


MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

A BOOK
OF
POSTCARDS



THE SMITH & OSHER CARTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



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MAPS

OF THE

ANCIENT

WORLD

A BOOK
OF
POSTCARDS

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Title page: *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, Abraham Ortelius, Antwerp, 1570/1595.
This is the actual title page from the 1595 edition of the first modern atlas, originally published in 1570. Allegorical figures representing the continents depict a regal and dominant Europe (top) and subservient Asia (left), Africa (right) and America (bottom). The Indian maiden representing America holds a severed head in her hand, reflecting the belief that cannibalism was practiced in the New World.

These postcards display images of the ancient world in the form of maps produced between 1475 and 1854. They consequently embody concepts of geography and history spanning almost 400 years, from the Renaissance to the modern period. On examination, it is apparent that these are more than decorative geographic delineations of the ancient world. They are, in fact, works of art whose imagery and inscriptions serve the dual purposes of adorning and informing. Against the backdrop of their geographic locales, scriptural, historical and mythological characters and events are graphically portrayed by means of vignettes, inscriptions and explanatory tables. The result is an aesthetically pleasing and extraordinarily effective means of visual communication.

Most of the maps reproduced here were made by the great Flemish cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527–1598), who is perhaps best known as the author of the first modern atlas. Published in 1570, his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* was the first map book to provide comprehensive and systematic coverage of the entire known world with maps of uniform format, an arrangement that has been followed to the present day. The *Theatrum* was an enormous geographic and commercial success; more than thirty editions containing increasing numbers of maps were published in seven languages over a forty-two-year span. An antiquarian himself, Ortelius incrementally added maps of lands of the Bible and classical civilizations to editions of the *Theatrum* beginning in 1579, eventually constituting a separate classical atlas called the *Parergon*. The maps seen here are from the 1595 editions of the *Theatrum* and *Parergon*, with the exception of *Jason and the Argonauts*, which appeared in the 1598 *Parergon*.

The maps reproduced in this book are drawn from the collections of the Osher Map Library of the University of Southern Maine. They represent a small sampling of the estimated 20,000 maps contained in two major holdings, the Smith and Osher Collections. This number includes both individual sheet maps and those bound in approximately 600 atlases, geographies, histories and related volumes. There are, in addition, more than seventy-five terrestrial and celestial globes and a collection of specialized reference works. Materials in the combined collections span a period of more than five centuries. The Osher Map Library constitutes a significant resource for teaching and research in the history of cartography and in a number of other disciplines, including geography, history, art, anthropology and technological and cultural development. The recently completed facilities include an exhibition gallery open to the public free of charge.

PEREGRINATIONIS DIVI PAULI TYPVS COROGRAPHICVS.

In quo et noui testamenti, in primis autem apostolorum historico,
a sancto Luca descriptis, omnia fere loca geogra-
phica, oculis inspicenda, exhibentur.



QVONIAM IGI TVR SCIVS ET PERSVASVM HABEMVS, QVOD QVAMDI V IN CORPORE HABITAVS, PEREGRINAMVR A DOMINO, PER
FIDE M ENIM AMBVLAMVS, ET NON PER VISVM: PROPTerea CONFIDIMVS ET PROPTAMVS PEREGRINARI A CORPORE, ET ES-
SE APVD DOMINVM NOSTRVM. SATAGIMVS AVTEM SIVE PEREGRINI SVMVS SIVE INCOLAE, VT ILLI PLACEAMVS. & c. Corinth.

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE TRAVELS OF SAINT PAUL

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map depicts the regions traversed by Saint Paul during his wide-ranging missionary activities, extending from Italy to Mesopotamia. Beautifully executed vignettes flanking the title cartouche illustrate episodes from the life of Saint Paul. On the left his conversion to Christianity is dramatically portrayed; on the right he is shown shipwrecked on the island of Malta en route to his trial in Rome.

