

ANTH.340 / 640:

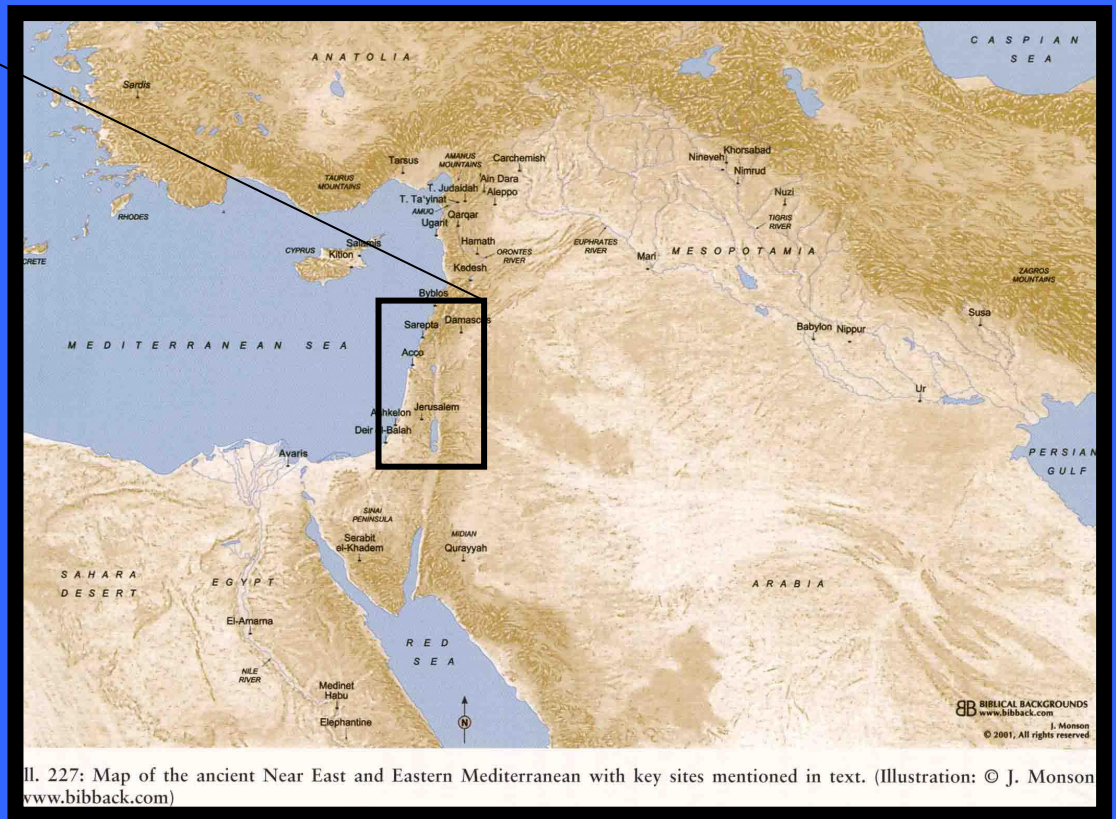
The Archaeology and History of the “Bible Lands”: Ancient (Syria)-Palestine.

Ppt. compiled by Gregory Mumford © 2023

Lecture 1: Introduction.



Ill. 228: Map of Palestine with key sites mentioned in text. (Illustration: C. Haberl after G. F. Wright)



Ill. 227: Map of the ancient Near East and Eastern Mediterranean with key sites mentioned in text. (Illustration: © J. Monson www.bibback.com)

ANT.340: The Archaeology & History of the “Bible Lands” (Syria-Palestine)

INTRODUCTORY INFO: see syllabus ...

- Instructor:** Dr. Gregory Mumford
- E-mail:** gmumford@uab.edu
- Class times:** Mon, Wed., Fri.: Posting recorded lectures weekly
- Location:** **QL–Zoom lectures (via Canvas) ...; also ppt versions**
- Tel.:** By appointment: **Telephone or Zoom ...** M-F 9 am-3 pm
Off Campus: (205) 933-7552 (project library)
- Office:** **NOT ON-CAMPUS in Fall 2023 ...**
Rm 3160, Dept. of Anthropology, University Hall, CAS,
1402 10th Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35294-1241
(Southwest of Rec. Center; East of Sterne Library)
- Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday: QL courses via email/etc.
E-mail for appointment for another time:
Telephone or Zoom only ...

EGYPTOLOGIST (BA → PhD):

- **Egyptian & Nubian** archaeology, history, art, architecture, hieroglyphs, etc. ca.5000-332 BC
- = main professional expertise (excav. in Egypt)

Joint specialty in

SYRO-PALESTINIAN ARCHAEOLOGY (BA → PhD):

- Syro-Palestinian archaeology, art, architecture, Biblical Hebrew, *incl. Major in Near Eastern Studies*
- Main focus Egypto-Levantine relations ca. 3000-525 BC
- Excavated at Mique-Ekron 1987 +tour of Israel

Undergraduate & graduate courses in:

- Bronze Age Aegean Archaeology, art, & architecture, etc.
- Mesopotamian archaeology, history, art, architecture, etc. ca.5000-332 BC

NOTE: I am not a biblical historian / theologian

- Focus on archaeology + history →586 BC
- I welcome input from class members of diverse expertise & backgrounds.

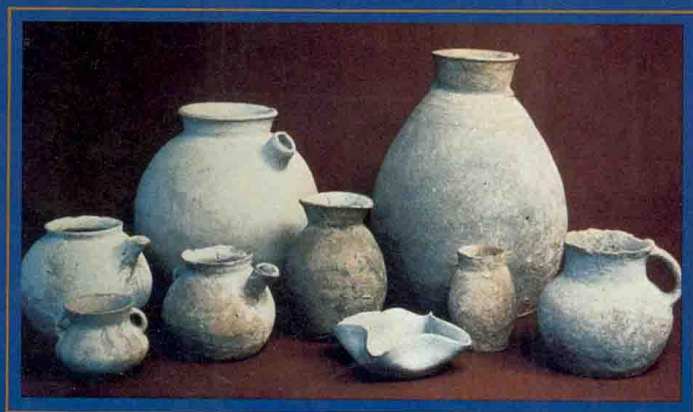


Choose one of the following two as your textbook: I'll post pdf files:

THE ANCHOR BIBLE REFERENCE LIBRARY

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

10,000-586 B.C.E.



AMIHAI MAZAR

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF

Ancient Israel



EDITED BY **AMNON BEN-TOR**

More recent sources containing portions of our course coverage:

CAMBRIDGE WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BRONZE AGE LEVANT

From Urban Origins to the Demise of
City-States, 3700–1000 BCE

RAPHAEL GREENBERG



2019

Only part of the 8500-586 BC coverage

The Levant – modern Lebanon, southern Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine – is one of the most intensively excavated regions of the world. This richly documented and illustrated survey offers a state-of-the-art description of the formative phase of Levantine societies as they perfected the Mediterranean village economy and began to interact with neighboring civilizations in Egypt and Syria, on the way to establishing their first towns and city-state polities. Citing numerous finds and interpretive approaches, Greenberg offers a new narrative of social and cultural development, emulation, resistance, and change, illustrating how Levantine communities translated broader movements of the Near Eastern and Mediterranean Bronze Age – the emergence of states, international trade, elite networks, and imperial ambitions – into a uniquely Levantine idiom.

Raphael Greenberg is Associate Professor of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University. Specializing in the study of early urban formations, economies, and institutions, he currently heads the Tel Bet Yerah excavations near the Sea of Galilee and is a cofounder of Emek Shaveh – a nonprofit organization that monitors the political role of archaeology in Jerusalem and beyond.

Cover image: Detail of a Late Bronze Age jug from Tel Yin'am (Tell en-Na'am) in Lower Galilee, c. 1250 BCE decorated with ibexes and palm-trees. Photo by Clara Amit, courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-1-107-11146-2



More recent sources containing portions of our course coverage:

The
**SOCIAL
ARCHAEOLOGY**
of the
LEVANT

From Prehistory to the Present

EDITED BY ASSAF YASUR-LANDAU,
ERIC H. CLINE AND YORKE M. ROWAN

2019

The volume offers a comprehensive introduction to the archaeology of the southern Levant (modern-day Israel/Palestine/Jordan) from the Paleolithic period to the Islamic era, presenting the past with chronological changes from hunter-gatherers to empires. Written by an international team of scholars in the fields of archaeology, epigraphy, and bioanthropology, the volume presents central debates around a range of archaeological issues, including gender, ritual, the creation of alphabets and early writing, biblical periods, archaeometallurgy, looting, and maritime trade. Collectively, the essays also engage diverse theoretical approaches to demonstrate the multivocal nature of studying the past. Significantly, *The Social Archaeology of the Levant* updates and contextualizes major shifts in archaeological interpretation.

**Going well beyond
the 8500-586 BC course coverage,
while pages 67-370 cover
the Neolithic to >Iron Age ...**

**But it is lengthy (i-xxxvi & 643 pages)
and expensive (\$167 hardback)
(see Amazon.com)**

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-1-107-15668-5



9 781107 156685 >

Instructor tips for lectures, etc.:

(1). Attend class regularly (& listen) ...

→ Many clarifications, tips, announcements, reinforcement & reviews of materials/concepts

(2). Take notes on lectures, etc. ...

→ The act of writing down notes, *even with most course materials and instructions online*, serves as an invaluable aid to one focusing on a class topic and retaining information better.

(3). Complete the required textbook readings, and/or review the ppt., prior to the specific class day ...

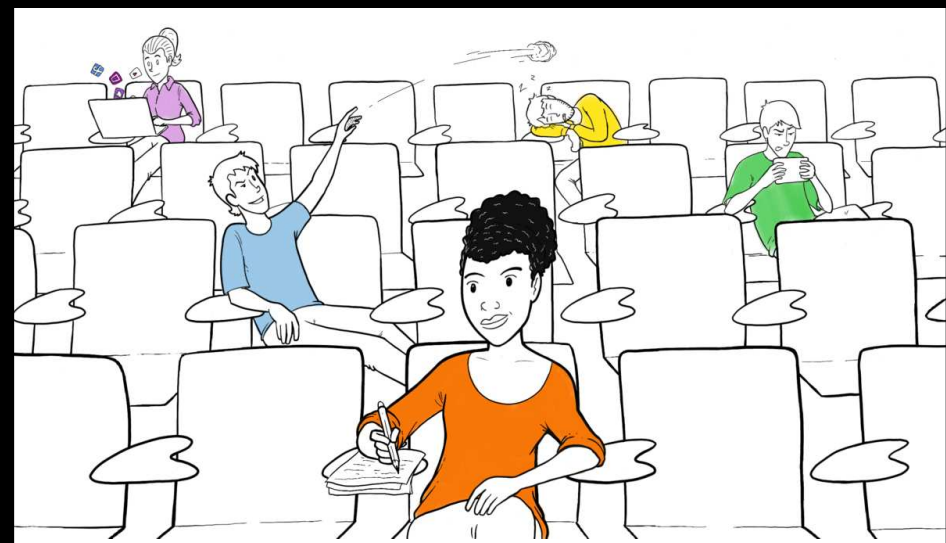
→ This will provide greater clarity and comprehension of the material, and will enable asking focused questions where something may be less clear (in the textbook or lecture).

(4). Ask questions during the class if you are confused/wish more data

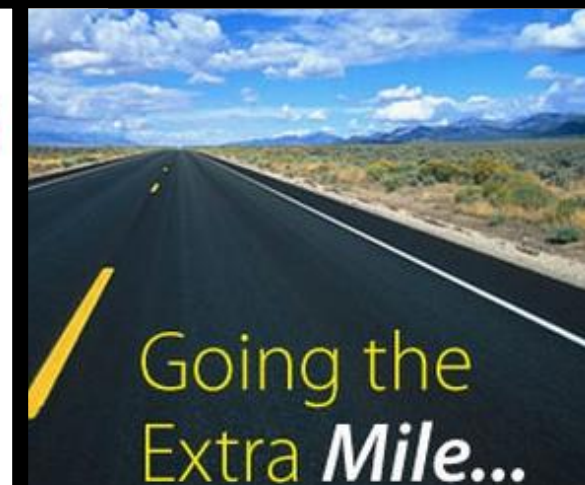
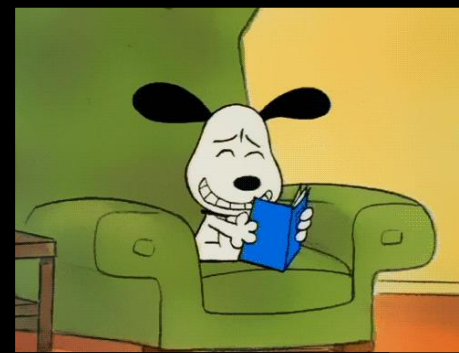
→ The class is an ideal place to ask for more clarity or further information not contained in the textbook, ppt., and/or lecture (If nobody asks questions, the lecture proceeds ...).

(5). Complete optional materials:

→ Additional reinforcement, studying & bonus?



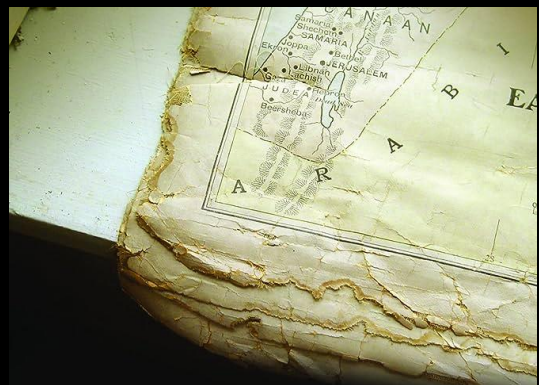
<https://howtostudyingcollege.com/how-to-get-good-grades/note-taking-strategies/>



“The land of the Bible”:

Interest in the “Lands of the BIBLE”

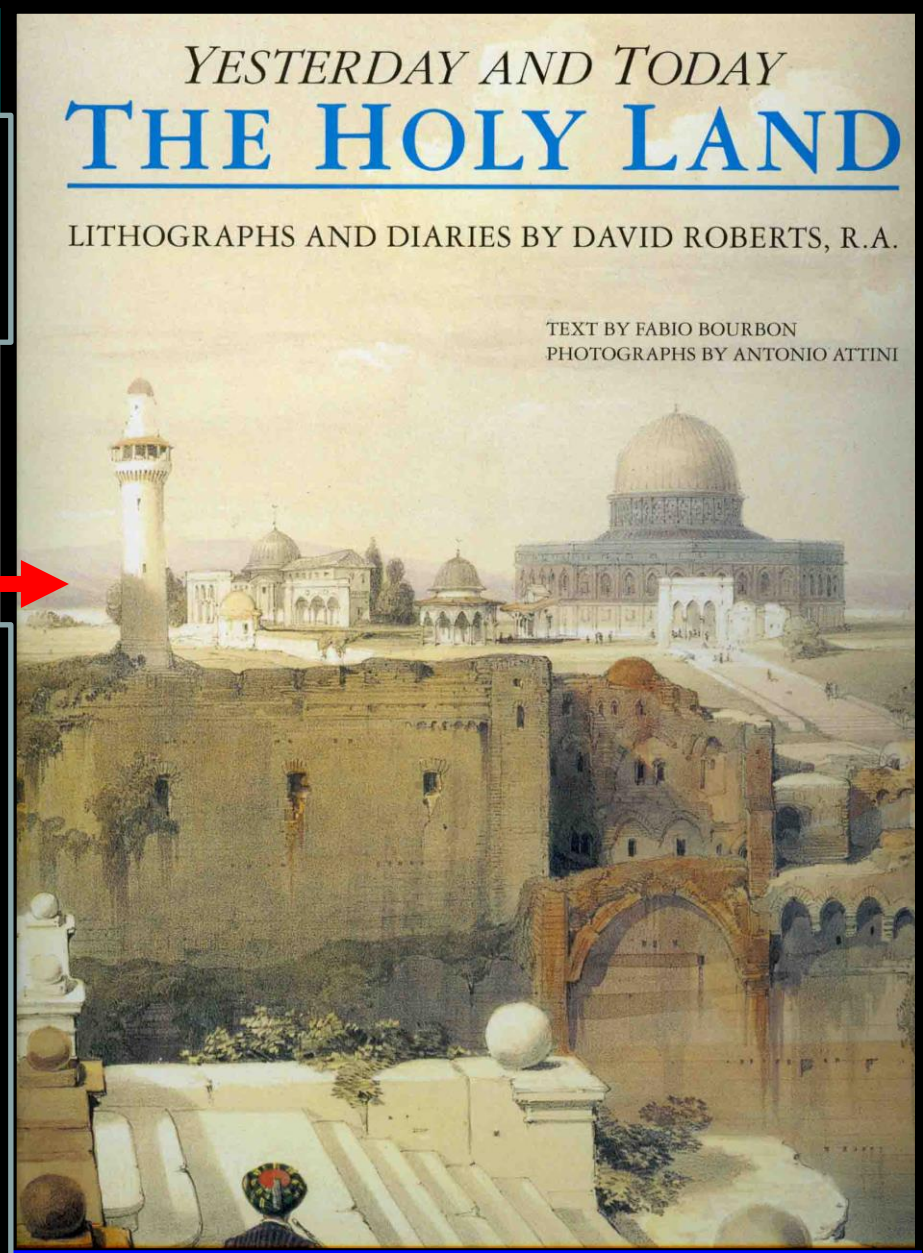
- This **label** grew out of the initial driving force behind many western explorers’ and researchers’ investigating Palestine and its archaeological heritage →



EARLY EXPLORERS OF
BIBLE LANDS



JACK P. LEWIS



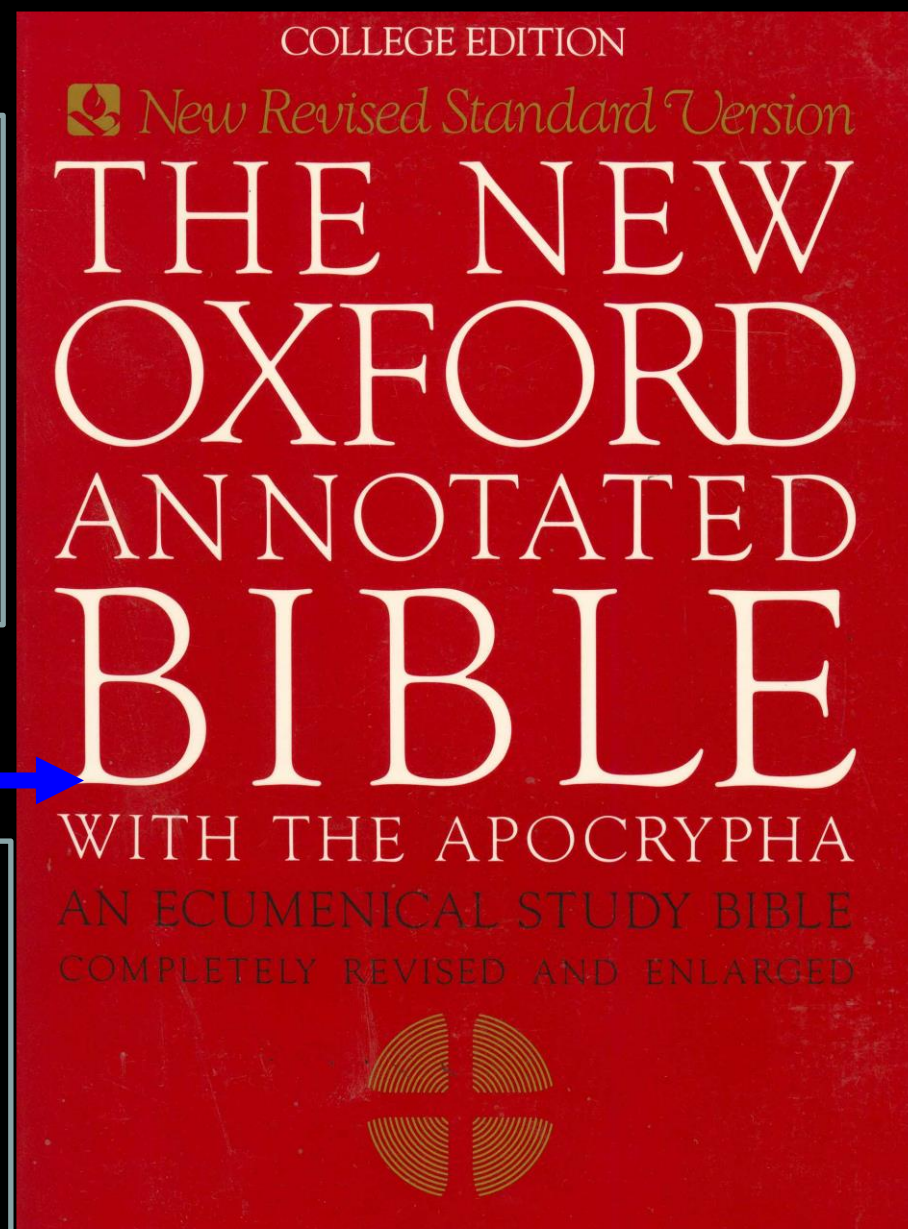
David Roberts traversed Sinai-Palestine in 1839, producing lithographs from sketches he made during his journey

“The land of the Bible”:

An interest in and search for places in which diverse events occurred within many accounts in the Bible

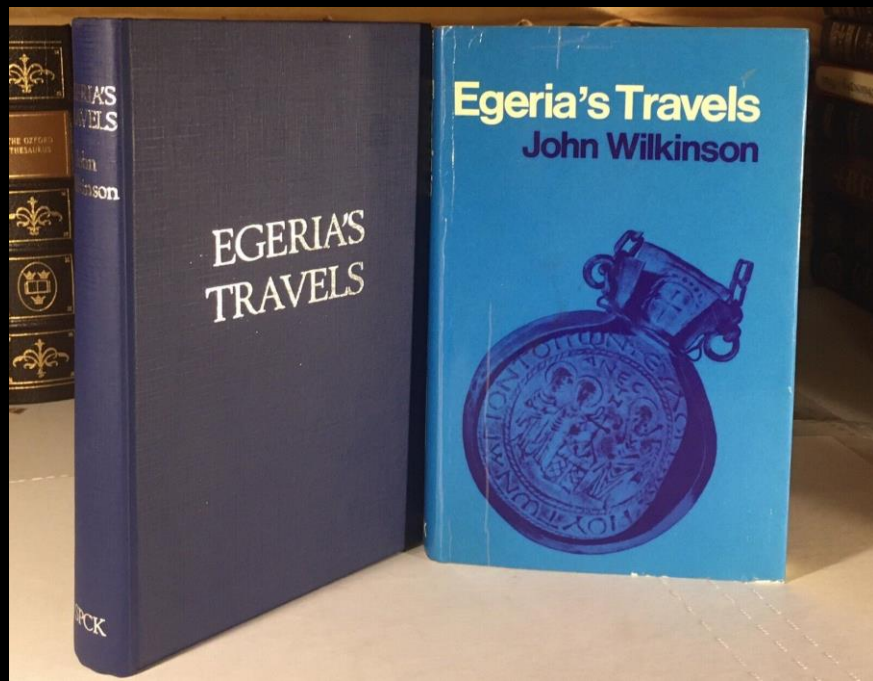
● → namely, a desire to illuminate one’s understanding of the Hebrew *Torah* and the Christian *Bible* (Old-New Testaments)

Also growing efforts to confirm or validate many events & beliefs that appear in the Bible

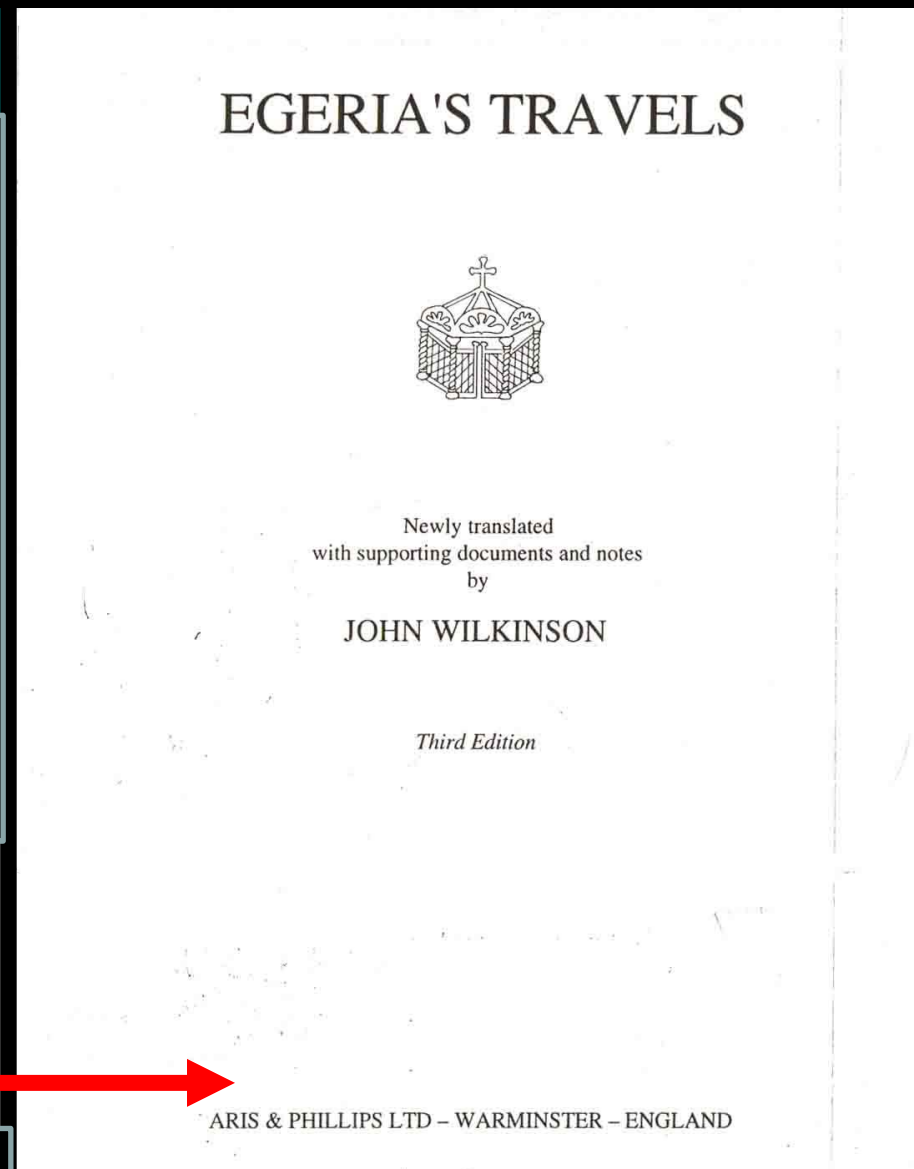


NOTE: Many translations exist of the Old and New Testaments (from original Aramaic and Greek)

“The land of the Bible”:



- Although more scientific investigations began in the **1800s**, pilgrims have been visiting the “Holy Land” since the death of Christ: *E.g.*, Egeria ca. AD 381-384.



NOTE: Egeria visited the Levant from AD 381 - 384, writing an account of her travels, which was lost for 700 years until the late 1800s

“The land of the Bible”:



Fig. 1. Fra Niccolò of Poggibonsi (Design by Fr. L. Ceppello)

“And when I was well certified of the things, that I wrote on two small tables, which I carried by me” (Ch. XIII, p. 11)

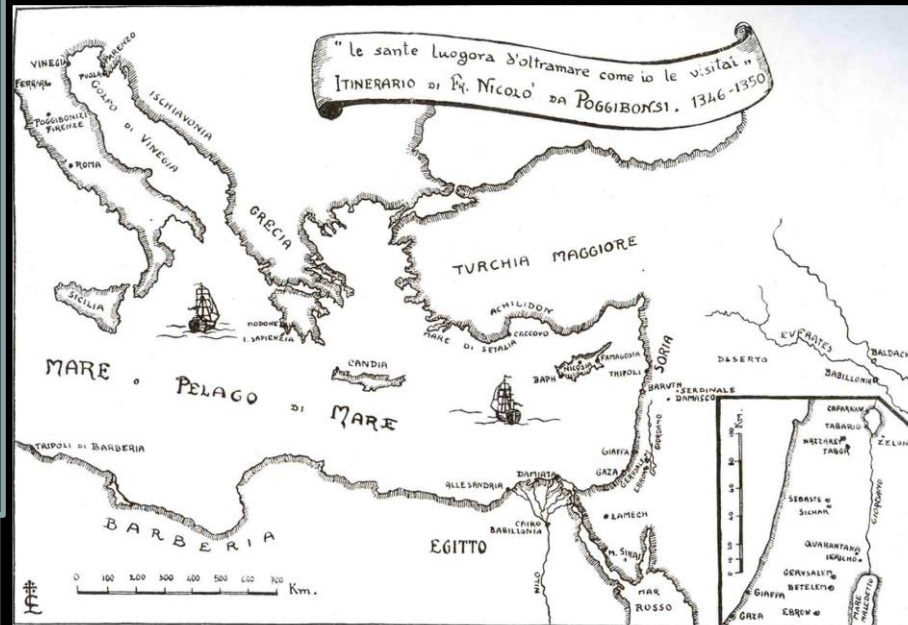
FRA NICCOLÒ OF POGGIBONSI
A VOYAGE BEYOND THE SEAS
(1346-1350)

TRANSLATED
BY FR. T. BELLORINI O. F. M. AND FR. E. HOADE O. F. M.
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIXTH CENTENARY

JERUSALEM
FRANCISCAN PRESS
1945

FRA NICCOLÒ OF POGGIBONSI
A VOYAGE BEYOND THE SEAS

(1346-1350)



JERUSALEM
FRANCISCAN PRESS
1945

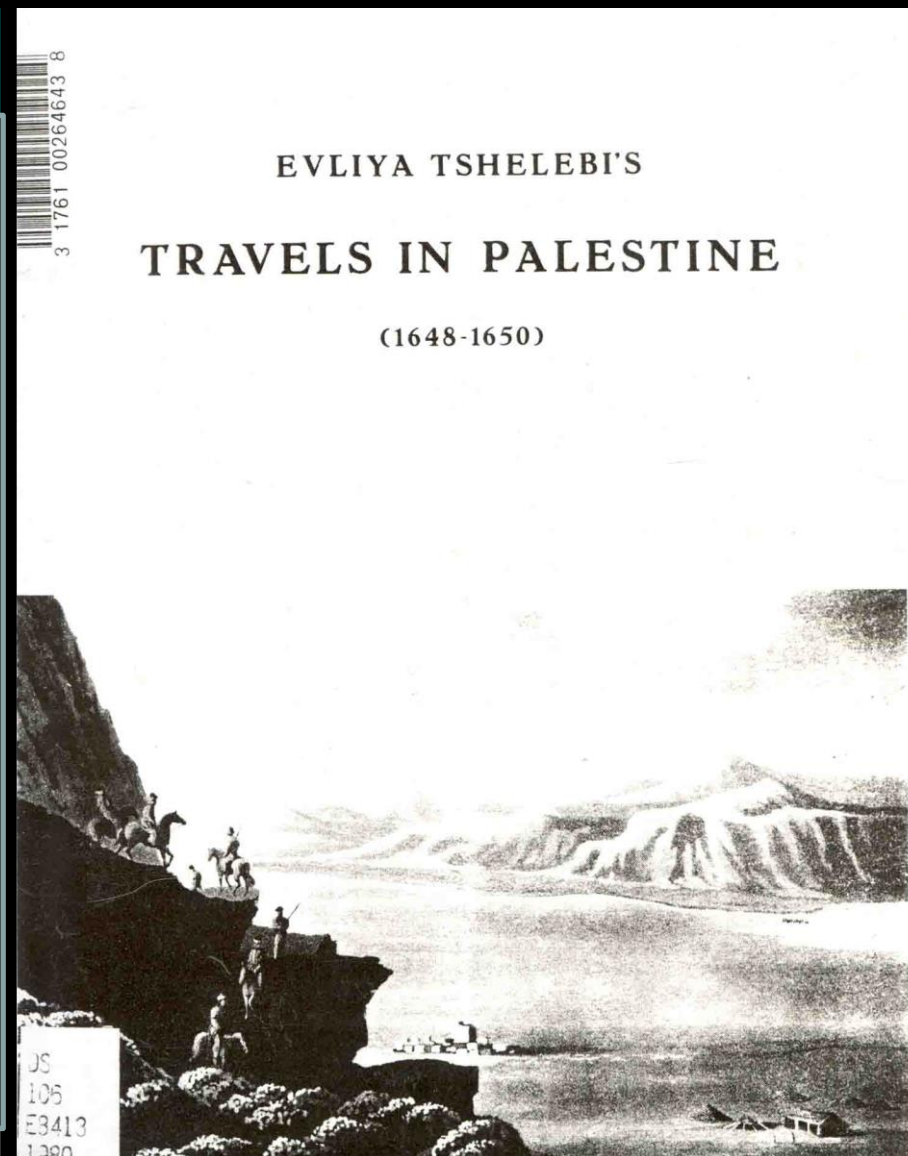
- Although more scientific investigations began in the **1800s**, pilgrims have been visiting the “Holy Land” since the death of Christ: *E.g.*, Egeria ca. AD 381-384.

NOTE: Friar Niccolò of Poggibonsi travelled from Venice to Cyprus, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Sinai, and Egypt in AD 1346-1350

“The land of the Bible”:



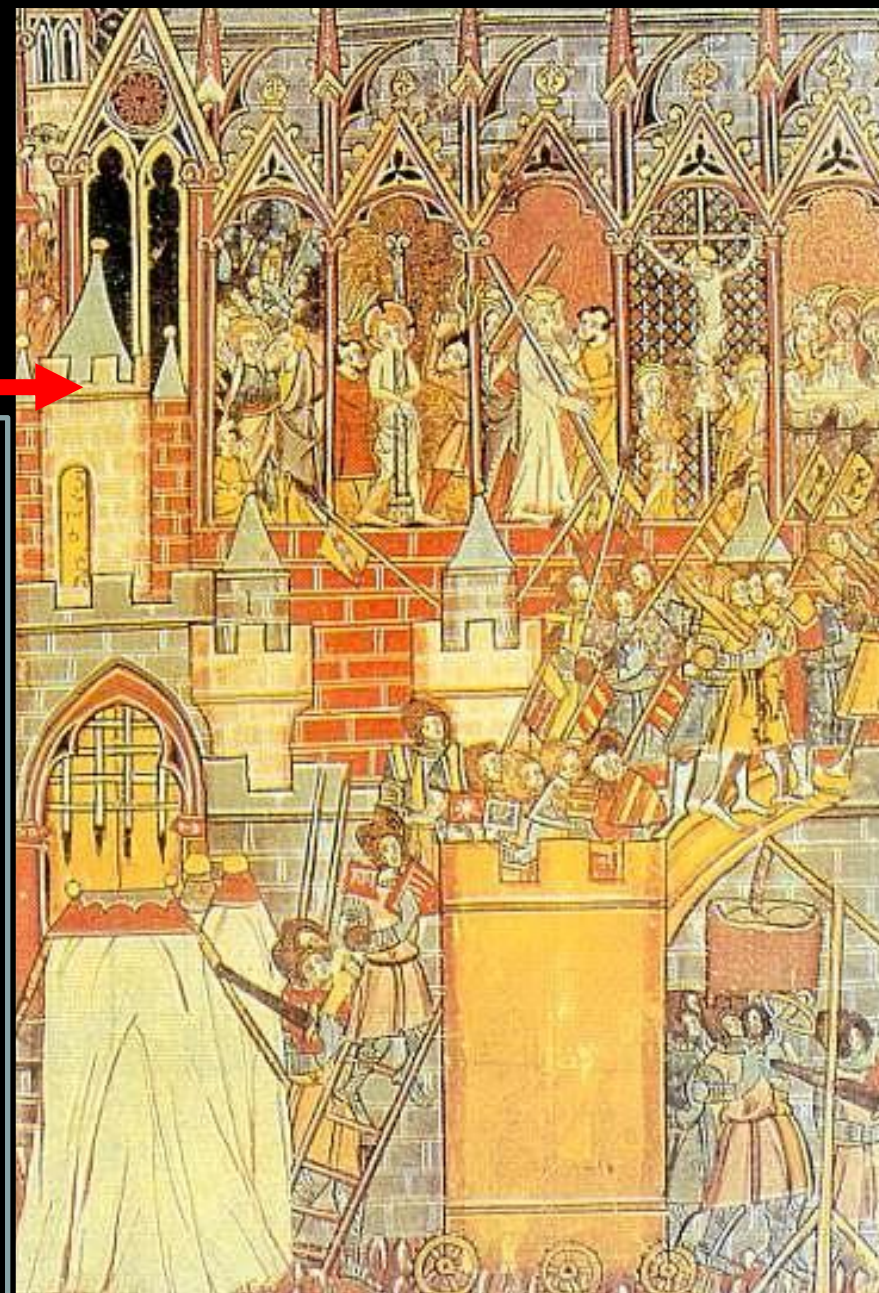
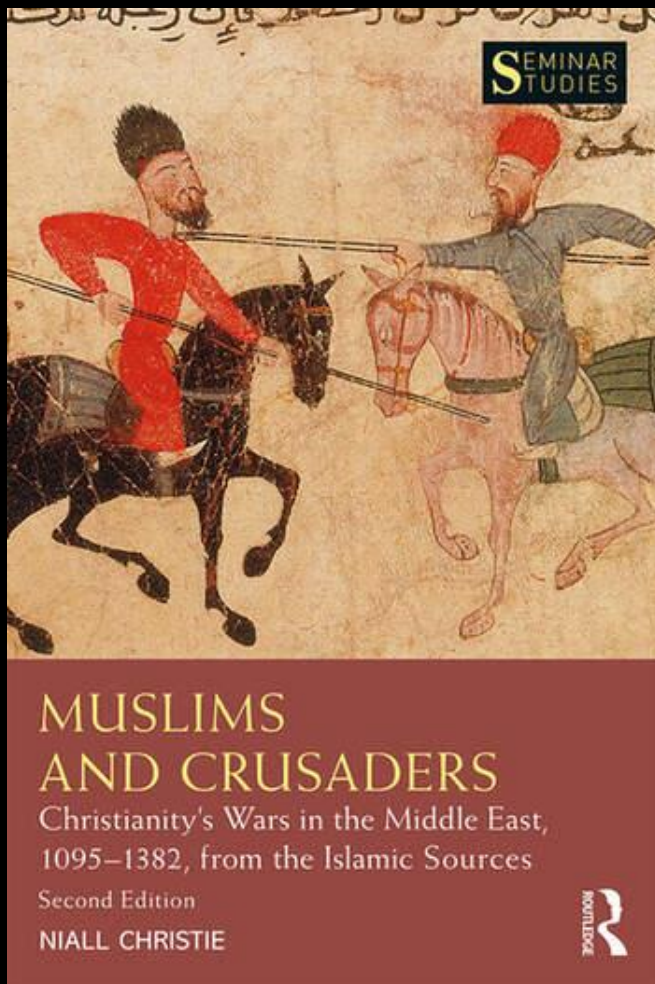
● **Note:** It should not be forgotten that Palestine also represents a significant region for past through present Islamic writings and scholars.



