

Palestine in the Time of Christ

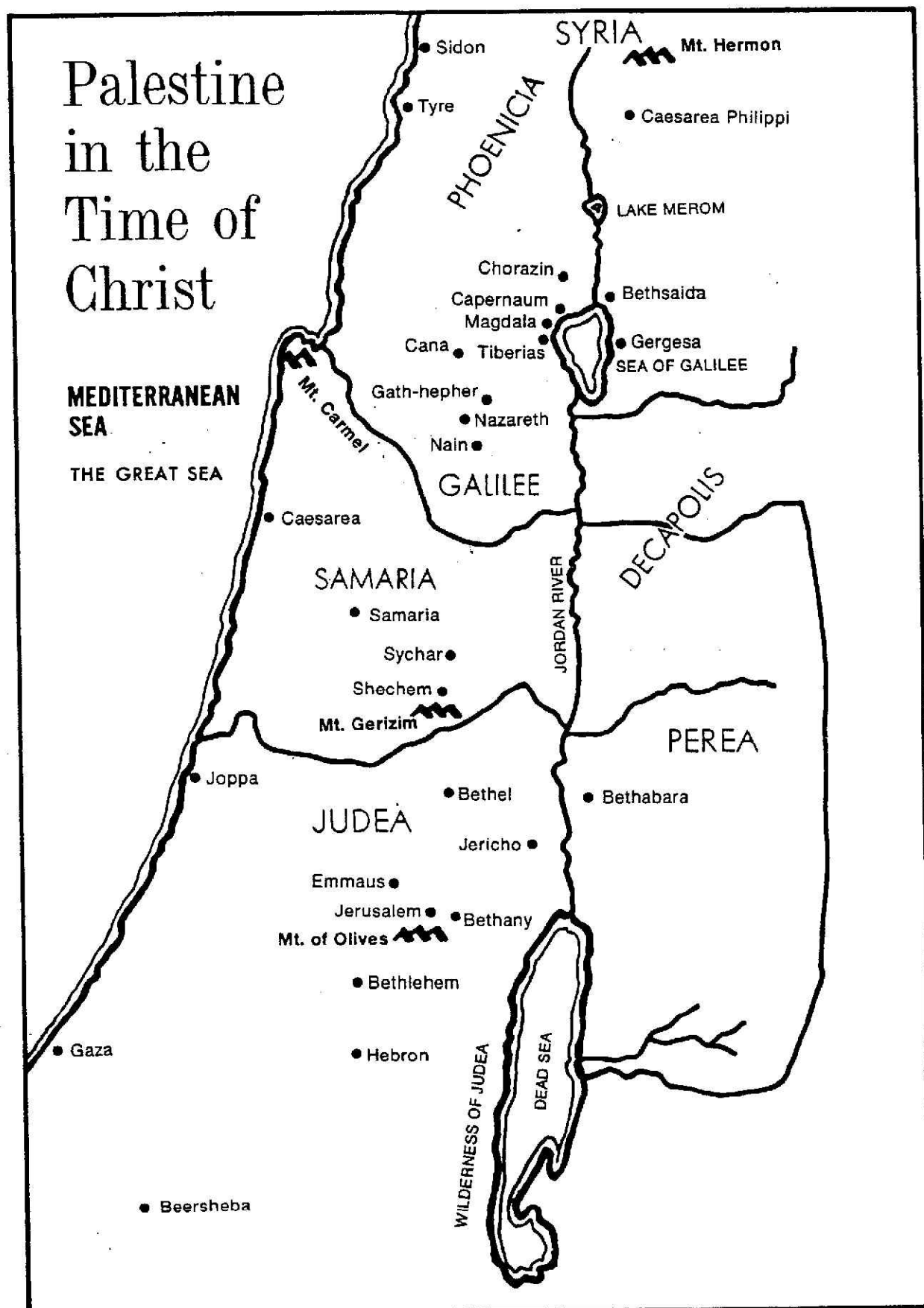


Chart 88

PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF CHRIST

1. The four gospels report the journeys and missions of Jesus during His brief career. From these gospels we learn that Jesus spent most of His time in the three provinces of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. Three surrounding areas which He visited occasionally were Perea, Decapolis, and Phoenicia. Locate the six regions on the map.
2. After about a year of limited service in Judea, most of Jesus' itinerant work was done in and around the region of Galilee, though His trips between Galilee and Jerusalem afforded many opportunities of ministry along the way. Of the many cities and villages which He visited on His evangelistic tours, only about twenty are mentioned by name in the gospels. Most of these appear on the map of Chart 88.
3. Note the mounts shown on the map. With the help of a topographical map you may want to draw on Chart 88 the north-south mountain ridges which run the entire length of Palestine.
4. Suggestions for using this map are given in the Bible Self-Study Guides, *Matthew*, pages 8-9; and *Life of Christ*, pages 17-20.

RELATED CHART

See the map of Jerusalem. Chart 89.

WORLD OF JESUS' DAY

ROMAN EMPIRE	JEWISH PEOPLE
<p style="text-align: center;">POLITICAL SETTING</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Unification of the Mediterranean world —Safe and easy communication —Universal language —Universal peace </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Under the yoke of Rome —Expectation of a Deliverer, of their own race —Sanhedrin (the Jewish organ of local government) had only limited power </div> </div>	
<p style="text-align: center;">MORAL SETTING</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Degradation —“To corrupt and be corrupt is the spirit of the times” (Tacitus) </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Generally strict standards —Sadducees sponsored moral compromise </div> </div>	
<p style="text-align: center;">INTELLECTUAL SETTING</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Greek and Roman culture highly developed </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Education a prominent part of the Jews' life </div> </div>	
<p style="text-align: center;">RELIGIOUS SETTING</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Heathen idolatry —Mystic religions —Philosophic religions —Spiritual vacuum </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Generally intensely religious as to externals —Religious life molded by three sects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pharisees: rigid legalists; self-righteous; middle class 2. Sadducees: free thinkers; worldly; upper class 3. Essenes: mystic pietists; ascetics —Synagogues and rabbis: a thriving institution of worship which arose after the exile —A believing remnant: there were some who looked and prayed for the advent of the Messiah (Read Luke 2:21-39.) </div> </div>	