

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT

WHERE AND HOW THE PEOPLE LIVED

LESSON 4

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. ROMAN EMPIRE
 - A. Provinces.
 - B. Palestine.
 - 1. Parts of Palestine.
 - 2. Geography of Palestine.
 - 3. Rainfall in Palestine.
 - 4. Temperature in Palestine.
 - 5. People of Palestine.
 - C. People of the Roman Empire.
 - D. Travel in the Roman Empire.
- III. WORDS TO LEARN
- IV. ASSIGNMENT

WHERE AND HOW THE PEOPLE LIVED

I. INTRODUCTION

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 in Northern Canada live much different than those in southern Canada.

The northern First Nations travel on rivers

and lakes. The southern First Nations travel on roads and trails.

Northern First Nations have canoes, skidoos, snowshoes and dog-teams. Southern First Nations have horses, cars and trucks.



When we know what Palestine is like, we can understand the New Testament better. Some parts of Palestine are hilly, some are flat, and some parts are mountainous. People who live in the mountains live differently than the people on the plains. They do different work. It is harder to walk in the mountains than on the plains.

When we know where the mountains are, we know what Jesus meant when He said, “A man went down to Jericho.”

You have several maps which help you know about the New Testament countries. Learn to read these maps. Make some of your own maps.

Maps are pictures of certain parts of the world. They show where the cities are. They show you where roads and trails are. They show you where 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.



Israel city

II. ROMAN EMPIRE

A. Provinces.

The Romans took many countries. All of these countries became part of their empire. The Romans divided the empire into provinces. Each province or group of provinces was ruled by a king. The provinces were divided into smaller parts. These smaller parts were ruled by tetrarchs. Tetrarchs were like premiers or governors. Procurators also ruled. These procurators were like judges who kept law and order.

The New Testament tells about 15 Roman provinces. The provinces are: Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Cilicia, Cappadocia, Galatia, Thracia, Asia, Macedonia, Achaia, Italia, Bithynia, Hispania, Pamphylia and Lysia.

B. Palestine.

Palestine was a part of the province of Syria. Palestine was the land of the Jews or Israelites. The Jews were taken away from Palestine in 70 A.D. (after the birth of Christ). The Arabs moved into the land. The Arabs took the name of the land and were called Palestinians.

Since 1948 the Jews have been going back to Palestine. They have formed a country called Israel. The Palestinians do not like this. They are trying to chase the Jews out of Palestine. However, God told the Jews they were to have the country.

1. Parts of Palestine.

Palestine was divided into smaller parts. These parts were: Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Decapolis and Perea.

The part called Judea is in the south. This is where Christ was born. Jerusalem and the temple were in Judea.

The part called Samaria is to the north of Judea. The Samaritans lived in Samaria. Because the Jews did not like the Samaritans, they did not go through Samaria. The Jews went around Samaria on the other side of the Jordan River.

The part called Galilee is in the north. This is where Jesus grew up. Jesus spent most of his time in Galilee.

The parts of Decapolis and Perea were on the east side of the Jordan River.

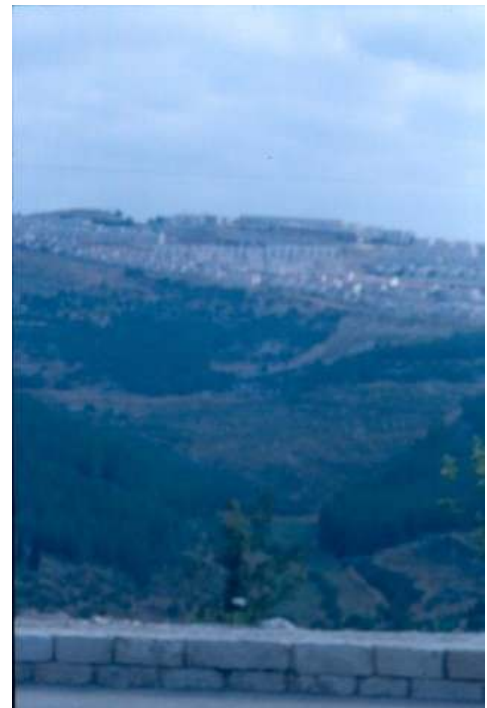
2. Geography of Palestine.

