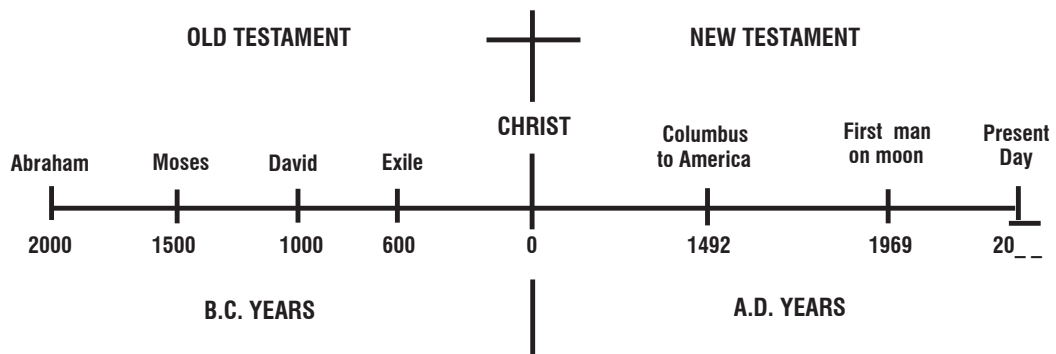


LESSON 8A

The Background of the New Testament



Since Lesson 3A, we have been tracing the story of the Old Testament, from Adam and Eve up to the time of Christ.



- Look at the time-line of history above. Of the following statements, check those that are correct.
 - a. The roots of the Jewish people are found in the Old Testament.
 - b. Abraham lived 2000 years before Christ.
 - c. King David reigned in 1000 A.D.
 - d. The most important event in history was the life of Christ.
 - e. The New Testament period comes in the B.C. years.

Answers

- a. b. d.

2. The Jews started to return from exile about 500 years before the birth of Christ. What date was this?
- a. Approximately 500 A.D.
 - b. Approximately 1500 B.C.
 - c. Approximately 500 B.C.
3. In this long period of 500 years up to the birth of Christ, many events took place. To start with, in Jerusalem the Jews had to rebuild their homes, the temple, and the city walls. But they were still ruled by foreign nations: first Persia, then Greece, then Egypt, then Syria. In 167 B.C. the Jews began to rebel against these rulers and for a few years won their freedom. But the Jewish rulers themselves became corrupt, and before long their freedom was taken away by the Roman armies.
- Which was the latest in this line of foreign governments?
- a. Persia.
 - b. Greece.
 - c. Egypt.
 - d. Syria.
 - e. Rome.
4. At the start of the New Testament, what was the condition of the Jewish people?
- a. They were still in exile in Babylon.
 - b. They were free and ran their own government.
 - c. They were under the rule of the Roman empire.
5. The Roman empire lasted for 700 years, longer than any other in history. Compare the British rule in India for 200 years, or the Soviet communist empire of 70 years.
- Any nation hates to live under the rule of another nation. So the Jews hated to be ruled by Rome. But they were helpless, because the Roman soldiers were everywhere in the land.

Continued

Answers

- 2. c.
- 3. e.
- 4. c.

5. Continued.



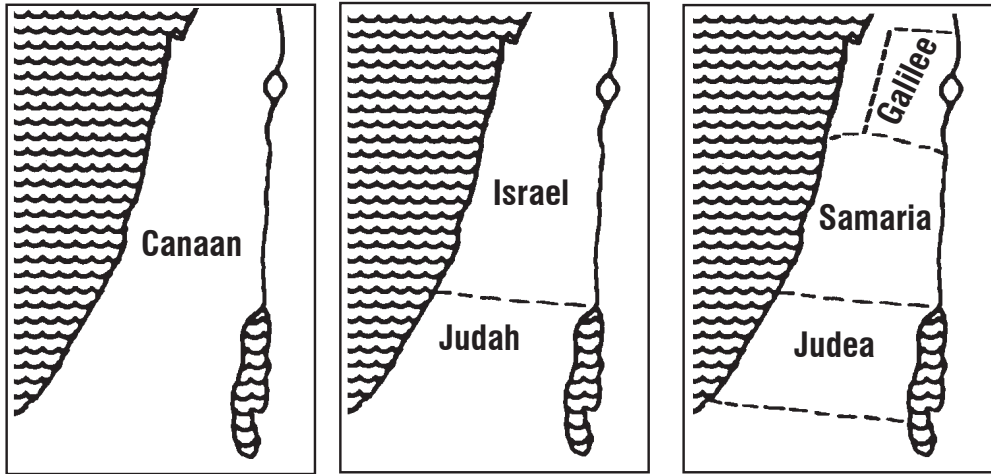
What was the attitude of the Jews to the Romans? _____

6. Different groups of Jews responded to the Romans in different ways. For instance, the **Zealots** tried to rebel by force against the Romans. The **Sadducees** co-operated with the Romans in return for a share of power. The **Pharisees** avoided politics, but strictly followed the religious law in the hope that this would bring God's kingdom more quickly. What group of Jews:
- a) Rebelled against the Romans? _____
 - b) Co-operated with the Romans? _____
 - c) Avoided politics? _____
7. That Jesus' birth took place in Bethlehem was due to a special decree of the Roman emperor. Jesus died in Jerusalem by order of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.
- a) Under which empire did Jesus live and die? _____
 - b) Into which nation was Jesus born? _____
8. Let us learn more about Jesus' land. Look at the three maps on the following page.

