

GUIDE BOOK
TO
PALESTINE PARK
CHAUTAUQUA, N. Y.



Prepared by Alfred E. Barrows
Revised by Jesse L. Hurlbut

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Chautauqua, N. Y.
The Chautauqua Press

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PALESTINE as divided among THE TRIBES

□..... Cities of Refuge
●..... Boundary Towns



PREFATORY

The Model of Palestine to which this travel book especially relates, is at Chautauqua, New York, on the shore of the lake between the Pier and the Men's Club House.

"Palestine Park" was originally made for the first Chautauqua Assembly in 1874, by the Rev. W. W. Wythe, D.D. As it was not built for permanence, the materials of the mountains were mainly stumps and useless logs, filled in with sawdust, and covered with soil, on which grass was sown. But the first season was so great a success that it was decided to continue the Assembly; and in a few years the Park fell into decay. It was reconstructed of better materials by the Rev. Dr. W. H. Perrine, of Michigan. Again in 1907, extensive repairs and improvements were made under the direction of the Rev. Alfred E. Barrows, who also wrote the Guide Book of which this is a revised and enlarged edition.

The Model is a relief map of Palestine, showing the general contour of the country, and having the principal mountains, valleys, water-courses and cities plainly located. By means of it a student may obtain a practical knowledge of the geography of the Holy Land. The scale of distances on the model is about $1\frac{3}{4}$ feet per mile; and the scale of elevations, necessarily exaggerated, is $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet per thousand feet, or about 13 feet per mile. It is to be noticed that on the Model the points of the compass are reversed; north is toward the high mountains Lebanon and Hermon; and west is toward Chautauqua Lake, which represents the Mediterranean Sea.

Biblical history is closely connected with the land of Palestine. Here journeyed Abraham and the

patriarchs; here Joshua fought the battles of the conquest; here the Judges ruled from Othniel to Samuel; here David wandered, and afterward reigned; here the prophets preached; and here Jesus Christ lived his thirty-three years on earth. For it the Crusaders came from over the sea; and toward it have been turned the thoughts and hopes of the Jewish race for eighteen centuries. And since the world-war, the eyes of all the nations have been centered upon this land with a new interest.

JESSE L. HURLBUT.

NAMES.

This land has been known at different periods under various names. When Abraham settled in its borders it was called the Land of Canaan, from its best-known people, who occupied the Mediterranean border. After the Hebrews possessed it under Joshua, it was known as the Land of Israel. In the New Testament times, it was called Judea, from the Jews, its inhabitants. Its modern name, Palestine, came from the Philistine Plain in its south-western section. From its association with the life of Christ it is often spoken of as the Holy Land.

LOCATION.

Palestine Proper is the territory lying between the River Jordan and the Dead Sea on the east, and the Mediterranean Sea on the west; and from Dan at the foot of the mountains Lebanon and Hermon on the north, to Beersheba on the south. The width varies from about 40 miles at the Sea of Galilee, to nearly 90 miles at the southern end of the Dead Sea. The distance from Dan to Beersheba is about 145 miles. But the word Palestine is also frequently used to include the lands on the east of the Jordan, which would almost double its dimensions. Both sections together include about 12,600 square miles, although its dimensions varied greatly at different periods.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Palestine is similar to that of California. It has two seasons, rainy and dry—"seed-time and harvest." The winter, or rainy season is the period of growth; the summer, or dry season, is very hot. The climate varies greatly, however, at different altitudes. Snow never falls along the coast; but on Mount Hermon it remains nearly all the year.

NATURAL FEATURES.

The land lies in five parallel sections, especially in its southern half.

1. **THE SEA-COAST PLAIN** lies on the west, beside the Mediterranean Sea. North of Mount Carmel, the plain is narrow, and the mountains come close to the sea, except that just at Mount Carmel, the plain broadens out to form the Plain of Esdraelon, to be described later. (See page 13.) South of Mount Carmel, the Sea-coast Plain trends away to the west, making its form almost that of a great triangle, nearly 30 miles wide at its base, and coming to a point at Mt. Carmel. This plain possesses a rich soil, and is well-watered. In every age it has been the garden of the land, with abundant fields of grain, and orchards of olive, figs, pomegranates and oranges. The oranges grown on this plain are among the finest in the world.
2. **THE SHEPHELAH** is the name given to a range of hills east of the Sea-coast Plain, extending southward from Mount Carmel to the desert. These are the foot-hills of the higher mountains beyond; are from 300 to 500 feet high, and well adapted to pasturage for sheep, goats and cattle. Before David's time they were the border between the Israelites and Philistines, claimed by both nations, and the field of many battles.
3. **THE MOUNTAIN REGION**, east of the Shephelah, was the home of the Israelites throughout their history in this land. This section consists of a

series of mountains, from 2000 feet high, in the south, up to 9000 in the far north. In Bible times they were terraced and cultivated up to their summits; now they are rocky, and almost devoid of soil, although the valleys between them are fertile and covered in spring-time with a profusion of wild flowers. Everywhere are found the ruins of ancient cities, showing that these slopes once gave support to a dense population.

4. Beyond the Mountain Region, we come to a deep gorge, the JORDAN VALLEY, one of the most remarkable chasms upon the earth. It begins in the far north in a valley between the mountains Lebanon and Hermon. At the sources of the Jordan, Dan and Banias (Caesarea-philippi), the valley is 1700 feet above sea-level, while at the Dead Sea it is nearly 1300 feet below sea-level; and as the Dead Sea is 1300 feet deep, its bottom is 2600 feet below the sea; a fall of 4300 feet in less than 150 miles. The plain of the Jordan between the mountains on either side is from 7 to 12 miles wide. Where it has been irrigated, as it might be everywhere, the soil is exceedingly fertile. The temperature of the valley is much higher than elsewhere in Palestine.
5. The last of these natural divisions is the EASTERN TABLE LAND, so named because the mountains on the east of the Jordan gradually slope away to the desert beyond them. This region was once occupied by many large cities and outlying villages, but is now the habitat of wandering Arab tribes.

