

BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **4th Grade | Unit 7**

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BIBLE 407

GEOGRAPHY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

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LIFEPAC Test |**Pull-out**



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GEOGRAPHY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

As you study this LIFEPAK®, you will learn about the geography of the lands that are part of Bible events. The geography of the Holy Land was an important part of God's plan for His people. God planned for these Bible people to live in areas with unusual kinds of land surfaces and climates.

God began educating His people in the deserts. Life was simple there. They had time to think of the one true God as they moved about locating places for their flocks to graze.

God's purpose was not for the people to remain in the desert. He eventually placed them in towns and agricultural regions. When men settled down in one area, they built houses and towns. God's people did not roam as they had in the desert. Growing crops, they became dependent upon rain and weather.

God is in control of our climate. The kind of weather He gave His people was a part of His purposes for their lives.

God also has a purpose for putting you where you are. God wants you to know the lessons that are taught in His word. One lesson He made clear to us in the Bible was that He is Master of all His creation.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have completed this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Identify on a map the important areas of the Bible lands and the Holy Land.
2. Name the important geographical features of both the Bible lands and the Holy Land.
3. Tell how geography affects humans, plants, and animals.
4. Explain some happenings and sayings in terms of their geographical settings.



1. BIBLE LANDS

Studying Bible **geography** is important because it will help us to understand the way the people of Bible lands lived. The geography of the Bible is important because the land was important land. The Holy Land of the Bible was at the center of surrounding nations that developed early **civilization**. Much of what we know about government, language, law, farming, and religion came to us from that area of the world.

Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Identify on a map the important areas of the Bible lands and the Holy Land.
2. Name the important geographical features of both the Bible lands and the Holy Land.

Vocabulary

Study these new words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFE PAC.

affect (u fekt). To produce a result on; influence.

agriculture (ag ru kul chur). Farming.

arctic (ärk tik). An extremely cold place at the north part of the earth.

caravan (kar u van). A group of people traveling together.

civilization (siv u lu zā shun). The state or condition of people or nations that have developed their culture, government, art, and science to a high level.

climate (klī mit). The kind of weather a place has over a long period of time.

coastal plain (kō stul plān). The flat land that stretches along the ocean.

crescent (kres unt). The moon in its first quarter; looks something like the shape of a quarter section of a ball.

domestication (du mes ti kā shun). The training of animals to live under the care of man.

empire (em pīr). A group of countries under the same ruler.

fertile (fer tul). Bearing or producing a large number of crops and growth.

geography (jē og ru fē). The study of the earth's surface, climate, continents, countries, peoples, industries, and products.

invention (in ven shun). A making of something new.

profile (prō fīl). A side view.

sea level (sē lev ul). The surface of the sea; height of land is measured above or below sea level.

terrace (ter is). A flat, raised level of land with sloping sides that often look like steps.

terrain (te rān). The particular land surface of an area or region.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /FH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

Purpose for Studying Bible Geography

The *customs* of a people are the ways they do things—the ways they live. The way people live is often decided by where they live. Their land, **climate** and water all help to decide how people live. The reasons for studying Bible **geography** in this LIFEPAK are to understand the Bible land customs and to learn the setting of the events written about in the Bible.

Customs. Have you ever thought that the Bible is too difficult to understand? Have you thought that the people who lived in Bible times lived too far away or too much in the past to mean anything to you? Even the names of people and places may seem difficult to say. You can learn them. These names and places can be interesting when you learn what they mean. Some of their customs, or ways of living, seem strange. Their food and clothing were certainly different; their houses and churches also.

The way these people lived was (and still is) **affected** by the geography of the area. Knowing something of the geography helps you to have a better understanding of people's ways of living.

Think about the area in which you live; the climate, the type of land, the things people make, and what they grow there. You will see that the way of life in your community is affected by geography.

Settings. Many of the happenings of the Bible can be understood better if you have some idea of the setting, or where they took place. This study of the geography of Bible lands will help you have a clearer picture of those settings.



| Palestinian mother and her baby



Do these activities.

- 1.1** Find the word *geography* in the dictionary. Write its meaning in your own words.

- 1.2** Write two reasons why it is helpful to study the geography of the Bible.

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

- 1.3** A word that means *ways of living* is _____.

Description of the Land

The lands of Bible times were important for many reasons. Their size and location at the center of **civilization** made them important. Being part of the **Fertile Crescent** made Bible lands a perfect place for **agriculture**.

Size. The world of the Old Testament was not large. The Old Testament lands included only southwestern Asia and the northeastern part of Africa (Egypt).

In this small part of the world, the ideas of agriculture, **domestication** of animals, and systems of law and government began.

Most of the events of the Bible took place in what is called the Holy Land. This land is also called Canaan. "From Dan to Beersheba" is an expression used in the Bible to tell the northern and southern ends of Canaan. This distance is about 150 miles (about 240 kilometers). From east to west, Canaan is only 100 miles (about 160 kilometers) at its widest point. Altogether, Canaan is only a little larger than the state of New Jersey, one of the smallest states in the United States. God chose Canaan, however, to play a historic part in the world and in man's life.



