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# Egypt in the Bible

Introduction

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# Egypt: A Land of..

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## Contrast

- Egypt is a land of contrast.
- A land of vast barren sand divided by a narrow ribbon of flowing life-giving water, it portrays a stark geographical contrast rivaling that of any location on the earth.

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## History

- Egypt is a land of history.
  - With a history spanning over three thousand years, it is the longest recorded continuous civilization.
  - It would be like us tracing the origins of our culture to 1000 BCE.
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## Origins

- Egypt is a land of origins.
- As the oldest civilization, Egypt is the birthplace of cities, government, language, writing, paper, agriculture, commerce, navigation, mathematics, astronomy, the calendar, art, science, medicine, cosmetics, jewelry and construction on a scale unmatched on the earth.

## Mystery

- Egypt is a land of mystery.
- Captivated with the physical world of sand and water, and the cosmos of sun and stars, intrigued with the cycles light and darkness, life and death, Egyptian culture was full of fascinating thought.
- Boasting a myriad of gods and goddesses, beguiling symbols and a pictorial language undecipherable for hundreds of years, it has enticed the treasure hunters, scholars and explorers for centuries.

## Beauty

- Egypt is a land of beauty.
- Not only does Egypt possess the natural beauty of its desert sands and flowing river, it is a land of elegantly decorated temples and tombs, lined with masterfully crafted stone columns, topped with magnificent motifs, chiseled with pictorial hieroglyphs and painted with exquisite color. Statuary, fountains, jewelry and amulets invoke appreciation and wonder.

## Influence

- Egypt is a land of influence.
- Egyptian influence extends throughout the world and permeates all of history. As a magnet for trade, it collected the innovations, products, technologies of distance cultures, perfected them and redistributed them to the ends of the earth.
- Though the focus of our Bible is the land of Palestine, the influence of Egypt is evident based on the regional interaction. Never forget that the first five books were written by a man who was raised in Egypt. Its influence is undeniable and validates the biblical narrative.

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# Egypt in the Bible

Study Outline

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## Egypt Background

### Part 1

Physical setting of the land

Travel routes

Egyptian History

Journey down the Nile

Egyptian Religion - The Afterlife

Egyptian Religion - The Deities

Egyptian Symbols

Egyptian Language and Writing

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## Egypt in the Bible

### Part 2

The Patriarchs in Egypt - Abraham, Jacob and Joseph

Egyptian Bondage, Moses, and the Exodus

Kings and Prophets

Jesus in Egypt

Egypt in Prophecy

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# Egypt in the Bible

Approach

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## Study Approach

Instructor Input: Keynote Presentation

Student Listening Sheet

Student Interactive Project

Class Video

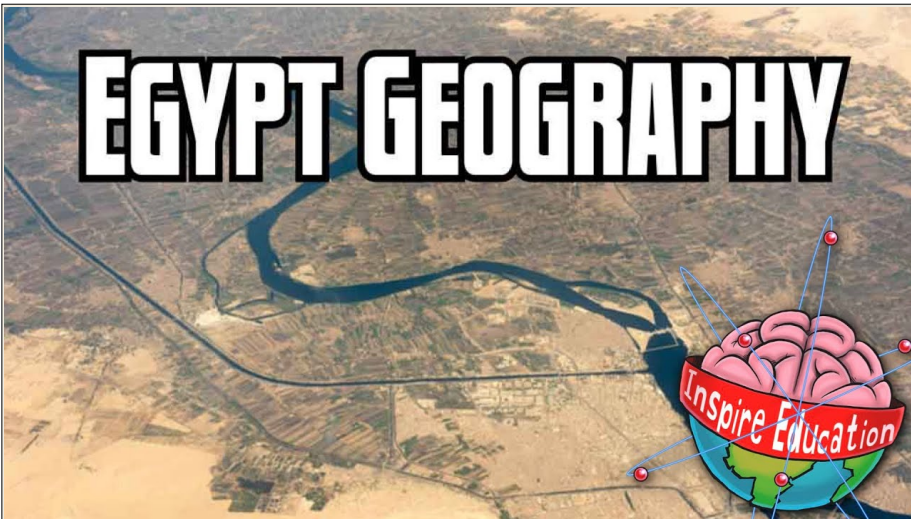
Class Resources: Keynote presentation, Downloads, Links

Egypt Tour

[davidvasquezministries.com](http://davidvasquezministries.com)

## Egypt's Physical Setting

# EGYPT GEOGRAPHY



## Location

The Crossroads of Africa and the Middle East

## Location of Egypt

- Egypt is situated in northeastern Africa, at the crossroads between Africa and the Middle East. It holds a strategic location that has shaped its historical and cultural development.
- Nestled in the northeastern corner of the African continent, Egypt occupies a prominent position bridging Africa with the Arabian Peninsula and the Levant.

ChatGPT



Image source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt#Notes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt#Notes)

## Location of Egypt

- To the west, Egypt shares a border with Libya, fostering connections between North Africa and the wider Arab world. This western frontier has witnessed historical exchanges, trade routes, and cultural influences throughout the centuries.
- To the east of Egypt lies the State of Israel, stretching from the northeastern Sinai Peninsula to the southeastern corner of the country. This boundary marks a significant intersection of ancient civilizations and religions.
- In the south, Egypt borders Sudan. The Nile River, flowing through both nations, has played a crucial role in shaping their civilizations and fostering cultural exchanges.

ChatGPT



Image source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt#Notes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt#Notes)

## Topographical Regions

Vast Desert with a Ribbon of Water

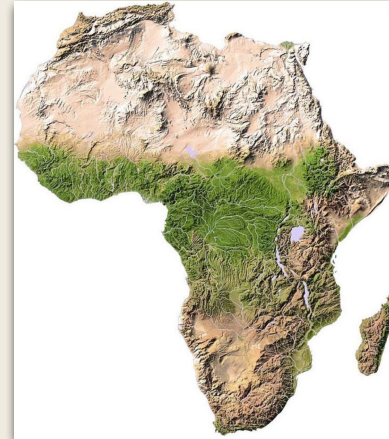


Image source: <https://i.redd.it/toath380wd561.jpg>

## Topography of Egypt

- Most of the country lies within the wide band of the Sahara Desert that stretches eastwards from Africa's Atlantic Coast across the continent and into southwest Asia.
- Egypt is predominantly desert. Only 3.5% of the total land area is cultivated and permanently settled.
- This arid landscape has impacted the country's traditional trade routes and nomadic cultures.

