

Israel – A Believers Journey



Hosted By Tim Agee and Bruce Zupa

May 27th – June 7th



Class Information



- ☞ **Travel tips/information - Bruce**
- ☞ **Class will parallel the itinerary with site info -
Scripture references - Tim**
- ☞ **Singing - Derek +**

Class Information



COVID-19 UPDATE: ISRAEL TRAVEL RULES & GUIDELINES

☞ The most dramatic change in Israel's entry policy since the start of the pandemic means that Israel is now open to most travelers. The information below is subject to change.

Updated on February 13, 2022

☞ All arrivals to Israel must take a PCR test at the airport. Then, they must quarantine for 24 hours or until they receive a negative result from the PCR test. The results arrive usually in less than 24 hours.

Class Information



WHO IS CONSIDERED VACCINATED OR RECOVERED?

- ☒ Fully vaccinated with Pfizer, Moderna, Astra Zeneca, Sinovak or Sinopharm vaccine (entire stay in Israel within 180 days of the 2nd shot or anytime after a 3rd shot). Latest shot at least 14 days before arrival in Israel (not including the day of vaccination).
- ☒ Fully vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (1 shot). Shot at least 14 days before arrival and within 180 days of departure from Israel.
- ☒ Recovered from Covid with positive results from an NAAT test (molecular test similar to a PCR). The NAAT test needs to be older than 11 days upon arrival in Israel, and cannot be older than 190 days upon departure from Israel.
- ☒ Recovered from Covid (and can provide proof of past positive test result) and have received at least 1 dose of a WHO approved vaccine. The positive Covid test result must be at least 11 days old before arrival and within 180 days of traveling to Israel.

Class Information



WHAT FORMS AND TESTS ARE NEEDED TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL?

The following forms are mandatory to be able to board a flight to Israel.

1- A printed-out **incoming passenger form**, which must be filled out within 36 hours before flying to Israel. In this form you should either:

- ☞ Upload an approved digital vaccination or recovery certificate (EU countries, UK, and others) and receive an approval to travel boarding the flight. This approval should be automatic.
- ☞ Or enter their vaccinations on the incoming passenger form and fill an additional form for shortening isolation, to which you should attach the vaccination confirmations, and receive a green pass before boarding the flight.

2- One of the documents below:

- ☞ A negative result on a PCR test taken 72 hours before departure to Israel.
- ☞ OR a negative test result from a rapid Antigen test performed by a recognized lab, taken 24 hours before departure to Israel. Home testing kit results will not be accepted.
- ☞ OR a Positive result on a PCR test taken between 3 months and 11 days before the flight.
- ☞ OR Permission from the Exceptions Committee to enter Israel without taking a PCR test before departure.

3- One of the documents below:

- ☞ Certificate of vaccination attesting to your vaccination in accordance with the protocol set by Israel.
- ☞ Certificate of recovery digitally verifiable by the Ministry of Health
- ☞ Special Entry Permit

Agency Information



- ❧ **Final Bill - Mailed 90 days before departure**
- ❧ **Payment Due - Two weeks after receipt of bill**
- ❧ **Airline Tickets and Final Travel Documents - Mailed 5 weeks before departure (eticket, copy of itinerary, tour member list, emergency contact list, bag tags)**
- ❧ **Tip Fee - \$150.00 each / Due with tour fee.**

Be a Responsible Tourist



- ☞ Be aware of the feelings of other people. Remember this especially with photography.
- ☞ Develop the habit of listening and observing. Soak in the information and all the sites you will see. (It's amazing what you will see looking out of the bus window)
- ☞ Realize that people in the country you visit often have different personalities and thought patterns from yours.
- ☞ Discover the enjoyment that comes from seeing another way of life.
- ☞ You will not know all the answers, so ask questions!
- ☞ Remember that you are just one of thousands of visiting tourist. Don't expect special privileges.
- ☞ Make no promises and please...no joking remarks to people.
- ☞ Reflect daily on your experiences.

Some Helpful Travel Tips



There is an ancient travel adage that conveys this truth:

“Thou shalt not find things as thou hast them at home...for after all, thou hast left home to find things different.”

So, the key to a HAPPY TOUR – expect to find things different!

Some Helpful Travel Tips



- ✎ **DO NOT PACK YOUR PASSPORT IN YOUR CHECK BAG!!!!**
- ✎ **KEEP YOUR PASSPORT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!**
- ✎ **Luggage**
 - ✎ **One large suitcase each (weight limit 50 lbs.) NO EXCEPTIONS!**
 - ✎ **One carry on - plus purse, briefcase/handbag or camera bag.**
- ✎ **Carry-On items - Prescriptions you will need during the flight, liquids in 3 oz. bottles, toiletries (I suggest only items you think you need during the flight), change of socks, blouse/shirt and underwear. Any fragile items...cameras, phone, tablet, etc.(pack nail clippers, nail files and scissors in your check bag!)**
- ✎ **Bring two pairs of COMFORTABLE walking shoes. (Leather soles shoes would be a bad choice) A light jacket (or maybe just a long sleeve top) for the possibility of a cool night while out walking.**

