



# Bringing the Bible to *Life* Seminar



**Physical Settings of the Bible**





## Seminar Topics

**Session I:** Introduction - “Physical Settings of the Bible”

**Session II:** “Connecting the Dots” - Geography of Israel

**Session III:** Archaeology & the Bible

**Session IV:** Life & Ministry of Jesus

**Session V:** Jerusalem in the Old Testament

**Session VI:** Jerusalem in the Days of Jesus

**Session VII:** Manners & Customs of the Bible

## Goals & Objectives

- To gain a new and exciting “3-D” perspective of the land of the Bible.
- To begin understanding the “playing board” of the Bible.
- To pursue the adventure of “connecting the dots” between the ancient world of the Bible and Scripture.
- To appreciate the context of the stories of the Bible, including the life and ministry of Jesus.
- To grow in our walk of faith with the God of redemptive history.



## About Biblical Israel Ministries & Tours

Biblical Israel Ministries & Tours (BIMT) was created 25 years ago (originally called Biblical Israel Tours) out of a passion for leading people to a personalized study tour experience of Israel, the land of the Bible. The ministry expanded in 2016. BIMT is now a support-based evangelical support-based non-profit 501c3 tax-exempt ministry dedicated to helping people “connect the dots” between the context of the ancient world of the Bible and Scripture.

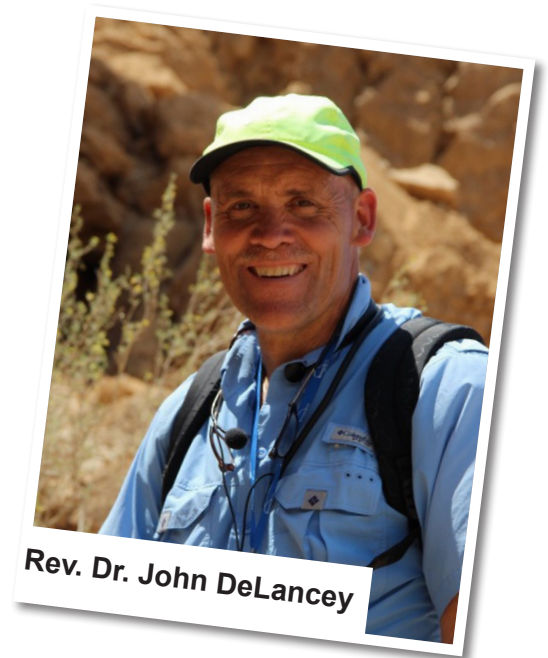
### The two-fold purpose of BIMT is:

1. Leading highly biblical study-discipleship tours to Israel and other lands of the Bible, and
2. Providing “Physical Settings of the Bible” teaching and discipleship training for churches and schools. It is our prayer that BIMT helps people to not only grow in a deeper understanding (e.g. information), excitement, and appreciation of God’s Word, but also to encourage people to grow in their walk of faith with Christ (e.g. formation, see Isaiah 64:7-8).

The Director of BIMT is Rev. Dr. John DeLancey. He is a former one-year archaeology and historical geography student in Jerusalem (Jerusalem University College). He has lead over 60+ Israel study trips. Many of these trips included Jordan and Egypt. He also has led numerous Greece & Turkey trips. Dr. DeLancey is married to Sue. They live in the Pittsburgh, PA area. Together they have three children - Joel, Hannah, and Rachel.

### The contact information for BIMT is:

**Address:** 2426 Rolling Farms Road, Glenshaw, PA 15116  
**Phone:** 412-999-5697  
**Website:** [www.biblicalisrael tours.com](http://www.biblicalisrael tours.com)

