

Lessons from the Holy Lands



Bellevue Church of Christ
Summer 2021

Lessons from the Holy Lands Introduction



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Introduction



- ❧ Class Overview
- ❧ Overview of Israel
- ❧ Climate of Israel
- ❧ Geography of Israel
- ❧ Archeology Considerations

Overview of Israel



- ✧ Israel is about the same size as the state of New Jersey
- ✧ The total area of the Israel is approximately 8,020 sq. miles.
- ✧ Israel is approximately 260 miles in length and about 71 miles across at the widest point.
- ✧ Today country is bordered by Lebanon to the north, Syria to the northeast, Jordan to the east, Egypt to the southwest and the Mediterranean Sea to the west.
- ✧ Highest point is Mount Meron / Upper Galilee (3,964 ft **above** sea level)
 - ✧ What about Mt. Hermon? (Golan Heights / 7,336ft **above** sea level)
- ✧ Lowest point is the Dead Sea (1,368 ft **below** sea level)



4 Geographic Regions:

- (1) Coastal Plain
- (2) Central Hills
- (3) Jordan Rift Valley
- (4) Negev Desert



Climate in Israel



- ❧ Jerusalem is at the same latitude as El Paso, TX
- ❧ Israel has a wide variety of climatic conditions, caused mainly by the country's diverse topography.
- ❧ Israel has two distinct seasons
 - ❧ A cool, rainy winter (October-April)
 - ❧ A dry, hot summer (May-September)
- ❧ Precipitation is light in the south, amounting to about 1 inch per year south of the Dead Sea, while in the north it is relatively heavy, up to 44 inches a year in the Upper Galilee region.
- ❧ Average annual temperatures vary throughout Israel based on elevation and location, with the coastal areas adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea having milder temperatures. Higher elevations, such as Upper Galilee, have cool nights, even in summer, and occasional snows in the winter. In the Negev, average highs in the summer reach well over 100°.

Geography of Israel

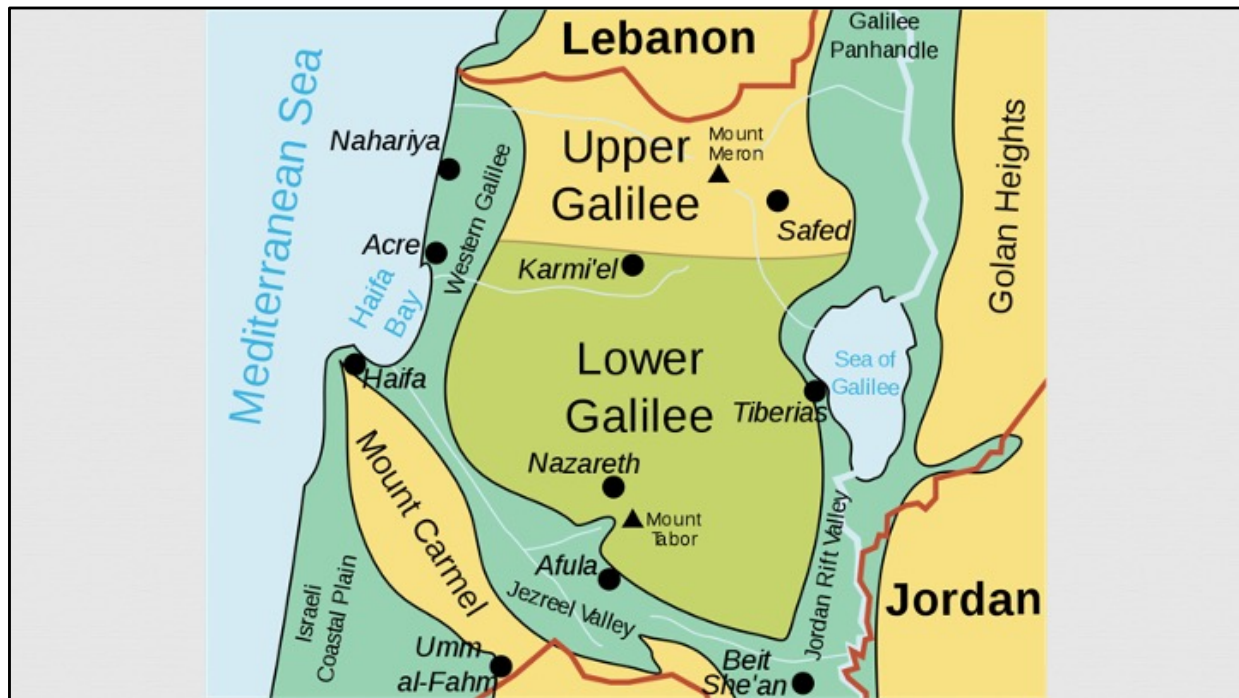


The geography of Israel is very diverse, with desert conditions in the south, and lush hills with snow-capped mountains in the north.

