

**TEXT-BOOK OF  
SCRIPTURE  
GEOGRAPHY**

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Text-book of Scripture geography by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**TEXT-BOOK OF  
SCRIPTURE  
GEOGRAPHY**



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## P R E F A C E

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IN presenting the following treatise to the consideration of the public, it is hoped that the want, which has been long felt, of a cheap and comprehensive school-manual of Scripture Geography, will be adequately met. While primarily intended as a companion-book to *Chambers's School-map of Palestine*, the writer has endeavoured so to construct this little work, as to render it suitable for general use, both in schools and families.

The plan of the book is simple, the greater portion being devoted to Palestine, as the principal scene of Scripture history; while the two last sections embrace the other countries of importance in the sacred narrative, arranged in the order of geographical connection. The arrangement of the details has also been made as simple and natural as possible; the physical features of each country being first described, as far as consistent with the size and design of the book; and then the social and political institutions.

In order to render this text-book the more useful and interesting as a help to the study of sacred geography, the leading incidents with which each locality is associated in Bible history, are mentioned in connection with the place, reference being made to the passages in Scripture where the events are narrated. It will therefore be of advantage that the pupil have a Bible at hand during the lesson, and be required to read or quote the verses which bear on the subject of study. The construction of the book,

however, admits of its being studied *purely as a geographical exercise*, if that is preferred; the historical notices and other remarks not of a general character, being printed in small type, which may be passed over at pleasure.

It is not intended that any portion of this work should be committed to memory by the pupils; the position of any place as seen on the map, and the historical associations connected with it, being much more likely to fix its name permanently in the memory, than any mere rote-learning; but if any teacher prefers following the old method, he may confine himself to the large type, in prescribing lessons for committal, and require that the small type be so studied, that the *facts*, not the *words*, may be remembered.



# CONTENTS

## SECTION I.

	PAGE
NAMES OF PALESTINE, . . . . .	1
SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT, . . . . .	3
GENERAL ASPECT, . . . . .	2
MOUNTAINS, . . . . .	3
PLAINS AND VALLEYS, . . . . .	7
RIVERS, . . . . .	10
LAKEs, . . . . .	12
POOLS AND SPRINGS, . . . . .	14
CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS, . . . . .	15
INHABITANTS, . . . . .	16
HISTORICAL, . . . . .	18

## SECTION II.

DIVISIONS, . . . . .	19
TOWNS IN GALILEE, . . . . .	21
ASER, . . . . .	22
NAPHTALI, . . . . .	22
ZEBULON, . . . . .	23
ISSACHAR, . . . . .	24
TOWNS IN SAMARIA, . . . . .	25
HALF-TWINS OF MANASSEH, . . . . .	26
EPHRAIM, . . . . .	26
TOWNS IN JUDEA, . . . . .	27
BENJAMIN, . . . . .	28
JUDAH, . . . . .	31
DAN, . . . . .	32
SIMEON, . . . . .	33



	PAGE
TOWNS IN PERRA, . . . . .	33
HALF-TRIBE OF MANASSE, . . . . .	33
GAD, . . . . .	35
REUBEN, . . . . .	35
PHENICIA, . . . . .	36
PHILISTIA, . . . . .	37

## SECTION III.

EGYPT, OR MIZRAIM, . . . . .	39
ETHIOPIA, . . . . .	41
ARABIA, . . . . .	42
SYRIA, . . . . .	47
MESOPOTAMIA, . . . . .	50
ARMENIA, . . . . .	51
BABYLONIA, OR CHALDEA, . . . . .	52
ASSYRIA, . . . . .	54
MEDIA, . . . . .	55
PERSIA, OR ELAM, . . . . .	56

## SECTION IV.

ASIA MINOR, . . . . .	57
MACEDONIA, . . . . .	63
ACHAIA, . . . . .	65
ISLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, . . . . .	65
ISLANDS IN THE AEGEAN SEA, . . . . .	67
ITALY, . . . . .	68



# TEXT-BOOK OF SCRIPTURE GEOGRAPHY.

## SECTION I.

### PALESTINE—PHYSICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

#### I. THE NAMES OF THE COUNTRY.

THE principal names of Palestine are the following:—

1. **CANAAN.**—It was so called from the name of Ham's youngest son, Canaan, who settled in it after the confusion of Babel, *Gen.* x. 15; xii. 5.

2. **THE LAND OF PROMISE, or THE PROMISED LAND.**—This name was given to it on account of the promise which God made to Abraham, that his posterity should possess it, *Gen.* xii. 7; xv. 18.

3. **THE LAND OF THE HEBREWS.**—So named from the people who possessed it, *Gen.* xl. 16. They were called Hebrews ('passers over'), from Eber, an ancestor of Abraham (*Gen.* x. 24), or perhaps because they came from Mesopotamia, across the Euphrates, to settle in the country.

4. **THE LAND OF ISRAEL.**—From its being inhabited by the descendants of Jacob, who was also called Israel.

5. **PALESTINE.**—A name derived from the Philistines, who inhabited a tract bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, in the south-west of the country. Palestine is now the name most commonly employed, *Exod.* xv. 14.

6. **THE HOLY LAND.**—This name is mentioned only once in the Bible, but it is now frequently used on account of the sacred associations connected with the country, *Zech.* ii. 12.

The names, *Land of Jehovah, Land of God, Land of Judah,* are also used; but they are of less frequent occurrence.

## II. SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

Palestine is a narrow tract of land, situated at the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean Sea, and occupying the south-western portion of what is now the Turkish province of Syria.

Palestine Proper, or the country originally intended as the possession of the Jews, had the river Jordan for its eastern limit; but as a large number of the Israelites settled on the east side of the Jordan, the territory occupied by them came to be considered a part of the promised land, and was included under the same name.

Palestine is generally understood to be bounded on the north by the mountains of Lebanon and the border of Phœnicia; on the west, by the Mediterranean Sea; on the south, by Arabia-Petrea; and on the east, by the deserts of Syria and Arabia.\*

Palestine is about 180 miles long, with an average breadth of about 65 miles; and includes an area estimated at 11,000 square miles, extending from 30° 40' to 33° 30' north latitude, and from 34° to 36° 20' east longitude.

## III. GENERAL ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY.

Palestine is fitly described as a land of hills and valleys, *Deut. xi. 11*. There are two leading ranges of hills, extending from north to south, through its whole length; they have their commencement in the mountains of Libanus and Anti-Libanus, and run parallel to each other on opposite sides of the Jordan, till they terminate in the heights of Horeb and Sinai, in Arabia-Petrea.

Numerous lateral heights branch off from these ranges, but not in any uniform direction. In the northern part of the country, the hills generally are covered with verdure to the summit, and the aspect of the whole country is varied and beautiful. In the south and south-east, particularly in the vicinity of the Dead Sea, the appearance of the mountains is bleak and desolate. Few of the mountains of Canaan rise to any considerable height. The only one worthy of note on this account is Mount Hermon, on the east side of Jordan, which rises about 11,000 feet above the level of the sea.

Interspersed among the mountains are many plains and valleys, some of which are luxuriant with verdure, and rich in beautiful scenery, while others are arid and bare. Remarkable examples of these are, the plain of Jezreel or Esdraïlon, in Galilee, which is covered with the finest pasture, and the valley of the Jordan, the air of which is unwholesome and the soil barren.

\* In the time of David and Solomon the dominion of the Jews extended over a much wider range than the boundaries indicated above, embracing large portions of Syria and Arabia; most of the tribes, however, subjugated by these kings still inhabited their own territory, and were not permanently annexed to Palestine.