

Holy Land History:
A Study Guide to Palestine
From the Persian to the
Byzantine Periods

For use with Sections 10-13
Student Map Manual
(Pictorial Archive, Jerusalem)

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To Joyce

**Friend, partner and patient spouse,
who by her encouragement, interest,
and support makes our joint walk of
faith a daily celebration of
grateful service.**

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PREFACE

Holy Land History is a manual of instructions for the study and mapping of Sections 10 through 13 of the Student Map Manual (Pictorial Archive, Jerusalem, 1979). It follows the format and coloring patterns designed and used in James M. Monson, The Land Between (Jerusalem: Biblical Backgrounds, 1983) which is the book of assignments for Sections 4 through 9 of the Student Map Manual. Thus the two books complete the course in biblical geography and history built into the Student Map Manual.

Because the Post-exilic history of the Holy Land is concentrated in Judaea the instructions in Holy Land History follow the chronological order of the maps in the SMM rather than the regional approach which Monson uses.

In some maps boxed write-ins are assigned. These provide additional history and events to the project. Green arrows for Jewish movements and blue or orange arrows for various enemies are retained, but purple and red arrows are given for Greek Bible travels.

Students interested in a course of study on the geography and history of Palestine in both biblical periods are advised to do the full course by first reading Monson's book and mapping Sections 4 through 9 in the Student Map Manual. Then it is suggested that they complete the course with Holy Land History. By doing that, they will build a strong familiarity with the history of Palestine from the Middle Bronze into the Byzantine periods within its geographical contexts.

The experience of mapping to record and recreate the events of the Holy Land--as much as is possible given the biblical writers' priorities for religious interpretation of history--provides students with a dynamic involvement with that history on its own stage. The importance of the geography and topography in the flow and direction of the events becomes vivid. A study of Palestine's geography and history can also be of value to one's religious interest. Observing it all in its own context provides a view of the people in Scripture as they lived and struggled, witnessed and labored, suffered and died for their beliefs and convictions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The motivation for preparing Holy Land History came from several classes of students at Wartburg Theological and University of Dubuque Theological seminaries. As each class evaluated the course in geography and history of the Bible which they had mapped in the Student Map Manual guided by the assignments in James M. Monson, The Land Between, they asked, "When will the instructions for the rest of the Manual be prepared so that we can finish the course?"

The first draft of instructions was ready for the classes in January 1991 and 1992. They responded with detailed and valuable suggestions for improvement. They have my gratitude. Laity in churches in Gaylord, MI and in Bellevue, WA also worked with the first draft of Holy Land History and provided helpful suggestions.

My expert typist and computer operators, David Kappus and Rhonda Kiehl, worked many hours on typing, formatting and making changes in the text. Without their work and dedication the project would not have come to print. My student assistant, Bernie Daiker, contributed by collating the suggested revisions.

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The Lutheran Brotherhood Fraternal Insurance Co. provided me with a sabbatical grant in 1989-90 making the research and writing a possibility and providing the funds for the typing and printing of the first draft.

All of the above and others who have given guidance and encouragement have my thanks.

In a work such as this with its details and range of possibilities the final decision about the contents, readings and mapping instructions are mine. I take responsibility for them and for the mistakes which surely illuded my eyes. Finally, I invite suggestions for improvement from all who venture into Holy Land History and wish them well in their journey.

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