

# CLASS NOTES - BIBLE GEOGRAPHY

**Taught By Robert Stapleton**



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## **BIBLE GEOGRAPHY**

### **Robert Stapleton**

#### **CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

1. This class seeks to conduct a study of Biblical Archaeology and Geography through the following means:
  - A. A study of the geography of Bible Lands.
  - B. Map studies are done in class.
    1. An emphasis is placed upon Palestine and the historical-geographical study of Jerusalem.

#### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. During the quarter each student is to read the book, Concise Bible Atlas by J. Carl Laney, and keep a reading log.
  - A. Instructions concerning log.
    1. Keep a typewritten log of your reading, with dates and pages read.
      - A. Your log should be turned in to instructor no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week – late papers count one grade per day off.
2. Tests:
  - A. Two scheduled tests will be administered.
    1. Each will account for 30% of your total score.
    2. Additional credit will be at the instructor's discretion.
3. Each student is to write a report on Biblical Geography, choosing one major geographical location.
  - A. Reports should be submitted no later than the beginning of class day during the finals week – late papers count one grade per day off.
  - B. Your report should be between seven and ten double-spaced typed pages, Times New Romans 12 Font, including necessary map/maps.
  - C. Watch for misspelled words and check your grammar.
  - D. Report will count for 20% of your total grade.
4. Map coloring.
  - A. Maps are to be colored, with appropriate locations printed as per directions.
  - B. This will count for 20% of your total score.
  - C. Maps are to be submitted no later than the beginning of class day during finals week – late submission will count as one grade per day.
5. Recommended reading:
  - A. An Introduction to The Historical Books of the Old Testament, Robert L. Cate
  - B. The Bible And Archaeology, J. A. Thompson
  - C. Archaeology and Bible History, Joseph P. Free
  - D. Handbook of Bible Lands, Guy P. Duffield
  - E. Archaeology and The Old Testament, Merrill F. Unger
  - F. Biblical Archaeology and History, Paul W. Lapp
  - G. Atlas of the Bible, American Map Corporation
  - H. Archaeology of the Bible Book by Book, Gaalyah Cornfield

- J. Handbook of Bible Charts & Maps, Tyndale
  - K. Sacred History and Geography, Don De Welt
  - L. Old Testament Geography, Matt Hennecke and Philip Chumbley
  - M. New Testament Geography, Matt Hennecke and Philip Chumbley
  - N. Bible Geography, Old Testament Workbook I, David West
  - O. Bible Geography, New Testament Workbook II, David West
  - P. Bible Lands Illustrated, J.T. Marlin
6. Useable Web Sites:
- A. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/bcemaptoc.html>
  - B. <http://www.painsley.org.uk/re/Atlas/default.htm>
  - C. <http://www.anova.org/sev/atlas/htm/>
  - D. <http://bible-history.com/maps/>
  - E. <http://www.cybervillagechurch.org/biblemaps.html>
  - F. <http://scriptures.lds.org/biblemaps/contents>
  - G. <http://www.keyway.ca/htm2002/places.htm>
  - H. <http://www.bible.ca/maps/>
  - I. <http://www.oldtestamentclass.com/maps.html>
  - J. <http://www.searchgodsword.org/se/pbm/>
  - K. <http://www.biblestudyguide.org/geography/mcg-lob/LOB000.HTM>
  - L. <http://www.ebibleteacher.com/imagehtml/mapblanks.html>

## **BIBLE GEOGRAPHY**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. It is said that we retain 10% of what we hear, 20% of what we read, 30% of what we see, 50% of what we see and hear, 70% of what we say, and 90% of what we say and do.
2. The Bible is not a make-believe storybook about imaginary people in imaginary places (as Peter Pan in “Never, Never Land” or “Alice in Wonderland”).
  - A. It is the true record of real people who lived in real places on this earth.
    1. These people such as Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Peter, Paul, and Luke were surrounded by real cities, countries, mountains, rivers and seas, just like we are.
  - B. Geography is the study of the earth.
    1. In this course we want to study that part of the earth where the events of the Bible took place.
3. The word geography is derived from two Greek words meaning “earth description.”
  - A. “Ge” – earth.
  - B. “Grapho” – write.
  - C. The ancient Greeks were the first to develop geography as a scientific discipline.
    1. In doing so, they coined the word geography to describe what it was they were doing.
  - D. It has been defined as the “science that describes the surface of the earth and its associated phenomena.”
4. The significance of Biblical Geography.
  - A. Necessary for a proper intellectual understanding of the narrative of the Bible.
  - B. The sensory and emotional impact of biblical narrative is heightened by “seeing” the background of biblical history.
  - C. It assists one in developing a proper theological perspective.
  - D. It improves our ability to teach as we incorporate proper geographical and historical information into our lessons.

### **BODY:**

#### **1. GEOGRAPHY OF PALESTINE**

- A. General information
  1. Three continents meet in this area.
    - A. Asia
    - B. Africa
    - C. Europe
  2. It comprises the territory of modern states of Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran
  3. It spans an area of widely contrasting terrain, climate, and culture
  4. The land of Palestine incorporates a territory of approximately 12,000 square miles.
  5. Dan was considered the northerly point of the territory during biblical times.

- A. From there to Beersheba, the most southerly city was only 150 miles in distance.
- 6. The width of the country varied.
  - A. From the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River Valley in the north was only 30 miles.
  - B. In the southern end the width increased.
    - 1. From Gaza to the Dead Sea was approximately 55 miles.
- 7. It also included the tableland east of Jordan.
- 8. The land is strategically located.
  - A. It is situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the Arabian Desert.
    - 1. It forms a fertile bridge involving two continents, Asia and Africa.
  - B. It was located in the “heart” of the trade routes of the major civilizations of that day.
- 9. Climatic matters vary greatly.
  - A. At Joppa the average temperature is 67 degrees.
  - B. The city of Jerusalem, situated on the crest of the Judean hill country, has an average temperature of 63 degrees.
  - C. Jericho, located at the lower elevation of the Jordan Valley, some 15 miles east of Jerusalem, reaches temperatures of 110 degrees.
  - D. At the top of Mt. Hermon snow is seen year round.
  - E. At the mouth of the Dead Sea, only 120 miles from Mt. Hermon, the high temperatures are reached.
  - F. Blowing across the country from the Mediterranean Sea is the Sirocco winds.
    - 1. They are dry, hot, and violent winds which are often seen as the climatic curse of the land – Ezekiel 17:10; Jeremiah 18:17.
- 10. There is a major variety in terrain.
  - A. North of Palestine the peaks of Lebanon reach 10,200 feet above sea level.
  - B. The peaks of Mt. Hermon, located east of the Lebanons, reaches 9,232 feet.
  - C. The Dead Sea reaches a depth of 400 meters below sea level.
    - 1. This represents a drop of 10,000 feet in 120 miles.
- B. Names given for the land of Palestine.
  - 1. Earliest inhabitants were tribes that descended from Noah through Ham and his son Canaan – Genesis 10:6, 15-20.
    - A. Thus the name Canaan.
    - B. The name Canaan referred only to the west side of the Jordan River.
  - 2. Once the land was promised to Abraham and his descendants it became known of as the Land of Israel.
  - 3. Referred to as Palestine although the name came to use following the days of the Bible.
    - A. The ASV no where uses the common spelling of the word.
    - B. In Exodus 15:14 and Isaiah 14:29 the KJV uses the spelling “Palestina”.
    - C. In Joel 3:4 the more common spelling is found.

1. In all of these locations the country of Philistia, located on the southern coastal plain, is the one under consideration.
- C. Names given to the people of God who lived in Palestine.
1. The earliest was Hebrew which meant “stranger” or “foreigner.”
    - A. Applied to Abram due to his having come from Ur and lived among the Canaanites – Genesis 14:13.
    - B. While the Israelites were in Egypt they were referred to as Hebrews by the Egyptians.
    - C. It was later used to designate between those who held to the old Jewish laws and traditions in comparison to those who had adopted the Grecian way of life – Philippians 3:5.
  2. The names Children of Israel and Israelite had reference to descendants of Israel.
    - A. It is the more common name found in the O.T.
    - B. It also appears to be the name preferred by the Jews due to the fact that it showed them to be descendants from Abraham and heirs of promise.
  3. The name Jew is found later in O.T. history – 2 Kings 16:6.
    - A. Initially applied to those who lived in the southern kingdom of Judah.
- D. The importance of the Country.
1. It was actually the Bible which brought notoriety to the land of Palestine.
    - A. There was nothing in the art, pottery, or technical skills that would have caused people to notice them.
  2. Their code of law, which has never been matched, brought attention to the land.
  3. The literary value of the O.T. is superior to that of other countries about them.
  4. The people of the land affected world history in such a way not comparable to other lands.
    - A. Keep in mind that it was from these people that the Savior came.
- E. Major geographical points in relation to Palestine - **label first blank map**  
**Physical Features of Palestine, begin labeling each map with names of cities, etc., and also color areas as designated.**
1. The first of these is the Mediterranean Sea, which was the only large body of water known of by the children of Israel – **locate on map and color blue.**
    - A. Sometimes referred to as “the sea” or as the “great sea.”
    - B. Much later it was named the Mediterranean Sea by the Romans.
      1. It is a combination of the Latin words “medius,” meaning middle, and “terra,” meaning earth.
      2. It was named this since it was the center of the Roman Empire.
  - C. No major harbor was located in southern Palestine due to the type of shoreline along the eastern port of Egypt all the way to Mt. Carmel.
    1. The cities of Dor and Joppa were sometimes used as harbors during fair weather - **locate on map.**
  - D. The City of Gaza, which was the major trade center of Palestine, was located some three miles inland – **locate on map.**

- E. Located north of Mt. Carmel was the Plain of Accho and the Plain of Phoenicia.
  1. These plain areas were not conducive to agriculture, so they became mariners working out of Sidon and Tyre.
2. The second area we want to consider is the Coastal Plain - **locate on map**.
  - A. It varies in width from approximately six miles in the north to about 25 miles in the south.
    1. It consisted of rolling hills that were in the area of 200-300 feet in height.
    2. Mt Carmel (**locate on map**) interrupts the plains, but for the most part they reach all along the coast line of Palestine.
    3. Along the coastline of Palestine you have the major Plain of Philistia, the Plain of Sharon, and the Plain of Phoenicia - **locate on map**.
      - A. The Phoenicia Plains ended at the “Ladder of Tyre,” which lies east and west across the plains some 16 miles north of Mt. Carmel.
      - B. The Plain of Sharon lies between Mt. Carmel and Joppa, and is approximately 45 miles in length.
        1. It was a well watered and fertile area.
      - C. The Plain of Philistia began at Joppa and ran the length of the remaining portion of Palestine.
        1. It was referred to as the “Way of the Sea” or the “Way of the Philistines” as the busiest trade route of the day ran through this area.
          - A. This trade route began in Egypt and followed along the Mediterranean Sea through the Philistia Plains area.
          - B. At Megiddo it turned eastward into the Jezreel Valley and continued on northward.
          - C. Another road provided passage along the shoreline of the Mediterranean, but it was unsafe for travel – **label the Way of the Sea trade route from Egypt to Megiddo. Also the trade route along the shoreline of the Mediterranean. Color the plain and valley light green.**
    - B. A plains area runs southeastward from Accho to the Jordon River - **locate on map**.
      1. It was first referred to as Jezreel, or the Valley of Jezreel (1 Samuel 29:1; Joshua 17:16), and later named Esdraelon by the Greeks.
        - A. Both words in their respective languages, Hebrew and Greek, meant “God sows.”
  3. The third area is what is referred to as the Hill Country.
    - A. This area lies west of the Jordan River and was very much an Israelite stronghold.
      1. It is mentioned by Moses – Deuteronomy 8:7; 11:10, 11.
    - B. The area is mentioned in 1 Kings 20:23-28 where the Syrians concluded that God was a “god of the hills,” only to find out that He would win in the



plains also.

- C. The Canaanites were established in the plains area when the Israelite army was led into the area by Joshua.
  - 1. Although the Israelites could have had the plains area they determined that the undeveloped hill country easier to take and hold.
    - A. Thus this area became their home – Judges 1:19; Joshua 16:10; 17:12-18.
- D. At the northern shores of the Mediterranean a range of mountains runs south through Syria, Palestine and to the Sinaitic Peninsula - **locate on map**.
  - 1. North of Palestine this range divides into two ranges with the Jordan Valley rift situated between.
    - A. The Lebanon Range is nearest to the Mediterranean Sea while the Anti-Lebanon Range is to the east plains - **locate on map**.
  - 2. The peaks of Lebanon, which reach the height of over 10,000 feet above sea level, were considered the northern boundary of Palestine during the time of Bible history.
    - A. The Leontes River runs just south of Mt. Lebanon and Mt. Hermon lies to the east - **locate on map**.
    - B. Cedars that were cut from Mt. Lebanon were taken across the plains and floated downstream to Joppa rather than cross the Leontes River, which ran between Mt. Lebanon and the hills of Galilee – 1 Kings 5:8, 9.
  - 3. The area from the Leontes River to the Valley of Jezreel is referred to as Galilee - **locate on map**.
    - A. The hills of Galilee are actually the foothills of Mt. Lebanon.
      - 1. They were quite rough and averaged 2,000 feet above sea level.
    - B. The area of Upper Galilee is seldom mentioned in the O.T.
      - 1. Phoenician King Hiram felt as though he received a bad bargain when he received 20 cities in Galilee for his assistance in Solomon's building projects.
        - A. King Hiram named this area "Cabul," which meant "good for nothing" – 1 Kings 9:11-13.
      - 2. During N.T. times Galilee had become a busy, prosperous region and was where Jesus performed many of his greatest works.
    - C. Lower Galilee only averages approximately 700 feet above sea level, and from Accho it is only 28 miles to the Sea of Galilee.
      - 1. In the southern area of Galilee is the location of the Valley of Jezreel, which is actually a series of valleys and plains which open together.
      - 2. It was in this area that Jesus grew up.
  - D. The Plain of Esdraelon (Valley of Jezreel), located in this region,

was the site of the battle between Gideon and the Midianites –  
Judges 7 - **locate on map.**

- E. The central area of the hill country area was Ephraim in the O.T. and Samaria in the N.T. - **locate on map.**
- F. The three better known peaks of the area were Mt. Gilboa, Mt. Ebal, and Mt. Gerizim - **locate on map.**
  - 1. Gilboa was located at the edge of the Jezreel Valley.
  - 2. Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim were located on either side of Shechem.
    - A. It was at Shechem that God promised to give the land to the descendants of Abraham – Genesis 12:6, 7.
    - B. It was also the location where Joshua and his army set up a monument to the land – Joshua 8:30-35.
- G. On the western side of the hill country we find such places as Bethshemesh, Debir, Lachish, and Libnah, all of which are mentioned several times in the Scriptures - **locate on map.**
- H. On the eastern side of the hill country is where we find Bethlehem.
  - 1. It is located in what is referred to as the “Wilderness of Judah.”
    - A. It was in this area that Saul attempted to take the life of David – 1 Samuel 24:1-7.
    - B. Many scholars believe this is the area where Jesus was taken to be tempted of the Devil – Matthew 4:1.
- I. Going south from Hebron lays the hills of Negeb, which is the semi-desert area between Beer-sheba and Kadesh-barnea.
  - 1. It was in this area that Abraham found good water.
  - 2. A trade route ran along the western hill country all the way to Egypt.
    - A. It was referred to as the “Way of Shur”.
  - 3. **Label Mt. Tabor, Mt. Gilboa, Mt. Ebal, Mt. Gerazim, and Mt. Olives. Also the cities of Dan, Shechem, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Beersheba, and Negeb. Also the River of Egypt. Color the hill country tan.**
- 4. The Jordan Valley.
  - A. For the inhabitants of Palestine the Jordan River was, for the most part, useless.
    - 1. It was not used for irrigation or travel purposes.
  - B. In the Jordan Valley is found the deepest spot on land, the Dead Sea.
  - C. The Jordan Valley is part of the Rift Valley which begins on the northeastern shores of the Mediterranean and extends the Jordan through Arabah to the Gulf of Aquaba.
    - 1. The Rift Valley continues into eastern Africa, and is a total of about 4,000 miles in length.
  - D. The width of the Jordan Valley varies, ranging from 2 to 15 miles.
  - E. Approximately 12 miles from the source was Lake Huleh, into which the waters flow in their southerly trek.
    - 1. Lake Huleh was approximately 4 ½ miles long and 3 ½ wide.

