

CHAPTER - 2

GEOGRAPHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF TOURISM IN JORDAN

2.1 Brief History of Jordan

Jordan is an ancient land situated in the heart of the south West Asia, neighbouring the south-eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, and in the north-western part of the Arabian Peninsula. It has experienced the passage of many successive civilizations (Map: 2.00). Jordan has been occupied by man since the earliest prehistoric times. Due to its strategic locations (Map: 2.01) and mild climate, Jordan has been constantly settled throughout every single period of history since 9500 B.C. The multitude of civilizations in Jordan left distinct marks behind, turning the country into an open museum, evidence for the rich heritage that Jordan enjoys today. From the onset of history, Jordan has been a pathway for caravans traversing Arabia to India and East Africa (Map:2.02) to the Mediterranean through the great caravan road heading from *Hadramaut* and Yemen to *Hijaz* and *Madain Salih* (the cities of Salih) to reach the *Moabite* lands in the east Jordan mountains. (Map: 2:03)

Jordan is a unique and blessed land of the old and new Testaments and the early year of Islam. *Canaanites, Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Turks* and others have left their mark on the country It has been hub of the West Asia, the crossroads of the ancient world, where human beings first organised themselves into communities, cities and eventually, civilizations. (Map: 2.04)

Jordan is a country of culture, beauty and surprising contrasts. It is an ancient land, yet a modern kingdom, offering the discerning travellers fascinating diversity, safety and traditional hospitality. Here the very destiny of mankind has been reshaped, time and again, during the prolong course of countless centuries, resulting in layer after layer of unparallel spectacles of nature and human achievements.

Archaeological evidences show that Jordan has been occupied by man since the earliest prehistoric times. *Jordan valley* enjoyed the high

degree of wealth and civilization. There is ample evidence of both *Mesopotamian* and *Egyptian* influences. These arrived chiefly via Syria and Palestine respectively. *Babylonian* influences percolated through Arabia. Archaeologists believe that, as early as 7000 B.C, *Beida* and *Jericho* in *Jordan valley* were occupied by settled communities.

Jordan's proper history can be traced to 2000 B.C. when the Semitic races and Aramaean settled around the *River Jordan* in the areas called *Canaan*. Jordan is first prominently referred in the Holy Bible (Old Testament) with the arrival of **Prophet Abraham Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH)** in the land of *Canaan* (Map: 2.05). The part of the Holy land on the eastern side of the *Jordan Rivers*, in the country of Jordan, is blessed with the rich spiritual heritage of the full story of salvation as recorded in the Holy Bible Abraham (*Ibrahim*), Job (*Ayub*), Moses (*Musa*), Elijah (*Ilyas*), John the Baptist (*Yahya*), Jesus Christ (*Isa*), (Map:2.06) and others *Peace Be Upon Them* (PBUT) leading figures from the Holy Bible performed pivotal elements of their divinity ordained mission in the ancient landscape now within the *Hashemite* Kingdom of Jordan (Map:2.07) Southern Jordan witnessed the missions of numerous prophets, the completion of the first covenant through *Moses* and the *Israelites*, and the launching of the Christian faith through the second covenant, heralded by John the Baptist (PBUH) and completed through *Jesus Christ* (PBUH) (Map: 2.08). The area that witnessed the unfolding of God's salvation history is the area alongside the *Dead Sea* and the *Jordan River*, at present west-central Jordan. This area was called the *Plains of Moab* in the Old Testament and formed part of the region of "Peraea" in the New Testament. Most of the great bible prophets journeyed from the east bank of the *Jordan River* to the west –symbolically moving from the "wilderness" where men and women are tested, to the promised Holy Land, the kingdom of God. (Map: 2.09).

According to the accounts in Genesis, the southern part of the country from the *Wadi al-Hasa* to the Gulf of *Aqaba* was called *Seir*. This district was also called *Edom*, and given to *Esau*, whose descendants

gradually occupied the whole land. When the children of Israel arrived at *Kadesh*, in South Palestine in the late 14th or early 13th B.C, they found Edom a fully organized state with a king at its head. The *Israelites* sought permission to pass through *Edom* “along the king’s highway.” They were refused and the *Israelites* thus forced to go round the borders of *Edom*, which they did by going down to the Gulf of *Aqaba* and then apparently turning north-east towards *Ma’an*. (Map: 2.09).

The power of *Assyrian* now begins to rise on the horizons of southwest Asian history they by force and brutality made a profound impression on the peoples of Syria, Palestine and Jordan. About 800 B.C *Assyrians* (Map: 2.10) occupied east Jordan as far as *Edom*. The *Assyrian* Empire ended with the fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C and the *Babylonian* began to rise in its place (Map: 2.11). They ruled the *Moab*, *Edom* and East Jordan up to 580 B.C. The Arab *Nabataeans* around 580 B.C. began to occupy *Edom* and established their Kingdom in southern Jordan with the capital at *Petra*. They ruled the land formerly occupied by *Edomites* for 600 years. They extended their territory up to *Moab*, west into the *Negev*, east to the *Euphrates* and south along the *Red Sea*. (Map: 2.12).

The whole West Asia was at this time in state of flux the old Kingdoms, Egypt (Map: 2.13), Syria and *Mesopotamia*, were falling to pieces, and the new Persian and Greek Kingdoms were coming into being. The Persian Empire, 549-331 B.C, (Map: 2.14) placed the territories of Jordan and Palestine, under the Arabian governorship.

During the *Hellenistic* period, 331-63 B.C Palestine, Jordan and southern Syria came under the control of *Alexander’s* General *Ptolemy*. Hostilities between the *Ptolemies* of Egypt and the *Seleucids* of Syria enabled the *Nabataeans* to extend their kingdom to the north. The Greek culture was received with great acclaim in West Asia, and new towns which now began to spring up in Jordan, and old ones which were being rebuilt, all contained elements of Greco-Macedonian art and architecture.

Many cities were renamed in honour of their Greek re-builders, such as Amman, which became *Philadelphia* and Jerash, which became *Antioch*. (Map: 2:15).

Meanwhile the new power of Rome had been steadily growing, and the expansion of the empire made it necessary to impose order in Syria and Palestine. This was achieved by *Pompey*, about 64 B.C. and in East Jordan he restored all the Greek cities which had been destroyed by the Jews and laid the foundations for the commercial league known as the *Decapolis*. During the next quiet period, about 40 B.C., *Herod* the Great with mark *Antony's* backing, was made king of *Judea*, which included some control of East Jordan. During *Roman* influence, the East Jordan was divided into three districts under three different controls. In the north was the *Decapolis* league, in the centre from *Zarqa* to the *Arnon* was *peraea* under the Jewish Kinglets of Palestine and in the south was the independent *Nabataean* Kingdom. Strong Roman rule kept the country quiet for some time and Jewish revolt was quelled by the strong forces of Romans. Finally A.D. 106, under the Emperor *Trajan*, (Map: 2:16) the *Nabataean* Kingdom was broken up, and Jordan lost its independence but gained a long peace. The whole country was attached to a new province called *Arabia Petraea*, with its capital first at *Petra* and later at *Baosra* in Syria. The general level of security and prosperity was quite satisfactory during this period. During the 2nd and 3rd centuries one great power was coming more or less quietly into being – Christianity (Map: 2:017). Soon it became a paramount religion and in A.D. 333 Roman Emperor adopted Christianity. During the Byzantine period (Map: 2.18) enormous number of churches sprang up in Jordan. However, the country's prosperity and tranquillity began to collapse in the late sixth and early seventh centuries with the emergence of the Persians who attacked and occupied the East Jordan.

Meanwhile a new faith came into being deep in the heart of Arabian Peninsula under the leadership of **Prophet Mohammad Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH)**. Within a very short period Muslims conquered the

territories from the Atlantic in the west to the Persia in the east. The first battle between Muslims and *Byzantines* took place at *Muta'h* near *Karak* in 629 A.D, which laid the foundation of *Byzantine's* decline. The battle of *Yarmouk* in A.D. 636 was decisive and Muslim armies routed the forces of *Byzantine* Emperor *Heraclius* (*Hiraql* in Arabic). This battle, in fact, established the *Umayyad Caliphate* at *Damascus* and consolidated Islamic rule. (Map: 2.19)

From 640 A.D until the beginning of the 16th century, the land of Jordan has, except for the period of the Crusaders' kingdom (1099-1187),(Map:2.20) remained in the hands of various Arabs and Islamic dynasties like The *Ayyubid* Empire of Saladin (Map:2.21). *Ottoman* Empire's rule lasted from 1517 to 1917 in Jordan (Map: 2.22). Territory of Transjordan became part of the *Ottoman* rule after the defeat of *Mamluk* troops near *Marj Dabiq* in Syria in 1516 (Map: 2:23). On the eve of World War I Palestine and Jordan, being part of the *Ottoman* Empire (Map: 2.24), were converted into garrison and Turkish troops were stationed in the region. After the termination of World War I, Transjordan was included in the British mandate for Palestine, and in 1921 the prince *Amir Abdullah*, second son of King *Hussain* of the *Hijaz*, was invited to become ruler of Transjordan under the High Commissioner for Palestine.

2.2 The Modern Jordan

The modern history of Jordan began with the Arab Revolt in 1916 when Sherif *Hussein*, a *Hashemite* descendant of the Prophet and Custodian of Islam's Holy places, joined with the Allies (The Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916) to defeat the *Turks*, bringing to an end the *Ottoman* Empire (Map: 2.25). At the peace Conference terminating World War I in 1919, the area comprising Jordan and Palestine was awarded as a mandate to the United Kingdom by the League of Nations. According to mandate both Palestine and Trans-Jordan were placed under British administration. In 1921, prince *Abdullah*, son of Sherif *Hussein* and grandfather of the late King Hussein of Jordan, became ruler of the semi-autonomous Emirate of

Trans-Jordan in area east of the *Jordan River*. In this way in 1921 *Abdullah* dynasty was proclaimed.

The history of modern Jordan has an imprint of its founding dynasty – the *Hashemite*. The Kingdom derives its name from the *Hashemite* clan or the *Bani Hashim*. The *Hashemites* are descendants of the Arab Chief-tain *Quraysh*, who came to the holy city of *Mecca*, in *Arabia*, in the second century. The first member of the *Quraysh*'s family named *Qusayy*, sixth generation descendant, became King of *Mecca* in 480 Christian era (C.E). The name "*Hashim*" is actually that of *Qusayy*'s, grandson, who is the great grandfather of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) (570–632). The *Hashemite* are thus the direct descendants of the Prophet through his daughter *Fatima* and her husband *Ali bin Abi Taleb*. *Ali* and *Fatima* had two sons: *Al-Hassan* and *Al-Hussein*. The direct descendants of their eldest son, *Al-Hassan*, are generally in Arabs known as "*Sharifs*" (nobles). The descendants of *Al-Hussein*, are generally indigenous Persians known as "*Sayyids*" (Lords). King *Abdullah-II bin Al-Hussein* was of the line of Sharif branch of the *Hashemite* and he represented the 43rd generation indirect male descent from the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

As an international entity, Jordan came into being after World War I, gaining its independence from the United Kingdom as a hereditary constitutional monarch in 1946. Trans-Jordan was declared a political entity in 1921. *Ma'an* and *Aqaba* districts were annexed to the Emirate in 1925 after an agreement was reached between Trans-Jordan and the Saudi Arabian government. During World War II, the ruler of Trans-Jordan actively supported the Allies. After the termination of World War II, the United Kingdom granted the Trans-Jordan full independence in 1946. It then became the Kingdom of Jordan under King *Abdullah*.

In 1947 the United Nations partition plan for Palestine, which was designed to create the state of Israel, changed the map of the region. The U.N partition plan allotted certain territories to the Arab Palestinians. In

the *Arab-Israeli* war which ensued, the Arab-Palestinians lost these territories to Israel. During the war, the Trans-Jordan Arab Legion assisted the Palestinians in holding on to these territories with limited success. At the end of the war the Arab Palestinians were left with only the old sector of *Jerusalem* and the West Bank. Later the Jordanian Parliament confirmed the Union of Jordan and the West Bank in 1950. The expanded country became the *Hashemite* Kingdom of Jordan, and formed by incorporation of those territories on the West Bank of Jordan formally known as Central Arab Palestine.

The Parliamentary tradition goes back to 1921 when *Abdullah* was first given charges of the Emirate of Trans-Jordan. Following King *Abdullah's* assassination in Jerusalem in 1951 the throne passed to his son *Talal Ibn Abdullah* (1909 – 1972) and he was proclaimed King in 1952. But within year, owing to illness, he abdicated in favour of his eldest son, crown Prince *Hussein* as constitutional monarch. He was formally crowned on 2 May 1953 at the age of eighteen years as King of Jordan. He was born on 14th November 1935 and educated in *Amman* and then Victoria College in *Alexandria*, Egypt. From there he travelled to England and attended Harrow School in England, later, for his military training at the Royal Military Academy at Sand -Hurst, and the Royal Air Force College Cromwell, England. For all his sophistication, he maintained intimate contact with the people, who referred to him as “Our *Hussein*”, demonstrating a relationship of trust between the citizen and the chosen leader rare among nations. *Hussein* learned much during his boyhood from his grandfather, who was his constant mentor and affectionate company. He was a man of integrity and under his dynamic leadership country progressed and survived at the time of crisis. He attempted to maintain Jordan's traditional policy of friendship with the West despite strong local and international pressure. He took keen interest to establish parliamentary politics as the modus operandi of Jordan's political system. The holding of national parliamentary elections in 1954 and 1956 was testimony to king *Hussein's* determination in this regard. In 1956 he took a bold and

conclusive step against the lingering British influence in the country. He dismissed the British commander of the Arab Legion General *Glubb Pasha* – thus Arabizing the army and sought the termination of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty of 1946, which the king felt conflicted with Jordan's national sovereignty. Finally the *Hussein* on 13th March 1957 terminated the treaty and the last British soldier left Jordan in July that year. After a brief period of turmoil in relation between Jordan and Britain it restored again based on new lines of understanding and equality. In 1955, the *Hashemite* Kingdom of Jordan became a member of the United Nations.

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy with the legislative power vested in the King and the National Assembly with two chambers in the Parliament. A House of Representatives is elected by secret ballot. The senate is appointed by the King on the government's recommendations. The King appoints the Prime Minister, who forms his own cabinet for ratification by the monarch. The Prime Minister and the cabinet are responsible to the House of Representatives. The executive power is vested in the King through the Prime Minister and the cabinet and the judicial power is vested in the courts of different types and levels. The King approves and promulgates laws, orders the holding of election, convenes or adjourns the House of Representatives. He is Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The senate members must be unrelated to the King and over 40 years old, and are generally chosen from past and present ministers. The members of the House of Representatives must be over 30 years old and must have no active business interests and must not be closely related to the King. Jordan's new age of democracy started in November 1989 with the free election of a new Parliament in which Muslim Brotherhood gained a quarter of the seats in the lower house. Women were allowed to vote for the first time in 1984.

The Israeli occupation of the West Bank including the old sector of Jerusalem in 1967 resulted in Jordan losing more than 40% of its agricultural land, important tourist places and sites located in the West Bank and also substantial tourist income, 6% of Jordan's territory and

suffering a forced influx of refugees (Map: 2.33). Nevertheless, Jordan's economy continues to grow. The economic system in Jordan is characterized by the principle of economic freedom and values and private initiatives. The government plays an instrumental role by participating in most large industrial projects and by providing incentives and suitable economic climate for private investment. Jordan's best resource is its people with all their varied background. Development of human resources in conjunction with natural wealth is a major goal of the country. Capacity building of the Jordanian society continues through academic studies and technical training programmes. Despite population pressures, a paucity of natural resources, an influx of refugees, Jordan has achieved strong economic growth the major sources of revenue are tourism, mining and industry, trade, communications and transportation, agriculture, and construction. Income from tourism, which has grown dramatically, is mostly in foreign reserves, and tourism has become a major factor in Jordan's effort to reduce its balance of payments deficit. Tourism is now given priority in national development after agriculture, mining and industry. Business and the arts are thriving, and first rate hotels, restaurants, galleries and shops have come up. The unrivalled hospitality of the Jordanian people has become a legend.

2.3 Physical Setting

The *Hashimite* Kingdom of Jordan, (officially known as *Al-Mamlakah Al-Urduniyah Al-Hashimiyah*), an Arab state of South West Asia, is a young nation that occupies an ancient land associated with the civilizations of antiquity. It is located north-west of the Arabian Peninsula between 29°-11' to 33°-22' north latitude and 34°-59' to 39°-12' east longitude (Map: 2.26) Jordan shares part of the north Arabian plateau with Syria to the north, Iraq to the east, and Saudi Arabia to the south-east and south. No natural frontiers exist between Jordan and its Arab neighbours (Map: 2.27). The Western border of Jordan is the *Great Rift Valley*, through which the *Jordan River* flows. Beyond the *Great Rift Valley* lie Occupied Palestine (Israel and the West Bank high-lands). This valley is a

part of the Syria-African rift. Within Jordan, *Jordan Rift Valley* consists of the *River Jordan*, (Map: 2.28) the *Dead Sea* and *Wadi Araba* extending to the Gulf of *Aqaba* in the south-west. Most of the country consists of plateau 660-1000 metres above sea level which continues unbroken into Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The *Wadi Sirhan* River, now almost dry with only occasional wells, breaks up the surface of the plateau on the south east and continues into Saudi Arabia (Map:2.29). On the western sides of the plateau, two strongly marked and parallel faults run north wards from the *Red Sea* via the Gulf of *Aqaba* forming the famous topographical feature known as the *Jordan Rift Valley* (Map:2.30). About 80 percent area of the country is dominated by desert which extends east and south to the desert to the Iraq-Saudi borders and north to Syria territories (Table: 2.00). Jordan has 26 km of coast line on the Gulf of *Aqaba* in the south west, where *Aqaba*, its only port is located.

Table: 2.00

Area by Topography

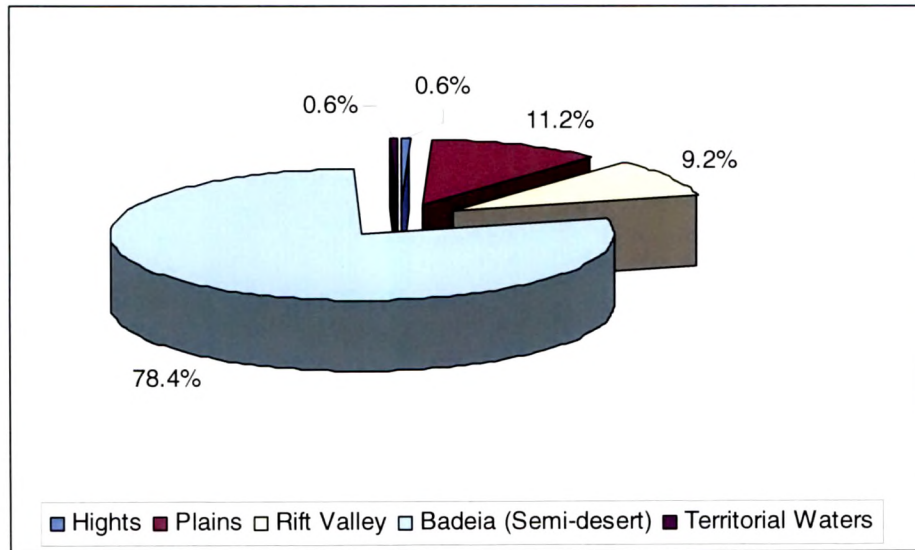
Item	Area (km ²) *
Total Area	89,342
Land Area	88,802
Heights	550
Plains	10,000
<i>Rift Valley</i>	8,252
Badeia (Semi-desert)	70,000
Territorial Waters	540
<i>Dead Sea</i>	446
Aqaba Gulf	94
Highest Acme: Um Dami Mount. (M above sea level)	1,854
Lowest Point: <i>Dead Sea</i> (M below sea level)	416

* Approximate Area

Source: Department of Statistics, *Jordan in Figure*, May 2006.

Figure: 2.00

The Kingdom Area by Topography



Source: Department of Statistics, *Jordan in Figure*, May 2006.

Jordan territories were subjected to intensive historic tectonic action that affected its topography. These effects vary from one region to another and related to the type of action, the uplifting process from south to north and sloping process from east to west formed the mountains in the south eastern part of Jordan with slope towards the north and east. Jordan comprises variety of contracting and fascinating features with a wide range of landscape. There are four major physiographic regions which show great diversity through a short distance: (A) the Jordan desert, (B) the East Bank uplands, (C) the West Bank uplands, and (D) the *Jordan Rift Valley*. (Map: 2.31)

(A) The Jordan Desert

The Jordan Desert is located in the eastern part of the country, comprising about four-fifths of the territory of the east Bank. Its northern part is composed of volcanic lava and basalt, and its southern part of outcrops of sandstone and granite. The Jordan Desert comprises the eastern plateau of

Jordan. It is much eroded primarily by winds and considered as a flattened area subjected to flash floods containing the *Azraq Depressions*. It is intersected by many valleys (*wadis*) extending in a northeast southwest direction. The *Azraq Depression* formed the permanent *Azraq Oasis*, currently named as a wetland reserve. The Basaltic the plateau in the north close to the Syrian territories has an elevation of about 1234 above sea level and slopes down toward *Azraq Oasis* where the elevation reaches 500 m above sea level. The central part of the Jordan Desert comprises a depression known as *Al-Jafr Depression* which is about 150 km long in northwest direction and about 100 km wide. Central part of the depression is an extensive mudflat and the drainage is centripetal and directed to the centre of the depression. (Map: 2.32)

(B) The East Bank

Uplands lie almost parallel to and east of the *Rift Valley*. It slopes gently eastwards towards the central plateau and steeply towards the *Rift Valley*. It has an average altitude of between 600 and 900 metres, and the elevation increases to about 1800 m in the south. In the northern uplands several valleys and perennial streams run west world, some of these are *wadi Arab*, *wadi Jurum*, *wadi Yabis*, *wadi Kufruja*, *wadi Rajib*, *Zarqa River*, *wadi Hidan* etc. Many Creeks and valleys drain from this highlands and lead to the *Jordan River*, *Dead Sea* and *Wadi Araba*. The highlands extend from *Umm Qais* in the north passing through *Ajloun*, *Karak*, *Tafilah*, and *Ma'an* mountains. South of *Karak* non-perennial valley streams run east towards the *Jafr Depression*. (Map: 2.32)

(C) The Jordan Rift Valley

Extends from Lake *Tiberias* (*Sea of Galilee*) in the north, down to the Gulf of *Aqaba* in the south passing through *Wadi Araba*. This is a narrow depression which extends from the Gulf of *Aqaba* for approximately 370 km north to Lake *Tiberias*. The average width of this valley is 15 km. The *Jordan Rift Valley*, approximately 416 meters below sea level at the *Dead*

Sea, contains the lowest point on the Earth's surface. Meandering south, the *Jordan River* drains the water of the *Sea of Galilee*, the *Yarmouk*, and the valley streams of both plateaus into the *Dead Sea*. The *Dead Sea* occupies the central area of the valley. The shores of the *Dead Sea* consist of salt marshes that do not support vegetation. To its south, *Wadi Araba*, a completely desolate region is generally considered to contain mineral resources. The soils of the *Jordan Rift Valley* are of sandy nature mainly in addition to *Hammada* and saline soil. (Map:2.32)

(D) The West Bank

Historically known as the *Samaria* and *Judean* mountains, (Map: 2.33) area complex anticline structure with an average height of about 1000 metres above sea level. This plateau is cut into by some large valleys draining toward the Mediterranean sea, the valleys draining east are shorter and are precipitous often consisting of deep gorges. Baring some rich alluvial plains among the hills and in certain basins, the soils are generally thin and often poor. *West Bank is not part of Jordan. However, its description here is necessary to understand the physiography of Jordan.* (Map: 2.32)

2.4 Climate

Fine weather with warmth and sunshine is one of the most important attractions of a tourist area. Good weather is particularly an important ingredient in holidaying. Its significance is reflected in the fact that it can make or mar a holiday. Advertisement such as "come to sunny sand sea" attests the importance of fine climate or good weather in tourism activity. Climatic variations affect tourist development in a number of ways. A favourable climate can be one of the major attractions of an area. It is simply pleasant and agreeable to spend one's holiday in an area characterized by warm temperatures and high sunshine hours. This hunt for the sun, however, is a comparatively recent phenomenon. Most of

tourists are enticed to the Mediterranean lands by the attraction of nothing other than the promise of seven consecutive days of sunshine.

The climate of Jordan varies from the Mediterranean type in the west to the desert type in the east *Badeia*, but the land is generally arid. The proximity of the Mediterranean Sea is the major climatic influence and prevails mostly in the western part of the country viz. *Karak*, *Salt*, *Ajloun*, and *Irbid* heights, which is characterized by a cool, rainy winter season from October until early April, and hot dry summer season from late April until early October. The eastern part of the country has tropical climate, and the *Jordan Rift Valley* has sub-tropical climate in the north and tropical climate in the south.

In general, the country can be divided into three main climatic regions: (a) *Amman* and the hilly areas, (b) *Aqaba* and the *Jordan valley*, and (c) the desert regions. In *Amman* and the hilly areas the weather is characterized by a short cold winter season and a long hot summer but with surprisingly cool nights. Snow fall may occur between January and March. The *Jordan valley* and *Aqaba* have sub-tropical climates with slight variations in day and night temperature. The temperature is rarely below 40°C in summer and below 20°C in winter. In the desert region climatic changes are characterized by extreme variations of temperature with very hot days and very cold night's occasional snow and frost occur in the uplands but are rare in the *Rift Valley*. The dissimilarity in the topographic features of Jordan causes diversity in the elevation with short horizontal distances and diversity in the temperature between the areas. The temperature is highly affected by altitude, latitude and structure of the soil. The mean annual temperature ranges between 20°C in the mountains areas and 30°C in *Wadi Araba*. (Map: 2.34)

The distribution of rainfall is controlled by the moisture content in the air masses and the topography of the region. These two factors combine to produce an annual rainfall distribution which varies greatly from one physiographic region to the other. The rainfall is highly seasonal

winter event, being received from late October to March. It averages from 700 to 800 mm in the high mountain areas, and from 400 to 500 mm in the lower areas. In general, rainfall decreases gradually from north to south and rapidly from the Highlands to the *Jordan Rift Valley* in the west and to a lesser degree to the east. In eastern Jordan, the rainfall decreases rapidly from 200 mm to 100 mm and frontal events give way to the typical isolated desert storms of short duration. Desert has dry and hot summers without cold and very little precipitation in the winter, and mostly with clear sky. Autumn and spring are short transitional periods, starting around November and April respectively. Winter humidity in the wetter months in western Jordan can often be as high as 90% though the average declines to around 35%. At high altitude snow falls occur one to three times a year during the high season of winter. However frost formation at the ground is frequent during the period from December to February. (Map: 2.35)

Most of the urban areas and cities in Jordan are situated within the hilly regions, which are characterized by a pleasant climate while some spots such as *Ajloun* area, can be convenient as summer resorts. Jordan enjoys predominantly dry Mediterranean climate which enables it to attract tourist of different interests and backgrounds from various parts of the world.

2.5 Biodiversity

Jordan is the only country that has maintained and continues to maintain species related to different biota in a small relatively semi land locked country. The global importance of Jordan's biodiversity lies within its geographical formations. Jordan's geographical features provide for a tremendous diversity of habitats including some of the oldest distribution of species, communities and coral reefs.

Jordan is rich in biodiversity (Map: 2.36). Its location at the crossroads of climate and botanic regions endows the country with a rich variety of plant and animal life. Although, Jordan is a small country, and

classified as an arid area, still its flora and fauna is very rich and highly diverse. It has an estimated vascular flora of 2500 species, 412 bird species, 77 mammal species, 97 reptiles' species and 5 amphibian species. The number of invertebrate species is difficult to count or estimate.

The location of Jordan at the crossroads of three continents makes it the bridge of extensive exchange of culture and natural resources, as well as a diversity of bio-geographical regions. Nestled between Europe, Asia and Africa, (Map: 2.37) Jordan has comprised of four distinct bio-geographical regions: (A) Mediterranean region, (B) Irano- Turanian region; (C) Saharo-Arabian and (D) Sudanian region. The borders of these regions are not stable and are not well defined due to the integration of ecological elements between two or more adjacent regions (Map: 2.38). The climatic conditions, which vary considerably from year to year, affect the stability of these borders.¹

(A) Mediterranean Region

This region is restricted to the highlands of Jordan extending from *Irbid* in the north to *Ras En-Naqab* in the south. The altitude ranges from 700 to 1750 m above sea level. The average annual rainfall ranges between 300-600 mm. The mean minimum annual temperature ranges from 5-10°C and the maximal annual temperature varies between 15-25°C. This region is considered as the most fertile part of Jordan and enjoys the best climate for the growth of natural vegetation. Mediterranean region presents the favourable climate for the forest ecosystem such as evergreen Oak forest, deciduous Oak forest, Aleppo pine forest, or Juniper forest in the southern highlands. Mountain vegetation and forest ecosystem have been destroyed through different human activities. (Map: 2.39)

1. *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*, pp.7-9. (Amman, 2003)

(B) Irano-Turanian Region

It is Phyto-geographically a narrow strip of variable width that surrounds all the Mediterranean eco-zones except to the north. The average annual rainfall is usually less than 150 mm. The mean annual minimal temperature ranges from 5-20°C while the mean annual maximum temperature ranges from 15-25°C. The vegetation is mainly of small shrubs and bushes. This region is characterized by being a timberless land since it has no forest cover. Vegetation is mostly dominated by chamaephytes and referred to as steppe vegetation. Many plant species of both Mediterranean and *Irano-Turanian* can intermix in their distribution, but still there are typical *Irano-Turanian* elements. It is indistinguishable zoo-geographical from other bioclimatic eco-zones. In the Jordan it is a transitional zone between the Mediterranean eco-zone and the surrounding eco-zones. This eco-zone does not have its own entity since it does not possess specific fauna as other eco-zones in Jordan. None of the species is restricted to this region, and all the species found here originally came from the surrounding eco-zones. Moreover, the width of this region varies from year to year in relation to the amount of rain. This region is affected by many irrational human activities such as ploughing vast areas for cultivation, overgrazing, rural development and initiation of industrial areas.² (Map: 2.38)

(C) Saharo-Arabian or Eastern Desert Region

This eco-zone forms most of the territory of Jordan encompassing almost 80% of the total area. It is characteristically flat, except for a few hills or small mountains. Altitude ranges between 500-700 meters above sea level. At the Jordanian-Syrian borders there are few recorded places which reach 1200 meters. The mean annual rainfall ranges from 50-200 mm. Precipitation decreases as we head east. The annual rainfall in the northern part is around 100 mm. The southern part receives a little more than 50 mm annually. The mean annual minimal temperature varies from

2. Ibid.

5-15°C and the mean annual maximum temperature ranges from 15-25°C. Soil is very and mostly of the hammada type with some sandy hammadas, saline soils or mudflats. Vegetation is, therefore, very poor and restricted to the watershed in the *wadis* where enough moisture is available to sustain adequate growth. Vegetation is dominated by small shrubs and small annuals located in *wadi* beds (Map: 2.39) this region, also known as the *Badia*, is an example of unique living desert. It provides home to a wide range of highly and diversified adopted organisms and considered as a rangeland and should not be used otherwise. Ecosystem of *Badia* has been affected by some human activities viz., overgrazing, irrational cultivation and agriculture, and uncontrolled vehicle movement. (Map: 2.38)

(D) Sudanian Region

This region starts at *Al-Karamah* in the north and continues to the south through the *Dead Sea* depression and *Wadi Araba*, which end at the tip of the Gulf of *Aqaba*. Moreover, this eco-zone includes the southern Jordan and southern Edom Mountains. It includes the *Rift Valley*, south of *Dayr Alla*, area of *Dead Sea*, *Aqaba* and the Granite Mountain in the south including part of *Wadi Rum*. Annual rainfall ranges from 50 to 100 mm. The mean annual minimal temperature ranges from 10-12°C and mean annual maximal temperature varies from the minimal 20-35°C. Soil is mostly alluvial transported by water, saline soil, sandy and granitic. The vegetation is related to tropical varieties such as *Acacia*. The ecological pyramids and climatic conditions in the northern *Jordan valley*, *Ghors* (Lowlands), are different from those of southern *Ghors* and *wadi Araba*. Accordingly, northern *Ghors* is considered part of the Mediterranean eco-zone. Vegetation is characterized in the North by the presence of tropical tree elements such as *Ziziphus spina-christae* and in the south by *Acacia* in addition to some shrubs and annual herbs. Vegetation is attributed to the shallow water table in this region of low attitude. This eco-geographical region is affected by many irrational human activities such as unorganised cultivation and change of land use, unorganised tourism influx, Road

constructions, industrial plants and initiation of hotels and rest houses without carrying out the proper ecological impact assessments. (Map: 2.38)

The biodiversity of Jordan is the most important resource for the development of tourism. Biodiversity refers to the variability among living organism from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystem and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, this include diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. As a result of human activities the biodiversity of Jordan is being exposed to a great deal of threats and impacts. Different human activities have caused the extinction of certain floral and faunal species. This accelerating decline in the biodiversity threatens the ecological, economic, spiritual, recreational and cultural benefits. Acknowledging these threats, the government of Jordan has prepared a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation and protection of biological diversity in Jordan. It includes programme and projects that support the development of the concept of conservation and the rational use of biological resources. Jordan has diversified ecological resources which provide a wide range of products and services, where eco-tourism has a central role to play. The uniqueness of the *Dead Sea* basin, the wealth of corals in *Aqaba*, the natural beauty of *Petra*, the vast welcoming stretches of *Wadi Rum*, and the *Dana* Nature Reserve are some good example of eco-tourism. The country has enormous potential to further develop this market niche. Apart from this, the embryonic eco-tourism market in Jordan could be developed and promoted as a tool for supporting biodiversity conservation in a more proactive way. Eco-tourism could become the means of safeguarding natural resources and of supporting conservation initiatives.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA) is targeting the eco-tourism wellness niche markets in order to enrich and enhance the competitiveness of the tourism product in Jordan. The biological diversity

of Jordan represents a considerable terrestrial eco-tourism resource. There are considerable opportunities to develop nature base tourism in Jordan.

