

Bible Geography Then & Now

Genesis 12:1

George Bernard Shaw – “The Bible is more up to date than the morning newspapers.”

The Bible is the all-inspired and inerrant Word of God.

The Bible is God’s Word played out in world history and set on the stage of world geography. When we know something about all three, it all seems to come together more easily. Real people . . . at real times . . . doing real things . . . in real places. The names may have changed . . . the lines on maps may have been redrawn . . . but the places are still real, regardless of what their current names may be.

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION DID YOU KNOW?

- **DANIEL** was a POW in Iraq where the ruins of Babylon are today.
- **JONAH** went to northern Iraq where Nineveh was.
- **ESTHER’S** throne was in Iran where the ruins of Susa are.
- **NOAH’S** Ark landed in Turkey near the Iranian border and not far from the Russian border.
- **SAMSON** pulled down the Philistine temple in the Gaza strip.
- **ABRAHAM** walked from Iraq through Syria to reach Israel.
- **JESUS** was born in the “West Bank” where Bethlehem is.
- **PAUL** sent the first missionary to Bosnia when he sent Titus to Dalmatia.

OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE PLACES, & INTERESTING FACTS

- **DANIEL** was “kidnapped” as a teenager and taken to Iraq (Babylon)) as a POW. He lived there the rest of His life.
- **ESTHER** married the King of Persia, and her throne was in Iran at Shushan (Susa) about 100 miles from Kuwait city.
- **ABRAHAM** was born in Iraq (near Basra) and walked from there through Syria to reach Israel (the Promised Land).
- The **QUEEN OF SHEBA** (Yemen) went with camels to visit King Solomon in Jerusalem.

- The first Olympic games were held about **JONAH’S** time.
- **DANIEL** lived about the same time as Confucius and Buddha.
- **QUEEN ESTHER** and the Greek philosopher Socrates lived in the same century.
- During the period covered by the Book of Ezra:
 - a. Gautama Buddha (560-480 B.C.) is in India.
 - b. Confucius (551-479 B.C.) is in China.
 - c. Socrates (470-399 B.C.) is in Greece.
- Egypt already had some pyramids when **JOSEPH** arrived.

NEW TESTAMENT PEOPLE, PLACES, & INTERESTING FACTS

- **JESUS** was born in the “West Bank” (Bethlehem).
- **JESUS** traveled to Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.
- Jesus came within 20 miles (33 kilometers) of Beirut, Lebanon.
- **JOSEPH & MARY** took **BABY JESUS** to Egypt (probably less than 150 miles) to escape Herod’s killing of baby boys in the “West Bank” town of Bethlehem.
- When **JESUS** was 12, he walked some 64 miles (103 kilometers) from His home in Nazareth to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover (Luke 2:42). Then he walked home with His family, making a round trip of some 128 miles (206 kilometers).
- **THE WISE MEN** who visited Mary and Joseph were probably from Iran or Saudi Arabia.
- **PAUL** was born in Turkey. Jewish name was Saul. Roman name was Paul.
- **PAUL** spent most of his ministry in Syria, Turkey, Greece, and Italy.
- **PAUL** never saw the Coliseum in Rome. It’s construction was begun some four years after his death.
- The Great Wall of China was built and the Mayan Calendar was invented about 200 years before **JESUS** was born.
- On his way to Rome, **PAUL** would have sailed past the city of Pompeii about 20 years before it was buried by ash and lava from Mt. Vesuvius’ volcanic eruption.

- **PAUL** preach to the elite of his day, including King Agrippa ,the great grandson of King Herod who had the baby boys killed after Jesus’ birth.
- Damascus is the oldest continuously occupied large city in the world.
- **PAUL** sent **TITUS** to Croatia (Dalmatia). If he traveled by land, Titus would have traveled through Bosnia, Serbia, Yugoslavia, Albania, or Greece.
- **MARS HILL** (the Areopagus) in Athens where Paul spoke, is a place where Athenians held meetings and tried murder cases.
- When “Asia” is mentioned in the Book of Acts, it refers to Asia Minor (present day Turkey) and not to the Far East or whole continent.
- **PAUL** traveled to two different Antiochs. One in Syria, and the other in Pisidia (Turkey)
- **CLEOPATRA** was queen of Egypt just 30 years before **JESUS** was born.
- Herod’s Temple, the temple of Jesus’ day, was destroyed forty uears after Jesus predicted it would be. Jonah was to warn Nineveh for forty days then destruction would come. Jews were warned for forty years then the destruction came.
- The of burning of the temple on August 10, A.D. 70 during the destruction of Jerusalem, took place 656 years to the exact month and day that Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians burned Solomon’s temple in 586 B.C.
- The siege of Jerusalem that led to its destruction in A.D. 70 began forty years to the week from the crucifixion of Christ.
- Some believe that Psalm 46 may have been translated by Shakespeare. The King James version of the Bible was printed when Shakespeare was 46 years old. Moreover, the 46th word from the beginning of the psalm is "shake" and the 46th word from the end of the psalm is "spear".

While this information may be of interest to those who hear it, what is more important is that one hears the information God has provided in His Word relative to the saving of one’s soul.