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

PALESTINE

Lucas Brandis, in *Rudimentum Novitiorum*,
Lubeck, 1475

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This is the first modern printed map. East is at the top, and cities and regions are depicted as stylized hills, with Jerusalem at the center. Crude illustrations of biblical scenes include Moses receiving the Tablets of the Law on Mount Sinai (top right corner), the submerged cities of Sodom and Gomorrah protruding from the Dead Sea (upper right), the Baptism of Jesus (upper center) and the Crucifixion (below Jerusalem).

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ABRAHAMI PATRIAR-
CHAE PEREGRINATIO,
ET VITA.

Atorhimo Ordo, Insecta, Coleoptera

ABRAHAM EGREDERE DE TERRA TVA, ET DE COGNATIONE TVA, ET VENI IN TERRAM QUAM MONSTRAVERO TIBI.

Septentrio.

Oxidens

AE GYP
T VS.

Meridies.

Leaves,		
Will Ger		
Will Pj		

ET DABO TIBI ET SEMINI TVO POST TE, TERRAM PERGRINATIONIS TAE, OMNEM TERRAM CHANAN, IN POSSESSIONEM ALTERNAM

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

ABRAHAM THE PATRIARCH

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595
Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

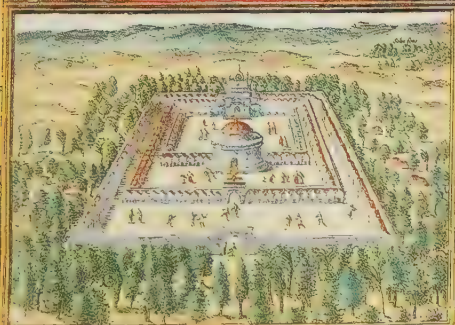
This map is considered one of Ortelius's masterpieces. The map itself is in the form of a tapestry depicting the land of Canaan with its ancient tribal divisions, surrounded by twenty-two medallion scenes illustrating the life of Abraham the Patriarch. A small inset map traces his wanderings from the Euphrates Valley to the Promised Land.

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Schytha Europa. ALEXANDRI MAGNI MA- CEDONIS EXPEDITIO.

Schytha Asiatici

Cum Pnyalogo Imp. et Orontem Belicem ad decursum. 1595.



ERYTHRAEVM sive RYBVM Mare
sic dictum non a color: sed ab Erythrae rege:
Itaque haec prout a veteribus fuit
puditis frequentius vocari: et in multis
scriptis: et per veteres cibaria regis
marmarum: litteris prout erat marmarum
vulgo Q. Certus. Quia haec vocatur hoc regale
et marmarum. Hoc mare marmarum
dicitur. Ptolemaeus. Adhuc Phylippos. alij

INGENIO, IUDICIO, ET ERVDI-
TIONE PRAESTANTI, DOMINO
HENRICO SCHOTIO, VRBI
AMSTERP. A CONSILII: AMO
RIS ET BENEVOLENTIAE ER
GO, HANC TABULAM DEDICAB
ABRAH. ORTELIVS.

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE CONQUESTS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map depicts the vast area conquered by the young Macedonian king Alexander the Great, extending eastward from Byzantium and Egypt to the Indus River. An inset in the lower left corner presents a finely engraved bird's-eye view of the oracle of Zeus at Ammon, Egypt. Surmounting the dedication cartouche at the lower right is an engraving of a gold coin bearing the helmeted likeness of Alexander.

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MODERN
JERUSALEM

- ☒ Mosques and other Turkish build:
- ☒ Churches and Cloisters
- ☒ Christian Churches
- ☒ Synagogues



MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

ANCIENT JERUSALEM/MODERN JERUSALEM

Lyman Coleman, in . . . *Text Book and Atlas of Biblical Geography*, Philadelphia, 1854

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This is the frontispiece of a popular nineteenth-century biblical geography book designed to call attention to "a most important but neglected branch of education." "Modern Jerusalem" is actually the old walled city as it existed in the mid-nineteenth century. Many important holy sites are identified, including the ancient Temple, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Mosque of Omar and the "Wailing Wall."

