

First published in 2005 by Orpheus Books Ltd., 2 Church Green, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 4AW

Copyright © 2005 Orpheus Books Ltd.

Created and produced by Rachel Coombs, Emma Godfrey, Nicholas Harris, Sarah Harrison and Sarah Hartley, Orpheus Books Ltd.

Consultant: Robert Willoughby, London School of Theology, Middlesex, England

Illustrated by Nicki Palin and Gary Hincks

Text by June E. Darling

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN 1 XXXXXXXXXXXXX

A CIP record for this book is available from the British Library.

Printed and bound in China.

CONTENTS

4 THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE BIBLE

6 ABRAHAM & JACOB

8 JOSEPH



10 MOSES

12 JOSHUA

14 JUDGES TO KINGS

16 DAVID & SOLOMON

18 INTO EXILE



INTRODUCTION

THE MANY stories in the Bible are interesting to people from all over the world, but the events they describe all took place in the Middle East. This area of the world has a rich religious history, not only for Jews and Christians, but also for Muslims.



20 THE BIRTH OF JESUS

22 THE LIFE OF JESUS

24 JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

26 DEATH & RESURRECTION

28 SAINT PAUL

30 A-Z OF PEOPLE & PLACES

32 INDEX



The stories from the Bible have influenced people for hundreds of years. Artists and writers have pictured the characters and retold the stories in their own works.

This atlas allows you, the reader, to follow in the footsteps of Abraham, Moses, Jesus and many others. See where events unfolded and be amazed at the incredible journeys people undertook for their faith.

THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE BIBLE

THE LAND of the Bible, now the modern state of Israel, is a varied country. The valley of the River Jordan is fertile in the north. To the east of the river lie upland pastures where sheep and cattle are grazed. To the west is hill country, covered with forest or scrub. Near the Mediterranean and the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the land is flat and fertile.

EVERYDAY food consisted of flat bread, milk, vegetable stew and fish. Fruit, nuts and honey were also common. Most families ate meat only on special occasions. They usually drank a mixture of wine and water as the water tasted too bad to drink on its own.



SHEPHERDS were a common sight in the Bible lands. They looked after both sheep and goats, often for the whole village. They would guard the flock from wild animals and find places where they could eat and drink.

WHILE the men were at work in the fields or on their boats, women and children worked at home. Women would mill grain into flour to make bread. Older girls washed the clothes using a soap made from olive oil. They also fetched water from the well. The younger children would look after the family's goats and chickens.

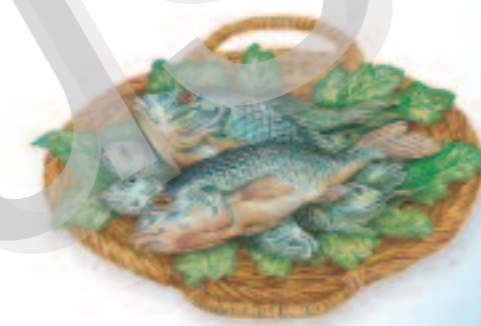
The flat roof of the house was used for drying fruit and people often slept there on hot nights. Inside, the house was split into two

OLIVES were harvested mainly for their oil. The oil was used in cooking, medicines, as a fuel for lamps, and for anointing someone who had been chosen for holy service.



DONKEYS were used for carrying heavy loads as well as for riding.

A MUSTARD seed is tiny but the plant can grow to four metres high. Jesus said that a small amount of faith can make something very big happen—just like a mustard seed.



IN GALILEE fishing was the main occupation. Men would fish with nets which were trailed behind the boat, or they threw nets over smaller fish in the shallows close to the shore.



SPARROWS, pigeons and doves are all common in Israel. It was a dove that brought Noah an olive branch, showing him that it was safe to leave the ark.



WILD animals such as lions and wolves were common in the remoter areas. Warriors were often measured by their strength against these beasts. Samson was said to have wrestled a lion with his bare hands.



FIG TREES provided shelter from the sun as well as rich fruit to eat.



ABRAHAM & JACOB

A BRAHAM'S father, Terah, took his family from Ur in Sumer, to Haran. They travelled from place to place, herding their sheep and cattle along the banks of the River Euphrates.

One day God told Abraham to leave Haran and go to Canaan. There he would become the father of a great nation. His descendants would number the stars. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were very old but God gave them a son, Isaac.



2 GOD decided to test Abraham's faith. Abraham was to take his only son, Isaac, to Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. Abraham loved his son very much but he did as God asked. When they reached Moriah, he bound Isaac and placed him on an altar. But, as he raised his knife, an angel appeared and told him to stop. He had passed the test. Seeing a ram caught in a bush, Abraham sacrificed it instead.

3 ISAAC had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob tricked his old and blind father into thinking he was the elder child. He was given a blessing intended for Esau. When Esau found out, Jacob was forced to flee.

On his way to Haran from Beersheba, Jacob had a dream. Angels walked up and down a staircase reaching up to heaven. God spoke to him. He promised Jacob that the place where he slept would be saved for his children. Jacob called the place Bethel, meaning 'House of God'.

4 WHEN Jacob reached Haran, he met his cousin Rachel at a well. He fell in love and went with her to his Uncle Laban's house. Laban promised Jacob that he could marry Rachel if he worked for him for seven years. But when the time was up, Jacob was tricked into marrying Rachel's older sister, Leah. He had to work for another seven years to be able to marry Rachel.



THE SUMERIANS

The first towns and cities in Mesopotamia were founded by the Sumerian people about 7000 years ago. One of the earliest forms of writing was invented by the Sumerians. We know a lot about their way of life because they left many clay tablets with pictures, representing words, carved on them. The writing developed from pictures into lines and symbols, which were easier to carve.



GOD created Adam and Eve. They lived in a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden. There was only one tree whose fruit they were forbidden to eat. One day Eve was tempted by a snake to disobey God's command. God punished them by forcing them to leave Eden. No one knows exactly where the Garden was, but the Bible tells us that the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates ran through it.