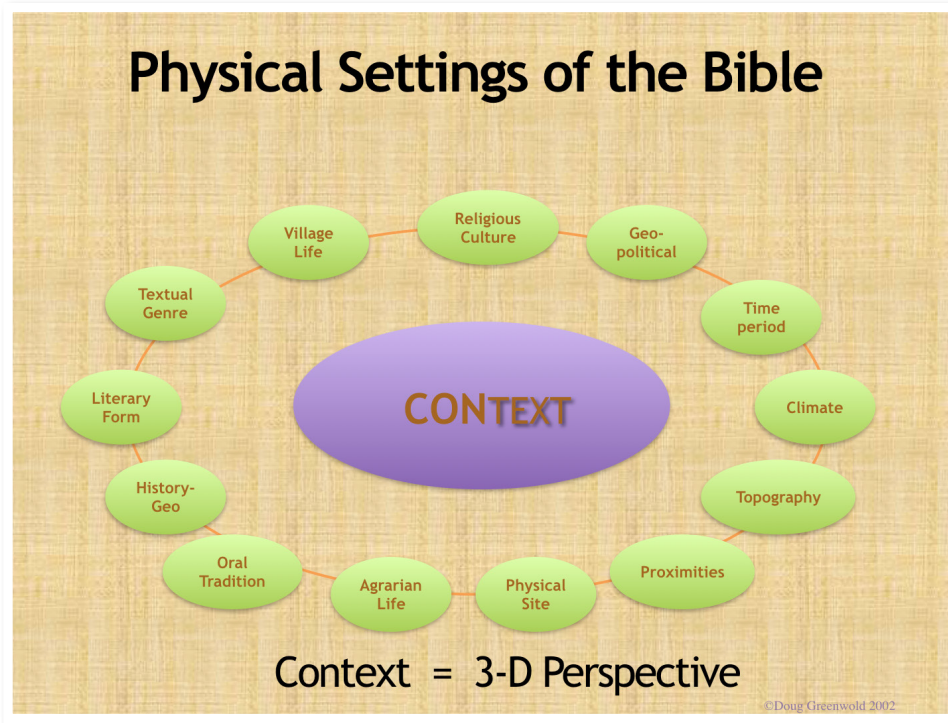




## Session I: Introduction – “Physical Settings of the Bible”

### “Bringing the Bible to Life in its Context”

- A. Getting to know the “P\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_” of the Bible.
- B. “Physical Settings” is about learning the C\_\_\_\_\_ of the ancient world of the Bible.  
It is “Physical T\_\_\_\_\_”



(Adapted from Doug Greenwold, Preserving Bible Times)

### C. Biblical archaeology – reveals and confirms the historicity of the Bible!

- “The only N\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_ about the Bible and the Biblical world are coming from the ground.” -Dr. Bill Dever, archaeologist
- “In every instance where the findings of archaeology pertain to the Biblical record, the archaeological evidence C\_\_\_\_\_, sometimes in detailed fashion, the historical accuracy of Scripture. In those instances where the archaeological findings seem to be at variance with the Bible, the discrepancy lies with the archaeological evidence, (i.e., improper interpretation, lack of evidence, etc.) and not with the Bible.” - *Dr. Bryant C. Wood, archaeologist, Associates for Biblical Research*



**D. Historical Geography** – is the study of the L\_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible and an examination of H\_\_\_\_\_ events that took place on the land. It is a study of the T\_\_\_\_\_ of the land: regions, hills, mountains, and valleys.

- It makes the “playing board” come alive!
- Israel is the “L\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_.”

### E. Physical Settings Key Questions:

- Where are we? (region, topography)
- What does the site look like? (archaeology)
- What took place before? (historical)
- What cultural clues does the site offer? (cultural)
- What Scriptural & extra-biblical texts connect with this site?

**F.** “Physical Settings” is about “C\_\_\_\_\_ the D\_\_\_\_\_” Between the ancient world of the Bible and Scripture!

## NOTES

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## Session II: "Connecting the Dots" – Geography of Israel

