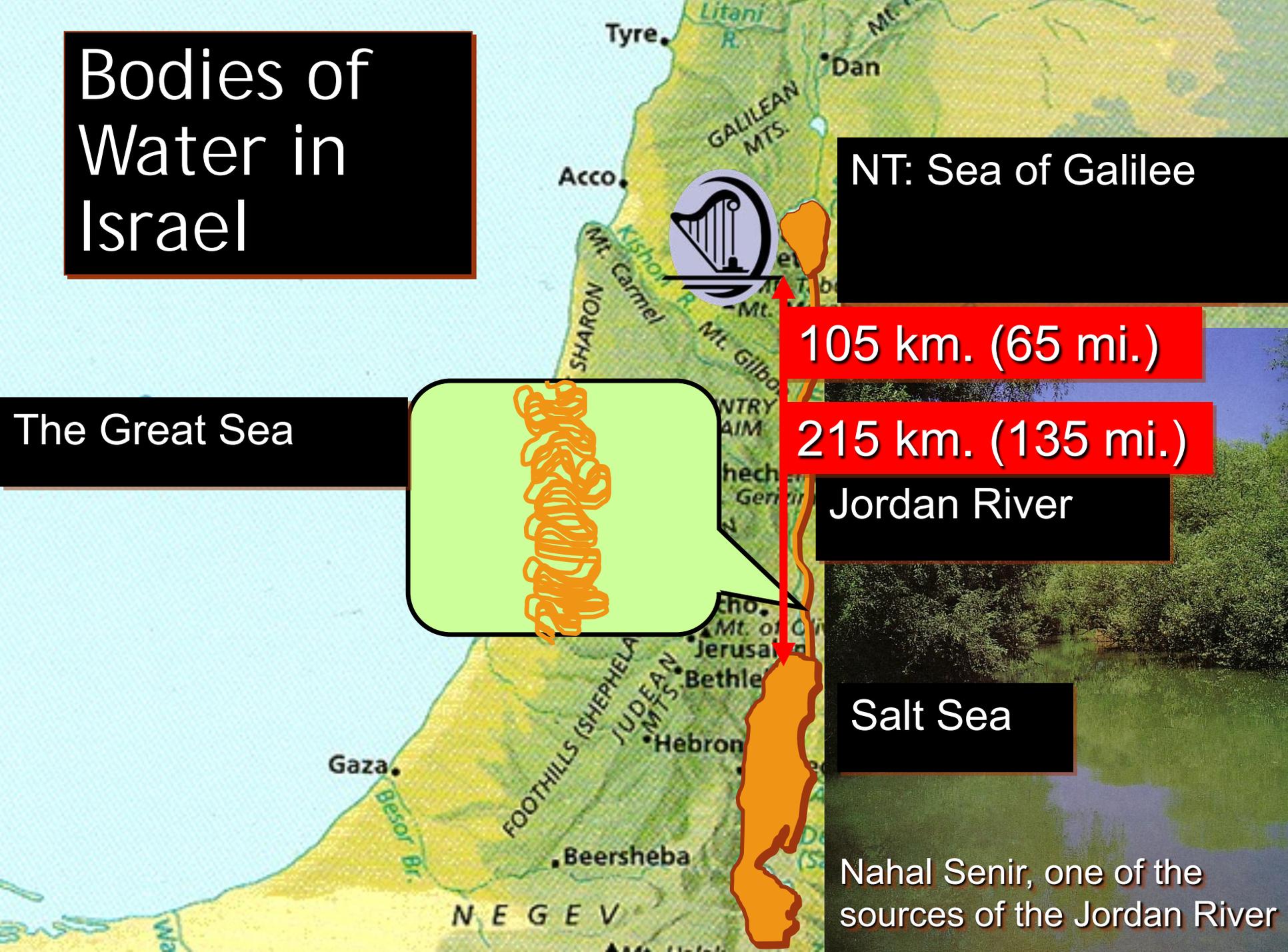
215 km. (135 mi.)

Jordan River

Salt Sea

Nahal Senir, one of the sources of the Jordan River

The Great Sea



The Sea of Galilee

(North shore
looking east))



The Sea of Galilee

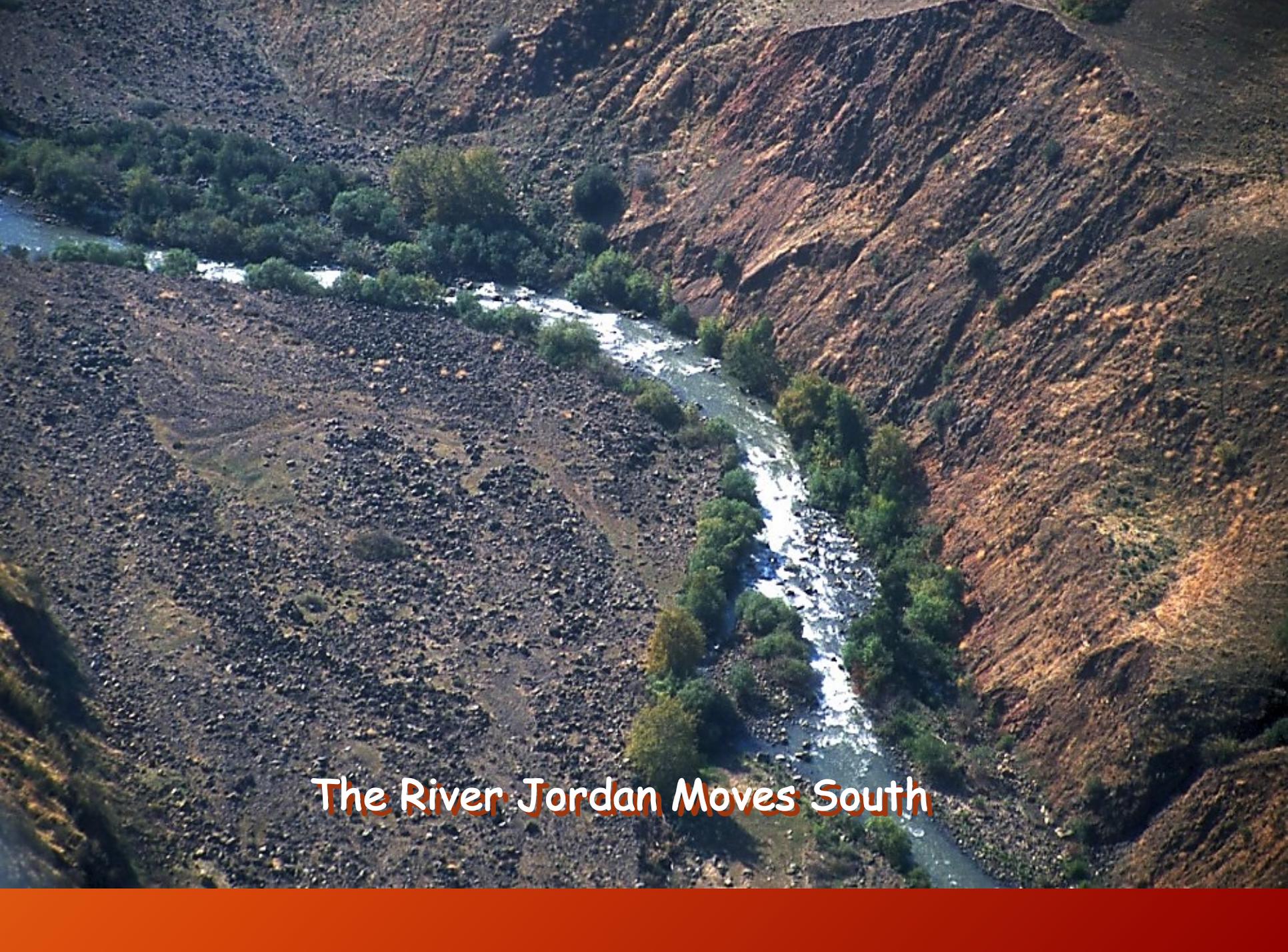
(South shore
looking east))



The Sea of Galilee

(North shore
looking east))





