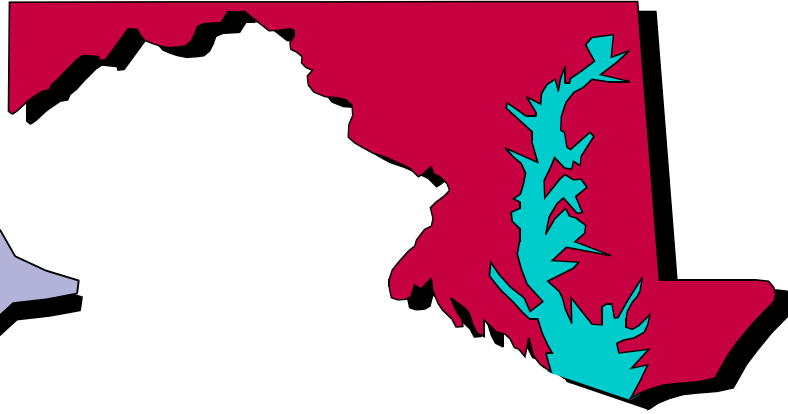


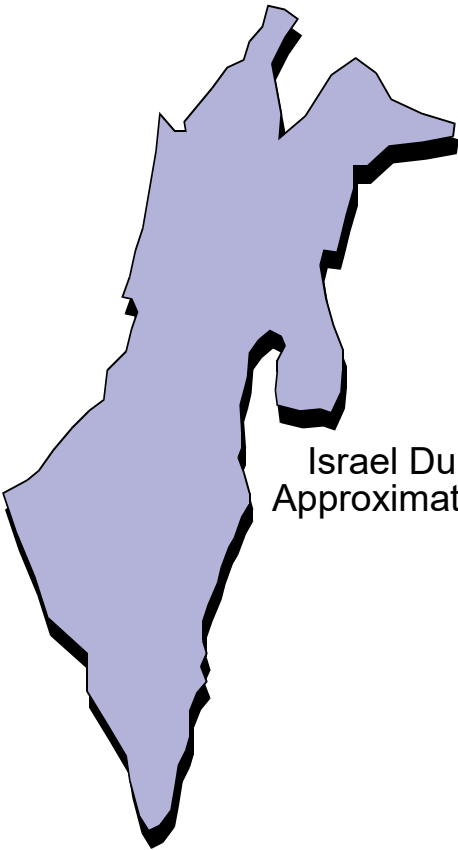
# The Land of Israel

At its' peak, Israel under the rule of David and Solomon, was a little larger than the state of Maryland. Only 8 of the 50 states are smaller.

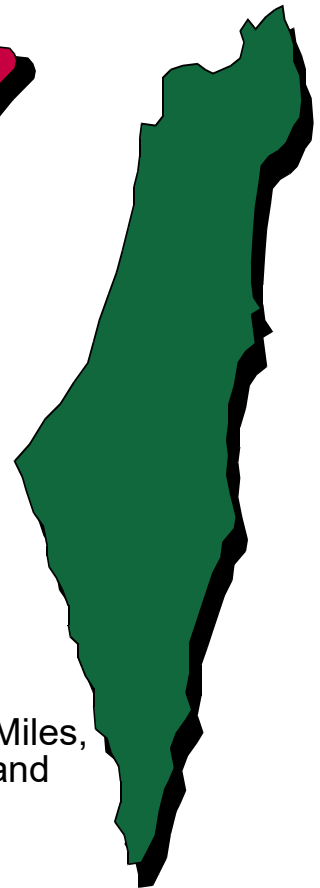
Maryland Total Square Miles (Including Water)  
12,407 Square Miles



Israel During Reign of Solomon  
Approximately 13,000 Square Miles



Israel Present Day  
Approximately 8,000 Square Miles,  
Excluding East Jerusalem and  
disputed territories



Israel is a small, narrow, semi-arid country on the southeastern coastline of the Mediterranean Sea. It entered history some 35 centuries ago when the Jewish people forsook their nomadic way of life, settled in the Land and became a nation. Over the years, the Land was known by many names - *Eretz Israel* (Land of Israel); Zion, one of Jerusalem's hills which came to signify both the city and the Land of Israel as a whole; Palestine, derived from Philistia, and first used by the Romans; the Promised Land; and the Holy Land, to mention but a few. However, to most Israelis today, the country is simply *Ha'aretz* - the Land. Some 5.9 million people live in Israel today. About 4.7 million are Jews; most of the rest are Arabs.

**This information presented courtesy of the  
*Government of Israel***