BIBLE ATLAS

ACCESS FOUNDATION

Zaine Ridling, Ph.D.
Editor
Part One

THE BIBLICAL SETTING

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Chapter 1

The Face of the Ancient Near East
THE KING’S HIGHWAY

A second, less important interregional highway linked Arabia with Damascus. This “King’s Highway” (Num. 21:22) extended from Ezion-geber at the top of the Gulf of Aqabah through the Transjordan to Damascus. Important cities along this route included Kirhareseth, Dibon, Heshbon, Ramoth-gilead, Ashtaroth, and Karmaim. Caravans conveyed spices and perfumes as well as other goods from the Arabian Peninsula along this route. Though of less importance militarily than the International Coastal Highway, the economic potential of the King’s Highway occasioned many conflicts between Israel, Damascus, and other minor kingdoms of the Transjordan region.
The major countries of the Middle East border on deserts to the west and south, and mountains to the north and east. A mountain range also extends from north to south paralleling the Mediterranean coast.

The foothills along the Syrian and Arabian deserts are forested mainly with oaks and pines. The great rivers of the Nile and the Tigris and Euphrates flow through the desert lands, making them irrigable. The whole area serves as a land bridge between the two continents of Africa and Asia.

### International Routes

The routes in the Middle East conform to the terrain and climate of the area. Two major routes demand special mention. The coastal route (Via Maris or Way of the Sea, cf. Isaiah 9.1) connects Egypt with Assyria and Babylon. Beginning in Tanis it skirts the coast to Gaza, crosses the Carmel range at Megiddo and goes through the Plain of Jezreel to Hazor. Here it divides in two branches, one going north through the Beqaa valley between the Lebanon and the Antilebanon ranges along the Orontes valley to Hamath, and then to Aleppo. From Aleppo it divides again, turning south to Tiphssah on the Euphrates and continuing beyond to Mari, Babylon and Ur, or going north to Carchemish and then eastward to Haran, Gozan (Guzanu) and Nineveh. From Hazor the alternative route goes to Mari by way of Damascus and Tadmor (Palmyra).

The second major route is the King's Highway (cf. Numbers 20.17; 21.22 and map 2), which goes south from Damascus to Elath and on to the oasis of Tema and to Southern Arabia.
Chapter 2

Natural Regions of Palestine
NATURAL REGIONS OF ANCIENT PALESTINE
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
Palestine

Physical geography

Palestine may be divided into four zones from west to east.

The Coastal Zone is narrow in the north, widening into the Plain of Acco, and south of the Carmel Range it broadens into the Coastal Plain.

The Central Mountain Range continues the Lebanon and Galilean mountains into the central mountains south of the Valley of Jezreel (the Plain of Esdraelon) which are broken by broad open valleys, and further south in the more forbidding mountains of Judea by narrower valleys, finally melding into the steppes of the Negeb.

The Jordan Valley, a part of the Great Rift Valley which extends from Turkey to Central Africa, is dominated by the Upper Jordan River which rises in the foothills of Mount Hermon to flow through Lake Huleh to the Sea of Galilee, and continues as the Lower Jordan River to the Dead Sea. South of the Dead Sea it becomes the Arabah Valley, which extends to the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Transjordan Plateau is called Hauran in the north, the Central Highlands south of the Yarmuk River, and Southern Highlands south of the Dead Sea. To the east of the mountains lies the Syrian desert.

Finally, a striking characteristic of the land is the series of transverse valleys from the Central Mountain Range to the Mediterranean and to the Jordan River from both the Central Mountain Range and the Transjordan Plateau.
PLAIN OF DOR, PLAIN OF SHARON, SAMARIA, JORDAN VALLEY, AND GILEAD

City (schematic representation)

Gilgal? City (uncertain location)
PHILISTINE PLAIN, SHEPHELAH, JUDAH, AND THE DEAD SEA

City (schematic representation)

Succoth? City (uncertain location)
The Old City of Jerusalem Today
Chapter 3

Life in Ancient Palestine
Part Two

THE HEBREW BIBLE PERIOD
Chapter 4

Before Abraham
PALEOLITHIC PERIOD

The Paleolithic period, or "Old Stone Age," describes that stage when people lived by hunting and gathering. Foraging for food and hunting wild animals consumed practically all of life's energies.
THE TABLE OF NATIONS

Genesis 10 presents a list of nations descended from the three sons of Noah: Japheth, Ham, and Shem. This “Table of Nations” is unique in the ancient world and contains seventy names of ancestral heads of nations and peoples known to Israel. The list proceeds from the less important, for the purposes of the writer, to the most important. The fourteen descendants of Japheth are named first. Japheth’s descendants generally are associated with areas north and northwest of Canaan, including mainland Greece, Asia Minor (modern Turkey), certain Mediterranean islands (Crete, Cyprus, and Rhodes), and the mountainous areas from Armenia to the Caspian Sea.

The list next names thirty descendants of Ham. The Hamites generally are located in North Africa (Egypt and the Sudan), along the coast of Somaliland and the west Arabian coasts, and in certain sections of Mesopotamia. Canaan along with many of the people-groups Israel encountered as she entered the promised land (Amorites, Jebusites, Perizzites, Hivites, Girgashites, and others) are listed as Hamites.

The last and most extensive part of the list contains twenty-six descendants of Shem, the ancestor of Israel. Genesis 11:10–26 connects Shem with Abram (Abraham), who received God’s gracious covenant of blessing and hope for the human race (Gen. 12:1–3).