The RIVER JORDAN, the only stream in Palestine entitled to be called a river, has its principal sources in two great unfailing springs at the foot of Mount Hermon, Caesarea-philippi on the east, and Dan on the west. Another, but smaller stream begins far up in the valley between Lebanon and Hermon, but it is dry during the summer.

The three streams unite, and ten miles below flow through Lake Merom "the waters of Merom."

Josh. 11, 5,) a shallow lake, almost triangular in shape, from 3 to 5 miles across, situated in a great marsh, portions of which have been drained and cultivated. Lake Merom is said to be near the level of the Mediterranean Sea.

THE SEA OF GALILEE lies less than 12 miles south of Lake Merom, but its surface is 680 feet below sea-level. In the Old Testament it is called Chinnereth or Kinnoreth, (*Num.* 34:11; *Josh.* 12:3), from its supposed resemblance in form to a harp, "Kinnor;" a name that in the New Testament became Gennesaret. *Luke* 5:1. The name Sea of Galilee came from the province adjoining it on the west. It was also called the Sea of Tiberias, from the largest city on its shore. It is a pear-shaped lake, 13 miles long, and 8 miles at its greatest width. With this lake many events in the life of Christ are associated. (*Matt.* 8:23; *Mark* 4:1; *Luke* 5:1-7; *John* 6:1, 16; *John* 21:1.)

After leaving the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan flows southward in a series of rapids and cascades, making in its 66 miles to the Dead Sea, a descent of 680 feet. The word Jordan is said to mean "descender." The actual length of the river between the two lakes, on account of its winding course, is over 100 miles.

THE DEAD SEA (called in the Bible "the Salt Sea." *Gen.* 14:3) lies 1,290 feet below sea-level, the lowest body of water in the world. It is about 45 miles long, by 8 miles wide. Its greatest depth is in its northern section, 1,310 feet. The southern end is a shallow lagoon from 8 to 14 feet deep. It was formerly supposed that under this lagoon were the sites of Sodom and Gomorrah; but the present opinion is that they were in the Jordan valley, north of the Dead Sea. From its great evaporation, and from the fact that it has no outlet, the water of this lake is intensely salt.

The entire length of the River Jordan, from its source at Dan to the lower end of the Dead Sea, is about 160 miles.

STREAMS AND BROOKS.

In Palestine are many mountain torrents, which in the rainy season are almost as wide and deep as small rivers, but during the summer are apt to become dry, rocky beds. These streams are sometimes called "brooks," at other times "rivers." The most important of them are the following.

In eastern Palestine, "beyond the Jordan," are three important brooks, viz.

1. The **BROOK ARNON** flowing westward into the middle of the Dead Sea. This brook formed the boundary line between the land of Israel, on the north and the land of Moab on the south. Beside this "river" was fought at Jahaz the first battle for the conquest of the land. (*Num.* 21:13-26).
2. The **BROOK JABBOK** runs from the mountains eastward to the River Jordan about 20 miles north of the Dead Sea. Here took place Jacob's wrestle with the angel. (*Gen.* 32:22-32).
3. Another of these streams, not named in the Bible, but important as a boundary between Gilead and Bashan, is **RIVER HIEROMAX**, now known as the **YARMUK**, which empties into the Jordan 5 miles below the Sea of Galilee.

In western Palestine between the Jordan and the Mediterranean, out of many streams, three may be noted:

4. The **BROOK KIDRON** flows past Jerusalem on the east, turns southward and through a deep gorge falls into the Dead Sea. It is mentioned in the life of King David, and the story of Jesus. (*2 Sam.* 15:23; *John* 18:1).
5. The **BROOK CHERITH**, a hiding-place of the prophet Elijah, was probably the **WADY KULT**, which flows eastward from the Mountain Region into the River Jordan near Jericho. (*1 Kings* 17:2-5).
6. The **RIVER KISHON** lies on the southern side of the Plain of Esdraelon, at the foot of the Carmel range of mountains. (*Judges* 5:20, 21; *1 Kings* 18:40).

MOUNTAINS.

Palestine is a land of mountains, among which we notice only the most important, beginning in the north.

1. **MOUNT HERMON**, the highest mountain in the land, 9,000 feet, is near the sources of the River Jordan. Upon one of its foot-hills Jesus was transfigured. (*Deut.* 3:8; *Josh.* 11:17; *Matt.* 17:1).

2. **MOUNT LEBANON**, rather a range than a single peak, is opposite Mount Hermon on the west. From its cedars came materials for the building of the Temple. (*1 Kings* 5:6; *Psa.* 29:5).

3. **KURN HATTIN**, "the horns of Hattin," a double-peaked mountain, with a depression between its two summits, lies about 5 miles west of the Sea of Galilee. It is believed to be "the mountain," where Jesus chose his twelve apostles, preached the Sermon on the Mount, and appeared to his disciples after his resurrection. (*Luke* 6:12-17; *Matt.* 5:1; 28:16).

On the east of the Plain of Esdraelon stand three mountains. 4. **MOUNT TABOR**, northernmost of the three, southwest of the Sea of Galilee, was the place of Deborah and Barak's victory over the Canaanites. (*Judg.* 4:6).

5. The **HILL MOREH** lies south of Mount Tabor, probably now **JEBEL ED-DUHY**, also known to modern travelers as "Little Hermon." (*Judg.* 7:1).

6. The largest of these three mountains is **MOUNT GILBOA**, the place of Gideon's encampment, and later of King Saul's defeat and death. (*Judg.* 7:1; *1 Sam.* 31:1; *2 Sam.* 1:6).

7. On the southwestern side of the Plain of Esdraelon is a range called **MOUNT CARMEL**, extending to the Mediterranean Sea, due west of the Sea of Galilee. On this mountain Elijah offered his sacrifice. (*1 Kings* 18:20, 42; *Isa.* 35:2).

In the center of the land, midway between Nazareth and Jerusalem, and also half-way between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea, stand "the twin mountains," Ebal and Gerizim.

