



BIBLE LANDS

Early heartland of civilization bares its anatomy to Astronauts James A. McDivitt and Edward H. White as they fly 115 miles above in Gemini 4. In Egypt's funnel-shaped delta—fleetingly taken by McDivitt for a giant lava flow—crowd 27,500,000 people, nourished by the splayed veins of the River Nile. Neither pilot could spot the Pyramids (left), near Cairo in the funnel's throat. Beyond Suez, the Sinai desert shows pale as bleached bone, while across the Israeli border in the Negev, left center, gardens bloom from the sands. In this 1,000-mile view, water—precious as blood—divides sere from sown. Such portraits from space give scientists a fresh look at world geography.

LARGE EKTACHROME BY NASA; EKTACHROME BY JAMES L. STANFIELD © N.G.S.

