

The Jerusalem Field School Syllabus

www.jerusalemfieldschool.com

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Program Objectives

Objectives:

1. See how the Gospel is woven through the Old and New Testaments
2. Develop a historical framework
3. Work with the primary sources
4. Use the study of the ancient world to open a window into the present

Course Objectives

Bible Survey

1. Organized around a survey of the Bible in which major themes are traced from their beginnings in the Pentateuch to their fullest expression in Christ
2. The narrative told simply, unencumbered by apologetics
3. Taught in a transferable way with the goal of encouraging students to teach others also

Archaeology / Ancient Near Eastern History

1. Provide the necessary historical and theological context needed to appreciate the archaeological sites and museums
2. Discuss some of the controversies surrounding the interpretation of ancient sites and their artifacts
3. Visit museum with the goal of perceiving continuity and change in the ancient world
4. Explore how some “progressive” social movements are rooted in the past
5. Spend two weeks on an archaeological excavation

Field Trips

1. Intersperse classroom study with fieldtrips with the goal of breaking up the monotony of focused study
2. See the trade routes, boundaries, cities, villages, water sources, battlegrounds, temples, high places, tombs... the historical geography of the land
3. Walk through the ancient ruins with excavation report in hand
4. Go off the beaten path and take time to explore the places we visit

Research

1. Take advantage of the excellent libraries in Jerusalem with the goal of developing skills:
 - a. read critically
 - b. write clearly
 - c. employ methods of research
 - d. defend a thesis

Music

1. Choral singing in some of the beautiful churches in Israel that have incredible acoustics

Outline

Week 1

1. Jerusalem Orientation
 - a. An introduction to the geography of Jerusalem from the Teyelet
 - b. A walk through the Old and New City
 - c. Places to shop, hang out, etc.
 - d. Places to avoid
2. Bible
 - a. Introduction to the Bible
 - i. Texts
 - ii. Translations
 - iii. The Word
 - iv. Prophecy
 - b. Genesis 1-2
3. History
 - a. The address by Friedrich Delitzsch to a prestigious audience in Berlin which included Kaiser Wilhelm II. The response to Delitzsch in what has been called 'The Babel and Bible Controversy and what this tells us about Germany at the beginning of the 20th century.
4. Theology
 - a. The names of God
 - i. The Names of God in the OT: Elohim and YHWH
 - ii. The names of God in the NT
 - iii. The names of God in the Magic Papyri and Aramaic Magic Bowls
 - b. God of the Philosophers
 - i. Maimonides
 - ii. Spinoza
 - iii. Descartes
 - c. God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

- i. Augustine
 - ii. Pascal
- 5. Archaeology
 - a. Introduction to Archaeology
 - b. The Tel and the emergence of cities in the ANE
 - i. Jericho, Megiddo
 - c. Ancient inscriptions and writing
 - i. the emergence of the alphabet
 - ii. Ostraca and Seal Inscriptions from Israel
 - iii. The Israelite Onomasticon
 - d. Dead Sea Scrolls
 - i. The discovery
 - ii. The Biblical books
 - iii. The extra-Biblical texts
- 6. Field Study
 - a. Israel Museum
 - i. Neolithic, Chalcolithic and EBA exhibits
 - ii. Model of Jerusalem
 - iii. Dead Sea Scrolls
 - b. Jericho – possible hike

Required Reading

- Genesis 1 & 2; Exodus 3; Isaiah 40
- Anselm – Proslogion – Selected Reading
- Betz, H. D. (1992). The Greek magical papyri in translation, including the Demotic spells. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- Dever, W., Sacred Time, Sacred Place : Archaeology and the Religion of Israel. “Theology, Philology, and Archaeology”
- Easwaran, E. The Bhagavad Gita. - “Wisdom from Realization”
- Heschel, A. J. (2001). The Prophets. New York, Perennial. “Philosophy of Pathos” pgs. 319-343
- Kerouac, J. Dharma Bums. Selected Readings
- Smolin, L. The Life of the Cosmos. “Introduction”, “The Flower and the Dodecahedron”, “Philosophy, Religion and Cosmology”
- Tozer, A.W., Knowledge of the Holy. “Why We Must Think Rightly About God”

