

THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Will it lead to Peace?

Will it lead to WWIII?

Will it lead to Armageddon?

INTRODUCTION

- Why is such a study such as this necessary?
 - Because sin exists!
 - Because evil is real!
 - Because Satan cannot defeat God – but he is bent on destroying His creation!

INTRODUCTION

- This is a study of people called:
 - “**ites**” (i.e. Canaanites, Israelites, etc.)
 - “**ines**” (i.e. Philistines etc.)
 - “**ians**” (i.e. Palestinians, Iranians etc.)
 - “**ans**” (i.e. Americans, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

- These people groups have differing beliefs that at times cause division:

➤ “**ism**” (i.e. Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism)

➤ “**ist**” (Islamist, Zionist, extremist)

➤ “**ity**” (i.e. Christianity)

INTRODUCTION

- I am not here to tell you which of these groups are right so much as I am here to tell you that as long as mankind remains in rebellion against God – there will be war because sin exists.
- The best way to change the course that mankind is on is for people to know who Jesus Christ is, to understand what He accomplished on the cross and to accept Him as Lord and Savior.
- A person who rejects Jesus will continue to be in rebellion against God and as such will be unable to find genuine peace!

**A HISTORY
OF**

Israel

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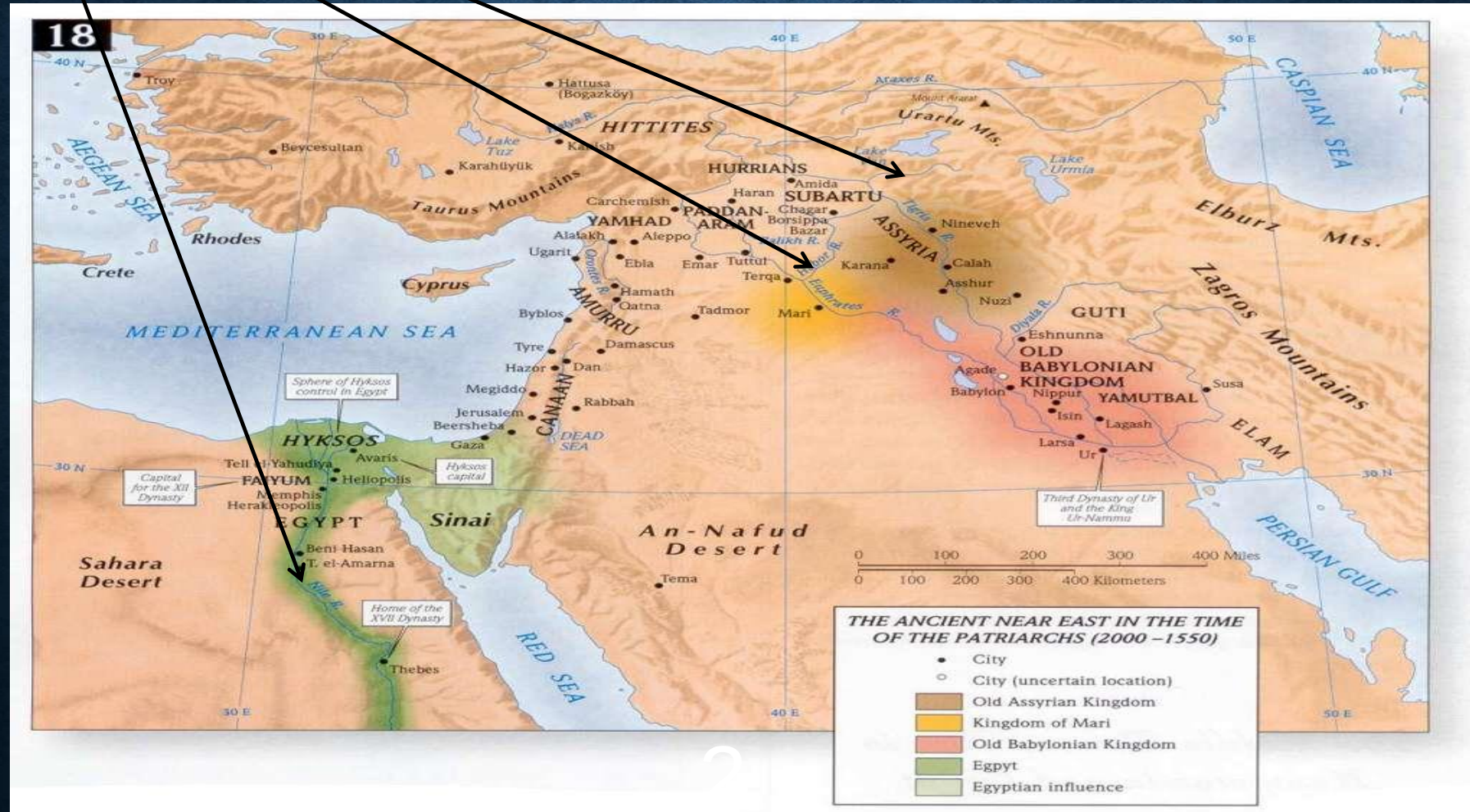
MESOPOTAMIA: HOMELAND OF ABRAHAM

- City
- City (modern name)
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak

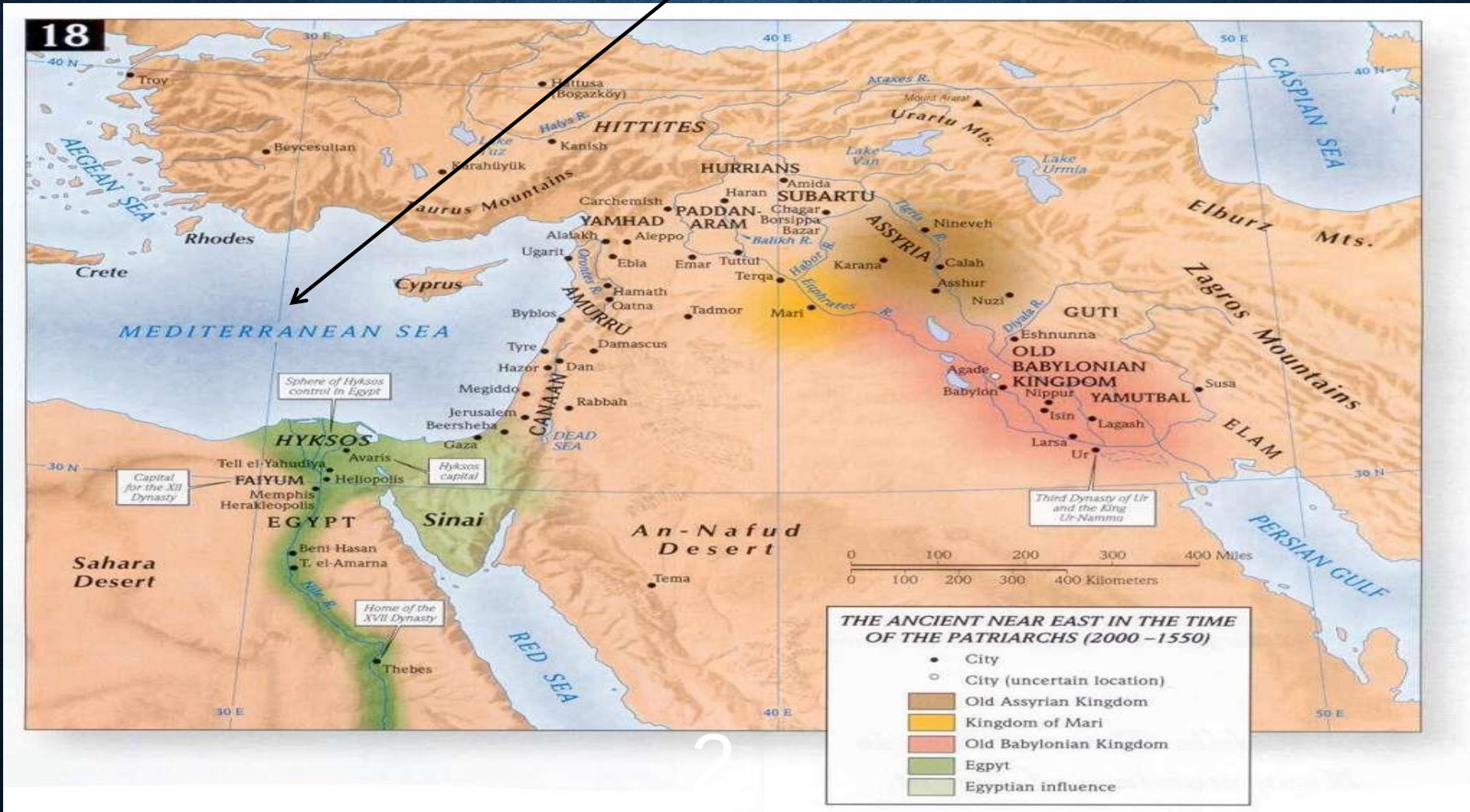
GEOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE (OVERVIEW)

- The *Fertile Crescent*; is where most Bible events takes place:
 - It is called this because the land was *fertile* due to the accessibility to water as opposed to the desert that surrounds it, and because it is shaped like a *crescent*.
 - This area is also called the “*Cradle of Civilization*” because it is where civilization began—it was all that existed of the **known world** to them.

The most important natural resource in that part of the world then was water. People lived and died and even decided where they would live based on the water supply.



The “Great Sea” was the Mediterranean Sea...the other great bodies of water perhaps were unknown to them.

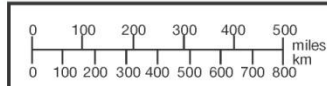


The Middle East – Then and Now

Middle East: Then and Now • 4



Ancient cities that exist today are underlined in red on the modern overlays.

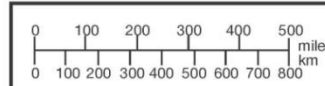


- City or Town
- ⋯ Ancient Ruins/Sites
- ▲ Mountain
- ⊙ Modern Capital cities

Middle East: Then and Now • 4



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PALESTINE

Also known as Canaan

Also known as The Promised Land

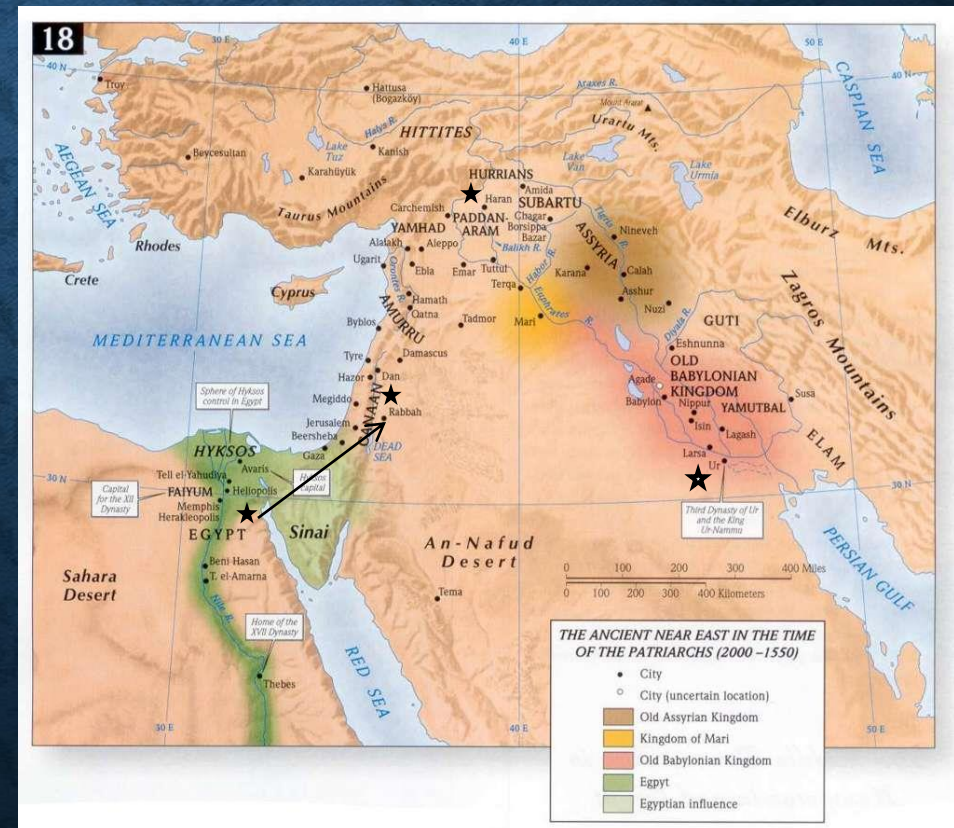
The land of Israel was once called Canaan



PRE-ABRAHAM & EARLY ABRAHAM YEARS

It was sometime around 2000 B.C. that God called Abraham to leave his father's home in Ur (of the Chaldeans) and go to a new land (of promise). (Genesis 12:1-8)

- He travels from Ur to Haran
- From Haran to Palestine
- From Palestine to Egypt
- From Egypt back to Palestine



THE LORD SPOKE THESE WORDS TO
ABRAHAM:

“And I will make you a great nation,
and I will bless you, and make your
name great; and so you shall be a
blessing; and I will bless those who
bless you, and the one who curses
you I will curse. And in you all the
families of the earth will be
blessed” (Genesis 12:2-3)

“Abraham passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, to your descendants I will give this land. So he built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him”
(Genesis 12:7)