Write the correct answer on the line.

1.4 What lands did the world of the Old Testament include?

1.5 Find Dan and Beersheba on the map in Canaan (Map 1). Circle each city.

1.6 Why did the Holy Land play a historic part in the world?

1.7 Name three ideas that began in the Bible lands.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

1.8 What is another name for the Holy Land? _____

1.9 What is the size of Canaan? _____



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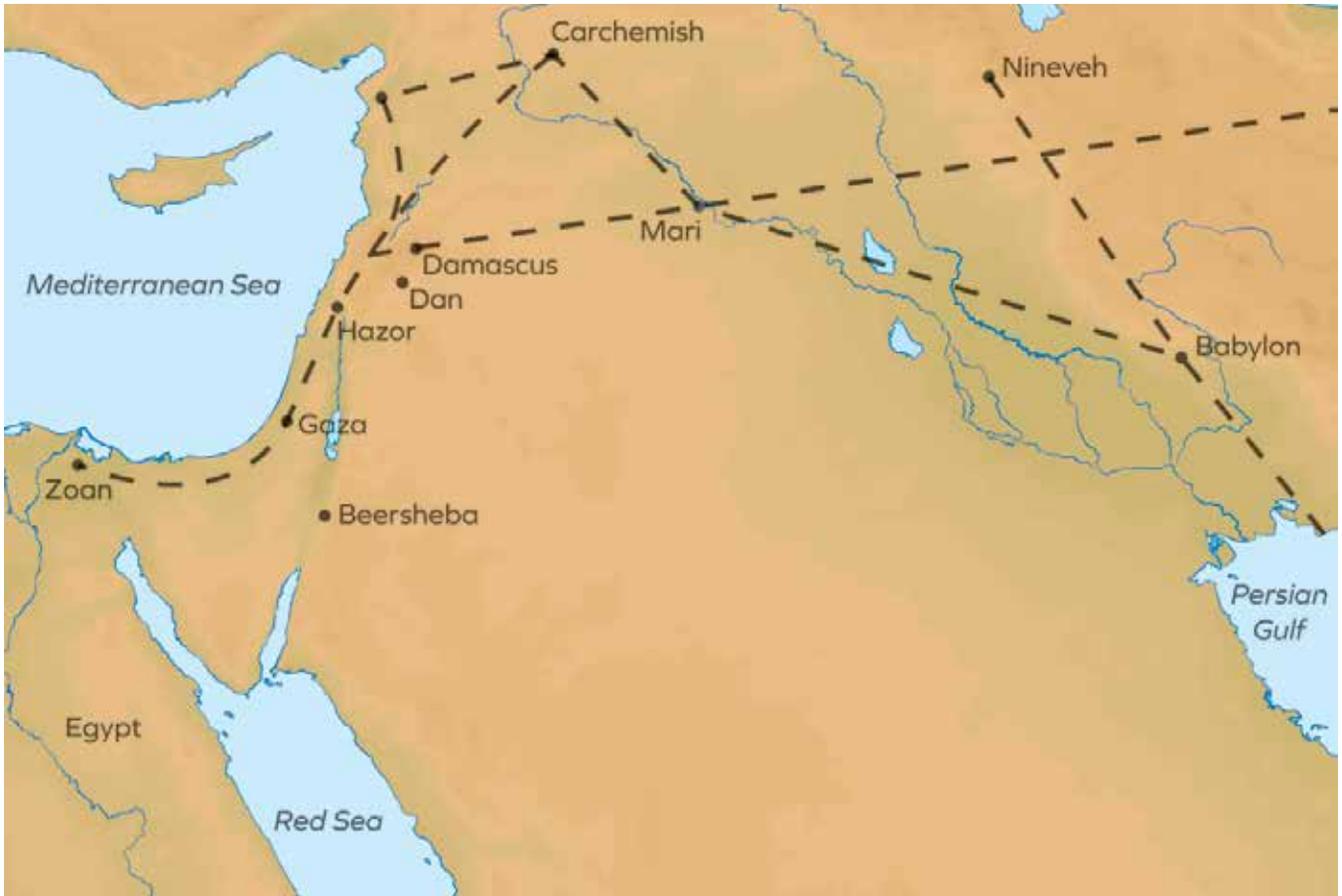
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A great civilization began in Bible lands. The reasons for this civilization are found in the geography of these lands. Study these geographical reasons.

Routes. The first reason is that the lands formed the crossroads of the ancient world. Look at Map 1. You can see that the distance between the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf is not very far. The continents of Africa and Asia meet near the Red Sea. Ships can sail to other areas of the world on these bodies of water.

The main land routes (roads) between Asia, Europe, and Africa crossed through the Bible lands. They were used as trade routes. **Caravans** of traders carrying many products traveled through these lands.

Wars often occurred between the ancient **empires** of the Bible lands. The routes were also used by armies. Yet something more important than armies and tradesmen was traveling across these routes. The people who came from many neighboring countries brought many new **inventions** and ideas with them. The visitors exchanged new ideas, products, and tools. These exchanges were very useful in improving the civilization of this area.



Map 1 | Ancient Trade Routes



Complete these activities.