The River Jordan Moves South

Mountains in Israel



Hermon

Carmel

Tabor

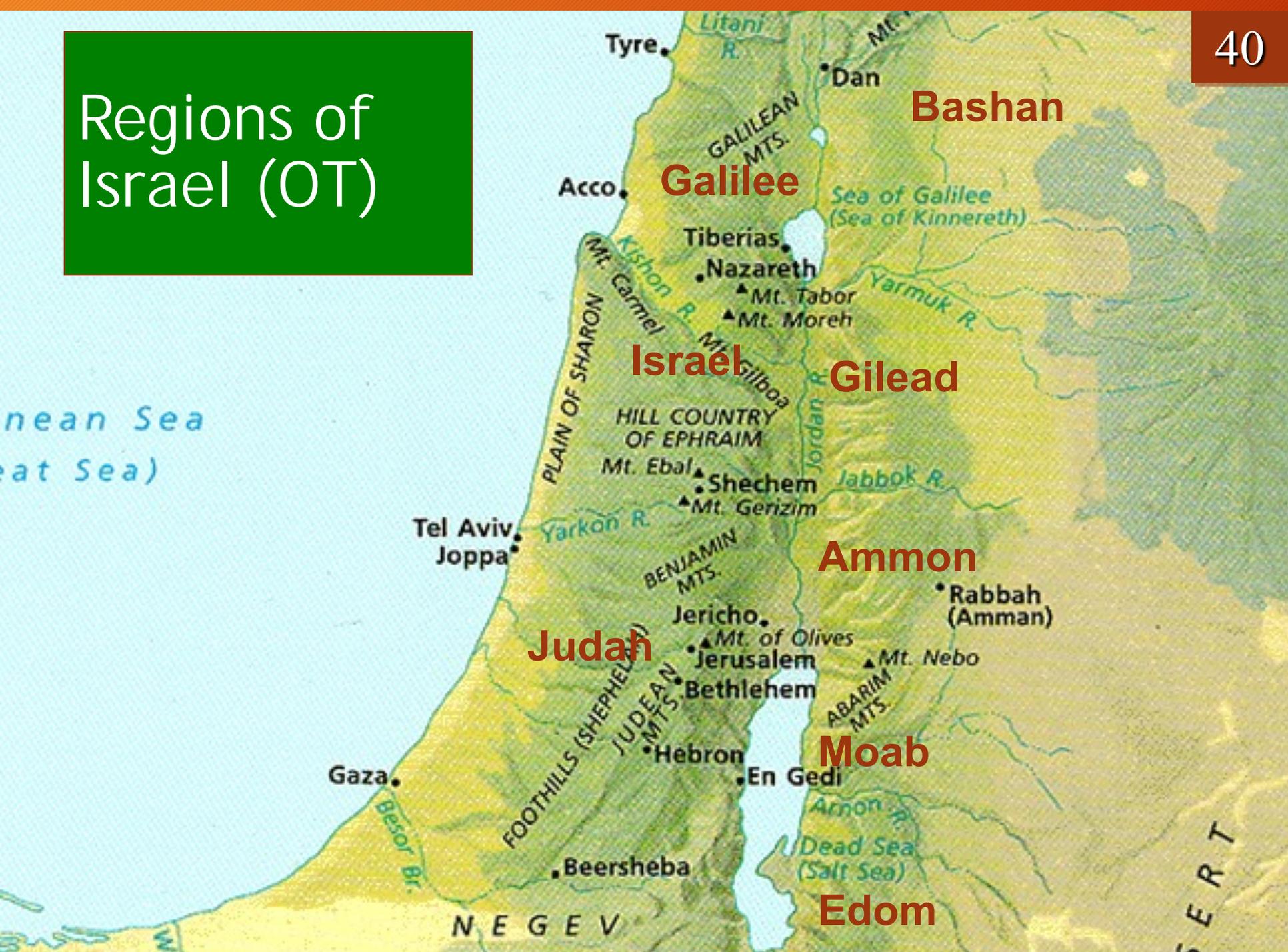
Gilboa

Olives

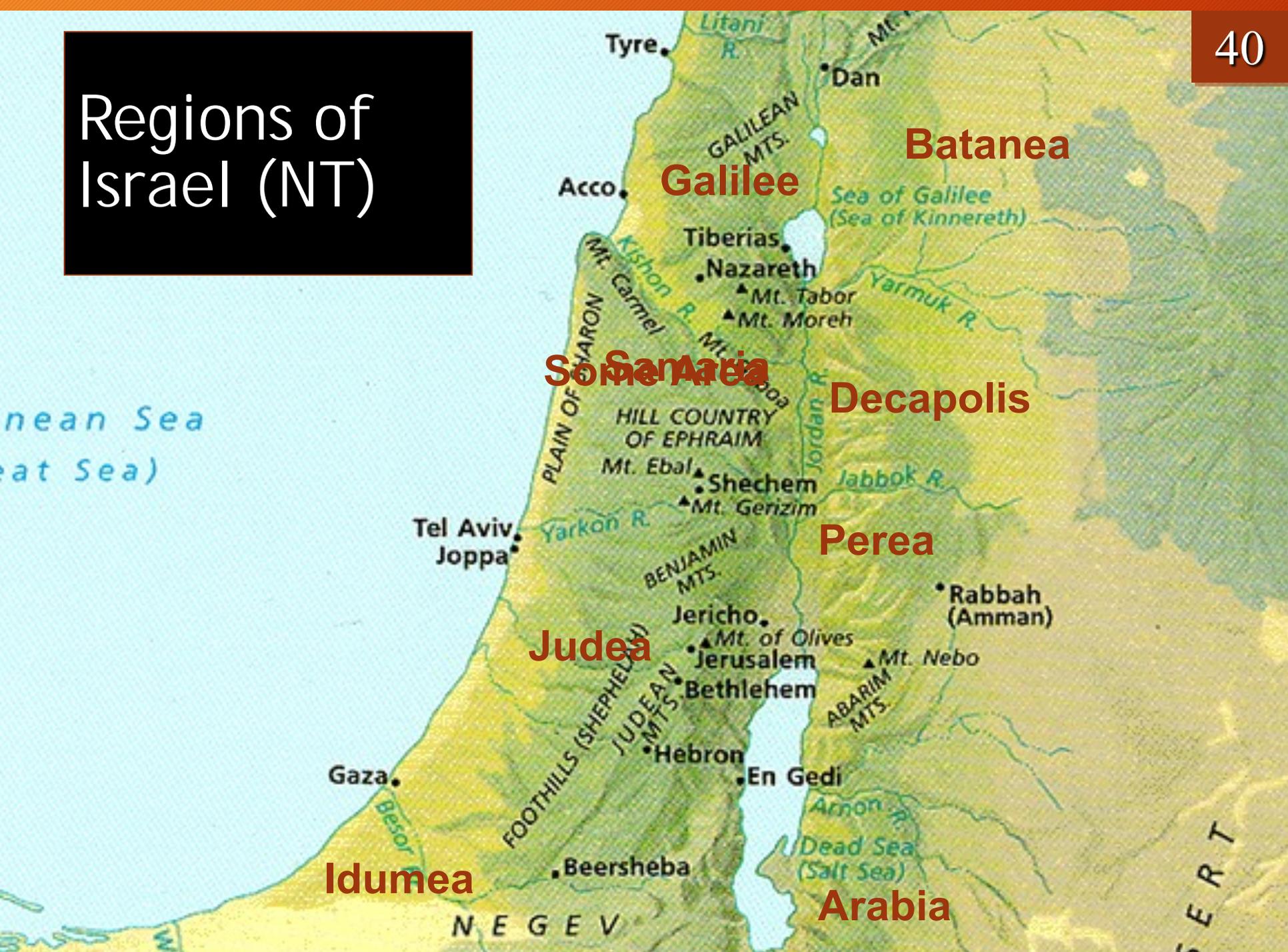
Nebo

Hor

Regions of Israel (OT)



Regions of Israel (NT)



Galilee

Batanea

Samaria

Decapolis

Perea

Judea

Idumea

Arabia

Mediterranean Sea
(Great Sea)

NEGEV

DESERT

Travel in Ancient Israel

West & North

East & South



Life in Ancient Israel



Phoenicians

Syrians

Romans

Desert Peoples,
The "ites"

Sea Peoples,
The "ians" (mostly)

Babylonians

Assyrians

Philistines

Egyptians

Life in

Ancient Israel

Canaanites

Gileadites

Amorites

Ammonites

Israelites

Rabbah
(Amman)

Jebusites

Moabites

Amalekites

Edomites

Tyre

Dan

Tiberias

Nazareth

Mt. Tabor

Mt. Moreh

PLAIN OF SHARON

HILL COUNTRY
OF EPHRAIM

Mt. Ebal

Shechem

Tel Aviv

Joppa

Israelites

Jericho

Mt. of Olives

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Mt. Nebo

Hebron

En Gedi

Gaza

FOOTHILLS (SHEPHERD)
JUDEAN MOUNTAINS

Beersheba

Dead Sea
(Salt Sea)

DESERT



Northern Israel:

