



Steve Hewitt

Over 10 years ago I discovered Manna Bible Maps. They produce a great collection of Bible maps available on a CD. We reviewed their product over six years ago (<http://www.biblemaps.com/review.html>) and I have personally used their maps many times since. Several months ago I called Matt Hennecke, founder and president of Manna Bible Maps to find out what was new. I was pleased to discover that Manna has expanding from offering a great Bible map software program, to offering a new online fantastic service!

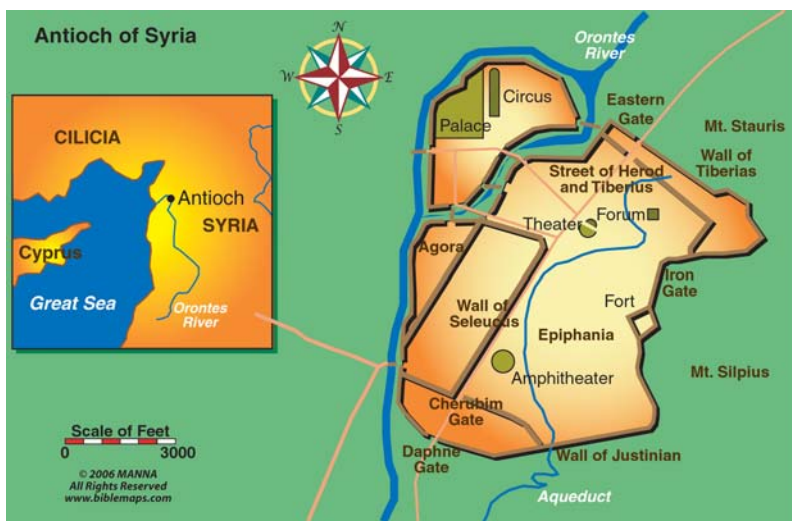
Since it has been so long since we have featured Manna in Christian Computing, let me start by reminding you what Manna's Bible maps provide, because they offer much more than just basic maps. However, don't forget this is an overview of what they have offered for sometime, be sure to read on for the exciting new services.

their list of content is accurate. It is amazing!

Sometimes, I fear that the name of what Manna offers is lost because people just think it is a collection of maps. That is why they add the word "PLUS" to the title

Bible Maps PLUS

If you teach the Bible (or even if you just study for yourself) Bible Maps has some exciting tools to help make your teachings come alive! Quoting from their website, "Bible Maps includes maps of the following: Egyptian empire, Babylonian empire, Assyrian empire, Greek empire, Roman empire, the Exodus, conquest of Canaan, travels of Christ, tribes of Israel, kingdom of Saul, kingdom of David, divided kingdom, archaeology, fertile crescent, journeys of Paul, topographical maps, Salt Sea, Sea of Galilee, and the journey of Abraham. City maps include 12 maps of Jerusalem, Antioch, Athens, Babylon, Corinth, Damascus, Ephesus, Jericho, Masada, Nineveh, Pergamum, Rome, Samaria, Ur, and more! When you click on a city or feature, Bible-based information is displayed. There are over 500 cities, 400 pages of text, and 3,000 searchable items!" I have used the program over the years and can tell you that



of what they offer, Bible Maps PLUS! For example, you can view the chronology of kings and learn more about the kingdoms of

Saul, David, and Solomon. Then discover little-known facts about the northern and southern kings of the divided kingdom. Want to know more about a particular king? Simply click on him and “pop-up” information appears! Or go to our genealogy maps and trace the lineage of Christ beginning with Adam. Click on a person on any of the genealogy maps and “pop-up” information appears telling you more about that person. Also included are time lines of the prophets and judges, a time line of biblical events and time lines of the Old and New Testament books.

The program provides many other valuable features such as a search engine that can help you find any map or referenced material. You can add your own notes to the map notes already provided. They provide animated maps which is fantastic when showing, for example, the journeys of Paul. And, they have provided the maps in various forms for display on screen as well as printable files in higher resolution in color and black-and-white.

So, what's new?

Manna is offering new products and new services, but the biggest news is that they are really taking advantage of the Internet to enhance everything they offer! For example, Bible Maps Plus is still available on CD, which is especially convenient when making this incredible Bible study enhancement

product a gift (when IS your pastor's birthday?) But now, for this with high-speed Internet connection, you can purchase the entire collection and have it downloaded directly to your computer!

About the only limitation Bible Manna Maps Plus has is that the window size of the software program could not be maximized to fit the entire screen if you wanted to have it display on a video projector. However, one of the exciting new features that Manna is now offering is map files that can be easily imported into PowerPoint and sized to fit your needs!

