BIBLE ATLAS

ACCESS FOUNDATION

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Editor
Part One

THE BIBLICAL SETTING
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 Karnaim. 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 Tophah 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
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.
NORTHERN COASTAL PLAINS,
JEZREEL VALLEY, GALILEE, AND
BASHAN

City (schematic representation)
PHILISTINE PLAIN, SHEPHELAH, JUDAH, AND THE DEAD SEA

City (schematic representation)

Succoth (uncertain location)
ARABAH, NEGB, WILDERNESS OF ZIN, AND WILDERNESS OF PARAN

City (schematic representation)
Chapter 3

Life in Ancient Palestine
CLIMATE PATTERNS
OF ANCIENT PALESTINE

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

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48°F/74°F = Mean temperature winter/summer
21" = Mean annual precipitation

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

W. el-Arish
34°E
0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

Arabah
35°E
0 10 20 30 40 50 Kilometers

Gaza
57°F/81°F
13"

Hebron
45°F/70°F
19"

Jericho
48°F/74°F
21"

Jerusalem
48°F/74°F
21"

En-gedi
59°F/90°F
3"

Beersheba
54°F/83°F
8"

Kerak
50°F/79°F
16"

Bozrah
57°F/87°F
6"

Ramoth-gilead
46°F/73°F
14"

Rabbah
50°F/75°F
11"

N. Besor

Damasus
54°F/78°F
12"

Tyre
54°F/79°F
24"

Adana River

Litani River

Jabbok River

Jordan River

Dead Sea

Arnon River

Zered River

Joppa
57°F/80°F
20"

Shechem

Especially:

Mt. Carmel

Mt. Tabor

Mt. Hermon

Mt. Nebo

Mt. Ebal

Mt. Gerizim

53°F/85°F
23"

Dan

Lake Huleh

Sea of Galilee

Tiberias

Afula

Haifa

Acco

Mt. Meron

Dan

36 E

Abana River

Pharpar River

36 E

33 N

35 E

32 N

31 N

34 E
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.
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, Hitites, 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 Assur and Arpachshad 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 doubllets 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

GAD, etc. Tribes of Israel.
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 Execration texts)

*M. " typically denotes a modern name for an ancient place. These terms are generally not found in the Bible.*
THE MIGRATION OF ABRAHAM
GEN. 11:27-12:9

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak

→ Abraham's migration route
→→ Abraham's alternative migration route

- Taurus Mountains
- Hittites (Heth)
- Urartu Mts.
- Araxes River
- Elburz Mts.
- Caspian Sea
- MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- Cyprus
- CANAAN
- Dead Sea
- Memphis
- On
- Memphis

Legend:
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak

- Abraham's migration route
- Abraham's alternative migration route

- Caspian Sea
- Araxes River
- Elburz Mts.
- Taurus Mountains
- Hittites (Heth)
- Urartu Mts.
- MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- CANAAN
- Dead Sea
- Memphis
- On
- Memphis

Legend:
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak

- Abraham's migration route
- Abraham's alternative migration route

- Caspian Sea
- Araxes River
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- MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- CANAAN
- Dead Sea
- Memphis
- On
- Memphis

Legend:
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- CANAAN
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- Memphis

Legend:
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- CANAAN
- Dead Sea
- Memphis
- On
- Memphis

Legend:
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak

- Abraham's migration route
- Abraham's alternative migration route

- Caspian Sea
- Araxes River
- Elburz Mts.
- Taurus Mountains
- Hittites (Heth)
- Urartu Mts.
ABRAHAM IN CANAAN
GEN. 12:10–14:24; GEN. 18–22

- City
  - City (uncertain location)
- Red: Abraham’s migration to Egypt and return to Canaan
- Dashed: Abraham’s route of battle with enemy kings
- Green: Military route of the kings from the north in Gen. 14

MAP:
- Key locations and events
- Routes and migrations
- Geographical features

NOTES:
- Textual references
- Historical context
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.
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. Milkitu
5. Rib-Adda
6. Zurata
7. Birdiya
8. Abdi-Ashiru
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
JOURNEY OF THE SPIES
NUM. 13:1–33; NUM. 34:1–12
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Oasis
- Mountain peak

Red arrow: Journey of the twelve spies
Green: The promised land
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 SEA PEOPLES

