

Biblical Stories on Ancient Maps

Ancient maps were often not drawn to scale or to provide directions, instead, they were used to transmit information. Ancient maps of Israel include depictions of biblical stories and cities, some of which still exist today. The biblical events and locations that the cartographer chose to include in the map provide us with information about the map's purpose. Can you find all of the events and locations on the map using the biblical clues provided?

Group Activity

In groups, use the bible verses provided to find the corresponding event or location on the [map](#) you were provided with. Focus on the images on the map. The language of the map does not matter.

Discussion Questions

- Are there locations included in the map that surprised you? Are there any locations you expected to see on the map but didn't?
- Are there events depicted that surprised you? Are there any events you expected to see on the map but didn't?
- Who was the map's intended audience?
- What was the cartographer's goal?
- How are the same events or cities depicted similarly or differently on the maps?

Creative Activity

Each learner selects an important event or location to depict in the circle on their [worksheet](#) to create a Class Collage. Learners write a clue to help their classmates find their event or location in the collage.

Primary Sources in This Lesson

- [Map of the Promised Land and the Progression of the Children of Israel, 1586](#)
- [The Journey of Forty Years in the Desert and the Breadth and Length of the Holy Land, 1695](#)
- [Exodus, 1562](#)
- [The Map of the Land, Which is Called the Land of Promises, 1600](#)
- [The Location of the Promised Land of the Holy Bible, 1590](#)

Worksheet – Teacher's Answer Key

Map	English Translation	Hebrew Verse	Description	Location	Event
4 5	(1) God provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah remained in the fish's belly three days and three nights. (11) God commanded the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon dry land.	(א) וַיִּמֶן ה' דָּג גָּדוֹל לִבְלַע אֶת יוֹנָה וַיְהִי יוֹנָה בְּמִעֵי הַדָּג שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַיְלֹת : (י"א) וַיֹּאמֶר ה' לַדָּג וַיִּקָּא אֶת־יוֹנָה אֶל הַיַּבֶּשֶׁה :	Jonah is swallowed and spit out by the fish	ב:א & י"א	יונה
1 3	(3) And all the people took off the gold rings that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. (4) This he took from them and cast in a mold, and made it into a molten calf. And they exclaimed, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!"	(ג) וַיִּתְּפְּרוּקוּ כָל הָעָם אֶת נְזָמֵי הַזָּהָב אֲשֶׁר בְּאַזְנוֹתֵיהֶם וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶל אַהֲרֹן : (ד) וַיִּקַּח מִיָּדָם וַיַּצַּר אֹתוֹ בַּחֶרֶט וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ עֵגֶל מִסִּכָּה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֵעֲלֵנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם :	Collecting the gold and molding the Golden Calf	שמות ל"ב:ג-ד	עגל הזהב
1 4	(6) God sent serpents against the people. They bit the people and many of the Israelites died. (7) The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned by speaking against God and against you. Intercede with God to take away the serpents from us!" And Moses interceded for the people. (8) Then God said to Moses, "Make a serpent figure and mount it on a standard. And anyone who was bitten who then looks at it shall recover."	(ו) וַיִּשְׁלַח ה' בָּעָם אֶת הַנָּחָשִׁים הַשֶּׂרָפִים וַיִּנְשְׁכוּ אֶת־הָעָם וַיָּמָת עִם־רַב מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל : (ז) וַיָּבֹא הָעָם אֶל מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ חַטָּאנוּ כִּי דִבַּרְנוּ בְּה' וּבָרַךְ הַתַּפִּלָּל אֶל ה' וְיִסְר מַעֲלֵינוּ אֶת־הַנָּחָשׁ וַיִּתְּפֹלֵל מֹשֶׁה בְּעַד הָעָם : (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה עֲשֵׂה לָךְ שֵׁרֶף וְשִׂים אֹתוֹ עַל נֹס וְהָיָה כָּל הַנִּשְׁחָר וְרָאָה אֹתוֹ וְחָי :	Punishment of snakes; Jews ask for forgiveness, and recovery	במדבר כ"א:ז-ח	נחש הנחושת
2	(24) God rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah sulfurous fire from God out of heaven (25) annihilating those cities and the entire Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities and the vegetation of the ground.	(כ"ד) וְה' הִמְטִיר עַל־סְדֹם וְעַל עִמְרָה גִּפְרִית וְאֵשׁ מֵאֵת ה' מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם : (כ"ה) וַיַּהַפֵּךְ אֶת הָעָרִים הָאֵל וְאֶת כָּל הַכֶּכֶר וְאֶת כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי הָעָרִים וְאֶת כָּל הַצֹּמַח הָאֲדָמָה :	Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah	בראשית י"ט:כ"ד-כ"ה	סדום ואמורה
25	(27) When the donkey now saw the angel of God, she lay down under Balaam, and Balaam was furious and beat the donkey with his stick.	(כ"ז) וַתֵּרָא הָאֵתָּוֹן אֶת מַלְאָךְ ה' וַתִּרְבֹּץ תַּחַת בָּלָעַם וַיַּחַר אַף בָּלָעַם וַיִּךְ אֶת הָאֵתָּוֹן בַּמִּקְל :	Donkey sees the angel and stops, and Balaam hits it	במדבר כ"ב:כ"ז	בלעם היכה את האתון

