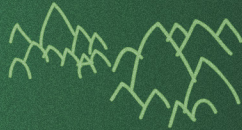




BIBBLE

STUDY

MAPS



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INTRODUCTION

Exploring Bible history opens up a whole new world of insights into the text.



Instead of merely reading words of prophecy or genealogical records that mean nothing to you, **learning about the locations** where biblical events took place can bring new meaning to the text. Names of places can trigger emotions, like when telling a story about the place you spent your childhood summers, or reminiscing about your grandparents' farm or your college campus. You can develop an affection for these places and keep them in your heart.

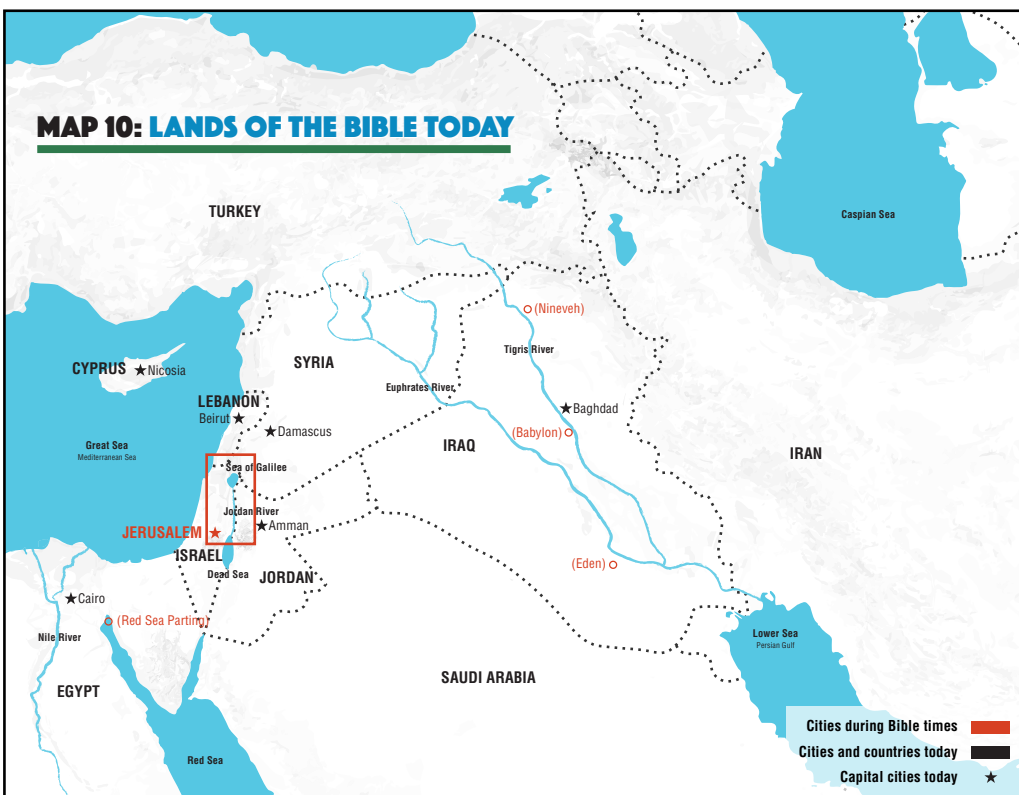
When Bible events are given placement, they become much more meaningful to us as modern Christians, and that placement starts with seeing their locations on maps.

All of Bible history, until shortly after the Great Commission, takes place on the land mass shown here, which is also our Map 10. It is about 900 miles wide and long.

To the east lay Eden, and the only story taking place east of it is in the Book of Esther, which transpired in Susa, maybe 50 to 100 miles farther east.

On the west is the Great Sea, now known as the Mediterranean, with Jerusalem being close to its shores. The farthest point north is Mount Ararat, where Noah and the ark landed. Farthest south is Arabia, where many of Ishmael's descendants settled. Four thousand years of Bible history occurred right on this square. On and off, this area has been known as the bloodiest in human history due to all its wars.

When mapping Bible history, it is important to note that possession of land was almost constantly changing. Hence, mapping is challenging for this reason, along with the fact that showing the actual borders is often impossible. But enough scholars believe in many locations on these maps sufficiently that we can show you where events likely unfolded.



HELPFUL TIPS

- 1 Don't be surprised if some place names appear to be misspelled. All spellings in English of biblical places are phonetic, and different translations of the Bible will have different ways of spelling them.
- 2 Use these maps to help make Bible stories come alive, events come clear, and characters become more endearing as you picture where their adventures unfolded.



Much debate circulates about the actual location of the Garden of Eden and other places mentioned. But most scholars agree with the placements of this map, though lots of interesting theories exist. These ancient locations mentioned in early Genesis are added to their modern-day countries so that you can see where they were, based on modern maps.

INCLUDED SCRIPTURE VERSES: The verses included here on the map are the first biblical mentions of these places' locations.



EDEN: Eden's outlay may seem large, but some argue that Eden and The Garden of Eden are not the same, that the Garden was located in Eden. The implication is that all of Eden was picturesque pre-Flood. Some scholars say at least part of that garden is now under water in the upper Persian Gulf.



THE PISHON & GIHON RIVERS: These no longer exist as they once did, but they may in part. Various cultures have claimed them. Extrabiblical research can all but prove that the Pishon flowed west. The Gihon may also have had a western flow, a theory upheld by Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian. However, most scholars see the Gihon flowing eastward. See more notes that follow about its association with the Land of Cush.



EUPHRATES & TIGRIS RIVERS: These two rivers still exist, running through Iraq. Some scholars make a case for the Euphrates and Tigris being mapped entirely differently after the Flood. The reason others resist this thesis is that water is heavy, and these waters were likely deep. They would not lose their essential shape simply by throwing more of their own likeness on top of them. In fact, the weight may have more deeply embedded them.



LAND OF NOD: This is where Cain is said to have gone in Genesis 4. Nod in Greek means to "tremble," and in Hebrew is akin to "vagabond." While the land is associated with things opposite of Eden, few cultures have claimed it. We only know from the passage that it lay to the east of Eden.



LAND OF CUSH & THE GIHON RIVER:

There are several theories about this mysterious Land of Cush mentioned in Genesis 2. Most researchers map it to the east of the Garden and therefore also the Gihon River. However, latter mentions of Cush in the Bible allude to the grandson of Noah (Noah>Ham>Cush) who settled Africa and specifically Ethiopia. The Greek philosopher Herodotus tried to resolve this by theorizing there were "two Ethiopias," one in Africa and one in Asia. Recent scholars sometimes identify the "Land of Cush" with Hindu Kush, a mountain range in Afghanistan.



NOAH'S LIKELY HOME:

This is actually a large area and some guesswork. Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden on the east side (Genesis 3:23-24) and likely gravitated to the most reliable place for farming. That most likely would have been between the two deep rivers. Can went east, which means Seth and his descendants (including Noah) likely would not have. While the earth was greatly populated, there are no Bible verses indicating that the line to Noah had gone far or wide. That he stayed in the places of his ancestors would have been in keeping with his faith, by staying near to where God created life.



MOUNT ARARAT,

where the ark landed, is actually a range of mountains, and the landing of the Ark is not thought today to have been on the tallest peak. Another reason to think that Mount Ararat area was not Noah's initial home was their quick migration to other parts afterward. It wasn't like "already being home." Shem, who carried the sacred line, seemed most inclined to "return home," as Map 2 will show. Finally, strong winds are mentioned in Genesis 8:1. While the ark was not designed to navigate (only to float), these winds would have had the ability to push it far in a year.

MAP 1: CREATION & EARLIEST HISTORY

• REFERENCE: GENESIS 1-9 • DATE: 4000-2400 BC



TURKEY

Mount Ararat
(Genesis 8:4)

Caspian Sea

SYRIA
& Golan Heights

Gihon River Genesis 2:13

Land of Cush
(Genesis 2:13)

LEBANON

Tigris River

IRAN

Sea of Galilee

ISRAEL

Jordan River
& West Bank

Home of Noah?

JORDAN

Garden of EDEN

Land of NOD
(Genesis 4:16)

Land of HAVILAH
(Genesis 2:11)

Lower Sea
Persian Gulf

EGYPT

Nile River

Great Sea
Mediterranean Sea

Gaza

Dead Sea

IRAQ

Pishon River
Genesis 2:11

SAUDI ARABIA

Red Sea



This map illustrates two important, yet distinct, parts of Genesis. The first is Genesis 10, a.k.a. the Table of Nations, which tells us where Noah's three sons and up to five generations of descendants migrated after the flood. These names are important! You will see why as you read on. The second part is the journeys of Abraham, which are introduced in Genesis 11. Following Genesis 11, the entire book is about Abraham and his following three generations. All of this shows us how civilization evolved after the Flood and how two people left the Garden of Eden and became millions of peoples and dozens of nations.

