

# DISCOVER THE BIBLE LANDS!

## THE DTBL! LOGO



The **olive tree** is God's metaphor.

The **roots** are living and give life to the tree. If the tree is cut down, *new life* springs forth from the *roots and stump*.

The **tree trunk** is *three but one* (Trinity).

The **seven branches** represent *God's sacred number, covenant between God and man, completion, and perfection* (examples: 7 days in a week; 7 branch Temple Menorah).

The **leaves** and **olives** reflect the stages of *growth, variety, maturity*, all responding to *root life and light*.

Ultimately, the **olive tree** gives life when *eaten and used in never-ending ways*.

Finally, the **branch** below represents the *broken and grafted-in branches* (Rom. 11:11-24;25), as well as the *branch prophecies* (Isaiah 4, 11, 53; Jeremiah 23, 33; Zechariah 3, 9).



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**Discover The Bible Lands!**  
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All references throughout DTBL! Study Manual: King James Version unless noted.

**Dedicated to my family**  
with special favor to Brayden, my precious grandson,  
who is living proof of God's design.  
(Psalm 139:1-18)

***Discover The Bible Lands! Board***

**Dr. Russel Jones (in memory)**

**To those who have faithfully gone before me  
leaving a trail to follow with the true *Bread of Life*.**

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**Please note:**

Throughout the **Discover The Bible Lands! Study Manual**, occasionally **BOLD text** has been used to expedite teaching and speed reading.

# INTRODUCTION

## *Discover The Bible Lands! & Kay Ritzman Money's History*

**M**y first visit to Israel, in the 1970's, changed my life forever. With every step I took, there was an awesome discovery. Having read the Bible many times through, I found a whole new frame-of-reference. Now every day the Scriptures become richer, with more clarity, as the panoramic *word pictures* in the Word reveal themselves. Just as the olive tree is planted, day by day it grows to maturity and continues to give fruit into old age.



In the early 1990's, I returned to the Land taking a whole new method of touring. It was a one-of-a-kind *scholarly* approach. It was not the typical touristy "Holy Land" junket. It was a life-changing experience.

**The Trigger Quote:** For over 20 years, my question remained the same, "Why *that* Land?" No one had the answer. On the first day, the scholar guide said, "History does not repeat itself without explaining itself, and the explanation is usually geographical." (George Adam Smith) I finally had a foundation with which to work but there was something else missing in that statement; it was the *culture* aspect. Suddenly, I saw a triangle with **geography** as the foundation on which the **culture** developed with the ensuing **history** at the top level. True, there are other influences, invading cultures etc., but that was the basic model. The geography was *foundational*. Finally, I had found solid answers to many of my nearly life-long questions!

As we walked that Land, it was evident that people were not absorbing the experience to its fullest – they simply were not prepared for such an extraordinary journey. I remember voicing my lament to Dr. Russel Jones, as we walked down the Mount of Olives. His comment was "Kay, you have to do it...you **HAVE** to get a group and do that [bridge the gap]!" Scoffing at the notion and giving every conceivable reason why I couldn't do such a thing, I knew by the time we reached the Garden of Gethsemane that God had *called me* to do just that. The rest, as they say, is history.

**Where to begin with such a challenge?** Without the *big picture* on the puzzle box, fitting the small pieces together to make the *whole* was nearly impossible. Tour groups had to be prepared properly



in order to bridge what one *thinks they know* and what they then learn on site during this in-depth, scholarly kind of touring. The preparation had to begin with the Land itself.

The *geography / topography* was absolutely foundational. Then, learning had to expand into the ancient *Middle Eastern / Jewish Culture, Biblical / ancient History, and the Hebraic (Jewish) roots in the Christian faith.*

**Those would be the tools that would link the Land to the Word. The Bible is indeed touchable; Scripture often explains itself in the Land.**

## **The Land is God's Visual Tool**

It is my prayer that with these materials you will begin to discover the beautiful panoramic picture **on the top of the puzzle box** and build a better understanding of His Word and God's mosaic plan for the ages and for YOU. With that, it is also my prayer that you will be able to walk where the ancients, prophets, Bible characters, and Messiah walked in that Covenanted Land.

This is not a journey we take – *it is a journey that takes us!* The **DTBL! Study Manual** is the end result of forty years of taking the difficult path of my “why” questions that no one could answer. The Lord heard my constant pleas for understanding.

The following materials also give the *answers to the many questions* that arise while visiting the Land. *They are ancient truths that were there all along – waiting for rediscovery.* (The authors of the Scriptures *presumed knowledge* of the Geography, Culture, and History. Those are the *simple keys* most of us in this age are missing.)

