

We are still under section one of the four sections of our course survey of the principal factors of the geography of Palestine will be helpful. We have already noticed that the country can be divided into four great sections all of which run the entire length of the country from the north to the south.

The first of these is the Maritime Plain - A fairly flat district one hundred to two hundred feet above sea-level and very fertile, it is broken only by the Mt. Carmel. North of Mt. Carmel it is only narrow and closed in by the steep mountain walls of Syria, this region is known as Phoenicia.

South of Mt. Carmel it may be divided into two halves, the northern and most fertile of which is called the plain of Sharon.

The section south of Joppa is the region where the five great cities of the Philistines were located.

The section more east of Palestine is a zone in which the great majority of the historical events of the Old Testament took place, the Hill Country. Between this section and the Maritime Plain in the southern portion, between Philistia and Joab is the detached group of low hills intersected by many jagged valleys, which is called Shephelah, and which proved the scene of most of the great conflicts between the Israelites and the Philistines. We notice this central mountain range extends with only one break from the lofty peaks of Mt. Lebanon in the far north to the southern extremity of Palestine. South of the Lebanon mountains we have the high plateau of Upper Gallilee and the somewhat lower region of Lower Gallilee then we have the sheer drop to the plain of Esdraelon which is the only break in the long mountain range. We noticed that this plain is surrounded by mountains of great historical importance. South of it we come into the region of Samaria, with its beautiful rolling hills and its countless rocky crags. The mountains become steeper as we leave Samaria and enter Judah with the capital at Jerusalem.