















*Lessons From the...*  
**Holy Lands**

**Lesson 5**

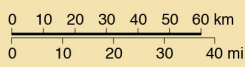
Jordan River, Bet She'an, Jericho, Qumran

# ISRAEL • יִשְׂרָאֵל

-  National capital
-  District (mehoz) centre
-  City, town
-  Airport
-  International boundary
-  Boundary of former Palestine Mandate
-  Armistice Demarcation Line
-  District (mehoz) boundary
-  Main road
-  Secondary road
-  Railroad
-  Oil pipeline



- Districts of Israel**
- 1 Northern District
  - 2 Haifa District
  - 3 Central District
  - 4 Tel Aviv District
  - 5 Jerusalem District
  - 6 Southern District



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# Jordan River



Gen 13:10; Josh 3-4; 2 Kgs 2:6-8, 14, 5:9-14, 6:4-7;  
Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22.



# Jordan River



- ❧ Fed by four tributaries: (1) Hasbani River, (2) Banias River, (3) Dan River, and the (4) Iyyon Stream
- ❧ The river rises on the slopes of Mount Hermon and flows southward through northern Israel to the Sea of Galilee.
- ❧ From the Sea, it continues south before emptying into the Dead Sea.
- ❧ The Jordan River is more than 223 miles in length, but, because its course is meandering, the actual distance between its source and the Dead Sea is less than 124 miles.
- ❧ The diversion of river water by both Israel and Jordan has significantly diminished the Jordan's flow into the Dead Sea and has been a major factor in the considerable drop in the Dead Sea's water level since the 1960s.

# Jordan River (Cont.)



- ❧ The Jordan is mentioned over 180 times in the Old Testament and 15 times in the New Testament. Here are some notable highlights:
  - ❧ First mentioned in Gen 13:10: Lot admires the land “like the garden of Yahweh.”
  - ❧ Joshua leads the children of Israel across the Jordan into the Promised Land and sets up the memorial stones from the Jordan (Josh 3-4).
  - ❧ Elijah crosses the Jordan prior to his ascension (2 Kgs 2:6-8)
  - ❧ The river is prominent in Elisha’s miracles – the parting of the Jordan (2 Kgs 2:14), the healing of Naaman (2 Kgs 5:9-14), and the floating ax head (2 Kgs 6:4-7).
  - ❧ John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River (Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22).





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# Bet-She'an



Judges 1:27; 1 Sam 31:8-13; 10:8-12; 1 Kgs 4:12



# Bet-She'an



- ❧ Bet-She'an is located about five miles northeast of Mt. Gilboa along the Harod Brook, where the Jezreel Valley meets the Jordan Valley.
- ❧ During the Hellenistic period, the city spread out around the Tel, eventually encompassing 400 acres. During the Hellenistic Period, the city was included in the Decapolis under the name of Scythopolis (“city of the Scythians”).
- ❧ Even though this Bet-She'an is mentioned in the Bible, most of the excavations today are from the Byzantine Period during the 4th and 5th centuries AD.

# Bet-She'an (Cont.)



- ❧ The book of Joshua first mentions Bet-She'an as one of the cities of Manasseh.
- ❧ According to Judges 1:27, the city was still inhabited by Canaanites during the period of the judges.
- ❧ First Samuel records that after the Philistines killed Saul in battle at Mt Gilboa, they hung his body and those of his three sons on the walls of Bet-She'an and placed his armor in the temple of Ashtaroth (1 Sam 31:8–13). According to 1 Chronicles 10:8–12, the Philistines also hung Saul's head in the temple of Dagon.
- ❧ Bet-She'an eventually came under Israelite control, and according to 1 Kgs 4:12, it became one of King Solomon's administrative districts.



















































# Jericho



Num 22:1, 26:3; Josh 8:2; 10:1, 28, 30; Judg 3:13;  
1 Kgs 16:34; 2 Kgs 2; Matt 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52;  
Luke 18:35-43; 19:1-10

# Jericho



- ✧ Jericho is located approximately 10 miles northwest of the Dead Sea.
- ✧ Area contains a spring, 'Ain es-Sultan, and is considered an oasis in the desert (thus, the designation, "city of the palm trees," Judg 3:13).
- ✧ Herod the Great built winter palaces in the ancient city of Jericho.
- ✧ In Genesis through Joshua, "Jericho" is primarily used as a geographical marker. Phrases such as "opposite Jericho," or "at Jericho" are found throughout the Bible.
- ✧ The book of Numbers uses the phrases frequently to designate the place of the second giving of the Law and the point where the Israelites will eventually cross the Jordan River (Num 22:1; 26:3).

# Jericho (Cont.)



- ❧ Primarily known for its famous walls that “tumbled down” in Josh 6 at the blast of the horn and the sound of the Israelite battle cry. This was the first city defeated after the children of Israel entered the Promised Land. The campaign against Jericho created a reputation for the Israelites that became the standard by which subsequent campaigns would be described and measured....“just as he had done to Jericho and its king” (Josh 8:2; 10:1, 28, 30).
- ❧ Other occurrences of Jericho may be found in reference to a rebuilding of the site in the 10th century BC by Hiel the Bethelite (1 Kgs 16:34). The Bible also speaks of a prophetic guild located in Jericho (2 Kgs 2).
- ❧ Two gospel stories are set in Jericho or its surroundings: the healing of the blind man and the story of Zacchaeus’ encounter with Jesus (Matt 20:29–34; Mark 10:46–52; Luke 18:35–43; 19:1–10).