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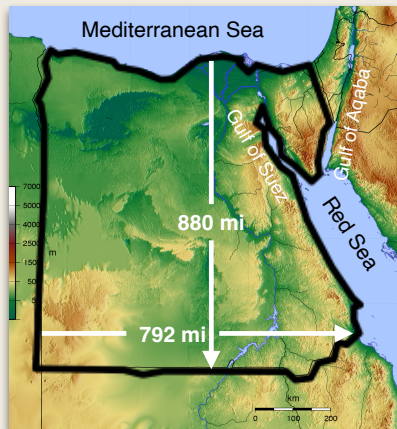


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## Topography of Egypt

- Egypt has coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
- It has more than 1,800 miles of coastline on the Mediterranean Sea, the Gulf of Suez, and the Gulf of Aqaba.
- Egypt has an area of 387,050 sq mi which makes it the 29th largest country in the world.
- The longest straight-line distance north to south is 880 miles.
- The longest straight-line distance from east to west is 792 miles.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)

## Geographical Regions

Egypt's geological history has produced four major physical regions:

- Nile Valley and Nile Delta
- Western Desert (from the Nile west toward Libya)
- Eastern Desert (from the Nile Valley to the Red Sea coast)
- Sinai Peninsula

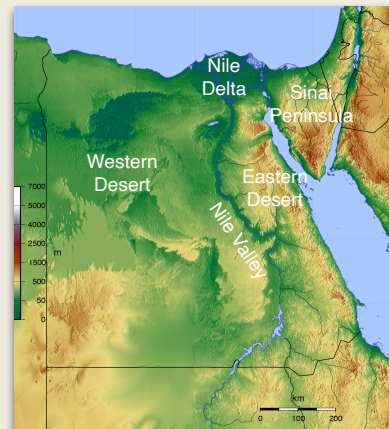


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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)

## Western Desert

## Western Desert

- The Western Desert, also known as the Libyan Desert, is an expansive arid region located to the west of the Nile Valley.
- This immense desert spans the area from the Mediterranean Sea southwards to the Sudanese border.
- It covers an area of some 270,000 sq mi, thereby accounting for around two-thirds of Egypt's total land area.
- Characterized by stark beauty, dramatic landscapes, and extreme aridity, it is a land of sand dunes, rocky plateaus, and gravel plains, interspersed with occasional oases and mountain ranges.
- The harsh and challenging environment, with limited water sources, extreme temperatures, and a scarcity of vegetation have posed numerous challenges to human habitation and travel.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)

## Western Desert

- The desert's Jilf al Kabir Plateau, at a mean altitude of some 3280 ft, constitutes an exception to the uninterrupted territory of basement rocks covered by layers of horizontally bedded sediments forming a massive plain or low plateau.
- The Great Sand Sea lies within the desert's plain and extends from the Jilf al Kabir to Siwa Oasis.
- Ridges and basins exist in several parts of the Western Desert, and no rivers or streams drain into or out of the area.

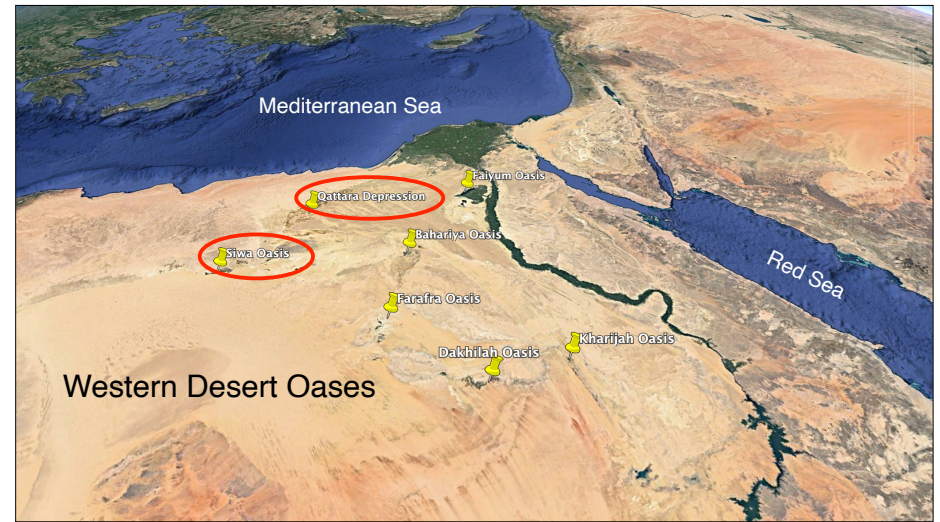
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)



## Desert Oases

- Seven important depressions in the Western Desert are all considered oases except the largest, Qattara, the water of which is salty.
- The Qattara Depression encompasses 7,570 sq mi, similar to the size of Lake Ontario. It is largely below sea level, 436 ft below sea level at the lowest.
- Badlands, salt marshes and salt lakes cover the sparsely inhabited Qattara Depression.
- Limited agricultural production, the presence of some natural resources, and permanent settlements are found in the other six depressions, all of which have fresh water provided by the Nile or by local groundwater.
- The Siwah Oasis, close to the Libyan border and west of Qattara, is isolated from the rest of Egypt but has sustained life since ancient times.

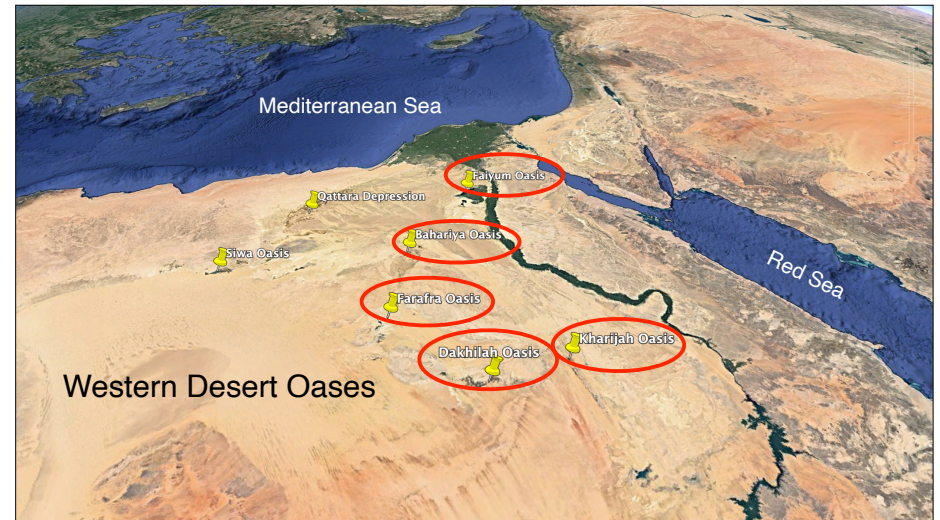
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## Desert Oases

- The other major oases form a topographical chain of basins extending from the Faiyum Oasis which lies 37 miles southwest of Cairo, south to the Bahariya, Farafirah, and Dakhilah oases before reaching the country's largest oasis, Kharijah.
- For centuries sweet water artesian wells in the Faiyum Oasis have permitted extensive cultivation in an irrigated area that extends over 695 sq mi.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)







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## Western Desert

- The Western Desert acted as a natural barrier, offering protection against potential invasions from the west.
- It also served as a source of valuable resources such as minerals, precious stones, and semi-precious metals, which were highly sought after by ancient Egyptians.
- The desert was traversed by trade caravans that connected Egypt with other regions, facilitating the exchange of goods and ideas.
- These caravans carried valuable commodities such as incense, gold, ivory, and exotic goods from sub-Saharan Africa and other distant lands.
- The trade routes through the Western Desert were essential for ancient Egyptian commerce and played a vital role in their economic development.

