

What other contextual resources are available?

February 22, 2014 by [Doug Greenwold](#)

What are Some Other Resources That I Can Use to Expand My Understanding of Biblical Context?

The answer to this question is harder than you might think. Part of the problem is that many Biblical experts tend to be experts in only one area of Biblical context, not the 15 or so areas of context that need to be integrated to recreate the whole picture. As a result, you can find good sources for Biblical Archaeology, other good sources for Biblical history, and similar sources for other aspects of context, e.g., language, culture, literary form, geography, etc. But few take all these contextual primary sources and then integrate them into a cohesive contextual picture. That's (in part) why Preserving Bible Times feels the calling to do what it does. That is not to say that there are not helpful resources available to help teachers and pastors expand their contextual understanding of Scripture, because there certainly are. Some of the resources that the PBT team draws upon, in addition to our own contextual resources, would include the following:

PRIMARY SOURCES

Danby, Herbert. *The Mishna Translated from the Hebrew with Introduction and Brief Explanatory Notes*. London: Oxford University Press, 1933

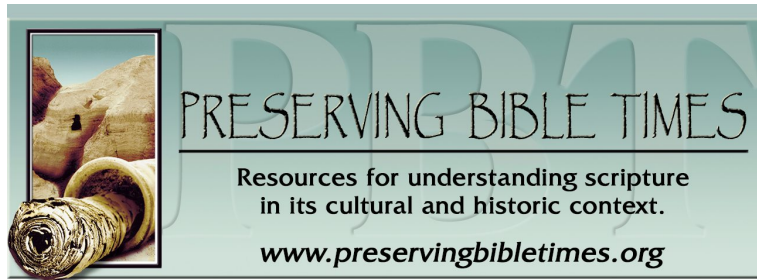
Josephus. *The Works of Josephus*. Trans. William Whiston, Peabody, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1953

Pritchard, James B., ed. *The Ancient Near East Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, Princeton: Princeton University, 1969.

COMMENTARIES ON PRIMARY RESOURCES

Classic Works

Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and Times of Jesus The MESSIAH*, MacDonald Publishing Company, undated.



Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*, 1st American Ed., Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 1969.

Edersheim, Alfred. *The Temple. Its Ministry and Services as they were at the Time of Jesus Christ*, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1997.

Archeology Resources

Finegan, Jack. *The Archeology of the New Testament*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, revised in 1992.

Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *The Holyland: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, England, Fifth Edition, 2008.

Contextual Restoration Commentary on the Gospel of Luke (Superb)

Green, Joel B. *The Gospel of Luke, The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI, 1997

Contextual Restoration Commentary on John and the Passion of Jesus (Excellent)

Boice, James Montgomery. *The Gospel of John, An Expository Commentary, Volumes 1- 5*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1999

Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith

Wilson, Marvin O. *Our Father Abraham* (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI 1989)

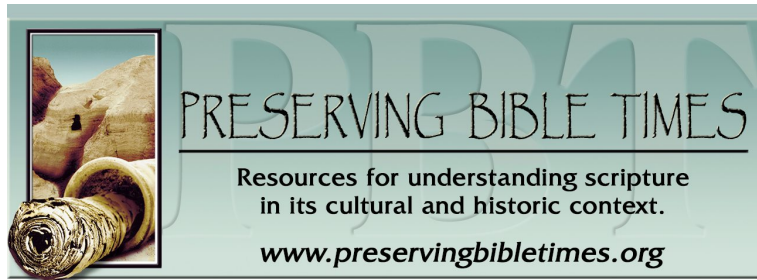
The Jewishness of Jesus

Tverberg, Lois and Spangler, Ann. *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI. 2009)

EXPANDED TREATMENTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Middle Eastern Perspectives

Snodgrass, Klyne. *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2008.



Bailey, Kenneth. *The Cross and the Prodigal*, Concordia, St. Louis, 1973

Bailey, Kenneth. *Poet & Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes* (Two Volumes in One), Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1983.

Bailey, Kenneth. *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*, Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2008.

Bruge, Gary. *The Bible and the Land*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2009.

Bruge, Gary. *Jesus, The Middle Eastern Storyteller*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2009.

Martin, James C. *Exploring Bible Times: The Gospels in Context, Bible World Seminars*, Amarillo, Texas, 2003 (updated in 2007). (Available from Preserving Bible Times)
Contextually Restored Passages

Greenwold, Doug. *Encounters with Jesus: The Rest of Their Stories*, Bible-in-Context Ministries, Columbia, Maryland, 2008. (Available from Preserving Bible Times)

Greenwold, Doug, *Those Prodigal Sons*, Bible-in-Context Ministries, Columbia, Maryland, 2014. (Available from Preserving Bible Times).