Some Helpful Travel Tips



- ☞ **If you plan on swimming in the Dead Sea...something to swim in that you could just leave in the garbage. (Old swimsuit or T-shirt and shorts) You will need some cheap flip-flops also.**
- ☞ **After a day of sight-seeing, you will most likely want to shower or freshen up before diner, I suggest taking one or two outfits to use every night for the diner hour. Still...very casual!**
- ☞ **Shorts can be worn after touring in the evening...NOT during sight-seeing. Ladies, capri type pants are good...NO (sleeveless) blouses that expose the shoulders!**
- ☞ **You will not need to exchange currency...U.S. currency is accepted everywhere in Israel. (Bring small bills)Likewise for major credit cards...NO DEBIT CARDS!**

Some Helpful Travel Tips



- ☞ I suggest you remove unnecessary items from your purse/wallet. If possible, just one major credit card, no drivers license, no keys, etc. Do bring insurance cards! (REMEMBER TO NOTIFY YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIER ABOUT YOUR TRAVEL PLANS OUT OF THE COUNTRY)
- ☞ You will need a power adaptor (special type for Israel) to charge your phone, camera batteries,(at least two sets of rechargeable), etc. A power converter is only necessary if your device does NOT have a built in converter. (Like a hair dryer...hotels room will have a hair dryer available)
- ☞ Start your stack of stuff!
- ☞ MORE TO COME NEXT TIME!

Some Helpful Travel Tips



GlobeHopper Senior Single Trip - I think this is through United Healthcare

Uhome.com

Agent: Margaret M. Kluesener

(800) 926-7602 ext. 77703 or (317) 713-8333

\$1,000,000 looked to be about \$106.15 with a \$250 deductible

GeoBlue Travel Insurance

(855) 481-6647 or (610) 254-5850

10% discount for groups of 5 or more

w/ discount cost would be \$215.70 for a \$1,000,000 medical limit with \$0 deductible

Israel 2022 – Trip Preparation



Lesson 1

February 15, 2022

Future Class Dates



- ☞ February 22
 - ☞ March 8
 - ☞ March 22
 - ☞ April 5
 - ☞ April 12 (tentative)
 - ☞ April 26
 - ☞ May 10
- ☞ All classes will meet at 6:30pm
 - ☞ Location - Bellevue Church of Christ / Room A120
 - ☞ Will also be offered via Microsoft Teams for those who cannot meet in person.
 - ☞ Please let Tim or Bruce know in advance if you need us to setup a remote option.

Introduction



- ☞ Maximizing Your Trip
- ☞ Overview of Israel
- ☞ Climate of Israel
- ☞ Geography of Israel
- ☞ Archeology Considerations

Online Resources



☞ <https://www.teamagee.com/category/israel2020/>

☞ Journal of my trip to Israel from 2019 to 2020

☞ <https://www.teamagee.com/israel2022/>

☞ Copies of the slides from this class

Maximizing Your Trip



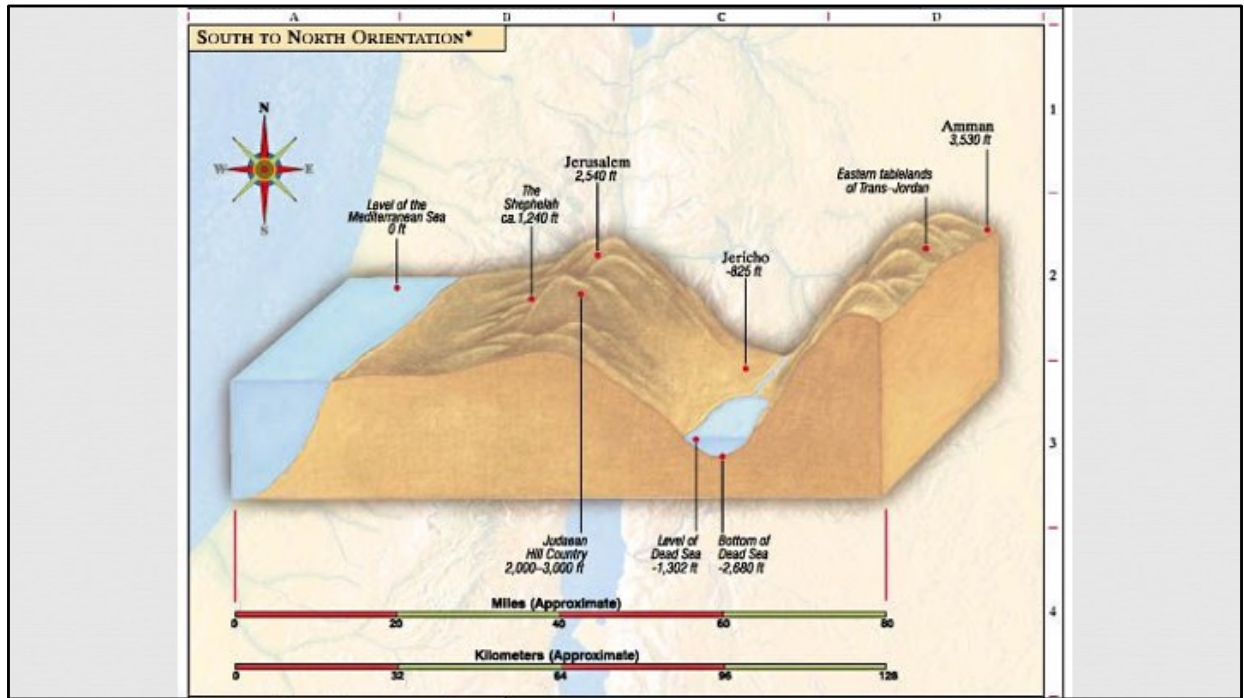
- ❧ Study the Biblical history of significant sites ahead of the trip
 - ❧ Suggestion - Create a "cheat sheet" for reference while in Israel
- ❧ Bring a Bible on the trip
 - ❧ For personal study
 - ❧ For times of group worship
- ❧ Take notes / keep a journal
 - ❧ "Drinking from a fire hose"
 - ❧ This is a trip where you will want to remember details

