



VI. Syria

A. Location

1. Northeast of Palestine – (See the Old Testament World map)
2. Borders Palestine, Phoenicia, Assyria

B. Origin

1. Descendants of Aram, the youngest son of Shem (Genesis 10:22)
2. Syria is called Aram (Numbers 23:7)

C. History

1. Syrian cities mentioned early
 - a. Damascus (Genesis 14:15; 15:2)
 - b. Hamath (Numbers 13:21; 34:8)
2. David fought Hadadezer, king of Zobah, and the Syrians of Damascus (2 Samuel 8:3-13) – Zobah was part of northern Syria from Hamath to the Euphrates
3. The Syrians united with Ammon to fight David (2 Samuel 10:6-19)
4. A band of men from Zobah rebelled under Solomon (1 Kings 11:23-25)
5. Benhadad of Syria united with Asa of Judah against Baash of Israel (1 Kings 15:16-22)
6. Benhadad besieged Samaria but was defeated (1 Kings 20:1-43)
7. Damascus was conquered by Assyria (2 Kings 16:9)

D. Important Cities

1. Antioch – (See Roman Empire map)
 - a. On the banks of the Orontes River
 - b. 300 miles north of Jerusalem
 - c. Founded about 300BC
 - d. Main street was four miles in length
 - e. Large number of Jews
 - f. Became third largest city in the Roman Empire with 500,000 people
 - g. Population now consists of 6,000
 - h. Paul (Saul) was brought here by Barnabas (Acts 11:25-26)
 - i. Disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:26)
 - j. Paul was sent out from the church here (Acts 13:1-3), and returned here to give a report (Antioch 14:25-28)
2. Damascus – (See Empire of David map)
 - a. Located on the Abana River on the east of the Anti-Lebanons, 70 miles from the Mediterranean Sea (2 Kings 5:12)
 - b. On a fertile plain
 - c. Traditionally founded by Uz, the son of Aram



- d. First mention (Genesis 14:15; Genesis 15:2)
 - e. The world's oldest continuously inhabited city
3. Hamath – (See Empire of David map)
 - a. Capital of upper Syria
 - b. In the valley of the Orontes
 - c. Originally a Canaanite colony (Genesis 10:18)
 - d. Taken by the Assyrians in the time of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:34)

VII. Phoenicia

A. Location – (See Empire of David map)

1. On the narrow coast NW of Palestine
2. Bordered on the east by the Lebanon mountains and the hills of Galilee
3. At its greatest, it controlled from Mt. Carmel to the Orontes River
4. Included the cities of Tyre, Sidon, Byblos, Acco and Arvad

B. Origin

1. Name means *blood red*
2. Through Sidon the son of Canaan (Genesis 10:15,19)
3. Later populated by the Sea Peoples who had different colonies around the coast of the Mediterranean (Carthage was one of their colonies – See Roman Empire map)

C. The People

1. Famous as merchants over the then-known world
2. Shipbuilders (Ezekiel 27:9)
3. Experts in timber felling (1 Kings 5:6-11)
4. Two greatest ports: Tyre and Sidon
5. Worshipped Ashtoreth (1 Kings 11:5)

D. Important Cities

1. Acco – (See Palestine Among the Tribes map)
 - a. Also called Akko, Acre and Ptolemais
 - b. 30 miles south of Tyre and 10 miles north of Mt. Carmel
 - c. Visited by Paul (Acts 21:7)



2. Sidon – (See Empire of David map)
 - a. Sometimes called Zidon
 - b. 20 miles north of Tyre
 - c. The oldest capital of the Phoenicians (Genesis 10:15, 19)
 - d. Home town of Jezebel (1 Kings 16:31-33)
 - e. Worshipped Baal and Ashtoreth (1 Kings 11:5; 1 Kings 16:31)

3. Tyre – (See Empire of David map)
 - a. On Mediterranean coast with island fortress
 - b. Trade center (especially of dye and cedars)
 - c. Besieged and conquered by Alexander the Great
 - d. Prophecy (Ezekiel 28:1-2, 11-12)