

ISRAEL 2016

Week One

10/9/16

6:30 - Opening Prayer

6:35 - Introduction to the Class

What are we doing? Outline of our five weeks together:

10/9 - Introduction; Basic details of the trip; The Geography of Palestine

10/16 - History of Israel - from Abraham to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians

10/23 - History of Israel - from the fall of Jerusalem to the destruction of the temple by the Romans

10/30 - History of Israel - from the end of the New Testament to the present;

11/6 - Israel 2016 Trip Itinerary, Details & Packing Tips

6:40 - Introductions

Introduce yourself to the whole group, telling us your home church and briefly why you want to go to Israel.

6:50 - Israel 2016 - November 29-December 9

11/29-11/30 - Leave from Spokane; fly to Denver and take a short city tour during the layover; fly overnight from Denver to Frankfurt and then on to Tel Aviv where we'll meet our guide, Gadi Talmi. We'll stay at the Leonardo Art Tel Aviv Hotel.

12/1-12/4 - Travel from Tel Aviv to the Galilee; stay in Galilee at the Leonardo Club Tiberias Hotel and see sites around the Sea of Galilee.

12/5 - Travel down the Jordan River Valley to the Dead Sea area; travel up to Jerusalem and our hotel, the Leonardo Jerusalem.

12/6-12/8 - Stay in Jerusalem and visit the sites in and around the city, including Bethlehem.

12/9 - Fly from Tel Aviv back to Spokane via Frankfurt and Denver.

7:00 - The Geography of Palestine

A. Disputed Territory: The Land between Empires

B. Trade Routes & the Sea

C. Water & Roads

D. Size & Distances

Israel stretches 263 miles from the Lebanese border in the north to the Gulf of Aqaba on the Red Sea in the south.

From Dan in the far north to Beersheba in the south on the edge of the Negev is about 140 miles. This is the populated area of Israel (7.4 million people).

From Haifa on the coast to the Sea of Galilee below the Golan Heights is about 30 miles (and a 700 foot drop in elevation).

E. The Lay of the Land

1. The Coastal Plain

The Coastal Plain stretches from the Lebanese border in the north to Gaza in the south, interrupted only by Cape Carmel at Haifa Bay.

2. The Heights of Hermon

The tallest point in Israel at 7300 ft. is on the slopes of this broad ridge that borders Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

3. The Central Mountains

Inland (east) of the coastal plain lies the central highland region. In the north of this region lie the mountains and hills of Upper and Lower Galilee.

South of the Galilee, in the West Bank, are the Samaritan Hills, with numerous small, fertile valleys in their midst. South of Jerusalem, also mainly within the West Bank, are the largely barren Judean Hills. Several valleys cut across the highlands roughly from east to west; the largest is the Jezreel Valley.

4. The Jordan Rift Valley

East of the central highlands lies the Jordan Rift Valley, part of the 4,000 mile-long Great Rift Valley stretching from Syria to East Africa. In Israel the Rift Valley is dominated by the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, and the Dead Sea.

The Jordan, Israel's largest river, 200 miles, originates near Mount Hermon and flows south into the freshwater Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee).

Lake Tiberias is, depending on the season and rainfall, about 700 ft. below sea level. The Jordan River continues its course from the southern end of Lake Tiberias to its terminus in the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is, at 1,378 ft. below sea level, the lowest point in the world. South of the Dead Sea, the Rift Valley continues in the Wadi al Arabah, for 106 miles to the Gulf of Aqaba on the Red Sea.

5. The Deserts

The Negev Desert comprises approximately 4,600 sq. miles, more than half of Israel's total land area.

The Arabah Valley along the Jordanian border stretches 112 miles from Eilat in the south on the Red Sea to the tip of the Dead Sea in the north.