- A. It has been emptied, and is not used for cultivation purposes.
  - 2. After leaving Lake Huleh the waters ran smoothly for about 1 ½ miles until they began a drastic descent.
    - A. Lake Huleh to the Sea of Galilee was approximately eleven miles.
      - 1. In that short distance the Jordan River dropped some 900 feet.
        - A. Which is a little over 80 feet per mile.
    - 3. By the time the Jordan reaches the Sea of Galilee it is 696 feet below sea level.
      - A. The Sea of Galilee reaches a depth of 165 feet, which is the world's lowest fresh water lake.
  - F. The Sea of Galilee is approximately 12 ½ miles long and 7 ½ miles wide.
    - 1. On the northwest shore the plain of Gennesaret is located.
    - 2. For the most part the Sea of Galilee was connected to life on the western shore.
    - 3. In the O.T. it is referred to as Chinnereth, while in the N.T. it is called Galilee, Tiberias, and the Lake of Gennesaret.
    - 4. Much of Jesus' time was spent near the Sea of Galilee as He taught the people who lived along its shores.
  - G. After leaving the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River descends an additional 600 feet in the next 65 miles to the point where it reaches the level of the Dead Sea.
  - H. The river bed itself varies in width between 80 and 180 feet with an average depth of 5 to 12 feet.
    - 1. At Jericho the Jordan Valley is 14 miles wide.
    - 2. From March to early May is the flood season when the River may be 12 feet deep with swift moving water.
      - A. It would have been during the flood season that God stopped the waters of the Jordan River in order that the Israelites could pass over on dry land – Joshua 3:15, 16.
  - I. Then the Jordan River flows into the Dead Sea, which is some 48 miles long, with a maximum width of ten miles.
    - 1. Flowing into the Dead Sea are the Jordan River, from the north; the Arnon River, from the east; and the Zered River from the south.
    - 2. It is estimated that as much as 6 ½ million tons of water enter the Salt Sea every day.
      - A. However, nothing flows out of it.
        - 1. There is a haze above the waters due to evaporation.
  - J. The Jordan River played only a small part in the lives of the Israelites.
    - 1. **Label the following Sea of Galilee, Lake Huleh, Arnon River, Jordan River, Jabbok River, Yarmuk River, Zered River, Dead Sea. Label the Arabah, which is located south of the Dead Sea. Color the valley dark green.**
5. The Trans-Jordan Plateau.

- A. An extension of the Anti-Lebanons, situated across the Jordan Valley, is the Trans-Jordan Plateau.
    - 1. East of the Dead Sea is the plateau of Moab, which forms a wall reaching some 3,000 feet in height.
  - B. It was from Mt. Nebo that Moses viewed the Promised Land – Deuteronomy 34:1.
    - 1. From that lofty perch Moses was provided a panoramic view of Canaan as Mt. Nebo was higher than the mountains across the Jordan.
  - C. Due to the eastern plateau being an excellent grazing land the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and one-half of Manasseh asked for it as their inheritance – Numbers 32.
    - 1. In the original promise to Abram this area was included – Genesis 15:18.
  - D. This plateau was divided into four sections:
    - 1. Bashan - located north of the Yarmuk River.
      - A. Seldom was this area under Israelite control.
    - 2. Gilead - located south of the Yarmuk reaching to the northern tip of the Dead Sea.
      - A. At times the name Gilead is used for the land between the Yarmuk River and the Jabbok River – Deuteronomy 2:36; 3:13; Joshua 22:9.
      - B. This area was a stronghold for Israel.
    - 3. Moab – located between the Arnon and the Zered Rivers.
      - A. Controlled by the Moabites.
    - 4. Edom – located south of the Zered River.
      - A. Belonged to the Edomites for most of O.T. history.
  - E. The “King’s Highway,” another major trade route, extended south from Damascus to Arabia.
  - F. The Ammonites resided east of Gilead, along the western side of the Arabian Desert.
    - 1. **Label the Trans-Jordan Plateau sections, the Arabian Desert, and Ammon’s land located between Gilead and the edge of the Desert. Color the plateau tan.**
- 2. OLD TESTAMENT LANDS (Label your second blank map Old Testament lands. Locate Palestine and draw a dotted line around it. Color the bodies of water blue.)**
- A. The O.T. “world” took place within a territory bound by four major bodies of water.
    - 1. The Mediterranean, or Great Sea.
    - 2. The Black Sea
    - 3. The Caspian Sea
    - 4. The Persian Gulf
  - B. In total it covered some 1,110,000 square miles of land.
    - 1. Much of that land was desert.

- C. The land of Mesopotamia.
  - 1. Both the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers flow southward out of the area of which is now referred to as Turkey.
    - A. They flow southeastward into the Persian Gulf.
    - B. The Euphrates River is the longer of the two, being approximately 1,700 miles in length.
      - 1. It appears to have changed course numerous times during Biblical times.
      - 2. It is often referred to as the “Great River,” or “the River” – Genesis 15:18; Joshua 1:4; 1 Kings 4:21.
  - C. The Tigris River is 1,150 miles long.
    - 1. Nineveh was one of the more important cities that were built along its banks.
  - D. Both rivers, along with the rivers Gihon and Pison, are mentioned in association with the Garden of Eden – Genesis 2:8-14.
    - 1. These other two rivers have never been located.
- 2. The land area located between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris is called “Aram-Naharaim”, meaning “Aram of the two rivers.”
  - A. The Greek equivalent is “Mesopotamia”, meaning the same thing.
    - 1. The name “Mesopotamia” first came into use during the time between Malachi and Matthew.
      - A. It was at that time that the Greek-Syrian kingdom controlled the area.
  - B. The term “Mesopotamia” must be understood as a geographical term.
    - 1. No people existed who were called by that name.
  - C. Basically, it covered the area from the Persian Gulf in the south to Mt. Ararat in the north.
    - 1. It was from this region that both the Assyrians and Babylonians originated.
- 3. Often the term Aram was joined to another word to specify a specific location.
  - A. Paddan-Aram, which is located in northern Mesopotamia near the city of Haran, is where Jacob found his wives – Genesis 28:2.
- 4. It appears that the word “Aram” originally meant “height,” and was used to refer to the high tableland that reached from the Lebanon Mountains to the Upper Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.
  - A. This tableland became the home for the descendants of Aram, the son of Shem, a son of Noah – Genesis 10:22; 1 Chronicles 1:17.
  - B. Keep in mind that it was through the lineage of Shem that the Israelites came.
    - 1. This makes them close relatives to the Arameans.
- C. **Locate the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers along with labeling the valley that lies between the rivers Mesopotamia. Label the Lebanon Mountains and the tableland between them and the Tigris River.**
- 5. It was in the area of Mesopotamia that the first form of writing originated.

- A. A type of picture writing called cuneiform (ku-na-i-form) developed into an audible system where sounds and syllables were used.
- 6. The city-states of Aram and the Mesopotamian empires frequently came into contact with the people of Israel who lived in Canaan.
  - A. On occasion the Israelites and Arameans joined together to fight an opposing common enemy – 2 Kings 15, 16.
    - 1. Syria, a city-state of Damascus, was one of Israel's greatest enemies during the days of King Ahab.
- 7. Following the development of an alphabet by the Aramean tribes, Aramaic became the official language spoken in the Mesopotamian empires.
  - A. There were numerous similarities between the Aramaic and Hebrew languages.
  - B. Once the children of Israel were taken into Assyrian and Babylonian captivity Aramaic was used extensively by them although Hebrew continued to be their official language for the scriptures.
  - C. More than likely Aramaic was the language of Jesus and His disciples.
- 8. The Zagros Mountains runs parallel to the Tigris River.
  - A. Numerous passes through the mountains allowed trade to be conducted between those who lived on both sides of them.
  - B. The Medes, who were descendants of Japheth, developed a civilization east of these mountains.
    - 1. The Medes played a late part in O.T. history when they joined with the Persians to form the Medo-Persian Empire.
- 9. Situated approximately half way between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea are the Ararat Mountains.
  - A. Mt. Ararat's elevation is 17,750 feet.
  - B. This mountain area is the area where Noah's Ark came to rest, although no one can pin point the exact area – Genesis 8:4.
  - C. Due to the rugged terrain of these mountains few people inhabited them.
    - 1. Thus Japheth's descendants that settled north of this area had nothing to do with Biblical History.
  - D. **Locate the Ararat and Zagros Mountains on your map. Label Media.**
- 10. Directly south of the Euphrates River lies the Arabian Desert.
  - A. This Desert covers nearly 1,000,000 square miles.
  - B. During biblical times the area was shrouded in mystery.
    - 1. The people who lived there were nomadic tribesmen and traders, which caused them to come in contact with O.T. people from time to time.
  - C. Although the Arabian Desert is desert land, it is not totally a sand dune.
    - 1. There is sufficient rain fall during the year for there to be a considerable population that lives inward and to the south.
  - D. Over the years Semitic people have come from the Arabia to the more fertile lands of Aram, Canaan, and the Mesopotami

1. City states were established around the year 2,000 B.C. from Egypt to Babylon by Amorites who came from the Arabia.
  2. From the northwest part, near the Persian Gulf, came the Chaldeans of Babylon.
  3. Around the year 500 B.C. the Nabateans moved south of the Dead Sea to Edom.
    - A. The Nabateans were very influential in northern Arabia during the time of Jesus.
  4. Around the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Islamic people came forth in large numbers from Arabia into many other areas.
  - E. The Bible makes reference to numerous places within the Arabian Desert, such as Dedan (Genesis 10:7), Ophir (1 Kings 9:28), Sheba (1 Kings 10:1), and Tema - Isaiah 21:14.
    1. **Locate Arabia on your map.**
- D. Egypt – **locate on map.**
1. Around the time the Sumerians flourished in Mesopotamia, the Egyptian Kingdom began.
    - A. It consisted of the Nile River Valley and the delta that is formed prior to it flowing into the Mediterranean Sea.
      1. Desert was all that was found on either side of the Valley.
      2. This Valley covered some 6,000,000 square miles.
        - A. Looking across the top of the continent of Africa, this Valley is the only part that is fertile.
          1. This is due to the Nile River – **locate on map.**
  2. Egypt has often been referred to as the “gift of the Nile.”
    - A. Presently, about 99% of the inhabitants of Egypt live on 4% of the land.
  3. Not long after the beginning of Egypt a central form of government existed.
    - A. It consisted of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt, which was a delta.
    - B. The kingdom itself was comprised of approximately 13,000 square miles of cultivable land.
    - C. The Nile River itself is one of the longest rivers in the world, being some 4,100 miles long (some contend it is the longest).
      1. One unique thing about it is that it flows northward.
    - D. In Upper Egypt there is no rainfall, while in the delta area about 8 inches falls in the normal year.
  4. Early Egypt depended upon the Nile for its source of water.
    - A. No doubt this was why water became a “god” to them.
      1. The plague of water turning to blood was a direct blow to the Egyptian Water god – Exodus 7:17-21.
      - B. The Egyptian water god was named “Osiris.”
  5. The first calendar consisting of 365 days came from Egypt.
    - A. It consisted of a calendar having 12 months of 30 days each, with 5 feast days at the end of the year.

6. Although we see biblical reference to the Israelite sojourn in Egypt, no archaeological evidence exists to sustain such.
    - A. Once we see Israel in Canaan, biblical information about Egypt is confirmed by archaeology and history.
    - B. It could be that Egypt did not want their defeat at the “hand of God” to be revealed for future generations.
  - E. The Wilderness of Sinai – **locate on map**.
    1. The Red Sea lies to the southeast of Egypt and eventually empties into the Indian Ocean, some 1,500 miles south of Egypt.
      - A. It was only at the upper portion of the Red Sea that we see a part of the Bible story revealed.
    2. At the northern end of the Red Sea are two “arms.”
      - A. The Gulf of Suez - **locate on map**.
        1. This gulf is some 200 miles long.
      - B. The Gulf of Aqaba - **locate on map**.
        1. This gulf is some 100 miles long.
    3. The Wilderness of Sinai lies between these two gulf area.
      - A. The wandering of the Israelites for forty years after leaving Egypt was in this area – Joshua 14:10.
  - F. Fertile Crescent - **locate on map, color light green**.
    1. This area extended from the Persian Gulf through Mesopotamia, and south through Palestine.
      - A. It may be that Egypt was included in this crescent, although if so, it was separated by the Sinaitic peninsula.
    2. The area that was covered by this crescent was equal to approximately 1/3 the size of the continental United States.
      - A. It was approximately 1,000 miles from Egypt to the northern tip of the Persian Gulf and the same distance from Egypt to the mountains of Ararat.
- 3. NEW TESTAMENT LANDS**
- A. Lands north of the Mediterranean Sea were seldom mentioned in the O.T.
    1. People existed in these areas, only they seldom related to the events of the O.T.
      - A. An early Hittite kingdom existed north of the Halys River in northern Asia Minor - **locate on map # 2**.
        1. Recall that Abraham purchased a cave from a Hittite to bury Sarah in – Genesis 23.
        2. There is no indication that the Hittites ever were in conflict with Israel, thus they did not hold a dominate place in O.T. history.
  - B. When one moves to the N.T. they note that the emphasis moves to the Mediterranean area as opposed to Egypt and Mesopotamia.
    1. Palestine ceased to be under the control of the powers of the Fertile Crescent.
      - A. At the close of the O.T. the land of Judah is under Persian control.
    2. In the inter-testament period the Persian Empire was overthrown by Greece - **locate on map**.



- A. Under the leadership of Alexander the Great, the Greek army moved across the O.T. lands.
      - 1. Upon his death, the vast kingdom of Alexander the Great was divided among his generals.
    - 3. Due to the belief of Alexander and his generals that the Grecian way of life was superior to all others, their language, customs, and culture was spread from Greece all the way to the border of India.
  - C. During the “400 years of silence” between Malachi and Matthew the Roman Empire was on the rise - **locate Rome on map**.
    - 1. Initially, areas to the north and west of Greece were conquered.
      - A. Then, attention was turned to the east and the Mediterranean Provinces.
        - 1. In 63 B.C. Palestine was conquered, and remained under Roman ruler ship during the time of Christ.
  - D. Palestine was considered to be a strategic location by Rome.
    - 1. The Nabateans controlled the desert area south and east of Palestine.
      - A. In the time of Christ they had not yet been conquered by Rome.
    - 2. The Parthians held control of Mesopotamia and old Persia.
      - A. The Roman Empire never conquered this area.
    - 3. Through all of this there was a great amount of resentment by the Jews of Rome and they sought a way to overthrow the Roman Empire.
      - A. This led to a misunderstanding of the purpose of the coming of the Messiah.
  - E. Biblical references to Asia have reference to what is presently known of as Asia Minor, (**locate on map**) located on the northern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.
    - 1. Nine differences resulted from the division of Asia by the Romans.
      - A. During N.T. times the cities located in the region were busy, prosperous places.
    - 2. Acts chronicles Paul’s missionary journeys as he moved about the northern shores of the Mediterranean and into Asia.
      - A. Moving from this area he traveled on over the Aegean Sea into Europe, preaching the gospel in Macedonia and Achaia.
    - 3. Also, notice that Crete, Cyprus (**locate on map**), Melita and Patmos all played an important role in N.T. history.
  - F. We will come back to this area later when we study Paul’s missionary journeys.
- 4. A GEOGRAPHICAL TRIP THROUGH THE BIBLE - label third blank map**
- The Ancient Word – locate and color all major bodies of water blue.**
- A. The first part will be an examination of Genesis chapters 1-11.
    - 1. Although we cannot be absolutely specific as to the location of the Garden of Eden, we can come close - **locate on map**.
      - A. We find from Genesis 2:10-14 that it was situated between the Euphrates, the Gihon, the Pison, and the Tigris Rivers - **locate on map**.
      - B. Thus we can conclude that it was located in Mesopotamia.
    - 2. In Genesis 4:16 we note that Cain was expelled from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod, which was located east of Eden.