2.6 Population

Jordan's best resource is its people with all their varied background. Development of human resources in conjunction with natural wealth is a major goal of the country. Human resource plays vital role in the development of tourism. All high performance comes from the human resource. Jordan has given top priority to developing its human resources by increasing education and training opportunities. Human resources play a pivotal role in developmental efforts of Jordan, focusing on humans as the target, the means and the instrument of development. Jordan's strategy for human resource development for tourism is focussed on quantitative expansion and the diversification of the different levels and kinds of education and training programmes.

According to the preliminary results of the latest population and housing census, the population of Jordan has quadrupled in less than half a century from 1.3 million in 1952 to about 5,600 million in 2006 (Table: 2.01). The high rate of population growth in Jordan placed in great stress on the public sectors and on the country limited resources, particularly water and its food supplies. The annual rate of growth of the population is substantively high but the rate is falling due to improved female education and public awareness campaigns for implementation of family planning programmes.

Table: 2.01

Population Growth in Jordan

1996-2006

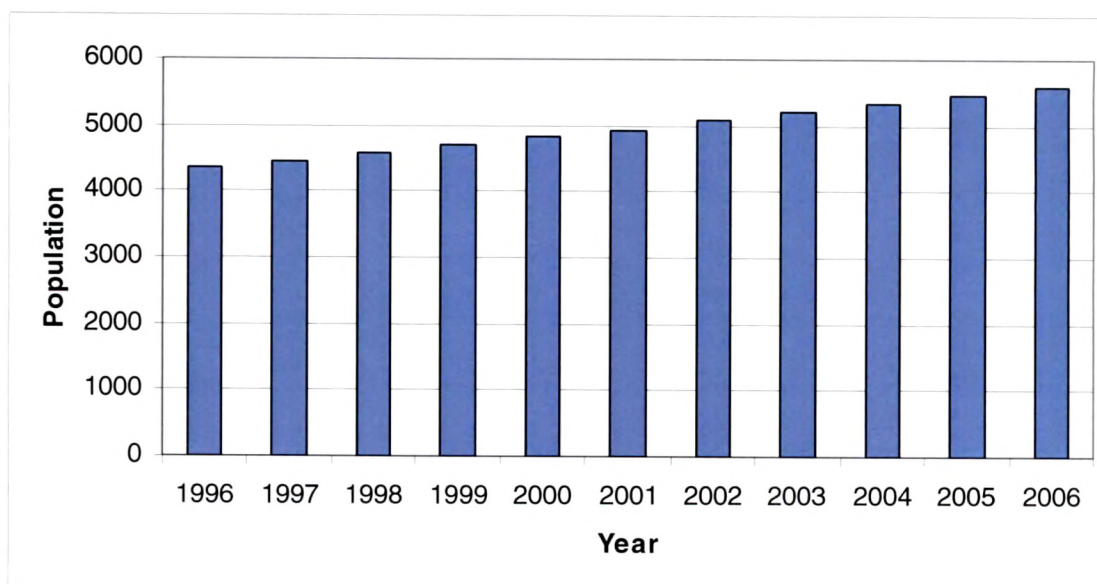
Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Population (in million)	4,350	4,460	4,570	4,690	4,820	4,940	5,070	5,200	5,150	5,473	5,600

Source: Department of Statistics, *Jordan in Figure* 2006, 2007, Issue-9.

Figure: 2.01

Population Growth in Jordan

1996-2006



Main Indicators:

➤ Population Growth Rates

1952-1961: 4.8%

1961-1979: 4.8%

1979-1994: 4.4%

1994-2003: 3.1%

2002-2003: 2.8%

2003-2004: 2.8%

2004-2005: 2.3%

2005-2006: 2.3%

➤ Male of Total Population in 2003: 52.3%

➤ Urban Population of Total Population in 2003: 78.7% and 82.6% in 2006

➤ Population Density in 2003: 61.7 Person per Km² and 63.1 Person per Km² in 2006

The high rate of population growth in Jordan resulted in a continuous increase in school age population. The rapid increases in population have generated strains on the education system. This quantitative expansion reflected negatively on the surplus of graduates of higher education beyond current developmental and labour market needs. Tourism industry which looks substantially to expatriate works to fill its service level needs could diminish strain on the economy and on the limited resources by creating employment for locals. There are five important areas in tourism which ensure skills suitable to the needs of the industry. International Marketing, Product Marketing, Marketing

Planning, Heritage Presentation and site preservation. These areas need technical skill staff, management and professional skill personnel.

Among the more important macro-trends vitally important to tourism are the demographic ones such as population growth, life expectancy and age profile. Population growth averaged 4.8 per cent during the period 1961-1979, and 4.4 percent between 1979 and 1994. The population growth rate shows a significant decrease during the period 2002-2003 which recorded as 2.8 percent. Demographic indicators show that the Jordanian society is a young society where about 43 percent of the population are below 15 years old. The proportion of those ages 65 and over has been rising, representing 54 percent of the population. It reflects a very high dependency ratio and relatively lower rate of work participation. Demographic composition indicates that male proportion of the total population in 2003 represents about 52 percent. Fertility has been declining in Jordan since the mid-1970s. The total fertility rate in Jordan declined from 7.4 children per woman in 1976 to 4.4 in 1997 and finally to 3.7 in 2003. Mortality has also witnessed declining trend in Jordan ever faster than fertility. The crude death rate in 1990 was estimated at seven per thousand and by 2003 it declined to five. The infant mortality rate also declined from 82 per thousand to 21 in 2003. On account of improved health facilities and medical care life expectancy in Jordan reached 69 years for both sexes in 2003; 68.8 for males and 71.1 for females. With regard to the education of the population, the illiteracy rate among those age 15 years and over had dropped by 70 percent since 1980 and from 35.5 percent to 10.3 percent of the population in 2002.

The population of Jordan is highly urbanized. Over 80 percent of the population live in the northwest and the middle part of Jordan. Majority of inhabitants concentrated in the governorates of *Amman*, *Irbid* and *Zarqa*, which accounts for 90 percent of the total urban population in 2003 (Map: 2.40). Only 9 percent of the population live in the governorates (Muhafazat) of the south region-*Karak*, *Tafilah*, *Ma'an* and *Aqaba*. Administratively, the country is divided into 12 governorates

(*Muhafazat*) which are then grouped into three regions – the North region (*Ibrid, Ajloun, Jerash* and *Mafrq*), the Central region (*Amman, Zarqa, Balqa*, and *Madaba*), and the South region (*Karak, Tafilah, Ma'an* and *Aqaba*). The major cities are *Amman* (the capital), *Zarqa* and *Irbid*. (Map: 2.41). The average density of population for the country as a whole increased from 40 per sq. km in 1990 to 61.7 person per sq km in 2003. The average population density is found to be maximized in the central parts of Jordan and it tends to decline as one move northward and southward. The average population density increased from 135 to 160 persons per sq. km. in the central parts during the 1995-2003 periods, from 50 to 72.7 persons per sq km in the northern parts, and from 11.2 to 19.3 persons per sq km in southern parts during the same period (Map:2.40). Education has spread deeply as well as broadly over time in Jordan: Only 54 percent of women had ever attended preparatory or higher levels of schooling in 1990, the corresponding figure in 1997 was 97 percent, and by 2003, 83 percent of women had attained preparatory or higher education. It maybe said that Jordan's human resource development needs proper strategy and explicit programmes to address all population related activities.

2.7 Important Tourist Sites

Jordan is a land of contrasts and variety from the temperate wooded highlands of the north, to the semi-tropical *Jordan valley*, from the spectacular sandstone mountains in the south *Petra* and *Wadi Rum* region, to the flint and basalt deserts of the eastern plateau. It offers and ventures in archaeology, history, sports and camping in a variety of beautiful settings. Jordan is a country of culture, beauty, and surprising contrasts. It is an ancient land, yet a modern kingdom, offering the discerning traveller fascinating diversity, safety and traditional hospitality. Few nations boast such close affinity to the great historical epochs of the world not many match its beautiful climate. Here the very dusting of mankind has been reshaped time and again, during the prolonged course of countless centuries, resulting in layer after layer of unparalleled spectacles of nature and human achievements. The abundance of tourism resources in Jordan is

a guarantee of the promising opportunities that lie in the development of highly attractive tourism products.

The concept of the tourism product covers a wide range of historical, cultural, natural and recreational activities. It also includes special types of attractions and activities that are at times created artificially and on temporary basis. In the case of Jordan, tourism has traditionally depended to a great extent on archaeology and history. There is a great need for the country to further broaden and diversify its tourism resources. A comprehensive survey carried out by Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) revealed that 45 per cent of tourists indicated that their visits to Jordan were oriented toward historical and archaeological sites (Map: 2.42). About 21 per cent of tourists go to Jordan to visit religious sites (Map: 2.43). According to the survey about 18 per cent of tourists go for scenic attractions and 13 per cent for beach activities, health spas and therapeutic aims and interests. Following Table:2.02 shows the interests of Tourists.

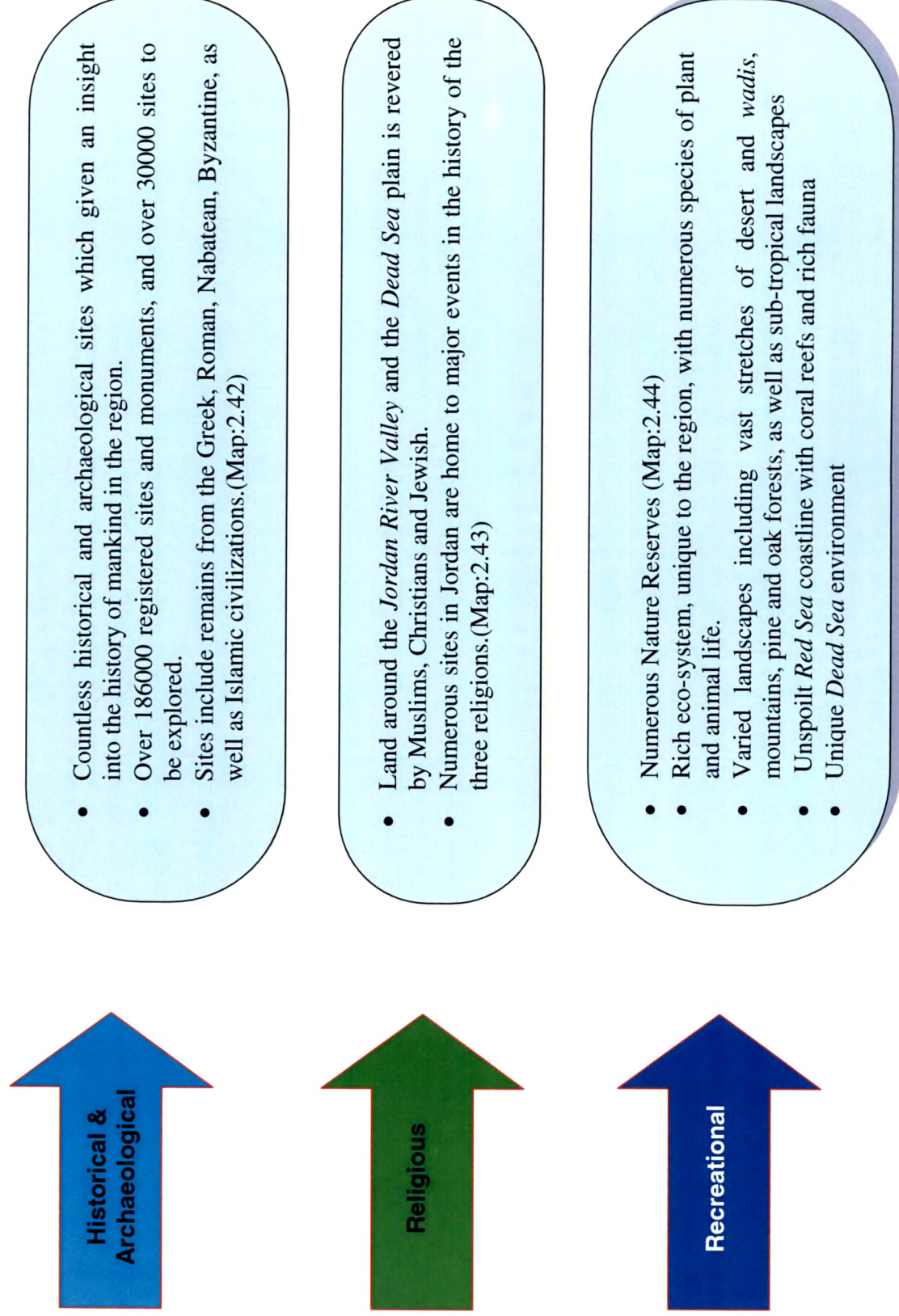
Table: 2.02

Area of Interest of Tourist Visit

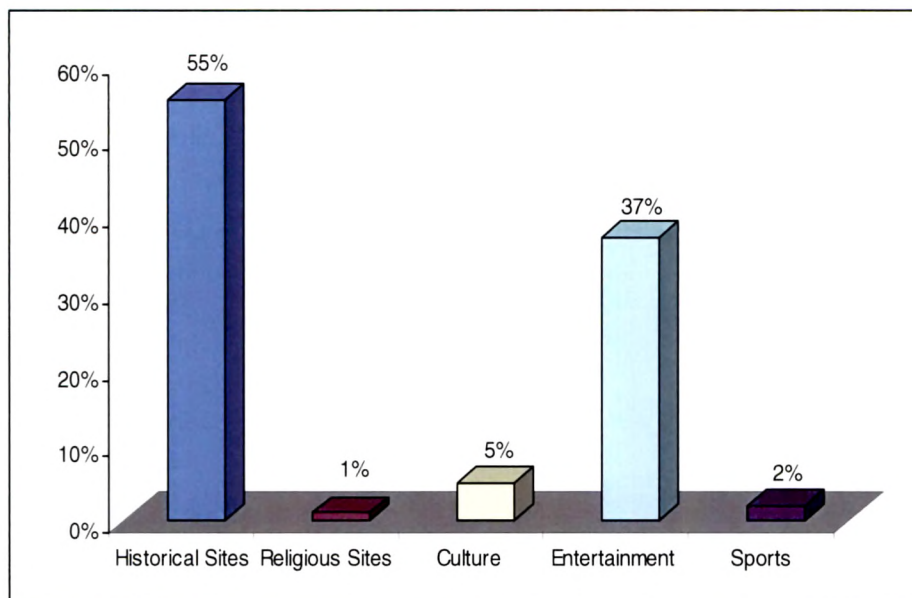
Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
History (Archaeology)	826	44.8
Cultural (Religious)	398	20.7
Scenic attractions	342	17.8
Beaches <i>Aqaba, Dead Sea</i>	198	10.3
Health Spas	54	2.8
Others	68	3.6
Total	1922	100.00

Source: UN Study, *Tourism in Jordan*, 2001.

Chart: 2.00
Key Tourism Attractions in Jordan



Source: Jordan Tourism Sector Overview, 2004. (Modified)



Source: Ministry of Planning.

Antiquities and historic and touristic, places in Jordan constitute an important element in the world of Tourism, taking into consideration their historic and cultural richness. Jordan has tremendous number of archaeological, historical and biblical sites. Following are historical and archaeological, cultural, natural and other important tourist sites of Jordan.

(A) Decapolis Era-the Greco-Roman Cities: The most famous tourist attraction in Jordan are the *Decapolis* cities. The *Decapolis*, meaning ten cities in Greek, consisted of ten Greco-Roman cities in the land of Northern Jordan, Syria and Palestine. The Roman ruler Pompey the Great in order to unite the Roman possessions and to enhance commerce and probably also to strengthen the Greeks against the Jews, around 64-63 B.C, created a confederation of ten cities or the league of cities which became known collectively as the *Decapolis* (Map:2.45). The *Decapolis* cities served as a formidable means of defence on the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire. These cities prospered during the period of the Roman dominance in the east. However, the *Decapolis*

cities faded into oblivion with the dawn of the Umayyad dynasty. In Jordan four main *Decapolis* cities were Philadelphia (*Amman*), Gerasa (*Jerash*), Gadara (*Umm Qais*), and Pella (*Tabaqat Fahil*). (Map: 2.45)

(a) Amman (Philadelphia)

Amman is the modern and ancient capital of Jordan, is spread over 13 hills that are dotted with prehistoric sites back to the Stone Age as well as *Ammonite*, *Greek*, *Roman*, *Byzantine*, and *Islamic* ruins. During the Iron Age it was the capital of the *Ammonites* and is known in the Bible as “*Rabbah and Rabbath- Amman*.” During the Roman period it was known as *Philadelphia* and was a member of the *Decapolis* League of Greco-Roman cities. *Amman* is crowned by the citadel (Jabal Al-Qa’la), a hill with ruins of the Temple of *Hercules*, an *Umayyad* Palace, a *Byzantine* church, Roman wells and the National Archaeological Museum. In down town *Amman* there is an impressive second century Roman theatre with a seating capacity of 4000 which houses the folklore and the popular life of Jordan Museums. Other points of interest in the city are the Jordan National Gallery and the Martyrs Memorial. It is a city of contrasts, a mixture of ancient and modern. *Amman* is often referred to as the white city. It is a busy commercial and administrative centre with many fine hotels, night clubs and discos as well as modern facilities for sporting events, conventions and conferences. There is a wide spectrum of restaurants to meet every taste offering choices of food ranging from Arabic through a variety of international specialities and fast food. Many interesting excursions are within an easy half-hour drive from the city. (Map: 2.42; Plates: 2.00-a to 2.00-d)

(b) Jerash (Gerasa)

It is one of the leading sites in Jordan. It is located 48 Km on the main road north of *Amman*. *Jerash* or *Gerasa* is without doubt one of the best preserved and restored cities of the Greco-Roman civilization.

Evidence suggests that the city's origins date back to the era of Alexander the Great, but its real splendour began sometime near the birth of Christ, and under the aegis of Rome. *Jerash* is known as the *Pompeii* of the East for its extraordinary state of preservation. The triple arched gateway to the south of the city was built in 129 A.D to honour the Emperor *Hadrian's* arrival at *Jerash*. There are splendid remains of colonnaded streets, an oval forum, three theatres, the *Temple of Artemis* with its monumental stairway, early churches and mosques. *Jerash* became a member of the League of Decapolis; a confederation of Ten Roman Cities dating from the 1st century B.C. *Jerash* witnessed an earthquake in the 8th century which destroyed much of the city. It fell prey to the marauding crusaders who converted many of its buildings into fortifications and destroyed beautiful structures. Dominating the present site is second century *temple of Artemis* with its impressive entrance and great stairway leading up to the three 15 m high columns. Running north south past the temple is the street of columns, many of which are still standing. Nightly sound and light shows through the summer months, and the annual *Jerash* Festival (has been renamed to Jordan Festival in 2008) of culture and Arts held each July, bring the ancient community to life for today's visitor. Nestled in a green and well watered valley in the biblical land of *Gilead*, the remains of the ancient city have long attracted tourists, scholars and students from all over the world. (Map: 2.42; Plates: 2.01-a to 2.01-d)

(c) Umm Qais (Gadara): Of the comparable importance among the *Decapolis* sites is *Umm Qais*, known in antiquity as *Gadara*, where the *Ottoman* Governor's house has been restored and opened as a museum. *Gadara* commands magnificent views over the northern *Jordan valley*, the Sea of *Galilee*, the *Yarmouk* River gorge and the *Golan Heights*. On a clear day the snow peak of Mount *Hermon* is visible. Half buried today are the ruins of temples, churches, theatres, baths, tombs, colonnaded streets and palaces. (Map: 2.42; Plates: 2.02-a and 2.02-b)

(d) Tabaqat Fahil (Pella): Pella is one of major cities of the *Decopolis*. It is exceptionally rich in antiquities. Besides the excavated ruins from the *Greco-Roman* period, *Pella* offers visitors the opportunity to see the remains of catholic settlements from the 4th century B.C. The columns and remains reflect much of the vibrant business, commerce and trade conducted under the Roman Peace. *Pella* is among the largest and most important archaeological sites in the region. (Map: 2.42; Plate: 2.03)

(B) Ajloun Castel

It is located 73 km north-west of *Amman* and 24 km west of *Jerash*. *Ajloun* is characterized by its fair weather in summer. It attracts more tourists in this season as well as in spring. *Ajloun* is one of the highest points in Jordan, and is approached by a road which winds its way through a beautiful pine forest. *Ajloun* castle (*Qala'at al-Rabadh*), with its historical and architectural importance is the areas most famous tourism attraction. "The Castle 4,069 feet above sea level, commands a spectacular view of the *Jordan valley*. There is a hotel near the castle which serves meals as well as light refreshment to visitors. It was built in defence against the crusaders in 1185 A.D." (Map: 2.42; Plate: 2.04)

(C) Petra (The Golden Gate of Jordan Tourism and Wonders of the World)

A Nabatean fabulous city carved in a rocky mountainous area in southern Jordan. The remains of the city, Jordan most famous touristic attraction, embody the details of the Nabatean period and culture it is also known as "Rose Red City". It was literally carved out of red sandstone cliffs by the Nabateans and can only be entered by way of the narrow twisting canyon called the *Siq*. It is a world famous touristic place and there is an increasing demand to visit the city from all over the world, it has been voted for to be listed as one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. In 07- 07- 2007, *Petra*, the red rose city which was carved in the rock by the Arab Nabateans, has been chosen as one

of the new Seven Wonders of the World. The location of *Petra* is also important as it lies in the middle of a touristic region that includes *Wadi Rum*, *Aqaba*, and *Elat*. Thus, tourism firm in all countries of the region put *Petra* as an important destination in there programmes. *Petra* is the most mystic and glorious of Jordan's national treasures. An eternal tribute to a lost civilization *Petra* is the high light of a trip to Jordan. It includes temples, roman theatres, monasteries the impressive Treasury *Al-Khazneh*, the High Palace and tombs and countless other remains, all deserve a longer stay than most tourists can do devote to it. Accommodation is available inside *Petra* in a guest house, in ancient caves and in well-appointed tents.

Petra is undoubtedly the most famous archaeological site of Jordan. It is located in south western part of Jordan on the slope *Mount Hor* in a basin among the mountains south of the *Dead Sea*. *Petra* is the legacy of Nabateans Arabs who settled in southern Jordan somewhere around the 6th century B.C. It had been capital of the Nabatean Arabs and, gradually built up into a rich centre of the caravan trade from Arabia. *Petra* is famous for having many stone structures carved into the rock. It is known for its dramatic tombs and temple facades. The city inhabitants Nabateans Arabs carved this wonderland of temples, tombs and ingenious complex of dams and water channels out of soft sand stone rock. (Plates: 2.05-n)

Famous poet *John William Burgon* gave *Petra* description which holds to this day – “*Match me such a marvel save in Eastern clime, a rose-red city half as old as time*”. The rose-red rock city remained in more or less tranquil seclusion until the beginning of the 19th century. Finally in 1812 in young Swiss scholar and explorer named *Johan Ludwig Burckhardt* or (*Ibrahim Burckhardt*) rediscovered this legendary city and secret of *Petra* was revealed to the modern western world. He was very much influenced by Arab civilization, learned Arabic language and accustomed to West Asian culture and customs and later embraced Islam. (Map: 2.42)

Petra was designated as UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985 when it was described as “One of the most precious cultural properties of man’s cultural heritage”. Recently *Petra* was named one of the New Seven Wonders of the world. The contest started since March 2006 and out of around 100 million voters around the globe 22 million votes were cast in favour of *Petra*. Finally, on 07 July, 2007 New World Corporation declared *Petra* as one of “New Seven Wonders of the World” in a special ceremony held in Lisbon. It ranked second with the Great Wall of China occupying first place.

Petra which means “stone” in Greek is certainly well worth the visit. The grandeur of the scene, its magnificent architecture, sculpture and pottery, and spectacular stone dressing make this rose-red city as one of the greatest wonders ever wrought by Nature and Man. *Petra* has about 500 major monuments but following are the important sights of interest.(Map:2.46; Plates: 2.05-a to 2.05-n)

(a) Djinn Blocks: The first monuments on the road to *Petra* are three enormous rectangular blocks situated on the right side of the *Wadi* known as *Djinn* Blocks. (Plate: 2.05-a)

(b) The Tombs of the Obelisks and the Triclinium: These are located opposite the *Djinn* blocks and appear to be unrelated, although they are found in close proximity to one another. They represent almost all decorative elements found in the monuments of *Petra*.(Plate:2.05-b)

(c) The Siq: The *Siq* is a natural gorge of spectacular geological formation with steep cliff faces on either side after reach a towering height of 200 meters. As the outer *Siq* opens the street of facades becomes visible. The Nabatean and later the Romans sustained their sophisticated civilizations through skillful water management, which included water channels on either side of the *Siq* with basins. (Plate: 2.05-c)

(d) The Treasury or Al-Khazneh: *Al-Khazneh* is one of the most elegant and famous monument of *Petra*. It sets the scene for the rest of the visit. It is skillfully carved out of pink sand stone rock from the side of a mountain, and stands over 40 meters high. It is the most well preserved monument of *Petra*.

The Treasury gets its name from the legend the presence of an urn at the top of the monument had contained the treasure of the *Pharaoh* at the time of the Exodus. (Plate: 2.05-d)

(e) The Theatre: It is 8000-seat amphitheatre and was built by the *Nabateans* in the 1st century A.D. It is now believed that the *Nabateans* cut the Amphitheatre out of the rock around the time of Christ, slicing through many caves and tombs in the process. (Plate: 2.05-e)

(f) High Place of Sacrifice: It rests on top of an elevated mountain called the “*Attouf Ridge*” the place of sacrifice was an area where beasts were sacrifice by the priest. (Plate: 2.05-f)

(g) The Royal Tombs: The Royal Tombs are spectacular and magnificent monuments of *Petra*. It is located in the Eastern Part of the *Petra* City. The Royal Tombs are the three most impressive tom viz., the *Urn* Tomb, *Corinthian* Tomb and silk tomb or *Rainbow* Tomb. The *Palace* Tomb is another monument located close to the Royal Tombs and is an interesting example of the craftsmanship of rock curved building. (Plate: 2.05-g)

(h) The Colonnaded Street: It lies in the central part of the *Petra* city and retains the ruin of the public fountain, attractive columns and paved road. (Plate: 2.05-h)

(i) Monumental Gate: The Street finishes at the Monumental Gateway of *Temenos* Gateway, which was originally fitted with wooden doors and marked the entrance to the *temenos* or courtyard, of the *Qasr al – Bint*. (Plate: 2.05-i)

(j) Qasr Al – Bint: It is one of the rare examples in *Petra* of a building which has not been carved from the rock, but instead erected from blocks of stones. It is also popularly known castle of the *Pharaoh's* Daughter or Palace of Lady. (Plate: 2.05-j)

(k) The Great Temple: It is located to the west of *Qasr al – Bint* and entire Great Temple complex represent one of the major archaeological and *Nabateans* architectural components of central *Petra*. It is comprises, north to south, of a monumental entry way, a lower *Temenos*, twin semi-circular structures flanked by broad stairways, and an upper *Temenos*, which is the sacred enclosure for the Temple itself. (Plate: 2.05-k)

(l) The Byzantine Church: It was constructed over *Nabatean* and Roman remains in 450-500 A.D. This church is paved with 70 square meters of remarkably preserved mosaic, depicting native as well as exotic or mythological animals, seasons, ocean, earth and wisdom. However around 600 A.D. the church was destroyed in fire and later by earth quakes. (Plate: 2.05-l)

(m) The Monastery: Also known locally as *Al-Deir* in Arabic, perhaps is the largest monument in *Petra* measuring 45metres in height, 50 meters in its width with the entrances alone being 8 meters high. It is well preserved structure after the Treasury and considered as a holy pilgrimage site as well as place of veneration for the *Negations*. It is a magnificent Hellenic facade cut into striated yellow rock at a height of 1,035 meters above sea level. From here views are obtainable both of *Petra* itself, and across the Judean wilderness towards Palestine. (Plate: 2.05-m)

(D) Madaba

This is an ancient Christian town where a large number of buildings sit on top of relics of Byzantine mosaics. *Madaba's* Chief attraction is a wonderfully vivid 6th century Byzantine mosaic map

showing *Jerusalem* and other holy sites. With two million pieces of coloured stone, and a full 25×5 metres in its original state – most of which can still be seen today – the map depicts hills and valleys, villages and towns, as far away as the *Nile Delta*. This masterpiece is unrivalled in Jordan, but there are literally dozens of other mosaics from the 5th through the 7th centuries, scattered throughout *Madaba's* churches and homes. *St. George Church* with its famous mosaic floor map is of course the star attraction. *Madaba Archaeological Museum*, *Madaba Archaeological Park* and church of the Apostles with more stunning mosaic and church of the virgin are some important places or sites worth to visit. (Maps: 2.42 and 2.47; Plates: 2.06-a and 2.06-b)

(E) Mount Nebo

Ten km northwest of *Madaba* is the most revered site in Jordan. *Mount Nebo*, with the memorial of *Moses* (PBUH) at the presumed site of the prophet's death and burial place. A small, square church was built on the spot by early Byzantine Christian, and later expanded into a vast complex. From *Mt. Nebo*, one has a panoramic view across the *Jordan valley* and the *Dead Sea*. On a clear day, the towers on the *Mount of Olives (Jabal Al-zaytoon)* in *Jerusalem* can be seen. Nearby is *Al-Mukhayat*, site of a 6th century church, also with a beautiful and well preserved mosaic. *Mt. Nebo's* association with the last days of *Moses* (PBUH) is described in moving words in (Old Testament, Deuteronomy. No. 34:1-7). The episode of *Balak* and *Balam* (2:13-26) also took place here. The site's other name is *Pisgah*: "And *Moses* (PBUH) went up from the plains of *Moab* to *Mt. Nebo*, to the top of *Pisgah* which is opposite *Jericho*." *Mt. Nebo's* visit is generally inspired by the biblical feel from start to finish. *Moses* (PBUH) memorial church at *Mount Nebo* displays a large number of most beautiful mosaics. (Maps: 2.42 and 2.52; Plates: 2.07-a and 2.07-b)

(F) Umm Al-Jamal

It lies 80 km northeast of *Amman* and 12 km east of *Mafrq* off the *Baghdad Highway*. It is also known as *Black Gem of the Desert*. *Umm al-Jamal's* splendour contrasts sharply with the splendours of *Jerash* and other cities of the *Decopolis*. On the edge of the stark, black basalt region of northeast Jordan, *Umm al-Jamal* is one of the areas' most impressive and eerie monuments of ancient civilization. The town is filled with the remains of many black basalt stone homes, churches, a Roman Barracks and a fort complex. The local black basalt gives *Umm Al-Jamal* a forbidding appearance. The ruins of the unique place cover over 200 acres. (Map: 2.42; Plate: 2.08)

(G) The King's Highway

The king's Highway is one of the most historic and scenic roads in Jordan.

It is known in Arabic as *At-Tariq as-Sultani* (Road of the Sultan). It runs from *Amman* to *Aqaba* through the ancient kingdoms of *Amman*, *Moab*, *Edom* and *Amor*. It is a spectacular route through the scenic gorges of *Wadi Mujib* and *Wadi Al-Hasa*. The road passes through *Madaba*, the ancient cities of *Dibon*, *Rabbah*, *Karak*, *Tafilah*, and *Shawbak* and on to *Petra*. There is a fine stretch of ancient Roman road; it's paving blocks still visible, beside the modern road between *Wadi Dana* and *Shawbak*. (Map: 2.48)

Traders, armies and pilgrims have all left their marks on the landscape. As early as 1200 BC, Moses addressed the Adomites "Please Let us pass through..... we will travel along the king's Highway", (Old Testament, Numbers. No. 20:17). When the Jews in there way to conquest Palestine (Map: 2.49)

And he addressed the Amorites “*Let Us Pass through..... we will travel along the King’s Highway*”, (Old Testament, Numbers. No. 21:22).

Before Christ, the Nabataeans used the route to carry Frankincense and Myrrh from southern Arabia up to Mediterranean, Hellenistic and Roman World. The Emperor Trajan (106 A.D) completed the *Via Nova Trajana* running through Syria and down to the borders of Arabia. Muslims used it to transport *Haj* caravans during the pilgrimage to *Makkah*. Under the Ottomans, these caravans were led by an official appointed by the *Sultan (Ruler)*. Transport along the route is reliable but not always frequent. (Map: 2.48; Plate: 2.09)

(H) Shawbak

It is located 235 km south on the King’s highway and 30 km north of *Petra*. *Shawbak* contains an ancient crusader castle called Montreal. It has a square keep and a round donjon with beautifully carved Arabic inscriptions. The castle at *Shawbak* is in ruins except for its outside walls, but it contains one of the deepest well shafts ever dug by the crusaders.