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## Eastern Desert

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## Eastern Desert

- The topographic features of the desert region east of the Nile differ from those to the west of the Nile. The Eastern Desert is relatively mountainous.
- The elevation rises abruptly from the Nile, and a downward-sloping plateau of sand gives way within 60 miles to arid, defoliated, rocky hills running north and south between the Sudan border and the Delta.
- The hills reach elevations of more than 6200 ft.
- The region's most prominent feature is the easterly chain of rugged mountains, the Red Sea Hills, which extend from the Nile Valley eastward to the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea.
- This elevated region has a natural drainage pattern that rarely functions because of insufficient rainfall.
- It also has a complex of irregular, sharply cut wadis that extend westward toward the Nile. The desert environment extends all the way to the Red Sea coast.

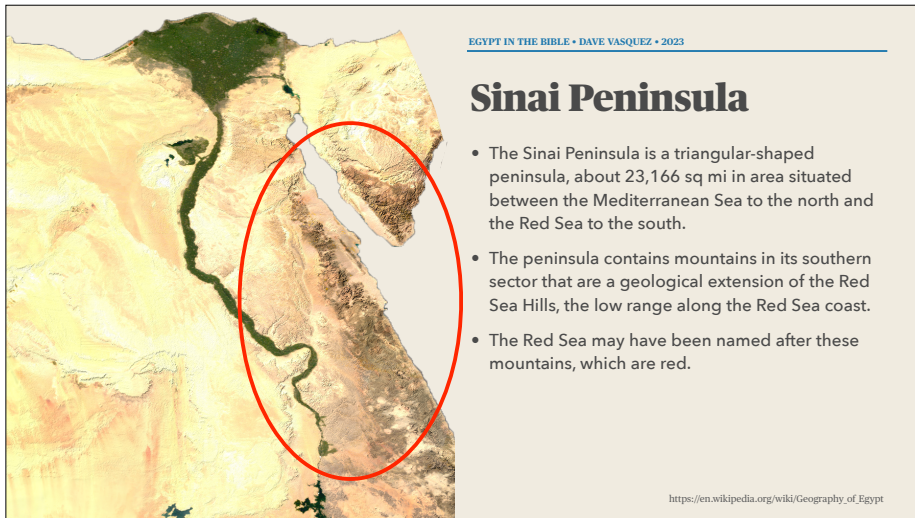
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Eastern Desert

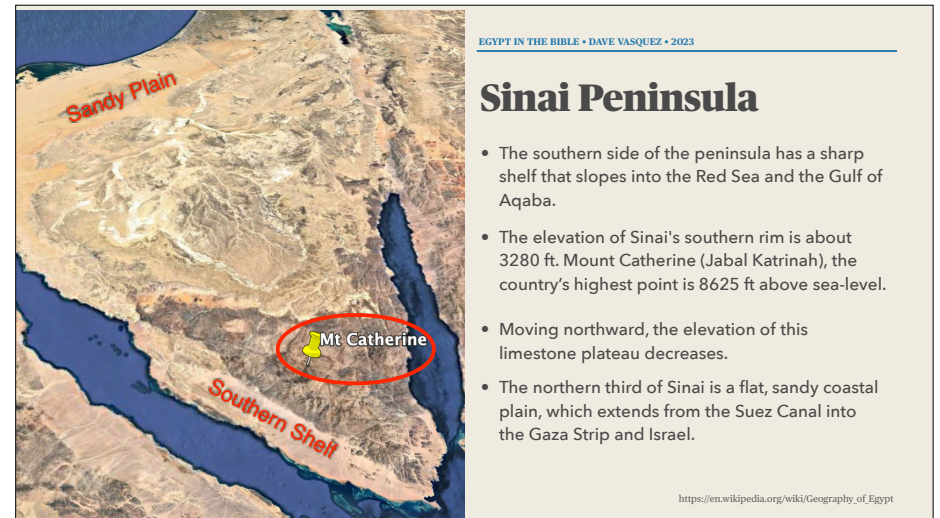


## Sinai Peninsula



## Sinai Peninsula

- The Sinai Peninsula is a triangular-shaped peninsula, about 23,166 sq mi in area situated between the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the south.
- The peninsula contains mountains in its southern sector that are a geological extension of the Red Sea Hills, the low range along the Red Sea coast.
- The Red Sea may have been named after these mountains, which are red.



## Sinai Peninsula

- The southern side of the peninsula has a sharp shelf that slopes into the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba.
- The elevation of Sinai's southern rim is about 3280 ft. Mount Catherine (Jabal Katrinah), the country's highest point is 8625 ft above sea-level.
- Moving northward, the elevation of this limestone plateau decreases.
- The northern third of Sinai is a flat, sandy coastal plain, which extends from the Suez Canal into the Gaza Strip and Israel.

## Sinai Peninsula

- The Sinai Peninsula has played a crucial role in various historical and cultural contexts.
- In biblical narratives, it is closely associated with the Exodus story, as the Israelites are said to have journeyed through the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula during their escape from Egypt.
- Mount Sinai, located in the southern part of the peninsula, holds immense religious significance as the place where Moses received the divine revelation.
- Apart from its biblical connections, the Sinai Peninsula has also witnessed significant historical events.
- Throughout history, it served as a trade and travel route connecting Africa, Asia, and Europe. Its strategic location made it a crossroads for various civilizations, including the ancient Egyptians, Byzantines, Romans, and Ottomans.