After Noah's family exited the ark, they may not have stayed together for long. Recorders of the Table of Nations (Genesis 10) try to be as plain as possible about where descendants went. It's almost as if the keepers of these records could foresee a day when people were trying hard to find their earliest relatives:

- **Shem's clan** went south as far as **Joktan** (future **Arabia**) and became much of today's Middle East;
- **Japheth's clans** went north to **northern Asia** and **Europe** and became much of the European and northern cultures;
- **Ham's clans** went southwest. Some became the nations of **Africa**, and the kingdoms that stayed farther north became the **very kingdoms Joshua had to overthrow to take the Promised Land!**

However, this simplified explanation has holes, as you can see from the above:

- The children of Ham>Canaan>Hittites went north instead of southwest as shown. They then migrated again, such that the kingdom was obliterated by Joshua.
- The children of Shem>Ashur stayed north to form Assyria instead of going south.
- One clan of Japheth>Madai didn't go north, but instead went southeast to become the Medes. Still, the simplified view is useful for basic or foundational teaching.

Why these places are important today:

In everything from Bible battles to Bible prophecy, places are often referred to by these names. Some of their descendants are listed below as well. A fun and helpful exercise is taking a place name like "Medes" and searching for it on BibleGateway.com. The search will bring up only those scriptures mentioning that place; from this, you can get a great overview of its history and even some modern connotations. If one of these names shows up in end-times prophecy, such as the last chapters Ezekiel or Daniel and Revelation, it can be an intriguing find!

Here is some additional information that can be helpful:



LUD: Became the country **Lydia**, referenced by Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel as a nation of great archers who would be involved in great battles. Commentaries can help determine which battles they fought or will fight in. Today, the land shares some borders with Turkey.



ASHKENAZ became **Scythe**, a.k.a. **Scythia**. The Scythians were viewed by Bible people as cruel and savage. They often engaged with the Assyrians, the only nation able to match them in brutality. Today, their descendants are part of Russia.



ELAM became **Persia**, which is an early name for the peoples making up Iran today.



THE AMORITES AND ARAM became **Syria**, known at the time of Christ and with different borders than today's Syria. The capital was, and remains, Damascus.



ASHUR became **Assyria**, which was a massive and intimidating kingdom in the Old Testament. Nineveh, its capital, is where Jonah the prophet was told to go before being swallowed by the great fish. Assyria attacked the Northern Kingdom of Israel and took all the people captive in 722 BC. In 612 BC, they met their demise to the Medes and Babylonians.



JAPHETH>MAGOG: Went too far north to be shown on this map. But a Magog and its evil leader Gog are mentioned in end-times prophecy in both Ezekiel and the Revelation.



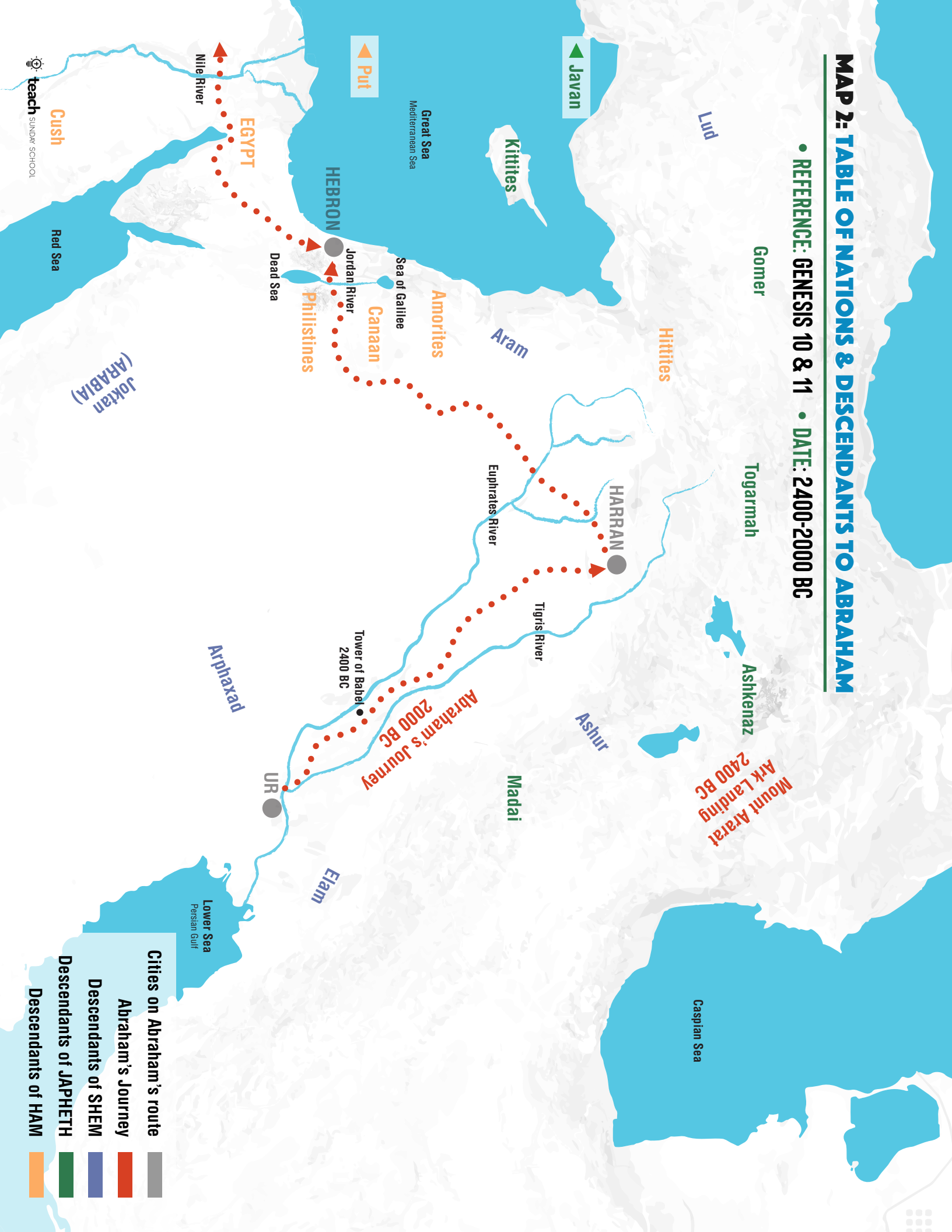
CUSH became Ethiopia. However, its location is different than the modern-day Ethiopia. Today's is farther south, below the Sudan.

Abraham's journey took place over many years.

His father, Terah, actually wanted to go to Canaan, and it is not clear why he only took half this exodus from Ur, ending in Harran. While in Harran, Abraham was told to go to Canaan to become the father of a great nation. It is not clear if his father Terah had a similar vision. Abraham left Harran at the age of 75 and made his pilgrimage to Egypt shortly after arriving in Canaan, which was suffering a famine. But he had returned to have Isaac at the age of 100. Sarah was 90. His story begins in Genesis 11 and ends in Genesis 25.

MAP 2: TABLE OF NATIONS & DESCENDANTS TO ABRAHAM

• REFERENCE: GENESIS 10 & 11 • DATE: 2400-2000 BC

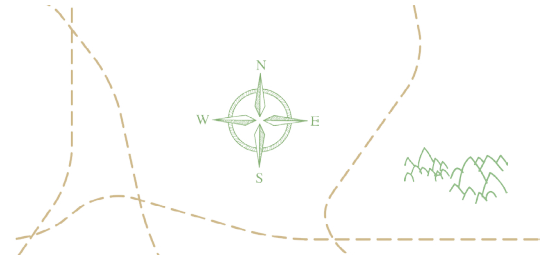


Mount Ararat
Ark Landing
2400 BC

Abraham's Journey
2000 BC

Tower of Babel
2400 BC

- Cities on Abraham's route
- Abraham's Journey
- Descendants of SHEM
- Descendants of JAPHETH
- Descendants of HAM



This map highlights locations along the route of the Exodus, beginning in 1446 BC. The Israelites could have walked the route God sent them on, with a population of as many as 2.4 million and all their belongings, in about three months. Joseph and Mary likely walked the direct route from Israel to Egypt with Jesus in a little over a week, as the northern border of Egypt may have been only about 40 miles away. According to Exodus 13:17-18, God took the people on this southern route, as he knew they would be terrified passing through Philistine territory first (with many residents the size of Goliath). The Philistines lived on the curve of the Great Sea just below Jerusalem.

