THE JEWISH FOUNDATIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Class II – The Land & the Bible (Part B)

January 21, 2017
“With you I take refuge, Lord, and to you I will shout, Lord, to you I will pour out my supplication, to you I will confess my sins, and to you I will reveal my lawless deeds. Spare me, Lord, Because I have sinned much before you, I have committed lawlessness and irreverence, and have said wicked and unspeakable things before you. My mouth is defiled from the sacrifices of the idols and from the tables of the Egyptians.

I have sinned, Lord, before you I have sinned in much ignorance, and have worshipped dead and dumb idols.... With you I take refuge, Lord, and to you I bring my supplication, And to you I will shout. For just as a little child who is afraid flees to his father, and the father, stretching out his arms, snatches him off the ground and puts his arms around him... likewise you too, Lord, stretch out your hands upon me as a child-loving father, and snatch me off the earth.”
Introduction

Why are we studying the Jewish background of the New Testament?
- Context – meaning is grounded in the original audience
- Submission to the Word – danger of reading our own anachronisms into Scripture
- Worship of God - called to worship with our whole being, including the mind

*We want to grow a deeper relationship with God through encountering the Bible!*
Mt. Hermon

9,232’ High

Springtime
Mt. Hermon
Caesarea Philippi

1st c. CE Roman City
Caesarea Philippi

Grotto of Pan
(cave leads to the Underworld)
Caesarea Philippi

Grotto of Pan

Location of temple and worship niches with statues of Pan
Caesarea Philippi

Worship niches with statues of Pan

Pan – half goat, half man, symbol of fertility
Sea of Galilee
Sea of Galilee
Sea of Galilee
Study Passage: Mark 5:1 - 20

- Where did the passage take place?
- Who are the characters in the passage (don’t forget the non-human characters!)?
- What information can you gather about the region based on the story?
- What was the response of the inhabitants to Jesus when he did the miracle? Why?
Nazareth
Nazareth
Jezreel Valley
Jezreel Valley
Central Plateau
Central Plateau
Central Plateau
Small Group Discussion: Psalm 22

• What major image is presented to describe God?
• What does this image bring to your mind?
• What is the reality of being a shepherd in this area like?
• What does the passage’s contrast with reality say about how they see God?
Small Group Discussion: Psalm 22
Judean Wilderness
Judean Wilderness
Judean Wilderness

Dead Sea Valley

Dome of the Rock

Walls of Old City (Ottoman Era)
Dead Sea
Dead Sea
Dead Sea
Dead Sea

One of several water cisterns on Masada – carved out of mountain and lined w/ waterproof plaster
Hill Country / Shephelah
Hill Country / Shephelah

Judean Hill Country

Khirbet Qeiyafa

Socoh

Valley of Elah is natural moat / defense

ISRAELITE TERRITORY

PHILISTINE TERRITORY

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Hill Country / Shephelah

Judean Hill Country

Khirbet Qeiyafa

Socoh
Hill Country / Shephelah

Judean Hill Country

Khirbet Qeiyafa

Socoh

View

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Mt. Carmel

View
Mt. Carmel

Aruna Pass to Megiddo

Megiddo
Mt. Carmel

Aruna Pass (late 19th, early 20th century) – imagine putting an army of 10,000 soldiers plus chariots through this one-lane goat path!
Small Group Discussion: 1 Kings 18:41-46

- How were Ahab and Elijah traveling?
- What were the weather conditions?
- What route did Elijah take to Jezreel? Ahab?
- How does this fact affect Elijah’s “supernatural speed?”
Today’s Takeaways

- The land has a big influence on the narrative of the Bible
- While the land itself is small, it has huge differences in geology/geography
- In order to properly understand some stories, we need to understand the location and the cultural assumptions of the place
- Three ways the land influences the Bible:
  - Ethnic or political boundaries
  - Cultural themes
  - Helps ground our interpretation
Next Week’s Homework

• Read 2 Chronicles 30:1 – 31:1

• What does this passage tells us about the worship of *YHWH* in Israel & Judah at the time?

Seal of King Hezekiah – notice Egyptian symbols