

“What Is The Biblical World”

The Biblical World was founded in 2004 to create and produce innovative evangelistic media. Our first series, “In The Footsteps of Paul,” broke new ground through its on-location teaching style. The videos used in combination with the stunning color study guides have made this a very successful format in assisting churches and individuals in sharing Jesus by evangelizing their neighborhoods.

Vision—to develop fresh and innovative approaches to evangelism that uplift Jesus as the Christ by bringing the pages of Scripture to life!

Mission—to produce media that communicates the gospel to *western-thinking* people by capturing their imaginations and appealing to their hearts through Biblical stories.

Purpose—to produce creative evangelistic media that can be used by broadcast and satellite networks worldwide and by churches and individuals locally.

Programs Touching Lives Around the World

Our series on the life of Paul can be viewed on the Hope Channel, 3ABN, and SAFE TV. By supporting this ministry you will enable us to release “Tracing The Footsteps Of Jesus” on these networks to bless people around the world.

What is a Centurion Supporter?

Centurions believe in the mission of *The Biblical World* and support this ministry by a minimum donation of \$1,000 per year (can be spread over 12 months). Their tax-deductible gifts are the financial lifeline that enable us to produce programs like “In The Footsteps Of Paul.”

To become a Centurion, fill out the information below and mail it to the address below. Your support will enable us to continue producing innovative evangelistic materials designed to communicate the Good News of Jesus as the Christ to people living in your neighborhood.

Gifts of All Sizes Needed

If you cannot become a **Centurion** at this time, can you become a **Monthly Partner** by supporting this ministry with a faith gift each month? Your financial and spiritual support of this ministry is critical. Together we can make a difference and impact our world for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Send a donation of any amount and receive a free Video Report of the new series “Tracing The Footsteps of Jesus.”

To receive your free DVD, mark your request “Jesus” and send your tax-deductible donation to:

The Biblical World
PO Box 1384
Chino Hills, CA 91709.



Jesus said “I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith” (Matthew 8:10).

Do you believe we need fresh and insightful programs to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to people living in the 21st century? Do you long for new materials you can use to share the Blessed Hope with your friends, neighbors and colleagues?

The Biblical World was founded to respond to this need by producing clear and compelling programs that will capture the interest of modern people in the *western-thinking world*. This ministry is committed to reaching people who are not responding to traditional methods or programs.

Your support of *The Biblical World* will enable this ministry to create new series like “Tracing The Footsteps of Jesus.” Other programs will include “Amazing Discoveries in Biblical Archaeology” and a series on Revelation. Become a Centurion supporter by donating a minimum of \$1000 and receive a DVD set of “The Footsteps of Paul” or “Tracing The Footsteps of Jesus” when it becomes available.

Pastor Tony, I would like to become a Centurion supporter of “The Biblical World!”

You can count on my support for: 1,000 2,500
 5,000 10,000 20,000 other
Charge gift amount to: Discover Mastercard Visa
Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

I can't become a Centurion now. Please use my gift of \$_____ toward the new series on Jesus.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

Please make checks payable to:

THE BIBLICAL WORLD
Box 1384, Chino Hills, CA 91709

The economy in the Bible lands has ran on oil for millennia. This precious commodity created wealth for many and has been the staple of life for all. The climate and soil of the “land” are ideally designed for olive trees. The gnarly, distinctive trunks can be seen in fertile valleys as well as clinging to the rocky soil found on the steep, terrain of barren mountains. The trees can live for hundreds and even thousands of years. The locals refer to the large trees as Roman trees, although it is unlikely that they go back to the time of Jesus.

The trees are passed from generation to generation and maintained in gardens. This is not a garden of tomatoes and squash I am familiar with, but a cultivated tract of land more like an orchard. It seems that most plants and weeds in this part of the world incorporate thorns as part of their defense. They grow prolifically during the wet season and become a prickly minefield in the dry season.

Last September Nadeem took me to visit his family “garden” in the beautiful Beit Jalla valley (a suburb of Bethlehem). He apologized for not cultivating the garden explaining that they were not planning to harvest the olives. That’s okay I thought, they are just olive trees—why do you need to cultivate them? As we walked through the garden I soon discovered the importance of cultivating the trees. There were thorns and thistles everywhere you walked, making it very difficult and uncomfortable to move among the trees, much less harvest the crop.