HIGHLIGHTED STOPS ALONG THE ROUTE FROM START TO END:

1 RAMESSES was a city before it was the name of a Pharaoh. The date of the Exodus has often been mistaken to have occurred in the 1200s BC instead of the 1400s.

This is partly because Rameses is mentioned in Exodus 1:11, and a Pharaoh in the 1200s BC was named Rameses. The people of Israel helped build the city Rameses before the Exodus.

2 SUKKOTH was Israel's first stop. Hereafter, God gave the people a pillar-cloud as a guide and a pillar of fire to give them light at night so that they could travel by day or night (Exodus 13:21).

3 PI HAHIROTH is where Israel passed through the Red Sea as recorded in Exodus 14:2 and Numbers 33:8.

4 MARAH and **ELIM:** The distance between Marah and Elim is short and offers us a great life lesson. The people began to complain in Marah because the water was bitter. God told Moses to toss a stick in the water and it became drinkable. Elim is where they camped next, and it housed 12 springs. (God's answers may be right around the corner!)

5 REPHIDIM is the place of Israel's first battle. They were attacked here by the Amalekites (descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau). God told Moses to keep his arms raised to keep the Israelites winning the battle.

6 MOUNT SINAI: Moses and the people heard the Ten Commandments at the base of Mount Sinai. Moses ascended Mount Sinai a number of times—possibly eight. A little-known fact: The Israelites were at Mount Sinai just shy of a year (see Numbers 10:11).

7 Kadesh-Barnea: This is where Israel halted next in order to send spies into the Promised Land, about a year into their journey. The spy expedition took 40 days. As told in Numbers 13, the returning spies displayed a lack of faith that spread through the camp and incensed God after all the miracles He had shown. For this, the Exodus was lengthened to 40 years, one year for each day of the spies' expedition. Some scholars feel the entire camp stayed at Kadesh for 38 years, while others feel Israel likely wandered about the wilderness and kept returning there. Kadesh has some other important biblical mentions: Abraham stayed there after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (see Genesis 20:1), and God appeared to Ishmael's mother Hagar at a well near there (Genesis 16:14).

8 THE NATION OF EDMON denied Moses passage through their country on the king's highway, fearing thieving and damage. Moses agreed to bypass them (Numbers 20), with the longer journey angering the people. They complained and brought upon themselves a snake plague.

9 THE ARMON RIVER & MOAB: At the Armon River, Israel was attacked by the Amorites and ended up slaying their king and using their territory as a camp. The Moabites, having heard this, were terrified of their God, and allowed them to pass through. Moab is where the story of Balaam and the talking donkey occurred (Numbers 22-24). The Moabites may have been too nice, as they seduced some young men to make sacrifices and bring their women to the camp, which brought on a final plague.

10 MT. NEBO is where Moses died and Joshua took over. In the Book of Jude, we find a mysterious story of Satan arguing with Michael the Archangel over Moses' body there. Following a 30-day period of mourning for Moses, Joshua moved toward the assault on Jericho. This ended the Exodus.

MAP 3: THE EXODUS

• REFERENCE: EXODUS THRU DEUTERONOMY

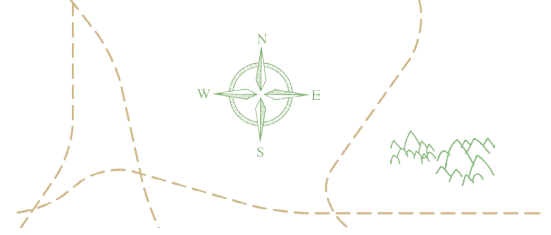
• DATE: 1446-1406 BC



BABYLON ▲

LANDS
OF ESAU & AMMON

- Notable places from Bible times
- Places from the Exodus story
- Route of the Exodus
- Small regions, borders unknown
- Established cities or landmarks



This map shows the conquests of Joshua, the first lands to become parts of the Promised Land. He divided them by tribes, represented by the names and different colors. After the Hebrew people spent 40 years in the desert, they were ready to invade the pagan kingdoms and seize the land God had given to them. Joshua led them almost until his death in 1350 BC at age 110. In the last chapters of Joshua, the land is distributed among the 12 tribes.

See Joshua 13-19 for details in how the land was divided.

The only tribe to not get a parcel of land were the Levites. In the beginning of the Exodus, the Levites were the only tribe to refuse to worship the golden-calf idol. God rewarded them by giving them “Himself” according to Deuteronomy 18:2. They would be priests for all the tribes, residing in all the other tribes’ territories and being fed and housed by them. This is why you don’t see an area for the Levites on the map.

Joshua took more cities than those listed on this map. However, those included can help anyone draw out his footsteps if they want to use the map for that purpose. The map includes many cities taken by Joshua that have other biblical adventures tied to them, either before these 1350 BC delineations or after.

See the Notes and find them on the map.

1 ASHER

- a. Tyre** still exists. It is the fourth-largest city in Lebanon after Beirut, Tripoli, and Sidon.
- b. Aphek**—Site of the Battle of Aphek (1 Samuel 4:1-10), where the Philistines stole the Ark, and Eli the priest’s sons were killed (Eli raised the prophet Samuel after he was dedicated to God by his mother Hannah) around 1100 BC.

2 NAPHTALI

- a. Hazor**—Judges 4 tells the famed story of the woman Jael assassinating Hazor’s army commander, Sisera (around 1250 BC). Jeremiah prophesied that Hazor would “become a haunt of jackals,” which happened after Babylon finally invaded and ended it around 550 BC (Jeremiah 49:33).
- b. Capernaum**—Jesus and His disciples frequented Capernaum. It is the site of the famed healing of the paralyzed man who had been lowered through the roof (Mark 2:1-12) among other miracles.

3 EAST MANASSEH

- a. Golan & Ramoth Gilead** are two of six “cities of refuge.” These are safe havens for someone who has unintentionally killed another person. They can go to a city of refuge and not be subject to blood revenge (Joshua 20). The other cities of refuge included Bezer, Kedesh, Shechem, and Hebron.

4 GAD

- a. Mahanaim**—King David sought refuge here when his son Absalom tried to steal the throne around 980 BC (2 Samuel 17:24).
- b. Jabesh Gilead**—People from here rescued the dead body of King Saul from the Philistines in 1010 BC and gave the king and his sons a proper burial (2 Samuel 21:12).

5 REUBEN

- a. Dibon, Aroer, Jahaz**—All three cities turned to idolatry in the Era of the Kings, which began around 450 years later, or 900 BC. Jeremiah preached bad news, or ruination of all three, (48:18-19, 34). All fell when Babylon first invaded Judah around 600 BC.

6 SIMEON

- a. Baalah**—Where David took back the Ark from the Philistines, around 1010 BC, after they had kept it for more than 20 years (2 Samuel 6:2).
- b. Beersheba**—One of the oldest cities in the world; where Abraham signed a treaty with Abimelech, king of Gerar, around 2000 BC (Genesis 21).

7 JUDAH became central to the Kingdom of Judah at the split of the tribes that followed the death of Solomon in 931 BC.

- a. Ashdod, Gaza, and Gath** were the only places in the territory of Judah where the Anakites (children of the Nephilim, Genesis 6:1-4) didn’t flee or die. These places were later a curse on Kings Saul and David. A soldier Elhanan allegedly took out the last of them (1 Chronicles 20:5) by killing Goliath’s brother.
- b. Ekron**—Another place where the Philistines kept the Ark of the Covenant after stealing it around 1030 BC (1 Samuel 5:10).
- c. Bethlehem** was not only the birthplace of Christ, but the birthplace of King David. Ruth married Boaz there to become King David’s great-grandmother (Ruth 4:17-22).
- d. Beth Shemesh**—Some of its citizens were killed for looking inside the Ark of the Covenant when it was returned by the Philistines around 1010 BC (1 Samuel 6:19).



This map shows the conquests of Joshua, the first lands to become parts of the Promised Land. He divided them by tribes, represented by the names and different colors. After the Hebrew people spent 40 years in the desert, they were ready to invade the pagan kingdoms and seize the land God had given to them. Joshua led them almost until his death in 1350 BC at age 110. In the last chapters of Joshua, the land is distributed among the 12 tribes.