Evliya Tshelebi wrote 10 volumes on his 30 years of travels through 17 countries, including visits to Palestine in AD 1649 & AD 1670-71

“The land of the Bible”:

- Interest in the “Holy Land,” its sites, heritage, strategic location, and other factors have launched centuries of
- - Invasions (including the Crusades)



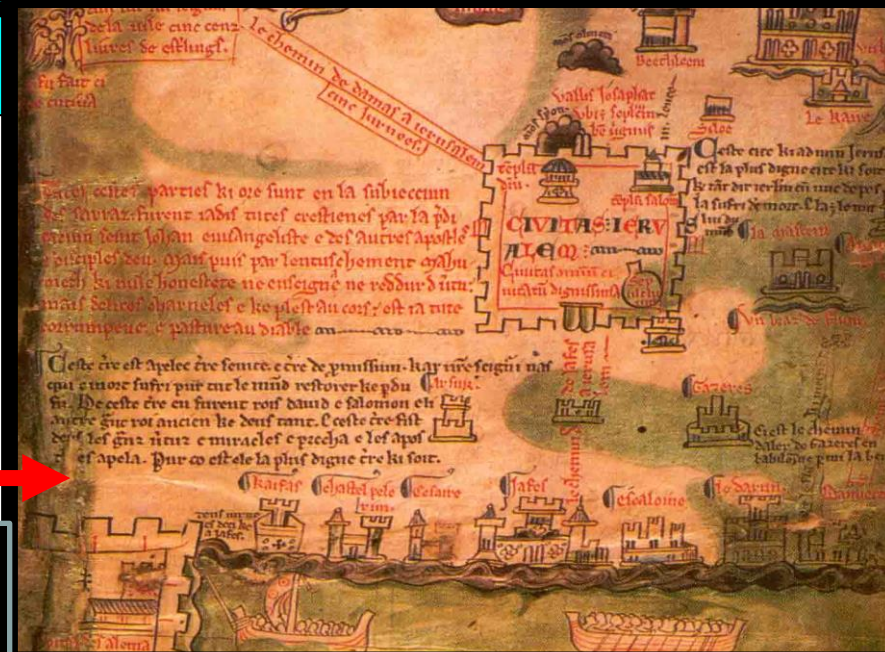
Crusaders besieging Jerusalem

“The land of the Bible”:

- Interest in the “Holy Land,” its sites, heritage, strategic location, and other factors have launched centuries of

- Invasions (including the Crusades)

- Pilgrimages & more recent tourism



13th cent. AD:

- Detail of map compiled by English monk, Matthew Paris, illustrating the pilgrims' and crusaders' route to the Holy Land from Britain.

- Published in *Chronica maiora*.

- Detail contains:

- Ports along Palestinian coast

- Walled city of Jerusalem: Temple of God, Temple of Solomon, and the Holy Sepulchre.

PIOUS PILGRIMS, DISCERNING TRAVELLERS, CURIOUS TOURISTS

Changing patterns of travel to the Middle East from medieval to modern times



EDITED BY

Paul and Janet Starkey



“The land of the Bible”:

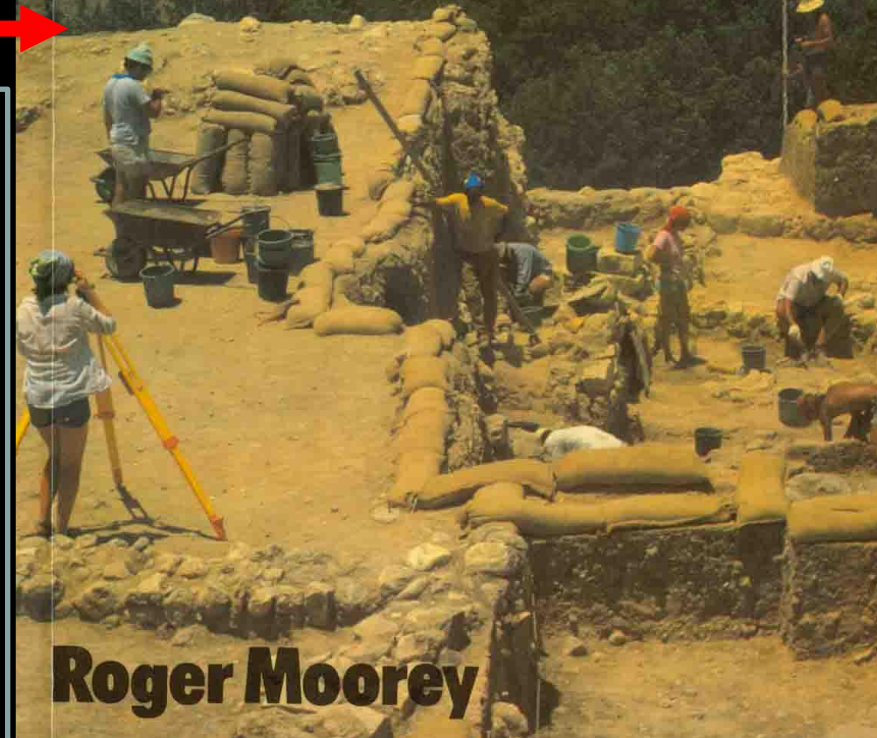
- Interest in the “Holy Land,” its sites, heritage, strategic location, and other factors have launched centuries of
 - Invasions (including the Crusades)
 - Pilgrimages & more recent tourism
 - Exploration & archaeological research



JERUSALEM, FROM SCYTHIA

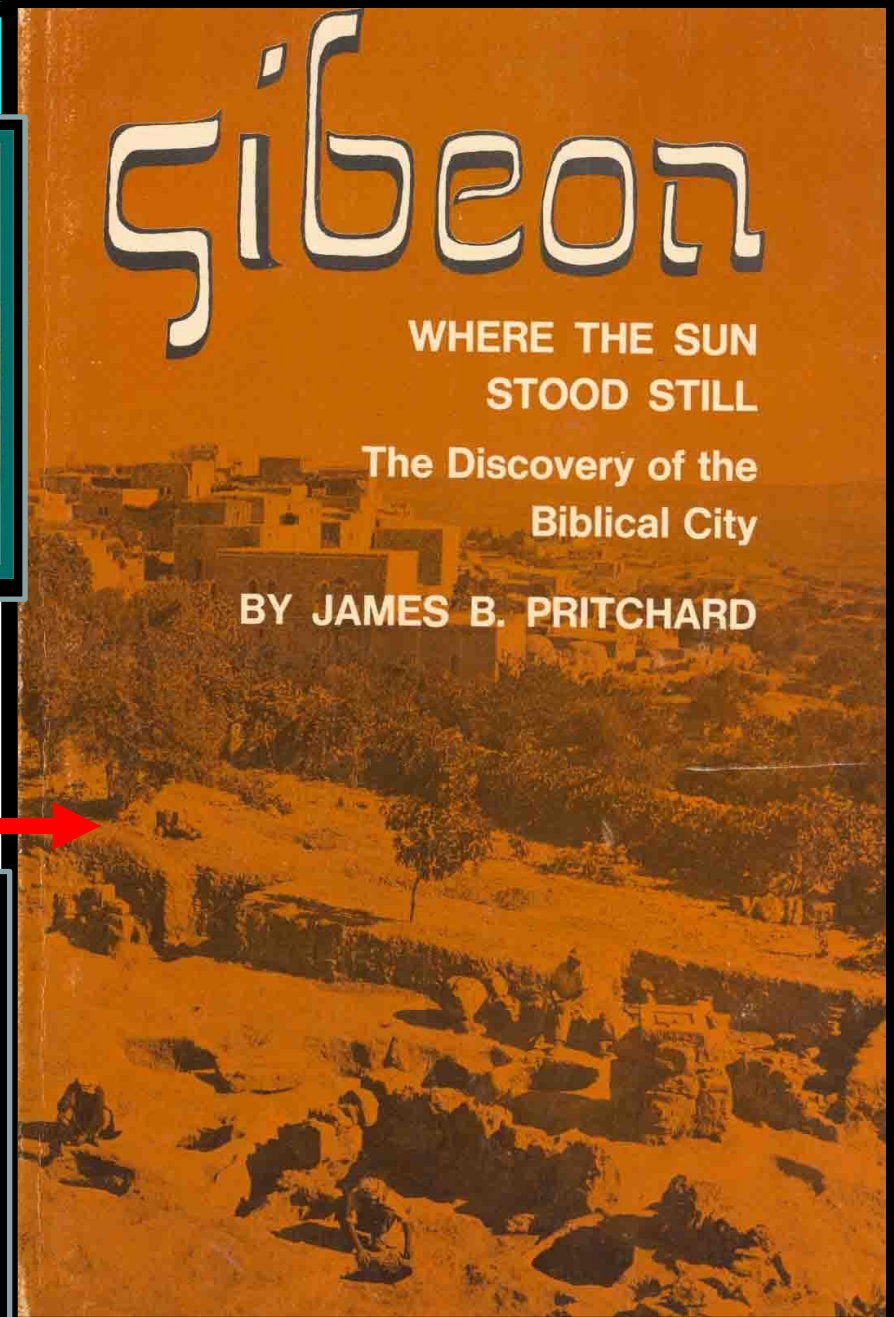
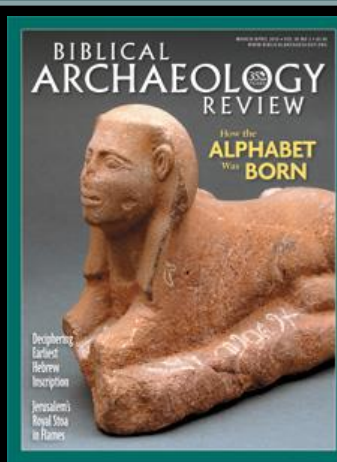
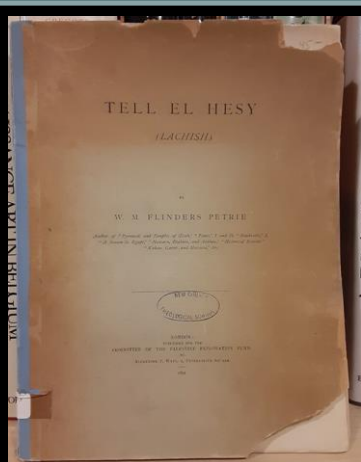
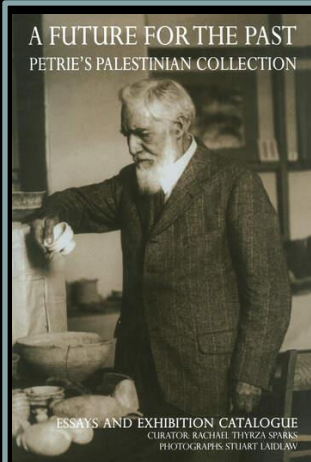
Cities of the Biblical World

EXCAVATION IN PALESTINE



Roger Moorey

“The land of the Bible”:

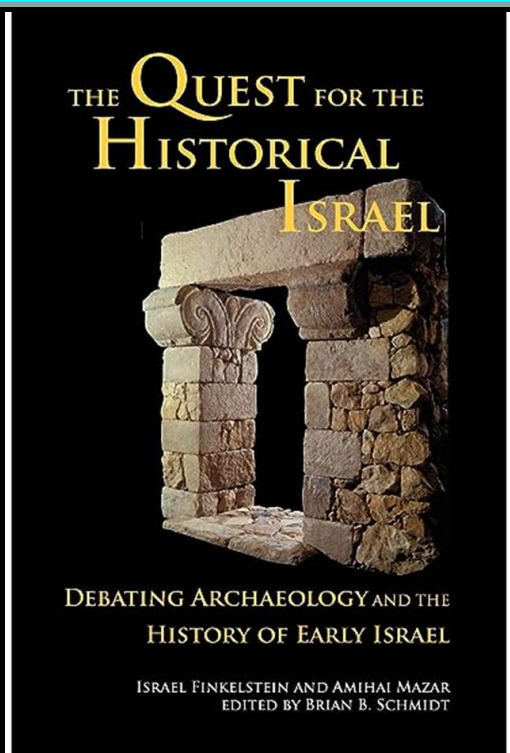
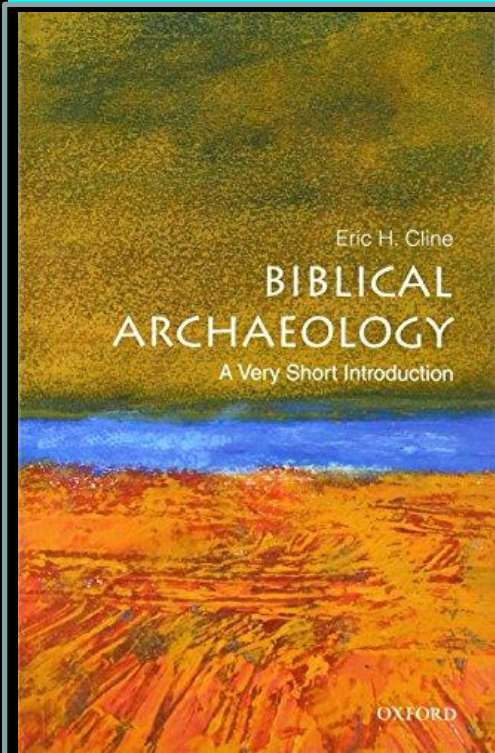



● **Biblical archaeology** emerged from an initial desire to visit, re-discover, and expand upon the times, places, and events described in the Biblical narrative.

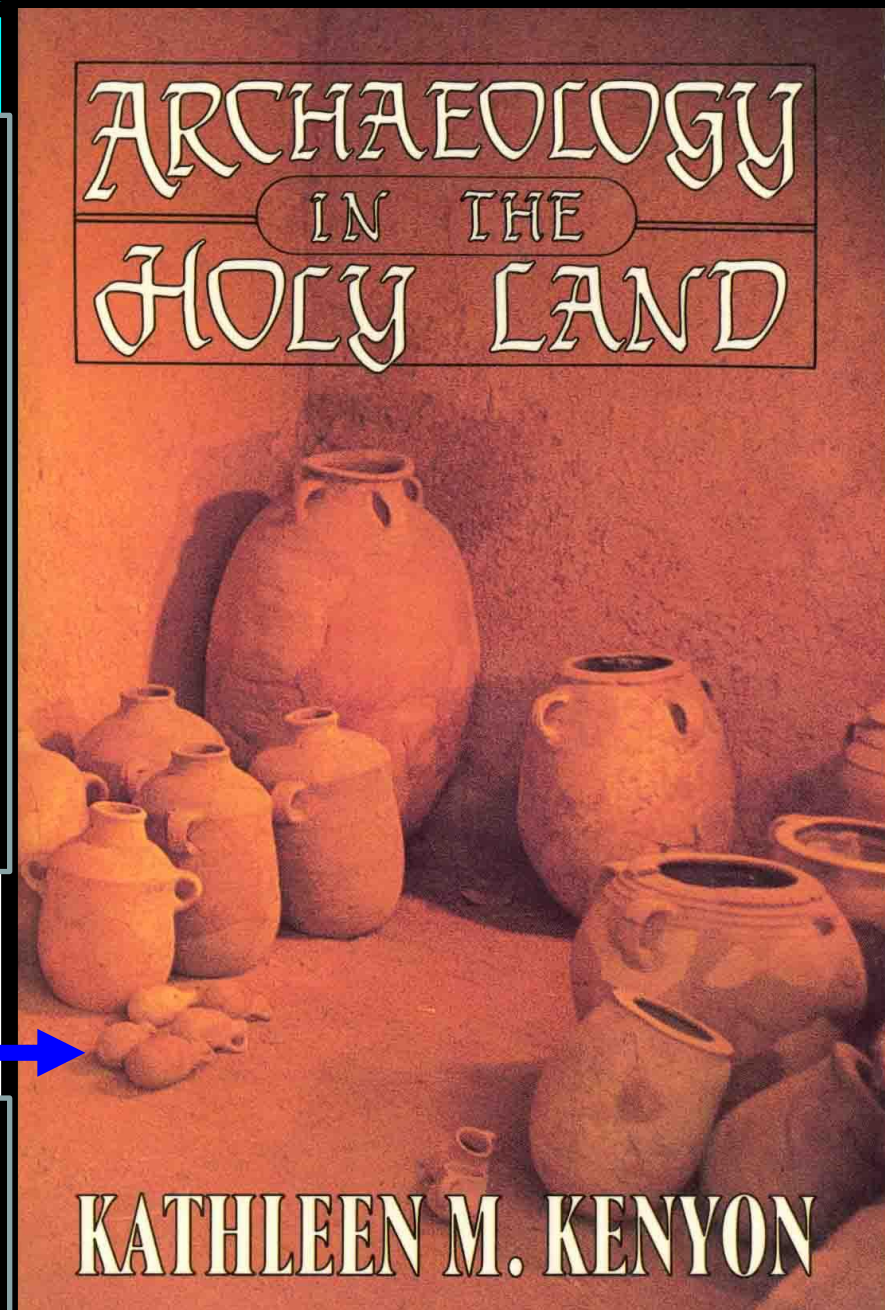


Joshua is ascribed with commanding the sun to stand still at Gibeon: el-Jib

“The land of the Bible”:



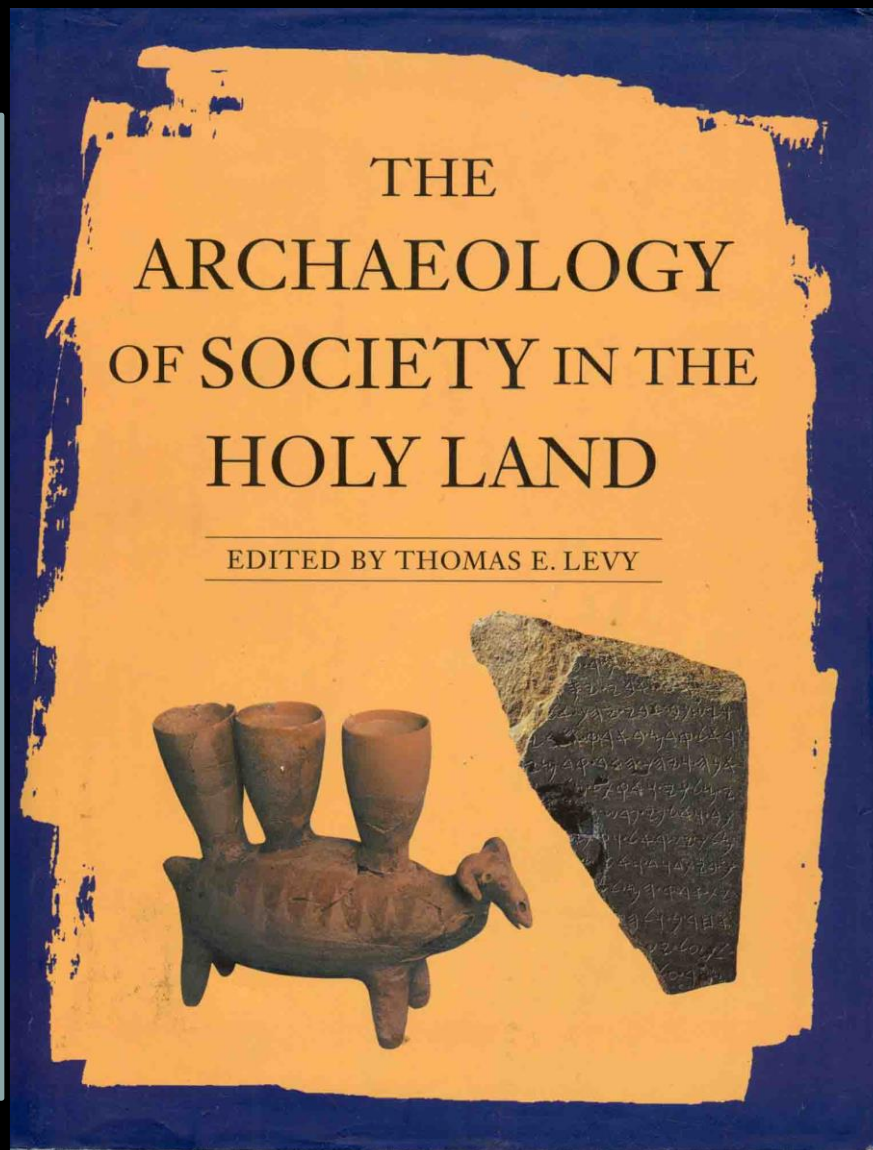
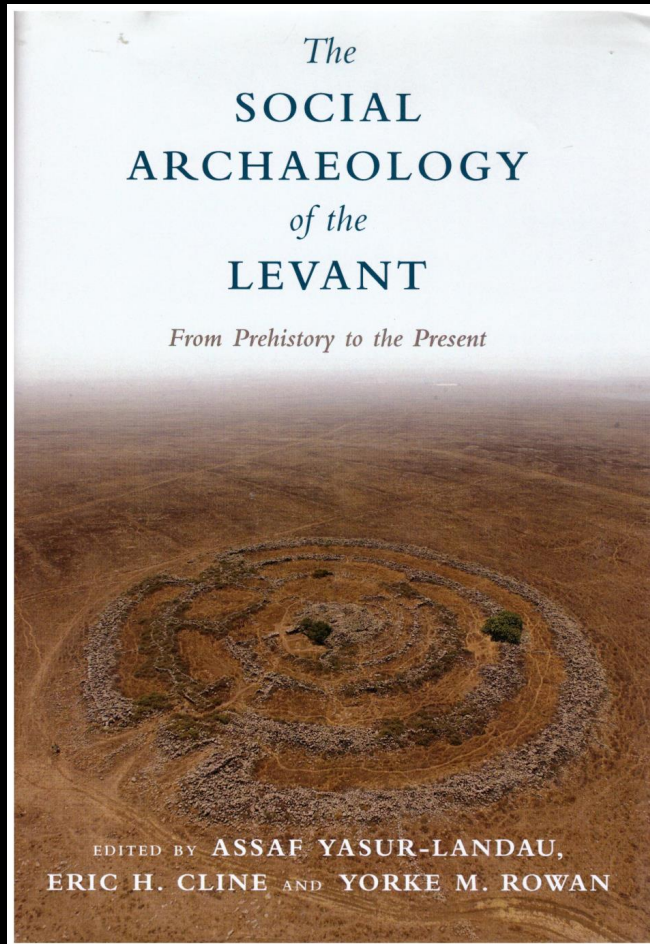
- **World-wide advances in archaeology** have in-turn influenced the approaches in Biblical archaeology, 



KATHLEEN M. KENYON

Kenyon adopted grid-square excavation i.e., stratigraphic excavation techniques.

“The land of the Bible”:



- **Current researchers** range from general archaeologists to biblical archaeologists, theologians, & other specialists, bringing diverse goals and methodologies to investigating Palestine and its heritage. →

Excellent source (1995) on diverse aspects of archaeology in Palestine, From Prehistory -- Islamic period.

“The land of the Bible”:

THE CASE FOR

Biblical Archaeology

Uncovering the Historical Record
of God's Old Testament People



JOHN D. CURRID

Foreword by David W. Chapman



Jordan

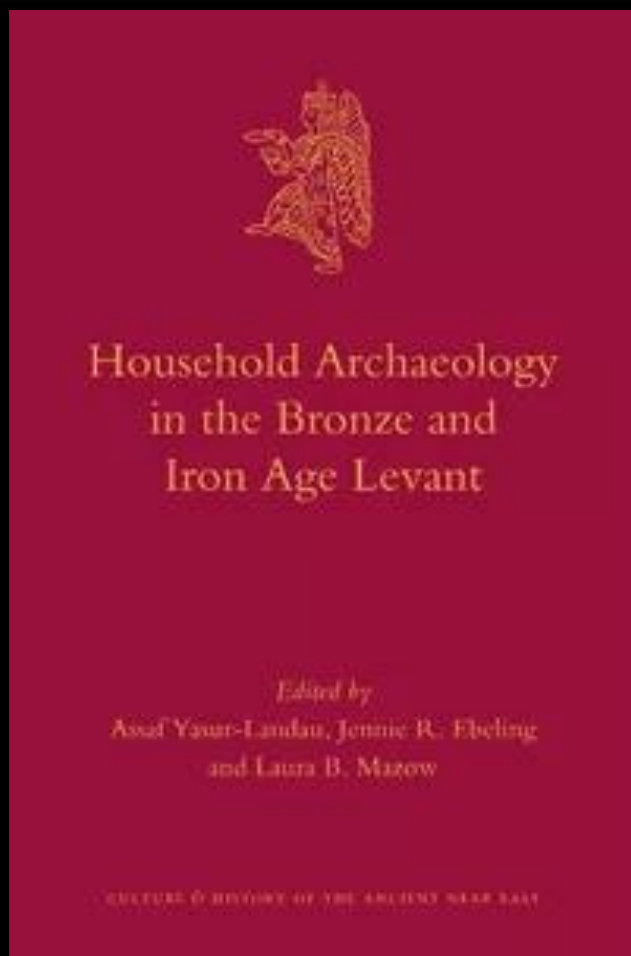
An Archaeological Reader

Edited by Russell B. Adams

● **Current researchers** range from general archaeologists to biblical archaeologists, theologians, & other specialists, bringing diverse goals and methodologies to investigating Palestine and its heritage. →

This book provides an up-to-date summary (2008) of archaeological work and discoveries in Jordan: e.g., kingdoms of Moab & Ammon

“The land of the Bible”:



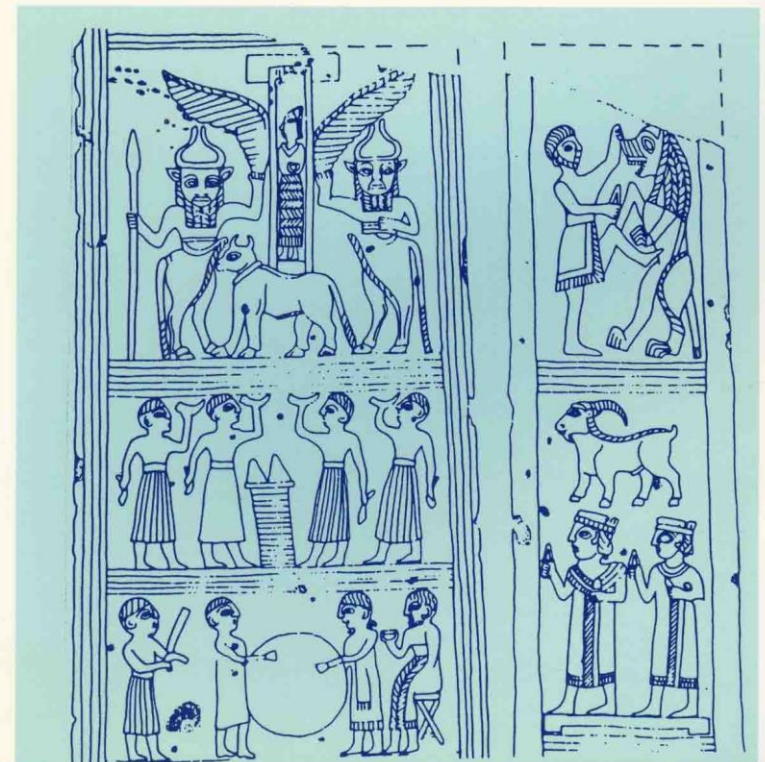
● **Current researchers** range from general archaeologists to biblical archaeologists, theologians, & other specialists, bringing diverse goals and methodologies to investigating Palestine and its heritage. →

Cambridge World Archaeology

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SYRIA

From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (ca. 16,000–300 BC)

PETER M. M. G. AKKERMANS AND
GLENN M. SCHWARTZ



This book provides a recent summary (2003) of the archaeology of ancient Syria: E.g., kingdom of Damascus.

Geographical setting:

- The nature and development of “civilization” in Palestine (Canaan; Israel; etc.) is intricately tied with the
 - geographic location
 - topography
 - climate
 - water sources
 - other natural resources

→ EXPLAINING REGIONAL CULTURES



l. 227: Map of the ancient Near East and Eastern Mediterranean with key sites mentioned in text. (Illustration: © J. Monson www.bibback.com)

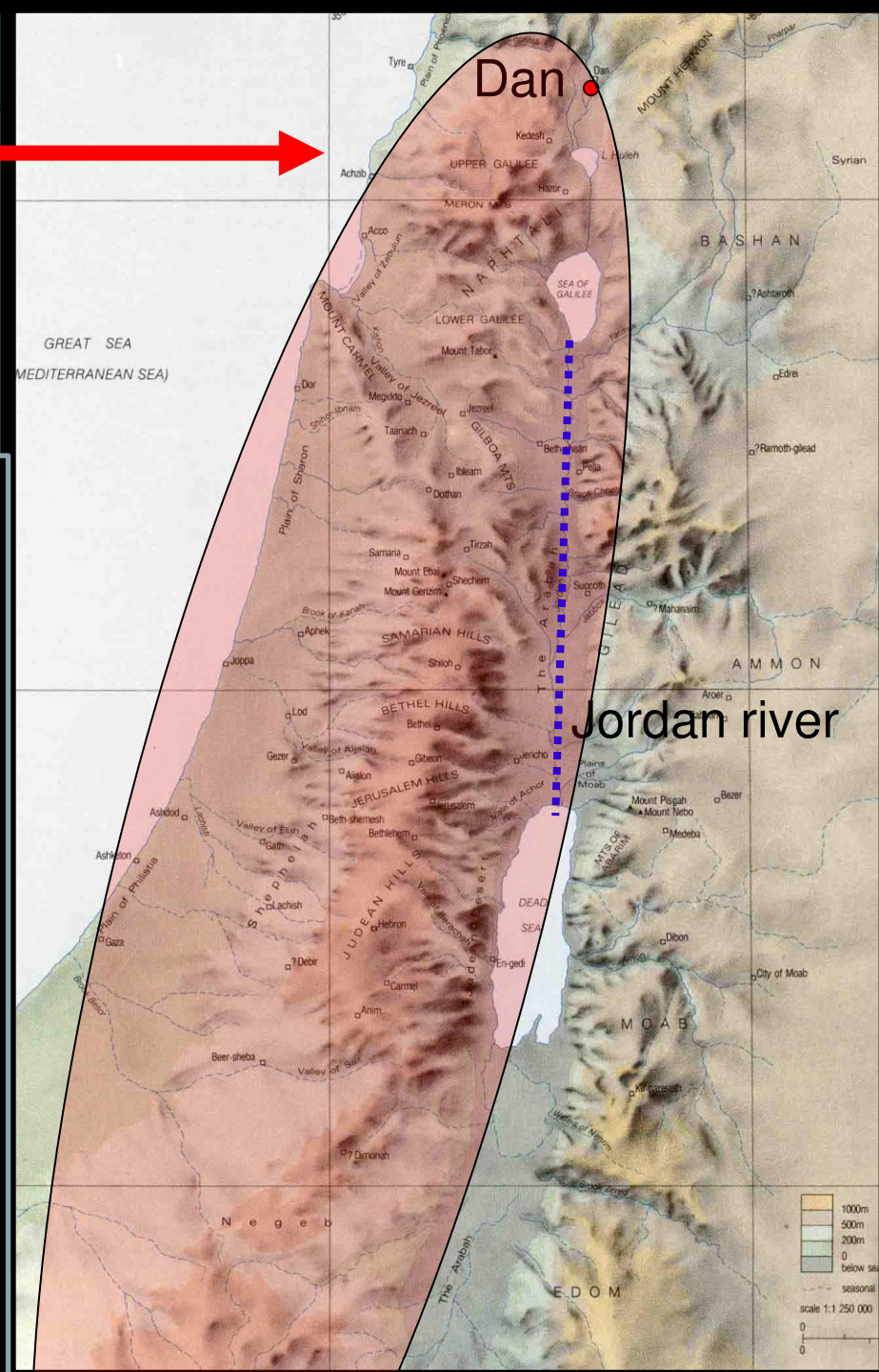


Ill. 228: Map of Palestine with key sites mentioned in text. (Illustration: C. Haberl after G. E. Wright and F. V. Wilson)

Geographical setting:

● Palestine encompasses

- 410 km: Dan (N) → Elath (S)
- 80 km: Med. (W) → Jordan River (E)
- Fertile & semi-arid land = 20,000 km² (similar size to state of New Jersey)



Geographical setting:

Geographic location as a crossroads:

- Egypt (SW)
 - Sinai Peninsula (SSW)
 - Negev (S)
 - Arabia (SE)
 - Jordan (E):
 - Syria (NE):
 - Lebanon (N):
 - Cyprus (NW):
 - Med & Aegean (W)
- Edom
Arabia
Ammon; Moab
Aram-Damascus
Phoenicia
Alasia
Crete etc.



