

It's difficult; it's dangerous. You get out on the sea in a small boat and you are apt to capsize. You are apt to get into a storm. That's one difficulty. You get out there in a large boat and you can't get to the boat. It takes a tremendous amount of work to make any kind of a decent ~~for~~ harbor for Palestine. Consequently in the Bible Palestine has very little relation to the ocean. You read very seldom ~~of~~ about any connection between the ~~MEDITERRANEAN~~ Mediterranean Sea and the people of Israel even though they are right next, right near, they ~~are~~ just inland a short distance from the sea. When Jotham wanted to flee from the presence of the Lord he went down to Joppa and took a Phoenician boat. The Israelites were not sea faring people because the land there was not conducive to it. Now when you get up here to Phoenicia I think that you can see on this map even what a contrast there is between the coast of Phoenicia and the coast of Palestine. In the land of Phoenicia those little bays and inlets all the way along, little bays where you get shelter from the storm, little inlets where it is easy to learn to navigate in a small boat and where you can safely go from the land out into the sea and back again, little islands which stretch out quite a distance and almost lure you to go on to the next and the next and the next and gradually to increase the size of your boat ~~in your mind~~ and your knowledge of navigation. So Phoenicia had that which made it easy for the people to become navigators; had two sources of income which were useful to sell to other countries. the dye and also the wood from Mount Lebanon. The cedars of Lebanon were famous ~~in~~ and in Egypt they were considered the very best wood. As early as 3000 B. C. we find the Egyptians coming up to Phoenicia to get timbers of Lebanon. So Phoenicia in this way became a great commercial center and a great maritime center. Even today in Lebanon there the country is not conducive to much native development but it is conducive to giving the people of traveling out into the world. I have heard it said that there are nearly twice as many people from Phoenicia today traveling in other parts of the world as there are living there. I remember the contrast when I entered the land.