8. **MOUNT EBAL** is on the north, overlooking the city of Shechem. It was "the mount of cursing," when the law was read by Joshua. (*Deut.* 11:29; *Josh.* 8:30-35).
9. **MOUNT GERIZIM**, "the mount of blessing," is the southern of the "twin mountains." On it stood in New Testament times, the temple of the Samaritans. (*John* 4:19, 20); and beside it on the east is Jacob's Well, where Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman. (*John* 4:5-7). In connection with the city of Jerusalem three mountains are to be noted.
10. **MOUNT ZION** is the southwesterly mountain of the group, which included a large part of the ancient city; and the name is often used for Jerusalem itself. (*Psa.* 2:6; 126:1; *Isa.* 40:9). But the opinion of most recent scholars is that the original Zion captured by David was the smaller hill on the southeast, later known as Ophel. (*2 Sam.* 5:7; *1 Kings* 8:1).
11. **MOUNT MORIAH** is northeast of the traditional Zion, and was the site of Solomon's temple. (*2 Chron.* 3:1). Over the rock where stood the altar of the temple now rises the so-called Mosque of Omar, of which the true name is the Dome of the Rock. It is possible but by no means certain that Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac was on this mountain. (*Gen.* 22:2). This elevation is 2400 feet above sea-level.
12. **THE MOUNT OF OLIVES** or **Mount Olivet** is a range of four hills east of the city, across the brook Kidron. (*Zech.* 14:4). Here Jesus talked with his disciples (*Matt.* 24:3) and gave the discourse concerning events to come; and on this mountain also took place his ascension to heaven. (*Acts* 1. 9-12). The highest peak of the mountain is 2,637 feet above sea-level.
13. **MOUNT NEBO**, called also **MOUNT PISGAH**, is in eastern Palestine, 20 miles from the northern end of the Dead Sea. From its summit, Moses viewed the Land of Promise, and upon it he

died. While the general location is well known, the precise peak has not been identified. (*Deut.* 34:1-6).

PLAINS.

1. **THE PLAIN OF THE PHILISTINES**, or **PHILISTIA**, is the southern part of the great Sea-Coast Plain. Its inhabitants, the Philistines, were for nearly 100 years the most dreaded enemies of the Israelites, and much of the time held the southern tribes in subjection. The Philistines were a branch of the race having its home in the island of Crete, who 3000 B.C. were rulers of the eastern Mediterranean. Their five leading cities, Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath and Ekron, were united in a league, though in the reign of Saul in Israel Gath became the ruling city under its king Achish. (*1 Sam.* 21:10).
2. **THE PLAIN OF SHARON** was at the northern end of the Sea-coast Plain, between Mount Carmel, the Shephelah, and the Mediterranean Sea. Its cities were Joppa and, in New Testament times, Caesarea.
3. **THE PLAIN OF ESDRAELON** occupies a triangle between the mountains of lower Galilee on the north, Tabor, Mozeh, and Gilboa on the east, and the Carmel range on the south. Its extent is about 15 miles from north to south, and 20 miles from northwest to southeast, following the Carmel range. At the foot of Mount Carmel the river ("brook") Kishon flows in a northwesterly direction. Different sections of this great plain bear different names. In the east it is called the plain (or valley) of Jezreel; in the west, the plain of Megiddo, or Armageddon. (*Rev.* 16:16). The latter name meaning the "hill of Megiddo." More battles have been fought on this plain, than on any other field of the earth's surface. Here were won victories by Deborah with Barak, and Gideon; here King Saul and later King Josiah were defeated and slain. (*Judg.* 4; *Judg.* 7; *1 Sam.* 31;

2 *Kings* 23:29). The Romans fought here under Mark Antony, and afterwards under Titus. On this plain the Crusaders were defeated by Saladin, and the Turks by Napoleon. And a victory on this plain by General Allenby, Sept. 19, 1918, ended the Turkish rule in Palestine. The cities around this plain will be named and described later. (See page 19.)

4. THE PLAIN OF JORDAN, (*Gen.* 13:10), was probably the lower portion of the Jordan valley, immediately north of the Dead Sea, chosen by Lot as his home; and the seat of the five cities of the plain, Sodom, Gomorah, Adinah, Zeboim, and Bela or Zoar. (*Gen.* 14:2).

EARLY INHABITANTS.

We name only the most important of the peoples, some occupying and others adjoining the land at the time of the Israelite invasion under Joshua.

On the shore of the Mediterranean Sea were settled three nations.

1. THE PHOENICIANS, north of the bay of Accho (Acre), between Mount Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea, and northwest of Palestine Proper. Their principal cities were Tyre and Sidon. They were always friendly to Israel. (*1 Kings* 5:1).
2. THE CANAANITES, occupying the Plain of Sharon, and to some extent the Jordan valley. The name means "lowlanders." Their name, Canaan, was often applied to the whole country.
3. THE PHILISTINES, as we have seen, held the southern part of the Sea-coast Plain with their five cities. (See page 13.)

On the Mountain Region and south of it we note three nations, some of which were also subdivided into smaller tribes.

4. THE HITTITES were in the north at the foot of the mountains Lebanon and Hermon, and extending to the Euphrates River. (*Josh.* 1:4; *Judg.* 1:26). Another and smaller tribe of this people was around Hebron in the far south.

26:2-8; *Mark.* 7:24; *Acts* 21:3-4). It is now a (*Gen.* 23:3;25:10). Both of these formed the outlying southern border of a powerful people in Asia Minor. (*2 Kings* 7:6).

