

WALKING IN THE LAND OF THE BIBLE (Paul E. Engle)
Session #4 Check the Weather Before Walking: Water and Climate

INTRODUCTION

1. If you had a choice between a sunny day and a rainy day, which would you prefer?
2. How long do you think you could survive without water?

I. Water in the land of the Bible: water can be a _____ matter. That's why before walking in Israel we need to know what water is available.

A. Israel has a varied terrain with some areas of lush green, but also it has harsh, dry wilderness, often not far away. A significant portion of the land is dry with a scarcity of water. Israel could expect _____ inches of rain each year.

1. In present day Israel _____ % of their current water supply comes from techniques unavailable in Bible times. (De-salinization).
2. They didn't have easy access to natural bodies of water.
3. The only wet zone was _____. cf. **Deut. 11:11**
"But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven."
4. Rain and location: cf. Zondervan Atlas p. 13. Rain decreases as you move from _____; rain decreases as you move from _____; rain increases with elevation.

B. How did they store water?

- * Because cisterns/wells were difficult to get out of they also could function as _____
- i. Gen. 37:20
 - ii. Jerm. 38:6-10
 - iii. **Jeremiah 2:13** "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

C. This lack of water influenced the theology of the people. How?

***So God repeatedly reminded his people that he was the ultimate source of rain.**

Lev. 26:3-4

Jerm. 14:44

Isa. 44:3

John 4:14

D. Daily life often involved fetching water.

* Washing clothes often took place in a stream. They would bang the dirt out of the wet clothes between flat stones. Sometimes they used a soap made of olive oil or from a special vegetable.

E. Springs and tunnels

* Beersheba

- Hezekiah's tunnel: (Atlas pp.32-33)

II. Climate in the land of the Bible

A. The land of the Bible has two main seasons

Jesus' reference to weather in Luke 12:54-56 What do you think he means?

B. With this background of an arid climate it's understandable why the Scripture often uses the metaphor of _____:

1. Psalm 42:1
2. Psalm 63:1
3. Amos 8:11
4. Matthew 5:6
5. John 4:13-14
6. John 7:37-38

OPTIONAL RESPONSE DISCUSSION:

Do you think people in our country are as thirsty for the Word and for a vital relationship with Christ the living water as they were a decade ago? Why? Examples?

What do you think are some of the things that can hinder having this kind of spiritual thirst?