

Geography of New Testament Israel



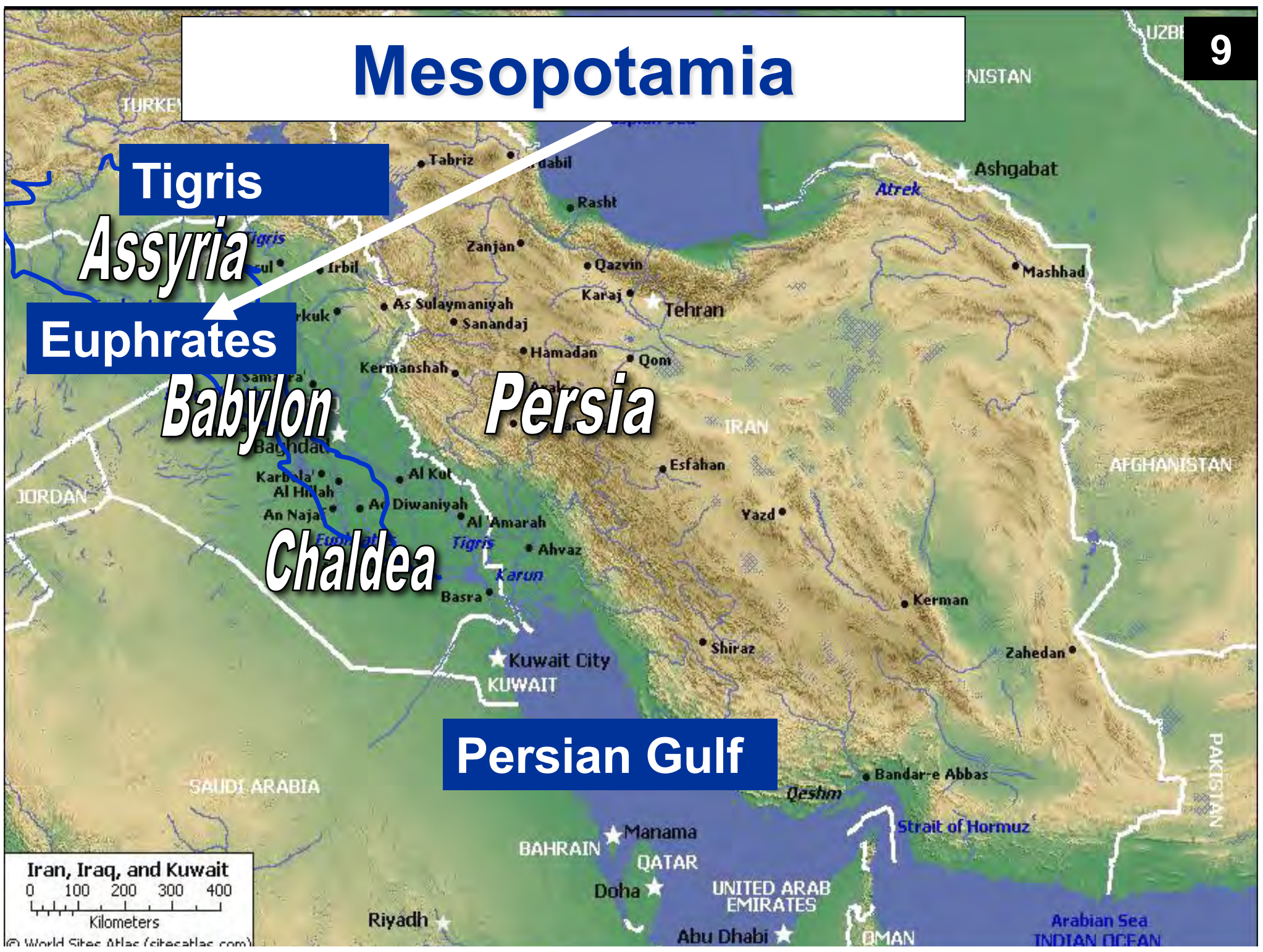
The World Today



Modern Middle East



Mesopotamia



Tigris

Euphrates

Assyria

Babylon

Persia

Chaldea

Persian Gulf

Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait
0 100 200 300 400
Kilometers
© World Sites Atlas (sitesatlas.com)

The Ancient Near East



Bodies of Water in Israel

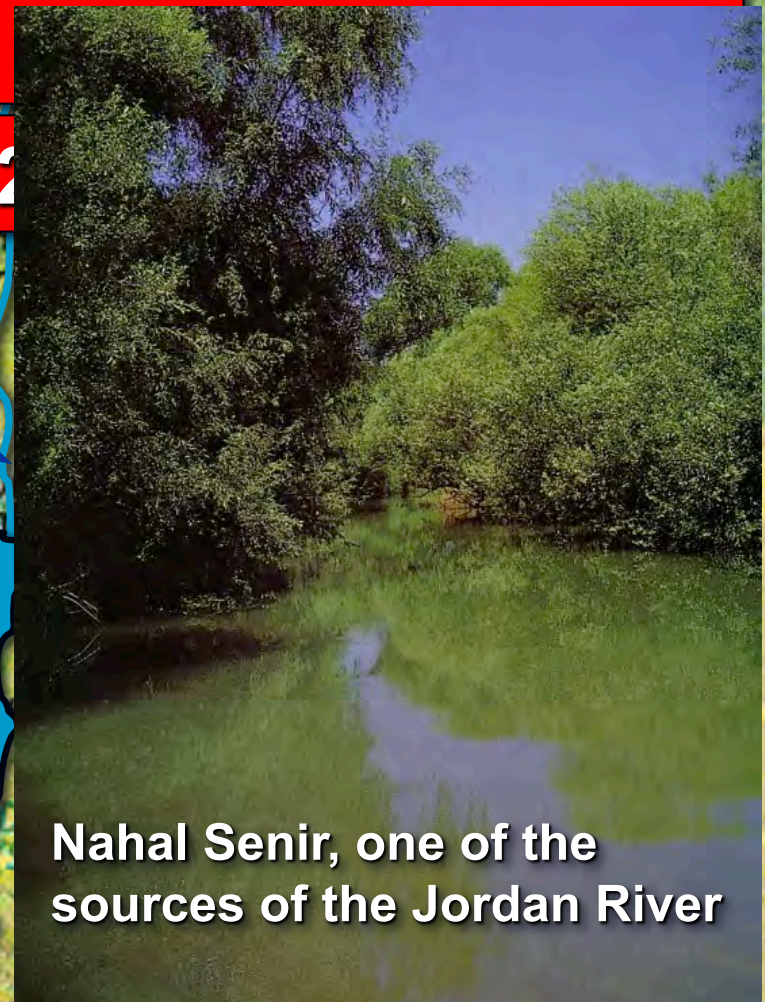
כַּנּוֹר n.m. lyre -- lyre, stringed instrument used for popular as well as sacred music (B4604)

כַּנּוֹת



NT: Sea of Galilee

The Great Sea



Nahal Senir, one of the sources of the Jordan River

Arbel

**The Sea of
Galilee
(North shore
looking east))**



Sea of Galilee





The Sea of Galilee

(South shore looking east)

Mountains in Israel



Hermon

Carmel

Tabor

Gilboa

Zion

Olives

Nebo

Hor

Mount Hermon



Mount Hermon



Regions of Israel (OT)



Regions of Israel (NT)