5. In the center and south of the Mountain Region dwelt THE AMORITES ("mountaineers"), a general name including several local tribes, as the HIVITES around Shechem. (*Gen.* 34:1); the JEBUSITES at Jerusalem (*Judg.* 19:10-12; *2 Sam.* 5:6); and the PERIZZITES. (*Gen.* 13:7; *Ezra* 9:1). The latter are supposed to have been farmers, dwelling in unwallled villages throughout the land. The word Perizzite is said to mean "villager."
6. On the south, between Mount Sinai and the Israelite border, were THE AMALEKITES, wild nomads of Arabian origin, a constant menace to Israel, until David's time. (*Exod.* 17:8-16; *1 Sam.* 15:1-3; 30:1).
In the Eastern Table Land, beyond the Jordan, the invading Israelites found four strong kingdoms, besides wandering tribes on the desert border.
7. The Kingdom of BASHAN ("woodland") was west of the upper Jordan and the Sea of Galilee, ruled in Moses' time by the giant-like Og, who was slain by the Israelites. (*Num.* 21:33-35; *Deut.* 3:11).
8. Between the river Hieromax and the brook Arnon, the land was called GILEAD ("highland"), and its people belonged to the Amorite race. (*Deut.* 2:24).
9. THE MOABITES, descendants of Lot, dwelt south of the brook Arnon, and east of the Dead Sea. (*Gen.* 19:36, 37). They were not attacked by Moses or Joshua, but later were conquered by David. (*2 Sam.* 8:1, 2).
10. THE EDOMITES descended from Esau, Jacob's brother, held the territory south of the Dead Sea. (*Num.* 21:4). They were conquered by King David. (*2 Sam.* 8:14); but later regained their independence. (*2 Kings* 8:20-22). At a still

later period their kingdom, known as Idumea, controlled all the country south of Judah, and Herod the Great of their race became king over all Palestine.

11. North of the Moabites, on the desert border, were THE AMMONITES, akin to the Moabites as descended from Lot. (*Gen.* 19:38). At one time they subjected the southeastern tribes of Israel, but were overthrown by Jephthah (*Judg.* 10:7-9, 11:29-33), and were finally conquered by King David. (*2 Sam.* 12:26-31).
12. THE MIDIANITES were the nomad Arabs on the desert east of Israel. Their raids, especially on the Plain of Esdraelon, constantly annoyed the Israelites. (See references in *Gen.* 37:28; *Num.* 31:1-12; *Judg.* 6:1-10).

PRINCIPAL CITIES.

Among the hundreds of places mentioned in the Bible, only the most important are here named and located. They are arranged according to the Natural Divisions of the land, from north to south.

CITIES ON THE SEA-COAST PLAIN.

It should be kept in mind that the entire Sea-Coast Plain and the cities upon it were never occupied to any extent by the Israelites. They were pagan cities, and even in the New Testament period, the Jews dwelt within them as foreigners.

- ZIDON, (Am. Rev. Ver. SIDON), was nominally in the tribe-land of Asher, but never taken by Israel. It stood (and still stands) on the Mediterranean, west of Mount Lebanon, and was the mother-city of the Phoenicians, antedating Tyre. It was the home of Jezebel, Ahab's wicked queen. (*1 Kings* 16:31). Paul visited this city on his voyage to Rome. (*Acts* 27:3).
2. TYRE, on an island near the coast, 20 miles south of Zidon, and 28 miles west of Dan, was long the commercial and ruling city of the Phoenicians. Like Zidon, it was outside the land of Palestine. (*Josh.* 19:29; *2 Sam.* 5:11; *1 Kings* 5:8; *Ezek.*

small fishing village, literally fulfilling the prophecy of *Ezek.* 26-3-6).

3. **ACCHO**, called in the N. T. Ptolemais (*Acts* 21:7), and later **ST. JEAN D'ACRE**, or simply **ACRE**, is situated 10 miles northeast of Mount Carmel, 30 miles south of Tyre, on the bay of Acre. (*Judg.* 1:31).
4. **CAESAREA**, on the coast, 25 miles below Mount Carmel, and about 70 miles northwest of Jerusalem, was the Roman capital of Palestine in the New Testament period. Here the gospel was preached by Peter, (*Acts* 10); here Paul was imprisoned for two years (*Acts* 23-26). The city was founded by Herod the Great, and named after the Roman emperor.
5. **JOPPA**, (modern name **JAFFA**), is the principal port of Palestine, 33 miles south of Caesarea, and about the same distance from Jerusalem. It is one of the oldest towns in the world. Hiram, King of Tyre, sent lumber from Mount Lebanon for the building of the Temple. (*2 Chron.* 2:16). There Jonah embarked for Tarshish. (*Jon.* 1:3). In the New Testament it is named as the home of Dorcas (*Acts* 9:36-43), and the place of the vision of Peter. (*Acts* 10:8-18).
6. **EKRON**, 15 miles south of Joppa, and 10 miles inland, was the most northern of the five Philistine cities. From it the Philistines sent back the ark of the Lord. (*1 Sam.* 5:10, 11).
7. **ASHDOD** (in New Testament **AZOTUS**), 22 miles south of Joppa, and 3 miles inland, was another of the five Philistine cities. Here the idol-god Dagon, fell before the ark of the Lord. (*1 Sam.* 5:1-4). The city was taken by the Judahites in the reign of Uzziah. (*2 Chron.* 26:6). It was visited by Philip the evangelist. (*Acts* 8:40).
8. **ASHKELON**, also a Philistine city, was on the coast, 10 miles southwest of Ashdod. (*Judg.* 1:18). Samson slew 30 men of this city. (*Judg.* 14:19). In later times it was called **ASCALON**.
9. **GAZA** is the southernmost of the cities on the shore belonging to Palestine; 14 miles southwest of

Ashkelon. Its gates were carried away by Samson. (*Judg.* 16:3). In this city he toiled as a blinded slave, and pulled down the temple upon the Philistines and himself. (*Judg.* 16:21-30).

CITIES IN THE SHEPHELAH.

The Shephelah or foot-hills had few cities, being mostly used as pasture-fields. Even the three named below might be regarded almost as in the Sea-coast Plain, for they stood at its border, on the slope of the hills.