Identification of many of Shem’s descendants remains uncertain. Some of the names seem to refer to areas of northwest Mesopotamia (Eber, Peleg, Aram). Elam was at the head of the Persian Gulf, while Asshur and Arphachshad are in the upper Tigris region. Several names can be located plausibly in Somaliland (Havilah, Ophir). The thirteen sons of Joktan are related to the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula.
The Biblical Table of Nations

Genesis 10
The genealogical table in Genesis 10 reflects Israel's views of world geography in the post-exilic period. It was probably compiled in the 5th or 4th century B.C., incorporating earlier materials and primitive traditions. The peoples of the world are divided into three groups descended from the three sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Despite the many doublings in the list, it is evident that Shem lives to the east, Ham to the south, and Japheth to the north, corresponding to the three regions of the earth then recognized. The names are represented here on a modern map of the Middle East.

The Biblical Table of Nations in the Hellenistic Period

Jubilees 8–9
The book of Jubilees from the 2nd century B.C. presents a revised form of the table of nations in Genesis 10, interpreting it in the light of the new geographical knowledge of the Hellenistic period. It tells how the world was allotted to the three sons of Noah. Shem received the best part, the central part of the earth bounded by a line extending northward to the Tina (Don) River through Karaso (Hellespont) and the Caspian and Me'at (Azov) seas, and southward from Karaso through Lud to the waters of Dedan (Red Sea). All the lands north and west of this line belonged to Japheth, and the lands south and west were the heritage of Ham.
Chapter 5

The World of the Patriarchs
The Land of Canaan
Abraham to Moses

Tribes of Israel:
- Gad, etc.
- Edom, etc.

Kingdoms said to have been encountered by the Israelites at the time of the settlement (13th century B.C.).

Cities mentioned in Numbers and Deuteronomy, but not in Genesis.

Possible location of the cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar in the Valley of Siddim.
PALESTINE IN THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE (ca. 2000–1550)

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- City (mentioned in Ex eg attacker texts)

“T.” typically denotes a modern name for an ancient place. These terms are generally not found in the Bible.
Abraham and Isaac

*Genesis 11.27–25.18*

Abraham was from Ur Kasdim, or Ur of the Chaldees, going first to Haran in Upper Mesopotamia and then on to Canaan, where he settled in Hebron. Through Isaac, his son by Sarah, he became the ancestor of all the Israelite tribes. Through Ishmael, his son by Hagar, and other sons by other wives, he became the ancestor of other nations.

Jacob

*Genesis 27–35*

The traditions about Jacob, who is also identified as Israel in *Genesis 32.28* and 35.10, reflect traditions of the northern kingdom, suggesting a possible association with the Arameans or with the deportees in Mesopotamia.
THE JOURNEYS OF JOSEPH
GEN. 37; 39–46

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Migration of Jacob and his sons
- Migration of Jacob’s sons
- Joseph’s journey into slavery
- Joseph’s brothers’ and Jacob’s journeys from Canaan
- Ancient canal
- Joseph’s father-in-law (Potipher) was a priest at On
- XII Dynasty capital of Egypt
Chapter 6

The Egyptian Experience
Sites in the Amarna Archives

During the reign of Amenophis IV (1352-1336 B.C.), also known as Akhenaton, the royal residence was moved from Thebes to Akhetaton, today known as Tell el-Amarna, where an archive comprising some 400 letters written in cuneiform on clay tablets has been discovered. Some were addressed to the Egyptian pharaoh by rulers of the other great powers of Babylon, Mitanni and Hittites, but they were mainly from vassal kings in Palestine and Syria. These letters reveal insights into the political relationships of the Late Bronze Age, especially during the twenty years covered by the archive – the Amarna period.

The map gives the names of places in their later biblical forms where possible. Not all the names in the correspondence are shown, however, as many have not yet been identified.
Canaan in the Fourteenth Century: The Tell El-Amarna Tablets

City or city-state mentioned in the Amarna Tablets

- Mentioned city (uncertain location)
- Habiru harassment of local rulers

Kingdom of Shechem
- Kingdom of Amurru

Selected kings mentioned in the Amarna letters:

1. Labayu
2. Abdil-Tishri
3. Abdil-Hepa
4. Milkielu
5. Rib-Adda
6. Zurata
7. Birdiya
8. Abdi-Ashirtu

Habiru employed by King of Shechem to harass Canaanite neighbors.
The Egyptian Empire in the Near East

In a Second Intermediate Period a part of Egypt was ruled by foreigners, the Asiatic Hyksos (15th dynasty), who made Avaris in the eastern delta their capital. But about 1550 B.C., the first kings of 18th dynasty were able to expel the foreigners and reunify Egypt. The succeeding kings, especially Tutmosis III (1457-1425 B.C.), conquered Palestine and Syria to make Egypt a great power, dominating the lands of the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East.

Archaeologically this marked the beginning of the Late Bronze Age.

The International Balance of Power, ca. 1400 B.C.