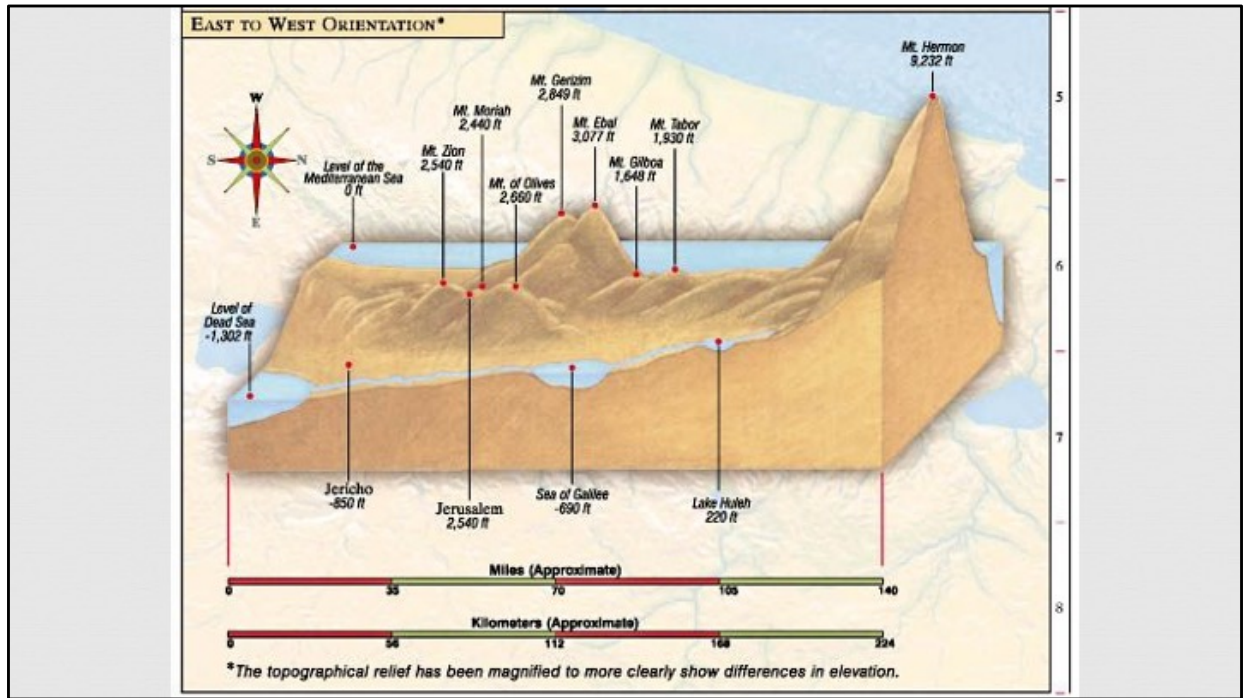
Overview of Israel



- ☞ 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)