A. Israel is the L\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_.

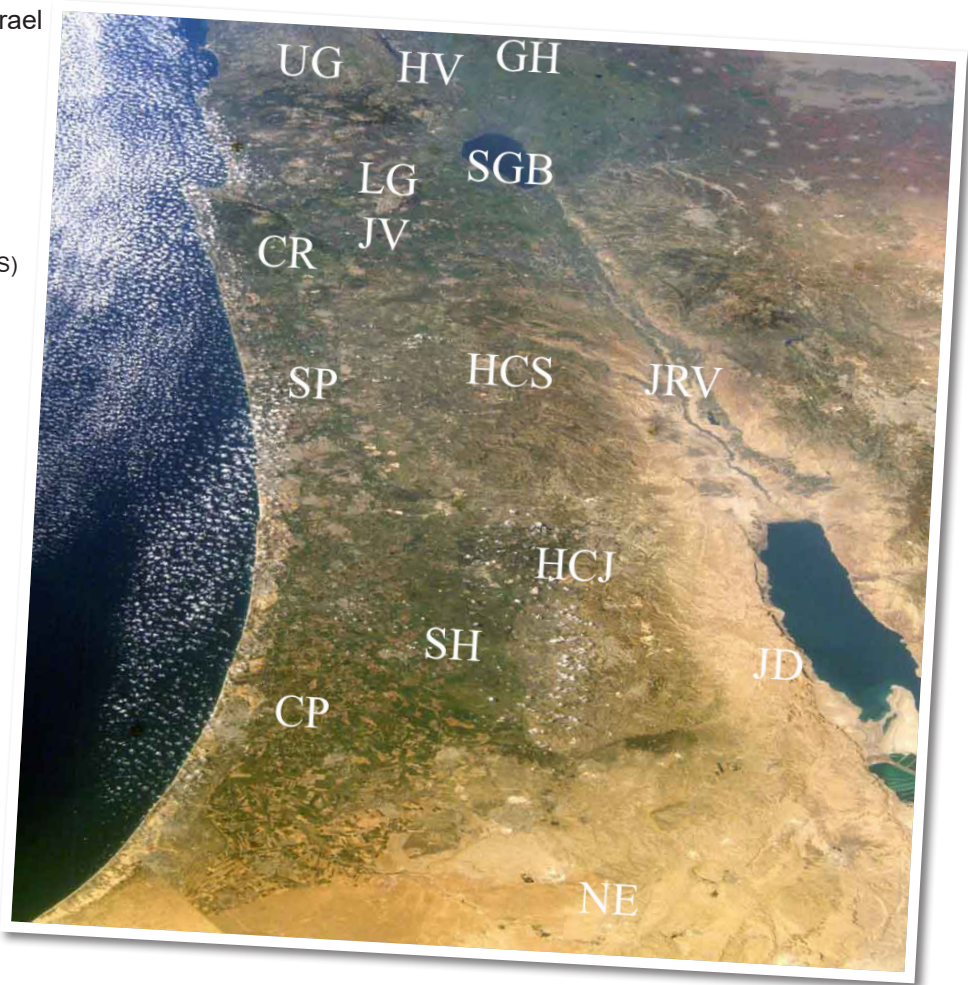
B. The Varying T\_\_\_\_\_ of Israel

• Elevations (sea level):

- 0 Med & Red Seas
- -1350 Dead Sea
- -700 Sea of Galilee
- 2,800 Jerusalem
- 9,200 Mt. Hermon

C. 15 Biblical R\_\_\_\_\_ of Israel

- Coastal Plains (CP)
- Shephelah (SH)
- Negev (NE)
- Judean Desert (JD)
- Hill Country of Judah (HCJ)
- Jordan River Valley (JRV)
- Hill Country of Samaria (HCS)
- Sharon Plain (SP)
- Carmel Range (CR)
- Jezreel Valley (JV)
- Lower Galilee (LG)
- Sea of Galilee Basin (SGB)
- Upper Galilee (UG)
- Huleh Valley (HV)
- Golan Heights (GH)





## D. Cities & Points of Interest in each Region

- Coastal Plains: Jaffa, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza, Gath, Ekron (the five Philistine cities)
- Shephelah: Gezer, Bethshemesh, Azekah, Maresha/Beit Guvrin, Lachish
- Negev: Beersheba, Arad, Zin & Paran Deserts, the Machtesh Ramon
- Judean Desert: Masada, Engedi, Qumran
- HC of Judah: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gibeon, Michmash, Beth Horon, Kiriath Jearim
- Jordan River Valley: Jericho, Bethany Beyond the Jordan, Gilgal, Beth Shean
- HC of Samaria: Bethel, Ai, Shiloh, Samaria, Shechem/Sychar, Mt. Ebal & Gerazim, Dothan
- Sharon Plain: Caesarea Maritima, Dor, Aphek, Yarkon River, Hadesa
- Carmel Range: Haifa, Muhraqa
- Jezreel Valley: Yokneam, Megiddo, Jezreel, Ain Harod, Mt. Gilboa, Hill of Moreh, Mt. Tabor
- Lower Galilee: Nazareth, Sepphoris, Cana, Beit Netofa Valley
- Sea of Galilee Basin: Tiberias, Mt. Arbel, Magala, Capernaum, Chorazim, Bethsaida, Kursi
- Upper Galilee: Mt. Merom, Safed, Kadesh
- Huleh Valley: Hazor, Abel Beit Maacah, Ion, Dan
- Golan Heights: Gamla, Katzrin, Mt. Hermon, Caesarea Philippi

