



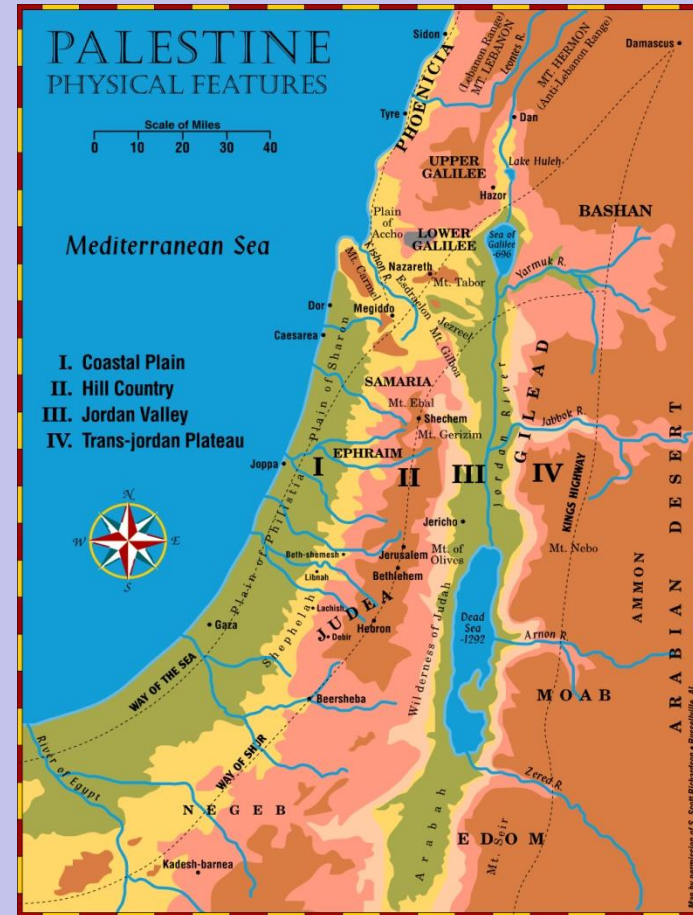
# OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