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

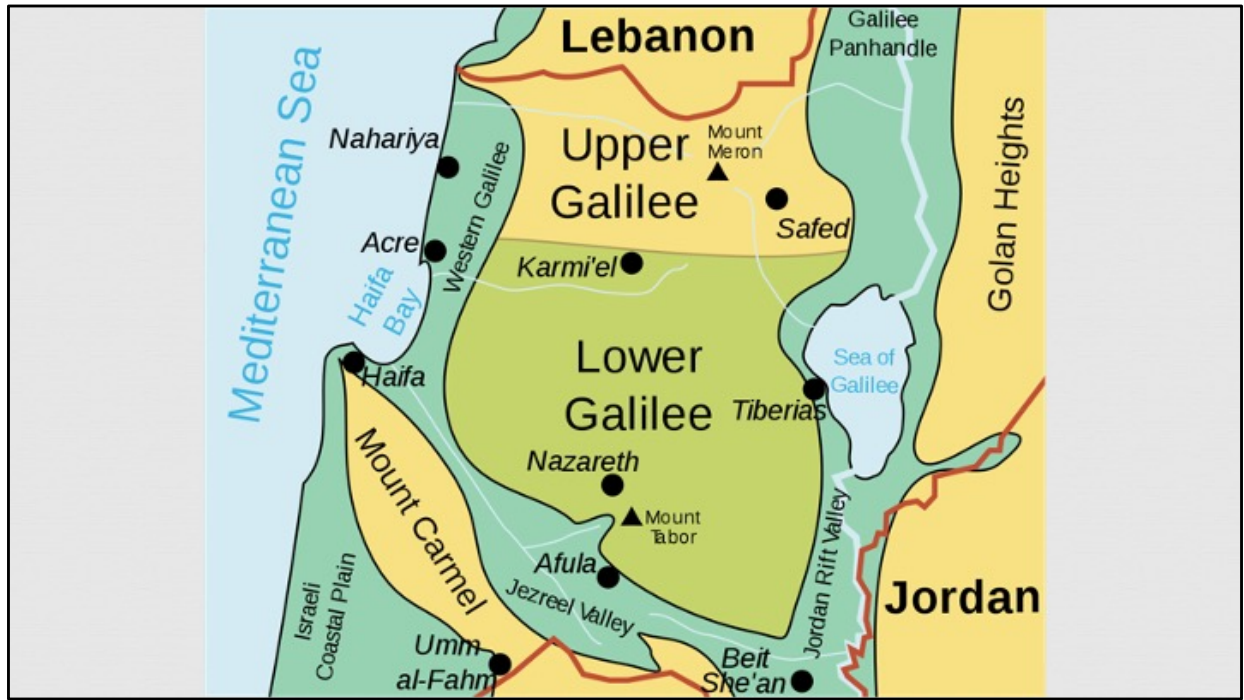


The geography of Israel is very diverse, with desert conditions in the south, and lush hills with snow-capped mountains in the north.

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:
 - ✧ Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls)
 - ✧ Ein Gedi
 - ✧ Masada





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

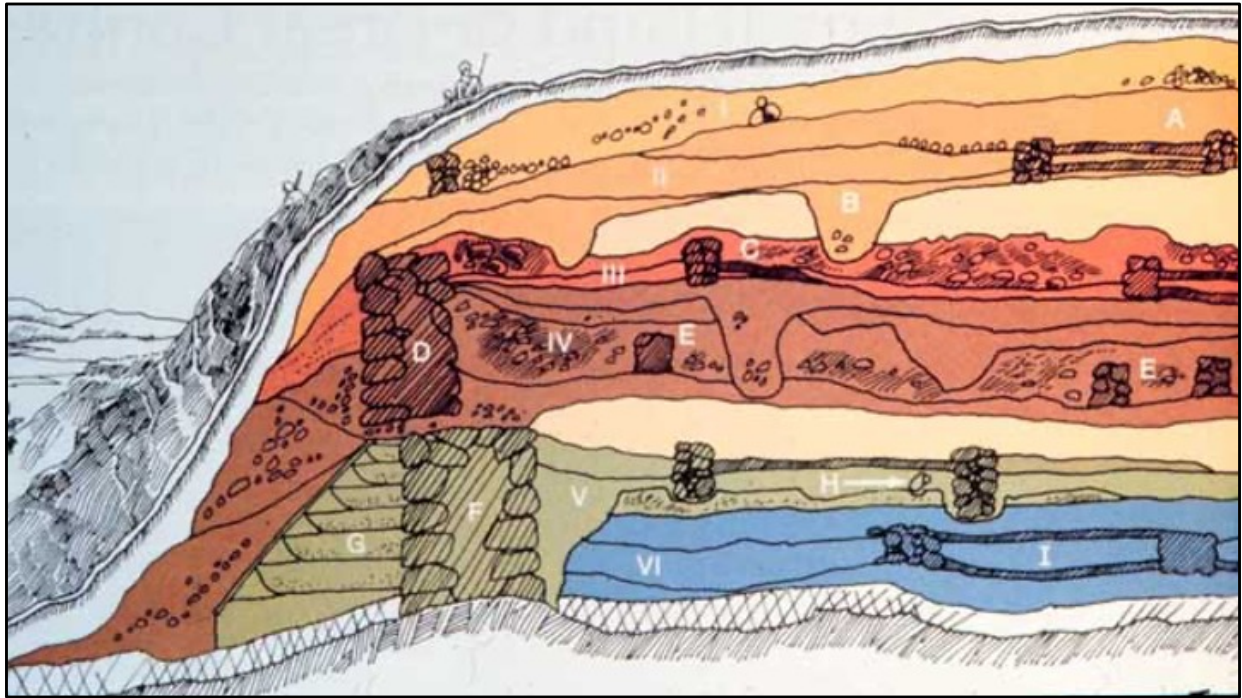


From Beersheba

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.

Caesarea Maritima



Acts 8:40; 9:30; 10:1, 24; 11:11; 12:19;
18:22; 21:8, 16; 23:23, 33; 25:1, 4, 6, 13



Caesarea Maritima



- ☞ “Maritima” means “by the sea” (port city on the Mediterranean)
- ☞ Known simply as “Caesarea” in scripture
- ☞ The city was built by Herod the Great between approximately 22 and 10 B.C. and was named for Caesar Augustus.
- ☞ Herod was considered “Great” not because he was a great man, but because he was a great builder.
- ☞ The excavated ruins today include a theater, palace, hippodrome, and aqueduct.

Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ❧ The ruins at Caesarea are very important because they show us what a Roman city looked like at that time.
- ❧ It was built according to a “Hippodamian Plan” which consisted of horizontal and vertical roads creating square-shaped patterns that contained buildings.
- ❧ It shows that Romans planned out their cities in detail before starting to build. This style was invented by the architect Hippodamus of Miletus.
- ❧ Caesarea was also full of sculptures, as was typical of Roman cities of the time (All of them are headless today as they were beheaded by Muslims because Islam does not allow icons).



Artist drawing of Caesarea which shows the Hippodamian Plan

Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ☞ The city only appears in the book of Acts
 - ☞ Acts 8:40; 9:30; 10:1, 24; 11:11; 12:19; 18:22; 21:8, 16; 23:23, 33; 25:1, 4, 6, 13
- ☞ It is first mentioned when Philip came to Caesarea as he went from city to city, spreading the gospel after the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:40).
- ☞ After Paul's conversion, Paul was brought to Caesarea and sent on a ship to Tarsus to avoid death by those who were opposed to his testimony (Acts 9:30).
- ☞ Caesarea was the home of Cornelius, and was mentioned in Acts 10:1, 24 and 11:1 related to his conversion.

Caesarea Maritima (cont.)

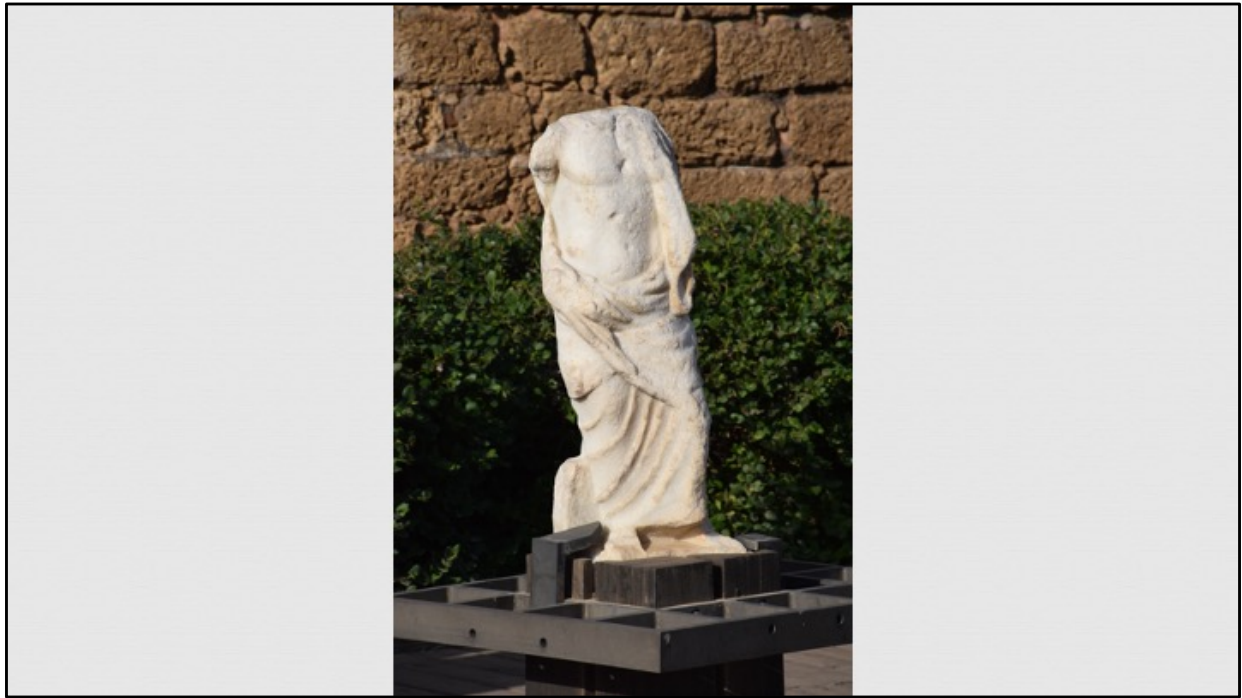


- ✧ Soon after Peter escaped from prison, Herod Agrippa I journeyed to Caesarea where he made his final speech (Acts 12:19–23). Acts records that he sat down and praised himself as one with the voice of a god (Acts 12:22). An angel of the Lord struck him down (with worms) because he did not give God the glory (Acts 12:23).
- ✧ During Paul's second missionary journey, it is recorded that after he landed at Caesarea, he greeted the church (Acts 18:22).
- ✧ During his third missionary journey, Paul visits Philip the evangelist, who had a house in Caesarea (Acts 21:8).

Caesarea Maritima (cont.)



- ✧ The last mention of Caesarea in the New Testament comes in the long narrative of chapters 23 through 26, in which Paul appears before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa II (Acts 23:33–26:32). Paul makes his case before Festus, finally invoking his right as a Roman citizen and appealing to Caesar (Acts 25:11).
- ✧ The palace at Caesarea was likely used by Pontius Pilate while he was a Roman Governor before moving to Jerusalem. An inscription mentioning him was found in Caesarea, and there is a replica of this inscription on the palace site today.
- ✧ The synagogue at Caesarea was also where the Jewish revolt against the Romans began in 67 A.D.