The castle was built by King *Baldwin I* of *Jerusalem* to guard the road from *Damascus* to *Cairo*. The castle’s exterior is impressive with a forbidding gate and encircling walls three layers thick. The interior of the castle consisted mainly of tumbled stones with a few walls and arches. The most important remain is the ancient well shaft cut deep into the rock, with 375 steps leading down to the water supply at the bottom. The castle was attacked and captured by *Salahuddin* in 1189 and in 1260 it passed to the *Mamluks*. (Maps: 2.20 and 2.42; Plate: 2.10-a)

(I) Mukawir or Machaerus

It lays 55 km south-west of *Amman* and also known as *Machaerus*. *Mukawir* is reached via small village called *Libb* about 18 km south of *Madaba*. The mountain top fortress was the stronghold of *Herod* the Great. Upon *Herod's* death, his son *Herod Antipas* inhabited the fortress, and it is here that he ordered *John* the Baptist to be beheaded. Here is where the beautiful *Salome* danced for *Herod*, who presented her with the head of *John* the Baptist to honour her wishes. (Maps: 2.42 and 2.52; Plate: 2.11-a)

(J) Umm Ar-Rasas

The old and new Testaments mention it, the Romans fortified it and the local Christians were still embellishing it with Byzantine-style mosaic well over one hundred years after the beginning of Muslim rule. It has a long history and its modern name is *kastron Mefaa*. Some of the finest Byzantine church and the 15 meters high Byzantine tower are found here. *Church of St. Stephen* is the main attraction of the site. It contains the images of 15 major cities of the Holy Land from both east and west of the *Jordan River*. (Map: 2.42; Plate: 2.12)

(K) Wadi Rum

It is the largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes. *T.E. Lawrence* described it as "*vast, echoing and God like*". *Wadi Rum* is like a moonscape of ancient valleys "Moon Valley" and towering weathered sandstone mountains rising out of the white and pink coloured sands. Stunning in its natural beauty, *Wadi Rum* epitomizes the romance of the desert. Now the home of several Bedouin tribes, *Wadi Rum* has been inhabited for generation. A desert police fort is located at the entrance to *Wadi Rum*, where the police are not mounted on horse or jeep, but on camels – ships of the desert. Today *Wadi Rum* challenges climbers to scale its sheer granite trails and valleys to Trek deep into fragile and unspoiled desert and to climb

on Mountain Rum *Jabel Rum* 1,754 M, Jordan's second highest mountain after *Um Dami Mount* 1,854 (M above sea level). Much of *David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia"* was filmed there and it was also the location where *T.E. Lawrence* himself was based during the Arab Revolt. "All around emptiness and silence in this immense space, man is dwarfed to insignificance." (Map: 2.55; Plates: 2.13-a and 2.13-b)

(L) Arab Desert Castles

Scattered throughout the black basalt desert, east of *Amman*, the Desert Castles, proof as a testament to the flourishing beginning of Islamic – Arab civilization. These seemingly isolated pavilions, caravan stations, secluded baths, and hunting lodges, were at one time integrated agricultural or trading complexes, built mostly under the *Umayyads* A.D 661-750. The *Umayyad Desert Castles* were initially regarded as *Badiyah* i.e. desert retreats for *Ummayad* princes who being of nomadic origins, grew weary of city life with all its rigors and congested atmosphere. Scattered throughout the desert, some of these retreats took the form of simple hunting lodges others extravagantly and beautifully decorated pleasure palaces (Map: 2.50). The following are perhaps the most interesting.

(a) Qasr-Amra

Qasr-Amra lies 80 km east of *Amman* and remarkably preserved, is a small hunting lodge built in the 8th century during the reign of *Caliph Walid I*. (Map: 2.50; Plate: 2.14-a)

(b) Qasr al-Kharaneh

Qasr al-Kharaneh is situated 65 km south east of *Amman* and the only red defensive desert castle built by the *Umayyids*. (Map: 2.50; Plate: 2.14-b)

(c) Qasr al-Hallabat

Qasr al-Hallabat lies 125 km north-east of *Zarqa* and 55 km northwest of *Azraq*. The site comprises a conglomerate of separate and widely spaced unit. These include a *Qasr*, a mosque, a huge reservoir, eight cisterns and bath complex of *Hammam as-Sarah*. (Map: 2.50)

(d) Qasr al-Mushatta

Qasr al-Mushatta is the largest and most impressive of the *Umayyid* castle and was apparently destined to be more than a mere pleasure palace, but its construction was never completed. It has four vacated halls and a triple arched entrance hall.

There are few other castles located in the desert such as *Qasr Tuba*, *Qasr Qastal*, *Qasr of Muwaqqar*, *Qasr Usaykhim*, *Qasr Al-Hammam*, *Qasr Khan Az-Zabib*, *Qasr Mashash*, *Qasr Uwaynid*, *Qasral-Huwaynat*, *Qasriyat Fahad*, *Qasr Mushysh* (*Qasr Al-Bint*) and ruins of these castles exhibit the history of the different periods. (Map: 2.50)

(M) Aqaba

For the sun-lover and sea-enthusiast few places in the West Asia can rival *Aqaba* on the *Red Sea*. Superb beaches, waters and coral reefs are set against a backdrop of stark, purplish-brown mountains. Jordan's only port-resort offers swimming, water skiing, deep-sea exploration and sailing almost all year round. Glass-bottomed boats are available for viewing the reefs, whose work formations are claimed to surpass those in the pacific and the Caribbean, these, together with the exceptional depth and clarity of waters, are making *Aqaba* a prominent skin-diving centre. The tranquil waters of this port resort make water sports enjoyable. Scuba diving, snorkelling, wind surfing and fishing is just some of the popular activities in *Aqaba*. It is also an excellent departure point for excursion into the desert, the most exciting being by

Land Rover or Camel Caravan to *Wadi Rum*. (Map: 2.55; Plates: 2.15-a and 2.15-b)

(N) The Dead Sea

The *Dead Sea*, lowest spot on earth 416 meters below the sea level is unique in its nature and properties of its water which is rich with minerals. As a result it falls short of accommodating any life. These mineral elements give the waters and the *Dead Sea* products their curative powers. A visit to the *Dead Sea* is interesting for its historical association. It is believed to be the site of five biblical cities *Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboim* and *Zoar* (Map: 2.51). Swimming here is like taking a siesta on the back of an over salted whole. North of the sea is the sacred *River Jordan*. Seaside facilities include hotels with therapeutic clinics, restaurants, bathing, and sports centres.

Dead Sea is an intense blue closed sea surrounded by beautiful red and brown desert hills. It is about 65 km. long and from 6 km to 18 km wide. For some visitors the *Dead Sea* is a place to relax and enjoy the novelty of floating at the world's lowest point (416 meters below the sea level) as the high density of the water makes sinking virtually impossible. The high salinity of water makes swimming difficult as one is lifted too high in the water to be able to stroke properly. Visitors can float on their back while leisurely reading a newspaper and have their picture taken, showing a visitor reading in the water. *Dead Sea* is paradise for marine enthusiasts as they have floated effortlessly on their backs while soaking up the water's healthy minerals along with the gently defused rays of the sun. *Dead Sea* is the hot, buoyant and soothing mineral-rich sea water which has attracted visitors since the days of *Herod* the Great over the 2000 years ago. The main centre of tourism on the Jordanian side by the sea is a collection of plush resorts and a nearby public beach about 5km. south of *Suweimah*, where visitors can enjoy variety of mineral treatment at the German Medical Centre, other therapies include black mud, highly oxygen rich air

treatment, filtered sun rays, massage and gymnastics. The adjacent fresh water and thermal mineral springs of nearby *Zarqa Ma'in* are the additional attraction. The opening of the new 5 Stars *Movenpick* Hotel and Resort combined with the existing 4 stars *Dead Sea* Spa Hotel, attracts visitors and encourages them to stay in valley while exploring its many attraction. (Map: 2.55; Plates: 2.16-a to 2.16-f)

(O) Jordan valley and “Bethany Beyond the Jordan”

The *Jordan valley* lies at the northern end of the East African *Rift Valley*. After descending to the *Dead Sea* it reaches the level of 416 meters below sea level. The valley is typically Mediterranean, with mild winters and hot summers. In ancient times, the *Jordan valley* was one of the most fertile places in West Asia and some of the world's oldest civilizations sprang from this soil. The *Jordan valley* also has profound meaning for religious travellers. The area opposite *Jericho* has been identified for nearly two millennia as the area where *Jesus Christ* (PBUH) was baptized by *John the Baptist Yahya* or (Yohnna Al-Ma'madan) (PBUH). It is called (*Al-Maghtas* in Arabic) Combined evidence from the biblical text, Byzantine and medieval writers accounts have identified this area as biblical “Bethany beyond the Jordan” where John was living when he baptized *Jesus* (PBUH). The site has now been identified on the east bank of the *Jordan River*, in the *Hashemite* kingdom of Jordan and is being systematically surveyed, excavated, restored, and prepared to receive pilgrims and visitors. The recent excavation in Jordan uncovered a series of ancient sites associated with the tradition of *John the Baptist* and the baptism of *Jesus*, located along the length of the *Wadi al-Kharrar*. At the beginning of *Wadi al-Kharrar*, Christian pilgrims have traditionally been shown *Elijah's hill* (known as *Jabal Mar Elias* in Arabic), where the prophet *Elijah* ascended into heaven. (Maps: 2:42 and 2.52; Plates: 2.17-a to 2.17-d)

(P) Karak

Karak city lies on the ancient caravan route on the kings Highway between Egypt and Syria. The crusader king *Baldwin I* made *Karak* the new capital of the province OultreJordanian, where it levied taxes on passing caravans from north and south and grew rich. The famous Arab traveller *Ibn Battuta* in 1326 in his travel report wrote that it was also called "The Castle of the Raven." He was very much impressed by the castle's strength and its magnificent beauty. The Swiss explorer *Jean Louis Burchhardt* described the *Karak* Castle as "Shattered but imposing" while passing through in 1812. It is well known for sports especially mountain climbing. *Karak* environment is very clean and healthy. Its mineral water springs (*Al-Dera'* or *Weida'a* Hot spring and *Ibn Hammad* Hot springs) are used as medical treatment for special diseases. It is distinguished for its beautiful nature and clear air. (Maps: 2.53 and 2.57; Chart: 2.01)

Karak castle and the nearby *Mu'tah* constitute a strong base for an active tourism in the area. It was the Chief city of the ancient kingdom of *Moab*. From the massive ruins, there are magnificent views of the *Dead Sea* and the *Jordan valley* to the east. *Mu'tah* encompasses the tombs of some of Prophet *Mohammad's* (PBUH) companions. So, it has the potential to be an important place for religious tourism. (Plate: 2.18-h)

Karak castle, is an important highlight of *Karak* town, exhibits an impressive insight into the architectural military genius of the Crusaders. The Castle built by the Crusader king *Baldwin I* of Jerusalem in AD 1132. *Karak* castle because of location, standing between *Shawbak* and Jerusalem, enjoys even today commanding position and strategic value. The castle had been a place of legend in the battles between the Crusaders or Franks and the Islamic armies of *Salahuddin* (Saladin). *Karak* city referred in Bible as *Kir*, *Kir Moab* and *Kir-Heres*, had been the capital of the Moabites and principal town

of Romans and was known as *Charac Moaba*. The recent Hollywood blockbuster, "The kingdom of Heaven" has references of *Karak* and its castle. (Plates: 2.18-a to 2.18-d)

Recently tourist authorities have constructed two panorama points a couple kilometres southeast and northwest of the castle which provide useful stopping points.

The word "ALLAH" or "الله" in Arabic is clearly visible on the slope of mountain located near the *Karak Castle* (Plates: 2.18-e-i and 2.18-e-ii). The full view of word "ALLAH" in Arabic is no doubt a magnificent natural phenomenon for tourist interests. This natural phenomenon could be utilized to promote tourism in the area. It is, indeed, brilliant, radiant and splendid Natural Wonder. The marketing of this unique divine attribute would definitely increase the tourism activity in the area and pay dividends. It shines dazzles and more clear in the night and, during full moon it presents beautiful and perfect view of the word "ALLAH". It is worth to see and observe as this declares the praises and glory of "ALLAH". The same picture also depicts the name of Prophet Mohammad "محمد" (PBUH). It is really a miracle in the present world. It may be emphasised that such astonishing display of natures' is rather difficult to observe. The (Plates: 2.18-f-i and 2.18-f-ii) containing the words *Allah* and *Mohammad* (PBUH) of the same place attest the following verse of The Holy Quran.

*** Soon we will show them our signs in the (furthest) Regions (of the earth), and In their own souls, until It becomes manifest to them That this is the Truth. Is it not enough that Thy Load doth witness all things?**

* سُرِّيهِمْ ءَايَاتِنَا فِي الْآفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ
حَقِّ يَبَيِّنْ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ أَوَلَمْ يَكُفَّ بِرَبِّكَ
أَنَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ﴿٥٣﴾

*Surat Fussilat, chapter 41,
Ayat (Verse) No. 53*

The following verses (*Ayats*) of **THE HOLY QUR-AN** explain and attest this divine attribute:

Meaning:

Arabic Verses

*In the name of Allah, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful.*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*** Whatever is**

In the heavens and

On earth, doth declare

The Praises and Glory

Of Allah, – the Sovereign,

The Holy One, the Exalted

In Might, the Wise.

* يُسَبِّحُ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ الْمَلِكِ
الْقُدُّوسِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ ﴿١﴾

*Surat Al-Jumu'a, chapter 62,
Ayat (Verse) No. 1*

*** He is Allah, the Creator,**

The Originator,

The Fashioner

To Him belong

The Most Beautiful Names:

Whatever is in

The heavens and on earth,

Doth declare

His praises and Glory:

And He is the Exalted

In Might, the Wise.

* هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَلِيقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ
الْحُسْنَى يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٢٤﴾

*Surat Al-Hashr, chapter 59,
Ayat (Verse) No. 24*

* The seven heavens and the earth,
And all beings therein,
Declare His glory:
There is not a thing
But celebrates His praise;
And yet ye understand not
How they declare His glory!
Verily He is Oft-Forbearing,
Most Forgiving!

*
لَسِيْعُ السَّمَوَاتِ السَّبْعِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَنْ فِيهِنَّ
وَإِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا يَسْبُحُ بِحَمْدِهِ وَلَكِنْ لَا تَفْقَهُونَ
لَسِيْعَهُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ حَلِيمًا غَفُورًا ﴿١١﴾

Surat Al-Isra, chapter 17,
Ayat (verse) No. 44

* Seest thou not that
To Allah prostrate
All things that are
In the heavens and on earth,-
The sun, the moon, the stars;
The hills, the trees, the animals;
And a great number among
Mankind? ...).

*
أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَسْجُدُ لَهُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ
وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ وَالنُّجُومُ وَالْجِبَالُ
وَالشَّجَرُ وَالْدَّوَابُّ وَكَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ ... ﴿١٨﴾

Surat Al-Hajj, chapter 22,
from Ayat (verse) No. 18

* (...it was
Our power that made
The hills and the birds
Celebrate Our Praises,
With David: it was We
Who did (all these things).

* (... وَسَخَّرْنَا مَعَ دَاوُدَ الْجِبَالَ يُسَبِّحْنَ وَالطَّيْرَ
وَكُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ ﴿٧٩﴾

Surat Al-Anbiyaa, chapter 21,
from Ayat (verse) No. 79

* It was We that made

إِنَّا سَخَّرْنَا الْجِبَالَ مَعَهُ يُسَبِّحْنَ بِالْعِشِيِّ *

The hills declare,

وَالْأَشْرَاقِ ﴿١٨﴾

In unison with him,

Surat Sad, chapter 38, Ayat
(verse) No. 18

Our Praise, at eventide

And at break of day,

* We bestowed Grace a foretime

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا دَاوُدَ مِنَّا فَضْلًا يَجِبَالُ أَوْدٍ *

On David from Us

مَعَهُ وَالطَّيْرِ... ﴿١٠﴾

O ye Mountains! echo ye

Back the Praises of Allah

Surat Saba, chapter 34, from
Ayat (verse) No.10

With him! and ye birds

(Also)!...)

The Holy *Qur'an* verses makes it quite clear that: mountains and hills are very much a living being. Pulsating with life, worshipping the lord and all created things in the universe by their very existence proclaim the Glory and the praises of *Allah*. He has dominion over all things, but He uses His dominion for just and praise- worthy ends. He has power over all things.

- Whatever, is in the heavens and the earth celebrate the praises of *Allah*.
- *Allah* sings are scattered literally throughout nature- throughout creation- For all who have eyes to see. *Allah's* Truth always spreads, in its own good time, across the uttermost end of the earth
- All created things, animate and inanimate depend on *Allah* for their existence.

- All these *Ayats* (verses) of the Holy *Qur'an* make it abundantly clear that mountains, hills, sun, moon, stars, etc. etc. are living entities. How can a dead body render worship and glorify the Lord? No doubt, it is only possible when that body has "Life". No matter, whether man can "understand" that life or not, everything in the Universe has life, life of its own, ever ready to obey the command from the Almighty *Allah*.
- The Book of Revelation is true, and is confirmed by the signs to be seen in visible nature.
- This will not only deepen man's faith in the divine origin and miraculous nature of the holy *Qur'an*, but also assist him in comprehending the true significance of the *Qur'anic* verses.
- Prophet David (Peace be upon him) was given the gift of music and psalmody, and therefore the Mountains, Hills and Birds are expressed as singing *Allah's* praises in unison with him. This is shown in his **Psalms**, (Old Testament) cxlviii (148). 7-10: "*Praise the Lord from the earth, you mountains and all hills... creeping things and flying fowl!*". All Nature- Mountains, Hills and birds-sing and echo back the Praises of *Allah*.

The entire view of this graceful natural phenomenon could be observed from *Al-Shabiya*, a small town to the west of *Karak*. It can be seen from the top of *Karak* castle. *Al-Shabiya* or (*Ash-Shahabiyah*) (Map:2.53) (**home town of the research scholar**) which was once called as *Al-Ifranj* or *Franj* "village of the franks" has historical significance as many Crusaders (Franks) settled here after the fall of the *Karak* castle in 1183 after an epic siege to *Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi*,

a great Muslim warrior (Mojahid) and leader of the Islamic armies.¹
(Map: 2:20; Plates: 2.18-a to 2.18-j)

(Q) Zerka Ma'in and Zara Hot springs

It lies 55 km southwest of *Amman*. This site is in a deep gorge southwest of *Madaba*. The mineral springs waters were used by *Herod the Great* and are still valued today.

The water of *Zerka Ma'in* is hot at least 45°C, and contains minerals such as, potassium, magnesium and calcium. These minerals have restorative power and useful for some skin diseases. There are at least 60 thermal springs at *Zerka Ma'in* and the most famous is *Hammamat Ma'in* (Ma'in Hot Springs), which has been developed into a hot spring resort. (Chart: 2.01; Map: 2.57; Plates: 2.19-a and 2.19-b)

(R) Anjara

This important local shrine at the Roman catholic church at *Anjara*, consists of a large church hall especially built to accommodate pilgrims who come to venerate a life size wooden statue of the Virgin Mary (*Maryam*) (peace be upon her) holding *baby Jesus*. The grotto symbolises the belief that *Jesus* and disciples, including his mother Mary (PBUH) and other women, passed through *Anjara* once and rested in a cave during a journey between *Jerusalem* and *Galilee* (Map:2.54). The date of pilgrimage to this site is set for 10, June.

Jesus often travelled, taught and healed the sick throughout Transjordan in regions of the Decapolis and Peraea, and from here he started his last, purposeful journey to Jerusalem (Matthew 19:1).

Among the parables and statements that Jesus spoke in the land of Jordan were those about the Kingdom of Heaven belonging to the

1. Jordan Tourism Board, *Karak Castle*, (Amman, 2003); see also [http:// www.see-jordan.com](http://www.see-jordan.com); see also Bradley Mayhew, *Lonely Planet-Jordan*, p. 167 ,(Australia, 2006); see also *Jordan: A Quarterly Magazine of Tourism and Cultural Interest – 1972*, pp 2-6; Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

children; the prohibition against divorce ("*...what God has Joined together let no man separate...*"); the advice to the young ruler that to inherit eternal life he must sell his possessions and give to the poor; that it is "*easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God*", and that "*the last shall be first and the first last*" (New Testament, Matthew 19, Mark 10:1-31).

A local tradition at the town of *Anjara*, in the hills of *Gilead* east of the valley, recounts that Jesus, His disciples, and His mother Mary passed through the town and rested there in a cave, which has been commemorated in the form of a modern shrine/church to Our Lady of the Mountain. (Plate: 2.20)

This was one of five pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year 2000 designated by the Catholic Churches of the Middle East. The others were *Mount Nebo*, *Machaerus*, *Tell Mar Elias* near *Ajloun*, and the *Jordan River* region at *Bethany* beyond the Jordan.

(S) Tell Mar Elias or Elijah's Hill

The twin sites of the Listed and *Tell Mar Elias* (Jabal Mar Elias) have long been identified with *Tishbe*, which was mentioned in the Bible as the home town or region of the great Prophet Elijah (*Mar Elias* means Saint *Elias* in Arabic). According to the Bible, Prophet *Elijah* (Ilyas) (PBUH) was a *Tashbite* from the village of *Toshibe*. It has always been revered as a holy site, and pilgrims from around the world have regularly visited the site to pray. The date of pilgrimage to this site is set for 21 July. (Map: 2.52; Plate: 2.21)

(T) Salt

It lies northwest of *Amman*, once briefly the capital of Jordan. In and around salt are several tombs of prominent figures of Islam and others mentioned in **The Holy Qur-an**. In Valley of Jethro *Wadi Shu'ayb* lies the Shrine of Prophet Jethro *Shu'ayb* (PBUH), the

Midianite father-in-law of Prophet *Moses* (PBUH). Within a modern mosque to the west of salt, on a hill carrying his name lays the shrine of *Prophet Jashua* (PBUH). He was the apprentice of *Prophet Moses* (PBUH) and later his successor. Southwest of *salt* in an area known as *Khirbet Ayyoub* foundations of an ancient building mark the final resting place of Prophet Job *Ayyoub* (PBUH), who is mentioned in *Holy Quran* four times. (Map: 2.42; Plate: 2.22)

(U) Lot's (Lut) Cave

This is one of the important touristic sites in Jordan. It is a paramount archaeological discovery in Jordan. It is located near *Lot's* sanctuary near modern *Safi*. The cave is situated near a tiny spring on a hill. Near by is a dried pillar of salt. This pillar is supposed to be the remained of *Lot's wife*, who disobeyed God's command not to look back at the time of leaving *Sodom*. (Map: 2.51; Plates: 2.23-a & 2.23-b)

2.8 Eco-tourism and Wild Life Reserve

Eco-tourism in Jordan is in developing stage. Natural resources, conservation and parks are the foundations of eco-tourism. The biography of Jordan exhibits pronounced regional differentiation due to climatic variation, geological structure, height above the sea level, and the amount and distribution of rainfall. Jordan offers a beautiful natural environment that encompasses water of the *Dead Sea*, amazing mountainous, virgin deserts and nature reserves (Map: 2.55). The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature focuses primarily on nature reserves and wildlife protection (Map: 2.56). Following are the few important nature reserves sites which attract tourists. (Table: 2.03; Plates: 2.24-a to 2.24-e)

(A) Mujib Wildlife Reserve

The *Mujib* Reserves is the lowest nature reserve in the world, with its spectacular array of scenery near the east coast of the *Dead*

Sea. The reserve is located within the deep *Wadi Mujib* gorge, which enjoys a magnificent biodiversity. The reserve includes 212 Sq. Km, and has mineral springs and some rare plants. Many wildlife animals like the *Nubian ibex*, *mountain gazelle*, *wolf*, *rock hyrax*, and *striped hyena* line in the reserve, in addition to numerous species of permanent and migratory birds. (Map: 2.56; Plate: 2.24-a)

(B) Dana Nature Reserve

This beautiful reserve is located close to the village of *Dana* near *Tafilah* and has an area of 120 Sq. Km. *Dana* Nature Reserve is a world of natural treasures. It is composed of a chain of valleys and mountains which extend from the top of the *Jordan Rift Valley* down to the desert low lands of *Wadi Araba*. The beauty of the *Rummana* mountain the mystery of the ancient archaeological ruins of *Feinan*, the timeless serenity of *Dana* village and the grandeur of the red and white sandstone cliffs of *Wadi Dana*, are some of the attractions to the visitors. The reserve support diverse wildlife which includes a variety of rare species of plants and animals. *Dana* is home to about 600 species of plants, 37 species of mammals and 190 species of birds. (Map: 2.56; Plate: 2.24-b)

(C) Wadi Rum Nature Reserve

This reserve comprises almost 560 Sq.km, and its altitude ranges from 800-1750 m above sea level. The reserve is internationally famous for its beautiful scenery and desert plants. *Wadi Rum* holds plants both rare and endemic to its ecosystem. The site is an ideal area for bird watching with its 110 recorded species. Its wild animals include the *Nubian ibex*, *mountain gazelle*, *striped hyena*, *hedgehog*, *porcupine* and the *Indian crested porcupine*. (Map: 2.56; Plate: 2.24-c)

(D) Shaumari Nature Reserve

It lies in *Wadi Shaumari* with an area of 22 Sq. Km. It was established in 1975 by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature as a breeding centre for endangered or locally extinct wildlife. *Shaumari* Nature Reserve is a thriving protected environment for some of the rare species of animals in West Asia. At present, there are over 100 head of *Oryx* on the reserve. The *Goitered* gazelle, *ostrich* and *Onager* are being bred currently. *Shaumari's* breeding enclosures provide a small zoo for visitors, making the reserve a popular spot for children and school outings. (Map: 2.56; Plate: 2.24-d)

(E) Azraq Wetland Reserve

Azraq is a unique wetland oasis located in the heart of the semi-arid Jordanian eastern desert, one of several beautiful nature reserves managed by the RSCN. The *Azraq* Oasis derives its name from the Arabic world *Azraq* meaning blue. Its attractions include several natural and ancient built pools, a seasonally flooded marshland, and a large mudflat known as *Qa'a Al-Azraq*. A wide variety of aquatic plants are found in ponds and swamps of this reserve. The reserve is part of this Oasis and amounts to 12 Sq.km. The *Azraq* wetland Reserve was considered by the *Ramsar* convention a wetland of international importance for migratory birds. It provides a habitat for migratory birds from Africa to Asia. It is also rich in animal and the *wolf*, *red fox* and *striped hyena* are among the important animals found here. (Map: 2.56; Plate: 2.24-e)

(F) Zubia Wildlife Reserve

This reserve is located within the *Irbid* governorate in the *Ajloun* Mountain, and its area is almost 10sq.km. Almost 900 m above sea level, the reserve is covered by thick forests of *oak*, *Pistasia*, *Arbutus*, *juniper*, *carob*, *crataegus* wild pear, and *Rhamnus*. The RSCN has initiate a captive breeding program for the *Roe Deer* which vanished

from Jordan a hundred years ago, and the *Persian fallow deer*, which is characterised by its global rarity. (Map: 2.56)

Future Wildlife Reserve

(A) Burqu Wildlife Reserve

It is located in the Jordanian *Badeia* (eastern desert) in the north-eastern area of the kingdom and named after the Roman Byzantine castle of *Burqu*, which is located within this reserve. It covers 950 sq. km and is 650-750 m above sea level. The objective of establishing their reserve is to re-introduce some extinct animals there such as the *Arabian Gazelle*, *Dorcas Gazelle*, *Onager* and *Ostrich*.

(B) Rajil Wildlife Reserve

It lies in the north-eastern Jordan *Badeia*; it was named after *Wadi Rajil*, which runs through it. It has 860sq.km area and it 580-600 m above sea level. The objective of its establishment, in addition to preserving the wildlife and plant species living in it, is to re-introduce the *Onager*, the *Caracola* and some species of *gazelles* which had vanished from Jordan.

(C) Abu Rukba Wildlife Reserve

It is located in the south of the kingdom it is named after the *Abu Rukba* Mountain, which forms part of it. Its area is 410 sq. km. and it is 700-1100 m above sea level. The objective of its establishment is to re-introduce the *Mountain Gazelle* and *Reem Gazelle* to their native habitat.

(D) Jerba Wildlife Reserve

It is located in Jordan's south, it is named after *Wadi Jerba*, which runs through it. Its area covers 40 Sq.km. and the local relief

ranges from 1280-1600 m above Sea level. The objective of its establishment is to develop plant cover and wildlife resources.

(E) Jabal Mas'ada Wildlife Reserves

It lies in the south of the Kingdom, it is named after *Jabal Mas'ada* which is 1150 m high and located within the reserves. Its altitude ranges between 1180-1500 m above sea level, and it covers 500 sq. km. The objective of its establishment is to conserve animals, plants and birds living there. (Map: 2.56)

Table: 2.03

Wildlife Reserve in Jordan

Wildlife Reserve in Jordan		Governorates (Muhafazat)	Status	Area (km ²)
1.	Shaumari	Zarqa	1975	22.0
2.	Azraq Wetland	Zarqa	1977	12.0
3.	Wadi Mujib	Karak	1987	212.0
4.	Zubia	Ajloun	1988	10.0
5	Dana	Tafilah	1989	308.0
6	Wadi Rum	Aqaba	Under-establishment	560.0
7	Burqu	Mafrq	Under-establishment	950.0
8	Jabal Mas'adi	Ma'an –Aqaba	Proposed	510.0
9	Wadi Rajib	Zarqa	Proposed	860.0
10	Bayer	Zarqa-Ma'an	Proposed	440.0
11	Abu Rukbah	Karak	Proposed	410.0
12	Jarba	Ma'an	Proposed	40.0

Source: Jordan Country Study on Biological Diversity (Amman, 2000); Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, (Amman, 2005)

2.9 Medical Tourism

Jordan became a leader in medical facilities in the region when it became the fifth nation worldwide to carry out a successful heart transplant patient. This event along with Jordan's common language and culture led many Arabs to visit Jordan for medical treatment. Jordan is known in West Asia for excellent medical care for patients. Therefore, the combination of modern facilities, cost effectiveness, and proximity has endeared Jordan to Arab patient across the region. The country's highly specialised doctors in the field of coronary care and kidney, brain and eye surgeries treat non-Jordanian Arab patients at lower costs compared to costs in the US and Europe, which has give Jordan's health industry on further competitive edge in the region. This sub sector of tourism will be witnessing more competition in the near future, as new medical centres are currently being established in neighbouring West Asian countries. The *Dubai Health Care Centre* is posing challenge to Jordan's medical sector. A study conducted by the Ministry of Planning's national competency team on the Jordanian medical tourism cluster indicated that Jordan should focus on attracting more patients from the traditional markets and from new ones. The study also recommended establishing a health tourism committee in order to help in building on image for Jordan on the long run as a supplier of high quality health care services. A lot of tourist areas rich with mineral saturated water and volcanic mud, which makes them healing spas that many ailing people come to visit. These sites include *Ma'in Falls Springs*, Jordanian *Himma Spring*, *Ifra Hot Springs*; each have special clinics for a variety of ailments, these hot (Thermal) springs are the most important in Jordan with all the facilities are available for the visitors.(Map:2.57)

Hot (Thermal) springs in Jordan are primarily located in seven governorates which can be described in the following (Chart: 2.01)

They provide treatment for people with skin disease, blood circulatory problems, bone, joints, back and muscular pains. Moreover, the clinics in the area also provide physical training activities. It is worth noting that German insurance companies do not send their patients outside Germany for treatment except to the *Dead Sea*, which is known for its expertise in the treatment of skin diseases. (Plates: 2.25-a to 2.25-h)

Chart: 2.01

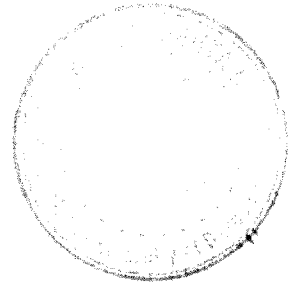
Hot (Thermal) springs in Jordan

S. No.	Governorates (Muhafazat)	Hot (Thermal) Springs (Name in English)	Hot (Thermal) Springs (Name in Arabic)	Status (Local, Regional and International Significance)
1.	Irbid	(A) Al-Himma Hot Springs	Hammamat* Al-Himma	International , Regional and Local
		(B) Northern Shuna Wellspring.	Hammam Ash-Shuna Ash-Shamaliyya	Regional and Local
		(C) Abu Dhabila Hot Spring	Hammam Abu Dhabila	Local
2.	Jerash	Jerash Hot Spring	Hammam Jerash	Local
3.	Balqa	Dayr Alla Hot Spring	Hammam Dayr Alla	Local
4.	Madaba	(A) Zerka Ma'in Hot Springs	Hammamat Zerka Ma'in	International, Regional and Local
		(B) Zara Hot Springs	Hammamat Zara	Regional and Local
5.	Zarqa	Southern Azrak Hot Spring	Hammam Al-Azrak Al-Janubi	Local

6.	Karak	(A) AL- Dher'a or Weida'a Hot Spring	Hamмам Al-Der'a or Weid'a	Local
		(B) Ibin Hammad Valley Hot Spring	Hamмам Ibin Hammad	Local
7.	Tafilah	(A) Ifra Hot Springs	Hamمامات Ifra	International, Regional and Local
		(B) Burbetta Hot Spring	Hamمام Burbetta	Local

* Hammamat: Plural of Hammam (hot spring)

Source: Self Prepared.



CHAPTER - 2

MAPS

Map: 2.00
Middle East (West Asia)



Sources: www.homepagez.com/pakhistory/middle-map.gif (Modified)

Map: 2.01
Strategic Location of Jordan



Source: www.countryreports.org/.../JO (Modified)

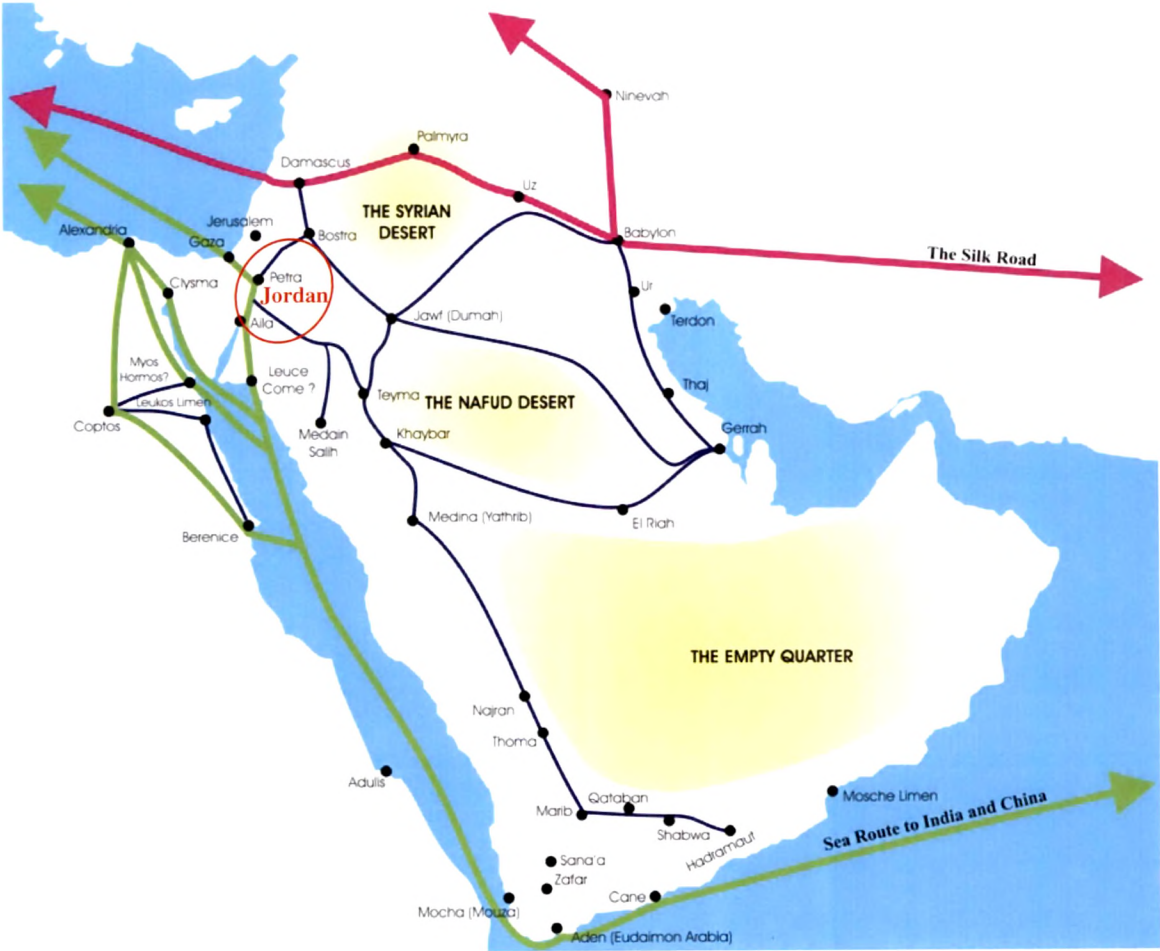
Map: 2.02
Trade Routes and Great Empires of the First Century A.D.



