

Bible Geography I

Introduction

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Geography is the study of the earth's surface in reference to physical and political features
 - 1. Physical features – natural features of the land, such as mountains, plains, deserts, bodies of water, etc.
 - 2. Political features – manmade features of the land, such as national boundaries, empires, cities, etc.
- B. Bible geography is the study of geography as it relates to Bible narrative, history, typology and prophecy.
- C. Bible customs deals with those habitual ways of living which were common in the times and lands of the Bible. Understanding these customs is the key to understanding many passages in the scriptures.

II. NEED FOR BIBLE GEOGRAPHY & CUSTOMS

- A. To correctly interpret scripture
- B. To understand and teach Bible stories
- C. To use scriptural typology
- D. To increase understanding and retention of Biblical events
- E. To comprehend Bible prophecy

III. SOURCEBOOKS FOR BIBLE GEOGRAPHY

- A. Basic Sources
 - 1. Bible
 - 2. Concordance – Recommend Strong's
 - 3. Bible Dictionary – Recommend Unger's
 - 4. Bible Software – SwordSearcher 7.2 – Recommend SwordSearcher (Newest version 8.1)
- B. Atlas
 - 1. *The Rand-McNally Bible Atlas* by Rand-McNally (1910) – used for this course
 - 2. *Student's Bible Atlas* by American Map Corporation
 - 3. *Baker's Bible Atlas* by Charles F. Pfeiffer
 - 4. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas* by Aharoni, Avi-Yonah, Rainey & Safrai

C. Customs of the Bible

1. *Manners and Customs of the Bible* by James M. Freeman
2. *Manners and Customs of Bible Lands* by Fred H. Wight
3. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times* by Ralph Gower
4. *Manners and Customs in the Bible* by Victor H. Matthews
5. *Harper's Encyclopedia of Bible Life* by Madeleine and J. Lane Miller
6. *Sketches of Jewish Social Life* by Alfred Edersheim
7. *The Land and the Book* by W. M. Thomson

IV. GENERAL OUTLINE OF BIBLE GEOGRAPHY

A. Physical Geography

1. Old Testament World
2. Palestine

B. Political Geography

1. Palestine
2. Area Surrounding Palestine
3. Egypt
4. Mesopotamia

C. Historical Geography

1. Ante-Diluvian Period – (Before the Noahic Flood)
2. Table of Nations
3. Patriarchs
4. Bondage, Exodus, Wanderings, Conquest
5. Judges
6. United Kingdom
7. Divided Kingdom
8. Captivities
9. Return From Captivity
10. Life of Christ
11. Apostolic Age

NOTE: Prophetic and typological geography will not be covered in this study.