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

PALESTINE

Johann Christoph Harenberg
in Composite Atlas, 1700–1760

Smith Collection, University of Southern Maine

Although this eighteenth-century map is more scientific in design, it retains many of the traditional features of earlier maps of the Holy Land. The route of the Exodus is shown, along with the tribal divisions, “extended by King David and Solomon.”

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE ANCIENT GREEK WORLD

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map portrays ancient Greece, with its independent city-states and kingdoms and their provinces extending from the Balkan Peninsula through the Ionian, Mediterranean and Aegean seas to Asia Minor. The name of the country, *Ellas*, is displayed in Greek letters on the lintel of the architectural cartouche in the lower left corner.

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Itala nam tellus
GRAECIA MAIOR
erit. Quid + Pa?

ELV DNO
DIOACHIMO
CAMERARIO
EPHREMBERG
MEDICO CELEBR
RIMO, VERO ET VE
TERI SVO AMICO,
ABRAHAMVS
ORTELIVS
DEDICAR

MARIS AEOLII, SIVE ARSO.
SIVE PARS.

MARIS HELL
ATICA, SIVE
SIVE PARS.

TARENTINVS Sinus, qui
Ordo THRACIS.

frons Italiae, in duo coartata

se tendens.

Veras sinus.

LUCANI.

Andragathia
regio.

MARIS IONICVS
SIVE PARS.

MAMERTINI
TRINACRIAE
SIVE
SICILIAE
PARS.

Hanc Italiae partem, exteriorem sic de
Istoriae consuetudine, descriptam, et
rari
Petrus de medali

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

ANCIENT GREEK COLONIES IN ITALY

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map, oriented with east at the top, shows the ancient Greek seaport colonies in southern Italy, known as Magna Graecia. Major cities included Tarentum, Croton and Heraclea. The latter was the site of the famous battle in which Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, sustained devastating losses in defeating the Romans, giving rise to the term "Pyrrhic victory."

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SEPTIMARIO.

Ex conatibus geographicis
Ab Ortelio.

Cum
privilegio Imper
ialis et Belgica
ad dominum
1554.

L'AVIA FISCIALI QVORVM NIVVM IGNORE.	
Alharuaba	Perche non, ufi
Anzozefo	fi Perche
Amo	Solano
Capuran	Sara
Cara	Dagna
Copveta	Tridano, ufi fi
Cvazvada	Vivano
Cvafvafa	Tavvna, de
Cvafvafvaf	fi Inda
Ettrava, ubi fro	Terreno an dno
can Terreno	can Ettrava
Natvra, que es	Ivva
Nvava	Vifvafva
Nvava	Vvay, ufi fva
Olava	Ity
Confite vtrvra Tva vtrvra vtrvra	

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

ANCIENT TUSCANY

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map depicts the central Italian region of Etruria, later named Tuscany, home of the ancient Etruscans. Believed to have migrated from Asia Minor, the Etruscans were successful traders who built a number of cities, among them Florence, and developed an advanced civilization noted for its art. Etruria was eventually defeated by and annexed to Rome.

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EVROPAE PARS.

AENEAE TROIA- NI NAVIGATIO

Ad Virgilij sex priores Aeneidos.

DOCTRINA ET HUMANITATE
CELEBRI DNO BALTHASARO
ROBLANO, R.P. ANTI THE-
SAURARI, VIRO ANIMI
CORPORISQ. DOTIBVS
ORNATISS.

*Ab Ortelio vetere auctore
delinatus.*

ASIA PROPRIA. sive
pars ASIAE MAGNAE.

*Cum privilegio Imperatoris, Regis,
et Cancellariae Rebusbus, decretis.*
1594.

LIBYAE, SIVE AFRI-

CAE

ALGYPVS

PARS.

sum pias Aeneas rapto: qui ex hote Perate
Classe vehe mecum, fama super aethera notus
bis dens Phrygum conficendi mibus aequos
Vix septem consulit indis, Euroque superant
Europae atque Asia pulvis.

