

THE LAND OF ISRAEL: Understanding the Land to Better Understand Our Bibles

1. SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION

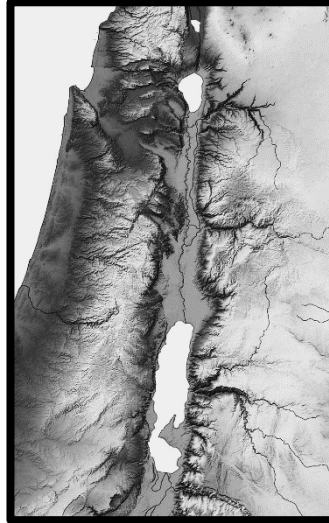
a. OBJECTIVES OF THE CLASSES

- i. Using the trip as a “discipleship moment” in our lives
 1. *While not actually a “fifth gospel,” understanding the land does deepen our appreciation for and our understanding of the author’s intention and the original readers’ understanding.*
- ii. Gaining a better “feel” for the dynamics of history when “layered over” the physical land AND the timelines of biblical history.
- iii. Grasping the religious dynamics of the peoples of the land
 1. Laid over the timelines of history, including the 1st and 2nd Temples,
 2. The religious groups in the time of Christ, so that we understand better what the Gospels are referring to.
 3. The “books” used: *e.g., Tanak, Torah, Pentateuch, Talmud, Septuagint, LXX, Mishnah, etc.*
- iv. Exploring the first century politics, especially from the time of Herod the Great to the Fall of Jerusalem.
 1. Herod the Great and his successors (*aligned with biblical history*)
 2. The relationship with Roman authorities
 3. The languages of the land (*Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic*)
 4. The regions of the land, especially around the Sea of Galilee (*Zealots, Jewish Triangle, Herodians, Decapolis*)
- v. Discussing the theological dynamics of “Us and Israel”
 1. How Jewish are we supposed to be?
 2. How does the inheritance of the land compare with our inheritance under the New Covenant?
 3. How do the covenants relate to the promise?
 4. Is there one people or two people of God?
 5. What is the future of national Israel? What should be our posture toward national Israel?
 6. Brief overview of the wars of modern Israel
- vi. (*For those who go on the trip*) Help you pack well and put what you witness into context.

