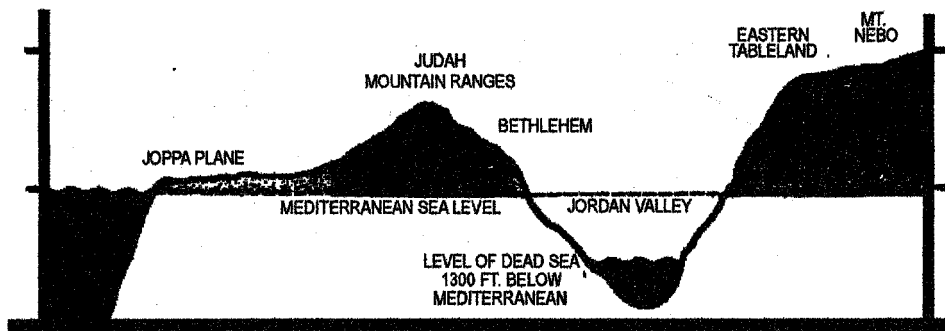


THE DEAD SEA

Chart Showing Section View of the Land of Israel



THE DEAD SEA

The Dead Sea is in the deepest part of the great rift valley that the Jordan River flows through. The Dead Sea is 48 miles long, and has an average width of 9 - 10 miles. The surface of the Sea is 1290 feet below the level of the Mediterranean Sea. The Dead Sea is called the "Salt Sea" in Gen. 14v3, the "Eastern Sea" in Ezekiel 47 v18, and the "Sea of the Arabah" in Deut. 4v49. In Arabic it is called the "Sea of Lot". The Dead Sea is quite deep, 1300 feet in some areas. The whole southern end of the Dead Sea is only 8 - 14 feet deep. The Dead Sea is fed mainly by the Jordan River, and has no outlet. Several springs feed the Dead Sea, including the spring at "Engedi". There are no streams that flow into the Dead Sea from Judah, but four streams feed the Sea from Moab, including the "Amon", and "Zered". Because there is no outlet streams for the Dead Sea, water only leaves by evaporation. This has happened over the centuries, thus the water is much saltier than the ocean. Even the streams that feed the Sea are higher than normal in salt content. They flow through nitrous soil, and are fed by sulfurous springs. Along the shore are deposits of sulfur, and petroleum springs. The surrounding strata are rich in bituminous matter, and after earthquakes, lumps of bitumen are found floating on the water. The sea contains chemicals which are not traceable to its tributaries, and are probably introduced by hot springs in the sea bottom. The rate of evaporation is so great (temperatures reach 1100F in the summer) that the inflow of the Jordan, the springs, and the streams serve only to keep the sea level constant. The annual rainfall is about 2". The evaporating moisture often forms a thick haze, which often limits visibility to a couple of miles. The ocean contains 4 - 6 percent solids, while the Dead Sea contains 24-26 percent solids, which is 5 times as much. This gives the water its great buoyancy. Wood appears to float on its surface. The water is nauseous to the taste and oily to the touch, and leaves a crust of salt on the skin when it dries. The concentrated chemicals (salt, potash, magnesium and calcium chlorides, and bromide) have a toxic effect on fish. The salt was taken from the shore in Biblical days. (Ezek. 47v11). Mountains rise on both sides of the Dead Sea. On the Eastern side of the Dead Sea. a range of mountains rise to a height of 2500 - 3000 feet above the shore, broken only by the Arnon Valley. The mountains rise on the West, but not as high, and the Dead Sea is visible from the top of the Mount of Olives.