

## ~PROMISED LAND, GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF THE

- The land that God gave to ancient Israel includes an extraordinary variety of geographic features. In the north are snowcapped mountains, areas in the south are tropical.
- Within its borders are productive lowlands, hill country for orchards and the grazing of flocks, as well as areas of desolate wilderness. Here in a relatively small area is a cross section of geographic features of the earth because it would later be used by Yehowah as a typical example of the whole earth.
- Bordering the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea is a strip of fertile plain. To the east of that is the Shephelah, hilly lowland where vineyards and olive groves flourish.
- Farther east a mountain range runs the length of the land like a huge backbone. Then the land takes a dramatic plunge into the Rift Valley, which slices the land lengthwise.
- Through this valley the Jordan River winds its way from the Sea of Galilee down to the Salt Sea. East of the Jordan are fertile hills and grazing lands. Beyond this inviting land, to the east, the Arabian Desert begins.
- That there may be no fornicator nor anyone not appreciating sacred things, like Esau, who in exchange for one meal gave away his rights as firstborn. ([Hebrews 12:16](#))
- For **you** know that afterward also when he wanted to inherit the blessing he was rejected, for, although he earnestly sought a change of mind with tears, he found no place for it. ([Hebrews 12:17](#))
- Yehowah assured Jacob that his offspring would inherit the land promised to Abraham, and he added; By means of your seed all the families of the ground will certainly bless themselves.
- And he will give to you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your seed with you, that you may take possession of the land of your alien residences, which God has given to Abraham. ([Genesis 28:4](#))

- **And Jacob continued on his way out from Beersheba and kept going to Haran. ([Genesis 28:10](#))**
- **In time he came across a place and set about spending the night there because the sun had set. So he took one of the stones of the place and set it as his head supporter and lay down in that place. ([Genesis 28:11](#))**
- **And he began to dream, and, look! There was a ladder stationed upon the earth and its top reaching up to the heavens, and, look! There were God's angels ascending and descending on it. ([Genesis 28:12](#))**
- **And, look! There was Yehowah stationed above it, and he proceeded to say; I am Yehowah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land upon which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your seed. ([Genesis 28:13](#))**
- **And your seed will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will certainly spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your seed all the families of the ground will certainly bless themselves. ([Genesis 28:14](#))**
- **And here I am with you and I will keep you in all the way you are going and I will return you to this ground, because I am not going to leave you until I have actually done what I have spoken to you. ([Genesis 28:15](#))**
- **Though he was blessed with material wealth and 12 sons, Jacob's life was not without difficulties. Yet Jacob never lost his faith in Yehowah and the reliability of his word. Even on his deathbed, he expressed faith in the Messianic promise.**
- **The scepter will not turn aside from Judah, neither the commander's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him the obedience of the peoples will belong. ([Genesis 49:10](#))**
- **Among Jacob's offspring was born Jesus Christ, through whom God will eternally bless mankind.**

### **[Locations, With Related Scriptures](#)**

- **Beer-sheba**
- **And Jacob continued on his way out from Beersheba and kept going to Haran. (Genesis 28:10)**
- **Bethel**
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- **And your seed will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will certainly spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your seed all the families of the ground will certainly bless themselves. (Genesis 28:14)**
- **And here I am with you and I will keep you in all the way you are going and I will return you to this ground, because I am not going to leave you until I have actually done what I have spoken to you. (Genesis 28:15)**
- **Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said; Truly Yehowah is in this place and I myself did not know it. (Genesis 28:16)**
- **And he grew fearful and added; How fear-inspiring this place is! This is nothing else but the house of God and this is the gate of the heavens. (Genesis 28:17)**
- **So Jacob got up early in the morning and took the stone that was there as his head supporter and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. (Genesis 28:18)**

- Further, he called the name of that place Bethel, but the fact is, Luz was the city's name formerly. ([Genesis 28:19](#))
- And Jacob continued on his way out from Beersheba and kept going to Haran. ([Genesis 28:10](#))
- **Bethel**
- Eventually Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is to say; Bethel, he and all the people who were with him. ([Genesis 35:6](#))
- Then he built an altar there and began to call the place Elbethel, because there the true God had revealed himself to him at the time of his running away from his brother. ([Genesis 35:7](#))
- Later Deborah the nursing woman of Rebekah died and was buried at the foot of Bethel under a massive tree. Hence he called its name Allonbacuth. ([Genesis 35:8](#))
- God now appeared to Jacob once again during his coming from Paddanaram and blessed him. ([Genesis 35:9](#))
- And God went on to say to him; Your name is Jacob. No longer is your name to be called Jacob, but Israel will your name become. And he began to call his name Israel. ([Genesis 35:10](#))
- And God said further to him; I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and become many. Nations and a congregation of nations will proceed out of you, and kings will come out of your loins. ([Genesis 35:11](#))
- As for the land that I have given to Abraham and to Isaac, to you I shall give it, and to your seed after you I shall give the land. ([Genesis 35:12](#))
- After that God went up from above him at the place where he had spoken with him. ([Genesis 35:13](#))
- Consequently Jacob stationed a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured a drink offering upon it and poured oil upon it. ([Genesis 35:14](#))
- And Jacob continued to call the name of the place where God had

spoken with him Bethel. (**Genesis 35:15**)