7 JUDAH continued

e. Hebron—This town specifically was given to Caleb, Joshua's second-in-command. It was a reward from God for standing alone with Joshua to have the faith to invade near the beginning of the Exodus. This is where God said these people are faithless and not ready, and the Exodus was extended to 40 years (Joshua 14).

f. Ziklag—Place where King David struck down the Amalekites around 1010 BC (1 Samuel 30).

g. Gath—Home of Goliath who was killed by David around 1020 BC (1 Samuel 17).

8 BENJAMIN

a. Mizpah—One of the places where Samuel and previous judges held court, around 1050 BC (Judges 21:8).

b. Gibeon—The only city to make a pact with Joshua during the invasions. They became friends and servants, so they were left unharmed (Joshua 11:19).

c. Kiriath—When the Philistines stole the Ark around 1030 BC, it stayed here for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:2).

d. Jerusalem—Jerusalem did not come into the possession of Israel until King David invaded the Jebusites and took it, around 1010 BC. It remained the capital until 70 AD, when it was destroyed by the Romans. It has been the modern-day capital of Israel since 1949.

e. Jericho—The first place Joshua invaded. Rahab the harlot helped the spies here and was granted her life and the lives of her family members; she married Salmon, a commander in Joshua's army (Matthew 1:5).

9 DAN

a. Joppa & Lebanon provided and transported a great deal of the cedar for the rebuilding of the Temple around 516 BC (Ezra 3:7). Joppa also contains the port where Jonah tried to escape God and ended up in the belly of the great fish circa 781 BC.

b. Gezer was attacked by Egypt during the generally peaceful reign of King Solomon. Solomon rebuilt it around 950 BC (2 Kings 9:16-17).

10 EPHRAIM

a. Ophrah—Home of the sixth judge Gideon; also where evil fifth judge Abimelek murdered 70 of his half-brothers, according to Judges 9:5. It was a failed attempt to rule over the citizens of Shechem.

b. Bethel—Jacob first settled here around 2000 BC (Genesis 35:1). It is also where the prophet Elijah was taken up to heaven (2 Kings 2:2).

11 WEST MANASSEH

a. Jezreel—Home of King David's first wife Ahinoam (2 Samuel 2:2). Evil Queen Jezebel was killed and devoured by dogs here around 840 BC (1 Kings 21:23).

b. Megiddo may be related to "Armageddon" and is sometimes seen as central to where that fearful battle will take place in Revelation 16:16.

c. Shechem—Where Joseph was kidnapped and then taken to Egypt around 1900 BC (Genesis 37). His bones were buried there at the conclusion of Joshua's conquests (Joshua 24:32).

12 ISSACHAR

a. Endor—The witch of Endor was approached in secret by King Saul to call Samuel the prophet from the dead to speak to him. The prophet foretold the death of Saul and two sons in 1011 BC (1 Samuel 28).

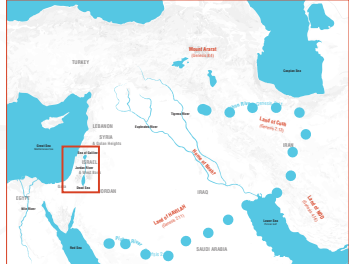
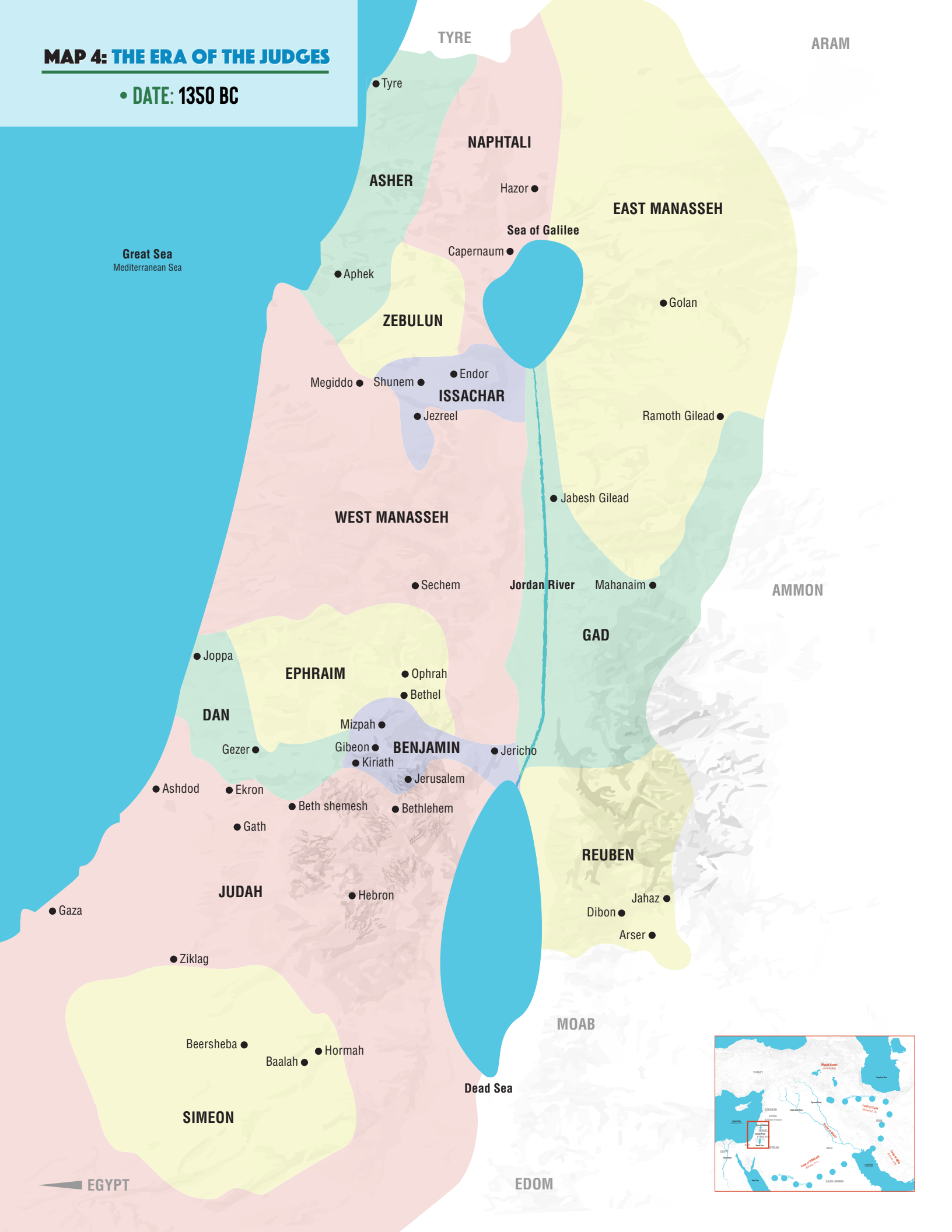
b. Shunem—Elisha the prophet raised a widow's son from the dead here (2 Kings 4:37).

13 ZEBULUN

No noteworthy cities.

MAP 4: THE ERA OF THE JUDGES

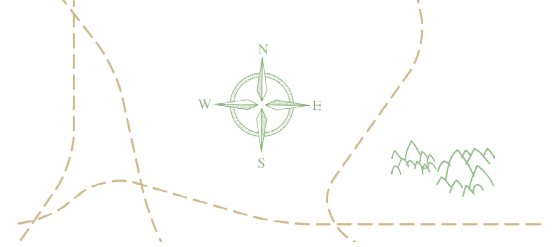
• DATE: 1350 BC



BIBLE STUDY MAPS

MAP 5

KING DAVID'S ISRAEL



This map shows the difference between what Joshua conquered (1350 BC) and what had been conquered by the judges, King Saul, and King David (1000 BC). Post-Joshua, Israel was in an almost constant state of war with neighboring countries. The taking and retaking of land was so constant that any map covering more than a couple hundred years would be challenging to follow.

Nonetheless, the country was at its apex in land mass when David was nearing the end of his reign. David had been in so many battles that God said he should not build the Temple, because “you are a warrior and have shed blood” (1 Chronicles 28:3).

2 SAMUEL 8 logs in many of David’s battles and names the countries/peoples he overthrew to acquire more land. Verses 12-14 name overthrown nations. They are described below:



PHILISTINES: David spent more time fighting the Philistines than any other threat to the Promised Land. They lived in and around Gath, southwest of Jerusalem.