The olives come to maturity in the fall when they are harvested. Although some are used for eating, the majority are made into oil. In the fall of 2007 a Palestinian pastor from the West Bank village of Beit Jalla was guiding us to some very special locations in and around Bethlehem, including the roof top used by world television to film the Church of the Nativity on Christmas Eve.

“Garden Of The Oil Press”

As the day went on, Sakher asked if I would be interested in visiting an olive press that still uses the old stone grinding wheels to crush the olives. I eagerly said yes! That evening after filming, we stopped by the community olive press where men with their sons were bringing their olives in burlap sacks to be crushed and pressed into oil.

It was amazing to see! The small, dark olives poured into a hopper that dropped them into a kettle, where two large stone wheels were turning round and round crushing and tearing the olives into a messy, oozy pulp separated from the pit.

Then the crushed pulp was scooped up and placed into baskets. When the baskets were placed one on top of another, immediately the reddish-brown oil began seeping through the weave of the baskets. Then the stacked baskets were placed into a press where hydraulic pressure caused the liquid to flow freely.



Stone Olive Grinder at Nazareth Village

This was a parallel process to that used in Bible times, when a donkey was used to turn the large stone wheel around a stone race to crush the olives. The animal has now been replaced in Beit Jalla by an electric motor spinning two stones around a metal kettle. In Bible times, stone weights would be attached to the end of a wooden beam to apply pressure and squeeze the oil from the olive pulp. The ancient process has now been replaced by hydraulic jacks.

In Bible times, the first pressing (one stone weight) was given to the Lord in the Temple. A second stone weight would be added and the resulting oil would be used for cooking. A third stone weight would be added to squeeze additional oil from the pulp. This would not be sufficient quality to use for cooking, but would be used for lamps. A fourth stone weight would be added to the nearly dehydrated olive purée and it would yield a poor quality oil that would be used for ointments or soaps.

As I watched the process that evening, I thought of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, which means “oil press” in Hebrew. I thought of how He was crushed by the disappointment of Peter’s denial and Judas’ betrayal that night.

Then I thought of how the incredible weight of the sins of the world pressed upon His pure soul. Watching the reddish-brown liquid being squeezed through the mesh of the basket, I thought of Luke’s description of Jesus in the garden: “And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground” (Luke 22:44).

That night we had captured this incredible process in High Definition video! As I pondered the spiritual significance of the incredible visual image I witnessed that night, I decided it must be incorporated into the episode on Jesus in Gethsemane.

So I rewrote episode 22 to incorporate this incredible footage along with images of olive presses from various archaeological sites during Bible times. During our September 2008 trip we shot the commentary for “**The Garden of the Oil Press**,” which is full of eye candy and filled with rich spiritual applications.

Since manure was not permitted in the Holy City, the residents found the slope of the hill across the Kidron Valley a convenient location for their olive gardens. It was known as the Mount of Olives (and slightly taller than Mount Moriah on which the Temple was built) and provides a spectacular view of the Temple Mount with its Herodian-era walls and more recent Dome of the Rock. This is the iconic picture of Jerusalem with which most of us are familiar.

Jesus approached the “oil press” (Gethsemane) on the Mount of Olives from the Upper Room, which most likely was in the upper part of the city. Jesus would have walked under the light of the full moon as He descended the 2nd-century B.C. stairway (excavated on the grounds of St. Peter in Gallicantu). He would have continued down past the Pool of Siloam before walking up the Kidron Valley which was riddled with tombs that had been whitewashed to prevent people from accidentally touching one and thus being defiled and disqualified from the Passover meal.

From the vantage point of a Muslim cemetery near the

Golden Gate of Jerusalem, we were filming this section of commentary (with the churches of Gethsemane and their olive trees in the background). We had to wait for the sun to dip below the horizon, which gave us only a 40-minute window before it would become too dark to film. Darkness settled too quickly and we were unable to complete the take—I was frustrated and upset. A tourist came by and said, “Aren’t you going to film the full moon rising?”

I turned in amazement to see a large, bright full moon rising over the Mount of Olives just as it did that Passover night.

We quickly turned all our cameras toward the incredible site and it is now incorporated into this episode. *God is so good!*

As Jesus walked under the shadow of these whitewashed tombs with the moonlight dancing on His path the devil must have been whispering, “You are going to die and soon be in a grave and Your disciples will not be prepared. This is not the time for you to give Your life as a sacrifice. Don’t stop at the garden, just keep walking. You still have time to escape—keep walking. . . .”