1. LYDDA (modern LUD) is at the edge of the Plain of Sharon, 12 miles southeast of Joppa, on the road to Jerusalem. (*Acts* 9:32-38).
2. BETH-SHEMESH was 22 miles east of Ashdod, and 17 miles from Jerusalem. To this place the ark of the covenant was brought when sent home by the Philistines. (*1 Sam.* 6:8-20. In the reign of Jehoash of Israel and Amaziah of Judah, a battle was fought at this place between the two kings. (*2 Kings* 14:11-15).
3. GATH was the ruling city of the Philistines in the reign of Saul in Israel, and its king Achish protected David. (*1 Sam.* 27:4-7). Gath was the home of Goliath, slain by David. (*1 Sam.* 17:4). Early in David's reign, he took the city. (*2 Sam.* 8:1; *1 Chron.* 18:1). It stood 17 miles east of the Mediterranean, south of east from Ashdod; about 25 miles from Jerusalem.

CITIES IN THE MOUNTAIN REGION.

As this was the home of the Israelites, their cities here were more numerous than in any other part of the land. Only the most important are shown upon the Model and named in this Handbook. Among the northern tribes we note the following four cities:

1. KEDESH-NAPHTALI, 4 miles northwest of Lake Merom, was one of the six "cities of refuge" (*Josh.* 20:7); and the home of Barak, called by Deborah to lead the northern tribes against the Canaanites. (*Judg.* 4:6-10).

2. HAZOR, 5 miles west of Lake Merom, was taken by Joshua in his northern campaign. (*Josh.* 11:1-10).
3. SAFED is not named in the Bible, but from its situation may have been the "city set on a hill," referred to in the Sermon on the Mount. (*Matt.* 5:14). It is now one of the four holy cities of the Jews, with Jerusalem, Hebron, and Tiberias. It is 7 miles northwest of the Sea of Galilee at Capernaum and prominent in the landscape.
4. CANA OF GALILEE, the place where Jesus wrought his first miracle (*John* 2:1) and afterward cured the nobleman's son (*John* 4:46), may be KEFR KENNA, a small village not quite 4 miles northeast of Nazareth, 13 miles west of the Sea of Galilee, and 18 miles southwest of Capernaum.

Around the Plain of Esdraelon we find six localities, as follows:

5. NAZARETH, the home of Joseph and Mary (*Luke* 1:26, 27), and of Jesus until the beginning of his ministry (*Luke* 2:51; 4:16), stands on the further side of a hill just north of the great plain. It is 70 miles north of Jerusalem, and 17 miles due west of the southern end of the Sea of Galilee. At the present time it has a population of from 15,000 to 20,000 people.
6. Passing around the plain eastward, we come to EN-DOR, on the northern slope of the Hill Moreh, the place where King Saul, on the night before he was slain, consulted the witch on Endor. (*1 Sam.* 28:7).
7. Only three miles southwest of En-dor, we come to NAIN, on the western slope of the Hill Moreh, 13 miles west of the River Jordan, at a point 7 miles south of the Sea of Galilee. Here Jesus raised to life the widow's son. (*Luke* 7:11-15).
8. Passing around the Hill Moreh, on its southern slope, we find SHUNEM, also 13 miles west of the River Jordan. This was the the home of the Shunammite woman who befriended the prophet

Elisha; and whose son was restored to life through his prayers. (*2 Kings* 4:8-37).

9. JEZREEL was on a northwestern spur of Mount Gilboa, overlooking the plain, 14 miles west of the River Jordan. King Ahab had a palace in this city; here Naboth was murdered, and Elijah denounced the crime to the king. (*1 Kings* 18:45, 46; 21:1; 21:17). The word Esdraelon is not found in the Bible; but is the Greek form of the word Jezreel, which gave its name to the plain, especially on its eastern part.
10. MEGIDDO stood on the northwestern slope of Mount Carmel, 16 miles from the Mediterranean Sea and 24 miles from the River Jordan. It was a fortified city guarding the pass connecting the Plain of Esdraelon with the Plain of Sharon and the cities of the coast. The city gave one of the names to the plain or "valley" of Megiddo (*2 Chron.* 35:22), also to the river or brook Kishon. (*Judg.* 5:19). Here King Josiah was slain in battle with the Egyptians. (*2 Kings* 23:29).
In the middle of the Mountain Region, south of Mount Carmel, among many places we mention seven;
11. DOTHAN, on a plain, ten miles north of the city of Samaria, was the place where Joseph was sold by his brothers, (*Gen.* 37:17), and later where Elisha was delivered from the Syrians. (*2 Kings* 6:13-19).
12. SAMARIA, the capital of the Kingdom of the Ten Tribes, stood on a hill, strongly fortified by nature; 25 miles east of the Mediterranean Sea, and the same distance from the River Jordan. It was founded by King Omri, and made his capital. (*1 Kings* 16:24). Here Jehu slew the priests of Baal. (*2 Kings* 10:17-28). It was besieged by the Syrians (*2 Kings* 6:25), and afterwards taken by the Assyrians, when the Kingdom of the Ten Tribes was ended, and their people were carried into captivity. (*2 Kings* 17:1-6). In the New Testament times, a church was established here by Philip. (*Acts* 8:5).

13. **SHECHEM** nestles in the narrow valley between the twin mountains Gerizim and Ebal, in the center of the land, about 36 miles south of Nazareth and the same distance north of Jerusalem; 22 miles from the Mediterranean and also 22 miles from the Jordan. Here Abraham found his first dwelling-place in the land (*Gen.* 12:7); and near it Jacob encamped. (*Gen.* 33:18). His famous well is a mile and a half southeast of the city. (*John* 4:5, 6). In a natural amphitheater between the mountains, Joshua assembled the tribes, and read the law. (*Josh.* 8:30). The territory around this city was assigned to the tribe of Ephraim. (*Josh.* 20:7). Here Rehoboam was crowned King, and the secession of the Ten Tribes took place. (*1 Kings* 12). The city afterward became the center of the Samaritan worship, and their temple stood on Mount Gerizim. (*John* 4:19). The city is now called **NABLUS**, and contains a population of about 25,000.
14. **SYCHAR**, the village from which the Samaritan woman came to **JACOB'S WELL** (*John* 4:5-7), is at the foot of Mount Ebal, on its eastern side. The well was originally more than 100 feet deep, and nine feet in diameter. It is now between 85 and 90 feet deep, and apt to be dry during the summer months; but if it were cleaned out to its original depth, would undoubtedly become an unfailling spring. It is probably the oldest construction now remaining in the land, for it was dug 1800 years before Christ sat by its side.
15. **SHILOH** was 12 miles from Shechem, a little east of south, and 28 miles north of Jerusalem, in the tribe-land of Ephraim. Here the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant were located after Joshua's conquest, (*Josh.* 18:1), and here the Ark remained until captured by the Philistines. (*1 Sam.* 4:4-11). The prophet Samuel grew up in this place and here received his first messages. (*1 Sam.* 1:24-27; 3:2-4). The place was in ruins

in the time of the prophet Jeremiah. (*Jer.* 7:12). It is now called **SEILUN**.

16. **BETHEL**, ten miles north of Jerusalem, was one of the early homes of Abraham. (*Gen.* 12:8; 13:3-4). Here Jacob had his vision and set up a pillar. (*Gen.* 28:18, 19). The city afterward built by the Canaanites was called **Luz**. (*Gen.* 35:6). Jeroboam, King of the Ten Tribes, built a temple at this place, and set up a golden calf to be worshipped. (*1 Kings* 12:25-33). The heathen altar was destroyed by the reformer, King Josiah. (*2 Kings* 23:15).
17. **JERUSALEM**, the Holy City, is about 18 miles west of the River Jordan at its entrance into the Dead Sea, and 32 miles east of the Mediterranean. It stands upon the two mountains, Zion and Moriah, about 2500 feet above sea-level, and 3800 feet higher than the Dead Sea. On three sides of the city are valleys; the valley of Hinnomon the south and west, and the valley of Kedron or Jehoshaphat (*Joel* 3:12), on the east, between the city and the Mount of Olives. It was known as **SALEM** in the time of Abraham, when Melchizedek was its priest-king. (*Gen.* 14:18, 19). From Egyptian monuments we learn that it was an important place while the Israelites were sojourning in Egypt. Its king formed the confederacy to resist the Israelite invasion. (*Josh.* 10:1-5). The city was taken by the Judahites soon after the death of Joshua (*Judg.* 1:8); but was reoccupied by its original inhabitants, the Jebusites (*Judg.* 1:21), and remained a Jebusite city until taken by David (*2 Sam.* 5:6-10), and made his capital. On its Mount Moriah Solomon built his Temple. (*2 Chron.* 3:1). The site of the altar in front of the Temple is now covered by the Dome of the Rock, generally known as the Mosque of Omar. The present population of Jerusalem is variously estimated at from 60,000 to 80,000 people, the majority being Jews. On Dec. 8, 1918, the city was taken without seige by the British army

under General Allenby, and it now remains under the control of Great Britain. It is regarded as a holy city by Jews, Mohammedans, and both Latin and Greek Christians.

In the southern section we notice five places.

18. **BETHANY** lies on the southeasterly slope of the Mount of Olives, about two miles east of Jerusalem. It was the home of Martha and Mary, (*Luke* 10:38), and the place where Lazarus was raised from the dead. (*John* 11). At the house of Simon the leper (*Matt.* 26:6, 7) Mary, the sister of Lazarus, poured her costly perfume on the head and feet of Jesus. (*John* 12:1-7). During the most of Passion Week, Jesus stayed by night in the village of Bethany, (*Luke* 21:37); and from the Mount of Olives, near this place, he ascended to heaven. (*Luke* 24:50, 51).
19. **BETHLEHEM** is about six miles south of Jerusalem. Its earliest name was **EPHRATH** or **EPHRATAH**, (*Gen.* 35:16-19; 48:7), mentioned in connection with the death of Rachel, Jacob's wife. It was the home of Ruth and Boaz, (*Ruth* 1:22; 2:1); the birthplace of David (1 *Sam.* 16:1-13): and of Jesus (*Matt.* 2:1; *Luke* 2:4-7). The church built by the Empress Helena about 330 A.D. over the cave said to have been the birth-place of Christ, is the oldest Christian church in existence. The present population of the city is about 8,000, mostly Christian in name.
20. **HEBRON**, about 20 miles south of Jerusalem, and the same distance north of Beersheba, was one of the homes of Abraham, and his family burying-place. (*Gen.* 23:17-20; 25:8-10; 50:13). The early name of the city was **MAMRE**. (*Gen.* 13:18). After the conquest, the city was given to Caleb. (*Josh.* 14:12-15). It was the capital of David's Kingdom of Judah, until he conquered Jerusalem. (2 *Sam.* 2:1-4). The city is now called **EL KHALIL**, "The Friend," from an appellation of Abraham. (2 *Chron.* 20:7; *Jas.* 2:23). The cave wherein Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were buried is undoubtedly underneath the mosque in

Hebron, but no one is permitted to explore it. The city has a population of 8,000 people, intensely Mohammedan, and unfriendly to other religions.

21. **ENGEDI** overlooks the Dead Sea on its western coast, midway between its northern and southern limits. In one of its caves David found refuge when pursued by Saul (*1 Sam.* 23:29); and spared Saul's life. (*1 Sam.* 24).
22. **MASADA** (not named in the Bible) was on a rocky cliff by the Dead Sea, 10 miles south of Engedi. It was a fortress under the Maccabean rulers, and one of the residences of Herod the Great; but its interest lies in the fact that at this place was made the last stand of the Jewish insurgents after the fall of Jerusalem, A.D. 70. When its capture by the Romans became imminent, the Jewish warriors slew their wives, their children and each other until not a man was left.
23. **BEERSHEBA** was the most southern town in Israel, as Dan was its most northern. (*Judg.* 20:1; *1 Sam.* 3:20). Here Abraham dug wells and dwelt (*Gen.* 21:31-33; 22:19); Isaac also. (*Gen.* 26:23-25). Elijah fled to this place from queen Jezebel. (*1 Kings* 19:3). It was about 27 miles southwest of Hebron, the same distance southeast of Gaza, and 35 miles west of the Dead Sea opposite its lower lagoon.

CITIES OF THE JORDAN VALLEY.

We divide these into two sections, localities north of and around the Sea of Galilee, and those between the Sea Galilee and the Dead Sea.

