

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# Holy Land I

Course Lecturer: John A. Beck, PhD

## Course Description

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As the biblical story of salvation moves forward in time, it is always firmly anchored on the ground. The locations we read about in Scripture are not incidental; they are integral to the telling of each event. This course takes you to regions throughout Israel to experience the land, the culture, and the customs that surround the sacred stories of the Bible. You'll begin in Jerusalem as the base for your study and then move through the regions of the Judean Hill Country and the Jezreel Valley, seeing familiar Bible stories in new ways as Dr. Jack Beck explains the significance of where they played out. This course aims to open your eyes to the way the land and ancient culture shaped life and shapes our understanding of Bible stories.

## Course Objectives

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Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Recognize why the Jerusalem stories are an important part of understanding and reading God's Word and explain how God made Himself present in Jerusalem in a unique way.
- Explore and experience key biblical sites, including Jerusalem, the Tomb of the Patriarchs, Bethlehem, the Church of the Nativity, the Jezreel Valley, Gideon's Spring, and Megiddo.
- Explain the significance of the biblical stories that took place at these sites.
- Describe the relationship between geography and the stories explored in this course.
- Understand some of the present-day cultures and customs of these regions.

## Course Lecturer

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*John A. Beck, PhD*

**Education:**

- Trinity International University, PhD

**Teaching Career:**

- Permanent adjunct faculty member, Jerusalem University College in Israel where he regularly conducts field study courses which link geography and Bible communication

- Teacher of courses in Hebrew and Old Testament at various colleges and universities for more than 20 years

## Course Methods

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Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**  
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**  
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

## Course Requirements

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To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
  - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
  - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
  - **Lectures:** 10-minute lessons (approximately) that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Responding to the discussion questions for each lesson.
3. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.  
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.