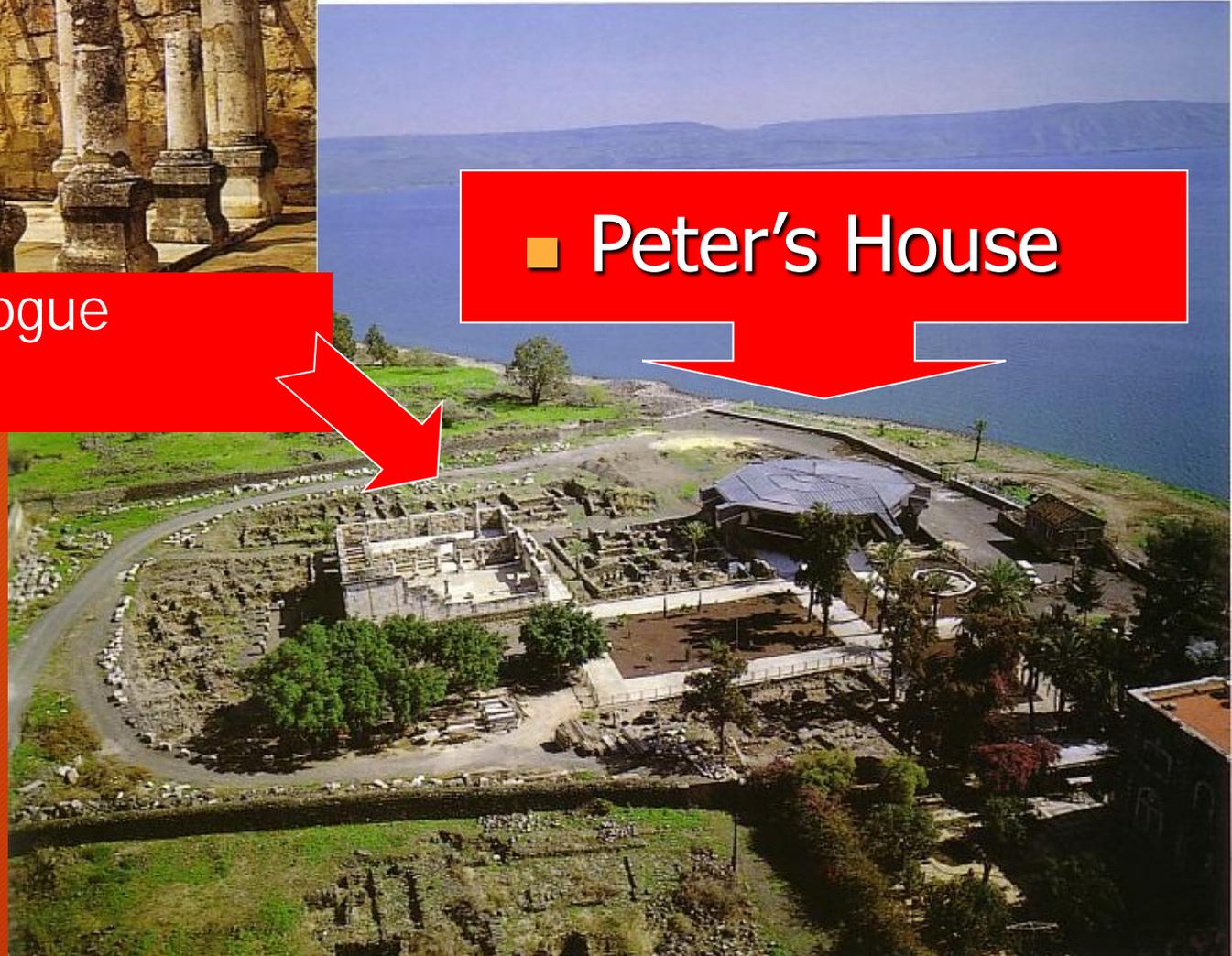
- Caesarea
- Galilee
- Decapolis

Capernaum Today

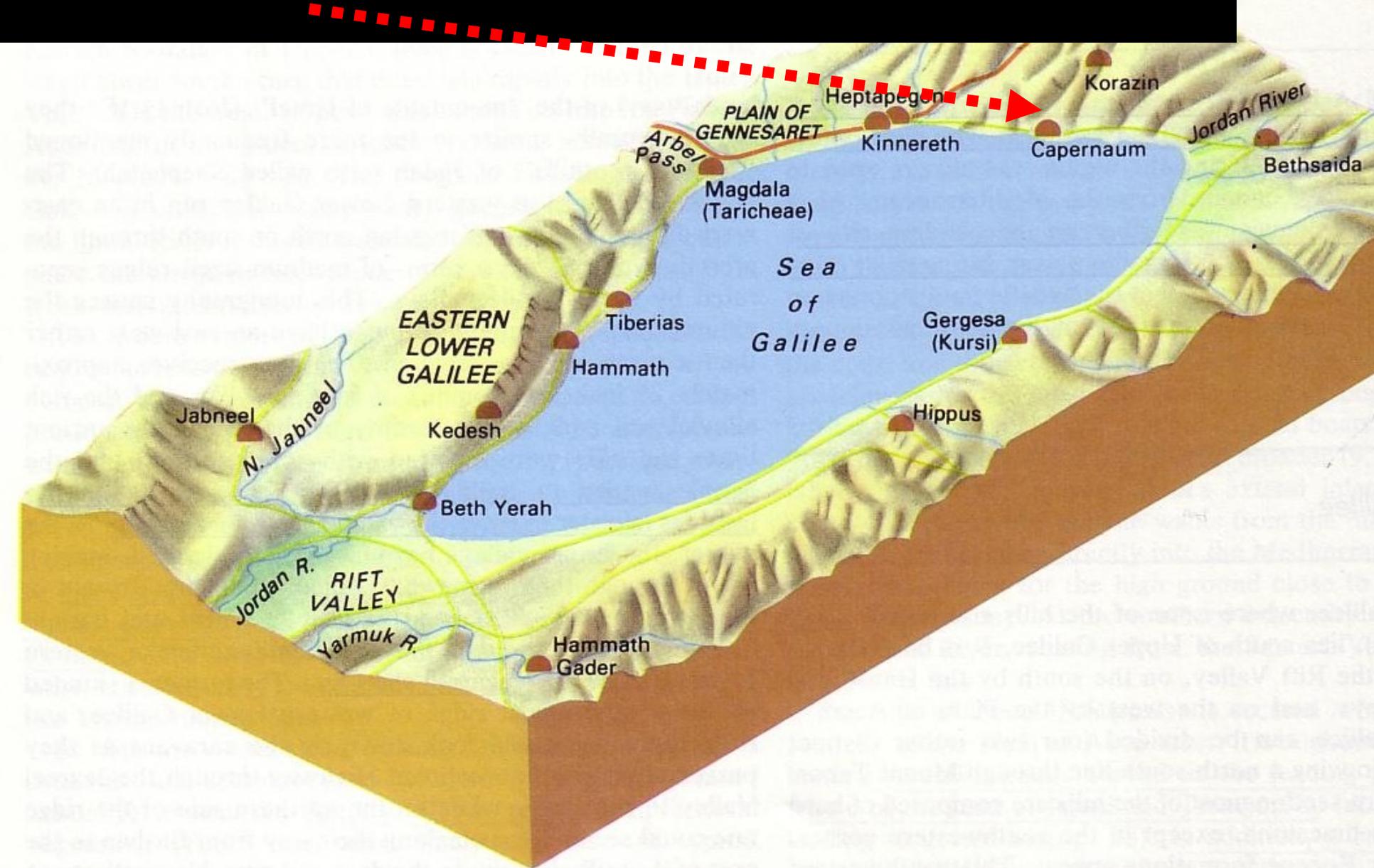


- Synagogue

■ Peter's House



Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee



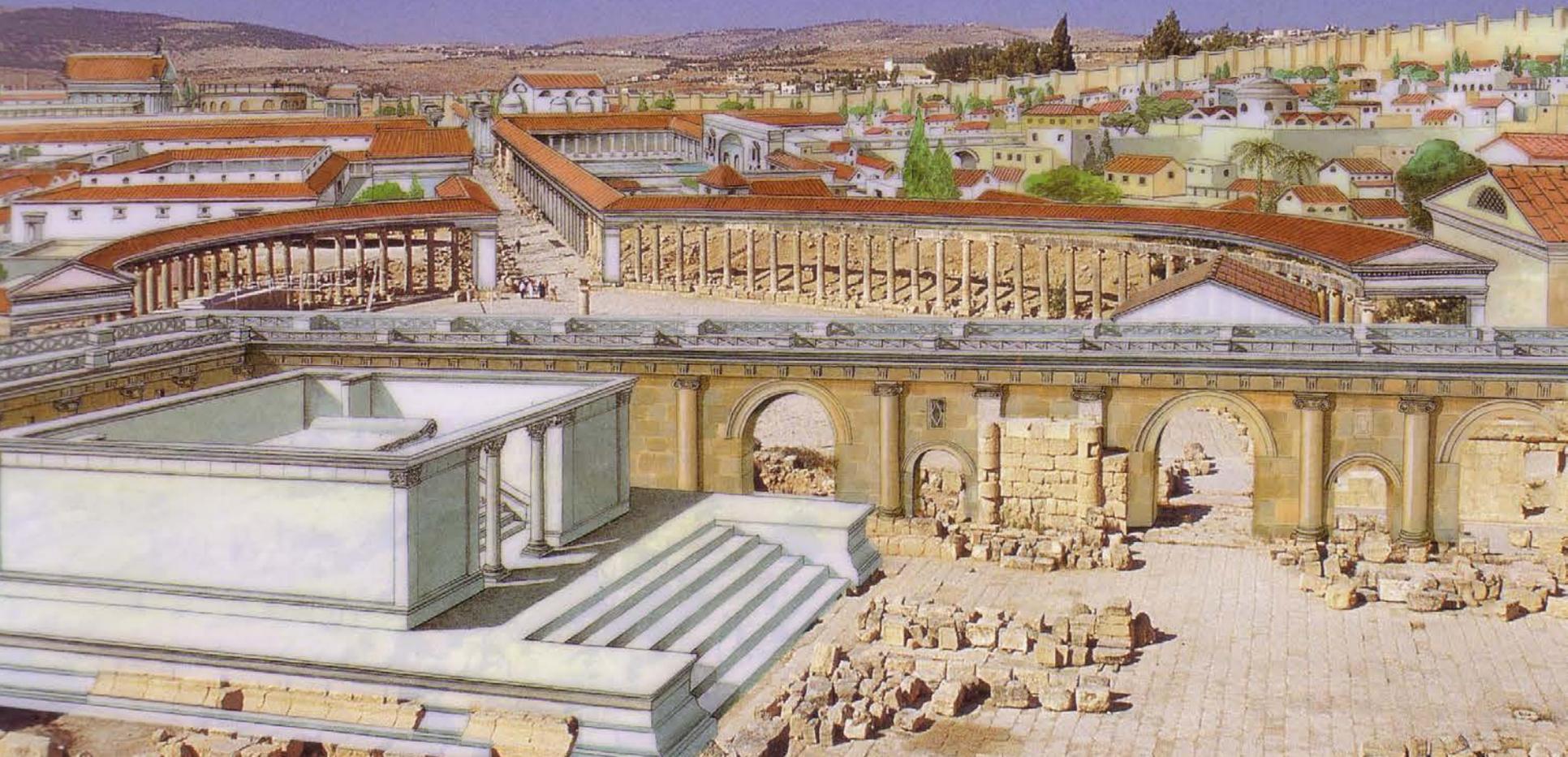
Greek Cities in Israel



Jerash of the Decapolis



Jerash in Its Glory Days

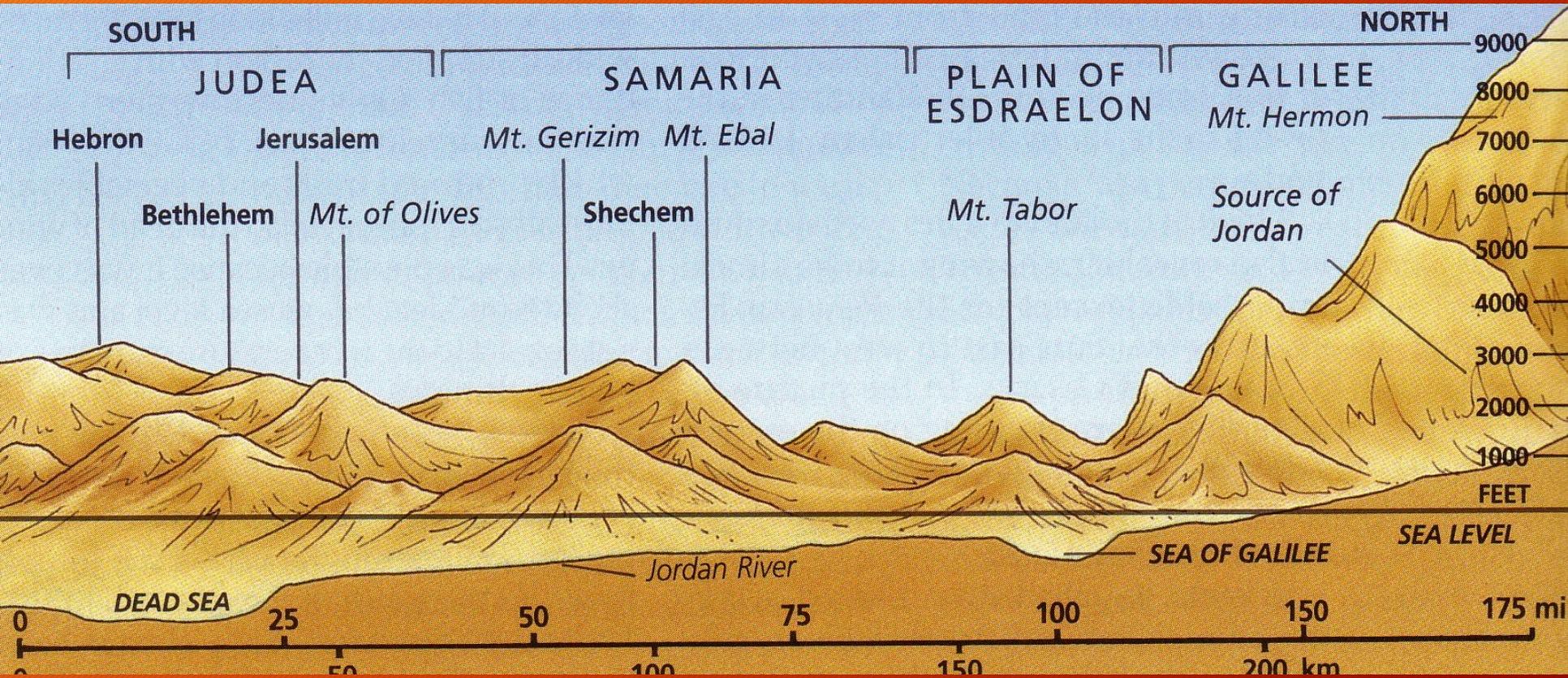


Israel

- Longitudinal Areas
- Southern Cities



South-North Elevations



Elevations in North-South Divisions



Coastal Plain

Coastal Plain

- Kurkar (sandstone) ridges in the foreground while looking east to the foothills