MOABITES: He defeated the land of Moab, which by this point was around 1,000 years old, northeast of the Dead Sea.



JEBUSITES: His most noteworthy and historic take was Jerusalem from the Jebusites. It became the capital city of the Promised Land and the place from where he and future kings would reign. It is still known today as the City of David.



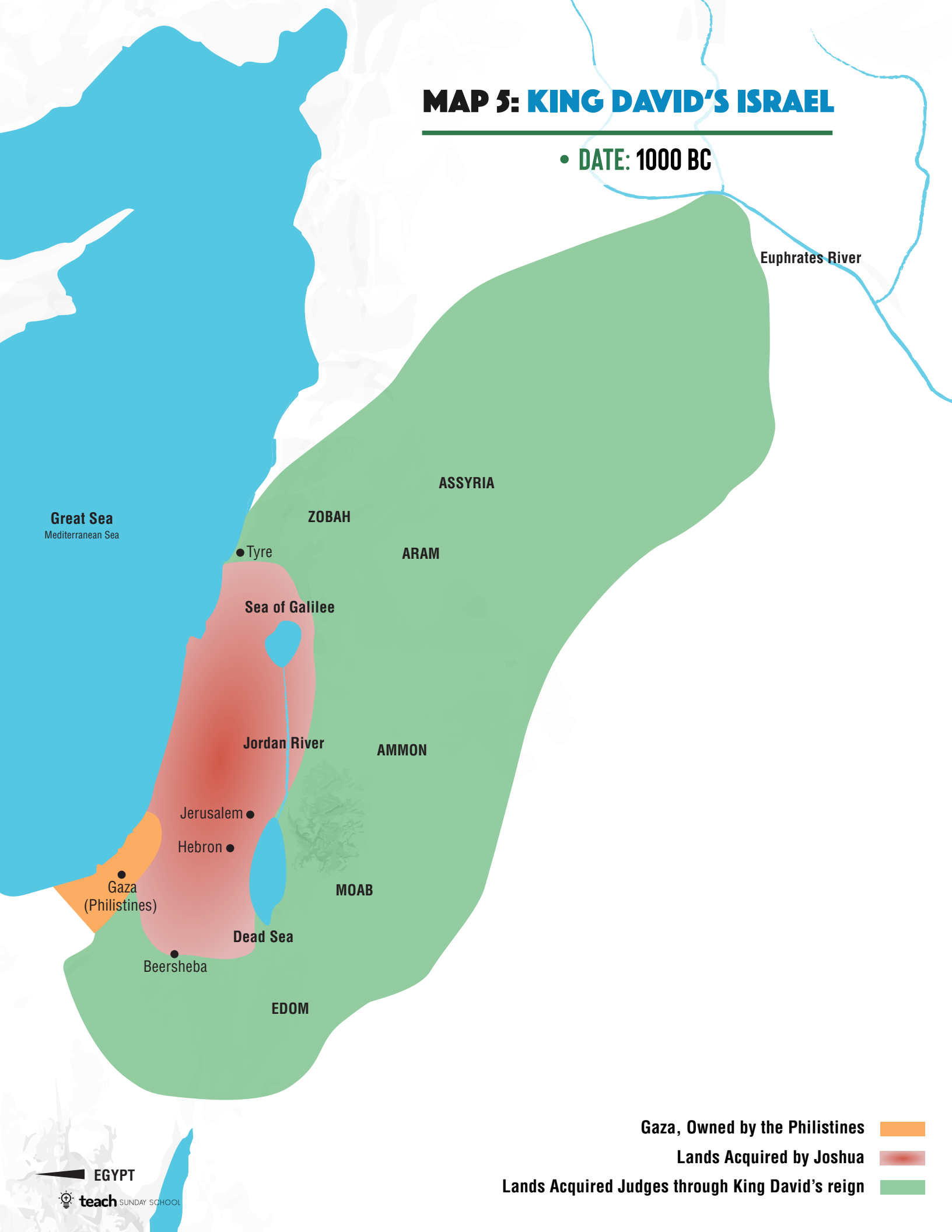
EDOMITES: David’s first claim to fame was striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. Edom was south of Moab, east of the Dead Sea. They were able to maintain their status as a nation, but they paid David regularly for the privilege. Hence, their lands are included on this map.



ZOBAN and ARAM: North of the Sea of Galilee, these shared boundaries with what would become Syria. David took down Zobah, and Aram paid tribute to him.

MAP 5: KING DAVID'S ISRAEL

• DATE: 1000 BC



Gaza, Owned by the Philistines



Lands Acquired by Joshua



Lands Acquired Judges through King David's reign



EGYPT



This map shows the fall of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. To appreciate the tragic end to these nations, it's important to know a little back history:

The people declared they wanted a king instead of God back when Samuel was judge, around 1050 BC. God gave the people their desire, and so began the era of the Kings. Kings Saul, David and Solomon were the kings of the United Kingdom. The only peaceful reign was Solomon's.

Solomon's son Rehoboam did not take the advice of elders but rather looked to his own peer group concerning the issue of taxes. Solomon had built the Temple and many public parks, taxing the people heavily. Upon his death, they asked for a lighter tax burden. Rehoboam not only denied them but did so insolently in a speech. It split the kingdom at the beginning of his reign.

The tribe of Benjamin stayed with the tribe of Judah to form the nation of Judah. The other 10 tribes split away, taking Jeroboam as their king. Judah kept Jerusalem, so the other tribes made Samaria their capital and worshipped there. The Era of the Kings was spiritually terrible for both kingdoms, with only a few kings being defined as good kings. All those kings considered good were from Judah. Prophets were sent from God to predict and warn about both kingdoms falling, but the people refused to listen.

Here are the dates of the dissolution of the kingdoms as shown on the map:

1 722 BC—Assyria invaded Israel during the reign of its 20th king, King Hoshea, who had reigned for 10 years. Shalmaneser king of Assyria attacked because Israel has stopped paying tribute, and it was discovered they were paying tribute to King So of Egypt.

The king of Assyria captured Samaria, capital of Israel, and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes. This dissolved 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel, and to this day we are not sure which cultures are descendants. DNA has brought some hope to the curious. This story can be found in 2 Kings 17.

2 605 BC—Judah was invaded three times by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, beginning in this year. What was the squabble about? Money, of course, but God allowed it due to Judah's mounting sins, ranging from idolatry, to abuse of animals, to abuse of the poor and the elderly.

3 586 BC—After a third installed king rebelled, Nebuchadnezzar invaded with full force, dismantled the temple, and took all the residents of Jerusalem into exile. Daniel and Ezekiel were among the prophets who prophesied in exile. Jeremiah was not taken immediately to Babylon, as he had gone to Egypt, but he ended up there. The story is told in 2 Kings 24, though Jeremiah was the only prophet to prophesy about the invasion and great exile who lived to see it.

4 516 BC—Jeremiah predicted in chapter 29 that the exile would last for 70 years, and then a remnant would return. And in this year, 70 years after the Great Exile, a remnant began to return to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, restore its wall and parklands with much funding from King Cyrus of Persia. The remnant was about 100,000 people, and this history is covered in the Books of Nehemiah and Ezra. Prophets who prophesied during this time included Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi and possibly Joel. Haggai prophesied directly to these people about their challenges in building the new temple.

MAP 6: INVASIONS AND EXILES

- ISRAEL & JUDAH
- DATE: 722 BC — 516 BC



Assyria takes Israel into exile, 722 BC
Babylon takes Judah into exile, 585 BC
Remnant returns to rebuild the temple, 515 BC



This map shows the travels of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus from Mary's pregnancy until Jesus was 13 years old. First, Mary went without Joseph to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist.

WE HOLD TO THE BIRTH YEAR OF JESUS AS 7 BC:

Many theories exist concerning the birth year of Jesus. Few scholars believe He was born in the year 0. We will go more into defending the birth year of 7 BC in our Bible Timeline Series, specifically the timeline of the events surrounding Jesus' birth.

Most Christians are aware that Jesus was not actually born on December 25th, and arguments similar to those concerning His birth year place His birth in the fall. Hence the probable years are included for the visits to the places on the map:

1 7 BC

Nazareth—In 7 BC, Mary is visited by the Angel Gabriel in her hometown.

Small Town, Home of Elizabeth: The story, told in Luke 1, reports that Mary “hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea”, where she met Elizabeth. This is where John the Baptist leaped in her womb upon Mary's entrance. Verse 56 says Mary stayed about three months before returning home to Nazareth.