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE VOYAGE OF AENEAS

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map illustrates the voyage of Aeneas as recounted in Virgil's epic poem, the *Aeneid*. Following the destruction of Troy by the Greeks, Aeneas, a Trojan prince and son of the goddess Venus, embarked on an adventurous voyage, finally reaching Italy and becoming the legendary founder of the Roman people.

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

LATIUM

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

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This map depicts the central region of Italy inhabited by the ancient Latins. A miniature plan of the walled city of Rome is seen at its western border. An inset view at the lower left depicts the Circaean Promontory, described in the *Aeneid* as the home of the enchantress Circe, who changed the companions of Odysseus into swine.

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE GREAT FLOOD . . . SONS OF NOAH

Maker unknown; from a Dutch Bible
[seventeenth century]

Smith Collection, University of Southern Maine

This Bible map encompasses a large region of the Near East, from Cilicia and Egypt in the east to Assyria and Nod in the west. It is designed to illustrate the account of the Great Flood in the third chapter of Genesis and the subsequent repopulation of the world by the three sons of Noah. The anti-Papal iconography at the top marks this as being from a Protestant Bible.

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

HOLY LAND

Willem Janszoon Blaeu

from Joan Blaeu, *Grooten Atlas*, 1664

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

The Exodus from Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, and the wanderings of the Children of Israel are seen here, along with tiny vignettes and legends chronicling the events en route. With west at the top, the Holy Land is presented as it would have appeared to the Israelites approaching from the east. The title cartouche is flanked by figures of Moses holding the Sacred Tablets and Aaron garbed as the High Priest.

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

ANCIENT EGYPT

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595
Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map is oriented with east at the top, allowing a detailed rendering of the Nile River and its delta across the width of the map. The inset view of Alexandria at the upper right shows its system of canals and the peninsula of Pharos, site of the great lighthouse, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

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CAESAR'S GAUL

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

Ancient Gaul is depicted here in accordance with the description in Julius Caesar's *Commentaria*, one of the earliest works to have historical maps created for it. Major topographic features and locations of native tribes, cities and Roman provinces are indicated.

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EVROPAM, SIVE CEL-
TICAM VETEREM,
sic descripta a nobis Abrah. Ortelius

OCEANVS SEPTEM
TRIONALIS QVI ET
HYPERBOREVS.

Septentrionalis

AMALCHIVM MARE. Hanc
MORIMARVSA a Ombis vocat

ARCTOA Regio ubi Hyperborea
et Pteropiori.

OCEANVS

SARMATICVS. Pars et Asia
SCYTHICVS. Pruthem
EVROBOREVS. Iamende



Fortunate insulae
Desorum. OVA ET GLEBIA
ria. item Electrides Plana

Caledonius
oceanus

Oceanus
Germanicus

Oceanus Aquitanicus

HISPANIA

AFRICA
PROPERTIA

CLARISS. D. NICOLAO
ROCCOXIO V. L. PATRICO ANTVERP
EIVSDEMQUE VRBIS SENATORI, HANC
ANTIQUAE EVROPAE, NOVAM TABULAM,
ABRAHAM. ORTELII DEVOTISSIME DEDICAB.

SVM
PREVILLE
GIO DUCEN
NALI, IMP
REGIS FI
PRAPAN LI
B. CANCEL
LARIAT
1595

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

CELTIC EUROPE

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map depicts Europe during the period of Celtic dominance.

Between the sixth and third centuries B.C., the Celts, a group of barbarian tribes from central Europe, conquered a vast region extending from Iberia to the Black Sea. They were driven back and defeated by the Romans in the third and second centuries B.C.

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Occidentalis Oceanus.

Occidens

CALEDONIVS OCEANVS; Vel FLAVI; DEVCALÉ;
DÓNIVS. Ptolemæo.

