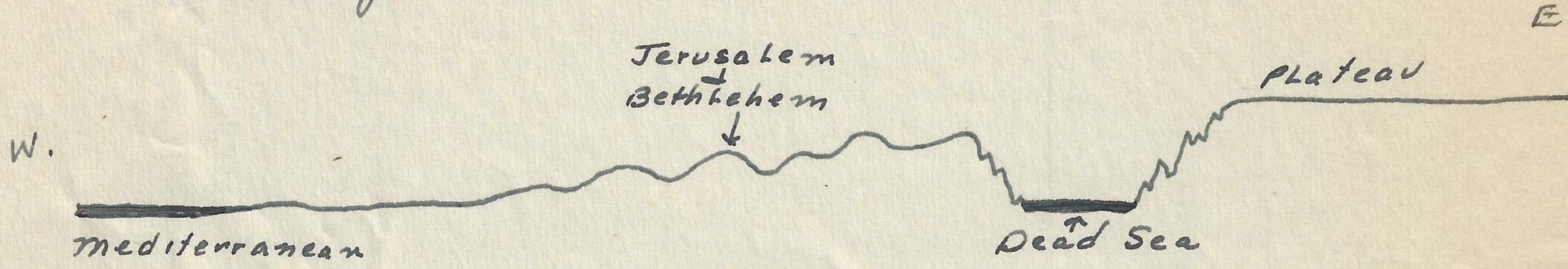


incline beginning at the Mediterranean and culminating in a flat plateau to the east. At that point where the slope meets the plateau there has been formed a deep valley due to a down faulted block which has dropped down to form the present Dead Sea valley.



Geologically speaking I would say that this has happened only very recently as evidenced from the newness of the erosion on the two valley faces. As this valley was formed like our own valley (at least they assume our valley was created by down faulted block) you can readily picture the abrupt and precipitous east mountain. However being so recent the canyons have not had time to develop back very far into the plateau but those canyons & gullies that have taken a bite into plateau have produced deep and treacherous channels with many sharp and irregular ridges. This cutting erosional pattern is also found on the west side of the valley with high hanging canyons or deep channels. The plateau beyond is free of canyons while the hills of Jerusalem are mature and rounded with stable valley floors. From all evidence it would appear that this sunken valley of the Dead Sea had been formed only yesterday.

The sea itself occupies the entire valley, butting up against the bases of the confining walls. The same valley trending north and south still retain the mute evidence of the gradually receding body of water. The sea is not so blue as I have been seeing but is still sufficiently colored to make it spectacular. Due to its high concentration of salt there has precipitated enough solid crystals to make their appearance upon the surface of the water