## NOTES

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## Session III: Archaeology & the Bible

- A. An archaeological T \_\_\_\_\_ is an ancient mound of ancient ruins.
- B. Archaeologists call the layers in an archaeological site the S \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The rule of stratigraphy is this: The L \_\_\_\_\_ you find ruins, the E \_\_\_\_\_ its date.
- D. P \_\_\_\_\_ is the primary means of dating stratigraphic layers.
- E. Archaeology does not need to P \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible. Rather, archaeology C \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible's historicity & reliability.

### F. Archaeological Discoveries that Confirm & Connect with the Bible.

- Jericho
- Lachish
- Jerusalem - Hezekiah's Tunnel
- Jerusalem - The Ophel Excavations & Seal Impressions
- Negev High Places (Beersheba & Arad)
- Gezer Caesarea Ashkelon
- Dan (High Place & Stele)
- Jerusalem - City of David - Palace
- Jerusalem - Ossuaries
- The Galilee - Capernaum, Magdala, Ancient Boat
- Jordan - Mesha/Moabite Stone
- Jerusalem - Ketef Hinnom Silver Amulet



- F. Discussion: What is the R \_\_\_\_\_ between archaeology and the Bible?
- Where do we S \_\_\_\_\_ - with the Bible or archaeology?
  - Would "injecting a story" help or hinder our O \_\_\_\_\_?
  - Would it P \_\_\_\_\_ us what to look for or what we should find?
  - Would it I \_\_\_\_\_ our interpretation of the "evidence" in any way?

**The Bible is NOT some "fairy tale" or made-up story. It is the "historically-accurate" Word of God!**



### G. Notable Quotes:

- “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.” - *Nelson Glueck, 1959*
- “The ‘absence of evidence’ does not mean the ‘evidence of absence.’” - *Dr. Bryant Wood, 2010*
- “The only new facts about the Bible and the Biblical world are coming from the ground.”  
- *Dr. Bill Dever, archaeologist*
- “Archaeology is like a jigsaw puzzle... except that you can’t cheat and look at the box, and not all the pieces are there.” - *Stephen Dean*
- “Through the wealth of data uncovered by historical and archaeological research, we are able to measure the Bible’s historical accuracy. In every case the Bible is reliable.” - *Dr. Jack Cottrell, 1979*
- “I know of no finding in archaeology that’s properly confirmed which is in opposition to the Scriptures. The Bible is the most accurate history textbook the world has ever seen.” - *Dr. Clifford Wilson*
- “If we knew what was there, we wouldn’t have to dig.” - *Dr. Richard Boisvert*

## NOTES

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## Session IV: The Life & Ministry of Yeshua (Jesus)

### A. A few quotes:



- The roots of Christianity run deep into H \_\_\_\_\_ soil...". - *Marvin Wilson*
- "The place to begin searching for Jesus is in the world in which he grew. His roots were first-century J \_\_\_\_\_. His theology is J \_\_\_\_\_ to the core." - *Brad Young*
- "The theological teachings on Jesus are J \_\_\_\_\_ to the core, rooted in the T \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel." - *Marvin Wilson*
- It cannot be overemphasized that the key to an understanding of the New Testament is a fluent knowledge of J \_\_\_\_\_ culture..." - *David Bivin*
- "How has most of the Western Christian world missed the importance of the study of the H \_\_\_\_\_ b \_\_\_\_\_ of the Scriptures? The Jewish roots of the Christian faith have not simply been left unexplored, but they have too often been purposefully and willfully ignored. - *Dr. Tom Trilbelhorn*
- "The crop of our knowledge about H \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_ and Christian-Jewish relations that we continue to reap within the Church is quite lean. Time has come for the Church to have a renewed biblical vision. It has sown the seeds of neglect long enough." - *Dr. Marvin Wilson*