1 4	(21) Then Moses held out his arm over the sea and God drove back the sea with a strong east wind all that night, and turned the sea into dry ground. The waters were split, (22) and the Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.	(כ"א) וַיִּט מֹשֶׁה אֶת יָדוֹ עַל הַיָּם וַיּוֹלֶךְ ה' אֶת הַיָּם בְּרוּחַ קָדִים עָזָה כָּל הַלַּיְלָה וַיִּשָּׁם אֶת הַיָּם לַחֲרֵבָה וַיִּבָּקְעוּ הַמַּיִם : (כ"ב) וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם בַּיְבֻשָּׁה וְהַמַּיִם לֵהֶם חוֹמָה מִיְמִינָם וּמִשְׁמָאלָם :	Moses raises his hands, the sea splits, and the Jews walk through	שמות י"ד:כ"א-כ"ב	קריעת ים סוף
3 4	(4) And God said to Moses, "I will rain down bread for you from the sky, and the people shall go out and gather each day that day's portion that I may thus test them, to see whether they will follow my instructions or not. (5) But on the sixth day, when they apportion what they have brought in, it shall prove to be double the amount they gather each day."	(ד) וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה הֲנִי מִמְטִיר לָכֶם לֶחֶם מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֵּצֵא הָעָם וַלְקֻטוֹ דָּבַר יוֹם בְּיוֹמוֹ לִמְעוֹ אֲנִסְנוּ הוֹלֵךְ בְּתוֹרָתִי אִם לֹא : (ה) וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁשִׁי וְהָכִינוּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר יִבְיֹאוּ וְהָיָה מִשְׁנָה עַל אֲשֶׁר יִלְקֻטוּ יוֹם יוֹם :	God tells Moses that he will send manna	שמות ט"ז:ד-ה	מן
2	(15) We undertake to cut down as many trees of Lebanon as you need, and deliver them to you as rafts by sea to Jaffa; you will transport them to Jerusalem."	(ט"ו) וַאֲנַחְנוּ נִכְרֹת עֲצִים מִן הַלְבָּנוֹן כָּכָל צֹרֶךְךָ וְנִבְיֵאֵם לָךְ וְרַפְסָדוֹת עַל יָם יָפוֹ וְאַתָּה תַעֲלֶה אֹתָם יְרוּשָׁלָּאִם :	Trees of Lebanon were sent for the Temple	דברי הימים ב ב:ט"ו	עצי הלבנון לבית המקדש
2 4	(18) Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke, for God had come down upon it in fire; the smoke rose like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled violently. (19) The blare of the horn grew louder and louder. As Moses spoke, God answered him in thunder. (20) God came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain, and God called Moses to the top of the mountain and Moses went up.	(י"ח) וְהָר סִינַי עָשָׁן כְּלוֹ מִפְּנֵי אֲשֶׁר יָרַד עָלָיו ה' בְּאֵשׁ וַיַּעַל עָשָׁנוֹ כְּעָשָׁן הַכִּבְשָׁן וַיִּחָרַד כָּל הָהָר מֵאֵד : (י"ט) וַיְהִי קוֹל הַשֹּׁפָר הוֹלֵךְ וְחֹזֵק מֵאֵד מֹשֶׁה יִדְבֹּר וְהָאֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֵנוּ בְּקוֹל : (כ) וַיִּרַד ה' עַל-הָר סִינַי אֶל רֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיִּקְרָא ה' לְמֹשֶׁה אֶל רֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה :	Moses goes to the top of Mt. Sinai and speaks with God	שמות י"ט:י"ח-כ	הר סיני
2	(2) Looking up, he saw three figures standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the ground,	(ב) וַיֵּשֶׂא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְבִים עָלָיו וַיֵּרָא וַיִּרָץ לִקְרָאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אֶרְצָה :	Abraham sees three men and greets them	בראשית י"ח:ב	אברהם ומלאכים
3 5	(17) Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey, after you left Egypt	(י"ז) זָכוֹר אֶת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לָךְ עָמְלֵק בְּדֶרֶךְ בְּצֵאתְךָ מִמִּצְרַיִם :	Command to remember Amalek	דברים כ"ה:י"ז	מלחמת עמלק

