



The Center for Messianic Learning

Unapologetically Pro-Torah • Unashamedly-Pro-Israel
Irrevocably Zionist • Post-Supersessionist

"Torah will go forth
out of Tziyon, the
Word of ADONAI
from Yerushalayim."
(Isaiah 2:3)

If you don't believe that Genesis 1 through 11 is *literally* true, how can you believe that John 3:16 is *literally* true?

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Biblical Nations and Their Modern Equivalents



A–C

Abimael, Obal, Sheleph, Uzal

Yemen

Ammon

Jordan

Amorites

Eastern Israel

Arabia

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, parts of Iraq and Jordan

Aram

Syria

Arkites

Lebanon

Ashkenaz

Germany

Asshur / Assyrians

Northern Iraq

Assyria

Iraq

Canaan / Canaanites

Northern Israel and Southern Lebanon

Caphtor / Caphtorites

Crete

Cush

Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and possibly more of North Africa

 D–M

Decapolis

Northwestern Jordan and a small part of Israel

Dedan, Ophir, Jobab, Sheba

Saudi Arabia

Girgashites

Western Jordan

Gomer

Ukraine (some suggest Germany)

Javan

Greece

Magog, Rus, Rosh

Russia

Midian

Western Saudi Arabia and Southern Jordan

Mizraim

Egypt

 P–Z

Philistia / Philistines

Southwestern Turkey and the lower western plateau of Israel along the Mediterranean

Phoenicia

Lebanon

Persia / Parthia

Iran and parts of Iraq

Phut / Put

An African nation near Egypt—likely Libya or nearby regions

★ Major Nations Mentioned Frequently in Scripture

These are the “headline” nations of the biblical narrative, with their modern names:

Biblical Nation	Modern Equivalent
Egypt (Mizraim)	Egypt
Israel (Canaan)	Israel
Assyria	Iraq
Babylon	Iraq (region around Hillah/Borsippa)
Phoenicia	Lebanon
Greece (Javan)	Greece
Rome	Italy

📌 Notes for Biblical-Historical Accuracy

- Some biblical “nations” are **clans or tribal groups**, not modern nation-states.
- Boundaries in the ancient Near East shifted frequently; modern equivalents are **geographical approximations**, not political claims.
- Some identifications (e.g., Magog, Gomer, Rosh) are **traditional or scholarly hypotheses**, not universally agreed upon.

This map-based list groups each biblical nation by **the region of the modern world where it was located**, so you can visualize the ancient world as a set of geographic zones. This keeps the material accurate without implying modern political claims.

Eastern Mediterranean (Levant)

These nations occupied the land bridge between Africa and Asia—modern Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria.

- **Israel / Judah** — modern Israel
 - **Philistia** — Gaza/Israel's southwestern coast
 - **Phoenicia** — Lebanon
 - **Aram / Arameans** — Syria
 - **Ammon** — central Jordan
 - **Moab** — west-central Jordan
 - **Edom** — southern Jordan / Negev region
 - **Geshur** — Golan Heights region (Israel/Syria)
 - **Amorites** — central Israel and parts of Jordan
 - **Girgashites** — western Jordan
 - **Hittites (southern branch)** — pockets in Israel/Syria
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Mesopotamia (Modern Iraq, parts of Syria & Turkey)

This region includes the great empires of the biblical narrative.

- **Assyria** — northern Iraq (Nineveh, Mosul)
 - **Babylon** — central Iraq (Hillah region)
 - **Akkad** — central Iraq
 - **Ur of the Chaldeans** — southern Iraq
 - **Elam** — southwestern Iran (Khuzestan)
 - **Aram-Naharaim** — northern Syria / southeastern Turkey
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Arabian Peninsula

Tribal nations descended from Abraham and Joktan appear here.

- **Midian** — northwest Saudi Arabia / southern Jordan
 - **Sheba** — Yemen / southwestern Arabia
 - **Dedan** — northwest Saudi Arabia
 - **Kedar** — northern Arabia (Saudi Arabia/Jordan)
 - **Tema** — northern Saudi Arabia
 - **Hazarmaveth** — Yemen (Hadhramaut)
 - **Uzal, Obal, Sheleph, Abimael** — Yemen
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North Africa

These nations appear frequently in prophetic and historical books.

- **Egypt (Mizraim)** — Egypt
 - **Cush** — Ethiopia/Sudan region
 - **Put / Phut** — Libya
 - **Lubim** — Libya/Tunisia region
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Anatolia (Modern Turkey)

A major crossroads of biblical peoples.

- **Hittites (empire)** — central Turkey
 - **Togarmah** — eastern Turkey / Armenia
 - **Lud / Lydia** — western Turkey
 - **Meshech & Tubal** — northern Turkey
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Aegean & Mediterranean

These nations represent early European peoples.

- **Javan** — Greece
- **Kittim** — Cyprus
- **Rodanim** — Rhodes
- **Tarshish** — debated, but most likely Spain (Tartessos)

Northern Regions (Black Sea & Beyond)

These appear mainly in prophetic literature.

- **Magog** — broadly the Black Sea / Eurasian steppe region
 - **Gomer** — Ukraine / Black Sea region
 - **Rosh** — often linked to Russia (linguistically debated)
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Iran & Central Asia

Persian empires dominate the later biblical period.

- **Persia** — Iran
 - **Media** — northwest Iran
 - **Parthia** — northeastern Iran / Turkmenistan
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How to Visualize This as a Map

A simple mental map looks like this:

- **Israel/Jordan/Lebanon/Syria** → home of Canaanite, Aramean, Philistine, and Israelite nations
- **Iraq** → Assyria and Babylon
- **Egypt/Sudan/Ethiopia** → Mizraim and Cush
- **Saudi Arabia/Yemen** → Midian, Sheba, Dedan, Joktanite tribes
- **Turkey** → Hittites, Meshech, Tubal, Togarmah
- **Greece/Cyprus/Rhodes** → Javan, Kittim, Rodanim
- **Iran** → Persia, Media, Elam
- **Libya** → Put
- **Spain** → Tarshish (probable)
- **Russia/Ukraine** → Magog, Gomer, Rosh (traditional identifications)



