High Places of the Holy Land

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
Where does my help come from?

Psalm 121:1

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there.
If I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Psalm 139:7–8

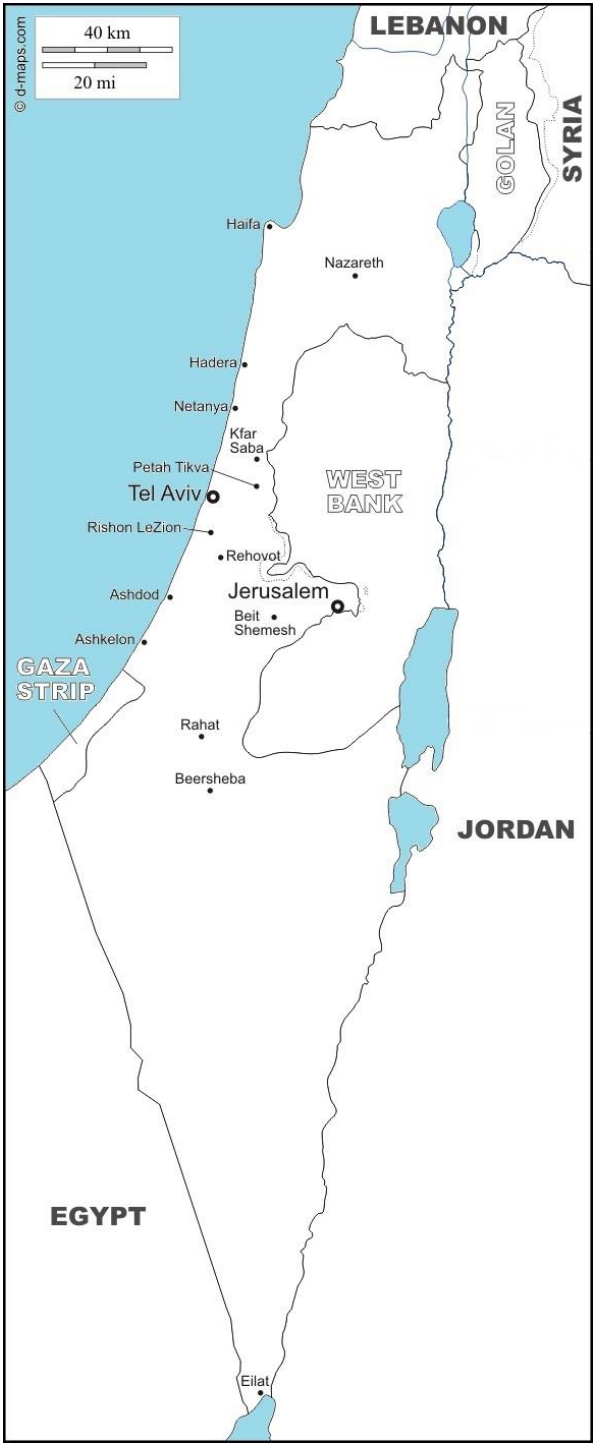
The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours;
everything in the world is yours—you created it all.
You created north and south.
Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon praise your name.