*Sunday Adult Class*  
*9:45 AM*

# The Geography of Palestine

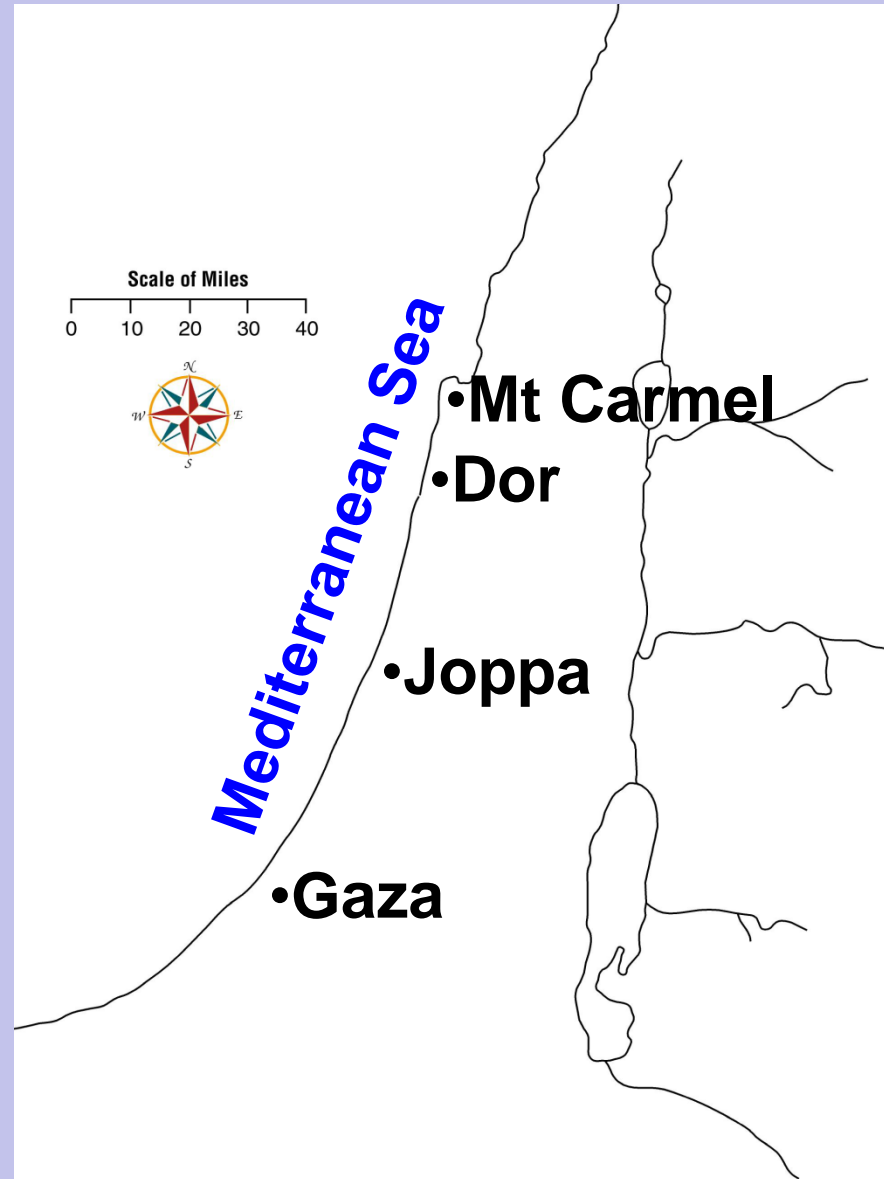
## The Land of Palestine

### Part 1



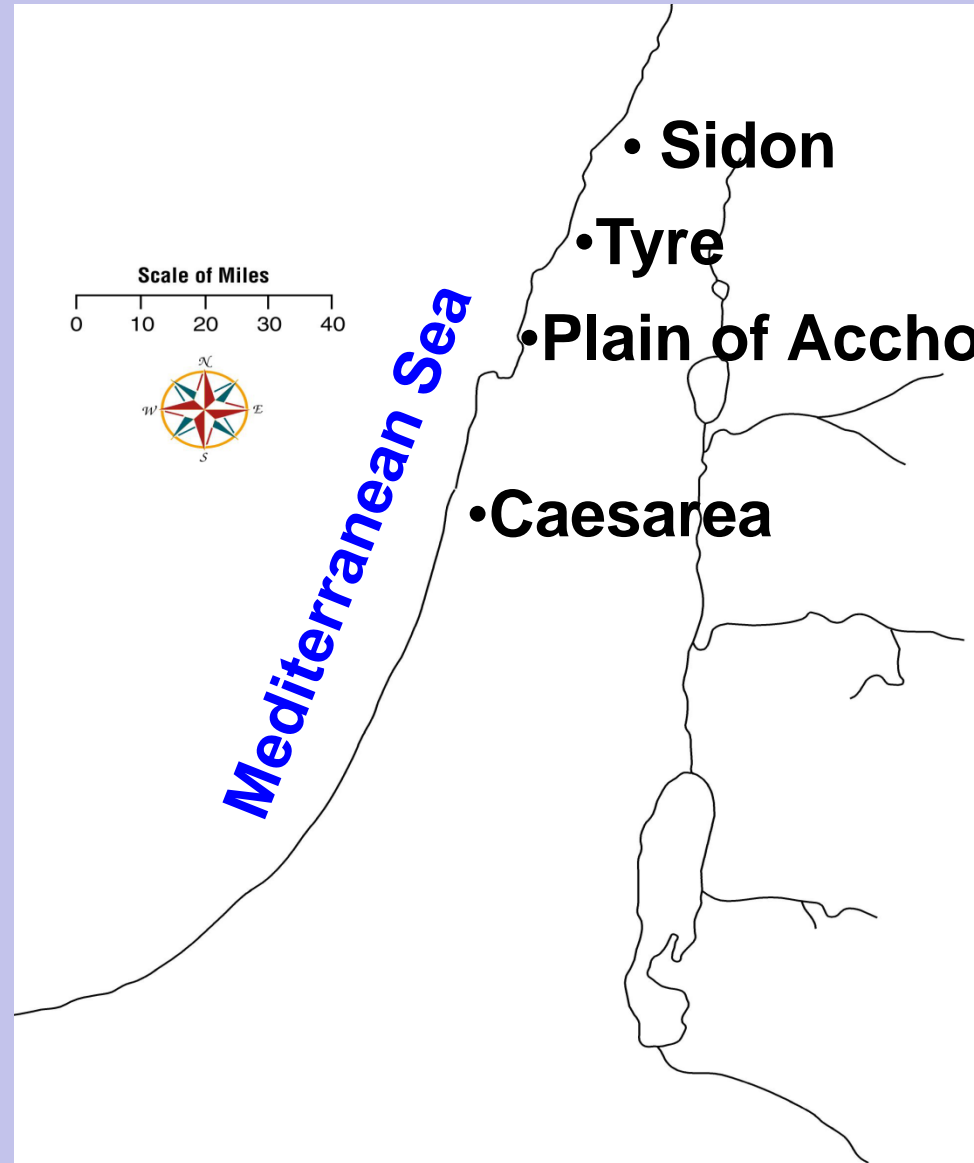


# Mediterranean Sea



- **The Great Sea**
- No decent harbor  
South of Mt. Carmel
- Fair weather harbors
  - Joppa
  - Dor
- Philistines inhabited the southern portion of the coastal plain
  - Came from Crete
  - Capital city of Gaza

# Mediterranean Sea



- **The Great Sea**
- Excellent harbors North of Mt. Carmel
  - Plain of Accho
  - Tyre
  - Sidon
- **Herod the Great**
  - Enlarged a city on the coast and called it Caesarea

# The Coastal Plain

- **Three Divisions**
  - Plain of Phoenicia
    - Sea Trade
    - Canaanites
  - Plain of Sharon
    - Very fertile and wet
    - Canaanites occupied
  - Plain of Philistia
    - Very fertile
    - Land of the Philistines





# The Hill Country

- Hill country west of Jordan was the Israelite stronghold
- Lebanon Mountain Range
  - Range nearest the Sea called Lebanon
    - 10,000 ft above sea level
  - Range to the East is called the Anti-Lebanons
    - Considered the northern boundary of Palestine during most of Bible history



# The Hill Country

- Leontes River runs between Lebanon and the hills of Galilee
  - 2,000 foot gorge
  - Impassable barrier between Phoenicia and Israel





# The Hill Country

- **Galilee**

- 50 mile section from Leontes River to the Valley of Jezreel
- Upper Galilee – high, rugged, 2,000-4,000 feet above sea level
- Lower Galilee – rounded hills, 700 feet above sea level



# The Hill Country

- **Galilee**
  - This area was the scene of some of Jesus' greatest work while He was on earth

# Sea of Galilee





# The Hill Country

- **Valley of Jezreel**
  - Series of valleys and plains that open together
  - Western portion of the plain is drained by the Kishon River that empties into the Sea



# The Hill Country

- **Valley of Jezreel**
  - One of the most important sections of the land commercially and militarily during Israelite history



# The Hill Country

- **Central Hill Country**
  - Highest peaks = 3,000 feet
  - Mt. Gilboa
  - Mt. Ebal
  - Mt. Gerizim