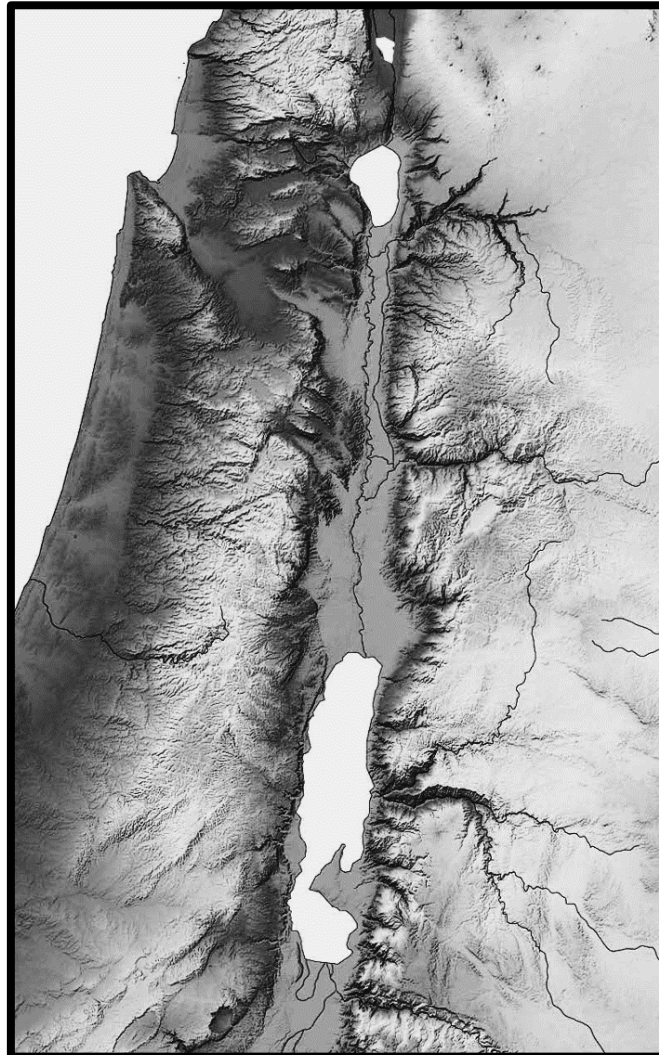
b. OVERVIEW OF THE TOPOGRAPHICAL REGIONS AND TRUNKLINES

- i. Using the water to gain our bearings (*Mediterranean, Jordan, Galilee, Salt Sea*)
- ii. Understanding the topographical regions and how that helps us understand some of the “where” and “why” behind portions of biblical history. (*Plains, Shephelah, Judean Mountains, Wilderness, Jordan Valley, Negev (Negeb), Mt. Carmel, Jezreel Valley, Mt. Hermon*)
- iii. “From Dan to Beersheba” – Roughly West Michigan down to Indiana

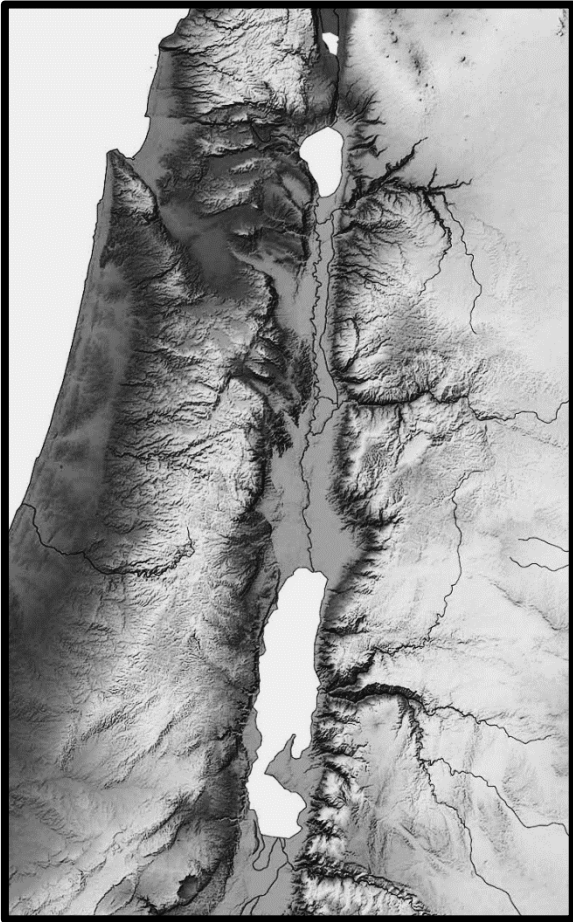
**LABEL THE WATER
FEATURES**



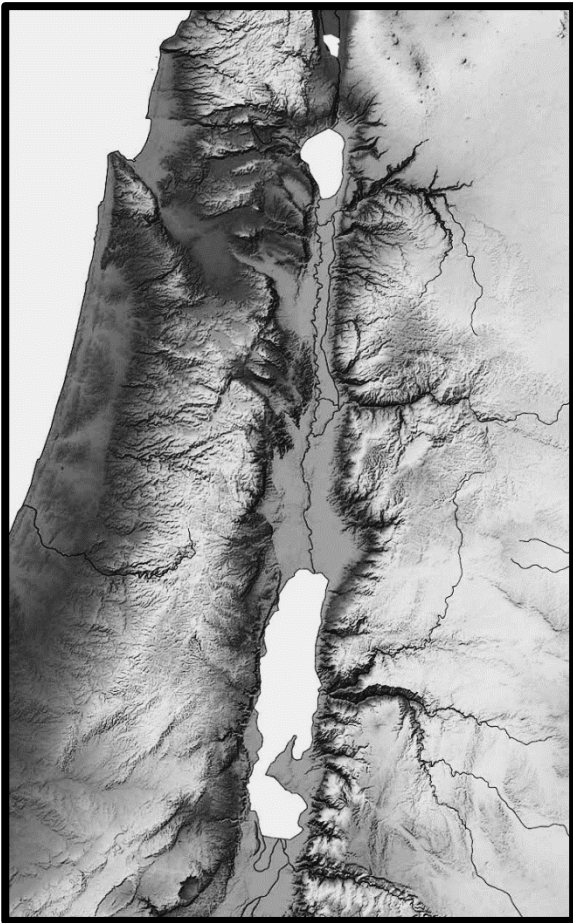
**LABEL THE
TOPOGRAPHICAL
REGIONS**



**LABEL KEY
MOUNTAINS,
VALLEYS, AND
REGIONS**



**LABEL THE MAJOR
TRAVEL ROUTES**



c. **KEY TERMS:** Tells, strata (*BethShean 18+ strada, Jerusalem 21+ strada, Megiddo even more*)