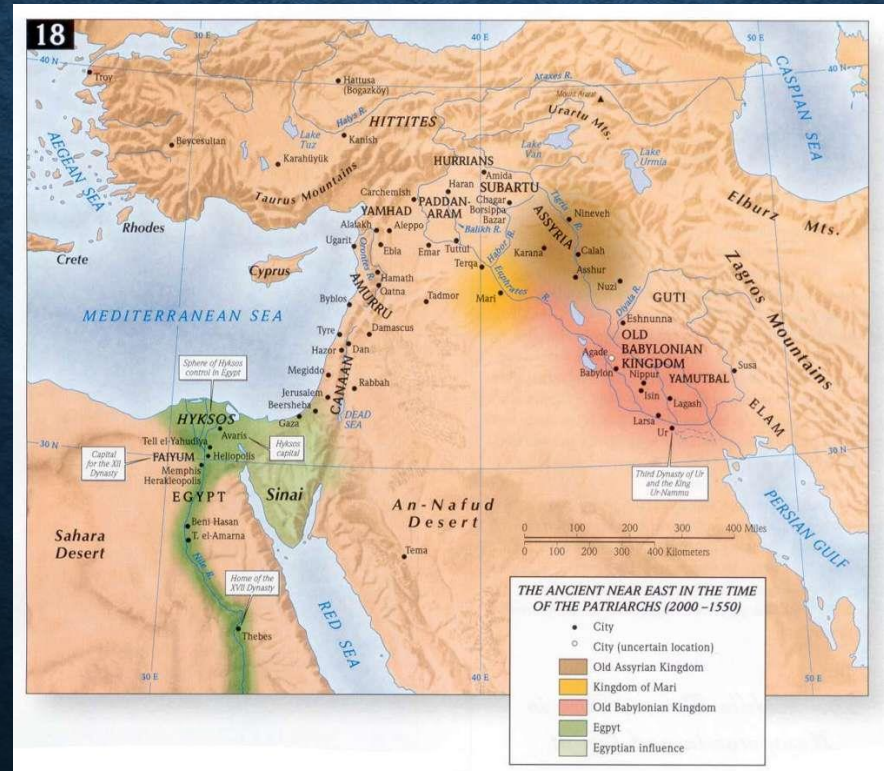


A FIRST OF MANY FAMILY DIVISIONS

- Lot fathered two sons from an incestuous relationship with his two daughters:
 - **Moab**: whose descendants were the Moabites – they will become enemies of the Israelites
 - **Ammon**: whose descendants were the Ammonites – they will also become enemies of the Israelites

THE LORD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

“I will give to you and your descendants after you,
the land of your sojourning, all the land of Canaan,
for an everlasting possession, and I will be their
God” (Genesis 17:8)



ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS:

- Ishmael (His mother was Hagar)
- Isaac (His mother was Sarai/Sarah) who was the child of promise
- Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, Shuah (Their mother is Keturah)

ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS:

- **Ishmael**

- He will have many sons (at least 12) who will become princes and Ishmael and his descendants will prosper
- There was animosity between the family of Ishmael and his brother Isaac due to the favor showed to Isaac (the son of promise)
- Many conclude that Ishmael's descendants are the Arab people

ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS:

- Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, Shuah
 - These are 6 other sons that Abraham fathered through his concubine named **Keturah**
 - The most prominent of the 6 was **Midian** whose descendants were the Midianites who would later assist Moses when he fled from Egypt
 - Not all of Abraham's offspring were favorably disposed to the Israelites.

ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS:

- **Isaac**

- He was the son of promise and the one whom the Lord chose to receive the same blessing and promises made to Abraham.
- Isaac will father two sons (Jacob and Esau); one of which will become the father of the 12 tribes of Israel.

ISAAC'S DESCENDANTS:

- **Esau**

- Sold his birthright to Jacob
- His descendants became known as **Edomites**
- The Edomites were not favorably disposed to the Israelites (Jacobs offspring)

- **Jacob**

JACOB'S SONS – 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Leah & Zilpah

- Reuben
- Simeon
- Levi
- Judah
- Gad
- Asher
- Issachar
- Zebulun

Rachel & Bilhah

- Dan
- Naphtali
- Joseph
- Benjamin

THE FAMILY MOVES TO EGYPT

- A severe famine occurred during the days of **Jacob** (The Lord changed his name to **Israel**)
 - Through a series of events; one of Jacob's sons whose name was **Joseph** had become a high-ranking Egyptian official
 - **Joseph** sent for his father to come to Egypt to help his family survive the famine
 - **Jacob** and his family (**70 in all**) now called Hebrews settled in **Egypt** in the area known as **Goshen**.

LIVING IN EGYPT

- Jacob and his family (also now called Israelites) enjoyed years of special position and protection while in Egypt for a season
 - Eventually, a new Egyptian regime will take over, enslave the Israelites and force them to work on the Royal Building Projects
 - This will lead to the Exodus from Egypt back to the Land of Promise

THE TIME OF THE EXODUS

After the Exodus, the Israelites wander in the wilderness of *Sinai* for 40 years (one generation) and during this time they will receive the Covenant of the *Law*.



THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN

- After Moses dies; a young man named Joshua will lead the Israelites back into Canaan (The Promised land).
 - The most probable date of the conquest was 1406 B.C.
 - The conquest began with an attack against Jericho and it took approximately seven years to finish the occupation of Canaan

THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN

The conquest began with an attack against Jericho.

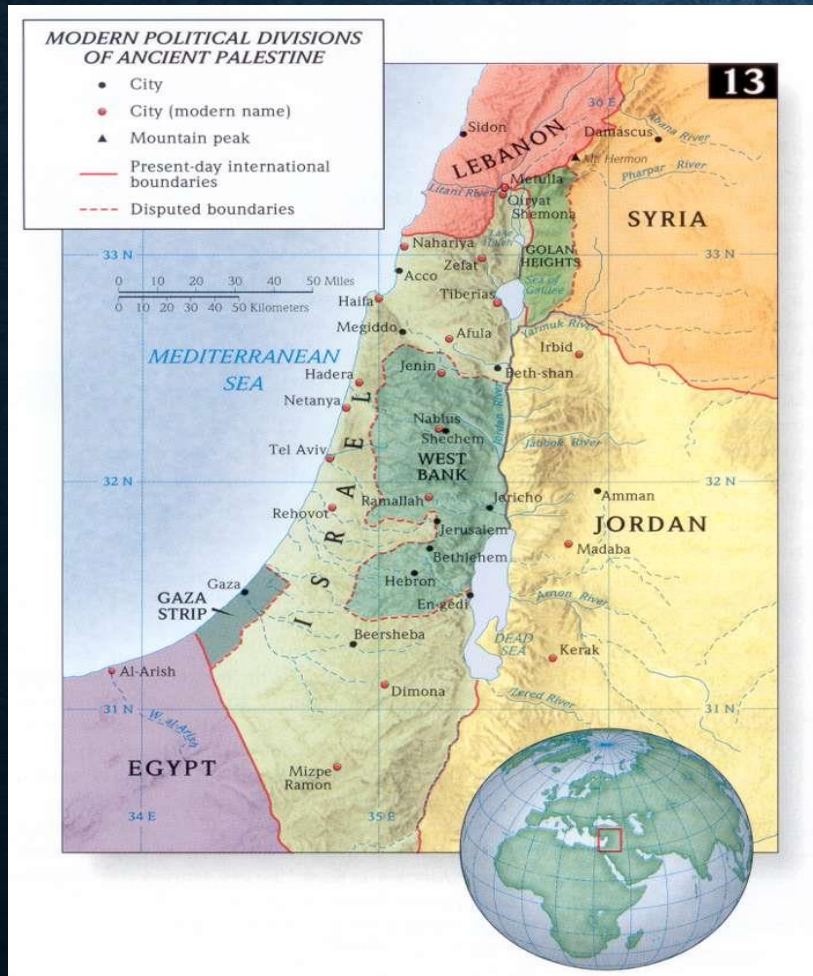
At the conclusion of the conquest (as recorded in the Book of Joshua) the Promised Land was divided among the 12 tribes of Israel.



