

UNIT 1: Setting of Christ's Ministry: Chapters 1-5



Chapter 1: Introduction

Bible Reading: II Timothy 3

1. Where does knowledge come from?

2. How can we know God?

Natural revelation

Belgic Confession Article 2: *"We know him by two means: First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: his eternal power and his divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20. All these things are enough to convict men and to leave them without excuse. Second, he makes himself known to us more openly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for his glory and for the salvation of his own."*

Special revelation



3. What is Biblical inspiration?

When we say the Bible is inspired, we literally mean it is _____.

2 Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is given by _____ of God, while 2 Peter 1:21 says that holy men of God spoke as they were

_____.

Views on Inspiration:

1. Mechanical Inspiration:



2. Dynamical Inspiration:



3. Organic Inspiration:

4. How do we know the Bible came from God? See textbook top of page 2.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

The Bible is *infallible*. That means it has no faults or errors in it. If that is true, how come we cannot always understand it?

What is the *theme* of the Old Testament and the New Testament? (Hint: See John 5:39)

Each part of the NT is related to Christ:

The Gospels tell us about Christ's earthly ministry

The Book of Acts tells us about Christ's ministry in the church through the Holy Spirit

The Epistles explain Christ's ministry and teachings

Revelation tells us of Christ's final victory



How should we study God's Word? Explain. Use your textbook pg 4.

Chapter 2 Historical Setting of the New Testament

Bible Reading: Daniel 2

The Inter-testamental period is a period of **400** years between the **Old Testament** and **New Testament** where no Bible books are written. During this time the **Apocryphal** books were written. The Apocrypha is a collection of **12** books which were written about **300 B.C.**

Belgic Confession Article 6: The Difference Between Canonical and Apocryphal Books

We distinguish between these holy books and the apocryphal ones, which are the third and fourth books of Esdras; the books of Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Jesus Sirach, Baruch; what was added to the Story of Esther; the Song of the Three Children in the Furnace; the Story of Susannah; the Story of Bell and the Dragon; the Prayer of Manasseh; and the two books of Maccabees. The church may certainly read these books and learn from them as far as they agree with the canonical books. But they do not have such power and virtue that one could confirm from their testimony any point of faith or of the Christian religion. Much less can they detract from the authority of the other holy books.

Reasons why the Reformed Churches reject the Apocryphal books:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

God's Word is not completely silent regarding the inter-testamental period. The book of Daniel contains prophecies regarding these four centuries, especially Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue. See p. 8 in your textbook for more details.

The prophet Malachi reminds the Jews to be looking for the coming of the Messiah. Write out some of the verses below:



Chapter 3 The Geography of Palestine

Bible Reading: Matthew 3:13-17; 4:23-25

Read and summarize the section “The Land of Palestine” p. 13, 14

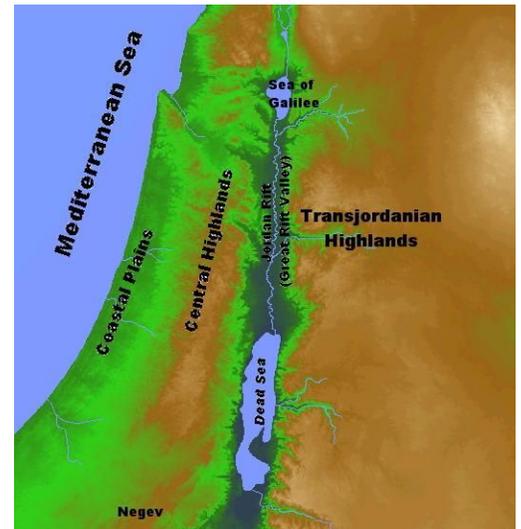
Give the key **geographical** features of each of the four geographical zones listed below. (p. 18-20)