- A. The location of this region is unknown.
- B. It was in this land that Cain named a city after his son Enoch, for which we have no idea of its location.
- 3. The next major geographical location is Mount Ararat, upon which the ark of Noah came to rest – Genesis 8:4 - **locate on map.**
  - A. Due to the ruggedness of the mountains of Ararat people moved off the slopes into the valley area between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.
- 4. From there we see the people increase in number and move into the plains of Shinar - **locate on map.**
  - A. It was at this location that construction on the tower of Babel was begun – Genesis 11:1-9.
  - B. The intent to construct the tower to heaven met with God’s disapproval.
    - 1. Thus the people had their language confounded and were dispersed “upon the face of the earth.”
- 5. In Genesis 10:2-5 we first see the descendants of Japheth mentioned.
  - A. Very little is found in the Bible concerning Japheth’s descendants.
  - B. **Color on your map the area in which they resided in pink and label Cyprus, Greece, Media, Parthia, and Persia.**
    - 1. This area encompassed the region from the mountains of Ararat at the south, north of the Caspian and Black Seas, northern portion of Asia Minor, into Greece, Italy, and the southern tip of what is now Spain.
  - C. From them came the peoples known of as the Parthians, the Persians, and the Medes.
  - D. More than likely we would be descendants from Japheth.
- 6. Genesis 10:6-20 provides us a list of the descendants of Ham, who played an early role in the history of the Mesopotamian valley.
  - A. Nimrod is one of the “key” descendants as he rose to a position of power in the plains of Shinar.
    - 1. It is from Nimrod that an early Babylonian empire was established that reached all the way to Ninevah.
    - 2. Following this they moved southwest.
  - B. In the text above we see four sons of Ham mentioned: Cush, Mizraim, Phut, and Canaan.
    - 1. It is believed that Cush has reference to Ethiopia.
    - 2. Mizraim is the Hebrew name for Egypt.
    - 3. Canaan is the one who is more connected to biblical history than the others.
      - A. Due to his actions of mocking his father he is told that he would serve his brethren – Genesis 9:18-27.
      - B. The Canaanites settled in the land that lay between the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Desert.
        - 1. This land was eventually taken away from the Canaanites and given to the Israelites, who were the descendants of Shem.

- C. **Indicate on your map Canaan, Crete, Ethiopia, Egypt, the Hittite kingdom, and Phut. Also color Ham's territory yellow.**
7. Genesis 10:21-31 provide us with information on the descendants of Shem of whom some resided in the Mesopotamian Valley while others moved into Arabia.
- A. Nations such as Assyria, Babylon, and Elam are all of Semitic origin, along with the city-states of Aram and Arabia.
  - B. The Ammonites, Edomites, Israelites, and Moabites all came from Shem through Terah.
  - C. In various Atlases you may see the Canaanites listed as Semitic.
    - 1. However, Genesis 10 clearly indicates they were descendants of Ham.
  - D. You may also see the Hebrews listed as Canaanitish, when they were of Shemite origin.
    - 1. The reason for this is reference is being made to common patterns in languages and life styles rather than blood lines.
      - A. The common practices came about due to a mixing of the peoples of the various tribes, which resulted in their absorbing the cultural and language patterns of other tribes.
  - E. We will discuss Shem and his descendants more later on - **Color on your map the area in which they resided in light green and locate Aram, Arabia, Assyria, and Elam.**
- B. The second part will be a consideration of Genesis 11:27-25:10 which provides us with information concerning the promises to Abraham. **Label fourth blank map the Patriarchal World and locate the following: Akkad, Mt. Ararat, Arabian Desert, Aram, Babylonia, Canaan, Egypt, Elam, Hittite Kingdom, Mari, Sumer, and Zagros Mountains. Also color the major bodies of water blue.**
- 1. By 2000 B.C. numerous nations had risen and fallen.
    - A. The Egyptian pyramids had already been built.
    - B. Egypt was by that time already being ruled by its 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty.
  - 2. Abram was living in Ur of Chaldees – Genesis 11:31.
    - A. Ur appears to have become a large progressive city by this time.
    - B. It has been suggested that its population may have been as much as a quarter of a million people.
  - 3. Some 1900 or 2000 years before Christ was to come Abram was given instruction go “into a land that I will shew thee” – Genesis 12:1.
    - A. From Ur they traveled some 600 miles northwest to the city of Haran – Genesis 11:31.
      - 1. His brother Nahor settled at Haran permanently.
    - B. At the directions of God Abram traveled on to the land of Canaan – Genesis 12:5.
      - 1. This was a trip of approximately 400 miles.
      - 2. No specific route is provided for his trip, although it can be assumed that he traveled the normal trade routes of the day.

- A. If so, he most likely traveled south to Tadmor and on southeast to Damascus - **locate on map.**
  - B. From Damascus he would have had three or more choices as to which route to take.
    1. More than likely he took the King's Highway route since his first stop was at Sichem (Shechem), located in the plain of Moreh – Genesis 12:6.
      - A. It was here that the Lord promised to Abram the land of Canaan.
      - B. The only property that he actually owned therein was the cave he bought to use as a burial place for Sarah – Genesis 23:2-20.
  - C. By this time Canaan was inhabited by the Amorites or Canaanites – Genesis 10:6, 15-19.
4. Following an undesignated period of time Abram leaves Shechem and moved about 20 miles to where he next “pitched his tent” - **locate on map.**
  - A. This was between Bethel on the west and Hai on the east – Genesis 12:8 - **locate on map.**
5. From there he moved on southward – Genesis 12:9.
6. From there he moved on into Egypt due to the famine in the land – Genesis 12:10.
  - A. This was a trip of about 200 miles.
  - B. While traveling he and Sarai traveled as brother and sister for fear he would be killed in order that others might have her – Genesis 12:10-20.
7. From Egypt they travel back to Bethel and Hai, which is located in the central highlands – Genesis 13:3 – **draw a dotted line around Canaan and a red line tracing Abram's journey, starting at Ur and ending up back at Canaan.**
8. From the time that Abram left Haran his nephew Lot had traveled with him - **Label your fifth blank map Canaan in the Days of the Patriarchs. Label and color the Mediterranean Sea.**
  - A. By this time they were both wealthy men whose servants argued over grass and water rights.
    1. Living again at Bethel Abram instructed Lot to choose a direction and go that way – Genesis 13:9.
      - A. Lot chose the “well watered” plains of Jordan – Genesis 13:10.
        1. It was in these plains that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were located – Genesis 13:10-13.
  - B. Abram traveled south to the plain of Mamre, located in Hebron – Genesis 13:18 - **locate on map.**
    1. Mamre appears to have been a wealthy tribesman like Abram.
      - A. Mamre also appears to be a confederate of Abram – Genesis 14:13.
    2. Due to the fact that Abram resided in tents, it appears that this area was not heavily populated.

3. Mamre is not usually found on most Bible maps, but is recognized by the name Hebron, which was close by, and the two are normally considered to be one and the same.
9. From Genesis chapter 14 we learn that four Mesopotamian kings oppressed the cities located near the Dead Sea.
  - A. A battle ensued in the vale of Siddim, which was located near the end of the Dead Sea – Genesis 14:8 - **locate on map**.
    1. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were taken captive – Genesis 14:11 - **locate on map**.
    2. Abram and his confederates followed the Mesopotamian army to Dan and then to Horbah, located north of Damascus – Genesis 14:14, 15 - **locate on map**.
  - B. As Abram returned from the battle Melchizedek, king of Salem, came to meet him – Genesis 14:17, 18.
    1. Abram showed him respect by giving tithes of all to him – Genesis 14:20.
    2. The city of Salem later became known of as “U-ru-salem,” which literally meant “a city of peace.”
10. Chapter 15 deals with the covenant God made with Abram.
  - A. In verse 18, God promises that He would give unto the descendants of Abram the land from the River Egypt to the Euphrates River.
11. In Chapter 16 we learn that to this point Abram had no children.
  - A. At the suggestion of Sarai, Abram took unto himself Hagar as his concubine.
    1. Hagar was an Egyptian – Genesis 16:1.
  - B. As jealousy arose between Sarai and Hagar, causing Hagar to flee to Shur, most likely on her way back to Egypt – Genesis 16:7 - **locate on map**.
    1. On her way God appeared to her at the well of Beerlahairoi and instructed her to return – Genesis 16:14 - **locate on map**.
      - A. Beerlahairoi, named by Hagar, means the “well of the Living One who sees.”
12. In Genesis 18:1 Abraham has continued to live by the Plains of Mamre - **locate on map**.
  - A. He is visited by three angels who he treated well according to Oriental custom.
    1. Following their meal they proceeded toward Sodom – Genesis 18:16.
  - B. Abraham was told by one of the three that their intention was to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.
    1. Abraham pleads for the cities and the Lord promised that if ten righteous people could be found He would not destroy them.
  - C. Two of the angels travel on to Sodom and spends the night with Lot.
    1. The sin of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah was so great that ten righteous people could not be found.
    2. Lot, his wife, and his two daughters flee the city toward Zoar – **locate**.

- A. At some point on the way Lot's wife looks back and is turned into a pillar of salt – Genesis 19:26.
    - 3. The destruction of the cities was so great that they have never been precisely located.
  - D. Following their arrival in Zoar they went into the mountains east of the Dead Sea.
    - 1. It was there that the daughters of Lot committed incest with their father – Genesis 19:32-36.
      - A. Each daughter bore a son by their father.
        - 1. The youngest bore Benammi, who was the father of the Ammonites.
        - 2. The oldest bore Moab, who was the father of the Moabites - Genesis 19:37, 38.
          - A. These two tribes lived on this eastern plateau through Bible times.
13. Abraham next moves southward to Gerar – Genesis 20:1 - **locate on map**.
  - A. Once again he hides his wife, and she is taken by King Abimelech – Genesis 20:2.
    - 1. Once Abimelech is aware of the situation he rebukes Abraham for his deceit.
      - A. Abraham is allowed to remain in the area.
14. In Genesis 21 Ishmael is born.
  - A. At first Sarah rejoices in his birth, but as he grows Sarah's feelings toward him changes.
    - 1. She demands that Hagar and Ishmael be sent away.
      - A. Contrary to what is commonly suggested, Ishmael is not a small child when they are sent away.
        - 1. He was fourteen years of age when Isaac was born and the sending of them away happened at some point following the weaning of Isaac.
          - A. Ishmael born – Abram is 86 - Genesis 16:16.
          - B. Isaac born – Abraham is 100 – Genesis 21:5.
          - C. Isaac weaned – more than likely three to five years of age, with three years being the youngest – 2 Chronicles 31:16.
        - 2. Thus, he would have been between the ages of 17 and 19.
    - 2. Ishmael grows to manhood in the desert of Paran (**locate on map**) and married a woman whom Hagar found for him from Egypt – Genesis 21:20, 21.
  - B. During all of this Abraham moves east of Gerar - **locate on map**.
    - 1. He had become a powerful and wealthy man.
    - 2. Abimelech of Gerar sought to have a peace treaty with him – Genesis 21:22-24.
      - A. The covenant between Abimelech and Abraham was sealed at Beersheba, which meant “well of the covenant” – Genesis 21:31.

15. In Genesis chapter 22 Abraham faced what was, undoubtedly, the greatest test of his faith.
  - A. He was instructed to take Isaac into the land of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice.
    1. Various ideas of the location of Moriah have been set forth.
      - A. Jewish tradition suggests that it is the location where the Temple was later built – 2 Chronicles 3:1.
      - B. Others have said that Mt. Calvary and Mt. Moriah is one and the same mountain.
        1. **Indicate possible location on map.**
  - B. Following the trail of Abraham, he returns to Beersheba (Genesis 22:19) following the offering of Isaac.
    1. Later we find him in Hebron where Sarah dies – Genesis 23:1, 2.
    2. At her death Abraham purchases the Cave of Machpelah from a Hittite by the name of Ephron – Genesis 23:8-20.
      - A. Eventually, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, and Jacob are buried in this same cave.
  - C. **Locate Hebron and Kirjatharba on your map number 5.**
- C. Genesis 25:11-50:26 provide us with information on Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.
  1. At the time of the death of Abraham, Isaac was living at Lahairoi – Genesis 25:11.
    - A. He was forced to move west to Gerar (Genesis 26:1) due to the famine that arose since he had been told not go into Egypt – Genesis 26:2.
      1. At this time Isaac was quite wealthy.
      2. He planted many crops in Gerar and soon the people became jealous of him.
      3. When presented with the choice of fighting or moving on he chose the later, moving to a place he names Rehoboth, which meant “a broad place” or “room.” – Genesis 26:22 - **locate on map.**
  2. In the process of time Rebekah bore twin sons, Esau and Jacob.
    - A. Esau became a hunter while Jacob tended the flocks and other things at home.
      1. Esau is pictured as a “profane” man – Hebrews 12:16.
    - B. As it came near to the time of the death of Isaac Jacob deceived his brother Esau concerning the birthright that should have been Esau’s.
      1. Angered at this act Esau threatened to kill his brother which led to Rebekah assisting Jacob in his escape to Padanaram – Genesis 28:2 - **locate on map # 4.**
      2. Leaving Beersheba Jacob traveled toward Haran and spent the first night near Luz – Genesis 28:19 - **locate on map.**
        - A. The following morning Jacob renamed Luz, Bethel, which meant “the house of God.”
  - C. For twenty years Jacob worked for Laban.
    1. When he departed Canaan he had nothing.

- A. When he returned he did so with four wives, eleven sons, one daughter, servants, flocks and other possessions.
  - 2. At the time of Jacob's departure from Laban he did so without notifying Laban of his intended actions.
    - A. Laban followed after Jacob and caught up with him on the plateau east of the Jordan River.
    - B. Due to God having appeared to Laban instructing him to do no harm to Jacob a covenant was made between the two, setting up a heap of stones as a witness.
      - 1. The place where the covenant was sealed was named Galead, which meant "a heap of stones" - Genesis 31:47 - **locate on map.**
- 3. Time passes until the story of Joseph begins in Genesis 37.
  - A. Jacob was still living at Hebron.
  - B. The ten older brothers of Joseph are jealous of the relationship between Jacob and Joseph.
  - C. At one point Jacob sends Joseph to check on the older brothers who were thought to be in Shechem – Genesis 37:12 - **locate on map.**
    - 1. Not finding them there he traveled on to Dothan – Genesis 37:17 - **locate on map.**
    - 2. The jealous brothers took Joseph captive and sold him into slavery to certain Ishmaelite-Midianite merchants who were on their way to Egypt – Genesis 37:28.
      - A. They then returned to Jacob with the story that Joseph had been killed by wild animals.
  - D. Joseph is sold to Potiphar where for some thirteen years he was either a slave or prisoner.
    - 1. Never once during all of this did Joseph lose his faith.
    - 2. He eventually is made ruler second only to Pharaoh.
      - A. After twenty-two years Jacob is made aware of the deeds of his sons who had sold Joseph into captivity and how God had worked through Joseph to preserve the seed of Israel.
  - E. Upon reuniting themselves together Joseph spoke to Pharaoh and unto Jacob and his family was given a section of the Nile Delta called Goshen.
  - F. Although Jacob lived in Goshen for seventeen years following their being reunited; he eventually dies and is carried back to Canaan where he is buried in the Cave of Machpelah – Genesis 50:12.
  - G. As we close the story of the life of Joseph we note he lived some 66 years following the end of the great famine.
    - 1. His ruler ship had ceased at the end of the famine.
    - 2. He finally dies in Egypt, but with the promise that his bones would some day be carried out of Egypt – Genesis 50:25.
- D. Exodus 1:1 through Numbers 10:10 provide us with some information concerning



God's covenant people.

