

ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

COURSE SYLLABUS

BIB 417 - The Land and the Book: Studies in the Land of Israel

John W. Moore, Faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Designed to enhance sermon and classroom instruction for preachers and teachers of the Bible, this extremely helpful and practical course will focus on understanding the geography, history, and archaeology of the Bible Lands and its geopolitical and cultural backgrounds and settings from both the ancient and modern eras. Students will be required to learn about the geography of Israel (which includes the elements of climate, topography, geology, hydrology, archaeology, and horticulture) and the major theological themes associated with the geography and settings of the Bible story. Understanding the content of these elements and themes, and being able to participate in an actual field study, will better equip teachers and preachers for sermon and lesson development as they seek to explain and defend the biblical text. A Bible Land studies course will bring color, clarity, and a deeper understanding to many customs, words, and practices of the peoples and settings of the Bible story and its historical and geographical context. Students completing this course will never look at the Bible in the same way again. Their understanding and knowledge of the biblical text will grow at an exponential rate. The information and experiences gained from the course will put enrollees in a better position to fully exegete the biblical text, share the word, defend the faith, and evangelize the lost. This course will also allow students to grow on a personal level, both educationally and spiritually. A trip to the land of the Bible is unique, exciting, and helpful, but to walk and study in the land where Jesus walked is both enlightening and transformative.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

DATE: READING & ASSIGNMENTS:

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

Prior to Departure	Read Rasmussen Text pp. 1-28	
	Read article "The Value and Importance of Bible Geography"	
	Read article "The Land Between"	
	Read pp. 1-5 in Regional Study Guide	
	Complete Selected Map Assignments from Regional Study Guide (Events 1, 3, 4, 7, 12, 18, 24)	
During Studies Tour		
	Attend scheduled lectures	TBA
	Complete Field Notes in <i>Geobasics In the Land of the Bible</i>	TBA
	Interact with Field and Study Maps	TBA
Following Studies Tour		
	A five page Impression Paper due one month following return	

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & SUPPLIES

1. *Atlas of the Bible* by Carl G. Rasmussen (Zondervan Publications)
2. *Regional Study Guide: Introductory Map Studies In The Land of The Bible:* by Steve P. Lancaster and James M. Monson. (Free Download at Biblical Backgrounds Inc.)
3. *Geobasics In the Land of the Bible: Maps for Marking* by James M. Monson and Steven Lancaster.
4. *Regional Study Maps* #'s 1-7 (to be used with the *Regional Study Guide*)
5. Multi-colored map pencils and markers
6. Downloadable Notes and Materials from John W. Moore