## Nile River

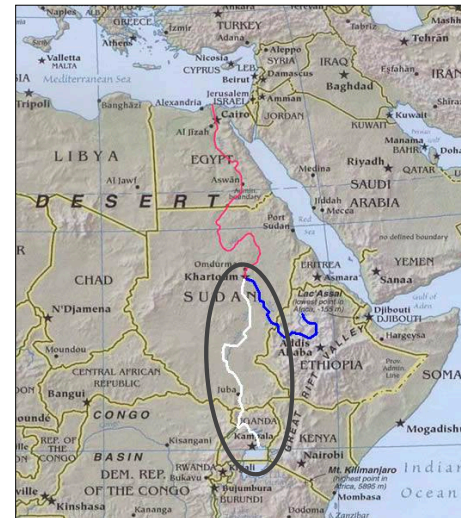
## The Nile River

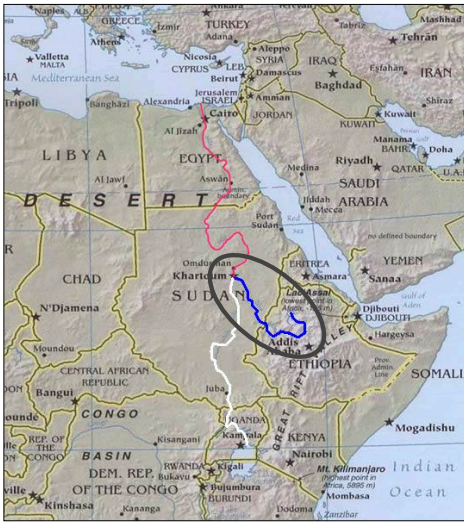
- The Nile River is the lifeblood of Egypt, an awe-inspiring and essential geographical feature that has profoundly shaped Egyptian civilization throughout its history.
- The Nile River originates from two primary sources: the White Nile, which emanates from Lake Victoria in modern-day Uganda, and the Blue Nile, which begins at Lake Tana in Ethiopia.
- These two branches converge near Sudan's capital, Khartoum, forming the main Nile River that courses through Egypt.
- Considered one of the world's longest rivers, the Nile stretches approximately 4,135 miles from its headwaters in the heart of Africa to its delta in the Mediterranean Sea.

## White Nile

Lake Victoria (Uganda) to Khartoum (Sudan)

- The White Nile, which begins at Lake Victoria in Uganda, supplies about 28% of the Nile's Egyptian waters. In its course from Lake Victoria to Juba in South Sudan, the White Nile's channel drops more than 1970 ft.. In its 994 mile course from Juba of Khartoum, Sudan's capital, the river descends just 246 ft.
- In South Sudan, the White Nile passes through the Sudd, a wide, flat plain covered with swamp vegetation and slows almost to the point of stagnation.





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## Blue Nile

Lake Tana (Ethiopia) to Khartoum (Sudan)

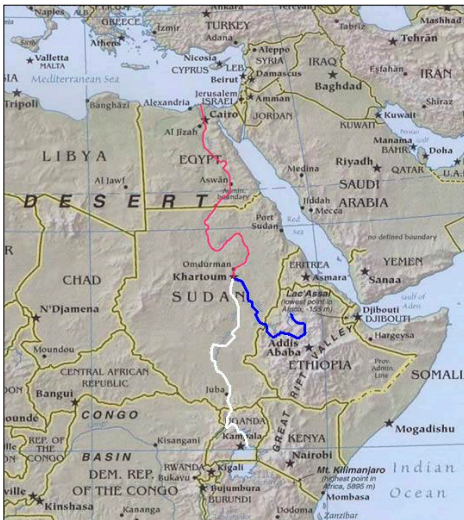
- The Blue Nile, which originates at Lake Tana in Ethiopia, provides on average some 58% of the Nile's Egyptian waters. This river has a steeper gradient and therefore flows more swiftly than the White Nile, which it joins at Khartoum.
- Unlike the White Nile, the Blue Nile carries a considerable amount of sediment. For several miles north of Khartoum, water closer to the eastern bank of the river, coming from the Blue Nile, is visibly muddy, while that closer to the western bank, and coming from the White Nile, is clearer.

[https://news.climate.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/river\\_nile\\_route.jpg](https://news.climate.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/river_nile_route.jpg)



## White Nile and Blue Nile Join at Khartoum in Sudan

Image Source: <https://roderickphillips.com/where-the-blue-nile-meets-the-white-nile-day-298/>



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## Atbarah

- The much shorter Atbarah River, which also originates in Ethiopia, joins the main Nile north of Khartoum and provides about 14% of the Nile's waters in Egypt.
- During the low-water season, which runs from January to June, the Atbarah shrinks to a number of pools.
- But, in late summer, when torrential rains fall on the Ethiopian Highlands, the Atbarah provides 22% of the Nile's flow.

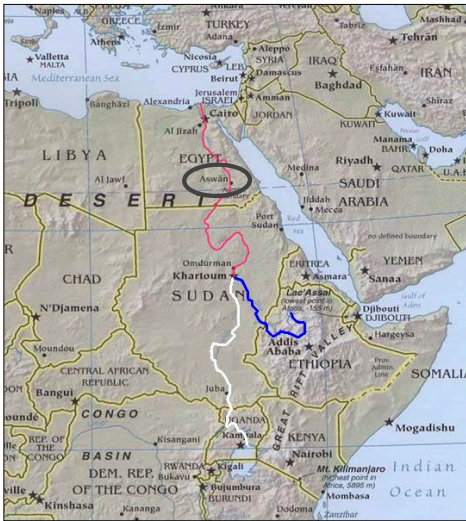
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## The Nile River

- The Blue Nile contributes 17% of the Nile's waters in the low-water season and 68% during the high-water season.
- The Atbarah, provides little of the Nile's flow in the low-water season, and 22% in the high-water season.
- In contrast, the White Nile provides only 10% of the Nile's waters during the high-water season but contributes more than 80% during the low-water period.
- The great flood of the main Nile usually occurred in Egypt during August, September, and October, but it sometimes began as early as June at Aswan and often did not completely wane until January.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)



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## The Aswan Dam

- The Nile enters Egypt a few miles north of Wadi Halfa, a Sudanese town that was rebuilt on high ground when its original site was submerged in the reservoir created by the Aswan High Dam.

[https://news.climate.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/river\\_nile\\_route.jpg](https://news.climate.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/river_nile_route.jpg)



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## Lake Nasser

- As a result of the dam's construction, the Nile actually begins its flow into Egypt as Lake Nasser, which extends southwards from the dam for 200 miles to the border and for an additional 98 mi within Sudan.
- Lake Nasser's waters fill the area through Lower Nubia (Upper Egypt and northern Sudan) within the narrow canyon between the cliffs of sandstone and granite created by the flow of the river over many centuries.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)