Between 1200 BC–1100 BC, most of southern Canaan was conquered by the *Israelites*.



The region/land known as Israel/Palestine would include all of what is in the present-day State of Israel, along with the West Bank, part of western Jordan, southern and coastal Syria, Lebanon, and continuing up to the border of modern Turkey.



THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES (1350-1050)

- This period of Israel's history was known for its loose governmental structure
- The Judges were not elected rulers
 - They were often charismatic people whom the people tended to rally around
 - The Spirit would often empower them to perform miraculous accomplishments that were of a Divine appointment or determination

THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES (1350-1050)

- During this time the people (Israelites) were known for doing what was right in their own eyes. Sin and disobedience became a normal way of life.
- Israel at this point was still not a unified nation and more of a loose confederation of all of the tribes.

THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES (1350-1050)

There was no major military threat during this period with the exception of the new kids on the block – the *Philistines*. (They became stronger as time went on and were known for using iron weapons instead of bronze like the Israelites used)



THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES (1350-1050)

Some of the more noted
Judges were:

Deborah

Barak

Gideon

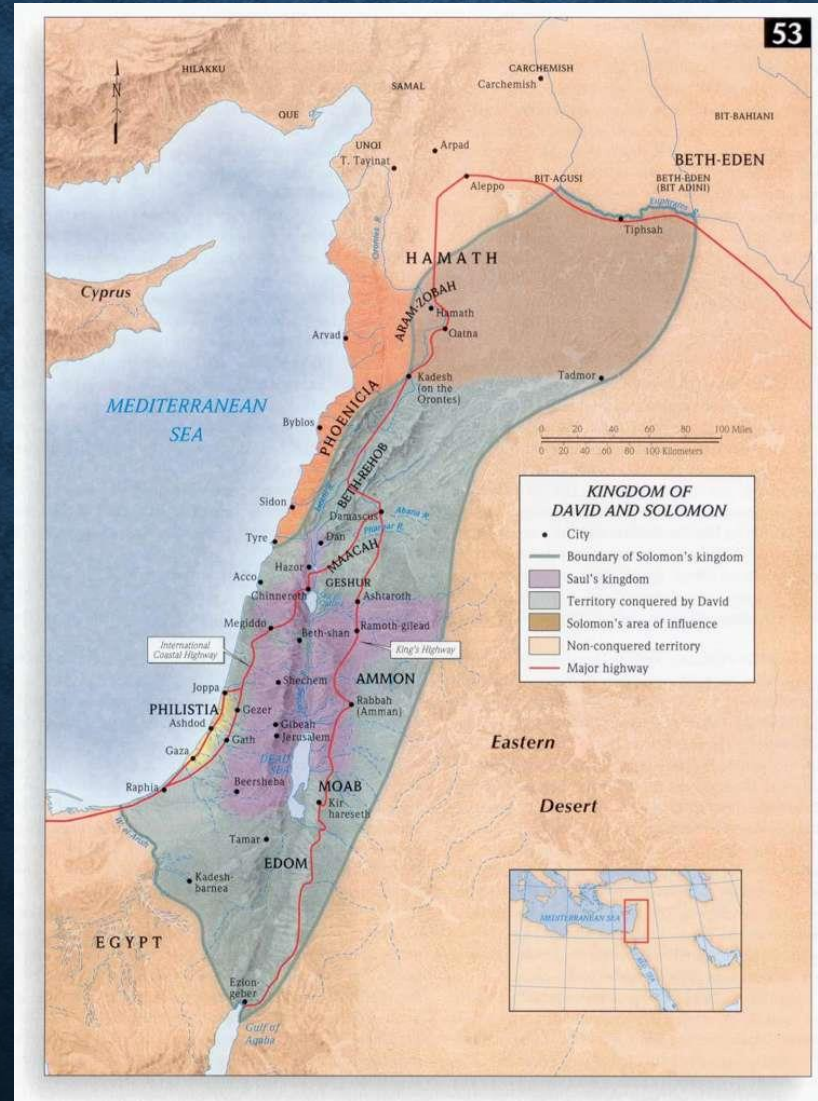
Samson



THE PERIOD OF THE KINGS (1050-586 B.C)

The people of Israel began to cry for a king which was a major shift from a Theocracy (God ruled) to a Monarchy (man ruled).

This was the Kingdom of Israel under the reign of David and Solomon. This was the largest territorial expansion the Israelites experienced.



The Lord said these words to King David:

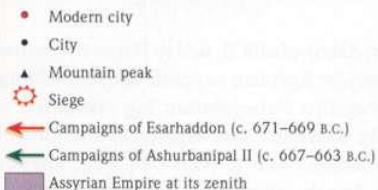
“Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever” (II Samuel 7:16)

And what one nation on the earth is like your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people and to make a name for Himself, and to do a great thing for you and awesome things for your land, before your people whom you have redeemed for yourself from Egypt, from nations and their gods? For you have established for yourself your people Israel as your own people forever, and You, O Lord, have become their God” (II Samuel 7:23-24)