- City

Routes of the Sea Peoples

Sea Peoples groups mentioned by Rameses III:

TJEKER
DENYEN
PELESET (PHILISTINES)
SHEKLESHE
WESHESH
SHARDANU

Rameses III battles with the Sea Peoples
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 Girgashites, 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 Israelis’ 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).
LIMITS OF ISRAELITE SETTLEMENT AND THE LAND YET TO BE CONQUERED

JUDG. 1:1-3:6

- City
  - City (uncertain location)
  - City specified by Judges 1 as not taken by Israel

- Mountain peak

- Limit of Israelite control
- Areas yet to be conquered
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.
LEVITICAL CITIES AND CITIES OF REFUGE

JOSH. 20–21

- Levitical city
- Levitical city (uncertain location)
- City of refuge
- Other city
- Mountain peak

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

DAN
- Eltekeh
- Gezer
- Beth-horon
- Gibbethon

EPHRAIM
- Beth-shan
- Mt. Carmel
- Gezer
- Ai
- Bethel

BENJAMIN
- Jerusalem
- Gibeah
- Jerusalem

JUDAH
- Jerusalem
- Beth-shemesh
- Hebron

SIMEON
- Asher
- Holon

LEBANON
- Majesties
- Phihah

DOMINION OF JUDAH
- Joppa
- Jerusalem

DOMINION OF ISRAEL
- Tiberias
- Sepphoris

MOAB
- Kir-Haran
- Abarim

EDOM
- Hazael
- Ezion-geber

DEAD SEA
- Jericho
- Jericho

MOUNTAIN PEAK
- Mount Hermon
- Mount Seir

RIVER
- Jordan River
- Nile River

LAKE
- Dead Sea
- Sea of Galilee

PHAR-par River

GOLAN
- Hazor
- Arbel

AMMON
- Bethel
- Shechem

GAD
- Medeba
- Gilead

NAPHTALI
- Japho
- Beth-shan

ASHER
- Zidah
- Tirzah

ZE'BULUN
- Ashtaroth
- Joppa

ISSACHAR
- Tabbath
- Gezer

MAHNESHEH
- Shechem
- Shechem

JEZEBEEL
- Tahanah

WEST MANASSEH
- Shechem
- Beth-shemesh

SOUTH MANASSEH
- Gibeon
- Shechem

SOUTH BENJAMIN
- Gibeah
- Beth-shemesh

NORTH BENJAMIN
- Bethel
- Shechem

NORTH JUDAH
- Hebron
- Jerusalem

EAST MANASSEH
- Gilead
- Shechem

AMMON
- Medeba
- Gilead

AMMON
- Bethel
- Shechem

EASTERN DESERT
- Sinai
- Edom

RED SEA
- Elath
- Ezion-geber

40 MILES

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

- Ehud feeds to Sebaah (?) after killing Eglon
- Seizure of fords prevents Moabites from retreating to their homeland
- Ehud and his delegation capture Jericho
DEBORAH'S VICTORY
OVER THE CANAANITES
JUDG. 4-5

City
Kedesh-naphtali?
City (uncertain location)
Israelite forces
Canaanite offensive
Canaanite retreat
Battle
GIDEON'S BATTLES WITH THE AMALEKITES

JUDG. 6–8.

- City
- Penuel (? City) (uncertain location)
- The gathering of Gideon's army
- Midianite retreat
- Ephraimitite assistance
SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES
JUDG. 13-16

- **Green**: City
- **Orange**: Travels of Samson
THE BATTLE AT EBENEZER AND THE LOSS OF THE ARK

1 SAM. 4:1–7:2

- City
- Gilgal? City (uncertain location)
- Israeliite 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
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
2 Samuel 2–1 Kings 2; 1 Chronicles 11–29

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.
DAVID'S WARS OF CONQUEST
2 SAM. 8:1-12:21
1 CHR. 18:1-12

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- David's routes of conquest
- Edomite threat and retreat
- Philistine threat
- Aramean forces
- Saul's (now deceased) kingdom
- Territory of David's conquest
Solomon

1 Kings 1–12; 2 Chronicles 1–9

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
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
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.
CONFLICTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAM-DAMASCUS