1. Coastal Plain

2. Central Highlands (Hill Country)

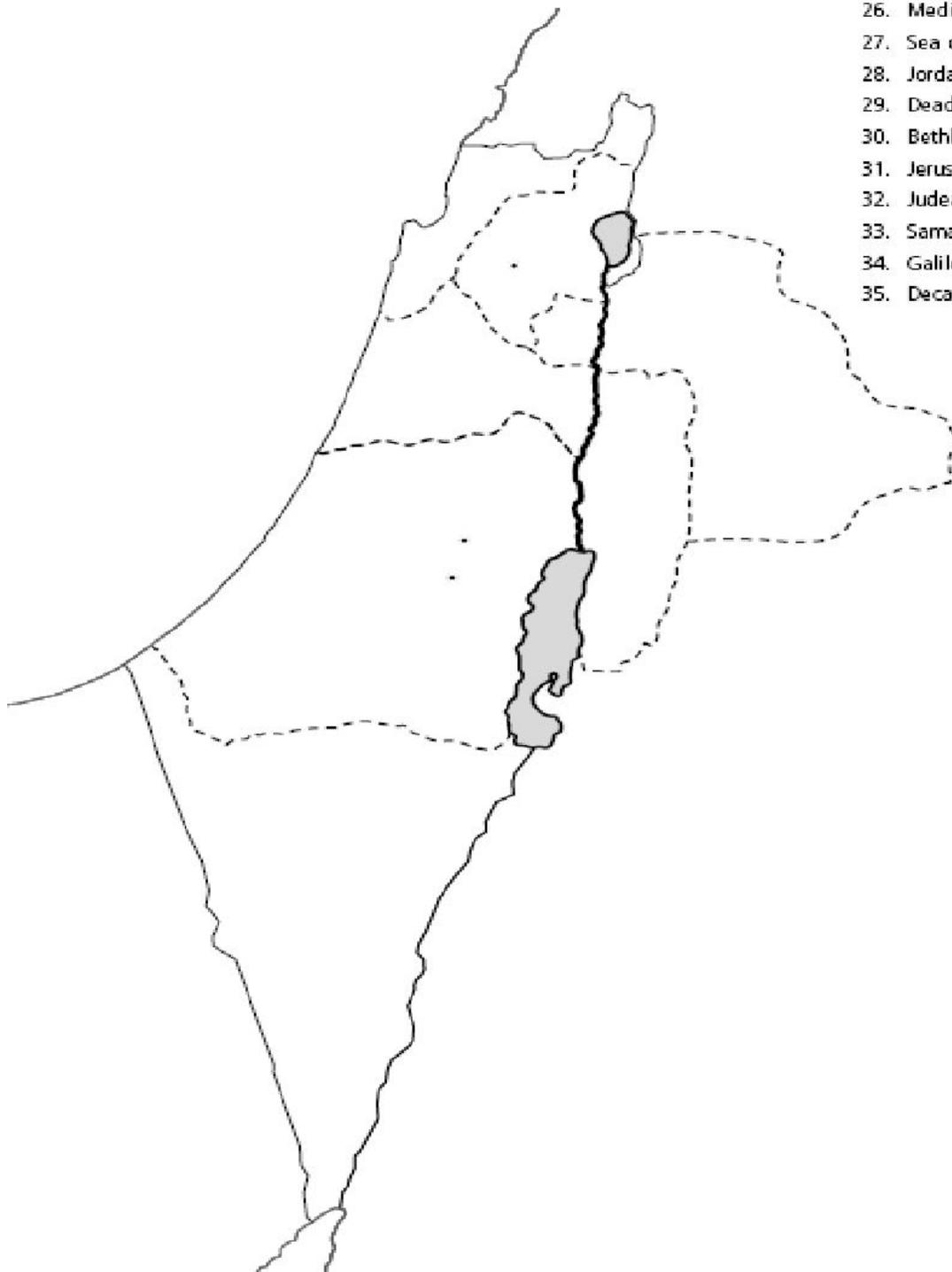
3. Jordan Rift (Jordan Valley)

4. Trans-Jordan hills



Map Activity

Using Map 11 in the back of your Bible, label the map below with the following:



26. Mediterranean Sea
27. Sea of Galilee
28. Jordan River
29. Dead Sea
30. Bethlehem
31. Jerusalem
32. Judea
33. Samaria
34. Galilee
35. Decapolis

Chapter 4 The People of Christ's Land

Bible Reading: John 8:31-59

“The Jew of Jesus’ time was essentially a religious person” (Breisch, 30).

People (p. 22): _____

Political Leaders: _____

Religious Leaders: The Sanhedrin was a body of **70** Jewish elders ruling in **religious** and minor **civil** matters.

Sanhedrin had three parties:

- 1. Scribes _____
- 2. Pharisees _____
- 3. Sadducees _____

Four main teachings of Jewish religion:

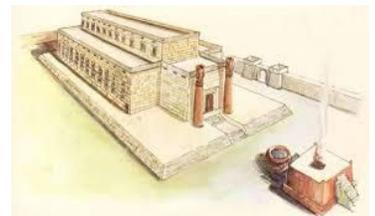
- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Places of Jewish Worship

Jewish worship was first connected with the tabernacle, which was _____ . Eventually a permanent temple was built in Jerusalem by _____ . The most important thing to take place in these places of worship was _____ .

_____ . The temple was destroyed by the _____ in 586 BC. The dispersed Jews worshiped in _____ .

Solomon’s temple was rebuilt when _____ allowed the Jews to return. The daily temple sacrifices and offerings resumed, but the worship in the synagogues continued as well, even in Jerusalem.



Order of Jewish Worship:

- 1. Recite the creed from Deut. 6:4-5
- 2. Pray
- 3. Read Scripture
- 4. Listen to a sermon from a Rabbi

Weekly Jewish Feast Day: _____

Annual Jewish Feast Days Bible Reading: Leviticus 23:1-8

Feast Day	Important Details
Passover	
Pentecost	
Trumpets	
Day of Atonement	
Tabernacles	
Lights	
Purim	
Year of Jubilee	

Jewish Education

- 1. Did Jews highly value education? _____
- 2. Where did the education of Jewish children begin? _____
- 3. What did they memorize? _____
- 4. Compare education for boys and girls. _____

- 5. Where was the school? _____
- 6. What did they learn in school? _____
- 7. What opportunity did especially bright students receive? _____

Chapter 5 The Record of Christ's Ministry

Bible Reading: John 21:25

The word "gospel" means 'good news.' The gospel is good news because it tells us of salvation for lost, needy sinners. The focus of the gospels is Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners. The three synoptic gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Synoptic means "seeing together" or "similar." John was written later and contains many details not recorded in the synoptic gospels.

Why are there four gospels?

1. _____
2. _____

Use your textbook pgs. 33-40 to fill in the charts below.

Matthew

Author	
Written to	
Key words	
Emphasis	

Mark

Author	
Written to	
Key words	
Emphasis	

Luke

Author	
Written to	
Key words	
Emphasis	

John

Author	
Written to	
Key words	
Emphasis	