### B. Where Jesus Lived

- Nazareth
- Capernaum

### C. Who Jesus Was

- He was God's Son, the M \_\_\_\_\_ !
- He was a J \_\_\_\_\_ teacher who lived in a J \_\_\_\_\_ world and who had followers (t \_\_\_\_\_)
- He was an i \_\_\_\_\_ "rabbi" with "s \_\_\_\_\_".



### D. What Jesus Did

- He taught about the k \_\_\_\_\_ of h \_\_\_\_\_ (malchut shamyim) being "at hand" and invited people to be part of it.
- He observed Jewish laws and practices (tallit and teffilin)

### E. Where Jesus Taught

- In synagogues
- In the region of the Galilee
- In Jerusalem in the Temple





#### F. How Jesus Taught

- He Jesus taught within the established Jewish R\_\_\_\_\_ system, thought and practice.
  - Hebrew
  - “Mashal” (parables)
  - “Remez” (“hints”)

#### G. What Jesus Taught

- A solid view of T\_\_\_\_\_ (Law). See Matthew 5:17-18
- A life-transforming interpretation of the Torah (Law). See Matthew 11:28-30
- He taught kingdom principles of Torah as a w\_\_\_\_\_ of l\_\_\_\_\_. See Matthew 7:12 & 18:20.
- He taught the importance of p\_\_\_\_\_.
- He taught God’s redemption! “I am the way, truth, and the life.” See John 14:6.

#### H. Why Jesus Taught

- To fulfill r\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_ and the prophecies of the prophets!
- To “bring near” the reign & rule of God’s kingdom (Mark 1:15)

## NOTES

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## Session V: Jerusalem in the Old Testament

### A. History of Jerusalem

- Stems from the earliest times (Egyptian E\_\_\_\_\_ TEXTS in 20th & 19th Century BC.).
- Appears later as Urusalim (14th cent. Amarna letters from Egypt), and early Hebrew as Y\_\_\_\_\_.
- Jerusalem also known as "S\_\_\_\_\_". This is the shorter form of the word to be used to describe the city (Gen 14:18; Ps 76:3).
- Also named "J\_\_\_\_\_" in Judges 19:10, 11; 1 Chr. 11:4, 5 - an ethnic name. David conquers this city.
- "Z\_\_\_\_\_" (162x in Bible) - a more specific term, mainly identified with the eastern hill of the city. Known also as the "Temple Mount" or "Mountain of the Lord" (4x); Mount Zion (21x), "holy mountain" (21x, see Zech 8:3). The exact meaning of the word Zion is not known but most likely "stronghold."
- This later became known as the "C\_\_\_\_\_ of D\_\_\_\_\_" , found some 42x in Bible (can refer to Bethlehem as well, Lk 2:4, 11).

### B. Abraham

- His encounter with "Salem" (Genesis 14)
- His "Mt. Moriah" experience with Isaac (Genesis 22)

### C. "Jebus"

- Mentioned 45's in OT
- Not conquered by Joshua
- Conquered by David (2 Samuel 5)

### D. Solomon

- Building of the Temple on "Moriah" (1 Kings 6:1, 2 Chronicles 3:1-2)
- The "Dome of the Rock" vs. Solomon's Temple

### E. The City of David Excavations

- "Area G"
  - David's palace
  - The "millo"
  - "Ahie's House"
- "Warren's Shaft"
  - Discovered in 1800s 52-foot vertical shaft





- 705-701 BC
- 1,720 feet long
- The “Siloam Inscription”

**LINE 1:** [ . . . ] the tunneling; and this was how the tunneling was completed:

As [the laborers employed]

**LINE 2:** their picks, each crew toward the other, and while there were still three cubits remaining, the voices of the men calling out