Source: www.public.iastate.edu/~cfford/342TradeRoutes.gif. (Modified)

Map: 2.03

Ancient Trade Routes



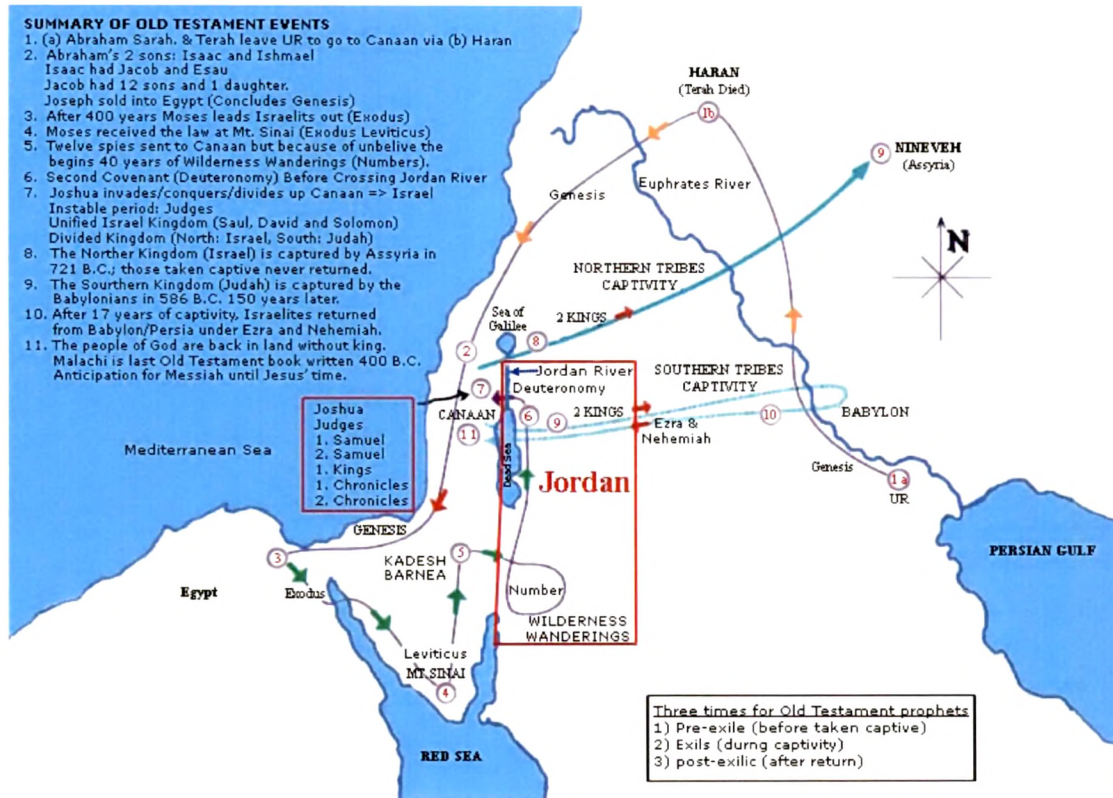
Source: nabataea.net/ArabiaMap.GIF (Modified)

Map: 2.04
The Ancient near East
640-500 BCE



Source: www.bible.ca (Modified)

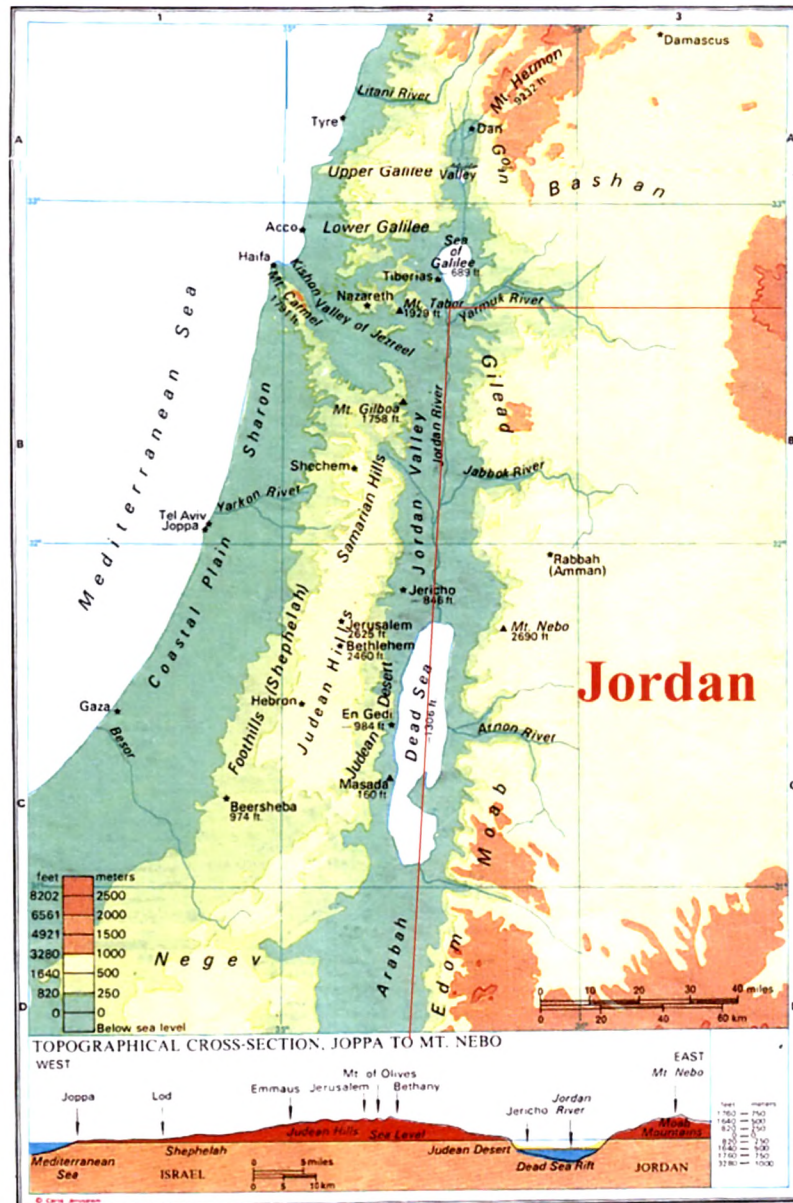
Map: 2.05 Geographical Summary of the Old Testament



Source: www.foundationforfreedom.net/references/OT/O... (Modified)

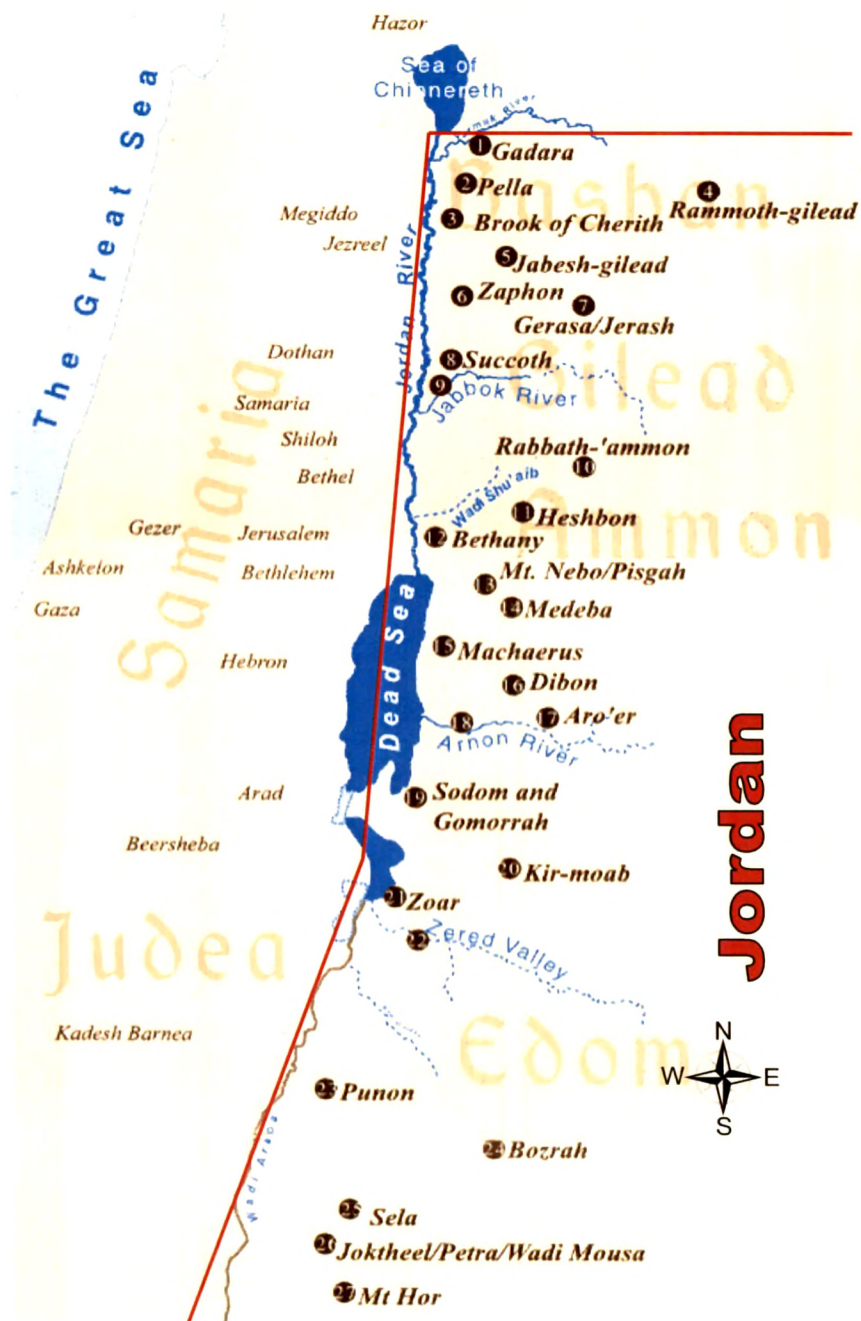
Map: 2.06

Physical Map of the Holy Land



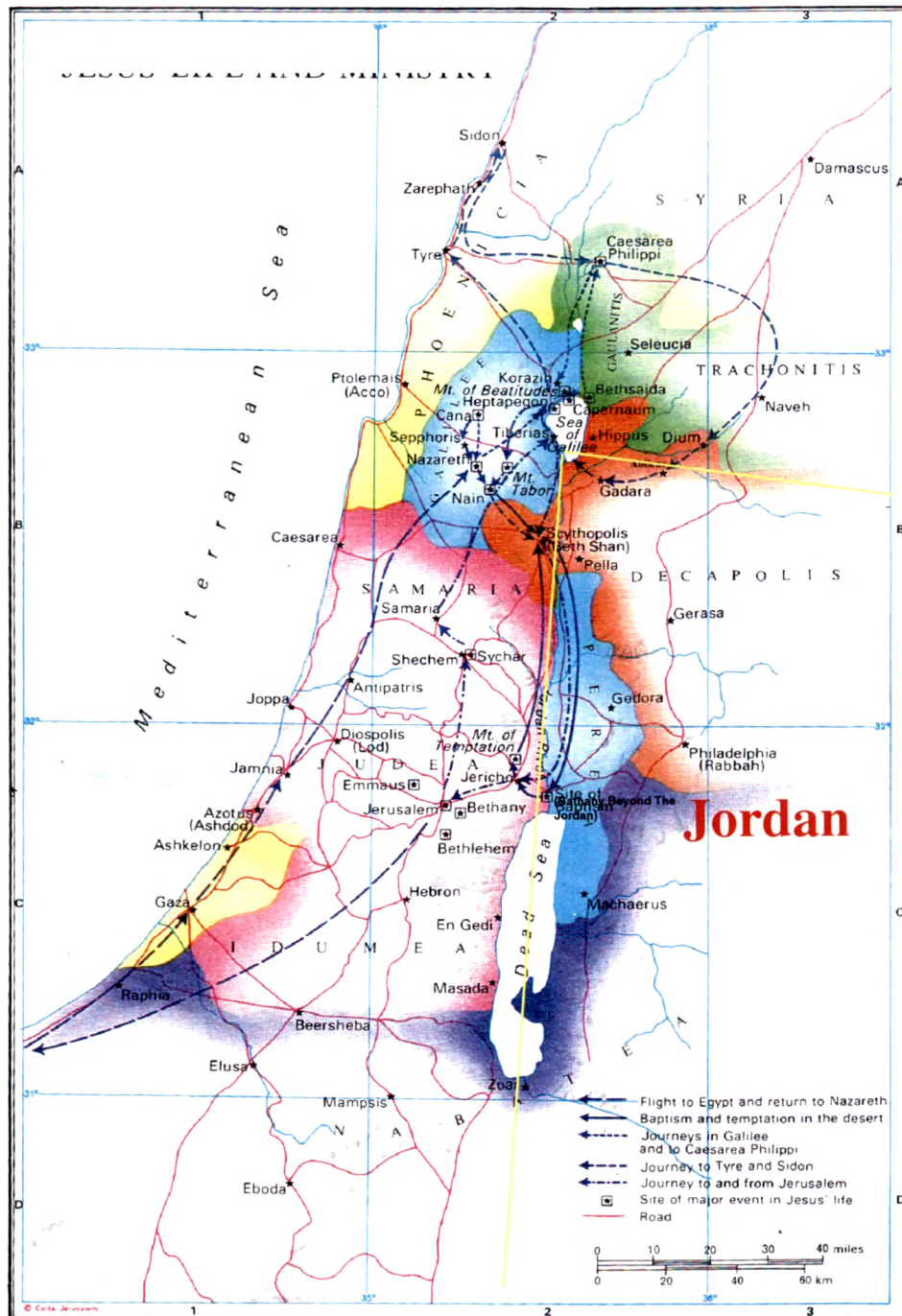
Source: The Holy Bible: The Thomson Chain-Reference Bible, New International Version, 1983, Map No. 15 (Modified)

Map: 2.07
Holy Jordan
 (Land of Biblical Prophets and Prophecy)



Source: jesusdynasty.com/.../2007/07/HolyJordanMap.gif (Modified)

Map: 2.08 Jesus' Life and Ministry



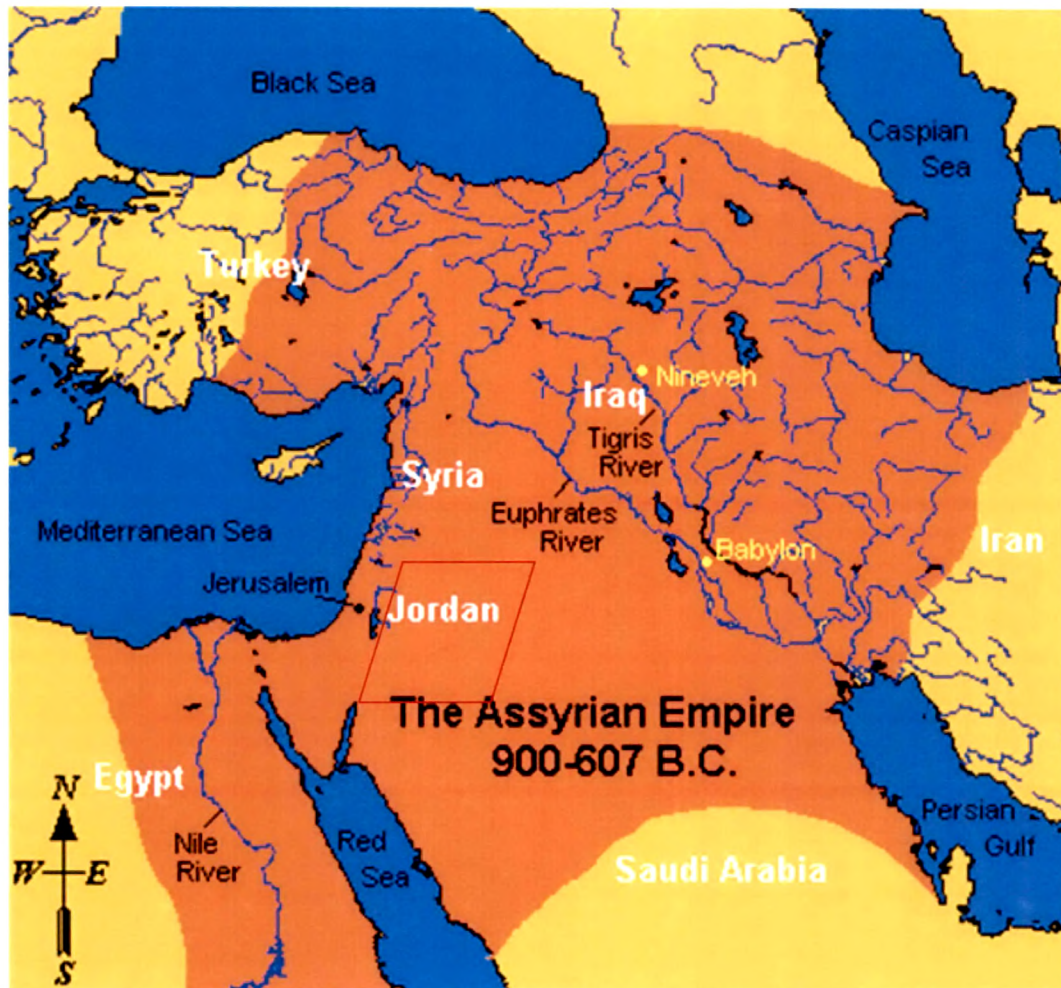
Source: The Holy Bible: The Thompson Chain- Reference Bible, New International Version, (USA, 1983), Map No.10 (Modified).

Map: 2.09
The Wilderness Journey



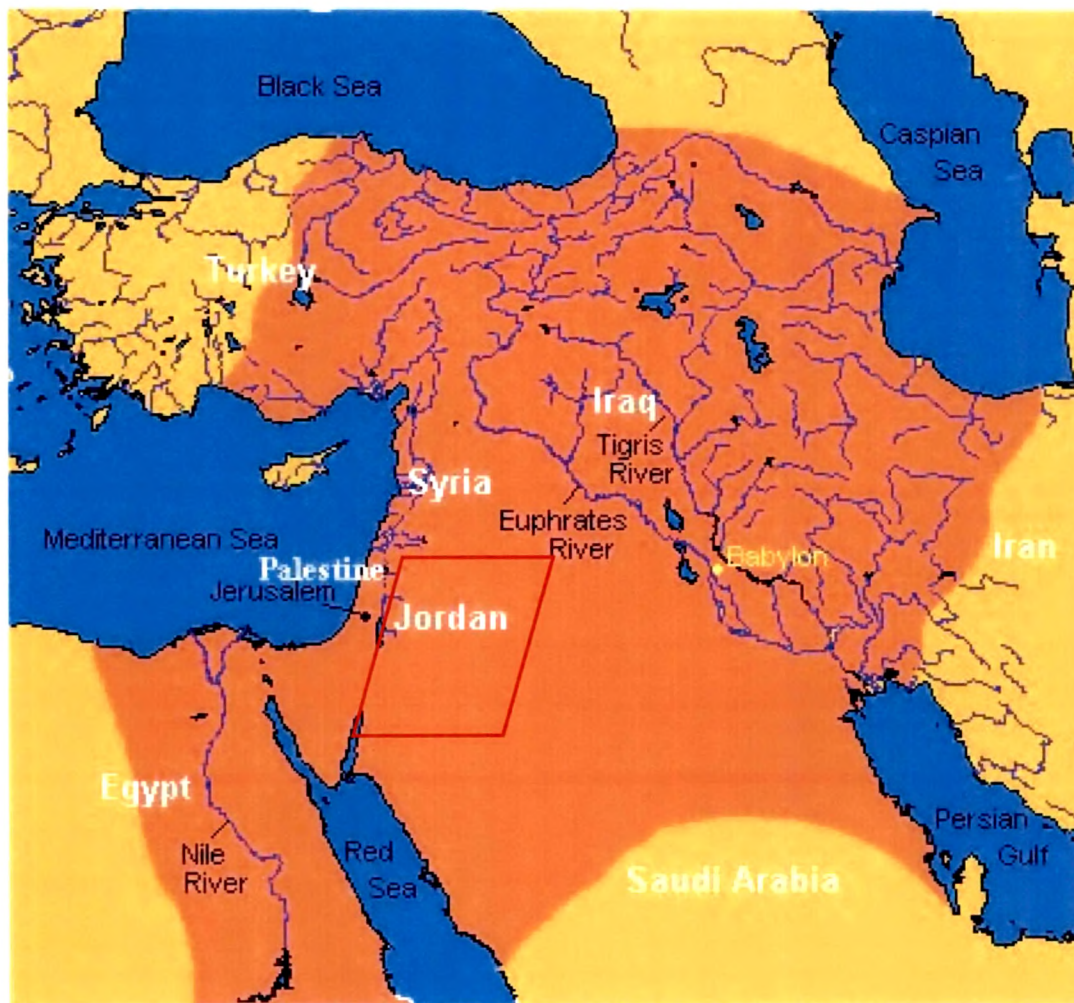
Source: www.keyway.ca (Modified)

Map: 2.10
The Assyrian Empire
900-607 B.C.



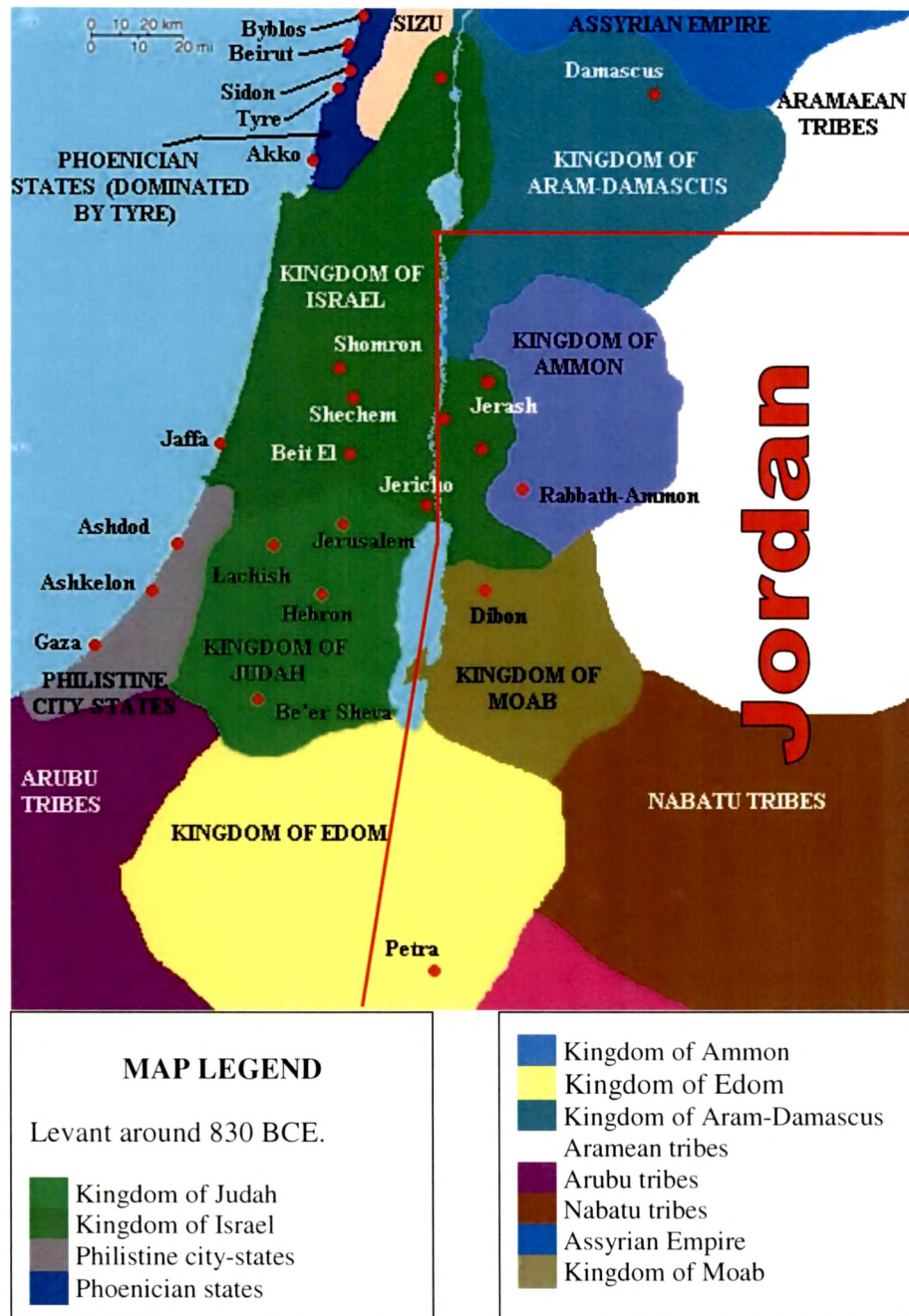
Source: www.keyway.ca. (Modified)

Map: 2.11
The Babylonian Empire
606-536 B.C.



Source: www.keyway.ca (Modified)

Map: 2.12
The Old Levant Kingdoms
 (Kingdoms of the Transjordan Regions)
 830 BCE



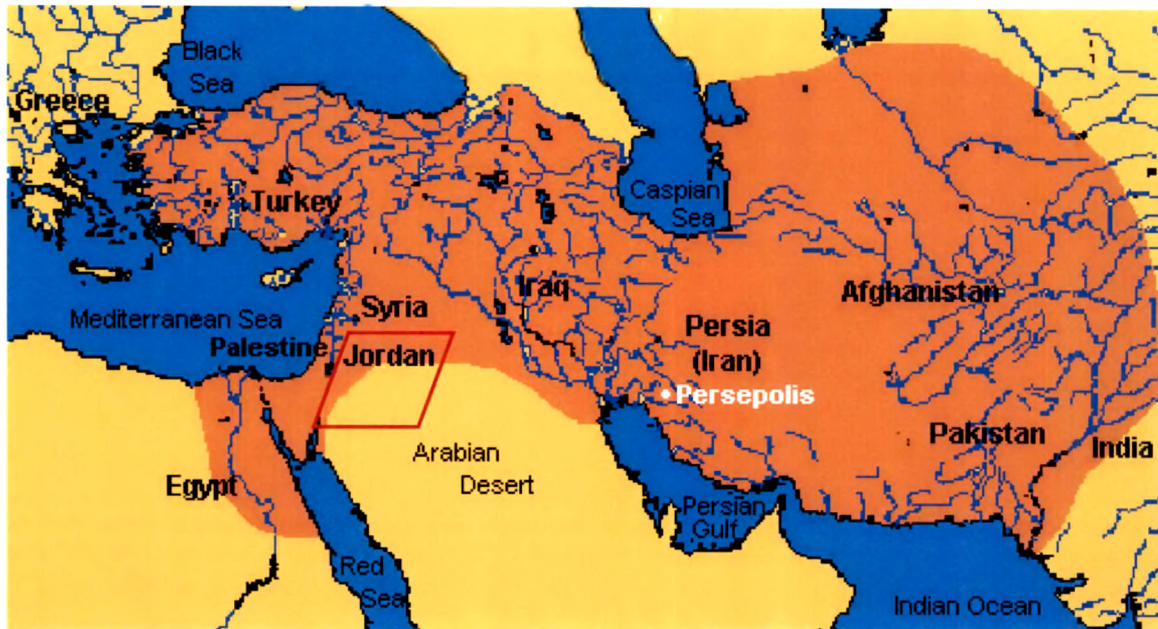
Source: www.pbbase.com/mansour_mouasher/root (Modified)

Map: 2.13
Egypt's Empire
 1493-1482 BCE



Source: www.iziko.org.za/history_new_kingdom.htm (Modified)

Map: 2.14
The Persian Empire
500 B.C.



Source: www.keyway.ca (Modified)

Map: 2.15
The Greco-Macedonian Empire
B.C. 359-322



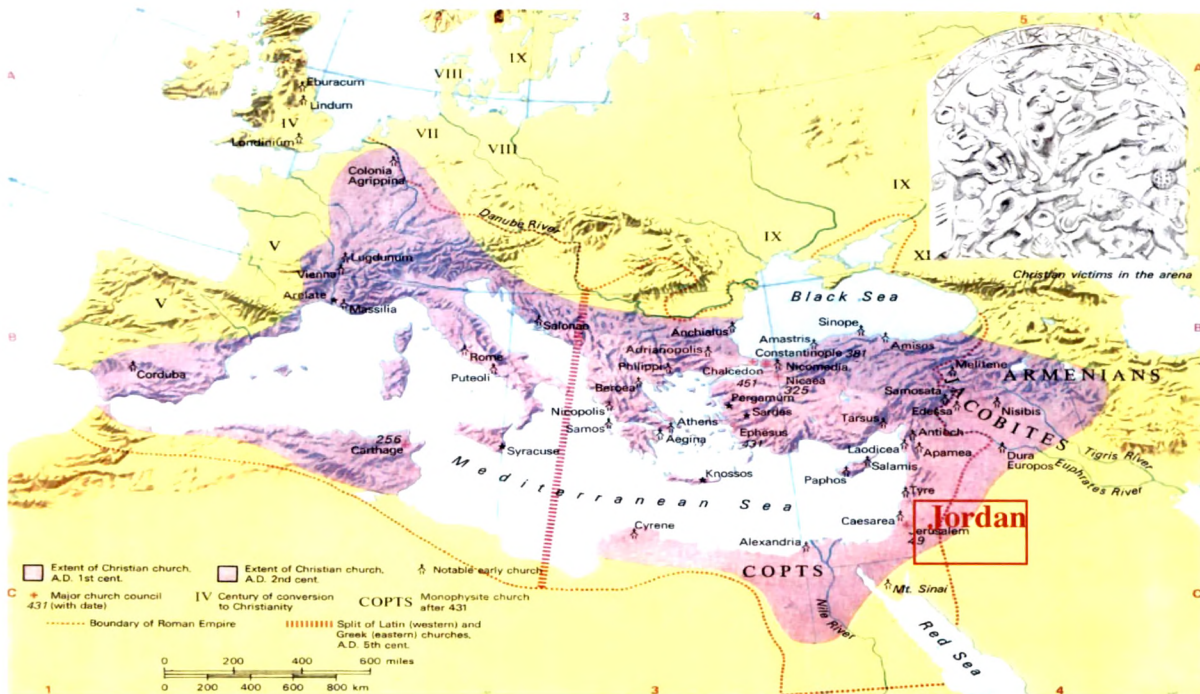
Source: www.keyway.ca (Modified)

Map: 2.16
The Roman Empire
116 A.D.



Source: www.keyway.ca; see also, www.bible.ca (Modified)

Map: 2.17
The Growth of Christianity



Source: www.bible.ca/maps (Modified)

Map: 2.18
Byzantine Empire
527-565



Source: wps.ablongman.com...0,6472,268318-,00.html (Modified)

Map: 2.19
The Arab Muslim Empire
632 C.E. – 750 C.E.