Week 2

- 1. Bible
 - a. Genesis 3 – The Fall
 - b. Lamech and Noah

- c. Abraham and Lot
- 2. History
 - a. The 'Atheism Dispute' that arose in Jena at the end of the 18th century
- 3. Theology
 - a. The God of nature or Nature's god?
 - i. Baal worship
 - ii. Akhenaton and the Hymn to Aten
 - iii. Should monotheism be defined by its 'exclusivity' or 'intolerance' or was there something more fundamental at stake that represents an essential break between two very different ways of conceiving God and Nature?
 - b. Nietzsche's Antichrist - Christ vs. Dionysus
- 4. Archaeology - ANE
 - a. The archaeology of Abraham
 - b. ANE Iconography
 - i. What symbols mean and how that meaning can change... a lot!
 - ii. What's wrong with this picture?
 - iii. The symbols and pictures of ancient Israel. (Is that a branch or a goddess?)
 - 1. Stamp Seals and Bullae
 - 2. Inscriptions
 - 3. Figurines
- 5. Field Study
 - a. Hebron Area
 - i. Mamre
 - ii. Machpelah
 - iii. Tel Rumeidah
 - iv. The Shepherd's Fold
 - v. Potter's Shop
 - b. Dead Sea (overnight camping trip)
 - i. Wadi Arugot
 - ii. Ein Gedi
 - iii. Jericho, Bethel & Ai, Birj Beitin (Day Trip)

Required Reading

- Genesis 3, 22; Hebrews 11
- ANET – The Hymn to the Aten
- Heine, H., et al. (2007). On the history of religion and philosophy in Germany and other writings. Cambridge, UK ; New York, Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3
- I Maccabees - "Persecution and Revolt"
- Mazar, A., Archaeology of the Land of the Bible. "Mighty Canaanite City States"

- Nadler, S. M. (1999). Spinoza : a life. Cambridge, U.K. ; New York, Cambridge University Press. pgs. 182-202
- Nietzsche, F. W., et al. (2005). The Anti-Christ, Ecce homo, Twilight of the idols, and other writings. New York, Cambridge University Press. “Ecce Homo”
- Ovid and A. Mandelbaum (1993). The Metamorphoses of Ovid. New York, Harcourt Brace. Book I:1-402

Week 3

1. Bible
 - a. Moses and the Exodus
 - b. Sinai
 - i. The Law
 - ii. The Tabernacle
 - c. The Conquest and Period of the Judges
2. History
 - a. A short history of magic:
 - i. Marduk
 - ii. Simon Magus
 - iii. Giordano Bruno
 - iv. Goethe's *Faust*
3. Theology
 - a. The Babylonian Creation Epic (Enuma Elish)
 - b. How the Babylonian cosmogony is reflected in the later philosophical schools of the Greco-Roman period
 - c. Why the magic rituals used to care for idols are rooted in a very different conception of nature from that which is found in the Bible (Genesis 1; Isaiah 44:9-20; Acts 8:9-11)
 - d. The Mis Pi Ritual and Isaiah 44
 - e. Ritual vs. Ritualism
 - i. Divination - Meditation
 - ii. Psalms – Prayer
 - f. How modern science was captured by natural philosophy
4. Archaeology – ANE Studies
 - a. Pottery and Chronology
 - b. Egypt – The Hyksos and the New Kingdom – Where is the Exodus?
 - c. Archaeology of the Conquest
5. Field Study
 - a. The Rockefeller Museum - pottery through the ages
 - b. The Negev (2 days – one night camping in desert)
 - i. Arad
 - ii. Beersheva

- iii. Wilderness of Zin
- iv. Timnah
- v. Eilat
- c. Israel Museum (1/2 Day)
 - i. The Canaanite exhibits