Palestine was very small. It was about 145 miles (232 kilometers) long. In the north it was about 28 miles (45 kilometers) wide. In the south it was about 54 miles (86 kilometers) wide. Judea, Samaria and Galilee were between the Mediterranean Sea. and the Jordan River. Only Decapolis and Perea were on the east side of the Jordan River.

There are four main land parts of Palestine. These land parts are:

Plains.

Along the Mediterranean Sea the land is flat and low. This is called the Maritime Plain. The Plain of the Philistines and the Plain of Sharon are part of the Maritime Plain.



Valley - hill

Further inland is the Plain of Esdrelon. Some of the nicest fruits and vegetables in the world are grown on these plains.

Mountains.

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

Jordan Plain (Valley).

A valley is a low area between mountains or plateaus. The Jordan Plain or Valley lies between the mountains on the west



Herdsman

and the plateau on the east. This is another good place to raise fruits and vegetables.

and the plateau on the east. This is another good place to raise fruits and vegetables.



Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is at the north end of the Jordan River. The Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea.



Engedi

Plateau.

A plateau is a high, but flat area. Eastern Palestine (Peres) has a large plateau. The people raise sheep and cattle here.

3. Rainfall in Palestine.

The northern part of Palestine has plenty of rain. There are many trees there. The southern part of Palestine is dry and like a desert.

4. Temperature in Palestine.

The temperature runs from 40 degrees Fahrenheit (4°C) above zero in winter to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37 C°) above zero in summer. It seldom freezes.

5. People of Palestine.

The Jews in Palestine were either very rich or very poor. Most of the people were poor. There were no middle class people.

The religious leaders were rich. Many of them cheated the people. This was the reason Jesus was angry in the temple, John 2:13-16. Men like Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathaea were rich. They owned much land and rented it to the farmers. (These two men belonged to the Sanhedrin, or Council.) Most of the people who collected taxes for the Roman government were rich. Also there were traders in the land.

Some of the poor people were farmers, shepherds, carpenters, tentmakers, fishermen and vineyard workers. Jesus was a carpenter. Peter and John were fishermen. Paul was a tentmaker.

The Jews thought riches were a sign of God's special favor.

Even though there was a great difference between the rich and the poor, they saw each other equal in God's sight. This is because the Scriptures taught that God sees all people the same.¹



Masada

¹M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, pp. 47,48.

C. People of the Roman Empire.

There were three groups of people among the other nations. There were very rich people, slaves and poor people.

The very rich people owned much land. Some did much selling and buying. Others worked for the government and were paid well.

There were many slaves in the Roman Empire. There were more slaves in the Roman empire than there are people in Canada. There were more slaves than free people (citizens). The slaves were much like middle class people. They had work to do. They were given clothing and food. Some slaves were very smart. These slaves taught the Roman children. Other slaves took care of farms. The slaves did different kinds of work.

The poor people were very poor. They found it hard to get work. They often had to beg for food and clothing. The rich people were often mean to them. Sometimes the rich people took the things the poor people had.²

D. Travel in the Roman Empire.

The Romans built many good roads. These roads made it easy to go from place to place. Many ships sailed the seas. Paul often used ships when he travelled.

