

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY
OLD TESTAMENT GEOGRAPHY

LESSON 4

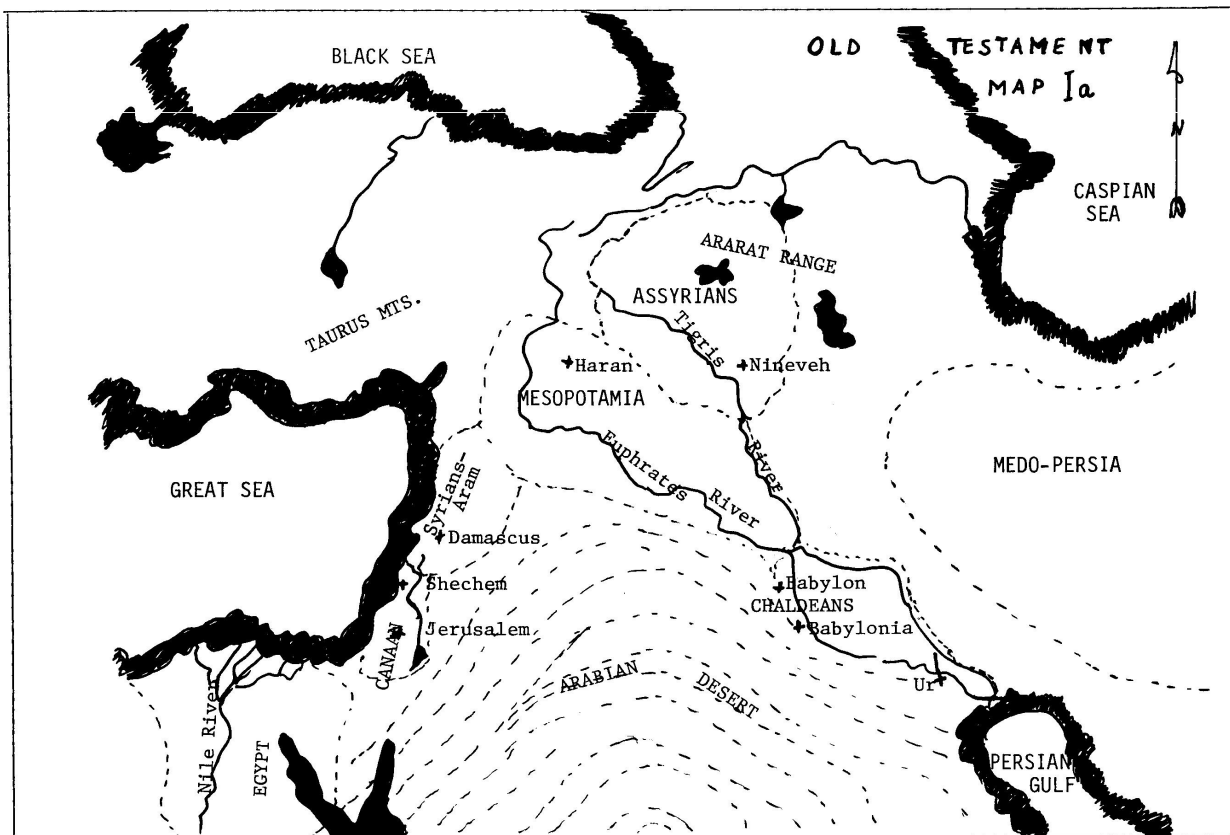
The kind of country people live in has much to do with how they live. It has much to do with how they travel.

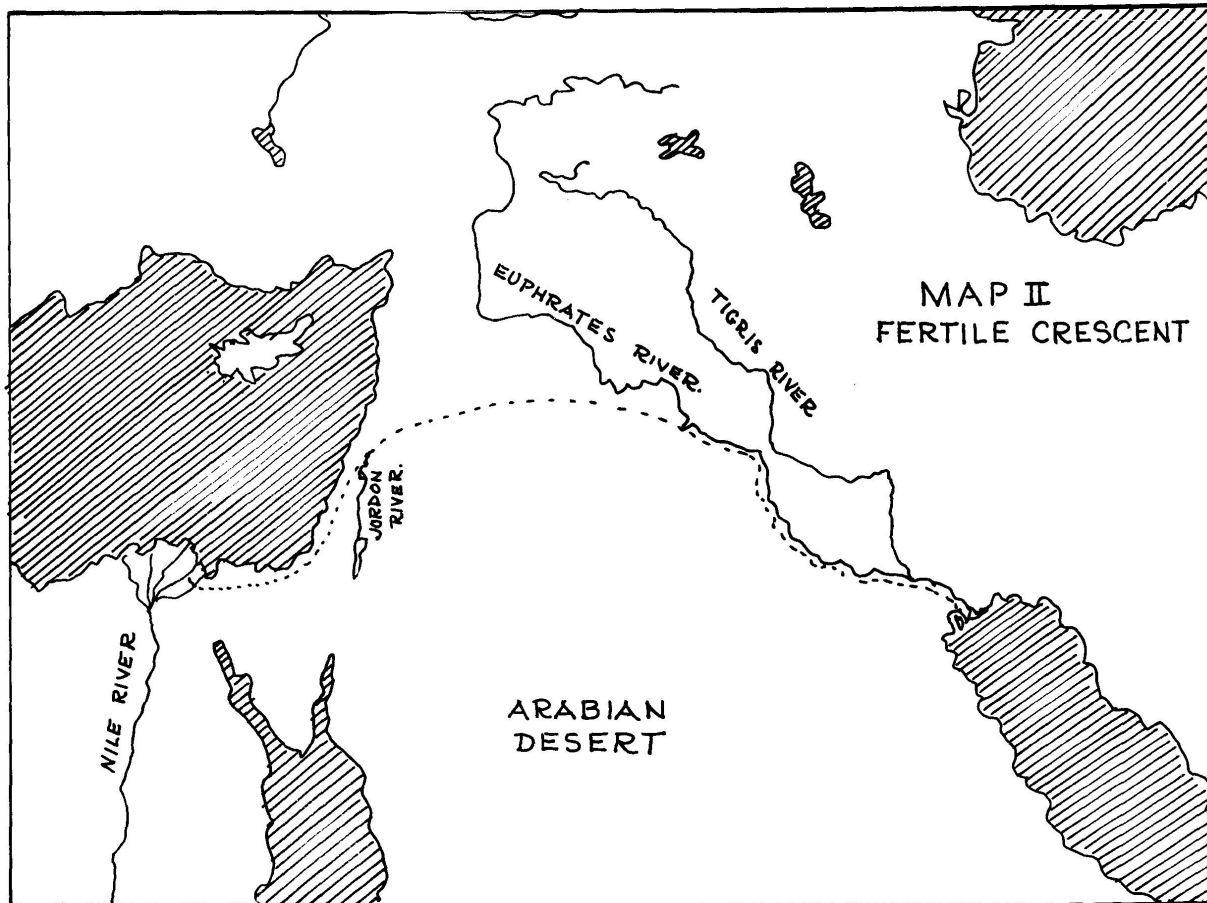
The First Nations people in northern Canada live much differently than those in southern Canada. The northern First Nations people travel on rivers and lakes. The southern First Nations people travel on roads and trails. Northern First Nations people have canoes, skidoos, snow shoes and dog teams. Southern First Nations people have horses, cars and trucks.

We want to understand the Old Testament. To understand it, we must learn if the country is: 1) hilly or flat; 2) mountainous or plain; 3) dry or wet; 4) hot or cold. Also we should know the rivers and the lakes. We should know about the different people who live in that country.

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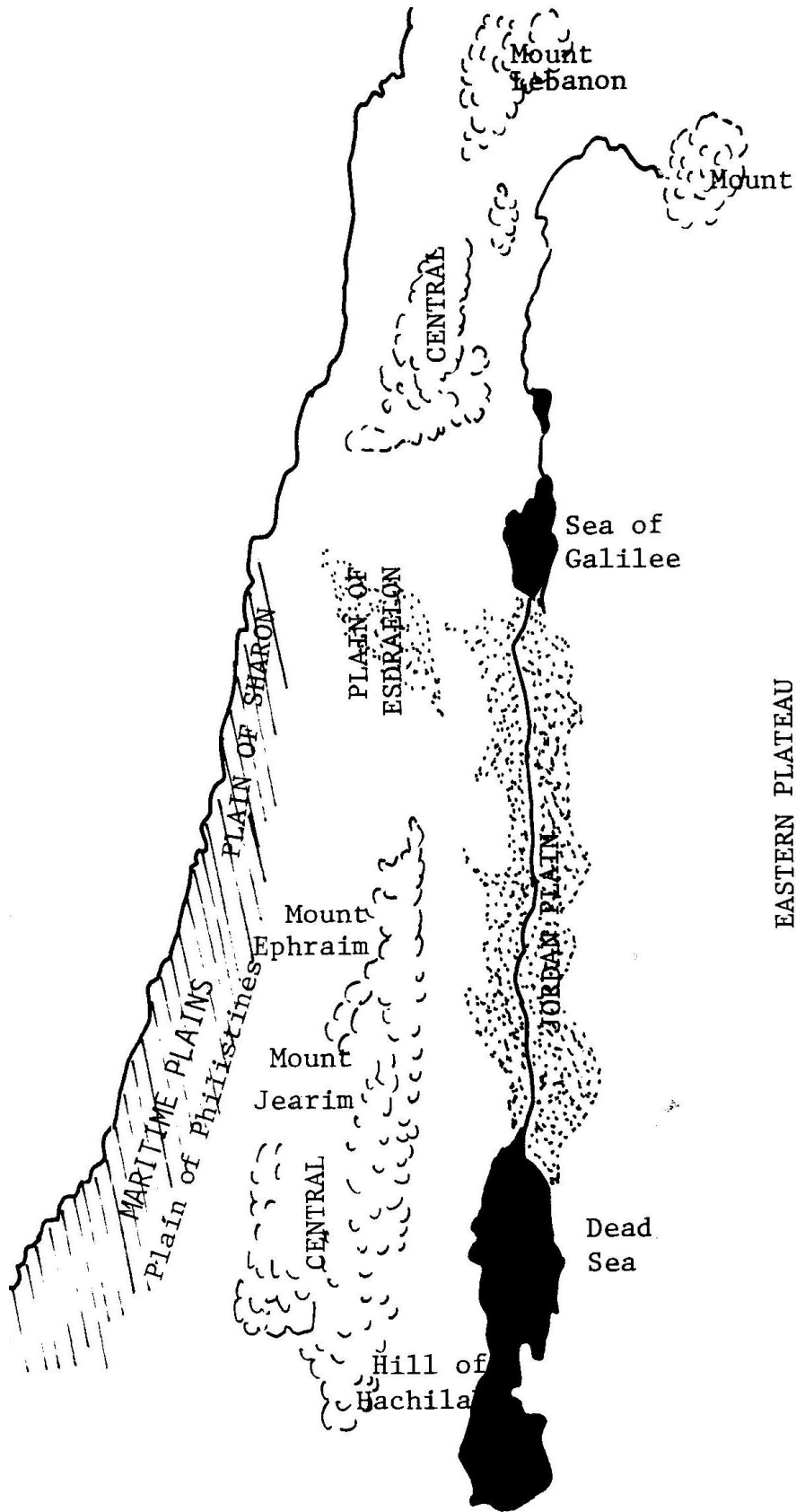
You have some maps which will help you to know about the Old Testament countries. Learn to read these maps. Make some of your own maps. You will need crayons or colored pencils to make the maps.





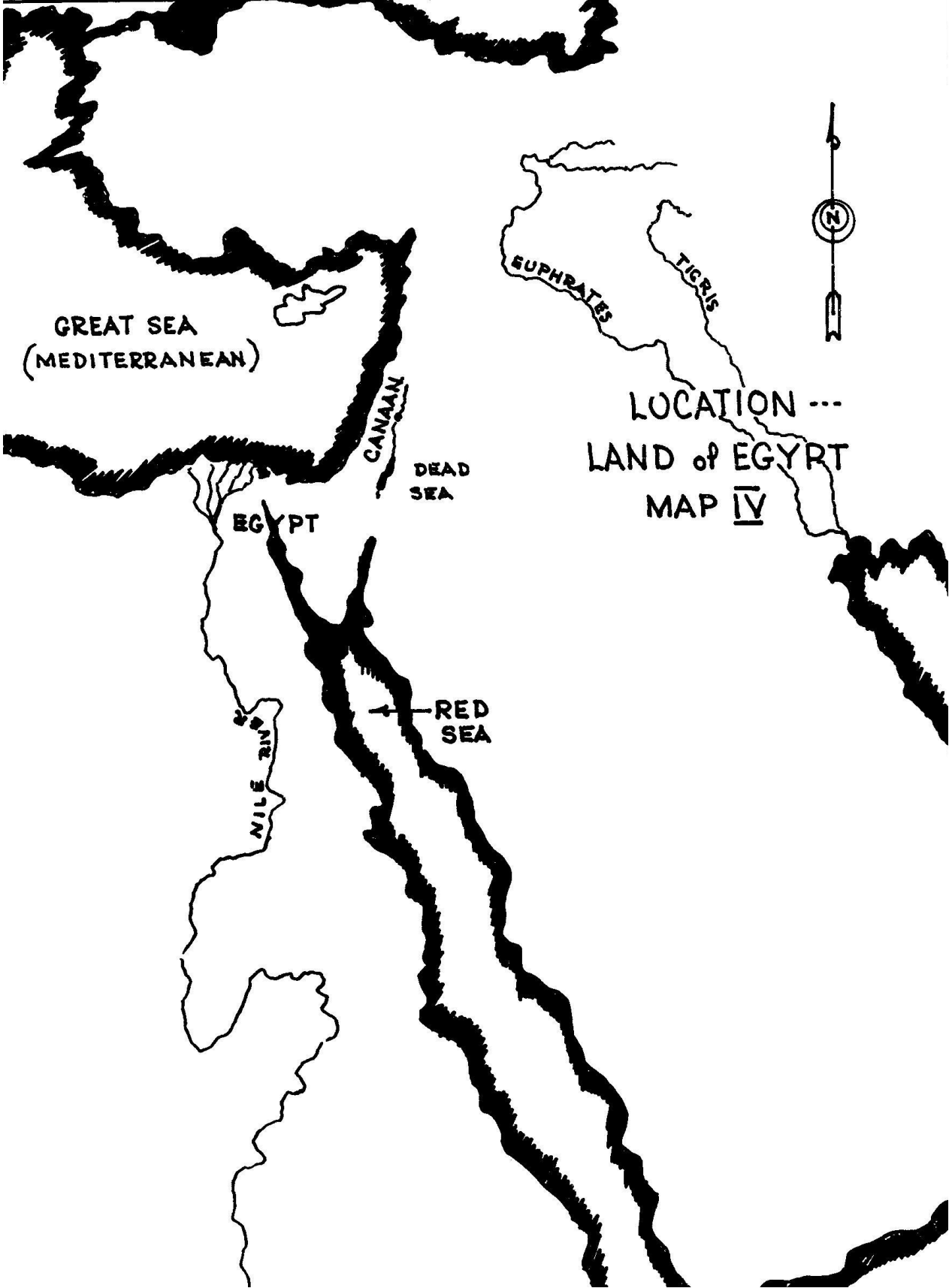
Maps are pictures of certain parts of the world.

- They show you where cities are.
- They show you where the roads and trails are.
- They show you where the rivers, lakes and seas are.
- Some maps show if the land is flat, hilly or mountainous.
- Some maps show where there is much rain or very little rain.
- Some maps show where many people live and where few people live.



