



Great Lakes Bible College
BIBLICAL GEOGRAPHY

Faculty Contact

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Please contact me with your comments, questions and corrections.

Course Description

The geography of Israel, Mesopotamia, Syria, Egypt, the Tigris-Euphrates Valley, Greece, Asia Minor (Turkey) and Italy establish an exciting and diverse background for the major events of the Old and New Testaments most notably God's mighty works in His world to redeem us in Jesus Christ. This course studies the environments, landscapes, geology, flora and fauna of the lands of the Bible and their impacts on the people of God, the cultures of Bible times and the preparing of the way for the coming of Jesus and the establishment of His New Covenant throughout the world. Attention is given to the vocabulary and presentation of Biblical Geography, its relationships to other disciplines, principles of interpreting data and the value of Biblical geography in preaching, teaching, apologetics, faith building, spiritual growth and evangelism.

Course Objectives

This course aims to equip students to:

1. Develop a vision of the settings in Israel and the major world empires in which God's mighty works took place in the events of the Old and New Testaments relating the Scripture text to the physical features of the Bible lands.
2. See God's work in preparing Mesopotamia, Canaan, Egypt and the Greek-Roman world for the coming of Abraham, Israel, Moses, Jesus and the spread of the gospel.
3. Appreciate God's important use of figurative metaphorical terms for the lands of the Bible, especially Israel, that describe the spiritual state of nations (e.g. the barren wilderness vs. the peaceful land of milk and honey).
4. Gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and its historical reality. It describes real events in the lives of real people in real places and times.
5. Understand the vocabulary of Biblical geography and its relationship to other important relevant disciplines.
6. Understand some of the history of Biblical geography as a discipline including the ancient geographers such as Strabo.

7. Appreciate geography as a primary source in understanding the people, places, animals and plant life in the Bible.
8. Inform expository preaching and teaching to bring the Bible places and events alive for their listeners in sermons and Bible classes. On a related note, Biblical geography also helps us understand current news from the Middle East!
9. Become familiar with important primary and secondary sources and develop research and presentation skills through creating class presentations that will have immediate and long-term application in ministry.
10. Use geography as an effective witness to the reality of God and the truth of His Word in apologetics (defending the faith) and evangelism (sharing the good news).

In addition to Populi Files, you can find resources from previous years here:

Online Folder of Class Resources Including All PowerPoints:

<https://app.box.com/s/4ktjrlxhorol787wttho2mrggds5dv0w>

Online Folder of Class Resources for Biblical Archaeology, a Companion Course, Including All PowerPoints:

<https://app.box.com/s/qie8l0snd0ll6pqh2bkscx8ztlxk8eoa>

Textbook

Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Credit Student Assignments Overview (3 hour credit)

Class Presentations	70% (2 x 35%)
Essay	20%
Quiz	10%

Credit Student Assignments

1. Class presentation about one important **Old Testament** geographical area and how it enhances our understanding of the Bible text and God's actions in history. Twenty-five to thirty-five high quality slides with pictures, drawings, maps, text, etc., plus bibliography and picture credits. Suitable for viewing in church Bible classes and one-on-one discussion with individuals. Format may be PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, LibreOffice (available at <http://www.libreoffice.org/download/libreoffice-fresh/>), Prezi or a Word to pdf document in landscape orientation. (35%)
2. Presentation the same as 1. about one important **New Testament** geographical area and how it enhances our understanding of the Bible text and God's actions in history. (35%)

3. Brief essay about one important dimension of the geography of Israel that is of particular interest to you and enhances our understanding of a Bible text. Five to ten pages double spaced Times Roman font plus bibliography. Informal format. (20%)
4. Short quiz on the geography of Israel based on Carl Rasmussen's *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. (10%)

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