**Biblical Places: The Topography of the Holy Land and Beyond**

The Bible is the most geographically rooted of all sacred texts. Bible stories teem with place names. God’s drama plays out amidst a varied landscape of cities, rivers, roads, oases, deserts, and mountains, most of which can be identified. In scripture every journey, every battle, and every meeting is determined, in some way, by the terrain.

To better understand the major events of the Bible--the call of Abraham, the wanderings of the Israelites in the wilderness, the ministry of Jesus, the journeys of the apostles--it is extremely useful to know the lay of the land in which these events occurred. It is especially important to locate the small region of Canaan in the larger geographical context of the Middle East and the great powers that lay beyond its narrow confines: Egypt to the southwest, Assyria, Babylon and Persia to the East, Asia Minor to the north. Geography also influences climate, and climate in turn determines social and economic patterns pf Biblical peoples. The roads and caravan routes that crisscrossed the region shaped important meeting points for individuals. They provide paths for mass migrations of peoples and movements of armies.

Using maps, photographs, and videos CE Elder Mark Weadon will lead a six-part study of the lands that figure in the Bible. Beginning with a broad geographical overview of the region we will zoom in to study the detailed paths of the patriarchs, the probable route(s) of the children of Israel seeking the promised land, the roads followed by invading Assyrians, Babylonians, and Romans. From the New Testament we will traces the paths of Jesus’ highly mobile ministry, the detailed urban geography of Jerusalem, and the varied sa and land routes taken the apostles to spread the Word.

**Class 1 - Biblical Geography 101—the Lay of the Land:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/DSVkbAm5nFbRpoeuth2hL6af-uC23Hbjpk1jJbYSoNs3HXYqVZdlHwvACrNTENY1.2TutehlFRxqy9QMJ

**Class 2 – The Paths of the Patriarchs:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/72L4859vfwvrSzDtOjAyuZpdURgooJsUPgP3KNkOZbcm4XGPCVFEwdy5rTSg9Ruy.EFH9XKAQXLdG-Qfg

**Class 3 – The Promised Land and its Neighbors:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/coW9CXpS7cq0c1WtUU719H5C0cvInYQD3kqF7yaGya0esMdvPRhsHDtUCBKZHUX7.kxsLpJGODWoIl30S

**Class 4 – The Topography of Jesus’ Ministry - The Walk He Walked:**https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/GMgRqulE\_ayXqoPGImw\_IROwYqtDen3adZc4ifbFG7-w9-mrPrGv3E7pj0-mI95u.eFCJYQ-NZ\_rbvdjZ

**Class 5 – The Urban Geography of Jerusalem:**<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/j16jtENqpYC6aR29a8YAd28-IK-6B3EBSp42zAr58LZ58uF_j1Q-dFMHp7RwaZFm.nJ9FdNWPuvMoVa1Q>

**Class 6 - Footsteps of the Apostles:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/QRMs0Uel1m_0_loYg9hFxVXGvOozTZyg3gUSV0mqir18m9n47cwoFdx8vUCUC_bg.jQVyLz3fNPYkQFD8>