1. Detailed records of the activities of the Egyptians were kept and preserved by them.
  - A. Amazingly, the records continued through the years until approximately 1750 B.C. when they stopped, only to begin some 200 years later.
    1. **Label your sixth blank map the Exodus and the Conquest. Color the seas blue, and draw a dotted line around Canaan. Label the following major points: Dead Sea, Egypt, Goshen, Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Suez, Mediterranean Sea, Nile River, Red Sea, and Wilderness of Sinai.**
2. Exodus begins with the children of Israel under bondage.
  - A. Two cities, Pithom and Raames are treasure cities of which the Hebrews were forced to build – Exodus 1:11 - **locate on map.**
  - B. Due to the Hebrew people having dramatically increased in number Pharaoh ordered the death of all baby boys – Exodus 1:16.
    1. In the process of all of this Moses was born and hidden – Exodus – 2:2, 3.
    2. Through the providence of God, Moses, which means “drawn from the water” was found by the daughter of Pharaoh and was given unto his mother to raise on behalf of Pharaoh’s daughter – Exodus 2:5-9.
    3. At the age of 40 (Acts 7:23) Moses went out among the people perhaps with the intent to lessen their burden.
      - A. While there he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and ended up killing the Egyptian – Exodus 2:11, 12.
      - B. Because this event was made known Moses was forced to flee for his life into the Wilderness of Sinai, traveling to the land of Midian– Exodus – 2:13-15 - **locate on map.**
        1. We find that Moses remains at the base of Mt. Sinai for the next forty years, working as a shepherd.
  3. Eventually, God hears the cries of the Hebrews, appears to Moses, instructing him to return to Egypt in order to lead the people out of bondage – Exodus 3:1-10.
    - A. Recorded in Exodus chapters 3-12 is the history of Moses as he seeks to do as Jehovah had instructed.
      1. Ten plagues are brought upon the Egyptian people in order to show them who God was.
        - A. At the tenth and final plague the Hebrews are told to leave, departing from the city of Rameses - **locate on map.**
    - B. As the Hebrews made their way from captivity they first stopped in Succoth (Exodus 12:37) and then Etham – Exodus 13:20.
      1. As they make their way out of Egypt they are moving toward the fulfillment of the promise made by God to Abraham.
    - C. It would appear to have been much quicker for them to have traveled

along the so-called “Way of the Sea” which followed along the shoreline of the Mediterranean Sea.

1. They could have also taken the “Way of Shur”, but if they had chosen either way they would surely have met with conflict.
  - A. Their travels southward gave them safety and time to learn to depend on God.
- D. Having traveled west of the Red Sea the Hebrews learn of their being followed by the Egyptian army, and “knew” they were doomed – Exodus 14.
  1. Exodus 14:2 tells us that they were “encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon”, of which none of these places can be precisely located today.
    - A. All that we can know for sure is they must have crossed somewhere at the northern part of the Gulf of Suez, since they crossed into the Wilderness of Sinai rather than the Arabian Desert.
4. Having now crossed the Red Sea they move southward along the eastern coastline of the Gulf of Suez.
  - A. For three days they traveled through the Wilderness of Shur without any water – Exodus 15:22.
    1. However, they soon found themselves at Marah where they found water, only to be disappointed when they learned the water was bitter and could not be used - Exodus 15:23 - **locate on map**.
      - A. From Marah they move on southward to Elim, which was a natural oasis consisting of 12 wells and 70 palm trees – Exodus 15:27 - **locate on map**.
        1. You would think by now the Hebrews would have learned that God would take of them.
          - A. But, sad to say, it seems they learned little.
  - B. Now, after having been out of Egypt for a month they found themselves in the Wilderness of Sin (Exodus 16:1) where they again begin to complain due to a shortage of food.
    1. In Deuteronomy 8:2-5 we note that God had allowed them to be both hungry and thirsty in order for them to be dependant upon Him.
    2. In Exodus 16 God fed the Hebrews with manna and continued to do so until they reached the Land of Canaan and eat their first food therein – Joshua 5:10, 11.
  - C. Not only did God provide food and water, He also protected them as in the Amalekite attack at Rephidim as seen in Exodus 17:1, 8.
5. By now they had arrived at the southern most part of their travels, Mt. Sinai.
  - A. This was in the “third month” – Exodus 19:1.
  - B. God offers a covenant with the Hebrews that if they would do as He commanded then He would provide for them.

1. The people said, “All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.” – Exodus 19:8.
6. Chapters 20-23 provide us with a summary of the Law given unto them by God.
  - A. They once again affirmed that they would do all that the Lord had said, and the covenant was confirmed with the blood from animal sacrifices – Exodus 24.
  - B. However, in less than six weeks following this affirmation they were found building a golden calf to worship – Exodus 32:1-6.
    1. God became “angry” and intended to destroy them all, but Moses pleads with Him, and He forgave them and renewed the covenant with them – Exodus 32-34.
- E. Numbers 10:11-Joshua 5:12 continues the trip to Canaan.
  1. A little over a year after the Hebrews had left Egyptian captivity they started north toward the land of Canaan – Numbers 10:11, 12.
    - A. The trip would take them through rough terrain that was described by Moses as “that great and terrible wilderness” – Deuteronomy 1:19.
  2. They had hardly started the trip when they began their complaining all over again.
    - A. First, they complained at Taberah, and God brought fire amongst them – Numbers 11:1-3 - **locate on map.**
    - B. Next, they began to complain about the manna so God sent quail sufficient for a month – Numbers 11:31.
      1. However, God’s wrath was once again brought against the Hebrews – Numbers 11:32, 33.
        - A. A great plague came upon them, and those who “lusted” died.
        - B. The name of the place where this happened is Kibrothhattavah – Numbers 11:34 - **locate on map.**
  3. From Kibrothhattavah they moved on northward to Hazeroth – Numbers 11:35 - **locate on map.**
    - A. It was at Hazeroth that Aaron and Miriam complained due to the authority of Moses and Miriam is struck with leprosy – Numbers 12:1-15.
  4. Following Miriam’s seven days of exclusion from the camp of the Hebrews they moved on northward to the Wilderness of Paran (Numbers 12:1) traveling on to Kadesh-barnea - **locate on map.**
    - A. At this location they were less than fifty miles south of Canaan.
    - B. It was from Kadesh-barnea that Moses sent the 12 spies into the land of Canaan – Numbers 13.
      1. Ten of the twelve spies report back that the land cannot be taken, and the people, once again, begin to murmur and cried out, “Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!” – Numbers 14:2.
        - A. One ought to be careful what they ask for, as God remembers this later as we will see when we get up to chapters 28-35.

2. Once again God's wrath is against the Israelites.
  - A. They had forgotten His promise that He would care for them.
3. He is ready to destroy them all but Moses pleads for them and God, once again, forgave them.
  - A. As punishment for their lack of faith they were to remain in the wilderness until the entire generation died.
    1. Their time of wandering in the wilderness equaled to a year for each day they had been in the land looking it over - Numbers 14:34.
4. Distressed over these events the people determine to take the land by force.
  - A. Moses informs them that God is not with them, and they would be defeated if they tried, which they did and were soundly defeated – Numbers 14:39-45.
5. Following this the Israelites spent the next 38 years in Kadesh-barnea, waiting for that generation to die – Deuteronomy 1:46-2:14.
  - A. Little is known about this time in the history of Israel, except they continued to complain, a rebellion against Moses and Aaron was led by Abiram, Dathan, and Korah, resulting in the earth opening up and swallowing these men and their families, and fire came out from the altar destroying 250 princes who had joined the protest, along with 14,700 Israelites who died due to the plague brought upon them due to their complaining over God's punishment of these wicked men – Numbers 16.
  - B. It seems that the Israelites would camp at one location until the grass and water were all used up, and then they would move on to another location.
    1. We are unable to know how far they traveled, or in which direction.
    2. The only thing for sure is they did not go to Canaan.
- C. In Numbers chapter 20 we see the death of Miriam and the sin of Moses in striking the rock rather than speaking to it as instructed by God.
  1. In Numbers 20:22-29 we see the first day of the fifth month of the fortieth year since they had gone out from Egypt.
    - A. See also Numbers 33:38 for additional information on this.
  2. They are now ready to head for the Promised Land again.
    - A. Word is sent to the King of Edom requesting permission to pass through the land of Edom – Numbers 20:14-17.
      1. Permission is refused – Numbers 20:18.
  3. Another route is sought as they moved from Kadesh to Mt. Hor – Numbers 20:22 - **locate on map**.
    - A. While at Mt. Hor Aaron dies – Numbers 20:23-29.
- D. In chapter 21, Canaanite king Arad fought against the Israelites, taking some captive – Number 21:1.

1. The Israelites, now no longer afraid to fight, sought God's blessings to go against the Canaanites, and destroyed the cities of those who fought against them – Numbers 21:2, 3.
  - A. The place where this took place was called Hormah – Numbers 21:3 - **locate on map.**
2. As to why the Israelites took the route they did from Mt. Hor to the plains of Moab is unclear.
  - A. All that we can say for sure is that God was with them during this time – Numbers 20:14-22:1; 33:1-49; Deuteronomy 1:1-3:11.
    1. We do know they were refused permission to travel the King's Highway, which would have been the easiest way.
  - B. While on their way they stopped at Ezion-geber, which is located at the top of the Gulf of Aqaba - **locate on map.**
    1. This would be a strategic location for several reasons.
      - A. It served as a sea port for trade on the Red Sea.
      - B. Numerous land routes converged here.
      - C. The King's Highway, coming from deep in the Arabian Desert, passed close by.
    2. The road branched at Ezion-geber, with one going north across the Sinaitic Peninsula to Egypt, another going north through Edom to the Trans-Jordan plateau to Damascus, with a third going due north to the Dead Sea.
      - A. The last route would clearly be the worse one.
  - C. Numbers 33:41-43 lists Zalmonah, Punon, Oboth and Ijeabarim as places where the Israelites stopped after leaving Mt. Hor.
    1. None of the places have been located.
3. The Israelites moved northward along the route from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea until they reached the valley of the Zered - **locate on map.**
  - A. It was here that they turned eastward through Arabah, which was within the jurisdiction of Edom - **locate on map.**
  - B. Once they crossed the Zered River they were on the edge of the land which belonged to the Moabites, who were relatives of whom God had said they could not have their land – Deuteronomy 2:9.
    1. From there they moved along the outer fringes of Moab, crossing the Arnon River - **locate on map.**
4. The territory between the Arnon and Jabbok Rivers was controlled by Sihon – Numbers 21:21.
  - A. Due to his objection of the Israelites passing through his territory he brought an army against them, but were defeated by the Israelites.
  - B. This resulted in the Israelites controlling all the land between the two rivers.

5. Following this spies were sent through the plains of Moab and other cities were taken – Numbers 21:31, 32.
  - A. In Numbers 21:33-35 we note that Og of Bashan came out to fight against the Israelites, but was defeated.
    1. This resulted in Israel controlling the land from the Arnon to Hermon – Deuteronomy 3:8.
  - B. Between the territories of Og and Sihon was the region of Gilead, which appears to have been somewhat of a buffer zone between the territories of Og and Sihon as it had not been under the control of any one strong king.
    1. The region of Gilead was subdued by men from the tribe of Manasseh, which resulted in all the forces north of the Arnon being subdued – Numbers 32:39, 40 – **locate and color on map.**
6. By now the Ammonites had been driven out of the fertile land to the edge of the desert.
  - A. God forbade the Israelites from disturbing them since they were the descendants of Lot – Deuteronomy 2:16-19.
  - B. However, they soon become a major problem for Israel as they continued to try to take the fertile land for their use.
    1. **Locate and color on map.**
- E. In chapter 22 the king of Moab, Balak, fears to attack Israel so he attempts to bring them down another way.
  1. He calls for the prophet Balaam to come and curse Israel – Numbers 22:2-6.
    - A. He is prevented from doing so by God, so he advises Balak to cause Israel to sin by bringing in Midianite and Moabite women to entice the men of Israel into fornication associated with the worship of Baal – Numbers 31:16.
      1. This led to the death of 24,000 Israelites, along with an army sent from God that fought against the Midianites and Moabites.
  2. Following the matter with Moab Moses is instructed to count all the men of war of the new generation, a total of 601,730 men – Numbers 26:51.
    - A. As promised none of the original men of war survived, except for Caleb, and Joshua - Numbers 26:64, 65.
- F. When one considers the Book of Deuteronomy it is seen that it is composed of speeches made by Moses that began in the eleventh month of the fortieth year after Israel had come out of captivity.
  1. It was now time for Moses to die.
    - A. He feared for the future of the people of Israel.
  2. He rehearsed their history while he encouraged them to be faithful.
  3. In Deuteronomy 31:15-29 Moses is told to write the words of the prophecy and store them up as a witness of Israel having been warned.

4. Moses is then instructed to climb Mount Pisgah where he was provided a panoramic view of the land of Canaan – Deuteronomy 34:1.
  - A. It was on this mountain that Moses died and was buried – Deuteronomy 34:5, 6.
5. Following the death and mourning for Moses (Deuteronomy 34:8) Joshua was given the responsibility of becoming the leader of the Israelites, leading them into the Promised Land.
- G. The Israelites were led across the Jordan River on dry land on the tenth day of the first month – Joshua 4:19.
  1. As soon as Israel arrived in Canaan God demanded, as an act of faith, that all the males born in the wilderness be circumcised – Joshua 5:9.
    - A. The place where this was done called Gilgal because they had “rolled away the reproach of Egypt” – **indicate possible location on map.**
      1. The exact location is not known, but was probably located halfway between the Jordan River and Jericho.
    2. Following this they observed the Passover in order to remember the night they escaped Egypt forty years earlier – Joshua 5:10, 11.
- F. Joshua chapters 5-12 provide us with information on the conquest of the land of Canaan.
  1. Seven different peoples were to be found living in the land of Canaan – Exodus 3:17; Deuteronomy 7:1:
    - A. Amorites
    - B. Canaanites
    - C. Girgashites
    - D. Hittites
    - E. Hivites
    - F. Jebusites
    - G. Perizzites
    1. Additionally, there was a tribe of giants that were referred to by different names depending upon where they were located – Deuteronomy 2:10, 11, 20.
      - A. Anakim
      - B. Emim
      - C. Rephaim
      - D. Zamzummim
  2. All of these were descendants of Ham, through his son Canaan – Genesis 10:15-19.
    - A. Having not moved into Africa with the others of Ham’s descendants, they lived with the descendants of Shem in the Fertile Crescent and Arabia.
  3. It appears that the name Canaanite was for the most part used in a collective sense to include all of the tribes that lived in Canaan.
    - A. It was also used specifically in reference to one branch as seen in

Deuteronomy 7:1.

4. Apparently, the Amorites were the largest and strongest of all of the tribes that lived in Canaan.
  - A. Immediately prior to the call of Abram they had moved out of the desert.
    1. We find indication that they had gone into Aram, Canaan, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.
  - B. Some scholars believe that the Hyksos Kings were Amorites.
    1. If so, then Amorites were ruling in both Babylon and Egypt at the same time.
    2. We recall that the Israelites defeated two Amorite armies prior to the death of Moses – Og and Sihon.
5. The land which stretched from the Euphrates River to Mt. Lebanon to the desert is described as “the land of the Hittites” – Joshua 1:4.
  - A. The Hittites were descendants of Canaan, coming through his son Heth.
  - B. An early kingdom was established by them along the Halys River in the area later called Asia Minor.
  - C. Although the city-states of Canaan were under the control of Egypt during the time of the Patriarchs, the Hittites were constantly a threat to them.
6. While the Israelites were still camped at Moab spies were sent to the City of Jericho – Joshua 2:1 - **locate on map**.
  - A. While there they learned that the people of Jericho were terrified of the Israelites – Joshua 2:9-11.
  - B. Jericho was one of the oldest cities in the world.
    1. It was located about five miles west of the Jordan River and about seven miles north of the Dead Sea.
    2. Jericho was given into the hands of the Israelites miraculously – Joshua 6:20.
  - C. Soon after the destruction of Jericho another village was built at or near the site of Jericho, referred to as the “city of palm trees” – Judges 3:13.
  - D. The walls of the city of Jericho remained until the time of Ahab when Hiel rebuilt the walls which resulted in his oldest son dying at the beginning of the work and his youngest son dying at the completion of it – Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34.
7. Following this sin entered the camp with the transgression of Achan – Joshua 7:1.
  - A. At the same time spies were sent to Ai to see if the city could be taken - **locate on map**.
    1. Although the spies report back that the city could not easily be taken, they had forgotten God’s promise that if they obeyed Him He would be with them.
  - B. This led to the stoning of Achan, and another trip for battle to Ai where the Israelites won easily, along with Bethel – Joshua 8:17.
8. By this time Ai, Bethel, and Jericho had all been destroyed, which allowed the Israelites to move into the hill country with ease.