About 1400 B.C. the Middle East was divided into a number of regions, each with an established monarchy. Relations between the regions were governed by treaties, inter-dynastic marriages, and exchanges of technicians (e.g. physicians and architects) and of material gifts. Interregional commerce flourished, and within each region commerce was generally a royal monopoly. Palestine was a province of the Egyptian empire, which was at the peak of its power under Amenophis III (1390-1352 B.C.).
Chapter 7

The Exodus
KADESH-BARNEA

NUM. 14: 16, 20: 1, 20: 22-29
DEUT. 1: 41-46

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Oasis
- Roads
- Invasion of Canaan
Chapter 8

Conquest and Settlement
The Conquest of Canaan

Numbers 13-14; 21-32; Deuteronomy 2-3; Joshua 12

The map is based on three distinct traditions which were eventually combined in a single narrative. The mission of the spies in Numbers 13-14 reflects an immigration into Canaan from the south. The conquest of Transjordan is recounted in Numbers 21-32 and Deuteronomy 2-3. The conquest of Canaan is finally summarized in Joshua 12 by a list of conquered lands and cities. These three traditions account for all the territory of Palestine and the southern Transjordan later claimed by Israel.
THE LEVANT FROM 1200–1000 B.C.
THE IRON I PERIOD

"... he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgasites, the Amorites and the Jebusites." (Josh. 3:10)
The Conquest by Joshua

Joshua 2.1-11.15

The account of Joshua’s conquest deals with only two areas in the promised land. The first campaign was in the south, concentrating primarily in the area later occupied by the tribe of Benjamin, and with the Israelites’ base camp at Gilgal near the Jordan (Joshua 2-10). The second campaign was the conquest of Galilee at the battle of Merom Waters and the capture of Hazor, the chief city of the region (Joshua 11.1-15). No mention is made of the central hill country (cf. the lists in Joshua 13-19).
Joshua’s Northern Campaign

Joshua 11:1-15

- City
- Northern Campaign
- Canaanite forces
- Battle
THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL
JOSH. 13:8–19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
The Division of the Land

Joshua 13–19. 
Joshua 15.20-62; 18.21-28; 19.40-46

After Joshua’s conquest, the land was divided among the tribes of Israel. The lists in Joshua 13–19 contain diverse elements. Some describe boundaries while others are lists of cities. Dating the lists is difficult because they reflect different periods in the history of Israel. One of the lists (Joshua 15.20-62, the cities of Judah) is generally assigned to the reign of King Josiah. The final composition of Joshua 13–19 was evidently during the Hasmonean period, reflecting their territorial claims.
The Levitical Cities
Joshua 21; 1 Chronicles 6.39-66
(Vulgate 6.54-81)
When the land of Palestine was divided among the tribes of Israel the clans of the priestly tribe of Levi were not allotted a single area for their settlement. Instead they were given certain cities within the areas allotted to the other tribes. A number of these cities were also designated places of refuge, where a person accused of accidental killing could find sanctuary from avengers.

The origins of this list are unknown.
The Period of the Judges

Judges 1–21; 1 Samuel 1–7

The time between the conquest of Palestine and the reign of King Saul is called the period of the judges. Judges 1–21 and 1 Samuel 1–7 preserve the traditions of various tribes and clans from this period as they were later edited to form a continuous narrative. It is almost impossible to determine the chronological and historical relationships of these traditions to each other and assign them precise dates.

In the archaeology of Palestine this is the early Iron Age, approximately between 1200 and 1000 B.C. The map shows the extent to which the Israelites were able to occupy the land of Canaan, and the areas and cities they were unable to conquer (Judges 1:27-36).
EHUD AND THE OPPRESSION OF THE MOABITES
JUDG. 3:12-30

- City
- Gilgal (uncertain location)
- Ehud's activities against Moab
- Israelite pressure
- Seizure at the Jordan

- Ehud and his delegation capture Jericho
- Ehud goes to Seiba (1) after killing Eglon
- Seizure of fords prevents Moabites from retreating to their homeland
GIDEON'S BATTLES WITH THE AMALEKITES

JUDG. 6–8

- City
- Penuel? City (uncertain location)
- The gathering of Gideon's army
- Midianite retreat
- Ephraimite assistance
JEPHTHAH AND THE AMMONITES
JUDG. 10:6-12:7

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Ammonite raids of Gilead tribes
- Jephthah’s war against Ammon
- Jephthah returns from Tob
- Men of Ephraim clash with Jephthah
- Battle at Zaphon
SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES
JUDG. 13-16

City

Travels of Samson
THE BATTLE AT EBENEZER AND THE LOSS OF THE ARK

1 SAM. 4:1–7:2

- City
- Gilgal? City (uncertain location)
- Israelite forces
- Philistine forces
- Battle
THE MINISTRY OF SAMUEL AND ANOINTMENT OF SAUL

1 SAM. 7:15-17; 9:15-10:1

- City
- Gilgal? City (uncertain location)
- Circuit where Samuel judged

Samuel anoints Saul prince over Israel at Ramah
In response to external pressures, especially from the Philistines, the leader Saul from the tribe of Benjamin succeeded about 1000 B.C. in uniting the tribes and clans of Israel as a kingdom, or rather a chiefdom, although he was unable to establish their territorial integrity. His reign was characterized externally by wars and internally by his rivalry with David. Saul was killed together with his sons in battle against the Philistines on Mount Gilboa, probably in an attempt to join together the territories of the central and northern Israelite tribes.
Chapter 9

The Kingdom of David and Solomon
DAVID'S RISE TO POWER
2 SAM. 2–6; 2 SAM. 23:8–17
1 CHR. 11–14

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- City from which part of David's army derived
- Capital city
- Battle
- David's united tribes in the south
- Ish-bosheth's territory
- Philistine force
- David's conquest of Jerusalem

1. David gains stature as he attacks those who harassed the villages of Judah from his vassal at Ziklag.
2. Ish-bosheth (Saul's son) establishes capital at Mahanaim.
3. The troops of Abner and Joab fight a bloody battle at the Pool of Gibeon.
4. David becomes King of united Israel.
5. David captures Jebusite stronghold.
7. David transfers Ark to Jerusalem.
David was first anointed king of Judah in Hebron, and then also king of Israel after the death of Ishbosheth. He conquered the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and made it his capital. He then proceeded to capture several Canaanite cities in the north (Megiddo, Taanach, Beth-shan), and in the following years subjugated the kingdoms of Edom, Moab and Ammon. Apparently the Philistines in Damascus and Aram were vassals.