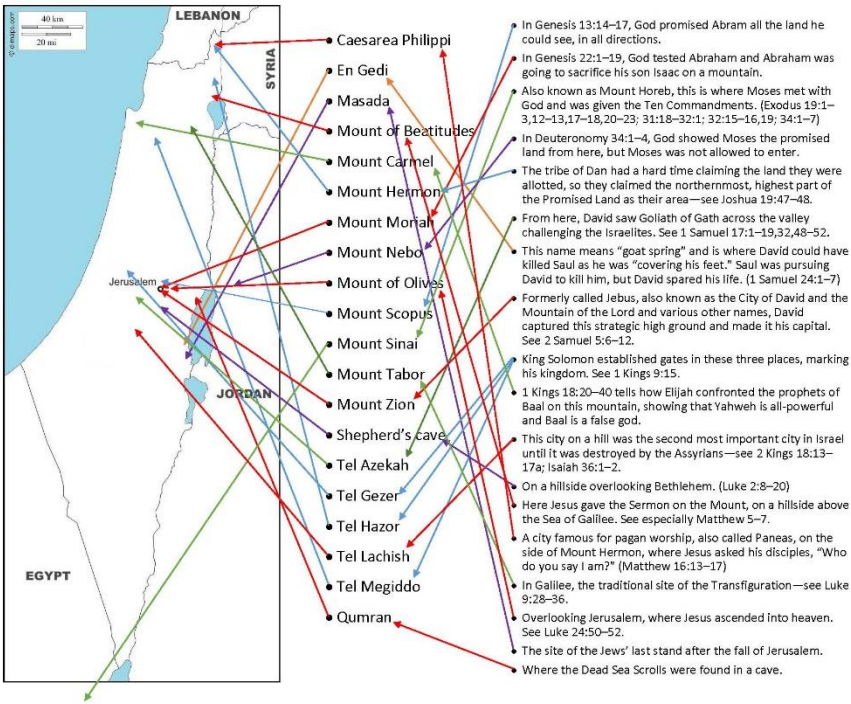
Psalm 89:11–12

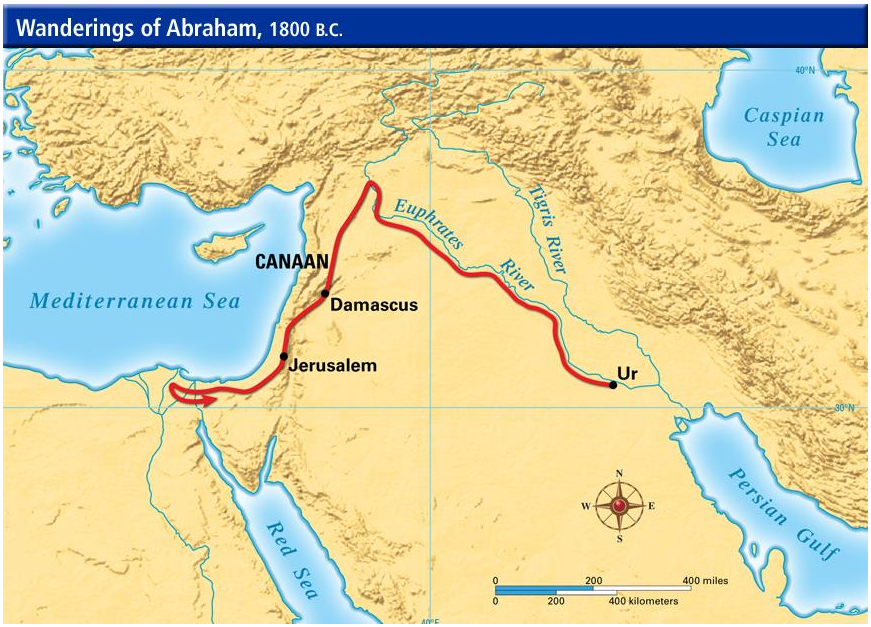
In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say,

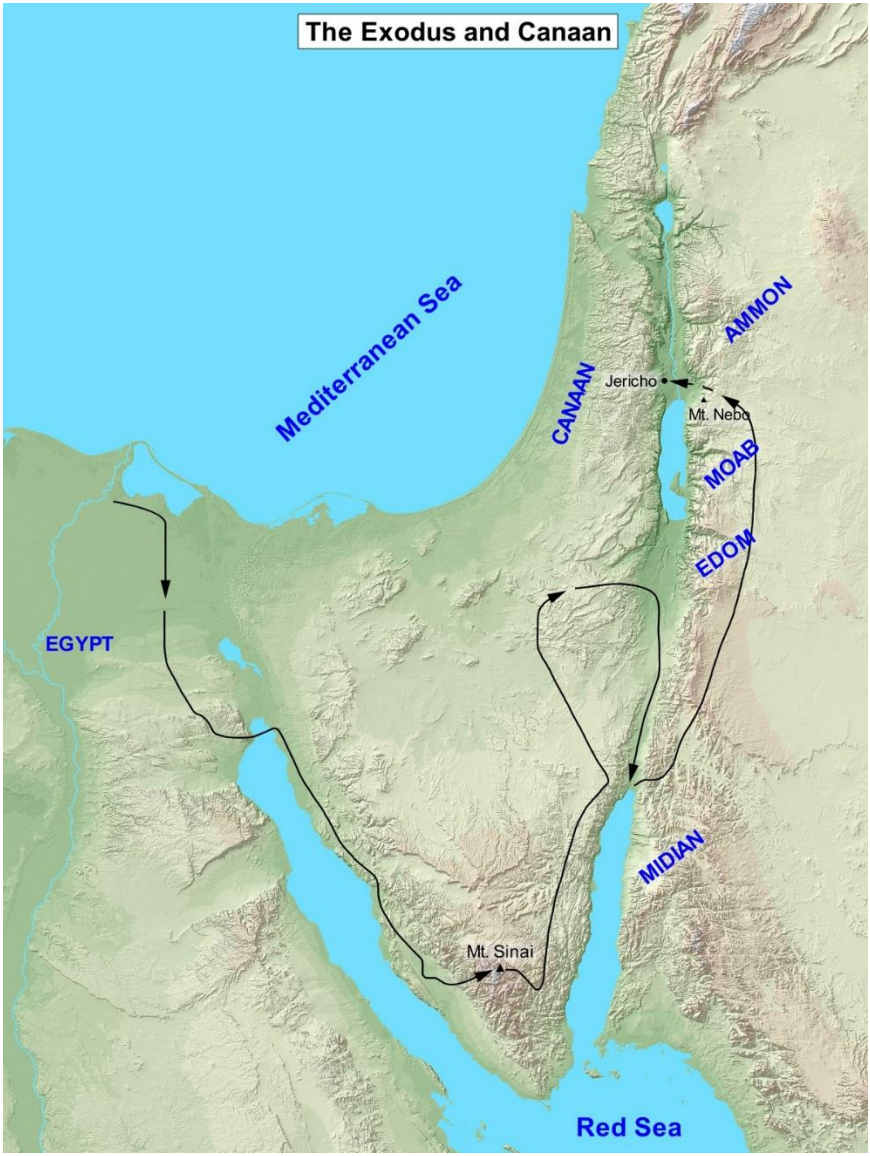
> "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

