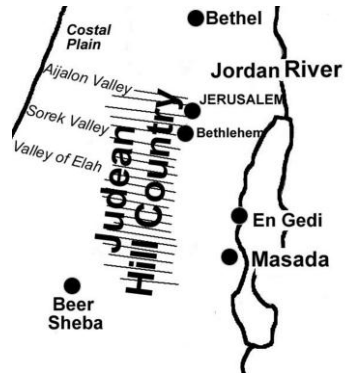


# Judean Hill Country

This area extends from Jerusalem 40 miles south to Khirbet Ira and is 11-14 miles wide. The Shephelah is on its west and the Judean Wilderness is to its east. This area is the continuation of the mountain spine that begins at Mt. Carmel and Mt. Gilboa and ends at the beginning of the Negev. The rock surface is Cenomanian limestone like the hills of Benjamin and Ephraim.



The ridge that serves as the watershed and the main foad from Jerusalem to Hebron splits into two ridges/roads at Hebron. Since Hebron sits at this junction that joins 2 ridges/roads coming from the south, Hebron is the natural meeting plae of the southern portion of the Hill Country with the rest of Judah. Hebron served as the: 1) location of the central government of the hill country; 2) meeting place of merchants from the Negev and trade routes; 3) military protection against southern invaders for Judah. The Hill Country between Bethlehem and Hebron also received plenty of rain to produce crops (wheat, barley, olives, grapes, pomegranates, fruits) that could be traded for goods coming out of the southern regions (sheep, donkeys, camels, leather goods)

**In the Bible:** Joshua 15, allotted to tribe of Judah.



The Hill Country of Judea.