In 2 Samuel 24 there is the account of a census commissioned by David and undertaken by Joab. The itinerary followed by Joab in 2 Samuel 24.5-8 presents an ideal outline of the extent of David's kingdom.
Solomon's empire extended far beyond the borders of Israel. His vassal states included Aram, Ammon, Moab and Edom, and his commercial ventures expanded throughout the known world. He organized his administration effectively, dividing Israel into twelve provinces based on the traditional tribal boundaries, with a governor for each province.

The map shows the twelve provinces as described in 1 Kings 4, and the cities he fortified as an inner line of defense (1 Kings 9). Finally, it was Solomon who built the Jerusalem temple.
SOLOMON'S BUILDING ACTIVITIES

1 KGS. 6-7; 9:1–22;
2 CHR. 2-4; 8:1–12

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- City (modern name)

Hazor: City built or rebuilt by Solomon

- Cities and towns showing building/ rebuilding in the 10th century B.C.

- Fortified by Solomon
- Fortified enclosures

- Major routes
- Other routes
- Territory ceded to Hiram of Tyre

Source of timbers used in construction of Temple of Yahweh

Casting of bronze vessels

Construction of the temple of Yahweh, palace and city

Built fortress and agricultural settlements

Built fortress, port and ships
Solomon's Temple
1 Kings 6–7; 2 Kings 11; 2 Chronicles 3–4
In 965 B.C. King Solomon began to build the temple north of Jerusalem on the threshing floor of Araunah, also known as Mount Moriah (2 Chronicles 3.1). Although it was seven years in building, it was only a part of a larger palace project which took thirteen years to complete. Little is known about the palace, and this map is a reconstruction based largely on excavations of contemporary palaces and temples in the Middle East.
Chapter 10

The Kingdoms of Judah and Israel
The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

1 Kings 12–15; 2 Chronicles 10–15

After Solomon's death, Israel divided into two kingdoms: Judah in the south with Jerusalem as its capital; and Israel in the north with its capital at first at Shechem, then Tirzah, and finally at Samaria. King Jeroboam built his own temples at Bethel and at Dan. Only after prolonged combat was the border established with Benjamin as part of Judah.

Shortly after the division Pharaoh Shishak launched an invasion of Israel and Judah. King Rehoboam responded by fortifying a number of cities in Judah.

The map shows the border between the kingdoms, the route of Shishak's invasion (according to the list of conquered cities recorded in the temple at Karnak), and the cities fortified by Rehoboam.
THE CAMPAIGN OF SHISHAK AND REHOBOAM'S DEFENSE LINES

1 KGS. 14: 25-28;
2 CHR. 11: 5-12
2 CHR. 12: 1-12

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- City (fortified by Rehoboam)
- City (archaeological evidence, but ancient name uncertain)
- Mountain peak

Israel
Judah
Shishak’s campaign

Shishak returns to Egypt via Gaza
Shishak leaves Victory Stele
Rehoboam pays tribute to Shishak
Shishak attacks the Negeb, disrupting caravan routes
CONFLICTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAM-DAMASCUS

1 Kgs. 15:18–22; 20:1–34; 22:1–40
2 Kgs. 8:28–29; 10:32
2 Chr. 16:1–6; 18:1–34

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Battle
- Siege

Israel
Aram-Damascus' territory
Israel's routes
King's Highway

Arameans' routes:
- Campaign of Ben-hadad I against Baasha (1 Kgs. 15:16–22)
- Campaigns of Ben-hadad II against Ahab I (1 Kgs. 20:1)
- Campaigns of Hazael against Joram (2 Kgs. 8:28–29)
- Campaigns of Hazael against Jehu and Jehoahaz (2 Kgs. 10:32–37; 12:17–18; 13:1–3; Amos 1:3)

A fragmentary stele dating after 900 B.C. was recently found at Dan.

1. At the request of Judah's King Asa, Ben-hadad I attacks Israel
2. Ahab's victory at Aphek
3. Ahab is killed by the Arameans
The Golden Age of the 9th Century B.C.

1 Kings 16.23–2 Kings 13; 2 Chronicles 17–24
In the mid 9th century B.C., King Omri of Israel and his successor Ahab, with the aid of King Jehoshaphat of Judah, created an empire comparable to that of David and Solomon. Meanwhile King Mesha of Moab was seeking to expand his power westward across the Jordan. Political and religious tensions in Israel led to Jehu's rebellion in 841 B.C., with the destruction of the royal houses of both Israel and Judah and the decline of both kingdoms. This was the period of the prophets Elijah and Elisha in the northern kingdom.

The Golden Age of the 8th Century B.C.

2 Kings 13.10–15.7; 2 Chronicles 25–26; Amos
During the period of 790–750 B.C. the kingdom of Israel under Jehoash of Israel and the kingdom of Judah under Azariah/Uzziah enjoyed a renaissance of power. Both kings were successful in their wars against Syria in the north, and against Ammon, Moab, Edom and the Philistines in the south. They broadly expanded the areas under their authority and gained control over the major caravan routes — a success made possible by the weakened state of the Assyrian empire. This was the period of the prophets Amos of Tekoa and Hosea in the north.
The Phoenicians sought tin and silver from Spain.