In fact, the most exciting new feature is that Manna has developed the ability to provide a map to meet any and everyone's needs. What if you don't need or want 300 different maps, but you DO need a specific map for a Bible study you are leading THIS evening! Manna to the rescue! They now offer a service that allows us to purchase and download individual maps for as little as \$1.49!! (I know, you are not supposed to use two “!!”, but in this case I think what Manna is offering with this new service is worth of it!)

You can still purchase maps in category sets, saving you up to 25%. There are ten different categories to pick from

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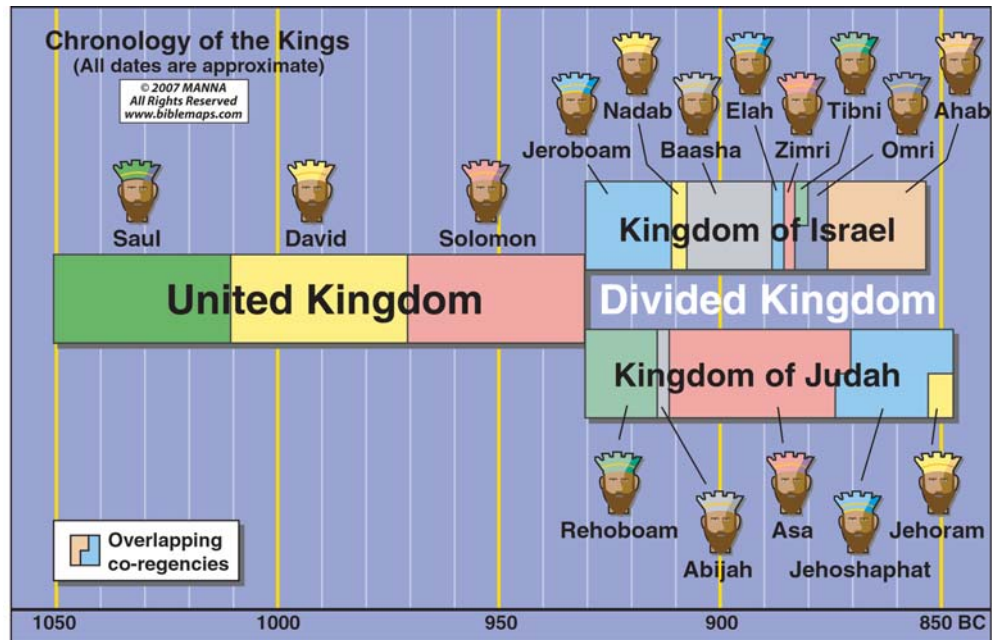
with the newest being a complete set of animated maps.

Purchased maps are sent to your email, where they can be sized to fit your need, inserted into a document, printed full page, or used in PowerPoint. In most cases two versions of a map are provided, one with map labels, and one without, in case you wanted to add your own labels, or if you wanted to use a blank map as part of a test to see if students can properly place cities and events on a blank map after your lesson.

Now Manna uses the Internet to allow Christian teachers anywhere in the world to purchase maps for Bible studies in a fast and convenient way, and without having to pay any shipping! There are more than 150 maps available for download now, with more added each week.

All of Manna's maps have been recently redrawn to improve their appearance. They have done such a fantastic job on the quality that several publishers have been working with Manna to use their maps in upcoming publications.

Want more? Manna has more! They are now offering 26 of their most popular maps in a laminated wall mount version. The maps are a large 22" x 35" format and are printed on 100# glossy paper and come laminated or unlaminated. Visit their website (www.biblemaps.com) for more information on pricing and shipping of their new wall map collection.



Manna now offers Bible class materials

For years Manna Bible Maps has provided great maps and reference materials to enhance any Bible study. Now they are actually providing detailed Bible class materials suitable for teen or adult classes. They have a variety of materials available for purchase on their site (www.biblemaps.com) that you will want to spend some time browsing. Click on a class material icon and you will see samples of the class materials including lesson's with blanks for the students to fill out, maps, and great reference materials.

Conclusion

What else can I say, other than I have been a fan of Manna Bible Maps for over a decade? It is exciting to see how they have expanded their services, products and even their method of sale and delivery. I love a company that moves with technology, and Manna has shown that not only do their products and services continue to improve, but they are on the cutting edge in providing their services quickly, easily and available to the world, with what I believe is a great tool for those seeking to make the Bible come alive for their students. Good job!