## The Aswan Dam

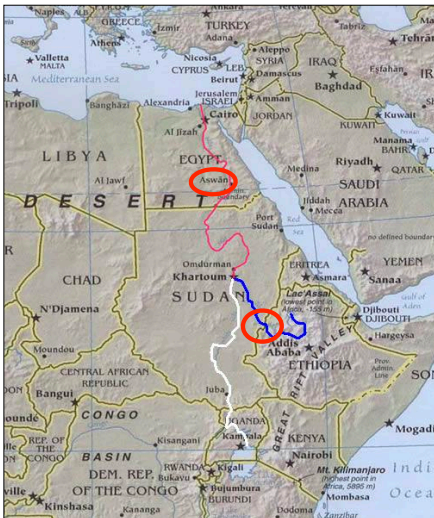
- Before the High Dam was completed in 1971, the White Nile watered the Egyptian stretch of the river throughout the year, whereas the Blue Nile, carrying seasonal rain from Ethiopia, caused the Nile to overflow its banks and deposit a fertile mud layer over adjacent fields.
- The construction of dams on the Nile, particularly the Aswan High Dam, transformed the mighty river into a large and predictable irrigation ditch.
- Lake Nasser, the world's largest artificial lake, has enabled planned use of the Nile regardless of the amount of rainfall in Central Africa and East Africa.
- The dams have also affected the Nile Valley's fertility, which was dependent for centuries not only on the water brought to the arable land but also on the materials left by the water.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)

## The Aswan Dam

- Researchers have estimated that beneficial silt deposits in the valley began about 10,000 years ago.
- The average annual deposit of arable soil through the course of the river valley amounted to some nine meters.
- Analysis of the flow revealed that 10.7 million tons of solid matter passed Cairo each year.
- Today the Aswan High Dam obstructs most of this sediment, now retained in Lake Nasser.
- The reduction in annual silt deposits has contributed to rising water tables and increasing soil salinity in the Delta, the erosion of the river's banks in Upper Egypt, and the erosion of the alluvial fan along the shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)



## Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

- In 2011, Addis Ababa announced a joint project with China to build a massive hydroelectric project on the Blue Nile near the Sudanese border called the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.
- The primary purpose of the dam is electricity production to relieve Ethiopia's acute energy shortage.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Ethiopian\\_Renaissance\\_Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Ethiopian_Renaissance_Dam)

## Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

- First phase of filling the reservoir began in July 2020 and in August 2020 water level increased to 1770 ft
- The second phase of filling was completed on 19 July 2021, water level increased to around 1886 ft.
- The third filling was completed on 12 August 2022 to a level of 1968 ft.
- It will take between 4 and 7 years to fill with water, depending on hydrologic conditions during the filling period.
- On 20 February 2022, the dam produced electricity for the first time, delivering it to the grid at a rate of 375 MW.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Ethiopian\\_Renaissance\\_Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Ethiopian_Renaissance_Dam)

## Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

- Ethiopia is sometimes called Africa's water tower, due to its high elevation, and has more than twenty dams fed by the rainfall in its highlands.
- This dam will be used to create electricity, and the flow to Egypt should continue; but in theory the dam could also hold a year's worth of water.
- Completion of the project gives Ethiopia the potential to hold the water for its own use, thus drastically reducing the flow into Egypt.
- At one point prior to its completion, an Egyptian cabinet minister was caught on microphone recommending Egypt bomb it.
- So the next few years are more likely to see intense negotiations, with Egypt wanting cast-iron guarantees that the flow will never be stopped.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Ethiopian\\_Renaissance\\_Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Ethiopian_Renaissance_Dam)

## Nile Valley

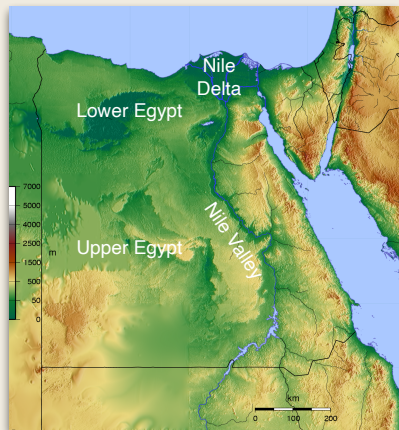


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## The Nile Valley

- Despite covering only about 5% of the total area of Egypt; the Nile Valley and Nile Delta are the most important regions, being the country's only cultivable regions and supporting about 99% of the population.
- The Nile Valley is known as *Upper Egypt*, while the Nile Delta region is known as *Lower Egypt*.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)

## The Nile Valley

- Located along the banks of the Nile River, the Nile Valley is a region of immense historical and agricultural significance.
- Each year, during the inundation season, the river overflowed its banks, depositing a layer of nutrient-rich silt across the floodplain.
- Stretching from the Nile Delta in the north to the border with Sudan in the south, the Nile Valley encompasses a strip of fertile land that owes its fertility to the annual flooding of the river.
- This silt, enriched with minerals and organic matter, creates incredibly fertile soil that is ideal for agricultural cultivation. The annual flooding and subsequent receding of the waters also help to irrigate the fields and replenish groundwater sources.

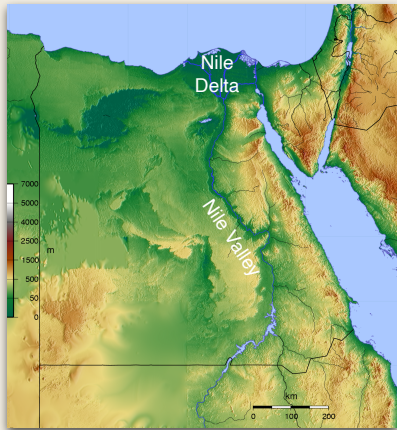


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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Egypt)

## Nile Valley

- Steep rocky cliffs rise along the banks of the Nile in some stretches, while other areas along the Nile are flat, with space for agricultural production.
- In the past, flooding of the Nile during the summer provided silt and water to make agriculture possible on land that is otherwise very dry.
- Since the construction of the Aswan Dam, agriculture in the Nile valley depends on irrigation.

## The Nile Valley

- The significance of the Nile Valley in ancient Egyptian society cannot be overstated.
- This narrow strip of land was the heartland of ancient Egypt and provided the foundation for the civilization's agricultural prosperity.
- The people of ancient Egypt, particularly the farmers, heavily relied on the fertile land of the Nile Valley for their sustenance and livelihood.
- The agricultural practices in the Nile Valley were based on a system known as basin irrigation.
- Farmers would construct intricate networks of canals, dikes, and reservoirs to manage the flow of water from the Nile and distribute it to their fields.
- This sophisticated irrigation system allowed for the cultivation of a wide range of crops, including wheat, barley, flax, vegetables, and fruits.

## The Nile Valley

- The agricultural abundance of the Nile Valley not only sustained the population but also played a significant role in the growth and prosperity of ancient Egyptian civilization.
- Surplus crops allowed for the development of a centralized government, the establishment of cities and temples, and the emergence of specialized professions.
- The agricultural surplus also supported the construction of monumental structures such as the pyramids, temples, and tombs.
- The Nile Valley was not only the breadbasket of ancient Egypt but also a cultural and social hub.
- The majority of the population resided in this region, where they engaged in agricultural activities, traded goods, and participated in religious and cultural events.
- The valley served as a center of political power, where pharaohs ruled and administered their kingdom, and where temples were constructed to honor the gods.