Carthage becomes a powerful Tyrian colony.

The Phoenicians sought gold and other luxury items from Africa.
The highways in Palestine are dictated by the terrain and the climate. Besides the two major international routes – the coastal route (Via Maris, the Way of the Sea of Isaiah 9.1 KJV), and the King's Highway of Numbers 20.17; 21.22 (cf. map 6) – two further north-south routes should be mentioned: one along the crest of the Central Range, and one through the Jordan Valley. There were also several important cross routes, such as the road from the coast north of the Carmel Range, going through Megiddo and Beth-shan to Pella, or from Caesarea through Samaria and Shechem to the Jordan and on to Mahanaim, or from the coastal route through Bethel and Jericho to the Ammonite cities of Rabbah or Heshbon. This system of highways can be traced back to the beginning of the Bronze Age at the beginning of the third millennium B.C.
THE REVOLT OF JEHU
2 KGS. 9:1–10:31

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Jehu’s route
- Ahaziah’s route
- Pressure from Hazael, king of Damascus
THE RISE OF ASSYRIA: ASHURNASIRPAL II AND SHALMANESER III

- Modern city
- City
  - City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Battle of Qarqar
- Campaigns of Ashurnasirpal II (c. 875 BC)
- Campaigns of Shalmaneser III (c. 850 BC)
- Assyrian Heartland
- Expansion under Ashurnasirpal II and Shalmaneser III
- Zone of Assyrian influence
THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE UNDER TIGLATH-PILESER III
2 KGS. 15:17-20
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Tiglath-PILESER III’s campaigns
- Assyrian Empire at the beginning of Tiglath-PILESER III’s campaign
- Assyrian Empire at the death of Tiglath-PILESER III
- Israel
- Judea
TIGLATH-PILESER III’S CAMPAIGNS AND AREAS TRANSFORMED INTO ASSYRIAN PROVINCES

2 KGS. 15:29
1 CHR. 5:6, 26

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- City mentioned in 2 Kgs 15:29
- Mountain peak
- Tigrath-pilesar III (734 B.C.) (campaign against the Philistines)
- Tigrath-pilesar III (733 B.C.) (campaign against Israel)
- Tigrath-pilesar III (732 B.C.) (campaign against Damascus)

TYRE Assyrian province
The Fall of the Kingdom of Israel

2 Kings 15–17; 2 Chronicles 28.16-21; Isaiah 7-9; 10.28-32; 20

The Assyrian conquests after 750 B.C. led to the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel. In 732 Tiglath-Pileser III (744-727 B.C.) established Dor (Duru), Megiddo (Magiddu) and Gilead (Galaza) as Assyrian provinces, and made Israel and Judah vassal states. Israel rebelled and was defeated by Shalmanesar V (727-722 B.C.), and had its capital Samaria destroyed (722 B.C.). Sargon II (722-705) deported part of the population to Assyria, and made the northern kingdom the province of Samarina (Samaria). In 713 B.C. Sargon conquered the Philistine cities in the south and organized them as the Assyrian province of Asdudu (Ashdod), leaving the kingdom of Judah surrounded by Assyrian provinces.
PROPHETS OF THE EIGHTH CENTURY

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak

Hosea’s marriage portrays Israel’s faithlessness to Yahweh; predicts Assyria will destroy Israel

Amos denounces the social sins of Israel and warns of God’s impending judgement

Micah condemns corrupt leaders in Jerusalem

Isaiah advises Ahaz and Hezekiah in attack against Jerusalem
Chapter 11

Judah Alone amid International Powers
HEZEKIAH’S PREPARATION FOR REVOLT

- City
- City (modern name)

Gath: L’melek City

City (fortified)

Royal collection/distribution center?

Hezekiah’s activities

New fortifications and secure water supply

Hezekiah cleanses the temple and removes high places in Judah

Hezekiah gains control of cities in the Philistine Plain

Simeonites attack the Meunim and Amalekites settling in Mt. Seir
Judah under King Hezekiah

2 Kings 18–20; 1 Chronicles 4.35-43; 2 Chronicles 29–32; Isaiah 10.28-32; 20; 36–39; Micah 1.8-16

Under Hezekiah (716-687 B.C.) Judah was a vassal of Assyria. Hezekiah attempted to strengthen his national defenses by designating four cities as military depots. On the death of Sargon II (705 B.C.) Hezekiah rebelled against his successor Sennacherib (704-681 B.C.) who responded in 701 by invading Judah and besieging Jerusalem. Sennacherib defeated an Egyptian force at Eltekeh and made his headquarters in Lachish, the capture of which is depicted on the gates of his new palace in Nineveh.
The Districts of Judah under King Josiah

Joshua 15.20-62; 18.21-28; 19.40-46

These lists enumerate the towns in the twelve districts of Judah. According to recent scholarship they reflect conditions during the reign of Josiah about 620 B.C., although they are cited in the book of Joshua to illustrate a much earlier period.