Palestine as a **cross-roads of trade** in the East Mediterranean

Ancient Near East: West-East: Anatolia to central Iran (sometimes + Egypt)
North-South: Anatolia to Red Sea (excluding Arabia)



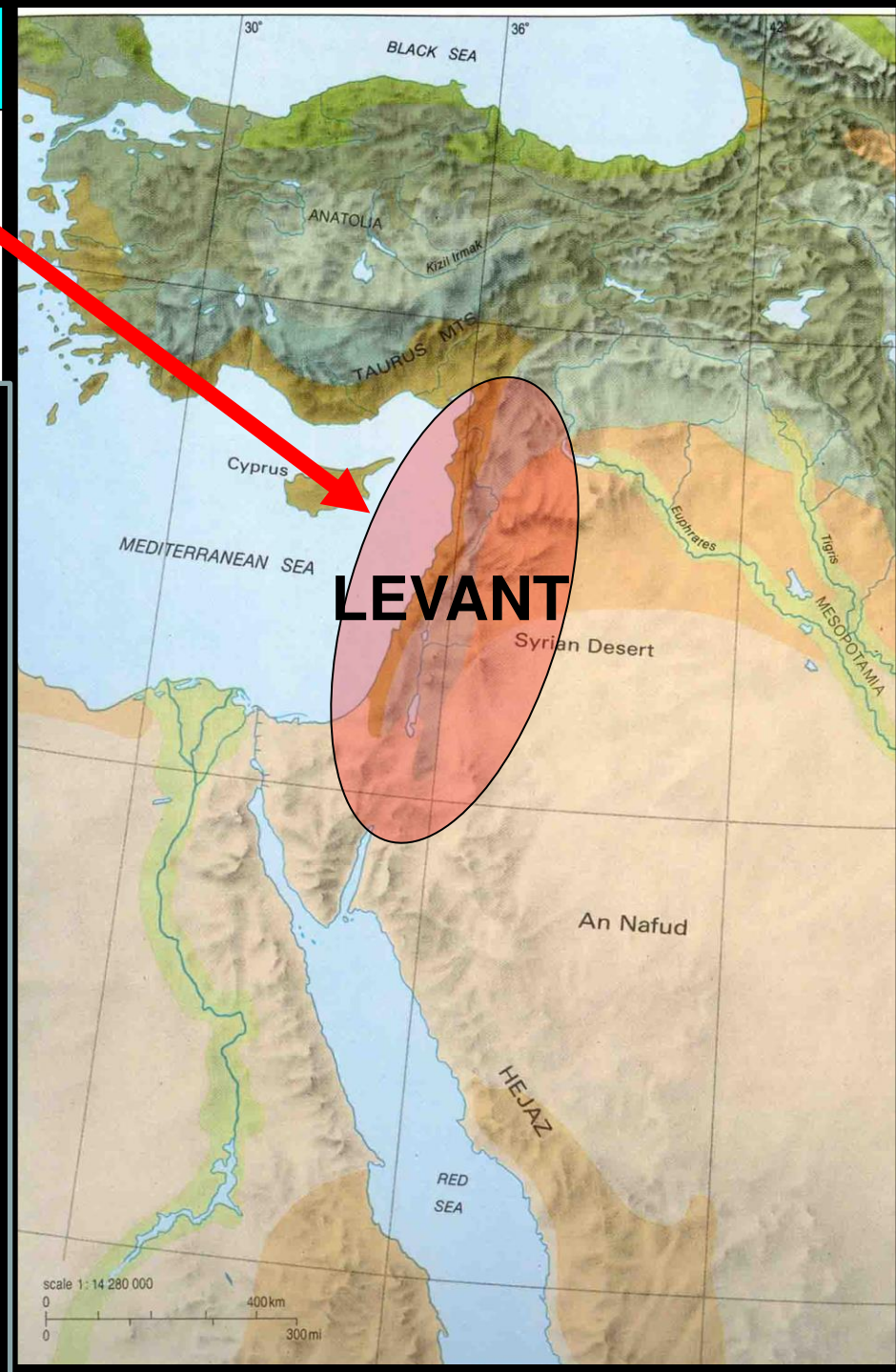
“Near East” originally designated remnants of Ottoman empire
NOT the same as the modern “Middle East”

Geographical setting:

● The (modern) “Levant” includes

- Palestine
- Lebanon
- Western Syria (Orontes-Aleppo)

Academic
usage of
LEVANT

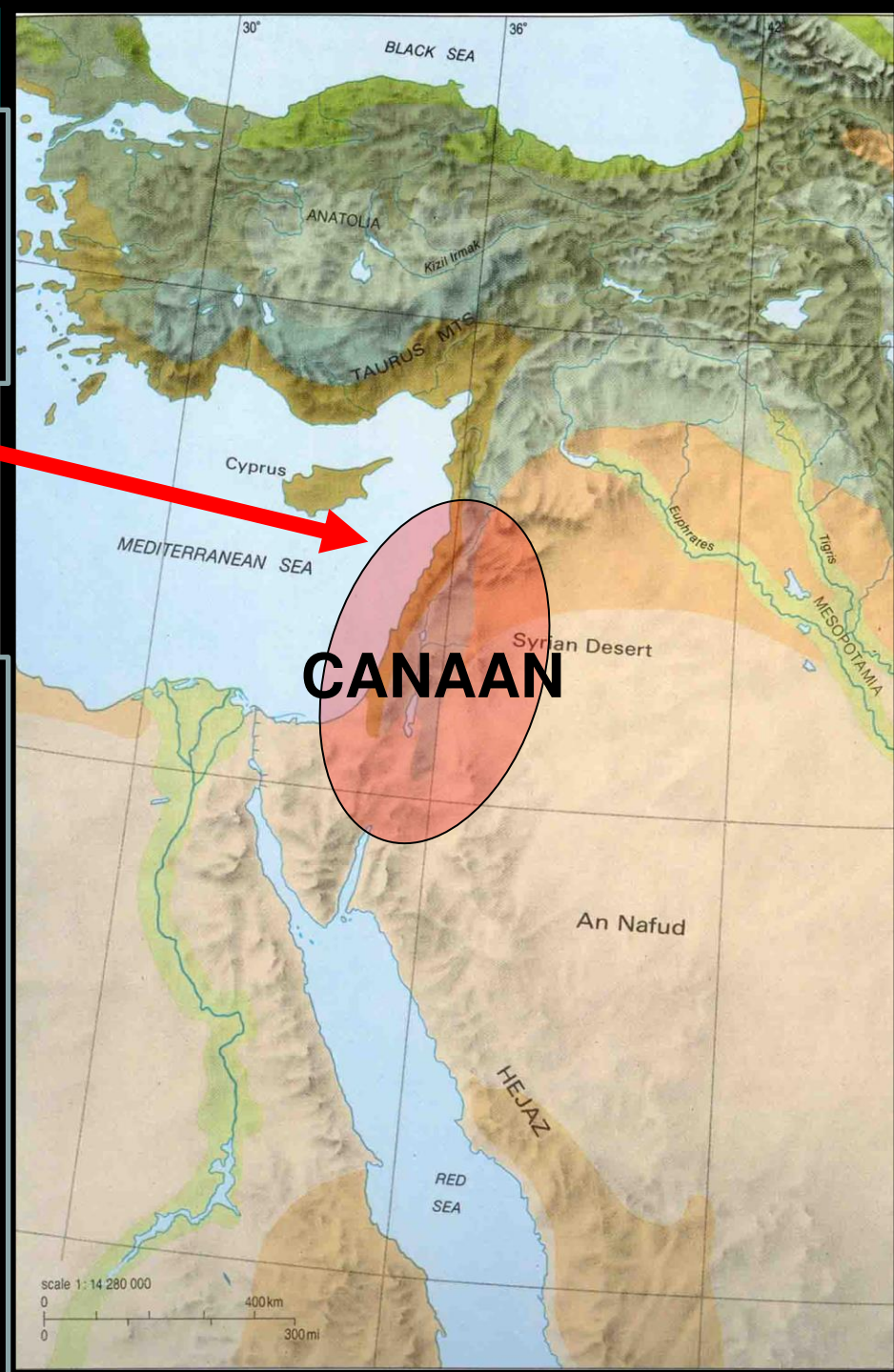


Geographical setting:

● Biblical **“land of Canaan”** includes

- Palestine
- Lebanon
- Southern Syria

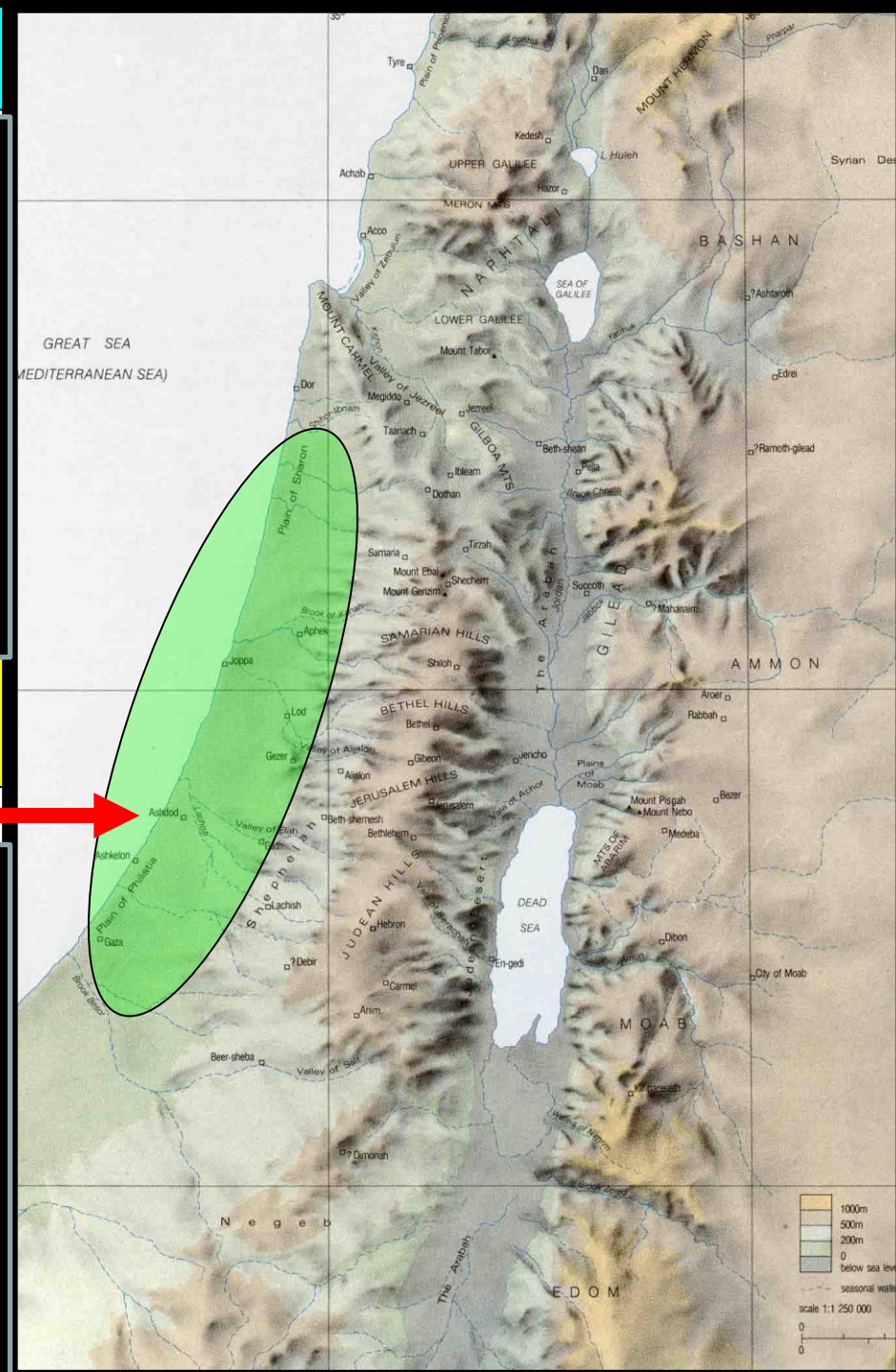
Academic
usage of
CANAAN
(*similar to
“Levant”*)



Geographical setting:

Palestine contains several major N-S geographical sub-divisions:

● Coastal plain

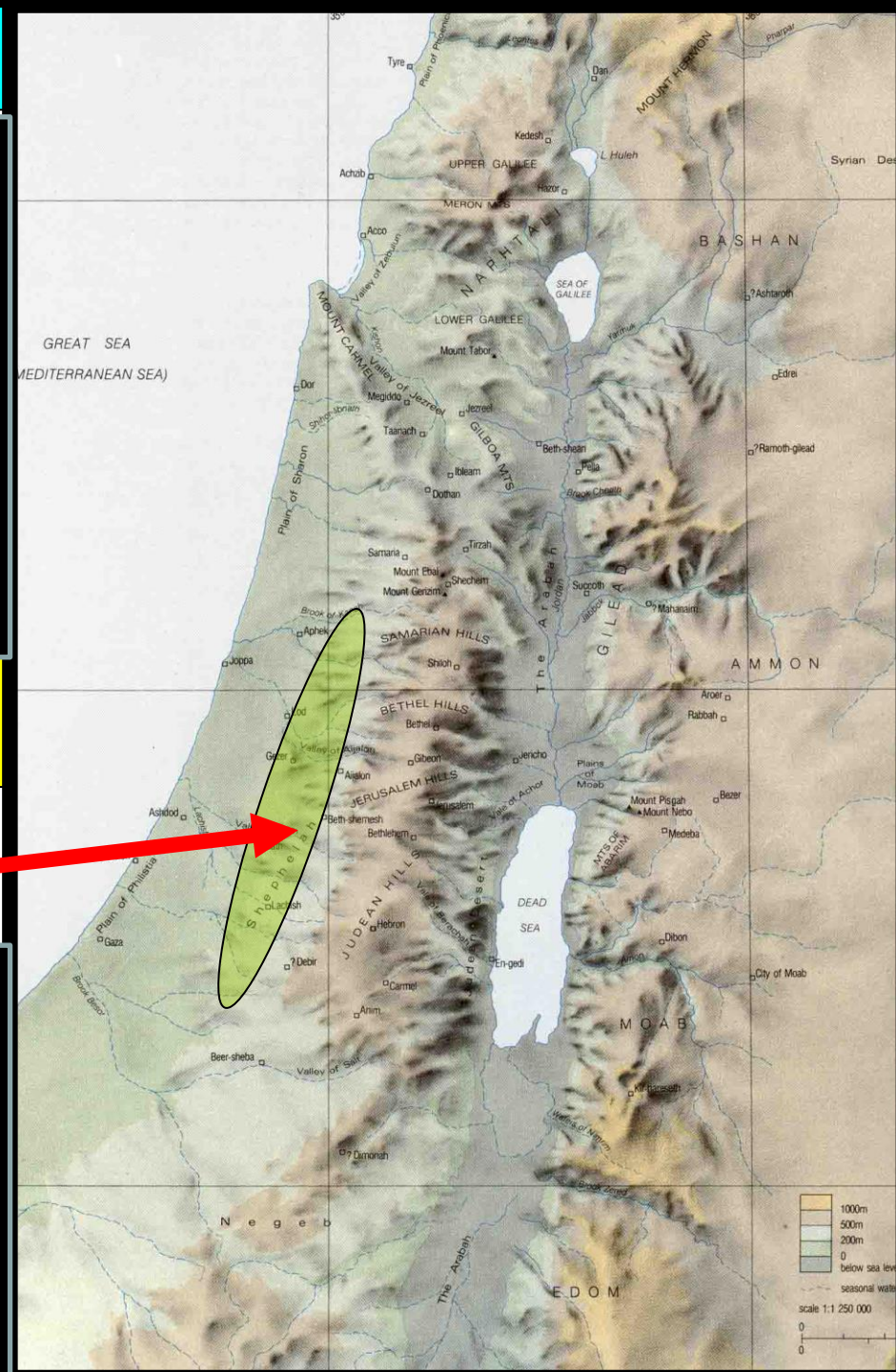


Geographical setting:

Palestine contains several major N-S geographical sub-divisions:

- Coastal plain

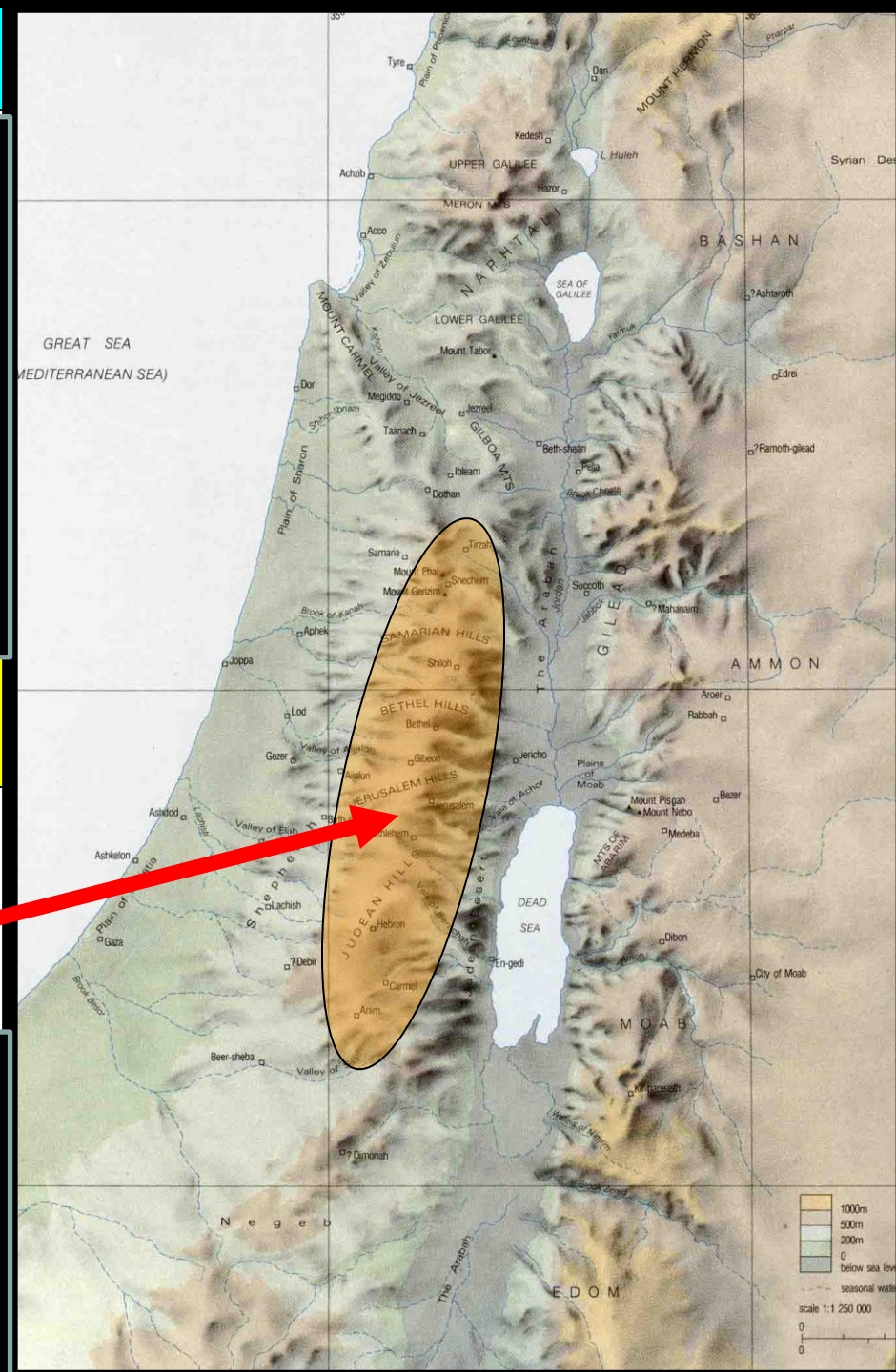
- the **Shephelah foothills**



Geographical setting:

Palestine contains several major N-S geographical sub-divisions:

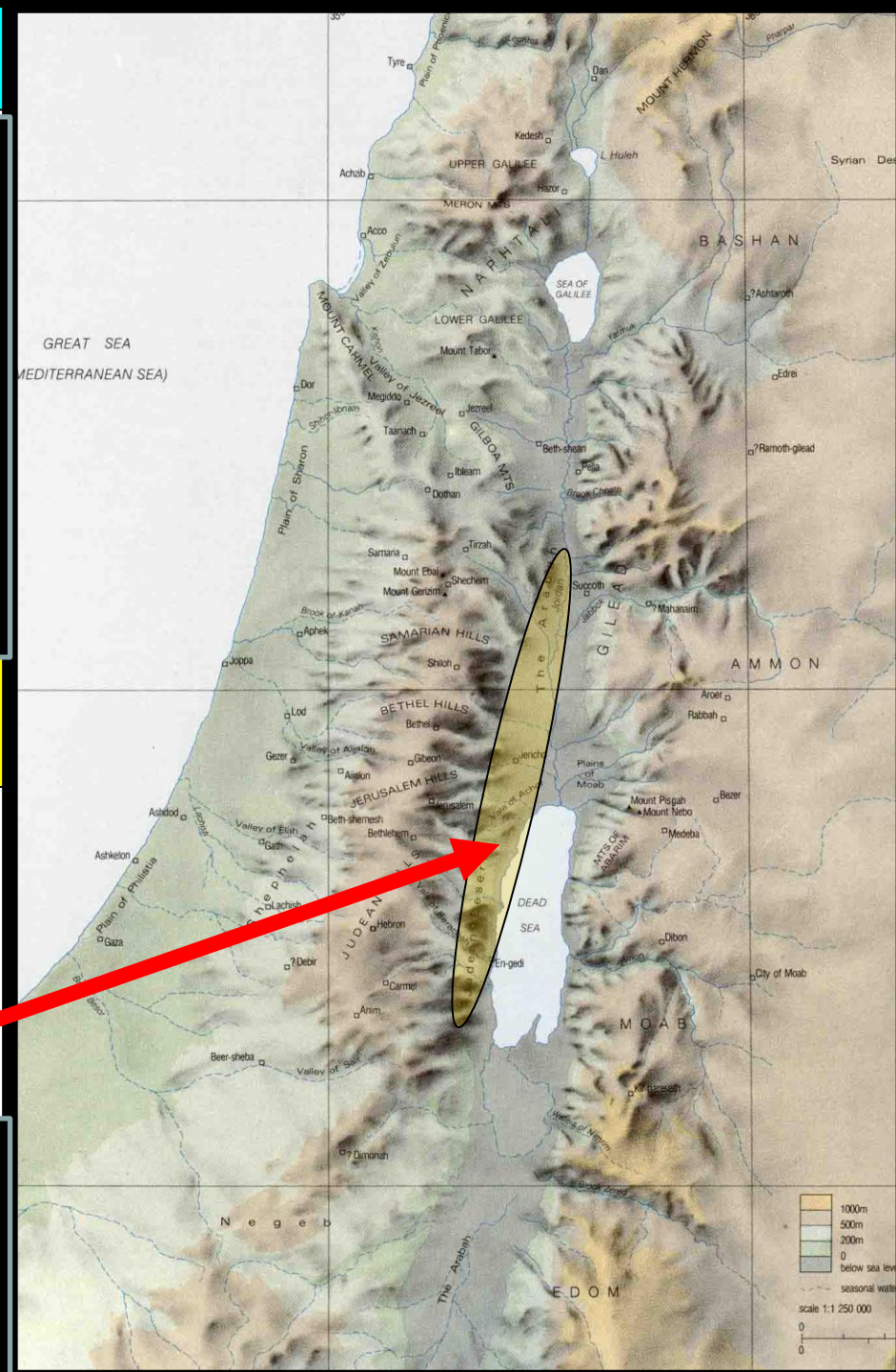
- Coastal plain
- the Shephelah foothills
- **Central mountain ridges**



Geographical setting:

Palestine contains several major N-S geographical sub-divisions:

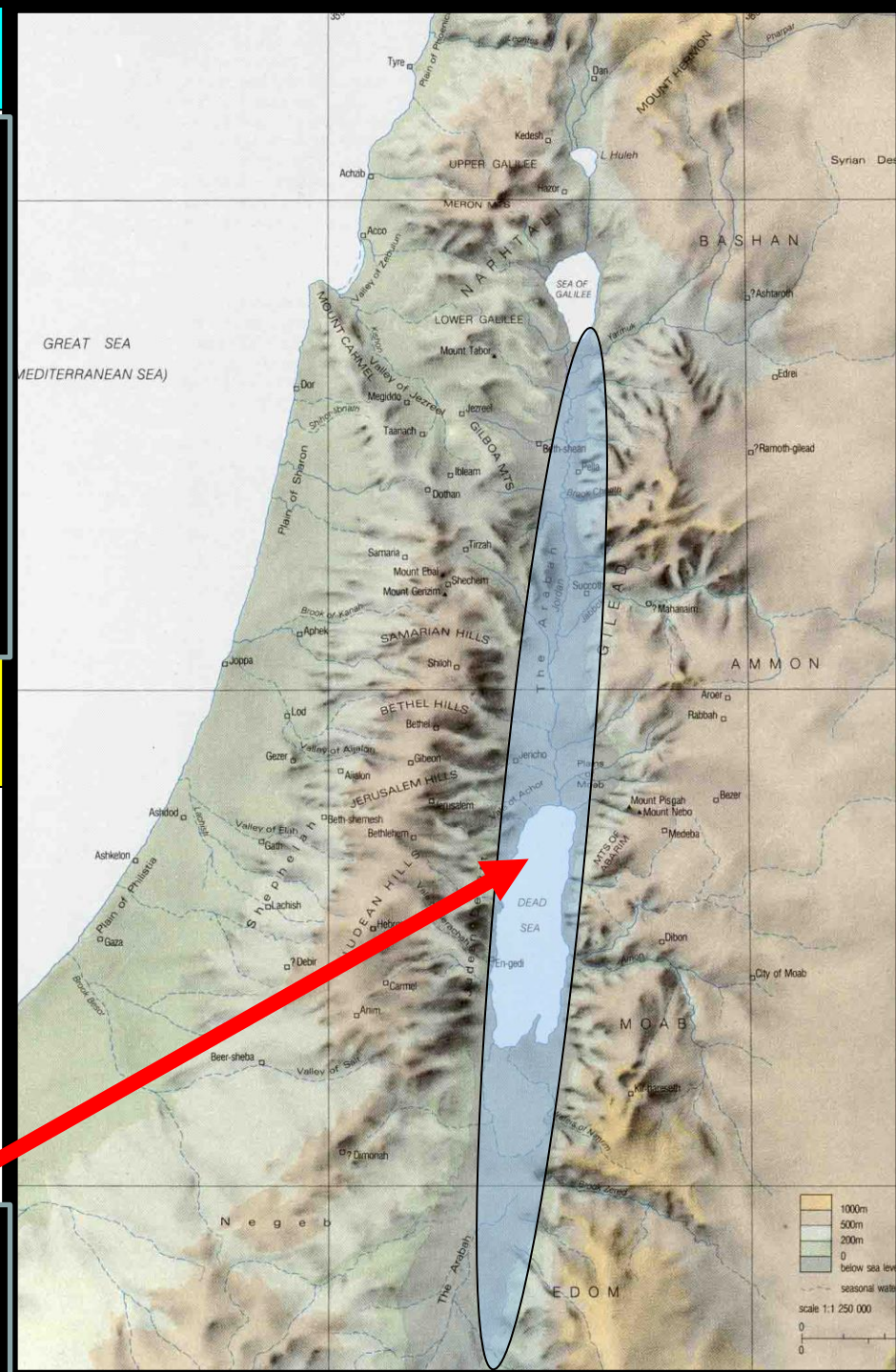
- Coastal plain
- the Shephelah foothills
- Central mountain ridges
- **Judean desert** (E. of Judean hills)



Geographical setting:

Palestine contains several major N-S geographical sub-divisions:

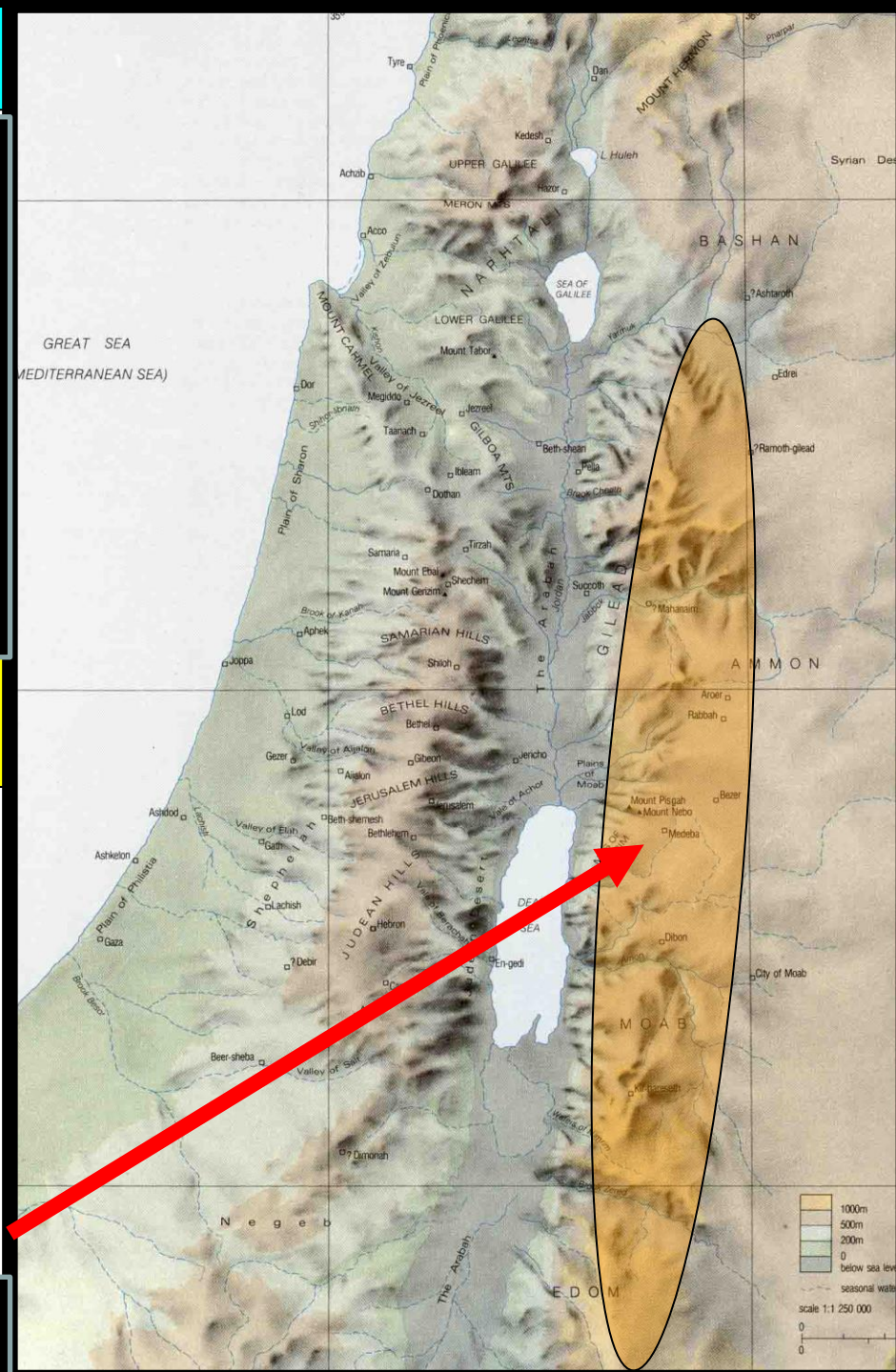
- Coastal plain
- the Shephelah foothills
- Central mountain ridges
- Judean desert (E. of Judean hills)
- the **Rift Valley** (e.g., Dead Sea; Jordan)



Geographical setting:

Palestine contains several major N-S geographical sub-divisions:

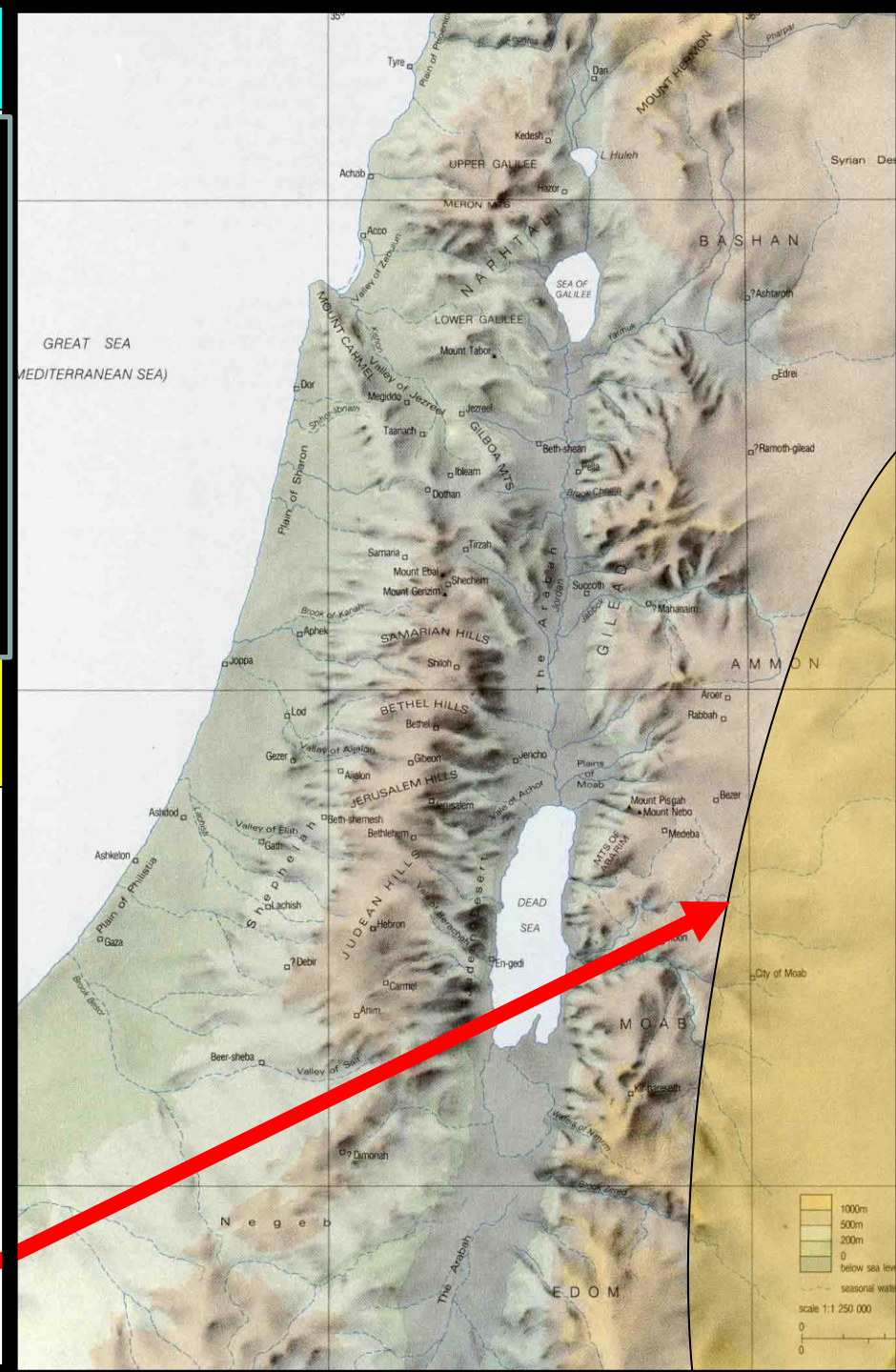
- Coastal plain
- the Shephelah foothills
- Central mountain ridges
- Judean desert (E. of Judean hills)
- the Rift Valley (e.g., Dead Sea; Jordan)
- **Mountains & plateaus (E. of Rift Valley)**



Geographical setting:

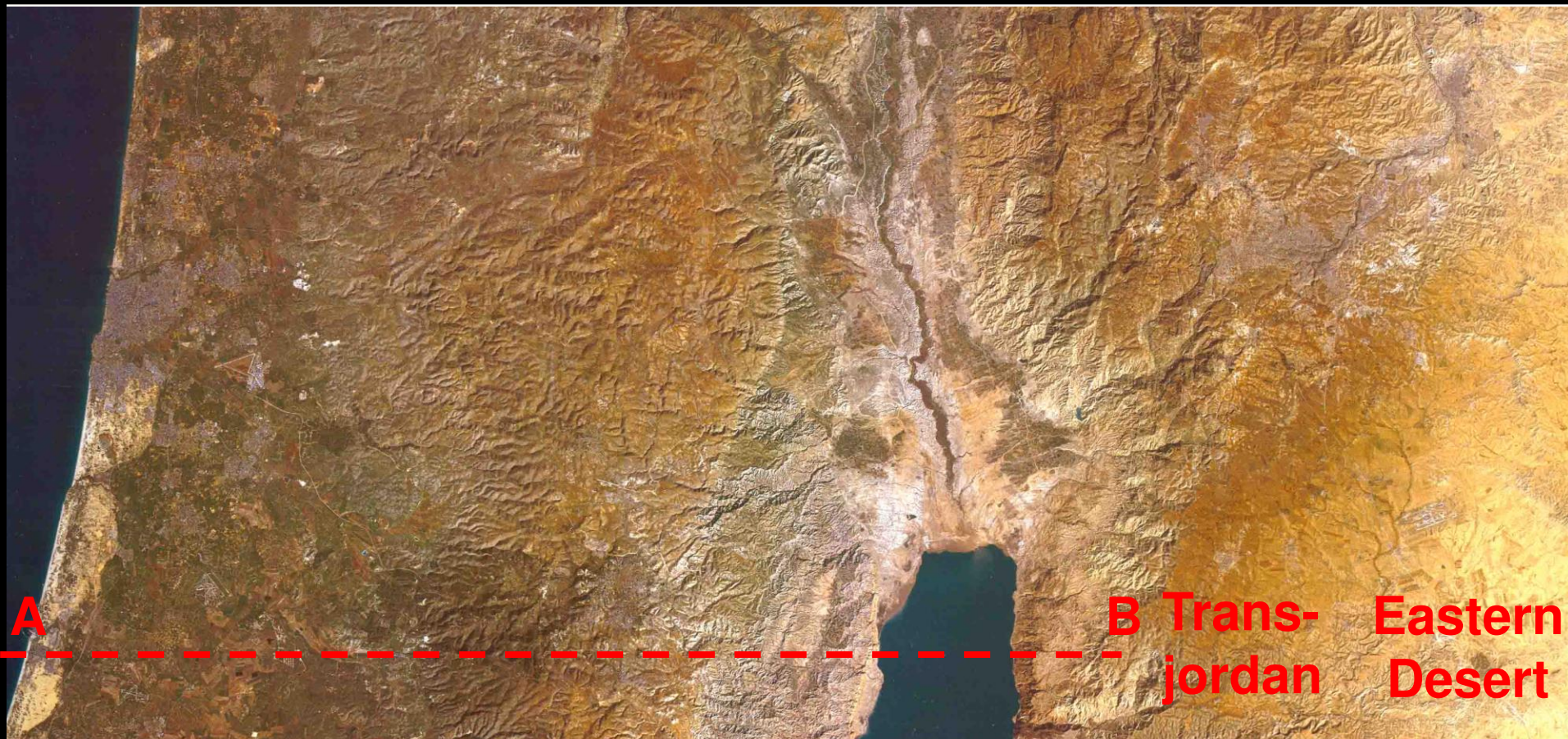
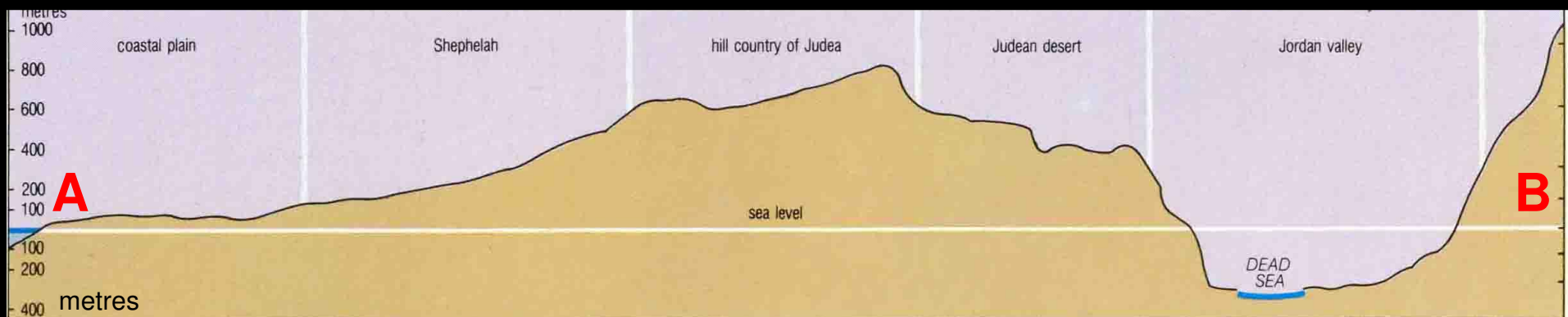
Palestine contains several major N-S geographical sub-divisions:

- Coastal plain
- the Shephelah foothills
- Central mountain ridges
- Judean desert (E. of Judean hills)
- the Rift Valley (e.g., Dead Sea; Jordan)
- Mountains & plateaus (E. of Rift Valley)
- **Eastern Desert** (in Trans-Jordan)



West – East cross-section of the topography of Palestine:

Coastal plain → Shephelah → Judean Hills → Judean Desert → Jordan Valley



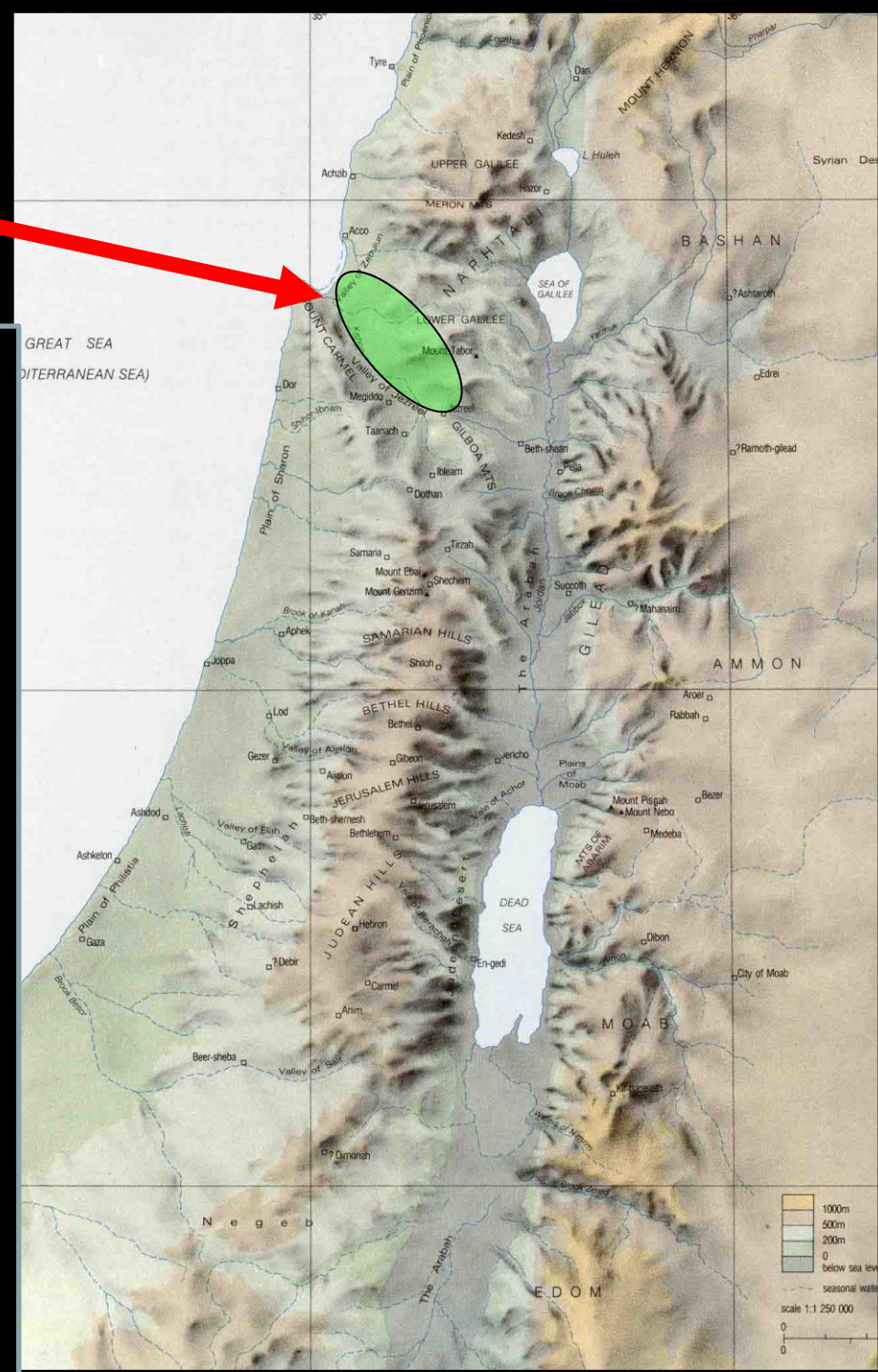
Geographical setting:

E-W geographical sub-divisions:

- East-West valleys: E.g., **Jezreel Valley**
→ natural routes from coast → inland

• Major east-west route and agricultural area:

- Affluent settlements
- Good harbours
- Water sources
- Trade routes:
 - a. East-West
 - b. North-South



Jezreel Valley:

View of the Jezreel Valley and Mt. Tabor looking to the Southeast.
The mountains of Gilead lie further to the Southeast in the background.

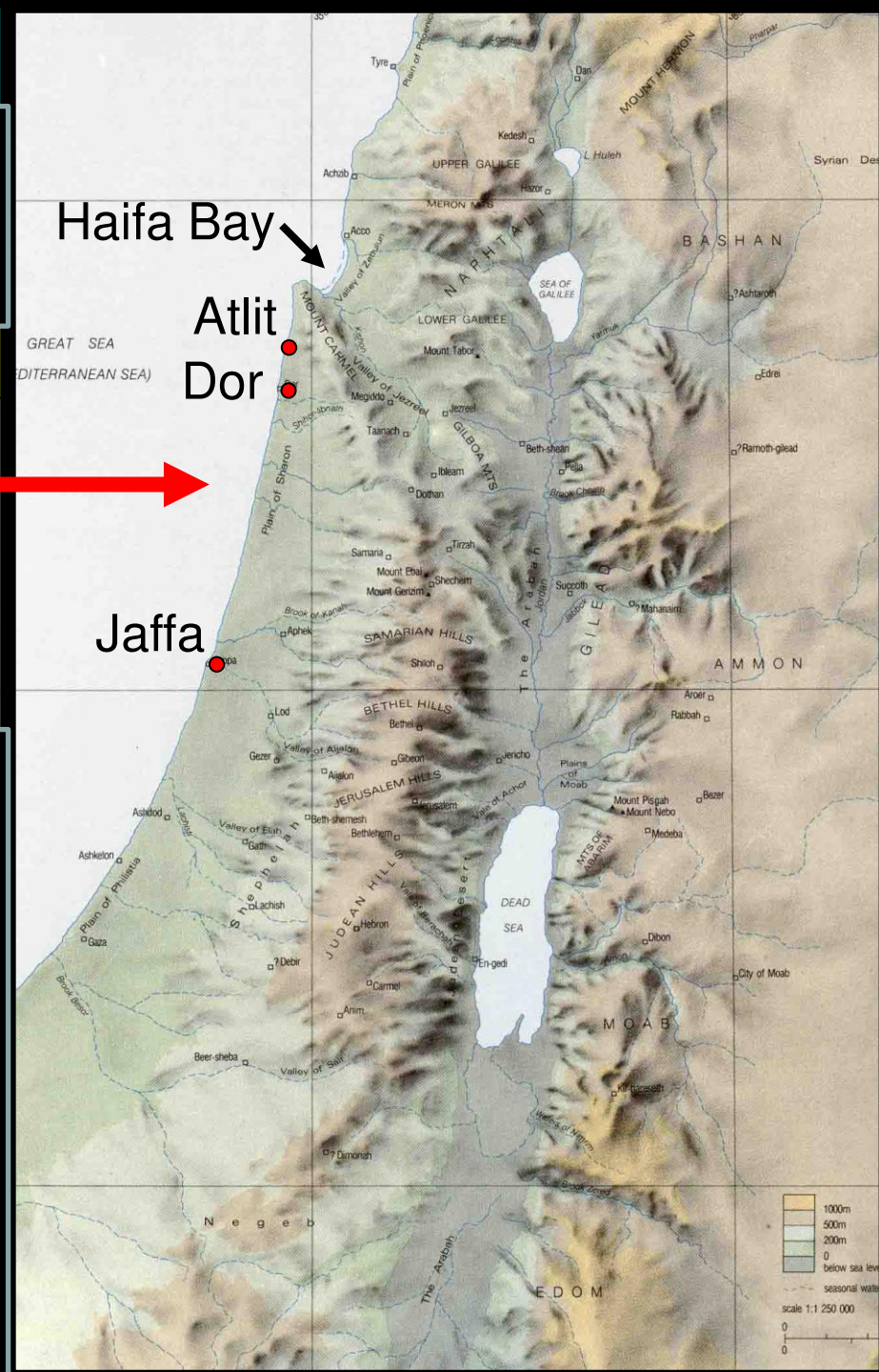


Geographical setting:

1. Palestine's coastline:

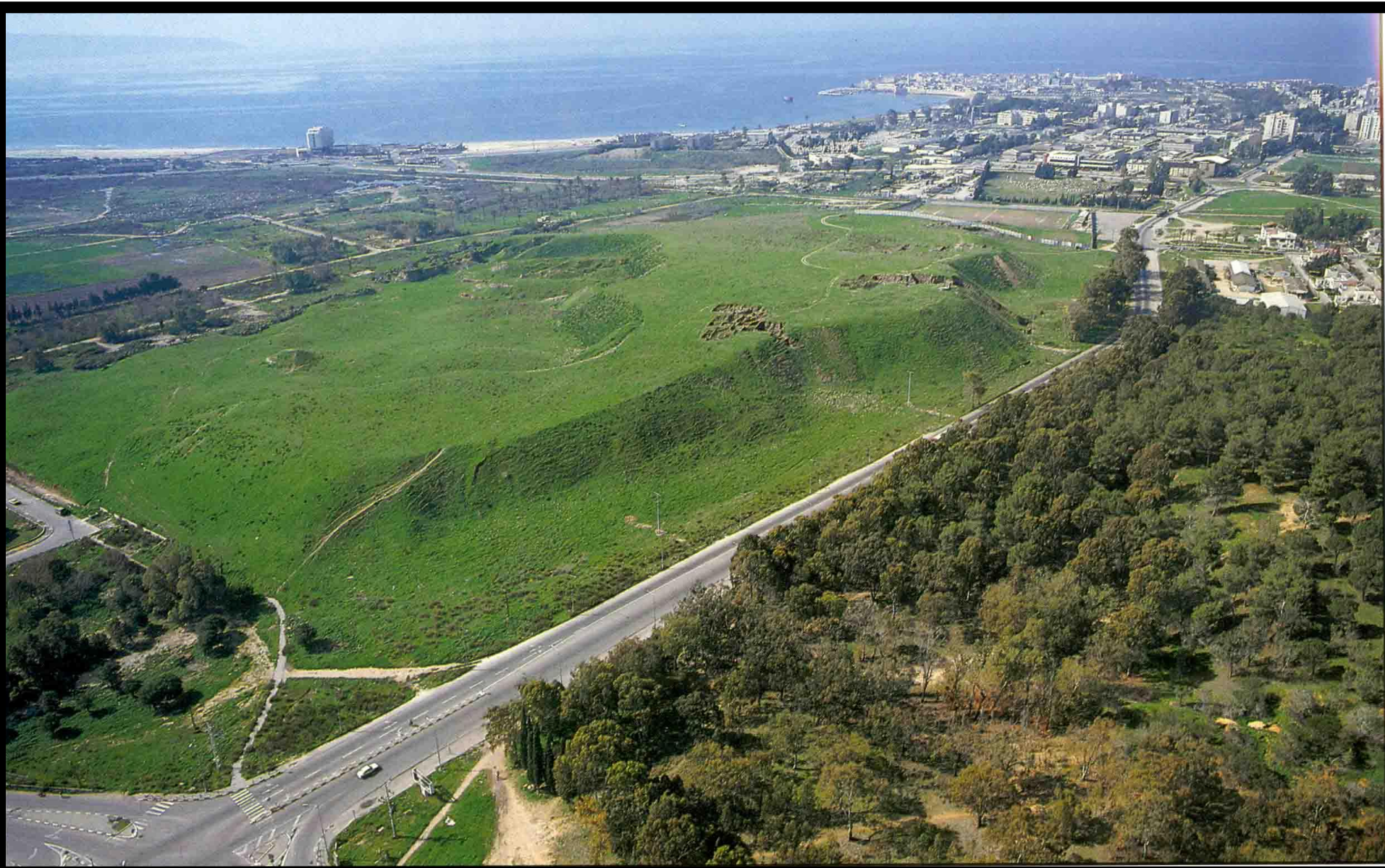
- Mostly lacks natural bays (few good ports)
- **Haifa Bay** = main exception (good!) →
- Other coves & ports lie at
 - Jaffa
 - Dor
 - 'Atlit

Very few
good
maritime
ports



Haifa Bay:

Tell Akko on the *northern side of Haifa Bay*.
View looking south across the Haifa Bay towards Mt. Carmel.



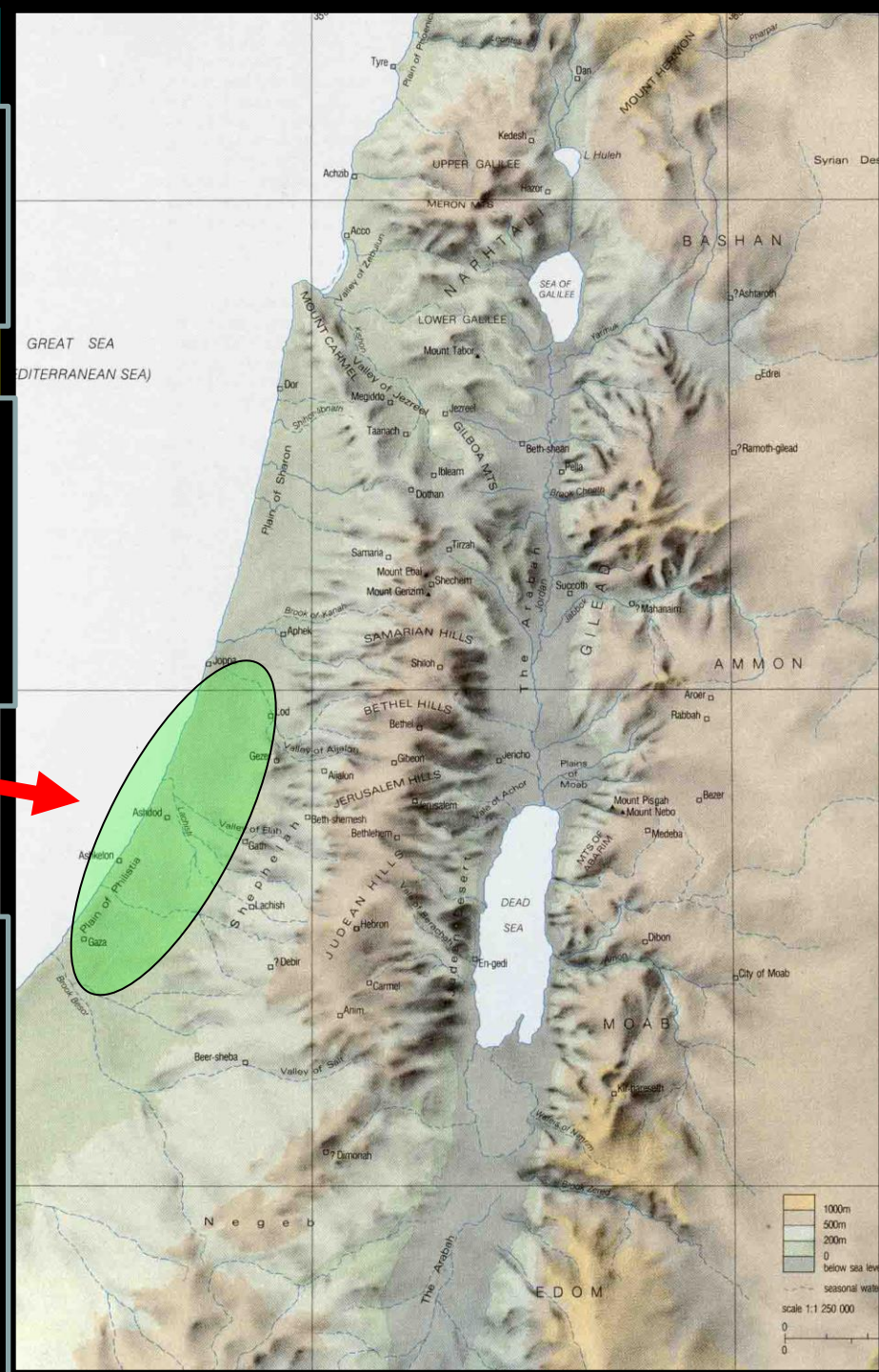
Geographical setting:

1. Palestine's coastline:

- South coastal plain (Philistia):
 - wide with some coastal dunes
 - low inland hills with sandy soil (loess)

Plain of Philistia:

- Good agriculture



Plain of Philistia:

View of Ashkelon, which **becomes one of the five Philistine cities (Pentapolis)** in the Plain of Philistia. Coastal dunes covered by fields.



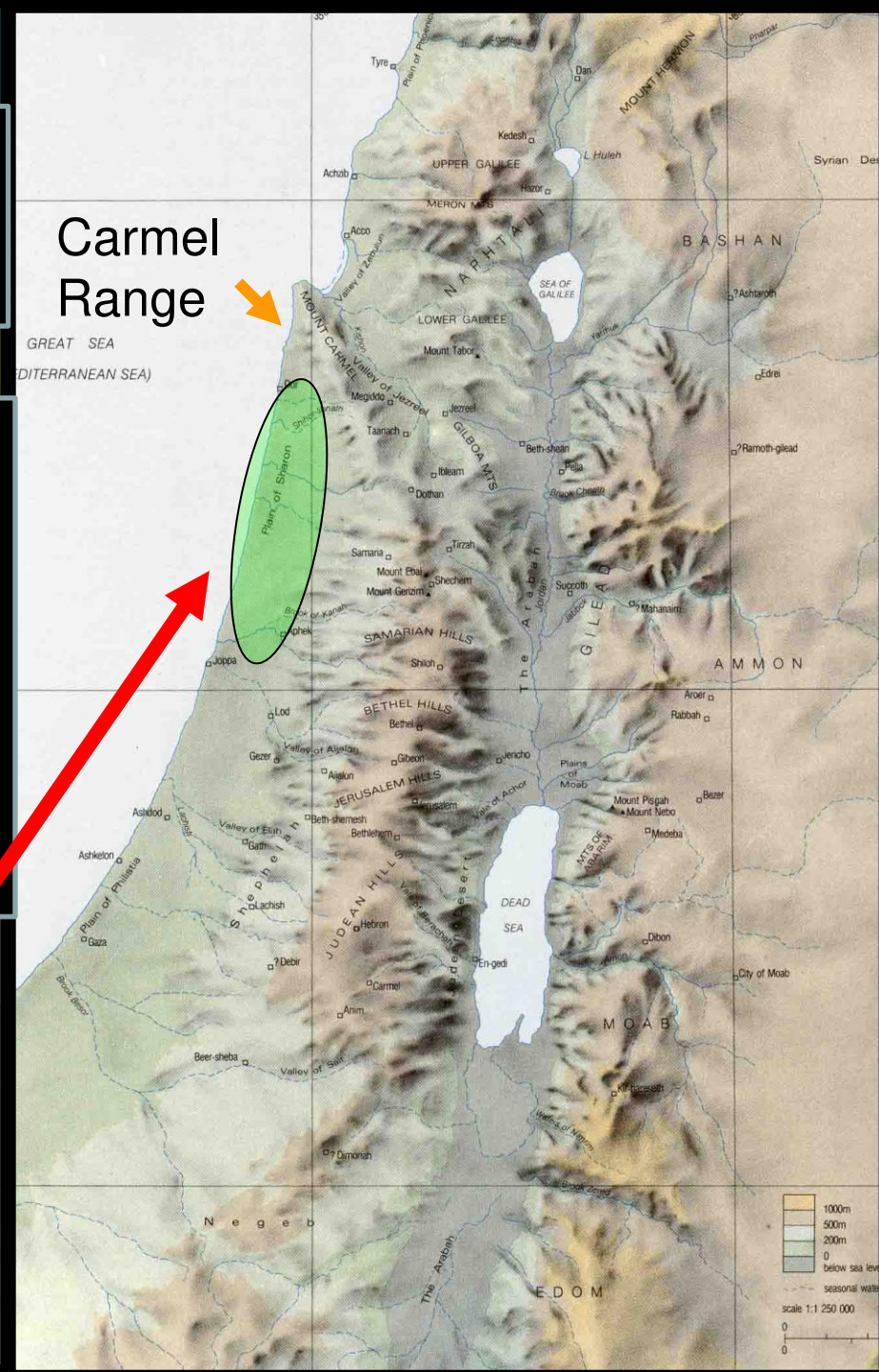
Geographical setting:

1. Palestine's coastline:

Plain of Sharon:

- Good agriculture

- North coastal plain (Sharon Plain):
 - Narrower with two *kurkar* ridges and troughs (potential marshland).
 - Originally forested (oak & terebinth trees)
 - Thin plain along Carmel ridge
 - Wider plain at Acre Valley → R.Haniqrah
 - Rosh Haniqrah E-W ridge Israel-Lebanon



Plain of Sharon:

View of Tell Dor looking to the North.

Dor was an important Mediterranean port city in the Iron Age

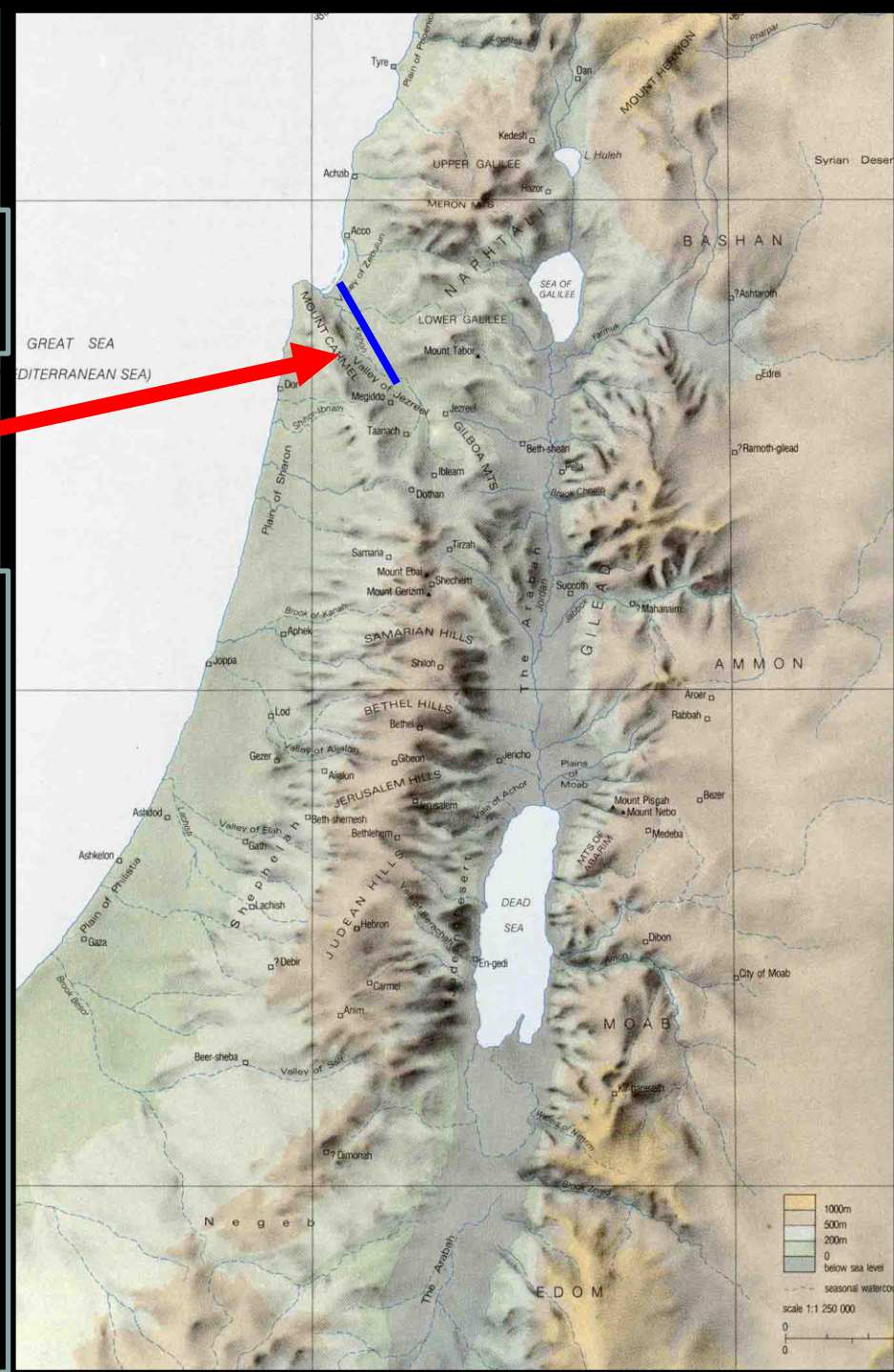


Geographical setting:

1. Coastal plain:

- **Has many water sources, including**
 - Naaman river
 - - Kishon river

Moderate (important)
waterways

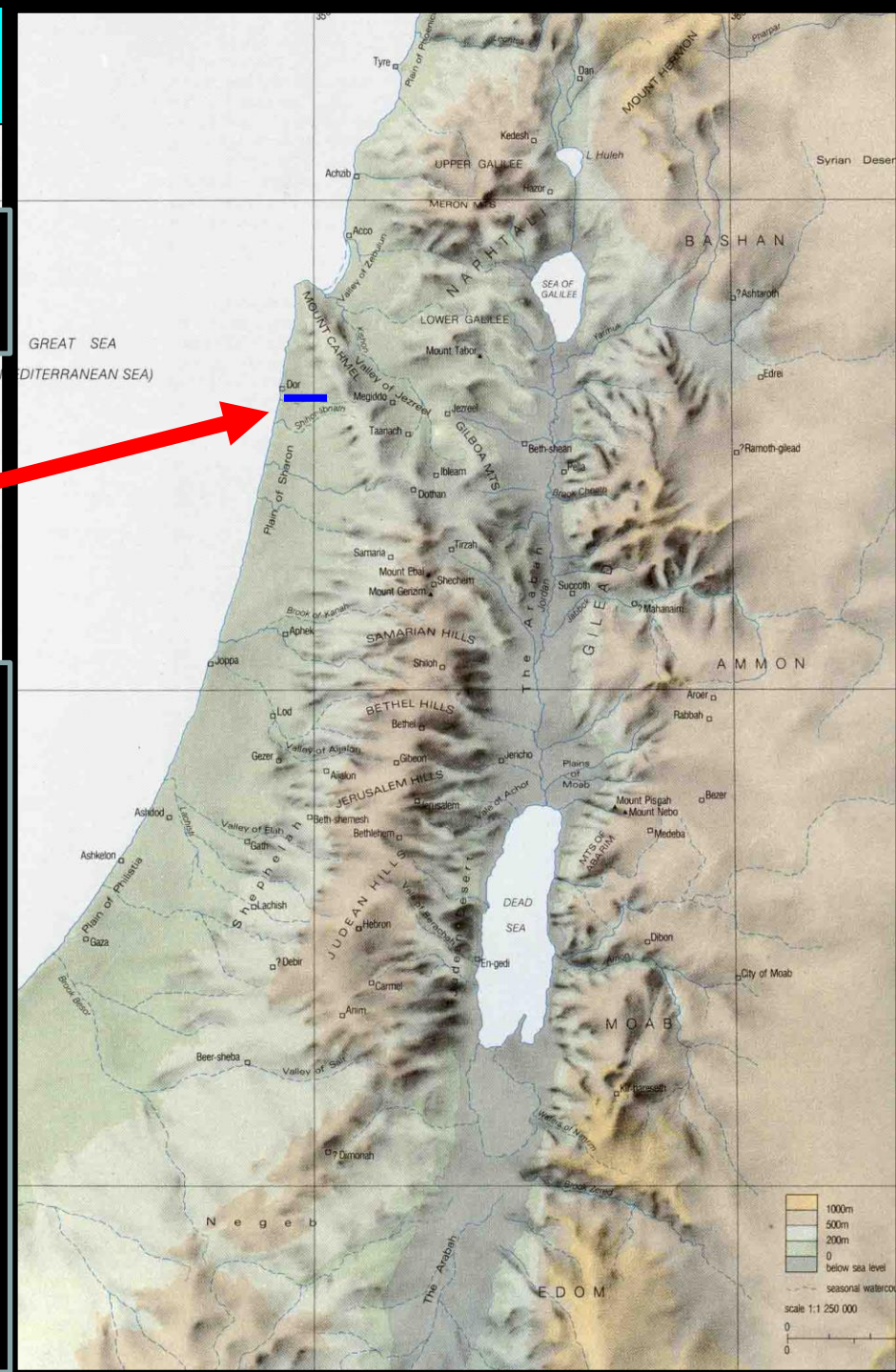


Geographical setting:

1. Coastal plain:

- **Has many water sources, including**
 - Naaman river
 - Kishon river
 - Taninim river

Moderate (important)
waterways

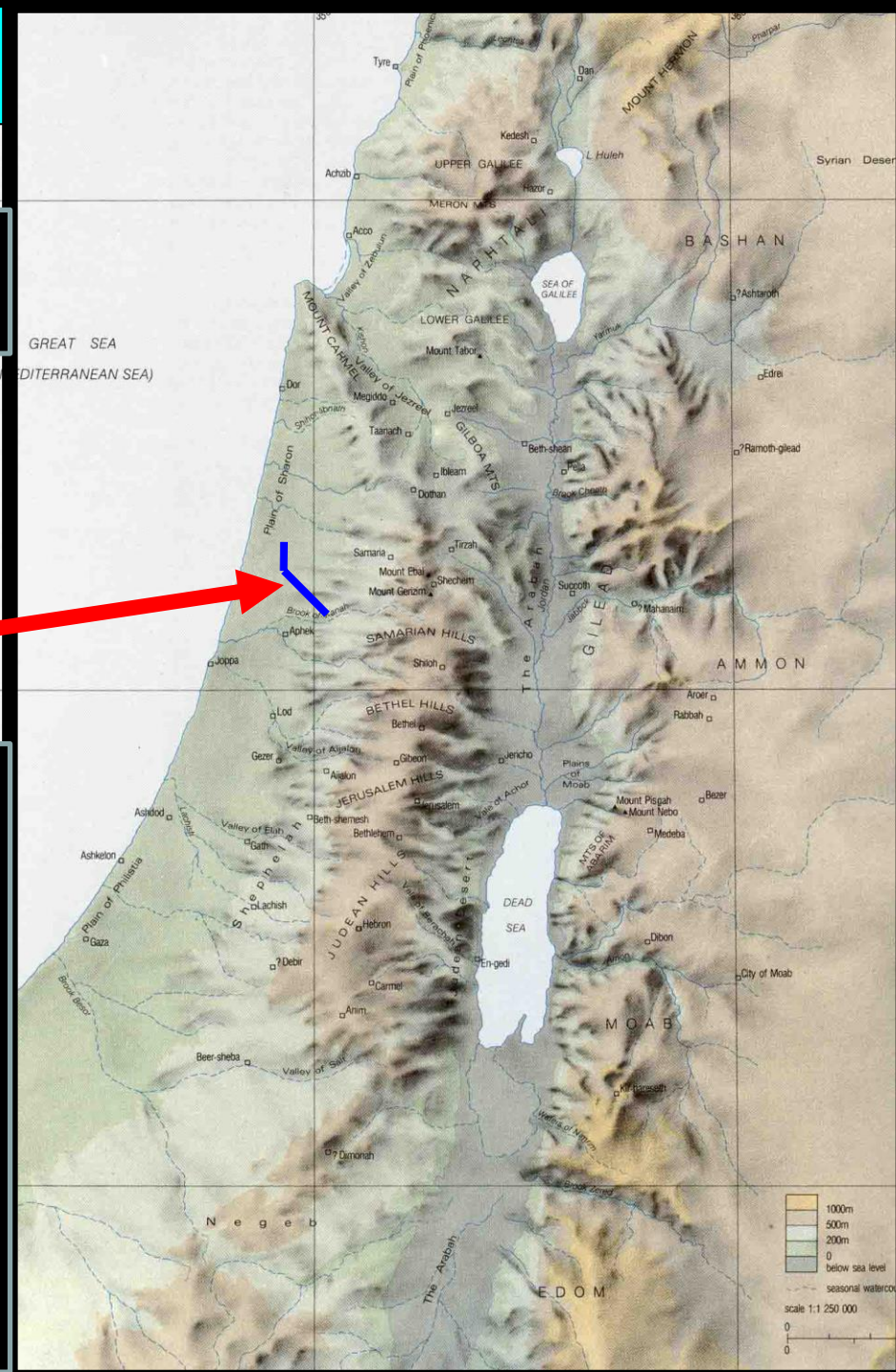


Geographical setting:

1. Coastal plain:

- **Has many water sources, including**
 - Naaman river
 - Kishon river
 - Taninim river
- **Alexander river**

Moderate (important)
waterways



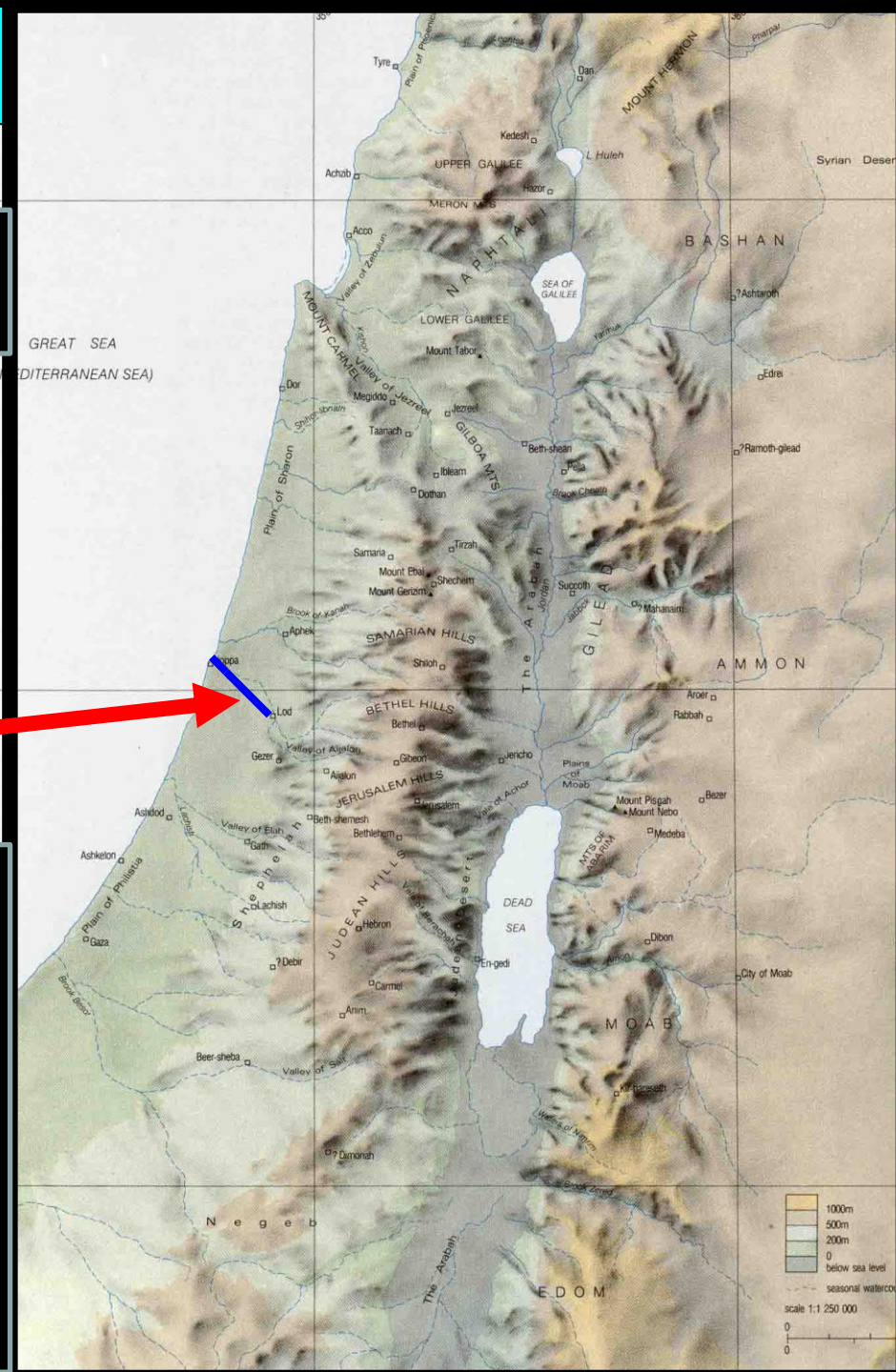
Geographical setting:

1. Coastal plain:

- **Has many water sources, including**
 - Naaman river
 - Kishon river
 - Tananim river
 - Alexander river

- **Yarkon river**

Moderate (important)
waterways



Plain of Sharon:

E.g., View of the perennial [River Yarkon](#) to the east of Tel Aviv. This river meanders across the Plain of Sharon near Tell Aphek.