As Jesus walked along the road, I am sure the devil did everything possible as to overwhelm and discourage Him. He was certainly having his way with the disciples as they were jockeying for the position of having the highest place in the new kingdom.

Jesus resisted the devil’s temptations and retreated to the garden of the oil press where He prayed, “**My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will**” (Matthew 26:39).

In the garden, Jesus resolved to await the arrival of Judas and the authorities and drink the cup of sorrow and humiliation and submit to the cross that would follow. Soon He would be arrested and would retrace His steps under the whitewashed tombs, back up the stairs to the palace of Caiaphas where He would be tried, condemned and sent out to be executed.

Jesus was not confused or intimidated by the enemy. He knew His Father’s voice and patiently surrendered to His guidance and direction. During prayer He received strength to remain in the *oil press* as He was crushed by the weight of the sins of the world. Confidently He leaves the garden knowing it was for this reason that He came into the world.



Olive Press with stone weights attached

GARDEN OF THE OIL PRESS DVD AVAILABLE

The devotional in this newsletter was taken from Episode 22, “In The Garden Of The Oil Press.” An “early cut” of this episode is available for a \$100 donation. You can order online through our website, by e-mail, snail mail or by calling our office. You will be blessed by this rich episode and your donation will help us to complete this important series.

NEW WEBSITE

We have launched a new website (www.biblicalworld.org) where you can explore clips from the Paul and Jesus series. You can also get step-by-step information on how to use the Paul series as a small group or public outreach program. You can also survey the advertising that is available for using this series as a seminar.

In addition you can download updates I file while filming on location. You can also catch up on the latest ministry news and download PDF’s of Newsletters both current and archived.

Our new site also permits you to securely place your order or make donations through PayPal.

Coming soon is an incredible Photo Gallery where you can browse some of the 30,000+ still pictures we have shot for the Jesus series.

EARLY CUTS AVAILABLE

While you are in the player you can enjoy short clips from the episodes that have been edited. You can receive an “Early Cut” of the completed episodes for a \$100 donation. Just go to the **Donate Gifts** page and place your mouse over the episode you wish to support, press enter and you will be taken to a secure website where you can give your donation.

BEHIND THE SCENES

To date, three “Behind The Scenes” videos have been produced (July '09, July '08, July '07). These fascinating reports take you on-location with the film crew to get an up-close view of what it is like to film in Israel. Footage ranges from “bloopers” and miscues to interrogations by the Israeli military.

To watch the features, go to the Jesus series on the website. The first Volume in the player is “Behind The Scenes.” Choose the feature you would like to view and click it.

TWO EPISODES ADDED TO SERIES

Twenty-six episodes were originally planned for Tracing The Footsteps of Jesus (a full year of television). These were to be divided into four Volumes:

- Volume I “Jesus: The Early Years and Ministry,”
- Volume II “Jesus’ In Galilee,”
- Volume III “Jesus: Teachings and Controversies,” and
- Volume IV “Jesus’ In Jerusalem.”

While speaking for the 10th anniversary of Il Est Ecrit in Montreal last November, Jose Elysee suggested I add two episodes and call Volume IV “Jesus in Jerusalem and Beyond!”

As I prayed about the idea the Holy Spirit confirmed that this would be good. Episode 27 will focus upon Jesus ascension into heaven as our great High Priest in Hebrews and Revelation. Episode 28 will focus upon the promise of John 14 and the Blessed Hope of Jesus soon return.

Volume I is has now been edited and will be available this fall. All four Volumes should be available by early 2010.

SPONSOR AN EPISODE

You can underwrite an episode of “Tracing The Footsteps Of Jesus” for just \$15,000. Contact our office to see which episodes are available for this wonderful legacy gift.

2009 CAMPMEETINGS

I gave six powerful presentations on the life of Paul at Camp Yavapines in beautiful Prescott, Arizona during the 10:45-12:15 Bible study hour Sunday-Friday. The series was filmed by Good News TV. After the first presentation, they were so excited by the material, they decided to uplink the presentations live via satellite to the Phoenix area.

In quaint Freeport, Maine, I gave the same six presentations over a two-day period. While introducing the Paul series as a Small Group or Public Evangelistic tool, Tony focused upon background information on the following subjects:

- Saul and conversion
- Paul and the Blessed Hope
- Paul and the life after death
- Paul’s attitude toward the law and the Sabbath
- The Legacy of Paul and the rise of anti-Semitism.

Request this powerful series for a campmeeting near you.