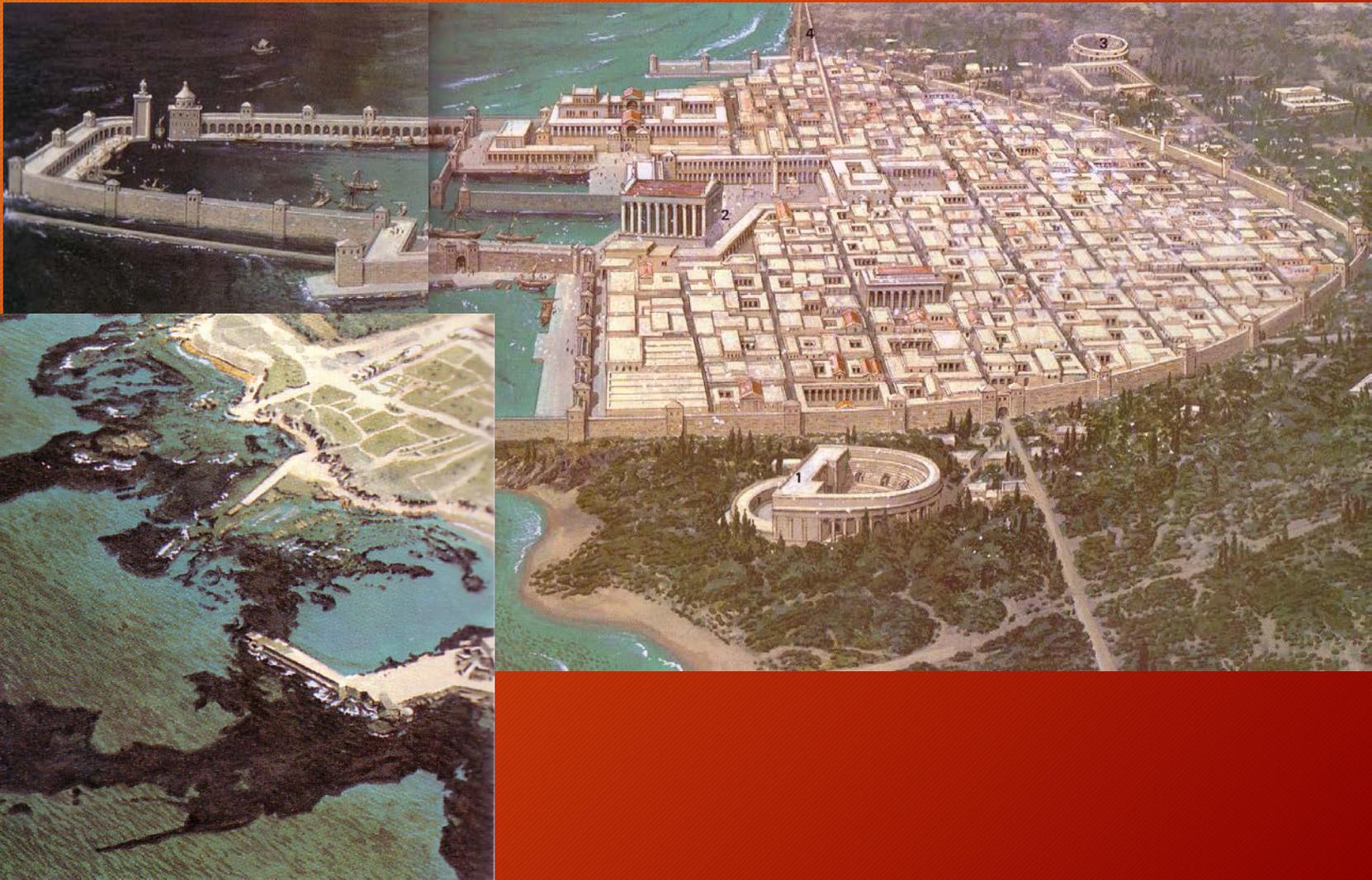
Coastal Plain

- Tyre



Coastal Plain

- Caesarea



Herod Built to Honor Caesar

- Caesarea

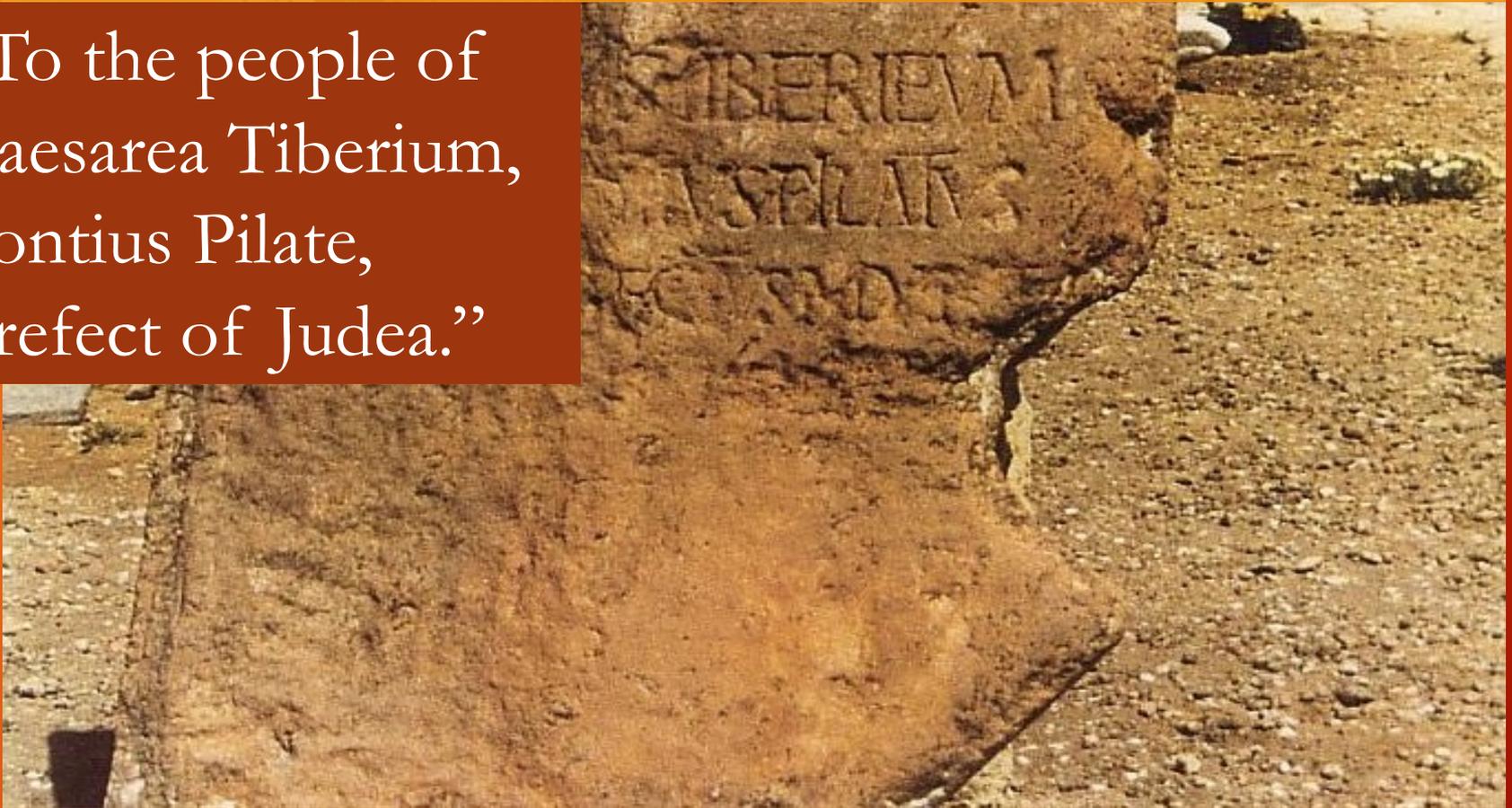


Caesarea Ruins



The Pilate Inscription

“To the people of
Caesarea Tiberium,
Pontius Pilate,
Prefect of Judea.”



- It is the first archaeological reference to Pilate

Peter was a Jewish businessman from Capernaum

A BUSTLING PORT welcomed visitors to the prosperous village of Capernaum in Jesus' time, as drawn by archaeological draftsman Leen Ritmeyer. A 2,500-foot-long promenade lined the shore. Boats moored along the harbor's array of paired curved piers, straight docks and triangular piers. The remains of these unusually shaped piers are still visible during dry seasons. In the photo (lower left), one pier juts into the sea just south of Capernaum's red-domed Greek Orthodox church.

Capernaum's synagogue, where Jesus preached (John 6:59), appears at upper left in the drawing, where it is shown with three doors and a raised central roof with an arched motif at one end. The building identified since the fourth century as the home of the apostle Peter lies between the synagogue and the harbor. According to Matthew 8:14-16 and Mark 2:1, Jesus lodged here. The home consists of several small rooms built around two central courtyards.

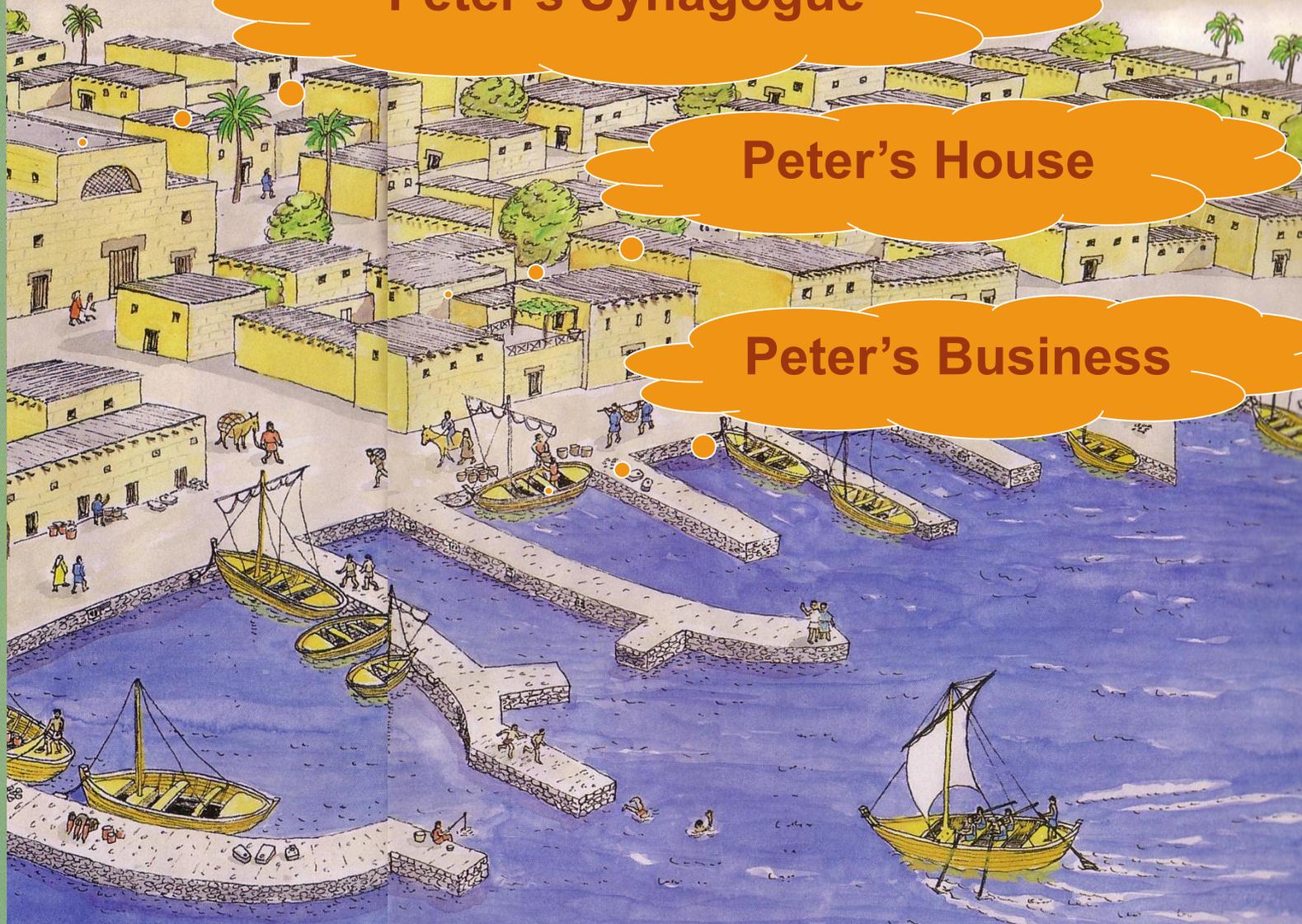
The ancient harbor extended from the area now owned by the Franciscan church, at left in the aerial photo (lower left), to the Greek Orthodox church at right.

LEEN RITMEYER

Peter's Synagogue

Peter's House

Peter's Business



Coastal Plain

- Gaza



Elevations in North-South Divisions



Shephelah



■ Valleys and Hills

Understanding the Geography of the Bible

The “High Mountain” of the
Transfiguration

**Mt. Tabor—
Hill or Mountain?
1,843 feet above sea level**



Mt. Hermon

9,232 feet = High Mountain

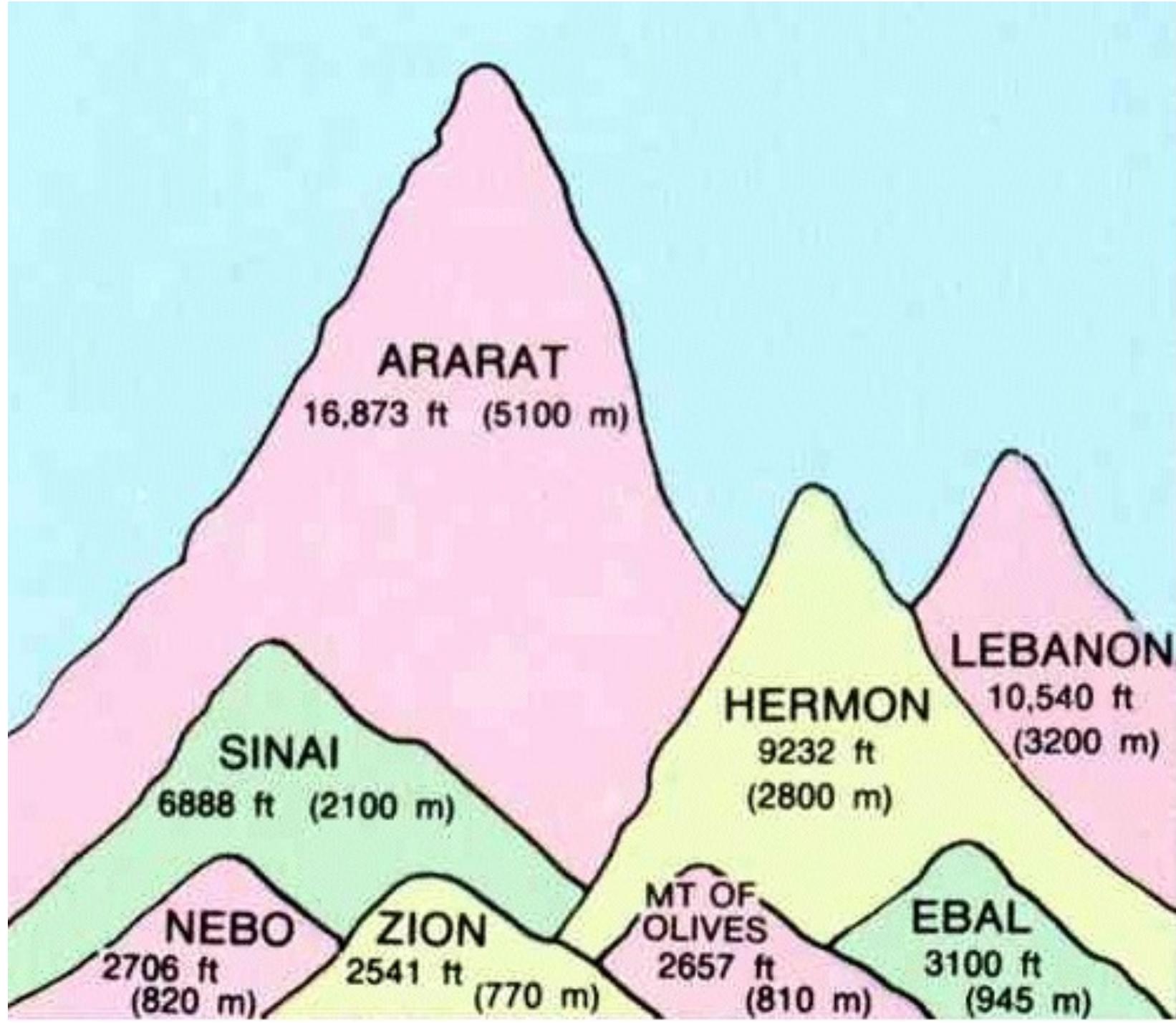
He led them up on a “high mountain” Matt 17:1; Mk 9:2



