Deliverance Bible Institute

**BIBLE ATLAS**

**LESSON 9 : Relating Bible Lands to Today**

**Lesson 9 Plan:**

Draw a map showing the division of the land in modern times.

The city of Sidon is mentioned by Homer, Tyre is not mentioned by him; yet they are only twenty miles apart from one another. Sidon or Zidon (means fishing) this city was a place where you could buy many well made craft, for it was a center of trade. On maps of today you will still see these places. Both of these cities helped Israel with building projects and were beautiful places. Landscapes were very beautiful and the land fertile. Only a few of its ruins have been excavated those that have been found, proved to be of the “King of the Sidonians” and it came with a curse to those who opened the coffin. They worshiped Astoreth, Dagan, and Baal. The best sarcophagus which was made of marble was one of the generals of Alexander the Great. It had two scenes from the life of Alexander the Great one with a lion and the other of a battle. It is so well done that it is considered the best sarcophagus (a stone coffin) that has ever been found. Tyre was an Island three quarters of a mile from the main land. Alexander the Great took seven months to overthrow the city. Others tried but were not successful. It was again important in the Roman Empire but today it is used for the spreading of nets that the fishermen use. The artist of Tyre were known throughout the known world and it was famous for it’s purple dye. Both of these cities are mentioned in the Bible and Tyre was cursed by God. Asher was given the land that included Tyre and Sidon but was never conquered by them. These cities were Phoenician.

Damascus is said to be the oldest city to have a continuous history. It is called “the Pearl of the east” which was started by Uz the grandson of Noah. These are a desert people that have the largest most fertile oasis in the world. II Kings 5:12 talks of the two rivers that feed this city (The Abana and the Pharpar Rivers). Paul was converted on the road to Damascus. The servant of Abraham that was born in his house at Damascus, was said to be his only heir. Mt. Hermon is in Syria and it supplies ninety percent of the water for the Jordan River. The tribe of East Manasseh was given Mt. Hermon by Joshua when the land was divided. It too was not conquered.

Jerusalem which has been destroyed over forty times is still a city today. It has been rebuilt many, many times and has a great history. Finding all it’s landmarks is difficult because of the rebuilding and use of materials from other sites. Today the city is divided into sections, which are the Jewish quarter, Christian quarter, and the Moslem quarter and in many of these places outsiders are not welcome. Jebus was it’s first name, this place was chosen by God. David made Jerusalem (which means A place of peace) his capital and is today where the Jewish people go to pray at the western wall. This place has not lived up to it’s name, for it has been fought over by many peoples for many reasons. In 1922 the city came under the British control at the end of the first world war. This was the first of the return of the Jews to the land. Zionism was born at this time.

Ashkelon (Ashqelon) This is in the land of the Philistines one of five Canaanite cities.

(Judges 1:18 - I Samuel 6:17) Herod the Great was born in this city. It is about twenty miles from Gaza and faces the sea like a bow.

The city of Ammon comes to us from Lot’s daughter. You will find the story in the book of Genesis.

Gilgal (means circle) This is the first place of worship in the promise land. It is where Joshua placed the 12 stones of remembrance, one for each tribe. (Joshua 4:19-20.) It was here that the people of Gibeon tricked Joshua into making a treaty with them which saved their lives but made them slaves.

Gaza (means strong) which was the land that was given to Judah, and was never conquered. This land was part of the trade route to Egypt and to Mesopotamia. Trade was the name of the game. A Canaanite city which were occupied by the Philistines has been a thorn in the side of Israel in modern and ancient times. Samson was one of it famous people, along with Alexander the Great and Nepoleon resided here.

Hebron (means alliance) Abraham resided here, along with his children. You will find this city on modern maps. The Amalikites lived in this city at the time of Abraham.

Beersheba (means Well of the oath) is used today to water sheep, cattle and camels. They have identified two different wells that are very ancient and believe them to be from this era.

Bethleham (means House of bread) Birthplace of Jesus, the city of David, it is five miles from Jerusalem. Rachel was buried here, and David was anointed to be King over Israel in this city.

Using these maps as a starting point draw out this land and show the names of the modern countries. You will find Mt. Carmal (park, friutful, feild), Mt. Nebo (height) babylonian god of speech. Mt. Sinai famous for the Ten Commandments. The Negev (dry) inhabited by the Amalikites it is in the south country.