- A. They quickly made their way to mount Gerizim and mount Ebal where Shechem was located – Joshua 8:33.
  - B. While at Shechem they read the law inscribing a copy of it on stone, and staked their claim to the territory.
- 9. In Joshua 9:3 we see the men from Gibeon came to the Israelites deceiving them into making a treaty of peace with them - **locate on map**.
  - A. Once Joshua learned that the Gibeonites had lied to him claiming they were from a far distance when, in reality they were not, they were made slaves.
- 10. At the same time the king of Jerusalem, Adoni-zedek, was becoming more worried about the many victories of the Israelites – Joshua 10:1 - **locate on map**.
  - A. When he learned that Gibeon had made peace with them he was especially concerned.
  - B. Adoni-zedek sends for help from the kings of Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon – Joshua 10:3-5 - **locate on map**.
    - 1. All five kings set upon Gibeon in an attempt to force them to join their alliance against Israel.
    - 2. When Israel was made aware of this they marched through the night, making a surprise attack on them, resulting in the Amorites fleeing toward Gilgal, all the way to Azekah and Makkedah – Joshua 10:9, 10 - **locate on map**.
      - A. While fleeing a hail storm is sent by God that kills more than were killed in the battle, the sun stops, and the day was prolonged in order that the enemies would be killed before they reached their walled cities.
        - 1. This happened in the Valley of Ajalon – Joshua 10:12 - **locate on map**.
  - C. Moving on Joshua pushes to Libnah and Lachish –Joshua 10:29, 31 - **locate on map**.
    - 1. Horem, the king of Gath comes to help Lachish, but is defeated also – Joshua 10:33 - **locate on map**.
  - D. From there the Israelite army moves on to Eglon, Hebron and Debir – Joshua 10:34, 36, 38 - **locate on map**.
- 11. In Joshua 11:1 we note that the kings of the north formed a coalition against the Israelites which was led by Jabin, king of Hazor - **locate on map**.
  - A. It appears that this coalition included all of the Canaanite tribes from Mt. Hermon across to the city of Dor, which was located south of Mt. Carmel - **locate on map**.
    - 1. In Joshua 11: 5 we are told that the kings assembled at the waters of Merom - **locate on map**.
  - B. At the command from God the Israelites attacked this coalition and completely defeated them.

1. Those who survived fled to the north in three directions toward Sidon, Misrephothmaim and Mizpeh – Joshua 11:8 - **locate on map.**
- C. Joshua then led the Israelites to overrun the city of Hazor – Joshua 11:10 - **locate on map.**
  1. Hazor appears to have been a major defeat as it appears to have been the largest city in the land.
  2. Following this victory there remained no other king or coalition to fight against the Israelites.
- G. Joshua chapters 13-24 present us with a picture of the land promise being fulfilled.
  1. When we consider chapters 13-19 we see a description of the border lines of the tribal territories given in sufficient detail that will allow us to locate the inheritance fairly well.
    - A. You will notice in comparing maps that there will be differences as to the borders.
      1. Some of this is due to the lack of knowing for sure what is meant by some of the Hebrew expressions.
      2. Some times problems arise due to the cities that are mentioned whose names have been changed over the years.
      3. Another problem is that some of the border cities have never been found.
      4. Land was not surveyed as it is today.
        - A. Often time's cities served as boundaries.
    - B. We note that in the northern fertile plains area of Jezreel the tribes of Asher, Issachar, Manasseh, and Zebulun all had cities within the valley.
    - C. About all that can be done for sure is to place an approximate line indicating the borders.
      1. It is important to realize that our faith is not dependant upon an exact placement of the borders of the tribal inheritance.
  2. **Label your seventh blank map the tribal territories of Israel. Label and color the Arnon River, Dead Sea, Jabbok River, Jordan River, Mediterranean Sea, Sea of Chinnereth, Yarmuk River, and the Zered River. Label and color each of the territories. Label the neighboring area of Ammon, Edom, and Moab.**
  3. The tribes of Gad, Reuban and half of the tribe of Manesseh requested land east of the Jordan River prior to the death of Moses.
    - A. Moses was initially disturbed because he thought they were afraid to take the land of Canaan.
    - B. After they assured Moses this was not the case, Reuban was given the southern portion near the territory of Moab, from the Arnon River to near the northern tip of the Dead Sea.
      1. The tribe of Gad was given approximately one half of the territory that had been taken from King Sihon.
      2. To the tribe of Manesseh was given a portion of land south of the

Yarmuk River and all of the territory of Bashan that had been taken from King Og – Numbers 32.

4. The tribe of Judah was the first tribe to ask for land west of the Jordan.
  - A. They were given the land from the approximate line at the northern end of the Dead Sea westward to the Great Sea and southward to the Negeb River.
    1. To Caleb was given the city of Hebron due to his faithfulness as one of the spies sent into Kadesh-barnea.
5. The tribe of Ephraim and half of the tribe of Manasseh requested the central portion of the land.
  - A. This area stretched from Bethel in the south to the Plain of Jezreel in the north.
  - B. The cities belonging to Ephraim were located in the southern portion while Manasseh's were in the northern portion.
    1. The precise border between these two territories is often disputed.
6. Once it was reported that the territory that had been allotted to Judah was too large the area was divided and part was given to Simeon.
  - A. The majority of the cities listed for Simeon were in the southern part of Judah's land.
7. To the tribes of Benjamin and Dan were given the territory between the territory belonging to Ephraim and Judah.
8. The tribe of Asher was given the narrow coastal plain of the north, while Naphtali was given the territory farthest to the north along the banks of the upper Jordan River.
9. To the tribes of Issachar and Zebulun were given portions of the Jezreel Plain along with the hills and valleys of lower Galilee.
10. To the tribe of Levi no land was given as they were selected by God to serve as the priestly tribe specifically through the family of Aaron.
  - A. Those not of the family of Aaron assisted with other work such as teaching the law to the people.
11. Following the dividing of the land instruction was given to set aside 48 cities for the Levites.
  - A. Six of these were to be specific cities that would serve as cities of refuge where one who had accidentally taken the life of another could flee.
    1. They were located in such places that would allow a person to reach them within a day's journey from any point in the land.
  - B. These cities were, Bezer, Golan, Hebron, Kedesh, Ramoth-gilead, and Shechem - Joshua 20:7-9 - **locate on map**.
12. One side note before we move on.
  - A. Counting the tribe of Levi, there are a total of 13 tribes, yet Jacob only had 12 sons.
    1. By looking at Genesis 48 and 1 Chronicles 5:1, 2 we see the answer to this "problem."
      - A. The oldest son of Jacob, Reuben, sinned so Jacob gave the

- birthright to Joseph and instead of naming him as one of the tribes, his sons Ephraim and Manasseh received Joseph's double portion.
- B. Prior to the death of Joshua he called the Israelites together and encouraged them to faithfulness.
    - 1. In Joshua 21:43-45 we see that he affirms that God kept the promise He had made.
    - 2. By the end of the book of Joshua two of the promises were kept.
      - A. The Israelites were a distinct separate people.
      - B. They possessed the land just as God said they would.
  - H. A brief overview of the divided kingdom as seen in 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 25 and 2 Chronicles 10-36.
    - 1. **Label your eighth blank map the divided kingdom during the reign of Jeroboam and Rehoboam.**
    - 2. It can truthfully be said that at the death of Solomon Israel's glory faded and never again would Israel be blessed as in the days of David and Solomon.
      - A. Following Solomon's death his son Rehoboam was anointed king.
        - 1. Israel assembled at Shechem to seek from him the promise of lighter burdens – 1 Kings 12:1, 6, 7.
        - A. His refusal to do so resulted in the division of the kingdom – 1 Kings 12:8, 12-21.
    - 3. At this time the northern ten tribes made Jeroboam king as had been predicted by Ahijah.
      - A. They continued to be referred to as Israel while the tribes of Benjamin and Judah remained under Rehoboam and took on the name Judah due to Rehoboam being of the tribe of Judah
        - 1. Jerusalem became the capital city of Judah while Samaria became the capital city of Israel - **locate on map.**
      - B. Jeroboam was told that should Israel remain faithful they would be blessed and the kingdom would be established on the throne as David's was – 1 Kings 11:30-39.
        - 1. Sadly, they did not do so.
      - C. It was not long until Jeroboam began to fear that the people of Israel might want to return to Egypt, which would cause him to lose control – 1 Kings 12:27.
        - 1. Due to his fear Jeroboam erected golden calves at Bethel and Dan – 1 Kings 12:29 - **locate on map.**
          - A. A totally new system of worship was inaugurated.
          - B. All of this eventually led to Jeroboam's son being murdered and his family being wiped out.
    - 4. While this was going on Judah worshipped God at the temple that was at Jerusalem, while the inclusion of idol worship soon found itself being practiced in Jerusalem.
      - A. Eventually the Levites along with others who sought to be faithful to God moved southward to Judah which resulted in the two kingdoms being

- nearly the same size numerically speaking.
5. For approximately 200 years they continued as the divided kingdom.
    - A. At times the people of the two kingdoms fought against one another.
    - B. The neighboring kingdoms of Edom and Moab would, at times, be allies and at other times enemies - **locate on map**.
    - C. During this time a total of 39 kings served the two kingdoms.
      1. 13 of them were murdered by their own people.
      2. 2 of them were killed in battles.
      3. 5 were taken captive by their enemies.
    - D. When one studies the lives of these kings they see that they were blessed or not due to their service to God – **see pages 78, 79 for list of Kings**.
  6. The kings of Judah were direct descendants of David, having come through the royal seed line of Solomon and Rehoboam as promised to David – 2 Samuel 7:12.
    - A. In looking at the kings of Judah we see that when there was wickedness found in the lives of some, God allowed them to be punished, but He still saw that an heir to the throne was left.
  7. The northern kingdom of Israel continued to move further away from God.
    - A. A new system of worship is set up.
      1. Worship was directed at the golden calves, Baal, or the gods of their neighbors.
    - B. None of the kings were faithful to God.
    - C. Nine different times we see a change in the ruling families when the king would be murdered, the family destroyed, and the one who did so proclaim himself as king.
      1. Even though they were warned of this by the prophets they ignored the warnings.
  8. Following the division of the kingdom the neighboring people threw off Israel's control as Ammon, Edom, Moab, and Syria all rebelled.
    - A. Soon after that Egypt attacked and the Syrian city-state of Damascus became a threat as both Israel and Judah experienced spiritual decay.
  9. The division of the kingdom resulted in Israel possessing the Trans-Jordan plateau, of which we find the King's Highway.
    - A. This provided a goodly amount of tax income from the many caravans that traveled that road.
      1. In addition to this the route along the coastal plain was part of Israel's territory which provided them with tax income.
    - B. All of this resulted in Israel being a more prosperous nation who had more contact with people from other locations.
  10. Judah, on the other hand, was land-locked.
  - I. 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17 provide us with information concerning the fall of Israel through the prophets Amos, Hosea, and Jonah.
    1. **Label your ninth blank map the Assyrian Empire. Label and color all**

**bodies of water, along with the land masses, indicating which is which. Indicate Egypt, the Euphrates River, Nineveh, and the Tigris River.**

2. At the construction of the golden calves by Jeroboam Israel seemed to be doomed.
  - A. With each successive king who followed, their troubles multiplied.
    1. Syria soon became a major problem to Israel in the days of Baasha when Asa, King of Judah, employed Ben-hadad of Syria to attack the northern cities of Israel.
    2. In 2 Kings 1:1 we see the rebellion of Moab at the death of Ahab.
      - A. The “Moabite Stone”, which belonged to King Mesha of Moab, describes Moab’s victories over Israel and Judah.
        1. Through all of these battles, Israel never regained permanent control.
3. King Jehu destroyed Ahab’s family and those who worshipped Baal.
  - A. In doing so he had the opportunity to turn the people of Israel back to God, but failed to do so.
    1. 2 Kings 10:32, 33 provide us with information on what happened to Israel because of this.
4. Next came Jehoahaz who was as wicked as his father Jehu.
  - A. At his lowest point he was left with 50 horsemen, 10 chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers and was about to be destroyed by Syria.
    1. Jehoahaz cried out to God who promised to send one to deliver them.
      - A. Jehoahaz’s son Jehoash experienced three victories over Syria.
      - B. Jeroboam II was able to push the borders of Israel all the way from “the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain” – 2 Kings 14:25.
        1. The “sea of the plain” here is the Dead Sea.
5. At the time Jeroboam II was reigning over Israel, Judah was being ruled by Uzziah, who was a good king.
  - A. Because Uzziah sought to do the Lord’s will God blessed him as he fought the Arabians, the Phillistines, and the Mehunims – 2 Chronicles 26:6, 7.
    1. It is seen that even the Ammonites paid tribute to him – 2 Chronicles 26:8.
6. It is at this time that the Assyrian Empire begins to play a part in the history of Israel.
  - A. They had already been in existence for many years.
  - B. Nineveh, the capital, was located in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley.
  - C. Their rise and fall in power had been determined by the strength and weakness of their king.
    1. At this point in time it appears they were at a low or they would have already challenged Israel and Judah as any sign of strength from them.
  - D. To speak of the Assyrians was to speak of cruelty and ruthlessness.
  - E. Assyria was the first to build a military power capable of conquering an extensive enemy empire.
    1. In their effort to remove all obstacles in their path, as they moved

- toward an attempted overthrow of Egypt, Palestine and Syria became a part of their conquests.
- A. Even though they did not subdue Egypt to the desired extent, the Assyrians were able to force them to pay a tax to them.
- F. By the time of the division of the kingdom Assyria sought for more power.
- 1. With the continued downward spiral of Israel God chose the Assyrians to punish them.
    - A. By the time of King Omri, the sixth king, Assyria was a threat.
    - B. Ahab joined forces with Syria and Phoenicia long enough to fight Assyria at Karkar on the Orontes River - **locate on map**.
- G. At the time when Jeroboam II and Israel were strong and Assyria was weak, Jonah was told to cry out against Nineveh – 2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1:2.
- 1. To escape going to Nineveh Jonah fled across the Mediterranean toward Tarshish – Jonah 1:3.
  - 2. Eventually, upon Jonah's return to Nineveh, they repented at his message and the destruction was spared.
- H. In Israel the people were being denounced by the prophets sent by God.
- 1. The people were prosperous and at ease.
    - A. Corruption was everywhere.
  - 2. Their destruction was declared to be imminent by the prophet Amos.
    - A. They were told they would soon be carried away into captivity but scoffed at the idea.
- I. King Jeroboam dies and Israel's prosperity ceases.
- 1. His son Zachariah was murdered by Shallum, who was in turn murdered by Menahem.
  - 2. At the same time Pul came to the throne of Nineveh.
    - A. He took the title Tiglath-pileser III and became the most forceful Assyrian King.
      - 1. He accomplished this by bringing together the warring factions who then set out on a conquest campaign.
    - B. He soon turned his attention to the west where no one could stand in his way.
      - 1. He marched all the way to the Mediterranean forcing Arabia, Israel, Phoenicia, and Syria to pay tax.
        - A. Israel was forced to pay 1,000 talents of silver.
  - 3. The son of Menahem, Pekahiah, is murdered, and the throne of Israel was seized by Pekah who chose to rebel against Assyria.
    - A. For their mutual protection a coalition was formed between Pekah and Rezin, king of Syria – 2 Kings 16:5.
      - 1. They attempted to force Judah to join their coalition, but Ahaz refused.
        - A. Due to his refusal the coalition attacked Jerusalem causing Ahaz to remove some of the treasures from the temple and

- send them to Tiglath-pileser as payment for his assistance in fighting against the coalition.
    - B. Tiglath-pileser had already intended to help, so he was happy to accept these items.
  - J. Hoshea came to the throne of Israel and remains loyal to Assyria to the time of the death of Tiglath-pileser when he, too, rebelled.
    - 1. Hoshea sought assistance from Egypt who refused to come.
    - 2. The armies of Assyria return and besiege Samaria whose inhabitants held out for three years before their defeat.
      - A. Israel was turned into ashes 721 years before Christ was born – 2 Kings 17.
    - 3. Shalmaneser was the king who ruled Assyria at the time of the siege to Samaria.
      - A. He died before Samaria fell and Sargon II took his place.
        - 1. He is mentioned by Isaiah in Isaiah 20:1.
        - 2. In the mid-1800's the records of Sargon were found which testified of the fall of Samaria.
    - 4. Israel was removed from their land, being scattered to the four corners of the Assyrian Empire.
      - A. 2 Kings 17:7-23 provide us with some information on the fall of Israel.
    - 5. Eventually other captives intermarried with the impoverished Israelites who remained in the land.
      - A. This resulted in a mixed race of people known as the Samaritans.
      - B. An Israelite priest was sent to the Samaritans to instruct them in the ways of the god of this land.
        - 1. Since the priest had not served faithfully he more than likely had a perverted view of what was right and wrong – 2 Kings 17:24-41.
- J. 2 Kings 18-25 and 2 Chronicles 29-36 provide us with information on the last days of Judah involving the prophets Habakkuk, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Nahum, and Zephaniah.
  - 1. **Label your tenth blank map Judah following the fall of Israel indicating the boundaries of Judah. Label Jerusalem, Tyre, Ashdod and Gaza, Ammon, Dor, Edom, Galilee, Moab, and Samaria.**
  - 2. As already noted, Ahaz, king of Judah, appealed to Tiglath-pileser for assistance and would have soon followed Israel had not some major changes not come about.
    - A. In 2 Chronicles 28:20 we note that Tiglath-pileser came to Ahaz, but not to assist him.
      - 1. Rather, he brought trouble as Judah was soon troubled with raids from the Edomites and the Philistines – 2 Chronicles 28:17, 18.
    - B. Through it all Ahaz became more and more wicked.
  - 3. However, Hezekiah his son was as righteous as Ahaz was wicked and called



the Levites before him and warned them of the judgment of God that would come upon them if changes were not made – 2 Chronicles 29:3-11.