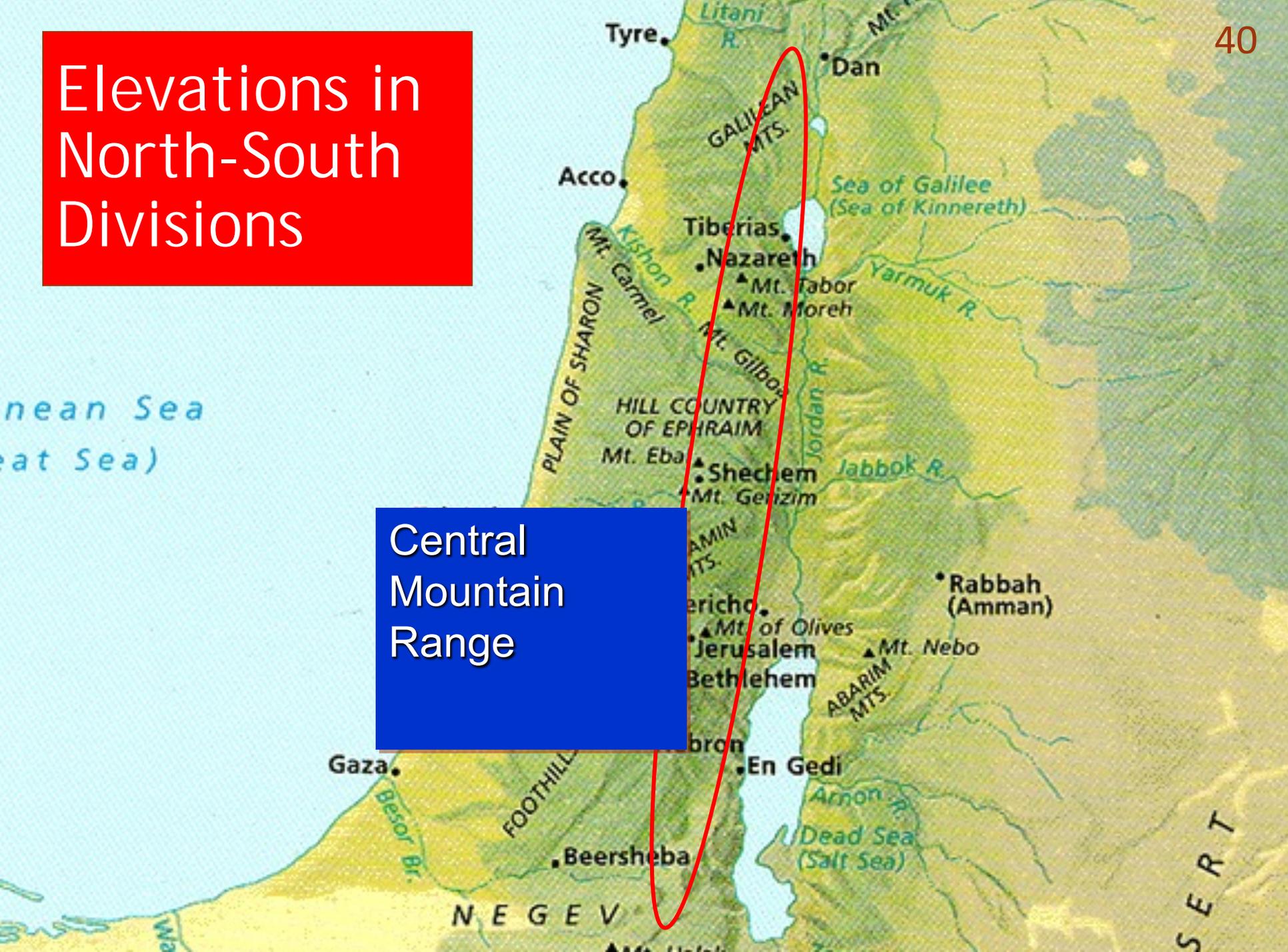
Mt. Hermon

9,232 feet = High Mountain





Elevations in North-South Divisions



Central Mountain Range

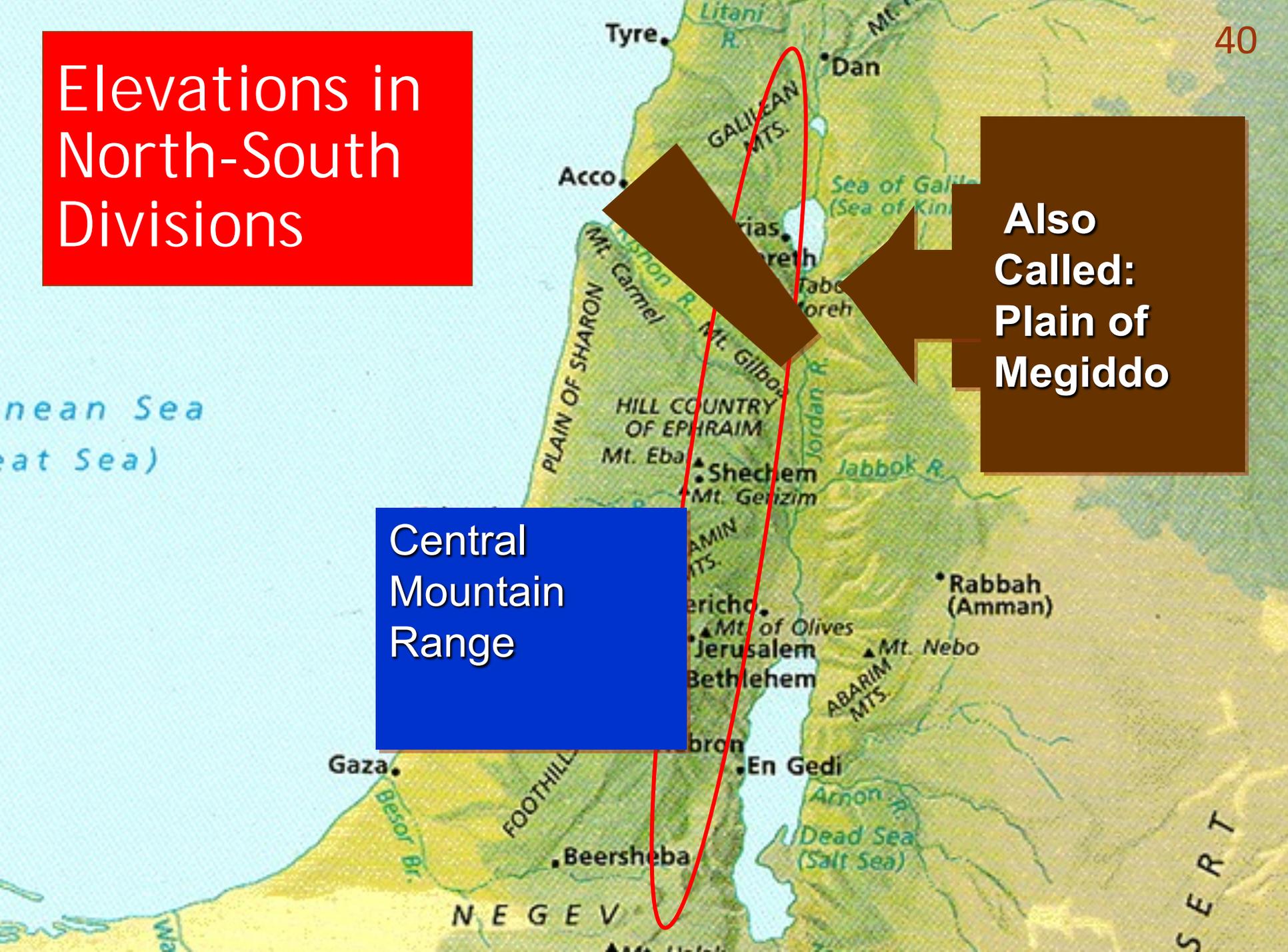


Judean Hills

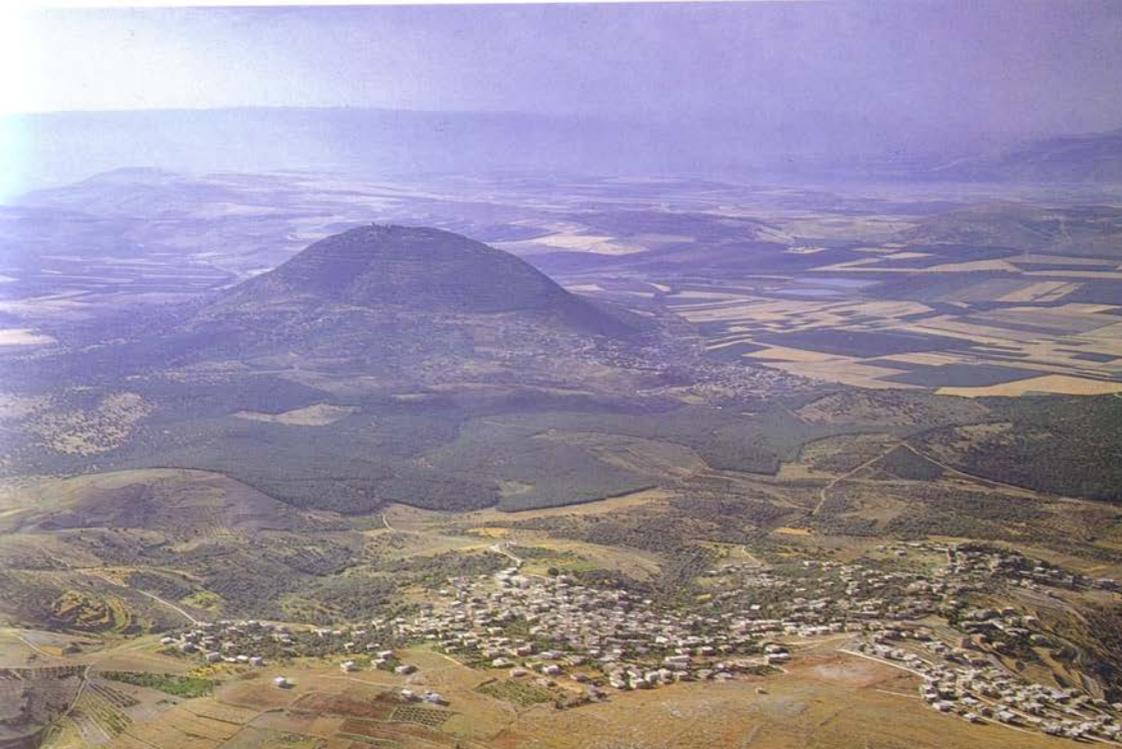
Elevations in North-South Divisions

Also Called: Plain of Megiddo

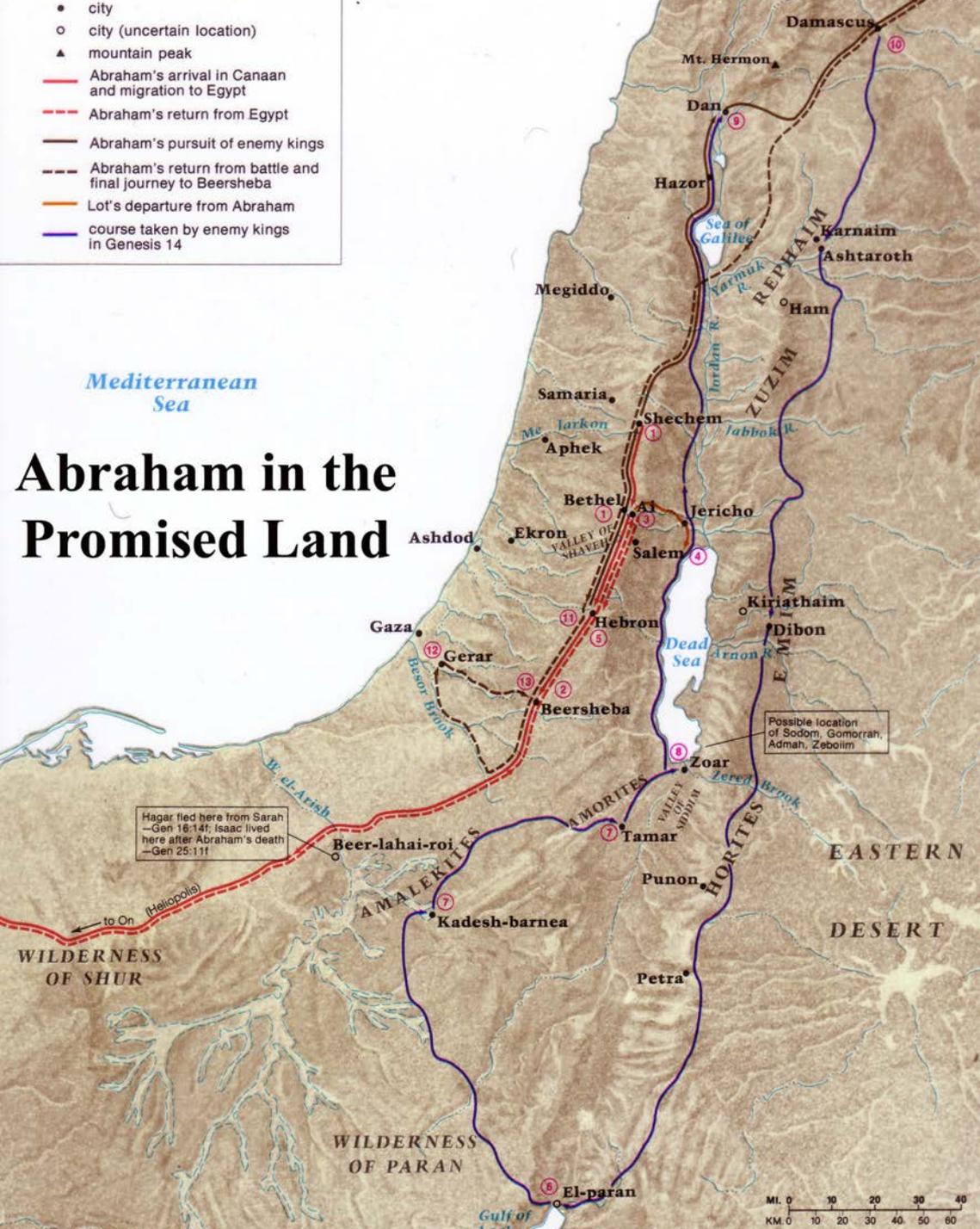
Central Mountain Range



Mount Tabor in the Jezreel Valley



- city (uncertain location)
- ▲ mountain peak
- Abraham's arrival in Canaan and migration to Egypt
