

WALKING IN THE LAND OF THE BIBLE (Paul E. Engle)
Session #2 Looking Down from the Drone

INTRO.

1. Ken Jennings, *Maphead*
 2. Suppose you were given the choice to live anywhere in the world -- What would that location be? And why would you choose it?
-

I. WHY DID GOD CHOSE THIS LAND FOR HIS REVELATION TO THE HUMAN RACE?

A. Because Israel is _____

Ezk 5:5 *"This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her."*

1. O. Palmer Robertson, Understanding the Land of the Bible p. 11: *"For thousands of years travelers from Africa to Europe, from Asia to Africa passed along the via maris, the 'way of the sea'. Right by the locale of Capernaum they passed, and they continued to pass by throughout the days of Jesus. By inaugurating his public ministry in Galilee of the Gentiles along the major international trade route, Jesus was making a statement. This land would serve as a springboard to all nations. The kingdom of God encompassed a realm that extended well beyond the borders of ancient Israel... All nations, lands, and peoples would experience the blessings of this benevolent rule."*
2. **A medieval map of the world**, called the **Psalter Map**. What's the center?

B. A second related reason for the choice of this land was because _____

It's a **semi-circle** that extends from _____
The **key** here is _____

C. A further related reason for the choice of this land was because of its _____

- _____ -.
1. What is the International Highway?
 2. John Beck p. 26: *"If you had a message to deliver in the ancient world, you could either send messengers scurrying along the International Highway, or you could position yourself at a key point along that highway and speak a message that would be carried by others to the farthest reaches of the inhabited world. God did both. The apostles would travel this road, but even before they reached places well beyond the boundaries of Israel, the message of the Gospel had arrived ahead of them carried by others travelers on this ancient world. As the land of Israel is the crossroads linking Asia, Africa, and Europe, it becomes a podium. Clearly one of the reasons the Lord chose this land to be a stage for much biblical history was that the world would regularly come past this podium and carry what it heard to the farthest reaches of the world."*
 3. So this facilitated the carrying out of the **great commission**
(Mt. 28:19)
(Acts 1:8)
(Gen. 12:3)

D. Another potential reason for the choice of this land is because it_____

Deut. 11:13-15 *So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, & you will eat and be satisfied. So God chose a land that fostered faith!*

II. WHAT WERE THE SIZE AND BOUNDARIES OF THIS CHOSEN LAND? -

A. **Israel is a relatively** _____ **country** - from Dan to Beersheba is a short distance. (cf. Judg 20:1; 1 Sam. 3:20)
Length and width:_____

* This makes it about equal to the little state of _____.
* How does it compare to North Carolina?

B. Determining the boundaries aren't easy because we find different boundaries mentioned in the Bible. What are the natural boundaries:_____

C. Wide diversity:_____

III. WHAT ARE THE MAJOR LONGITUDINAL GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES IN ISRAEL?

1. **Zone one:** _____

2. **Zone two: CENTRAL** _____

3. **Zone three: JORDAN** _____

4. **Zone four:** _____

IV. WHAT WERE THE MAIN INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAYS?

A. The Great Trunk Road: Also called _____

B. The Central _____ -
Some call this the route of the _____.

C. The _____ Highway

So when you read your Bible this week, if you come across a geographical reference, I'd encourage you to look it up in the index in your atlas.