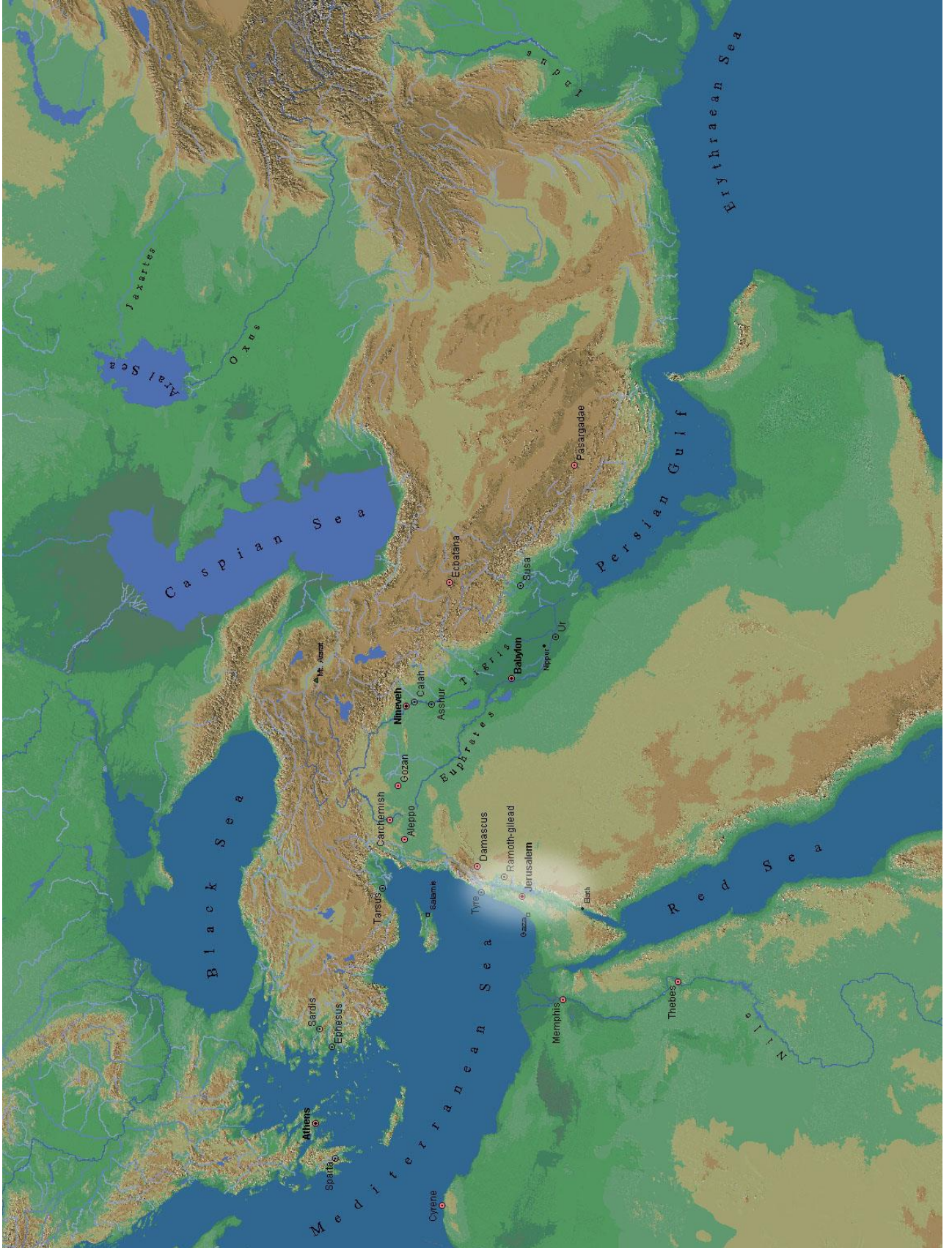
The Judean Desert runs north and south along the southern Jordan Valley and the western edge of the Dead Sea. It lies in the rain shadow of the Judean Mountains and receives only around 4 inches of rain a year.