The map shows the districts of Judah and the relative density of their population in the time of Josiah. Only the towns whose locations have been identified are shown on the map. The remainder are listed below it. When the topographical evidence has been convincing, some places have been transposed from the districts indicated in the book of Joshua.
The Golden Age of King Josiah

2 Kings 21–23; 2 Chronicles 33–35

As the Assyrian empire weakened (cf. map 17), Josiah was able to recapture parts of Israel that had been lost in 732 and 722 B.C. However, the extent to which he established his control over the former northern kingdom is questionable. Josiah was killed at Megiddo in an attempt to halt an Egyptian army from joining forces to support the Assyrian army in its frontier wars (cf. map 18). Josiah’s reign saw the beginning of Jeremiah’s prophetic ministry.
Exile in Assyria, Babylon and Egypt

2 Kings 17.6; 18.11; 24.11-16; 25; Ezra 2.59; 8.17; Nehemiah 7.61; Jeremiah 29; 42-46; 52; Ezekiel 1.1-3; 3.15

The exile, marking the beginning of the Jewish diaspora, resulted from the deportations of the northern kingdom of Israel to Assyria in 722 B.C., the southern kingdom of Judah to Babylon in 597, 587 and 582 B.C., and the flight of many of the remaining population of Judah to Egypt after an unsuccessful uprising against the Babylonian governor in Mizpah in 582 B.C.

Palestine in the Post-Exilic Period

Ezra 2.21-35; Nehemiah 3.1-32; 7.26-38

When the Persian king Cyrus II (550-529 B.C.) conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. with hardly a battle, Judah became the Persian province Yahud.

The whole of Palestine was part of the 5th Persian satrapy of Abar-Nahara ("[the land] beyond the [Euphrates] River"); cf. map 19. The satrapy was divided into provinces, two of which were Samaria and Yahud. The capital of Samaria was Shechem, with the holy mountain of Gerizim. In Nehemiah's time the governor of Samaria was Sanballat, and the governor of Ammon was Tobiah. Both governors together with the provinces of Ashdod and Edom were opposed to Nehemiah and his plans to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

There is a list of Jewish cities in Nehemiah 11.25-35, but it probably reflects a different period, possibly including places where the inhabitants escaped deportation in 587 B.C. The places Lod, Hadid and Ono which are mentioned in Ezra 2.33 and Nehemiah 7.37 must have been outside the province of Yahud.
Chapter 13

The Persian Period
THE PROVINCE OF JUDAH AND NEHEMIAH'S ENEMIES IN THE FIFTH CENTURY
NEH. 4–6; 13:4–9

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Possible district capitals
- Major trade route

Nehemiah's enemy Sanballat, governor of Samaria, constantly interferes with Judah's efforts to rebuild their homeland.

The wealthy Tobitads meddle in the affairs of Judah for centuries.
Chapter 14

The Hellenistic Period
PALESTINE UNDER THE PTOLEMYES

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak

JUDEA Hellenistic province

Journey of Zenon, 260/59 B.C.

The Toblad family was given civic authority over Judea which resulted in a more Hellenized Jewry.
Roman forces decisively defeat Antiochus III and demand forfeiture of all Seleucids claims in Asia Minor as well as a large sum of money (190 B.C.).

**THE SELEUCID EMPIRE AND ANTIOCHUS III**
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Battle
- Siege
- Antiochus III’s first campaign (Fourth Syrian War 219–217 B.C.)
- Antiochus III’s second campaign (Fifth Syrian War 202–198 B.C.)
- Antiochus III’s Roman campaign
- Ptolemaic forces’ first campaign
- Ptolemaic forces’ second campaign
- Roman forces
- Seleucid Empire
The Maccabees

1-2 Maccabees

In 168 B.C. Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.) set up an altar to Zeus in the temple at Jerusalem. This led to a Jewish uprising under the leadership of the priest Mattathias of Modein and his five sons, the most prominent of whom was Judas Maccabaeus from whom the movement took its name. After more than two decades of fighting Judea achieved independence as a kingdom under Syrian rule. Its royal dynasty was known as Hasmonean after Hasmon, the grandfather of Mattathias.
JEWISH EXPANSION UNDER THE HASMONEAN DYNASTY

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Cloud: Judea before the Maccabean revolt
- Conquests of Jonathan
- Conquests of Simon
- Conquests of Hyrcanus I
- Conquests of Aristobulus I
- Conquests of Alexander Janneaus

**Legend:**
- 

**Summary:**

- Artobulus conquers the coast of Galilee by defeating the Samaritans (104 B.C.)
- Hyrcanus besieges the city of Jerusalem (135 B.C.)
- Simon is murdered in a palace riot (134 B.C.)
- John Hyrcanus attacks and conquers Medeia in 120 B.C.

**Region:**

- Mediterranean Sea
- Judea
- Samaria
- Galilee
- Galilea
- Idumea
- Perea
- Philistia
- Idumea
- Nabatene

**Labels:**

- Jerusalem
- Samaria
- Gaza
- Tyre
- Sidon
- Damascus
- Petra
- Antioch
- Babylonia
- Egypt

**Note:**

- The map illustrates the territorial expansion of Judea under the Hasmonean dynasty, with various conquests and key events marked throughout the region.
Pompey's Campaign Against Jerusalem and the Resulting Roman Settlement 63 B.C.

- City
  - City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Siege of Jerusalem
- Pompey's campaign
- The Romans break through the walls into Jerusalem
- Aristobulus's route
- Jewish state after Pompey's settlement
- Jewish territories ceded to Iturea and Ptolemis
- Samaritan state
- Cities of the Decapolis

Pompey's Siege of Jerusalem

- Spot elevation
- Contour interval = 33 ft (10 m)

- Romans build a dike around temple fortifications
- Romans position ramp, catapults, and siege engines

- Aristobulus II challenges the rule of Herodias II
- Pompey captures Jerusalem in 63 B.C., bringing Roman control to Palestine
Part Three

THE NEW TESTAMENT ERA
Chapter 15

Rome's Emergence as a World Power
ROMAN EXPANSION IN THE THIRD AND SECOND CENTURIES B.C.