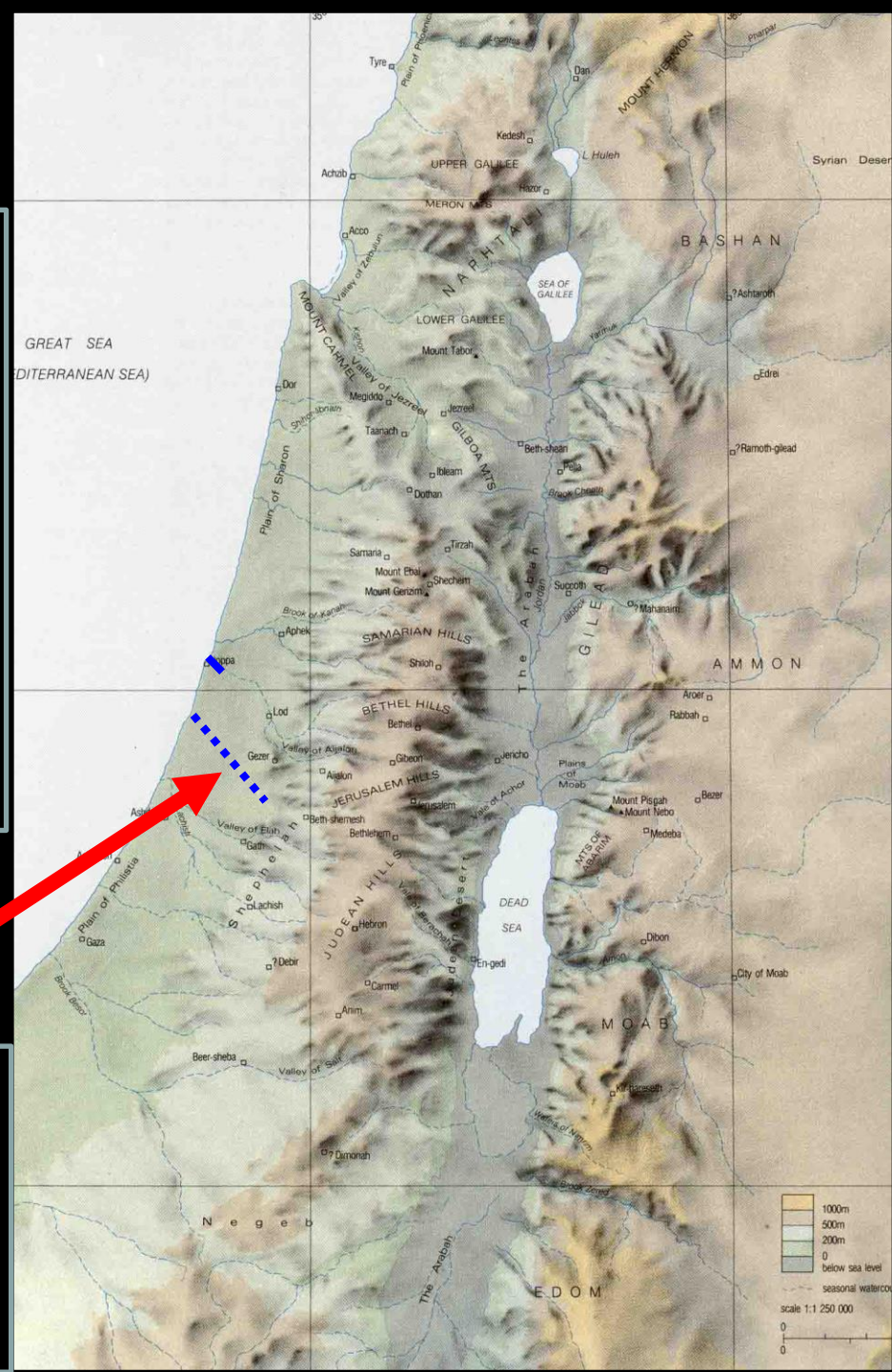


Geographical setting:

1. Coastal plain:

Minor
waterways

- Some minor waterways (*flowing only part of the year*) include:
- - Sorek brook



Geographical setting:

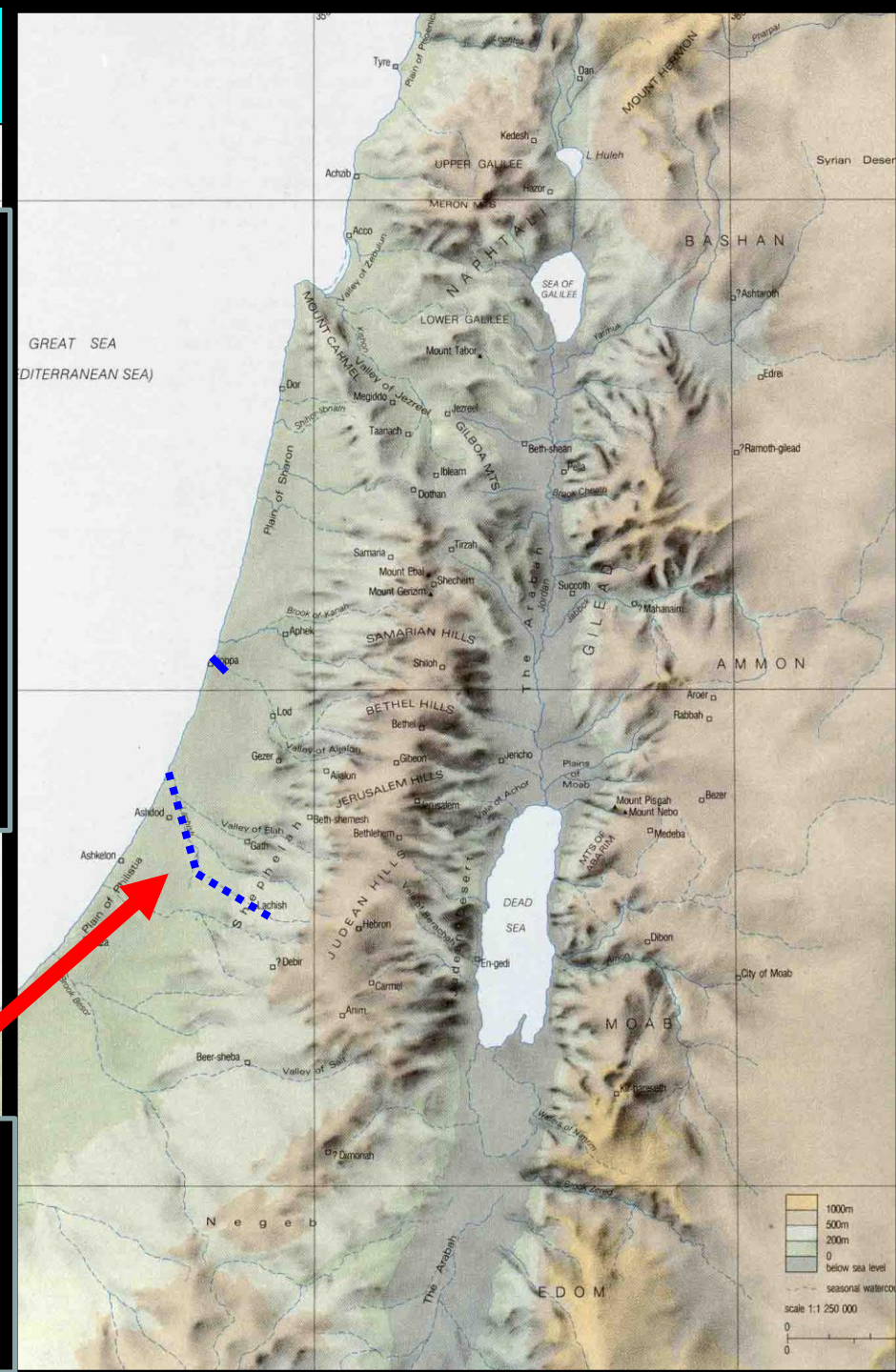
1. Coastal plain:

Minor
waterways

• **Some minor waterways (*flowing only part of the year*) include:**

- Sorek brook

● - Lachish brook

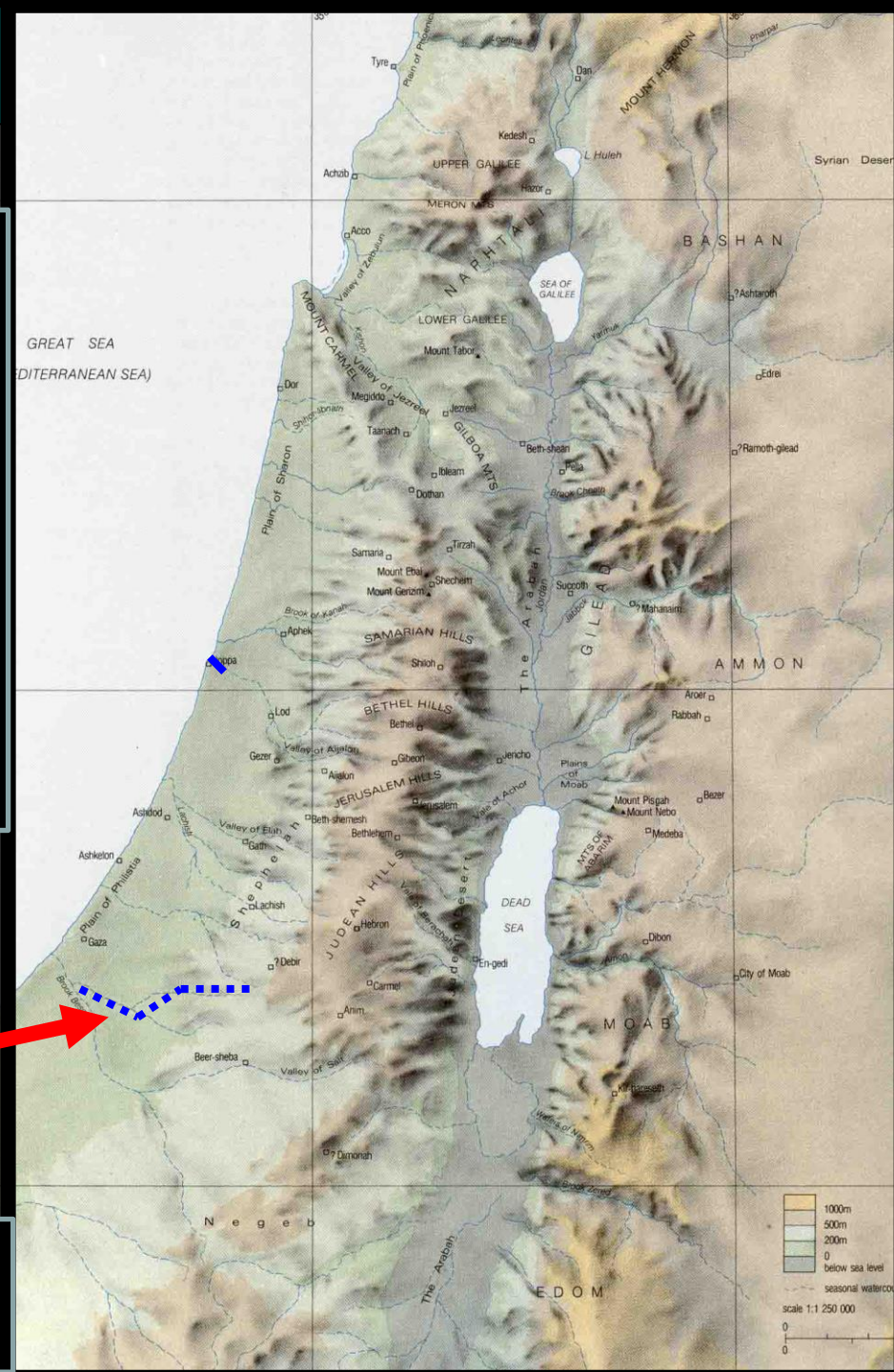


Geographical setting:

1. Coastal plain:

Minor
waterways

- **Some minor waterways (*flowing only part of the year*) include:**
 - Sorek brook
 - Lachish brook
 - - **Gerar brook**

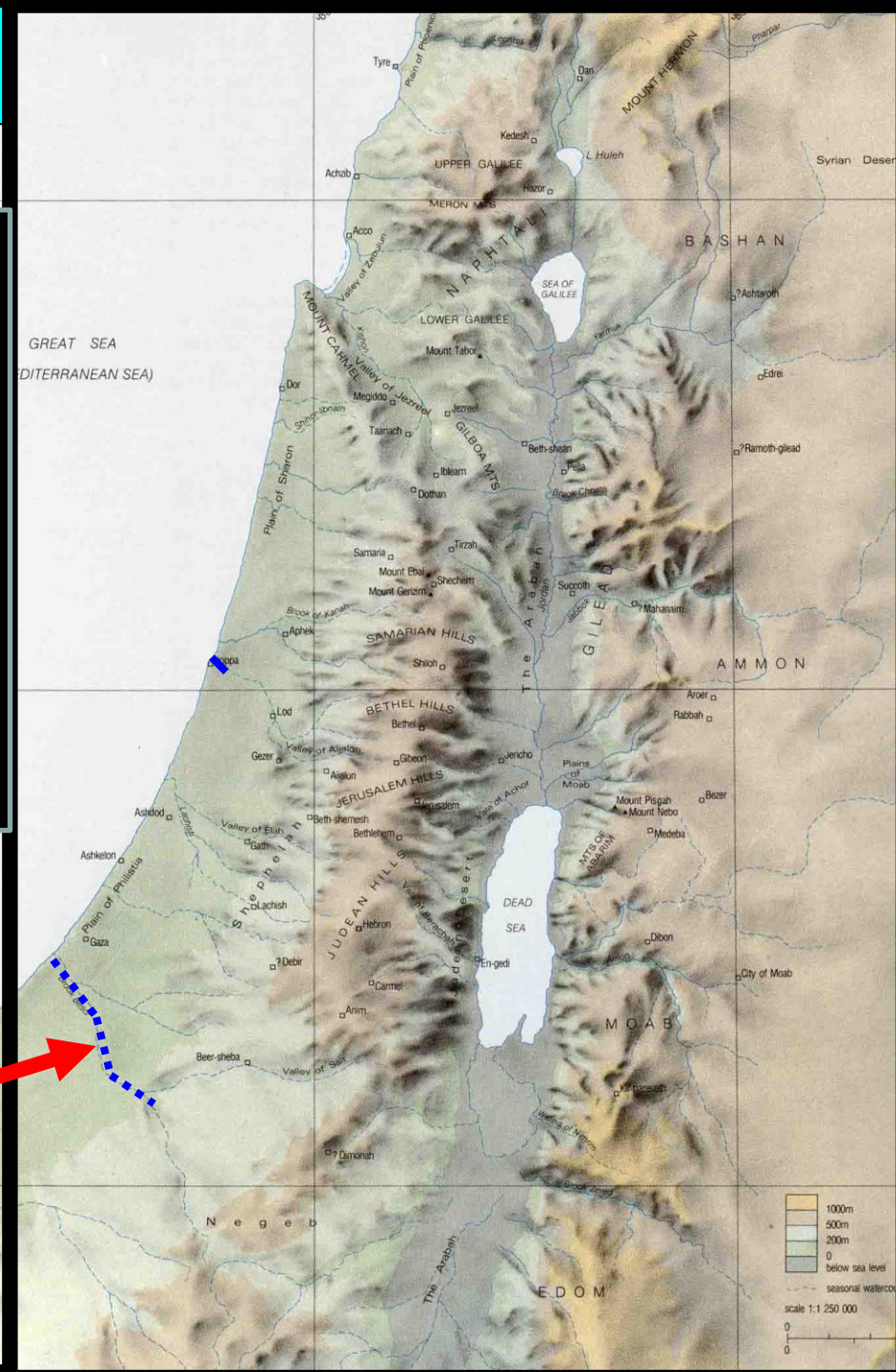


Geographical setting:

1. Coastal plain:

Minor
waterways

- **Some minor waterways (*flowing only part of the year*) include:**
 - Sorek brook
 - Lachish brook
 - Gerar brook
 - - **Gaza brook** (Besor brook)



Plain of Philistia – Negev:

View looking Southeast at Nahal Gerar (the Gerar Brook) and Tell Haror, which is identified with Biblical Gerar (where Abraham & Isaac resided)

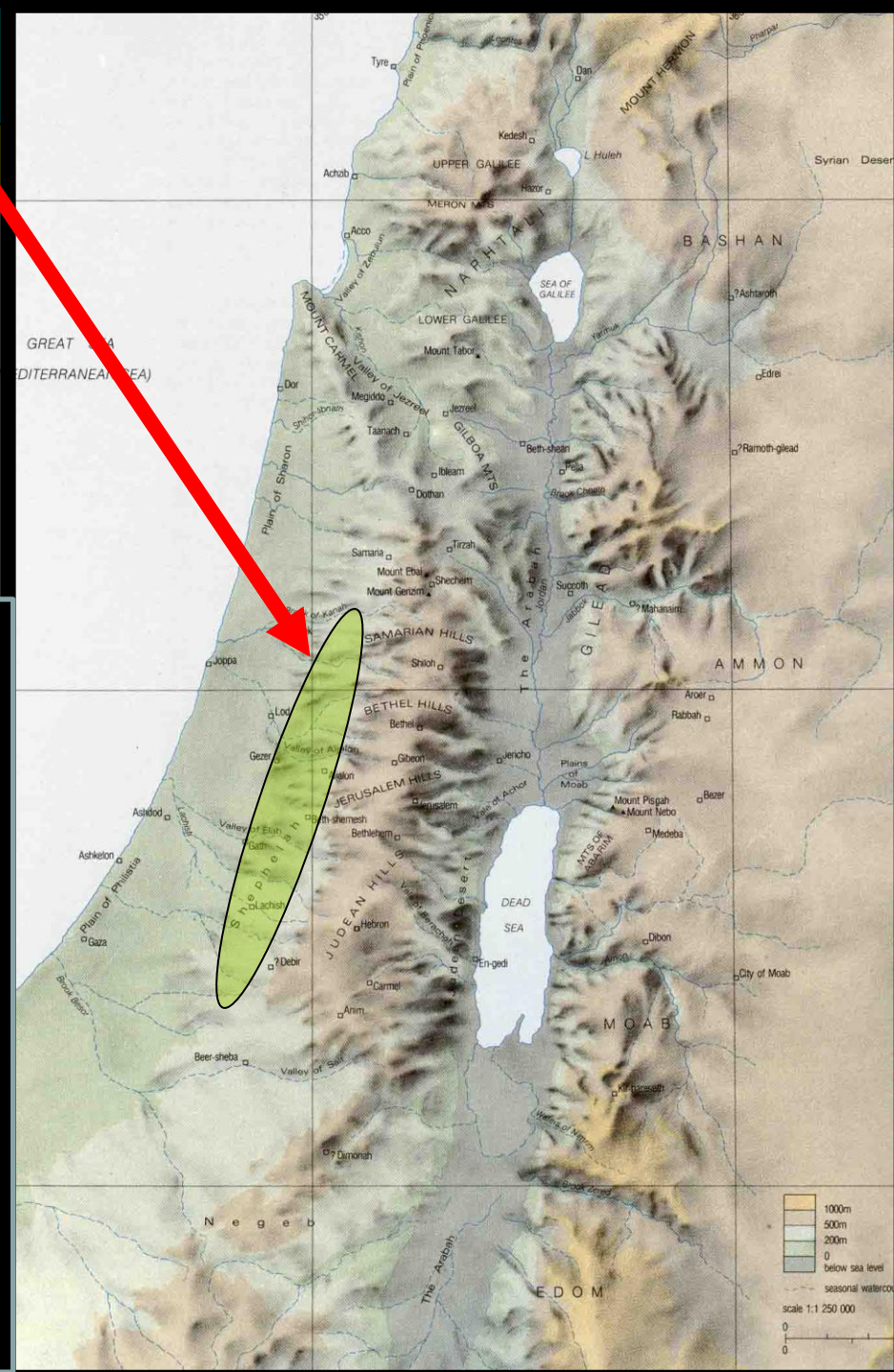


Geographical setting:

2. The Shephelah (foothills):

- A North-South region of limestone hills
- Rising to 400 m above sea level
- These low hills form the edge of the higher Judean Hills (East)
- The Shephelah *peters out to the north*

The Shephelah
(Judean foothills)



Geographical setting:

2. The Shephelah (foothills):

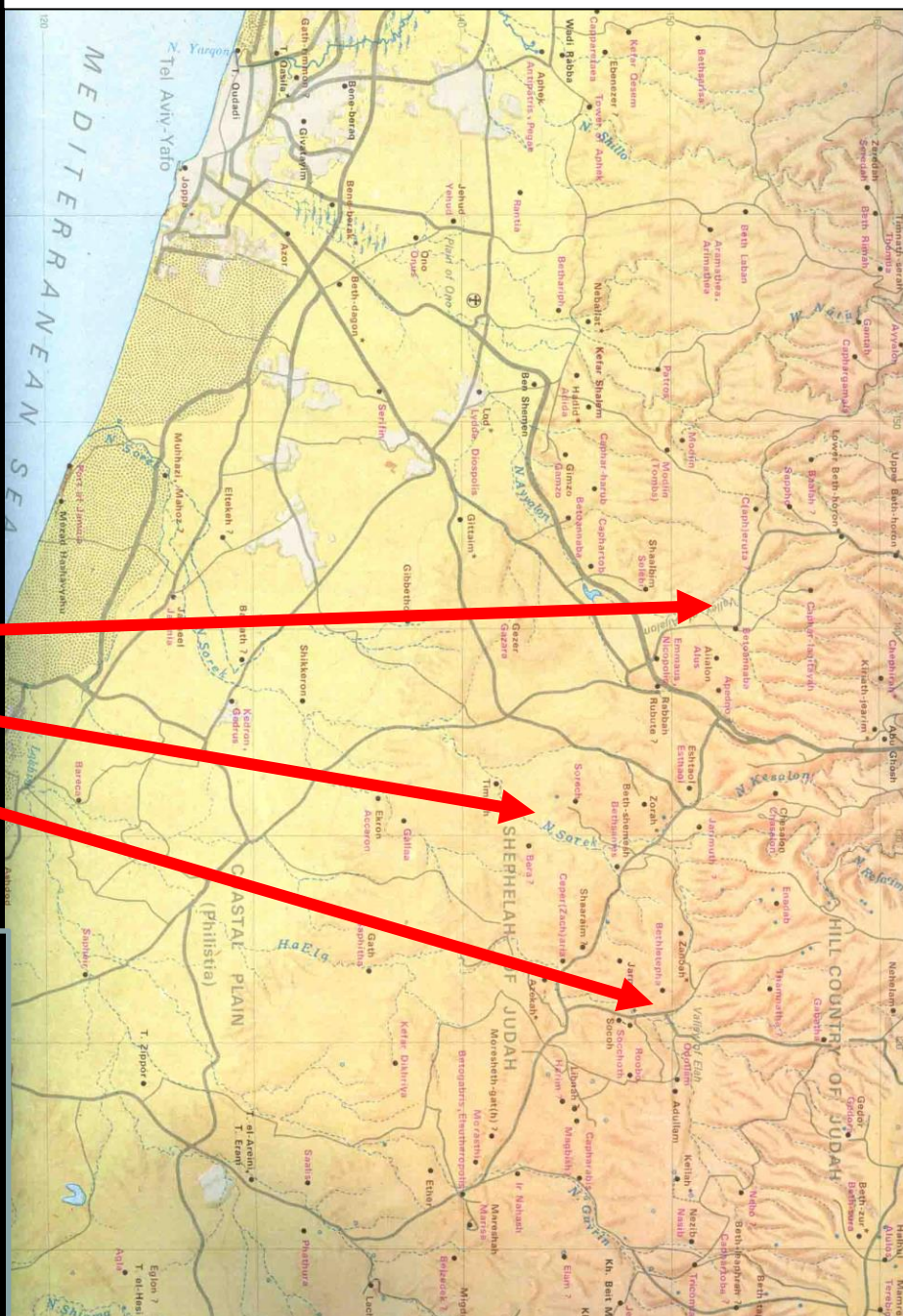
● It contains **several fertile, alluvial valleys:** E.g.,

- Ajalon
- Sorek
- Elah

- → agricultural lands (crops; livestock)
- → routes between coast & highlands

The Shephelah (Judean foothills)

Shephelah reg. map by Jaffa / Tel Aviv



Shephelah (in Judah):

View looking Southeast of the Elah Valley

This valley features the battle between David and Goliath (I Samuel 17:45-50)



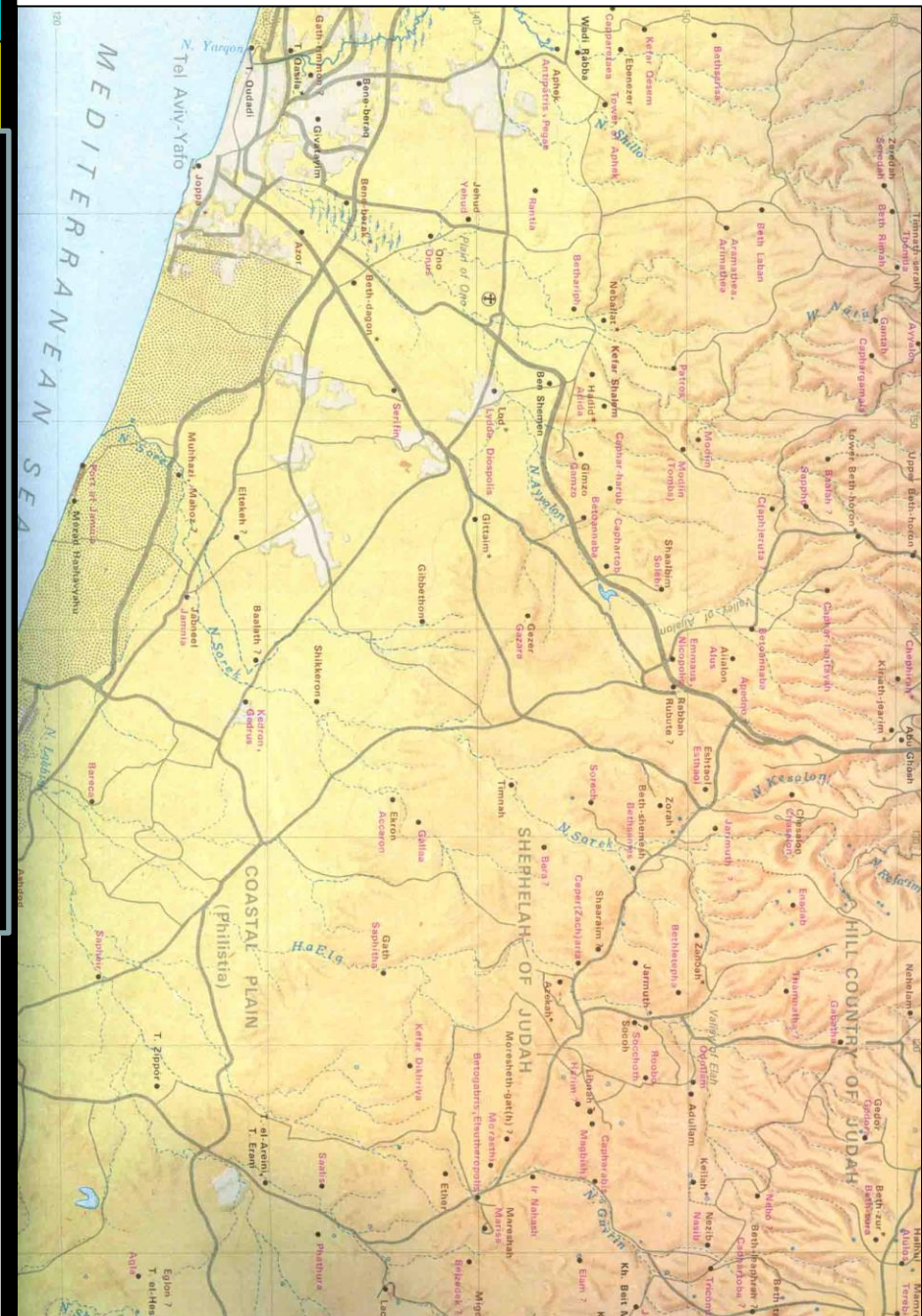
Geographical setting:

2. The Shephelah (foothills):

The Shephelah (Judean foothills)

- **Light gray *rendsina* soil** excellent for
 - pasturage: sheep, goats, cattle.
 - viticulture: grapes → wine
 - olives: oil (major industry)

Shephelah reg. map by Jaffa / Tel Aviv



Geographical setting:

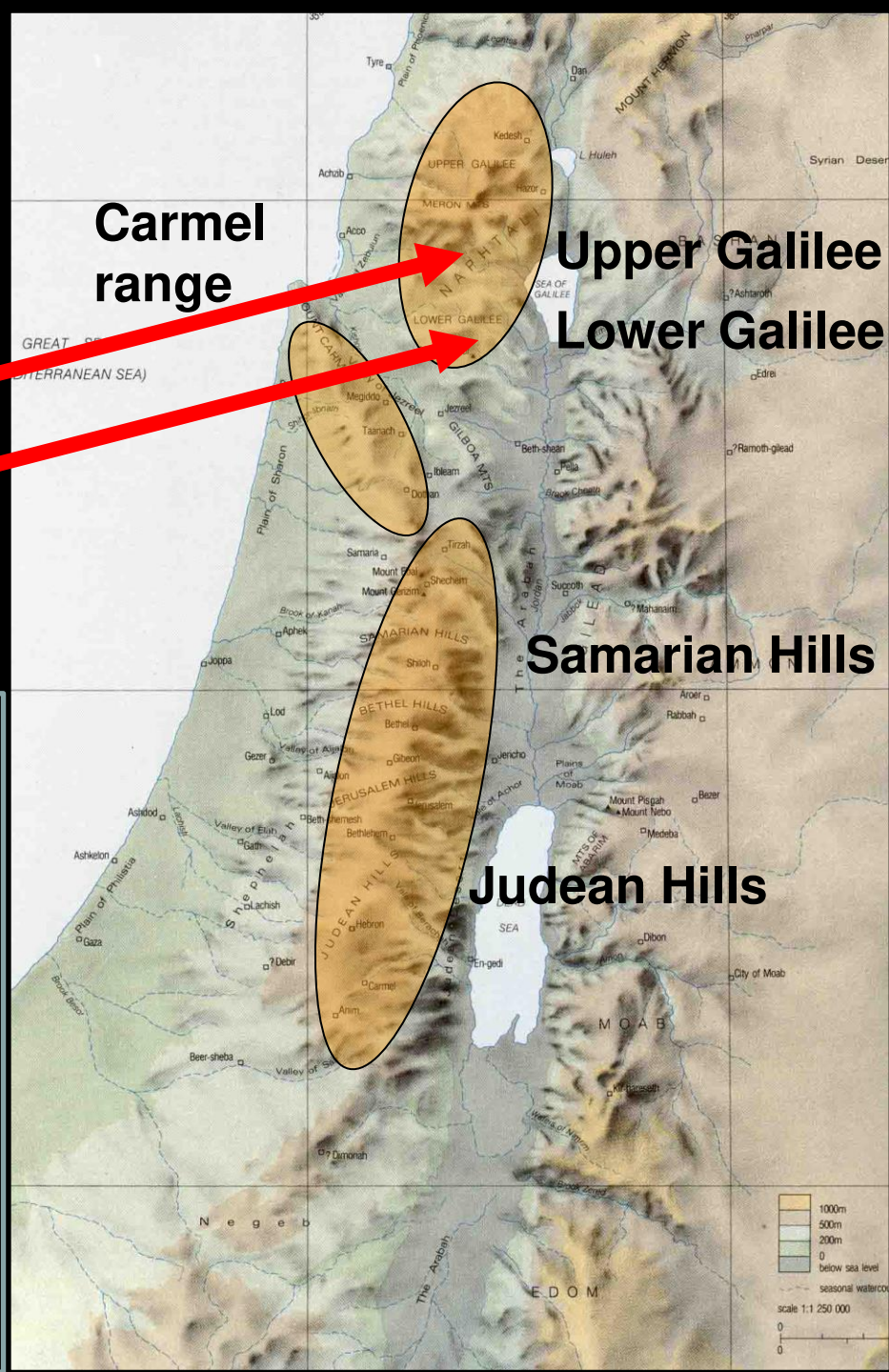
3. The highlands / mountains:

Sub-divided into several zones:

N: Upper Galilee: steep, high hills
E.g., Mt. Har Meiron (1208 m ASL)

N: Lower Galilee: lower + E-W valleys
and eastern plateaus:
E.g., Netofa & Beth-Hakerem valleys
E.g., Issachar highland plateau

Highlands ("mountains")



Geographical setting:

3. The highlands / mountains:

N: Upper Galilee: steep, high hills
E.g., Mt. Har Meiron (1208 m ASL)

Highlands
("mountains")

Regional map of Upper - Lower Galilee



Galilee:

View across “Horns of Hattin” (extinct volcano), Mt. Arbel, and narrow valley leading to the Plain of Gennesaret along the NW shore of the Sea of Galilee.