Bethlehem: Caesar Augustus had issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. In Mary's ninth month of pregnancy, she went with Joseph, who had to report for the census in Bethlehem. Joseph was from the “house of David” and David had been born in Bethlehem, which is why he had to report there.

2 7-5 BC

Jerusalem: According to Jewish tradition, Mary's time of purification would have been about six weeks, and after this they took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here is where Jesus was seen by the prophetess Anna and the man Simeon, sometimes known as “the other wise man”. These stories from Luke 2 are both wonderful accounts of specially gifted people seeing Jesus, though they are frequently not included in the Christmas story.

Bethlehem (2): It is unknown why Joseph and Mary remained in Bethlehem instead of returning home to Nazareth, except that Joseph likely had relatives there who may have offered him work.

3

5 BC to 3 BC

Egypt: Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remained in Egypt until Joseph heard through an angel of Herod's death, according to Matthew 2:23. We don't know how long the family was there, but it was not likely long or such would have been reported in a biblical account. Theories have Jesus going to Egypt as a baby, at the age of one and at the age of two. Theories have Him returning at the ages of two, three, four, and five. These conjectures often have to do with the suspected year of the death of this Herod who ordered the genocide in Bethlehem.

4

3 BC

Nazareth: Matthew 2:22 shows that Mary's and Joseph's extended stay in Bethlehem may have been meant to be permanent. The verse says that Joseph planned to return to “Judea”, in which Bethlehem is located. But he was impressed in a dream to go to Nazareth, which is far to the north of Jerusalem and in Galilee, not Judea. This is where Jesus was raised.

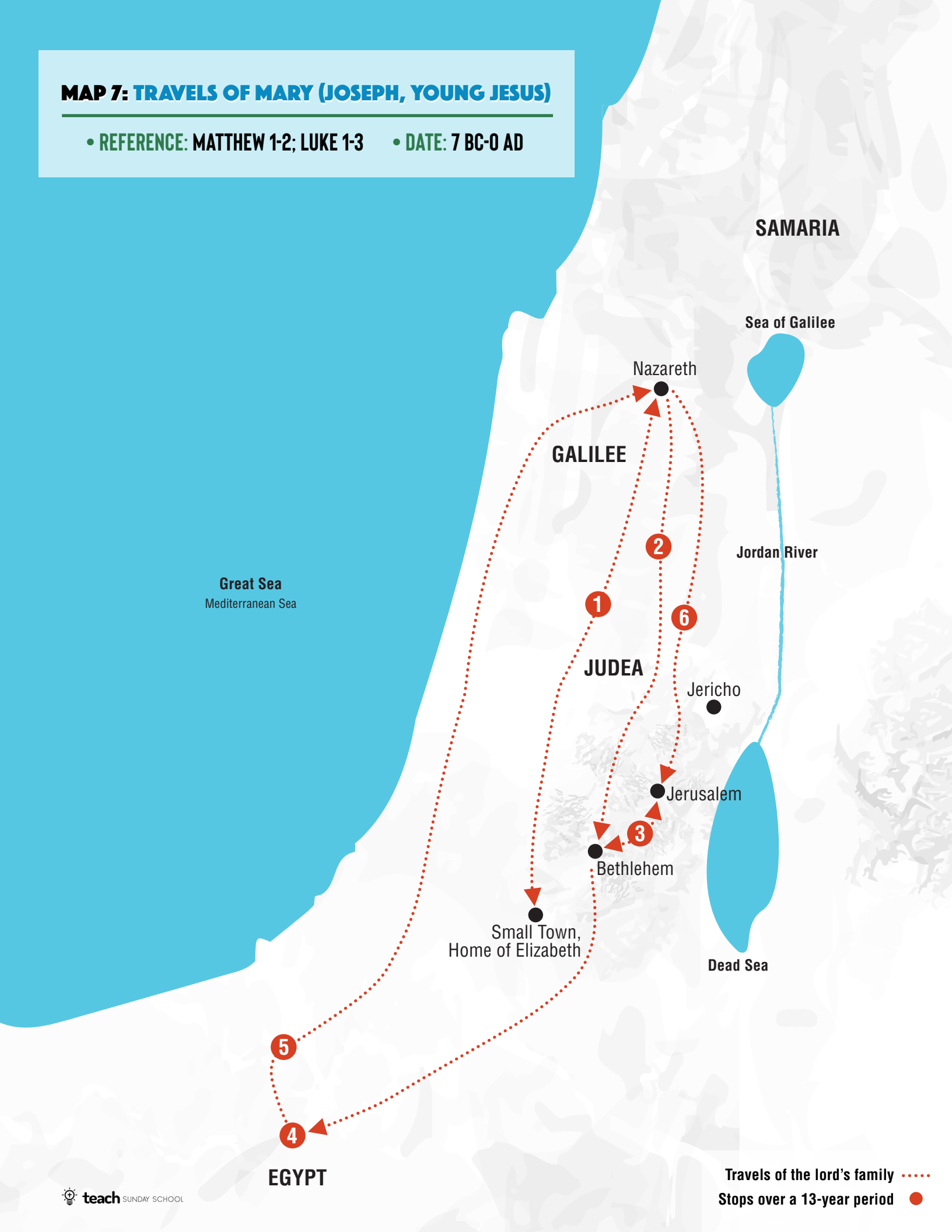
5

3 BC-5 AD

Jerusalem (2): Jesus' parents took him to Jerusalem every year for the Festival of the Passover. So he'd actually made many trips before the final story of his childhood that is told in the Bible. When he was 12, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of it until they had traveled for a whole day. This is the story of them finding him in the Temple, learning. Following this story, all the stories of Jesus in the Bible were about his ministry and Ascension.

MAP 7: TRAVELS OF MARY (JOSEPH, YOUNG JESUS)

• REFERENCE: MATTHEW 1-2; LUKE 1-3 • DATE: 7 BC-0 AD



Travels of the lord's family
Stops over a 13-year period ●



Jesus is said to have never traveled far from his hometown. All 41 miracles recorded in the Gospels occurred in this land mass, just a little over 90 miles in length. For some miracles, placement is uncertain, but it's clear enough to name 22 locations among 35 of these miracles, which are below.

Mapping all the footsteps of Jesus does not provide a great visual, as He was always on the go and the intersecting and overlapping lines would be too overwhelming to process. But the Book of John tells us that wherever He went, He healed, delivered, fed, and at times He even commanded nature.

Here is a visual of the known places where Jesus performed miracles. Find a place on the map, then look at this alphabetized list below to see what happened there. Or, find a favorite miracle below, then look on the map to see where it happened.

- **Bethany:** raised Lazarus from the dead (third resurrection of a dead person).
- **Bethlehem:** place of the virgin birth
- **Bethsaida:** fed a multitude (second time), healed a blind man with his spit, walked on water.
- **Caesarea-Philippi:** where Peter first recognized Jesus as the Messiah via help from the Holy Spirit
- **Cana:** Jesus' first miracle of changing water to wine at a wedding; healed royal official's child.
- **Chorazin:** the city was prophesied against by Jesus, along with Bethsaida, for being unrepentant
- **Capernaum:** (outskirts) fed a multitude for the first time; healed many sick; healed a woman with long-term bleeding; raised Jairus' daughter (second resurrection of a dead person).
- **Decapolis Region:** healed a deaf-mute man by spitting and touching his tongue.
- **Emmaus:** appeared to two disciples after His Resurrection.
- **Gennesaret:** healed many by allowing them to simply touch his garment; the first miraculous catch of fish.
- **Gerasenes Region:** healed the demoniac possessed by "legion".
- **Jericho:** healed Bartimaeus, a blind man.
- **Jerusalem:** healed a man at Bethesda's pool, healed a man born blind, appeared to Mary Magdalene and some disciples after the Resurrection.
- **Jezreel Valley:** healed 10 lepers.
- **Mount of Olives:** possible site of the Ascension.
- **Mount Tabor:** possible site of the Transfiguration; healed a boy with epilepsy.
- **Nain:** first resurrection of a dead person: a widow's son.
- **Nazareth:** hometown of Jesus; very few miracles performed, because the people knew His family and felt He was not credible.
- **Perea Region:** healed a crippled woman and a man with dropsy.
- **Sea of Galilee:** calmed the storm, second miraculous catch of fish.
- **Sychar:** where the woman at the well met with Jesus and he told her all about her life
- **Tyre:** healed a gentile's daughter.