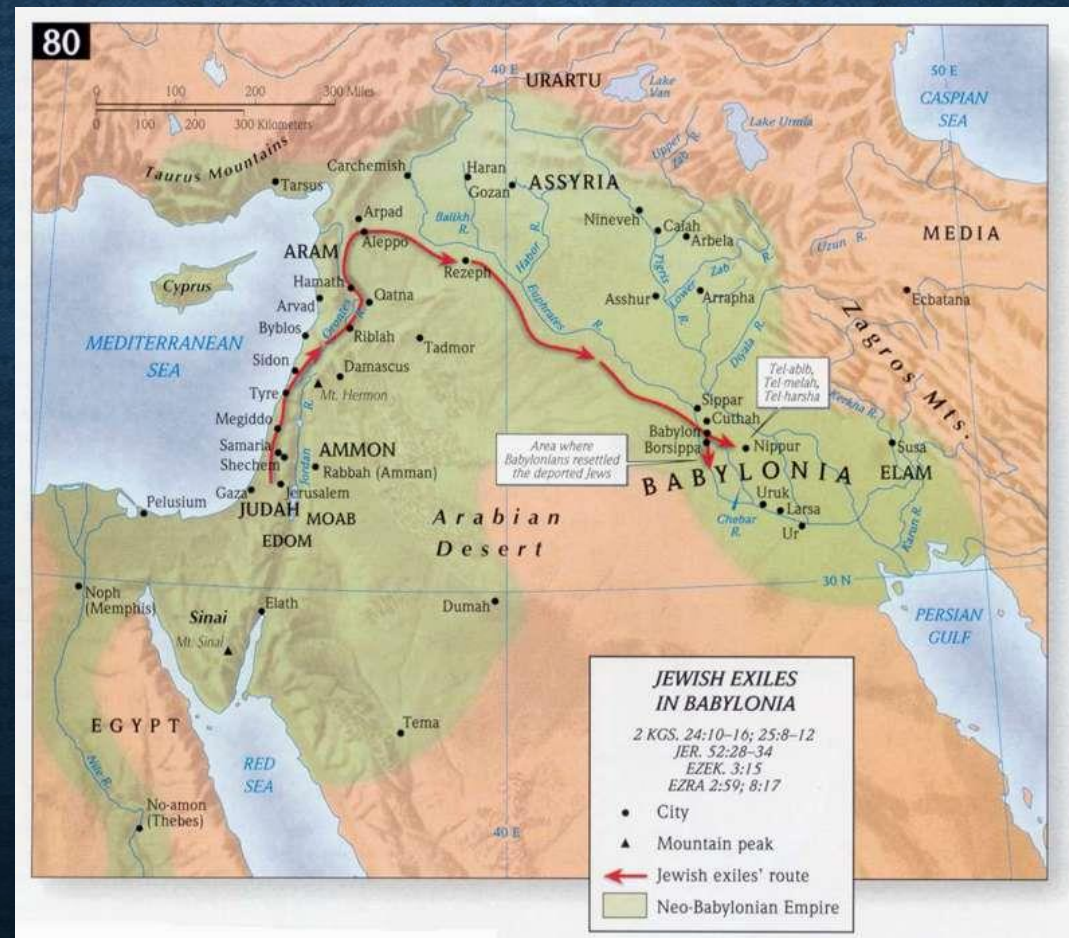
After the death of Solomon the Kingdom of Israel split into the “Northern Kingdom” of Israel and the “Southern Kingdom” of Judah



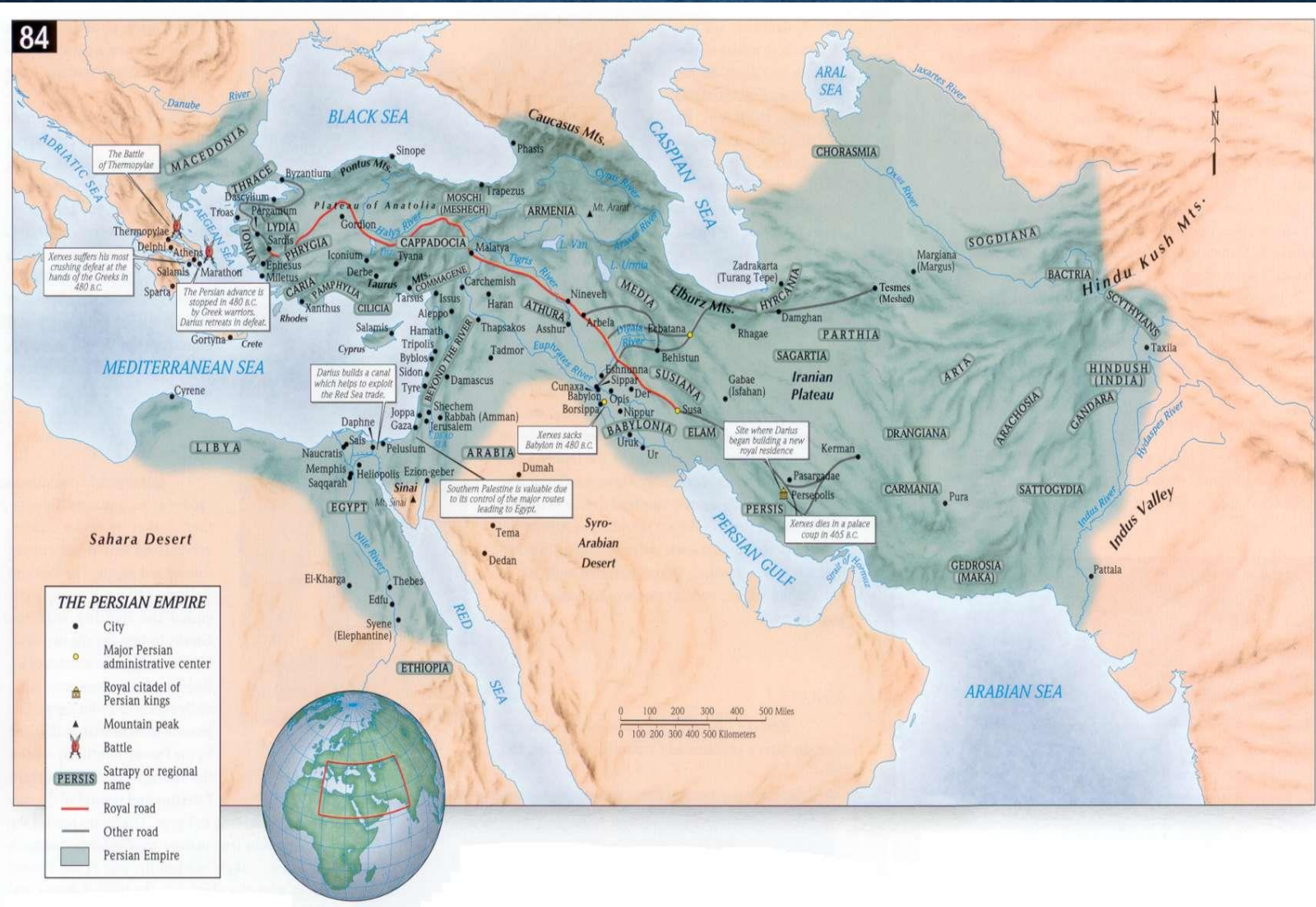
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The Babylonian Empire conquered the Southern Kingdom of Israel and took them into captivity (586 B.C). The Kingdom of Israel and Judah never formally recovered as an Empire, and they have been controlled by foreigners ever since.

