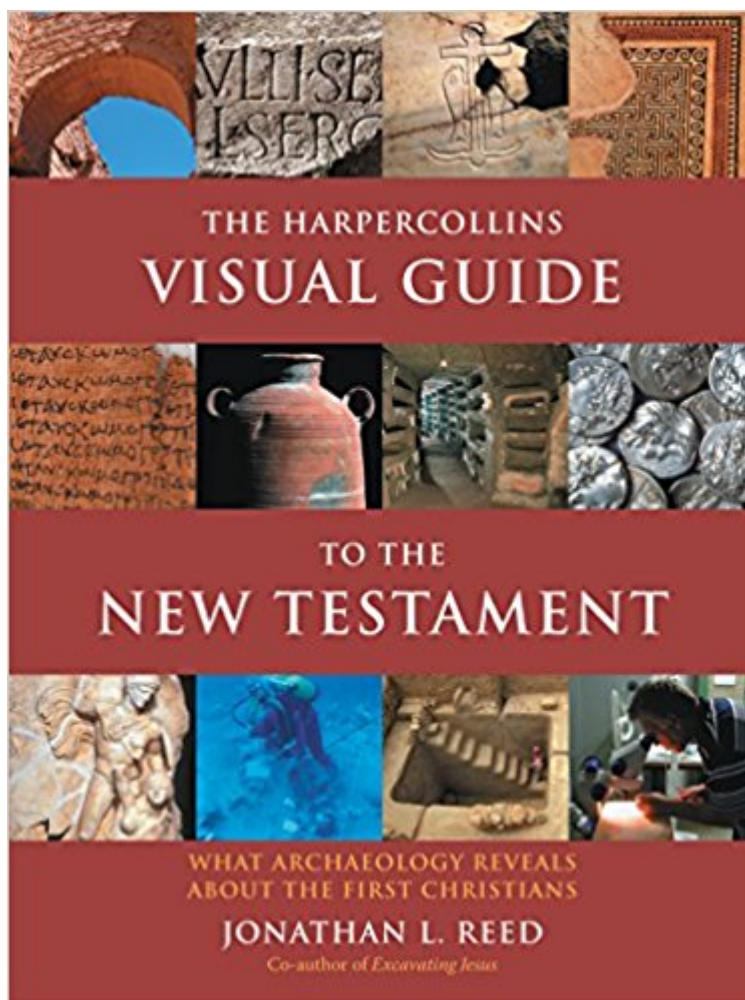


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The HarperCollins Visual Guide To The New Testament: What Archaeology Reveals About The First Christians



Synopsis

This one-of-a-kind presentation of the New Testament world and its archaeological treasures provides a new, more complete understanding of the world in which Christianity was born. Through lavish photographs, architectural plans, extensive maps, and detailed charts, you can explore the landscape of Nazareth where Jesus grew up; sit at the shores of Galilee where he preached; and enter the streets and temple of Jerusalem where his ministry was fulfilled. An experienced archaeologist and biblical expert will guide you throughout your journey around Israel and beyond—on the Mediterranean voyages of Paul to the homes and synagogues of the Roman Empire, where he planted the seeds of Christianity. Visit Emperor Nero's "Golden House," witness the desperation of the Jewish revolutionaries at Masada, and explore the magnificent basilicas of Constantine the Great.

The HarperCollins Visual Guide to the New Testament features:

- Rich descriptions of the worlds of Jesus, Paul, and the first Christians
- Full-color photographs of excavations, artifacts, coins, and pottery from New Testament sites
- Extensive maps
- Architectural floor plans of temples, palaces, and synagogues
- Commentary on how archaeology relates to the Bible
- Examination of modern excavation techniques and methods
- A beginners' guide to understanding pottery, coins, temples, and inscriptions

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jonathan L Reed is a leading authority on the archaeology of early Christianity and has excavated in Galilee since 1987. He has conducted research at the Albright Institute for Archaeological

Research in Jerusalem, the American Academy in Rome, and the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. He is author of *Archaeology and the Galilean Jesus* and has co-authored with John Dominic Crossan two bestselling books, *Excavating Jesus* and *In Search of Paul*. He is professor of New Testament at the University of La Verne and is on the research council of Claremont Graduate University's world-renowned Institute for Antiquity and Christianity, where he is directing their Galilean Archaeology and the Historical Jesus project.

This book took me one night to read. It is a very easy to understand book, probably written for a high school-age study of New Testament Archaeology. Several pictures, maps and illustrations add to the descriptions and help to enlighten a person to understand what life must have been like back in ancient days. Religious rituals, farming, the culture--anything to do with living back in Jesus' time and trying to live while under Roman oppression--all is written here in a very brief and simple explanation. If you are looking for a quick, easy to understand guide, this book is probably one to use. If you are looking for a serious, in-depth book, this is not it.

I bought and read this book before a trip to Israel. It was easy to read and very informational. I felt that I had some background as I visited the sites in the Holy Land which helped me retain all that I heard and saw.

I love this book. It was helpful for my recent trip to Israel. I was so pleased that I ordered another for my son in law.

Disappointing this book was written by a non-christian who included his own bias through out the book. Does contain some good info and nice photos, but I would have felt better had this been written by a Christians since this is dealing with Christian history.

This might be termed a 'quick' reference book with excellent pictures and illustrations. I do not recommend this book if you have NO knowledge of the Bible or ancient cultures. Mr. Reed makes some blatant assumptions and statements based on older archaeological beliefs rather than current ones. For example on page 69... He writes that the average life span in the ancient world was somewhere in the twenties...with women living shorter lives...closer to 18 years. This is just not true. It's like taking health and life expectancy data from one small impoverished section of a city in American, and then using those stats to make blanket assumptions about the health and lifestyles

of everyone in that city...or even the country. Ridiculous! There was a very high level of medical science available and this MAY have included herbs, teas and various concoctions. This is not magic or voodoo. (pages 69, 70) Where do you think antibiotics, cough medicine and pain killers originally come from? A glass beaker? No...from herbs, barks and plants! Many of these remedies we still use successfully today, The Romans required an enlisted soldier to serve 30 years before retirement...an impossibility if his life expectancy was only his 20's or an elderly, decrepit 30??? Yes, the Romans had retirement, disability and investment plans! This shows forethought and planning for old age. (And other ancient cultures had similar plans). Despite the beauty of his pictures, Mr. Lee seems intent on persuading us to believe that the ancients were ignorant and uneducated. Most living a harsh life of drudgery. This is in sharp contrast to current evidence. Yes, there were the desperately poor and sick, and a small middle class and the amazingly rich...just like today! In fact, they were not too different than we are. I strongly suggest that anyone wanting a more accurate picture of what the ancient world was like...search the Internet, watch the beautiful series by National Geographic on the advanced technologies and life styles of the ancient Egyptians, Romans, Greeks, etc. Many of their ancient technologies challenge the sharpest minds of today. The Ancients weren't stupid or primitive. It's humbling and eye opening to see the truth. Mr. Lee's book does the ancient cities in the New Testament an injustice on this level. So if you decide to purchase this book, do it with the above caveats in mind.

This book has the best collection of photos that is available for the study of the New Testament. The author explains everything from how archaeology works to what the new discoveries mean for Christians and interested readers of the Bible. It is great that every page has illustrations, maps, and photos. You can really see what the authors of the New Testament were talking about. Reed includes lots of stories from his own experience as an archaeologist in the Holy Land. Great study guide for people interested in knowing more about Jesus and St. Paul.

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