Required Reading

- Isaiah 44; Acts 8; Galatians 4:1-11
- Benjamin Foster, Before The Muses: An Anthology Of Akkadian Literature, “The Creation Epic”
- Bruno, G. and A. D. Imerti (2004). The Expulsion of the Triumphant Beast. Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press. “Introduction & Selected Readings”
- Dawkins, Richard (2011) The Magic of Reality - “Selected Readings”
- Goethe, J. W. v. and D. Luke (1998). Faust. Part two. Oxford ; New York, Oxford University Press. – “The Classical Walpurgis Night”
- Mazar, A., Archaeology of the Land of the Bible. “Under the Shadow of Egyptian Domination”
- Richards, R. J. (2002). The Romantic Conception of Life : Science and Philosophy in the Age of Goethe. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- Tishby, I., The Wisdom of the Zoar, An Anthology of Texts. “En-Sof and the World of Emanation”

Week 4

1. Bible
 - a. the United Monarchy
 - b. the Psalms
 - c. From Solomon to the Exile
 - d. Hezekiah’s and Josiah’s Reforms
 - e. The Prophets
2. History
 - a. The significance of Macalister's discovery of the high place at Gezer and the questions it raised about Canaanite religion
 - b. A History of Morals
 - i. Book of the Dead: The negative confession
 - ii. Aristophanes, *Clouds*
 - iii. The Roman Historians: Livy, Sallust, Juvenal, Tacitus
 - iv. Augustine, *City of God*
 - v. A. Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago; The Templeton Address*
 - c. The Beatnicks and Buddhism in the West
3. Theology

- a. The Documentary Hypothesis
 - i. The historical method popularized by Hegel and how it might have influenced Wellhausen's construction of Old Testament history
 - b. The Biblical Historian
 - i. “*Rak ha bamot lo saru*” – “But the high places were not removed...”
 - ii. The Baal Cult
 - iii. Syrian fertility rituals in the Greco-Roman Period
 - c. Law and Ritual in the OT & NT
 - i. Ritual and Sacrifice
 - ii. The Confession
 - iii. Atonement - OT
 - iv. Grace - NT
4. Archaeology
- a. The archaeology of the Conquest
 - b. The Canaanite temples at Megiddo, Shechem, Hazor, Lachish
 - c. Archaeology of David
 - i. The City of David
 - ii. Kirbet Keiafa
 - d. Archaeology of the High Places
 - i. Gezer
 - ii. Dan
 - iii. Banias
5. Field Trip
- a. City of David
 - b. The Broad Wall
 - c. Central Hill Country (1 Day)
 - i. Shiloh
 - ii. Gerizim
 - iii. Shechem
 - iv. Jacob’s Well
 - v. Samaria
 - d. Shephelah (1 Day)
 - i. Gezer
 - ii. Azekah
 - iii. Elah Valley
 - iv. K. Keiafa
 - v. Gath
 - vi. Lachish
 - vii. Maressa

Required Reading

- 2 Sam. 23:1-7; Isaiah 7-11; 2 Kings 18-19
- Augustine, City of God – “The Cult of the Mother Goddess”
- Aristophanes – Clouds
- Juvenal – 3rd Satire
- Sallust - The Conspiracy of Catiline - “Rome in the Late Republican Period”
- Solzhenitsyn, A. The Templeton Address
- Wellhausen, J. – Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel “The Evolution of the Sacrificial System”
- Wyatt, N. Religious Texts from Ugarit. Biblical Seminar. 2nd ed. London; New York: Sheffield Academic Press, 2002. KTU 1.1-1.6
- Bloom, A. The Closing of the American Mind, - “Introduction”, “Music”

Week 5

1. Bible
 - a. Inter-testament Period
 - b. The Birth of Christ
 - c. The Life of Christ
 - d. The Death and Resurrection of Christ
2. History
 - a. Antiochus Epiphanes and the Maccabean Revolt
 - i. The cult of Empire
 - ii. The cult of Inclusivism
 - b. Arthur Koestler, “Escape from Nirvana”
3. Theology
 - a. From the Tophet in Jerusalem to the Colosseum in Rome (Beware the mostly dead!).
 - b. The Bronze Age *marzeah* and its evolution in the Greco-Roman period
 - c. Life after Death in the Old and New Testaments
 - d. The Resurrection of Christ
4. Archaeology
 - a. Tombs and Burial Practices in Ancient Israel
 - i. The Carthaginian Tophets
 - ii. Tombs of Silwan
 1. The Tomb of Pharaoh’s Daughter
 2. The Tomb of the Royal Steward
 - a. A royal face-off between the prophet Isaiah and the Royal Steward who built his tomb
 3. Tomb of the Kings
 - iii. Ketef Hinnom - The Silver Scrolls
 - b. Egyptian Mortuary Customs

