

“Yeshua In Four Dimensions” Glossary

MAJOR GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS

DecapolisThe region located on the Southeast of the Sea of Galilee, East of the Jordan River largely populated by Greeks consisting of ten cities (Deca-10, Polis-City) united by a trade/defense alliance.¹ According to Matthew’s Gospel, people from this region were present at the Sermon on the Mount.² Mark records Jesus’ exorcism of Legion and His healing of the mute man in this region.³

Galilee.....The region bordered on the east by the Sea of Galilee and Jordan River extending from Samaria north of the Sea of Galilee into the northern mountains. Though largely populated by Gentiles, this was the region of Jesus’ birth, childhood, and much of his early ministry.

JudeaThe hilly region located west of the Jordan River and Dead Sea largely populated by Jews. With Jerusalem as its main center, Israelite worship centered around the Temple located in this region. It is also the region of Jesus’ trial, crucifixion and resurrection.

SamariaThe territory located between Galilee and Judea, west of the Jordan River composed of people of mixed race (Jew/Gentile) shunned by the Jews. This is the region in which Jesus’ conversation with the woman at the well occurred.

PereaThe region located east of the Sea of Galilee, south of the Decapolis reaching south to the northeast shore of the Dead Sea.



SOURCES OF WATER

Dead SeaA body of water at the mouth of the Jordan River southeast of the city of Jerusalem. Due to its high salt content, the Dead Sea contains no living organisms. The surface of the Dead Sea is more than 1300 feet below sea level and at its deepest is more than 2300 feet below sea level making it the lowest point on Earth! This is in contrast with the city of Jerusalem located only a few miles away is 2550 ft above sea level.

¹ Adapted from the *New Bible Dictionary*, 268.

² Matthew 4:25

³ Mark 5:20; 7:31

Mediterranean Sea....The largest body of water in the Middle East located to the west of Jerusalem and the majority of the Fertile Crescent. The apostle Paul traveled this sea during his missionary journeys.

Sea of Galilee....The sea on the northern part of the Jordan river. Much of Jesus' Galilean ministry occurred around this sea. It is 630 ft. below sea level. It is also referred to as the Sea of Tiberias and the Lake of Gennesaret in the Gospels.

Jordan River.....The river that flows from Lake Haleh through the Sea of Galilee and empties into the Dead Sea providing a means of life for much of the western fertile crescent. It is the most mentioned river in the Bible beginning with its first mention in Genesis 13 when Lot chose the well-watered valley of the Jordan for himself. Jesus' baptism by John occurred in this river.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS

Mount of Olives.....The mountain ridge adjacent to the east side of the Temple mount in Jerusalem. The Mount of Olives sits roughly 200 ft. higher than Jerusalem and is separated from it by the Kidron Valley. It was a place Jesus frequented with his disciples and was the site of Jesus' arrest.

Temple MountThe portion of Land on the east side of Jerusalem on which Solomon's temple stood. After its destruction in 586 B.C., the second temple built by Zerubbabel, was reconstructed on this site. During the rein of Herod the Great, the courtyard was expanded to 35 acres over a period of 83 years. This final mount covered hills and filled valleys making a large flat platform over what otherwise was hilly terrain. It was this elaborate structure that Jesus and his disciples frequented and referred to in John 2:19-20. While the temple mount is still visible in Jerusalem today, in the place of the Temple which was destroyed by the Romans in 90 AD, stands the Muslim mosque, Dome of the Rock.

Mt. HermonLocated north of the Sea of Galilee, it is the highest mountain in the entire region. With a height of 9,320 ft, it is covered with snow during the winter and water runs down the mountain and out through the springs forming the headwaters of the Jordan River. Mentioned with significance throughout the Scriptures, it is the probable site of the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Mt. Tabor.....A significant mountain in the Scriptures beginning with the battle against the Canaanites in Judges 4:12. It is located southeast of the Sea of Galilee. An early tradition claimed it was the site of the transfiguration, however the Scriptures record the location of the transfiguration near the town of Caesarea Philippi,⁴ a long way from Mount Tabor.