Example of one of the sculptures found in Caesarea that are now located right outside the theater. All of them are headless as they were beheaded because Islam does not allow icons.



Theater of Caesarea, which is a half-circle (Full circle would be an amphitheater). Most of what is visible is original, but the seats have been restored.



Theater of Caesarea, which is a half-circle (Full circle would be an amphitheater). Most of what is visible is original, but the seats have been restored.



Today the site contains many recovered column fragments and other items such as a sarcophagus. The marble and granite used in the construction of Caesarea were brought in from outside of Israel.



View of the Lower palace from Herodian times. This area included gardens, mosaics, a swimming pool, and the nearby hippodrome (this was built later). All of this was built right on the Mediterranean, and the views are stunning.



Ancient mosaics and the remains of a swimming pool (bath)



Inscription found at Caesarea - "Pontius Pilate, the prefect of of Judea, erected a building dedicated to the emperor Tiberius."

The palace at Caesarea was likely used by Pontius Pilate while he was a Roman Governor before moving to Jerusalem. An inscription mentioning him was found in Caesarea, and there is a replica of this inscription on the palace site today (the original is in the Israel Museum).



View of the upper palace.



Taken from the upper palace toward the remains of the harbor and city. Likely that Paul appeared before Felix, Festus, and Herod Agrippa II at this palace.



Remains of a Hippodrome beside the palace. Hippodrome literally means “circle of horses” and was a full amphitheater for chariot races. The Mediterranean side of the hippodrome is no longer there as it was consumed by the sea. Most of the buildings in Caesarea were structures of amusement.



View north from Hippodrome



Remains of a public toilet that are right outside the hippodrome.



Another view taken from the upper palace toward the remains of the harbor and city. This is pointing north.



To the north there are the remains of the ancient aqueduct at Caesarea. Aqueduct literally means “water carrier” in Latin.



It was important for cities to have a source of fresh water, and this aqueduct was built by Herod the Great to carry water approximately 3 km from a spring on Mt. Carmel. This fresh water would have been used for daily consumption, ritual washings by the Jews, and fountains for the Romans.

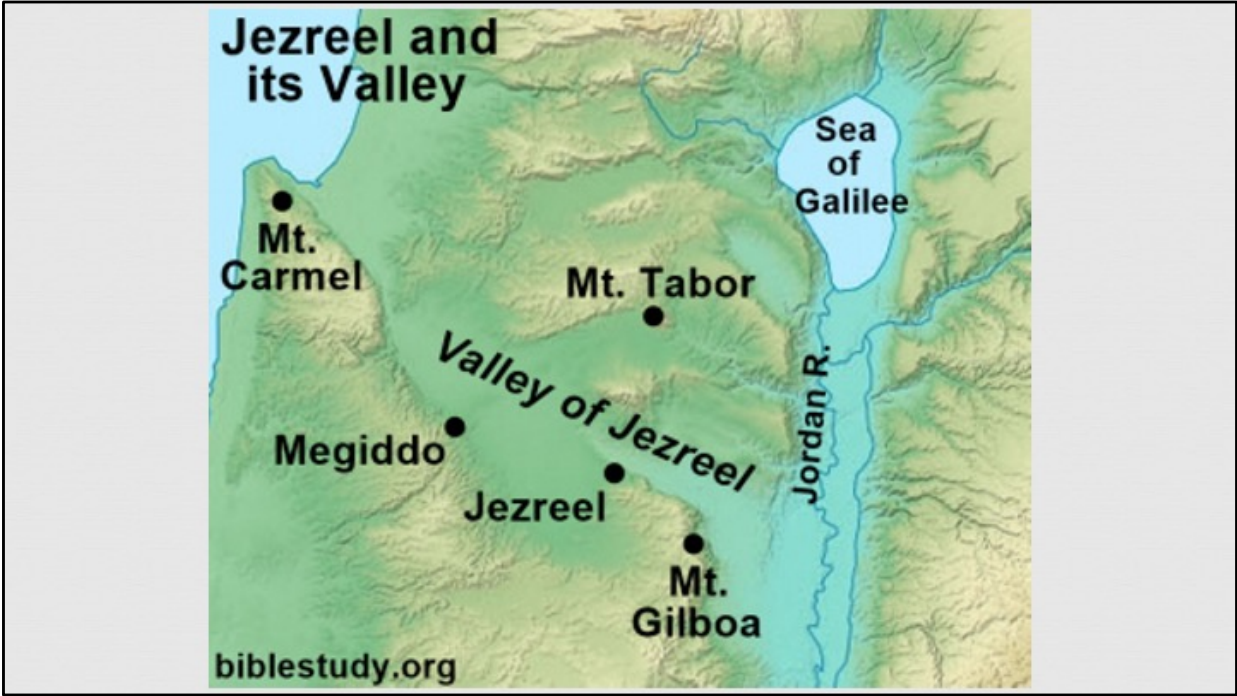


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Jezreel Valley



Judges 4-7; 1 Samuel 31



Jezreel Valley



- ✧ This valley is south of Galilee and north of the hill country of Ephraim.
- ✧ Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites in the Jezreel Valley (Judges 4-5).
- ✧ Gideon fought and defeated the Midianites on a hill in this valley with just 300 men (Judges 6-7).
- ✧ Saul camped at the spring of Jezreel before his final battle with the Philistines and his death on Mount Gilboa (1 Samuel 31).