*The oldest city* J E R U S A L E M *of the world*

**Elisha Spring Fountain**

the birth  
ricks and  
For all



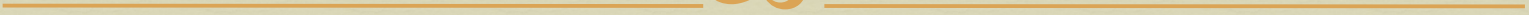


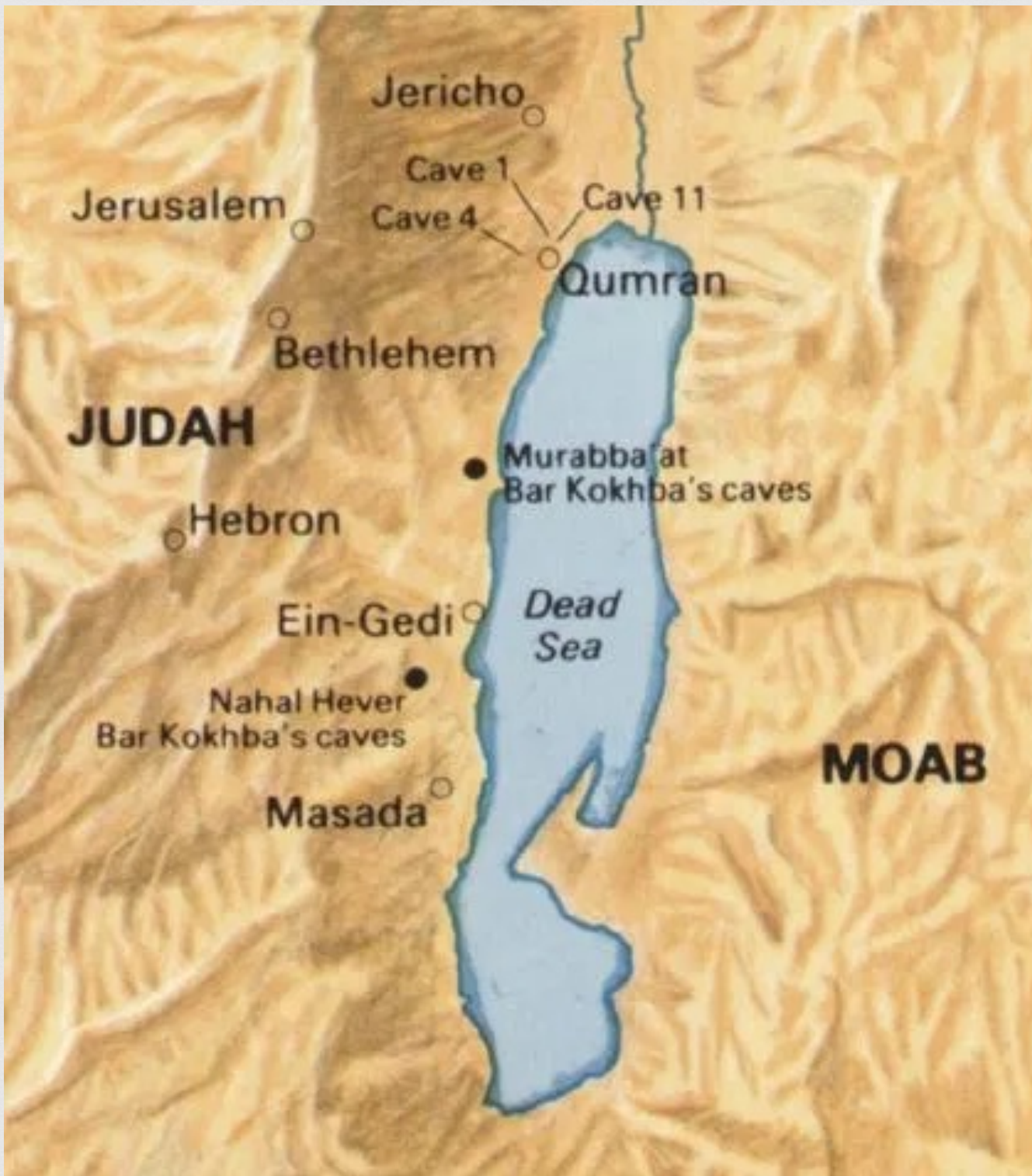






Qumran





# Qumran



- ❧ Qumran was home of the Essenes during the time of Jesus, who were one of the three Jewish sects identified by Josephus.
- ❧ A group of scholars who left Jerusalem to setup a new community for themselves in Qumran with no contact to the larger Jewish world.
- ❧ Committed themselves to preserve the word of God. The scribes made meticulous copies with no mistakes. If any mistakes were made, the scroll would be buried because you cannot destroy the word of God.
- ❧ When the confrontation became intense between the Jews and Romans in 66 AD at the time of the first Jewish revolt, the Essenes placed their scrolls in jars and hid them in caves to protect them.
- ❧ When the Romans eventually destroyed the village, they didn't find the scrolls. They weren't found until almost 2000 years later.



# Qumran (cont.)



- ❧ This is the site where many “Dead Sea Scrolls” were found beginning in 1947.
- ❧ Qumran is one of the most important archaeological sites, because the Dead Sea Scrolls contain fragments from the time of Jesus and they include representations from all books of the Old Testament, except for Esther and Nehemiah, including the entire book of Isaiah
- ❧ This discovery proves that the Old Testament we have today is essentially the same as what Jesus had during his time. The wordings / translations are very similar to what we have today.