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Territory under Roman control
  - Conquered by 200 B.C.
  - Conquered between 200-148 B.C.
  - Conquered or bequeathed to Rome between 147-100 B.C.
CIVIL WARS AND THE EXPANSION OF ROME IN THE FIRST CENTURY

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Extent of Roman control in 100 B.C.
- Territories added from 100–65 B.C.
- Areas conquered by Pompey 64–65 B.C.
- Areas added from 62–30 B.C.

Julius Caesar conquers Gaul (59–51 B.C.)
Julius Caesar assassinated (44 B.C.)
Mithradates starts revolt that leads to the death of thousands of Romans (88 B.C.)
Octavian defeats Antony and Cleopatra (31 B.C.)
Pompey clears the Mediterranean of pirates (87 B.C.)
Pompey and Antony in Egypt from 41 B.C.
Pompey flees to Egypt where he was killed by Procyon CIL's forces
Chapter 16

The Romans, Palestine, and Herod the Great
ROMAN RULE IN PALESTINE
63–40 B.C.

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Decapolis city
- Independent city
- Mountain peak

- Hasmonean kingdom under Jannaeus
- Jewish territories after Pompey
- Ceded Jewish territories
- Samaritan territory
- Decapolis

Antipater appoints his sons, Herod and Phasael, as tetrarchs of Galilee and Jerusalem

The Idumean Antipater appointed procurator by Julius Caesar

The Parthians invade Palestine in 40 B.C. and install Antigonus as king

Herod flees Jerusalem and leaves his family at Masada on his way to Rome
Chapter 17

The World of Jesus
THE DIVISION OF HEROD'S KINGDOM

- City
- Decapolis city
- Decapolis city (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak

To Antipas
To Archelaus
To Philip
To Salome
Syrian province
Palestine in the Time of Jesus

Idumea, Judea and Samaria were administered by a Roman prefect resident in Caesarea who bore the title procurator after A.D. 41. Herod Antipas was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea, and Philip was tetrarch of Gaulanitis and Batanea, lands to the northeast and east of Lake Galilee. The cities of the Decapolis were under the direct control of the governor of Syria.
QUMRAN CAVES

Cave

Temple Scroll and Psalm Scroll

Copper Scroll giving lists of hidden treasures

Major deposit of manuscripts; fragments of over 400 works, including pieces of every Old Testament book except Esther; fragments of Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal books

Two Isaiah scrolls; major deposit of sectarian works (Manual of Discipline, the War Scroll, Messianic Rule); commentaries on Habakkuk

Site of several caves where Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered

JUDEA

DEAD SEA

QUMRAN AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

• City
Chapter 18

The Life and Ministry of Jesus
The Birth, Childhood and Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 1.1–4.11; Mark 1.1-13; Luke 1.1–4.13

Accounts of the birth, childhood and baptism of Jesus are found in the first chapters of Matthew, Mark and Luke.
JOHN THE BAPTIST

MATT. 3:1–4:12
MARK 1:4–14; 6:14–29
LUKE 3:1–23; 9:7–9
JOHN 1:6–8, 15–37; 3:22–24

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak

Jesus’ route to baptism

Sites where John frequently baptized

After baptism, Jesus is tempted for 40 days

John baptizes Jesus (uncertain site)

John imprisoned and executed
Jesus’ Ministry in Galilee and Journey to Jerusalem

Matthew 4.12–21.1; Mark 1.14–11.1; Luke 4.14–19.27

Jesus spent most of his ministry in Galilee, where he had grown up. He traveled mainly around Lake Galilee, with his home in Capernaum. He may have gone to Jerusalem by way of Perea to avoid going through Samaria.
THE MINISTRY OF JESUS AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE

MATT. 5-7; 9:1-9
LUKE 7:1-10; 9:12-17
JOHN 6:1-25

City
Road
THE MINISTRY OF JESUS BEYOND GALILEE

MARK 7:24-37; 8:27-38; 9:1-13
LUKE 9:28-36; 18:22-35

- City
- Mountain peak
- Travels of Jesus
- Roads

Possible site of Jesus’ transfiguration
Jesus travels to this area for rest and to instruct His disciples

Jesus travels to Tyre and Sidon where He cures the afflicted daughter of a Syrophoenician woman

Jesus travels to and from Jerusalem on many occasions, teaching, and performing miracles
Jesus' Ministry according to John

John

The account in the fourth Gospel differs in many ways from that of the first three Gospels. For example, Jesus visited Jerusalem more than once, and different places are named. This evidently represents an independent historical tradition which emphasizes events other than those in the synoptic Gospels.
Jesus withdrew to Ephraim to avoid plots upon His life.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and stayed at the horns of Simon the Lepper.

In Jerusalem, Jesus healed a paralytic man, healed a blind man, and frequented the temple.

Jesus restored sight to the beggar Bartimaeus and called the tax collector Zacchaeus to repentance.

