



III. THE PROVINCES OF NEW TESTAMENT PALESTINE

A. Judaea

1. Comprised the ancient areas of Judah, Dan, Benjamin and Simeon – (See Palestine among the Tribes)
2. The largest of the Palestinian provinces
3. Less than 2,000 square miles
4. 55 miles long from Jerusalem to Beersheba
5. Approx. 25-30 miles wide
6. The home of Jerusalem and the heart of Judaism
7. The area south of Hebron was known as Idumea (Ezekiel 35:15; Mark 3:8) – (See Kingdom of Herod the Great map)

B. Samaria

1. Between Judaea and Galilee
2. Inhabited by people descended from ancient Jews and peoples of other nations (2 Kings 17:24-41; Ezra 10:2-3,10-11; Nehemiah 13:1-3, 23-28)
3. The Samaritans built a temple on Mt. Gerizim during the 4th century BC and accepted only the first five books of the Bible as inspired (John 4:20)
4. The Samaritans were hated of the Jews (John 4:9)

C. Galilee

1. The northwest province of Palestine
2. Two sections
 - a. Lower Galilee
 - (1) Plain of Esdraelon and its offshoots
 - (2) Abundance of grain; a breadbasket
 - b. Upper Galilee
 - (1) Mountainous region
 - (2) Known for its olive groves
3. Because of its mixed population, it was known as “*Galilee of the Gentiles*” (Matthew 4:15)
4. The Galileans, though true Jews, were considered a bit second rate (John 1:46; John 7:41; Acts 2:7)
5. Much of Christ’s ministry was done in Galilee
 - a. 11 of His 12 disciples came from Galilee
 - b. 25 of His 33 great miracles were performed here
 - c. 19 of His 32 parables were spoken here

D. Peraea

1. East of the Jordan and the Dead Sea



2. Name means “*the land beyond Jordan*” (Matthew 19:1; Mark 10:1; John 10:40)
 - a. This was where Christ was when he received news about Lazarus (John 11:1-4)
 - b. The area that Christ was in when he received news about Lazarus would have been about a day’s or so journey to Bethany (See Kingdom of Herod the Great map) (John 1:28-29; John 10:40; John 11:6)
 - c. Lazarus was already dead when the messenger arrived with the news (John 11:11-15; John 11:17, 39)
3. A mixed population of Jews and Gentiles

E. Decapolis

1. Name means “ten cities”
2. A league of Greek cities which formed a united government under Roman rule
3. Of the ten cities, only Scythopolis (ancient Bethshean) was on the west side of the Jordan River – (See Kingdom of Herod the Great map)
4. The place of the ministry of the maniac of Gadara and other works of Jesus (Mark 5:1, 18-20; Mark 7:31)

IV. JERUSALEM

A. Names

1. Salem (Genesis 14:18; Psalm 76:2)
2. Jebus (Judges 19:10)
3. The city of David (2 Samuel 5:7-10; 1 Kings 14:31)
4. Ariel – “*the lion of God*” (Isaiah 29:1)
5. The holy city (Matthew 4:5; Matthew 27:53)
6. Zion or Mt. Zion (Psalm 76:2; Isaiah 29:8)
7. Jerusalem means “city of peace”

B. Location

1. 33 miles east of the Mediterranean
2. 14 miles west of the Dead Sea
3. 2,550 feet above sea level
4. 3,800 feet above the Dead Sea

C. Mountain

1. Mt. Zion
 - a. South of the Temple Mount
 - b. Between the Kidron and Tyropoeon Valleys – (See Jerusalem Map 1858)



2. The Temple Mount
 - a. Called Mt. Moriah (2 Chronicles 3:1)
 - b. Traditional site of Abraham's offering of Isaac (Genesis 22:2)
 - c. Location of Araunah's threshing floor (2 Samuel 24:18)
 - d. Also sometimes called Mt. Zion (Psalm 65:1; Jeremiah 31:6)
 - e. Site of Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 3:1)
 - f. The Moslem mosque, the Dome of the Rock, was built there in the seventh century

3. Mount of Olives
 - a. East of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley
 - b. 2,680 above sea level
 - c. Christ prayed there in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:30, 36)
 - d. Where Christ ascended up to heaven (Acts 1:9-12)
 - e. Will split when Christ returns to earth (Zechariah 14:4)

D. Valleys

1. Kidron
 - a. About 3 miles long
 - b. On the east of Jerusalem
 - c. Water runs through it during the rainy season
2. Tyropoeon
 - a. Runs from north to south through the middle of Jerusalem
 - b. Was much deeper in ancient times
3. Hinnom
 - a. On the west and south of Jerusalem
 - b. Also called "*the valley of the sons of Hinnom*" and "*Gehenna*" and "*Tophet*"
 - c. Once the seat of Molech worship (2 Chronicles 28:3; 2 Chronicles 33:6 [cp. 2 Kings 23:10]; Jeremiah 7:31)

E. Brief History of Jerusalem

1. Controlled by the Jebusites until captured by David (2 Samuel 5:7; 1 Chronicles 11:6)
2. Captured and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC (2 Kings 25:1-11)
3. Rebuilt by Nehemiah (Nehemiah 4:7-22)
4. Captured by the Roman general Pompey in 63 BC
5. Destroyed by General Titus in 70 AD