Micah 4:1–2a


© d-maps.com
40 km
20 mi
LEBANON
SYRIA
GOLAN
Haifa
Nazareth
Hadera
Netanya
Kfar Saba
Petah Tikva
Tel Aviv
WEST BANK
Rishon LeZion
Rehovot
Ashdod
Jerusalem
Beit Shemesh
Ashkelon
GAZA STRIP
Rahat
Beersheba
JORDAN
EGYPT
Eilat

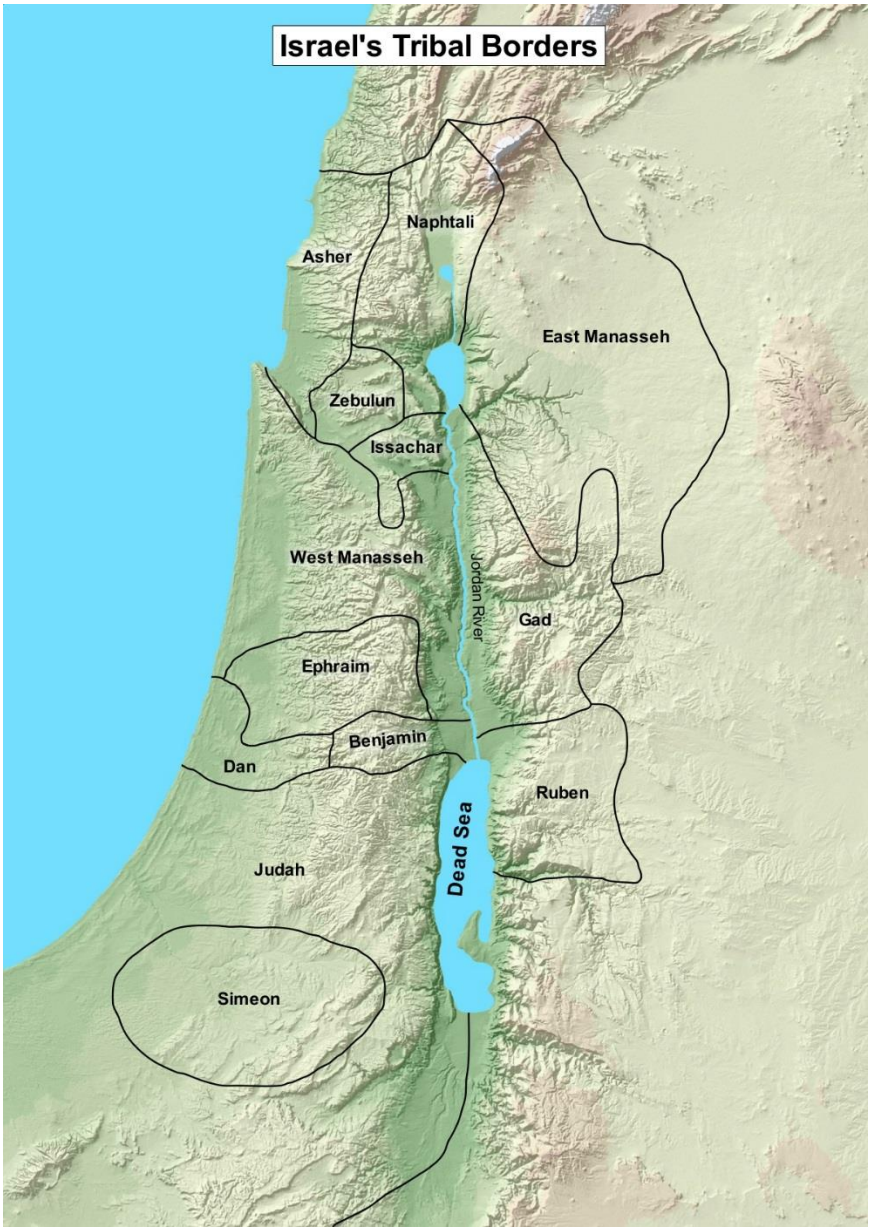

40 km
20 mi
LEBANON
SYRIA
JORDAN
EGYPT
Jerusalem
Caesarea Philippi
En Gedi
Masada
Mount of Beatitudes
Mount Carmel
Mount Hermon
Mount Moriah
Mount Nebo
Mount of Olives
Mount Scopus
Mount Sinai
Mount Tabor
Mount Zion
Shepherd's cave
Tel Azekah
Tel Gezer
Tel Hazor
Tel Lachish
Tel Megiddo
Qumran
In Genesis 13:14–17, God promised Abram all the land he could see, in all directions.
In Genesis 22:1–19, God tested Abraham and Abraham was going to sacrifice his son Isaac on a mountain.
Also known as Mount Horeb, this is where Moses met with God and was given the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 19:1–3,12–13,17–18,20–23; 31:18–32:1; 32:15–16,19; 34:1–7)
In Deuteronomy 34:1–4, God showed Moses the promised land from here, but Moses was not allowed to enter.
The tribe of Dan had a hard time claiming the land they were allotted, so they claimed the northernmost, highest part of the Promised Land as their area—see Joshua 19:47–48.
From here, David saw Goliath of Gath across the valley challenging the Israelites. See 1 Samuel 17:1–19,32,48–52.
This name means "goat spring" and is where David could have killed Saul as he was "covering his feet." Saul was pursuing David to kill him, but David spared his life. (1 Samuel 24:1–7)
