

# GOING DEEPER

ACTS Israel Tour 2018

## ISRAEL'S TOPOGRAPHY

### **This Will Give You an idea of the Climb to Jerusalem**

The cross section map below will give you some idea of the climb up to Jerusalem. File the thought away because it also gives you an idea of how far we drop to the dead sea! Notice how in a distance of 45 miles the terrain rises from sea level to 3,000 feet and then in down to the lowest spot on earth at the Dead sea.

Notice how the Jordan Valley is a deep rift that runs almost from the top of Israel down into the desert in the south.

### **From West to East**

Within the narrow belt between the sea and the desert are no fewer than four parallel longitudinal zones, each of which undergoes considerable internal modification. The coastal plain gives way to the central mountain region, which in turn yields abruptly to the Jordan Valley, only to be succeeded by the plateau of Transjordan.

### **From North to South**

The extremes of altitude are astonishing. The mountains of Lebanon rise to a height of 8,800 feet (2,531.5 m.) above sea level, and the deepest point of the Dead Sea lies about 2,500 feet (762.5 m.) below the surface of the Mediterranean.

### **The Climate**

The intensity and direction of the winds and air movements, the seasonal rainfalls, the deposits of dew, and the daily variations in temperature are all subject to wideranging regional fluctuations.

## **The Trade Routes**

In addition, the major overland routes of the ancient world passed through the land so that the internal disunity promoted by nature was further intensified by the powerful and diverse external cultural influences and strategic and political forces.

The map below will give show you Jerusalem and all of Israel.

- In the far north you can see a high mountain. That's Mount Hermon.
- Below Mount Hermon you'll see the region called Galilee and Sea of Galilee. In Canada we'd call it a small lake.
- The Jordan River runs down the valley into the Dead Sea.
- Jerusalem is near the centre of the map in the Judean hill country.
- Bethlehem is not far from Jerusalem
- On the coast is the ancient port city of Caesarea which was used often by the Apostle Paul.

[View Larger](#)

The drawing below presents the topography even more simply. One of the things to notice is how diverse the land of Israel is. There is hardly a country on earth like it. Mount Hermon is covered in snow part of the year. The Dead Sea is near desert and the lowest spot on earth. Jerusalem is in the hills. Along the coast are some of the world's most beautiful beaches. In the south, the land becomes full desert and runs down toward the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.