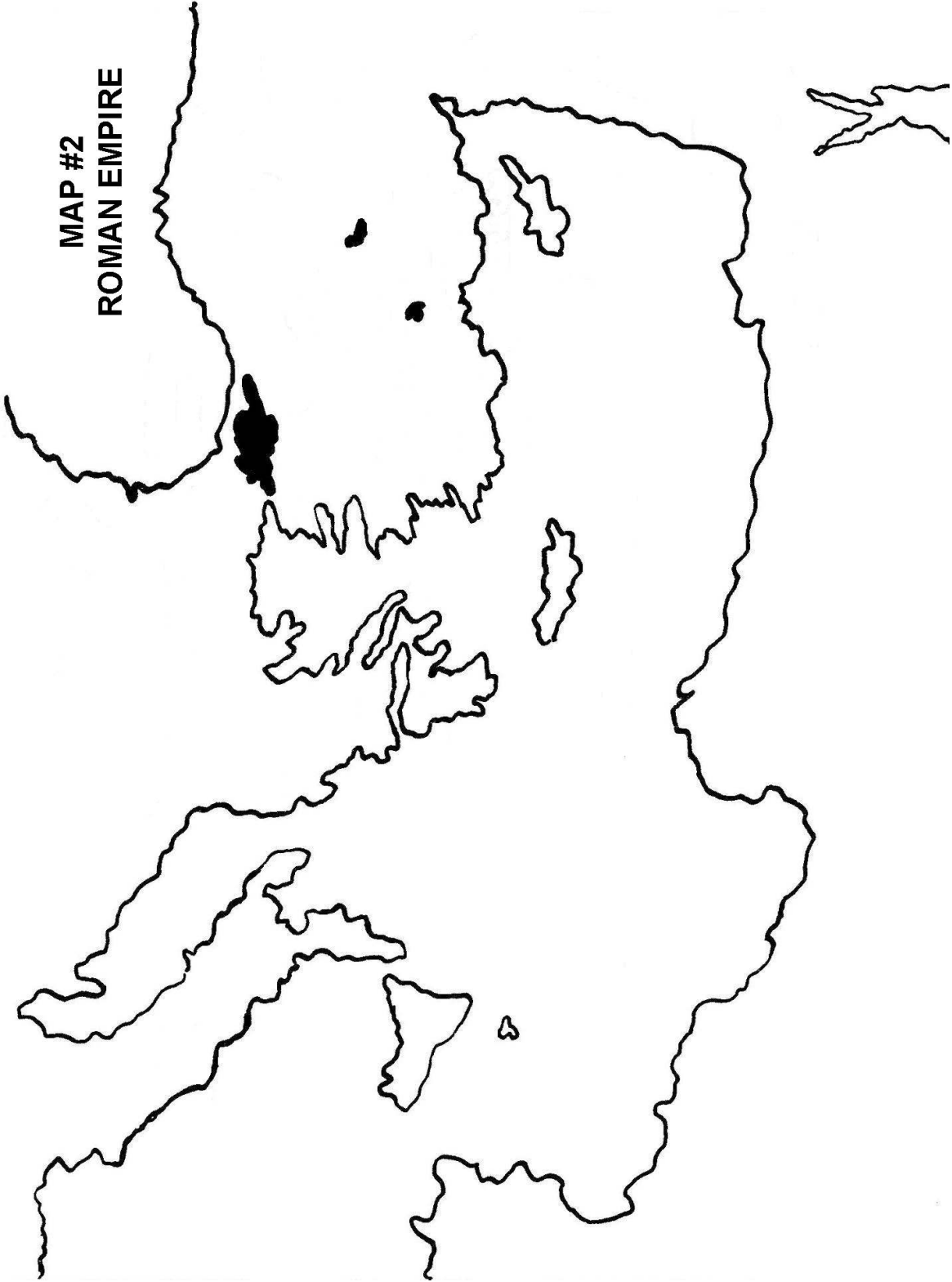
III. WORDS TO LEARN

1. citizen - a person who belongs to a country by birth or by being accepted as belonging to a country. Example: a person born in Canada is a citizen of Canada, or when someone from another country comes and the government says they can be like those born in Canada.
2. plateau - a high but flat area of land.
3. plain - a low flat area of land.
4. slave - a person who is owned by another. The slave has to work for his owner, and gets only his food and clothing for his work.

²M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, pp. 48-50.

