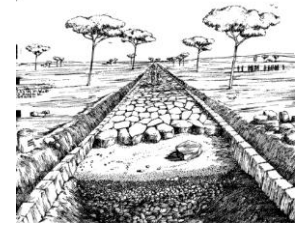


MEETING JESUS ON THE WAY

The importance of highways
in history, in the Bible, and in Indiana



Video #3:

Important Roads in Ancient Israel

Derek דֶּרֶךְ is the primary Hebrew word for *path, way, road*. Its root means “to tread down,” and it refers to an ungraded path created by the constant trampling of feet.

Mesillah מְסִלָּה is the main word for *highway*. Its root means “to build up;” in contrast to *derek*, it refers to a main route, a lengthy and well-maintained elevated thoroughfare.

Three major international trade routes ran north and south through Palestine: (See map on next page)

1) *The Way of the Sea (Via Maris)*, also known as *The Great Trunk Road* or *The International Highway*

- Isaiah 9:1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, *by the Way of the Sea*, beyond the Jordan—² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (See Matthew 4:13-16)

2) *The Way to Ephrath*, the part of the *Central Ridge Road* nearest to Bethlehem; south of Beersheba it was called *The Way to Shur*

- Genesis 35:19 So Rachel died and was buried *on the way to Ephrath* (that is, Bethlehem).
- Genesis 48:7 As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there *on the way to Ephrath* (that is, Bethlehem)." (ESV)

3) *The King's Highway*, also known as *The Sultan's Highway* and *Trajan's Highway*

Moses, leading the Israelites from Egypt to the promised land, to the King of Edom:

- Numbers 20:17 Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through field or vineyard, or drink water from a well. We will go *along the King's Highway*. We will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory ...¹⁹ We will go up by *the highway*, and if we drink of your water, I and my livestock, then I will pay for it. Let me only pass through on foot, nothing more. (ESV)

Moses, to the King of the Amorites:

- Numbers 21:22 Let us pass through your country. We will not turn aside into any field or vineyard, or drink water from any well. *We will travel along the King's Highway* until we have passed through your territory. (NIV)
- Deuteronomy 2:27 Let me pass through thy land: *I will go along by the high way*, I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left. (KJV)

For follow up ...



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Yellow:
 International Highway
 Great Trunk Road
 Way of the Sea: Via Maris

Orange:
 Central Ridge Road
 Way to Ephrath
 Way to Shur

Blue:
 King's Highway
 Sultan's Highway
 Trajan's Highway