- **Bethlehem**

- Then they pulled away from Bethel. And while there was yet a good stretch of land before coming to Ephrath, Rachel proceeded to give birth, and it was going hard with her in making the delivery. (**Genesis 35:16**)

- But so it was that while she had difficulty in making the delivery the midwife said to her; Do not be afraid, for you will have this son also. (**Genesis 35:17**)

- And the result was that as her soul was going out, because she died she called his name Benoni, but his father called him Benjamin. (**Genesis 35:18**)

- Thus Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath, that is to say, Bethlehem. (**Genesis 35:19**)

- Hence Jacob stationed a pillar over her grave. This is the pillar of Rachel's grave down to this day. (**Genesis 35:20**)

- **Dothan**

- After a while Israel said to Joseph; Your brothers are tending flocks close by Shechem, are they not? Come, and let me send you to them. At this he said to him; Here I am! (**Genesis 37:13**)

- And the man continued; They have pulled away from here, because I heard them saying; Let us go to Dothan. So Joseph kept on after his brothers and found them at Dothan. (**Genesis 37:17**)

- Well, they caught sight of him from a distance, and before he could get close by them they began plotting cunningly against him to put him to death. (**Genesis 37:18**)

- So they said to one another; Look! Here comes that dreamer. (**Genesis 37:19**)

- And now come and let us kill him and pitch him into one of the water-pits, and we must say a vicious wild beast devoured him. Then let us see what will become of his dreams. (**Genesis 37:20**)

- **When Reuben heard this he tried to deliver him out of their hand. So he said; Let us not strike his soul fatally. (Genesis 37:21)**
- **And Reuben went on to say to them; Do not spill blood. Pitch him into this water-pit which is in the wilderness and do not lay a violent hand upon him. His purpose was to deliver him out of their hand in order to return him to his father. (Genesis 37:22)**
- **So it came about that as soon as Joseph came to his brothers, they went stripping Joseph of his long garment, even the long striped garment that was upon him. (Genesis 37:23)**
- **After which they took him and pitched him into the water-pit. At the time the pit was empty, there was no water in it. (Genesis 37:24)**
- **Then they sat down to eat bread. When they raised their eyes and took a look, why, here was a caravan of Ishmaelites that was coming from Gilead, and their camels were carrying labdanum and balsam and resinous bark, on their way to take it down to Egypt. (Genesis 37:25)**
- **At this Judah said to his brothers; What profit would there be in case we killed our brother and did cover over his blood? (Genesis 37:26)**
- **Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and do not let our hand be upon him. After all, he is our brother, our flesh. So they listened to their brother. (Genesis 37:27)**
- **Now men, Midianite merchants, went passing by. Hence they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the water-pit and then sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver pieces. Eventually these brought Joseph into Egypt. (Genesis 37:28)**
- **Later Reuben returned to the water-pit and here Joseph was not in the water-pit. Consequently he ripped his garments apart. (Genesis 37:29)**
- **When he returned to his other brothers he exclaimed; The child is gone! And I, where am I really to go? (Genesis 37:30)**
- **However, they took Joseph's long garment and slaughtered a**

male goat and repeatedly dipped the long garment in the blood.  
([Genesis 37:31](#))

- After that they sent the long striped garment and had it brought to their father and said; This is what we found. Examine, please, whether it is your sons long garment or not. ([Genesis 37:32](#))
- And he went examining it and exclaimed; It is my sons long garment! A vicious wild beast must have devoured him! Joseph is surely torn to pieces! ([Genesis 37:33](#))
- With that Jacob ripped his mantles apart and put sackcloth upon his hips and carried on mourning over his son for many days. ([Genesis 37:34](#))
- And all his sons and all his daughters kept rising up to comfort him, but he kept refusing to take comfort and saying; For I shall go down mourning to my son into Sheol! And his father continued weeping for him. ([Genesis 37:35](#))
- However, the Midianites sold him into Egypt to Potiphar a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard. ([Genesis 37:36](#))
- **Egypt**
- After that Jacob got up out of Beersheba, and the sons of Israel continued transporting Jacob their father and their little ones and their wives in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to transport him. ([Genesis 46:5](#))
- Further, they took along their herds and their goods, which they had accumulated in the land of Canaan. Eventually they came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him. ([Genesis 46:6](#))
- He brought his sons and his son's sons with him, his daughters and his sons daughters, even all his offspring, with him into Egypt. ([Genesis 46:7](#))
- And he sent Judah in advance of him to Joseph to impart information ahead of him to Goshen. After that they came into the land of Goshen. ([Genesis 46:28](#))
- Then Joseph had his chariot made ready and went up to meet Israel his father at Goshen. When he appeared to him he at once

