

Countries Mentioned In Ancient Religious Texts

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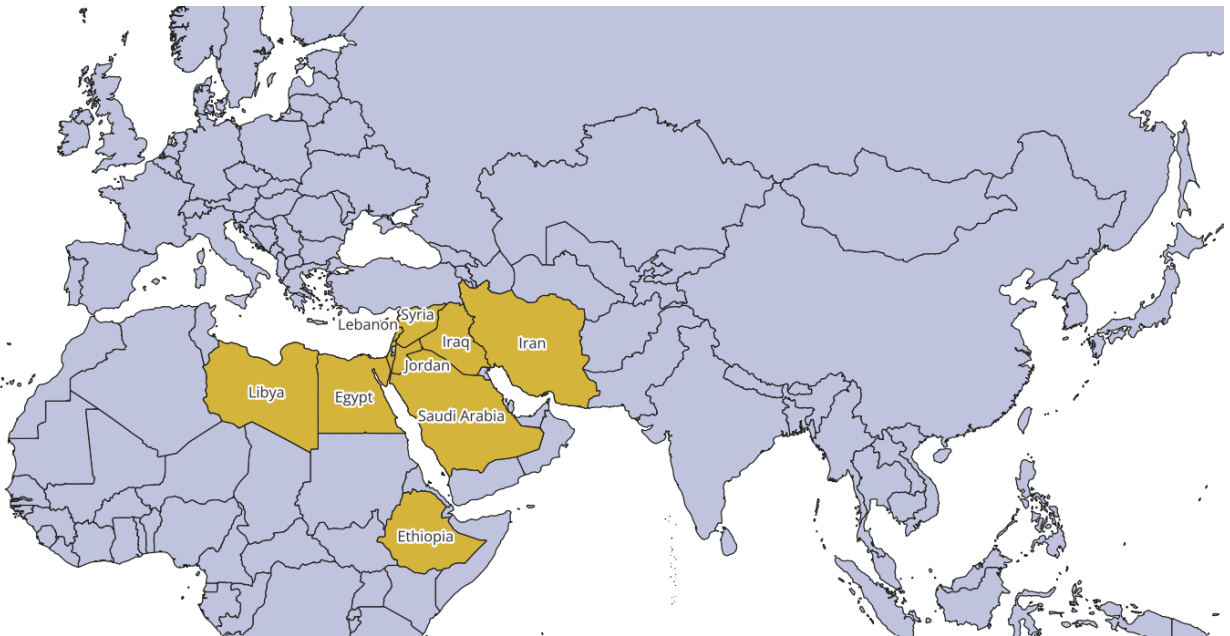


Religious texts not only convey theological doctrines but also provide contextually rich historical and geographical references. These spatial elements-often mentioned by their ancient names-offer clues about the political boundaries, cultural centers, and migratory patterns of early civilizations.

Geographic references in the Bible

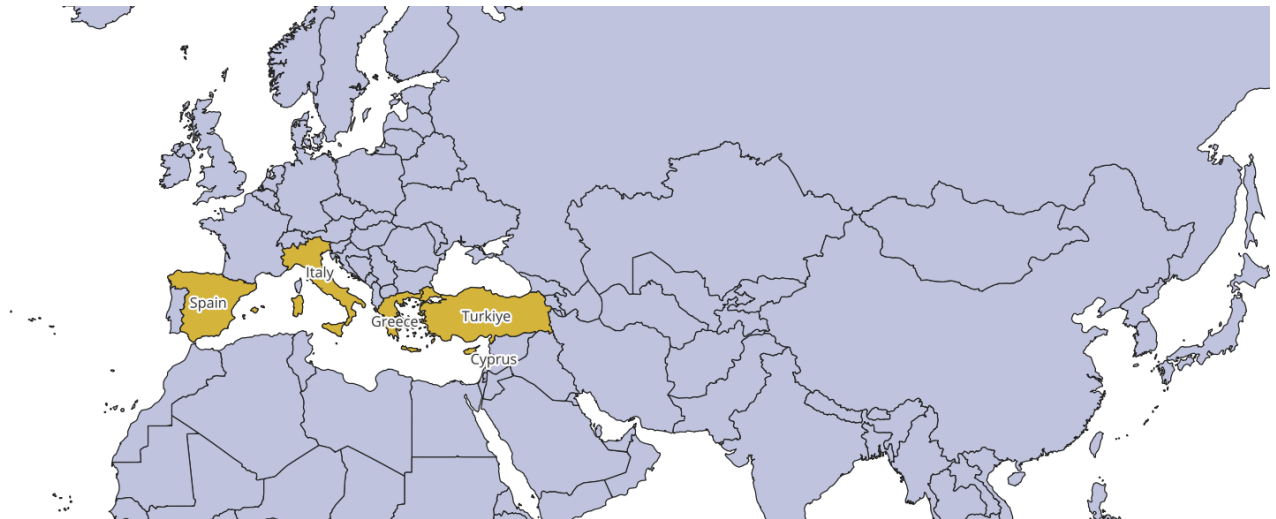
The Bible, comprising the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the New Testament, is deeply embedded in the ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean world. Many locations mentioned are still identifiable today, either directly or through historical-linguistic reconstruction.