Galilee **Batanea**

Samaria **Decapolis Area**

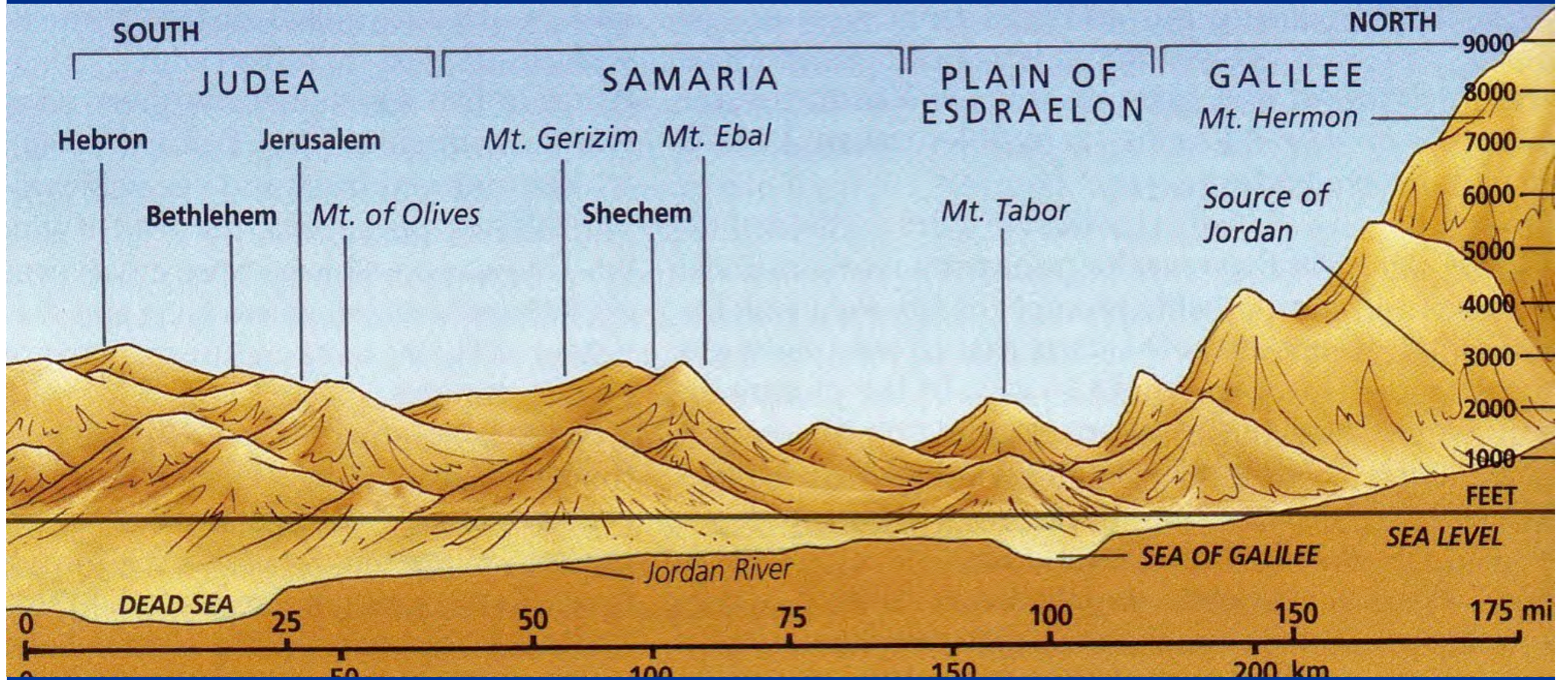
Perea

Judea

Idumea

Arabia

Elevations



Ele
No
D



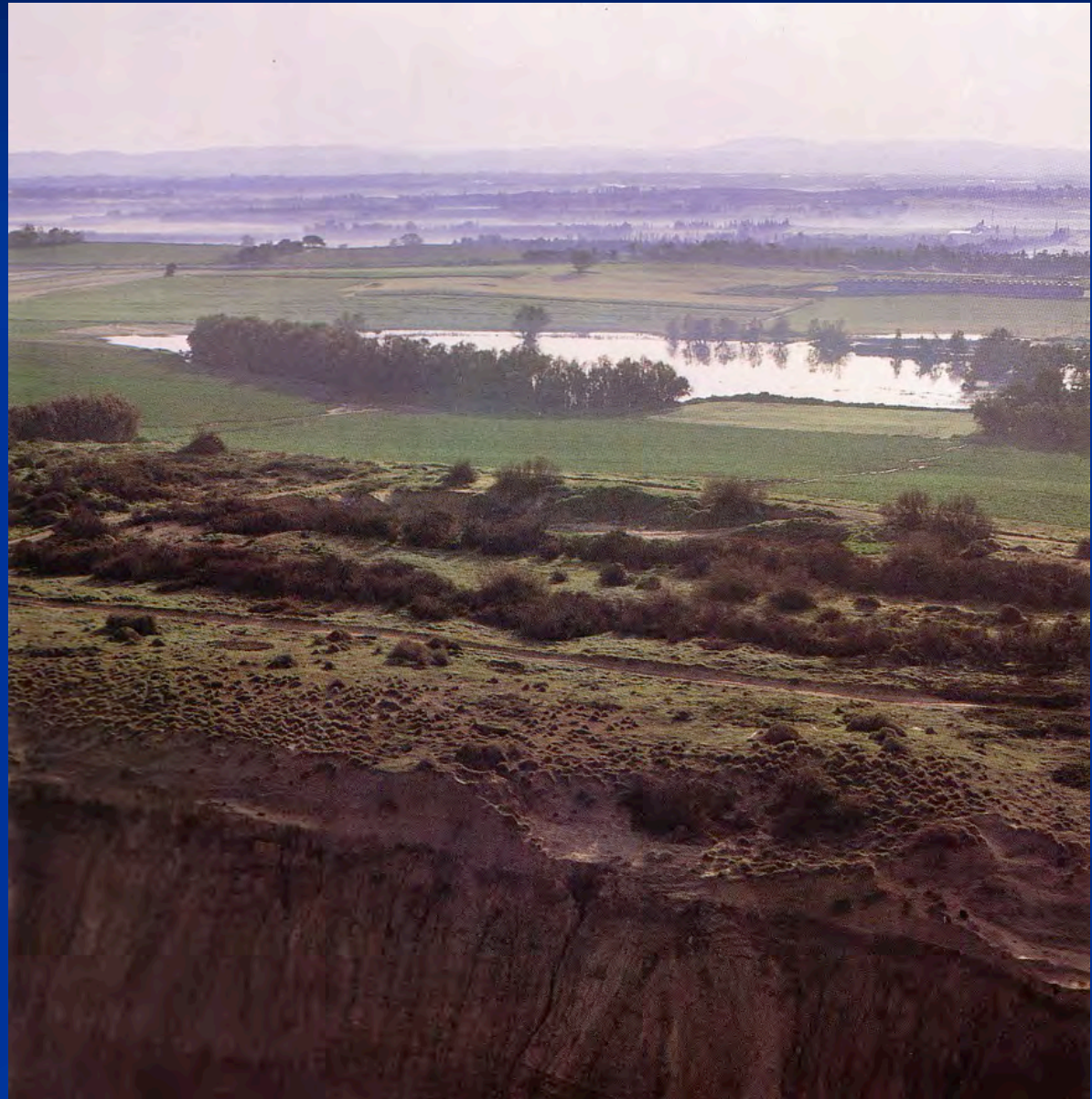
nean S
at Sea

**Coastal
Plain**



Coastal Plain

- Kurkar (sandstone) ridges in the foreground while looking east to the foothills