- A. Hezekiah did as he said in this text.
  - 1. The temple was cleansed.
  - 2. Couriers were sent from Beersheba to Dan asking those who were left from the Assyrian siege to attend the feast – 2 Chronicles 30:5.
    - A. Although many scorned the messengers, some from Asher, Ephraim, Issachar, Manasseh, and Zebulun attended – 2 Chronicles 30:11, 18.
    - B. Such a celebration had not been conducted since the days of David and Solomon.
- B. His reforms were taking place during the last years prior to the collapse of Israel during the sixth year of Hezekiah's reign.
- 4. At this point in time all of Palestine had either fallen to the Assyrians or they were paying tribute to Assyria.
  - A. Both Israel and Syria were gone.
  - B. Tyre still stood while the majority of Phoenicia was gone.
  - C. A small number of Philistine cities remained.
  - D. Ammon, Edom, Judah and Moab remained each with their own king, and paying tribute.
  - E. During this time Assyria made three raids in the area during the first 20 years after the defeat of Samaria.
    - 1. In 720 they put down a revolt that was led by Hamath that involved people living in Damascus, Egypt, Gaza and Samaria.
    - 2. Assyria swiftly moved along the coastal plain putting a quick stop to an Egyptian army that met them at Gaza.
  - F. Another coalition was formed between Ashdod and Egypt that, at first, seemed to be supported by Edom, Judah, and Moab.
    - 1. Ashdod and her neighbors quickly fell and the defeated area became a new Assyrian province which was named Ashdod – Isaiah 20:1 - **locate on map.**
  - G. At the same time King Sargon of Assyria was having problems on the other end of the Assyrian Empire.
    - 1. The Chaldean prince Merodach-baladan rebelled setting up Babylon, an independent state.
      - A. The struggle between Babylon and Nineveh lasted about 12 years before Babylon was subdued.
  - H. At the same time Egypt was once again rising in power and desired to have a buffer state between themselves and Assyria.
    - 1. Canaan was encouraged to rebel but Hezekiah was encouraged by Isaiah to not to take part in the rebellion.
      - A. This led Hezekiah to withhold his tribute from Assyria as he made fortifications throughout Judah.

1. A tunnel was dug from Gihon spring, located in the Kidron Valley, to the Pool of Siloam located within the city of Jerusalem in order to have a sufficient supply of water to withstand the siege – 2 Chronicles 32:30.
2. Under Assyrian King Sennacherib, the Assyrian armies came and destroyed the city of Tyre and Joppa.
  - A. This was in the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign.
  - B. An Egyptian army attempted to stop them and they were soundly defeated.
  - C. The walls of the cities of Judah were next laid siege to.
    1. Part of the army moved to the northeast in the direction of Bethel, taking the cities that remained standing.
      - A. They next moved southward and shut up the city of Jerusalem.
    2. At the same time the other part of the army busied itself destroying the countryside.
3. Hezekiah realizing the danger he was in sent a large tribute to King Sennacherib who was camped at Lachish – 2 Kings 18:14 - **locate on map.**
  - A. Although gold was stripped from the walls of the temple it was not enough to appease the King.
    1. Men were sent to tell the men on the walls to surrender and Sennacherib sent insulting letters saying that Jerusalem had no hope of standing.
      - A. Both God and the people were insulted by these actions.
    2. Hezekiah prayed to God for help and God answered – Isaiah 37:33-35.
      - A. The Assyrian army was struck with a plague that resulted in the death of 185,000 soldiers.
        1. This led Sennacherib to withdraw and he never returned.
  - B. Jerusalem was spared for 100 years, although the toll on them had been high.
    1. The records of Sennacherib indicate that 46 walled cities or forts were taken, leaving much of the land in ashes.
- I. In 2 Kings 18:26 we note that the Assyrian official who came to Jerusalem was asked to speak in the Aramaic language spoken by the majority of the people instead of in Hebrew.
  1. Aramaic had become the language spoken by the people in northern Mesopotamia and Syria.
    - A. It was the language spoken by the Assyrians.
  2. Thus from this point on Aramaic plays a more important part in the lives of the Israelites.
- J. At the same time the name Jew began to be used in reference to the

children of Israel – 2 Kings 16:6.

1. As time passed its use was quite widespread.
5. Hezekiah was followed by his son Manasseh who reigned for 55 years and who became the most wicked king that Judah had.
  - A. Idol worship was revived under his reign.
    1. He constructed altars to idols inside the temple grounds.
  - B. His sons were sacrificed by him to Molech in the valley of the sons of Hinnom – 2 Chronicles 33:6.
  - C. He was guilty of practicing sorcery, witchcraft, and divination.
  - D. It was said of him that he filled Jerusalem with the blood of innocent people.
  - E. He was seen as being worse than the Amorites who had been driven from Canaan during the time of Joshua.
  - F. He remained loyal to Assyria with the Assyrian kings Ashurbanipal and Esarhaddon leaving record of his tribute payments.
  - G. Although we do not know why, Manasseh was taken prisoner by Assyria, a bronze hook was put in his nose, he was bound by bronze shackles and taken to Babylon – 2 Chronicles 33:11.
    1. It was while he was in an Assyrian prison that he determined to turn to God who hears his prayer.
    2. He is released from imprisonment and returns back to his throne.
    3. He then spends the remainder of his life trying to destroy the idols he had erected, and seeing to undo the evil he had previously done.
6. Amon, Manasseh's son next came to the throne and followed in the steps of the wickedness of his father.
  - A. He only lived two years before he was killed by his own officials.
7. During all of this time Judah might well have fallen to Assyria if God had not intervened.
  - A. However, the grandson of Manasseh, Josiah, came to rule over Judah at the age of 8.
    1. Although very young he was determined to serve Jehovah.
      - A. All the idols were destroyed that existed in Judah and orders were given to cleanse the temple.
        1. While doing so an ancient copy of the Law of Moses was found.
        2. Josiah was terrified at the reading of the Law, but was told by the prophetess Huldah that even though God was angry, and it was too late to avoid punishment, God would postpone the punishment due to his faithfulness – Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28.
  - B. In view of this Josiah increased his efforts to clean up the land of Judah.
    1. The people were called together and he led them in renewing their covenant with God.

- A. The sanctuary for the golden calves that had been built at Bethel by Jeroboam was destroyed – 2 Kings 23:15.
  - B. The bones of the false prophets were burned on the altar fulfilling the prophecy made by a man of God from Judah – 1 Kings 13:1-3.
  - C. The high places that Solomon had built for the false gods of his wives some 300 years earlier were destroyed – 1 Kings 11:4-8; 2 Kings 23:13.
- 2. Although Josiah was the best king that Judah had, it was too late.
- 8. At the same time that all of this is going on Assyria was experiencing troubles of its own.
  - A. Egypt continued to seek independence.
  - B. The Medes grew in strength.
  - C. Babylon continued to rebel.
  - D. Palestine and Syria continued to be plundered by Arab tribes coming from the desert.
  - E. As the Assyrian Empire came unraveled at the seams Nabopolassar, a Chaldean prince, gained independence for Babylon.
    - 1. He soon joined forces with the Medes and laid siege to Nineveh which fell in three months never to rise again.
      - A. This took place in 612 B.C.
    - 2. The battle at Carchemish marked the end of Assyria's downfall.
  - F. King Josiah reigned over Judah during this time.
    - 1. With the withdrawal of the Assyrian troops to protect Nineveh, Judah became free which led to Josiah being able to have minimal control over Canaan.
    - 2. It appears that Megiddo was under Josiah's control and became his administrative headquarters for the northern section of the land.
  - G. Nahum serves as a prophetic expression of joy over the fall of Nineveh.
- 9. However, problems were on the rise for Judah.
  - A. Egypt rejoiced over Assyria's fall, but noted the increasing danger as Babylon continued to grow in power.
  - B. For Assyria to remain between Babylon and Egypt would be advantage for Egypt, which led to Pharaoh-Necho of Egypt to move north along the Way of the Sea to assist Assyria.
- 10. King Josiah, who was not interested in assisting Assyria, went out to meet Necho in a battle at Megiddo – 2 Chronicles 35:22.
  - A. During this battle King Josiah was killed, and Necho continued his trip to Haran, arriving too late to save Assyria.
    - 1. This was in the year 609 B.C. while the final blow to Assyria was in 605 B.C. at Carchemish when Necho was defeated.
- 11. Josiah's son Jehoahaz was placed on the throne by the Jews while three months later he was deposed by Necho, who placed Jehoahaz's brother Jehoiakim on the throne.
  - A. Jehoahaz was taken to Egypt as a prisoner and a heavy tax laid on the

- land – 2 Kings 23:31-34.
12. At about the same time Babylon and Media formed the Medo-Babylonian Empire.
    - A. The land east of Nineveh was claimed by Media while Babylon claimed Arabia, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Palestine and Syria.
    - B. Nebuchadnezzar enforced his claim on the various regions but ran into some trouble when he confronted Egypt, who was a formidable foe.
      1. Although Babylon was eventually victorious, it was weakened considerably.
  13. Problems were on the rise in Judah as Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim were both extremely wicked, which would eventually lead to the downfall of Judah as had been prophesied.
    - A. Although Jehoiakim at first accepted the rule of Babylon he saw an opportunity to rebel when Babylon was weakened by Egypt.
      1. 2 Kings 24:2 tells us that raiders from Chaldea, Syria, Moab, and Ammon came against Judah.
        - A. More than likely brought on by Nebuchadnezzar.
    - B. As the Babylonians came into Judah and Jerusalem they took treasure from the temple and captured many of the young men of the royal families – 2 Kings 20:14-19; Daniel 1:1-6.
      1. Daniel and his three friends were among the initial group taken at the beginning of Judah's captivity in 606 B.C.
    - C. Once again Jehoiakim rebelled and Nebuchadnezzar returned again taking Jehoiakim captive, binding and, eventually, killing him.
      1. His son Jehoiachin held out for three months before he surrendered to Babylon.
      2. All of the treasure of the palace and temple were taken away, along with the craftsmen and officials of the city, leaving only the poorest of people to remain in Jerusalem.
        - A. Some 10,000 people were taken captive at this time.
      3. Zedekiah, another son of Josiah, was set up as a "puppet king" by Nebuchadnezzar.
  14. During this time Jeremiah prophesied concerning the matter and gave instruction that the people surrender – Jeremiah 36:20-26.
    - A. To the people of Judah his words sounded as treason.
      1. They would not listen.
    - B. Jehoiakim cut the words of Jeremiah from the scroll and burned them.
    - C. His life was constantly in danger while he encouraged them to give up so they would have a city to come back to some day – Jeremiah 26:1-3; 25:1-14; 27:6-14; 27:17, 18.
  15. In 586 B.C. Babylon returned to Jerusalem and leveled the city.
    - A. The walls were stripped of their gold.
    - B. The large bronze pillars that stood at the front of the temple were broken and taken away.

- C. The walls were torn down and the gates burned.
- D. Many more people were now taken captive.
- E. Gedaliah was set up as governor over the territory.
  - 1. The poorest of all, who had been left in the land, now rallied around him at Mizpah – 2 Kings 25:23.
  - 2. Some who had fled to Ammon, Edom, and Moab heard the word and returned – Jeremiah 40:11.
  - 3. God continued to be with this remnant and blessed them.
- F. The Ammonite king saw an opportunity to settle his hatred with Judah, hiring Ishmael to kill Gedaliah and all the officials who served with him – Jeremiah 40:41.
  - 1. The remnant now fled to Egypt, even though Jeremiah had encouraged them to stay in the Land.
  - 2. Now the land was barren with no inhabitants in Jerusalem.
  - 3. All of the walls of the land are destroyed.
  - 4. Even the poorest who had remained were now gone.
  - 5. The people of God were in captivity and the land remained idle for the next 50 years as no foreigners were brought in.
    - A. The land remained desolate until it experienced the Sabbaths that the people had failed to keep – Leviticus 25:1-12; 26:33-35; 2 Chronicles 36:21.
- K. The Books of Daniel and Ezekiel provide us with information on the captivity.
  - 1. **Label your eleventh map The Babylonian Empire. Color the land area of Babylon along with all bodies of water. Label and color the Egyptian Kingdom, the Median Empire, and the Kingdom of Lydia.**
  - 2. Although God had kept His promise concerning Israel inheriting the land of Canaan, He never promised they would keep it.
    - A. Their sins against Him eventually led to their captivity.
    - B. Rather than learning from all of the lessons that came from their habitual sin, they continued to grow even worse.
    - C. Prophets were sent to warn them, but they would not listen.
  - 3. Ezekiel was taken in the second group of captives at the time that the craftsmen and prominent people were taken.
    - A. He resided in the Jewish captive colonies located on the banks of the river Chebar – Ezekiel 1:1 - **locate on map.**
    - B. While living there the Spirit of God came to him in a vision and took him back to Jerusalem showing him all the corruption of the city.
      - 1. He saw an idol by the gate of the city.
      - 2. He saw the elders and leaders of the city hiding in the dark while offering incense to idols thinking that God could not see them.
      - 3. He saw the women crying to the false gods for help.
      - 4. He saw men standing in front of the temple with their backs turned to the temple, bowing in worship to the sun god.