## The Valley of Jezreel



## Mount Gilboa



## Mount Carmel



## Mount Ebal





# The Hill Country

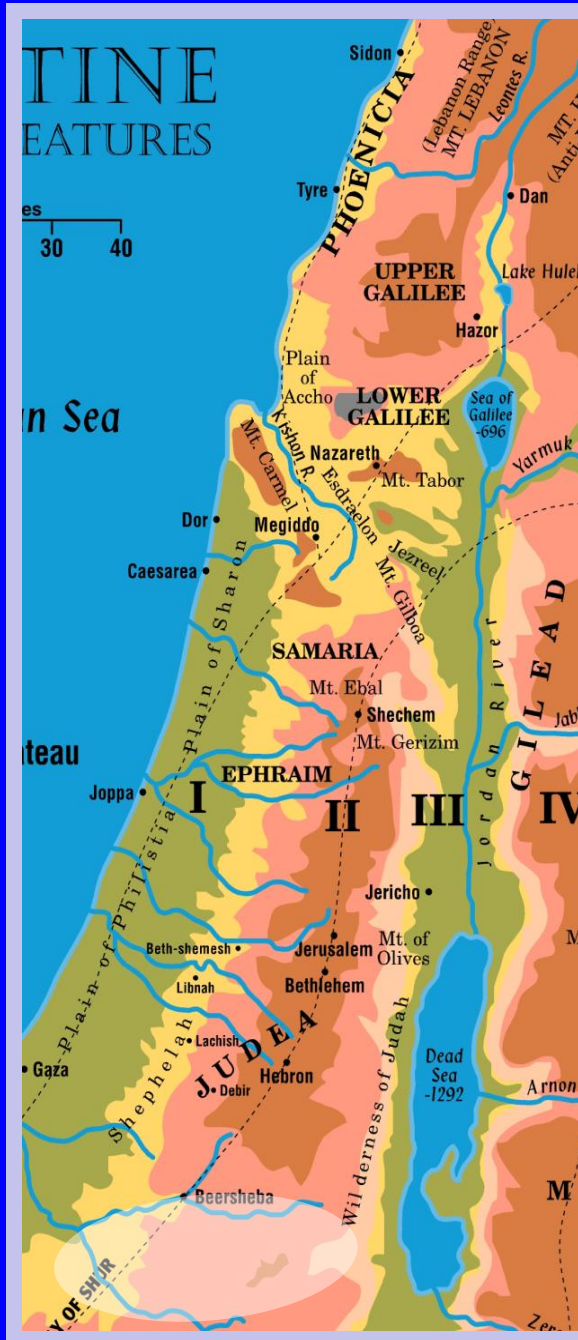
- **Hill Country of Judah**
  - 50 mile stretch of land averaging about 2,000 feet above sea level
  - Shallow valleys and domelike mountains
  - Bethlehem is 3,800 feet above the Dead Sea 14 miles away





# The Hill Country

- **Hill Country of Judah**
  - From Mt. of Olives to the Dead Sea the land falls from 2,680 feet above sea level to 1,292 feet below sea level!



# The Hill Country

- **Negeb**

- Name is usually applied to the semi-desert region between Beersheba and Kadesh-barnea
- South of Hebron the hills descend gradually to the rolling hills of the Negeb “the south”
- Forms a buffer zone between Canaan and the true desert of the Sinaitic Peninsula

# The Geography of Palestine

## The Land of Palestine

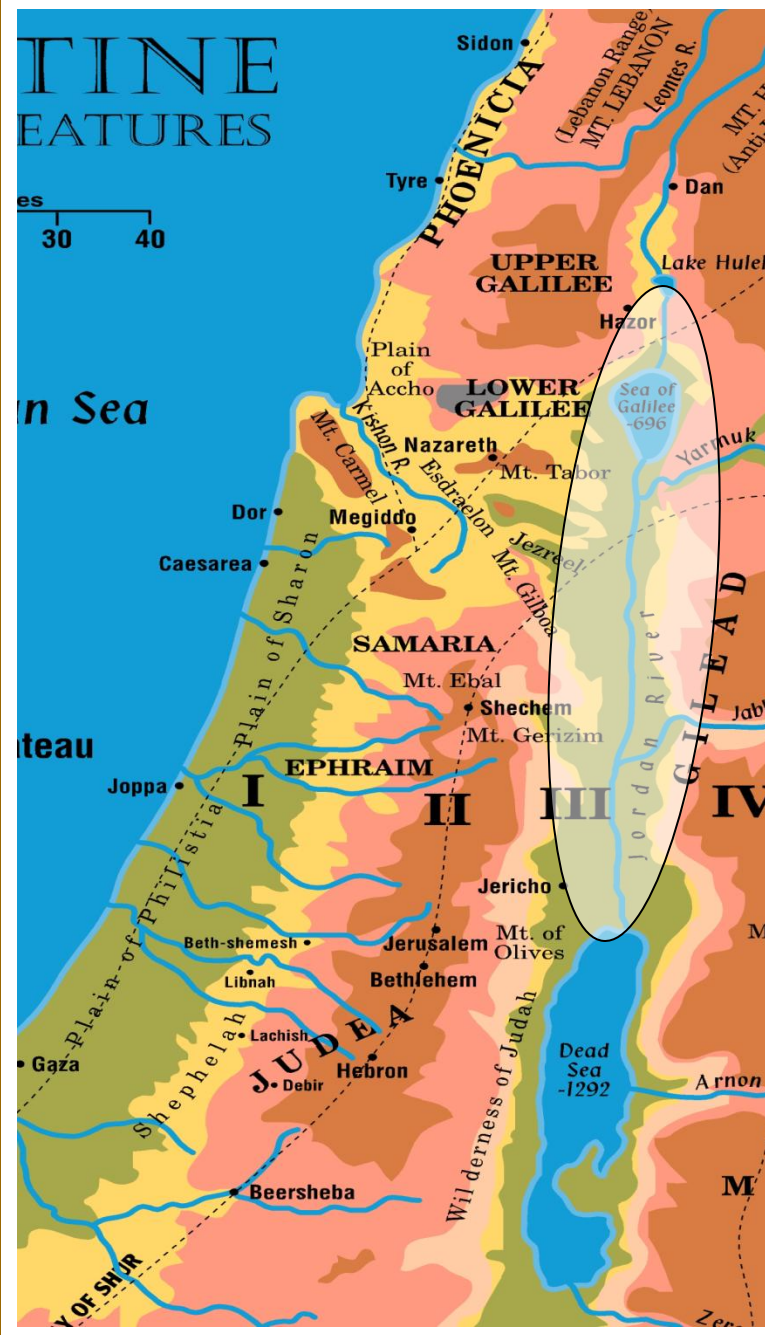
## Part 2





# The Jordan Valley

- Part of the Great Rift Valley
  - Rift: A crack in the earth's crust. Runs along two fault lines