Galilee



- ✧ Galilee is a region located in northern Israel and southern Lebanon. Galilee traditionally refers to the mountainous part, divided into Upper Galilee and Lower Galilee.
- ✧ Prominent locations in Galilee include:
 - ✧ Jezreel Valley
 - ✧ Tel Megiddo
 - ✧ Mount Tabor
 - ✧ Capernaum
 - ✧ Tel Dan
 - ✧ Sea of Galilee





View of Jezreel Valley from Megiddo



View of Jezreel Valley from Megiddo. Nazareth and Mt. Tabor are in the distance.



View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor with Nazareth in the distance.



View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor.



View of Mt. Gilboa from Mt. Tabor



View of Southern Galilee from Zippora



Northern Galilee



Northern Galilee from Tel Hazor

Judean Hills



- ❧ The Judean Hills (or Judean Mountains) is a mountain range in Israel and the West Bank where Jerusalem and several other biblical cities are located.
- ❧ The mountains reach a height of 1,026 meters (3,366 ft)
- ❧ Prominent locations in Judean Mountains include:
 - ❧ Jerusalem
 - ❧ Bethlehem





View towards Jerusalem from Herodium



View of surrounding hills from Jerusalem



View of surrounding hills from Jerusalem

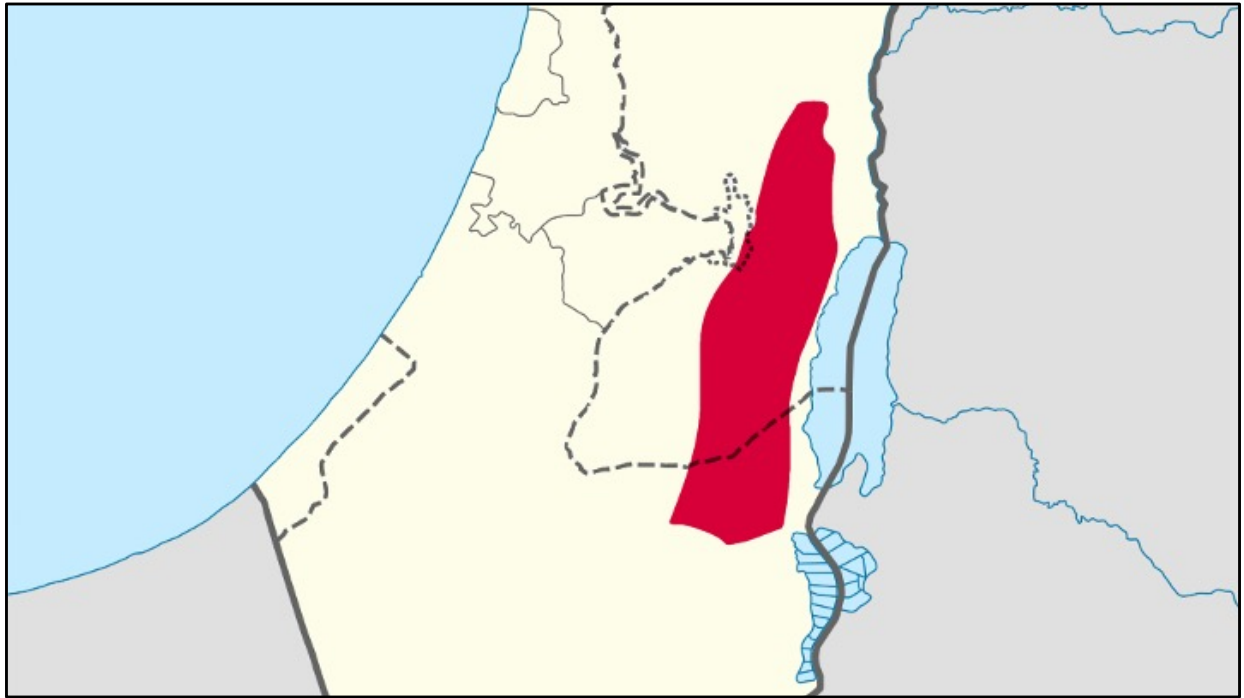


View of hills outside of Jerusalem

Wilderness of Judea



- ✧ Also known as the **Judean Desert**, this area is a wilderness landscape spanning from the Judean Hills at 1,000m above sea level to the west all the way down to the Dead Sea at 400m below sea level in the east.
- ✧ Prominent locations in the Wilderness of Judea include:
 - ✧ Jericho (Mount of Temptation)
 - ✧ Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls)
 - ✧ Ein Gedi
 - ✧ Masada