Formerly called Jebus, also known as the City of David and the Mountain of the Lord and various other names, David captured this strategic high ground and made it his capital. See 2 Samuel 5:6–12.
King Solomon established gates in these three places, marking his kingdom. See 1 Kings 9:15.
1 Kings 18:20–40 tells how Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal on this mountain, showing that Yahweh is all-powerful and Baal is a false god.
This city on a hill was the second most important city in Israel until it was destroyed by the Assyrians—see 2 Kings 18:13–17a; Isaiah 36:1–2.
On a hillside overlooking Bethlehem. (Luke 2:8–20)
Here Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount, on a hillside above the Sea of Galilee. See especially Matthew 5–7.
A city famous for pagan worship, also called Paneas, on the side of Mount Hermon, where Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:13–17)
In Galilee, the traditional site of the Transfiguration—see Luke 9:28–36.
Overlooking Jerusalem, where Jesus ascended into heaven. See Luke 24:50–52.
The site of the Jews' last stand after the fall of Jerusalem.
Where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in a cave.


Wanderings of Abraham, 1800 B.C.
Caspian Sea
Euphrates River
Tigris River
CANAAN
Mediterranean Sea
Damascus
Jerusalem
Ur
Persian Gulf
Red Sea
N
W
E
S
0 200 400 miles
0 200 400 kilometers

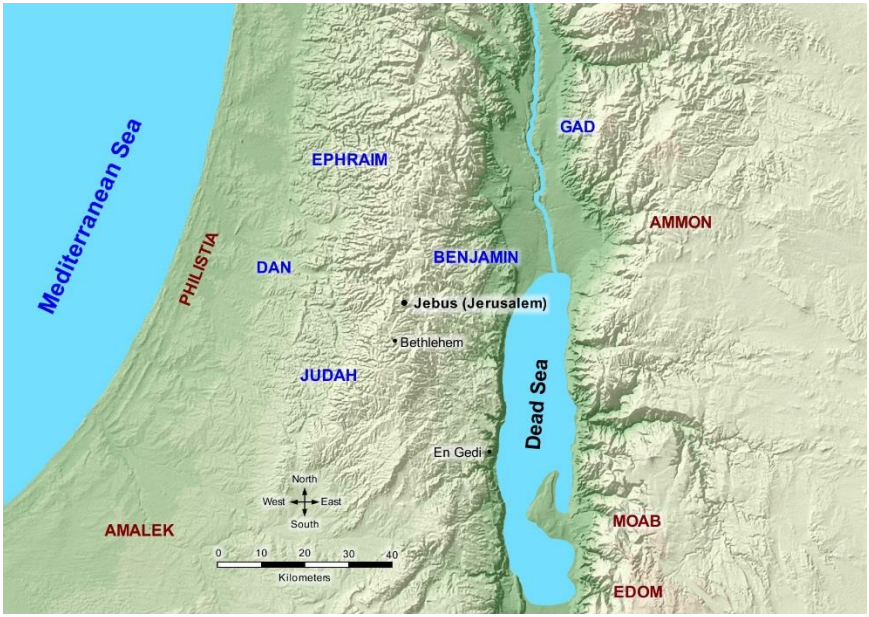


Then Moses climbed **Mount Nebo** from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land–from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."

