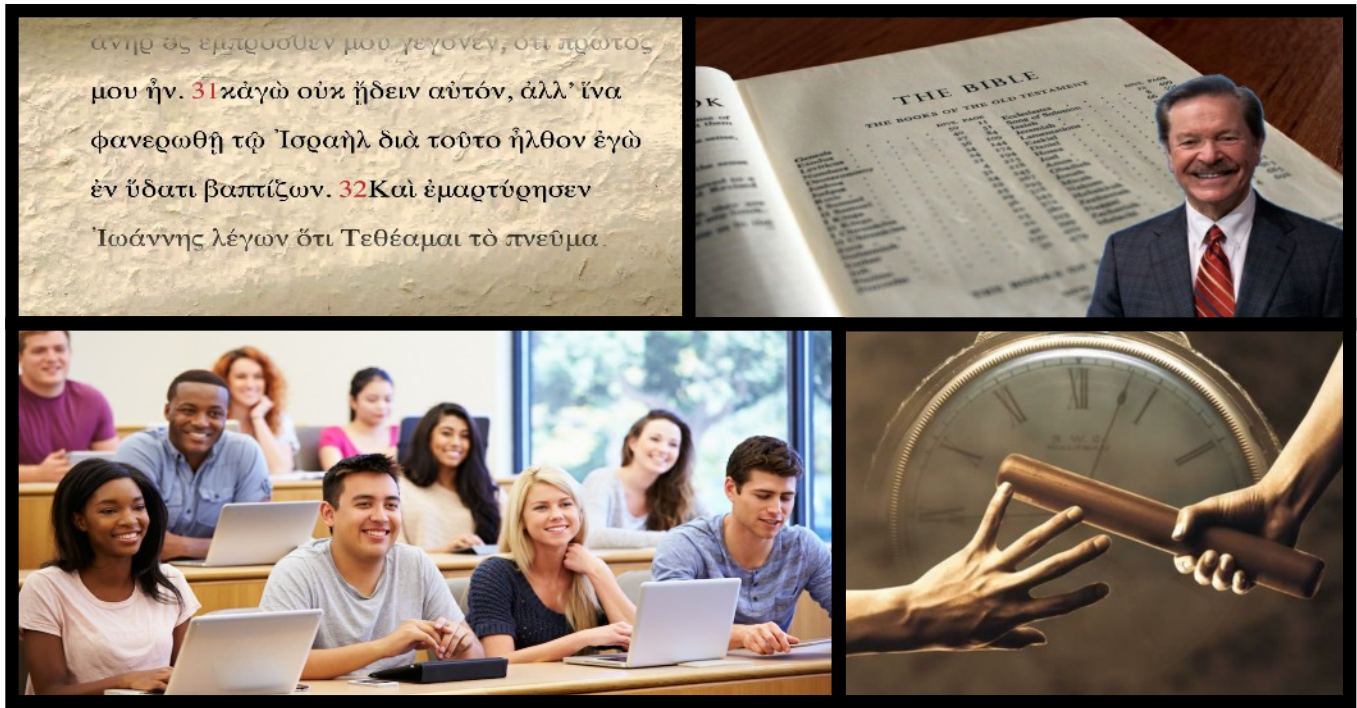


EMBASSY COLLEGE



SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

The Israel Tour: Virtual

HT610

Dr. Ron Cottle

HT610: THE ISRAEL TOUR Study Guide

Dr. Ronald E. Cottle

Textbook for the Course:
Israel: The Holy Land
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STUDY GUIDE

Israel

THE MIRACLE ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

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The Miracle on the Mediterranean

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Israel

THE MIRACLE ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean Sea

INTRODUCTION

God used the Mediterranean as the boundary for the people of Israel. It has always served as an important influence on Israel's life in terms of transportation and commerce.

READING

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast (Joshua 1:3-4).

1. ITS NAME

- A. The Mediterranean gets its name from Latin words meaning the “middle of the earth” or “sea in the midst of nations.” It is the world's chief trade route and is the very center of the ancient civilized world.
- B. In the Bible it is called the “great sea.”
- C. Zechariah refers to it as the “former sea.”

And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be (Zechariah 14:8).

2. THE SEA ITSELF

- A. The Mediterranean is the world's largest inland sea and one of the most important shipping routes in the world. About 965,000 square miles in size (a third the size of the USA). It is more than 14,000 feet deep at the deepest point. It is three times as long as it is wide. There are several important islands in the Mediterranean: Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Crete, Malta, and Cyprus.
- B. The people who live along the Mediterranean enjoy a warm, sunny climate. The winters are mild and dry.

3. BIRTHPLACE OF HISTORY

- A. Religion and civilization were mainly shaped in the Mediterranean area. The alphabet, pen and ink, mathematics, Greek philosophy, and Roman law were born here.
- B. In ancient times the Phoenicians used the Mediterranean as a trade route. Later, Greece, Rome, and Carthage fought for control of it. The Roman Empire, 2,000 years ago, called the Mediterranean *mare nostrum*, meaning "our sea." Jonah rode inside a whale on this sea.
- C. In this center of human captivity Jesus, the greatest man the world has ever known, was born, lived and died for the sins of mankind. The Apostle Paul traversed its waves and shores. The infant Christian Church rounded its shores.