1. **DAN** at one of the sources of the Jordan, near the foot of Mount Hermon, and 27 miles east of Tyre, was originally named Laish (*Judg.* 18:7), but was taken by men of the tribe of Dan (*Judg.* 18:29) and named after their tribe-father. A temple of idols was located there, at which the grandson of Moses was priest. (*Judg.* 18:30;

Am. Rev. Ver.). Afterwards Jeroboam placed one of his golden calves in Dan, as an object of worship for the northern tribes.

2. CAESAREA-PHILIPPI ("Philip's Caesarea") was built by Herod Philip, tetrarch of this region, and named after the Roman emperor. The villages near this city were visited by Jesus (*Mark* 8:27-29); and on one of the foot hills of Mount Hermon which rises above the city, Jesus was transfigured. (*Mark* 9:2). The town was about 3 miles east of Dan, and its great spring is one of the sources of the Jordan.

Journeying southward past "the waters of Merom," we come to the Sea of Galilee, and around it find a number of localities named in the New Testament.

3. BETHSAIDA, lying on the slope of a hill north of the Sea of Galilee, east of the River Jordan at its entrance into the lake, was the home of Peter, Andrew, and Philip. (*John* 1:44). On a plain near it the five thousand were fed. (*Luke* 9:10-14). Here also Jesus gave sight to the blind man who at first saw "men as trees walking." (*Mark* 8:22-26). Some scholars think that another Bethsaida stood on the western shore of the lake, as seems intimated in *Mark* 6:45; and this is possible, as the name means "house of fish" or "fish-town" and might be given to any fishing village.
4. CAPERNAUM, the home of Jesus during his Galilean ministry (*Matt.* 4:13) was on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Many of his miracles were wrought in that city. (*Matt.* 8:14-16; *Mark* 2:1-12; 3:1-6; 5:21-43).
5. MAGDALA, the home of Mary Magdalene (*Luke* 8:2) was about 5 miles southwest of Capernaum, on the south of the plain of Gennesaret. In the Rev. Ver. MAGADAN. (*Matt.* 15:39).
6. TIBERIAS was the largest city upon the lake, situated half-way between its northern and southern points. It was built by Herod Antipas, and was at first a Gentile city. There is no record

of its being visited by Jesus. The city is mentioned only once in the New Testament (*John* 6:23), although it gave its name to the lake. (*John* 6:1; 21:1). After the fall of Jerusalem, A.D. 70, it became one of the principal centers of Jewish life and thought; and is today regarded as one of their holy cities.

7. On the eastern shore of the lake, about 8 miles 8:28 "the country of the Gadarenes," possibly from the well-known city of GADARA, 15 miles distant, south of the lake, giving its name to the region. In *Mark* 5:1, and *Luke* 8:26, it is called "the country of the Gergesenes" (in Am. Rev. Ver. "Gerasenes"), which may indicate a place named GERGESA or GERASA. Here Jesus found a man (*Matt.* 8:28 says two men) afflicted with demons. He cast the evil spirits out, permitting them to enter a herd of swine. (*Mark* 5:1-20).

South of the Sea of Galilee, we call attention to five places.

8. BETHABARA beyond the Jordan. (*John* 1:28) Rev. Ver. BETHANY; the place where Jesus was baptised, and where he found his earliest disciples. (*John* 1:35-42). The word "Bethabara" means "the place of the crossing." i. e. a ford of the river. It was formerly supposed to refer to the place where the Israelites crossed under Joshua (*Josh.* 4:19), nearly opposite Jericho. But from *John* 2:1 we learn that it was only a day's journey from Cana, making that location impossible. But there was a Bethbarah (*Judg.* 7:24) which was probably the place of Jesus' baptism, near Bethshean, 13 miles below the Sea of Galilee, which would be an easy day's journey to Cana.
9. BETHSHEAN or BETHSHAN, was just at the entrance of the valley leading up to the Plain of Esdraelon; 15 miles below the Sea of Galilee, and about 4 miles west of the River Jordan. On the walls of this city the bodies of Saul and his sons were exposed by the Philistines, but were rescued and buried by the men of Jabesh-Gilead. (1

Sam. 31:10-13; *2 Sam.* 2:4, 5). After an invasion by the Scythians it was called by the Greeks Scythopolis. It is now BEISAN.

10. SUCCOTH. ("Booths"), on the northern side of the Brook Jabbok, about 37 miles south of the Sea of Galilee, 28 miles north of the Dead Sea, and 4 miles east of the river, was a camping place of Jacob on his return to the land of Canaan. (*Gen.* 33:17). The men of Succoth were punished by Gideon for refusing to give food to his army. (*Jud.* 8:4-16).

11. JERICHO lies about 6 miles north of the Dead Sea, and 5 miles west of the river, at the foot of the mountain range, which is here called QUARANTANIA, "forty days," as the traditional place of Christ's temptation. (*Matt.* 4:1-11). It is the lowest city in the world, being about 1000 feet below sea-level. The intense heat is very enervating, which may partly explain its easy capture by the Israelites. (*Josh.* 6). Long after its destruction its walls were rebuilt by Hiel, in the reign of Ahab. (*Josh.* 6:26; *1 Kings* 34). The city was visited by Elijah (*2 Kings* 2:4, 5, 15-22). Jesus passed through this place on his last journey to Jerusalem, healed blind Bartimus (*Mark* 10:46-52), and was entertained by Zaccheus. (*Luke* 19:1-10).

CITIES ON THE EASTERN TABLE LAND.

In the lands east of the River Jordan, Moab, Ammon, Gilead and Bashan, we call attention to nine cities of importance.

1. DAMASCUS, though outside the land of Israel, was closely connected with Biblical history. It is one of the oldest cities in the world, well-known in Abraham's time (*Gen.* 15:2); conquered by David (*2 Sam.* 8:5, 6), but regaining independence after Solomon's death, perhaps during his reign (*1 Kings* 11:23-25); and later a rival to Samaria and Jerusalem as capital of the Syrian kingdom. It was the scene of Saul's conversion and his early

ministry. (*Acts* 9:1-25). It stands in a plain, watered by two rivers (*2 Kings* 5:12), about 145 miles northeast of Jerusalem; and is now a city of 150,000 inhabitants.