## Nile Delta

## Nile Delta

- At Cairo, the Nile spreads out over what was once a broad estuary, subsequently filled by silt deposits to form what is now a fertile, fan-shaped delta some 155 mi wide at its seaward extremity and extending about 10 mi from north to south.
- The Nile Delta covers approximately 8500 sq mi, roughly equivalent in area to Massachusetts.
- According to historical accounts from the first century AD, seven branches of the Nile once ran through the delta.
- By the 12th century, the Nile had just six branches.
- Since then, nature and man have closed all but two main outlets: the east branch, Damietta, and the west branch, Rosetta, named for ports at their respective mouths.

## Nile Delta

- The fertility and productivity of the land adjacent to the Nile depend largely on the silt deposited by floodwaters.
- Archaeological research indicates that people once lived at a much higher elevation along the river than they do today, probably because the river was higher or the floods more severe.
- The Nile's delta region, with its intricate network of channels and fertile soil, supported dense populations and served as a hub for economic and cultural activities.
- The cities of Alexandria and Rosetta, situated along the Rosetta Branch, gained prominence as vital centers of trade and knowledge in the ancient world.

## Egyptian Travel Routes

# The Via Maris

Connecting Mesopotamia to Egypt

# Via Maris

- The Land of the Bible is strategically located along a narrow stretch of land between the desert and the sea that connects the two major centers of ancient civilization: Mesopotamia and Egypt.
- The most important route was the Via Maris (“the way of the sea”) that moved through the Hulah and Jezreel Valleys, through the Megiddo Pass to the coastal plain, the Negev and eventually to Egypt via the Sinai Peninsula.
- Along this route commercial caravans traveled carrying their products.
- To control these strategic economic routes, multiple military campaigns and conquests were conducted, leaving in their wake death and destruction.
- Much of the history if Israel can be understood within the context of the Assyrian, Babylonian and Egyptian conquests of this area.

Via Maris



Story of Joseph



## Way of Horus

- The *Via Maris* ("way of the sea") that runs from Mesopotamia to Egypt through the land of the Bible extends into Egypt via the "Way of Horus" which runs along the northern edge of the Sinai Peninsula.
- It is likely that Joseph, who had been sold to the Midianites by his brothers, was taken along this route on his way into Egypt.

## Way of Horus

Road through Sinai

## Way of Horus

- At the Karnak Temple in Luxor, on the north wall of the Great Hypostyle Hall, Pharaoh Seti I's military achievements are celebrated in illustrations depicting the "Way of Horus," a coastal road that connected Egypt to Canaan.
- The route extended 217 miles, from Tharu near present-day Qantara to Egypt's border city of Raphia, and at that point contained a series of twelve ancient defensive forts, each with a well.

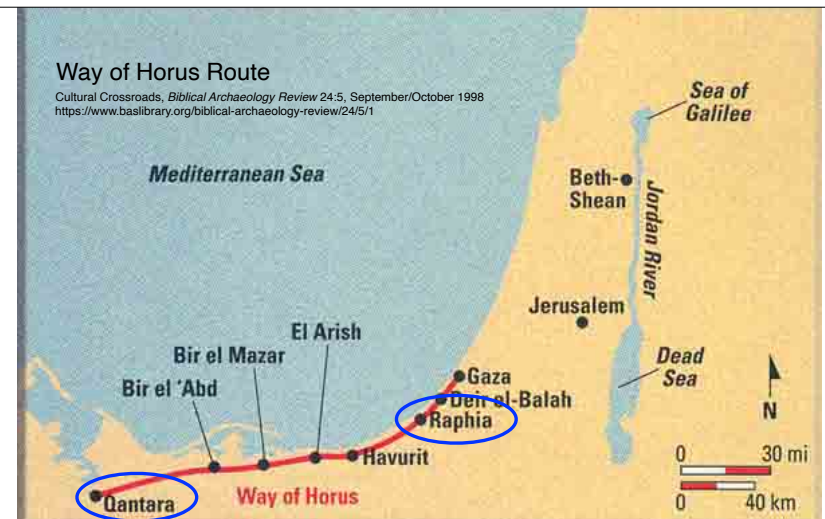


Image source: <http://www.touregypt.net/historical/egypt/horusmilitary.htm>

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/news/largest-known-ancient-egyptian-fortress-excavated-at-tell-el-habua/>

### Way of Horus Route

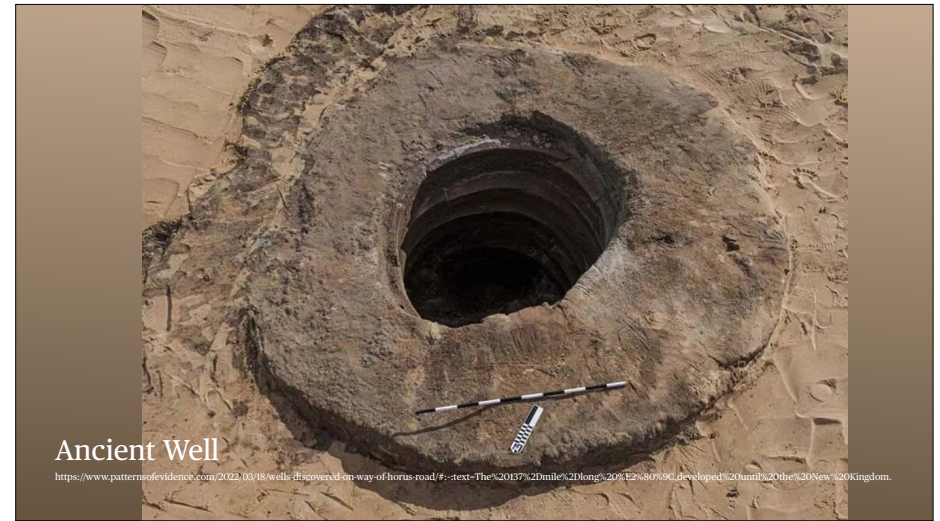
Cultural Crossroads, *Biblical Archaeology Review* 24:5, September/October 1998  
<https://www.basilibrary.org/biblical-archaeology-review/24/5/1>



