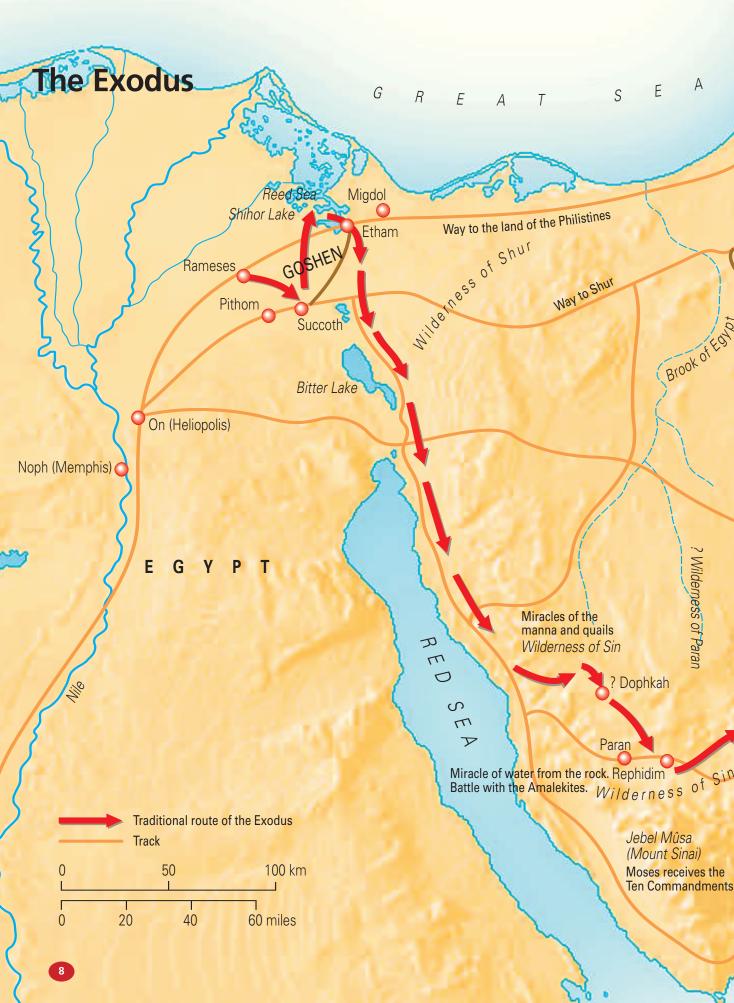
BIBLE ATLAS

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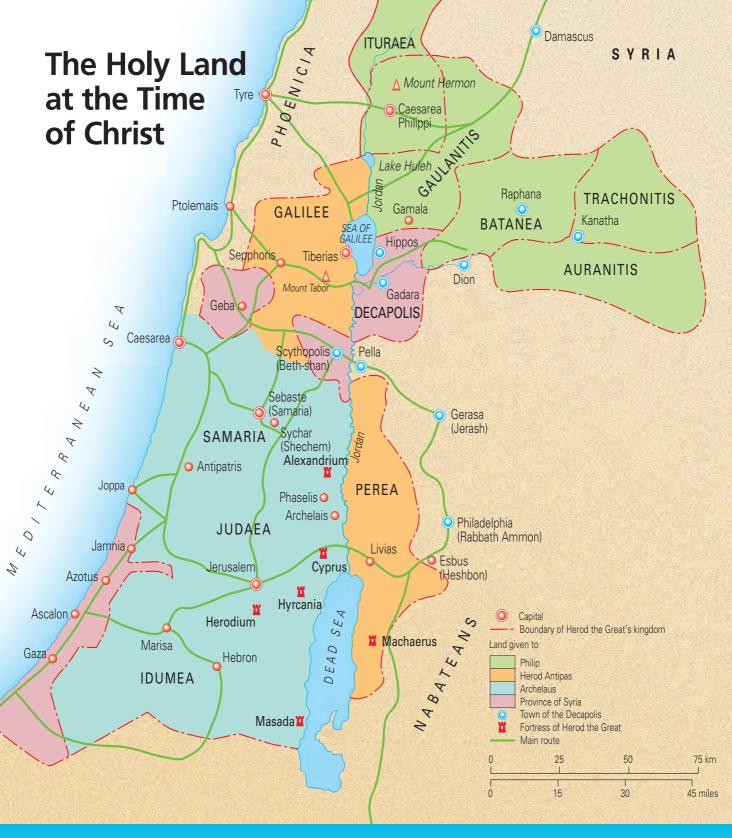
Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, remained in Egypt for some 400 years, becoming enslaved by the Egyptians. Finally, after a series of terrible plagues, Moses led them out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, and into the desert. We cannot be sure which direction they took—the map shows the traditional route. (They would not have taken the direct, coastal route, since it was guarded.) At Mount Sinai, Moses received the Ten Commandments. Later, spies were sent to reconnoiter the Promised Land of Canaan.

After 40 years in the wilderness, and after Moses had died, the Israelites crossed the River Jordan from Moab into the Promised Land.

Exodus, Numbers

Bare wilderness near Mount Sinai.





The Roman general Pompey took Jerusalem in 63 B.C., beginning almost 700 years of Roman rule. Herod the Great ruled the Holy Land, under the Roman tutelage. On his death in 4 B.C., his kingdom was divided up among three of his sons.

Herod Antipas ruled Galilee and Perea; Philip ruled Ituraea and Trachonitis; and Archelaus ruled Judea, Samaria, and Idumea. In A.D. 6, Archelaus was replaced by a Roman procurator; at the time of Jesus' death, the procurator was Pontius Pilate (A.D. 26-36).

The Decapolis was a league of self-governing Greek cities, formed after Pompey's campaign (65-62 B.C.). It gave protection to its Gentile citizens, who were mainly Greekspeaking Roman soldiers, against militant Jews and Arabian tribes.



Much of Jesus' ministry was spent teaching and healing around Lake Galilee, and Jesus' earliest Apostles were local fishermen (Mark 1:14-20). He often taught in a boat while the crowds listened from the shore. The lake was large and subject to sudden squalls as winds swept across the valley: hence the unexpected storm at sea (Mark 4:35-41). The Sea of Galilee is sometimes also known as Tiberias and Gennesaret.

A number of thriving, populous towns surrounded the lake. Jesus made His headquarters the fishing town of Capernaum, which was also a frontier post on the Roman road from Egypt to Damascus.