- i. The Heart Scarabs
 - ii. How to get to heaven when you die complete with map and charter boat.
 - c. Tombs in the Greco Roman Period
 - i. The Orphic Gold Tablets
 - ii. The Sidonian tombs at Maressa
 - iii. Two Roman period sarcophagi and two ways to die
- 5. Field Trip (one evening)
 - a. Israel Museum – Greco-Roman Period
- 6. Field Trip
 - a. The last days of Jesus (1 Day)
 - i. Bethany
 - ii. Mount of Olives
 - iii. Cenacle - The Upper Room
 - iv. Gabbatha
 - v. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher
 - vi. Tomb of Ananias
 - b. The End of Herod’s Jerusalem (1 Day)
 - i. Temple Mount
 - ii. Western Wall
 - iii. Tunnel Tour
 - iv. Burnt House
 - v. Wohl Museum

Required Reading

- Isaiah 22, Jonah 1-4, John 12-21
- ANET – “Book of the Dead”
- Augustine, Confessions - “Monica honors the dead”
- Arthur Koestler, Escape from Nirvana
- Dead Sea Scrolls – “The Damascus Document”
- Josephus – “Pharisees and Sadducees”

Week 6

- 1. Bible
 - a. The Acts & the Epistles
- 2. History
 - a. Antiochus Epiphanes and the Maccabean Revolt
 - i. The cult of Empire
 - ii. The cult of Inclusivism
- 3. Archaeology
 - a. The Archaeology of Herod
 - b. Constantine and his churches

- c. The architecture of the Byzantine and Crusader Period
 - d. Islam according to its monuments
4. Theology
 - a. The Kingdom of Christ
 5. Free weekend
 - a. Go to the beach!

Required Reading

- Daniel 8-9; Acts 12; Acts 25-26
- Augustine, Confessions – “The Games and the Theatre”
- Lewis, C.S., The Abolition of Man
- Hobbes T. – Leviathan – Selected Readings
- Josephus, Jewish War – “Herod’s Rise to Power”, “Herod’s Last Days”
- Kirk, R., The Conservative Mind – “Tocqueville”
- Mazar, A., Archaeology of the Land of the Bible “The Divided Kingdom”
- Procopius, The Wars of Justinian – Nika Riots
- Suetonius: The Lives of the Twelve Caesars - “Diocletian”
- Sir Robert Anderson – The Coming Prince
- Wolfe, T., The Painted Word

Week 7-8 - Library

1. Final Project - Students are required to complete one 15 page paper using the library resources provided.
 - a. Introduction to Research Methods
 - b. Library Tour
 - c. Writing style and paper formats
 - d. Guided research on a topic chosen by the student
 - e. 15 page paper + Bibliography

Required Reading

- William Strunk Jr., The Elements of Style

Week 9-10 – Archaeological Excavation

Week 11 – Tour of Galilee

1. Tour of the North
 - a. Bet Shean, Gilboa, Bet Alpha
 - b. Tiberius, Capernaum, Taghba, Bethsaida / Geshur

- c. Hazor
- d. Dan
- e. Banias – Caesarea Phillipi
- f. The Golan
- g. Nazareth
- h. Sepphoris
- i. Megiddo
- j. Carmel – Muhraqa, Stella Maris
- k. Acco, Dor, Aphek
- l. Caesarea Maritima
- m. Old city of Jaffa

Week 12 – Tour of Jordan

- a. The Jordan National Museum
- b. Gadara, Pella, Machaniam / Penuel, Tishbi, Deir Alla
- c. Gerassa, Rabbah Amman, Heshbon, Madaba, Nebo, Peor
- d. Aroer, Dibon, Atararuz, Khirbet Tannur
- e. Wadi Rum (overnight)
- f. Petra, Bosrah, Selah
- g. Bab ed Drah, Arnon (hike)