



The Land of Israel

Lesson Overview

1. Video

Watch *Geography of the Bible ExplainED* (3min 52sec) at bit.ly/BibleGeog.

2. Map Work

How did Israel change in the 1000+ year time span of the Old and New Testaments? Where did the main events of Jesus' life take place? pp.1-4

New Church Concept Canaan

'The land of Canaan' means the Lord's kingdom and Church, especially its celestial and spiritual things. This is why it was called the Holy Land. And because it means the Lord's kingdom and Church, it means in the highest sense the Lord Himself. All things in the land of Canaan were representative. Those in the midst of the land represented His internal Man. More outlying districts represented things more remote from internals. And the districts which formed the boundaries, represented the external man. The meaning of the land of Canaan is similar when used in reference to the Lord's kingdom in heaven, to the Lord's Church on earth, to the member of that kingdom or Church, or to the celestial things of love. See *Arcana Coelestia* 1585.

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 3 | Changes in the Land of Israel in Bible Times

Watch a Video

Step back and take a look at the position of the land of Israel on the world scene. It lies at a critical crossroads between three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe. As people crossed between these continents Israel at times became a battleground, and at times was a safe passageway between them. Watch *Geography of the Bible ExplainED* at bit.ly/BibleGeog (3min 52sec). (Enter link in web browser bar at the top of your screen.)

Map Work

Compare the map of the *Twelve Tribes of Israel* (p. 2) with the map of *Judaea Province in the First Century* (p. 3).

- Which map is older, and by how many years?
- Was Israel's territory larger or smaller in New Testament times?
- How many names appear on *both* maps? Look at regions as well as towns.

Look at the map titled *Judaea Province in the First Century*. p. 3.

1. Locate the regions of Galilee, Samaria and Judaea. Events in the New Testament primarily take place in these regions.
 - Which events or stories come to mind when you hear the names of these regions?
 - In which region was Jesus born?
 - In which region did Jesus grow up?
 - Where did most of Jesus' ministry take place?
 - Which sea did Jesus walk on? The Mediterranean Sea, the Dead Sea, or the Sea of Galilee?
2. Find the cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Emmaus, Samaria, Nazareth, Bethsaida.
 - Which events come to mind when you hear the names of these cities?
 - Which city did Jesus walk to after his resurrection? How far did he walk?
 - Near which city was Jesus crucified?
 - Why did Jesus' parents take him to Egypt, and then later to Nazareth where he grew up?
3. Using the directions on the map, label the map on p. 4.
 - *Challenge*: Can you label the map without looking at the map on p. 3?
 - *Challenge*: Draw a map of Canaan without looking. Start with the Sea of Galilee (heart shaped), Dead Sea (pickle with a bite taken out) and connect them with the Jordan River. Add the coastline. Mount Carmel (the bump on the Mediterranean coast) is right across from the Sea of Galilee.



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Map of Israel in New Testament Times

Label the following on the map:

Samaria (region)

Nazareth

Jerusalem

Samaria (town)

Mediterranean Sea

Dead Sea

Judea (region)

Galilee (region)

Sea of Galilee

Jordan River