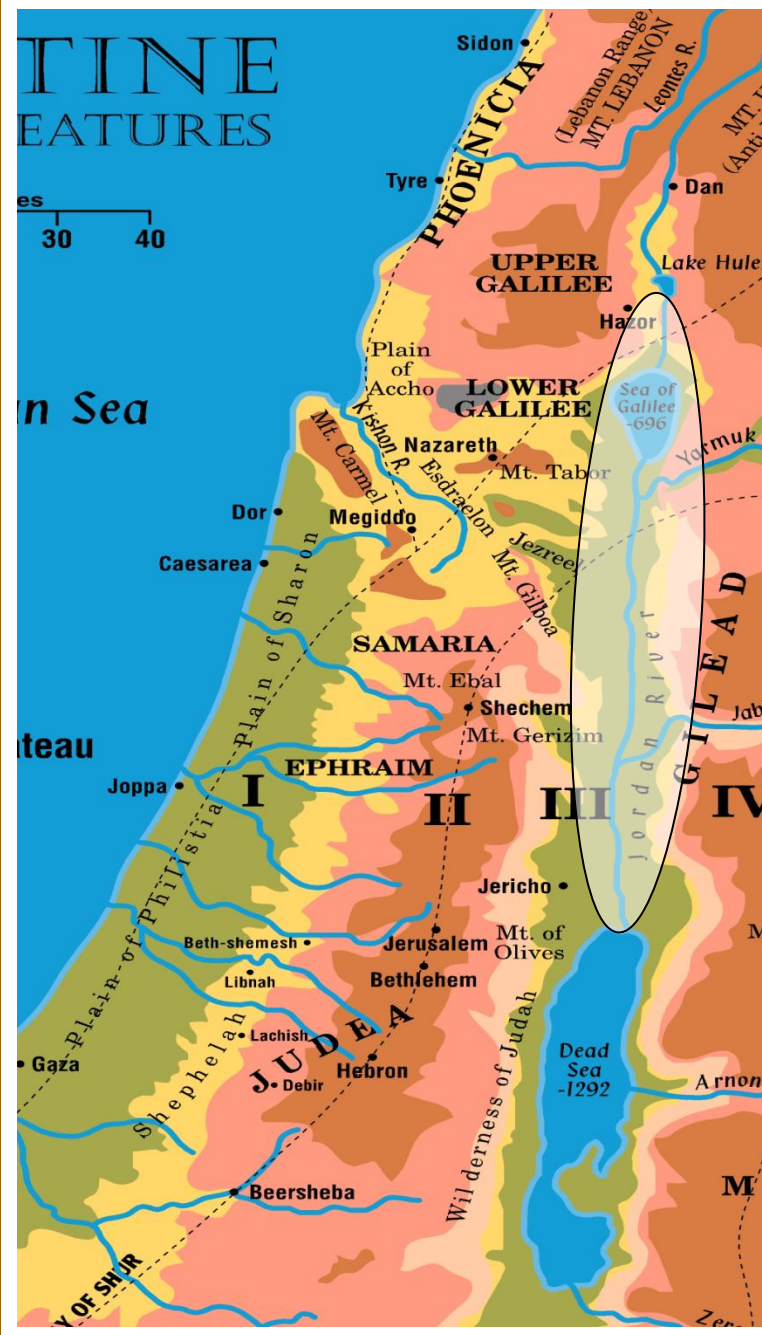
# The Jordan Valley

- Begins on the NE shores of the Mediterranean and extends down the Jordan through Palestine, Arabah, Gulf of Aqaba, the Red Sea, and into Eastern Africa
  - 4,000 miles long
  - The portion from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea is called “**EI Ghor**” today



# The Jordan Valley

- **Valley is narrow**
  - 2–15 miles wide with cliffs on either side
  - Tropical growth (jungle like) in the valley



# The Jordan Valley

## • The Jordan River

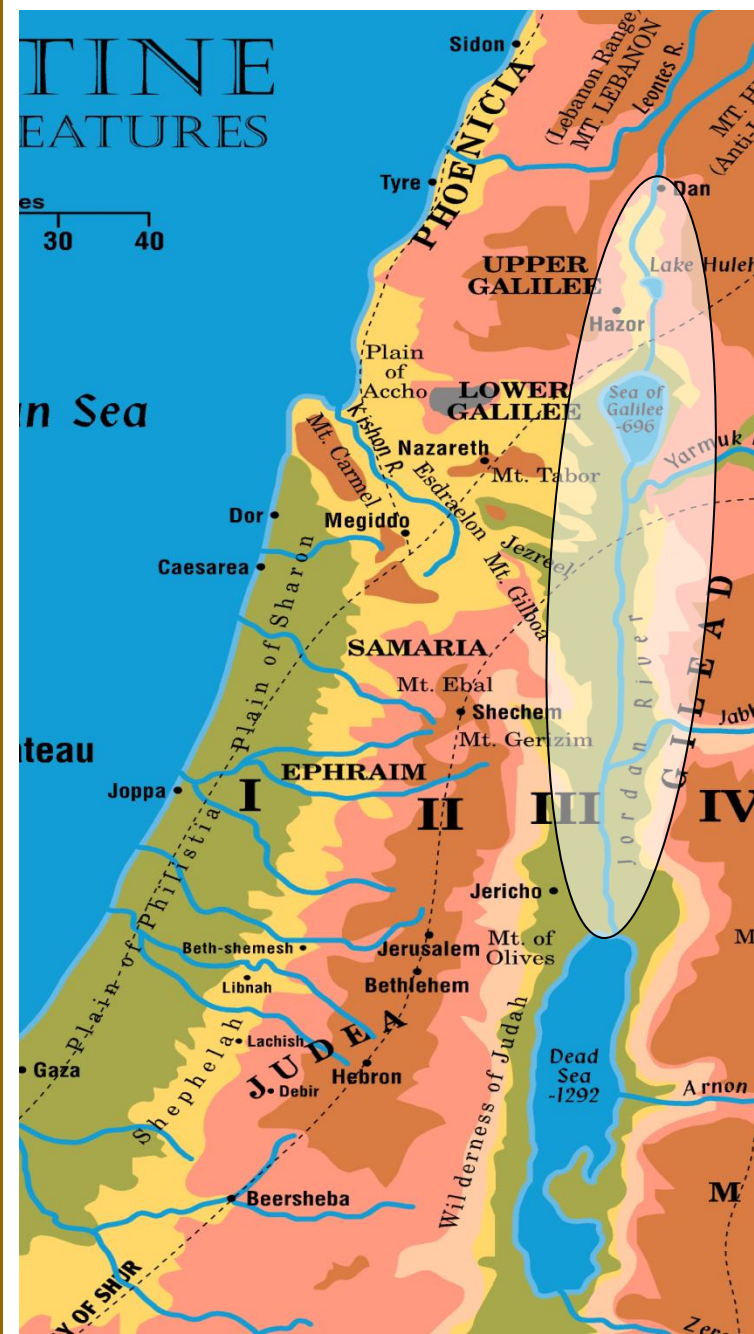
- Eleven miles from Lake Huleh (no longer in existence today) to the Sea of Galilee. The river drops 900 feet (80 feet per mile)
- Descends another 600 feet in 65 miles to reach the Dead Sea