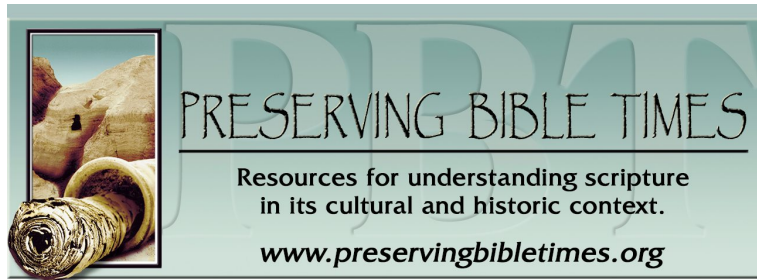
Greenwold, Doug, *That Good Samaritan*, Bible-in-Context Ministries, Columbia, Maryland, 2013. (Available from Preserving Bible Times)

Greenwold, Doug, *Becoming a Judean Shepherd*, Bible-in-Context Ministries, Columbia, Maryland, 2013. (Available from Preserving Bible Times)

Greenwold, Doug. *The Rest of the Story: A Closer Look at Familiar Passages*, Bible-in-Context Ministries, Columbia, Maryland, 2007. (Available from Preserving Bible Times)

Greenwold, Doug. *Making Disciples Jesus' Way: Wisdom We Have Missed*, Bible-in-Context Ministries, Columbia, Maryland, 2005. A contextual study of the what, when and how Jesus remade the Twelve with an emphasis on what's missing in Western discipleship today. (Available from Preserving Bible Times)

Greenwold, Doug. *Zechariah and Elizabeth: Persistent Faith in a Faithful God*, Bible-in-Context Ministries, Rockville, Maryland, 2004. A refreshing contextual study of Luke 1 that reflects on our own unforeseen journeys and God's loving purpose in it all. (Available from Preserving Bible Times)



Hansen, David. *In Their Sandals: How His Followers Saw Jesus*, Xulon Press, 2007.

Great Resource for the Gospels

Green, Joel B. et. al. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1992.

Great Resource for Paul's Letters

Hawthorne, Gerald and Ralph P. Martin et. al. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1993.

Bailey, Kenneth, *Paul Through Mediterranean Eyes: Cultural Studies in I Corinthians*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2011.

Great Expositions on the Prodigal Son

Nouwen, Henri. *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*, Doubleday, New York, 1992.

Keller, Timothy. *The Prodigal God*, Dutton, New York, 2008.

MacArthur, John. *A Tale of Two Sons*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 2008.

Greenwold, Doug. *Those Prodigal Sons: Two Lost Sons and Their Father's Heart*, Bible-in-Context Ministries, 2014. (Available from Preserving Bible Times)

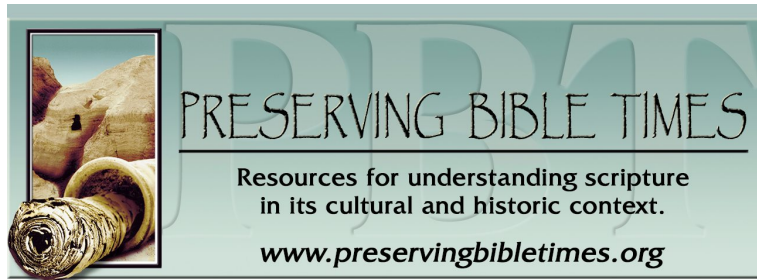
Visual Resources

Martin, James C., et.al. *A Visual Guide to Bible Events*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, 2009. (excellent for visualization of Bible places)

Martin, James C., et.al. *A Visual Guide to Gospel Events*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, 2010. (excellent for visualization of Gospel passages)

Dowley, Tim. *The Kregel Pictorial Guide to THE BIBLE*, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2000. (very nice)

Thompson, J.A. *Handbook of Life in Bible Times*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Ill., 1986.



Rainey, Anson and R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*, Carta, Jerusalem, 2005

Rittmeyer, Leen and Kathleen. *The Ritual of the Temple in the Time of Christ*, Carta, Jerusalem 2002. (excellent summary of Temple context with wonderful visuals and good concise copy taken from Edersheim's book *The Temple*). Available from Preserving Bible Times.

Rittmeyer, Leen and Kathleen. *From Sinai to Jerusalem: The Wanderings of the Holy Ark*, Carta, Jerusalem, 2000. (visually rich overview of 1,000 years of the Old Testament from the perspective of the Arks movements). Available from Preserving Bible Times.

Richman, Chaim. *The Holy Temple of Jerusalem*, The Temple Institute, Carta, Jerusalem, 1997. (absolutely exquisite visuals of Herod's Temple at the time of Jesus). Available from Preserving Bible Times.

Excellent Resources for Biblical Geography

Monson, James. *Introduction to Biblical Geography: Region on the Run, Biblical Backgrounds*, Rockford, IL. (best introduction to biblical geography and the best geography maps for getting oriented to biblical times). www.bibback.com

Monson, James. *Geobasics in the Land of the Bible, Biblical Backgrounds*, Rockford, IL. (good overview of biblical geography and getting oriented to the Land). www.bibback.com

Helpful Bibles

New American Standard Bible, Side Column Reference Edition, Foundation Publications, Anaheim, CA 1996 (very helpful for remez identification).

Archaeological Study Bible, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2005

The NET Bible, First Edition, Published by The NET Bible Project, Dallas, Texas

Helpful Websites for Bible-in-Context Information

www.netbible.org and www.bible.org

www.jerusalemerspective.com

www.egrc.net

www.followtherabbi.com

www.bibback.com