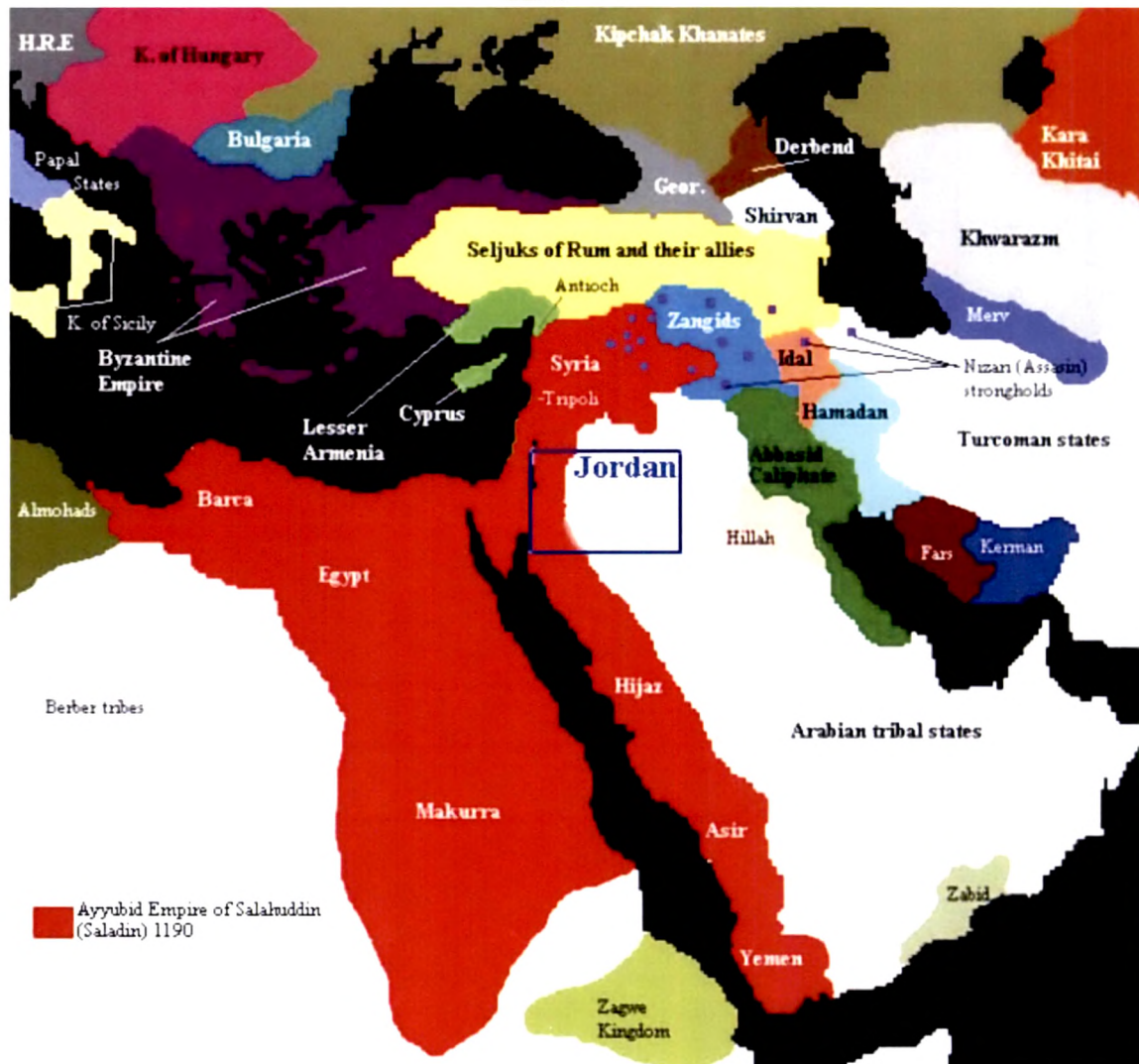
Source: www.homepagez.com/pakhistory/middle-map.gif (Modified)

Map: 2.20
The Kingdom of Jerusalem and the other Crusaders State
1135



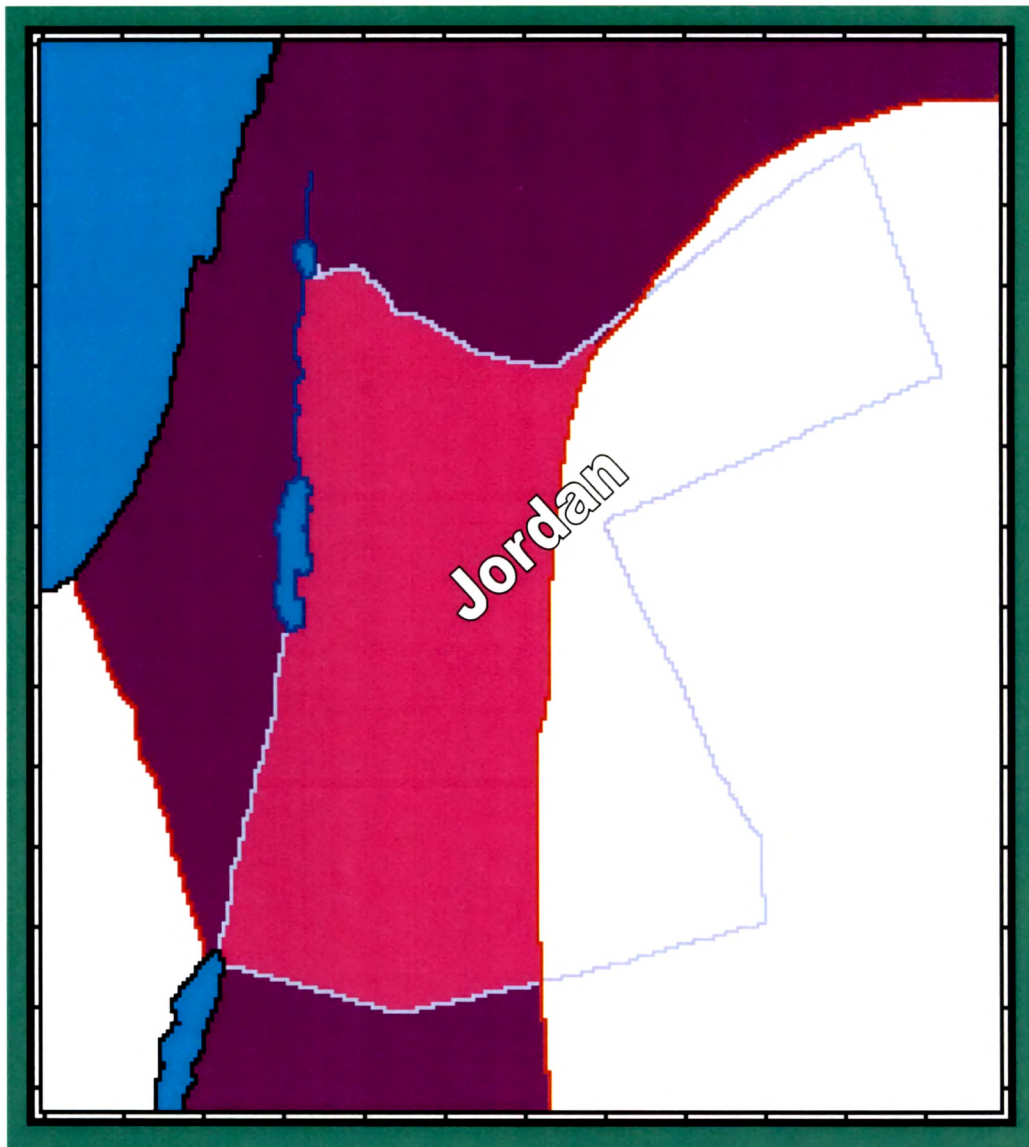
Source: www.nationmaster.com/.../Kingdom-of-Jerusalem (Modified)

Map: 2.21
The Ayyubid Empire of Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi (Saladin)
1190



Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_Jordan (Modified)

Map: 2.22
Jordan during the Ottoman Empire
1517-1917



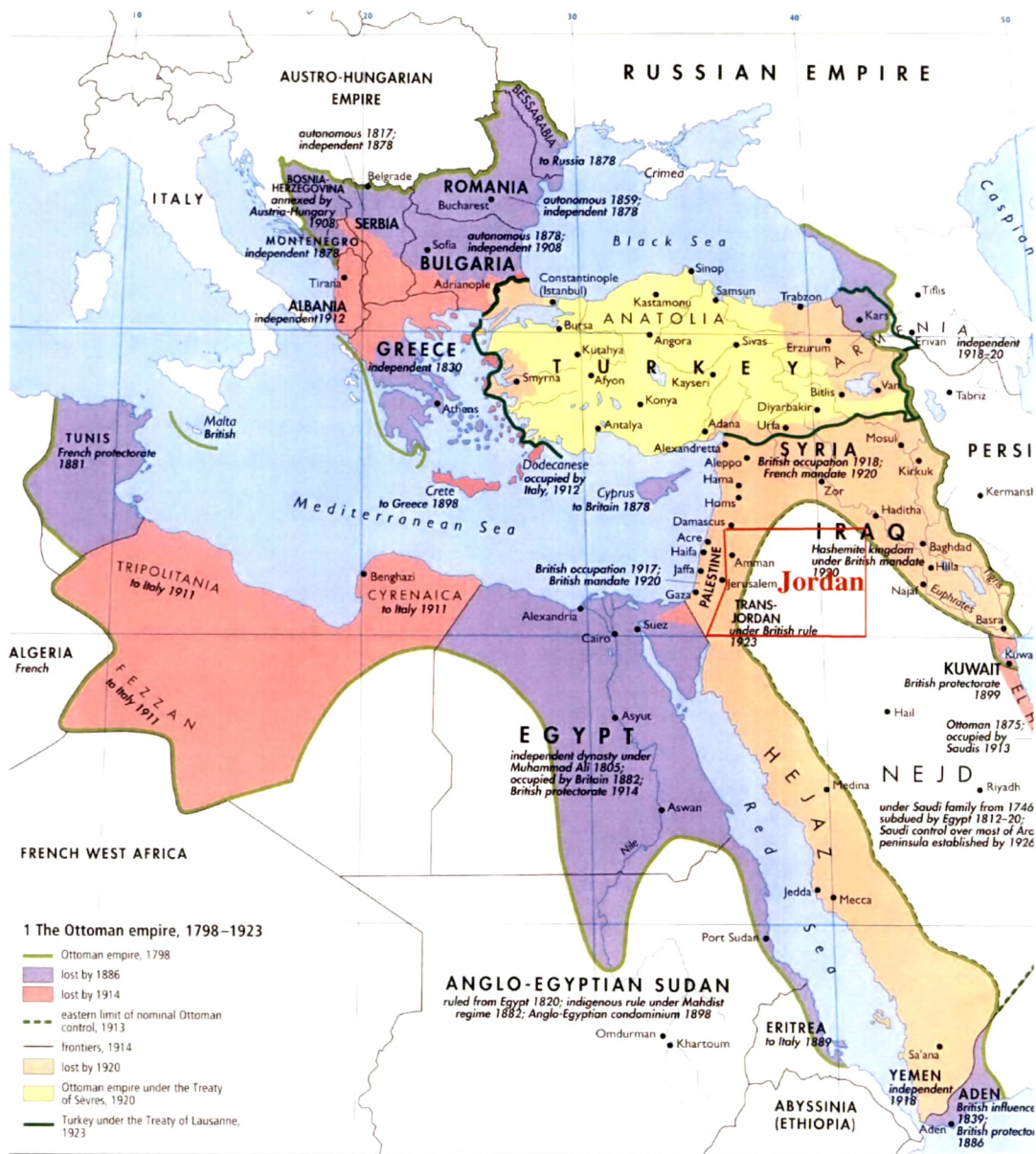
Source: www.zum.de.gif (Modified)

Map: 2.23
Mamluk Empire in the half of the
14th century and early 16th century



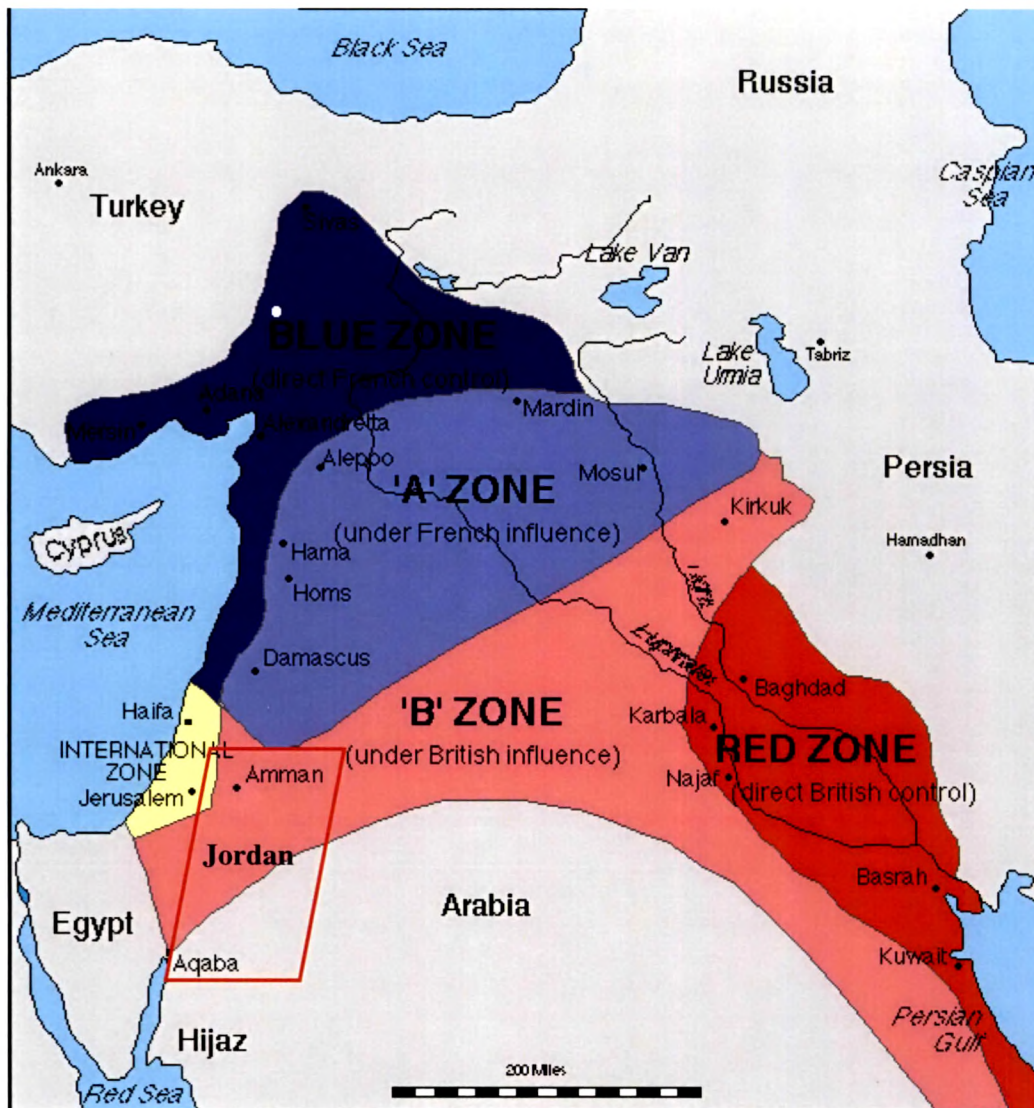
Source: www.islamicarchitecture.org...mamluks.html (Modified)

Map: 2.24
The Ottoman Empire
1798-1923



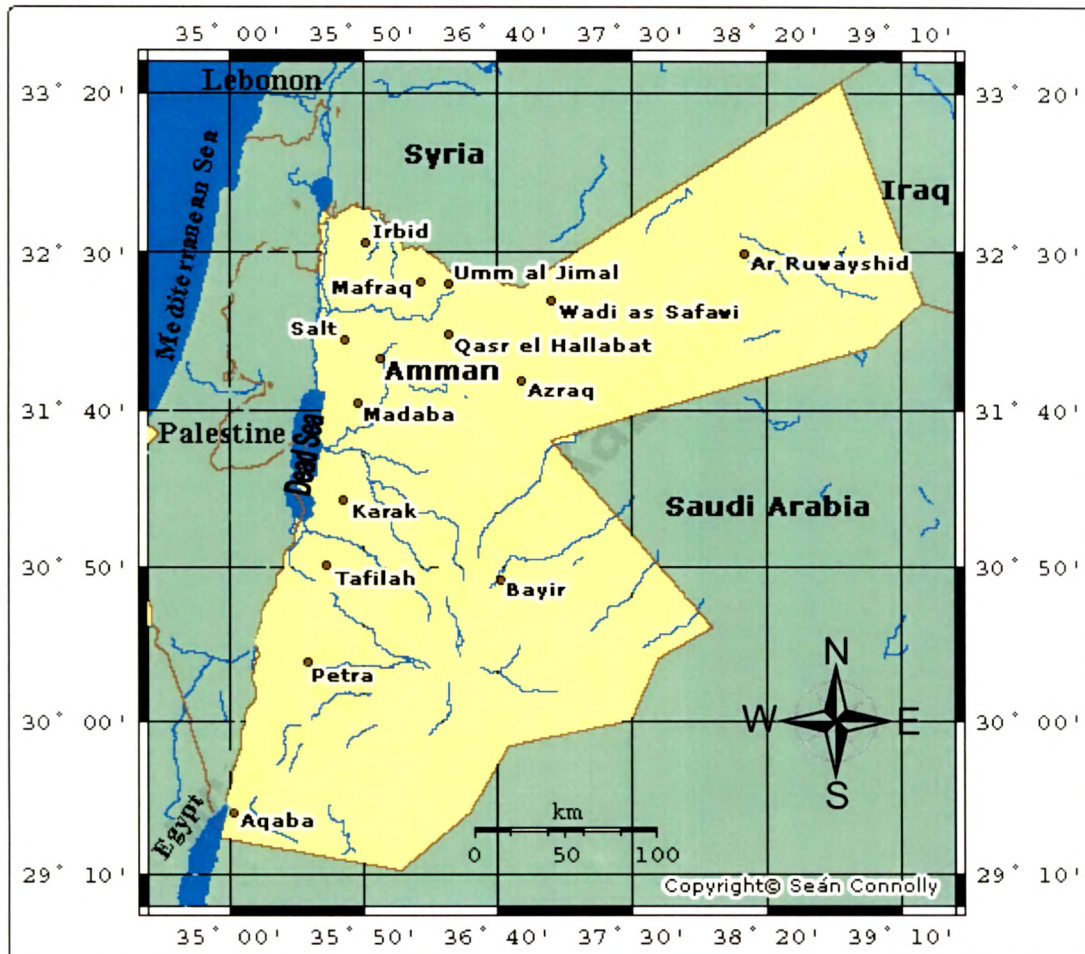
Source: www.worldstatesmen.org/Ottoman.jpg (Modified)

Map: 2.25
The Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 for the Partition of the Middle East



Sources: www.whatmatters.nu/...middle%20East%20Map.jpg

Map: 2.26
Jordan Location
(North Latitude and East Longitude)



Source: www.conewalkabout.com; See also Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, *Atlas of Jordan and the World*, (Amman, 2006) (Arabic Version) (Modified)

Map: 2.27
Jordan and Neighbouring Countries



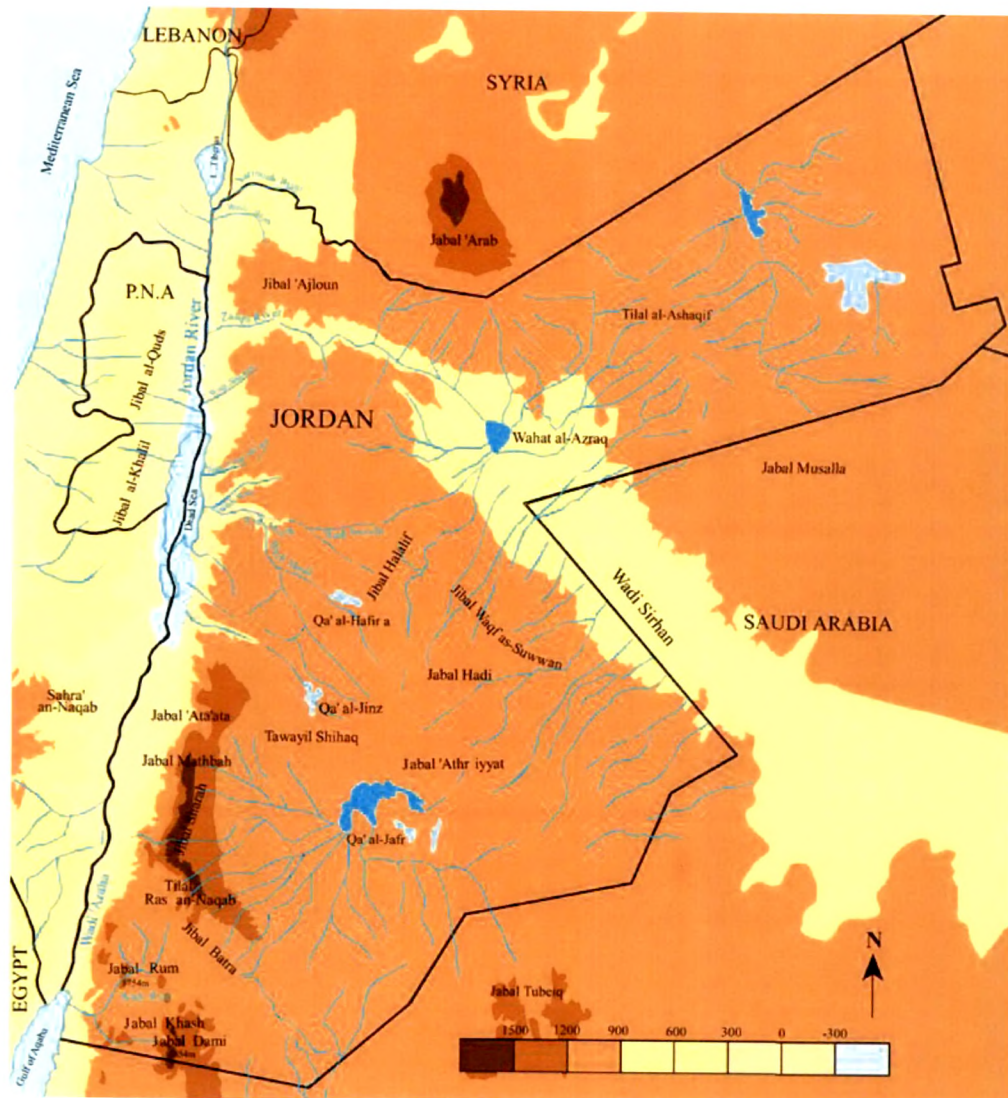
Source: http://inventorspot.com/files/images/jordan-map.img_...; See also Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, *Atlas of Jordan and the World*, (Amman, 2006) (Arabic Version) (Modified)

Map: 2.28
The Jordan River



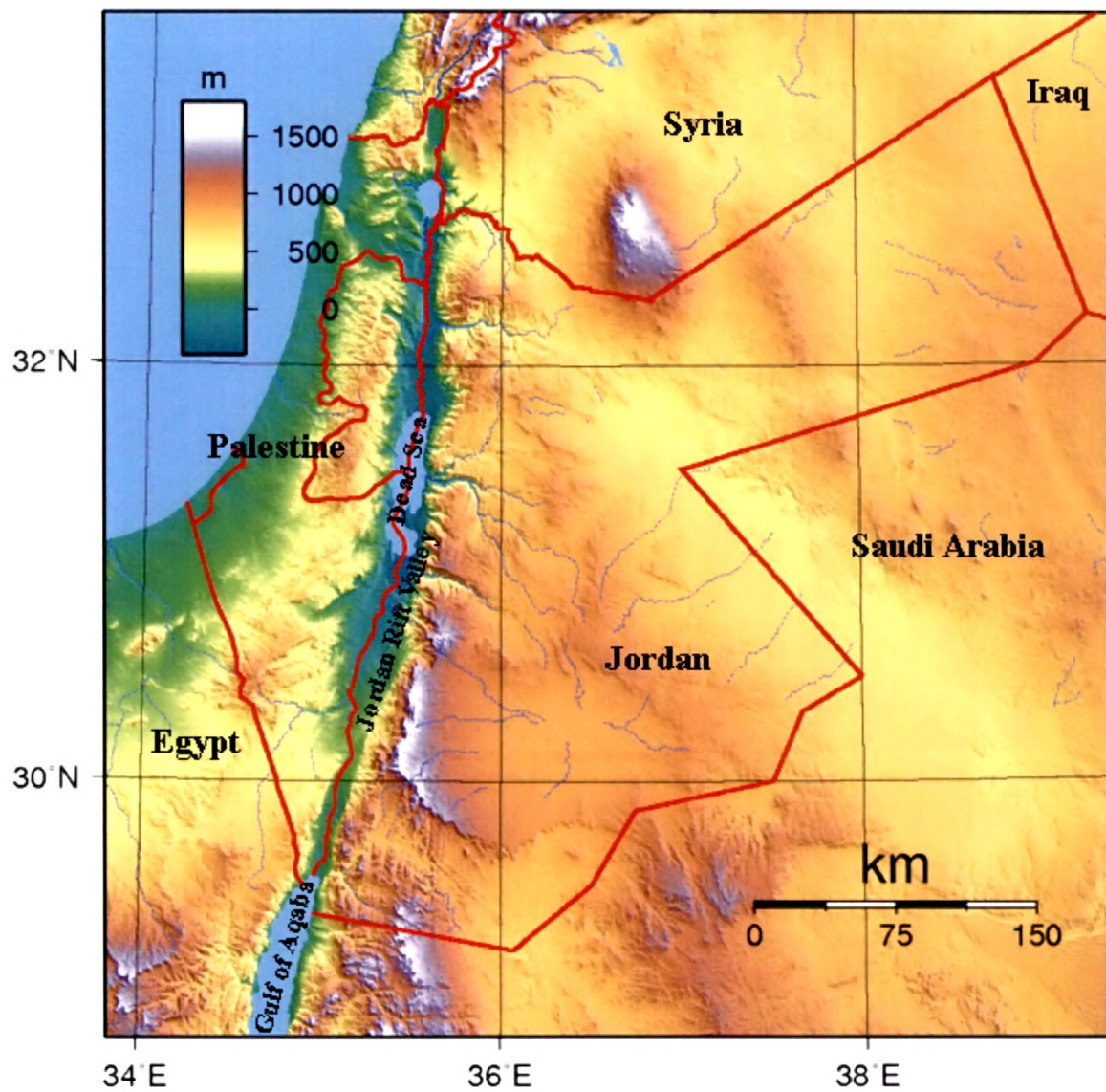
Source: www.keyway.ca (Modified)

Map: 2.29
Physical Map of Jordan



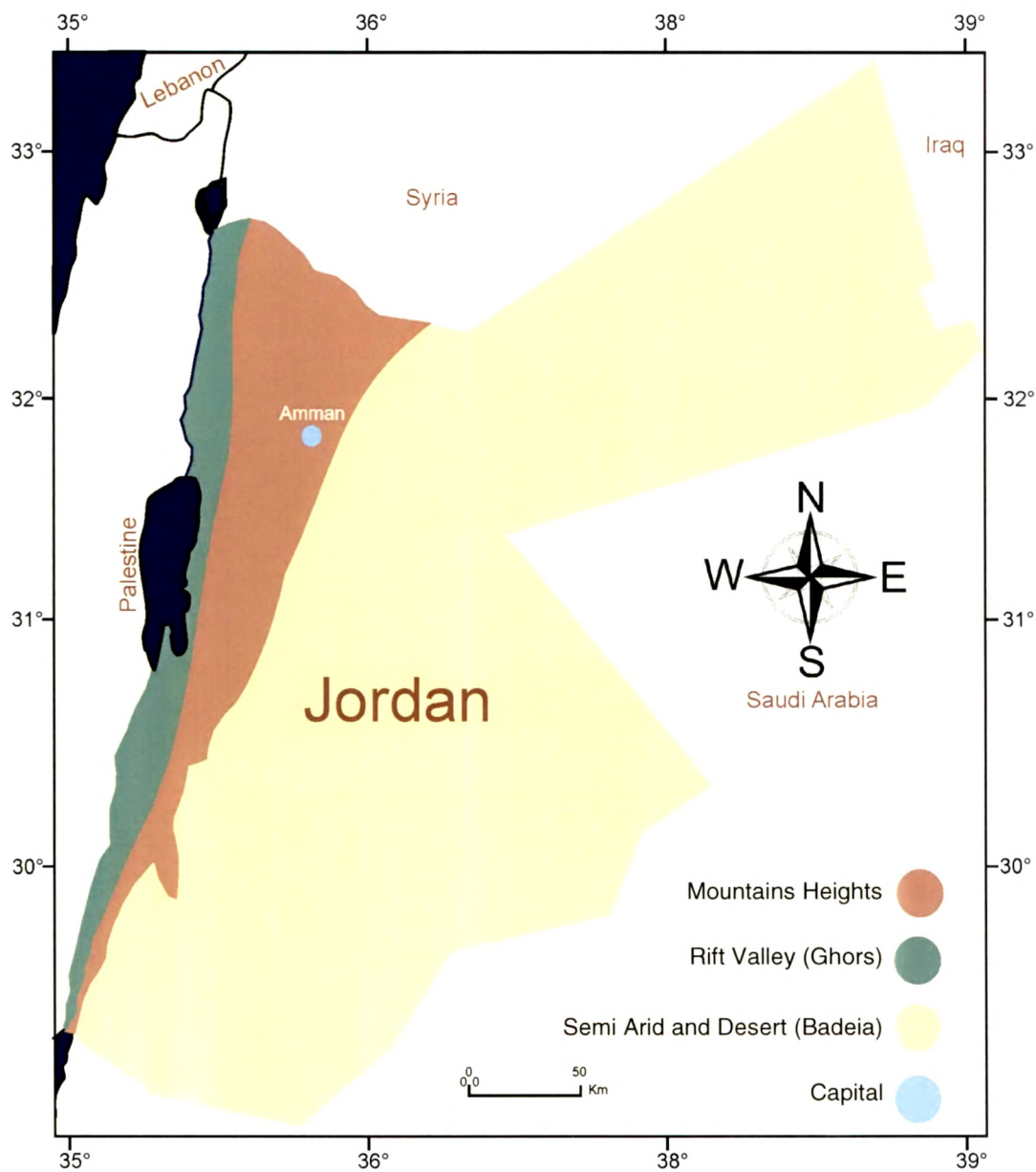
Source: www.layyous.comjordanjordan_maps.htm

Map: 2.30
Topography of Jordan



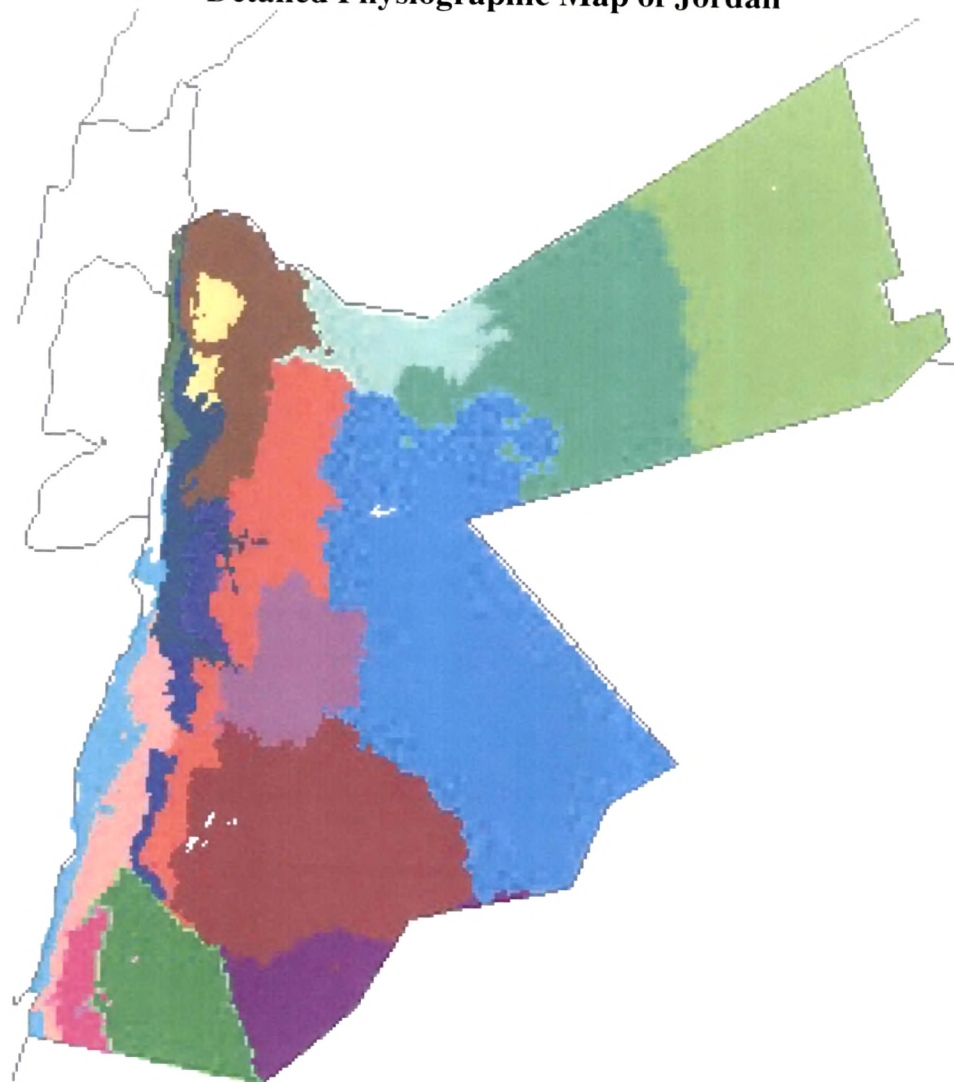
Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Maps_of_Jordan (Modified)

Map: 2.31
Physiographic Map of Jordan



Source: Sketch Map

Map: 2.32
Detailed Physiographic Map of Jordan



Land Regions

 Ajlun Highlands Dissected Limestone Plateau	 Jordan Valley Escarpment
 Araba Hills Dissected Basement Plateau	 North East Jordan Basalt Plateau
 Central Highlands Dissected Limestone Plateau	 North East Jordan Limestone Plateau
 Disi Rum Highlands	 Northern Highlands Dissected Limestone
 East Jordan Limestone Plateau	 Northern Jordan Basalt Plateau
 Hafira Jins Depressions	 South Jordan Dissected Sandstone Plateau
 Jafar Basin	 Southern Highlands Dissected Limestone Plateau
 Jordan Highlands Plateau	 Wadi Arabah
 Jordan Valley	 Wadi Arabah Escarpment