- - - Abraham's return from Egypt
- Abraham's pursuit of enemy kings
- - - Abraham's return from battle and final journey to Beersheba
- Lot's departure from Abraham
- course taken by enemy kings in Genesis 14

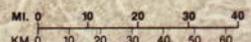


Abraham in the Promised Land

Abraham followed the Central Spine

Hagar fled here from Sarah
—Gen 16:14; Isaac lived here after Abraham's death
—Gen 25:111

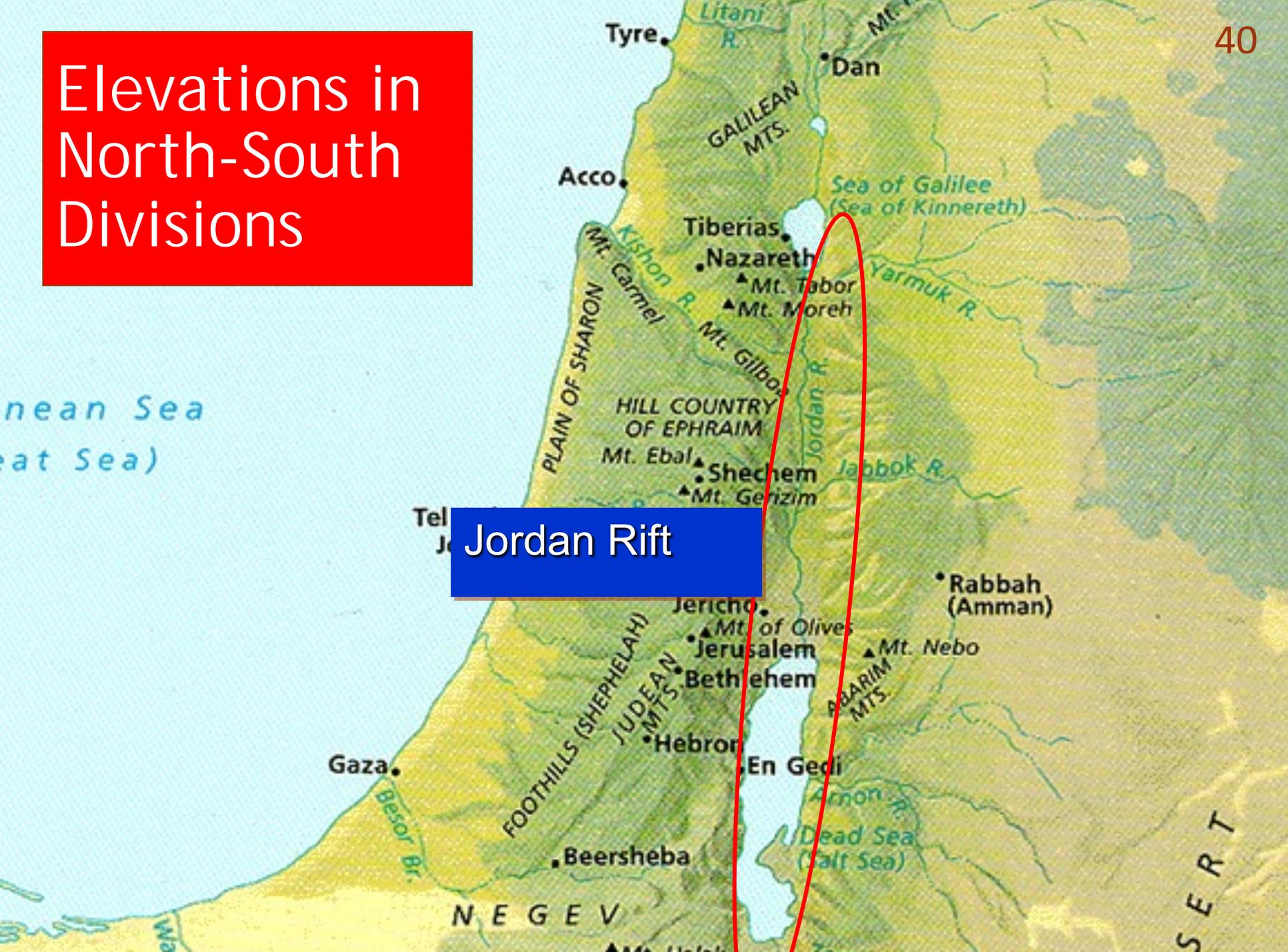
Possible location of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zebolim