MAP 8: TRAVELS OF JESUS

• DATE: 23-26 AD



Litani River

▲ Mt Hermon

PHOENICIA

† Caesarea-Philippi

GAULANITIS

† Tyre

Lake Huleh

Great Sea
Mediterranean Sea

Chorazin †

† Bethsaida

Capernaum †

Gennesaret †

Sea of Galilee GERASENES

† Cana

Nazareth †

▲ Mt Tabor

Yarmouk River

† Nain

Jezreel Valley †

DECAPOLIS

SAMARIA

Jordan River

† Sychar

Jabbok River

PEREA

Emmaus †



Jericho †

Mt of Olives

Jerusalem †

† Bethany

JUDEA



Bethlehem †



Dead Sea

Stops of Jesus during his ministry †

Mountains or ranges ▲



This map traces the three missionary journeys of Apostle Paul, who traveled extensively to share the good news and plant churches across Asia and southern Europe. Cities listed below mean that something recorded within the Book of Acts happened there. If the city is not listed below, it means the Book of Acts records that it was visited, but nothing of note occurred.

Antioch: There were actually TWO Antiochs, both important but hard to distinguish as they intersperse each other in Acts 11–15.

- **Antioch (in Pisidia)** On their first mission, Paul and Barnabas taught the Jews that Jesus was from King David's lineage. Paul and Barnabas were persecuted and expelled (Acts 13:14–50).
- **Antioch (in Syria)** Disciples were first called Christians here (Acts 11:26). The prophet Agabus prophesied famine (Acts 11:27–28). Great dissension arose at Antioch concerning circumcision (Acts 14:26–28; 15:1–9). From this Antioch, Paul began his second missionary journey, accompanied by Silas, Barnabas, and Judas Barsabbas (Acts 15:22, 30, 35).

Athens: During his second mission to Athens, Paul preached at the Areopagus about the “unknown god” (Acts 17:22–34).

Berea: On Paul's second missionary journey, Jews from Thessalonica followed and persecuted them in Berea (Acts 17:10–13). The Bereans were known for their thorough study of issues.

Caesarea: An angel ministered to a centurion named Cornelius, and Peter allowed him to be baptized (Acts 10). Paul made his defense here before King Agrippa (Acts 25–26).

Corinth: Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla during his second missionary journey. He stayed a long time, preaching and baptizing many (Acts 18:1–18). From Corinth, Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans.

Cyprus: After being persecuted, some Christians escaped to Cyprus (Acts 11:19). Paul traveled through Cyprus on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:4–5), as did Barnabas and Mark later (Acts 15:39).

Damascus: Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, where the future evangelist was temporarily blinded. (Acts 9:1–7) After God restored Saul's sight, he was baptized and began his ministry as Paul (Acts 9:10–27).

Derbe: Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel in this city (Acts 14:6–7, 20–21).

Ephesus: On Paul's third missionary journey, he taught in Ephesus for two years with many souls converted (Acts 19:10, 18). He laid hands on many (Acts 19:1–7) and performed many miracles (Acts 19:8–21). Worshipers of the goddess Diana (or Artemis) raised a tumult against Paul (Acts 19:22–41). Looking at Rev. 1:11, we see that this very active Church was, 40 years later, in danger of extinction, which eventually came to pass.

Iconium: On their first mission, Paul and Barnabas preached here and were threatened with stoning (Acts 13:51–14:7).

Jerusalem: The city where Jesus died and was resurrected was a hub of Christian growth throughout the Book of Acts. The first Christians were converted here on the Day of Pentecost. The first martyr was stoned here (Stephen, Acts 7:54–60).

Laodicea: Laodicea is one of the branches of the Church that Paul visited and received letters from (Col. 4:16). It is also one of the seven cities listed in the book of Revelation—the others are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, and Philadelphia; see (Rev. 1:11).

Lystra: When Paul healed a cripple, he and Barnabas were hailed as gods, and he begged people not to worship him. Later Paul was stoned and presumed dead. But he arose and continued preaching (Acts 14:6–21).

Macedonia: Paul taught here on his second and third missionary journeys (Acts 16:9–40; 19:21). He found the Macedonians to be quite generous to the needy.

Melita/Malta: Paul was shipwrecked the island of Melita on his way to Rome (Acts 26:32; 27:1, 41–44). He was unharmed by a snakebite and healed many who were sick on Melita (Acts 28:1–9).

Miletus: While here on his third mission, Paul warned the elders of the Church that “grievous wolves” would enter the flock (Acts 20:29–31).

Paphos: Paul cursed a sorcerer on this Mediterranean island (Acts 13:6–11).

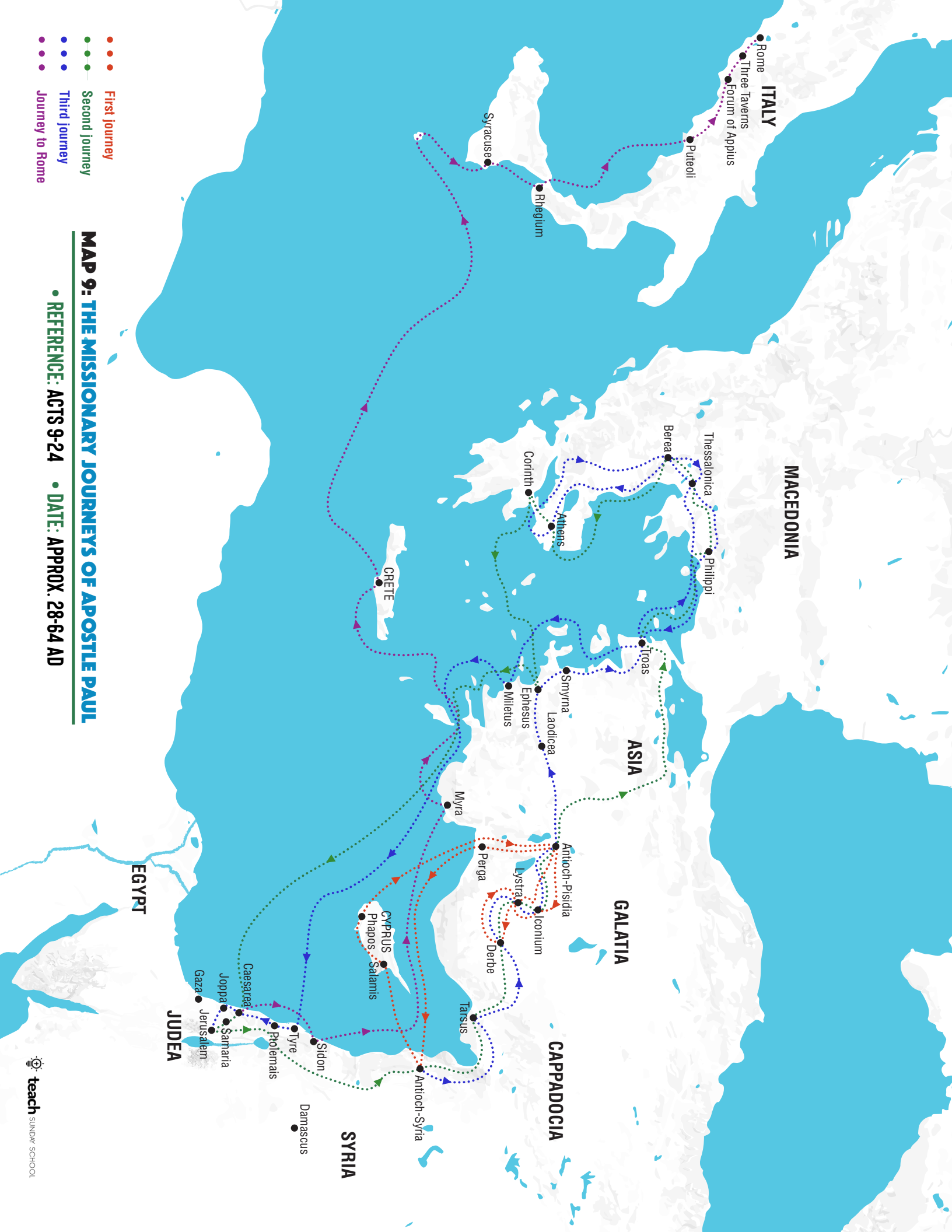
Philippi: Here a woman named Lydia was converted. Paul cast out an evil spirit, and he and Silas were flogged (Acts 16:11–23). They received divine help to escape prison (Acts 16:23–26).