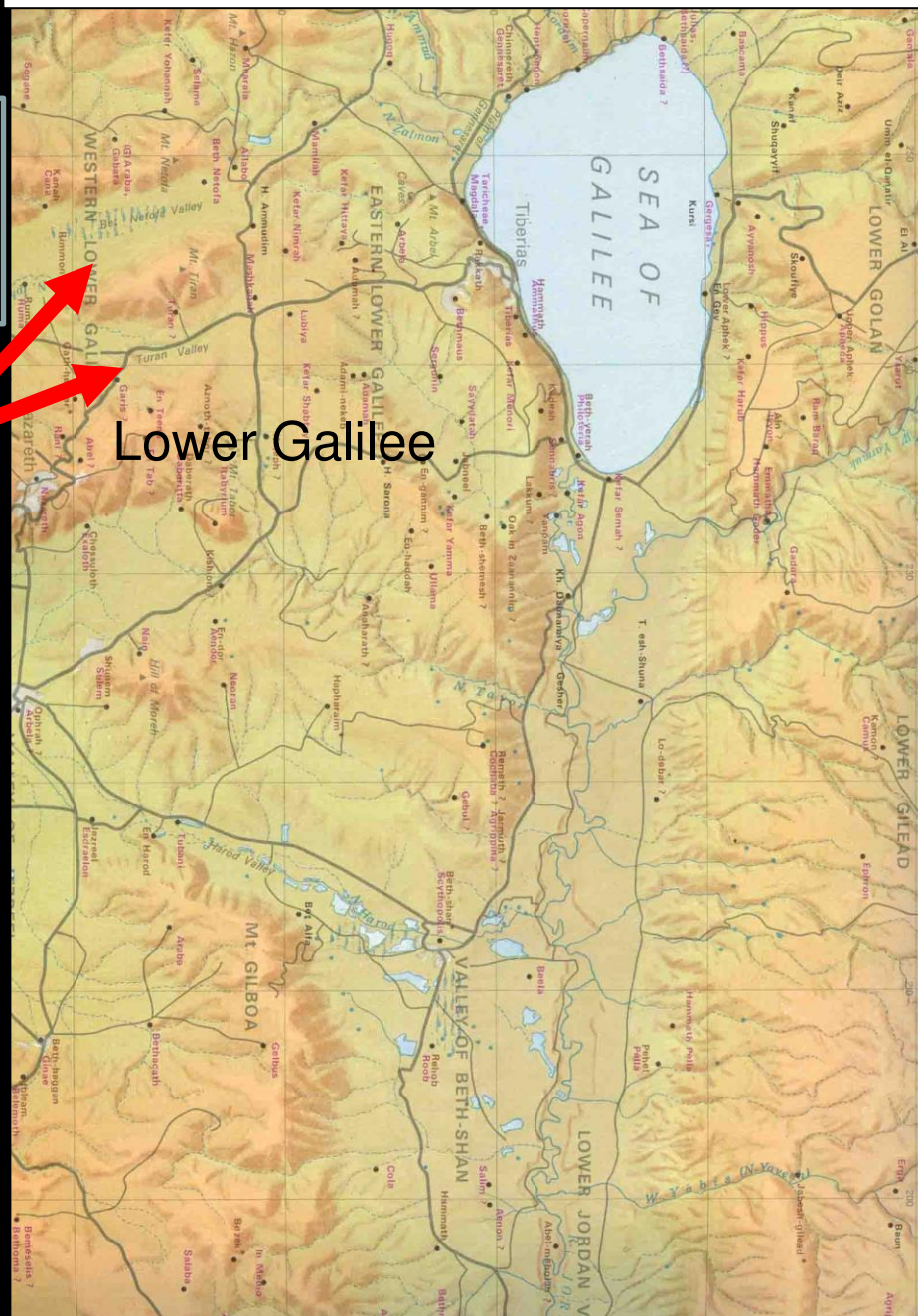
Geographical setting:

3. The highlands / mountains:

● **N: Lower Galilee:** lower + E-W valleys and eastern plateaus:
 E.g., Netofa & Beth-Hakerem valleys
 E.g., Issachar highland plateau

**Highlands
 (“mountains”)**

Regional map of W-E Lower Galilee



Lower Galilee:

Olive trees in the Bet Kerem Valley, which separates Upper and Lower Galilee.
The olive tree = a symbol of fertility, beauty, and prosperity.
= provides food, lamp fuel, medicine, oil for anointing, & sacrifice.



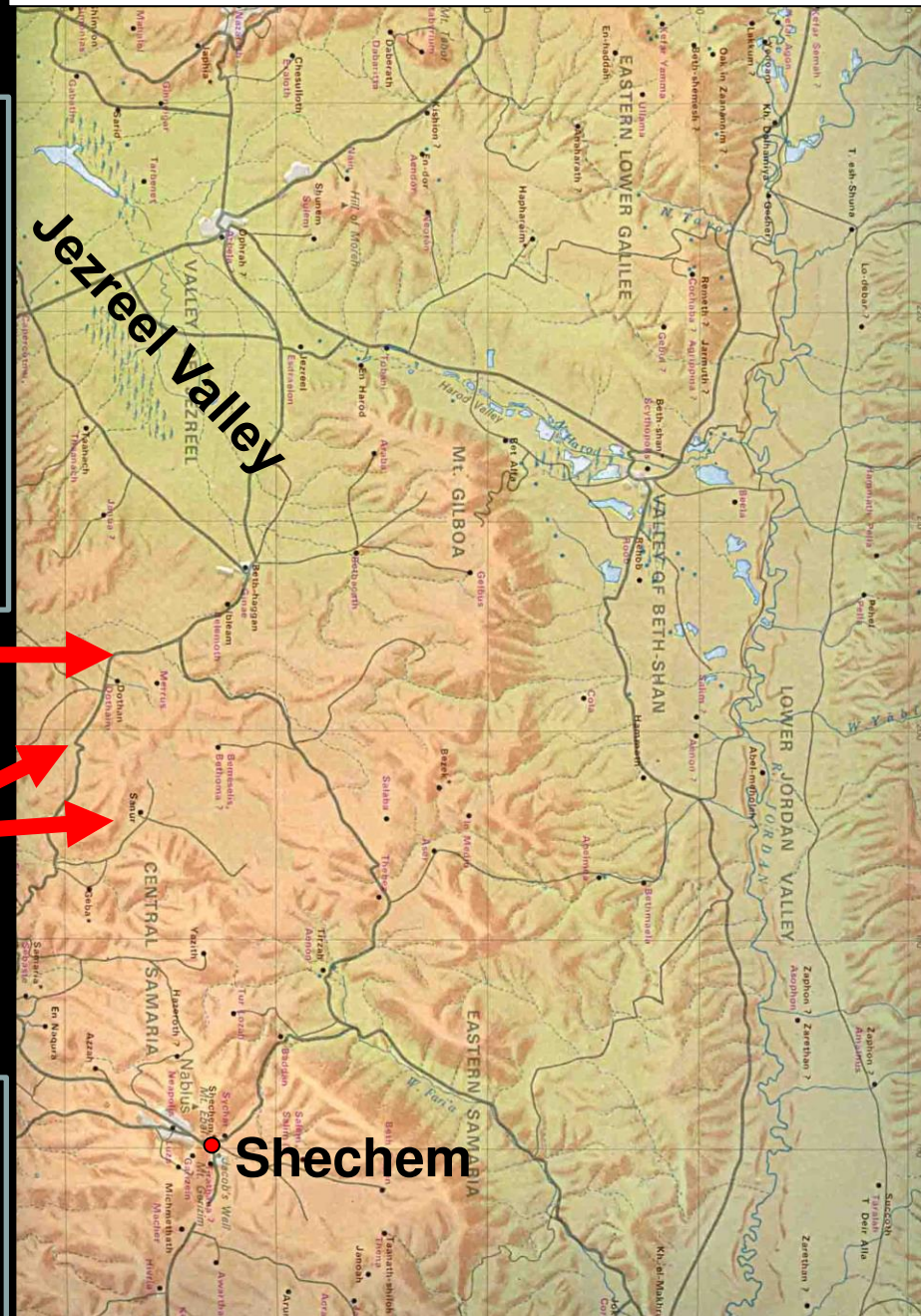
Geographical setting:

3. The highlands / mountains:

Highlands ("mountains")

- **C: Samarian Hills:** lower mountains
 - Between Jezreel valley & Shechem
 - Contain wide valleys, including E.g., Dothan and Sanur valleys.
 - Also forms farmland & E-W routes: E.g., Shechem brook & Wadi Farah (connect coast to Jordan valley)

Regional map of Samarian Hills



Samaritan Hills:

View looking Southwest at the pass to the Plain of Dothan, located in the Hills of Western Samaria

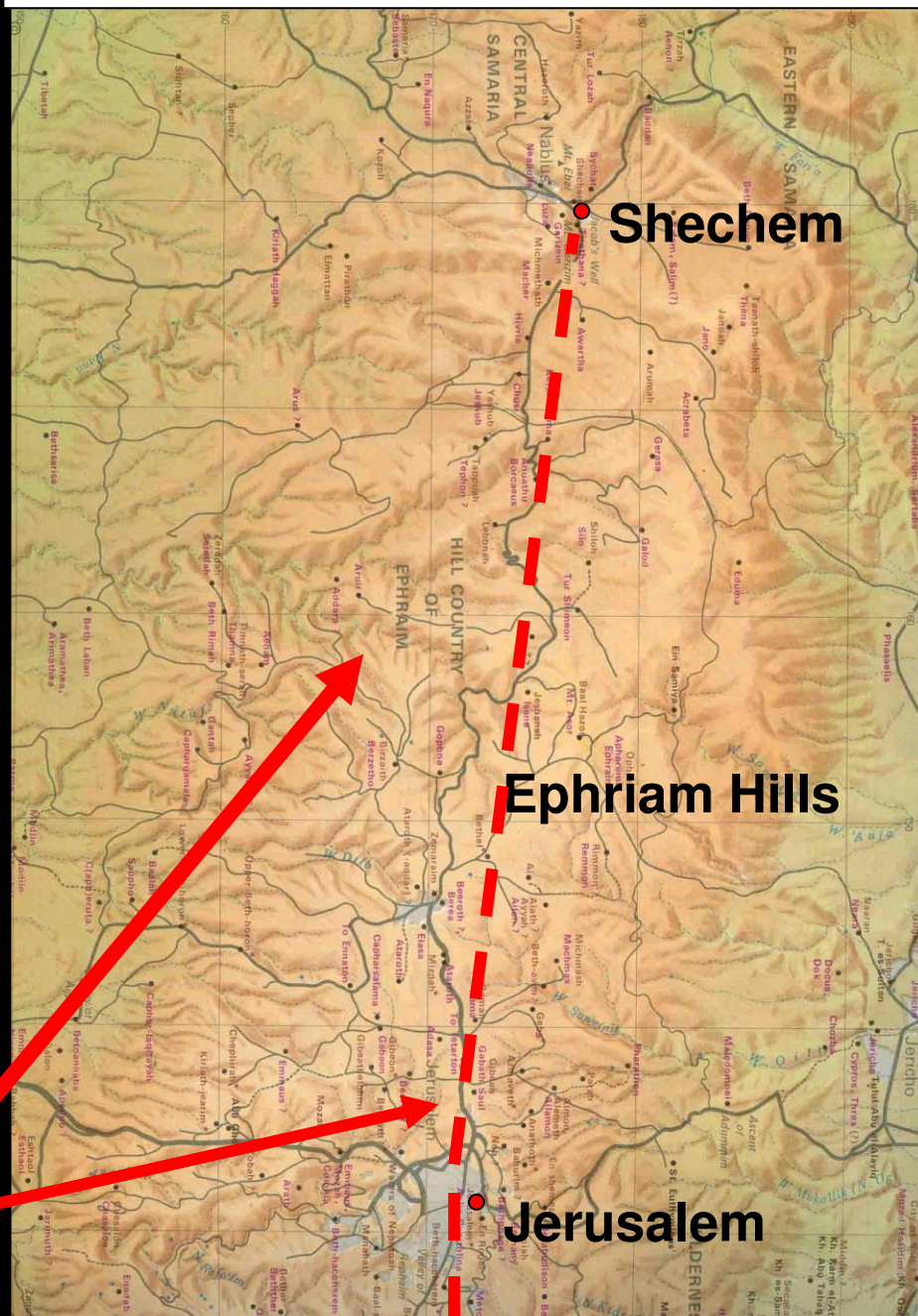


Geographical setting:

3. The highlands / mountains:

Highlands ("mountains")

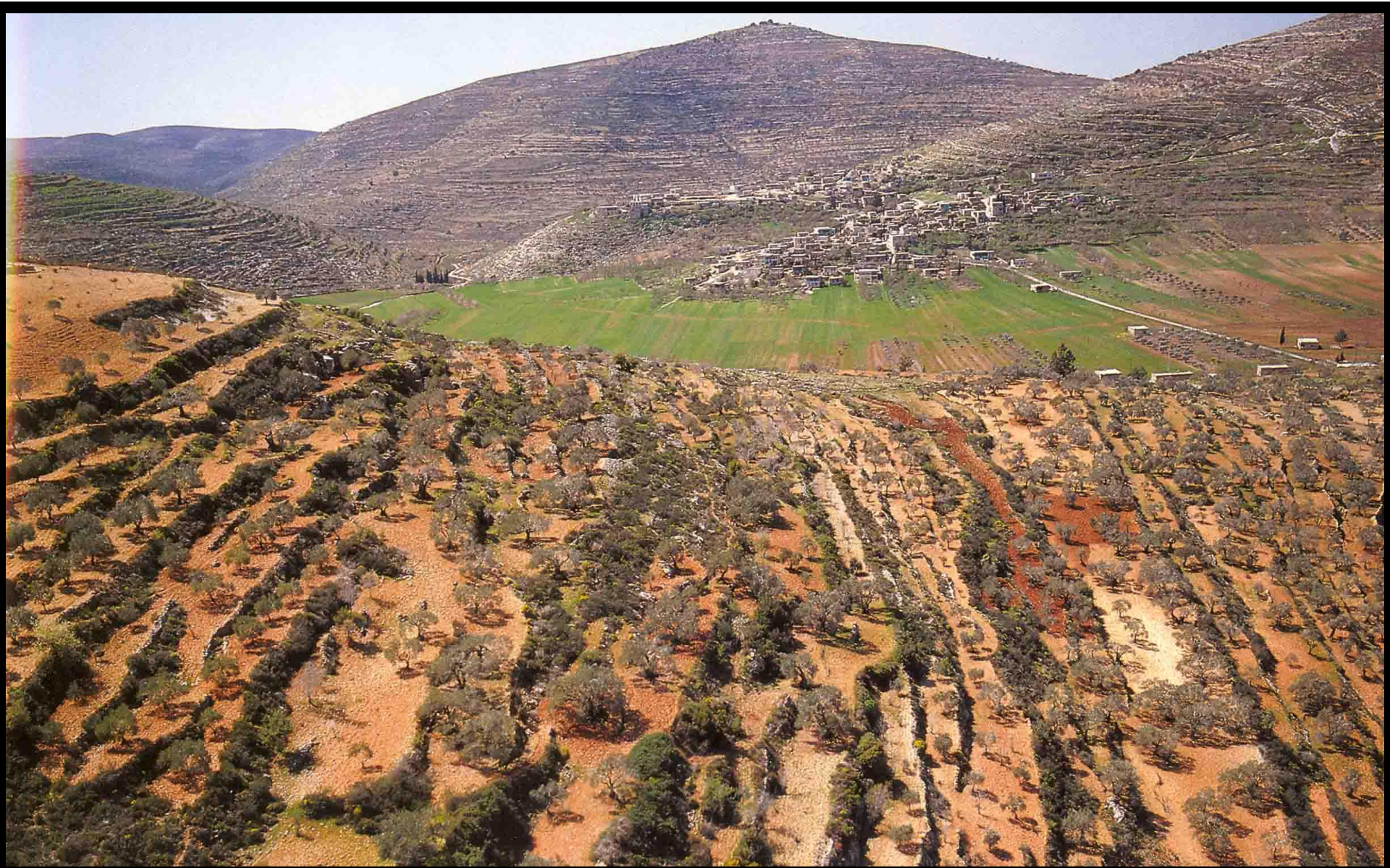
Regional map of Samarian Hills



S: Judean Hills: steeper S of Shechem in lands of Ephraim & Benjamin.
 - N-S valley linking Shechem, Jerusalem, and Hebron.

Hills of Ephriam:

View looking West into the Lebonah Valley, located between Bethel and Shechem, with terraced slopes and olive trees.

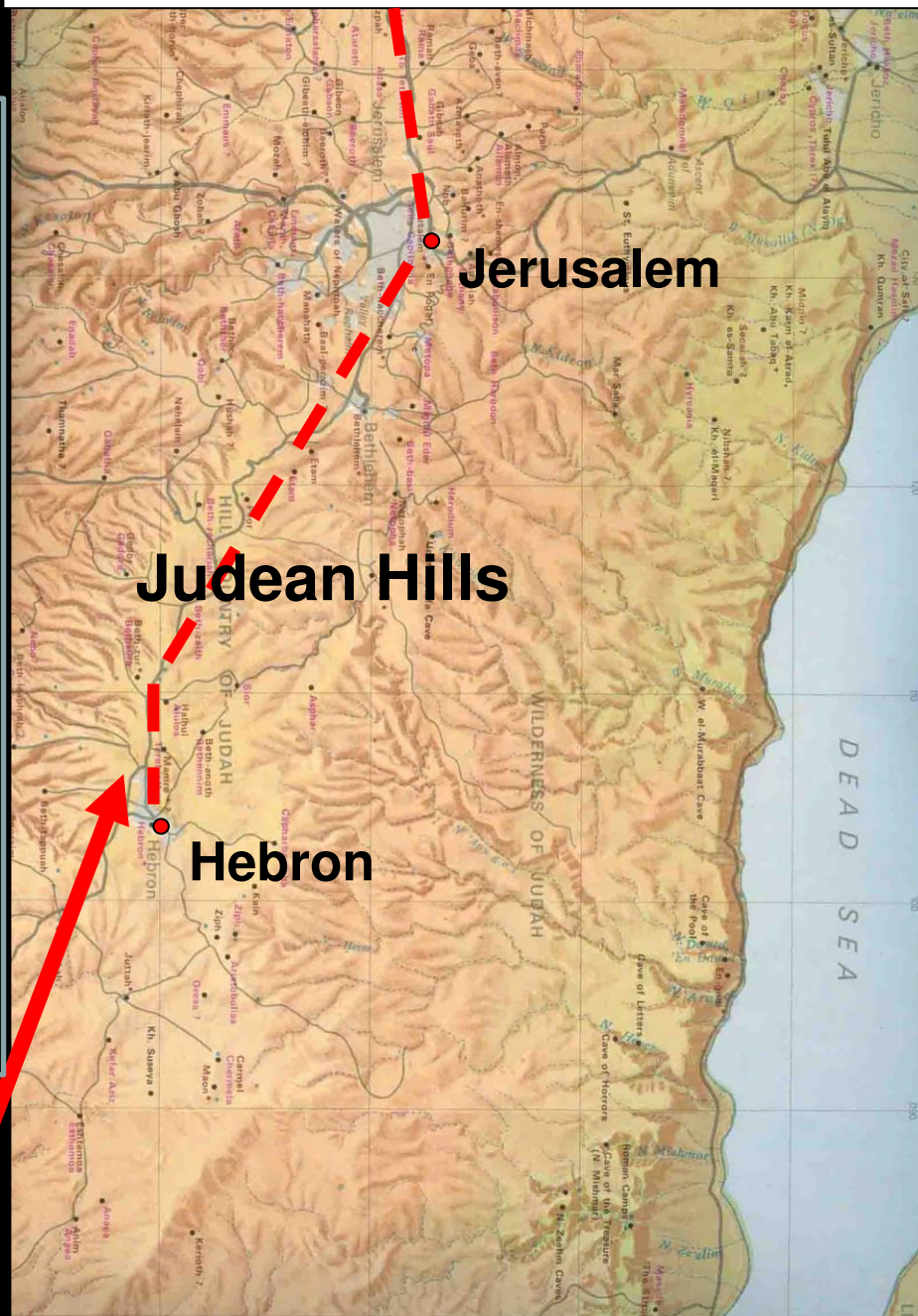


Geographical setting:

3. The highlands / mountains:

Highlands
("mountains")

Regional map of Samaritan Hills



Jerusalem

Judean Hills

Hebron

S: Judean Hills: steeper S of Shechem in lands of Ephriam & Benjamin.

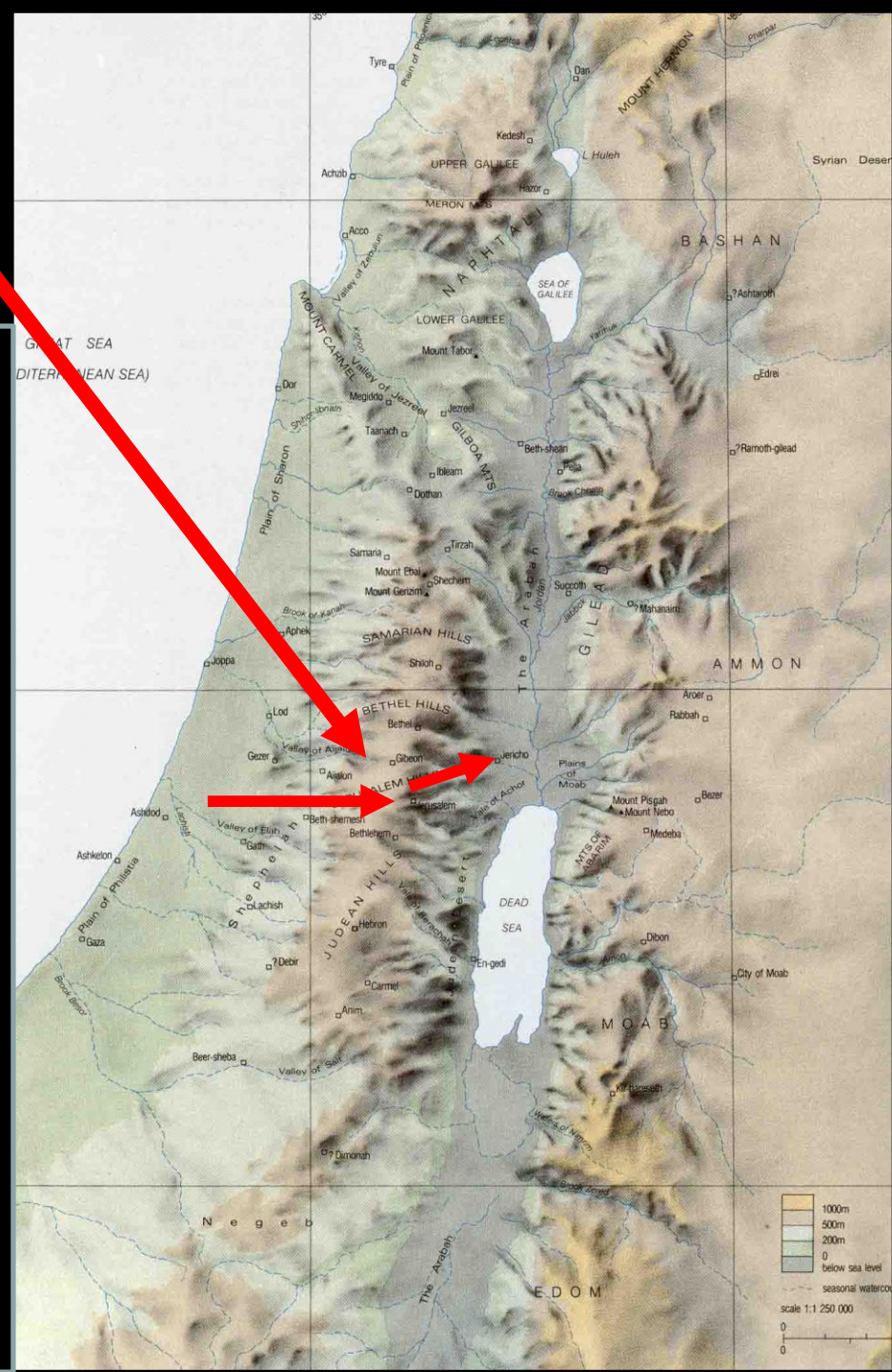
● - N-S valley linking Shechem, Jerusalem, and Hebron.

Geographical setting:

3. The highlands / mountains:

- W-E route along Jerusalem “saddle” (800 m ASL), from coast → Jericho.

Highlands
 (“mountains”)



Judean Hills:

View of the “Old City” of Jerusalem, looking to the Southeast, Temple Mount ‘Dome of the Rock’ built in AD 709-15; city wall built in AD 1542



Geographical setting:

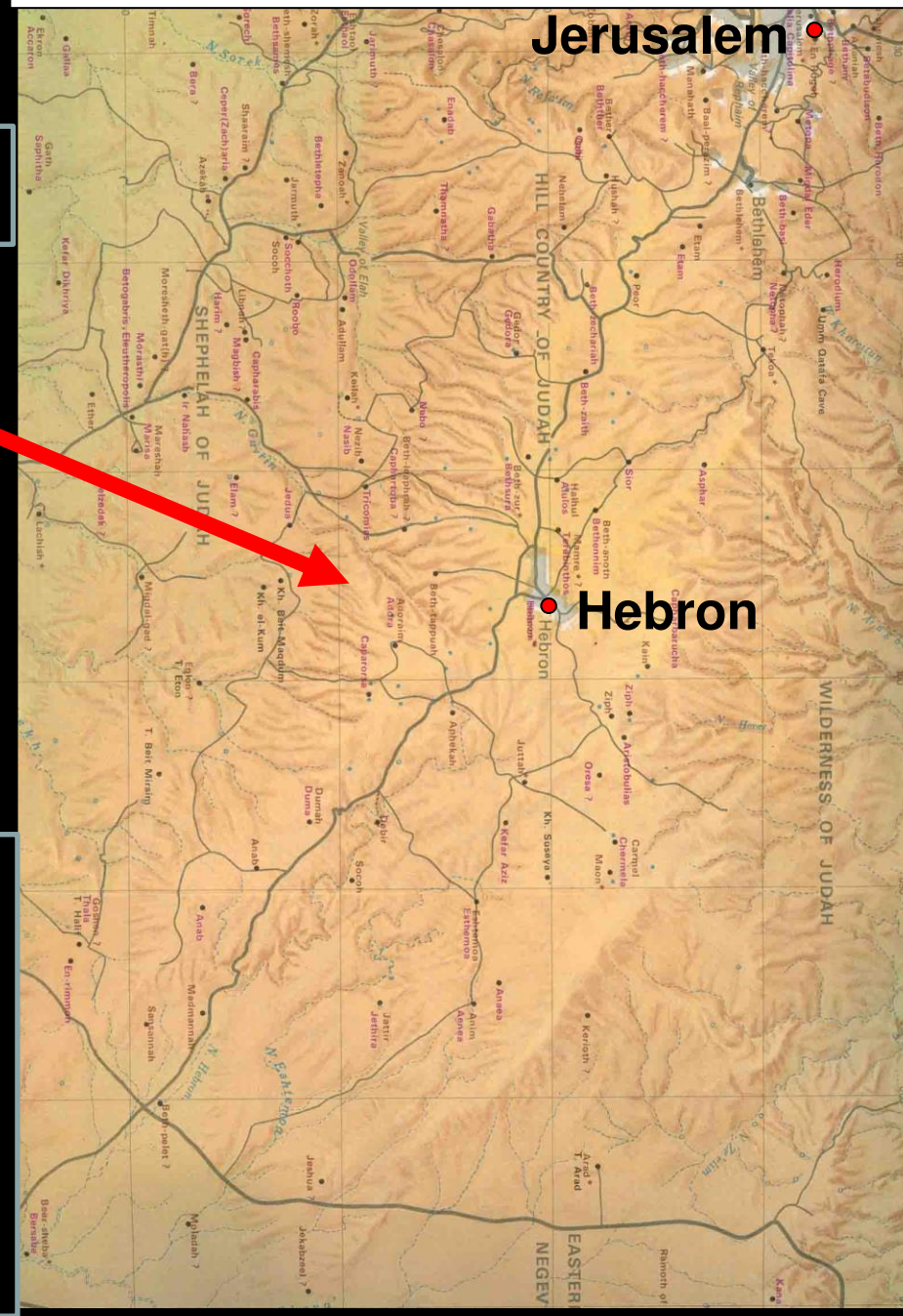
3. The highlands / mountains:

S: Hebron Hills: very steep (1000 m ASL)

- No interior valleys
- *Terra rosa* soils
- Dense forestland (**originally**)
- 600 mm precipitation per year
- Forest clearance & terrace farming enabled **settlement here later.**
- E & S zone between mts, desert, & hills → good farmland & pasturage.

**Highlands
("mountains")**

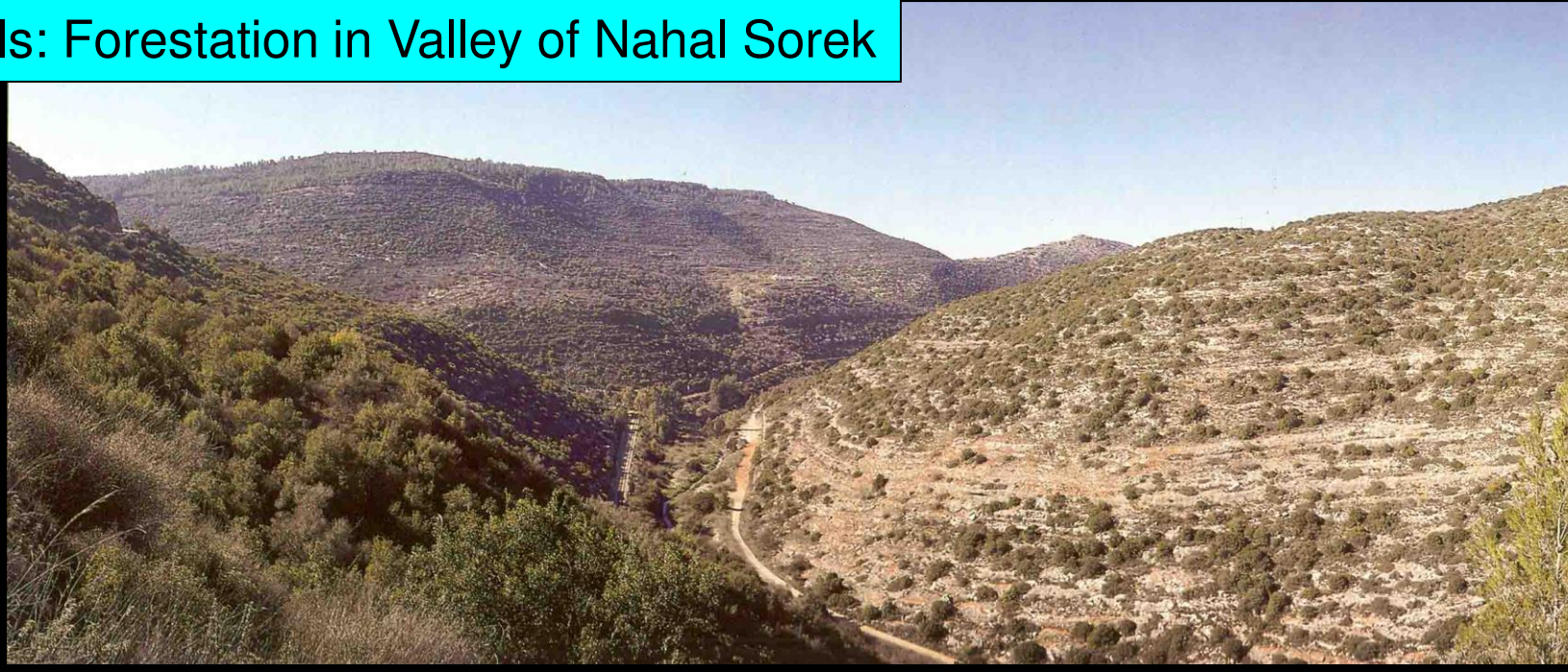
Reg. map of Hudean - Hebron Hills



Judean Hills: Terracing at Nahal Refaim



Judean Hills: Forestation in Valley of Nahal Sorek



Geographical setting:

3. The highlands / mountains:

Highlands ("mountains")

Important Valleys:

- Jezreel Valley (also noted above)
- Beth-Shean Valley
- Very rich alluvial soil & water with rich agricultural land & dense settlement.
- Strategic region
- Major international trade route

Important Valleys in Palestine



Beth-Shan / Beth-Shean Valley:

SW view of the mound of Tell el-Husn (Beth-Shan), with a Roman period theatre (Scythopolis) in the background.

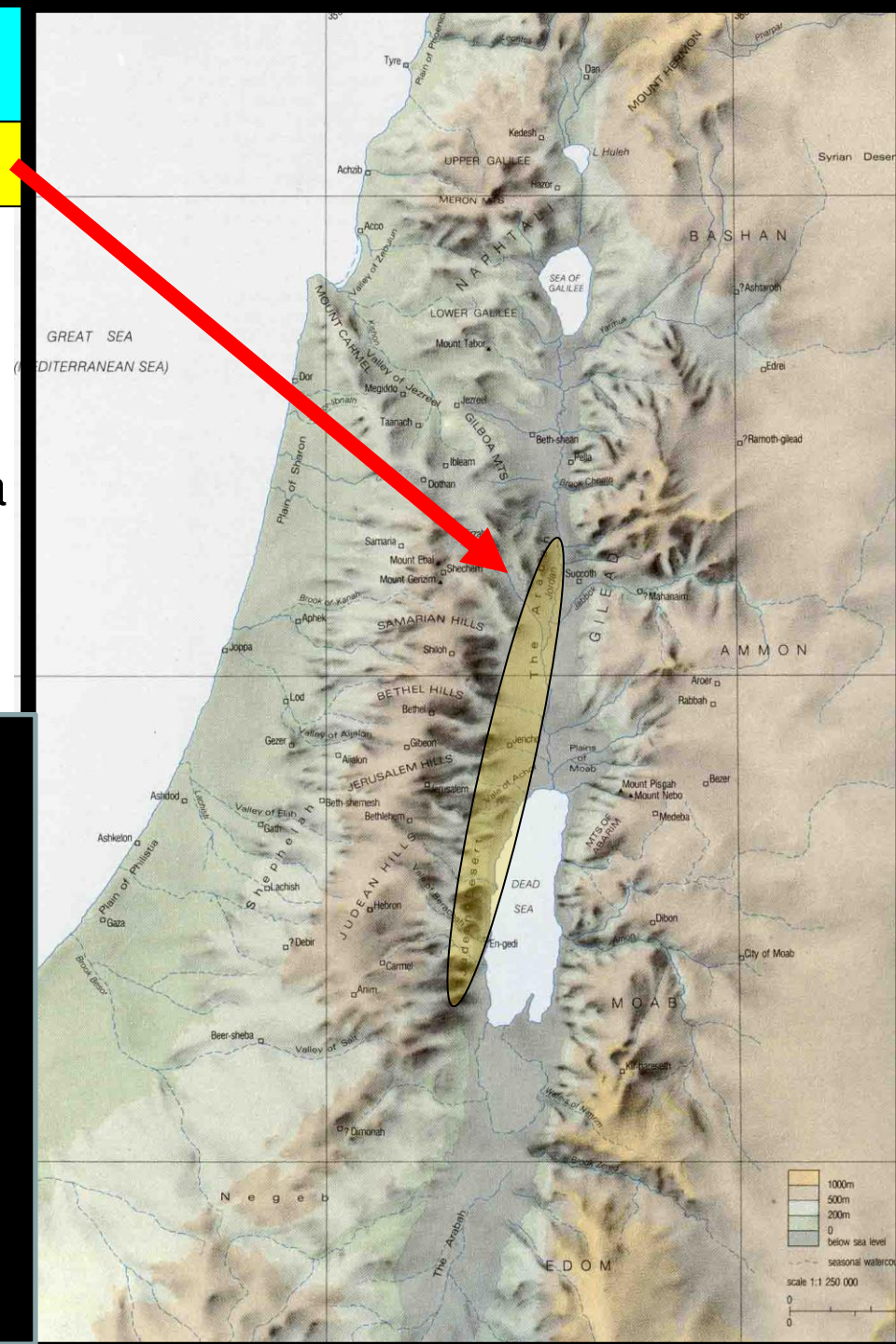


Geographical setting:

4. East foothills along Jordan Valley:

- Increasingly arid from North to South: Gilboa ridge to Wadi Farah → desert
- **“Judean Desert”** (significant region).
 - 20 km wide → steep eastern cliffs leading to Jordan Valley & Dead Sea
 - Not far from Jerusalem
 - Inhabited by **pastoral nomads**
 - **Popular refuge for refugees & rebels**

Eastern foothills
 (“Judean Desert”)



Judean “Desert” / Wilderness:

Looking Southeast across the Judean Wilderness (“desert”),
with the 13th cent. AD structure of Sultan Baybars in the foreground