SIGNIFICANT CITIES

BethanyA city roughly 2 miles outside the city of Jerusalem near the Mount of Olives where Jesus and his disciples frequently stayed, especially while visiting Jerusalem. This is the home of

⁴ Mark 8:27-9:14

Mary and Martha, site of the raising of Lazarus, and the place where the woman anointed Jesus feet with perfume.⁵

BethlehemAn ancient city originally called Ephrath in Abraham’s day, later “Bethlehem Ephrathah” in the time of the prophets. It was the birth place of King David thus it gets its title, “the city of David.” Messianic prophesies identified this as the Messiah’s birthplace and thus was the location of Jesus birth.⁶

Caesarea Philippi ...A city north of the Sea of Galilee at the foot of Mount Hermon. Herod the Great originally built the city and Philip the Tetrarch added on and named the city in honor of Augustus Caesar. This was the site of Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God and was the city nearest the Mount of Transfiguration (probably Mt. Hermon).⁷

CapernaumA city located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus made his home here for a time and was the center of Jesus’ Galilean ministry. This also was the home of Peter and Andrew. ⁸

FROM :	Jerusalem	Capernaum
Bethany	2 miles	83 miles
Bethlehem	6	91
Bethsaida	91	6
Caesarea	57	—
Caesarea Philippi	105	27
Cana	—	16
Capernaum	85	—
Dead Sea	6	85
Emmaus	16	—
Jericho	15	70
Jordan River	21	25
Mediterranean Sea	37	28
Nazareth	70	20
Sychar (Samaria)	31	55
Sea of Galilee	70	0
Sidon	144	59
Tyre	120	35
Corinth (Greece)	840	—
Egypt (border)	100	185
Ephesus (Asia)	650	—
Rome	1450	—

JerichoA very ancient city (7000 BC) located northeast of Jerusalem, west of the Jordan River. It is first mentioned in the Bible in the context of the Israelites entering the promised land of Canaan. It was here that Jesus healed Blind Bartimaeus.⁹

JerusalemAn ancient city west of the Dead Sea built on a high plateau, forming a strategic natural defense barrier. It is first mentioned in Genesis when it titles Melchizedek “king of Salem.” The city did not become the capital of Israel until King David defeated the Jebusites. Solomon built the temple here making it the center of the Jewish life. Though under Roman occupation, Jesus visited Jerusalem many times during his life and it was the site of his trial and sentencing.¹⁰

HippusOne of the 10 cities forming the Decapolis in the eastern hills of the Sea of Galilee.

NazarethA city located southwest of the Sea of Galilee in the region of Galilee near Mount Tabor. Jesus spent lived here from childhood through the beginning of his adult ministry.

⁵ Matt 21:17 & John 11:1

⁶ Gen 35:19, 1 Sam. 17:12, Micah 5:3 & Matt 2:1

⁷ Matt 16:13

⁸ Matt 4:13, 8:14

⁹ Num 22:1, Mark 10:46

¹⁰ Gen 6:18, 2 Sam 5:7

- Scythopolis**.....A Greek city built on the ancient Jewish city of Bethshan. It is located west of the Jordan River, South the Sea of Galilee and a member of the Decapolis.
- Sephoris**A city located outside of Nazareth. It is likely Jesus spent time working here with Joseph as a youth.
- Shechem**The ancient Jewish city located in the hill country near Mt. Gerizim, It was first visited by Abram in Genesis 12 where he built and alter to the Lord. After the exile, this was the center of the Samaritan region. The city was destroyed by John Hyrcanus in 108 BC. It is conjectured that the city of Sychar was built on top of this city.¹¹
- Sidon**.....An ancient pagan city located along the Mediterranean Sea north of Tyre in the region of Phoenicia. Jesus referred to this city in the Gospels and visited it on occasion.
- Sychar**.....A Samaritan city possibly built on the ancient city of Shechem. This was the location of Jesus' dialogue with the Samaritan woman at the well.
- Tyre**.....An ancient fortified city along the Mediterranean Sea south of Sidon in the region of Phoenicia. Jesus made reference to and visited this city on occasion. It was during his stay here that he healed a Syrophenician woman.

INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

- Essenes**An ultra conservative Jewish religious sect in existence from the 2nd Century BC till 70 AD when the temple was destroyed. They adopted a very communal lifestyle and they held strictly to the Scriptures. It is very likely that a large portion of the Qumran community (site of the Dead Sea Scrolls) were Essenes. This word does not actually appear in the Bible.
- Herodians**A Jewish sect mentioned in the Gospels characterized by their loyalty to rule of the Herod.
- the Herods**A Jewish ruling family of Idumaeen lineage who, beginning with Herod Antipater in 47 BC, governed much of the Land of Israel under Roman authority until Herod Agrippa II's death in 100 AD. This family was ruling the time of Jesus and throughout the early church.
- Pharisees**A Jewish sect whose members constantly opposed Jesus in the Gospels. They were the religious conservatives of their day and placed emphasis on strict observance of the law.
- Pontius Pilate**The Roman appointed governor of Judea from 26-36 AD. He was the legal representative responsible for Jesus' trial and execution.¹²
- priest**.....One set apart as representative of God to/for the people. In Israel, only the descendants of the tribe of Levi were set apart to fill the office of the priest by genealogical perpetuation. The priests primary functions were to teach the people, pray for the people, and makes sacrifices for the people. While their were many priests within the nation of

¹¹ *New Bible Dictionary*, 1090.