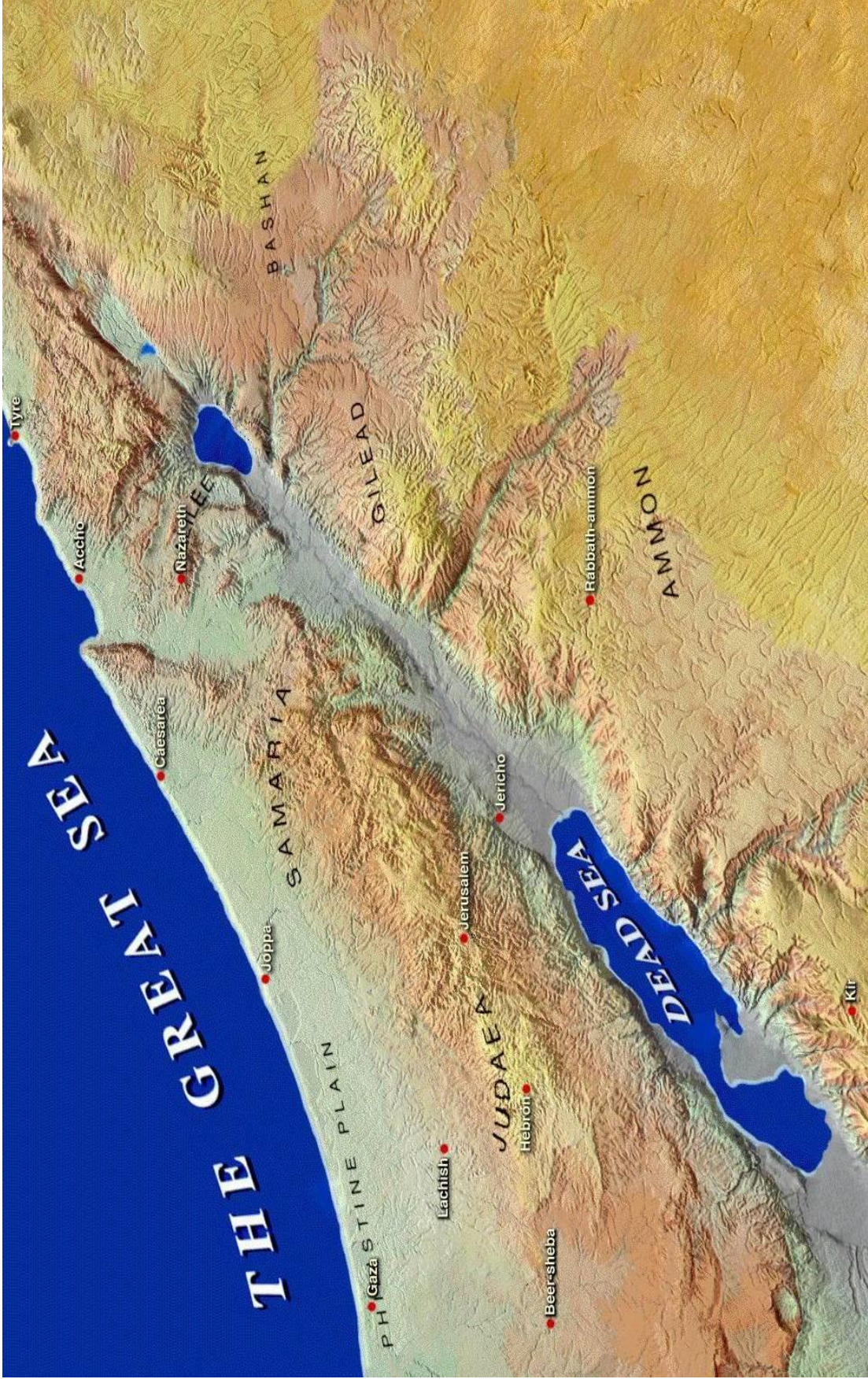
6. The Jordanian Highlands

To the east of the Jordan Valley lie the Jordanian Highlands a broad plateau that stretches from the Golan Heights in the north along the Jordan River and past the Dead Sea. They range from 1200 to 2400 feet in height.

