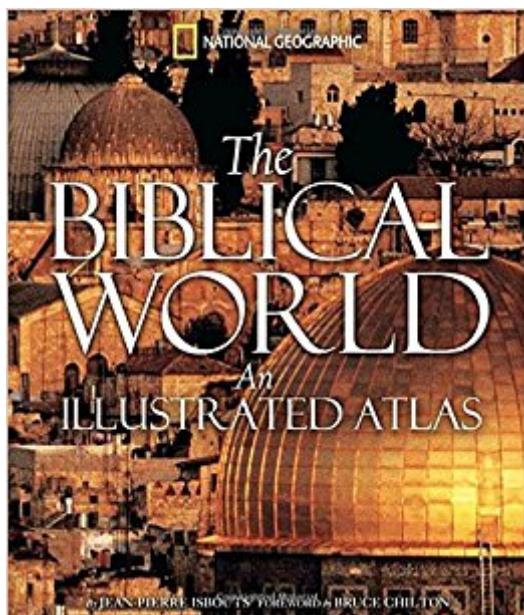


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# The Biblical World: An Illustrated Atlas



## Synopsis

Casting the tumultuous history of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam against the rich canvas of the Near East, *The Biblical World* reveals how three great religions emerged from the same cradle. Author Jean-Pierre Isbouts employs a non-denominational perspective and a wide range of sources—from ancient hieroglyphic texts to the latest scientific findings—to place Bible stories in the framework of history. Chronologically arranged chapters detail battles, conquests, tribal migrations, natural calamities, and more, supporting the stories with intriguing archaeological evidence. To locate sites and events, National Geographic cartographers have created fifty all-new maps of stunning quality. Hundreds of photographs and artifacts add visual excitement. Quick-read timelines link events across cultures while illustrated sidebars focus on what life was like during each era: family roles, farming, trade, dress, childbirth, burial customs, and other aspects of daily existence. The story traces the evolution of Judaism from Abraham to the Unified Kingdom of Israel... chronicles the emergence of Christianity in the context of Greco-Roman civilization... and identifies the unique circumstances that prepared for the rise of Islam. The multi-dimensional approach weighs similarities and differences among the three faiths and follows developments in nearby lands. With a foreword from bestselling author Bruce Chilton and text reviewed by distinguished advisers, *The Biblical World* offers a carefully researched, balanced view of history and religious tradition. For its scope, beauty, and relevance in today's world, this unparalleled atlas is destined to become a classic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The scope of the biblical world is large, but this mass of history is concisely packaged in *The Biblical World: An Illustrated Atlas*. Like most National Geographic material, the work is professional, thorough, and geared not to scholars but to the average person. Readers will enjoy the balance between the visual and the verbal. The visual component includes photos, artwork, archaeological images, and, of course, maps. The photos are prolific and in full color. The maps, numbering slightly more than 45, are typically large, with plenty of detail. Like many biblically based atlases, the verbal portion of the volume consists largely of a retelling of scripture, with occasional insights that a scholar can offer. The atlas is organized by biblical chronology, complete with a running time line across the bottom of roughly half the pages. The time line spans from about 9000 BCE to 392 CE. Numerous sidebars are scattered throughout the volume, highlighting topics related to the corresponding text. Among the subjects addressed in the sidebars are Assyrian astronomy, the secret of Hezekiah's Tunnel, the dating of the Exodus, and what Jesus may have looked like. The volume concludes with an index of moderate length and a list of further-reading suggestions for each of the book's 11 chapters. The tone and appearance of the atlas suggest an audience that may not wish to get bogged down in technical information. Its photos and maps are pleasing to the eye and serve to break up (and complement) the text in a well-balanced manner. This combination makes *The Biblical World* a user-friendly tool for a nonacademic library collection. Those looking for a wider selection of maps--even those highlighting less-significant biblical events--may prefer *The Carta Bible Atlas*, previously, *The Macmillan Bible Atlas* (1993), which boasts more than 250 maps. --Wade Osburn

Jean-Pierre Isbouts holds a Ph.D in archaeology and art, and is currently Professor of Culture and Media Studies at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, CA. He is the writer and producer of four programs that explore the legacy of the Bible, including the award-winning television mini-series *The Quest For Peace*.

I bought this for my wife for Christmas. Although it was far from her most expensive gifts, it was the one that got the greatest accolades and attention. We were fortunate to visit the Holy Land a few years ago. Our experience would have been greatly enhanced had we owned this historical, cultural and pictorial masterpiece. It is a "must have" for anyone planning to visit the region, those who have been there, or especially those who would like to gain in their knowledge and understanding of the region, but will not have the opportunity to travel there.

Great pictures and historical content. Written from an objective view and tries to include all evidence and also includes significance to various religions. A really great purchase and is a great supplement to a history or apologetics course. We use it as a supplement to an apologetics course, but find the references to other religions very helpful in gaining a knowledge and understanding of not only Christianity but also other religions and how they relate and differ. Very helpful.

I saw this book in the National Geographic museum book store and decided to see if it was less expensive on . Well you know the answer to that! I've gone through the book looking at the pictures and checking the chapter subjects. It's really a great book. There are maps and current day pictures as well as short written descriptions of the bible stories and historical events along with archaeological findings, etc. I think it will be a great addition to our library and will be fun to match up the bible stories.

I started trying to read through my Bible a couple of months ago. To help understand things more, I got this book. It is a great resource for those studying the Bible or biblical history. I am more of a visual person, so seeing the pictures helps me to understand the Bible more and make the connections. I also love the historical value of this book. It is so fascinating reading the history of the people around the time of the Bible. This book taught me so much about the culture of the time that the Bible was written.

This is a beautiful book, great paper quality, great photos, coffee table quality.

If you want an easy to read book to better understand the bible get this book. I like how quickly I can refresh my memory and also learn more details regarding the stories in the bible. The maps and special note plates are what really makes this book work for me. I think it is very important to know the geography and timeline and the book excels in this regard. Well written and layed out as well.

We purchased 2 books. My husband loved it so much that I bought one for my cousin.

This a personal subject in terms of your preference for maps, history, archeology and writing style. I preferred the atlas in our local library. I suggest any buyer does some research before buying. I did not find this particularly easy going.

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