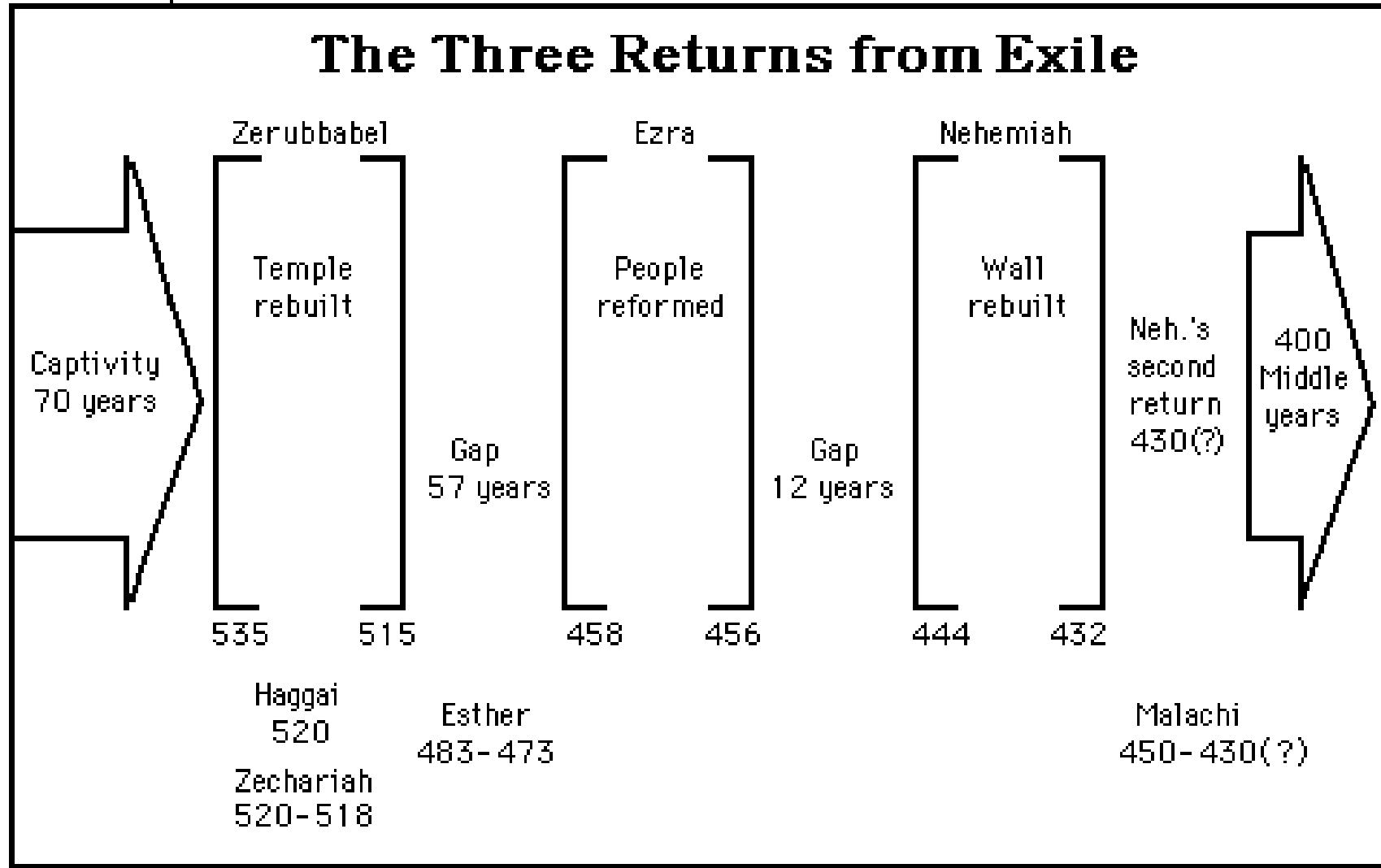


The Persian Empire conquered the Babylonians in 539 B.C.
and gained control of the land of Israel.



The Jews were permitted to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple during the Persian reign.

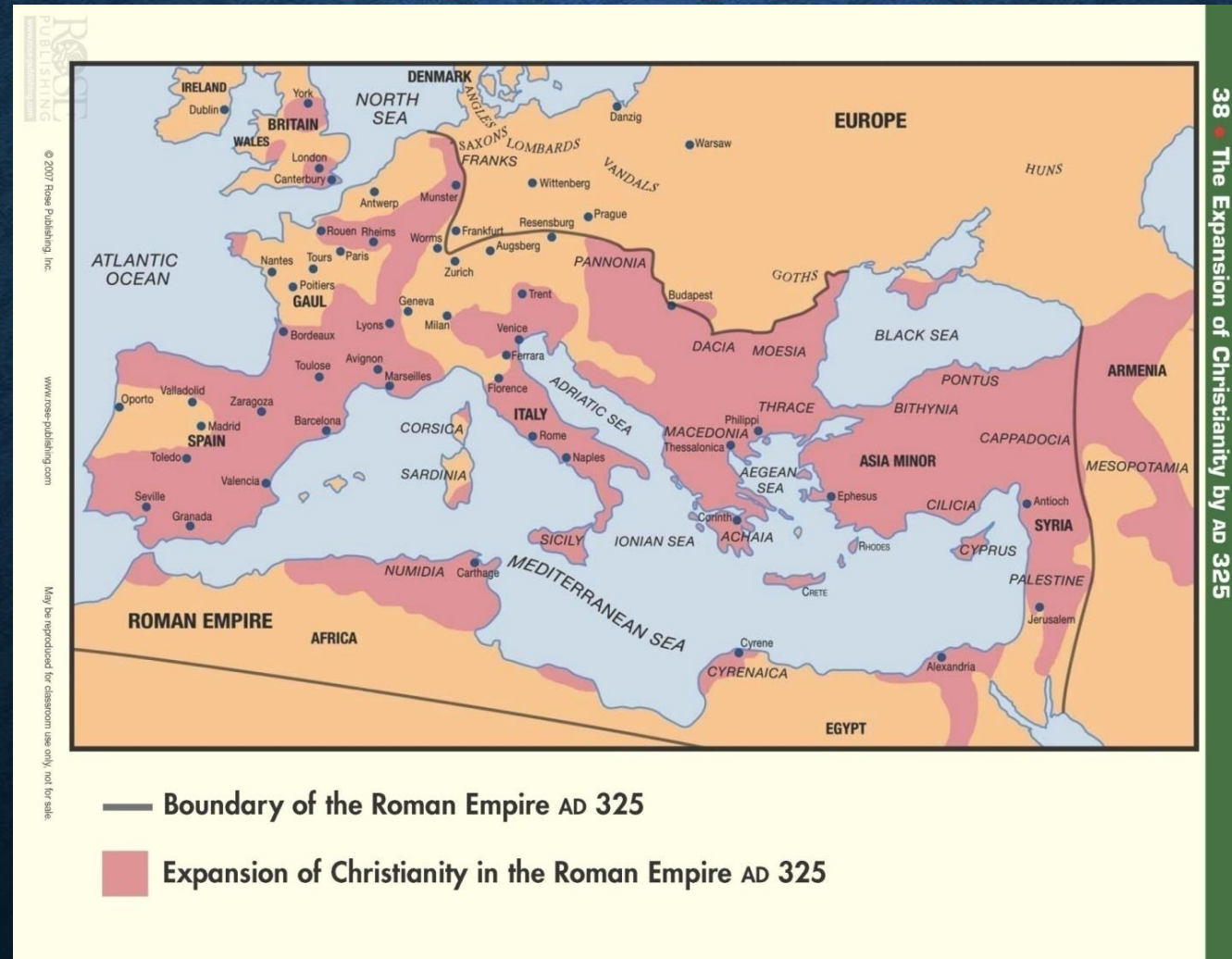
(BKC [OT] p. 652)