- fell upon his neck and gave way to tears upon his neck again and again. (**Genesis 46:29**)
- **Finally Israel said to Joseph; This time I am willing to die, now that I have seen your face, since you are still alive. (**Genesis 46:30**)**
  - **After a while Israel said to Joseph; Your brothers are tending flocks close by Shechem, are they not? Come, and let me send you to them. At this he said to him; Here I am! (**Genesis 37:13**)**
  - **And the man continued; They have pulled away from here, because I heard them saying; Let us go to Dothan. So Joseph kept on after his brothers and found them at Dothan. (**Genesis 37:17**)**
  - **Well, they caught sight of him from a distance, and before he could get close by them they began plotting cunningly against him to put him to death. (**Genesis 37:18**)**
  - **So they said to one another; Look! Here comes that dreamer. (**Genesis 37:19**)**
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  - After that they sent the long striped garment and had it brought to their father and said; This is what we found. Examine, please, whether it is your sons long garment or not. (**Genesis 37:32**)
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  - And all his sons and all his daughters kept rising up to comfort him, but he kept refusing to take comfort and saying; For I shall go down mourning to my son into Sheol! And his father

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### • **Egypt**

- And it came about after these things that it was said to Joseph; Look, your father is becoming weak. At that he took with him his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim. (**Genesis 48:1**)

- Thus Jacob finished giving commands to his sons. Then he gathered his feet up onto the couch and expired and was gathered to his people. (**Genesis 49:33**)

### • **Haran**

- So Jacob said to them; My brothers, from what place are you? To which they said; We are from Haran. (**Genesis 29:4**)

- And he began driving all his herd and all the goods that he had accumulated, the herd of his acquisition that he had accumulated in Paddanaram, in order to go to Isaac his father to the land of Canaan. (**Genesis 31:18**)

### • **Mahanaim**

- And as for Jacob, he got on his way, and the angels of God now met up with him. (**Genesis 32:1**)

- Immediately Jacob said, when he saw them; The camp of God this is! Hence he called the name of that place Mahanaim. (**Genesis 32:2**)

### • **Mamre**

- At length Jacob came to Isaac his father to Mamre, to Kiriatharba, that is to say; Hebron, where Abraham and also Isaac had resided as aliens. (**Genesis 35:27**)

### • **Penuel**

- Finally Jacob was left by himself. Then a man began to grapple with him until the dawn ascended. (**Genesis 32:24**)

- **When he got to see that he had not prevailed over him, then he touched the socket of his thigh joint, and the socket of Jacob's thigh joint got out of place during his grappling with him. (Genesis 32:25)**
- **After that he said; Let me go, for the dawn has ascended. To this he said; I am not going to let you go until you first bless me. (Genesis 32:26)**
- **So he said to him; What is your name? To which he said; Jacob. (Genesis 32:27)**
- **Then he said; Your name will no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for you have contended with God and with men so that you at last prevailed. (Genesis 32:28)**
- **In turn Jacob inquired and said; Tell me, please, your name. However, he said; Why is it that you inquire for my name? With that he blessed him there. (Genesis 32:29)**
- **Hence Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, because, to quote him, I have seen God face to face and yet my soul was delivered. (Genesis 32:30)**
- **And the sun began to flash upon him as soon as he passed by Penuel, but he was limping upon his thigh. (Genesis 32:31)**
- **That is why the sons of Israel are not accustomed to eat the sinew of the thigh nerve, which is on the socket of the thigh joint, down to this day, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh joint by the sinew of the thigh nerve. (Genesis 32:32)**
- **Shechem**
- **In time Jacob came safe and sound to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, while he was coming from Paddanaram, and he pitched camp in front of the city. (Genesis 33:18)**
- **In turn they said; Ought anyone to treat our sister like a prostitute? (Genesis 34:31)**
- **Succoth**

- **And Jacob pulled out for Succoth, and he proceeded to build himself a house and for his herd he made booths. That was why he called the name of the place Succoth. (Genesis 33:17)**
- **Beitin, near the ruins of ancient Bethel. At Bethel, Jacob was twice told by God that he was heir to the Abrahamic covenant**
- **And, look! there was Yehowah stationed above it, and he proceeded to say, I am Yehowah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land upon which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your seed. (Genesis 28:13)**
- **And your seed will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will certainly spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your seed all the families of the ground will certainly bless themselves. (Genesis 28:14)**
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- **After that God went up from above him at the place where he had spoken with him. (Genesis 35:13)**
- **Ruins of ancient Shechem. Here, association by Jacob's daughter with Canaanite girls led to her being violated**
- **Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, used to go out to see the daughters of the land. (Genesis 34:1)**
- **And Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, a chieftain of the land, got to see her and then took her and lay down with her and violated her. (Genesis 34:2)**