Deuteronomy 34:1-4



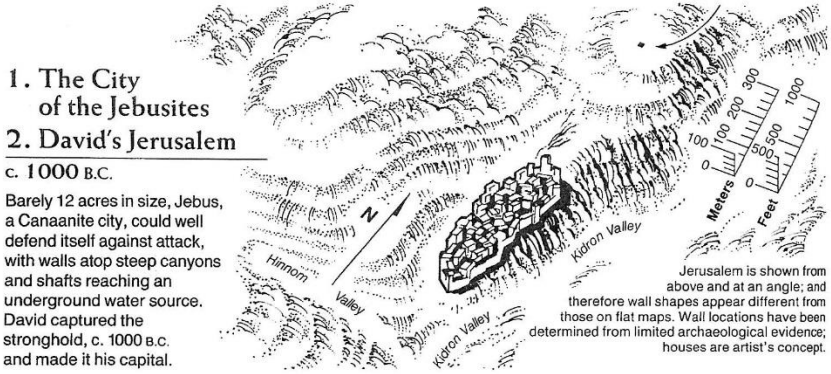
But the Danites had difficulty taking possession of their territory, so they went up and attacked **Leshem**, took it, put it to the sword and occupied it. They settled in Leshem and named it Dan after their forefather. These towns and their villages were the inheritance of the tribe of Dan, clan by clan. **Joshua 19:47-48**



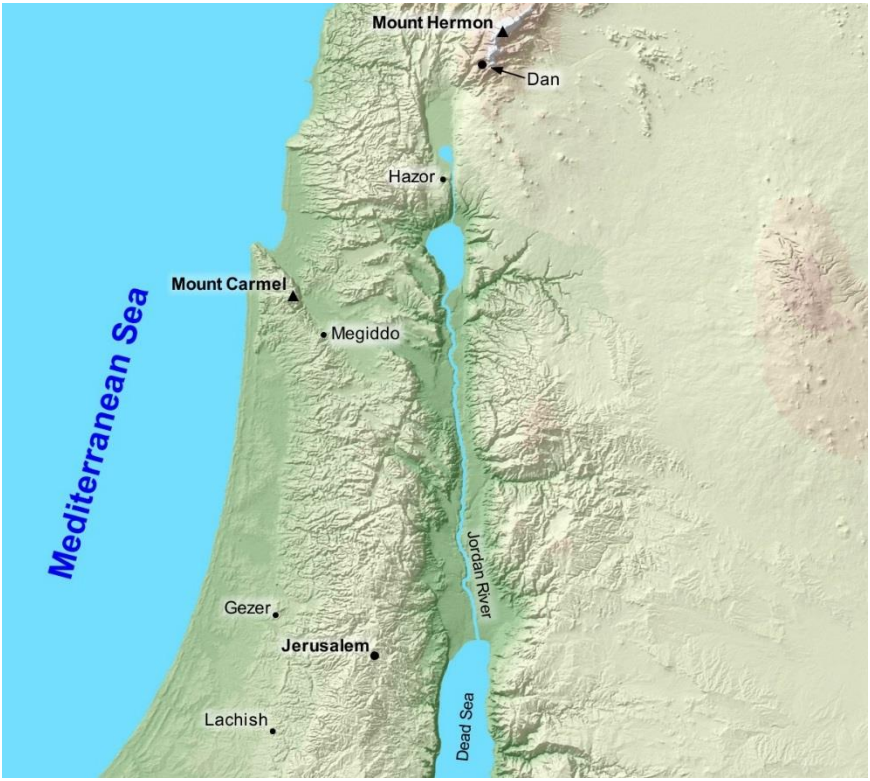
David and all the Israelites marched to **Jerusalem (that is, Jebus)**. The Jebusites who lived there said to David, "You will not get in here." Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of **Zion**, the City of David…. David then took up residence in the fortress, and so it was called the **City of David**. **1 Chronicles 11:4-5,7**

After David had constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. **1 Chronicles 15:1**

Substantial historical evidence, both Biblical and extra-Biblical, places the temple of Herod (and before it the temples of Zerubbabel and of Solomon) on the holy spot where King David built an altar to the Lord. David had purchased the land from Araunah the Jebusite, who was using the exposed bedrock as a threshing floor (2Sa 24:18-25). Tradition claims a much older sanctity for the site, associating it with the altar of Abraham on Mount Moriah (Ge 22:1-19). The writer of Genesis equates Moriah with "the Mountain of the LORD," and other OT shrines originated in altars erected by Abraham.