Continued

Answers

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 5. One of hatred | 7. a) Roman |
| 6. a) Zealots | b) Jewish |
| b) Sadducees | |
| c) Pharisees | |



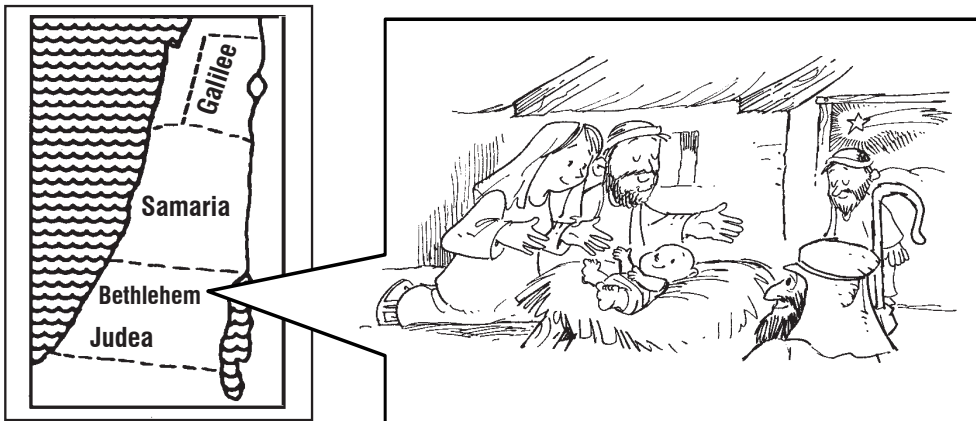
1. The time of Abraham 2. The time of the kings 3. The time of Christ

Don't worry! In different periods the same country was called by different names.

- a) At the time of Abraham, it was called _____.
- b) At the time of the kings, it was divided into I _____ and J _____.
- c) At the time of Christ, it was divided into the provinces of G _____, S _____ and J _____.

But it is all the same place!

9. We will understand this better by studying the main events in Jesus' life.



Continued

Answers

8. a) Canaan
 b) Israel/Judah
 c) Galilee/Samaria/Judea

9. Continued.

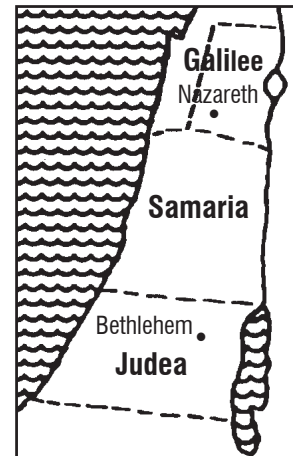
Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**. Look at the map.
What province is Bethlehem in? _____

10. At that time the province of Judea was ruled by King Herod (known as “Herod the Great”). He was a cruel king and tried to murder the infant Jesus.

- a) In which town was Jesus born? _____
- b) In which province is this? _____

11. Joseph and Mary first took the infant Jesus to Egypt; from there they settled in **Nazareth**. Nazareth is a town in the hills. Here Jesus grew up and learned the trade of a carpenter.

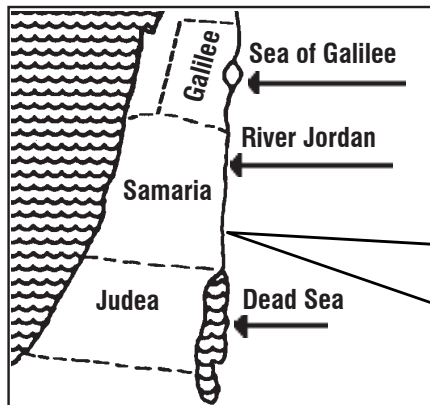
From the map, in which province is Nazareth? _____



12. Of the following statements, check those that are correct.

- a. Jesus was born in Nazareth.
- b. Bethlehem is in the province of Judea.
- c. Jesus’ childhood and youth were spent in Bethlehem.
- d. Nazareth is in the province of Galilee.
- e. Jesus’ childhood and youth were spent in Nazareth.