Coastal Plain

- Tyre



Tel Aviv



Tel Aviv



Coastal Plain

■ Caesarea



Caesarea



Coastal Plain

- Gaza



Elevations in North-South Divisions



Shephelah



Valleys and Hills

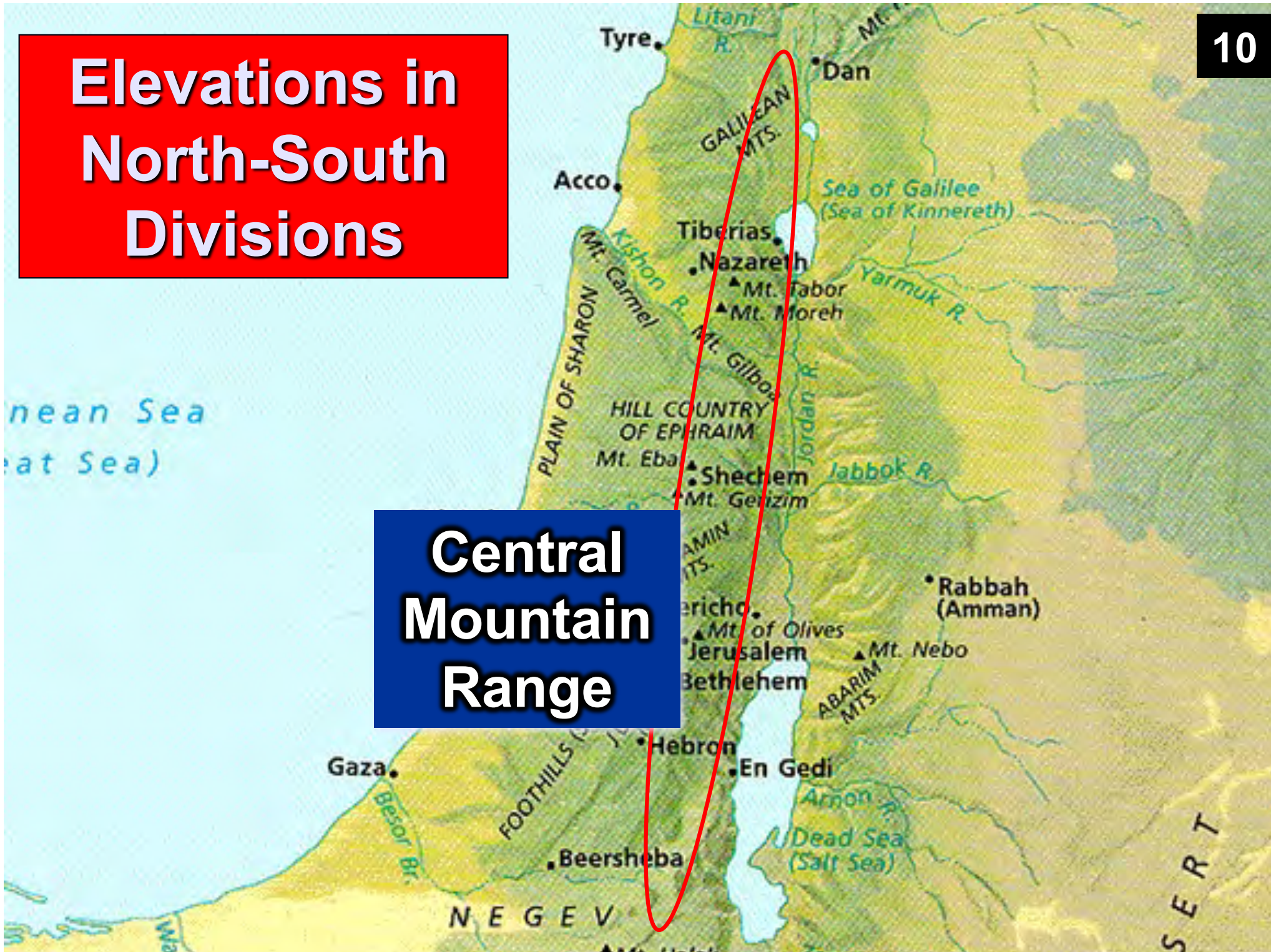
Shephelah

- Farmland



Elevations in North-South Divisions

Central Mountain Range



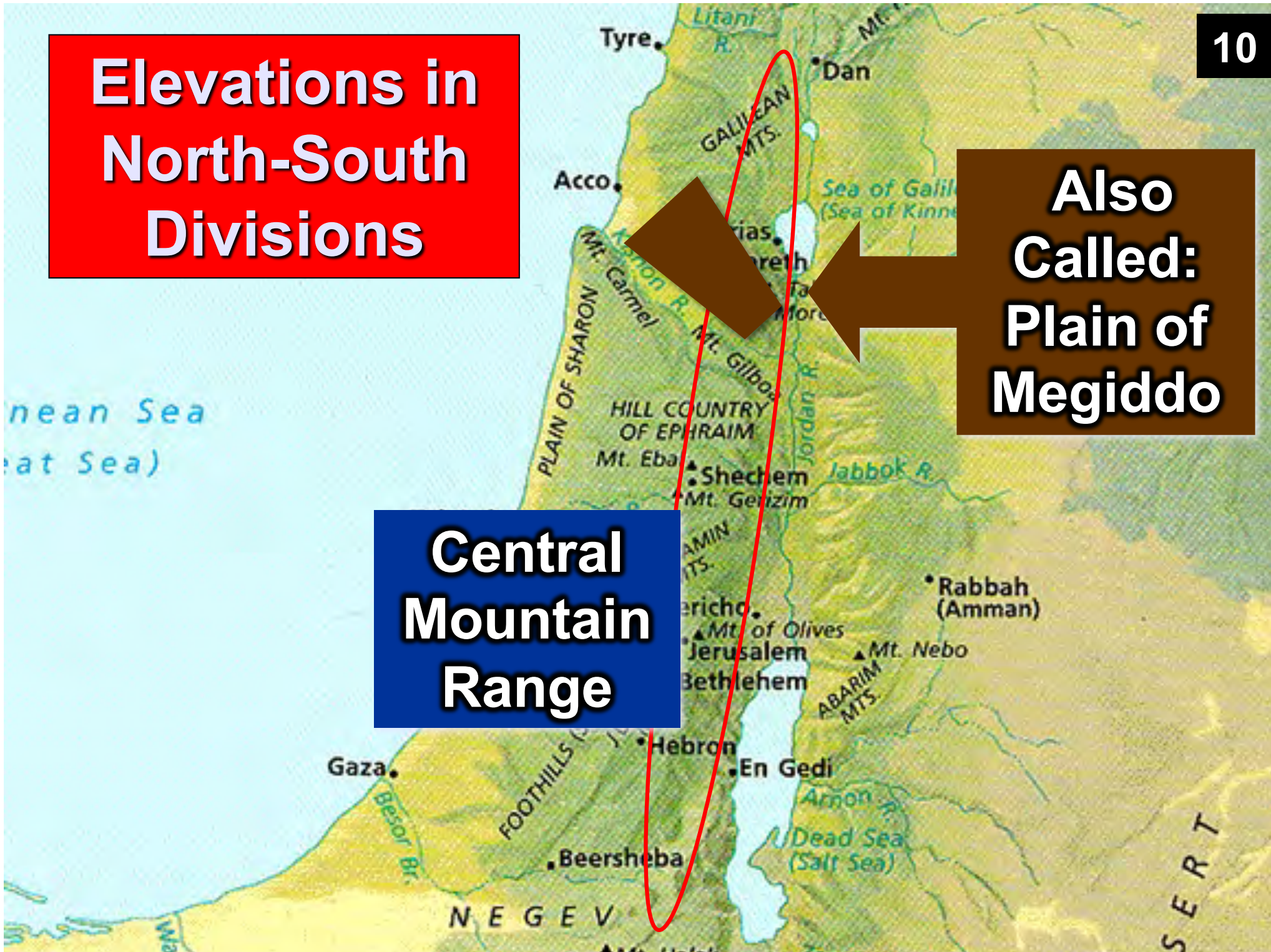


Judean Hills

**Elevations in
North-South
Divisions**

**Also
Called:
Plain of
Megiddo**

**Central
Mountain
Range**

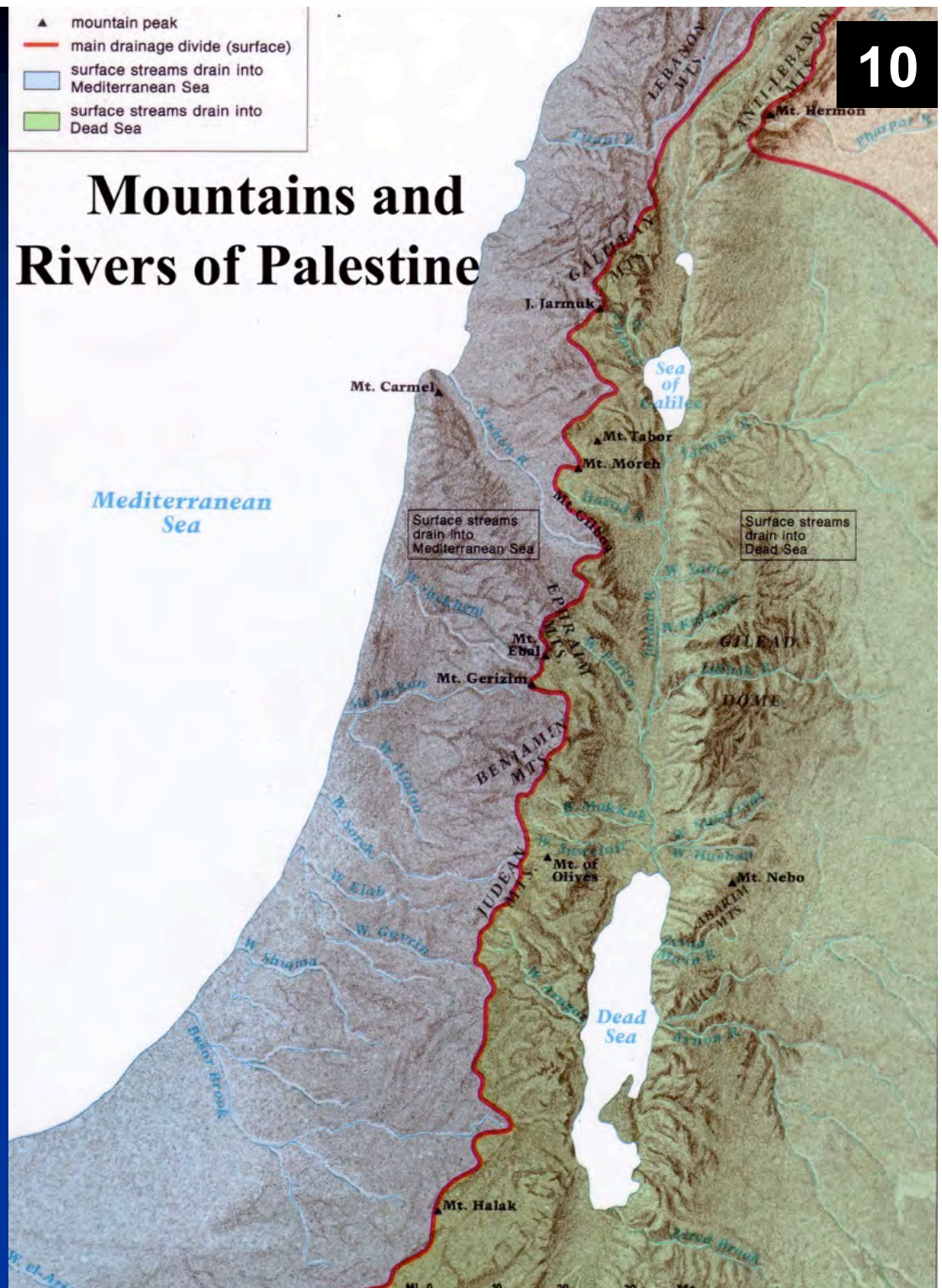


Mount Tabor in the Jezreel Valley



Central Mountain Range

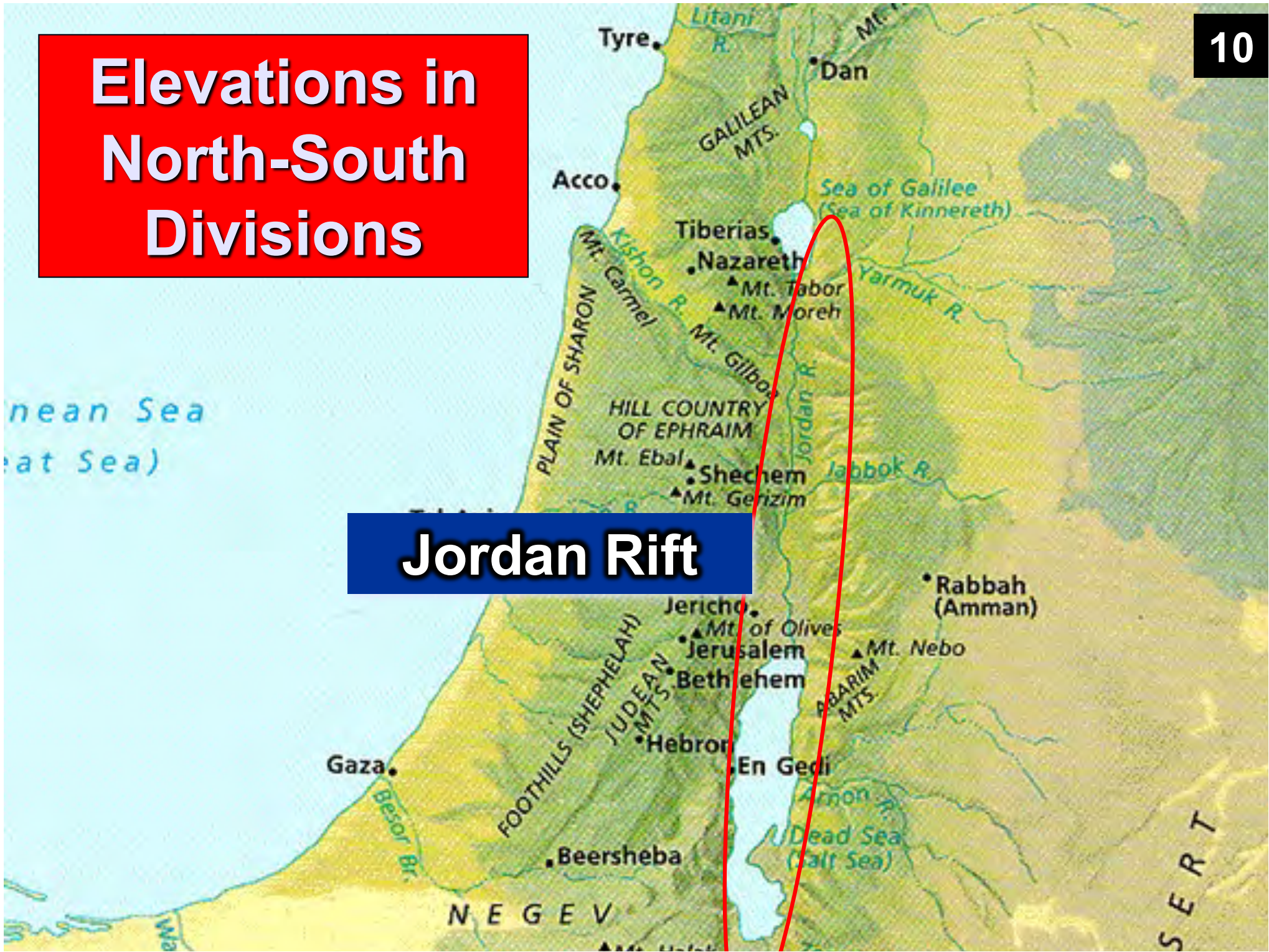
- A ridge causes water to flow east or west
- The higher elevation is in the south