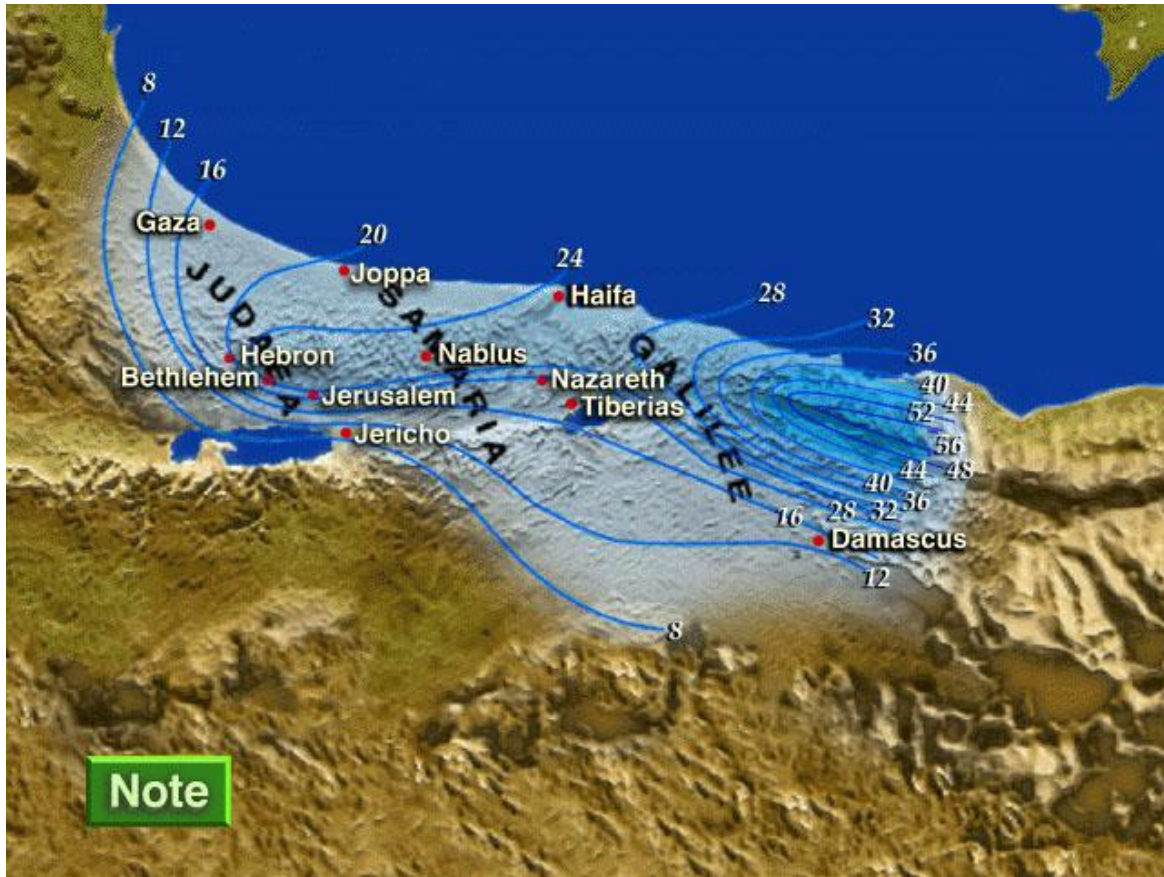
The following are selected elevations of notable locations, from highest to lowest:

Location	Region	Elevation (feet)
Mt. Hermon	Golan Heights	7,300 ft. (9232 ft.)
Mt. Meron	Upper Galilee	3,964 ft.
Mt. of Olives	Jerusalem	2,739 ft.
Mt. Tabor	Lower Galilee	1,930 ft.
Mt. Carmel	Haifa	1,792 ft.
Lake Tiberias	Galilee	-700 ft.
Dead Sea	Judean Desert	-1,368 ft.





E. Climate



8:00 - Closing Prayer

Next Week: *History of Israel - from Abraham to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians*