

Jesus' Journeys in John



Jeanne's church tour to Israel with Jan and Michael in 2007

Maps of Israel, Galilee, and Jerusalem in Jesus' time

Cana to Cana, Tiberias, Bethany, **The Last Supper**, Cedron Valley, Skull Hill

Traveling from Jerusalem to Nazareth

Midday at Sychar

[Don't forget "Super Star" in Beit Guvrin, Beersheba, Beit 'Shaan, et al.]

The reading order for John: 1-4, 6-5, 7-12; **13, 17, 15, 16, 14**; 18-20

*If it takes about 14 and ½ hours to walk from Jerusalem to Sychar, how long does it take to go from **DFW to Jerusalem (TLV)**?*

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Jesus' Journeys in John

This study stems from Jeanne's trip to the Holy Land and from our reading in the Fourth Gospel about where Jesus walked and talked about in his journeys spreading the Good News.

This study is to point out in a broad sense some of these places He traveled noting the people who have been there and seen these places certainly have a different perspective when reading about Cana, Bethlehem, or Skull Hill...reading John and thinking "I have been there" certainly will add to the appreciation for the story, for the meaning, and for the significance.

This study will not necessarily present the journeys in the historical order but will present the cities and towns so that when one is mentioned one can see in their minds where in Israel it is, or have a picture of where one is standing while reading – it just adds clarity in some cases to geographically know where you are and maybe which direction you are traveling.

This study will show a gestalt of the Book of John as in an overall look by using the work and wisdom of my most favorite neo-Reformed theologian and Biblical scholar Rudolf Bultmann. Of interest from his working from the Greek and Hebrew I will follow his reordering of the Fourth Gospel and use his break down of the sections in the book as he uses four main parts: Encounter, Struggle, Farewell, and Passion. Note, as a preview, Bultmann has shown the last supper chapters by using the order: 13, 17, 15, 16, and 14. The wisdom, for instance, in this classification shows the proper sequence having Jesus say at the end, before they leave for the garden, "*Arise, let us go hence*" (KJV).

This study, lastly, will combine some seemingly disconnected points or ideas using geography, maps, scripture, and travel to point out where Jesus was and where Jesus went in the Book of John so that when you read about towns, lakes, and gardens you will be able to see in your own eyes that you are in Galilee, Samaria, or in the Valley of Elah.

This study will promote the appreciation for the people we know who can say "I have been there!"

This study (notice my use of an "anaphoric reference") will:

1. Kind of skip around in non-connected groups and ideas.
2. Present an unknown (until now) a secret desire.

"Let us get up and be on our way."



Valley of Elah (Terebinths) – 20 sw of Jerusalem

Jeanne's church tour to Israel with Jan and Michael in 2007

This list below was sent by Michael and covers a lot of the places on their tour:

Tel Aviv,
Jerusalem,
Caesaria Maritime,
Caesaria Philippi,
Lake Tiberias,
Jordan River,
Dead Sea,
Sea of Galilee,
Dan, in the north,
Beersheba,
Beit She'an,
Tiberias,
Mt. Carmel,
Golan Heights,
Ein Gedi,
Banias Waterfall, Banias Nature Reserve,
Valley of Elah,
Megiddo,
Mt. Hermon,
Masada National Park,
Yad Vashem.

In my studies of the maps I noticed a number of cities and towns that begin with the letter B – just an observation – and two from the list above:

Beersheba,	Bethany	Beth-Jeshimoth	Bethel	Beit Zerta
Beit She'an,	Beit Guvrin	Beth-Tappuah	Bethsaida	Beit Alfa
Beth-Anath	Beth-Yerah	Beth-Shemesh	Beth-zur	Beit HaShita
Beth-Arbel	Beth-page	Bethlehem	Baca	Bine

The term "Beth" or "Bet"¹ in the naming of towns in Israel is derived from the Hebrew word "beth", which means "house" or "place". It is often used in compound names of places. For example:

-) **Bethel** translates to "House of El" or "House of God".
-) **Bethlehem** translates to "House of Bread" or "House of Food."

These names often reflect the historical or cultural significance of the place. And some names maybe new names of old cities and towns.

¹ From Bing Chat with GPT-4

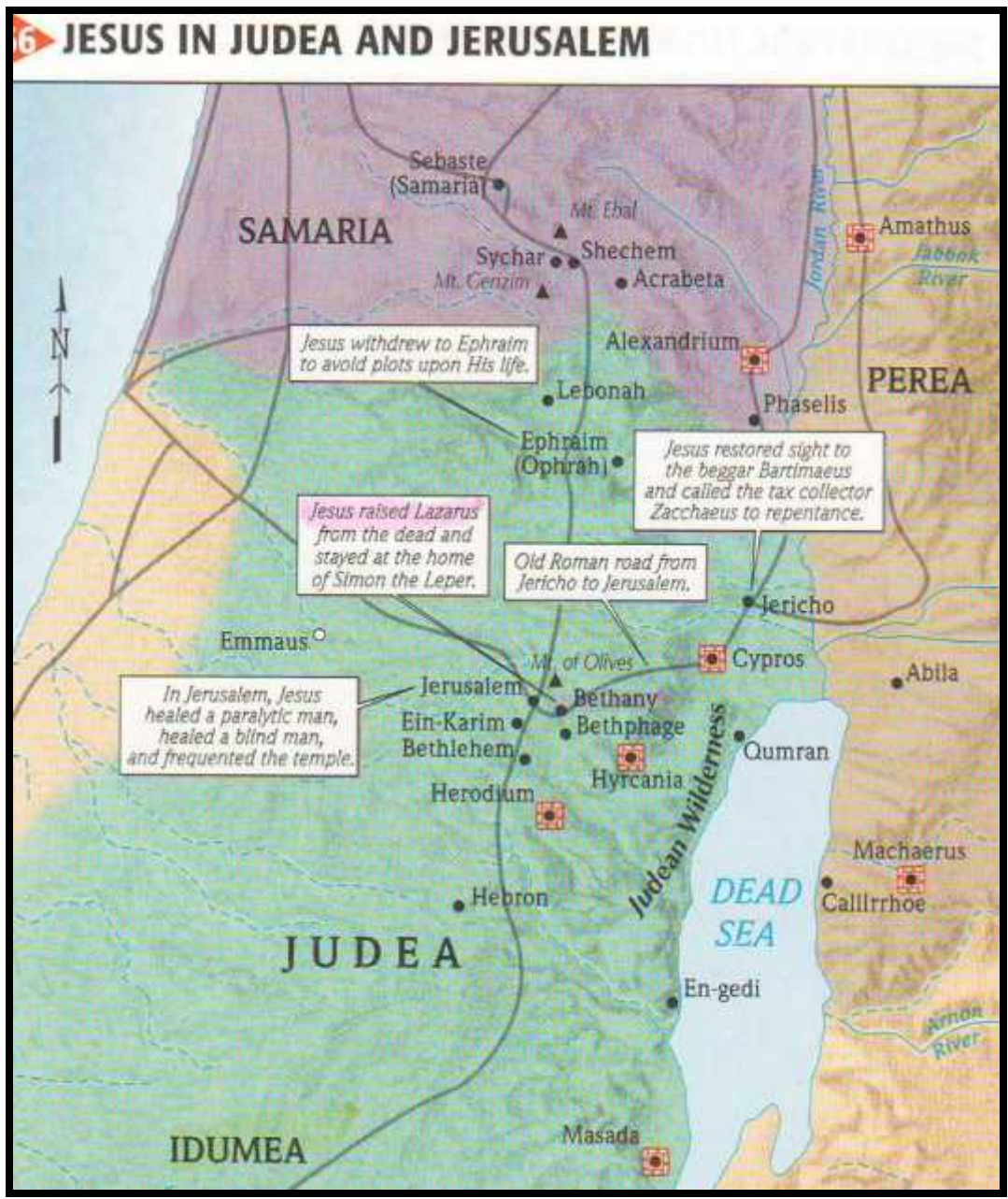
Maps of Israel, Galilee, and Jerusalem in Jesus' time



The distance² from Beersheba (Be'er Sheva) to Capernaum either by the coast or through Jerusalem and the Jordan River is about 160 miles or about 260km. The walking time for this about 55 or 60 hours (as hard as that is believe - or even think about).

This map is just to show a first glance of the geography and the “big picture” of the Holy Land.

² The map is from Paul Wright. (2005). *Holman Quick Source Bible Atlas*. Nashville, TN; Holman Bible. The distances are from Google Maps.



This map³ will pave the way for Jesus walking on his way to Galilee and stopping out of the way at Sychar in Chapter 4 of Jn. Notice the two mountains discussed in this story as in Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal. Mt. Gerizim is “one of the highest peaks in the West Bank and rises to 2,890 feet above sea level...For the Samaritan people, most of whom live around it, Mount Gerizim is considered the holiest place on Earth”⁴

³ From page 335 of the Holman Bible Atlas.

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Gerizim - (don't tell anyone I used this URL for a reference).

Cana to Cana, Tiberias, Bethany, The Last Supper, Cedron Valley, Skull Hill

Encounter, Struggle, Farewell, and Passion

The four sections from Bultmann and the verse references for each are given below – generally following the towns and cities.

Encounter:

2.1 Cana – wedding and wine

2.12 Capernaum for a few days

2.13 Jerusalem – cleaned the temple

3 – Nicodemus

4 – into Judaea, off to Galilee through Samaria and Sychar and back to Cana.

6.1 Crossed Lake (Sea) of Galilee (Tiberias), fed the 5,000, walks on water.

5 – 1 – 47 went to Jerusalem.

Struggle:

[7 – 10] 7:10 Jerusalem teaching in temple, Mt. Olives

8 – Not of this world

9 – Man born blind (Silom Pool).

10 – “I AM” the Sheppard and Gate. The Father and I are one. Went across the Jordan

11 – Bethany to raise Lazarus.

12 – Entry into Jerusalem.

Farewell:

[13 – 17] 13, 17, 15, 16, 14 The Last Supper. “The hour has come” and “Rise, let us be on our way.”

Passion:

18 – 20 Cedron Valley, High Priest’s court yard, the Palace, Skull Hill (Golgotha in Hebrew), buried on the same hillside, at the tomb the risen Lord.

The following map shows some of these same areas around Jerusalem.

168 JERUSALEM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT PERIOD

LEGEND

|| Gate

— Tower

▬ Wall

x Spot elevation

— Contour interval = 33ft. (10m)



Find: The Kidron Valley, Gethsemane (arrest), Siloam Pool, Temple, Golgotha, House of Caiaphas, and the Upper Room.

Traveling from Jerusalem to Nazareth



The straight line difference is about 64-68 miles (depending on where you start and finish). So, walking at 2.5 mph is equal to about 27 hours but this is straight line. Shows above 33 hours to walk the 85 miles (137KM).

Midday at Sychar

Let's make the turn off about half way up and go to Sychar which is not quite half way but lets say about 34 miles so that the math works out (straight line) and note at 2.5 mph the time traveled takes about 14.5 hours (including a pit stop or two).

Note the town of **Nablus** half way up.



The top name in orange is **NABLUS**⁵

The yellow is the church

Orange is Jacob's Well Church

City of Balata

Orange is the Samaritan Museum

So,
 Jacob's fountain
 Well of Sychar
 In
 Balata Village
 In
Nablus

Next to reading about the woman at the well in Jn. 4:4-45 is to see the event in *The Chosen* (S1E8) – the last 20 minutes.