The Wilderness of Judea



Elevations in North-South Divisions



Jordan Rift

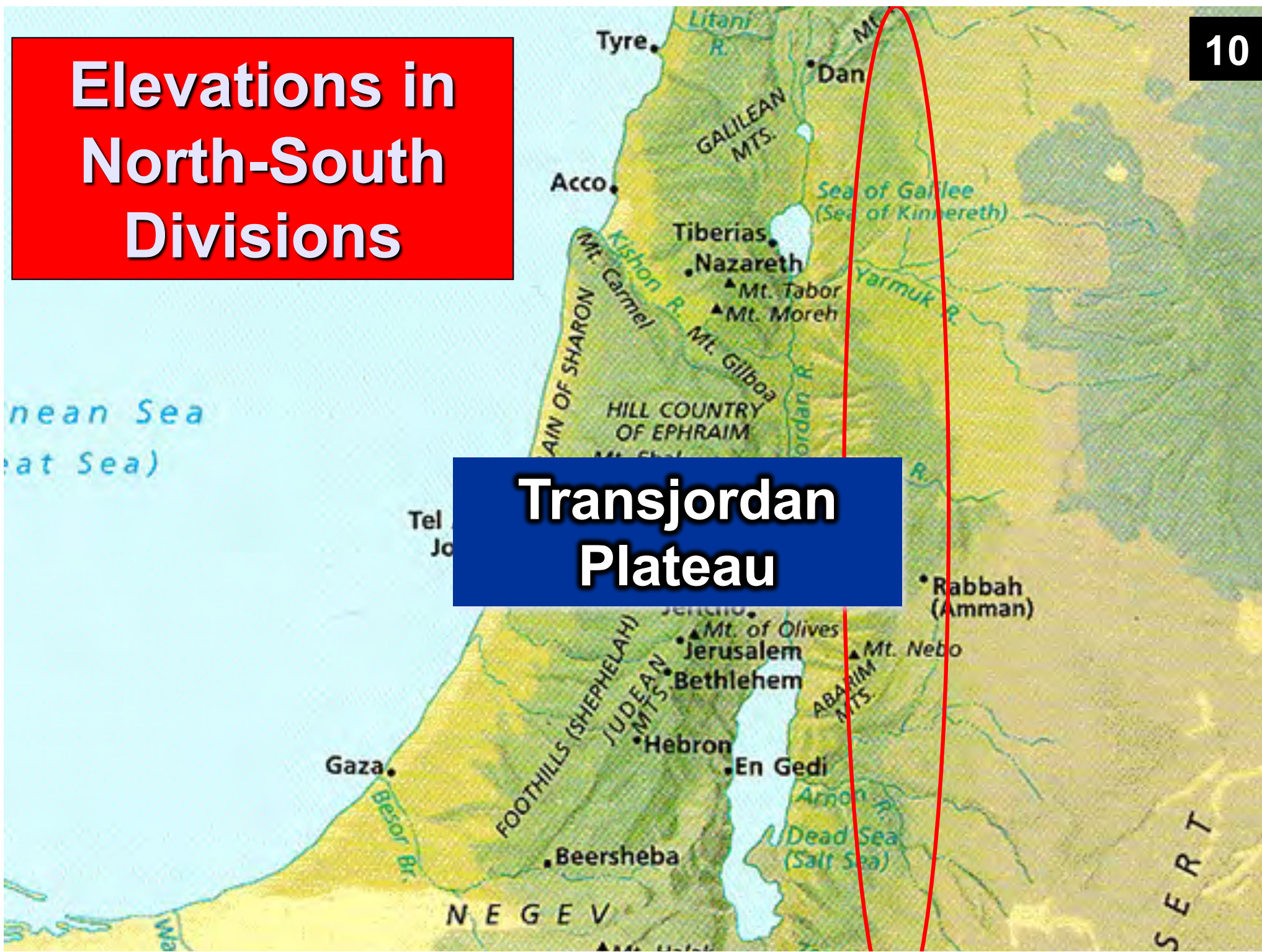
Jordan Rift

- **Deep Depression**

**From the
Wilderness
of Judea
looking
east to the
Salt Sea
below**



Elevations in North-South Divisions



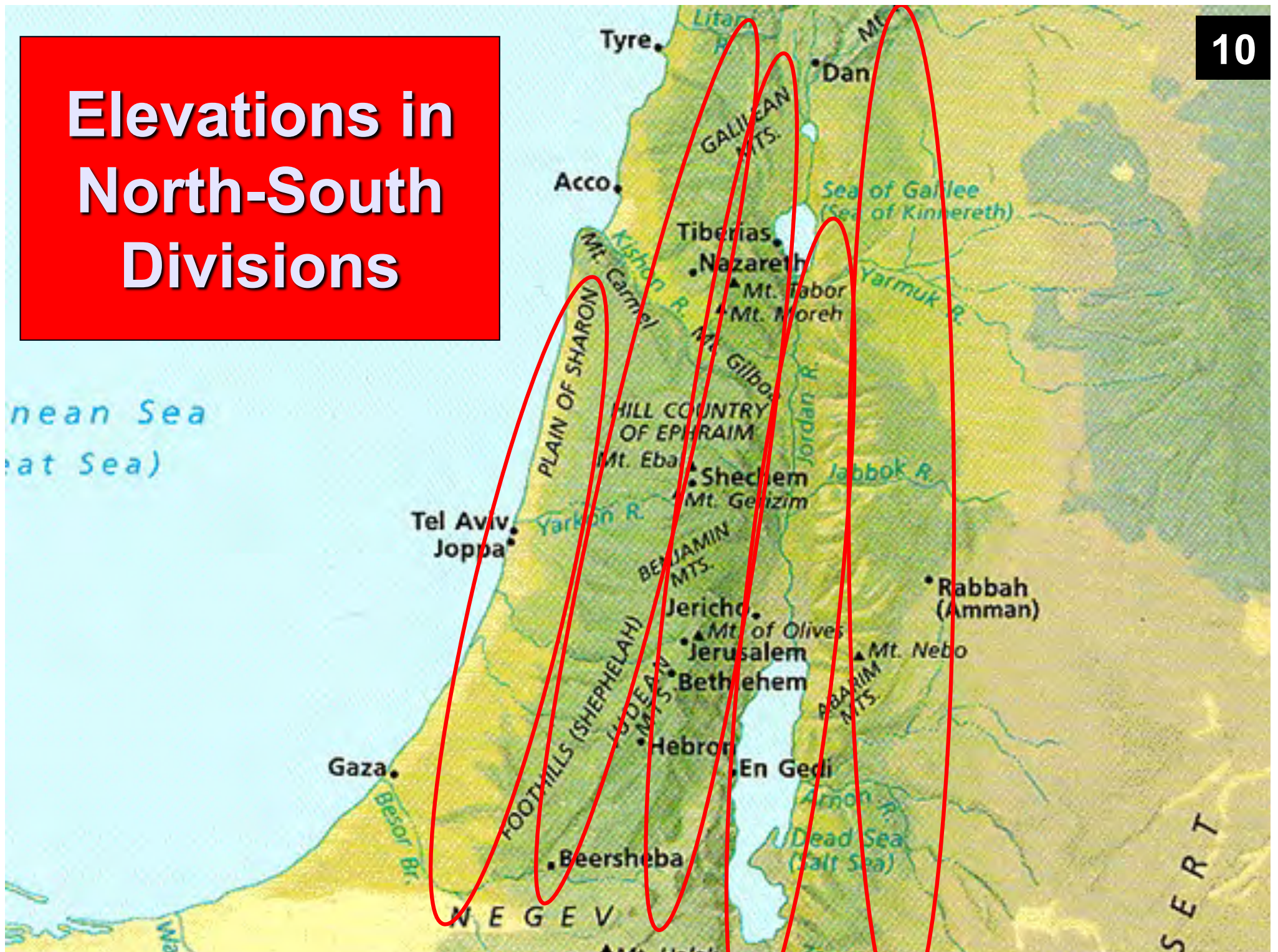
Transjordan Plateau

Transjordan Plateau

- Mt. Nebo



Elevations in North-South Divisions

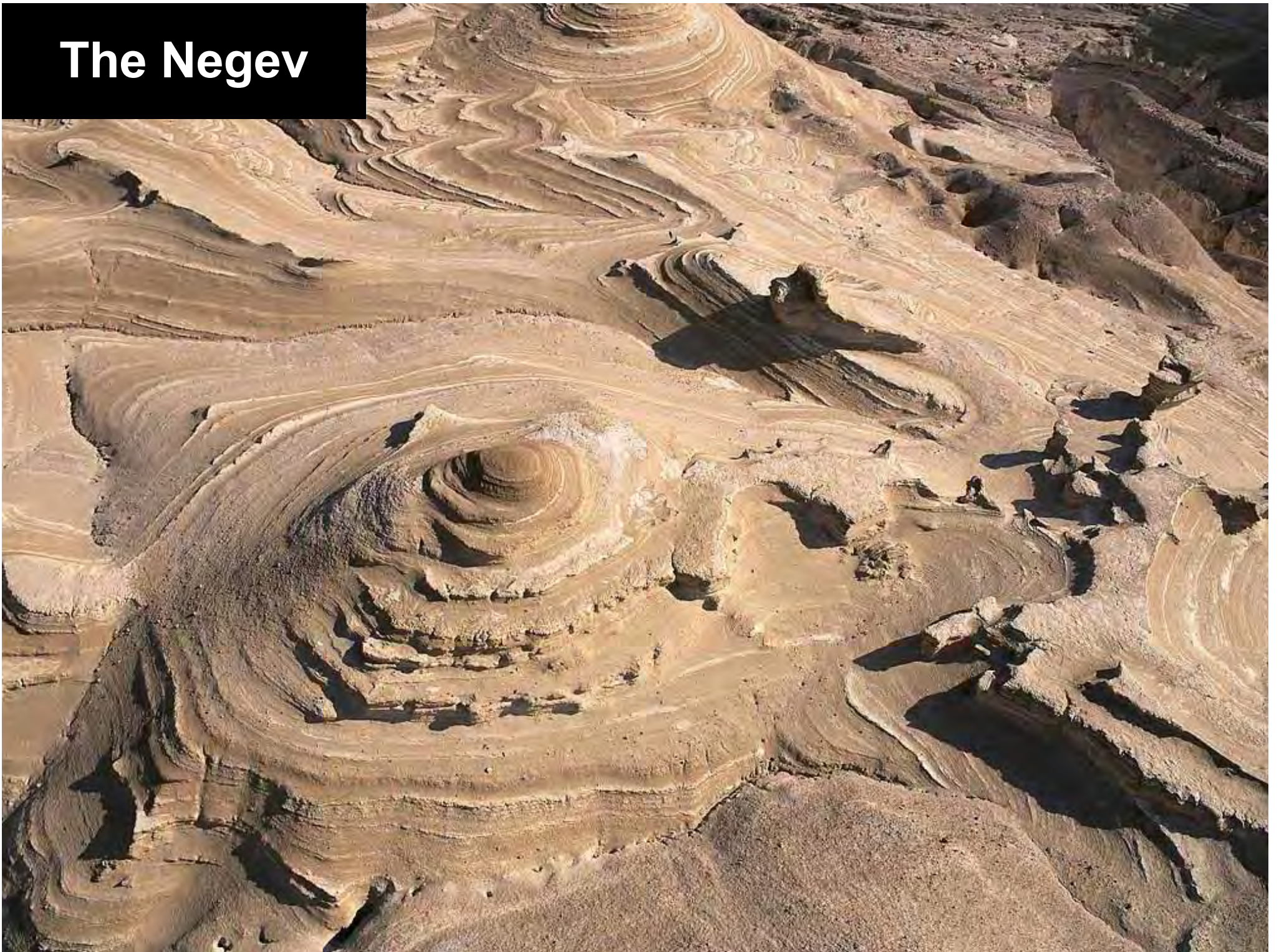




The Negev

10

The Negev



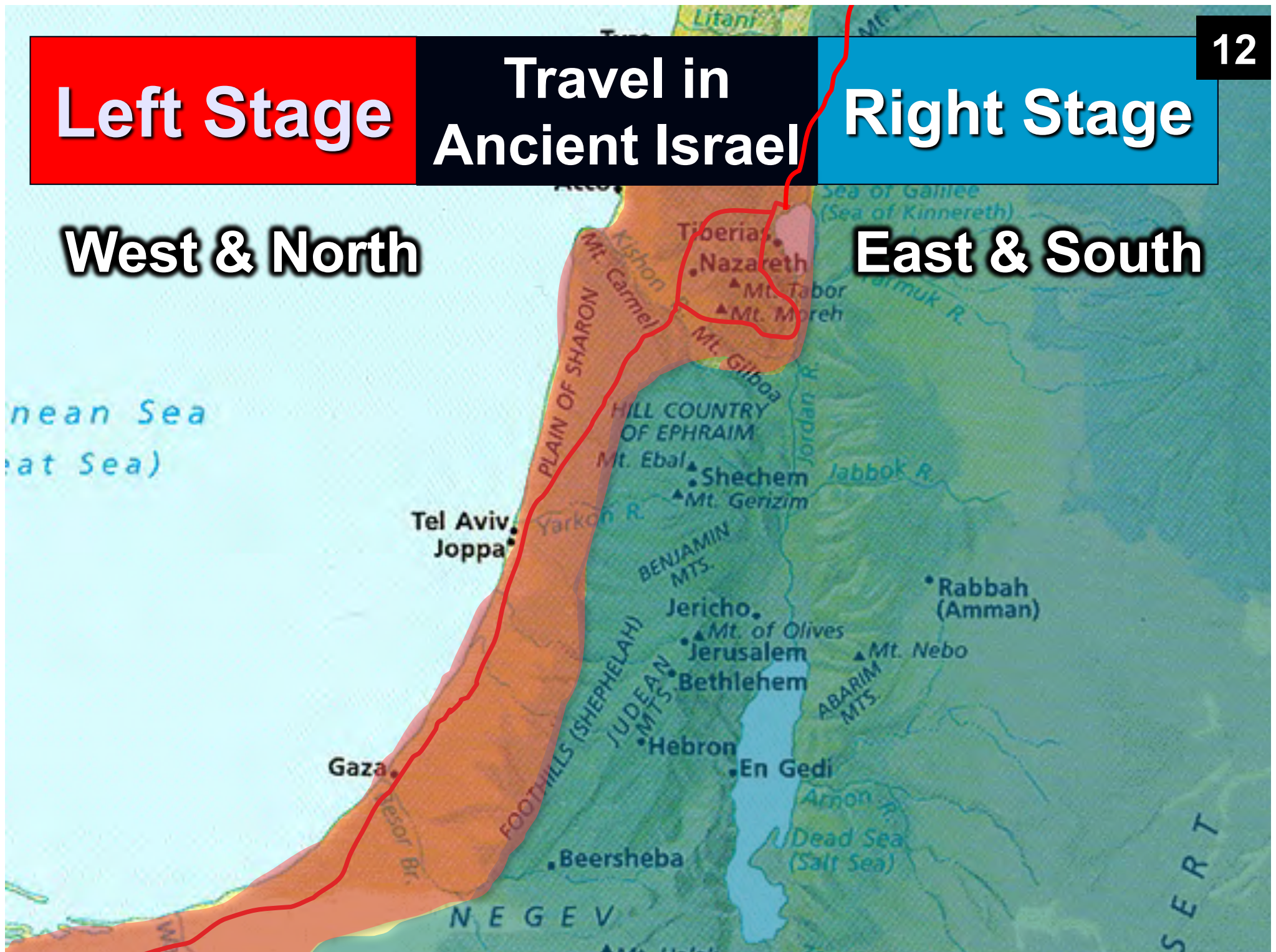
Left Stage

**Travel in
Ancient Israel**

Right Stage

West & North

East & South



Left Stage

Life in Ancient Israel

Right Stage

Farmers Land of Honey

Herdsmen Land of Milk

near Sea



Left Stage

Life in Ancient Israel

Right Stage

40 Large Cities

310 Small Towns



Left Stage

Life in Ancient Israel

Right Stage

Easy, Predictable

Exhausting, Unpredictable



Left Stage

Life in Ancient Israel

Right Stage

Trade, Noisy, International

Isolation, Quiet, Nationalism



Left Stage

**Life in
Ancient Israel**

Right Stage

**Syncretism,
Paganism**

**Religious Purity,
Monotheism**

ean Sea
at Sea)



Left Stage

**Life in
Ancient Israel**

Right Stage

**Controlled
By Israel only
150 years**

**Controlled
By Israel
1650 years**



Phoenicians

Syrians

Left Stage

Life in Ancient Israel

Right Stage

Sea Peoples,
The "ians" (mostly)

Romans

Desert Peoples,
The "ites"

near Sea
(at Sea)

