

THE ROMAN & BYZANTINE PERIODS: Old Landscapes Renewed

The year is 80. You have just read a new history of the war in Judea, by one Josephus Flavius, a Jew captured by Vespasian during the conflict and taken to Rome by Titus, the general's son and successor. This Josephus describes the incredible construction projects of King Herod. You decide to see for yourself the results of such architectural ambition.

Cast yourself as **one** of the following personages – and identify yourself.

- a soldier of the X Legion stationed in the ruins of Jerusalem;
- a Phoenician from Ascalon;
- a Jew from the Galilee.

You visit **two cities and two palaces**. You are so amazed at what you see that you decide to write a travelogue. For each place, describe in some detail **two** buildings or aspects that you find especially interesting, surprising, and/or familiar – **and explain why** (2 points each).

The year is 580. You have just read a new travelogue, from the so-called Piacenza pilgrim, which, added to those of the Bordeaux Pilgrim, Egeria, and Jerome, makes for four such accounts. You decide to add your voice to theirs, and so commence on a similar journey.

Cast yourself as **one** of the following personages – and identify yourself.

- an imperial administrator stationed in Caesarea;
- a Christian pilgrim;
- a Jew from the Galilee.

You visit **two cities, two synagogues, and two churches**. For each place, describe in some detail **two** buildings or aspects that you find especially interesting, surprising, and/or familiar – **and explain why** (2 points each).

a pilgrim's progress through the holy land

We were walking along between the mountains and came to a spot where they opened out to form an endless valley ... across which we could see Sinai, the holy Mount of God ... The valley ... really is huge ... maybe sixteen miles long and four miles wide, and this valley we had to cross before we reached the mountain. This is the huge flat valley in which the children of Israel were waiting while holy Moses went up into the Mount of God and was there "forty days and forty nights." It is the valley where the calf was made, and the place is pointed out to this day, for a large stone stands there on the spot. At the head of this very valley ... God spoke to [Moses] twice from the burning bush ... So this was our plan: when we had seen everything we wanted and come down from the Mount of God, we would come to the place of the Bush. Then from there we would ... return to the road with the men of God, who would show us each one of the places mentioned in the Bible. And this is what we did. *Egeria's Travels* 1.1-2.3.