VERGINIVM
MARE

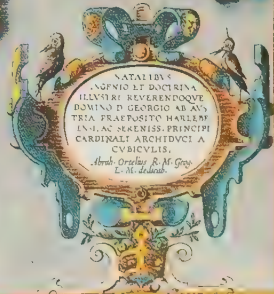
MARE HIBERNICVM.

HYPERBOREVS
OCEANVS.

VPS GERMANI
Cimbri.

OCEA

Oriens



OCEANVS BRITANNICVS.

Septentrio

MORINI

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE BRITISH ISLES IN ROMAN TIMES

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This map, oriented with north to the right, contains place names from the Roman period. Ireland is Hibernia, England is Britannia Maior and Scotland is Britannia Minor or Scotia. The Scottish highlands are Caledonia, and London is Londinum Augusta. An inscription adjacent to London indicates the point at which Caesar crossed the Thames (Tamesis) River.

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ANCIENT DALMATIA

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

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Shown here are the Roman provinces of Pannonia and Illyria (Illyris), occupying the east coast of the Adriatic Sea and the adjacent Balkan regions. Several Roman emperors, for example Diocletian, were natives of Illyria. The text panel at the lower left lists ancient tribes and places whose locations were unknown.

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

HOLY LAND

Gerard de Jode, in *Speculum Orbis Terrarum*,
Antwerp, 1578

Smith Collection, University of Southern Maine

West is at the top. A detailed bird's-eye view of the walled city of Jerusalem is seen at the lower right, depicted as it would have appeared to a contemporary pilgrim, with the Dome of the Rock on the former site of Solomon's Temple. The view is flanked by vignettes of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (above and to the right) and the Chapel of the Nativity in Bethlehem (to the left).

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AFRICAE
PROPRIAE
TABULA.

In qua
Punica regna uidetis:
Tyrios, et Agenoris
urbem.

SINVS III. dicitur in graecis duorum Scythiam
uidetis, et corporis maris datus Phoeni.

LIBYAE
DEIRE

Lotophagi, quos quidam
Alachroas vocant.
et Canis maris.

Macri Syritae, Macri
et Macres sunt aliae.

EX CONSTITVTIS GEOGRAPHICIS
ABRAHAMIS ORTELLII.
Cum praefato Imperatori, Regi, et Scl
dinum. 1590

LIBYAE IN TERIORIS

LIBYAE IN TERIORIS

LIBYAE IN TERIORIS

LIBYAE IN TERIORIS

LIBYAE IN TERIORIS

LIBYAE IN TERIORIS

LIBYAE IN TERIORIS

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

ANCIENT NORTH AFRICA

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

Phoenician colonies on the northern coast of Africa are seen here, the most important of which was Carthage, established by seafarers from the kingdom of Tyre. The inset in the lower left corner contains a plan of the ancient walled city of Carthage, destroyed by the Romans during the Third Punic War.

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Tilemanno Stella Sigenenfi.

EXPLICATIONES CHARACTERYUM POSITIONIS.

- Metropoles et viles infamées
- Minus infamés.
- Pagi, vici et viles.
- Comitatus facinorosi et refugij.
- Viles Peditum, que alias quinquaginta
reges, vel reguli vocati sunt. l. 13
- Loca promissa ad trahendum Ephorum
- Loca promissa ad trahendum Surorem

Hanc aut per hanc prout a seors
 dicitur hanc hanc hanc per hanc
 hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc
 hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc



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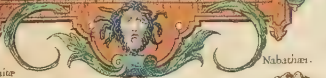
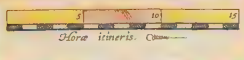
KINGDOMS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This Ortelius map of the Holy Land is the most detailed of that region, depicting "the most important places in the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel." Both sides of the Jordan River are included within the boundaries of Palestine. The map is embellished by two ornate baroque cartouches.

