



III. BODIES OF WATER

A. Tributaries of the Jordan River NOTE: Many of the “rivers” in the land of Israel do not have water in them all year long but flow only during the rainy seasons. These “rivers” are called “wadi’s” (a middle-eastern name for a wet-weather stream) and are more of a deep gully than a river in the dry season.

1. Yarmuk (Yarmouk) (Jarmuk)
 - a. Enters Jordan south of Galilee
 - b. Flows from the land of Bashan
 - c. Forms present boundary between Syria and Jordan
2. Jabbok (Numbers 21:24)
 - a. Enters Jordan midway between Galilee and Dead Sea
 - b. Flows from Gilead
 - c. Where Jacob wrestled the angel (Genesis 32:22-24)
 - d. Modern name is Zarqa (Zurkah) River
3. Arnon (**Joshua 12:1-3)
 - a. Enters Dead Sea from Moab
 - b. Crossed by Israelites (Deuteronomy 2:24)
 - c. Northern boundary of Moab (Judges 11:18)
4. Kidron – (See Ancient Jerusalem map)
 - a. Enters Dead Sea from Judah
 - b. Divides Jerusalem from Mount of Olives (John 18:1)
 - c. Joins Valley of Hinnom southeast of Jerusalem
 - d. Crossed by David when fleeing Absalom (2 Samuel 15:23,30)
 - e. Place of uncleanness and death (2 Kings 23:4-6; 2 Chronicles 29:16; Jeremiah 31:40)

B. Rivers Entering the Mediterranean

1. Leontes
 - a. Flows southward through Lebanon Valley
 - b. Enters Mediterranean north of Tyre
 - c. Also known as the Litani River today
2. Kishon
 - a. Enters Mediterranean at Bay of Acco (also known as the Bay of Haifa)
 - b. Flows from Plain of Esdraelon
 - c. Also called
 - (1) Kison (Psalm 83:9)
 - (2) Waters of Megiddo (Judges 5:19)



- (3) That ancient river (Judges 5:21)
- d. Battle of Deborah and Barak with Sisera (Judges 4:7,13)
- e. Where Elijah slew the prophets (1 Kings 18:40)

C. Lake Hula

1. Triangular-shaped lake that was located north of the Sea of Galilee
2. Was surrounded by swampland
3. 4 ½ miles long and 3 ½ miles wide
4. Drained by Israel during the 1950's and converted into rich farmland

D. Sea of Galilee

1. Names
 - a. Chinneroth (Joshua 11:2; 12:3)
 - b. Lake of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1)
 - c. Sea of Galilee (Matthew 4:18)
 - d. Sea of Tiberias (John 6:1,23; 21:1)
2. Dimensions
 - a. Pear-shaped or harp-shaped
 - b. 13 miles long and 7 miles wide
 - c. About 700 feet below sea level
 - d. Maximum depth – 157 feet

E. Dead Sea

1. Names
 - a. Vale of Siddim (Genesis 14:3)
 - b. Salt Sea (Joshua 12:3)
 - c. Dead Sea
 - d. Sea of the plain (2 Kings 14:25)
2. Dimensions
 - a. 48 miles long and 10 miles wide
 - b. About 1,300 feet below sea level
 - c. Maximum depth – 1300 feet
3. Water
 - a. About 25% solid substance
 - b. Mined for its minerals
 - c. A human body will not sink but it leaves an oily residue on the skin



IV. MOUNTAINS

A. Mountains West of the Jordan River

1. Mt. Tabor
 - a. About 6 miles east of Nazareth
 - b. Barak's army gathered here (Judges 4:6-15)
 - c. Traditional site of the transfiguration
2. Mt. Gilboa
 - a. Guards the pass from the Plain of Jezreel to the Jordan Valley
 - b. Place where Saul and his sons died (1 Samuel 28:4; 1 Samuel 31:1-8; 2 Samuel 1:21)
3. Mt. Carmel
 - a. Overlooks the Mediterranean south of the Bay of Acco
 - b. Actually refers to a range of mountains which go from present-day Haifa to ancient Megiddo
 - c. Rises to about 1,500 feet above sea level
 - d. Famous as location of Elijah's sacrifice (1 Kings 17)
4. Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim
 - a. Twin peaks in Samaria
 - b. City of Shechem lies in the valley between them
 - c. About 3,000 feet high
 - d. Mountains of blessing and cursing (Deuteronomy 11:29; Joshua 8:33-350)
 - (1) Blessing – Gerizim
 - (2) Cursing – Ebal
5. Mt. Zion
 - a. Refers to:
 - (1) The lower ridge of southern Jerusalem where the City of David was located (2 Samuel 5:6-9)
 - (2) The temple mount (Isaiah 4:5; Isaiah 8:18; Jeremiah 31:6; Micah 4:7)
 - (3) Jerusalem as a whole (Psalm 102:21; Amos 1:2; Micah 3:10,12)
 - b. Also called Sion (Psalm 65:1; Romans 9:33; Romans 11:26)
6. Mt. Of Olives
 - a. East of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley
 - b. Names
 - (1) Mt. Of Olives (Matthew 21:1)
 - (2) Mt. Olivet (2 Samuel 15:30)
 - (3) The hill that is before Jerusalem (1 Kings 23:13)
 - (4) The mount (Nehemiah 8:15)
 - c. Where Solomon built high places (2 Kings 23:13)



- d. Garden of Gethsemane on its western slope (John 18:1; Matthew 26:30,36)
- e. Ascension of Christ (Acts 1:9-12)
- f. Return of Christ (Acts 1:11; Zechariah 14:4)

B. Mountains East of the Jordan River

1. Mt. Hermon

- a. At the southern end of the Anti-Lebanon range of mountains
- b. The northern limit of Israel's conquest
- c. 9,232 feet above sea level
- d. Snow-capped year-round
- e. Can sometimes be seen from the Dead Sea (120 miles)

2. Mt. Nebo

- a. Other names
 - (1) Mt. Pisgah
 - (2) Mt. Abarim
- b. 2,631 feet above sea level
- c. Where Moses viewed the promised land (Deuteronomy 34:1)

V. HIGHWAYS

A. The Coastal Route

- 1. Along the Mediterranean Coast
- 2. From Egypt to Mt. Carmel
- 3. Avoided by Israel during the Exodus (Exodus 13:17)

B. The Water-parting Route

- 1. Follows the hill country of central Palestine
- 2. Goes through Beersheba, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Bethel, Shechem and Megiddo

C. The King's Highway

- 1. Runs north and south on the eastern side of the Jordan River
- 2. Goes from the Gulf of Aqaba to Damascus
- 3. Mentioned in Numbers 20:17-18