LAND OF
CANAAN
(PALESTINE)

MAP III



GREAT SEA
(MEDITERRANEAN)

EUPHRATES

TIGRIS



LOCATION ...
LAND of EGYPT
MAP IV

DEAD SEA

EGYPT

RED SEA

NILE RIVER

CANAAN

1. COUNTRIES

The Old Testament talks about the seven great nations. Find these nations on map #1a. Find them also on map #1b and color them. Also color the square next to the name with the same color.

- Chaldea and Babylonia
- Syria - Aram
- Mesopotamia
- Palestine (Canaan)
- Assyria
- Egypt
- Medo-Persia

2. CITIES AND RIVERS

Find the following main cities on map #1a. Mark them on map #1b. Remember where they are.

Cities:

- Ur Babylon Haran Shechem
- Damascus Jerusalem Nineveh

Find the following rivers on map #1a. Mark them on map #1b.

Rivers:

- Euphrates Tigris Nile

3. FERTILE CRESCENT (CURVE)

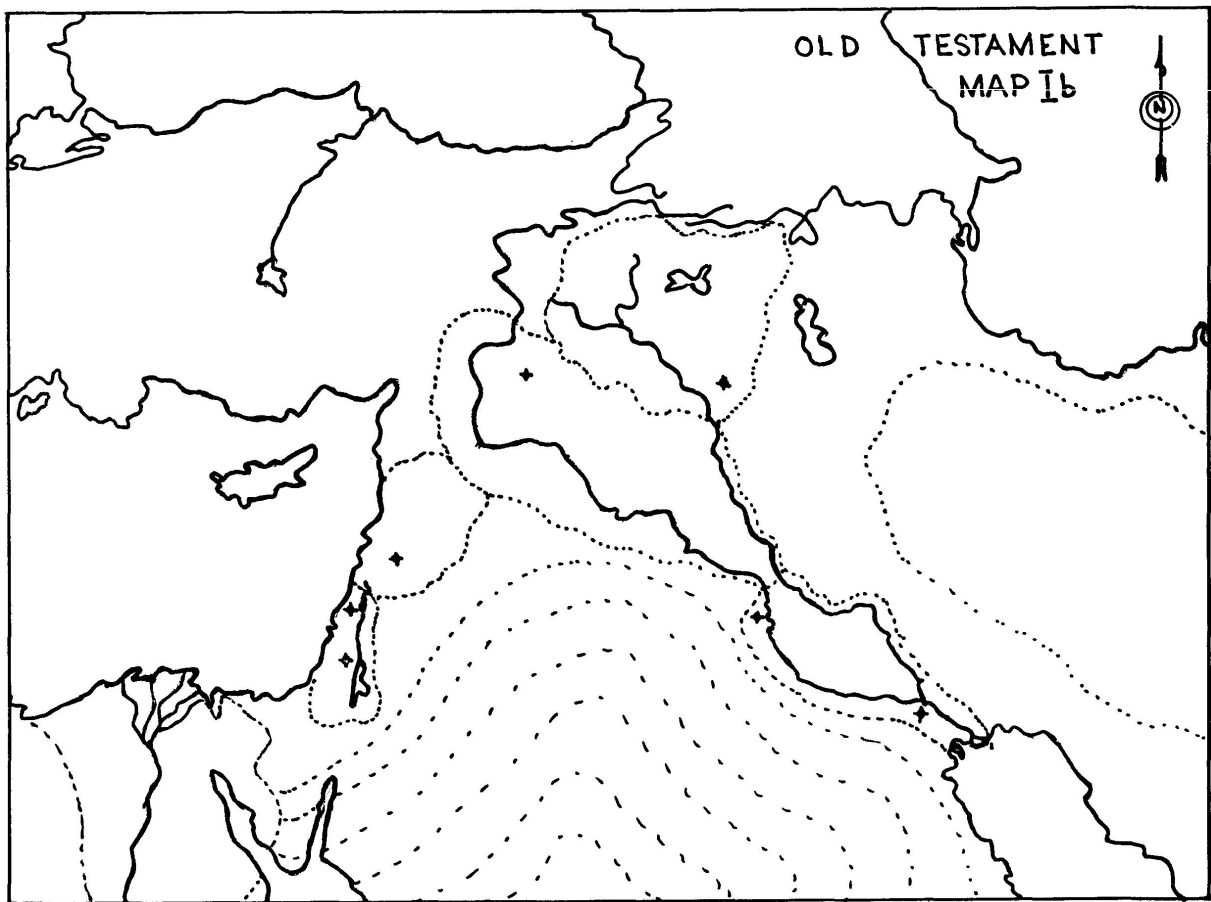
There is an area of land that follows along the Euphrates River. This area of land is toward the north-west and comes down to the southwest. It makes a curve or crescent. This curve or crescent is called the fertile crescent (curve). Along this crescent the people lived and travelled. To the south of this crescent is a desert. It is very hot and dry. Very few people live in the desert. Many who went into the desert would die because there was no water.