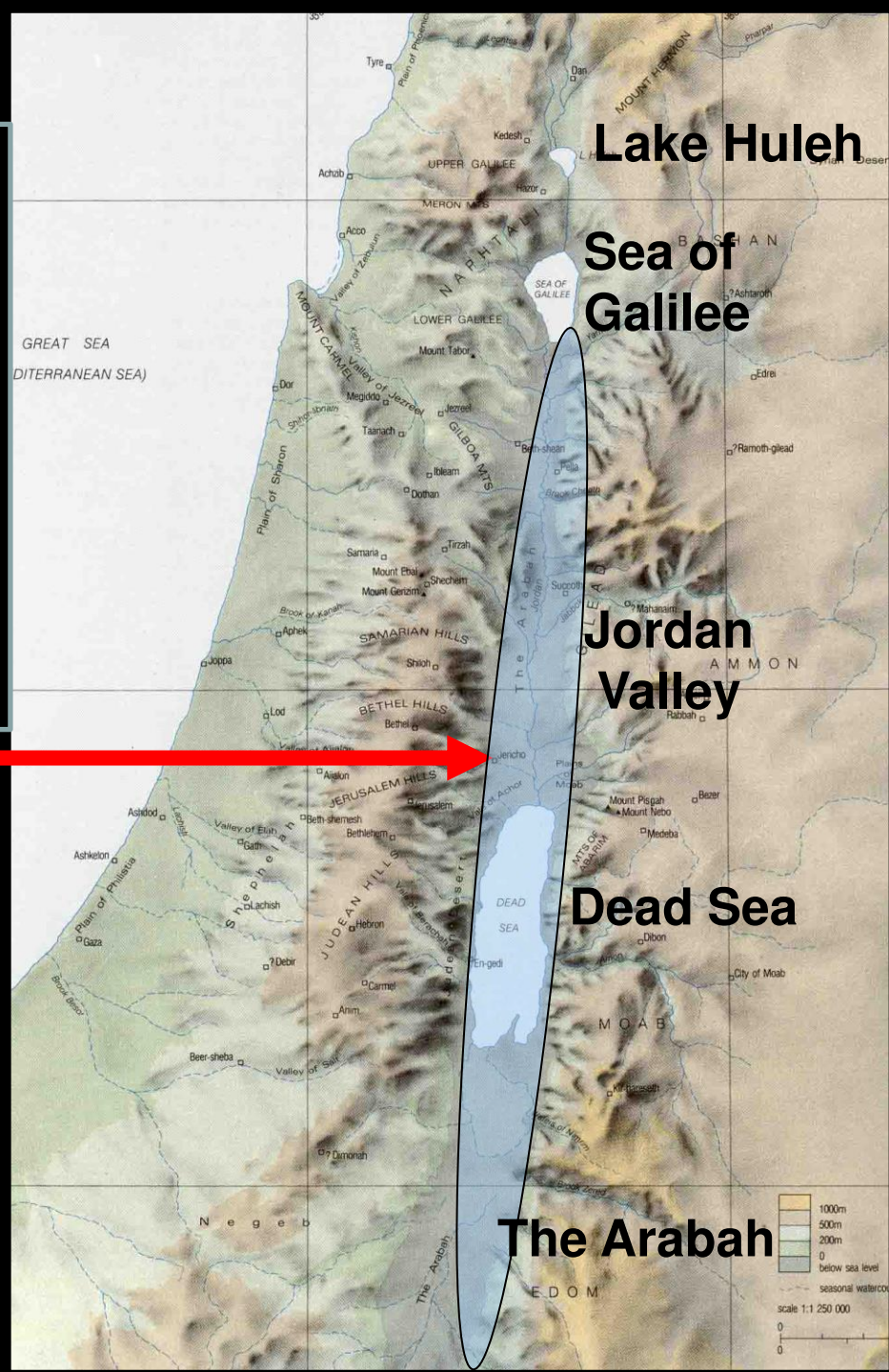


Geographical setting:

RIFT VALLEY

5. Rift Valley (N. Syria to E. Africa):

- Contains:
 - Huleh Valley
 - Lake/Sea of Galilee
 - Jordan Valley
 - the Dead Sea
 - the Arabah
- **N. part** had dense settlement & trade routes: Beth-Shean & Succoth valleys
- **Increasingly arid to South** with fewer settlements at oases: E.g., Jericho



Jordan Valley / Rift Valley:

Tell es-Sultan (Ancient Jericho) lies on the West bank of the Jordan Valley, **one of the few and most ancient sites in the region.**



Desert foothills and Rift Valley:

Looking South at mountain-top fortress of Masada near Dead Sea
The Lisban Peninsula lies to the East; the Arabah lies to the south

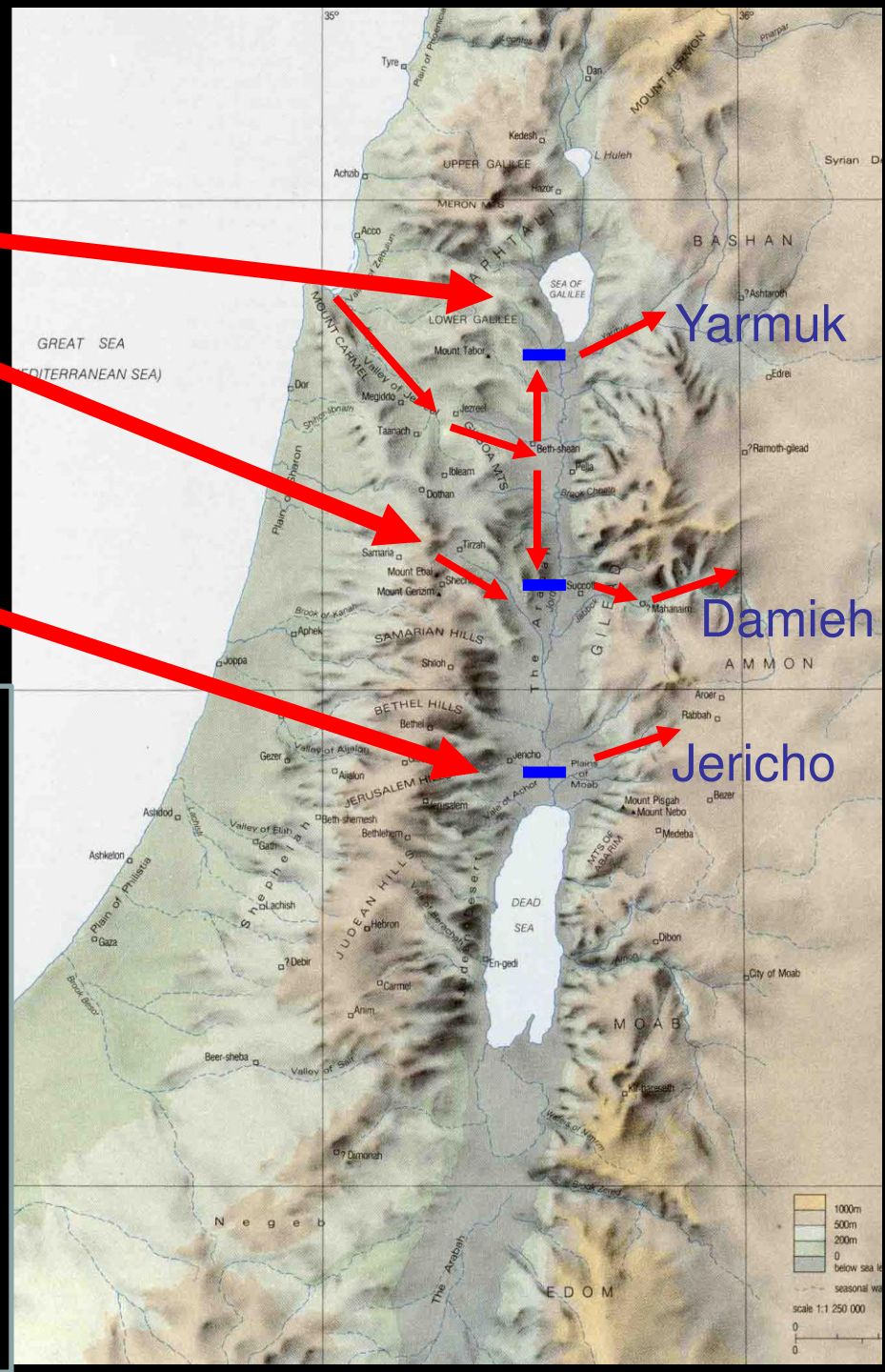


Geographical setting:

Major passes across Rift Valley:

1. **Yarmuk River crossing** → Transjordan
(South of Lake of Galilee)
2. **Damieh crossing** over River Jordan
 - a. Wadi Farah and Succoth Valley →
 - b. Jabbok River & Transjordan highland
3. **Jericho crossing** to Transjordan
(crossing point leading eastwards)

**MAJOR
PASSES
ACROSS
RIFT VALLEY**



Jordan Valley:

The convergence of the Yarmuk River and the Jordan River, with an eastern view towards Transjordan from the West Bank.



Geographical setting:

TRANSJORDAN

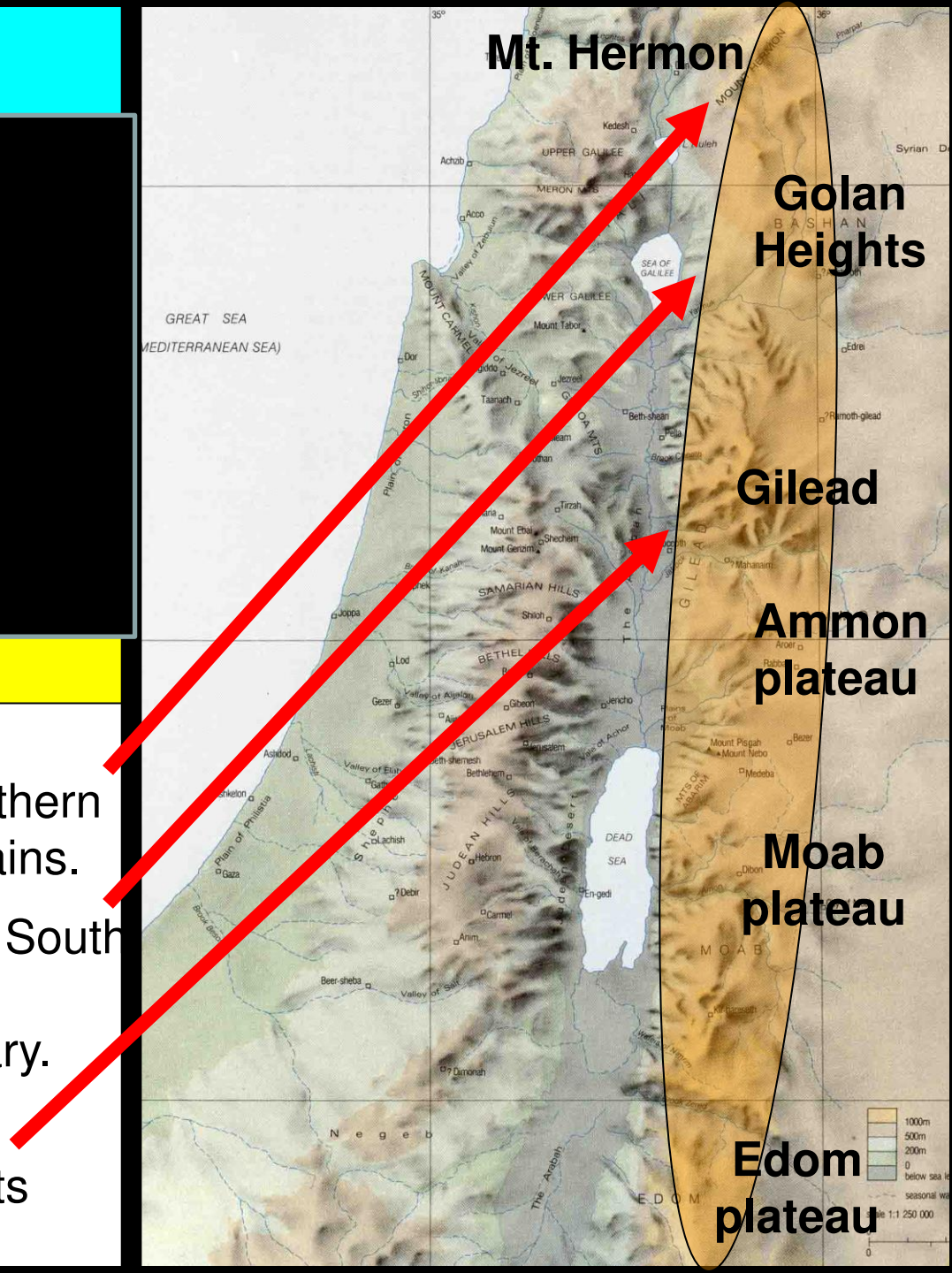
6. Transjordan:

Subdivided into various zones:

N: Mt. Hermon (2500 m ASL), southern part of the Anti-Lebanon mountains.

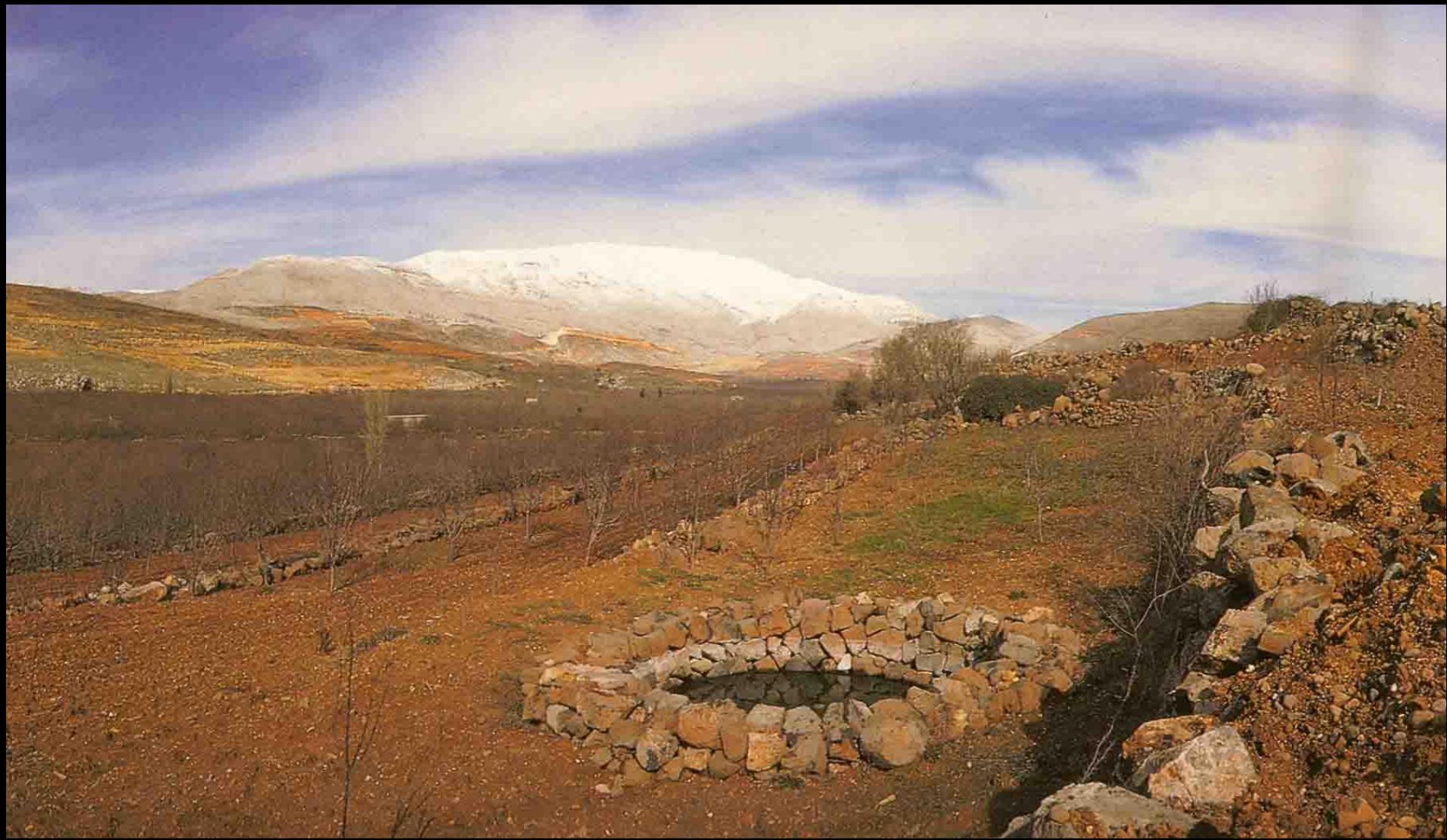
N: Golan Heights basaltic zone to South
- Subdivided by deep ravines
- Yarmuk River forms S. boundary.

C: Gilead ('Ajlun) highland
- Alluvial plateau with settlements



Mt. Hermon & Upper Golan:

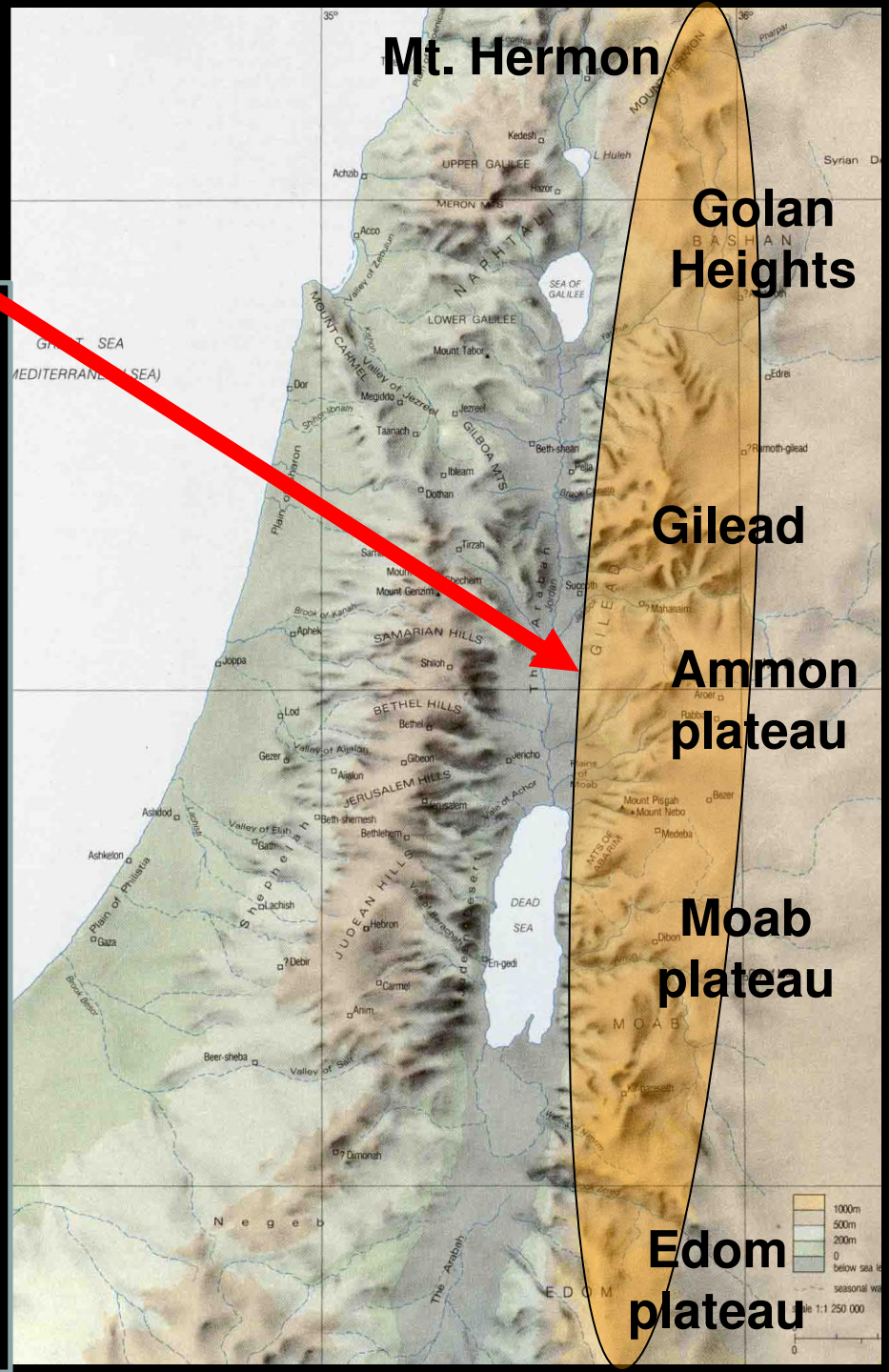
View looking northeast at the Upper Golan Heights & Mt. Harmon
In antiquity this region had brush, oak forests, and pasture lands.



Geographical setting:

6. Transjordan:
C: Ammon plateau arid region

TRANSJORDAN



Transjordan, Gilead: Yarmuk River & Gadara



Ammon: Wadi es-Sir densely settled in Iron Age



Geographical setting:

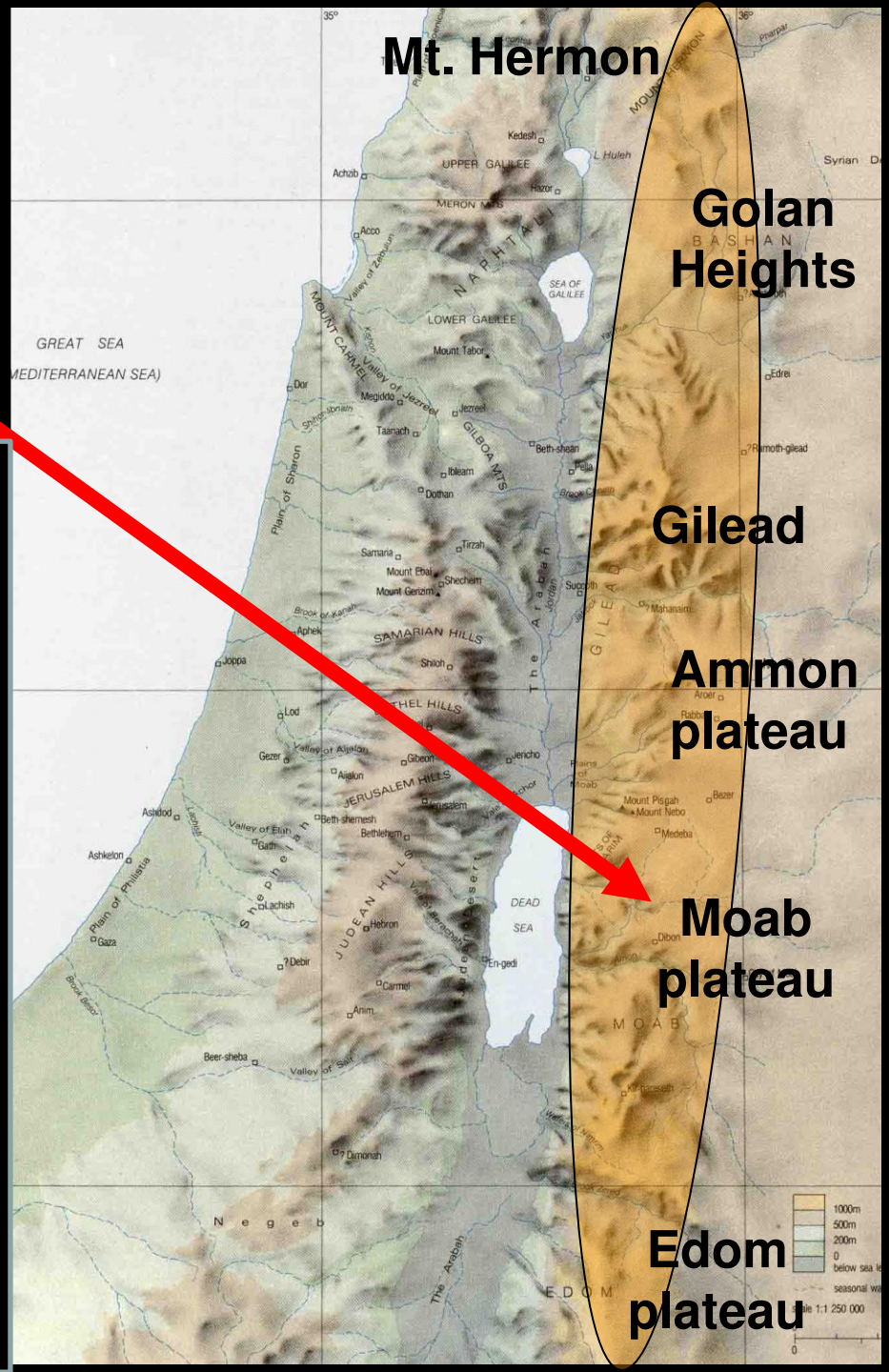
6. Transjordan:

C: Ammon plateau arid region

S. Moab plateau arid region

Arnon River (W. Mujib) cuts N-S route

TRANSJORDAN



Moab (in Transjordan):

Looking northwest at the plains of Moab, Mt. Nebo (right centre), and the Lower Jordan Valley in the background (beyond the north end of the Dead Sea)

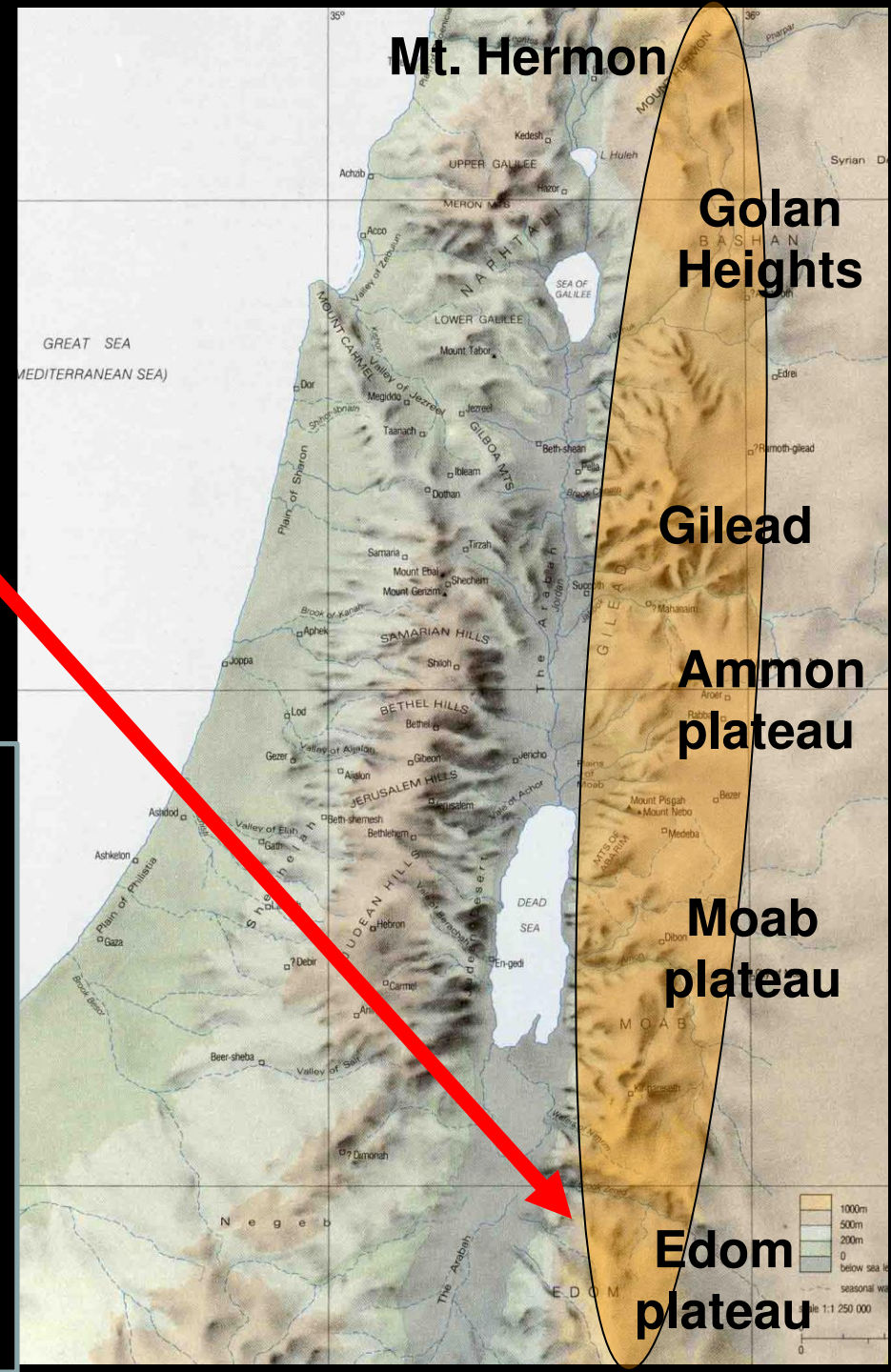


Geographical setting:

6. Transjordan:

- C: Ammon plateau** arid region
- S. Moab plateau** arid region
Arnon River (W. Mujib) cuts N-S route
- S. Edom plateau/Mts** arid region
Rising up to 1600 m ASL
Nahal Zered (W. Hesa) divides Moab from Edom
Bounded by Red Sea to the South

TRANSJORDAN



Edom (in Transjordan):

Iron Age fortress of Bozrah (Buseira) in northern Edom,
located West of the “King’s Highway” on a spur at the head of Wadi Jamal



Geographical setting:

Transjordan:

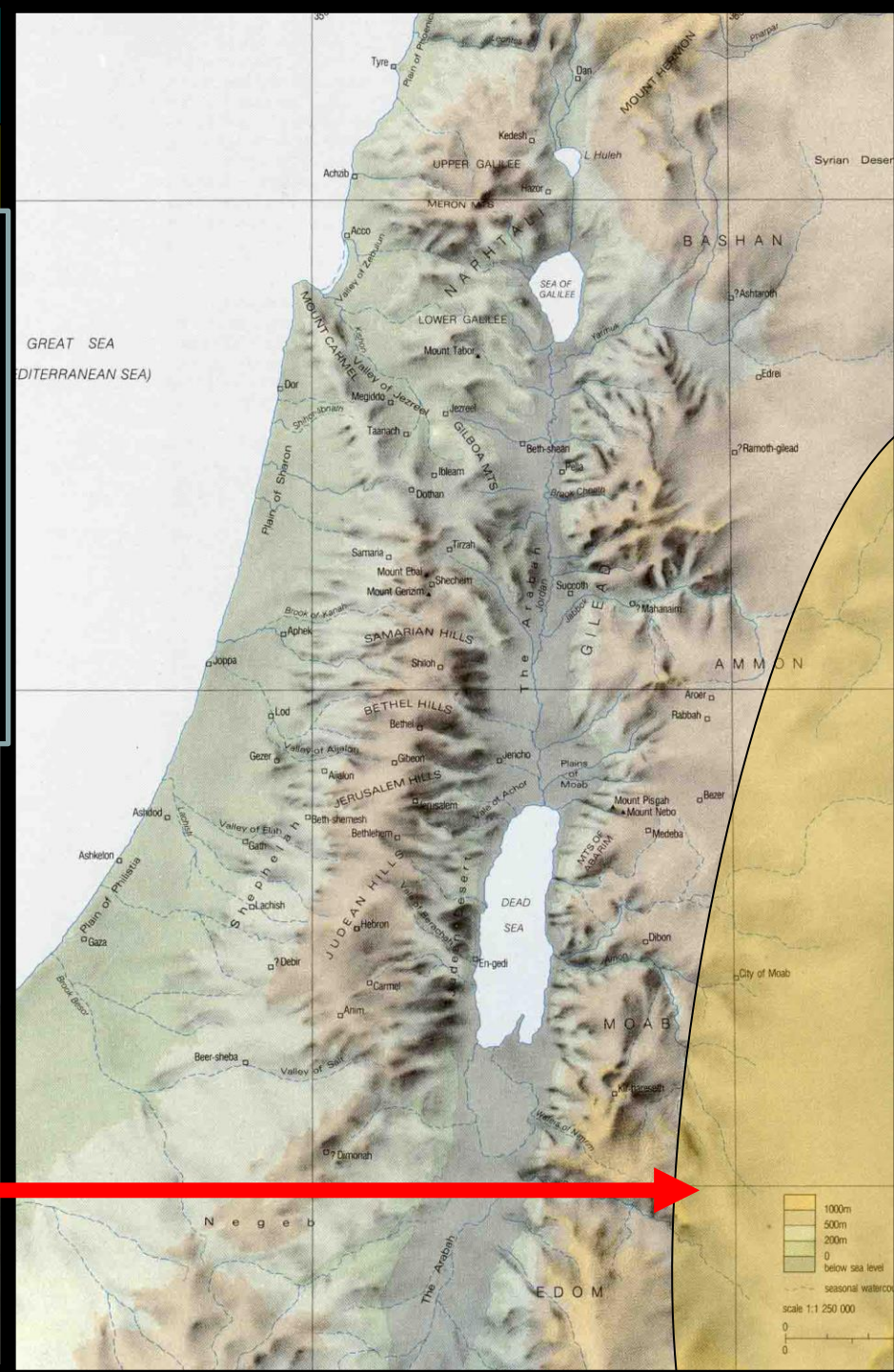
TRANSJORDAN

These Transjordanian plateaus:

- Narrow N-S zone of highlands
- Fertile zone with vegetation, agriculture, and settlements.
- Bounded by Rift Valley to the West
- Edged by Jordan's eastern desert

7. Eastern Desert:

- *Lies between W. Jordan and the Tigris-Euphrates floodplain in Iraq*





Desert dunes in Wadi Rum, Jordan
Photograph by Annie Griffiths Belt

Eastern Desert in Jordan



Overall climate:

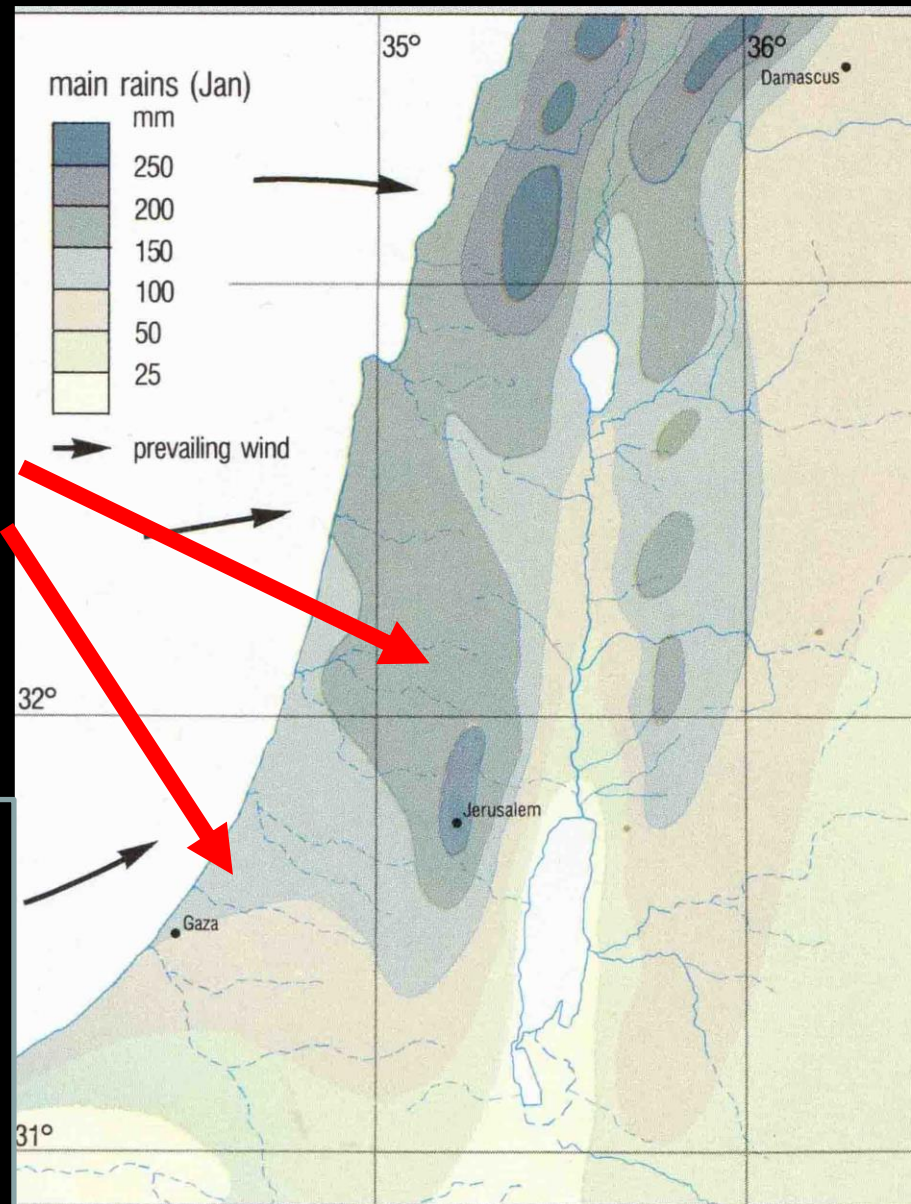
Western Palestine:

- **Sufficient precipitation** for agriculture
- Comfortable temperature ranges

Southern Palestine (N. Negev):

- Mainly loess soils
- **Increasingly drier climate** South of the Lachish brook (Wadi Suchreir).
- Judean Hills receive 600 mm rain / year
- Besor–Gaza brooks 250 mm rain / year
- Marginal rainfall enabling farming only in better years.
- The extent of permanent settlements varies annually and by climatic phases.

Av. precipitation in January:
i.e., winter rainfall.