13. At the age of thirty, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.



Continued

Answers

- 9. Judea
- 10. a) Bethlehem
- 11. Galilee
- 12. b.d.e.
- 13. b) Judea

13. Continued.

In which river was Jesus baptized? _____

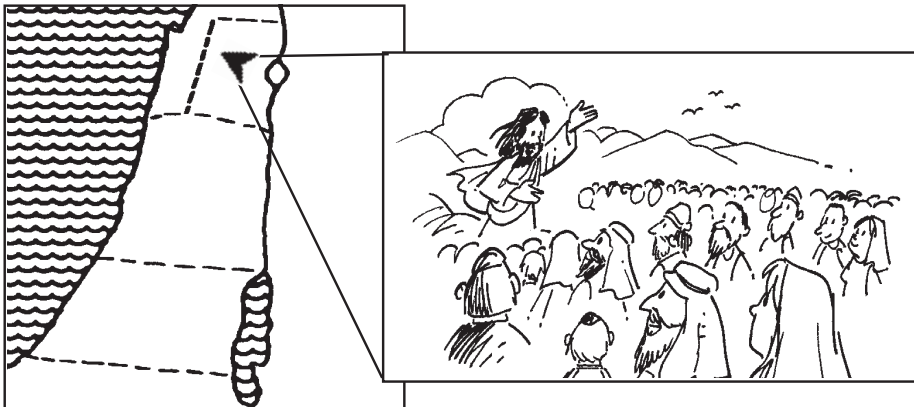
14. The River Jordan rises in the north of the country originates and flows south, via the Sea of Galilee, till it ends in the Dead Sea.

a) In which town was Jesus born? _____

b) In which town did he spend his childhood and youth? _____

c) In which river was he baptized? _____

15. After his baptism, Jesus returned to the province of Galilee. In this province he called his disciples, taught the people and performed miracles.



In which province did most of Jesus' public ministry take place? _____

16. Jesus continued his ministry among the people for three years. Although he worked mostly in the province of Galilee, sometimes he traveled to Jerusalem for special festivals. He also passed through Samaria and brought the good news to a Samaritan woman and her friends.

In which province did Jesus have most of his ministry?

a. Galilee.

b. Samaria.

c. Judea.

Answers

13. Jordan

14. a) Bethlehem

b) Nazareth

c) Jordan

15. Galilee

16. a.

20. Jesus came to Jerusalem for the last time at the age of thirty-three. Here he entered the city on a donkey, to the cheers of the crowds. Here he ate the “last supper” with his disciples. Here he was sentenced to death and flogged. Here, outside the city wall, he was crucified and buried - but on the third day he rose again! And from the Mount of Olives, opposite Jerusalem, he ascended into heaven. All these events are recorded in the four Gospels (the first four books of the New Testament which we will look at in the next lesson).

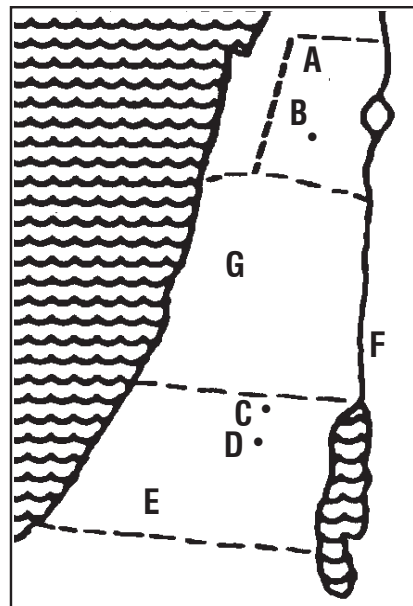
In which city did all these important events take place? _____

21. Where did the following five events in Jesus’ life take place?

- a) Birth _____
- b) Childhood and youth _____
- c) Baptism _____
- d) Ministry _____
- f) Death and Resurrection _____

22. Which letter on the map marks each of the following places?

- 1) Bethlehem Letter _____
- 2) Nazareth Letter _____
- 3) Jerusalem Letter _____
- 4) Jordan River Letter _____
- 5) Province of Galilee Letter _____
- 6) Province of Judea Letter _____
- 7) Province of Samaria Letter _____



Answers

- 20. Jerusalem
- 21. a) Bethlehem
- b) Nazareth
- c) Jordan River
- d) Galilee
- e) Jerusalem
- 22. 1) D
- 2) B
- 3) C
- 4) F
- 5) A
- 6) E
- 7) G

LESSON 8A REVIEW

1. Approximately how many years elapsed between the Jews' return from exile and the birth of Christ? _____
2. a) Under which foreign rulers did the Jews live at the time of Christ? _____
b) What was the attitude of most of the Jews to these foreign rulers? _____
3. Where did the following five events of Jesus' life take place?
 - a) Birth _____
 - b) Childhood and youth _____
 - c) Baptism _____
 - d) Ministry _____
 - e) Death and resurrection _____
4. Write in the names of the following places on the map.

The Provinces of:
Galilee, Samaria and Judea.

The towns of:
Nazareth, Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

The **Jordan** River, where Jesus was baptized.

