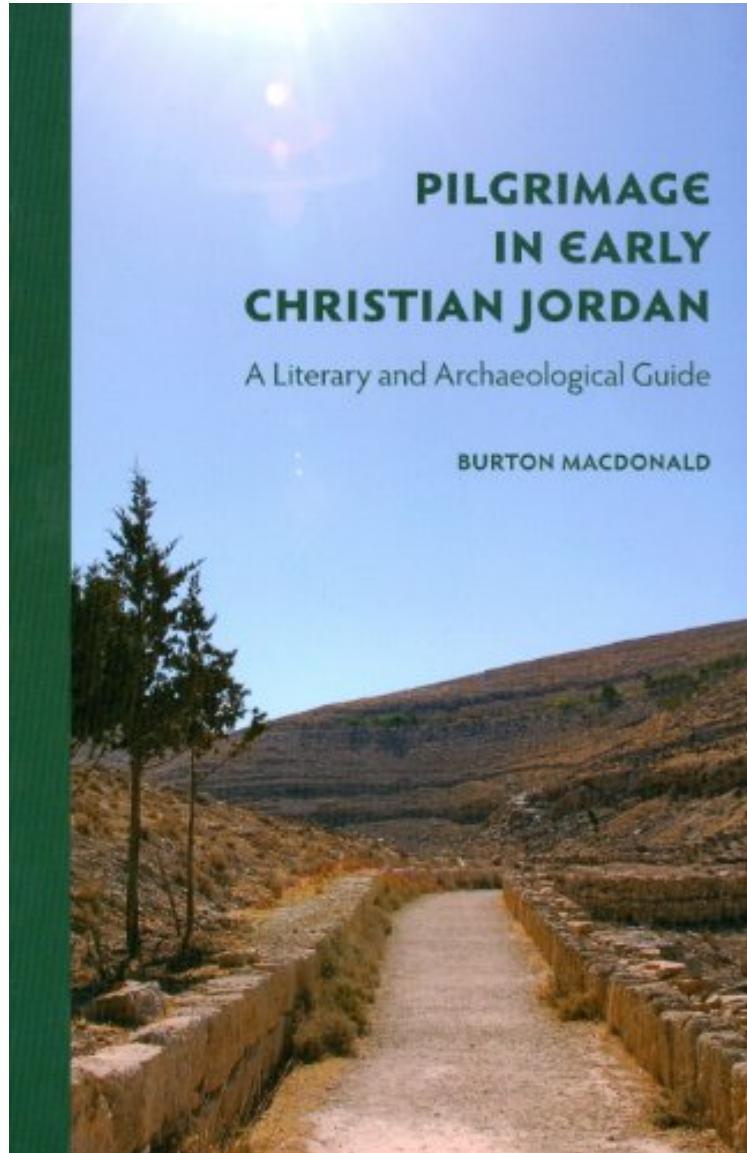


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# Pilgrimage in Early Christian Jordan: A Literary and Archaeological Guide

*Burton MacDonald*

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**Burton MacDonald : Pilgrimage in Early Christian Jordan: A Literary and Archaeological Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pilgrimage in Early Christian Jordan: A Literary and Archaeological Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful and Unique GuideBy AlsandI'm always accused of

reading nerdy stuff and this review won't help that any, but I'm preparing for a trip to Jordan to visit sites of interest to Christians and this book caught my eye. It is an indispensable book for those who wish to visit Christian sites in west Jordan and quite unique. The author gives detailed information for about a dozen sites of interest to Christians on the eastern side of the Jordan river, from Biblical sites like Bethany Beyond the Jordan to Byzantine sites like Madaba. Many people don't know that this area was heavily Christian up till the Muslim conquest and is still the home of many Christians today. He illustrates each site with maps, pictures, diagrams, Biblical references, and historical quotes. There is detailed information of what there is to see at each site, explanations of the ruins, and even some GPS coordinates (a helpful addition). He even gives some brief information of how to get to each site. And the whole book is readable. On page 24 he even has a great diagram of the layout and technical terms of a Byzantine style church, so you know what an "Aspe" is when it is mentioned in a church description. Brilliant! Let me just say that if you plan to tour any of these sites, you have to have this book. My only quibble is that I think he should have included Pella (Tabaqat Fahl) in the book. It has a significant place in early Christian history and is smack dab in the middle of the area he covers, even if there is not much to see at the location. Again, highly recommended! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great guide book By ILYA GOTLINSKY This is a wonderful guide book on Jordan that incorporates description of the famous and some of the rarely visit sites. Such material will be a great bonus to anyone who plans an engaging visit to Jordan and absolute must for anyone who is interested in Biblical and Early Christian History of the area. The author combines readable academic articles on the places of interest with traditional format of a thorough guide book. Wonderful presentation! As a regular traveller to Jordan, I hardly can recommend this book enough. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By David Winwood Excellent book

An interest in places of pilgrimage is very much a part of the life of many people in the modern world. For Christians, it is the Holy Land that holds specific interest - the area where the events described in the Bible, in both the Old and the New Testament, are located. This volume focuses on early Christian pilgrimage in Jordan, the region east of the Jordan River which has so far been little explored by pilgrims and tourists to the Holy Land. Yet many biblical events are said to have taken place here: Moses' seeing the Promised Land, the ascension of the prophet Elijah, and John the Baptist's ministry and beheading, to name but a few. This book takes an innovative approach to studying these sites. After a general introduction to each site, its biblical significance, and a citation of the relevant biblical sources with commentary, the author lists the literary sources that pertain specifically to early Christian pilgrimage activity. This information is complemented with a description of the early Christian archaeological remains found at the site and their interpretation. Illustrated throughout with maps, plans, and photographs, and including travel directions as well as suggestions about visits to the sites, this volume is made for scholars, pilgrims and tourists with an interest in early Christian and modern pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Table of Contents: Archaeological Periods and Dates; Introduction; Casting out Demons - Gadara (Umm Qays) and Gerasa (Jerash); Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead - Lisbit/al-Istib, Wadi Cherith, and Tall Mar Elyas; The Site of the Baptism and Elijah's Ascension - Bethany Beyond the Jordan; The Memorial of Moses - Mount Nebo; City of Churches and Mosaics - Madaba; Saint Stephen, Deacon and First Christian Martyr - Umm ar-Rasas; The Beheading of John the Baptist - Machaerus/Mukawer; Lot's Cave, Incest, and a Place of Pilgrimage - Dayr 'Ayn 'Abata; The Memorial of Aaron - Jabal Haroun (near Petra); Summary and Conclusions; References; Glossary of Byzantine Churches; Indices.

Both armchair archaeologists and pilgrims who want to explore these important sites in the Holy Land will thoroughly appreciate this informative study.' (Donald Senior The Bible Today) About the Author Burton MacDonald is Senior Research Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, NS, Canada. His special interests are the archaeology of Jordan, especially the southern part of the country, within the framework of the prehistory and history of the Ancient Near East and its connection to Old Testament / Hebrew Bible Studies and the Christian Religion. He has conducted archaeological fieldwork in Jordan since 1977 and has been the director of numerous archaeological surveys throughout the region. His latest survey projects include the Tafila-Busayra Archaeological Survey (1999-2001), the Ayl to Ras an-Naqb Archaeological Survey (2005-2007; currently under preparation for publication), and the Shammakh to Ayl Archaeological Survey (since 2010).