Overall climate:

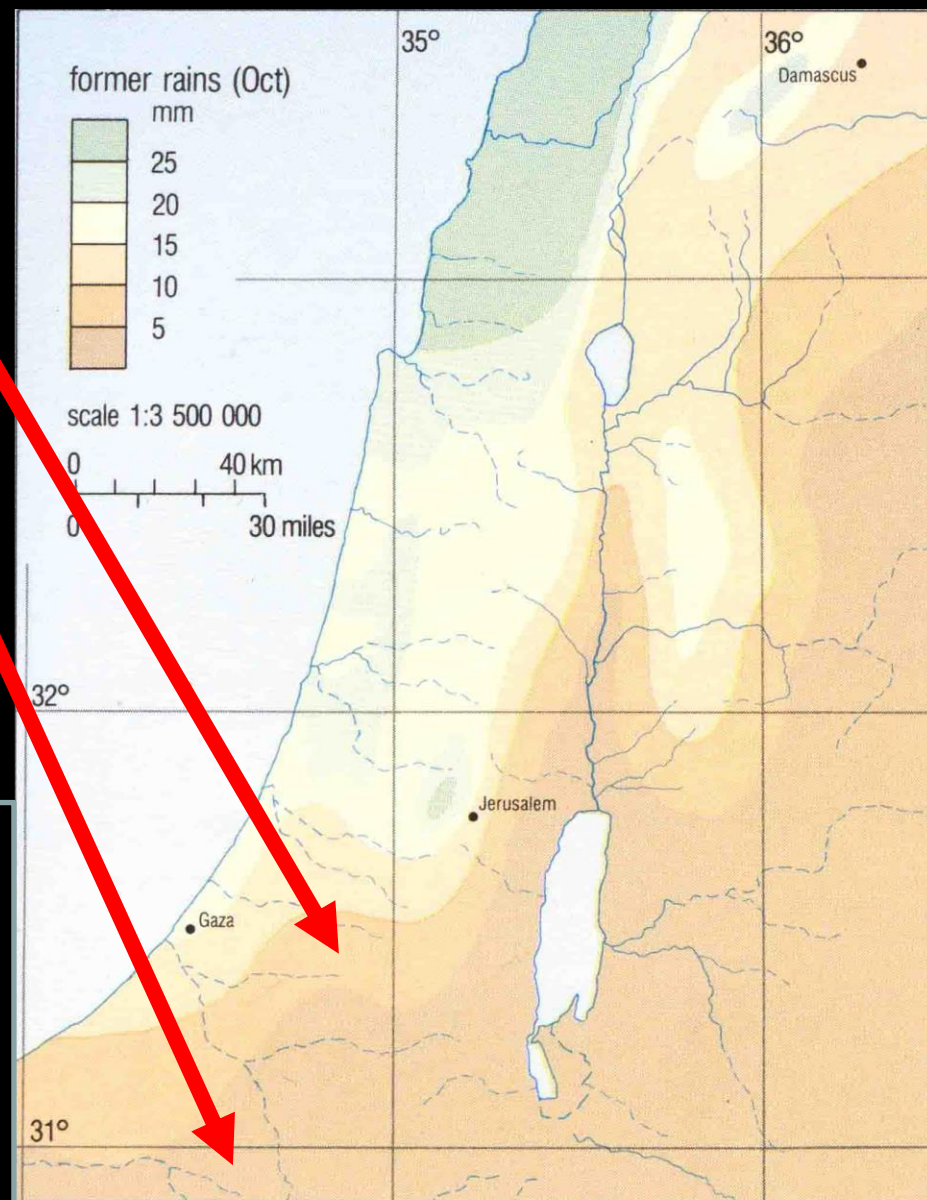
Western Palestine:

- **Sufficient precipitation** for agriculture
- Comfortable temperature ranges

Southern Palestine (N. Negev):

- Mainly loess soils
- **Increasingly drier climate** South of the Lachish brook (Wadi Suchreir).
- Judean Hills receive 600 mm rain / year
- Besor–Gaza brooks 250 mm rain / year
- *Marginal rainfall enabling farming only in better years.*
- The extent of permanent settlements varies annually and by climatic phases.

Av. precipitation in October:
i.e., late summer-fall rainfall.



Overall climate:

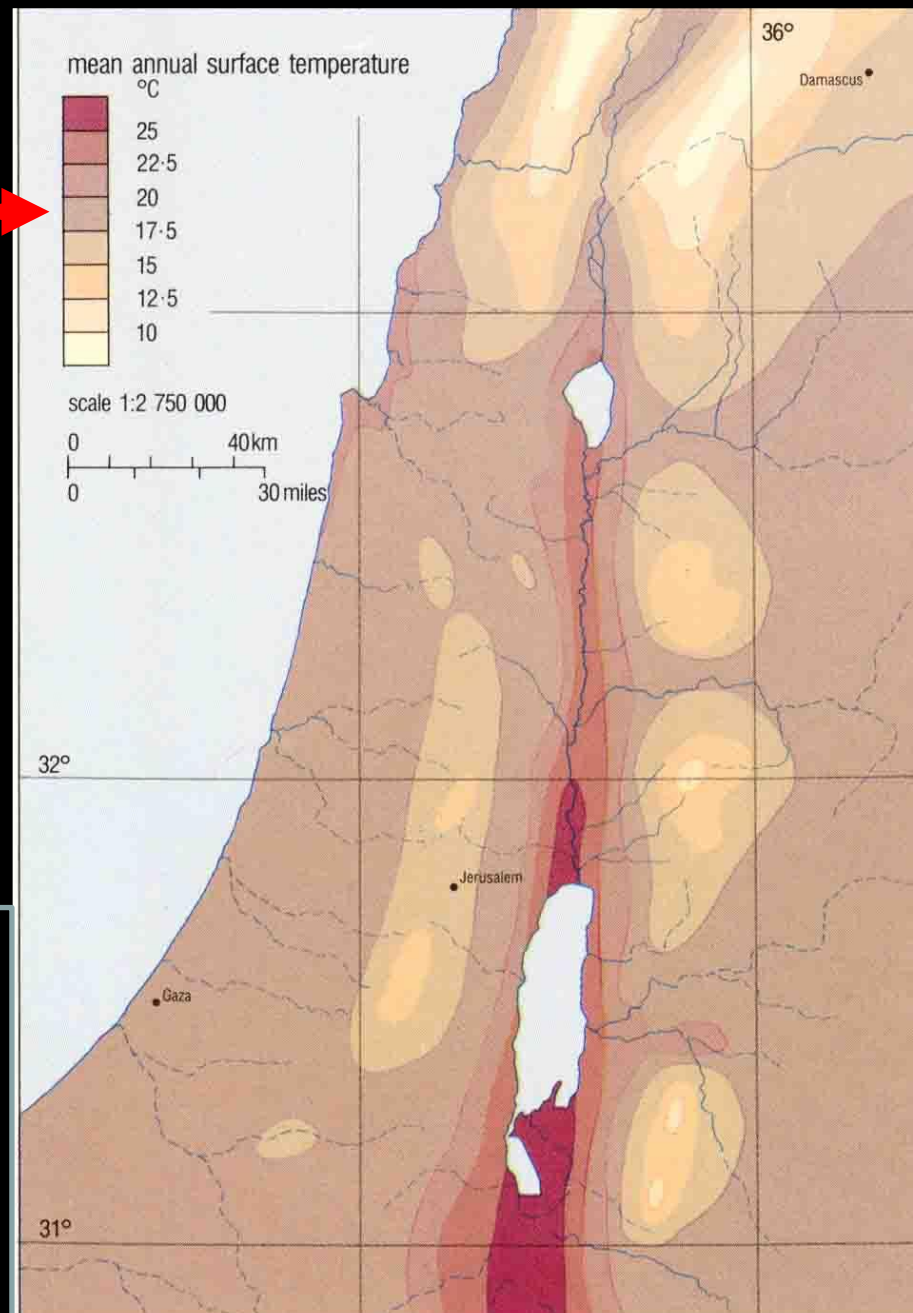
Western Palestine:

- Sufficient precipitation for agriculture
- Comfortable temperature ranges →

Southern Palestine (N. Negev):

- Mainly loess soils
- Increasingly drier climate South of the Lachish brook (Wadi Suchreir).
- Judean Hills receive 600 mm rain / year
- Besor–Gaza brooks 250 mm rain / year
- Marginal rainfall enabling farming only in better years.
- The extent of permanent settlements varies annually and by climatic phases.

Annual average temperature



Overall climate:

Western Palestine:

- Sufficient precipitation for agriculture
- Comfortable temperature ranges

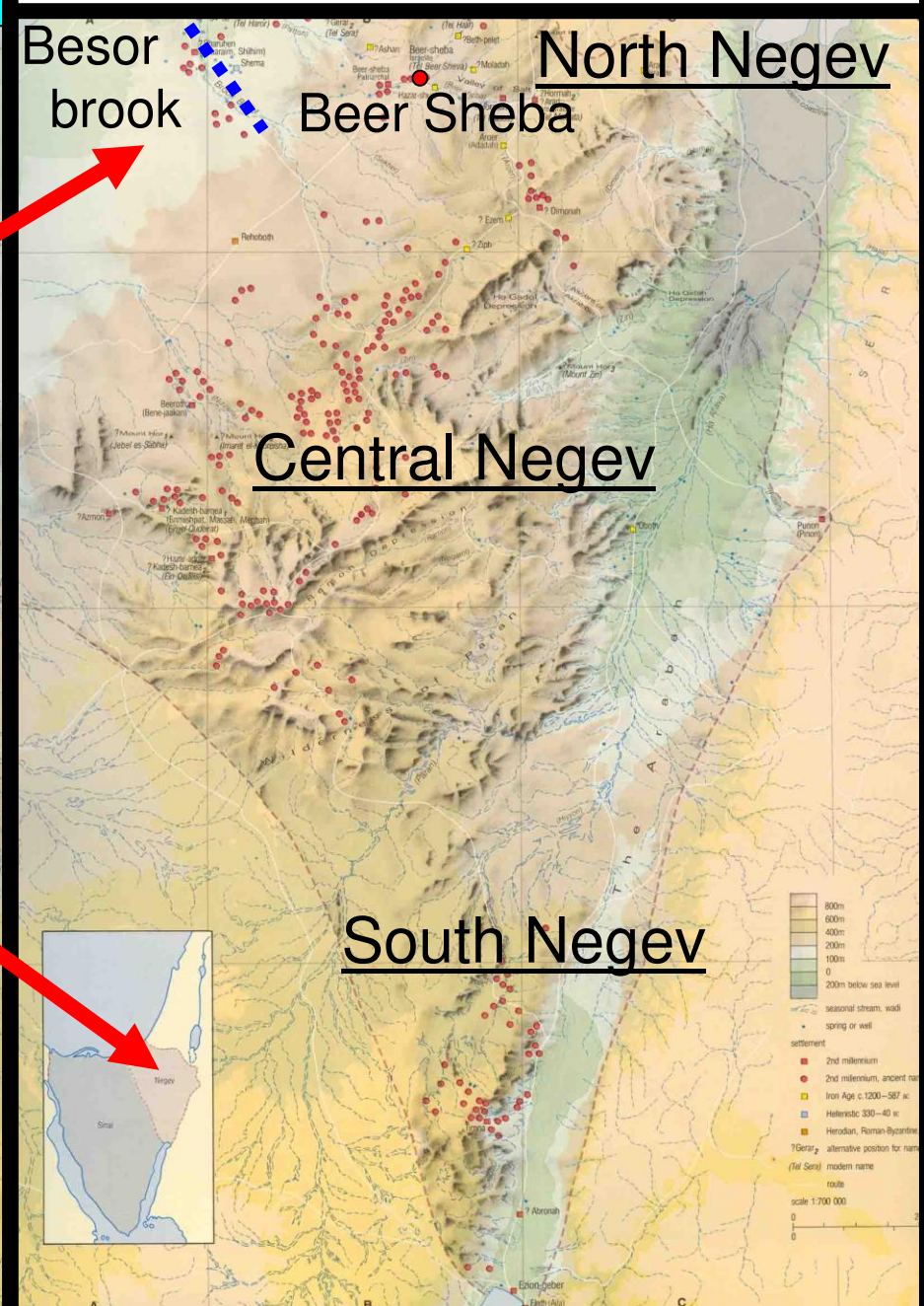
Southern Palestine (N. Negev):

- **Mainly loess soils**
- Increasingly drier climate South of the Lachish brook (Wadi Suchreir).
- Judean Hills receive 600 mm rain / year
- Besor–Gaza brooks 250 mm rain / year
- **Marginal rainfall** enabling farming only in better years.
- The extent of **permanent settlements varies annually** and by climatic phases

SE Palestine (Central – South Negev):

- Several sub-regions (S. of Beer-Sheba)
 - a. **Central Negev** highlands: 60 mm/yr
Pastoralists & some irrigation agricult
 - b. **Zin region** E of highlands: arid & mts
 - c. **S. Negev** : arid & mts

Topography of the Negev/Negeb



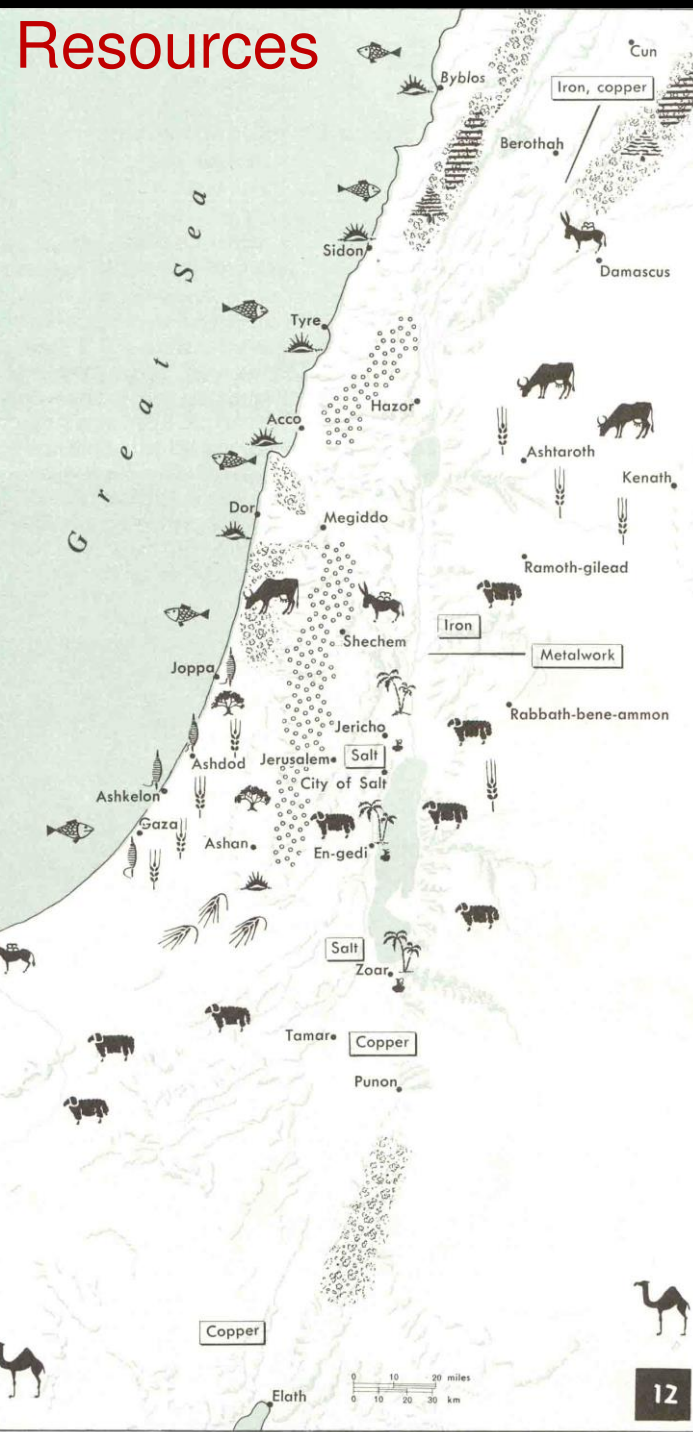
Northern Negev:

View looking north at Beer-Sheba, which lies 50 miles south of Jerusalem. It is ascribed as the ancestral home of Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



● The economy of Ancient Palestine:

Draught animals:	- Donkeys
Livestock:	- Cattle, sheep, & goats → Wool, leather, bone, meat, milk, etc.
Hunting & fishing:	- Fish, wild game, bees, → Leather, meat, honey,
Crops:	- Wheat, barley, dates, fruit, etc. → Food, beverages, fodder, etc.
Flax:	- Textiles (linen) (linen > Egyptian export)
Lumber:	- Sycamore, date palm, acacia, pine trees, etc. → Construction
Metals:	- Copper, iron → tools etc.
Minerals:	- Salt, bitumen (→ Egypt)
Other:	- Craftsmen, slaves, etc.



● Agriculture in Ancient Palestine:

- Cereal crops: barley & wheat
- Fruit: Pomegranates, dates, figs, olives, & persimmon.
- Vines: Grapes & wine
- Flax: Linen
- Grazing land: For sheep, goats, & cattle.

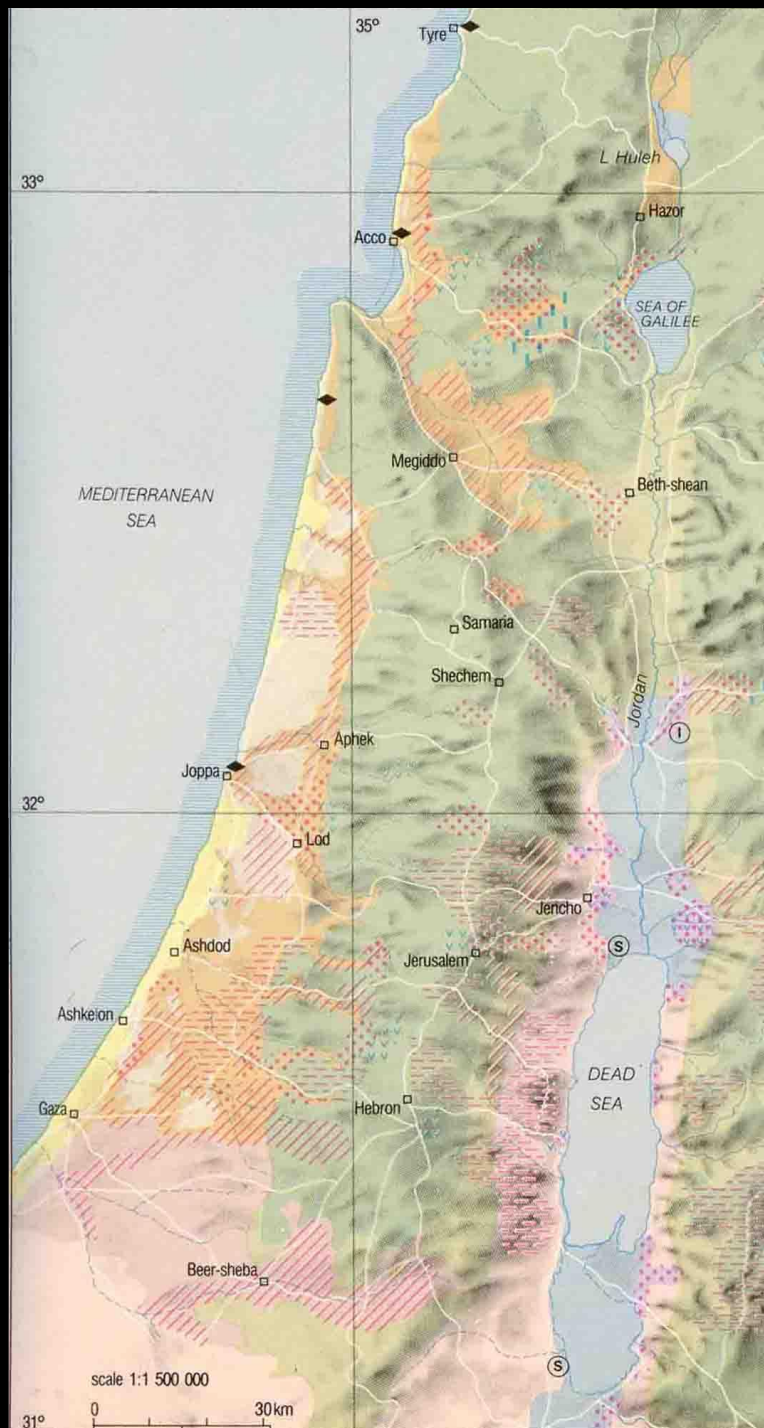
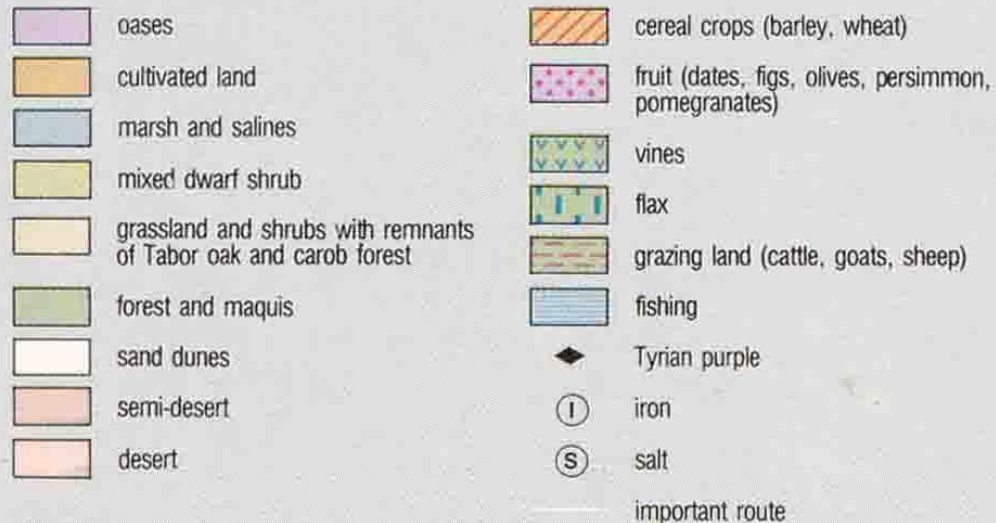
● Other resources:

- Fishing: Lakes, rivers, and sea.

● Natural vegetation:

- Desert, oases, shrubs, forests, marshes, etc.

Vegetation of ancient Israel



Building & art:

- Basalt; tufa
- Travertine
- Sandstone
- Limestone
- Marble; chalk
- Steatite

Metals:

- Copper Negev
- Iron (N.D-Sea)

Lumber:

- Oak trees
- Carob trees
- Tamerisk
- Pine trees
- Acacia
- Date palm

Minerals:

- Clay: pottery +
- Salt
- Bitumen

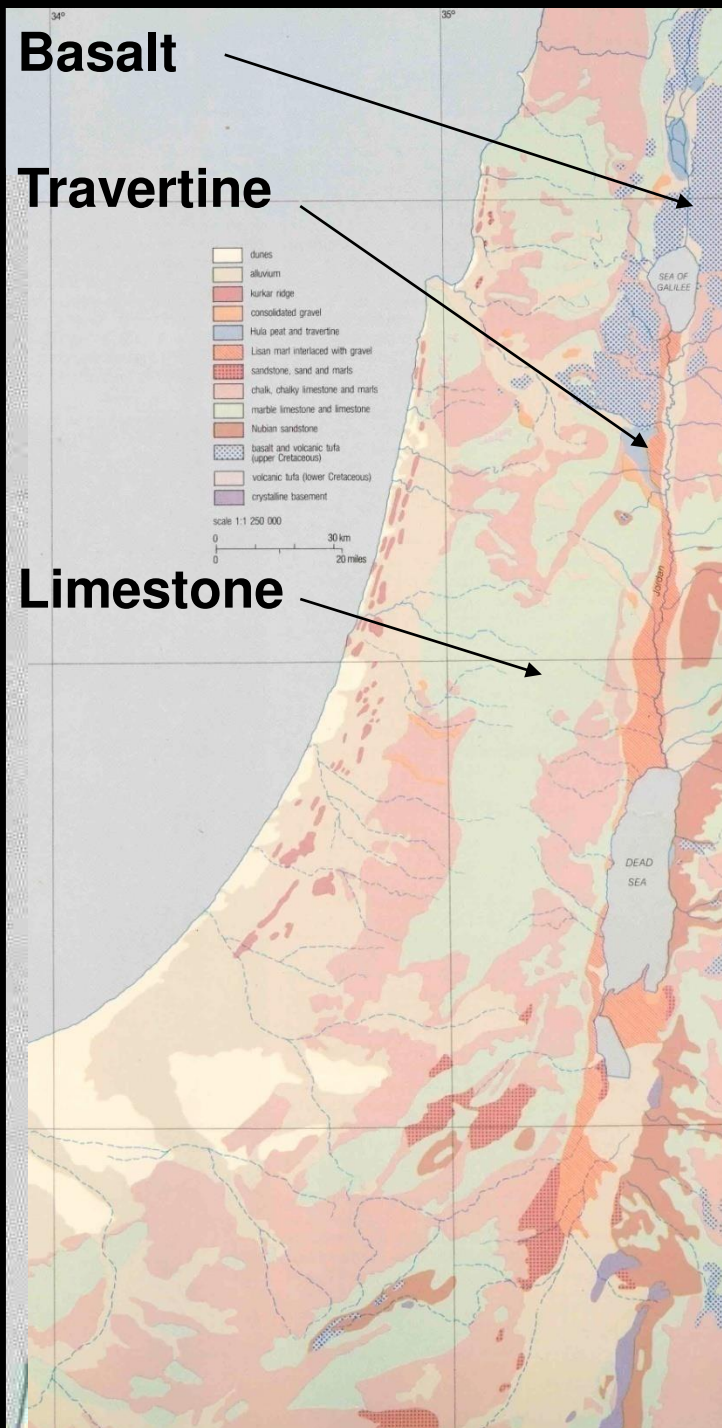
Key to the geology of Palestine: Volcanic & sedimentary rocks.



Basalt

Travertine

Limestone



Routes (overland commerce):

SE Palestine (Negev):

- Two primary routes to Red Sea
 - a. N-S Arabah Valley route
 - b. NW-SE "Gaza route"
(via oasis at Kadesh Barnea)



Northern Negev:

View looking Northeast at the **Oasis of Kadesh-Barnea** in “the wilderness of Zin”, and an **Iron Age fort (Tell Ain el-Qudeirat)** *identified with Kadesh-Barnea* where the Israelites are ascribed with dwelling after Mt. Sinai.

Kadesh-Barnea



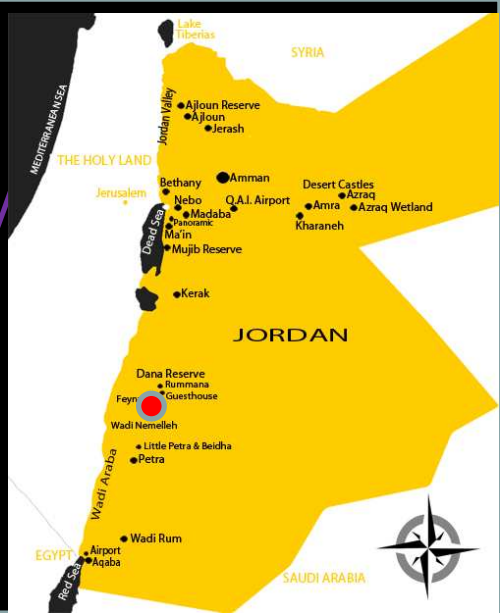
Routes (overland commerce):

Elath-Aqaba region:

- Copper sources lay in a sandstone area beside granite mountains to south.
- Natural port for Red Sea trade and contact with southern Arabia & E. Africa

Wadi Feinan / Faynan SW Jordan

Chalcolithic-Early
Bronze Age+
copper mines



Southern Arabah (Negev):

The **copper mining region** around Timna, which has yielded Chalc., EB II, EB IV, Late Bronze, & Later copper mining (initially identified as “King Solomon’s mines”)

Gulf of Aqaba / Elat



Routes (overland commerce):

Sinai Desert & Peninsula:

- West of the Negev & SW of Palestine
- A natural 180 km wide **desert “barrier”** between Palestine and Egypt.
- North Sinai formed a **caravan route**, but lacked sufficient natural water sources i.e., required digging of wells & depots
- Called “the **Way of Horus**” by Egyptians, leading to “**Via Maris**” (“Way of the Sea”)



Sinai Peninsula: **land-bridge** between Africa & Asia



Ports (maritime commerce):

Mediterranean coastal ports (repeat):

● Palestine's coastline = **mostly devoid of bays**, which form natural harbours.

● The **few existing bays** include:

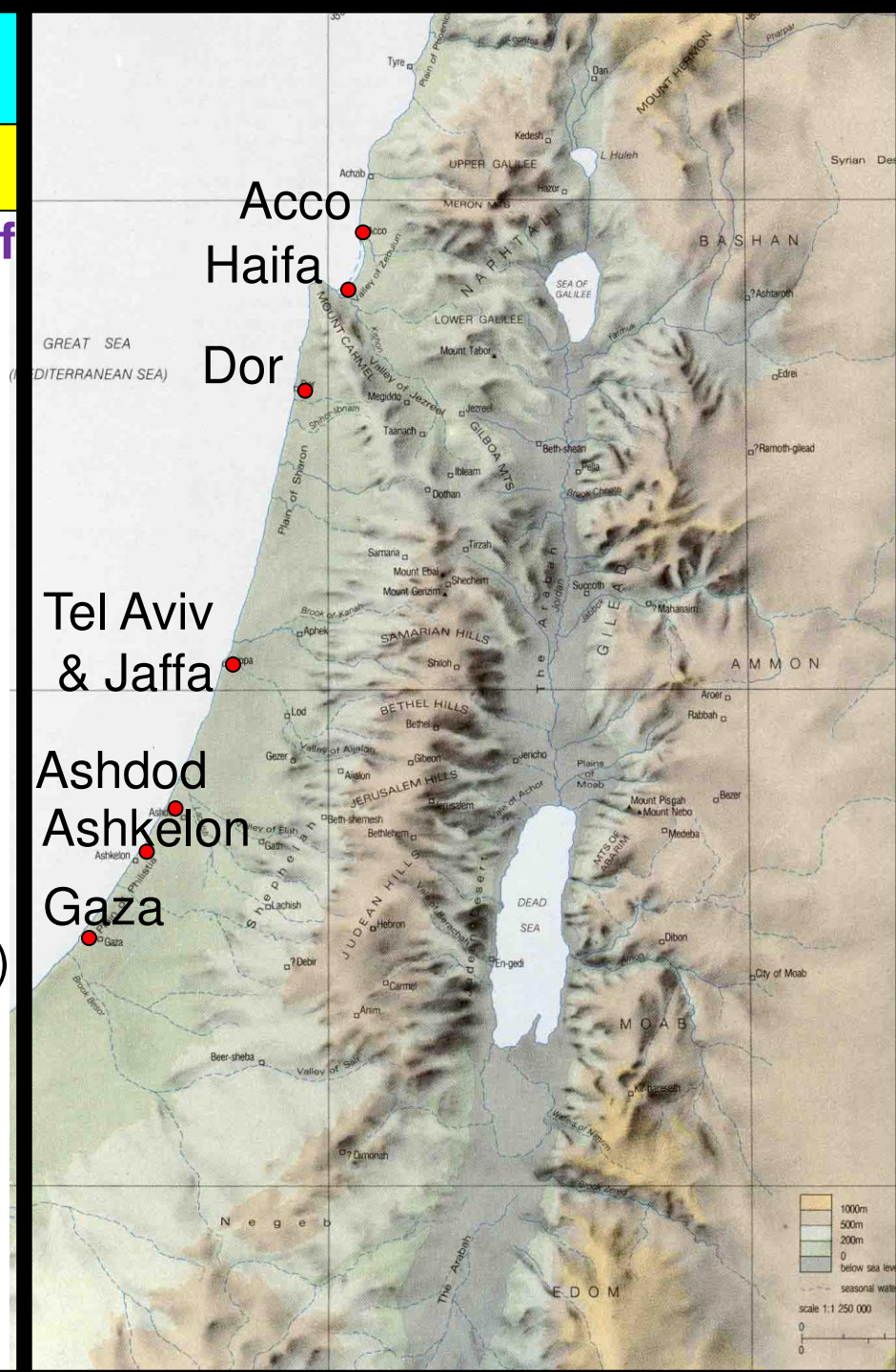
- **Acre**
- **Haifa** - several ports
- **Dor** - port
- **Jaffa** - port

● River mouths provide other naturally protected riverine ports near the sea:

- **River Na'aman** (near Acre)
- **River Kishon** (near Haifa)
- **River Yarkon** (north of Tel-Aviv)
- **R./Nahal Lachish** (by Ashdod)

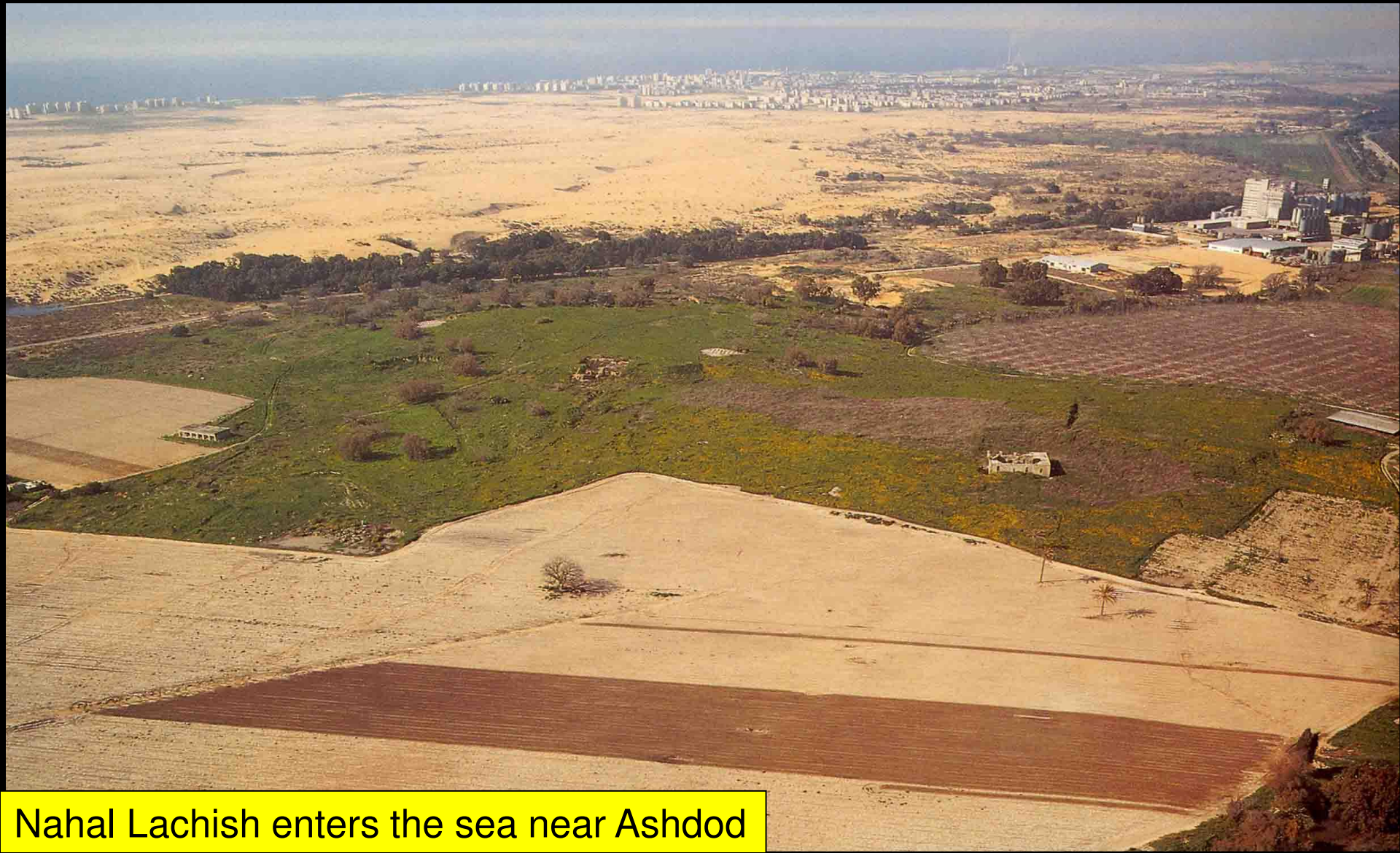
● Artificial ports also needed to be built along the southern coast: e.g.,

- **Gaza**
- **Ashkelon**



Plain of Philistia: Pentapolis ...

Ashdod is one of the **five main Philistine cities** located 2.5 miles from the sea. The Ark of the Covenant is ascribed with being brought to Ashdod. This city is later captured by Uzziah, king of Judah, ca.783-742 BC.



Nahal Lachish enters the sea near Ashdod

Near Eastern Economy:

Non-Palestinian raw resources:

- Silver (Anatolia)
- Gold (Egypt)
- Turquoise (Sinai)
- Lapis lazuli (Afghn)
- Cedar (Lebanon)
- Horses (Arabia; N)
- Elephants / ivory (Syria; Nubia)
- Camels (Arabia)
- Dye (Tyrian purple)
- Linen (Egypt)
- Aromatics (Arabia)

Finished products:

- Arabia, Nubia, Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Armenia, Cyprus, Aegean, +

People (var. occ.):