The Wilderness of Judea



Elevations in North-South Divisions



Jordan Rift

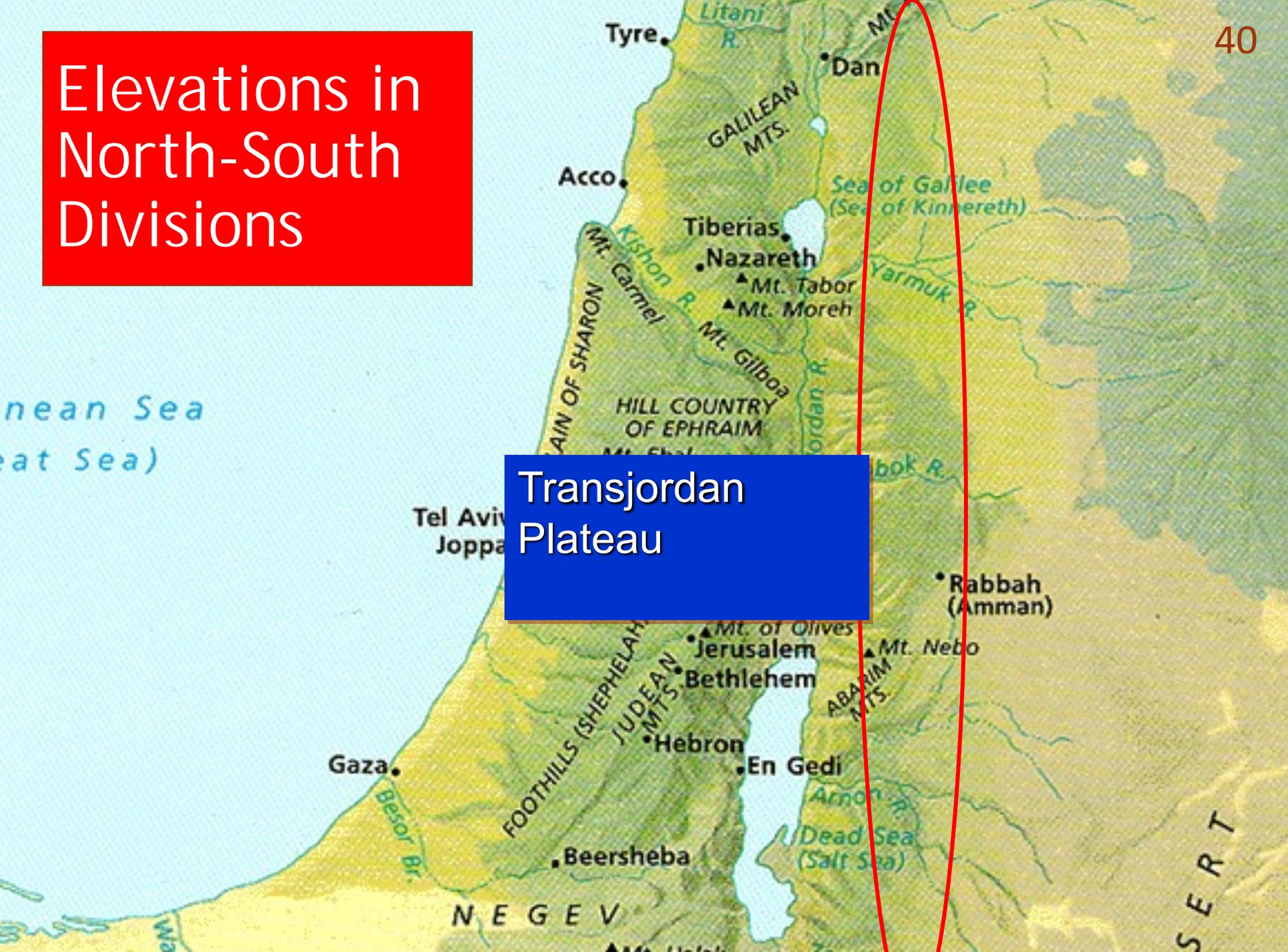
Jordan Rift

- Deep Depression

From the
Wilderness of
Judea looking
east to the Salt
Sea below



Elevations in North-South Divisions



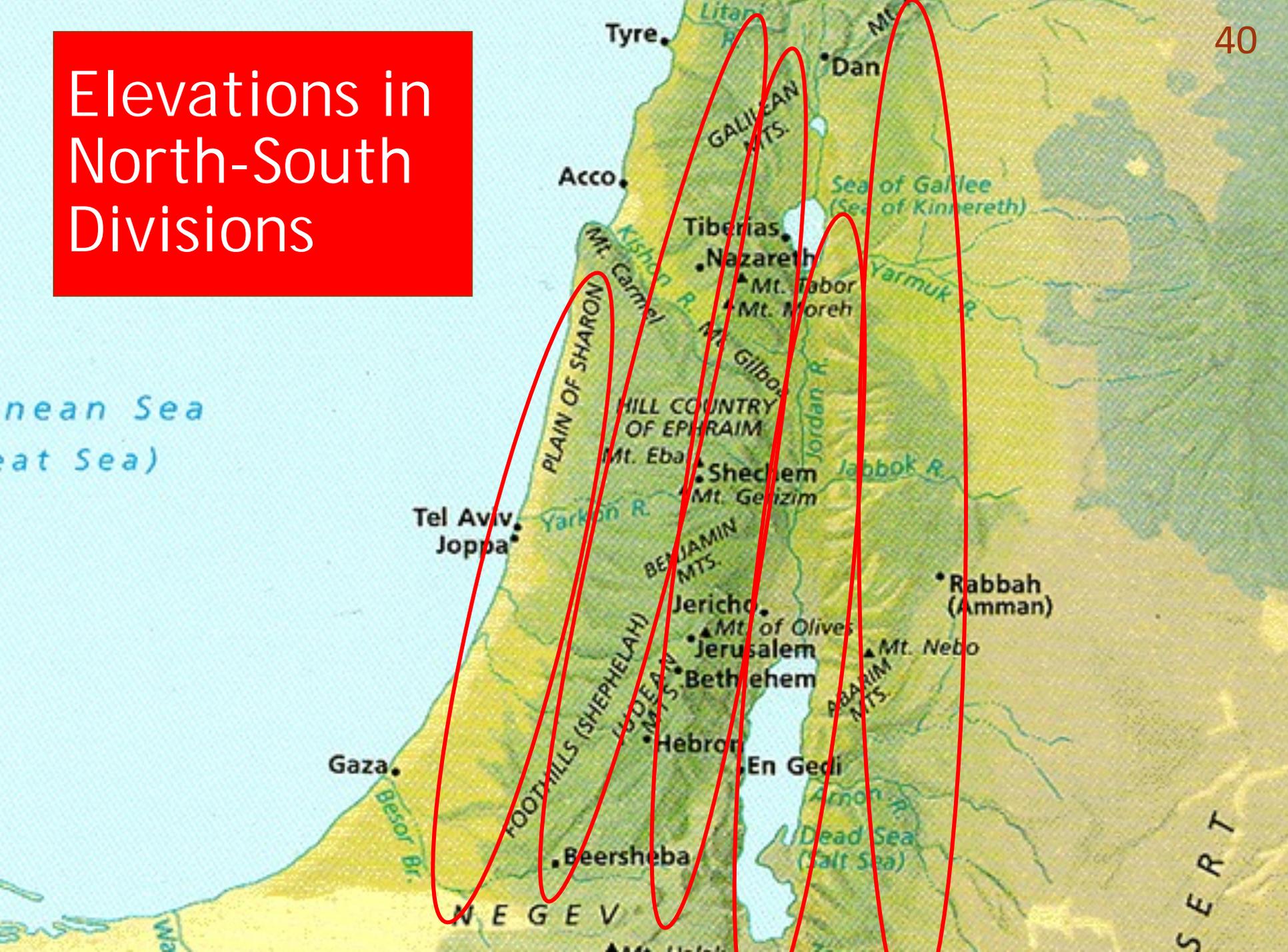
Transjordan Plateau

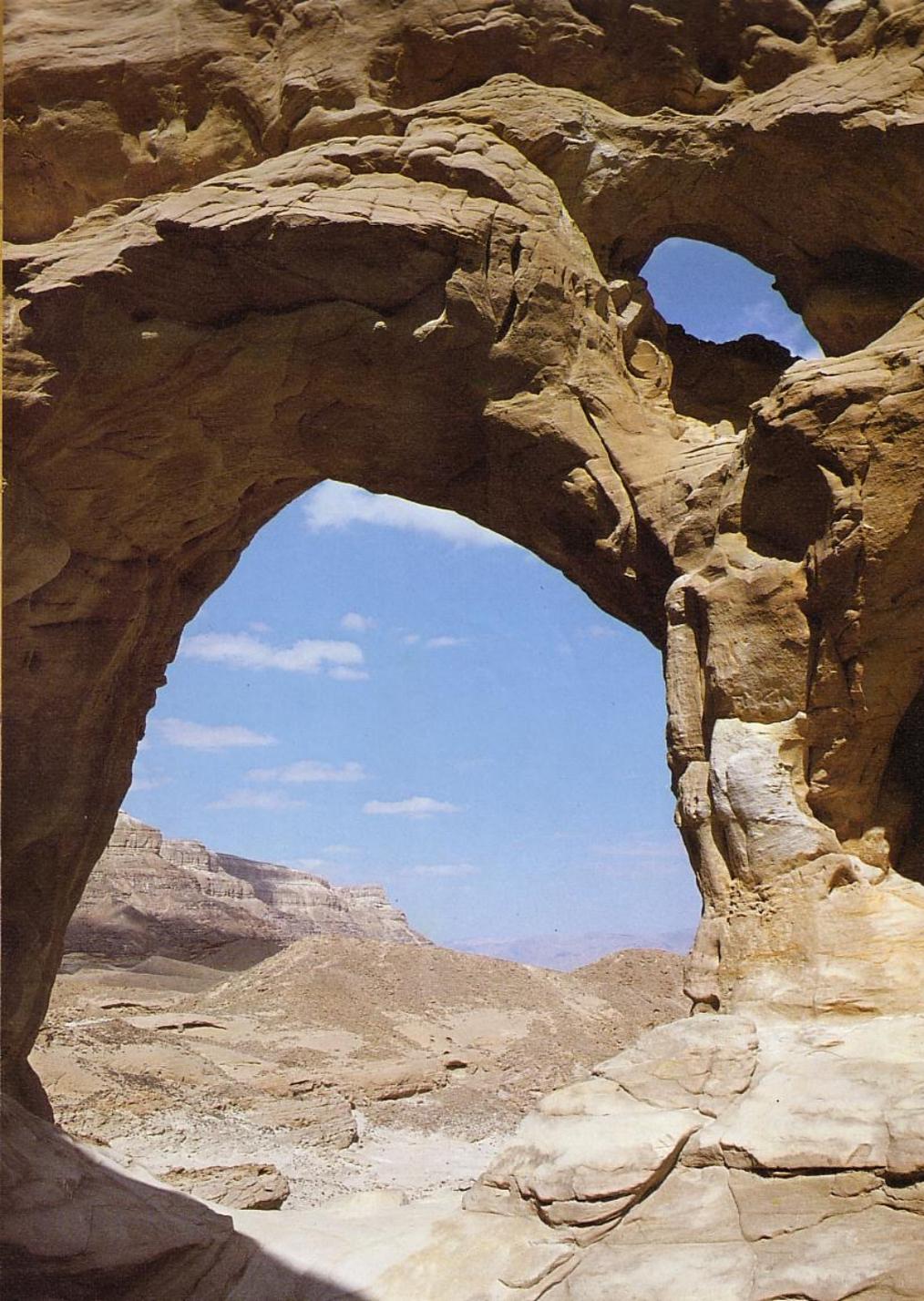
Transjordan Plateau

- Mt. Nebo



Elevations in North-South Divisions





The Negev

Egypt to Mesopotamia Trade





Petra

The King's Highway

Barry Beitzel,
Moody Atlas of Bible Lands, 87

The Spice Trade



Interesting Sites of Biblical Significance

The Lake of Galilee

The High Mountain of the Transfiguration

Mt. Tabor

Mt. Hermon

David versus Goliath in the Valley of Elah

The Mount of Beatitudes and Sermon on the Mount

Understanding the Geography of the Bible

The Lake of Galilee

Lake of Galilee

Matt. 4:18 ¶ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

Matt. 15:29 ¶ Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there.

Mark 1:16 ¶ And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

Mark 7:31 ¶ Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee.

John 6:1 After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.









Understanding the Geography of the Bible

The Mount of Beatitudes and Sermon on the Mount

Mount of Beatitudes



Church of the Beatitudes



Mount of the Beatitudes from Lake of Galilee



Looking Toward Lake of Galilee from Mount of the Beatitudes



Understanding the Geography of the Bible

David and Goliath in the Valley of Elah

Shephelah

- Farmland



David and Goliath

- 1 Samuel 17:1 NOW THE Philistines gathered their armies for battle and were assembled at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah in Ephes-dammim. ¶ 2Saul and the men of Israel were encamped in the Valley of Elah and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. ¶ 3And the Philistines stood on a mountain on one side and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

David Chooses Stone from Brook

- 36 Your servant killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 David said, The Lord Who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the Lord be with you! 38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. 39 And David girded his sword over his armor. Then he tried to go, but could not, for he was not used to it. And David said to Saul, I cannot go with these, for I am not used to them. And David took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones out of the brook and put them in his shepherd's [lunch] bag [a whole kid's skin slung from his shoulder], in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand, and he drew near the Philistine.

