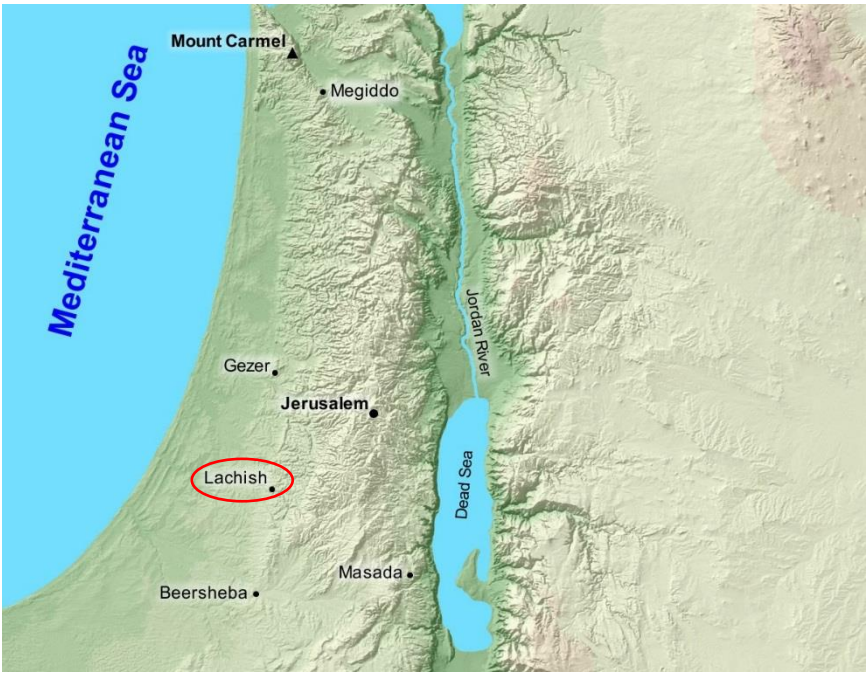
(from the Concordia Study Bible)



Here is the account of the forced labor King Solomon conscripted to build the Lord's temple, his own palace, the supporting terraces, the wall of Jerusalem, and **Hazor**, **Megiddo** and **Gezer**. (Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and captured Gezer. He had set it on fire. He killed its Canaanite inhabitants and then gave it as a wedding gift to his daughter, Solomon's wife. And Solomon rebuilt Gezer.) **1 Kings 9:15-17a**

Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam." After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. And this thing became a sin; the people went even as far as Dan to worship the one there. Jeroboam built shrines on **high places** and appointed priests…. **1 Kings 12:26-32**

Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on **Mount Carmel**. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel….. **1 Kings 18:16-40**

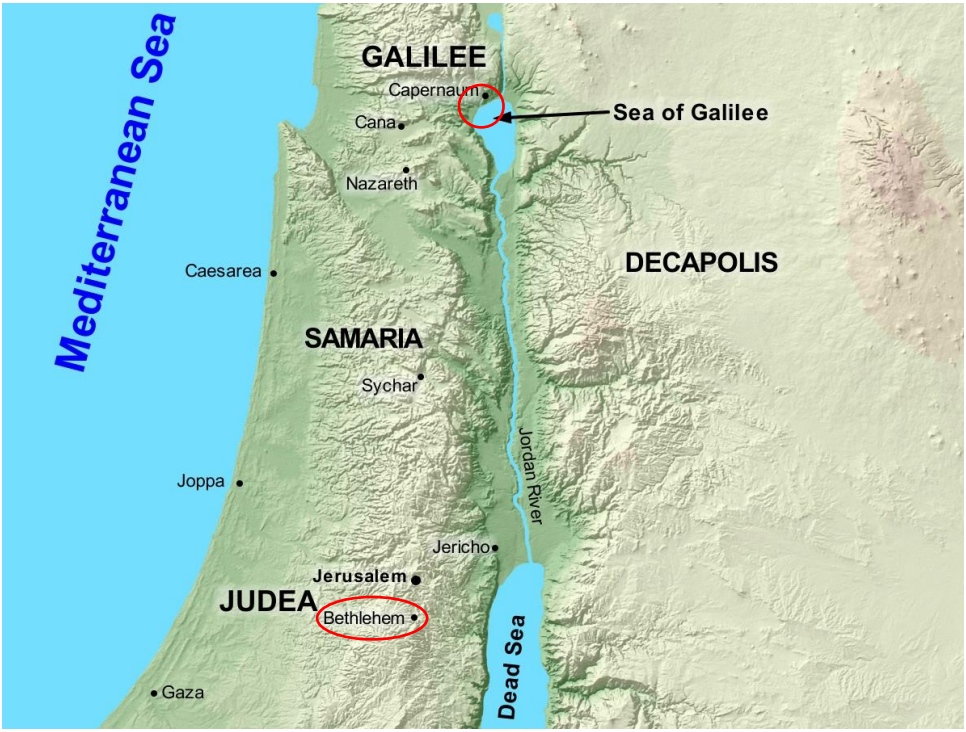


Sennacherib king of Assyria and all his forces were laying siege to **Lachish….**

2 Chronicles 32:9a

In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. So Hezekiah king of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria at **Lachish**: "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand of me."

