

Some Thoughts from Dr. Barnes

Genesis 12:1 — “Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.’” These words were spoken to Abraham while he was residing in Ur of the Chaldees, some fifty miles or so south of modern day Babylon in Iraq. Abraham would obey by traveling some 600 miles over to Haran where his father Nahor died at the age of 148. Abraham then traveled another 400 miles to Shechem in modern day Israel, arriving there in about 2091 B.C. A thousand miles in all brought Abraham to the land that God would show him. It was and still is a marvelous land that God chose for Abraham, and later for His own Son, Jesus Christ and His work of human redemption. For the serious Bible student and dedicated Christian, there is no other place in all the world like the Bible lands to bring one closer to God. One cannot travel to this wonderful part of the world and return home the same person they were before. Their lives change in a most remarkable way. Their knowledge of the Bible increases greatly. Their faith grows. Their desire to study the Bible more strengthened. My work there and my pilgrimages there have been many. The greatness of that place never grows old for me.

To help you become better acquainted with the Bible lands, I am sharing, in note form, this compilation of my Bible Lands Notes that began in 1971 and have been updated ever since. Having these materials in hand will help you better prepare for a visit to the Bible lands as well as help you to explain your slides or photographs to others when you return home.

As you journey through the pages of this compilation, do so with these thoughts in mind:

- Some dates and mileages may vary from source to source. I have stated the figures that have resulted from my own research. Since I continue to study on, in future years I will adjust them if need be.
- The section, “I Went Up to Jerusalem,” was read in a devotional in Jerusalem back in 1971 by a fellow worker from Texas. The material was originally written by my dear brother in Christ, Batsell Barrett Baxter. Upon requesting and receiving a copy, I have adapted it and have used it in a variety of ways. On numerous occasions I have read it in devotionals in

Jerusalem after we have taken a walking tour of many of the sites mentioned therein in and around the old city of Jerusalem. Having been to the sites will make it more meaningful for you. It certainly has for me.

- These “**Bible Lands Notes**” can be most helpful in preparing background material for Bible classes, sermons, or just personal Bible study.
- These notes have been gleaned from many sources throughout the years.
- These notes can be especially helpful to those who visit the Bible Lands.

While the Biblical sites are vastly important, may I request that when you visit, take time to get to know the people. There are some lovely people in the Middle East, and you will treasure any new friendship that you develop. Especially try to meet your brothers and sisters In Christ wherever you travel in the Bible lands or anywhere else for that matter. We have some fine brethren in Israel. Some are Palestinian (Arab), and some are Jewish. While there be sure to visit the church building in Nazareth and Galilee Christian High School in Eilaboun. The Jewish brethren own a meeting place in Jerusalem. Difficulties between the Jews and Arabs in recent years have fragmented the work in some places. Nonetheless, the Lord’s church has been replanted in Jerusalem and Israel, thanks to the efforts of brethren Ralph T. Henley, Ernest O. Stewart, and later, others through the years. While the work may be difficulty, it is indeed most rewarding.

Again, prepare well for your journey of a lifetime. It is indeed “**An Earthly Journey with a Heavenly Meaning,**” a trip of a lifetime.

Shalom!

Donnie S. Barnes

