



# OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

*Sunday Adult Class*  
*9:45 AM*

# OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

## **Why does it matter?**

- Helps us appreciate the reality of the bible account
- Creates understanding about why some things occurred as they did
- Shows us the struggle that some of the early bible characters had to overcome
- Establishes the power and wisdom of God

18	Judges
4	Tower of Babel
27	Birth of Jesus
22	Babylonian Captivity
9	Jacob's family move to Egypt
14	Giving the Law of Moses
34	John write the Book of Revelation on the Isle of Patmos
30	Christ is crucified
1	Creation
6	Promises made to Abraham
23	The Return from Captivity
11	Plagues in Egypt
17	Conquest of Canaan
2	Cain kills his brother
31	Establishment of the Church
20	Divided Kingdom
32	Paul's preaching journeys
24	Temple rebuilt
3	Flood
8	Joseph sold by his brothers
19	United Kingdom
5	Call of Abraham
33	Paul in prison in Rome
25	Walls of Jerusalem Rebuilt
15	12 Spies sent into Canaan
7	Sodom and Gomorah were destroyed
13	Crossing the Red Sea
21	Assyrian Captivity
28	Jesus selects his Apostles
16	Years of Wandering in the Wilderness
29	The Lord's Supper is instituted by Jesus
26	Rome comes to world power
12	Exodus from Egypt
10	Egyptian bondage

# Brief Look At All Bible Lands

## Palestine



# Names for the Land

- **Canaan is the earliest name applied to the land**
  - Used frequently throughout the Old Testament
    - Genesis 10:6, 15-20
- **The Promised Land is the land that God promised to give to Abraham's descendants**
  - Genesis 12:7; 15:18-21

# Names for the Land

- **Called the Land of Israel because Abraham's descendants inherited the land.**
  - Abraham's grandson, Jacob, was renamed Israel

# Names for the Land

- **Often referred to as Palestine**
  - Name came to be used after Bible days.
  - Roman Government controlled the land in the days of Christ and following
  - When Jerusalem was rebuilt on totally Roman lines, it was counted as a capital offense for a Jew to be seen in the city. The name of the country was changed to Syria Palaestina
  - Known primarily as Palestine today

# Names for God's People

- **Hebrew: “Stranger”; Foreigner**
  - **Abraham** (Genesis 14:13)
    - Foreign (from Ur) dwelling among the Canaanites
    - Descendants called Hebrews while in Egypt



# Names for God's People

- **Israelite or Children of Israel:**  
**“Descendant of Israel (Jacob)”**
  - Used most often in the Old Testament
  - Preferred by the Jews
    - Name declared them as heirs to the promises of Abraham

# Names for God's People

- **Jew:**
  - Applied to those living in the Southern Kingdom (Judah)
  - Any Israelite in Captivity
  - Those that returned to their homeland (from Babylonian captivity -- Ezra)
  - Today: Israelites scattered everywhere

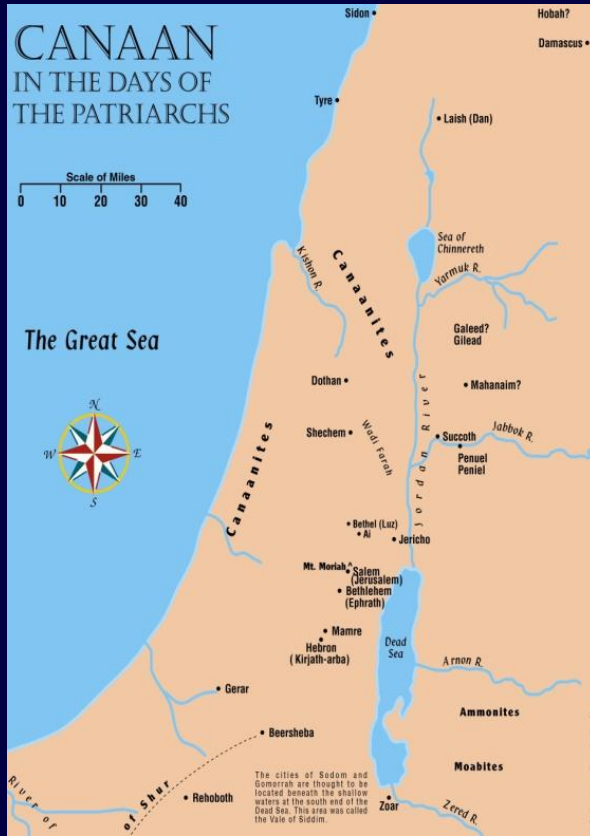
# A Tiny Country

- **Palestine is a pocket-sized country**
  - It is a little less than one-fourth the size of the state of Alabama
  - A territory of about 12,000 square miles. The state of Alabama has 51,609 square miles