# The Jordan Valley

- **The Jordan River**
  - Covers 80 miles from Mount Hermon to the Dead Sea
  - It takes 200 miles of wandering river to cover the 80 miles





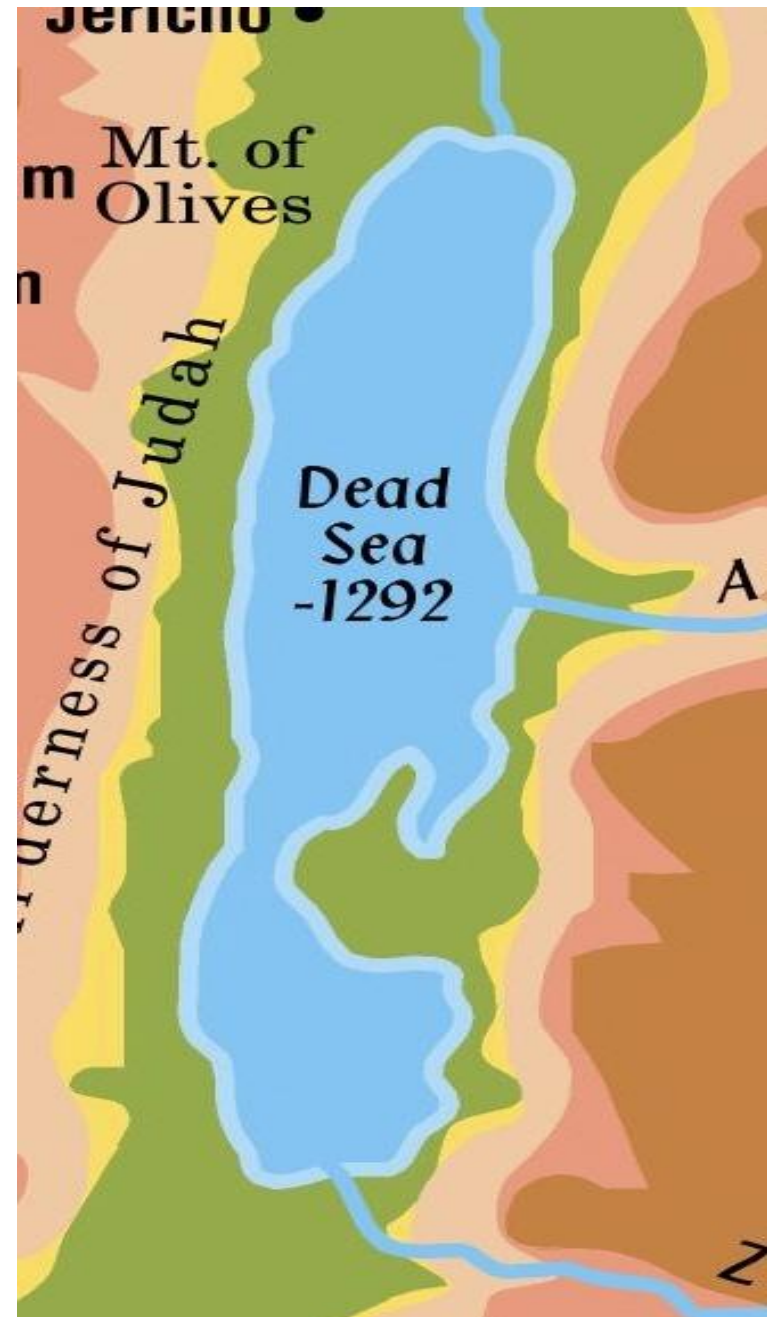
# The Jordan Valley

- **The Jordan River**
  - River bed varies from 80 to 180 feet wide with an average depth of 5-12 feet
  - Jordan Valley is 14 miles wide at Jericho. It was flood season when the Israelites crossed the river to take Jericho