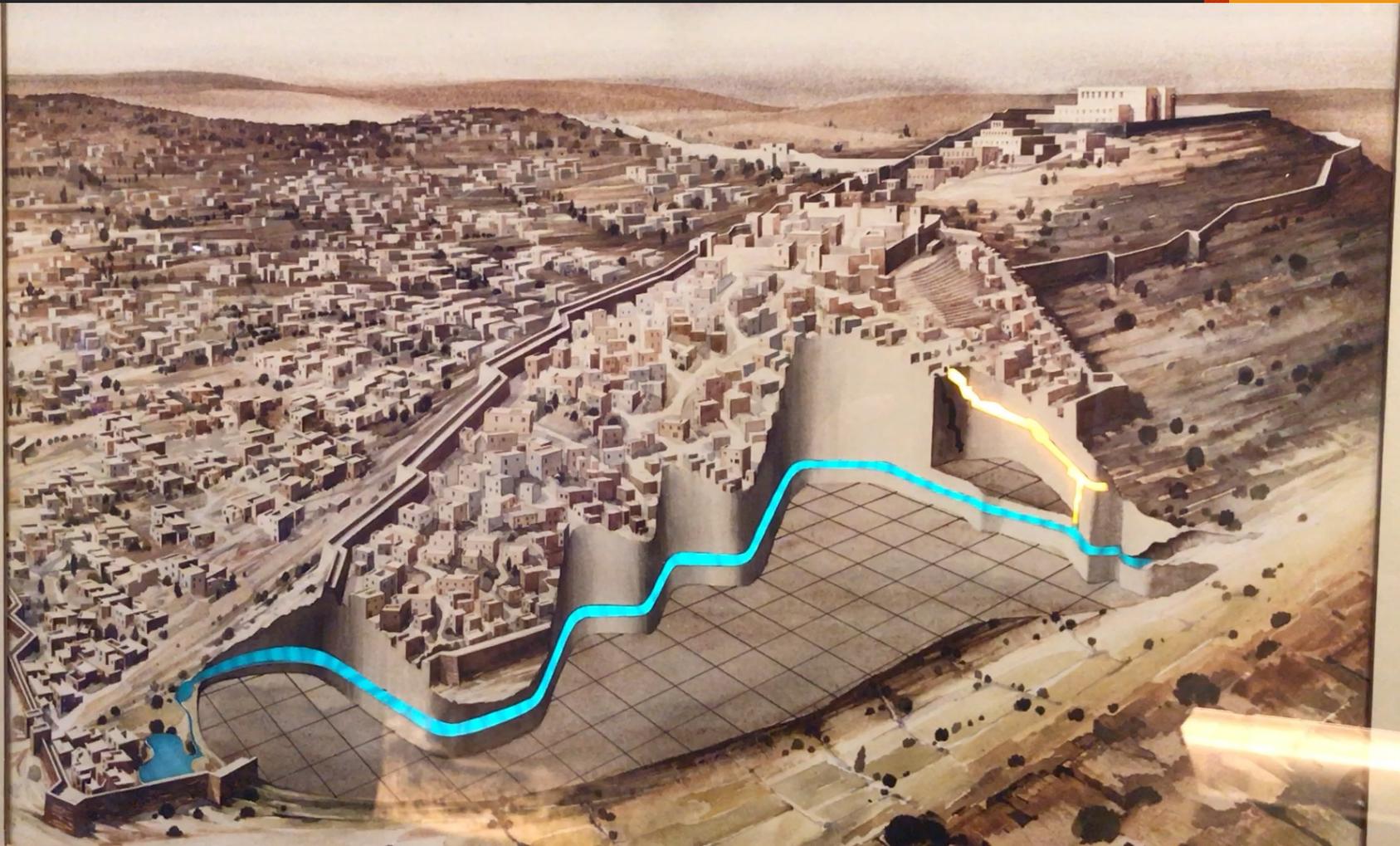
David Meets Goliath

48 When the Philistine came forward to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. **49** David put his hand into his bag and took out a stone and slung it, and it struck the Philistine, sinking into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. **50** So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck down the Philistine and slew him. But no sword was in David's hand. **51** So he ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath, and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their mighty champion was dead, they fled. **52** And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron. So the wounded Philistines fell along the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.

Valley of Elah from Socoh (Philistines view of Saul's Army)



City of Jerusalem—Hezekiah's Tunnel



Hezekiah's Tunnel and the Siloam Inscription



Hezekiah's Tunnel and the Siloam Inscription

- According to 2 Chronicles 32:30 and 2 Kings 20:20, King Hezekiah (reigned 726-697 BC) of Jerusalem constructed a tunnel in order to channel water from the Gihon Spring, which lie outside the city gates, to a pool located within the city walls (Isa 22:9-11). The necessity of the tunnel was due to Hezekiah's concern for the city's vulnerable water supply and efforts to protect Jerusalem from the impending Assyrian invasion in the eighth-century BC (2 Chr 32:2-5; Isa 36-39). In 1838, the American explorer Edward Robinson discovered the Hezekiah's winding tunnel (known as the Siloam Tunnel) which measured over 1,700 feet in length and stands approximately 6 feet high. Nearly fifty years later (c. 1880) youths swimming in the pool discovered an ancient Hebrew inscription dating to the eighth-century BC, known as the Siloam Inscription, which tells of the final dramatic moments of two groups working from each end of the tunnel just prior to its completion. A portion of the inscription reads: "And on the day of the breakthrough the stonecutters struck each man towards his fellow, axe against axe, and the waters flowed from the source to the pool, for 1,200 cubits."

City of Jerusalem—Hezekiah's Tunnel



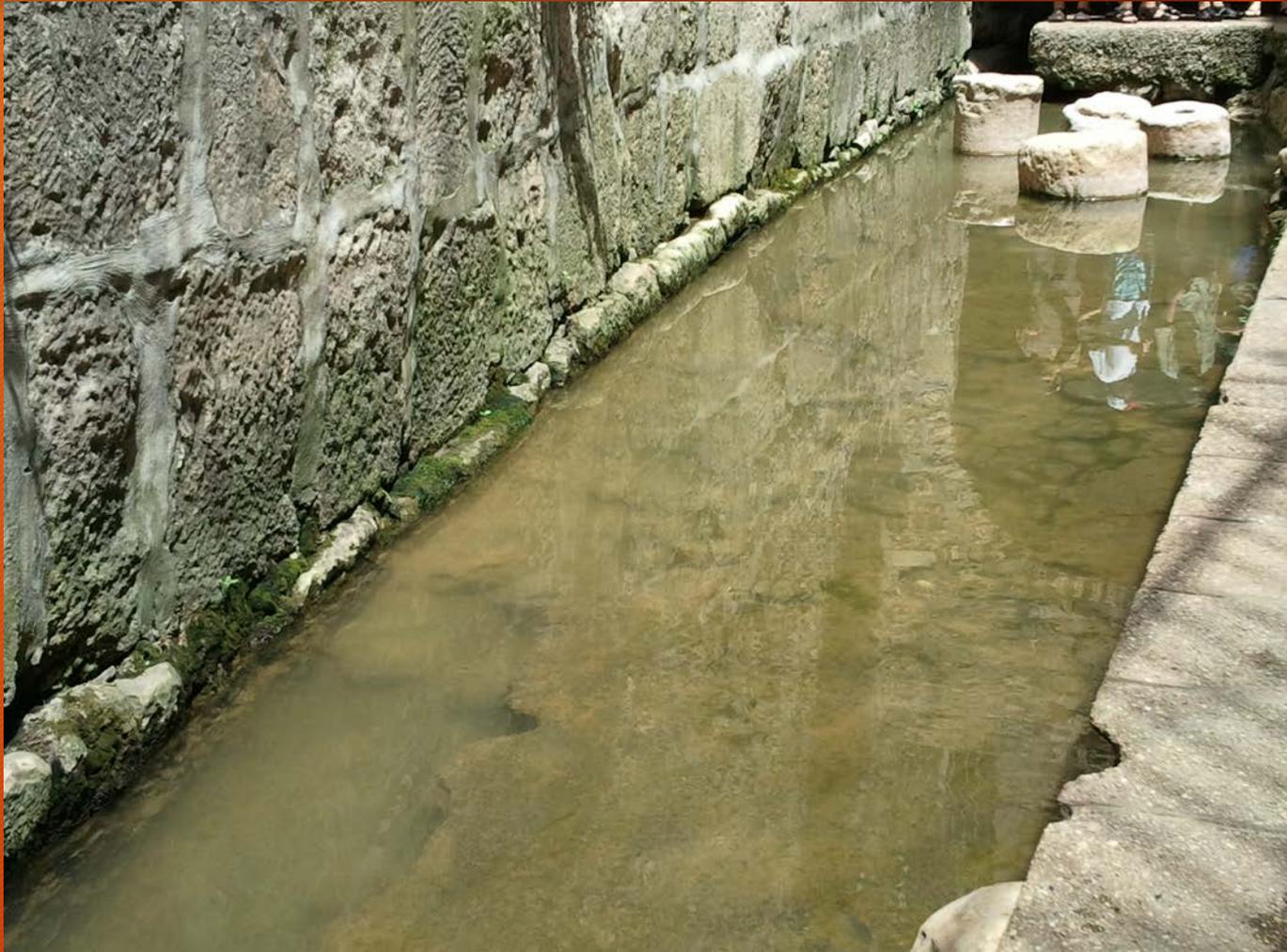
City of Jerusalem—Exit from Hezekiah's Tunnel



City of Jerusalem—Siloam Inscription



Pool of Siloam (Shiloach)-- Byzantine



Pool of Siloam (Shiloach)-- Byzantine

For many years it was believed that the pool at the end of Hezekiah's Tunnel was the Pool of Siloam mentioned in the Gospel of John. This was largely based on tradition from the testimony of early Christian pilgrims. We now know this was a later Byzantine pool.

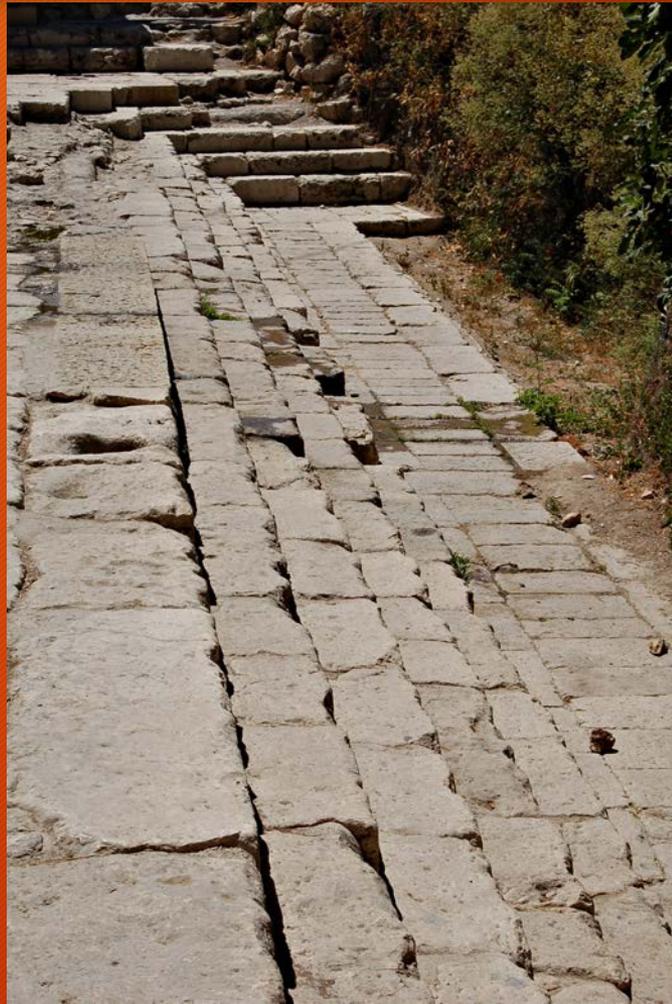
The actual biblical pool, approximately 300 feet from the newer Byzantine pool, was discovered in 2004. Excavators have uncovered about half of the pool, but the other half lies under an orchard owned by the Greek Orthodox Church, who has not (as of 2010) given their permission to excavate the rest of the pool.

What has been uncovered revealed a monumental pool, thought to be about 225 feet long and 195 feet wide, with a slightly trapezoidal shape. One side had a colonnade, and the steps of the pool were made of stone ashlars

Pool of Siloam (Shiloach)-- Byzantine

(dressed masonry). Under the ashlar, excavators found plastered steps from an earlier construction. The pool was fed via runoff water carried to the pool under a street that ran from the pool toward the temple and by a channel running from Hezekiah's Tunnel. As of 2010 clear water still ran in the channel under the Herodian street. Coins found embedded in the plaster date the construction of the pool to the mid-first century B.C., while the subsequent modifications date to the first century A.D. Based on coins found on the stone steps, the archaeologists were able to date the abandonment of the pool at A.D. 70, during the First Jewish Revolt. The pool quickly filled with silt and was apparently forgotten.

Pool of Siloam (Shiloach)-- Byzantine



Pool of Siloam (Shiloach)-- Byzantine



Pool of Siloam (Shiloach)-- Byzantine



Pool of Siloam (Shiloach)-- Byzantine









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