

The Goal of this Class

- To form "educated readers" of Scripture, fully equipped to engage the text in its full historical, cultural and literary context and to reflect accurately the teaching and traditions of the Church.
- To bring students into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ.

The Bible as we know it:

- A biblical canon is the collection of books that comprise the sacred scriptures of the Bible.
- Athanasius, a 4th-century bishop of Alexandria and a significant theologian, delimited the canon and settled the strife between East and West. On a principle of inclusiveness, both Revelation and Hebrews (as part of the Pauline corpus) were accepted.
- The process culminated in 382 as the Council of Rome, which was convened under the leadership of Pope Damasus, promulgated the 73-book scriptural canon.
 - The biblical canon was reaffirmed by the regional councils
 - Council of Hippo, A.D. 393
 - Council of Carthage, A.D. 397
 - Pope Innocent I, A.D. 405
 - Latin Vulgate, 5th century A.D.

Early Christian biblical scholars:

- Marcion of Pontus (c. A.D. 85-160)
- Justin Martyr (c. A.D. 100-165)
- Irenaeus of Lyons (2nd cent.- A.D. 202)
- Origen of Alexandria (c. A.D. 185-253)
- Jerome (c. A.D. 340-420)

Medieval biblical scholarship:

- *Glossa Ordinaria* (12th century)
 - Patristic commentary on entire Bible
- Stephen Langton (d. 1228)
 - Divided Bible into chapters
- Thomas Galus (d. 1246)
 - Divided chapters into verses

Many Ways to approach Scripture:

- *Historical-critical method* (foundational)
- *Textual criticism*
- *Literary criticism*
- *Historical criticism*
- *Source criticism*
- *Form criticism*
- *Redaction criticism*

So what is the Bible?

I was asked this question the first day of my Hebrew Bible Class?

The Bible is a Myth

So what is a Myth?

- A Myth is a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events.

Our Approach:

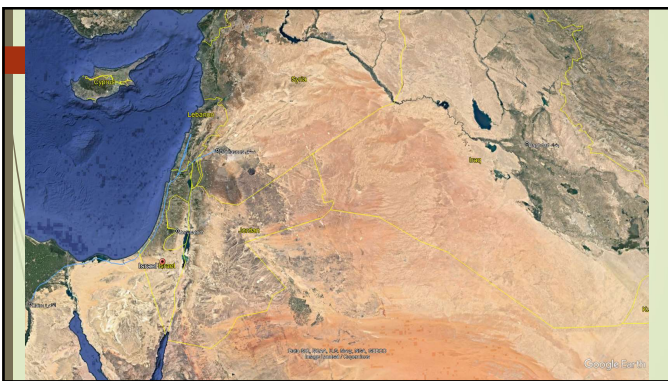
- In our class we will take a literary approach to Scripture. The Bible tells a story, our story .
- A times I will revert to another approach when needed to affirm or explain the scriptures.
- To understand the story in the Bible one needs to understand world as it existed at time it was written
- There four foundational principles the Bible was written under.

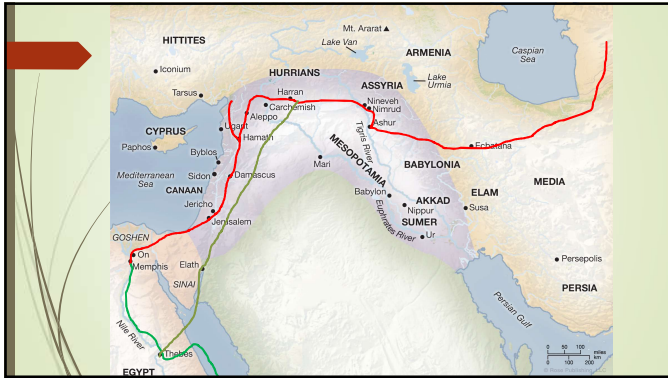
Principle # 1:

- The Bible is rooted in geography
 - You need to understand where the story is being told
 - The ancient world to which it was written
 - The importance of where the promised land is located
 - The trade routes and the Kingdom's that where present

















The City-gate (the Iron II period)

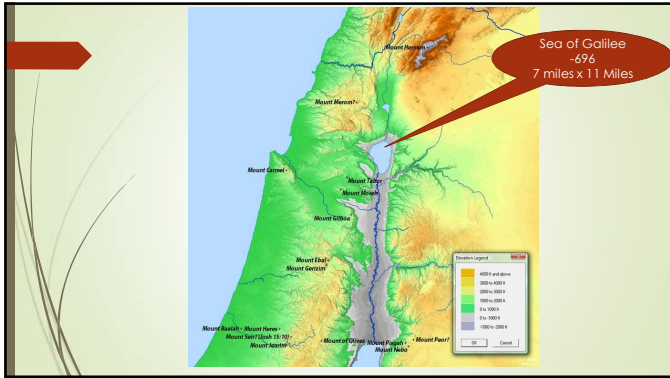
בשלהי המאה ה-16 או ה-15 לפנה"ס, הוקמה במקום העיר החדשה של מֶגִידוֹ (מֶגִידוֹ הַחֲדָשָׁה). העיר החדשה (1) והעיר העתיקה (2-4) נבנו על ידי המלך אחאז. העיר החדשה (1) והעיר העתיקה (2-4) נבנו על ידי המלך אחאז. העיר החדשה (1) והעיר העתיקה (2-4) נבנו על ידי המלך אחאז.