**LINE 3:** to each other [could be heard], since it got louder on the right [and left].

The day the

**LINE 4:** opening was made, the stonecutters hacked toward each other, pick against pick.

**LINE 5:** And the water flowed from the source to the pool [twel]ve hundred cubits,

**LINE 6:** (despite the fact that) the height of the rock above the stonecutters was one hundred cubits.

## F. The Siloam Pool (John 9)

## NOTES

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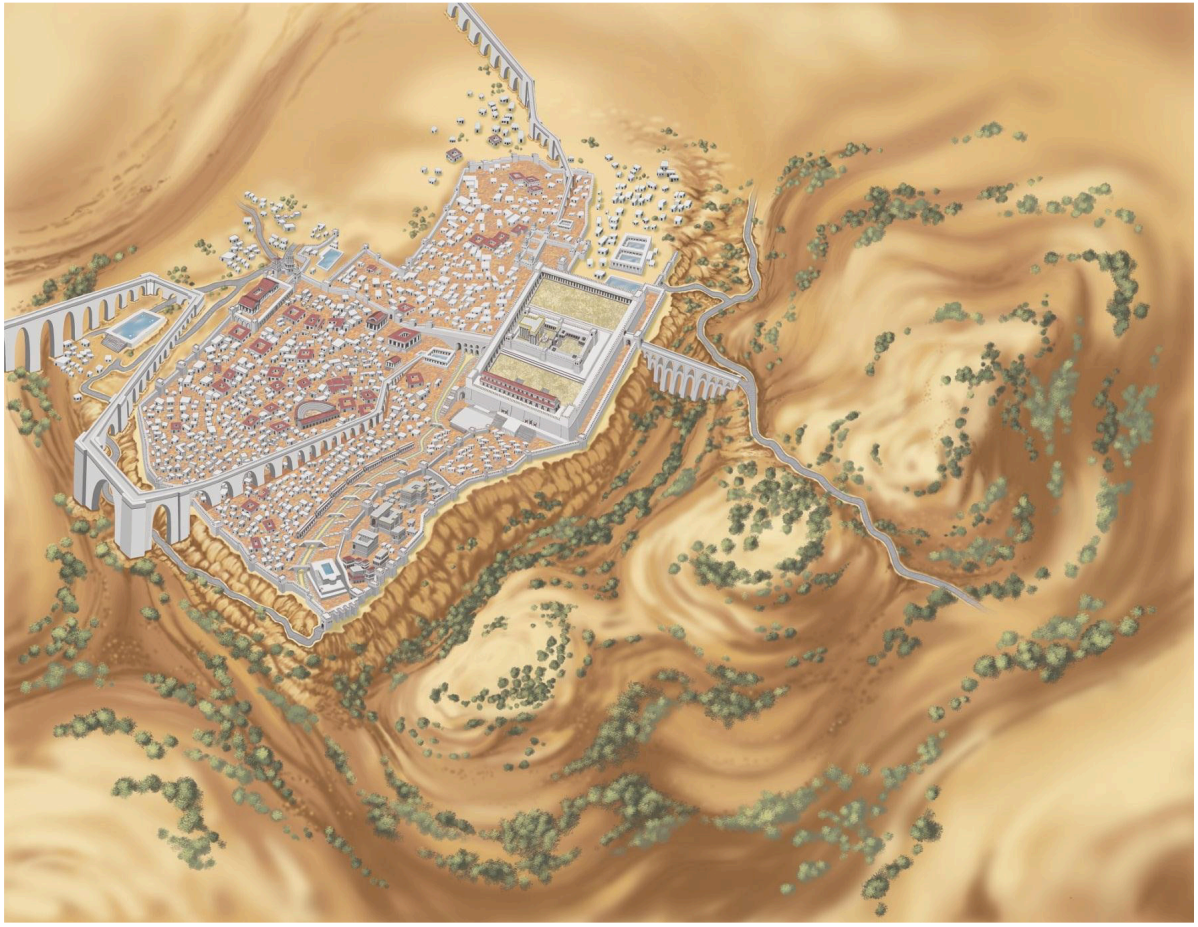
## Session VI: Jerusalem in the Day of Jesus