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TERRA SANCTA.
*A Petro Laislain perfructa, et ab eius ore
 et fides a Christiano Schreio in tabulam notata.*



MARE MORTUUM. cum Salinarum
*valdi proditio ferocissima, et asperior: quam Iordanis
 mollem irrigat: adeo i. et salis causa parat. De
 refrigeratur. Post autem Salina parva, et vicina
 opida, mutata et in illam fertilior, qui vicia
 adhuc conficitur. Digne aliorum admiranda.*



OCCIDENS.

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE PROMISED LAND CANAAN

Maker unknown; from a Dutch Bible

[seventeenth century]

Smith Collection, University of Southern Maine

During the sixteenth century it became customary to include maps in Bibles, and by the seventeenth century a standard complement of five or six maps based on the Old and New Testaments was traditional. This is a typical example, for the Book of Matthew, showing the territorial distribution of the Twelve Tribes and, in the lower corners, scenes of the Nativity and the Crucifixion.

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MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

ANCIENT CRETE, CORSICA AND SARDINIA

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

Three of the larger Mediterranean islands are depicted here, along with the smaller islands of the Ionian Sea, as they were known in ancient times. While many topographical features and settlements are delineated, gaps in historical and geographic knowledge are noted in the panels at the bottom, which list places and cities whose locations were uncertain or unknown.

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TERRA SANCTA.
SIVE
PROMISSIONIS, olim PALESTINA
recens delineata, et in lucem edita per
NICOLAUM VISSCHER
Anno 1829.

MARE MAGNUM SIVE MEDITERRANEUM

MARE SYRIACUM.



MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

HOLY LAND

Nicolas Visscher I; from Nicolas Visscher II,
Atlas Minor, Amsterdam, c. 1689

Smith Collection, University of Southern Maine

Oriented to the west, this map contains a wealth of Old Testament information, including the tribal divisions, towns and even caves and tombs. At the bottom center is a plan of the encampment at Mount Sinai, showing the Tabernacle in the center, surrounded by the Twelve Tribes. Moses is depicted at the left and Aaron at the right; the Golden Ark is at the top, and holy vessels are at either side.

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Donatus Deus
haus introductus te in
terram hominum, terram ei
verum aquarum et fontium,
in cuius campis et montibus
transiit fluviorum alij. Ut
non frumenti, ordei, ac vinorum,
in qua firus et malagranata
oleveta nascuntur terram
dilectae mellis ubi abique
ulla penuria comedit qui
nem hauri, et rerum
victuam abundantia
perfructus.

MARE SYRIUM ET PHOENICIUM

MARE MAGNUM

MARE AEGYPTIVM

ARABIAE DESERTAE PARS

PALESTINAE SIVE TOTIVS TERRAE PRO MISSIONIS NOVA DESCRIPTIO AVCTORE TILLMANNO STELLA SODANENSIS

Locor.	51	52	53	54	55	56
M. Gormara	21	22	23	24	25	26
Saba	27	28	29	30	31	32
M. Saba	33	34	35	36	37	38

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

PALESTINE

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595

Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

This is Ortelius's first map of the Holy Land, originally produced for the 1570 edition of his world atlas. Covering "the entire Holy Land" from the Nile Delta to Beirut, it depicts the route of the Exodus from Egypt across the Red Sea, tracing the wanderings of the Israelites in the desert wilderness and their eventual arrival in the Promised Land.

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AEVI VETERIS, TYPVS GEOGRAPHICVS.



MAPS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

THE CLASSICAL ANCIENT WORLD

Abraham Ortelius, in *Parergon*, Antwerp, 1595
Osher Collection, University of Southern Maine

The ancient world of the classical Greeks and Romans is seen here, framed within an oval projection outlining the limits of the earth as known at the time of Ortelius. The five "climatic" zones are delineated—two "frigida," two "temperata" and a single "torrida." It is noted that the "Zona torrida" was believed by the ancients to be uninhabitable because of excessive solar heat. The southern "Zona temperata," as yet unexplored and unknown, is nevertheless clearly designated as habitable. Corner medallions within the ornamental strapwork border contain late-sixteenth-century depictions of the four continents.

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