2 Kings 18:13-14a



Shepherds' Cave near Bethlehem

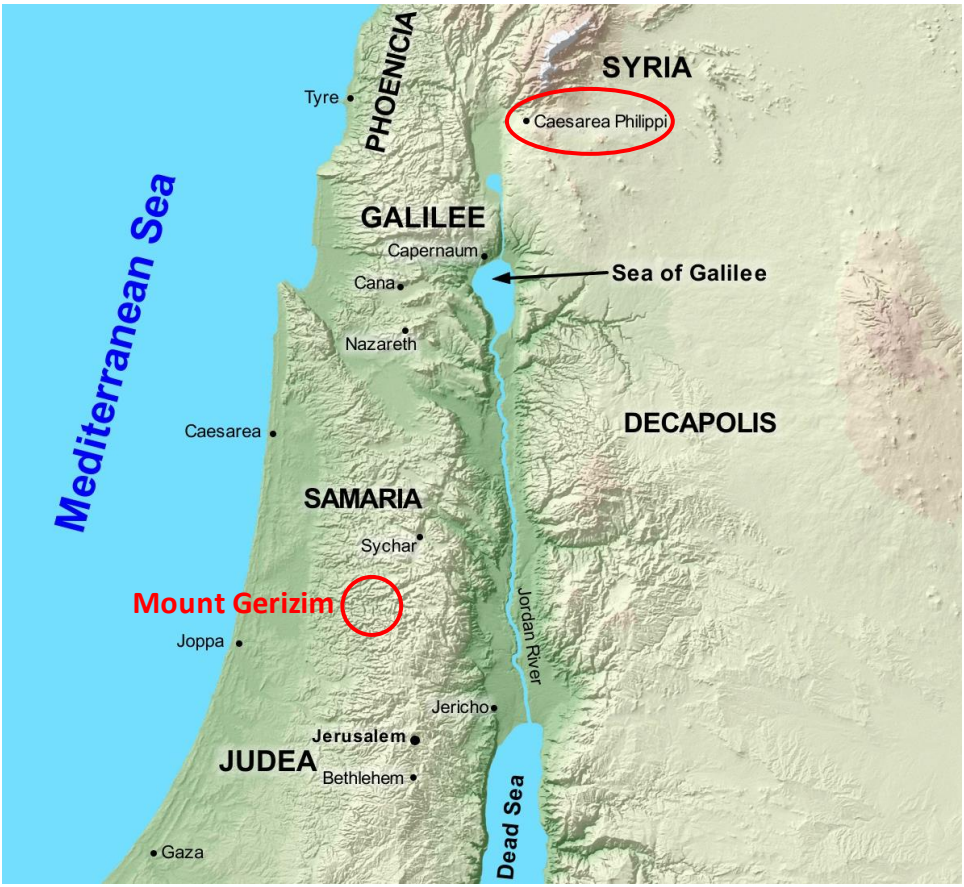
And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord…." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **Luke 2:8-20**

Mount of Beatitudes on Edge of the Sea of Galilee

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people…. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. Now when he saw the crowds, he **went up on a mountainside** and sat down. His disciples came to him,and he began to teach them saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted….