Rome: Paul preached here for two years under house arrest (Acts 28:16–31). He also wrote the following Epistles while imprisoned in Rome: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Philemon. It is generally believed that both Peter and Paul were martyred here.

Tarsus: Paul's hometown; Paul was sent here by the brethren to protect his life before his missionary journeys began (Acts 9:29–30).

Thessalonica: Paul preached here during his second missionary journey. His missionary group departed for Berea after the Jews threatened their safety (Acts 17:1–10).

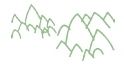
Troas: While here on his third mission, Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:6–12).



MAP 9: THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF APOSTLE PAUL

• REFERENCE: ACTS 9-24 • DATE: APPROX. 28-64 AD

- First journey
- Second journey
- Third journey
- Journey to Rome



It is fun to see which modern-day countries get to claim a Bible story or two (or 200). This map helps us to see more clearly where important events took place, within modern context. Of course, most Bible events took place in Israel—all Bible history from Joshua’s invasions (ending in 1350 BC) through the invasions of Israel and Judah (722 BC and 586 BC respectively) took place in or near Israel.

As for events taking place on the land of other modern-day countries, the Old Testament record is held by Iraq. As for the mentions of lands in the New Testament, the most fall in Turkey with Syria as a close second:



Bible events that took place on the land of **MODERN IRAQ:**

- Creation & Fall of Man (Genesis 1-3).
- Building of Noah’s Ark (Genesis 6-7).
- Tower of Babel (Genesis 11).
- Abraham leaves his birthplace of Ur (Genesis 12).
- Jonah preaches in Nineveh (Jonah 3; Nineveh was the capital of Assyria).
- Israel falls to Assyria and the people are exiled (2 Kings 17; Assyria was located in Norther Iraq).
- Judah falls to Babylon and the people are exiled (2 Kings 25; Babylon was located in Southern Iraq).
- All narrative accounts from the Books of Daniel and Ezekiel; both prophesied as exiles in Babylon.



Bible events that took place on the land of **MODERN SYRIA:**

- Aram is named by Syrians as its first occupant; he was the youngest son of Shem, Noah’s son, who carried the line to Christ (Genesis 10).
- Solomon’s only adversary hailed from Damascus: Rezon son of Eliada (1 Kings 11).
- Elijah the prophet anointed Hazael king over Aram shortly before being taken up to heaven (1 Kings 19).
- Naaman, the leper told by Elisha the Prophet to dip six times in the Jordan River for healing, hailed from Aram (2 Kings 5).
- During the invasion of Judah in 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar had dozens of spiritual leaders and advisors executed at the city of Hamath, near the coast in Syria (2 Kings 25).
- Both prophets Elijah and Elisha visited Damascus at least once (1 Kings 20, 2 Kings 8).
- Syrian people were brought to and healed by Jesus (Matthew 4).
- On the road to Damascus, Apostle Paul was blinded and spoken to by the resurrected Lord (Acts 9).



Bible events that took place on the land of **MODERN TURKEY:**

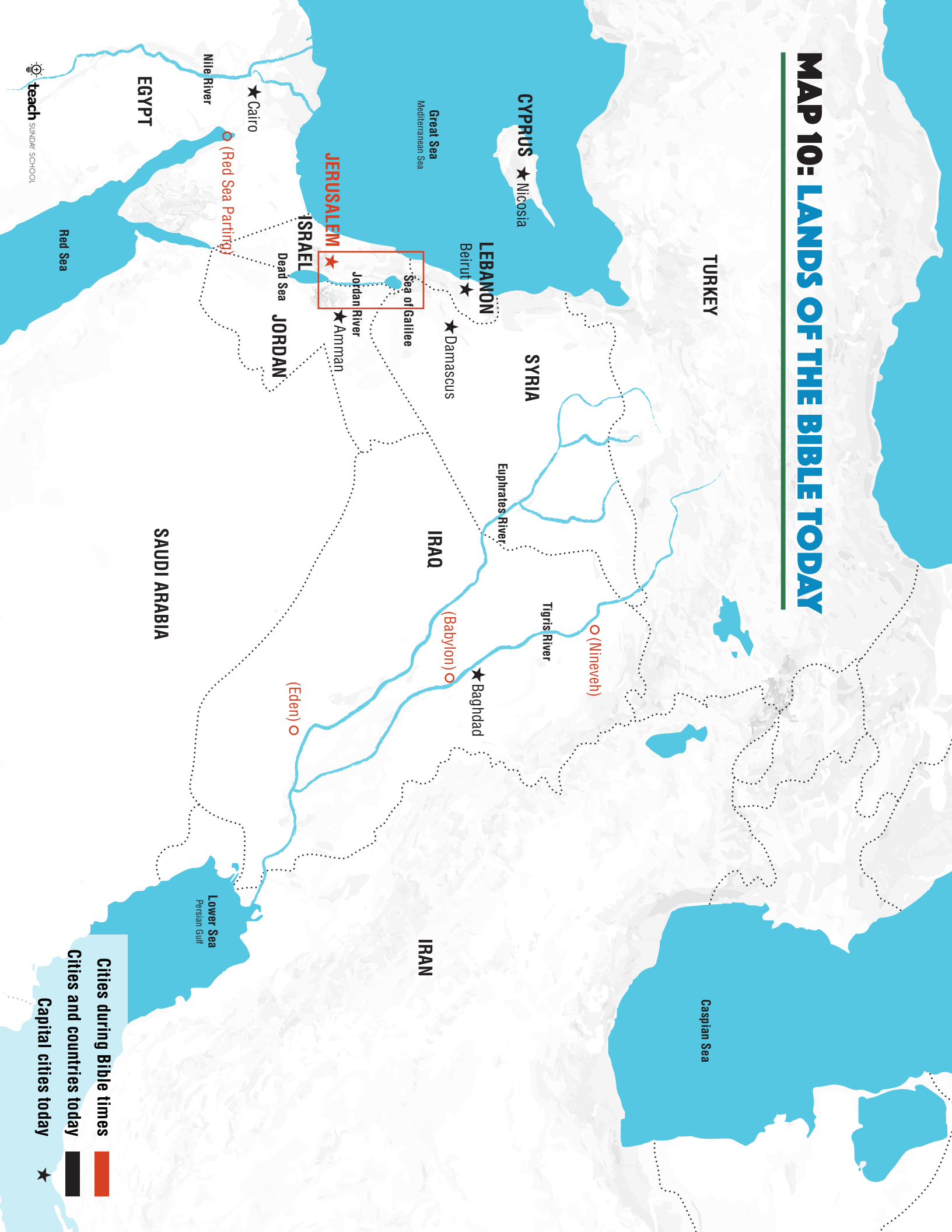
- Landing of Noah’s Ark (Genesis 8).
- All three sons of Noah had descendants and kingdoms listed in the Table of Nations—lands now in Turkey (Genesis 10—see Map 2).
- Abraham’s father dies in Harran (Genesis 11).
- Abraham is told to leave Harran to go to Canaan, which would be the Promised Land for his descendants (Genesis 12).
- All seven churches addressed by Christ in Revelation 2 and 3 were located in Asia Minor, now Turkey.
- Hometown of Apostle Paul named as Tarsus (Acts 9).
- Believers first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11; Note: Antioch was in biblical Syria, but had different borders than today’s Syria).



Events in **OTHER MODERN-DAY COUNTRIES:**

- The entire book of Esther played out in Susa, on the Iraq/Iran border, with many scholars placing it in modern-day Iran.
- As for the famous Bible towns of Tyre and Sidon, they were located in modern-day Lebanon; Tyre still exists!
- The Queen of Sheba is famed for having visited Solomon; Sheba is modern-day Yemen.

MAP 10: LANDS OF THE BIBLE TODAY



TURKEY

CYPRUS ★ Nicosia

LEBANON ★ Beirut

SYRIA ★ Damascus

★ Amman

IRAQ ★ Baghdad

IRAN

JERUSALEM ★

ISRAEL

JORDAN

SAUDI ARABIA

EGYPT

Nile River

★ Cairo

○ (Red Sea Parting)

Great Sea
Mediterranean Sea

Sea of Galilee

Jordan River

★ Amman

Dead Sea

Euphrates River

Tigris River

○ (Nineveh)

○ (Babylon)

○ (Eden)

Caspian Sea

Lower Sea
Persian Gulf

Cities during Bible times

Cities and countries today

Capital cities today

