

For release            By Major A.H. Thiessen  
Oct. 19, 1939    Science Service Meteorologist

Climate of the ancient world! This world included a rather narrow strip extending from Gibraltar to India and included the Mediterranean countries. Countries to the north and south of this strip were considered not habitable, being either too hot or too cold. At present summer temperatures range from 88 degrees at Gibraltar to 117 at Babylon; and winter temperatures from 28 at Rome to 46 degrees at Benghazi on the Tripoli coast. Rainfall was light, and varied from 11 inches at Benghazi to 36 inches at Gibraltar. How far these conditions applied to the ancient world is conjectural. Probably the region was somewhat more moist than at present, as there seems to be unmistakable evidence of large populations, where now only deserts exist.