# A Tiny Country

- **Let's compare the size of Palestine with a few states and then in relationship to the entire United States**
  - **Note:** The placement of Palestine within the states is estimated and not true to exact scale

# Palestine in Alabama



Alabama

Palestine  
12,000 Sq Miles

Alabama  
51,609 Sq Miles

Birmingham  
North is divided  
into 16 counties

Palestine  
12 Tribes

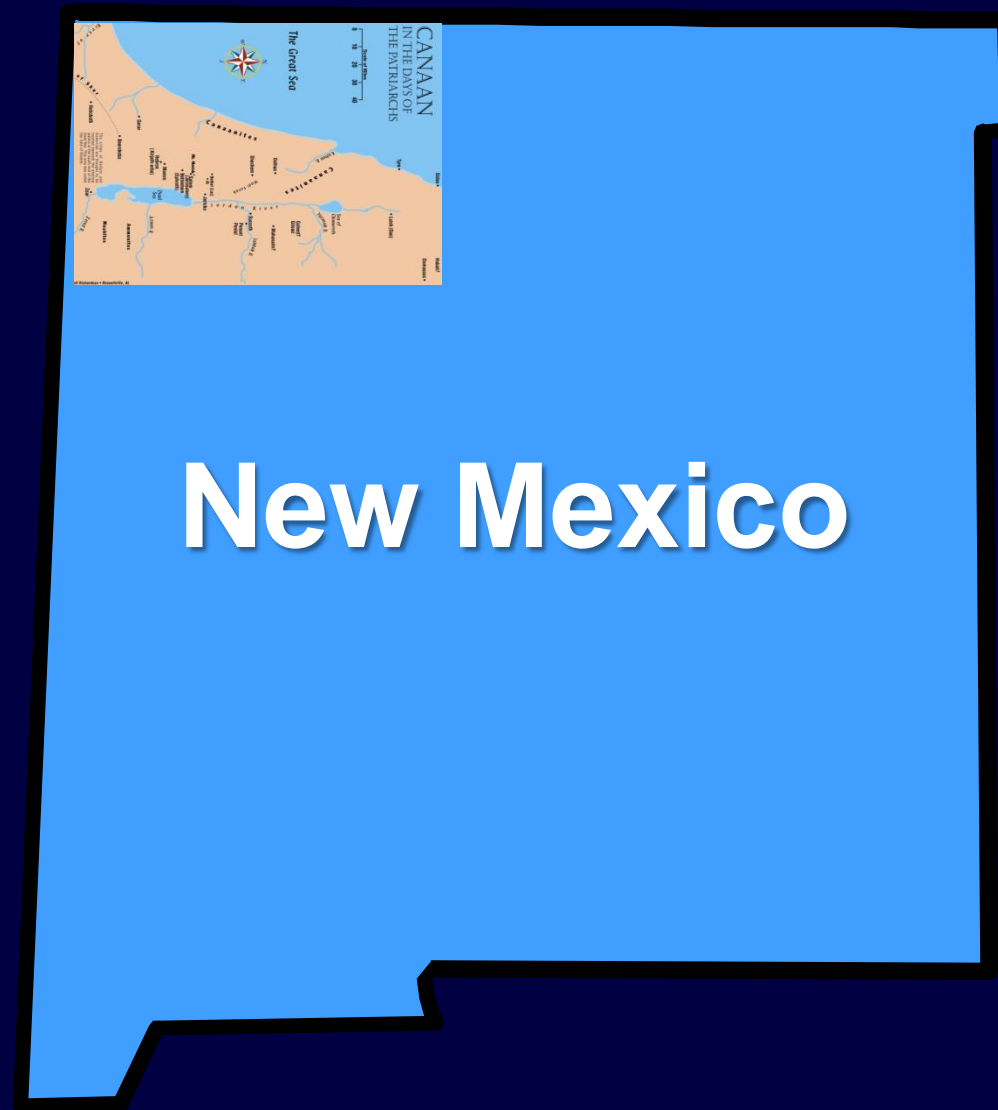
# Palestine in Indiana



**Palestine**  
12,000 Sq Miles

**Indiana**  
36,000 Sq Miles

# Palestine in New Mexico



**Palestine**  
12,000 Sq Miles

**New Mexico**  
121,000 Sq Miles

# Palestine in Texas

**Palestine**

12,000 Sq Miles

**Texas**

268,000 Sq Miles

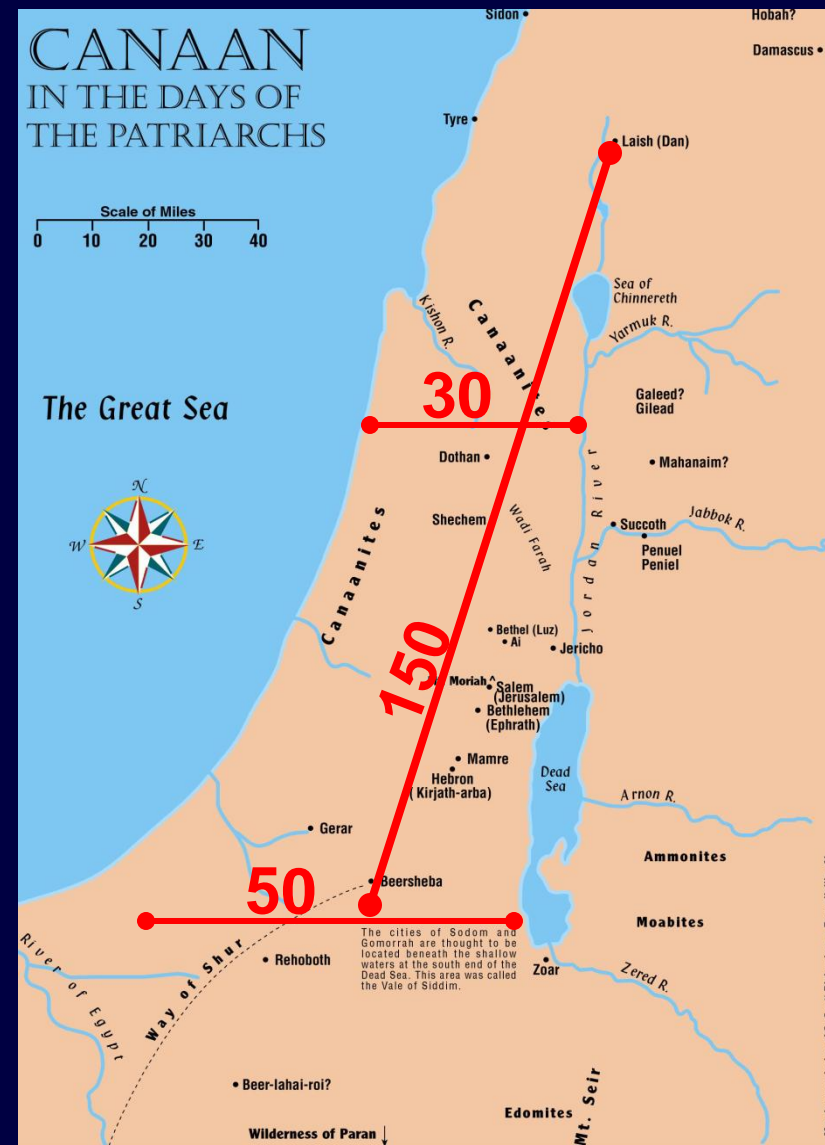


Texas



# A Tiny Country

- Dan to Beersheba is 150 miles
- Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan Valley is 30 miles
- Gaza to the Dead Sea is 50 miles
- The term “Canaan” only applied to the west side of the Jordan River



# Transportation

- **Today: 3 hour drive – 150 miles**
  - Abraham's day:
    - **Caravan of Camels**  
(5 days)
    - **Camel**  
(2 days)
    - **Herdsman**  
**Abram/Jacob**  
(2 weeks)



# Strategically Located

- **Major trade route:**
  - Connects two continents (Asia/Africa)
  - Connects Mediterranean Sea with the Arabian Desert
- **God's wisdom**
  - Kept other nations aware of Him through the Israelites
  - Able to punish them for disobedience by surrounding nations

# Climate

- Joppa 67 degrees average annual temperature
- Jerusalem 63 degrees average
- Jericho  
(Jordan Valley  
– 15 miles East  
of Jerusalem)  
110 degrees  
in the summer!



# Climate

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- **Mount Hermon (9,200 feet) is snow covered year round**



