

CHAPTER

2

HISTORY AND PERSPECTIVE



The Chronological History of Governance and War

Counter-claims to the land that comprises the general area of modern-day Israel and “the territories” are steeped in history.

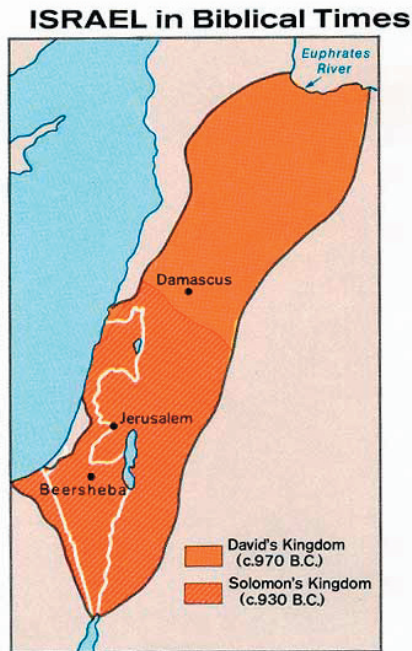
The earliest known human society to develop an economy within the area is referred to as “Natufian” by historians because of the type of archeological site found just north of Jerusalem. It dates back to 10,000-8,000 BCE.¹

Toward the end of the fourth millennium, settlements around Jerusalem served as centers of trade for Egyptian and Babylonian goods. During roughly c. 3000-1500 BCE, the area was dominated by the ancient Egyptians, and for a time ruled by the Hyksos.²

In the Bible, this land that the Jews enter is called Canaan. It is said that Moses led the Hebrew people (Jews)

out of Egypt, and 40 years later, the Jews entered their promised land, under the invading leadership of Joshua. This event is thought to have occurred around 1400-1300 BCE, but the archeological evidence does not suggest, as the Bible does, an entirely foreign body of people coming to the land from the Sinai desert. All that is actually known is that a group, or political entity called “Israel” occupied part of the territory called Canaan.³ There is also no evidence to suggest that the Palestinian Arabs are descendents of Canaanites, as some Palestinian Arabs claim.⁴

It is believed that around 1200 BCE, the Philistines—one of the Aegean Sea Peoples—arrived in the area, occupied the southern coastal area of Canaan, and established their kingdom (Philistia). Years of war between the Jews and the Philistines followed.⁵



CIA map, courtesy of the University of Texas at Austin.