2. APHEK, the place of several battles between Israel and Syria, was probably 3 miles east of the southern part of the Sea of Galilee. Its importance arose from its being on the main route of travel, commerce, and war between Damascus and Palestine. (*2 Kings* 13:17, 25). Several other places of the same name were on the west of the Jordan. (*Judg.* 1:31; *1 Sam.* 4:1; *1 Sam.* 29:1).
3. GADARA, 5 miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee, and about the same distance east of the Jordan, gave its name to "the country of the Gadarenes." (*Matt.* 4:25). The city belonged to a league called "the DECAPOLIS," or "Ten Cities," formed for self-protection and trade among the Greek cities on the east of Palestine, extending through Gilead and Bashan, as far north as Damascus. At first composed of ten cities, it grew to include as many as 16 or 20, and gave the name DECAPOLIS to the region east of the Sea of Galilee. (*Matt.* 4:25; *Mark* 5:20; 7:31).
4. PELLA is not named in the Bible, but was the place where the Jewish Christians found refuge before the siege of Jerusalem by the Romans, A.D. 70. It was 18 miles south of the Sea of Galilee, and east of the river.
5. JABESH-GILEAD was 18 miles south of the Sea of Galilee, and six miles east of the Jordan, on a height overlooking the plain. When besieged by the Ammonites, it was delivered by Saul, early in his reign. (*1 Sam.* 11:1-11). After Saul's death, the men of this city rescued his body, and those of his sons, burned them and gave them burial. (*1 Sam.* 31:11-13; *2 Sam.* 2:4-7).
6. RAMOTH-GILEAD has been located about 17 miles east of the River Jordan, and about the same distance southeast of Jabesh-Gilead. It is also due east of the city of Samaria, 40 miles distant. It was an important fortress on the mountains

PALESTINE In the time of CHRIST

Scale of Miles



near the desert border; one of the cities of refuge (*Josh.* 20:8), but was as often in the possession of the Ammonites and Syrians as of the Israelites. In a battle near this city, King Ahab was slain (*1 Kings* 22), and during a seige later Jehu's revolution was begun. (*2 Kings* 9).

7. MAHANAIM ("two hosts" or "two camps") was a place where Jacob on his return from Haran was met by two angels. (*Gen.* 32:62). Here, after Saul's death Abner established Saul's son Eshbaal or Ishbosheth as King. (*2 Sam.* 2:8-10). Here also David found a refuge in his flight from Absalom (*2 Sam.* 17:24-29); and here he received tidings of Absalom's death. (*2 Sam.* 18:24-33). It is located, but not with certainty, about 18 miles south of Mahanaim, and the same distance east of the River Jordan.
8. PENUEL, where Jacob wrestled with the angel (*Gen.* 32:24-31), has been located, but without strong evidence, about 10 miles southwest of Manhanaim, 11 miles east of the Jordan, and 20 miles north of the Dead Sea. The tower of the city was thrown down by Gideon. (*Judg.* 8:8, 9, 17).
9. RABBOTH-AMMON was the capital of the Ammonites, on the border of the desert, about 25 miles east of the Jordan, north of east from Jericho. It was captured by Joab, commander of David's army. (*2 Sam.* 12:26-31). In an attack upon this city, Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, was slain. (*2 Sam.* 11:1-25).
10. MACHAERUS is not named in the Bible, but according to Josephus was the place where John the Baptist was put to death by Herod Antipas. (*Mark* 6:17-29). Herod built a palace and fortress to guard the southeastern frontier of his realm. It was among the mountains overlooking the Dead Sea, about 15 miles from its northern end.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF PALESTINE.

The earlier dates in this list are very uncertain, and are given only tentatively. After the Division of the Kingdom, 937 B.C., they are measurably correct.

Abraham's Entrance into Canaan, about 2000 B.C.

Jacob's Descent into Egypt; beginning of the Israelite sojourn in Egypt, about 1700 B.C.

Exodus from Egypt, 1270 B.C.

Conquest of Canaan under Joshua, 1230-1200 B. C.

Rule of the Judges, 1200-1050 B.C.

Saul King of Israel, 1050 B.C.

David King of Israel, 1010 B.C.

Building of Solomon's Temple, 975-968 B.C.

Division of the Kingdom, 937 B.C.

Captivity of Ten Tribes; end of Israelite Kingdom, 721 B.C.

Captivity of Judah in Babylon, 587 B.C.

Return of Jews from captivity, 536 B.C.

Ezra and Nehemiah in Jerusalem, 440 B.C.

Separation of Samaritans from Jews; building of Samaritan temple on Mount Gerizim, 432 B.C.

Malachi's prophecy; end of Old Testament, about 400 B.C.

Submission of Palestine to Alexander the Great; breaking up of Persian Empire, 330 B.C.

Palestine under the Greek Kingdom of Egypt, Ptolemy King, 305 B.C.

Palestine under Antiochus King of Syria, 203 B.C.

War for independence under Judas Maccabeus, 168 B.C.

Jerusalem captured by Pompey; beginning of Roman supremacy, 63 B.C.

Herod the Great, King of Judea, 40 B.C.

Birth of Jesus Christ, 4 B. C.

Ministry of Jesus, 27-30 A.D.

Fall of Jerusalem, and the end of the Jewish state, 70 A.D.

The Decree of Constantine, making Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire, 324 A.D.

Mohammedan conquest of Palestine. under the Caliph Omar, 637 A.D.

Crusader's Kingdom of Jerusalem and Palestine, 1099-1187 A.D.

Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria, conqueror of Palestine; end of Crusader's rule, 1187.

Conquest of Palestine by Ottoman Turks, 1516.

British conquest of Palestine, 1917-1918.

General Allenby's entrance into Jerusalem, Dec. 11, 1917.

Final defeat of Turkish army on Plain of Esdraelon, Sept. 19, 1918.