1 4	(8) God stiffened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he gave chase to the Israelites. As the Israelites were departing defiantly, (9) the Egyptians gave chase to them, and all the chariot horses of Pharaoh, his riders, and his warriors overtook them encamped by the sea, near Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-zephon.	(ח) וַיִּחְזַק ה' אֶת לֵב פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּרְדֹּף אַחֲרֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יִצְאִים בְּיַד רָמָה: (ט) וַיִּרְדְּפוּ מִצְרַיִם אַחֲרֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁיגוּ אוֹתָם חֲנִים עַל הַיָּם כָּל סוֹס רֶכֶב פַּרְעֹה וּפָרָשָׁיו וַחֲיִלּוֹ עַל פִּי הַחִירֹת לִפְנֵי בְעַל צַפֹּן:	Pharaoh chases the Jews	שמות י"ד:ח-ט	פרעה רודף אחרי בני
3	(31) A wind from God started up, swept quail from the sea and strewn them over the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on that side, all around the camp, and some two cubits deep on the ground.	(ל"א) וְרוּחַ נָסַע מֵאֵת ה' וַיָּגֵז שְׁלִיִּים מִן הַיָּם וַיִּטֹּשׁ עַל הַמַּחֲנֶה כְּדֶרֶךְ יוֹם כֹּה וּכְדֶרֶךְ יוֹם כֹּה סְבִיבוֹת הַמַּחֲנֶה וְכֹאמֶתִים עַל פְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ:	Quail fall all over the ground	במדבר י"א:א-ל"א	שליו
5	(28) So they shouted louder, and gashed themselves with knives and spears, according to their practice, until the blood streamed over them. (37) Answer me, God, answer me, that this people may know that You, God, are God; for You have turned their hearts backward." (38) Then fire from God descended and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the earth; and it licked up the water that was in the trench.	(כ"ח) וַיִּקְרָאוּ בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל וַיִּתְגַּדְּדוּ כַּמִּשְׁפָּטָם בַּחֲרֻבוֹת וּבְרִמְחִים עַד שֶׁפָּרָדָם עֲלֵיהֶם: (ל"ז) עֲנֵנִי ה' עֲנֵנִי וַיִּדְעוּ הָעָם הִזָּה כִּי אַתָּה ה' הָאֱלֹהִים וְאַתָּה הַסֹּבֵת אֶת-לִבָּם אַחֲרֵינִית: (ל"ח) וַתִּפֹּל אֵשׁ ה' וַתֹּאכַל אֶת הָעֹלָה וְאֶת הַעֲצִים וְאֶת הָאֲבָנִים וְאֶת הָעֹפֶר וְאֶת הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר בַּתְּעֹלָה לַחֲכָה:	The Jews worship Ba'al and Elijah calls out to God who answers him	מלאכים א י"ח:כ"ח & ל"ז-ל"ח	אליהו בהר כרמל
5	(49) David put his hand into the bag; he took out a stone and slung it. It struck the Philistine in the forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.	(מ"ט) וַיִּשְׁלַח דָּוִד אֶת יָדוֹ אֶל הַכֵּלִי וַיִּקַּח מִשָּׁם אֶבֶן וַיִּקְלַע וַיַּךְ אֶת הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי אֶל מִצְחוֹ וַתִּטְבַּע הָאֲבֶן בְּמִצְחוֹ וַיִּפֹּל עַל פָּנָיו אֲרָצָה:	David uses his slingshot to kill Goliath	שמואל א י"ז:מ"ט	דוד וגוליאת
3	(1) Joshua son of Nun, secretly sent two men from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, reconnoiter the region of Jericho." So they set out, and they came to the house of a certain prostitute named Rahab and lodged there.	(א) וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן נֹון מִן הַשְּׂטִיִּים שְׁנַיִם אַנְשִׁים מְרַגְלִים חָרָשׁ לֵאמֹר לָכוּ רְאוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ וְאֶת יְרִיחוֹ וַיָּלְכוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ בֵּית אִשָּׁה זֹנָה וּשְׁמָהּ רַחַב וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ שָׁמָּה:	Joshua sends spies to Jericho	יהושע ב:א	יריחו