4. In Ezekiel 8:6 Ezekiel is told of the detestable things that Judah had done.
  - A. The Spirit of God then moved from His place above the mercy seat to the threshold of the temple.
  - B. A messenger is sent through the city marking those who grieved over the sins of the city.
    1. Those who did not grieve were destroyed.
  - C. Ezekiel cries out in distress concerning the destruction and whether God would destroy the remnant - Ezekiel 9:8.
    1. Jehovah responds indicating that those who serve Him will not be harmed – Ezekiel 9:5, 6, 9.
  - D. Ezekiel continues to watch as the glory of God leaves the threshold of temple and moves outside the city – Ezekiel 11:23.
    1. Thus leaving the picture of the city and temple being nothing more than an empty husk in so far as how God viewed them – Ezekiel 8:1-11:25.
    2. This had been predicted when Solomon built the temple – 1 Kings 9:3-9.
5. It should be kept in mind that God made more than one promise to Abram.
  - A. He also promised that all the nations would be blessed through him – Genesis 12:3.
    1. He promised that another prophet like unto Moses would be raised up – Deuteronomy 18:15-22.
    2. He promised that there would be a King who would forever reign on David's throne – 2 Samuel 7:11-16; Psalms 89:19-37; 132:11, 12.
  - B. Although God brought punishment upon Judah; there was the promise from Him that there would be a remnant that would return to the land – Deuteronomy 30:1-3.
    1. In Ezekiel's vision we see the promise that God would spare the faithful and allow them to return to Judah – Ezekiel 9:6; 11:13, 16-21.
    2. Amos prophesied that although Israel would be completely destroyed, the kingdom of Judah would not face such a total destruction – Amos 9:8-10.
    3. A similar prophecy was made by Jeremiah indicating that although a king of the royal line would never again reign in Jerusalem, God would raise up a Righteous Branch – Jeremiah 22:28-33:6.
      - A. Jeremiah went so far as to prophesy the length of time that they would be in captivity – 70 years from the time of the first captives being taken until the remnant returned – Jeremiah 29:10.
- L. Eventually the Persian Empire begins its growth and with the death of Nebuchadnezzar Babylon was soon to become a part of the Persian Empire.
  1. Nabonidus who reigned following the death of Nebuchadnezzar had angered his priests, was lax in his rule over the people, and was away on many trips.
    - A. It was on one such trip that Cyrus approached the city, dug a great ditch outside the walls, diverted the Euphrates into their ditch and entered the

- city under the walls of the dry river bed.
1. The city actually surrendered without a battle in 539 B.C. – Daniel 5.
  2. Cyrus was a much different ruler than previous ones.
    - A. He did not conduct a mass killing of or major captivity of the people.
    - B. The prominent men were given positions in the new government under a Mede by the name of Darius who had been made king over the new Persian province of Babylon – Daniel 5:30-6:2.
      1. This was a part of the plan of Cyrus to produce an Empire composed of self-governing nations under one emperor.
  3. When Cyrus came to power this delighted the Jews who were in Babylon.
    - A. Daniel, knowing of the prediction of Jeremiah that they would be in exile for 70 years, and knowing that the time was about to expire, prayed to God confessing the sins of the people and sought Jehovah's mercy that would allow them to return to Judah – Daniel 9.
      1. His prayer was heard.
    - B. Approximately 200 years earlier Isaiah had indicated that Cyrus would give orders for Jerusalem and Judah to be rebuilt – Isaiah 44:26-45:4.
      1. Although predicted while Judah was thriving, we see the foreknowledge of God in this matter.
        - A. In 538 B.C. Cyrus sends forth an edict that allowed the displaced Jews to return to their homeland.
        - B. The items taken from the temple were returned, and money was given to rebuild the temple.
- M. The Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi provide us with information on the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the restoration of the worship of God.
1. **Label your twelfth map Judah, The Return From Captivity. Color the area under Persian Domination along with all bodies of water. Label the following, Ammon, Arabs, Aramaens, Ashdod, Bashan, Dor, Edom, Galilee, Gilead, Moab, Phoenicia, Samaria, and Shushan (off the map).**
  2. When permission was given for the Israelites to return to their homeland many chose not to do so.
    - A. They had built homes, and established businesses.
    - B. From Ezra 2:64, 65 we see some 50,000 Jews who gathered at Babylon to return home.
      1. They are led back to Judah by Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel who were both of the royal lineage of David.
    - C. Those Jews who chose to remain in Babylon assisted those who made the journey back to Judah – Ezra 1.
  3. Those that had remained in Palestine had profited from the absence of the Jews.
    - A. The Samaritans grew in power and had claimed the area around the ruins of Jerusalem.
    - B. The Ammonites had relocated from the near-desert territory to the fertile



highlands of Gilead.

- C. Edom moved to the city of Hebron from the dry Negeb.
- D. Many of the nomadic tribes located within the fertile lands and established a less nomadic life style.

- 1. The Arabs, which was a generic term for the nomadic tribes, have a much stronger influence on the entire region following this.

- 4. Upon arrival back in Jerusalem the Jews set upon the work of rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem.

- A. The altar of burnt offering was rebuilt and the regular sacrifices were started.
  - B. The people gathered for a celebration once the foundations of the temple were laid.

- 1. Although there was much joy, there was also sorrow for those who remembered the splendor of the previous temple that had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar – Ezra 3.

- C. As soon as the work began the enemies sought to stop it.

- 1. At the death of Cyrus they saw their first chance to do so.

- A. A letter was written to Cambyses (who is also referred to as Ahasuerus and Artaxerxes) accusing the Jews of treason.

- B. Cambyses was asked to check the chronicles to see if the Jews had not always been rebellious.

- 1. When he did so he found they had been rebellious and brought the work to a halt – Ezra 4.

- C. This resulted in the Jews giving up with nothing more being accomplished for 16 years in so far as the rebuilding of the temple or the city.

- 1. During this time the Jews barely eked out a living working the fields they cultivated.

- D. The borders of the Persian Empire continued to push outward.

- 1. Egypt was taken and the reign of the Pharaohs came to an end.

- 2. While following up on his victory in Egypt Cambyses learned of problems at home and started his trip back, but died on the way.

- D. Confusion then came upon the Persian Empire but Darius the Great came to rule and held the empire together.

- 1. Desiring to have a stronger hold over the empire he divided it into 20 satrapies (the province or territory ruled by a satrap, who was the governor of a province) with each satrapies being divided into provinces with local rulers.

- 2. New territories were soon conquered from the Indus Valley of India to the Aegean Sea.

- A. Darius controlled the territory from the Jaxtes River in central Asia to Libya in North Africa.

- B. He also crossed the Aegean Sea annexing the Grecian provinces of

Thrace and Macedon, although Greece successfully resisted Persian control.

5. By this time Judah was but a small dependency in an empire that existed of some 2,000,000 square miles – **draw a line around the border of Judah.**
  - A. Although Jewish Priests were permitted to settle local matters; they were under the control of the Persian governor that ruled over the fifth satrapy that extended from northern Syria to the border of Egypt.
    1. It was referred to as the Abar-nahara, i.e. the land beyond the Euphrates.
6. At around the time that Darius came to power Haggai and Zechariah set about to encourage the people to resume the work on the temple – Haggai 1:2-11.
  - A. With this encouragement before them, they set to the work again.
  - B. Once again, problems arise.
    1. The governor of Trans-Euphrates comes to investigate what is going on.
    2. He hears their explanation and writes a letter to the king – Ezra 5.
    3. Darius consults the chronicles and finds the original decree from Cyrus in the palace at Achmetha in the province of the Medes – Ezra 6:1, 2.
      - A. Orders are now given for the work to be completed.
      - B. He also forbids any opposition.
      - C. Twenty years after the work of the temple is started it is finished.
7. Next Xerxes (also called Ahasuerus) comes to the throne over Persia.
  - A. The events seen in the book of Esther relate to him.
8. Following Xerxes his son Artaxerxes comes to the throne.
  - A. In his seventh year of reign he grants permission for Ezra to go to Jerusalem.
    1. Ezra enquired into the religious conditions of Judah and Jerusalem.
    2. He was given letters from Artaxerxes to the governors of Trans-Euphrates that allowed him to purchase whatever was needed for the religious welfare of the Jewish people.
    3. He was also given money from the king in addition to freewill offerings from the Jews who stayed behind in Persia.
  - B. In Ezra chapters 7 and 8 we see that nearly 2,000 people, many of whom were priests and Levites, returned with him.
  - C. We next meet Nehemiah some thirteen years later in Shushan – Nehemiah 1:1.
    1. Nehemiah served in the capacity of cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.
    2. Distressing news came to him from one who had returned from Judah – Nehemiah 1:2.
      - A. Although it had been 90 years since Cyrus had given the Jews permission to return to their homeland, the city was still in rubble.
      - B. The temple had been rebuilt, but nothing else.
    3. In view of this Nehemiah asks for permission to rebuild the city walls.
      - A. Permission, along with the supplies to do so was given –

Nehemiah 1, 2.

4. This brought great joy to the Jews.
  - A. They set upon the work of rebuilding the walls and were done in 52 days in spite of opposition by their enemies.
    1. Sanballat, the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian lead the opposition – Nehemiah 2:19.
      - A. They were ignored because the people had “a mind to work” – Nehemiah 4:6.
- D. Although the prophet Haggai died, Ezra and Nehemiah were committed to the work of rebuilding the city.
  1. They also were committed to the restoration of the worship as ordained by Jehovah.
    - A. Sacrifices were regularly offered after the altar was rebuilt – Ezra 3:1-6; 8:35.
  2. But their observance of the law was haphazard, to say the least.
- E. One major problem found was the intermarriage of the Jews with the pagan neighbors which caused the children to speak the language of Ashdod – Nehemiah 13:24.
  1. Both Ezra and Nehemiah demanded that the foreign wives and their children be put away – Ezra 10; Nehemiah 13:23-31.
- F. Another matter that needed dealt with was the Sabbath day was being ignored.
  1. Business was being conducted on the Sabbath just as it was any other day.
  2. Wealthy Jews were getting richer by exacting high interest from loans made to poor Jews who could not repay their debts.
  3. Malachi comes along as a prophet of God and denounces these actions – Malachi 1.
- G. Nehemiah seeks to renew the people’s covenant with God – Nehemiah 9, 10.
- H. The prayer offered up by Ezra provides us with a good picture of the condition of Judah – Ezra 9:6-15.

## 5. THE LIFE OF CHRIST

- A. The Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John provides us with a brief historical narrative of the life of Christ.
  1. **Label your map number 13 Palestine in the Time of Christ.**
    - A. **Indicate on your map Caesarea, Galilee, Idumea, Iturea, Joppa, Judea, Perea, Phoenicia, Samaria and Trachonitis.**
- B. Since Jerusalem was the cultural and religious center of the Jewish world it would stand to reason that the wise men who sought him would do so in that city.
- C. Bethlehem was located about five miles south of the city of Jerusalem - **locate on map.**
  1. Bethlehem never held a position of prominence in Israelite history even though several Biblical characters and events involved that area.

- A. Jacob buried Rachel there – Genesis 35:16-20.
  - B. Ruth lived there with Naomi.
  - C. David watched over sheep on its hillsides – 1 Samuel 16.
- 2. Following the birth of Jesus he was taken to Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod.
  - A. Once Herod was dead Joseph returned to Nazareth, fearing to enter Judaea due to Archelaus having taken his father Herod's place – Matthew 2:22, 23.
    - 1. Nazareth was located about 80 miles north of Jerusalem in the province of Galilee - **locate on map**.
    - 2. Nazareth was not mentioned in the Old Testament nor the historical writings of Josephus, nor in the Talmud.
      - A. Recall that Nathaniel showed skepticism of any good thing coming from Nazareth – John 1:46.
    - 3. Nothing is known of the life of Jesus while he lived in Nazareth.
      - A. It can be assumed that he learned the carpentry trade of Joseph – Mark 6:3.
      - B. Since it appears that Jesus did not divulge who he was to the people of Nazareth they, later, found it difficult to believe he was the Messiah – Matthew 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:15-30.
- D. John the baptizer began his work of preparing people for the coming of the Messiah.
  - 1. People came from Jerusalem, Judaea, and the region about Jordan to hear the message of John – Matthew 3:5.
  - 2. It is not possible to exactly pin point the location where John baptized those who sought such.
    - A. From the book of Matthew we learn that John began his preaching in the Wilderness of Judaea – Matthew 3:1.
    - B. From Luke we see that the parents of Jesus lived in the city of Juda – Luke 1:39.
    - C. From the book of John we learn that John the baptizer baptized in Bethabara beyond Jordan – John 1:28.
  - 3. Thus, it appears that John worked at the south-eastern end of the Jordan River close to the location where it empties into the Dead Sea.
- E. When one considers the Wilderness of Judea they see that it is the area along the Dead Sea where the land plunges from the peaks of the central range of mountains to the shores of the Dead Sea.
  - 1. It was probably in this area that Jesus was led following his baptism – Luke 4:1, 2.
- F. The majority of the work of Jesus was conducted in the province of Galilee.
  - 1. The aristocratic Jews looked down upon the Jews from Galilee because they did not spend their time in intellectual pursuit.
  - 2. Eleven of the twelve original apostles came from Galilee.
    - A. Judas Iscariot is believed to have come from southern Judea.

1. The name “Iscariot” may have come from “IshKerioth”, which is Hebrew for “a man of Kerioth.”
  - A. Kerioth is believed to have reference to the southern portion of Judah – Joshua 15:25.
3. There were many prosperous commercial cities that lined the banks of the Sea of Galilee.
4. Capernaum in Galilee was more or less the “headquarters” of Jesus during his early ministry – Matthew 4:13.
  - A. The city itself was located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee approximately two and a half miles southwest of where the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee.
  - B. During his ministry the fame of Jesus spread through all Syria – Matthew 4:24.
    1. Crowds came from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judaea, and from beyond the Jordan River – Matthew 4:25 - **locate on map.**
  - C. When one studies the life of Christ they see that numerous cities within the Province of Galilee played important roles.
    1. Cities such as Bethsaida, Cana, Chorazin and Nain are seen often - **locate on map.**
      - A. Bethsaida was more than likely located near the location where Jesus fed the 5,000 – Matthew 14:13-21.
  - D. The Samaritans lived in the central part of Galilee.
    1. Contrary to the typical actions of the Jews, Jesus often took his disciples directly through Samaria.
      - A. John chapter four deals with the woman of Samaria which took place near the city of Sychar, which was located near old Shechem – John 4:5.
- G. Indicate on your map the area of Decapolis.
  1. Decapolis comes from the Greek words meaning ten (deca) and cities (polis).
    - A. Ten model cities had been built by the Greeks.
  2. People from Decapolis were among those who followed Jesus.
    - A. On at least one occasion Jesus healed and preached in the area – Mark 7:31-37.
    - B. On another occasion Jesus healed a demoniac, sending the demons into the herd of swine that were near by.
      1. The man who was healed was sent to tell the events of what happened to him and the news spread throughout the Decapolis – Mark 5:20.
- H. On another occasion Jesus withdrew himself into the region of Tyre and Sidon – Matthew 15:21.
  1. There a woman of Canaan came to him asking him to heal her daughter – Matthew 15:22.
    - A. In Mark’s account she is referred to as a Greek, a Syrophenician – Mark 7:26.

- B. This was due to the fact that Tyre and Sidon were the two main cities of Phoenicia.
- I. Nearing the time of his death, Jesus spent his time in and around the city of Jerusalem – Matthew 21:10.
  - 1. One of the last miracles that Jesus performed was in the village of Bethany – John 12:1 - **locate on map**.
    - A. Here was the location of the raising of Lazarus from the dead.
- J. Directly to the east of Jerusalem was located the Mount of Olives.
  - 1. A deep ravine through which the brook Kidron flowed divided it from the city of Jerusalem.
  - 2. The Mount was some 250 feet taller than the temple mount that was located directly across in front of it.
  - 3. The Mount of Olives would have provided Jesus and the apostles an excellent view of the city of Jerusalem as Jesus taught concerning the destruction of the city – Matthew 24.
- K. On the slopes of the Mount of Olives was located the Garden of Gethsemane – Mark 14:26-32.
  - 1. It was in this garden that Jesus prayed the night of his betrayal.
  - 2. Following his resurrection Jesus walked across the peak of the mount to Bethany (Luke 24:50) where he gave the Great Commission to the disciples.
- 6. **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM – ACTS 1-12**
  - A. **Label your map number 14 The Kingdom is Established.**
  - B. On the first Pentecost following the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, God instituted the spiritual kingdom.
    - 1. Jews from “every nation under heaven” had assembled to observe the Pentecost.
      - A. Acts 2:9-11 mentions the places they had come from.
        - 1. **Label the following: Parthia, Phrygia, Media, Pamphylia, Elam, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Libya, Judea, Cyrene, Cappadocia, Rome, Pontus, Crete, Asia, and Arabia.**
    - 2. Following the institution of the church the Christians remained in the city of Jerusalem, but a problem soon arose.
      - A. The Jews had come prepared to stay for the period of time associated with Pentecost.
        - 1. Now they were staying much longer and a famine soon arose.
          - A. This led the Jewish Christians to share their possessions.
  - C. Soon after the institution of the church persecution arose that was directed at the apostles.
    - 1. However, it was not long until others began to preach.
      - A. Stephen began to preach in a Jewish synagogue where Grecian Jews from Cilicia, Cyrene, Alexandria, and Asia assembled – Acts 6:9 – **locate on map**.
        - 1. His preaching soon led to his death, which resulted in a wave of persecution against the church.