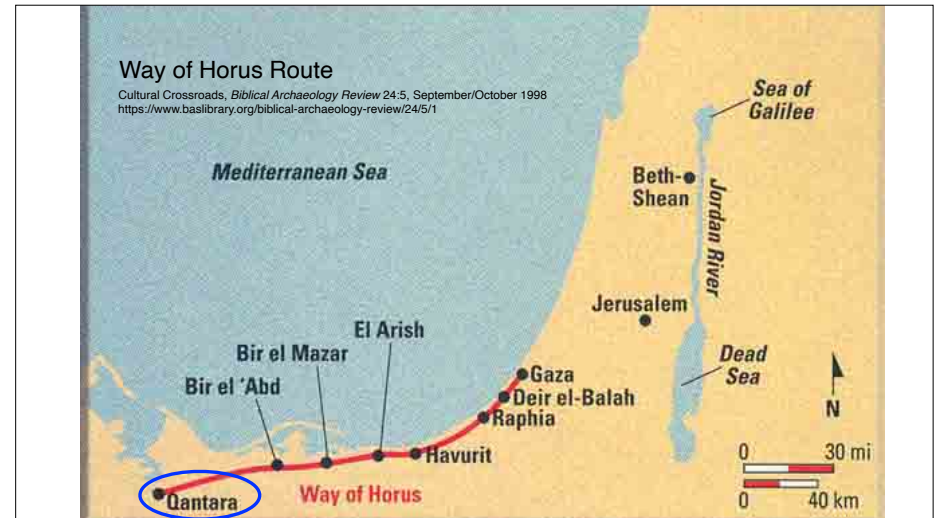
## Way of Horus Wells

- Recently the Egyptian archeological mission from the Tel el-Kedwa area in North Sinai discovered a group of water wells along the ancient Horus road.
- "It is the first time that such wells have been found, as they were earlier only known from scientific documents and engravings on the Karnak Temples in Luxor," said Dr. Mostafa Waziri, in a press release by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

<https://www.patternsofevidence.com/2022/03/18/wells-discovered-on-way-of-horus-road/#:~:text=The%20137%2Dmile%2Dlong%20%2E%80%9C,developed%20until%20the%20New%20Kingdom.>



## el-Habua (Qantara)



## el-Habua

- The largest fortress is Tel Habua located near the Suez canal at the beginning of the Way of Horus.
- First to be built on the route, it protected the eastern front of the New Kingdom and had previously been the old Pharaonic Fortress of Tharou, confirmed by the Anastasi Papyrus which bears variegated drawings inscribed by Thutmose III.
- According to an old Pharaonic script, the Tharou Fortress had been strategically located at the end of the line separating the "green line" from the "yellow line."
- First to be fortified by two parallel walls, it was followed by 11 fortresses acting as early alert points.
- The areas also acted as a commercial and customs zone where taxes were collected before reaching the Delta.

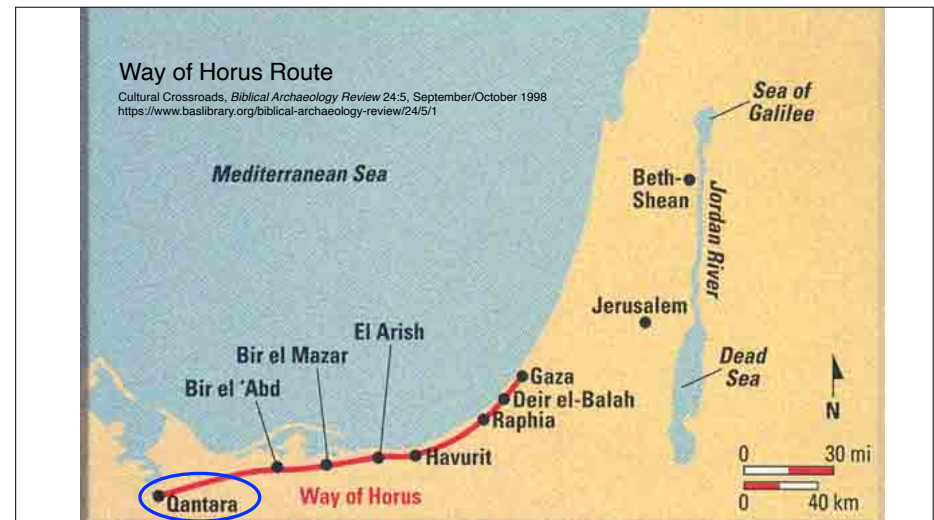
<http://www.touregypt.net/historicalessays/horusmilitary.htm>

## el-Habua

- The fortress contained a station of the Egyptian army, the barracks of the soldiers and the houses of the officers; the central stores of the State and a stable.
- Excavation director Mohammed Abdel-Maqsoud told *The Cairo Post*, "The discovery [of the fortress] is significant, as it reflects the details of the ancient Egyptian military history. It is a model example of ancient Egypt's military architecture, as well as the Egyptian war strategies through different ages, for the protection of the entirety of Egypt."

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/news/largest-known-ancient-egyptian-fortress-excavated-at-tell-el-habua/>

## Abu Seify (Qantara)



## Abu Seify

- Abu Seify, near el-Habua in Eastern Qantara, represents the second main location which defined the Eastern Gate of Egypt.
- There the fortress of Sylah was discovered with 43-foot-wide walls intervened by spaces and rooms for the guards.
- Also discovered was a large dyke-like structure (and a series of anchorage): harbor architecture indicating commercial exchange between Egypt and the Mediterranean countries.

<http://www.touregypt.net/historicalessays/horusmilitary.htm>

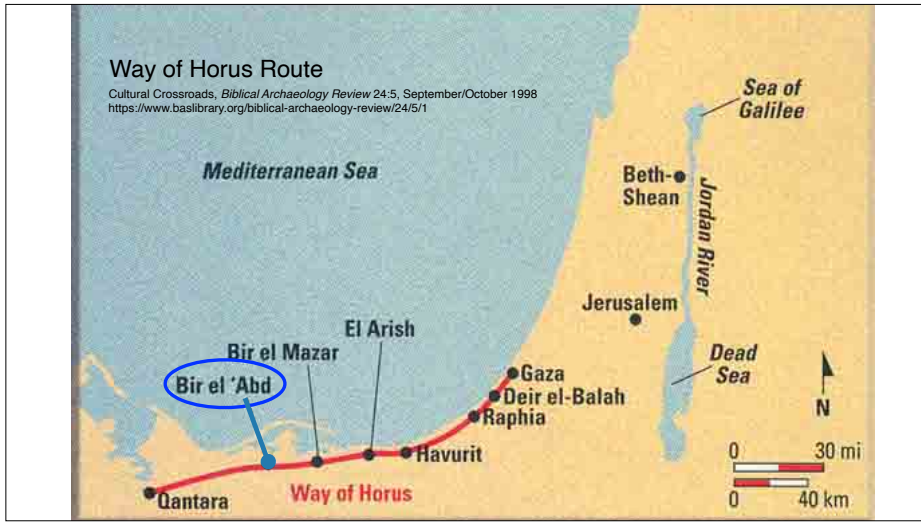
## el-Borg (Qantara)

## el-Borg

- Excavations uncovered two forts, the earlier one from the 15th and 14th centuries (LB I), and the second from the late 14th through early 12th centuries (LB II-III).
- They were strategically located beside a previously unknown distributary of the Nile. Thus this site, probably the "Dwelling of the Lion" of Ramesside inscriptions, guarded the military road and a key waterway into Egypt.
- Because of its location so close to the Mediterranean coast and on a Nile distributary, Tel el-Borg had contact with the Levant and the Aegean, indicated by the abundance of Syro-Canaanite, Cypriote and even Mycenaean ceramics that were documented.