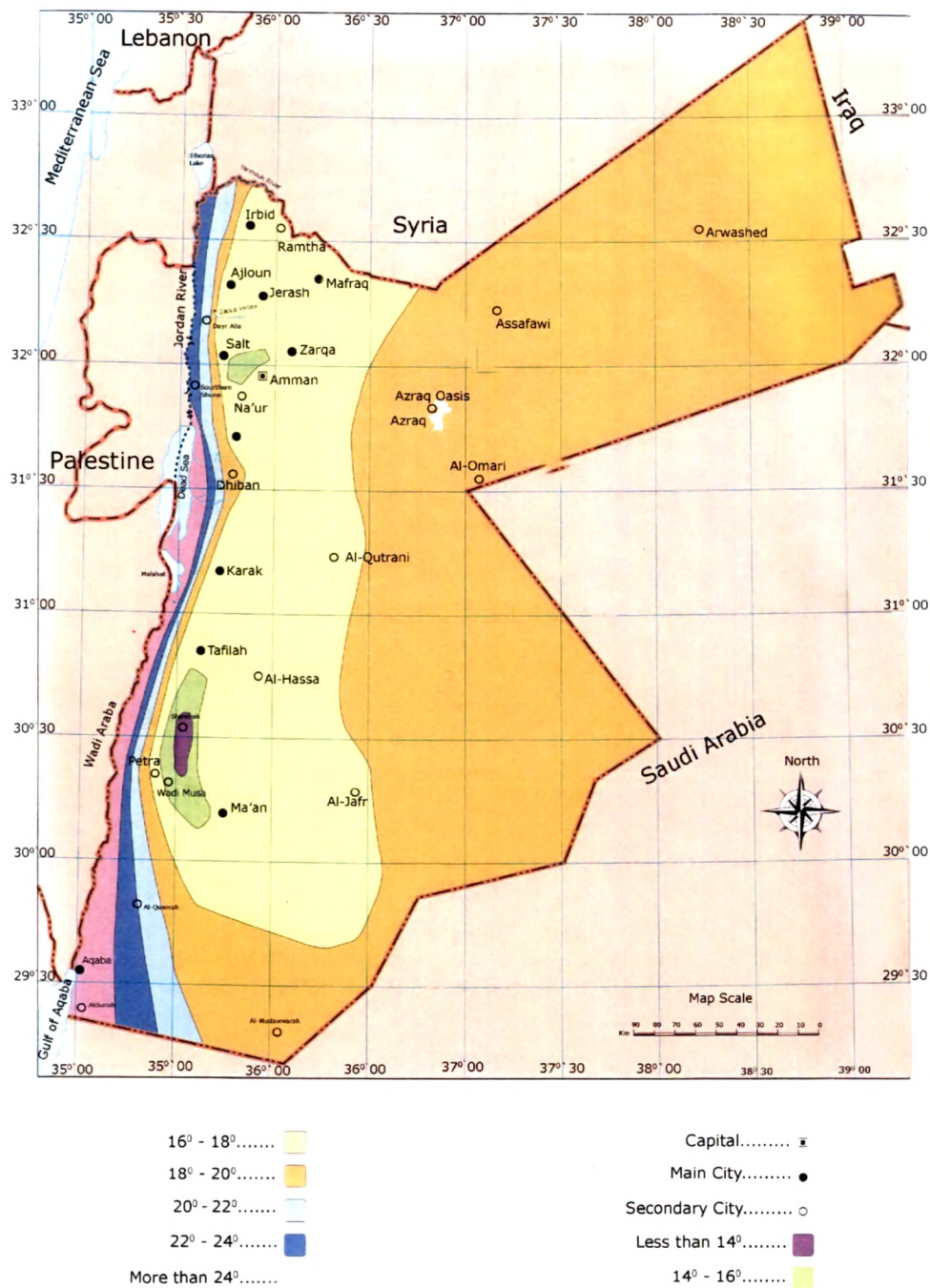
Source: http://alic.arid.arizona.edu/jordansoils/land_regions.html

Map: 2.33
The West Bank



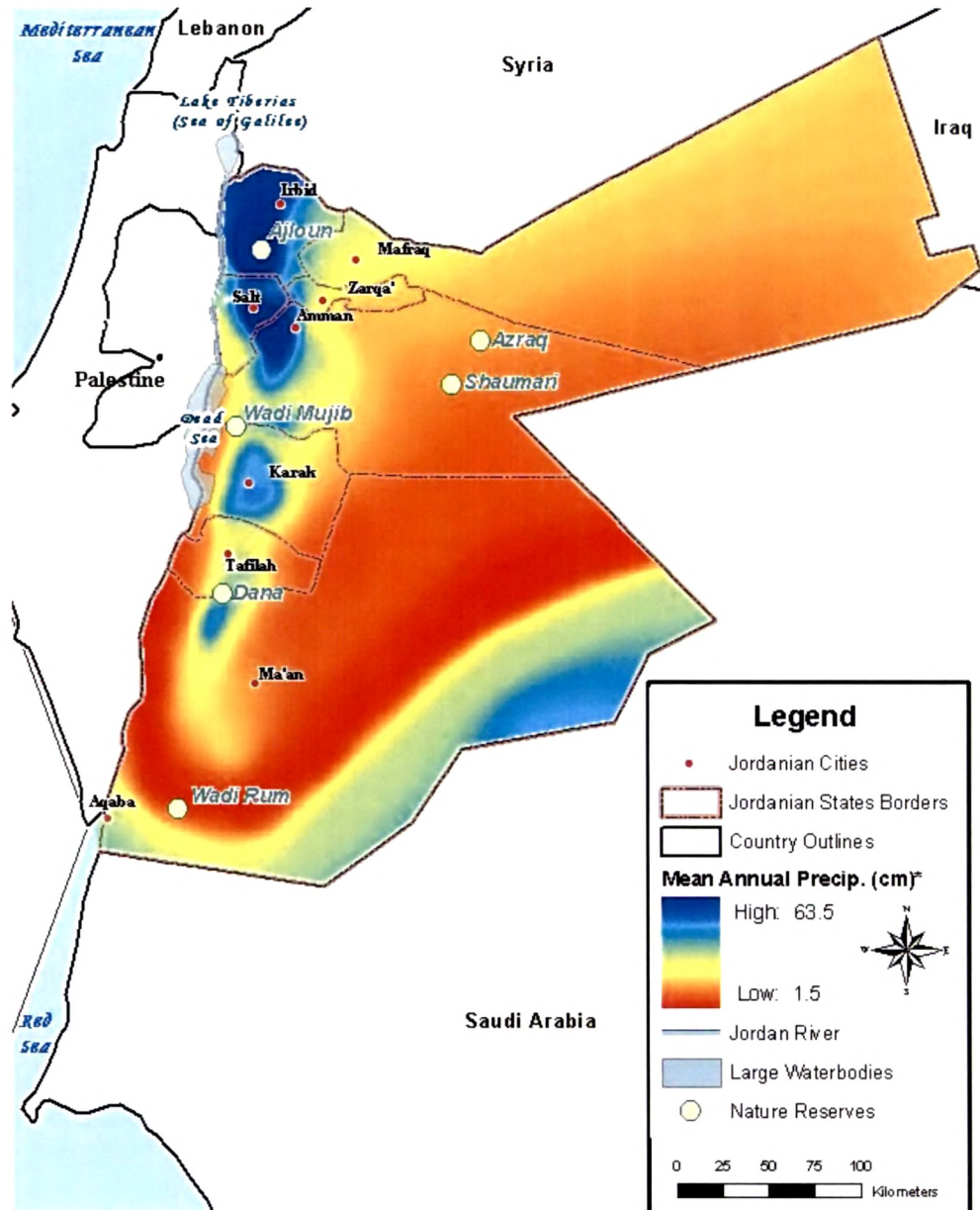
Source: Magellan Geographix, 1997, www.maps.com (modified)

Map: 2.34
Annual Range of Temperature in Jordan
(Centigrade)



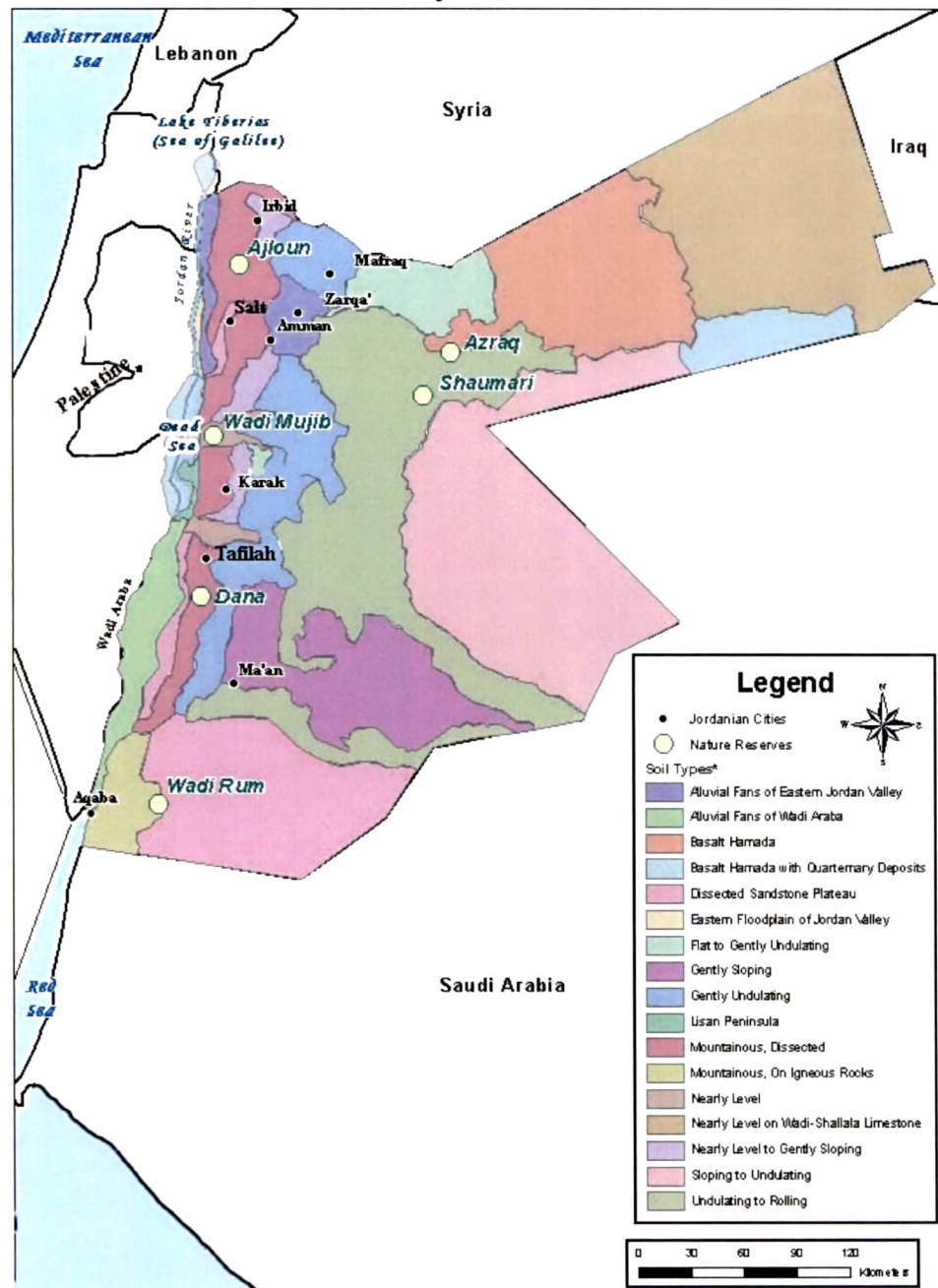
Source: Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, Atlas of Jordan and the World, (Amman, Jordan, 2006), p.17 (Arabic Version) (Modified).

Map: 2.35
Mean Annual Precipitation in Jordan



Source: icbg.rti.org/maps_arabic.cfm (Modified)

Map: 2.36
Biodiversity of Jordan



Source: <http://isu2.cedare.org/eg/gis/images/jrdmap2.jpg>;

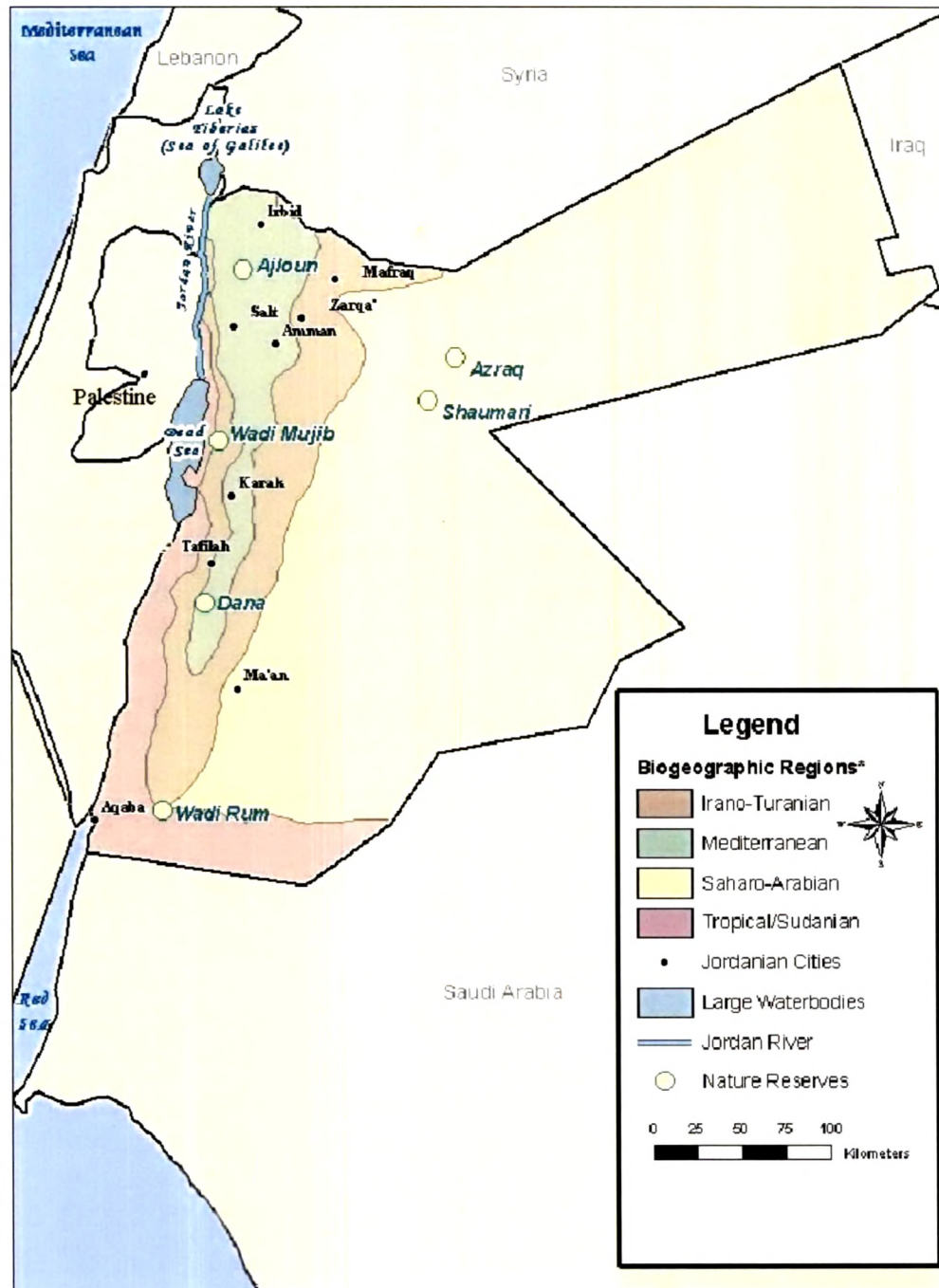
See also http://alic.arid.arizona.edu/jordansoils/land_regions.html (Modified)

Map: 2.37
Jordan Location Between Europe, Asia and Africa



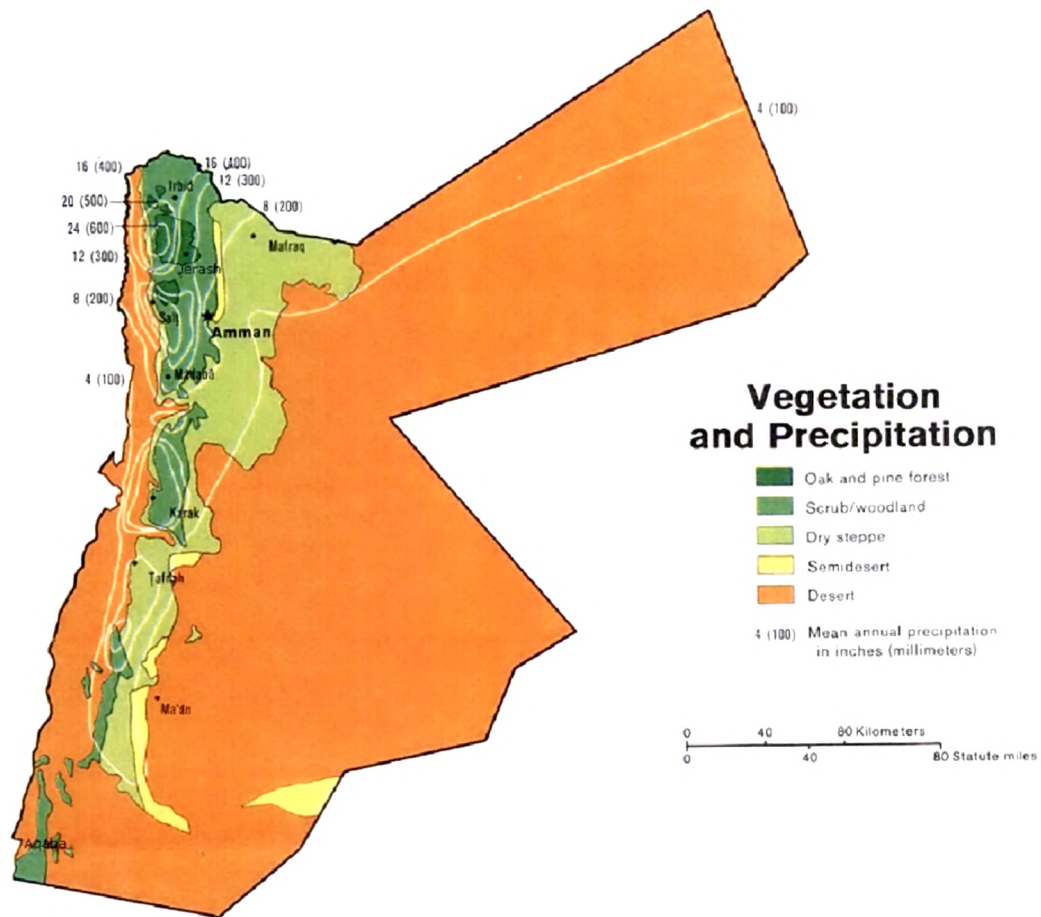
Source: icbg.rti.org/maps_arabic.cfm (Modified)

Map: 2.38
Biogeographic Region of Jordan



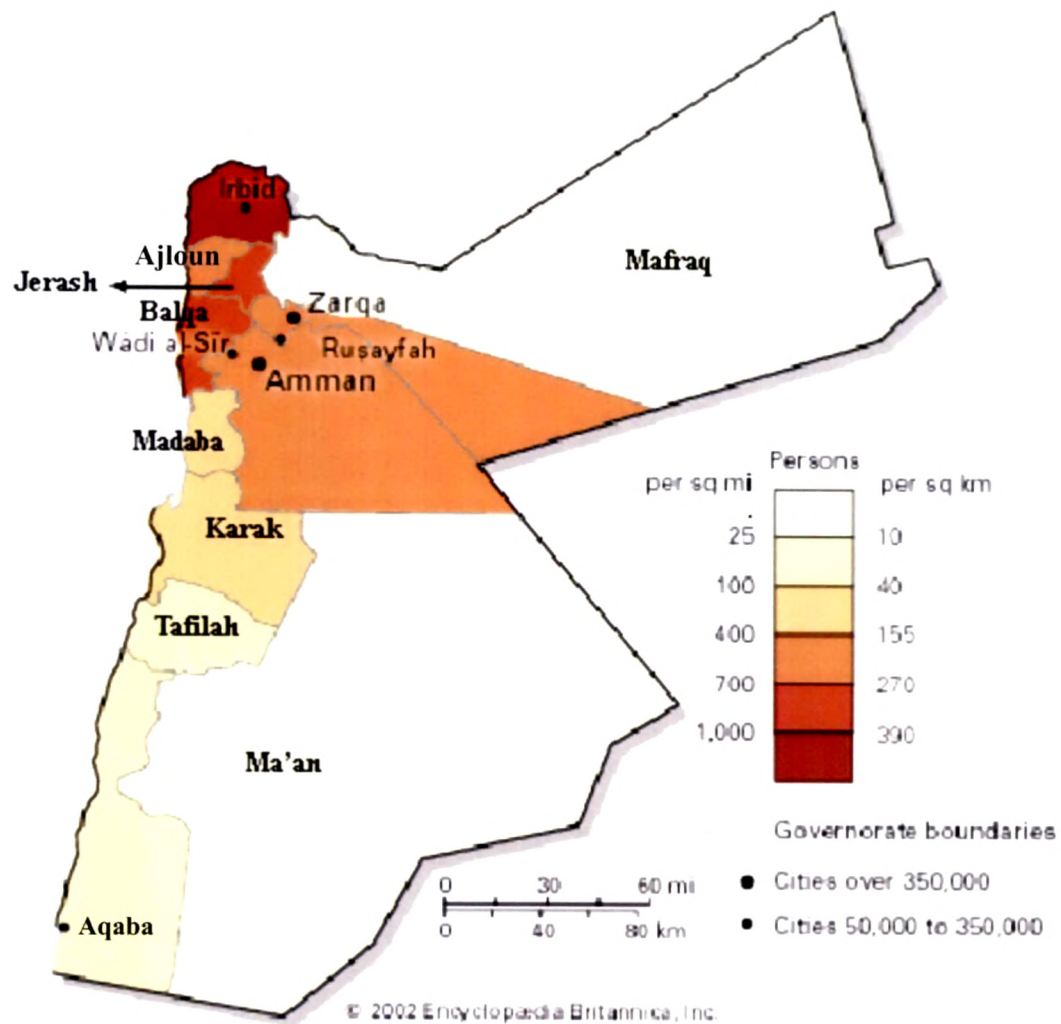
Source: www.icbg.rti.org (Modified)

Map: 2.39
Vegetation and Precipitation in Jordan



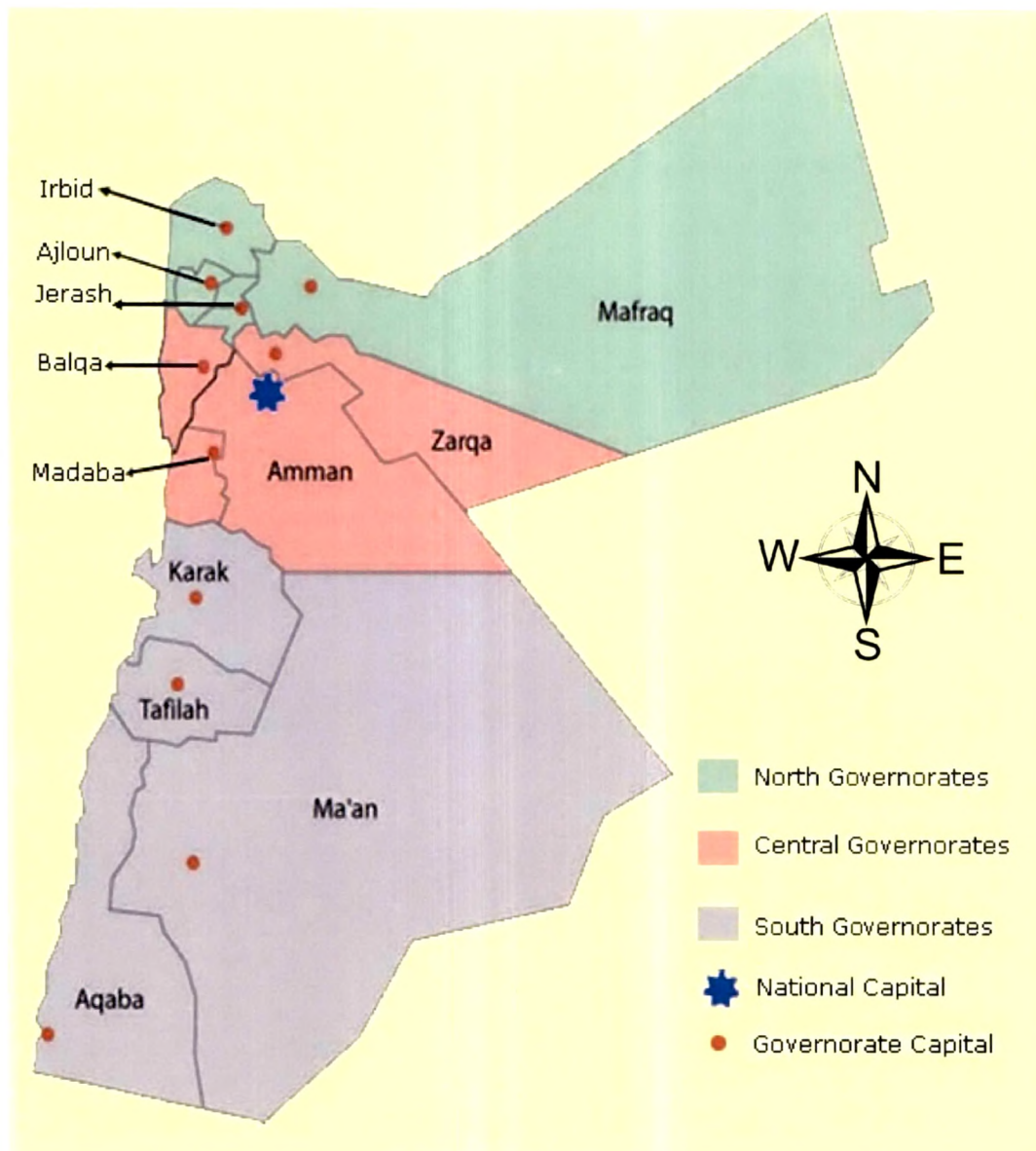
Source: www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/jordan.html (Modified)

Map: 2.40
Jordan Population Distribution



Source: student.britannica.com/eb/art/print?id=91996... (Modified)

Map: 2.41
Jordan Governorates (Muhafazat)



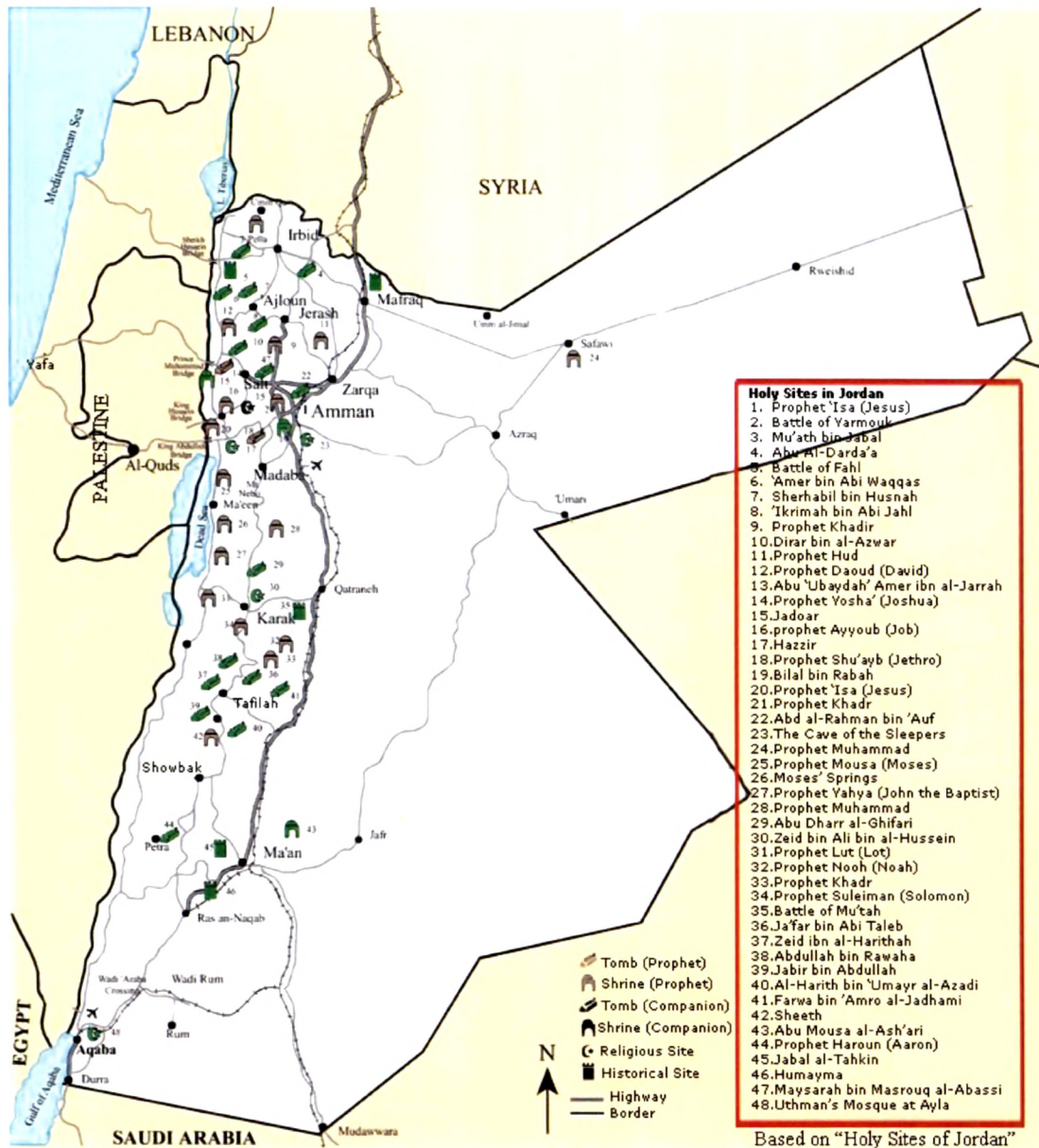
Source: www.pbase.com/mansour_mouasher/root (Modified)

Map: 2.42
Historical Sites of Jordan



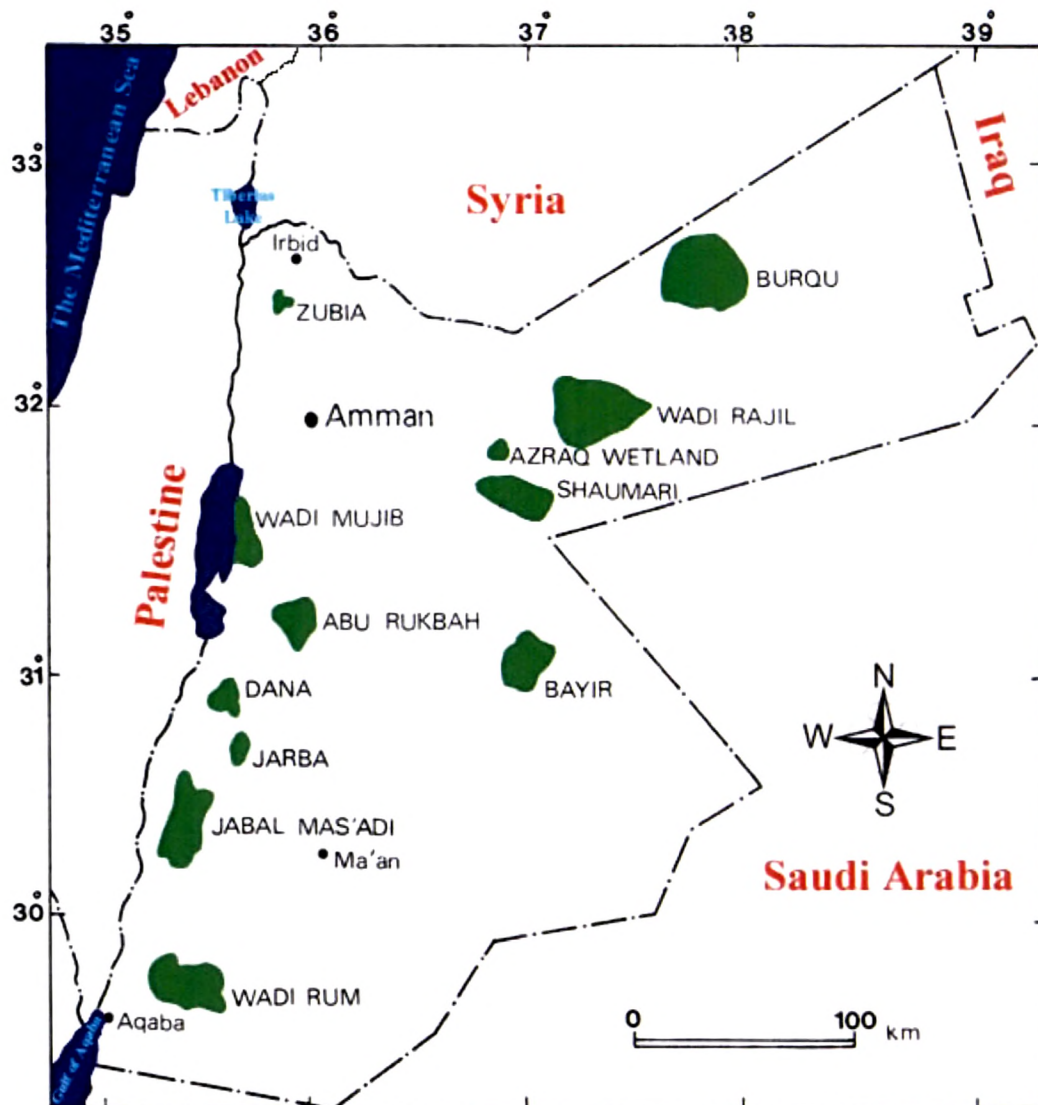
Source: www.theworldwidegourment.com/.../travel.htm (Modified)

