

Joan Porter Thomas

Professor Steven R. Notely

BIB381 Land of the Bible (NO)

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Book Review – **CARTA'S NEW CENTURY HANDBOOK AND ATLAS OF THE BIBLE**

The first chapter of the book speaks about the beginning of civilization and how it was divided into three branches of generations coming from Noah's son, Shem, Japhet and Ham, representing Canaan/Israel. This land was found by "modern scholars" to be descendant of Ham, linguistically.

In chapter two (2) speaks of the Land being promised to Abraham, "Promised Land" (Genesis 15: 18 – 21). And of its geographical identity, time of existence, location, borders amenities and climate.

Chapter three (3) speaks of its existence throughout the Bronze Ages, specifically of its way of living, its successes and defeats, which evidence of archaeological activities uncovered, such as pottery, burial sites and weapons.

Chapter four (4) archaeologists' activities continue and uncovered more finds, it also speaks of Abraham's migration from Ur to Canaan, where he and his family resides, which is considered "migration under divine guidance" (Gen. 12: 1 – 5). A special place of worship. Bethel and Abraham activities. Many such sites that Abraham and his sons visited and built altars, became significant to the Israelites in later years. His name was also changed from Abram to Abraham, and Sarai's to Sarah. (Gen. 17). Jacobs, his son and Jacob's family also returned to this land after his exile at his uncle's house. There was a migration to Egypt by this family. Where years after they were enslaved. Whilst they were away the land was captured. The story is told of their deliverance from the oppression in Egypt and the

route they took to get out, as well as the events that occurred whilst in the wilderness. The wilderness itinerary (Num. 33: 1 - 49). MOUNT SINAI = HOREB = MOUNT PARAN. Various battles were fought, in various places, against various tribes and the land was reclaimed, with God's help.

Chapter five (5) highlighted the various battles, where they were fought, who oversaw each battle and the outcome. It speaks of the division of the land, by tribe, Jacob's sons, successive leaders and their acts in their time. It tells of the Judges that were placed as authorities over the Israelites and how they asked for a king and got Saul, the first king and many successive kings thereafter. Geographical names were integrated in the genealogical framework.

Chapter six (6) went on to describe the activities of the various kings, the kingdom they built, the places they lived, did business, worshipped and conquered. Even the fight among themselves.

Chapter seven (7) to Chapter fourteen (14) spoke of more military actions under the various heads of state, the battle they lost because of disobedience to God and the one they won, because they obeyed. The archeologists found coins, many letters, fertility figurine found in the Jewish Quarter excavations in Jerusalem, Iron 11. (pp. 139), Relief and trilingual inscription of Darius 1 at Behistun (pp. 154), and many more throughout the chapters. Pottery head (pp 159), Remains of Samaritan temple (pp. 204) and entrance hall to tomb cave 1 at Marisa (pp. 205). The story of the Hasmonean, rise, reign and decline is told.

Chapter fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) tell the rise, reign and death of Herod and the Kingdom he built, at Jericho, Masada, Caesarea, Sebaste (Samaria), Herodium and Jerusalem, after the reign of the

Hasmonean decline. In chapter 16, we see where his kingdom was divided amongst his sons. He violated the Law of God plenty.

Chapter seventeen (17) speaks of the gospels and where the activities took place. The ministry of John the Baptist and the event of the Baptism of Jesus is told. Jesus' activities, His prediction of the destruction of the temple, the places he travelled and where he died and buried are also spoken of.

Chapter eighteen (18) and nineteen (19) speak of where the church began and the places where it spread to by the disciples and Paul whom Jesus had called and sent to spread the gospel and plant churches. Pictures of many ruins connected to the times, which were found by archeologists over time, along with maps charting out the journeys and routes they took, are displayed in this chapter.

Chapter twenty (20) speaks of a very important find, documents and artifacts from the period of "The Bar Kochba Revolt, 132 to 135 CE" "In 1952 documents were discovered in Wadi Murabba at the vicinity of the Dead Sea" "1961 - 1962, a cache of letter was also found within the Judean desert." These finds raise the question of the cause of the revolt. The locations of the revolt are highlighted.

This book gave a lot of information about the events of the Israelites and where they took place, right down to the time of Jesus. It was very informative and gives a rather visual perspective on the places in the stories I read in the Bible daily. I am not sure if ordinarily I would have sought out this information had it not being required of me in this course, but knowledge is a good thing. I was encouraged by various scriptures in the lessons, one such is, if I obey God and trust in Him, He will fight for me every step of the way.

I realize this is your passion and I commend you and your colleagues for your dedicated and hard work.

I know there are people who are really interested in the information you provide. I know it gives you great satisfaction to provide such. I encourage you to keep on serving in your capacity, everyone has a calling, and I am sure you are fulfilling yours. I cannot speak as an expert on this book. I only give my humble and honest opinion. I would surely recommend it to anyone who is interested in the geographical aspect of the Bible. Your passion makes your work credible and thorough.