• **Joshua 3:15-16**

# The Jordan Valley

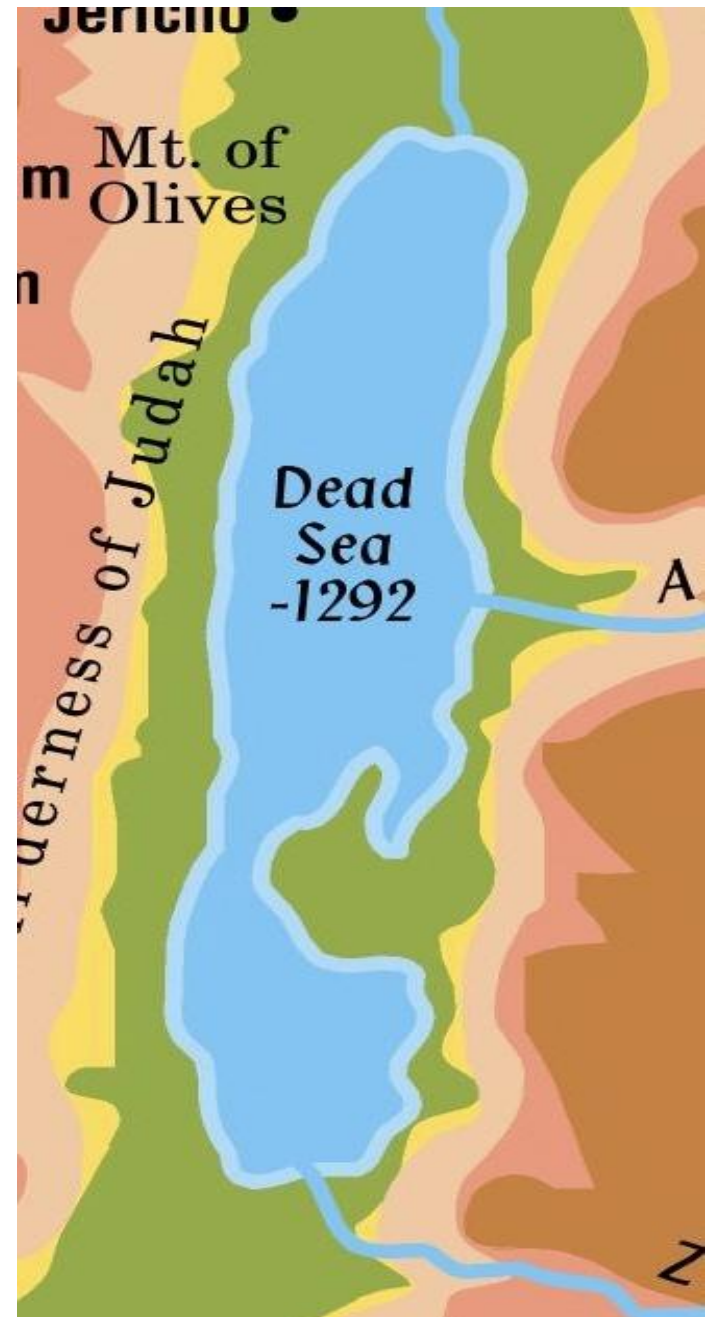
- **The Dead Sea**
  - 48 miles long
  - Maximum width is 10 miles
  - Deepest point on land (-1292ft)
  - Depth of Sea another 1300ft



# The Jordan Valley

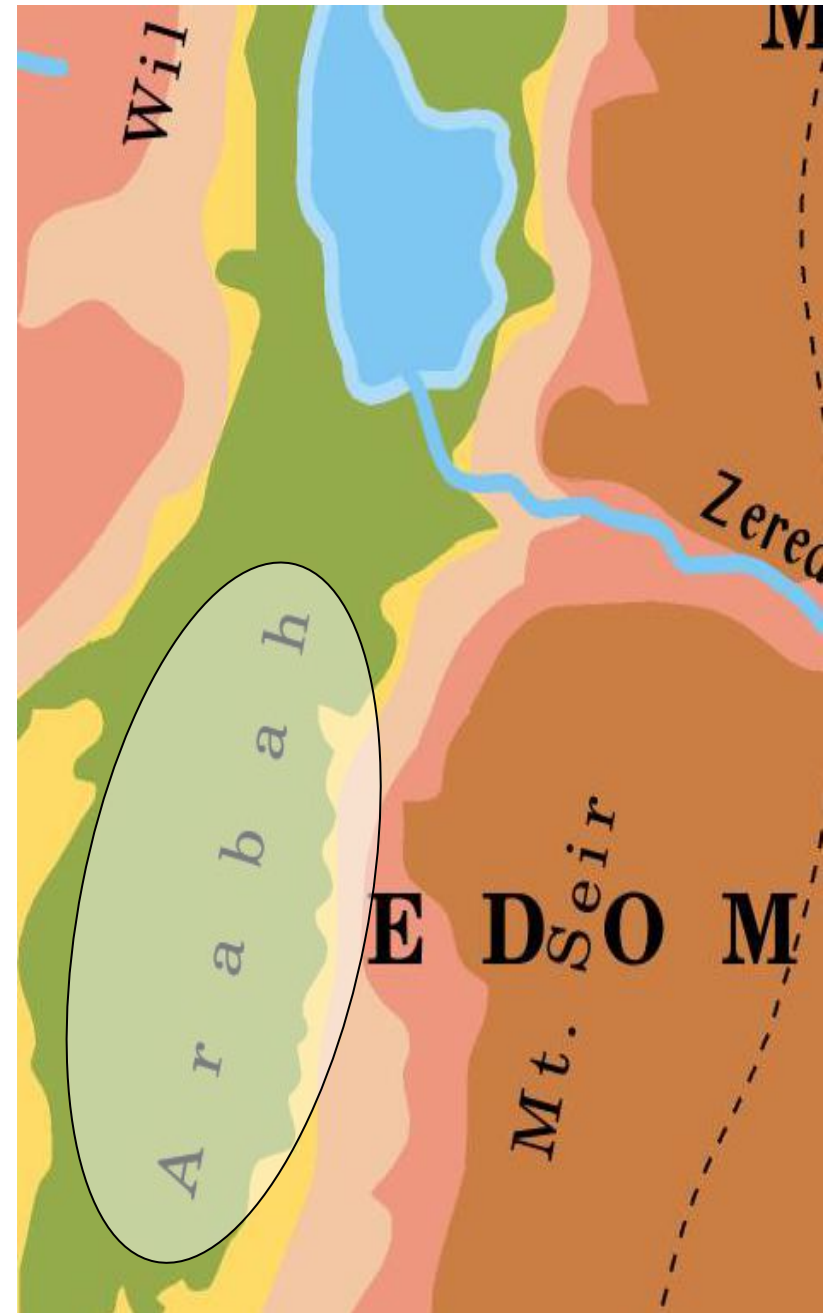
- **The Dead Sea**

- 6 ½ million tons of water flowed into the Dead Sea each day
  - Jordan, Arnon, Zered rivers flow into it
  - NOTHING flows out of it because the evaporation rate is so great
- Water is 25% solid substance – five times saltier than the oceans