Map: 2.43
Holy Sites in Jordan



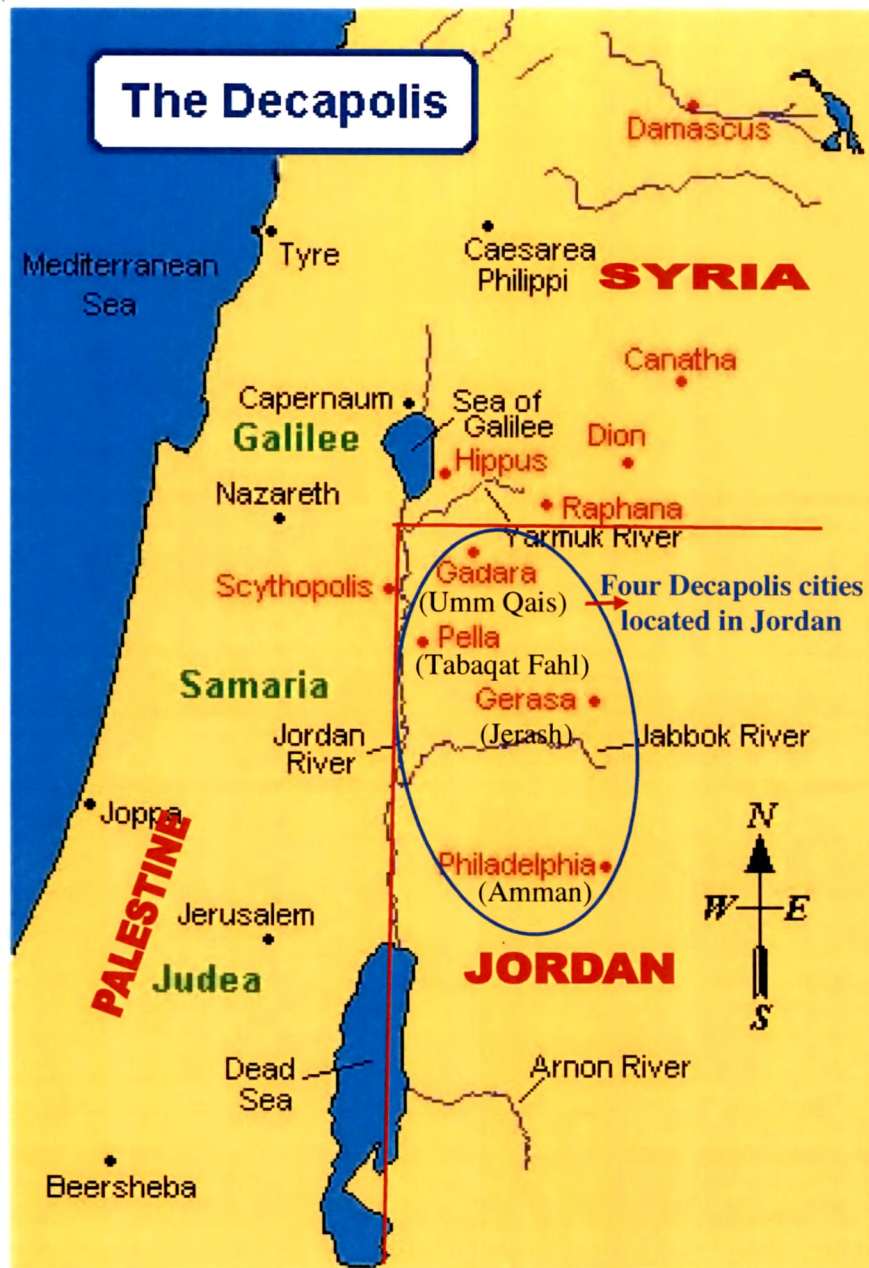
Sources: www.kinghussein.gov.jo/maps.html (Modified)

Map: 2.44
Nature Reserves in Jordan



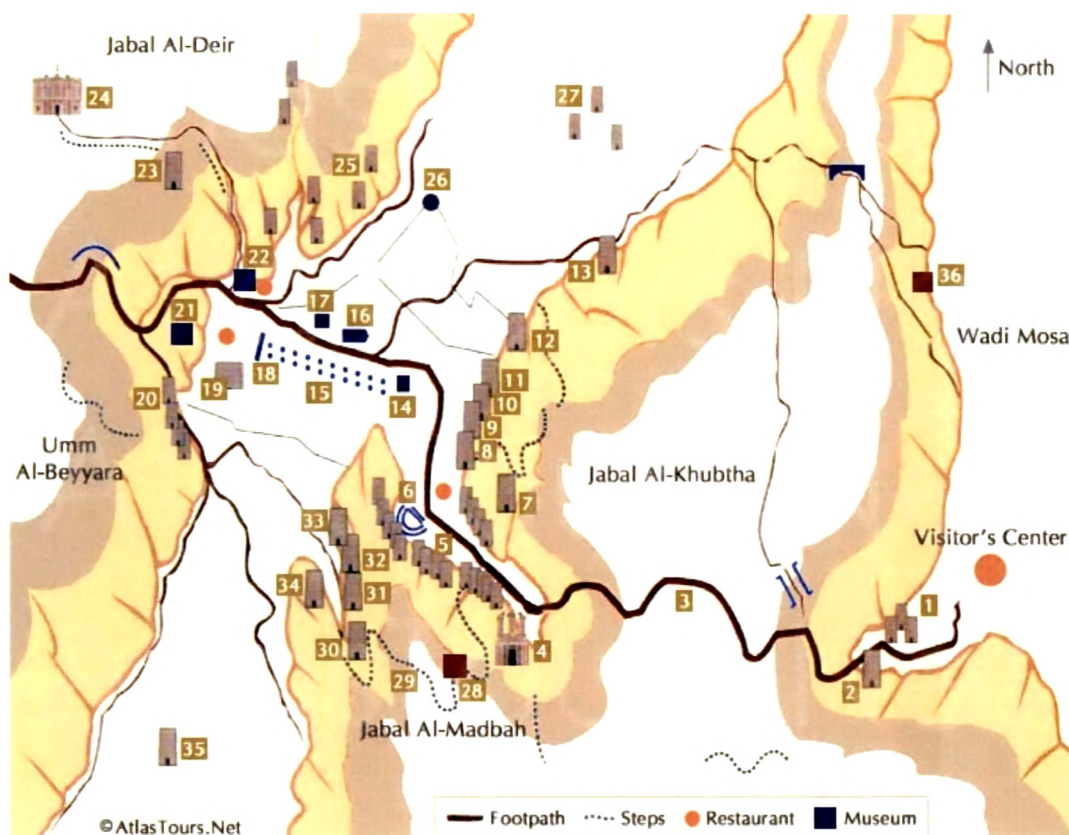
Source: Jordan Country Study on Biological Diversity (Amman, 2000) (Modified).

Map: 2.45
The Decapolis Cities Location in Jordan
(The Ten Greco-Roman Cities)



Source: www.keyway.ca; see also www.atlastours.net/jordan/decapolis.html, (Modified).

Map: 2.46
Petra Monuments

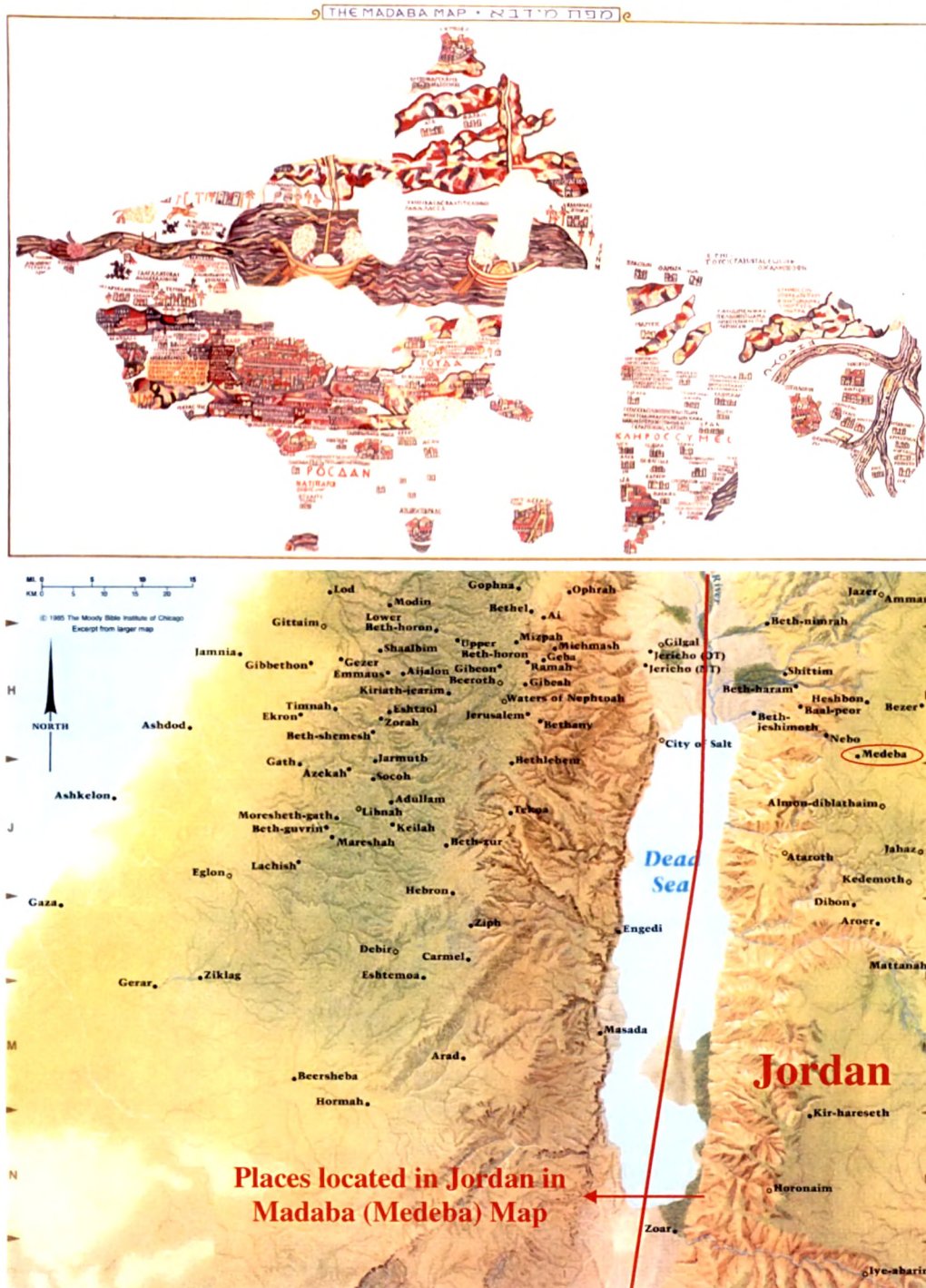


Map Legend:

1 Djin Blocks	10 Corinthian Tomb	19 Qasr Al-Bint	28 High Palace of Sacrifice
2 Obelisk Tomb	11 Palace Tomb	20 Unfinished Tomb	29 Lion Monument
3 Al-Siq	12 Sextus Florentinus Tomb	21 Al-Habees Museum	30 Garden Temple Complex
4 Al-Khazneh (The Treasury)	13 House of Dorotheos	22 Petra Archeological Museum	31 Triclinium
5 Street of Facades	14 The Nymphaeum	23 Lion Triclinium	32 Renaissance Tomb
6 The Theater	15 Colonnaded Street	24 Al-Deir (Monastery)	33 Broken Pediment Tomb
7 Aneisho Tomb	16 Byzantine Church	25 Turkmanian Tomb	34 Roman Soldier Tomb
8 Urn Tomb	17 Winged Lion Temple	26 Conway Tower	35 Snake Monument
9 Silk Tomb	18 The Arched Gate	27 Moghar Annassara	36 Crusader Fort

Source: www.atlastours.net/jordan/petra_map.html.

Map: 2.47
Madaba Mosaic Map (Original Mosaic Map of the Holy Land)



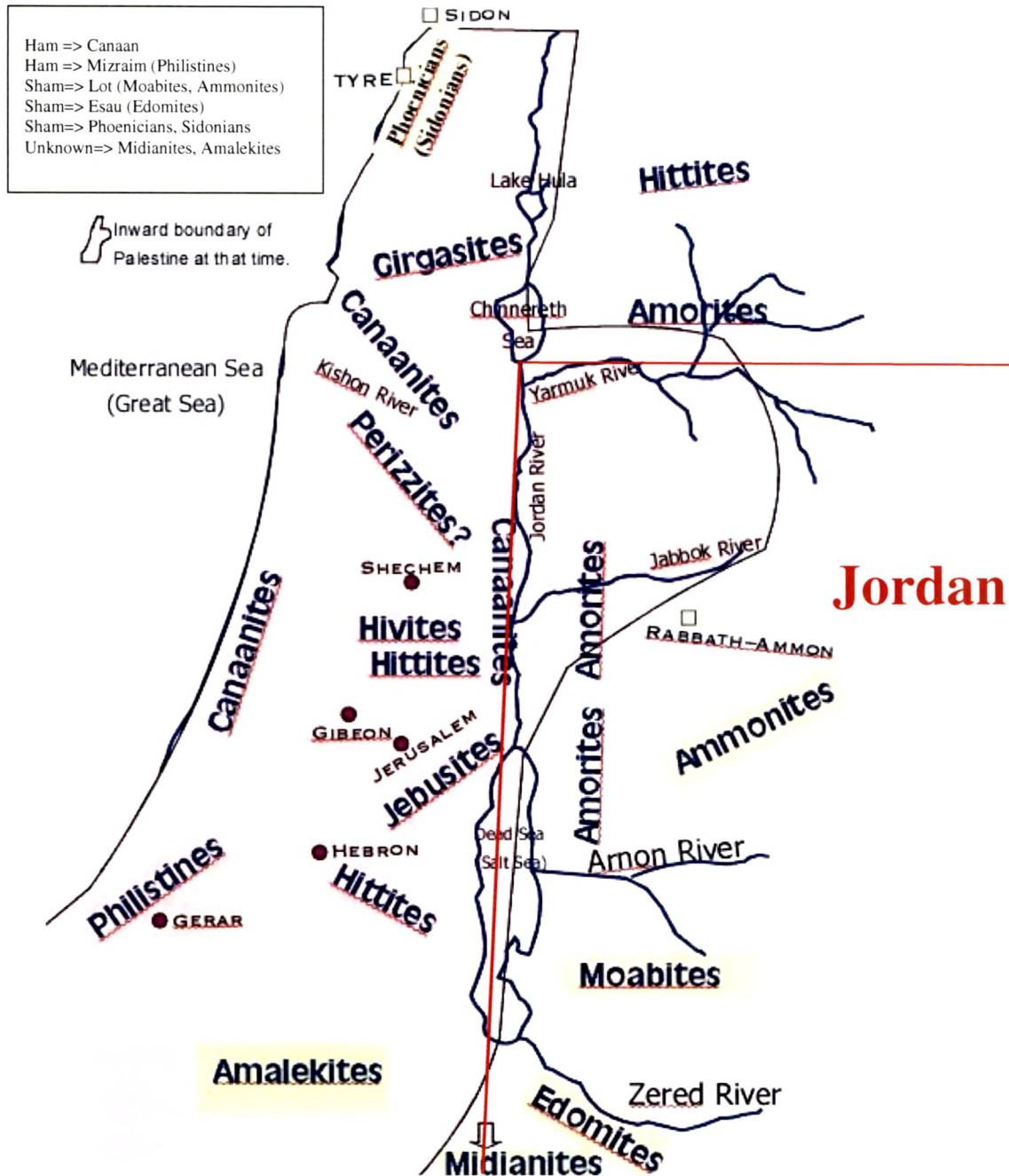
Source: www.bibleistrue.com/qnapqna34.htm;
See also www.bibleistrue.com/qna/deadsea.gif (Modified)

Map: 2.48
King's Highway



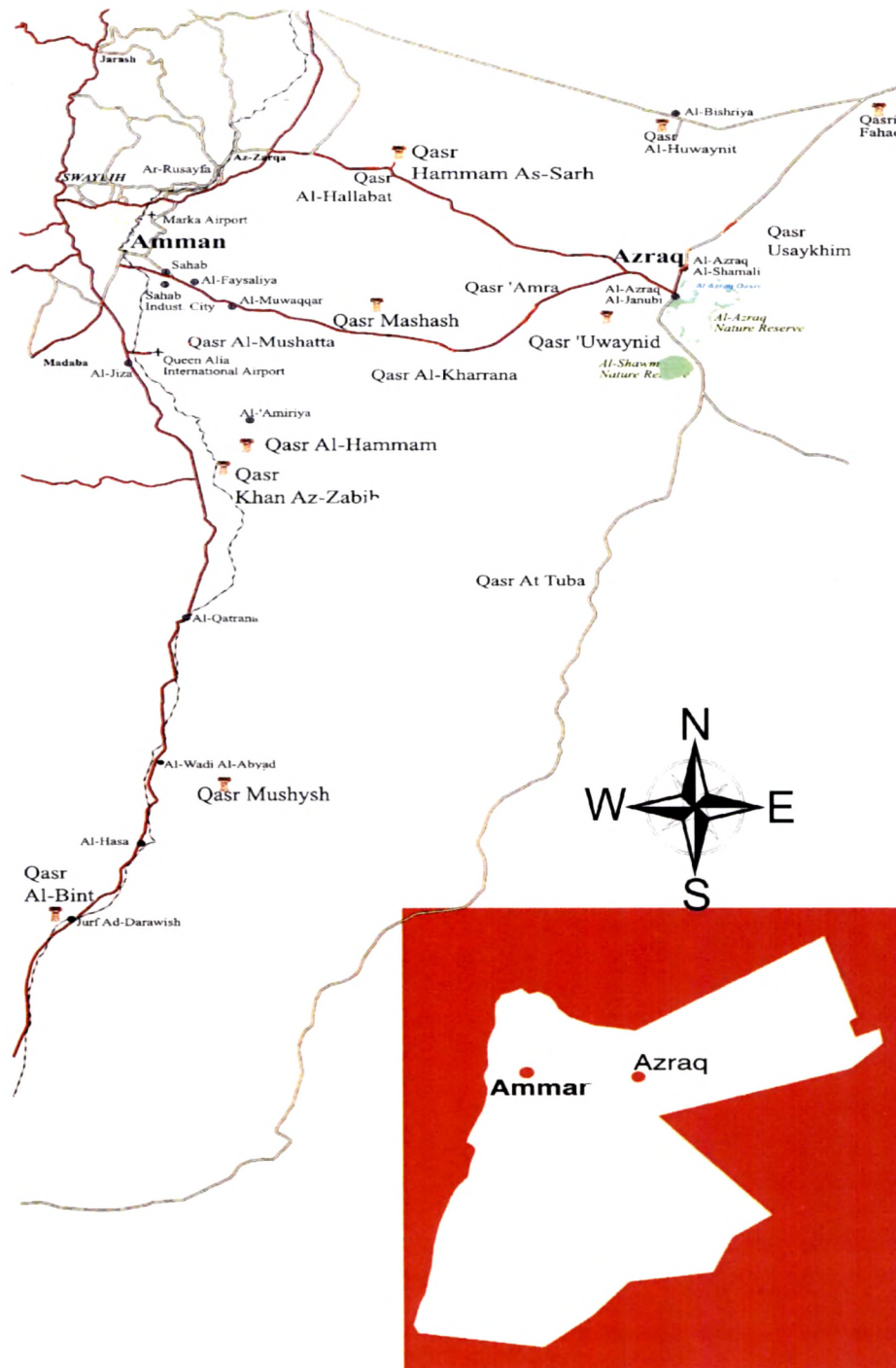
Source: www.petramoon.com/kingshighway.html; See also www.preceptaustin.org/006.jpg (Modified)

Map: 2.49
Conquest of Palestine by Jews during Moses/ Joshua (PBUT) Time



Source: www.foundationforfreedom.net (Modified)

Map: 2.50
Desert Castles (Qasr) of Jordan



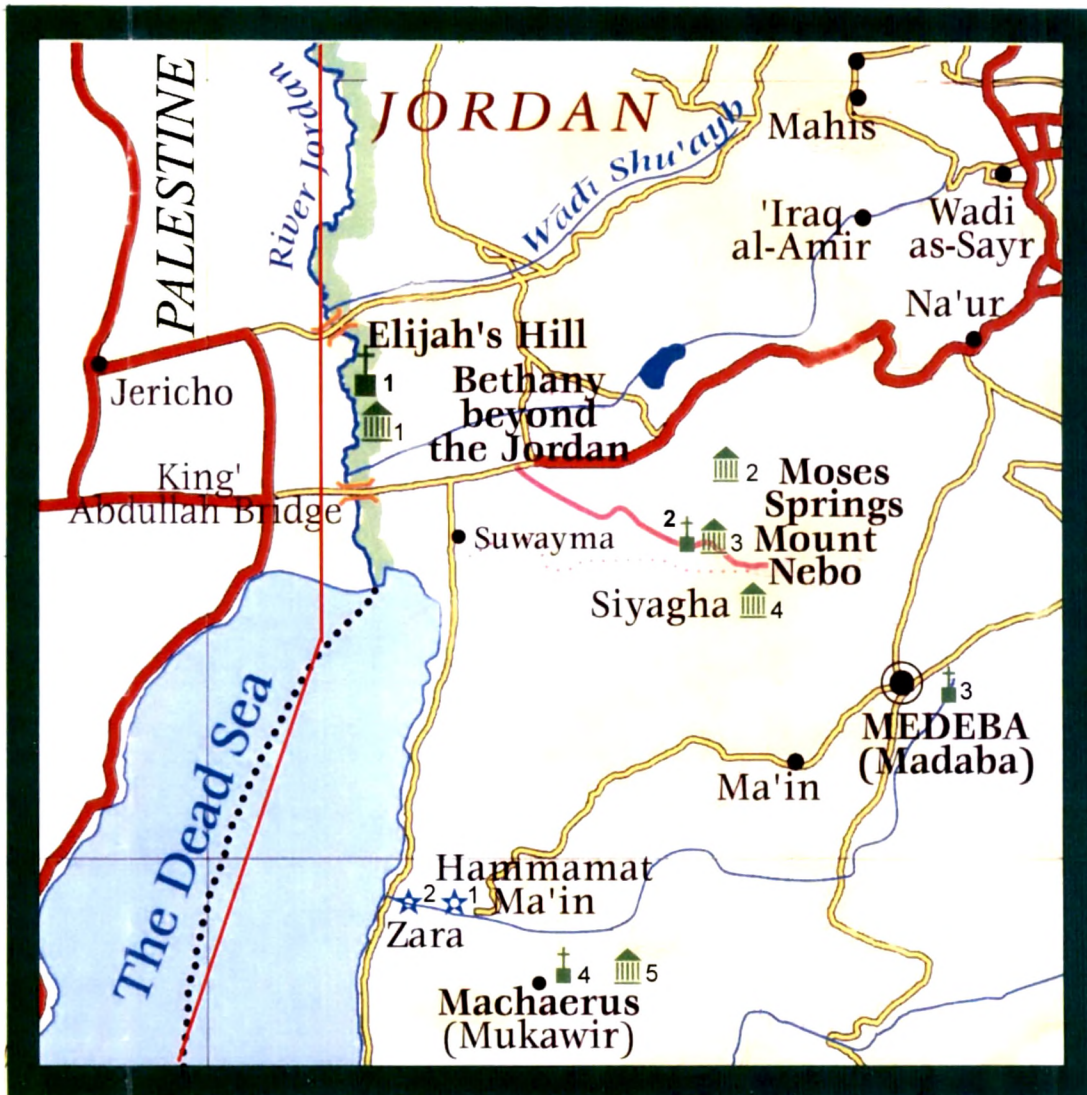
Source: Jordan Tourism Board, *Desert Castles*, (Amman, 2003) (Modified)

Map: 2.51
The Five Cities of the Plain in the Valley of Siddim
(The Salt Sea, Dead Sea)
That Mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 14:3)



Source: www.bible.ca (Modified)

Map: 2.52
Baptism Site
(Bethany Beyond the Jordan)



Maps Key: Christian site, Maqam: Shrine, Hot (Thermal) Springs
 1: The Park of Baptism 2: Mount Nebo, 3: **MEDEBA**(Madaba) 4: Machaerus (Mukawir)
 1: Bethany, 2: Moses Springs, 3: Mount Nebo, 4: Siyagha, 5: Machaerus (Mukawir)
 1: Hammamat Ma'in, 2: Hammamat Zara

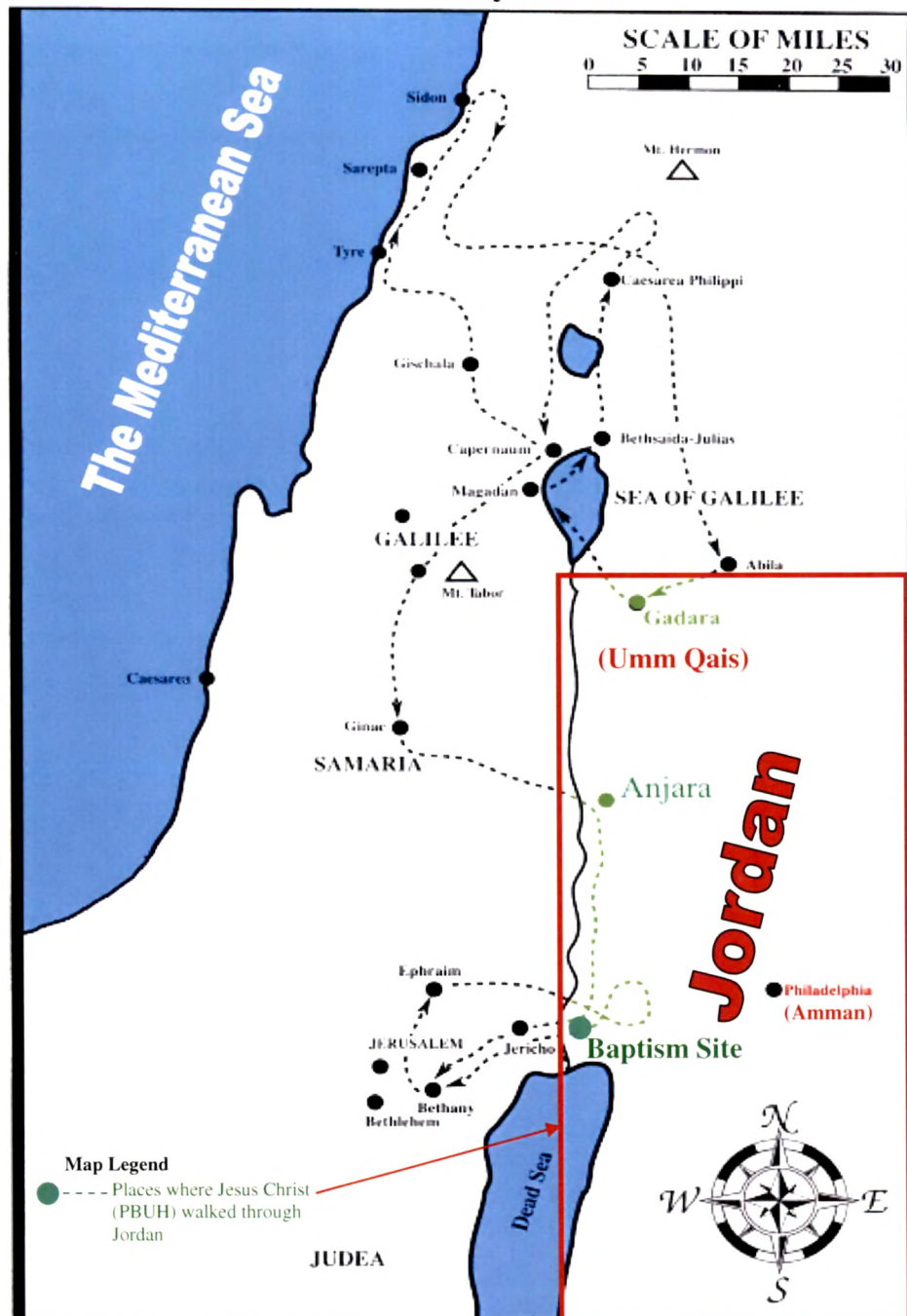
Source: *Map of Jordan*, Jordan Tourism Board, (Amman, 1998) (Modified)

Map: 2.53
Karak Governorate Tourist Map



Source: Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (Amman, 2005) (Modified)

Map: 2.54
The Ministry of Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him)
Later Ministry of Jesus



Source: www.bible.ca. (Modified)

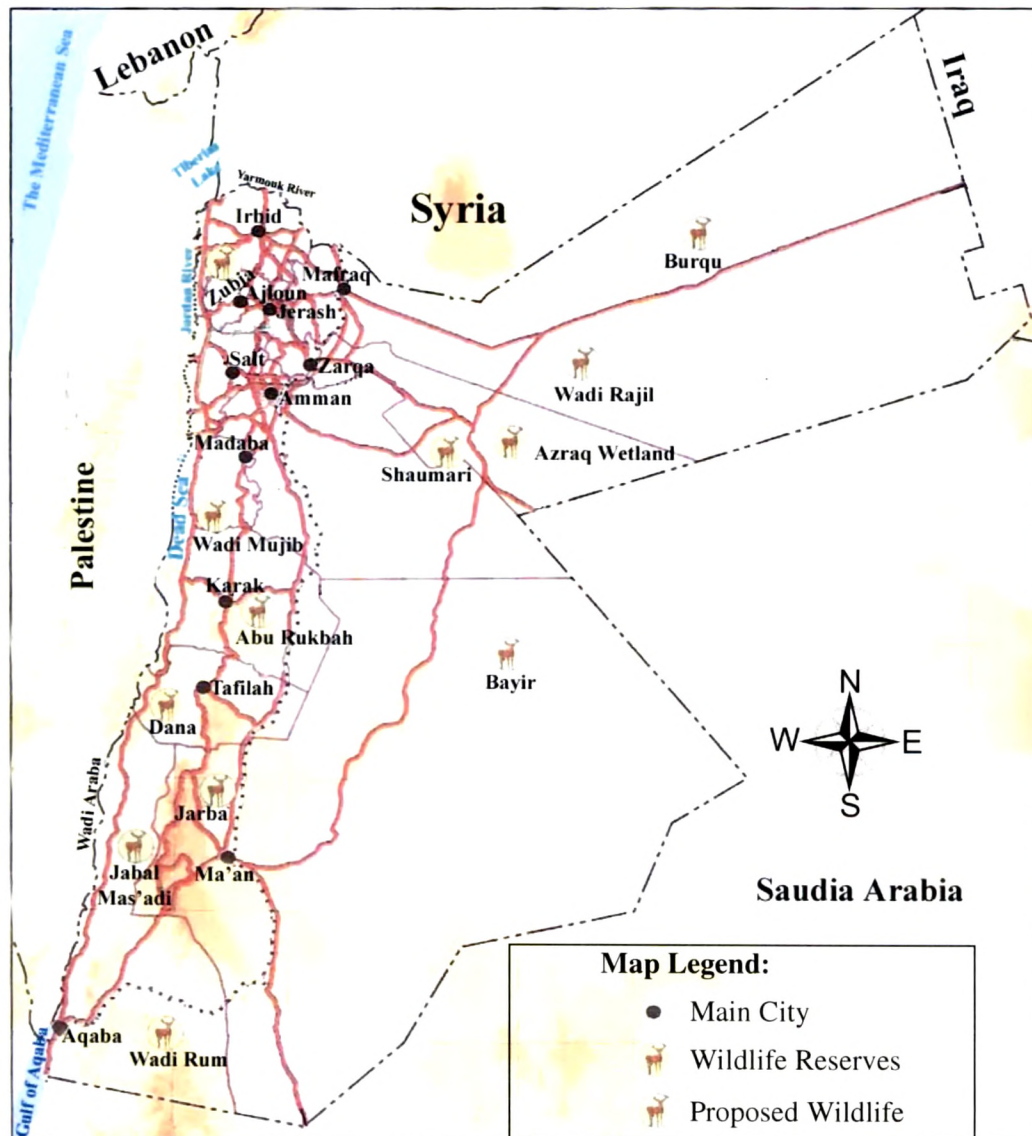
Map: 2.55
Eco-Tourism in Jordan



- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Ajloun | • Amman | • Aqaba | • Bethany |
| • Dead Sea | • The Decapolis | • Desert Castles | • Irbid |
| • Jerash | • Karak | • The King's Highway | • Machaerus |
| • Madaba | • Ma'in | • Mount Nebo | • Pella (Tabaqat Fahl) |
| • Petra | • Salt | • Shawbak | • Umm Al-Jimal |
| • Umm Arrasas | • Umm Qais (Gadara) | • Wadi Rum | |

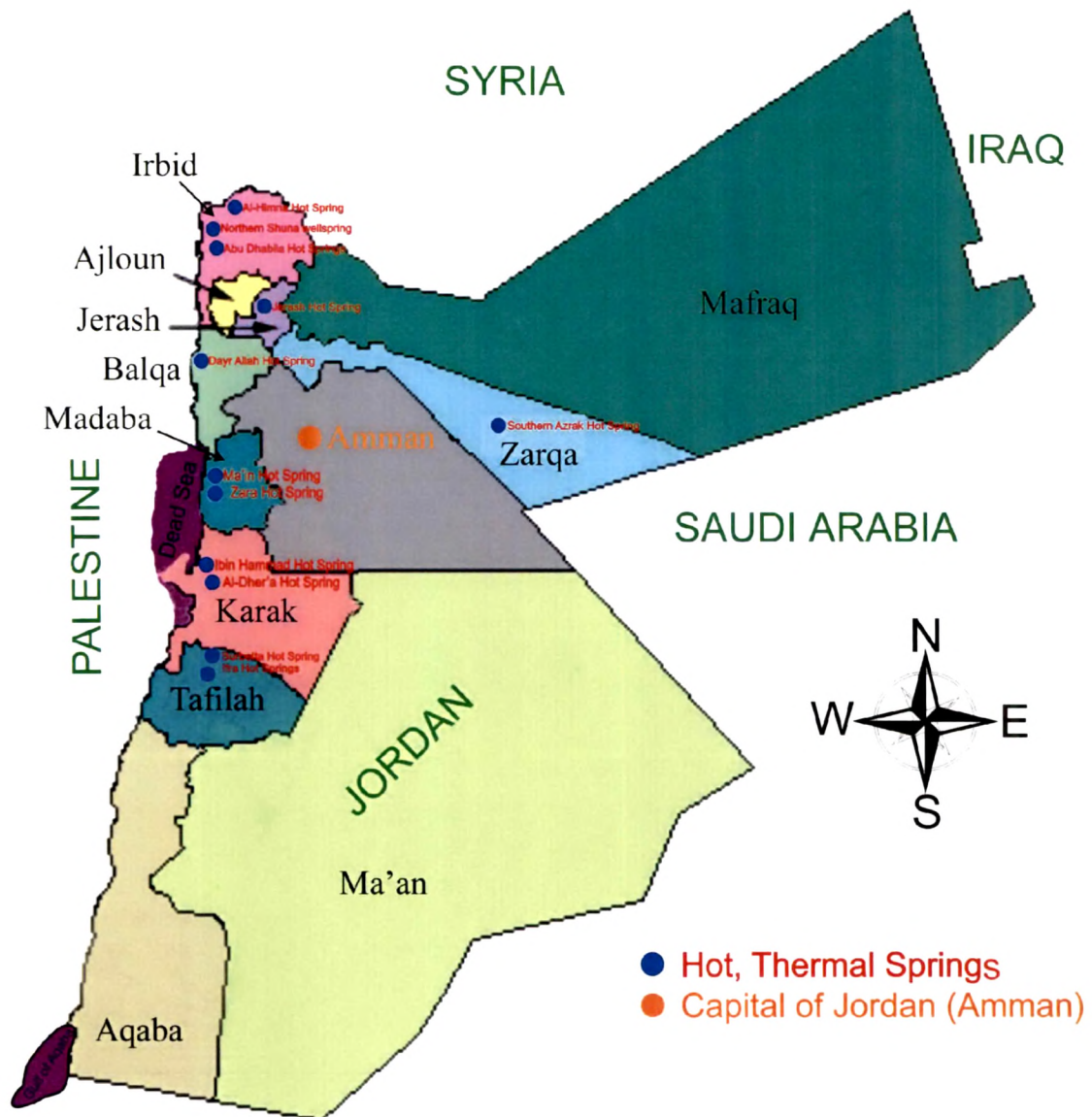
Source: www.atlastours.net/jordan/sites.html (Modified)

Map: 2.56
Wildlife Reserves in Jordan



Source: Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, 2005, Jordan Photos and Maps, 2nd Ed. Amman: P. 27 (Arabic Version), (Modified).