2. It appeared as if the church was about to come to an end, but the Christians scattered themselves abroad – Acts 8:4.
    - A. The persecution had just the opposite result.
      1. Rather than the church being destroyed, it grew in large numbers.
  3. Philip traveled to the north from Jerusalem into Samaria – Acts 8:5 - **locate on map # 13.**
    - A. There many were baptized.
    - B. Philip was soon led of the Spirit to the road that led from Jerusalem to Gaza where he encountered the nobleman returning to Ethiopia – Acts 8:26, 27.
      1. He was taught “Jesus,” and was baptized.
      2. Philip was then “caught away of the Spirit” and was found in Azotus – Acts 8:40 - **locate on map # 13.**
        - A. Following his preaching there he moved north along the coastal plain preaching in the villages until he came to Caesarea – Acts 8:40 - **locate on map.**
- 7. PAUL’S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY – ACTS 9-14**
- A. **Label your map number 15 Paul’s First Missionary Journey and label the Roman provinces.**
  - B. The Apostle Paul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia – Acts 22:3 - **locate on map.**
    1. The city of Tarsus was situated between two important mountain passes.
      - A. Eastward traveling caravans passed through Antioch in Syria, then through the pass called the “Syrian Gates” into Cilicia - **locate on map.**
    2. Saul played an important role during the first wave of persecution against the church as one of its leaders.
      - A. Recall that the coats of those who stoned Stephen were laid at the feet of Saul – Acts 7:58.
      - B. Later Saul asked permission to travel more than 150 miles to Damascus for the purpose of persecuting Christians – Acts 9:1, 2 - **locate on map.**
        1. Damascus served as the capital of the Old Testament country of Syria and was under control of the Nabateans at this point in time.
          - A. It is believed to be the oldest continually inhabited city in the world.
  - C. Paul’s first missionary journey is documented in Acts 13:1-14:28.
    1. Following the conversion of Saul to Christianity the Holy Spirit gave instruction to the church at Antioch that Barnabas and Saul be separated unto him for the work he would give them – Acts 13:2.
      - A. They took with them John Mark, traveled down the Orontes River to the seaport of Seleucia – Acts 13:4 - **locate on map, begin tracing Paul’s travels.**
        1. Seleucia served as one of the more important harbors on the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea.
      - B. From Seleucia they sailed to the island of Cyprus, stopping at Salamis – Acts 13:4 - **locate on map.**

1. It was evident that they were not the first to come to Cyprus as some who had been scattered during the first persecution preached to the Jews living there – Acts 11:19.
- C. From Salamis they moved on to Paphos, which was located on the other end of the island – Acts 13:6 - **locate on map.**
  1. Between the two cities was the distance of about 100 miles.
  2. While making the trip they preached to all who would listen, including the proconsul of the island, Sergius Paulus.
- D. From Cyprus they sailed some 170 miles northward to the province of Perga of Pamphylia, which was located in Asia Minor – Acts 13:13 - **locate on map.**
- E. From Perga, which was approximately 12 miles inland, they moved on northward, passing the seaport of Attalia, to Antioch – Acts 13:13, 14 - **locate on map.**
  1. At Antioch John Mark decided to no longer travel with Paul and Barnabas, deciding to return to Jerusalem – Acts 13:13.
- F. Paul and Barnabas traveled on northward to Antioch of Pisidia – Acts 13:14 - **locate on map.**
  1. 16 Antiochs had been built by the Seleucid kings of Syria which required the double name of each being used to distinguish one from another.
- G. Following their having been driven out of Antioch of Pisidia Paul and Barnabas traveled southeast to the city of Iconium – Acts 13:51 - **locate on map.**
  1. This was a trip of about 80 miles.
  2. Their message was well received, which allowed them to stay a considerable time.
  3. However, unbelieving Jews stirred up trouble, turning the city against them.
- H. Paul and Barnabas, facing death by stoning in Iconium, fled to Lystra – Acts 14:6-8 - **locate on map.**
  1. The distance between these two cities was approximately 18 miles.
  2. Paul amazed the people of Lystra with the healing of a crippled man.
    - A. This caused some to believe that the gods had come in amongst them, resulting in them bringing garlands and sacrifices in order to worship them.
  3. Not long after this Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium, convincing the people of Lystra that Paul and Barnabas were actually wicked men – Acts 14:19.
    - A. Paul was stoned and thrown out of the city believing him to be dead.
    - B. While the Christians grieved his death Paul returned to the city.
    - C. The following day, both he and Barnabas left for Derbe – Acts 14:20 - **locate on map.**



1. This was a trip of about 30 miles southeasterly.
  2. The cities of Lystra and Derbe are referred to as the cities of Lycaonia – Acts 14:6.
  2. Having circled back it would have been a fairly short trip to pass through the Cilician Gates back to Tarsus on to Antioch in Syria.
    - A. However, they did not choose that route.
    - B. Instead, they returned to strengthen the congregations they had established.
    - C. Following their preaching in Perga they returned to the seaport city of Attalia and caught a ship to Antioch – Acts 14:25, 26.
- 8. PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY TRIP – ACTS 15:1-18:22; 1, 2 THESSALONIANS.**
- A. **Label your map number 16 Paul's Second Missionary Journey and label the Roman provinces.**
  - B. While Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch trouble began as certain Jews came from Judaea saying it was necessary for the Gentiles to be circumcised before they could become Christians.
    1. The church at Antioch decided to send Paul, Barnabas, and other Christians to Jerusalem to settle the issue – Acts 15:2.
      - A. A Gentile Christian by the name of Titus was taken with them – Galatians 2:1-3.
      - B. While passing through Phenice and Samaria, Paul and those who traveled with him, informed others of how the Gentiles were converted – Acts 15:3 - **locate on map.**
    2. Following this Paul determined to visit the congregations he had help to establish.
      - A. A problem arose between Paul and Barnabas on whether to take John Mark with them.
        1. It was decided that John Mark would go with Barnabas to Cyprus – Acts 15:39.
          - A. Cyprus was their original home – Acts 4:36.
        2. At the same time Paul took Silas with him into Asia Minor, traveling by land, passing through Syria and Cilicia – Acts 15:41 - **locate on map.**
          - A. Their purpose in doing so was to “confirm the churches.”
    3. Following Paul and Silas' departure from Cilicia they traveled to Derbe, where Paul asked Timothy to join them in their work – Acts 16:1.
      - A. Timothy had been “well reported of” by brethren from Lystra and Iconium – Acts 16:2.
    4. From there they traveled through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia – Acts 16:6 - **locate on map.**
      - A. As they passed through these areas they made those of whom they came in contact aware of the decisions made in Jerusalem concerning the Gentiles.
    5. Moving on from there Paul determined to stop in Asia, but was encouraged to

- move on by the Holy Spirit – Acts 16:6 - **locate on map.**
6. They, then, passed by Mysia, and intended to go north into Bithynia, but was forbidden from doing so by the Holy Spirit – Acts 16:7 - **locate on map.**
  7. Proceeding westward they came to Troas, located on the shores of the Aegean Sea – Acts 16:8 - **locate on map.**
    - A. The city of Troas was an extremely important harbor, serving as a link along the trade routes.
  8. Acts 16:9 provides us with information of the vision that Paul received of a man from Macedonia asking him to “come over into Macedonia.”
    - A. In view of this they caught a ship, sailed across the Aegean Sea to Samothracia and on to Neapolis into Macedonia – Acts 16:11 - **locate on map.**
    - B. Moving from there they moved on inland to Philippi – Acts 16:12 - **locate on map.**
      1. While in Philippi Paul was able to establish a congregation, beginning with Lydia, who was from Thyatira – Acts 16:14 - **locate on map.**
      2. Soon persecution began; forcing Paul to leave Philippi, leaving Luke there to, perhaps, strengthen the church.
  9. From Philippi Paul and those who traveled with him move down the Egnatian Way to Amphipolis - **locate on map.**
    - A. While on the way to Amphipolis they passed through Apollonia and Thessalonica – Acts 17:1 - **locate on map.**
      1. The Egnatian Way was a major military and commercial highway linking the Aegean and Adriatic Seas - **locate on map.**
    - B. The city of Thessalonica was located approximately 100 miles southwest of Philippi.
      1. It was situated at the head of the Thermaic Gulf, and had an excellent seaport harbor - **locate on map.**
    - C. While in Philippi Paul preached three weeks in the Jewish synagogue, which caused many to believe, of whom many were Gentiles.
    - D. Once again, unbelieving Jews stirred up problems, causing some of the new converts to be dragged before the city rulers.
  10. Departing Thessalonica at night, Paul and Silas traveled on to Berea, which was about 50 miles southwest – Acts 17:10 - **locate on map.**
    - A. At Berea, Paul found a group of Jews who were willing to listen and honestly search the scriptures.
    - B. Not much time passed until the unbelieving Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was at Berea – Acts 17:13.
      1. They quickly came to take Paul’s life, which led the Christians to assist him in escaping.
      2. Paul was taken to the coast, but instead of departing by ship, he traveled by land to Athens – Acts 17:15 - **locate on map.**
    - C. Timothy and Silas had been left at Berea – Acts 17:10, 14.
      1. Word was sent by Paul for them to join him, causing Timothy to soon

- join up with him, and their returning to Athens – 1 Thessalonians 3:1, 2.
  - A. We are not given any indication concerning Silas and whether he was detained in Berea, or if he traveled to some other location.
  - B. Whatever the case, it looks as if Paul spent most of time in Athens by himself.
  - D. The road between Athens and the seaport was lined with altars set up for the purpose of idol worship.
    - 1. It may well be these altars were the basis of Paul's description of the people being "too superstitious."
    - 2. One altar was inscribed to the "Unknown God" so as to not overlook any so-called deity.
- 11. Following his stay in Athens Paul traveled to Corinth, which was a trip of about 40 miles – Acts 18:1 - **locate on map**.
  - A. The city of Corinth was located on the narrow isthmus which connected the mainland of Greece to the Peloponnesus - **locate on map**.
  - B. Corinth was known for several things.
    - 1. Commercialism
    - 2. Immorality
  - C. Corinth was the capital of Achaia, the Roman Province.
    - 1. Given its location on the isthmus, all land traffic was forced to travel through the city as people moved north or south.
    - 2. On each side of the city was a harbor.
      - A. It was not until 1893 that a canal was successfully dug across the isthmus.
  - D. Paul spent a year and a half in the city of Corinth.
    - 1. While there the unbelieving Jews attempted to cause him problems with the Roman deputy, Gallio, but he refused to enter the matter.
  - E. While there Timothy and Silas brought a good report from the churches of Macedonia – Acts 18:5 - **locate on map**.
  - F. Questions came up concerning the second coming of Christ, causing Paul to write unto the church at Thessalonica two letters to correct their thinking - **locate on map**.
- 12. Next Paul travels to Jerusalem – Acts 18:12.
  - A. He was accompanied as far as Ephesus by Aquila and Priscilla – Acts 18:19.
    - 1. This was a trip of about 250 miles across the Aegean Sea.
  - B. Although the Jews in Ephesus desired to hear more from Paul, he was in a rush to reach Jerusalem for a feast day.
    - 1. He promised he would return to Ephesus as quickly as he could.
  - C. Paul sailed across the Mediterranean to Caesarea – Acts 18:22.
  - D. Went on to Jerusalem, and "saluted the church" while there.
  - E. He then moved on to Antioch where he remained until he started off on his third missionary journey – Acts 18:22.

**9. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY – ACTS 18:23-21-16; ROMANS 1, 2 CORINTHIANS, GALATIANS.**

- A. **Label your map number 17 Paul's third missionary journey and trip to Rome.**
- B. It appears as if Paul did not stay long in Antioch between his second and third missionary trips.
1. He soon departs from there and visits Galatia and Phrygia again – Acts 18:23.
    - A. While there he sought to strengthen the disciples.
  2. From there, instead of going to Troas as he did on his second journey, he moved eastward to the city of Ephesus, no doubt keeping the previous promise he had made to them - **locate on map.**
    - A. The city of Ephesus was one of the chief cities located along the eastern Mediterranean, along with the cities of Antioch of Syria and Alexandria of Egypt.
    - B. Ephesus was the capital of the province of Asia and a major trade center.
    - C. The Temple of Diana, located in Ephesus, was seen as one of the wonders of the ancient world.
      1. This temple was one of the largest buildings in existence at that time.
      2. The cult brought in a large amount of trade into the city of Ephesus as tourists traveled on pilgrimages to the temple.
        - A. There can be no doubt that this is what caused the concern on behalf of Demetrius and other silver smiths as they perceived that their trade of selling souvenirs was threatened by the preaching of Paul as he taught concerning that there was but one God.
    - D. Paul resided in Ephesus for a period of three years in spite of the problems – Acts 20:17-19; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11.
      1. From Ephesus the Word of God went forth throughout the province of Asia – Acts 19:10.
      2. More than likely the seven churches mentioned in Revelation chapters 1-3 were established at this time.
        - A. List these seven cities on your map:
          1. Ephesus
          2. Smyrna
          3. Pergamos
          4. Thyatira
          5. Sardis
          6. Philadelphia
          7. Laodicea
    - E. It was during Paul's stay in Ephesus that he learned of trouble in the congregations of Galatia involving Judaizing teachers.
      1. Paul soon wrote what has become to be known as the Book of Galatians to them in order to address this issue.
        - A. The cities of Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe would have been the cities that received the letter written to Galatia.

- C. At some time Paul determined to take up a collection from the predominately Gentile congregations for the impoverished Jewish Christians in Judea.
  - 1. Timothy and Erastus were sent ahead of him into Macedonia to inform the congregations of the intended collection – Acts 19:22 - **locate on map**.
    - A. At the same time someone was sent to the churches of Galatia to make them aware of the collection – 1 Corinthians 16:1.
- D. Around the same time Paul was made aware of some problems in the church at Corinth – 1 Corinthians 1:2, 11.
  - 1. First Corinthians was written by Paul to the church and taken by Titus.
  - 2. Plans had been made for Timothy to visit Corinth after spending some time in Macedonia, which led Paul to be concerned for his welfare if the problems were not solved before he arrived there – 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10, 11.
- E. Paul continued his stay in Ephesus until Pentecost – 1 Corinthians 16:8.
  - 1. He then traveled north to Troas where he anticipated seeing Titus who was to bring news from Corinth – 2 Corinthians 2:12.
    - A. However, Titus did not arrive, which caused Paul to be so discouraged that he failed to use the “door of opportunity” to him in Troas.
- F. He then travels to Macedonia where he found Titus who had good news concerning Corinth’s acceptance of his first letter – 2 Corinthians 2:13.
  - 1. Paul then wrote his second letter to Corinth in an attempt to resolve any lingering issues.
    - A. This letter was delivered by Titus with specific instructions to assist the Corinthians to have their contribution ready when Paul arrived – 2 Corinthians 7:5-7, 13-16; 8; 9.
- G. Paul traveled through Macedonia and found they were very willing to assist in the needs that were upon the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem even beyond their ability – 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.
- H. As winter began he arrived in Corinth and remained there for three months.
  - 1. It was there and at that time that he wrote the Book of Romans.
    - A. Although he had never been to Rome, he knew of several members of the church.
      - 1. Aquila and Priscilla had undoubtedly returned to Rome as they are mentioned among those he greeted.
        - A. Paul told them that he hoped to visit them after he completed his trip to Jerusalem - locate on map.
        - B. From there he hoped to go on to Spain – Romans 15:23-26.
- I. When Spring came Paul left Corinth for Jerusalem.
  - 1. The most logical route to travel would have been for him to go by ship from Cenchrea directly to Caesarea.
    - A. However, he learned of the plans of some who were lying in wait, preparing to kill him, causing him to change his travel plans and return through Macedonia – Acts 20:3.
  - 2. In Acts 20:4 we find a list of seven men who accompanied Paul on his trip to Jerusalem.

- A. Each was a representative of one of the congregations involved in gathering the funds for those in need in Jerusalem.
  - 1. It appears that by the use of the first person pronoun that Luke was a part of this group.
    - A. He, perhaps, represented Philippi.
  - 2. The other representatives were from Berea, Thessalonica, Derbe, and Asia - **locate on map.**
- B. While on the way Paul was told by the Holy Spirit that he would be bound in Jerusalem, indicating that he would be taken captive – Acts 21:11.
- 3. Paul stopped for a brief visit in Troas, and then continued along the shoreline to Miletus – Acts 20:6, 17 - locate on map.
  - A. Miletus was about 36 miles from Ephesus.
  - B. While at Miletus Paul sends for the elders of the church in Ephesus so they might join him there – Acts 20:17.
    - 1. It appears that Paul felt that he would not see them again.
- 4. On the way to Jerusalem Paul stopped at numerous places, but did not stay long enough to preach at any of them.
  - A. One can trace the route taken by reading Acts 21:1-8.
  - B. Paul was warned by brethren at Syria, Tyre, and Caesarea – Acts 21:3, 4, 7, 8.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. Needless to say, much more could be added to this outline, but time would not allow us to cover any additional material.