Babylonians

Ammonites

Assyrians

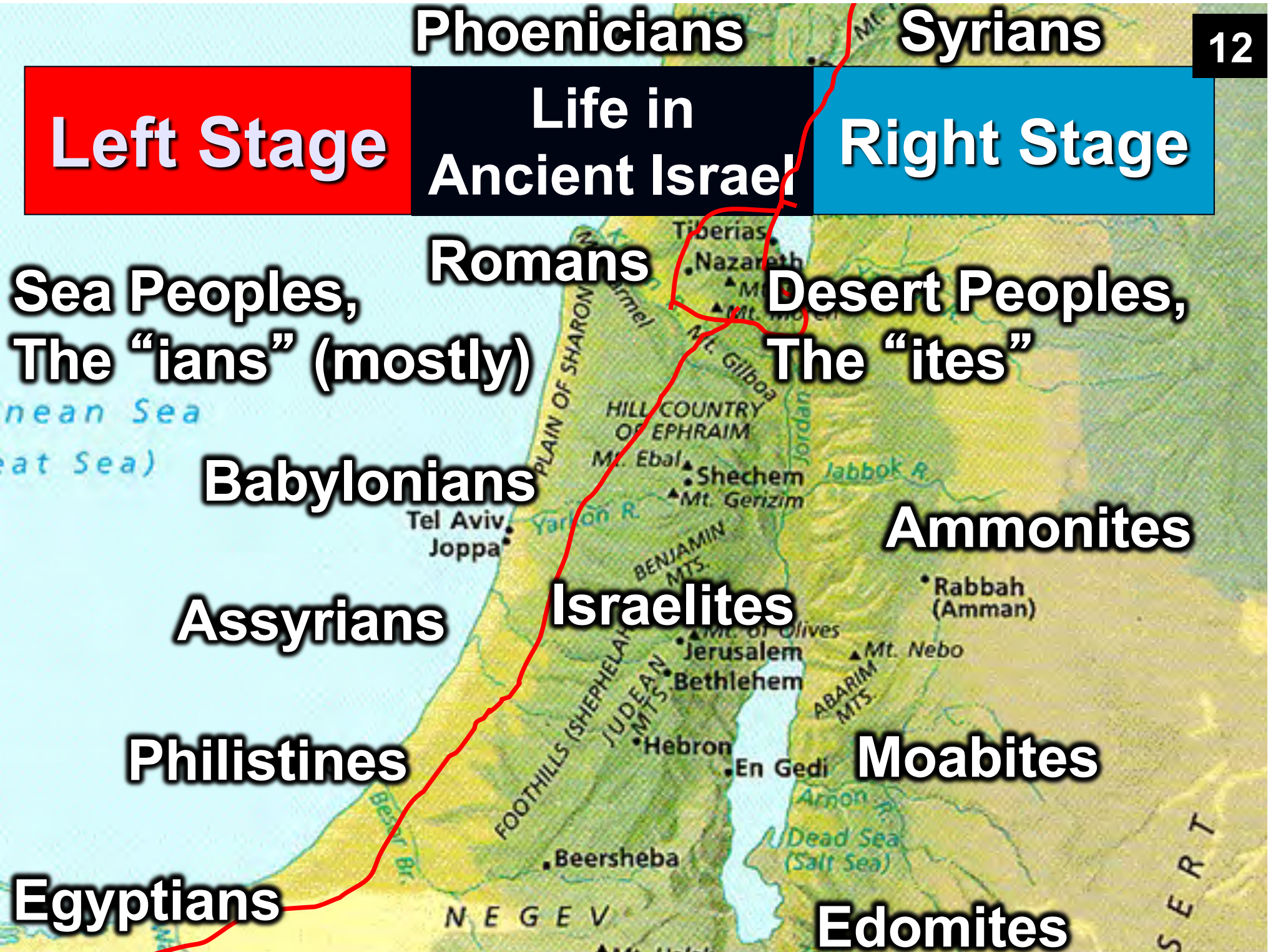
Israelites

Moabites

Philistines

Egyptians

Edomites



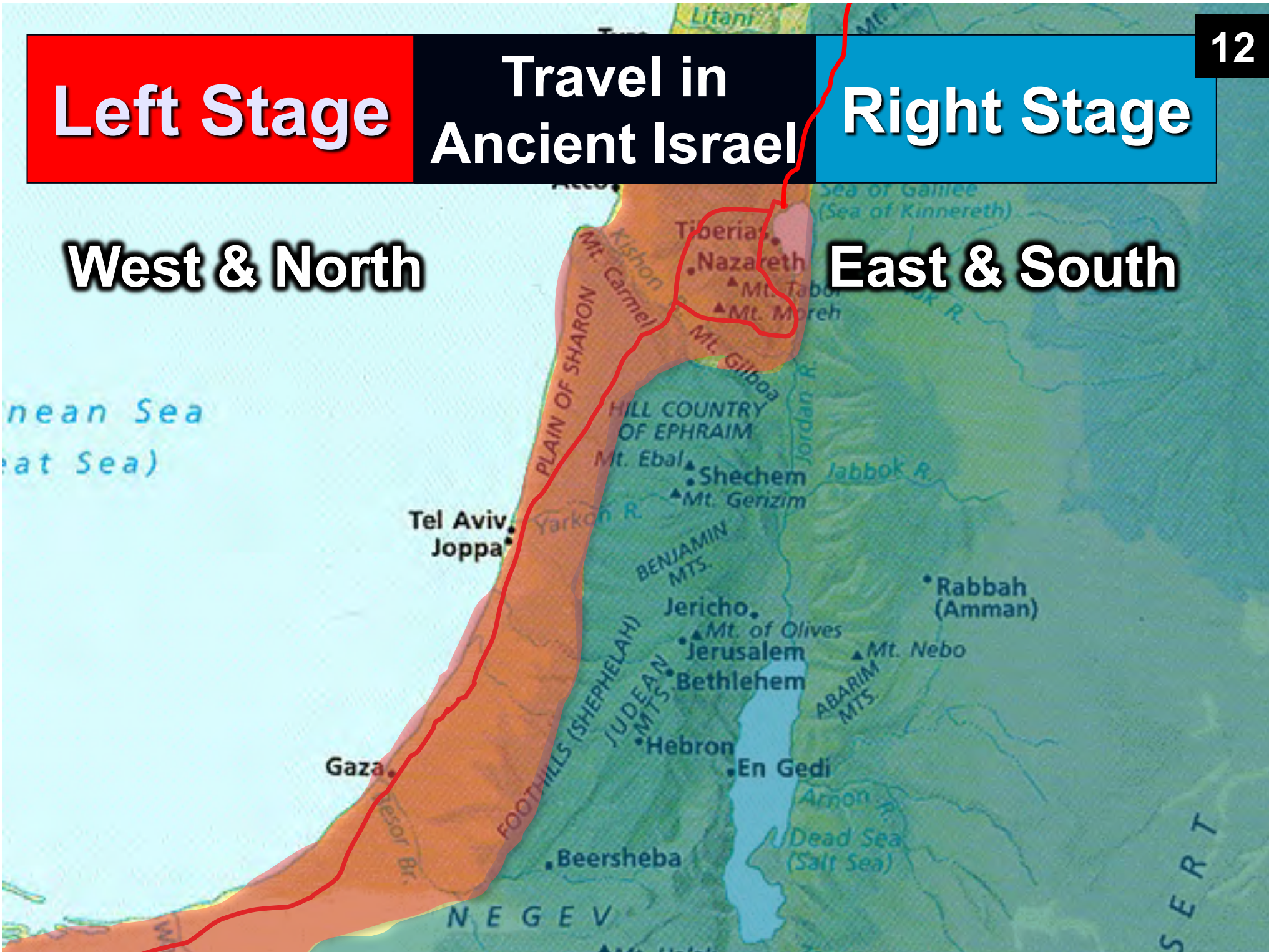
Left Stage

**Travel in
Ancient Israel**

Right Stage

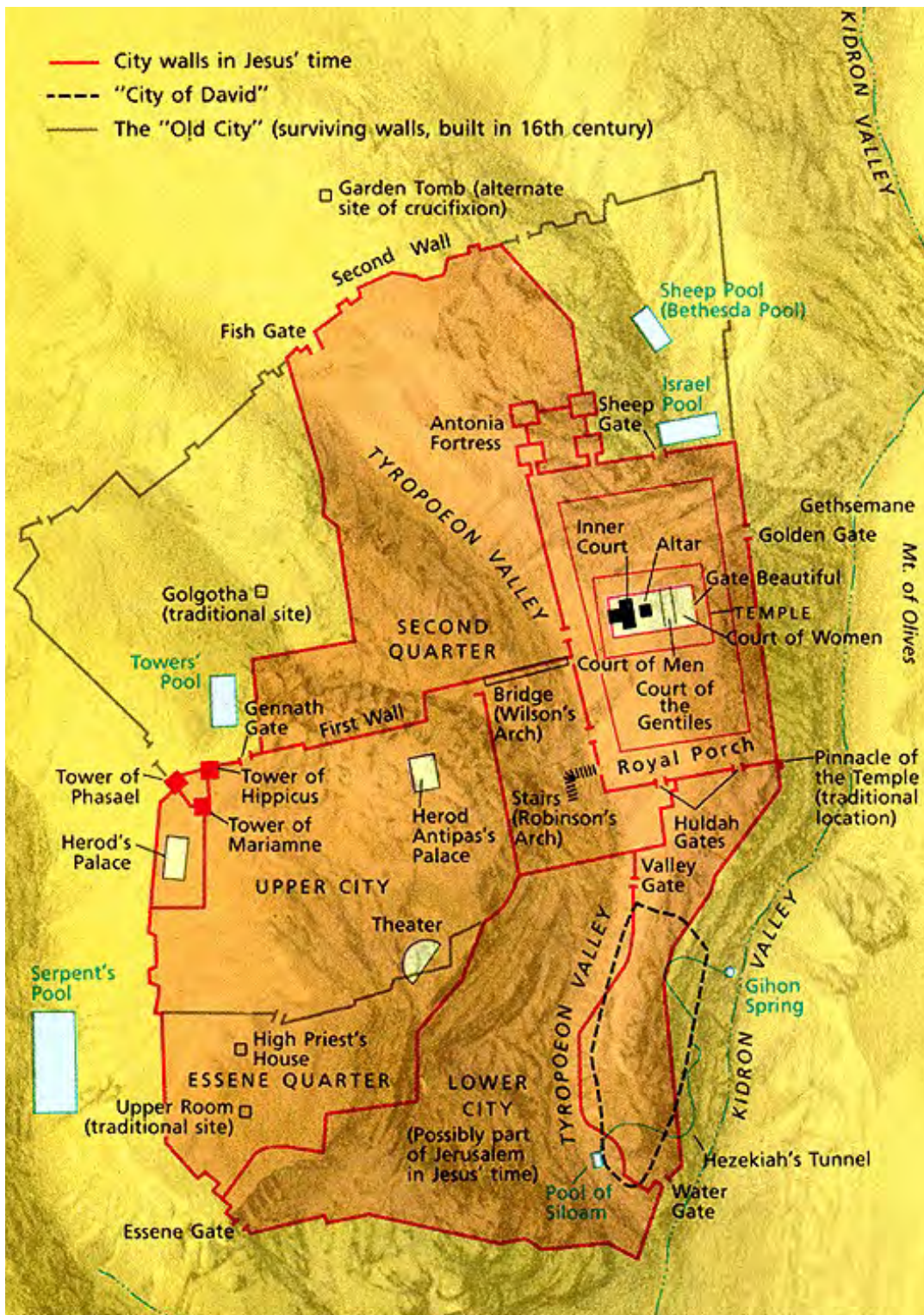
West & North

East & South



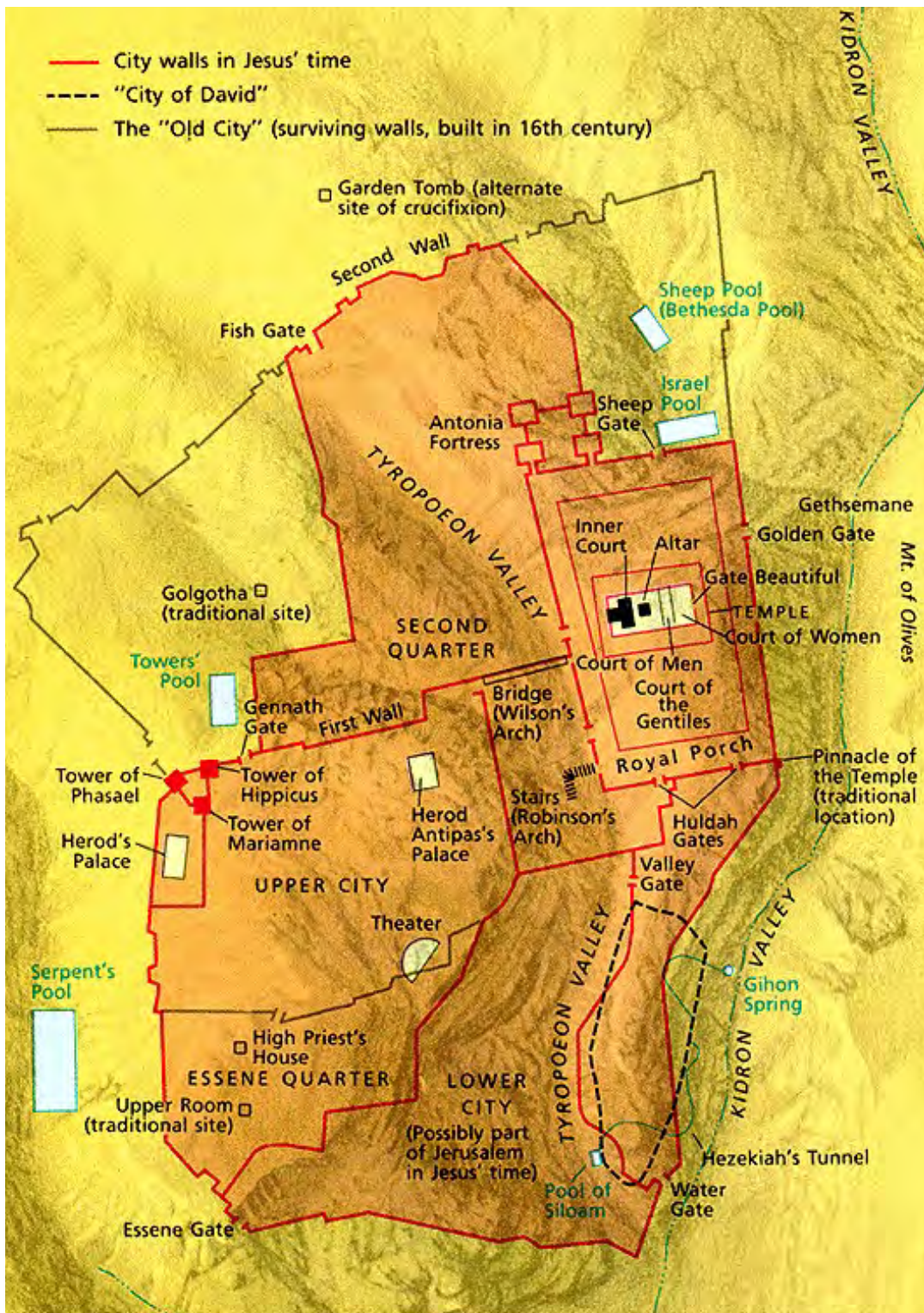
Jerusalem

21



- Disadvantages
- Advantages
- Stages
- Significance

- Disadvantages



Left Stage

Travel in Ancient Israel

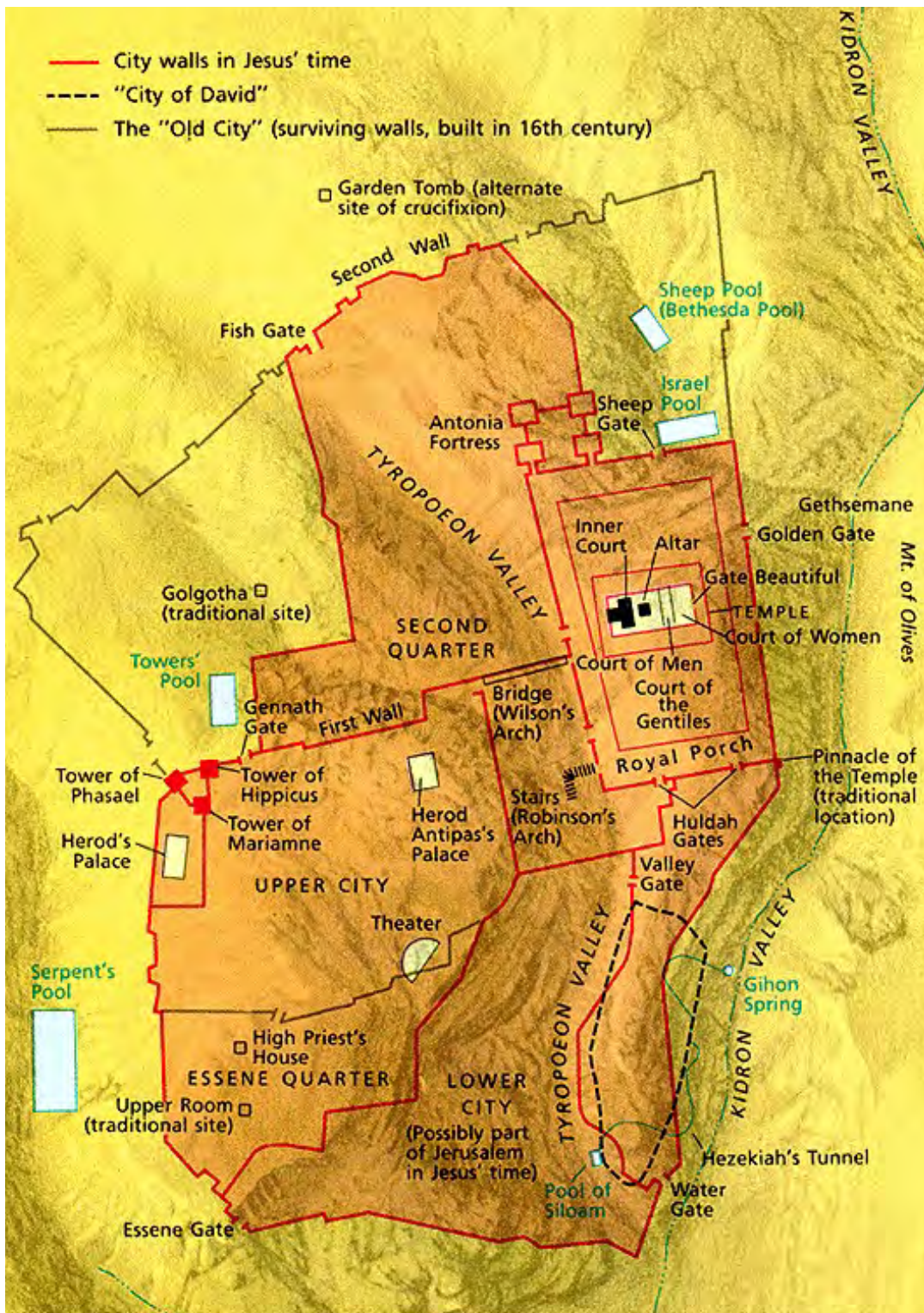
Right Stage



Jerusalem was off the main highway

- city
 - international artery
 - regional thoroughfare
 - secondary roadway
- ① Central ridge road
 - ② Coast road
 - ③ Beqa' valley road
 - ④ Jericho road
 - ⑤ Joppa-Amman road
 - ⑥ Rift valley road
 - ⑦ Road of the wilderness (Pilgrims' Highway in post-biblical times)
 - ⑧ Acco valley road
 - ⑨ Ephraim lateral road
 - ⑩ Beersheba bay road
 - ⑪ Road to Moab
 - ⑫ Way of the Sea (Isa 9:1)
 - ⑬ Arabah road
 - ⑭ Sorek valley road
 - ⑮ Guvrin valley road





