



Bible Geography

Areas Surrounding Palestine

I. Philistia

A. Location – (See Palestine Map – Locations & Palestine Before the Conquest map)

1. In the coastal strip of SW Palestine
2. From Joppa to Gaza
3. On the plain of Philistia which was about 50 miles long and 15 miles wide

B. Origin

1. Descended from Noah to Ham to Mizraim to Casluhim to Philistim (Genesis 10:13-14)
2. Country of Caphtor (Jeremiah 47:4; Amos 9:7)
3. Palestine means “*Philistine Land*” (Joel 3:4)

C. Government – a league of five strong cities called the Philistine Pentapolis – *pente (five) and polis (city-[state])*. – Note: For the following five cities see: “Palestine Among the Tribes map”

1. Gaza
 - a. Capital of the Philistines
 - b. Samson in Gaza (Judges 16:1-3)
 - c. Philip in Gaza (Acts 8:26)
 - d. Controlled the caravan routes to Egypt and Arabia
2. Ekron
 - a. An important market city
 - b. Their city god was Baalzebub, the god of the flies (2 Kings 1:2-6)
3. Ashdod
 - a. Mentioned 21 times in the Old Testament
 - b. Worshipped Dagon
 - (1) The god of agriculture
 - (2) Body of a fish with human head and hands
 - c. The ark of God was kept in the temple of Dagon (1 Samuel 5)
4. Ashkelon (Judges 14:19)
 - a. A strong coastal fort
 - b. Birthplace of Herod the Great



5. Gath
 - a. Nearest of the five to Hebrew territory
 - b. Goliath's home town

NOTE: Each of these five cities were ruled by one of the five Philistine lords who led the Philistine nation.

D. Significance

1. Military might
 - a. Very organized
 - b. Held an iron monopoly (1 Samuel 13:19-23)
 - c. Had well-built chariots
2. Religion
 - a. Worshipped Dagon (1 Samuel 5:4)
 - b. Worshipped Ashtaroth (1 Samuel 31:10)
 - (1) Also called Ishtar (Babylonian)
 - (2) The goddess of fertility and reproduction

II. Edom

A. Location – (See Palestine Before the Conquest map)

1. South of Palestine (Judges 11:17; Numbers 34:3)
2. Mostly south of the Dead Sea
3. Often called land or mountain of Seir (Genesis 36:8; Joshua 24:4; Ezekiel 35:3,7,15)
4. Sometimes called Idumea (Ezekiel 35:15; 36:5)
5. Rugged, rocky and wild country

B. Origin

1. Descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:8)
2. Esau was Edom (Genesis 25:30)
3. Edom means *red* – not only was Esau red (Genesis 25:25) and the pottage red (Genesis 25:30), but the country of Edom had many red sandstone cliffs
4. Esau expelled the original inhabitants from Edom: the Horims (Deuteronomy 2:12) or the Horites (Genesis 14:6)

C. History

1. Refused passage to the Israelites (Numbers 20:18-21)
2. Defeated by Saul (1 Samuel 14:47)
3. Conquered by David (2 Samuel 8:13-14; 1 Kings 11:15-16)



4. Army destroyed in the valley of Berachah during the reign of Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:22-26)
5. Revolted under Jehoram (2 Chronicles 21:8)
6. Amaziah defeated Edom and took Sela [Petra] (2 Kings 14:7; 2 Chronicles 25:11-12)

D. Significance

1. Religion
 - a. Idolatry (2 Chronicles 25:14-15,20)
 - b. Denounced by many of the prophets (Isaiah 34:5-8; Isaiah 63:1-4; Jeremiah 49:17; Ezekiel 25:13-14; Amos 1:11-12; Obadiah 8,10)
2. Mt. Seir
 - a. Range of mountains south of the Dead Sea stretching down to the Gulf of Aquaba
 - b. An extension of the Eastern Range
 - c. First mentioned in Genesis 14:6
 - d. Given to Esau for a possession (Deuteronomy 2:5)
3. Sela or Selah
 - a. Also called Petra (name means *rock*)
 - b. This was Edom's strongest city
 - c. Taken by Amaziah (2 Kings 14:7)
 - d. Mentioned in prophecy (Isaiah 16:1)
 - e. City carved out of rock – (See El Deir Petra pic and Karta Petra map)

III. Moab

- A. Location – (See Palestine Before Conquest map and Empire of David and Solomon map)
 1. Territory east of the Dead Sea
 2. Three parts
 - a. Field of Moab (Genesis 36:35; 1 Chronicles 1:46)
 - (1) Heart of the land of Moab
 - (2) South of the Arnon river and north of the brook Zered
 - b. Land of Moab
 - (1) Deuteronomy 1:5; Deuteronomy 32:49; Judges 11:18
 - (2) North of the Arnon to the hills of Gilead
 - c. Plain of Moab
 - (1) Numbers 22:1; Numbers 26:63; Numbers 31:12; Joshua 13:32
 - (2) Plain east of Jordan directly north of the Dead Sea



B. Origin

1. Descendants of Moab, the son of Lot and his eldest daughter (Genesis 19:30-37)
2. Replaced the Emims (Deuteronomy 2:9-11)
3. Abraham and Moab were both descendants of Terah
4. Given their land by God (Deuteronomy 2:9)

C. History

1. Refused passage to Israel (Numbers 20:18-21)
2. Held Israel in bondage for 18 years (Judges 3:12-14)
3. Saul fought against Moab (1 Samuel 14:47)
4. David defeated the Moabites (2 Samuel 8:2)
5. Paid tribute to Ahab (2 Kings 3:4-5)
6. Joined with the Ammonites and Edomites to fight the Israelites (2 Chronicles 20)
7. Invaded by Israel (2 Kings 3:6-27)

D. Prophecy

1. Isaiah (chapters 15 and 16)
2. Jeremiah (chapter 48)

- E. National Deity – Chemosh (Numbers 21:29; Judges 11:24; 1 Kings 11:7,33; 2 Kings 23:13; Jeremiah 48:7, 13, 46)

IV. Ammonites

A. Location – (See Palestine Before the Conquest map)

1. Northeast of Moab
2. From the Arnon to the Jabbok

B. Origin

1. Descendants of Benammi, the son of Lot and his youngest daughter (Genesis 19:30-38)
2. Benammi was also called Ammon
3. Took the land of the Zanzummim (Deuteronomy 2:19-21)

C. General Information

1. Often in league with other nations against Israel (Deuteronomy 23:3-4; Judges 3:13; 2 Samuel 10:1-19; Psalm 83:7)
2. Governed by a king (1 Samuel 12:12)



3. National deity was Molech (1 Kings 11:7) who was also called Milcom (1 Kings 11:5, 33)
4. Capital was Rabbah or Rabbath-Ammon
5. Solomon married an Ammonite woman (1Kgs.14:31); Rehoboam's mother was Naamah, an Ammonitess
6. Prophecy (Ezekiel 25:5, 10; Zephaniah 2:9)

V. Amalekites

- A. A nomadic people who had no exact dwelling place
- B. Located Southwest of the Dead Sea in Abraham's time (Genesis 14:7)
- C. Mentioned by Balaam (Numbers 24:20)
- D. A mount of the Amalekites was located in Ephraim (Judges 12:15)
- E. Partially destroyed by Saul (1 Samuel 15)
- F. Partially destroyed by David (1 Samuel 30:11-18)
- G. Completely destroyed by Hezekiah (1 Chronicles 4:43)