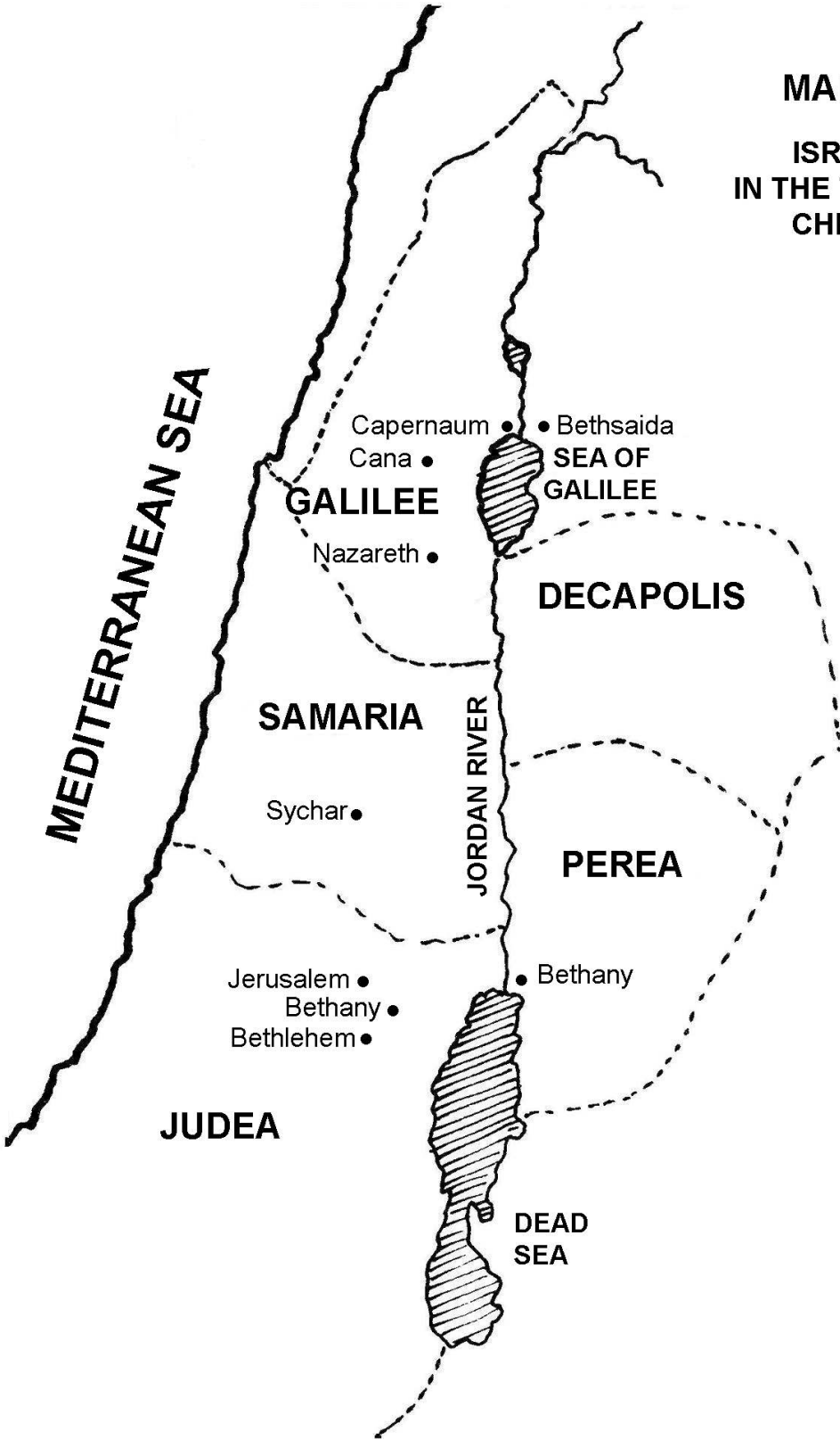
IV. ASSIGNMENT

1. On the map on page 8 find the names of the provinces of the Roman empire. On map 2 write the names of the provinces of the Roman empire.
2. On map 2 mark the following cities: Jerusalem, Antioch in Syria, Tarsus in Cilicia, Antioch in Galatia, Troas in Asia, Ephesus in Asia, Philippi in Macedonia, Corinth in Achaia, Athens in Achaia, Rome in Italia.
3. On map 3 find the parts of Palestine. On map 4 mark in the parts of Palestine. There should be five parts.
4. On map 4 mark the following cities:
Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Bethany, Sychar, Nazareth,
Cana, Capernaum, Bethsaida, Bethany beyond
Jordan.
5. On map 4 mark the following:
Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Jordan River.
6. On map 5 color the plains green, color the mountains brown, color the plateau orange and color the Jordan Valley yellow.
7. Color map 2. Color each province a different color. Color map 4. Color each province a different color. Color the lakes and rivers and seas blue.