d. **WHY KEEP REBUILDING IN THE SAME SPOT?** *Location⁴ (water, food, defense, trade)*

e. **OVERVIEW OF THE TRIP (Maps of Days and Hotels / Specifics)**

i. Shephelah, David/Jesus, Faith/Hope/Love

1. *Beth Shm. (return of the Ark)*
2. *Yad Hashmonah (community of Jesus followers, replica of 1st Century Jewish Village)*
3. *Azekah (Valley of Elah, David and Goliath)*
4. *Bet Guurin (Caves and Olive Press)*

ii. Wilderness, God as

Rock/Refuge/Fortress/Shepherd, Faith

1. *Masada (God as Rock, Refuge, Fortress)*
2. *Bedouin Hospitality and Camel Ride (God as Shepherd)*
3. *Tel Arad*

iii. Wilderness, David/John the

Baptist/Jesus, Hope

1. *Ein Gedi (Living Water, David)*
2. *Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls, Essenes, John the Baptist, Under the Word)*
3. *Bethlehem beyond the Jordan (Jesus in the Wilderness)*
4. *Jericho (Crossing into the Promised Land, John the Baptist baptizing Jesus)*

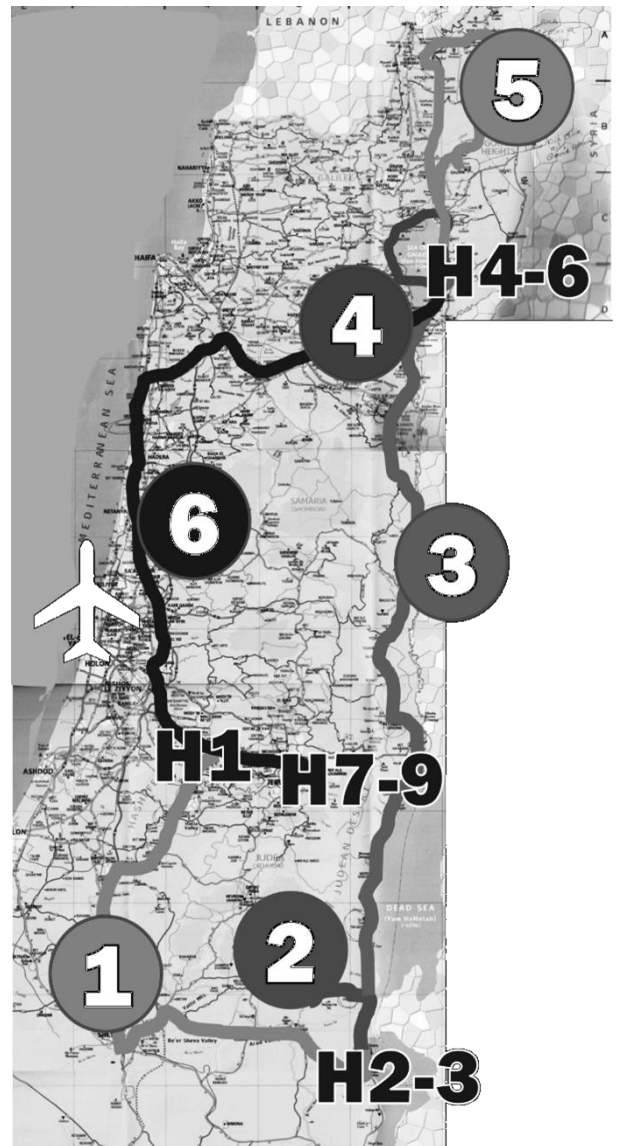
iv. Galilee, Jesus and His Disciples,

Faith/Love

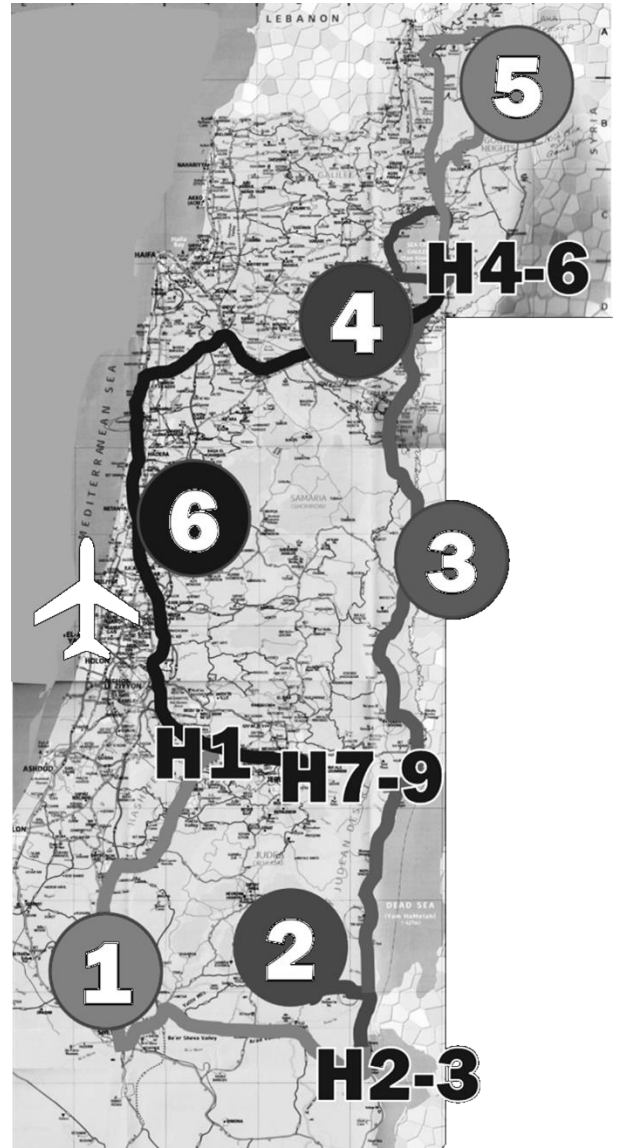
1. *Boat Ride (Worship, Storms, Walking on Water, Fishers of Men)*
2. *Mount of Beatitudes (Sermon on the Mount)*
3. *Capernaum (Synagogue, Millstones, Peter's mother in-law, healing the paralytic)*
4. *Mount Arbel (Jesus going away to pray, disciples in storm on the lake)*

v. Galilee, Jesus/Peter and Northern/Southern Split, Hope

1. *Katzrin (Synagogue, Olive Press)*
2. *Caesarea Philippi ("On this Rock" build my Church, right in the midst of the most pagan of worship)*
3. *Tel Dan (Archaeology, Altar Replica, Ancient OT city gates)*