Matthew 4:23—7:29

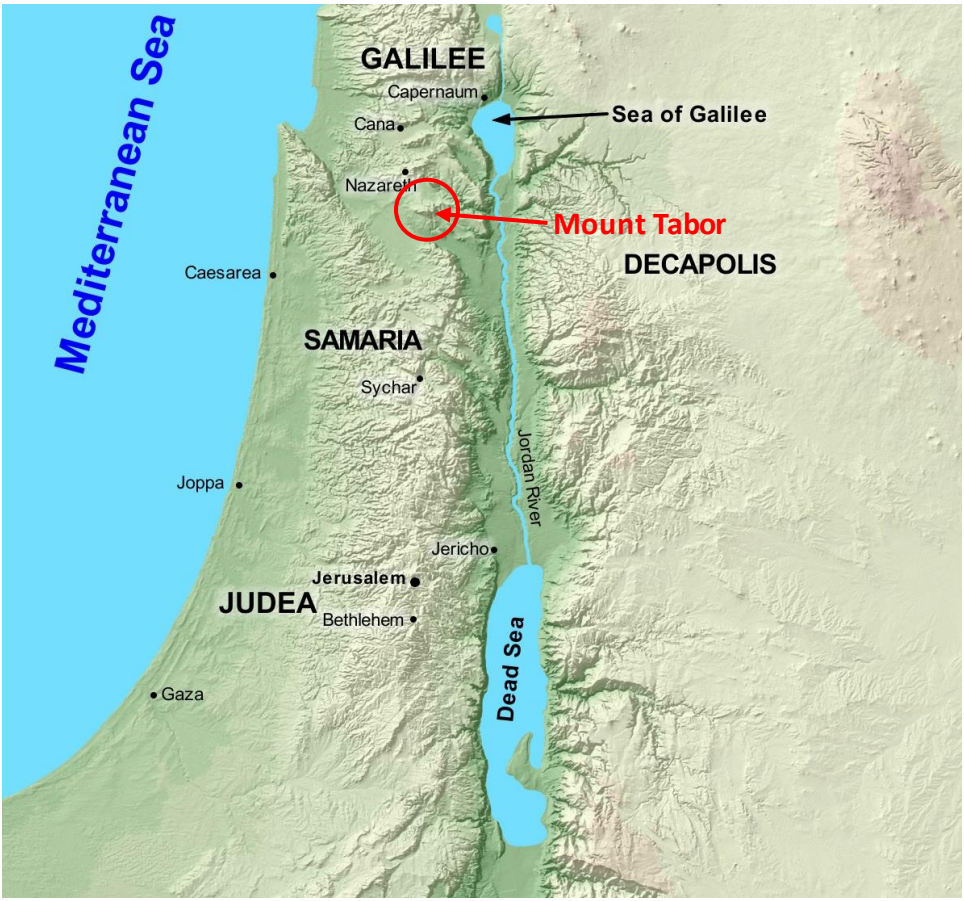


Mount Gerizim

Now [Jesus] had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" … The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" … "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped **on this mountain**, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." … Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem…." **John 4:4-26**

Caesarea Philippi

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven…." **Matthew 16:13-17**



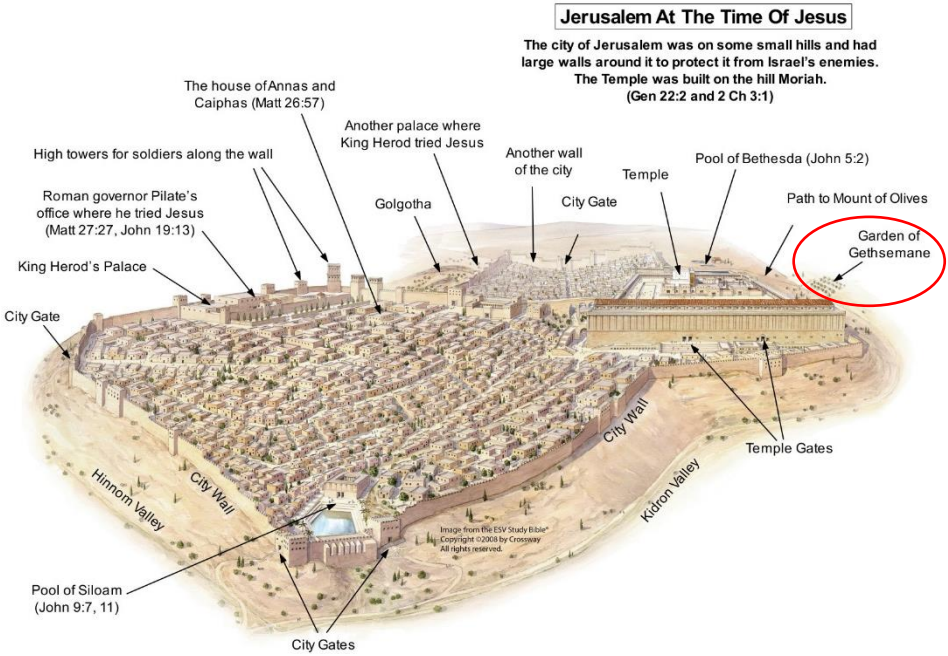
Mount of Transfiguration

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and **led them up a high mountain** by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus …. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." **Matthew 17:1-9**

Garden of Gethsemene

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." …

Matthew 26:36-46



Mount of Olives

[Jesus] said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight…. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. **Acts 1:7-12**

You have not come to **a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire**; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear." But **you have come to Mount Zion**, to the heavenly Jerusalem, **the city of the living God**. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. **You have come to God**, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. **Hebrews 12:18-24**