### A. Jerusalem history

- **Persian Period:** 586–332 BC. Late 6th cent. BC - Exiles begin returning from Babylon, rebuild the Temple F\_\_\_\_\_ (520 BC) and later Temple itself (445 BC). This is the “2nd Temple.” A “baris” (fortress) is built on northern side.
- **Hasmonean Period:** 152–37 BC. Aqueduct built (Josephus), on western side of Temple. The baris is expanded on northern side. Additional structures built on southern side.
- **Roman Period:** 63 BC–324 AD 63 BC - Pompey conquers Jerusalem for Rome. 20–4 BC - Herod D\_\_\_\_\_ the size of Temple Mount; rebuilds aqueduct supported by Wilson’s Arch; builds “Masonic Hall” west of Wilson’s Arch; builds four entrances to Temple Mount on west (Warren’s Gate, Barclay’s Gate and gates above Robinson’s Arch and Wilson’s Arch); builds Antonia Fortress as replacement for Baris; 70 AD —Romans destroy Jerusalem and Temple 2nd cent. AD - Jerusalem rebuilt as pagan city, renamed Aelia Capitolina in 132 AD by Hadrian; Hadrian covers Struthion Pool with pavement.
- **Byzantine Period:** 324–640 AD - Christian rulers make C\_\_\_\_\_ of the H\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ religious focus of Jerusalem, leave Temple Mount a garbage heap.
- **Umayyad Period:** 660–750 AD - Arabs build D\_\_\_\_\_ of the R\_\_\_\_\_ on Temple Mount (692 AD); rebuild bridge over Wilson’s Arch, adding second, parallel bridge as support; rebuild parts of “Masonic Hall.”
- **Medieval Period:** 1033 AD - E\_\_\_\_\_ devastates Temple Mount area 11th cent. AD. Warren’s Gate and “The Cave” synagogue repaired 13th cent. AD.
- **Crusader Period:** 1099 – 1187 AD. Crusaders build chapel on Umayyad reconstruction of bridge on Wilson’s Arch 1244 AD — Arabs expel Crusaders from Jerusalem, build eight gates to Temple Mount from west and erect religious buildings to emphasize Muslim character of Temple Mount Modern.
- **Turkish Period:** 1517-1917 AD - The O\_\_\_\_\_ Turks now rule Jerusalem for 400 years. The city is expanded & walls are built by Suleiman the Magnificent.
- **Modern Period:** 1830s - Edward Robinson (“Robinson’s Arch”) explores Jerusalem. 1860s—Charles Warren and Charles Wilson explore Jerusalem for Palestine Exploration Fund. Hezekiah’s Tunnel explored, 1880 – Siloam Inscription discovered. 1948 – 1967 J\_\_\_\_\_ control the Old City of Jerusalem. Modern 1967: Israel regains Old City of Jerusalem in Six-Day War; ground level lowered 10 feet to expose more of Western Wall prayer area. Excavations at southern wall begin in early 70s.



## B. Development of Herodian Jerusalem



(Dr. Dan Warner's Model of 2nd Temple Jerusalem)

- Herod's Family
- The Temple Project (20 BC) Expansion of Temple "platform"
- Massive stones ("Master Course" – 42 x 14 x 6 ft - 500 tons) How were the stones moved?
- SW corner (pinnacle) of Temple Robinson's Arch (1838)
- "To the place of trumpeting" Inscription The "Western Wall"
- The Siloam Pool (John 7, 9)
- The Herodian street and "drainage channel"

## C. Jesus' Palm Sunday Event

- Luke 19 – "Hosanna"
- Ossuaries
- Eastern Gate

#### D. The Temple Court Area

- Court of Gentiles, Israelites, Women
- The “Gentile Inscription”
- The Eastern Gate
- Pool of Bethesda
- The Royal Portico/Porch
- The Huldah Gates
- The Southern Steps

## E. Jesus' Passion Week

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| • Friday    | Arrival in Bethany (Jn. 12:1)  |
| • Saturday  | Day of rest (nothing mentioned in Gospels)   |
| • Sunday    | Triumphal Entry (Mt. 21:1-11, Lk. 19:26-44)  |
| • Monday    | Clearing of Temple (Mt. 21:10-17, Lk.19:45-48)   |
| • Tuesday   | Day of controversy & parables (Mt. 21:23-24:51, Mk. 11:27-13:37, Lk. 20:1-21:36)           |
| • Wednesday | Day of rest  |
| • Thursday  | Passover/Last Supper/Gethsemane (Mt. 26:17-30, Mk. 14:12-26, Lk. 22:7-23, Jn. 13:1-30)     |
| • Friday    | Crucifixion / Placed in tomb (Mt. 27:1-66, Mk. 14:1- 47, Lk. 22:66-23:56, Jn. 18:28-19:37) |
| • Sunday    | Resurrection (Mt. 28:1-13, Mk.16:1-20, Lk. 24:1-49, Jn. 20:1-31)                           |