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.

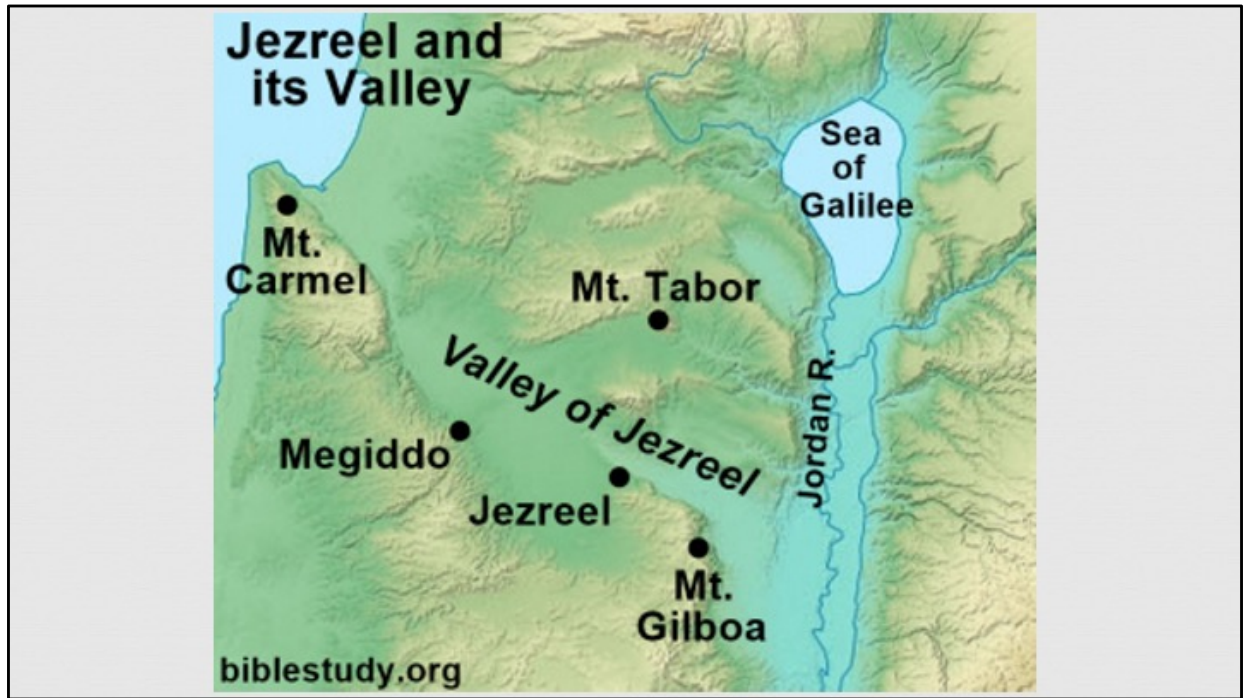


View of Jezreel Valley from Mt. Tabor.

Tel Megiddo



Josh 12:21, 17:11; Judges 1:27, 5:19; 1 Kgs 4:12, 9:15; 2 Kgs 9:27, 23:29-30;
1 Chronicles 7:29; 2 Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:11



Tel Megiddo



- ✧ Megiddo is a fortress city that dates back to about 5,000 B.C., located on the southwest side of the Jezreel Valley at the foot of Mount Carmel.
- ✧ Megiddo was a city that was located on the Via Maris, an ancient trade route linking Egypt with the northern empires of Syria, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia. Megiddo's location on this route showed that the city was very significant.
- ✧ This is also evidenced by the words of Pharaoh Thutmose III (15th century B.C.) of Egypt, "... for the capturing of Megiddo is the capturing of a thousand cities."

Tel Megiddo (Cont.)