Old Roman road from Jericho to Jerusalem.
THE PASSION WEEK IN JERUSALEM

- **Gate**
- **Tower**
- **Wall**

Possible locations of the Chamber of Hewn Stone

MOVEMENTS OF JESUS

- **Sunday**
- **Monday**
- **Thursday/Friday**
- **Jesus before the Sanhedrin**

**Sunday**
Jesus descends from Bethany and enters the temple precincts

**Monday**
Jesus cleanses the temple

**Tuesday**
Jesus teaches and disputes with authorities

**Tuesday night**
Jesus returns to Bethany to lodge with His friends

**Friday morning**
Jesus is arrested

**Friday daybreak**
Jesus before the Sanhedrin

**Friday night**
Jesus is taken to the house of Caiaphas for a preliminary hearing

**Friday daybreak**
Jesus before Pilate

**Thursday/Friday**
Jesus retires to the house of Caiphas for a preliminary hearing

**Thursday**
Jesus teaches His disciples about end times on the Mount of Olives

**Thursday evening**
Jesus shares the Passover meal with His disciples

**Thursday evening**
Jesus before Herod Antipas

**Wednesday**
Jesus before Herod Antipas

**Monday**
Jesus enters the temple

**Sunday night**
Jesus returns to Bethany to lodge with His friends

**Friday daybreak**
Jesus before the Sanhedrin

**Thursday night**
Jesus teaches His disciples about end times on the Mount of Olives

**Sunday**
Jesus descends from Bethany and enters the temple precincts

**Monday**
Jesus cleanses the temple

**Tuesday**
Jesus teaches and disputes with authorities

**Tuesday night**
Jesus returns to Bethany to lodge with His friends

**Friday morning**
Jesus is arrested

**Friday daybreak**
Jesus before the Sanhedrin

**Friday night**
Jesus is taken to the house of Caiaphas for a preliminary hearing

**Friday daybreak**
Jesus before Pilate

**Thursday/Friday**
Jesus retires to the house of Caiphas for a preliminary hearing

**Thursday**
Jesus teaches His disciples about end times on the Mount of Olives

**Thursday evening**
Jesus shares the Passover meal with His disciples

**Thursday evening**
Jesus before Herod Antipas

**Wednesday**
Jesus before Herod Antipas

**Monday**
Jesus enters the temple

**Sunday night**
Jesus returns to Bethany to lodge with His friends

**Friday morning**
Jesus is arrested

**Friday daybreak**
Jesus before the Sanhedrin

**Friday night**
Jesus is taken to the house of Caiaphas for a preliminary hearing

**Saturday morning**
Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples

**Saturday night**
Jesus is arrested

**Sunday**
Jesus descends from Bethany and enters the temple precincts
Chapter 19

Early Expansion of the Church
PAUL'S CONVERSION AND EARLY MINISTRY

Gal. 1:11–24

- City
- Mountain peak
- Pass
  - Paul sent to Damascus
  - Paul spends time in Arabia
  - Paul returns to Jerusalem
  - Paul flees from Hellenists
  - Paul and Barnabas travel to Antioch
  - Paul and Barnabas sent to Jerusalem
  - Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch
- Kingdom of Agrippa I

1. Paul is sanctified to arrest followers in Damascus
2. Paul has a vision of Jesus and converts
3. Paul baptized and preaches about his newfound faith
4. Paul flees to Arabia then returns to Jerusalem
5. Paul returns to his hometown of Tarsus
6. Paul and Barnabas establish a strong church where believers were first called Christians
7. Paul and Barnabas travel to Jerusalem with aid for famine
8. Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch
Paul's Journeys


While traveling to Damascus to persecute Christians there, Paul was himself converted, and in Damascus he was baptized. Then after some time in Arabia he returned to Damascus, visited Jerusalem briefly, and continued actively in evangelism in Cilicia and Syria with Antioch as his base. The church in Antioch sent him together with Barnabas on his first missionary journey. After visiting Jerusalem again he undertook his second and third missionary journeys which took him to Macedonia and Greece with extended periods of activity in Corinth and Ephesus.

During his third and last visit to Jerusalem Paul was arrested and taken first to Caesarea, and then to Rome.

Maps below illustrate the sequence of events narrated in Acts. Paul's own letters would suggest a different reconstruction of the events.
PAUL'S ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT
ACTS 21:15–26:32

- City
- Paul's travels

Paul arrested in the temple precinct
Paul and his Roman guard overnight
Under heavy Roman guard, Paul is sent to Caesarea
Paul is imprisoned at Herod's Praetorium; defense before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa II
Paul's defense before the Sanhedrin
Chapter 20

The First Jewish Revolt
TITUS’S CAMPAIGNS
A.D. 69–70

- City
  - City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Siege
- Titus’s campaign
- Roman pressure
- Area of Jewish revolt

1. By late May the first and second walls were breached.
2. A siege wall is erected around the city to prevent escape in early July.
3. The Antonia Fortress falls in mid-June and the temple is torched on August 24.
4. Despite bloody street fighting, both the Upper and Lower Cities fall into Roman hands on August 30.

Roman troops torch the temple August 28, A.D. 70, and gain complete control by late September.
Herod's Temple

Herod the Great began work on the temple in 20/19 B.C., refurbishing Zerubbabel’s temple of 520–515 B.C. without interrupting its use, and expanding it on a grand and glorious scale. The building was completed in A.D. 63, and destroyed by Titus in A.D. 70.

The temple was built on a platform raised to a height of 170 feet above the rock base and measuring approximately 920 by 1590 feet.
Chapter 21

The Early Christian Church
THE BAR KOKHBA REVOLT
(A.D. 132–135)

- City
- Cave
- Jewish routes
- Center of the revolt

130

1. Simon dispatches the Tenth Legion along with non-Jewish inhabitants to Caesarea

2. The Roman, Julius Severus, systematically attacks the outlying villages of Jerusalem.

3. The rebels retreat to Bether and withstand a siege until the summer of A.D. 135

4. A few Jewish rebels fled to caves on the west side of the Dead Sea
THE EXPANSION OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE SECOND AND THIRD CENTURIES A.D.

- City
- Site of key churches
- Territory under Roman control
- Extent of Christian influence, second century A.D.
- Core areas of Christianity, third century A.D.