The Greeks under the reign of Alexander the Great conquered the Persians in 331 B.C. and controlled Palestine until they were defeated by the Romans.



The Roman empire conquered the Greek empire by 30 B.C. and controlled Palestine through the time of Christ and the Apostles



What about the modern dispute between the “Palestinians” and the “Israelis” over the regions referred to as the “Gaza Strip”, “West Bank” and “Golan Heights” or even the main body of land called the State of Israel?

Who does the land belong to?

THE LAND OF BIBLICAL ISRAEL OR PALESTINE/HOLY LAND

- After the Roman Empire broke apart, the “Holy Land” fell under control of various groups and factions.
- The Arab Muslims controlled the area for a season
- Then came the European Crusades and many battles were fought to gain control of the Holy Land.

THE LAND OF BIBLICAL ISRAEL OR PALESTINE/HOLY LAND

- Eventually the land fell under the control of the Ottoman/Turkish Empire
- Then came **WWI** and after the Allied victory, the Middle East territories were reset/formed by the **League of Nations**.
- As a result of this restructure of the Middle East by the **League of Nations**; the **British mandate** was issued, and Palestine fell under British control from 1920-1948.

AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION.....

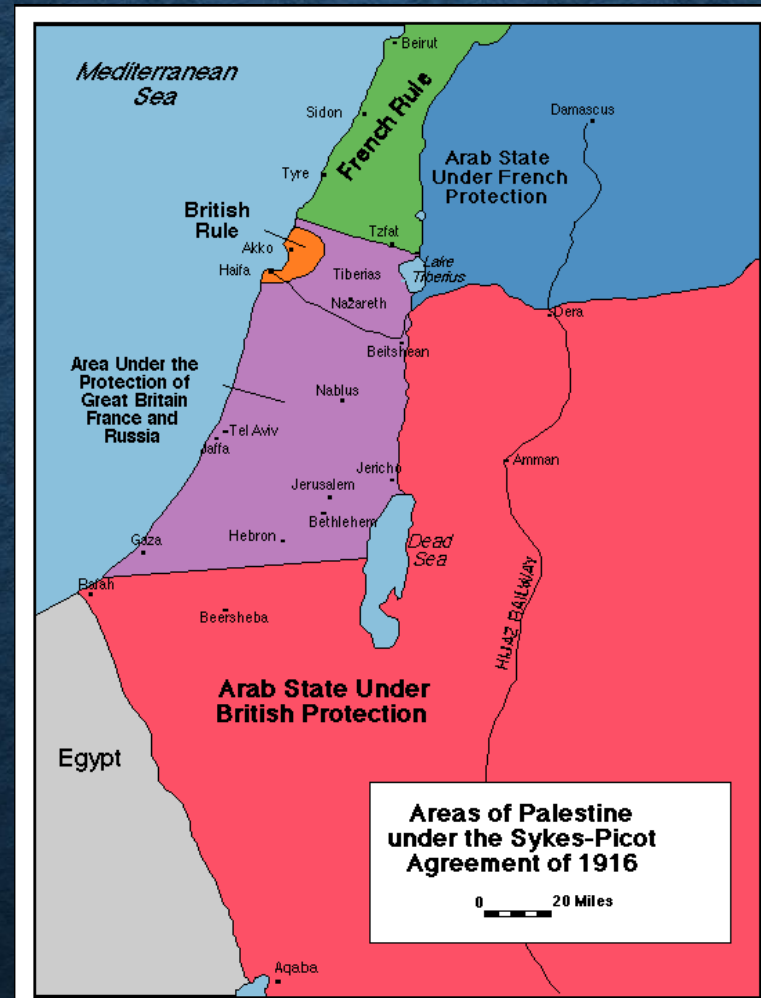
- Mark Twain's visit to Lebanon, Syria, and the Holy Land in 1867 was published in "The Innocents Abroad", where he described Palestine as follows:

"..... A desolate country whose soil is rich enough but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse.... a desolation.... we never saw a human being on the whole route.... hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country."

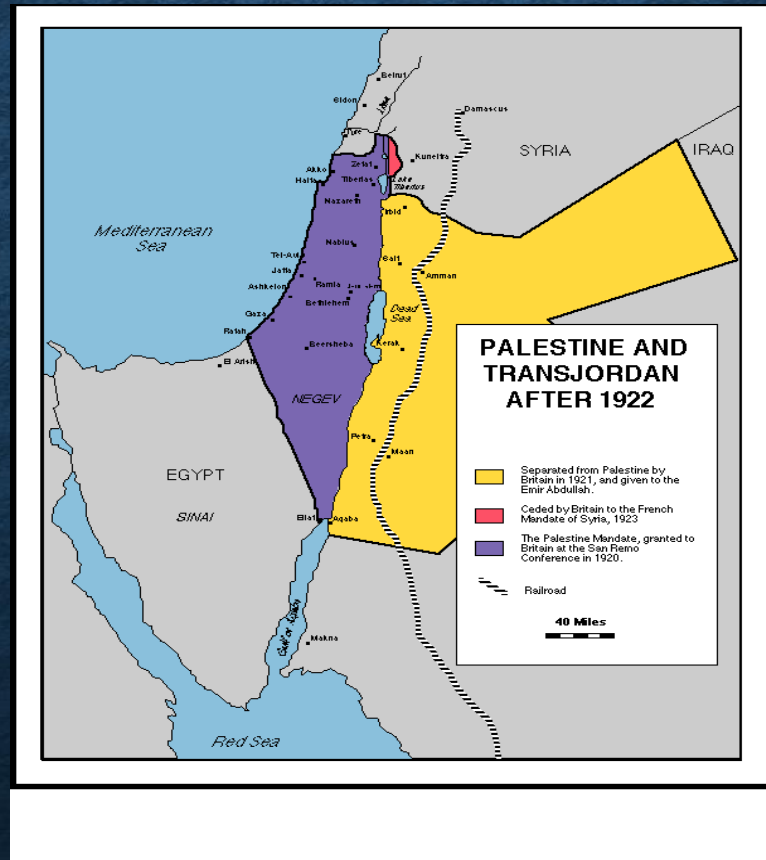
([The Innocents Abroad](#), p. 361-362)