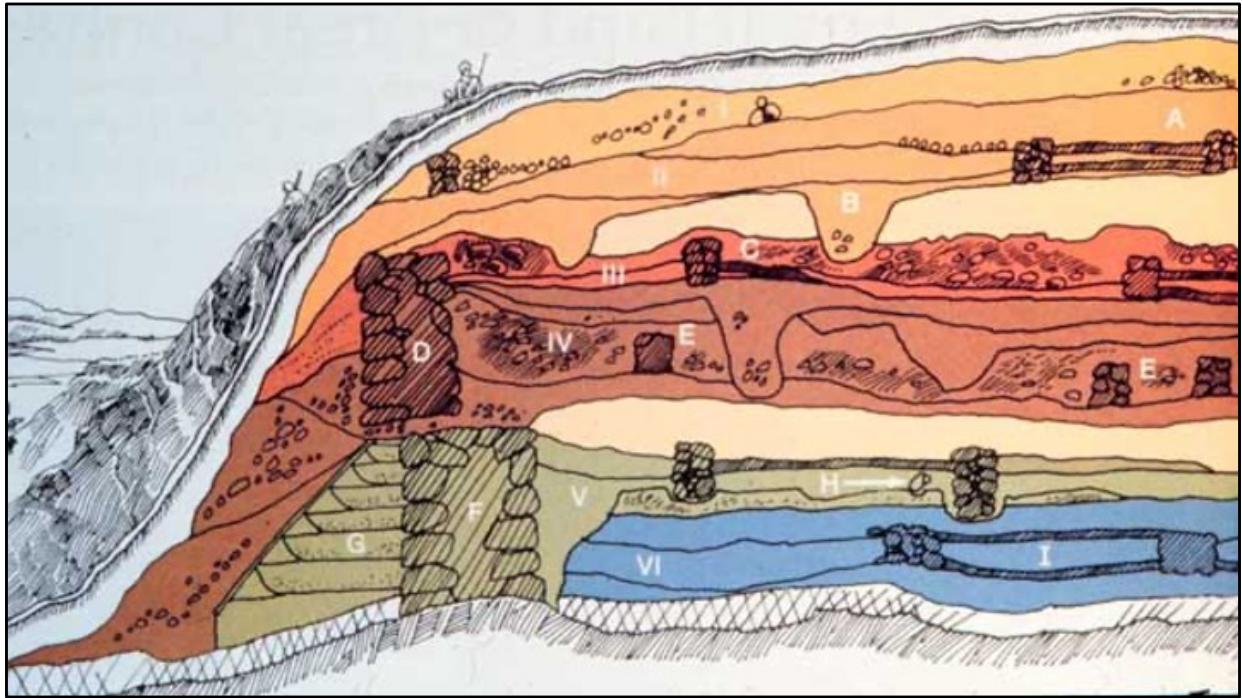


- ✧ Megiddo is referenced 12 times in the Old Testament.
- ✧ Megiddo is mentioned among the cities conquered by Joshua (Josh 12:21) - apparently they were unsuccessful at fully driving out the Canaanites (Josh 17:11).
- ✧ During the reign of Solomon, Megiddo was fortified along with Gezer and Hazor (1 Kgs 9:15).
- ✧ The city fell to Shishak (925 BC) and to Tiglath-pileser III in 733 BC.
- ✧ Josiah died at Megiddo in 609 BC in his confrontation with Pharaoh Neco (2 Kgs 23:29).

Tel Megiddo (Cont.)



- ✧ Megiddo was destroyed 30 times by waves of conquerors, and this has resulted in 30 levels or strata that comprise the Tel.
- ✧ According to tradition this will be the site of Armageddon as described in Revelation 16
 - ✧ Most likely this association is symbolic



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



View of Tel Megiddo



View of Tel Megiddo with walkway on the right.



Main gate of Megiddo from the 16th century B.C. (This means that it is 3500 years old). This was the only way in and out of city.



Wooden planks show line of what is original to the site, and what has been reconstructed.



Pathway to the top of Tel Megiddo



Gate from 10th century B.C. (time of Solomon). Partially destroyed getting to the lower gate from the 16th century.



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



Remains of the Northern Palace. This palace was from the 10th (Solomon) or 9th (Ahab) centuries BC.



Remains of the Northern Stable from 9th (Ahab) or 10th (Solomon) century BC.



Grain Silo from time Jeroboam II (8th century B.C.)



Remains of the Southern Stables from the 9th Century B.C. (Time of Ahab)



Remains of the Southern Stables from the 9th Century B.C. (Time of Ahab)

Water System at Megiddo

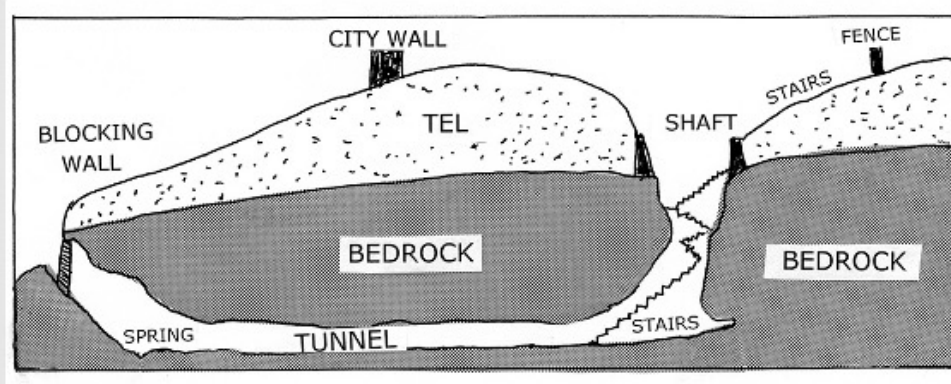


Diagram of the Megiddo Water System from the 9th Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.



Entrance to the Megiddo Water System from the 9th Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel. Notice the original steps to the right of the modern steps.



Tunnel leading down to the Megiddo Water System from the 9th Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.



Tunnel that is part of the Megiddo Water System from the 9th Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.



Spring that is part of the Megiddo Water System from the 9th Century BC (Time of Ahab). The water system was a tunnel that was built underground to the spring which was the source of water for the city. This was key for being able to access the water supply during times of siege. The spring was covered from the outside so that it was only accessible via the tunnel.