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

Israel’s routes:
- About 855-853
- About 843

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 Jeroboam II 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 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.
ELIJAH AND ELISHA
1 KGS. 17-21; 2 KGS. 1:1-4; 2:1-25; 4-9; 13:14-21
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Possible flight of Elijah
- Elisha follows Elijah and becomes his disciple

Elisha prophesies doom of Ben-hadad and pronounced Hazael as king
Elisha initiates the bloody purge of the Omride Dynasty by sending prophet to anoint Jehu
Elisha raises Shunammite’s son from death
Elisha purifies a poisoned pot of stew
Elisha purifies spring
Naaman cleansed of leprosy
Elijah’s birthplace
Dramatic ascension of Elijah into heaven
Elijah finds Refuge in wilderness before journeying to Mt. Horeb
Elijah finds Elisha at his home village
Elijah pronounces doom on Ahab and his family for the sin against Naboth
Elijah confronts prophets of Baal and a bloody purge of Baal priests follows. Oddly, Elijah flees southward
Elijah stays with a widow and raises her son from death
Elijah prophesies the end of a siege
Mediterranean Sea
Israel
Judah
Aram
Dead Sea
Edom
Moab
Philistia
Beersheba
Wilderness of Beersheba
Way of Edom
To Mt. Horeb
352.3x478.1
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

Ahaziah dies
Jehu kills Joram and Jezebel
Ahaziah wounded by Jehu’s warriors
Massacre of sons of Ahab and worshipers of Baal
Jehu anointed king by Elisha
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
- Tiglath-pileser III (734 B.C.) (campaign against the Philistines)
- Tiglath-pileser III (733 B.C.) (campaign against Israel)
- Tiglath-pileser III (732 B.C.) (campaign against Damascus)

TYRE Assyrian province
THE FALL OF SAMARIA AND DEPORTATION OF ISRAELITES

2 KGS. 17:1-6, 24-34
1 CHR. 5:26
HOS. 7:11; 12:1

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Capital city
- Siege
- Deported Israelites
- Foreigners imported to Samaria
- Syrian captives brought to Samaria
- Shalmaneser V and Sargon II campaign
- Hoshea’s messenger
- Resettled Israelites
- People imported from Babylon
- Syrian captives

Map showing the fall of Samaria and deportation of Israelites, including key locations such as Samaria, Assyria, Babylon, and Samaria’s evacuation route to Egypt.
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 Shalmaneser 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 Samaria (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.
Chapter 11

Judah Alone amid International Powers
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 REIGN OF JOSIAH
2 KGS. 22-23
2 CHRL. 34-35

- Modern city
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Battle
- Josiah's routes
- Neco II's routes
- Main trunk route
- Area firmly controlled by Josiah at the start of his reign
- Josiah's area of conquest

In 609 B.C., Josiah is killed outside of Megiddo in a battle with Egyptian King Neco II.

Josiah removed the pagan shrines from towns in Samaria.

Josiah dismantled the high place at Bethel.

Josiah was buried in Jerusalem.

Finding of the "Book of the Law", ca. 622/21; Josiah purges Jerusalem of pagan shrines, images, and practices.

Defiled the high places from Gaba to Beersheba.

King Neco II continues on his way to assist in a final Assyrian effort to recapture Haman.
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.
NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S CAMPAIGNS AGAINST JUDAH

- City
- Mountain peak
- Siege
- Nebuchadnezzar's first campaign (604)
- Nebuchadnezzar's second campaign (598-597)
- Nebuchadnezzar's third campaign (587-586)
- Egyptian campaign of 604-601
- Zedekiah's escape route
- Edomite's attack on Jerusalem
- Area of Babylonian dominance

After Jerusalem fell, the Babylonians destroyed its fortifications and burnt down the temple.
Chapter 12

The Babylonian Exile
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 RETURNS OF JEWISH EXILES TO JUDAH

THE EDTICT OF CYRUS: EZRA 1:2–4; 6:1–4
see also EZRA 1:5–8:35
NEH. 1–3

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Sheshbazzar’s and Zerubbabel’s route
- Ezra’s and Nehemiah’s route
- Cyrus’s Persian Empire

First Sheshbazzar, then Zerubbabel led groups of Jewish exiles back to Judah between about 537 and 522 B.C.