- *This quote is considered out of context according to Muslim teaching*

The Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916 was the first attempt by the League of Nations to create a separate Arab and Jewish State – **It failed!**

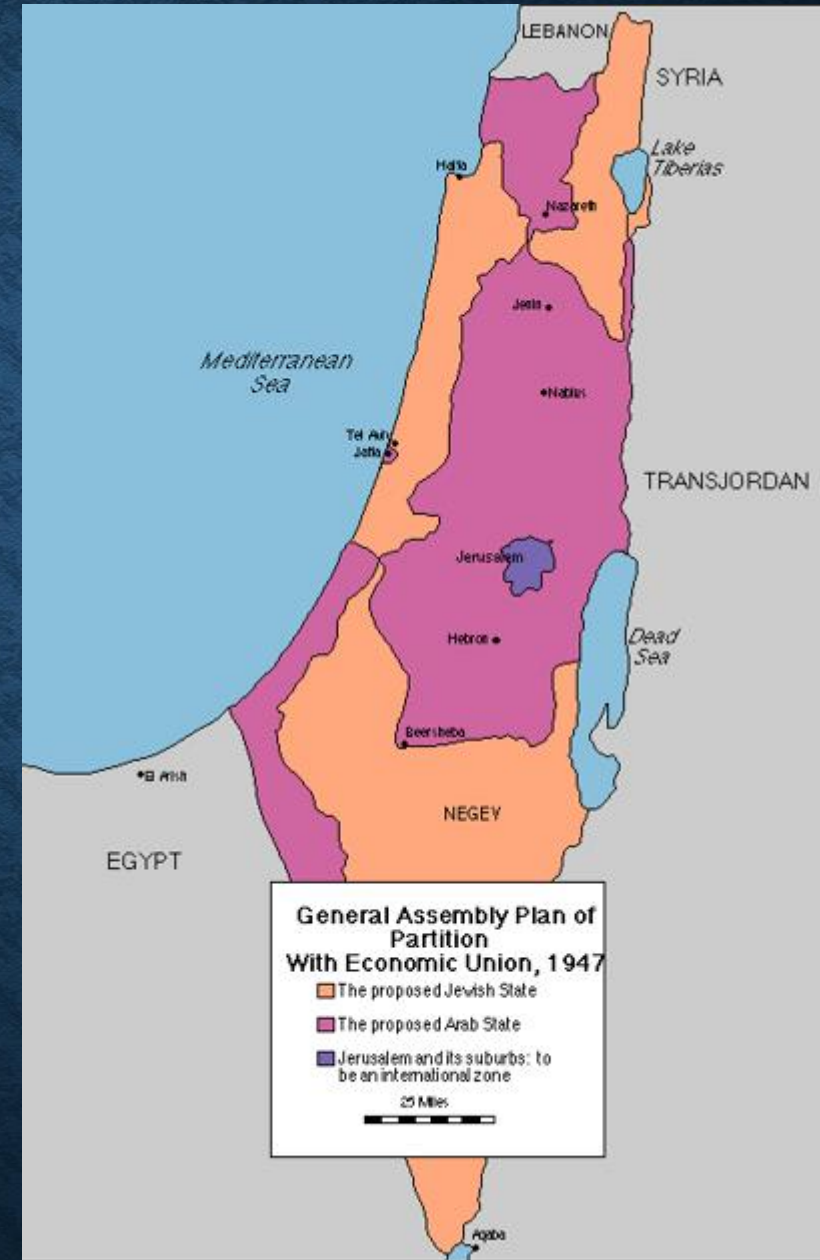


The Balfour Declaration (named after Lord Balfour of Britain) of 1917 eventually led to this division of the land to create a Jewish State and an Arab State with the intention of them being self governed. Many promises were made to both groups.



Then WWII broke out and disrupted things

This was the plan drawn up by the United Nations in which they carved up the land in an attempt to create a Jewish State and an Arab State in a much smaller land area than originally planned.....it was doomed for failure!



In 1948 the United Nations recognized the Jewish State of Israel as a sovereign State and war broke out immediately with the neighboring countries of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. This is the division of the land at the conclusion of the 1948 War.



Israel fought another war in 1967
(Called the **Six Day War**) in which they defeated the combined orchestrated attacks led by Egypt, Syria, and Jordan in just six days. It was a humiliating defeat to the Arab world as Israel gained control of the entire **Sinai Peninsula**, the **Gaza Strip**, the **West Bank**, and the **Golan Heights**.



At the conclusion of the Six Day War, this was the Cease Fire Lines between Israel and its neighbors.

Since this was an embarrassment to the neighboring countries and to the entire Arab world, Egypt led yet another attack in 1973 called the Yom Kippur War in which they launched a sneak attack against Israel on their most holy day (The Day of Atonement).

Israel suffered the embarrassment of not being prepared as this invasion took them totally by surprise and they experienced numerous casualties. Israel was able to regroup and successfully defeat the Egyptian led attack and it led to a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt in 1973. Israel gave control of the Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt.



MODERN DAY ISRAEL & NEIGHBORS

Modern Israel stands at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa. Geographically, it belongs to the Asian continent. Its western border is the Mediterranean Sea. To the north it is bound by Lebanon and Syria, to the east by Jordan and to the south by the Red Sea and Egypt. Long and narrow in shape, Israel is about 290 miles (470 km.) long and 85 miles (135 km.) across at its widest point. Its total area is 22,145 sq km, of which 21,671 sq km is land area.



**MODERN POLITICAL DIVISIONS
OF ANCIENT PALESTINE**

- City
- City (modern name)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Present-day international boundaries
- - - Disputed boundaries



CAN WE CONNECT THE SCRIPTURAL PROMISES TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND WHAT IS YET TO HAPPEN?

**“And behold you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called the Son of the
Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the
throne of His father David; and He will reign over
the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will
have no end” (Luke 1:31-33)**

CAN WE CONNECT THE OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES TO MODERN DAY EVENTS?

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the Lord is our righteousness” (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

CHECK THIS OUT!

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...and the holy city coming down out of heaven from God...And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes....”

(Revelation 21:1-4)

EVERYONE WILL ANSWER TO THE LORD

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11)

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end”
(Revelation 22:13)

JESUS WILL RETURN AND EVERYTHING WILL BE MADE RIGHT!

“Be patient then brothers until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. (James 5:7-8)

THE

END