Map: 2. 57
Hot (thermal) Springs in Jordan



Source: Self Prepared

CHAPTER - 2

PLATES

2.7 Important Tourist Sites

(A) Decapolis Era-the Greco-Roman Cities (a) Amman (Philadelphia)

Plate : 2.00 -a : The Citadel



Plate : 2.00 -b : Roman Amphitheater



Plate : 2.00 -c : Four Seasons Hotel



Plate : 2.00 -d : General View of Amman



(b) Jerash (Gerasa)

Plate : 2.01 -a : Colonnaded Street



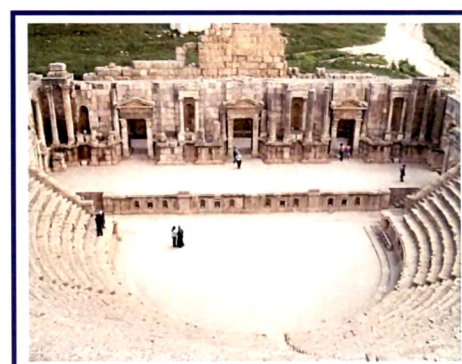
Plate : 2.01 -b : Hadrian's Arch



Plate : 2.01 -c : Oval Plaza



Plate : 2.01 -d : South Theater



(c) Gadara or Umm Qais

Plate : 2.02 -a : West Theatre



Plate : 2.02 -b : Gadara, General View of Yarmouk Valley & Golan Heights



Plate : 2.03 :
(d) Pella or Tabaqat Fahil



Plate : 2.04 :
(B) Ajloun Castle



(C) Petra
(The Golden Gate of Jordan Tourism & Wonders of the World)
The Treasury or Al-Khazneh

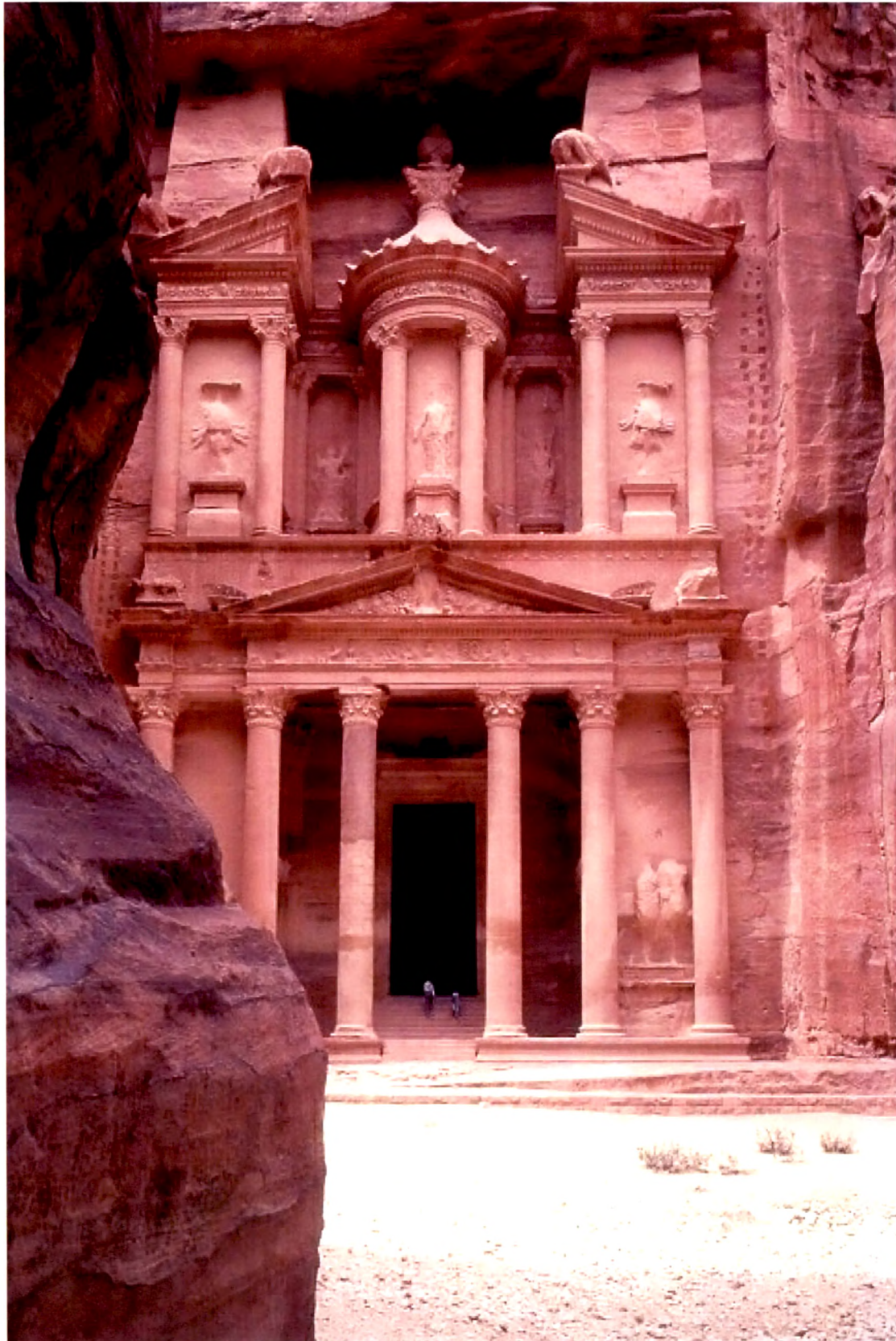


Plate : 2.05-a : Djinn Blocks



Plate : 2.05-b :
The Tombs of the Obelisks and the Triclinium

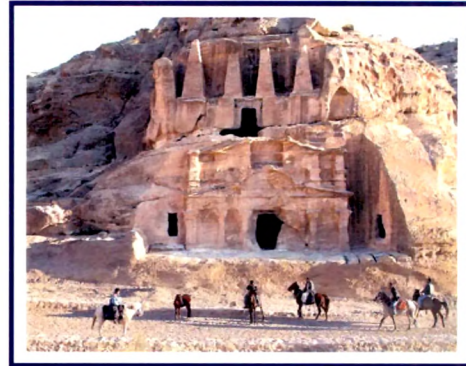


Plate : 2.05-c : The Siq



Plate : 2.05-d : The Treasury or Al-Khazneh

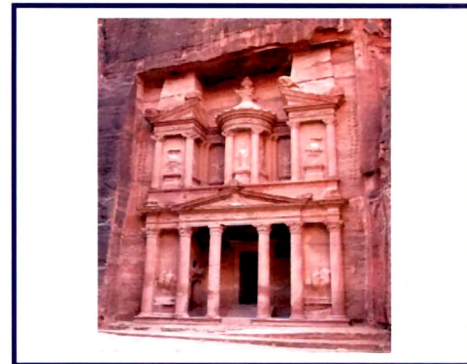


Plate : 2.05-e :The Theatre



Plate : 2.05-f : High Place of Sacrifice



Plate : 2.05-g : The Royal Tombs



Plate : 2.05-h : The Colonnaded Street



Plate : 2.05-i : Monumental Gate



Plate : 2.05-j : Qasr Al-Bint (Palace of Lady)



Plate : 2.05-k : The Great Temple



Plate : 2.05-l : The Byzantine Church



Plate : 2.05-m-i :
The Monastery (Al-Deir)

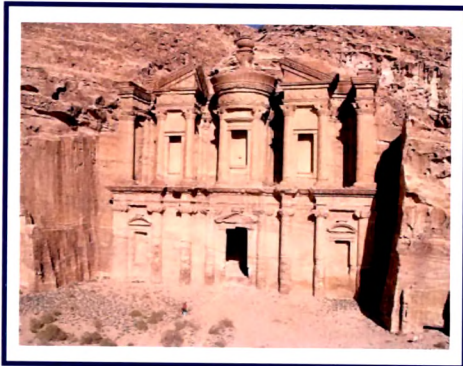


Plate : 2.05-m-ii :
Top of the Monastery, Ornately Carved



Plate : 2.05-n-i : Water Channel

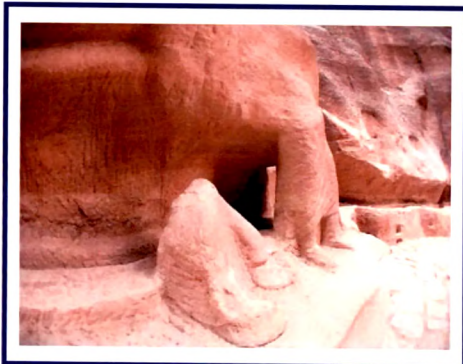
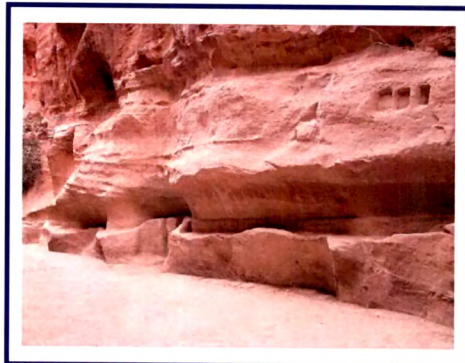


Plate : 2.05-n-ii : Water Channel



(D) Madaba

Plate : 2.06-a :
Madaba Church of St. George's and the
Original Mosaic Map of the Holy Land



Plate : 2.06-b :
Madaba Mosaic Map



(E) Mount Nebo

Plate : 2.07-a :
Mount Nebo, His late Holiness
Pope John Paul - II



Plate : 2.07-b :
Mount Nebo, The Serpent Monument

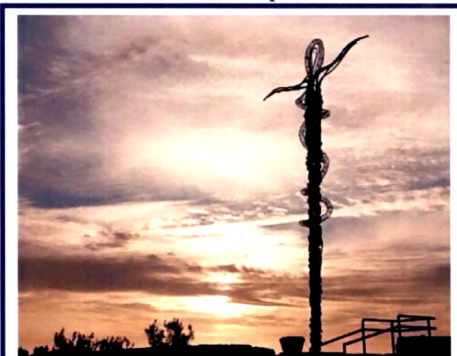


Plate : 2.08 : (F) Umm Al-Jamal



Plate : 2.09 : (G) The King's Highway



(H) Shawbak

Plate : 2.10-a : Shawbak Castel



Plate : 2.10-b : Shawbak Castel

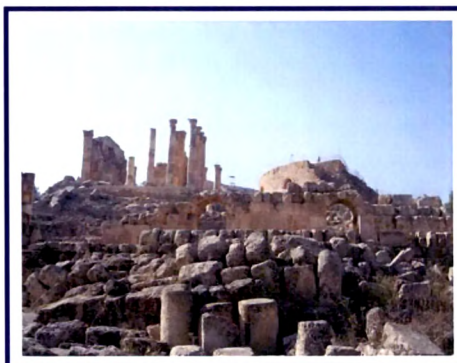


Plate : 2.11-a :
(I) Mukawir or Machaerus



Plate : 2.11-b :
Mukawir or Machaerus

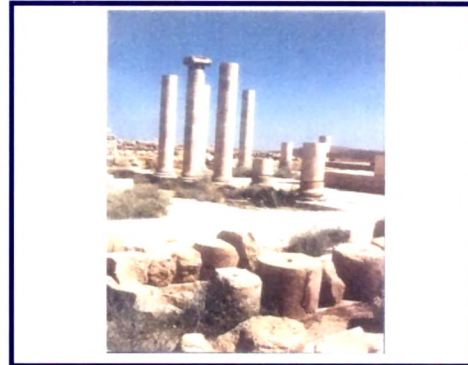


Plate : 2.12 : (J) Umm Ar-Rasas, Church of St.Stephen Mosaic

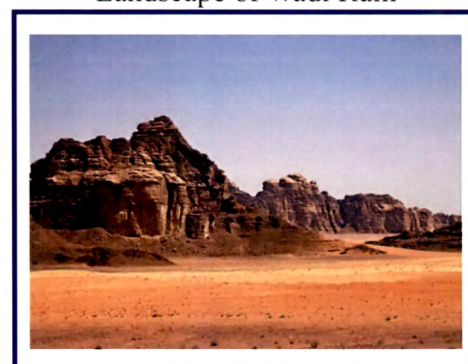


Plate : 2.13-a :
Magnificent View of Wadi Rum



(K) Wadi Rum

Plate : 2.13-b :
Landscape of Wadi Rum



(L) Arab Desert Castles

Plate : 2.14-a :Qasr Amra



Plate : 2.14-b :Qasr Al-Kharaneh



(M) Aqaba

Plate : 2.15-a : Aqaba Beach



Plate : 2.15-b : Scuba Diving



(N) The Dead Sea

Plate : 2.16-a : Salt Crystal Beaches

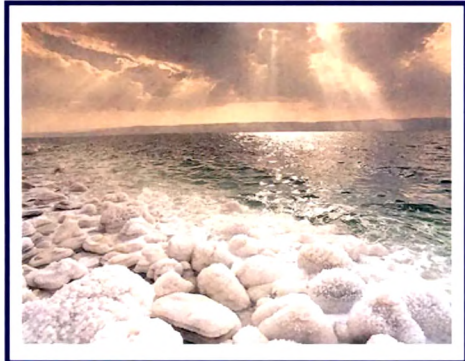


Plate : 2.16-b : Salt Crystal Beaches



Plate : 2.16-c :
Dead Sea Beach (Swimming)



Plate : 2.16-d :
Floating in the Dead Sea



Plate : 2.16-e :
Healing powers of minerals from the
sea's muddy floor

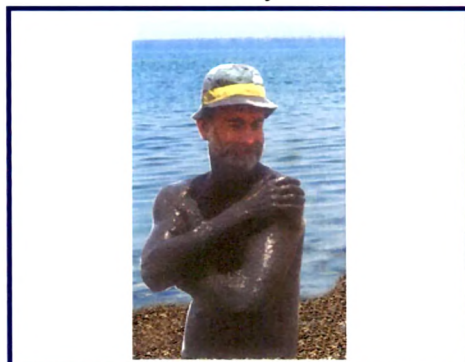


Plate : 2.16-f :
Healing powers of minerals from the
sea's muddy floor



(O) Jordan Valley and "Bethany Beyond the Jordan"

Plate : 2.17-a : Jordan Valley, North Jordan



Plate : 2.17-b : Bethany



Plate : 2.17-c : Bethany



Plate : 2.17-d : Bethany-Baptisms Pool



Plate : 2.17-e : Bethany-Baptisms Pool



Plate : 2.17-f : Bethany-Jordan River



(P) Karak Castel

Plate : 2.18-a : Karak Castel From East



Plate : 2.18-b : A View from Karak Castle to the West



Plate : 2.18-c : Al-Shahahbiyah Town Landscape from Karak Castel

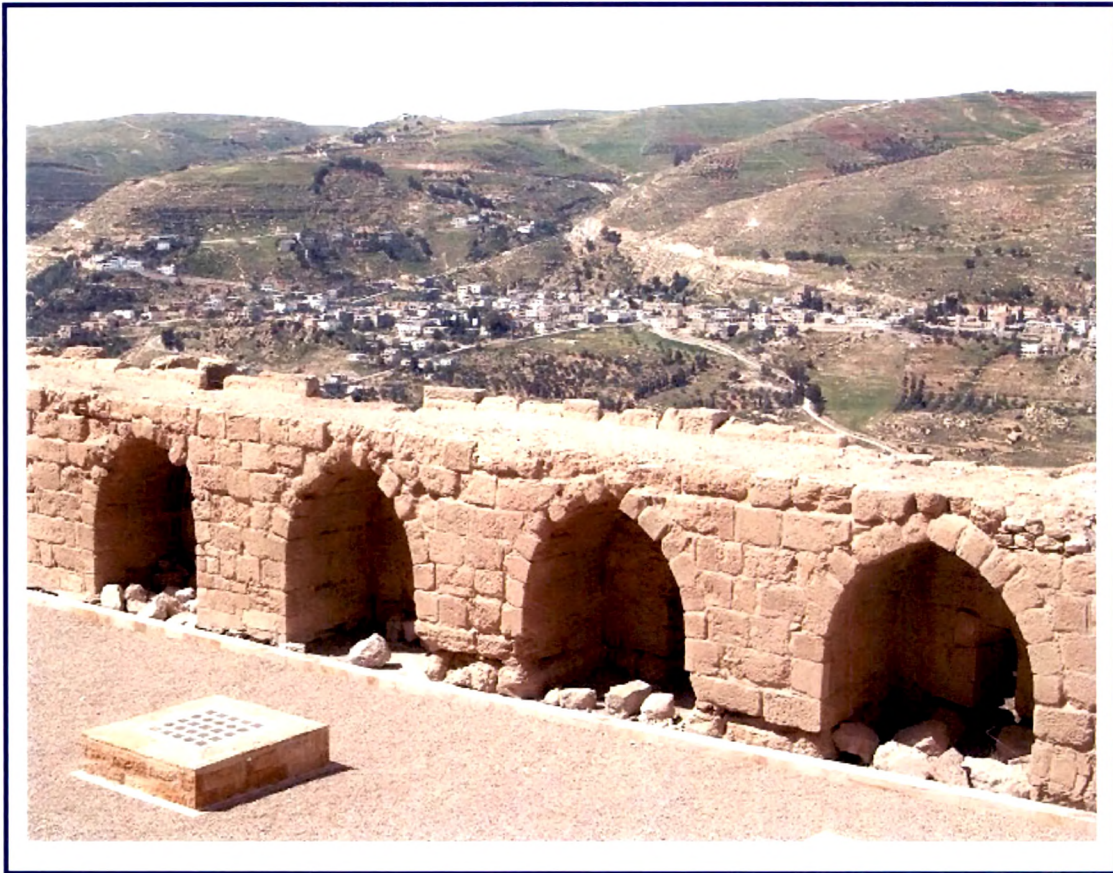


Plate : 2.18-d : General view from Al-Shahahbiyah shows Karak Castel

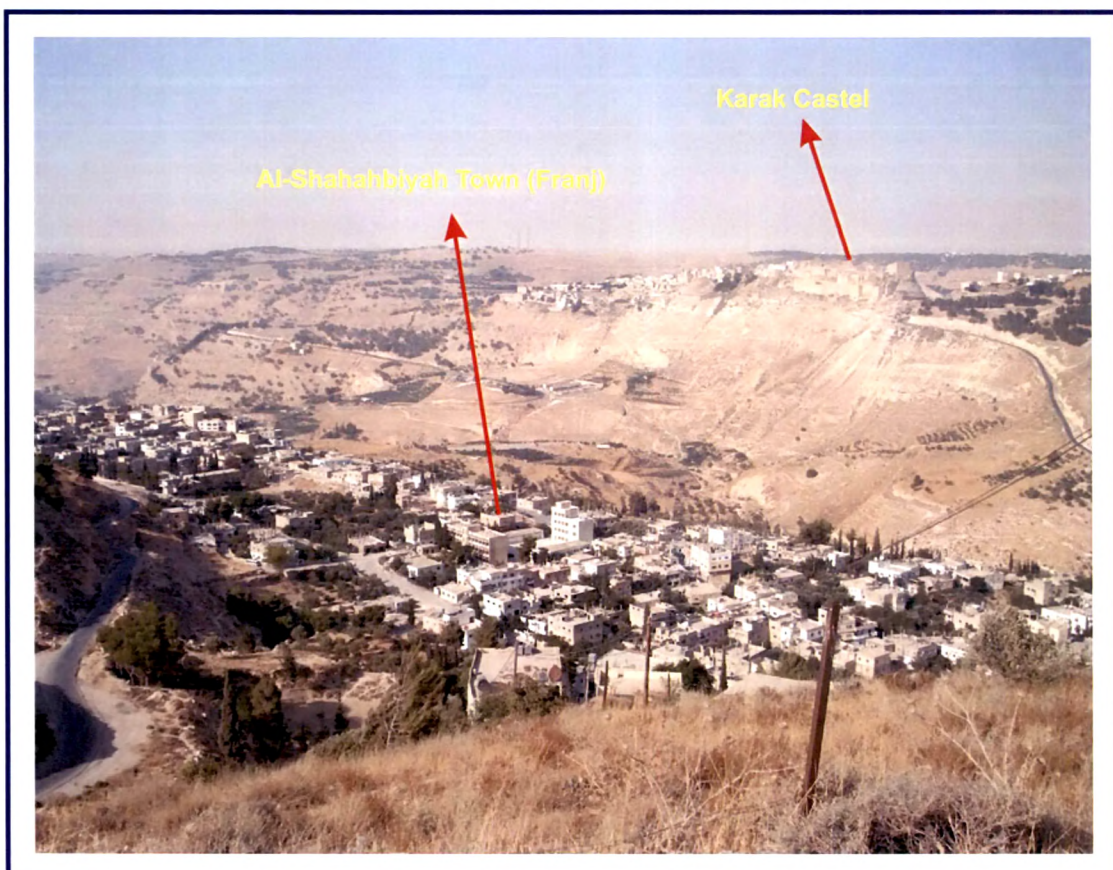


Plate : 2.18-e-i:
 ﷲ (ALLAH) Name in Arabic
 On the Slope of Mountain (Ash-Shahabiyah)



ا ل ه ا
 ﷲ

Plate : 2.18-e-ii :



Plate : 2.18-f-i :
Prophet محمد (Mohammad) (PBUH) Name in Arabic
On the Slope of Mountain (Ash-Shahabiyah)

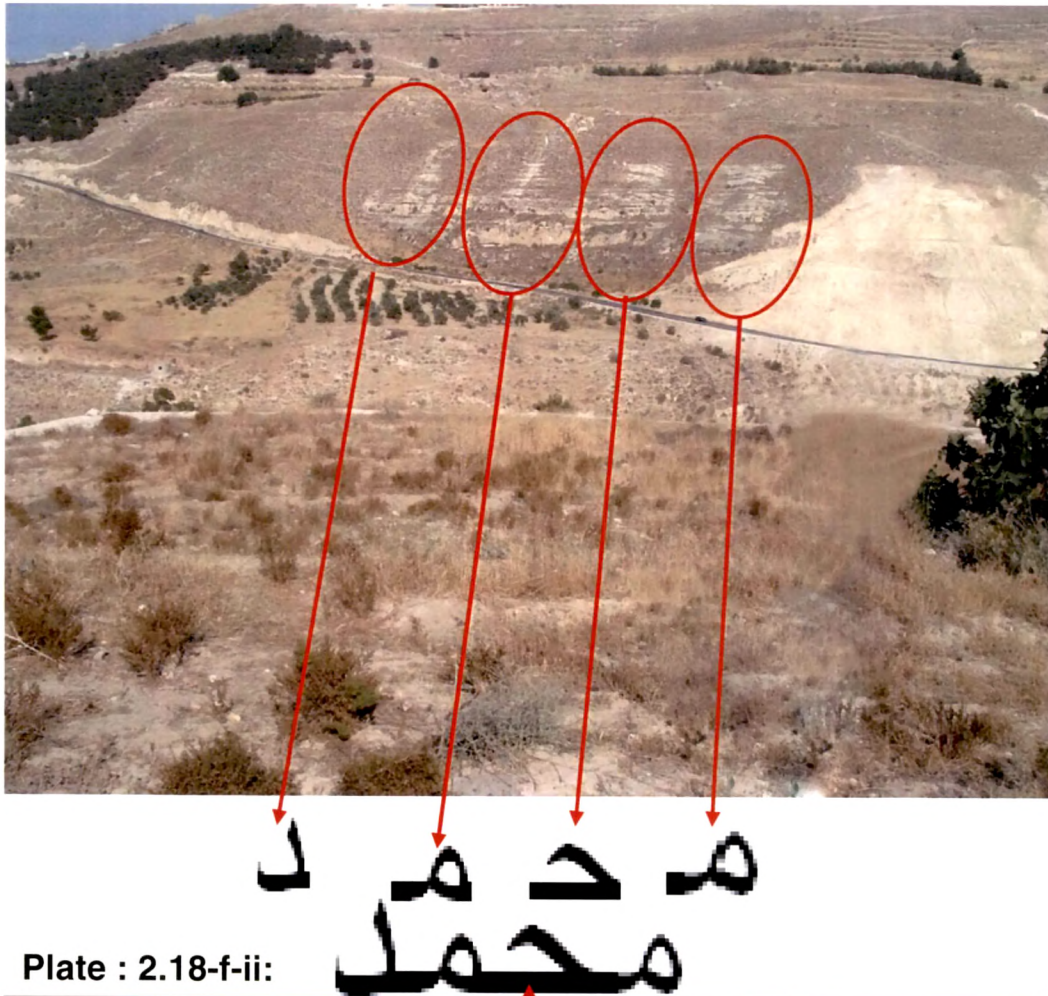


Plate : 2.18-f-ii:



Plate : 2.18-g : Main Street in Karak - Transjordan
Between 1910 and 1962



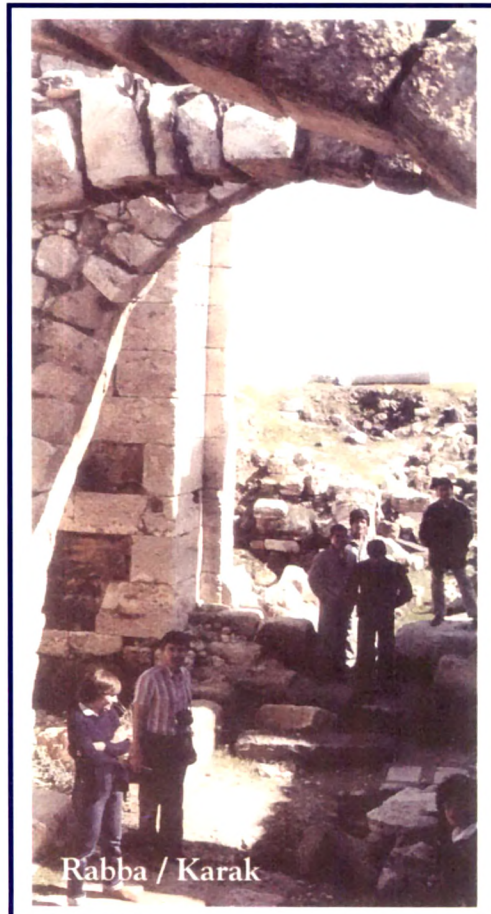
Plate : 2.18-h : The site of the Tombs of the
Venerable Companions who fought *Jihad* and
martyrs *shaheed* at The Battle of Mu'tah, Al-Mazar



Plate : 2.18-i : Statue of Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi
A Great Muslim Warriors *Mojahid* (Karak City)



Plate : 2.18-j : Ar-Rabba, Karak



(Q) Zerka Ma'in and Zara Hot Springs

Plate : 2.19-a : Zerka Ma'in



Plate : 2.19-b : Zara Hot Springs



Plate : 2.20 : (R) Anjara



Plate : 2.21 : (S) Tell Mar Elias or Elijah's Hill, General View



Plate : 2.22 : (T) Salt High School



Plate : 2.23-a : (U) Lot's (Lut) Cave

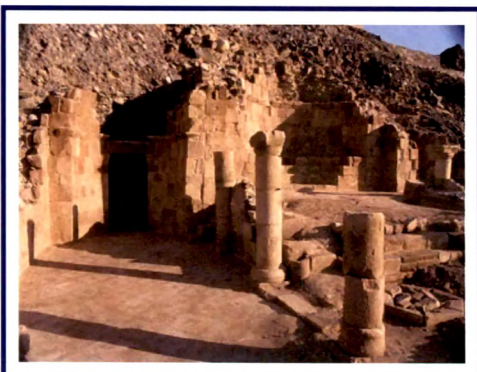


Plate : 2.23-b : Lot's Wife (Pillar of Salt) (Dead Sea)



2.8 Eco-Tourism and Wildlife Reserve

Plate : 2.24-a :
Mujib Wildlife Reserve



Plate : 2.24-b :
Dana Nature Reserve, The Horned Ibex

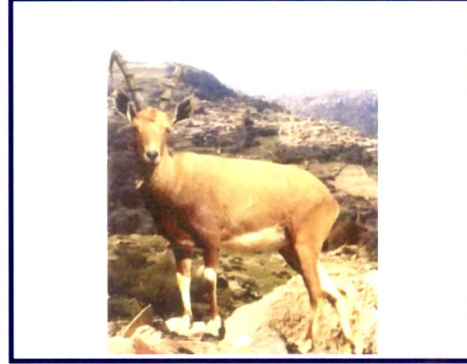


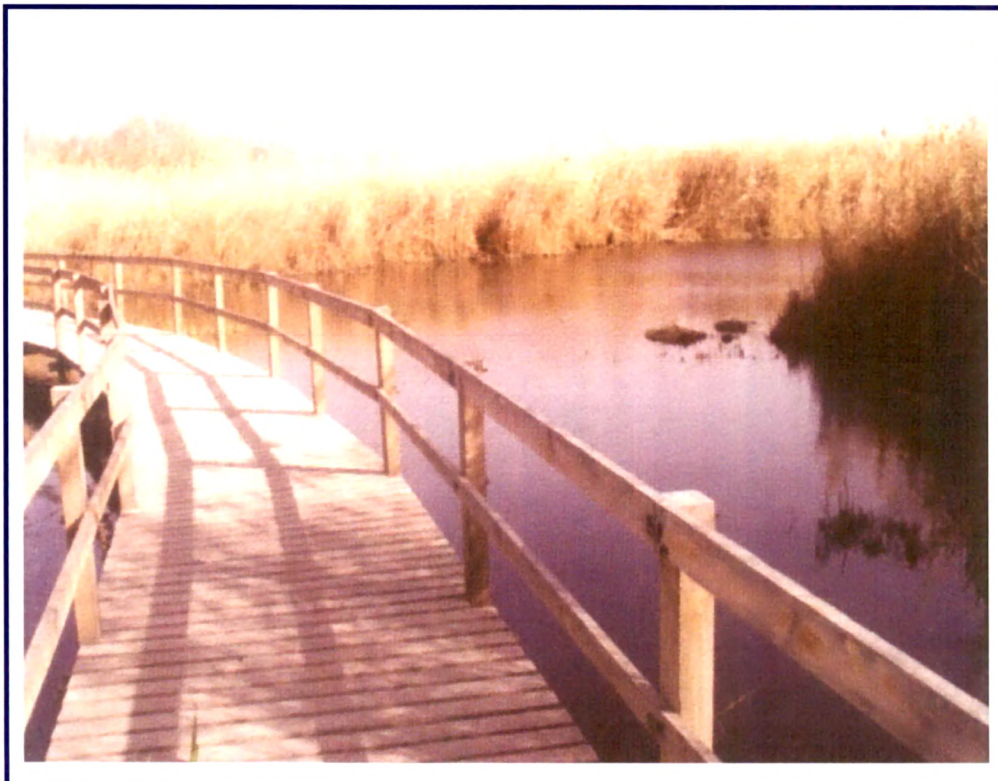
Plate : 2.24-c :
Wadi Rum Nature Reserve



Plate : 2.24-d : Shaumari Nature Reserve
Arabian Oryx Antelopes



Plate : 2.24-e : Azraq Wetland Reserve



2.9 Medical Tourism (Thermal Spas)

Plate : 2.25-a :
Zerka Ma'in Spa (Madaba)



Plate : 2.25-b :
Ma'in Falls Springs (Madaba)



Plate : 2.25-c : Al-Himma Spa (Irbid)

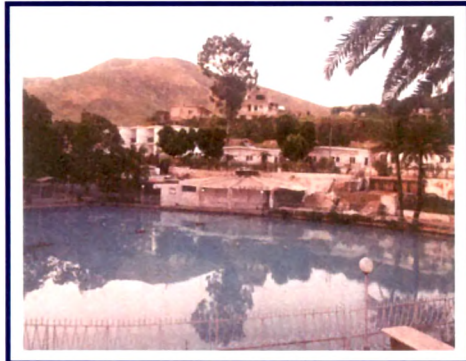


Plate : 2.25-d :
Ibin Hammad Valley Hot Spring (Karak)



Dead Sea

Plate : 2.25-e-i : Dead Sea



Plate : 2.25-e-ii : Dead Sea



Plate : 2.25-g-i :
Healing Powers of Minerals from the
Sea's Muddy Floor



Plate : 2.25-g-ii :
Healing Powers of Minerals from the
Sea's Muddy Floor