North of the crescent are high and rough mountains. These are also hard to live in. All this country is about the same size as Alberta, Saskatchewan and one half of Manitoba put together.

The Old Testament speaks mostly about the countries between the Persian Gulf and the Great Sea (Mediterranean).

Looking at map #1a we will see two rivers going to the Persian Gulf. What are their names?

It is somewhere between these rivers that God made and placed the first people (Genesis 2:8-15). No one knows the exact place. The Bible tells about this area because people first lived here.



4. CANAAN (PALESTINE)

In the books of Genesis and Exodus, Palestine is often called Canaan.

Canaan was very small. It was about 80 miles long. It was between the Great Sea (Mediterranean Sea) and the Jordan River. On the north Canaan was 28 miles wide. On the south it was 54 miles wide. Later on Canaan became a larger country. A large part of the country east of the Jordan River was added to Canaan.

A. Four main parts of Canaan.

- 1) **Plains.**

Along the Great Sea the land is flat and low. This is called the maritime plain. The Plain of the Philistines and the Plain of Sharon are parts of the maritime plain. There is also the Plain of Esdraelon further inland. Vegetables and fruit grow well in the plains.

- 2) **Mountains.**

East of the plains are mountains or high hills. The mountains are not rough. They are high, but round. Sheep and cattle graze on these mountains.

- 3) **Jordan Plain (Valley).**

A valley is a low area between mountains or plateaus. The Jordan Plain (Valley) lies between the mountains on the west and the plateau on the east. This is another good place to raise fruit and vegetables.

- 4) **Plateau.**

A plateau is a high, but flat area. Eastern Canaan has a large plateau. The people raise cattle and sheep here. What does the Bible say about this land (Exodus 3:8,17)?

On map #III of Canaan, find where it is marked plains. Color that part green. Find the mountains – color them brown. Find the plateau - color it orange. Find the Jordan Plain - color it yellow.

B. Rainfall.

Northern Canaan has plenty of rain. There are many trees there. Southern Canaan is dry and desert-like.

C. Temperatures.

The temperatures run from 40 degrees F (4.5 degrees C) above zero in winter to 100 degrees F (38 degrees C) above zero in summer. It seldom freezes.

5. EGYPT

Another area which the Bible tells about is Egypt. Egypt is to the south-west of Canaan under the Great Sea (Mediterranean).

Most of Egypt is desert. Very few people lived in the desert.

There is one river, the Nile River, which runs from Ethiopia to the Great Sea. It is on the east side of Egypt. It is here that most of the people lived. They got their water to drink and also watered their crops from the river.

The Egyptian people were very clever. They were able to build very large buildings. They knew how to make many things

On map #IV color the country of Egypt red.

WORDS TO LEARN

1. crescent - curve.
2. desert - a very dry country where little grows, and where few people live.
3. maritime - close to the sea.
4. plain - a low flat area of land.
5. plateau - a high, but flat area of land.
6. valley - a low area of land between mountains or plateaus.

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