Old testament regions



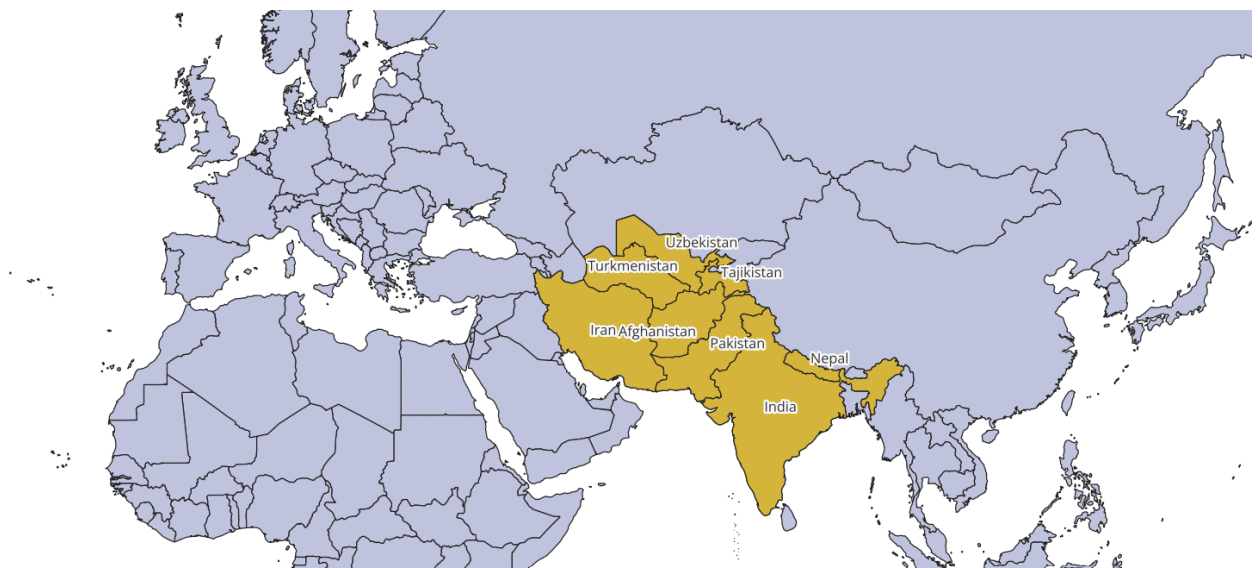
- **Egypt:** Described frequently as the place of Israelite slavery, Egypt plays a major role in early biblical narratives.
- **Israel and Judah:** Israel, the Promised Land, is central to the Hebrew Bible. After the united monarchy split, Judah became the southern kingdom.
- **Babylon (modern Iraq):** A dominant Mesopotamian empire that conquered Judah and initiated the Babylonian exile.
- **Assyria:** Located in what is now northern Iraq, northeastern Syria, and southeastern Turkey, Assyria defeated the northern kingdom of Israel.
- **Persia (modern Iran):** Under Cyrus the Great, the Persian Empire allowed Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem.
- **Ethiopia (Cush):** South of Egypt, it is mentioned in both prophetic and historical contexts.
- **Libya (Put):** Often mentioned in conjunction with Egypt and Cush.
- **Syria (Aram):** A frequent adversary of Israel, corresponding to modern-day Syria.
- **Moab, Ammon, and Edom:** Neighboring nations east of Israel, now within modern Jordan.
- **Phoenicia:** Located in present-day Lebanon, known for its trade cities such as Tyre and Sidon.
- **Philistia:** Coastal region, part of today's Gaza Strip.
- **Midian:** Believed to be in the northwest of modern Saudi Arabia.

New testament regions



- **Rome and Italy:** The Roman Empire governed the region during the New Testament period; Paul famously traveled to Rome.
- **Greece:** Paul preached in prominent cities such as Athens and Corinth.
- **Asia Minor (modern Turkey):** Hosted many early Christian communities, including those in Ephesus, Galatia, and Colossae.
- **Cyprus and Crete:** Islands in the Mediterranean where Paul and other apostles preached.
- **Arabia:** Mentioned in Galatians as a region Paul visited after his conversion.
- **Spain:** Referenced in Romans as a desired destination of Paul's missionary work.

Geographic references in the Hindu Vedas



The Vedas, particularly the Rigveda, reference a wide range of regions, tribes, and rivers. While they do not name modern countries, they describe territories that align with parts of modern-day India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Central Asia.

Vedic Name	Modern Equivalent
Sapta Sindhu	Punjab region of Pakistan and northwest India
Gandhara	Eastern Afghanistan and northwest Pakistan
Mujavat	Hindu Kush or areas in Afghanistan/Tajikistan
Bahluka	Balkh region in northern Afghanistan

Madra	Punjab (border of India and Pakistan)
Kamboja	Northeastern Iran and northwestern Afghanistan
Parśu (Parsu)	Possibly Persian tribes (Iran)
Turan	Central Asian regions (e.g., Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
Videha	Northern Bihar, India and southern Nepal
Kosala	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India
Kuru	Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, India
Panchala	Central Uttar Pradesh, India