**The adventure begins.** One cannot fully understand the New Testament without the Old Testament. It is in the Old Testament where covenant patterns, word pictures, and many more illustrations were established, explaining the “why” of stories and teachings in the New Testament.

**The Old Testament through the New Testament are ONE. Each one is part of the whole. It is a progressive unfolding!** It is like a rose which slowly unfolds its spectacular beauty and gently releases its breathtaking fragrance.

# OVERVIEW – THE BIG PICTURE

**NOTE:** This is by no means a comprehensive or scholarly thesis, but rather a simple and general overview; concepts have been reduced to their simplest form for easier understanding.

## Why Scripture is Difficult to Understand

- **Our Gentile & Modern Frame-of-reference**
  - **Our Thinking:** Christianity lost its Jewish Roots before 200 AD (now *Gentilized*)
  - **We are Greek Thinkers:** Hebrew thinking is in Word-Pictures; Allegories; Metaphors
  - **Our Christian Culture:** Approaching Scripture from within our own environment and experiences
  - **Our Study Habits:** Studying segments of Scripture without first examining the whole picture – thus viewing the Scriptures outside the framework in which it was written.
- 

## Steps To Follow: Working through the Answers

***One arrives at the proper biblical interpretation, with appropriate applications, only within the proper biblical environment and context in which the Scriptures are written.*** One should also remember that these materials are *academic* until one steps into that Land!

### 3 KEYS and the BIG Picture: Geography, Culture, History

Scripture presumes the *common knowledge* of all three. All of the writers and hearers understood the lay-of-the-land, covenants, surrounding cultures, and tribal, family, and personal history. Within that personal environment, explaining each within Scripture would have been unnecessary.

### DISCOVER: Who, What, When, Where, How, Why...

Within the framework in which the Scriptures were written

### BIBLE IS A BOOK OF PATTERNS:

The rule of "*first use*" establishes a pattern that will be followed throughout the Bible. Each similar event / illustration that follows will have growing clarity – an **unfolding**.

### PAGAN GODS:

Who they were, where they came from and what were their cultural and religious influences

### TIMEFRAME:

Old Testament was forward looking. The New Testament saw the fulfillment of the predicted Messiah but also looks forward to future events to yet unfold.

### JESUS WAS JEWISH!

## Jewishness of Jesus (Yeshua)

It was God's divine plan to send His Son, the Messiah, through His chosen people (the Children of Israel), to His chosen covenanted Land – the "pupil of His eye" – the Land of Israel. It was to be center stage through all of history.

God had designed that the Messiah was to come to that specific culture, with its customs, with their specific language, and at His perfect time. God set them apart with the Law, celebrating Feasts, and binding them to ONE Land with an *eternal covenant*, which assured that they would always be a "peculiar people."

God has protected the Jewish people, the Law, their customs, their Feasts, and the Land, for His glory. No other group in history can be examined for answers to the Scriptures. Jews today are returning to the Land, fulfilling prophecy, and exploring their ancient past, further confirming the Scriptures. They have a written history like no other and still celebrate the feasts that God established 3,500 years ago *before* entering the Land! We can stand in that Land today and finally begin to understand the *picture language* of the ancient Hebrews.

*Scripture was given to a very specific group of people – the Children of Israel. The Bible is a Jewish book, written by the Jewish people for the Jewish people – referring to and / or in a Jewish Land – with a Jewish Covenant – proclaiming a Jewish Messiah. Yet, with an invitation to "whosoever will."*

Separated from the Land, with its ancient culture and history, we often struggle to comprehend the metaphors and word pictures used in the Word. I truly believe that understanding these three KEYS will open a whole new life when the puzzle parts of the big picture begin to fall together.

My goal is to prepare you for the greatest two-fold journey one can have in this lifetime: The physical journey to the land of Israel (if the Lord is leading you to go to that Land) and the spiritual journey into a deeper understanding of the Word.

Understanding God's panoramic view gives way to increasing awe of His majesty, grace, provision, and plan.

We will endeavor to gain **knowledge**, **understanding**, and **wisdom** as we begin discovering the Land, His people, and His plan for the ages.

### **Amos 9: 14-15**

And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.

### **Ezekiel 36:8-11**

But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown; And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded: And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

### **Proverbs 2:6**

For the LORD giveth *wisdom*: out of his mouth cometh *knowledge* and *understanding*.

### **Hosea 4:6a**

My people are destroyed for lack of *knowledge*...

### **Matthew 6:33**

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

### **Colossians 1:9**

For this cause we also, since the day we heard [it], do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the *knowledge* of his will in all *wisdom* and spiritual *understanding*.

### **Colossians 2:3**

In whom are hidden all the treasures of *wisdom* and *knowledge*.

### **John 1: 29**

...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.