Ezra leads a group of Jews back to Jerusalem. He was appointed minister of religious affairs by Artaxerxes 458 B.C.

Nehemiah hears of dire conditions in Judah and returns to Jerusalem under royal appointment 444 B.C.
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 Jewish efforts to rebuild their homeland.

The wealthy Tobians meddle in the affairs of Judah for centuries.

Ashdod
Ashkelon
Gaza
Kedarite Arabs
Negeb
Nabatea
Edom
Dead Sea
Mediterranean Sea

Given in Sidon about 450 B.C.E.
Chapter 14

The Hellenistic Period
PALESTINE UNDER THE PTOLEMIAN

- 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.
Romans decisively beat Antiochus III and demand forfeiture of all Seleucid claims in Asia Minor as well as a large sum of money (190 B.C.).

Antiochus III defeats Ptolemaic army which results in Seleucid control over Palestine (200 B.C.).

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
CAMPAIGNS OF ANTIOCHUS IV AGAINST EGYPT
I MACC. 1:16-28

- City
- Siege
- First campaign of Antiochus IV
- Second campaign of Antiochus IV

Antiochus IV plunder the temple in 169 B.C. and later imposes restrictions on Jewish customs.

Romans demand Antiochus cease the siege and return to Palestine.

Antiochus defeats Ptolemy VI about 170 B.C.

Jason, the brother of Onias III, takes over as high priest in Jerusalem.
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.
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 Ptolemais
- Samaritan state
- Cities of the Decapolis

POMPEY'S SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

× Spot elevation
- 2400 Contour interval = 33ft. (10m)

Romans build a dike around temple fortifications

Romans position ramps, catapults, and siege engines
Part Three

The New Testament Era
Chapter 15

Rome's Emergence as a World Power
THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE AGE OF AUGUSTUS

- City
- Territory under Roman control
- Senatorial provinces
- Imperial provinces
- Principal client states
- Unconquered territory
- Provincial boundaries
Chapter 16

The Romans, Palestine, and Herod the Great
Chapter 17

The World of Jesus
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.
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.
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

Traditional site of Sermon on the Mount
Jesus performs numerous miracles
Jesus calls Levi, Simon, Andrew, John, and James
Feeding of the multitudes
Jesus appears to His disciples on the Sea
Jesus heals a demoniac
Jesus calms a storm

City:
- Capernaum
- Heptapegon (Tabgha)
- Gaulantis
- Bethsaida
- Gennesaret
- Plain of Gennesaret
- Chorazin
- Taricheae (Magdala)
- Tiberias
- Hammath
- Sennabris
- Gadara
- Emmatha
- Jordan R.
- Yarmuk R.
- Lower Galilee
- Sea of Galilee
- Decapolis

Road:
- Jordan R.
- Yarmuk R.
- Gadara
- Emmatha
- Sennabris
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
- \( \rightarrow \) 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 Syro-Phoenician woman

Peter's Great Confession

Jesus travels to and from Jerusalem on many occasions, healing, 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.
Chapter 19

Early Expansion of the Church
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.
THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL

ACTS 13:4-14:28

- City
- Paul’s routes
- Via Sebaste

Paul encounters intense Jewish opposition to the gospel
Paul and Barnabas flee Iconium after a plot to kill them
Paul and Barnabas mistaken for gods
Paul continues journey after being stoned in Lystra
The church at Antioch sends Paul and Barnabas on missionary work
Proconsul Sergius Paulus converted

MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Chapter 20

The First Jewish Revolt
THE FIRST JEWISH REVOLT

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Mountain peak
- Battle
- Siege
- Cestius Gallus's campaign A.D. 66
- Vespasian's campaign A.D. 67
- Vespasian's campaign A.D. 68
- Agrippa II's kingdom
- Roman procuratorial rule

Vespasian assembled Roman legions at Caesarea Maritima (A.D. 67)

Riots break out between Jews and Gentiles (A.D. 66)

Cestius Gallus attempts to quell the Jewish revolt

The Romans secured the coastal plain by taking key ports

The rebellion against Rome starts (June A.D. 68)

Vespasian captures Acre (A.D. 66)

Vespasian captures several cities in Idumea (A.D. 68)
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
John writes Revelation, encouraging Christians to remain faithful.
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 Betheer 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.