1	(15) God settled the Human in the garden of Eden, to till it and tend it.	(ט"ו) וַיִּקַּח ה' אֱלֹהִים אֶת הָאָדָם וַיְנַחֲהוּ בְּגֵן עֵדֶן לְעִבְדָּהּ וּלְשָׁמְרָהּ:	Man is created in the Garden of Eden to live and rule	בראשית ב:ט"ו	גן עדן
1 2	(5) In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem, he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.	(ה) בְּחֶבְרוֹן מָלַךְ עַל יְהוּדָה שִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים וְשִׁשָּׁה חֳדָשִׁים וּבִירוּשָׁלַם מָלַךְ שְׁלֹשִׁים וּשְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנָה עַל כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיְהוּדָה:	David moves his palace to Jerusalem	שמואל ב ה:ה	ירושלים
3	(19) And then Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field of Machpelah, facing Mamre, now Hebron, in the land of Canaan.	(י"ט) וְאַחֲרֵי כֵן קָבַר אַבְרָהָם אֶת שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ אֶל מְעַרַת שְׂדֵה הַמְכַפְלָה עַל פְּנֵי מַמְרֵה הוּא חֶבְרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:	Sarah is buried in Hebron	בראשית כ"ג:י"ט	חברון
5	(18) As soon as the priests who bore the Ark of God's Covenant came up out of the Jordan, and the feet of the priests stepped onto the dry ground, the waters of the Jordan resumed their course, flowing over its entire bed as before. (19) The people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. (20) And Joshua set up in Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken from the Jordan.	(י"ח) וַיְהִי כַעֲלוֹת הַכֹּהֲנִים נִשְׁאִי אֲרוֹן בְּרִית ה' מִתּוֹךְ הַיַּרְדֵּן נִתְקַו כַּפּוֹת רַגְלֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים אֶל הַחֲרֻבָּה וַיֵּשְׁבוּ מִן הַיַּרְדֵּן לְמִקְוָמָם וַיִּלְכוּ כְּתִמּוֹל שְׁלֹשׁוֹם עַל כָּל גְּדוּתָיו: (י"ט) וְהָעָם עָלוּ מִן הַיַּרְדֵּן בַּעֲשׂוֹר לַחֲדָשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּגִלְגָל בְּקֻצֵּה מִזְרַח יְרִיחוֹ: (כ) וְאֵת שְׁתֵּים עָשָׂרָה הָאֲבָנִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר לָקְחוּ מִן הַיַּרְדֵּן הִקִּים יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּגִלְגָל:	The ark is carried across the Jordan River, and the 12 stones are made into a memorial	יהושע ד: י"ח-כ	יהושע בגלגל

Where to Find the Events on the Map

Map 1

1. Golden Calf / עגל הזהב - bottom center of the map
2. Bronze Snake / נחש הנחושת - right center of the map
3. Splitting of the Red Sea / קריעת ים סוף - left bottom of the map
4. Pharaoh Chases after the Jews / פרעה רודף אחרי בני"י - left bottom of the map, next to the splitting of the Red Sea
5. Jerusalem / ירושלים - center of the map, near the Mediterranean Sea
6. Gan Eden / גן עדן - top right corner of the map

Map 2

1. Balaam hits the donkey / בלעם היכה את האתון - left center of the map
2. Mt. Sinai / הר סיני - right top of the map
3. Trees of Lebanon sent to build the Temple / עצי הלבנון לבית המקדש - the coast of the Mediterranean Sea
4. Sodom and Gomorrah / סדום ואמורה - right of center, in the Dead Sea
5. Abraham greets the three angels / אברהם ושלושת המלאכים - center of the map
6. Jerusalem / ירושלים - center of the map

Map 3

1. Golden Calf / עגל הזהב - bottom right of the map
2. Manna / מן - bottom center of the map
3. War with Amalek / מלחם עמלק - bottom center of the map
4. Hebron / חברון - right of center of the map
5. Quail / צליו - center of the map above the manna
6. Jericho / יריחו - top right of the map, below the border

Map 4

1. Pharaoh Chases after the Jews / פרעה רודף אחרי בני"י - bottom left of the map
2. Jonah / יונה - center of the sea
3. Bronze Snake / נחש הנחושת - bottom center of the map
4. Manna / מן - bottom left center of the map
5. Splitting of the Red Sea / קריעת ים סוף - bottom left of the map
6. Mt. Sinai / הר סיני - bottom center of the map

Map 5

1. Jonah / יונה - left of center of the Mediterranean Sea
2. Balaam hits the donkey / בלעם היכה את האתון - center along the left edge of the map
3. War with Amalek / מלחם עמלק - top of the Dan region at the center of the map
4. Joshua in Gilgal / יהושע בגלגל - under the river between the green and yellow sections at the center of the map
5. David and Goliath / דוד וגוליאת - top left of the map above the Kinneret
6. Elijah on Mt. Carmel / אליהו בהר כרמל - left of the map on the border with the Mediterranean Sea