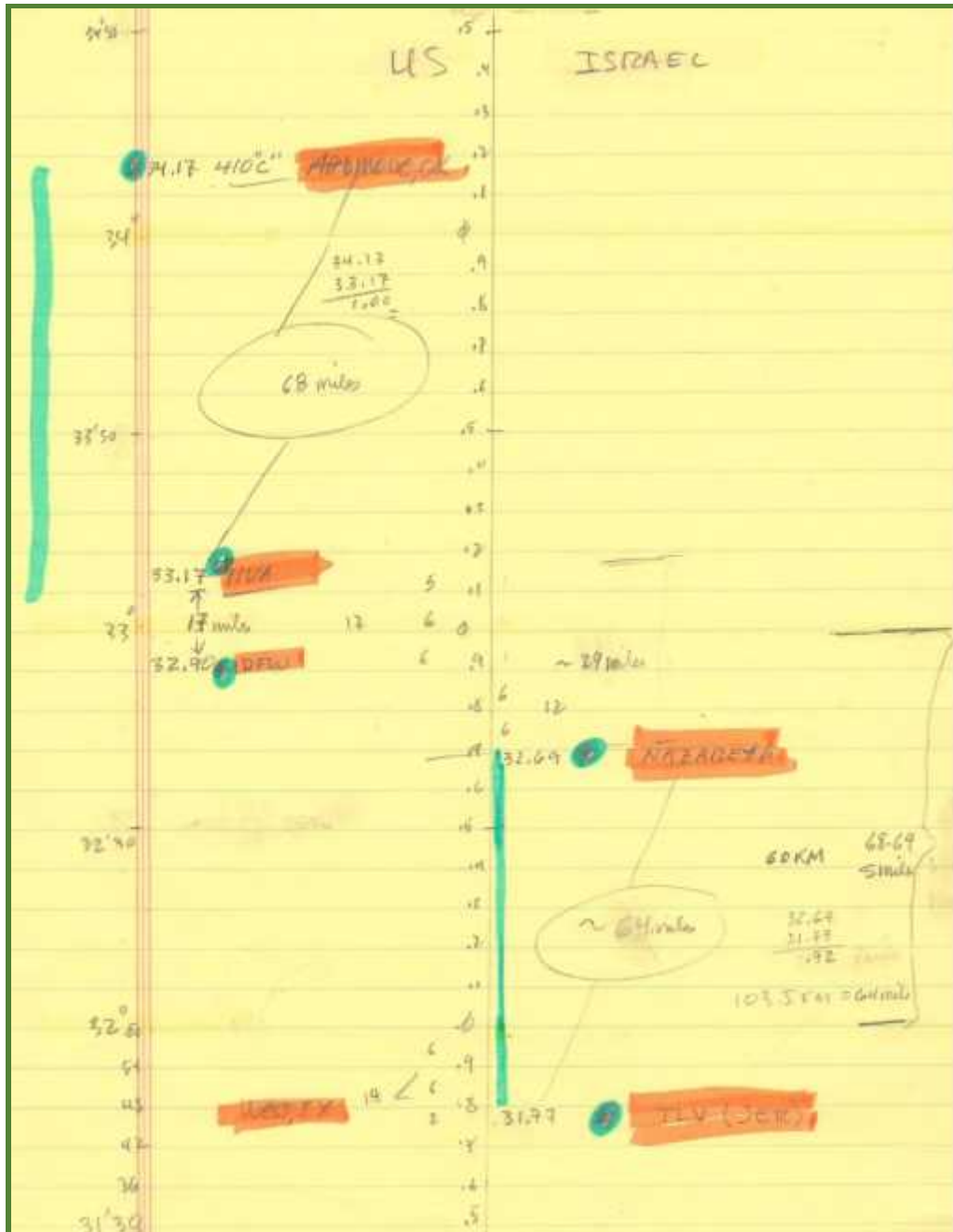
⁵ From Google Maps.

ADDENDUM – a work sheet (Lat/long/miles)

Was looking at the Lat/long of Nazareth and Jerusalem and found out that the distance between the two is just about the same distance from where I live and where I grew up in Ardmore, Oklahoma – just about 68 miles. The two green bars show these two distances.

Then I looked toward the east and asked if I stayed on my latitude of 33.17 degrees and headed east how close would I be to these cities. Well, just a tad north. I'd have to go about 7,000 miles and turn south for about 29 miles to run into Nazareth.

To go straight east and run into Jerusalem one would have to start 'purt near West, by God, Texas...



My Dream

The painting on the cover page is one Jan and Michael will know in a heartbeat as Jeanne painted it and it is called the West Wall (NFS). Been thinking I would like to make the trip and see this wall my self – along with going up the road to see where Jacob’s Well is – but I must admit the trip will be on my terms. Here is the deal. Here is the airplane I will fly over there.



Actually, this is a model 800 of the Gulfstream. My new configured jet is not due out until early next year. The jet will fly at Mach 0.90 up to 51,000 feet, and have a range of 8,000 nautical miles.

Right now looking at having it configured to have a crew of three (counting me), two flight attendants, a dedicated crew compartment (with bathroom), and enough seats/beds for ten passengers. It will have a rear bathroom with a shower.

“Me and my people” are hassling over Gulfstream’s awe-inspiring price of \$75 million (USD).

We will depart from DFW and go direct - *and non-stop*. Flying time will be just about [14.5 hours](#).

So, now you know, how long it takes to walk from Jerusalem to Nazareth and how long it takes to fly from DFW to TLV.

We won’t need a pit stop. We will carry our own Blue Bell. I already have the tour guides and one flight attendant on the manifest - so if you want to go, you best be thinking about “setting sail with me.”