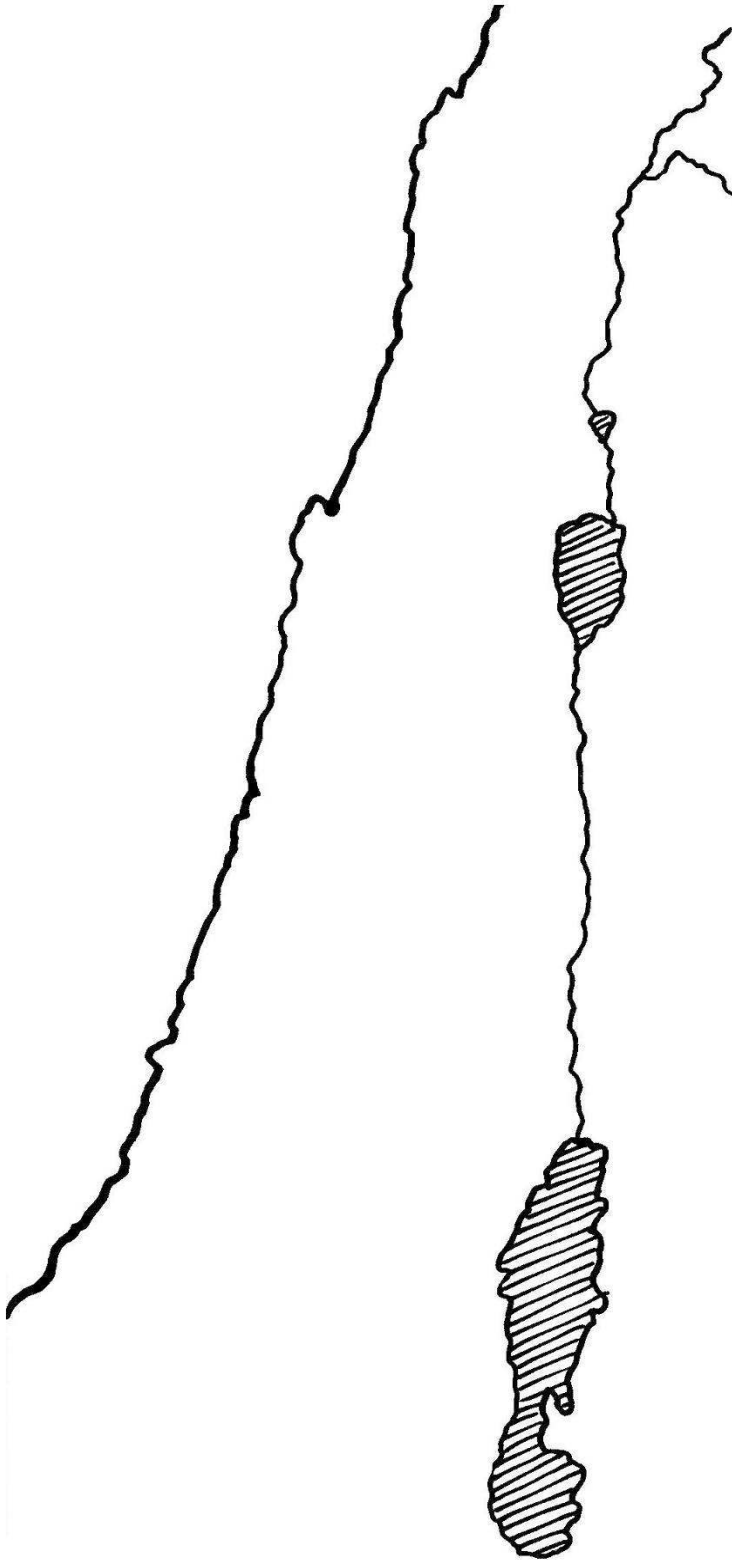


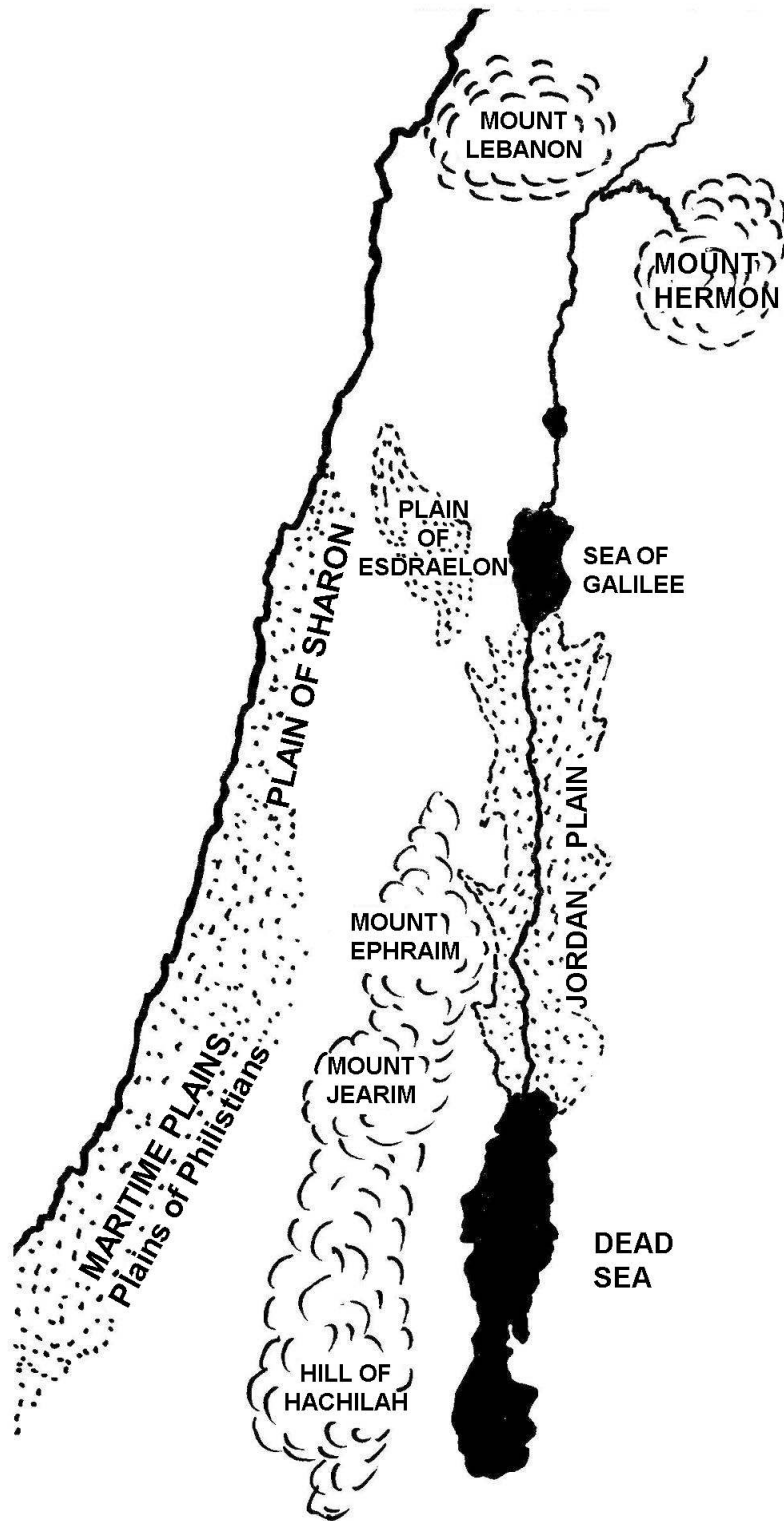
MAP #3

**ISRAEL
IN THE TIME OF
CHRIST**



MAP #4





MAP #5

ISRAEL



EASTERN PLATEAU