# The Jordan Valley

- **The Arabah**
  - Trough-like valley that gradually rises in elevation as it continues southward 110 miles to Eziongeber at the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba
  - Barren and rugged valley



# Identify the following:

**Jordan River**

**Lake Huleh**

**Sea of Galilee**

**Dead Sea**

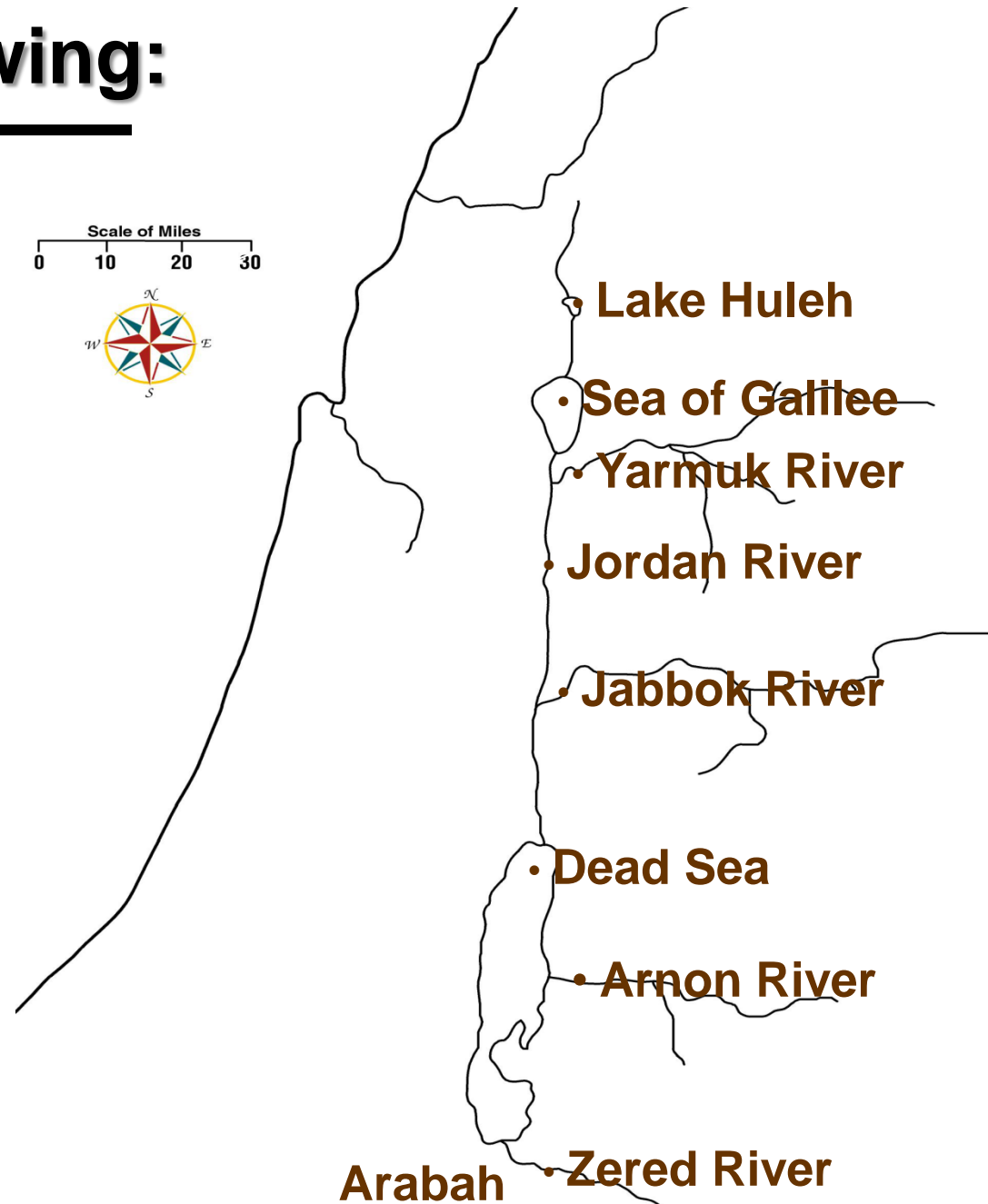
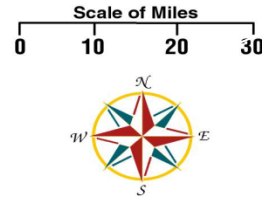
**Yarmuk River**