4. THE PROPHETIC SEA

- A. The Mediterranean connects three racial continents: Asia, to the east, Africa to the south, and Europe to the north. On the west, the Strait of Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean with the Atlantic Ocean. Another strait, the Dardanellas, links the Mediterranean on the east with the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus, and the Black Sea.
- B. At no time in history has the world's attention been as focused upon the Middle East as in recent years. Russia, the Arab World, Europe and the United States all are watching this region intently and are maneuvering, sometimes behind the scenes and sometimes openly, to strengthen their interests and to circumvent the schemes of their rivals.

STUDY GUIDE

Israel

THE MIRACLE ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

Tel Aviv and Joppa

INTRODUCTION

The modern city of Tel Aviv encompasses the ancient city of Joppa, significant in both Old and New Testament days. Modern Tel Aviv is one of the most important cities of the nation economically.

READING

And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do (Acts 10:5-6).

1. MODERN TEL AVIV

- A. This city is the largest all-Jewish community in the world.
 - 1) It is the 2nd largest city in Israel.
 - 2) Thirty percent of the population of Israel lives in this vicinity.
- B. It was founded in 1908 as an extension of Jaffa (the ancient city of Joppa).
- C. The name means Hill of Spring and is taken from the Hebrew word *Tel-abib*.

Then I came to them of the captivity at Tel-abib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar; and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days (Ezekiel 3:15).

- D. The population of Tel Aviv was dispersed by a Turkish general during World War I, but returned immediately afterward.
- E. By 1921, Tel Aviv had become totally established and in that year became independent of Jaffa.
- F. Because of the 1947 United Nations resolution declaring Jerusalem to be an international city, Tel Aviv is the site for most diplomatic activity relating to Israel.
 - 1) Israel's declaration of independence was read here on May 4, 1948.
 - 2) All foreign embassies are located here.

2. ANCIENT JOPPA

- A. Joppa before Biblical days
 - 1) Joppa was an ancient seaport of the Canaanites.
 - 2) A citadel with 20-foot thick walls was built about 1250 B.C.
 - 3) The Egyptians captured the city by trickery about 1450 B.C. They sent large baskets of gifts into the walled city as a token of friendship. The gifts inside the baskets turned out to be 200 soldiers who captured the city by surprise.
 - 4) The city later came into the hands of the Philistines who held it until the time of Solomon.
- B. Joppa in the Bible
 - 1) When Joshua led the occupation of the Promised Land, he appointed Joppa to Dan. However, the Philistines prevented Dan from occupying the area and the tribe moved northward.

And the children of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon thee, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household. And the children of Dan went their way: and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house (Judges 18:25-26).

- 2) Solomon made Joppa a port city that served as the Mediterranean gateway to Jerusalem. The port was never totally adequate because it was too shallow for large boats to dock and the goods had to be conveyed to shore by smaller transfer boats. It did however serve as the main port for Israel until the present century.

- a) King Solomon received the timbers for the temple through this seaport.

And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 2:16).

- b) Ezra received the materials for his reconstruction through here.

They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters, and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them to Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia (Ezra 3:7).

- c) Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord from Joppa.

But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD (Johan 1:3).

- 3) The city was destroyed by Sennacherib the Assyrian in 726 B.C. (2 Kings 18).

- 4) In the New Testament times, Peter had two great experiences in this city.

- a) He raised Dorcas from the dead.

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had

washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter; she sat up (Acts 9:36-37, 40).

The tomb of Tabitha in a cave inside a Russian monastery commemorates this event.

- b) He had a vision which instructed him to take the gospel to the Gentiles.

And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of four footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him (Acts 10:10-15, 22-23).

A Moslem mosque dating from 1730 marks the presumed site of Simon the tanner's home, where Peter received this vision.

C. Joppa's violent history.

- 1) The city was conquered by the Greek emperor, Alexander the Great.
- 2) Alexander's successors, Ptolemy I and Antiochus III, each had a turn in capturing the city.

- 3) When Antiochus III took the city, he forced 200 Jews into boats and drowned them in the harbor. This action aroused a Jewish reaction in which Judas Maccabeas, the Jewish freedom fighter, burned the harbor.
- 4) Joppa was captured for the Roman Empire by Pompey and later given back to Jewish rule by Julius Caesar.
- 5) An anti-Roman revolt led to a total destruction of the city by the Roman Emperor Vespasian.
- 6) Many Crusader battles were fought around this seaport. Remains of three 13th Century crusader fortresses are still visible in the area.
- 7) In 1494, the governor of Gaza, monopolizing on the fact that Joppa was the most popular disembarking point for pilgrims coming from Europe, demanded payment from all the arrivals. He took 10 hostages and declared that he would skin them alive unless payment was made.
- 8) Napoleon razed the city in 1799. Napoleon's Hill, Tel Gerisa, which served as his campsite, is still visible on the northeast corner of the city.