Megiddo became an Iron II city sometime between the 11th and 9th centuries B.C., and functioned as an administrative center for the fertile Jezreel Valley. Some time later, a massive wall (1) and a monumental city-gate (2-4) were built. According to one opinion, the gate dates to the reign of Solomon (10th c. B.C.). Other scholars postulate the gate to the reign of either Ahab (9th c. / or Jeroboam II (8th c. B.C.).

שַׁעַר הַחֲדָשָׁה (תקופת הברזל II)

השַׁעַר הַחֲדָשָׁה (1) נבנה על ידי המלך אחאז. השַׁעַר הַחֲדָשָׁה (1) נבנה על ידי המלך אחאז. השַׁעַר הַחֲדָשָׁה (1) נבנה על ידי המלך אחאז.

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Sea of Galilee – Lake Tiberias

- Elevation
 - -696' Below Sea Level
- 7 miles wide
- 11 miles long
- Ministry of Jesus





Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount to the West



To Jesus fed the 5,000 (15,000) and... to the east

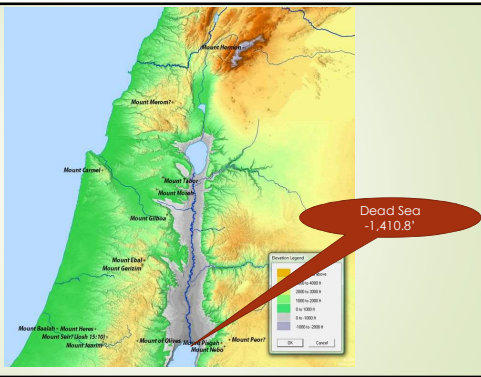


Boat - Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:36-41; Luke 8:22-25; John 6:16-21
Calms a Storm, walks on water, etc.

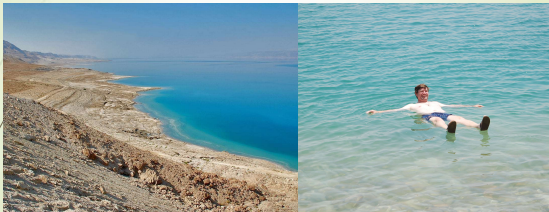


Matthew 14





Dead Sea -1,410.8' Below Sea Level
Lots wife, Ezekiel



Masada – Kings Herod – Jewish Revolt



Quorum



Principle #2:

- The Bible emerges from history:
 - You need to understand the history of the region to understand the Bible.

Principle #3

- The Bible, in its final, finished form, is a unified literary work.

Principle #4:

- The Bible is the Word of God

To understand the Bible you need to understand the World to which it is written

- Patriarchal
- Monarchical
- Polytheistic
- Slaveholding

Patriarchal

- The Hebrew and Christian Scriptures originated in a patriarchal society and perpetuated the androcentric (male-centered) traditions of their culture.
- "Patriarchy—literally, "the rule of the father," from the Greek *patriarkhēs*—is any systemic structure in which men or the eldest male hold the power, particularly over women, typically within a household but also in broader society. It has been with us almost since the dawn of humanity.
 - Biblical Scholars are beginning to understand though male dominated women actually had control over many aspects of household life and also had some public roles, even in religion.
- There are other inequalities—based on social class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and/or age


Monarchical

- A society that's monarchical is ruled by a king or queen. In a monarchical state, rulers inherit their power from their parents or other relatives.
- As we journey through the Bible we will witness the Israelites seek a human King.

Everyone else has one, why don't we have one?

Polytheistic

- The Bible is rooted in a Polytheistic Society, the belief in many gods
- As we study the Bible we will encounter many Gods in which people worship and believe in.
 - Baal, Asherah, Dagon, Marduk, Moloch and the other pagan
 - Egyptian Gods – Pharaoh, Ra, Set, Nut, Imhotep, Hathor, Uatchit, Geb, Heket, Hapi



Slaveholding

- Slavery was an accepted part of the world in which the biblical authors lived and wrote. It was a vital part of the empires in the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman West. The Hebrew Bible condones slavery, contains laws regulating it, and even uses it as a metaphor to describe God's relationship with Israel
- People were sold into slavery (ex: Joseph). They were taken as slaves when conquered in war. Slaves included those who have sold themselves to another to resolve their debts and families will sell their daughters as concubines.
- Biblical Slaveholding required the slaves to be treated fairly, receive their just wages, were not to work during the sabbath, and not to be treated harshly or severely harmed