<https://whitelevy.fas.harvard.edu/north-sinai-archaeological-project-tel-el-borg-excavations>

## Bir El-Abd



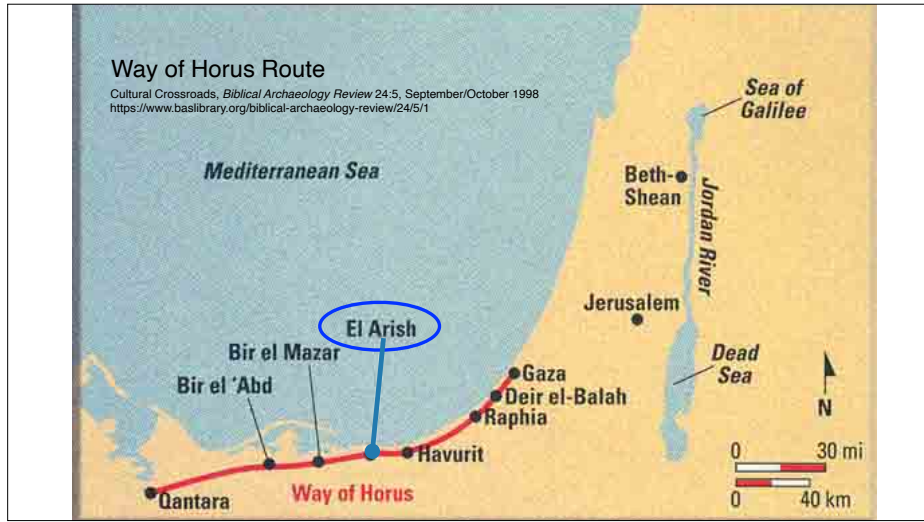
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## Bir el-Abd

- Bir al-Abed is one of the cities of North Sinai.
- It is the capital of Bir al-Abd Markaz, located on the international coastal road on the shores of Lake Bardawil.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bir\\_al-Abd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bir_al-Abd)

# el-'Arish



## el-'Arish

- Today el-'Arish is the capital and largest city of the North Sinai Governorate of Egypt, as well as the largest city on the Sinai Peninsula. In Antiquity the city was known as Rinokoroura.
- It is situated on the Mediterranean coast 214 mi northeast of Cairo and 28 mi west of the Egypt-Gaza border at the mouth of Wadi el-'Arish.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arish>

## el-'Arish

- A wadi is a stream bed that is dry for most of the year, but runs with water, often "flash flooding" during rains. The Wadi el-'Arish is 160 mi long.
- The Wadi el-'Arish has been connected to the "wadi of Egypt" mentioned six times in the Old Testament, and considered a dividing line between Egypt and the "Promised Land."

## el-'Arish

- Promised to Abraham:  
On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates." (Genesis 15:18 NIV)
- Promised to Moses:  
Then it will go to Hazar Addar and over to Azmon, 5 where it will turn, join the Wadi of Egypt and end at the Mediterranean Sea. (Numbers 34:4b-5 NIV)
- Promised to Joshua:  
[The boundary] then passed along to Azmon and joined the Wadi of Egypt, ending at the Mediterranean Sea. This is their southern boundary. (Joshua 15:4 NIV)
- Celebrated by Solomon:  
So Solomon observed the festival at that time, and all Israel with him--a vast assembly, people from Lebo Hamath to the Wadi of Egypt. (1 Kings 8:65 NIV)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arish>

## Way of Horus and Via Maris

Route Utilization



## Way of Horus and Via Maris

- The Bible talks about this road where it is called “the way of the land of the Philistines.”

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” (Exodus 13:17 ESV)

- It was the most direct way for the Israelites to get to Canaan, but God had them use a different route to protect them from conflict with the Philistines. He knew if the Philistines attacked the newly escaped Israelites, they would be afraid and want to turn back to Egypt.

## Way of Horus and Via Maris

- There is no doubt that the pharaoh at the time of Solomon sent his forces along this route to take the city of Gezer and gave it as dowry to his daughter, Solomon’s wife.

Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and captured Gezer and burned it with fire, and had killed the Canaanites who lived in the city, and had given it as dowry to his daughter, Solomon’s wife... (1 Kings 9:16 ESV)

## Way of Horus and Via Maris

- A few decades later, Pharaoh Shishak came up this same route to sack the Temple in Jerusalem during the reign of King Rehoboam of Judah.

In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 horsemen. And the people were without number who came with him from Egypt—Libyans, Sukkiim, and Ethiopians. And he took the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 12:2-4 ESV)

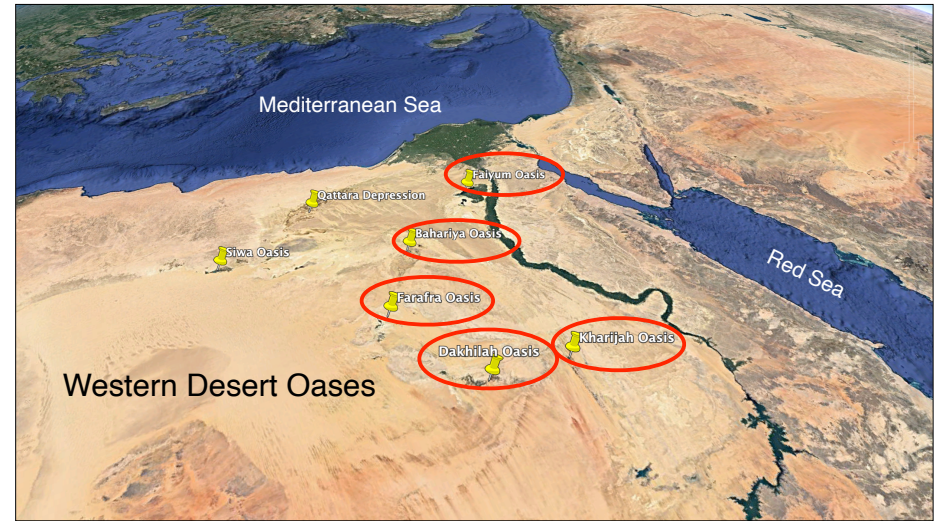
So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. He took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king’s house. He took away everything. He also took away the shields of gold that Solomon had made... (2 Chronicles 12:9 ESV)

## Oasis Route

Road through the Western Desert

## Oasis Route

- Five major oases form a topographical chain of basins extending from the Faiyum Oasis southwest of Cairo, south to the country's largest oasis, Kharijah.
- These oases provided a natural series of "rest stops" along a route that extended through the Western Desert of Egypt.



Western Desert Oases

