

WALKING IN THE LAND OF THE BIBLE [Paul E. Engle]
Session #1 Orientation to the Land of the Bible

INTRO.

1. Story of what happened during first trip to Israel:
2. Can anyone guess how many tourists visit the Holy Land each year?

I. WHAT ARE SOME REASONS TO STUDY THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE LAND OF THE BIBLE?

A. To see connections between _____

- The Bible overflows with geographical information.
- Flip and point method of reading the Bible.

B. To develop a mental _____

- Moving from Grand Rapids to Charlotte:
- My professor at Jerusalem University College:
- Contrast between the Bible and the Koran : How do they differ?
- **Dr. John A Beck**, "*The Land of Milk and Honey: An Introduction to the Geography of Israel*: 'Physical geography also leads to an investigation of the artful use of geography in the writing process. We call this literary phenomenon 'literary geography.' As the inspired authors of the Bible wrote, they were led by the Holy Spirit to include geography in the telling of their stories and in the shaping of their poetry. It is clear that they intended to shape their readers through the careful use of geographical references. Perhaps you have been in the habit of reading quickly past references to place names, topography, geology, or natural resources. Literary geography challenges us to slow our reading pace and ask how the biblical author may be employing geography to inform our understanding of God's truth and solicit our trust in Him.'" (p.13-14)

- II. **THE GORILLA EXPERIMENT**: A famous experiment was conducted several years ago at Harvard University. Have any of you heard of the **Gorilla Experiment**? Here's how it worked and what they discovered. How does it apply to Bible reading?

II. LUKE'S PROLOGUE AND ITS LESSONS FOR HOW WE READ THE NT.

Background on the life of Dr. Luke:

What was his main accomplishment?

Read Lk. 1:1-4

1. Luke artistically crafted the prologue in a high form of the finest literary Greek in the entire NT.
2. What's the name of the person he's addressing? What does his name mean? Who was he?

Let's look at three things Luke tells us about his work in writing this Gospel

- a. Luke has _____
- b. Luke has also _____
- c. Luke also worked _____

CONCLUSION:

- *"What would it have been like to travel the roads and pathways of the Promised Land in the footsteps of Jesus? Imagine following the crowds as they gathered on the hillsides in Galilee to listen to His messages, or to feast on the loaves and fish He provided. Or picture yourself squeezing past the crowd filling the narrow street outside Peter's house in Capernaum, all waiting to visit with the Great Physician. Or think what it would have been like to stop for a cool, refreshing drink of water by the well in Samaria as Jesus talked with a woman about the living water He could provide. Or imagine listening to hundreds of coins clattering across the temple courtyard as Jesus upended the tables of the money changers...."*
- *"The purpose of this book is not merely to help you understand more accurately the Word of God, as important as that is. Rather my desire is to help you fall more in love with the God of the Word as you journey through the land with the Son of God."*
(Charles Dyer, *Thirty Days in the Land with Jesus*, 2012)