¹² Matt 27:2, Mark 15:1, Luke 3:1, & John 18:29

Israel, only one would serve as the high priest making the sacrifices in the temple at a time. Jewish festivals were an exception to this rule.¹³

Sadducees-A Jewish sect whose members opposed Jesus in the Gospels. They tended to be the theological liberals of their day. They denied any physical resurrection of the body and did not believe in angels or spirits.¹⁴

SamaritanA person from the region of Samaria who's racial make up was only partially Jewish. These people were a product of the forced integration of the Assyrian invasion of 722 and were despised by the Jews. They had their own temple on Mt. Gerezim to worship separate from the Jews.¹⁵

SanhedrinThe Jewish ruling council in Jerusalem composed of 71 religious leaders responsible for for judging the important civil and religious cases. This council had enough power to condemn someone to death with Roman approval. It was before this council that Jesus appeared and was condemned before being handed over to pilate. Paul was also brought before this council in the book of Acts.¹⁶

scribeOne known as a “counter” who meticulously translated the scriptures. Their devotion to the Scriptures set them up as religious leaders and teachers in the Jewish community. Like the Pharisees and Sadducees, the Scribes also conflicted with Jesus.¹⁷

tax collectorA person in charge of collecting Roman taxes known for their greed and unjust practices. Matthew and Zaccheus are two mentioned by name in the Gospels. Because of their evil practices, they were considered scum by the Jewish religious authorities.¹⁸

ZealotA member of the sect of Jewish “Zealots” who exhibited extreme zeal for the law and outwardly opposed Roman occupation and imposition particularly in their worship practices.

MAJOR JEWISH OBSERVANCES

Feast of DedicationMentioned only in John's Gospel¹⁹, it was an annual celebration of the purification of the temple that occurred during the Maccabean period.

Feast of TabernaclesAlso known as the Feast of Booths. It was the final of three required festivals for which Jews traveled to Jerusalem. The feast was celebrated the seventh month of every year requiring the Israelites to live in booths for seven days in remembrance of the time the Lord caused the people to live in booths in the

¹³ Ex 28, Lev 8, & Deut 33:10

¹⁴ Acts 23:8

¹⁵ John 4:9

¹⁶ *New Bible Dictionary*, 1060; Mark 15:1

¹⁷ Matt 5:20

¹⁸ Matt 10:13 & Luke 19:2

¹⁹ John 10:22

wilderness following the exodus from Egypt. During this period, certain offerings were to be brought into the sanctuary. The week long feast began and ended with a day of rest. Over all, this was a time of joy and celebration.²⁰

Feast of Unleavened Bread...A feast observed in conjunction with the Passover in which all yeast is to be removed from the house and only unleavened bread is to be eaten for seven days culminating with a feast on the seventh day. This feast commemorates the haste in which the Lord was faithful to bring the Israelites out of Egypt not giving their yeast time to rise.²¹

Feast of WeeksAlso known as Pentecost. The second of the three great feasts occurring in the third month celebrating the first fruits of the wheat harvest. It was during this pilgrim feast that all were gathered in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came in Acts 2.²²

PassoverThe first of the three great feasts in the Jewish calendar occurring in the first month of the year. The annual feast commemorates the preservation of the Israelite families with the lambs blood over their door as the death angel killed the first born son in all the houses in Egypt while passing over the Israelites. This feast also marked the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Jesus and his disciples were gathered in the upper room celebrating the Passover shortly before his arrest. Paul taught that Christ is our Passover lamb and we are to go on living unleavened (without sin) lives.²³

sabbathThe seventh day of every week set aside for rest and enjoyment of the Lord. Patterned after God's rest on the last day of Creation, the Israelites were to rest from all their work on the Sabbath and set it aside as a holy day to the Lord. During the time of Jesus, the religious leaders had added many extra prohibitions relating to this observance which Jesus contradicted and acted against.²⁴

²⁰ Lev 23:34; John 7:37

²¹ Ex 12-13,

²² Num 28:26

²³ Ex 12; John 13; 1 Cor 5:7

²⁴ Gen 2:3; Ex 20:8-10; John 5