

Biblical Geography

OLD TESTAMENT NEAR EAST



NEW TESTAMENT NEAR EAST



NEW TESTAMENT MEDITERRANEAN



The events of the Bible occurred in and around the Fertile Crescent and the Mediterranean Basin, meaning the countries of the modern Middle East, North Africa, and Southern Europe. The Old Testament is set against the backdrop of the ancient Near East's great civilizations: the Sumerians, Akkadians, Elamites, Babylonians, and Assyrians of Mesopotamia; Egypt; the Hittites; the city states of Canaan; and the Phoenicians, among others.

After Persia fell to Alexander the Great in 330 BCE, the center of power drifted north and west. The entire region was deeply influenced by Greek culture after Alexander's death. Rome came to rule the whole Mediterranean Basin by the late first century BCE. It was this Greco-Roman world that Jesus was born into and Christianity emerged out of.

MODERN MEDITERRANEAN



MAP KEY

- Modern country
- Ancient region/nation
- Large city
- Other city
- Geographic feature
- ▲ Mountain

Israel/Northern Kingdom (OT Near East)	Herod the Great's Kingdom (NT Near East)
Judah/Southern Kingdom (OT Near East)	Extent of Roman Empire (NT Mediterranean)