**Jabbok River**

**Arnon River**

**Zered River**

**Arabah**



• **Lake Huleh**

• **Sea of Galilee**

• **Yarmuk River**

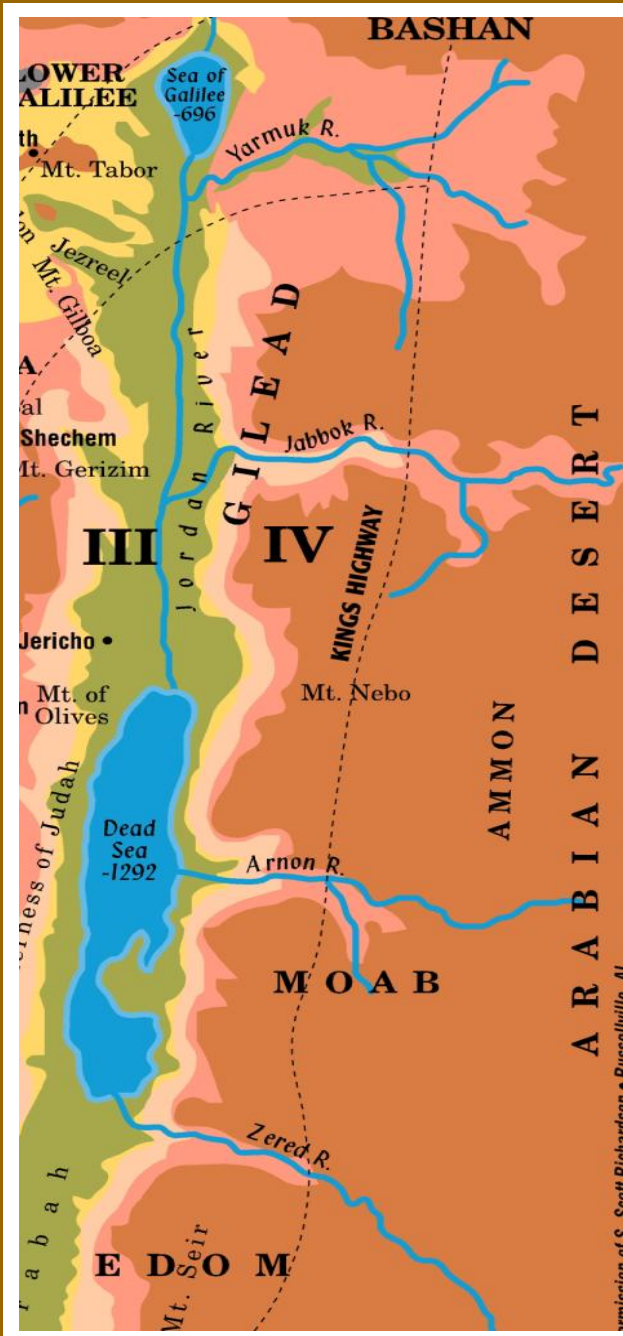
• **Jordan River**

• **Jabbok River**

• **Dead Sea**

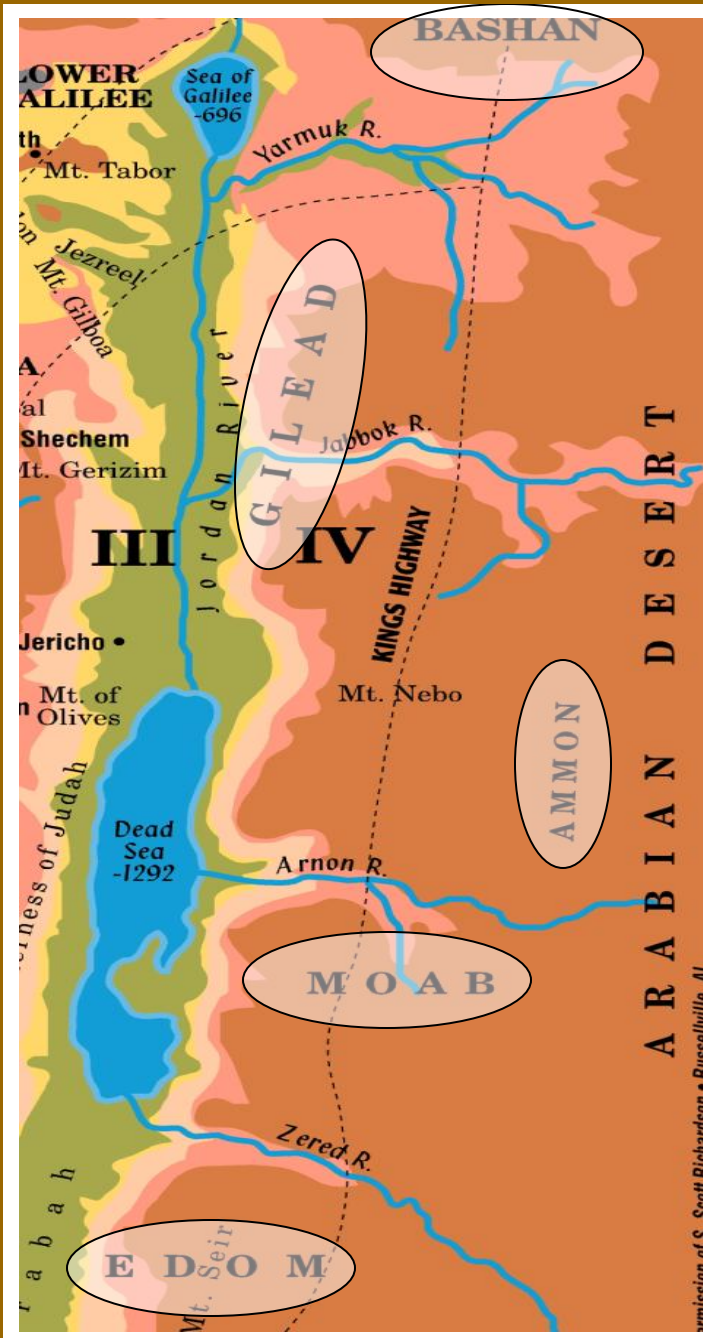
• **Arnon River**

**Arabah** • **Zered River**



# Trans-Jordan Plateau

- **Extension of the Anti-Lebanons**
  - Plateau of Moab forms a wall 3,000 feet high
  - Mountains on the east side are higher than those on the west
  - Moses viewed the Promised Land from one of the peaks on Mt. Nebo (Deuteronomy 34)

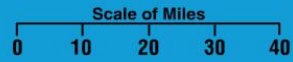


# Trans-Jordan Plateau

- **Regions of the Trans-Jordan:**

- Bashan
- Gilead
- Moab
- Edom
- Ammon

# PALESTINE PHYSICAL FEATURES



Mediterranean Sea

- I. Coastal Plain
- II. Hill Country
- III. Jordan Valley
- IV. Trans-jordan Plateau



# Trade Routes

- **Way of the Sea**
  - Coastal plain
  - Through Megiddo
  - Busy route





# Trade Routes

- **Way of Shur**
  - Along hill country
  - Israelite main route



# Trade Routes

- **King's Highway**  
– Trans-Jordan Plateau
- Wars fought to gain control of the routes