

Joan Porter Thomas

Professor R. Steven Notley

BIB 381: Land of the Bible

Attendance Summary

Professor Notley stated by saying we will move North this week in our studies. The topic is Samaria, he said we will look at the central and the middle country of Samaria. The area where Joseph was sold by his brothers and the story of Jacob will be highlighted on the map marking for this week.

He said he forgot to put in the dropbox for attendance summary for last week. He spoke of the challenge of the Samaritans in relation to transportation in that time as the plains were flat and they had flooding issues.

He said Spring there was named after Herod the Great's son, Anthropos. It is today, Tel Aviv. He also said it the place where the children of Israel took the Ark of the covenant from its place at Shiloh, to battle against the Philistine and they captured it. It was also mentioned in the New Testament, where whilst Paul was being taken to prison to, on their way the stop at Anthropos. He pointed out that, the Akron river, coast new Tel Aviv was very important as it affects travel, battle and settlement.

The marking of the Maps will be centered around Gath, Southern plain of Samaria, Where Goliath came from. Megiddo, Southern end of Samaria, Dothan, foot of Samaria Bath Sam, southern edge and Jericho to the East, to the Jordan Valley, the Hill country. These are the Are that surrounds Samaria. Samaria is called "Sabastia" today. Doctor Notley said he hope to go there in a few weeks, based on him getting an Arabian interpreter and the level of tension. The is a great temple built by Herod the great on top of what they belief to be Ahab's Palace. There is an history of layering. Tirzah, (most internal), Jezreel and were royal residents for the kingdom of Israel. Bethel retains its important

as a cultic site and altar is built there. There is a debate whether this Bethel is the Biblical Bethel. One archeologist, Scott Stripling, claimed he has found it.

He said there will be an exhibition at the Museum of the Bible and Dr Garcia is expected to make a presentation. He said Samaritans are diminishing people. He talks about the story of the Good Samaritans and coauthoring a documentary and jokes that he is just not about stones and dirt. He spoke how the community is split in half, and how a Samaritan gets their nationality in regards to genealogy. One student asked if they are from there. The population as it stands has a population of 850 people. They are having genetic issues, because if inbred. The marriages are arranged and if the suitor is not accepted they are allowed to take a wife from Ukraine. One student asked, why not Russia, Professor stated that it was found that fifty percent of who claim to be Jewish in Russia, are not really Jewish. He said Abishai Scroll is the oldest scroll and they are the only nation still offering live sacrifice. They still write Torah by hand, and lamented of who will carry out the tradition in the younger generation.

A very interesting film was shown about the customs and traditions of the Samaritans, it was interesting to hear the stories about the tradition of marriage (Babel in their language). The mothers come together and have the suitor come and the girl choose one. One man was rejected three(3) times so there was a scene where he went to the airport to meet his Ukrainian girl.

One man said he was going to Brazil the Samaritan way, as a group was willing to accept the religion, the leader was not pleased, the gentleman says he would not bring back the first generation. But hoping their children and grandchildren would be ready in later years.