Mount of Temptation at Jericho



View at Qumran



View at Qumran



View at En Geidi



View at En Geidi



View from top of Masada

Negev Desert



- ✧ The Negev Desert comprises approximately 12,000 square kilometers (4,633 sq mi), more than half of Israel's total land area. Geographically it is an extension of the Sinai Desert, forming a rough triangle with its base in the north near Beersheba, the Dead Sea, and the southern Judean Mountains, and it has its apex in the southern tip of the country at Eilat. Topographically, it parallels the other regions of the country, with lowlands in the west, hills in the central portion, and the Arava valley as its eastern border
- ✧ The most prominent Biblical location in the Negev is Beersheba





Just southwest of Dead Sea



Just southwest of Dead Sea

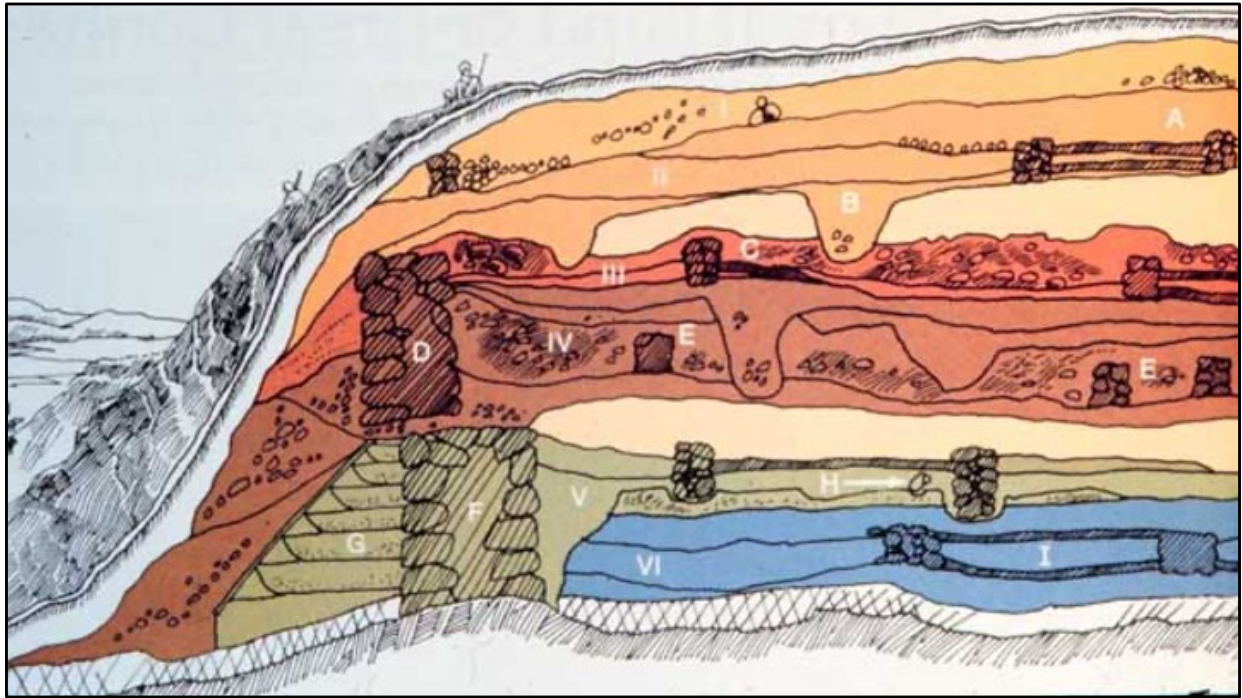


From Beersheba

Tel (Tell) Archaeological Mound



A "Tel" is an artificial hill created by cities built one on top of the other. When a city was destroyed by earthquake or war, and a new city was built on top, this created layers or **strata**. Different strata can be from different eras or time-periods.



Representative diagram of a Tel (Tell) showing levels of strata from years of destruction and rebuilding.



Tel at Bethshean



Tel Megiddo



View from the top of Tel Megiddo showing excavation through the various strata.
Note the round altar to the right by the Northern Palace.