- Disadvantages
- Advantages

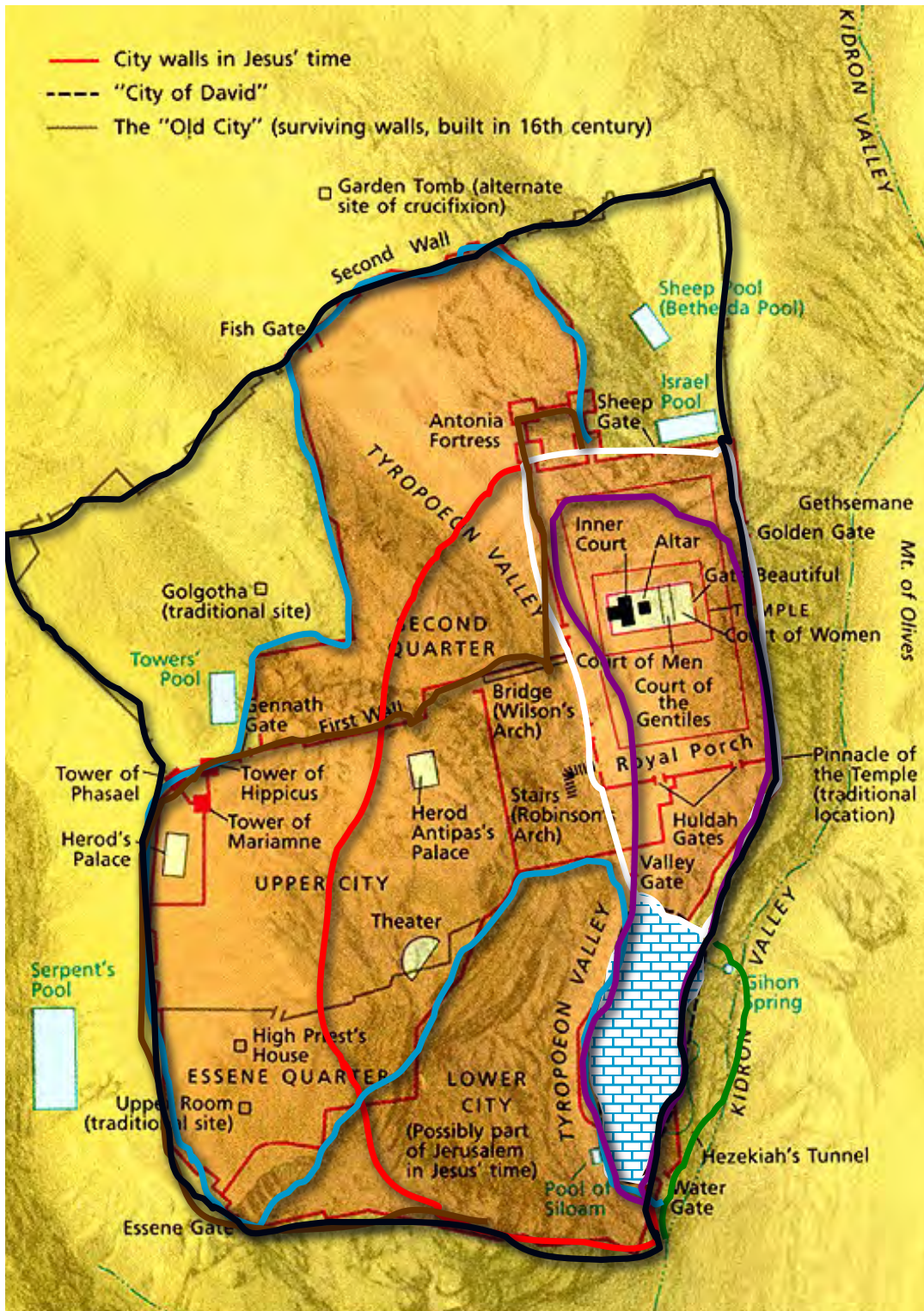
Jerusalem's Central Location

Jerusalem was
in Benjamin
next to Judah
but close to the
northern tribes



Jerusalem

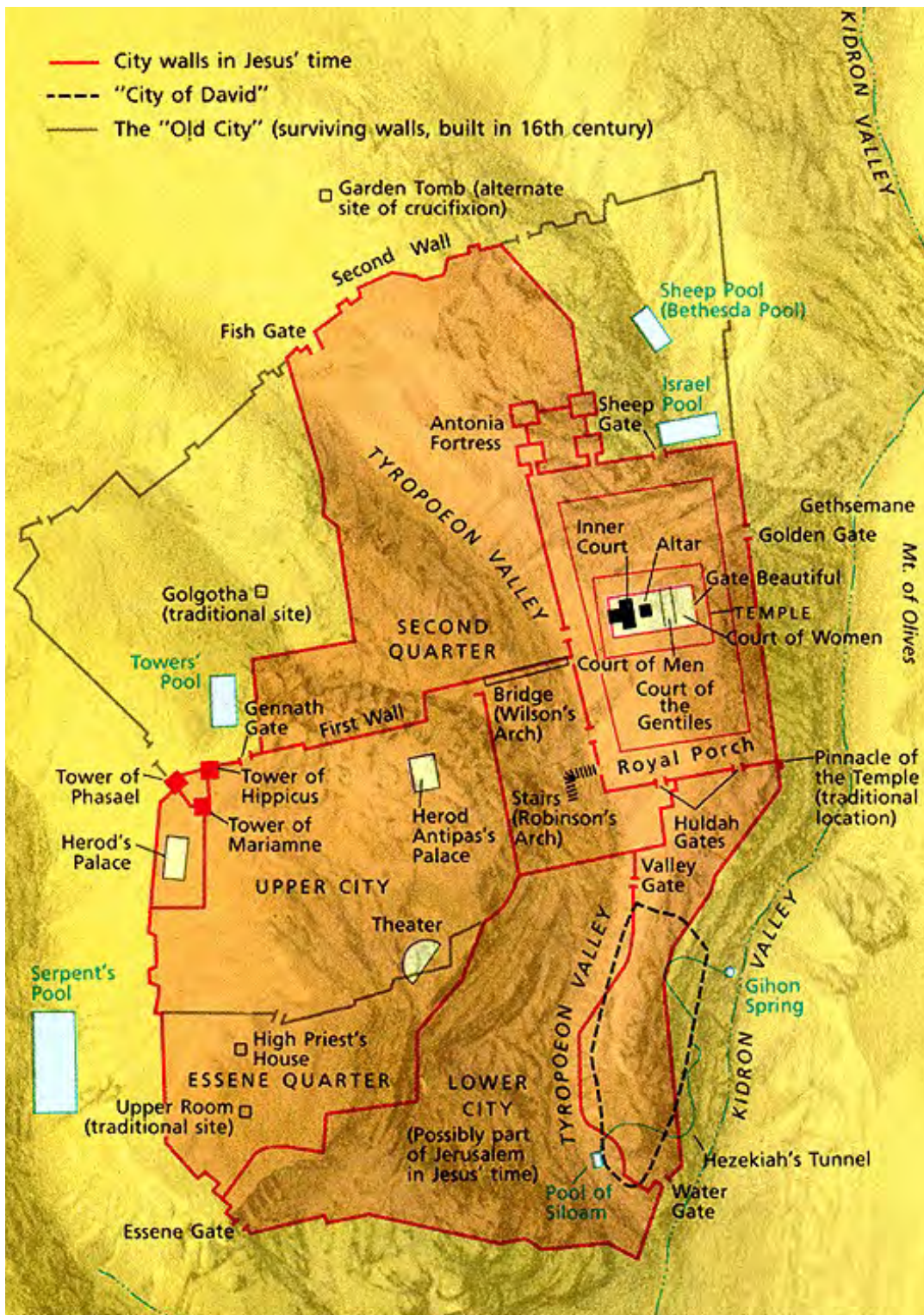
- Disadvantages
- Advantages
- Stages



- Jebusite (1500 BC)
- Solomon (971 BC)
- Hezekiah (700 BC)
- Hezekiah (700 BC)
- Nehemiah (444 BC)
- 586 BC
- Hasmonean (100 BC)
- Herod the Great (20 BC)
- Modern Walls

Jerusalem

22b



- Disadvantages
- Advantages
- Stages
- Significance
 - Jewish
 - Christian
 - Muslim
 - All Nations

Jerusalem



Jerusalem Today



THEN

1 Golgotha Reputed site of Jesus' crucifixion and tomb

2 Wealthy residential area Luxurious two-story houses

3 West side of Temple Mount Huge platform built by Herod

4 Main entrance Staircase and passageways to Temple Mount

5 Beautiful Gate Where Jesus may have entered the city

NOW

Church of the Holy Sepulcher First built ca. A.D. 326

Jewish Quarter Restored after the 1967 war

Western (Wailing) Wall Remains are an important Jewish shrine

Al-Aqsa Mosque One of Islam's largest and holiest mosques

Golden Gate Blocked site where believers expect Messiah to enter

Model of the City of David



Jewish Western Wall



Muslim Control



**Mosque of Omar
(Dome of the Rock)**



**Al-Aksa
Mosque**

What's the Future for the Dome?



Israel's Strategic Location

Thought Question:

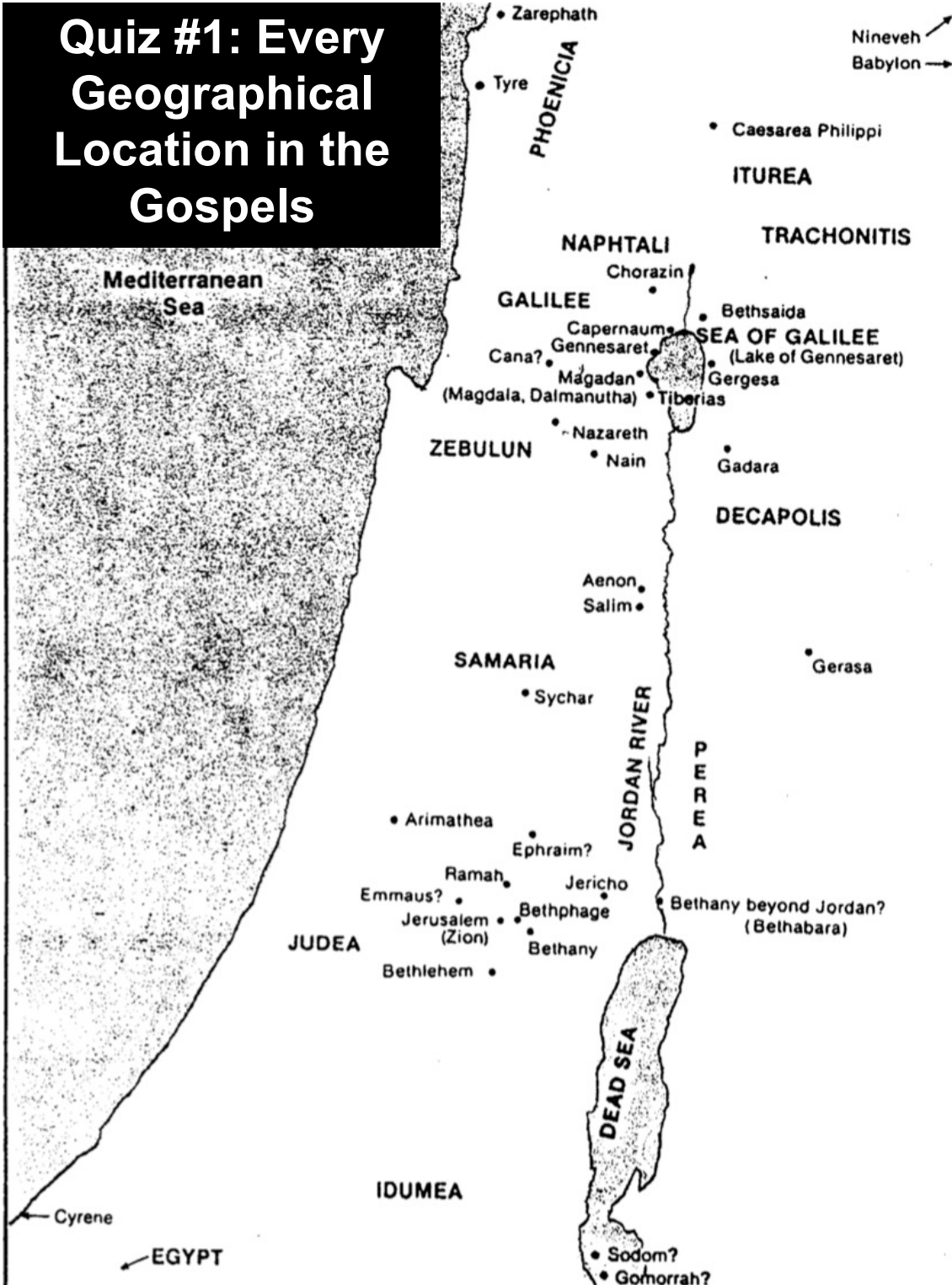
How has God placed *you* in a strategic place for His purposes?

“Thus says the LORD God: This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries round about her”

Ezekiel 5:5

0 100 200 300 mi.
0 100 200 300 400 km.

Quiz #1: Every Geographical Location in the Gospels



Distances	Miles
From Jerusalem:	
Bethany	2
Bethlehem	6
Caesarea Philippi	105
Cana	69
Capernaum	85
Emmaus	7
Jericho	15
Jordan	21
Mediterranean	40
Sidon	130
Sychar	31
Tyre	106
Zarephath	118
From Capernaum:	
Bethsaida	6
Caesarea Philippi	27
Cana	16
Nain	22
Mediterranean	32
Nazareth	23
Zarephath	45
Tyre	37

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