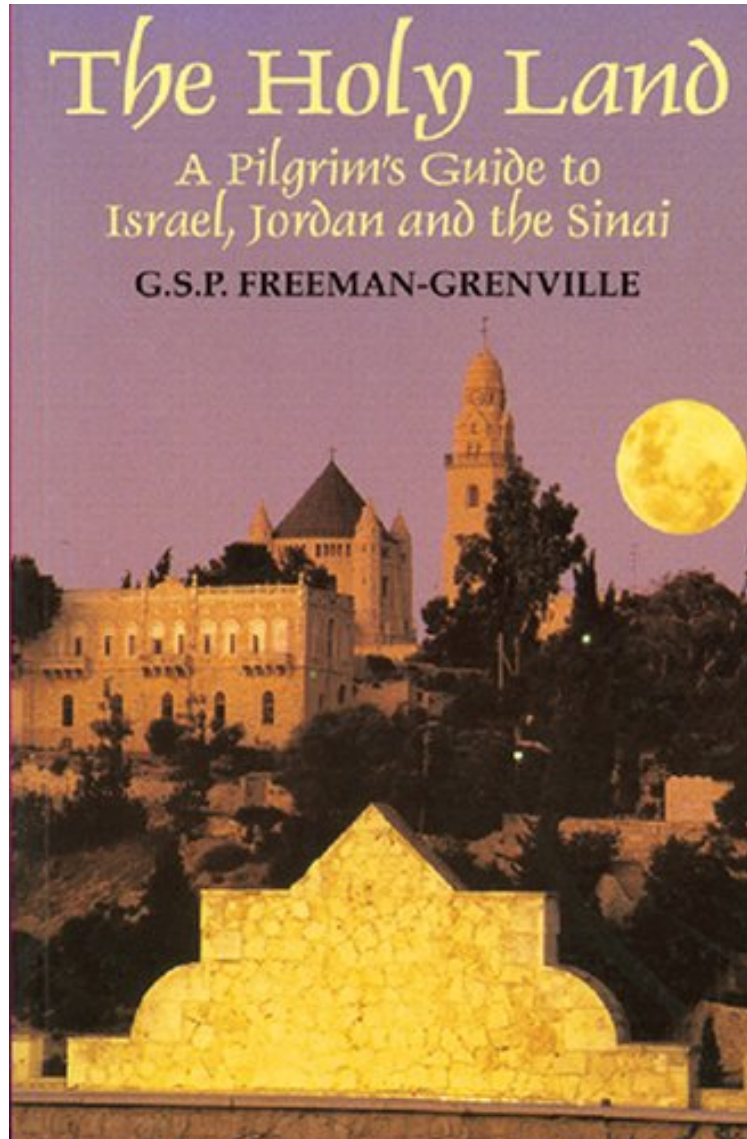


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## The Holy Land: A Pilgrim's Guide to Israel, Jordan and the Sinai

*G. S. P. Freeman-Grenville*

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**G. S. P. Freeman-Grenville : The Holy Land: A Pilgrim's Guide to Israel, Jordan and the Sinai** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Holy Land: A Pilgrim's Guide to Israel, Jordan and the Sinai:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good and enlightening accountBy Seth J. FrantzmanIn this interesting account, that is slightly dated, the story of the Administration of the Holy Land is told from the period of the Persians to the Byzantines. However most of the work examines the Greek/Ptolemy/Seluecid rule and the

subsequent Hasmonean and Roman rule. This is a book of Historical Geography so it focuses on the administration of the land, the cities and the population more than on the overall history. There are very interesting suggestions here about the Greek colonization of places like Beit Shean(Scythiopolis) and the remnants of the Phoenicians. In addition there are interesting observations about the fluctuation of Jewish settlement and a rare glimpse into the pre-Islamic arab tribes such as the Nabateans and Idumeans who populated the southern part of the country and are not frequently covered in histories of the Middle East. The one great flaw of this text is the almost complete disappearance of the Samaritans from the book. Where are they to be found? Only brief mentions are given of their existence and their revolt against the Byzantines in 555 AD when their population and nation was almost completely destroyed as the Jews had been in 132 AD. So this is a major hole and it is not explained. The overall coverage of the Byzantine period is weak, there is little coverage of the decline of Roman infrastructure at places like Sepphoris(Tsipori) and there is little discussion of the church. Overall however this is a good general read that has many illuminating chapters. Seth J. Frantzman 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Resource! By Jimmy R. Reagan The Holy Land: A Pilgrims Guide to Israel, Jordan, and the Sinai by G.S.P. Freeman-Grenville is thrilling. Though some of the road information is out of date, this is an experience. The armchair traveler will not be disappointed, nor will the modern pilgrim. You will have to do your homework for sites in the West Bank, but this book makes you thirst to go.

Designed for the Christian visitor to Israel, this extensively researched guide is invaluable as a record of Christian influence on the landscape of Israel. Its ten itineraries cover routes as diverse as Bethlehem, Hebron and Qumran, and allow for day trips across the border into Jordan and the Sinai. Packed full of just about everything a visitor could wish to know: a detailed description of each location's history, points of interest to visit at each site, and advice on how to travel from place to place.