## F. Place of Crucifixion

- Church of Holy Sepulcher
- Kokhim tombs (also, archasoleum)
- Garden Tomb

## NOTES





## Session VII: Manners & Customs of the Bible

"When we read the Bible, we encounter many manners and customs from the ancient world that the first readers of the Scriptures would have been familiar with. But being so far removed from that world, we modern readers often miss the full meaning – both literal and figurative – of biblical imagery." - *John Beck*

"Context rescues biblical truth from the familiar." - *Kenneth Bailey*

"Reading the Bible through fresh eyes constantly reminds us of the depths that still remain to be discovered there." - *Phillip Jenkins*

### A. Religious Life

- The Tabernacle
- Solomon's Temple
- "High Places"
- Herod's Temple
- The Synagogue

### B. Burial Customs

- OT – Bench & Repository
- NT - Niche & Ossuary

### C. Warfare

- Gates & Fortification Walls
- Weapons



### D. Agricultural Customs

- "The 7" First Fruits – (Dt. 8:7-9):
  - Wheat
  - Barley
  - Grapes
  - Figs
- Olives
- Pomegranates
- Dates

### E. Shepherd Life

- The Sheep Pen
- Micah 2:12-13

### F. Fishermen Life

- The Sea of Galilee Nets
- Calling of the Disciples (Mt. 4)

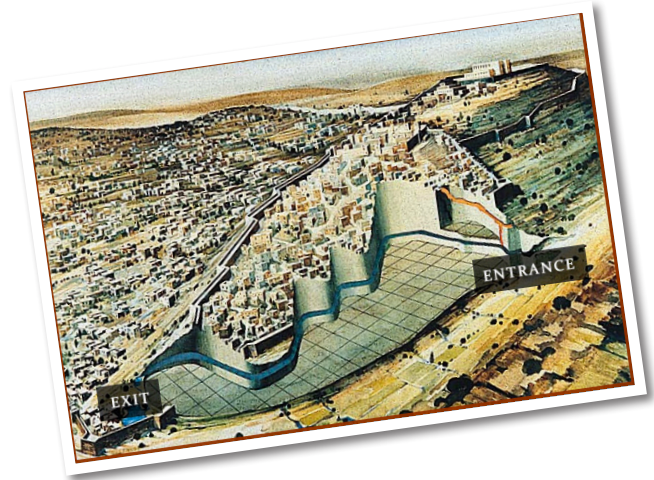


## G. Daily Life & Practices

- Houses in the OT – 4 Room Israelite House
- Tubin (oven)
- Pottery & Inscriptions
- Oil Lamps (OT & NT)
- Houses in the NT
- The Mikveh & Ritual Cleaning

## H. Water

- Cisterns
  - Masada Arad Beersheba
- Systems
  - Megiddo
  - Gezer
  - Caesarea
  - Jerusalem:
    - Warren's Shaft / Hezekiah's Tunnel / Pool of Siloam



## NOTES

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RESOURCES

A Visual Guide to Bible Events .....James Martin/John Beck/David Hanson

Devotional Treasures from the Holyland .....John DeLancey

Everyday Life in Bible Times ..... John Beck

Exploring Bible Times ..... Jim Martin

Jesus the Jewish Theologian .....Brad Young The Parables

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes ..... Kenneth E. Bailey

Making Disciples Jesus’ Way .....Doug Greenwold

Meet the Rabbis ..... Brad Young

My Professor Says ..... Tom Tribelhorn

Our Father Abraham..... Marvin Wilson

Regions on the Run..... Jim Monson/Steve Lancaster

Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus .....Lois Tverberg

Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus

Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus

Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide ..... Klyne Snodgrass To the Parables of Jesus







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