1.10 Why were the Bible lands called the “crossroads of the ancient world”?

1.11 Name the three groups of people or things that traveled the routes of the Bible lands.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

1.12 Which of the three groups was the most important?

Fertile Crescent. Another geographical reason for the beginning of civilization in Bible lands is the Fertile Crescent.

As you read the Bible, you will notice that rivers are mentioned very often. Because the land is mainly desert, rivers are important for farming. The three main rivers were the Tigris River, the Euphrates River, and the Jordan River. Study Map 2. The shaded part around the rivers is the shape of a crescent or new moon. This area shows the land where the soil is richer than in the surrounding regions. Land watered by these rivers would grow much food. This land also was a source of food and water for animal life which fed the large number of people that traveled the routes through the land.

Travelers, traders, and armies could not cross the almost waterless Arabian Desert. They needed to cross the Fertile Crescent, even though it was a longer route. Canaan became the doorway between Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Part of the reason for the constant wars in the Bible lands was that the many different nations wanted to control the fertile river valleys.



Map 2: | The Fertile Crescent



Complete these activities.

1.13 On Map 2

- a. locate the rivers.
- b. locate the Fertile Crescent.

1.14 The names of the three rivers are written in the left column. Unscramble the words and write the name of the river correctly on the line in the right column.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| SIIRTG | a. _____ River |
| DROJNA | b. _____ River |
| AEPSEHRUT | c. _____ River |

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ | agriculture | a. | study of earth and what is on it |
| 1.02 | _____ | coastal plain | b. | extremely cold |
| 1.03 | _____ | arctic | c. | traders |
| 1.04 | _____ | terraces | d. | reason for wars |
| 1.05 | _____ | sea level | e. | almost waterless |
| 1.06 | _____ | caravans | f. | farming |
| 1.07 | _____ | fertile valleys | g. | at the top of a map |
| 1.08 | _____ | deserts | h. | steps |
| 1.09 | _____ | north | i. | crescent |
| 1.010 | _____ | geography | j. | surface of the sea |
| | | | k. | along the coast |

Write the letter of the answer that finishes each sentence (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.011** The Jordan River flows _____ .
 a. eastward b. southward c. northward
- 1.012** "From Dan to Beersheba" tells the size of Canaan from _____ .
 a. north to south b. east to west c. Africa to Egypt
- 1.013** Customs of _____ found in the Bible are quite different from ours.
 a. food and clothing b. animals c. plants
- 1.014** One river of the Fertile Crescent is the _____ River.
 a. Nile b. Euphrates c. Red
- 1.015** Something that affects climate is the shape of _____ .
 a. rivers b. land surfaces c. rocks.

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1.016 | _____ | Canaan | a. | river below sea level |
| 1.017 | _____ | Fertile Crescent | b. | the Holy Land |
| 1.018 | _____ | Salt Sea | c. | a town in Canaan |
| 1.019 | _____ | Jordan | d. | land for growing |
| 1.020 | _____ | Dan | e. | desert |
| | | | f. | Dead Sea |

Complete these statements (each answer, 4 points).

- 1.021** The most important thing that went from one country to another on the crossroads of the ancient world was _____
_____.
- 1.022** The land of the Fertile Crescent had much farming because of _____
_____.
- 1.023** The saltiness of the Dead Sea is caused by _____
_____.
- 1.024** In the large desert areas of the Bible land, people found it difficult to _____
_____.
- 1.025** Many different kinds of plants and animals can grow in the Holy Land because _____
_____.

Answer true or false (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.026** _____ *Terrain means the weather of a land.*
- 1.027** _____ The Bible lands were important because of the travel routes and the good farmland.
- 1.028** _____ The climate of the Bible lands is from arctic cold to very hot.
- 1.029** _____ *Customs means the ways people live.*
- 1.030** _____ The Jordan River is famous for its salty water.

- 1.031** _____ Studying geography helps us to understand why people live the way they do.
- 1.032** _____ Many people of the Holy Land fished in the Dead Sea for food.
- 1.033** _____ The distance from east to west across Canaan is 150 miles.
- 1.034** _____ Trade routes crossed through Bible lands.
- 1.035** _____ Canaan had forests, lakes, deserts, and a coastal plain.

Answer these questions (each numbered answer, 5 points).

- 1.036** Why is the study of the geography of the Bible helpful?

- 1.037** What are some changes in the land around the Jordan River from its beginning to its end? _____

- 1.038** What were three ideas that began in Bible lands?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

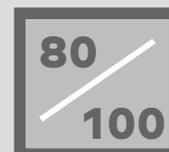


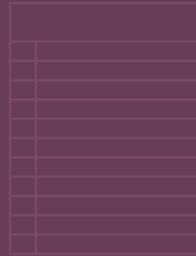
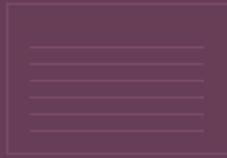
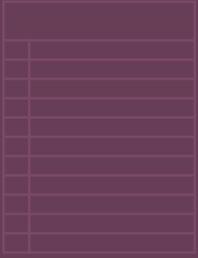
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