

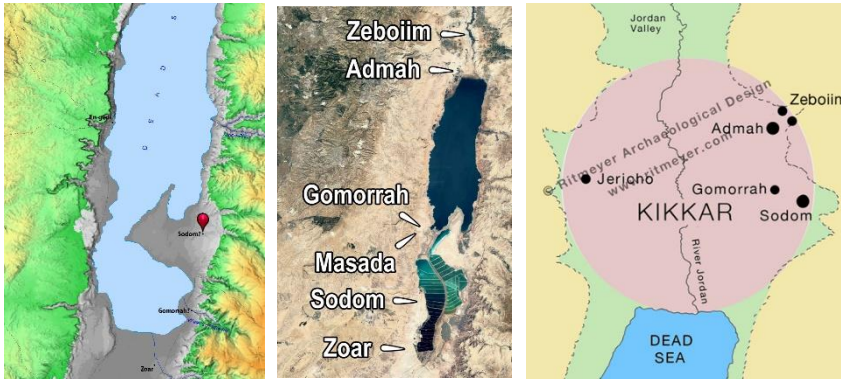
Learn to Read the Bible Effectively Seminar

MAPS

Workshop/Homework Study Sheet #4

Looking at Geography – Words, Maps & Archaeology

Where are the ancient sites of Sodom and Gomorrah?



As you can see from these 3 maps, there are a few differing opinions on where Sodom and Gomorrah might have once existed. Because these cities were obliterated by God, for many centuries there was no solid evidence as to where they might have been.

If you are a firm believer that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, then you read

the Bible as though it is God recounting the details, not as though it is man's best guess.

So, when renowned Archaeologist Dr. Stephen Collins set out to discover the ancient sites of Sodom and Gomorrah, he didn't want to follow man's best guess – i.e. the maps available at the time, he read directly from the text in Genesis 13. Let's see if we can find the clues that led him to find the right Tell:

GENESIS 13:1-12



“Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. 2 Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3 And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai... 6 Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The

Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. 9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." 10 ¶ And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. 12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.”

A visit to the land of Israel would be the best choice for determining actual ancient sites, but if that isn't possible, why would a 3-D map be helpful? _____

Where was Abraham when he and Lot decided they couldn't dwell together? _____

Looking at the map above, is Bethel at a higher or lower elevation? _____

When Lot looked around and saw a well-watered area, what is it described as? _____

Look up the word 'plain'. What Hebrew word is it? _____

What does the Hebrew word mean? _____

When Lot makes up his mind to choose the 'plain of Jordan', in which direction does he journey? _____

Based on these details, and imagining Abraham and Lot standing in the map above and looking towards the EAST, which of the first three maps do you think is correct? _____

PROOF #4

THAT THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED BY GOD

ACCURATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

Archaeology has proven the historical authenticity of many ancient Bible sites and characters. In the past some of these civilizations and characters were dismissed as myths by the academic world, but new discoveries have silenced the critics.

Often the Biblical geographical accounts have helped people discover ancient cities and sites that had been 'lost', for instance the ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah. For many years archaeologists weren't sure where to look for these cities, until Dr. Stephen Collins found the site by following clues from Genesis 13.

Dr. Ritmeyer says: "*The southern end of the Jordan Valley widens out into an almost circular area. This area is called in Gen. 13 the Plain (kikkar – circle or disk) of Jordan. The Kikkar ends where the Jordan flows into the Dead Sea. The Cities of the Kikkar, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboim were located in the eastern part of the Kikkar, as that is the area that can be seen from Bethel/Ai.*"

Check out this full article and video:

[The Search for Sodom – Ritmeyer Archaeological Design](#)
for more details on this exciting discovery.



Some other interesting YOUTUBE videos on this topic are:

1. [Why I Believe the Bible – Archaeology](#) by Dr. Leen Ritmeyer
2. [Incredible – The Silent & Exciting Witness of Bible Archaeology](#) by Stephen Whitehouse
3. [Patterns of Evidence – Timothy Mahoney](#) https://youtu.be/d_9mBeDJ8kA



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