- vi. Galilee, Elijah, Early Church, Faith/Hope
 - 1. *Bet Shean (Early Church... in but not of the world)*
 - 2. *Megiddo (End Times, Revelation)*
 - 3. *Mt. Carmel (Bold Unshakable Faith Show-Down)*
 - 4. *Caesarea Maritima (The Arena, Christian Martyrs, Paul's Missionary journeys)*
- vii. Jerusalem, Pharisees vs. Jesus vs. Herod vs. Sadducees, Faith/Hope
 - 1. *Temple Mount, Western Wall, Rabbinic Tunnels (Temple, New Covenant, King, Kingdom)*
 - 2. *Herodium, Shepherds Field, Bethlehem (Israel's Messiah is here!)*
- viii. Jerusalem, Hezekiah and David, Jesus, Under the Word, Faith/Hope
 - 1. *City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel (Old Kings)*
 - 2. *Southern Steps of Temple, Model of Jerusalem (Jesus' Temple Teachings)*
 - 3. *Shrine of the Book (Under the Word!)*
- ix. Jerusalem, Jesus Death, Resurrection, Commission, Ascension, and Return! Faith/Hope/Love
 - 1. *Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre (Jesus' Death and Resurrection – Communion together)*
 - 2. *Saint Anne's (Christ's Church maybe?) – Worship Together singing... Taste and Hope of the Kingdom to come (every nation, tribe, and tongue)*



- f. **HOMEWORK** (*in The New Moody Bible Atlas, reading and memorizing Scripture, watching The Chosen*)
 - i. New Moody Bible Atlas
 - 1. For October's Session: pp. 13-86
 - 2. For November's Session: pp. 101-126
 - 3. For December's Session: pp. 148-176, 180-181
 - 4. For January's Session: pp. 220-249
 - ii. Reading Scripture
 - iii. Memorizing Scripture
 - iv. Watching The Chosen