

# The Bible is Our Map

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NOVA TOTIVS TERRARVM ORBIS GEOGRAPHICA AC HYDROGRAPHICA TABVLA. Auct: Henr: Hondio.



AME  
RICA  
Circul' Arctic'

Doctissimi Ornatissimi Viri  
D.D. Davidi Saclero Antonio de  
Willon et D. Martino Matheseo  
in Illustri Academia Parisiensis  
Professoribus eximio in vena  
amicitia praequebore D.D.  
Henr. Hondius M. 1693



INC  
OGNITA  
Circulus Antarctici

# Overview of Maps

- Maps always reflect a particular perspective
- Maps serve multiple purposes
  - Showing us where we are
  - Identifying boundaries
  - Identifying political spheres of authority
  - Showing how to get somewhere else

# The Bible as a Map

- The Bible helps us see the world as God's world
- The Bible identifies boundaries of behavior in order for us to live according to God's creation and redemption purpose for us
- We need to recognize that the Bible reflects a particular context, including a specific relationship between God and his people

# Exodus 20

- This chapter is the focal point of Israel's exodus from Egypt
  - They were delivered from Egypt to worship the LORD
  - God prepared them for this encounter with him in his awesome holiness
  - The form of this chapter closely follows a suzerainty treaty, which was common in the Ancient Near East
  - This is a specific form of a covenant, which continues the theme of the LORD being a covenant-making God

# Exodus 20

- The typical suzerainty treaty included the following elements:
  - Preamble: introduces the parties
  - Prologue: recounts deeds done by the Suzerain
  - Stipulations: stipulates terms to be upheld by the vassal
  - Provision for annual public reading
  - Divine witness to the treaty
  - Blessings and curses
  - Sacrificial meal

# Exodus 20

- The giving of the law at Sinai incorporates some of these components
  - Preamble: I am YHWH your God
  - Prologue: ...who brought you out of the land of Egypt
  - Stipulations: commandments
  - Provision for public reading: included in Deuteronomy at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim
  - Blessings and curses: pronounced at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim

# The Bible as Map

- This covenant with Israel functions in some ways as a map for Israel
  - It reminds them who they are in relation to the LORD
  - It confirms the LORD's authority over Israel (he is their Deliverer and they owe their existence to him)
  - It establishes boundaries of behavior for Israel as God's covenant people



# The Bible as Map

- The Decalogue clarifies Israel's responsibilities in their relationship with the LORD and in relationship with one another
  - The first four commandments focus on how to worship the LORD
    - You shall have no other gods before me.
    - Make no images
    - Use the LORD's name respectfully
    - Observe a Sabbath by resting as the LORD rested

# The Bible as Map

- The last six commandments focus on our relationships with others
  - Honor your father and mother
  - You shall not murder
  - You shall not commit adultery
  - You shall not steal
  - You shall not give false testimony
  - You shall not covet your neighbor's possessions

# The Bible as Map

- Jesus' summary of the law in Matthew 22:37-40 still applies to us today:

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

# The Bible as Map

- Although today we are not obligated to follow this covenant, it still serves as a map for us
  - It reminds us who we are in relation to the LORD
  - It confirms the LORD's authority over us (he is our Deliverer and we owe our existence to him)
  - It establishes boundaries of behavior for us as God's people

# The Bible as Map

- The rest of the Bible serves as a map for us in a similar way
  - It clarifies who we are and what our purpose is, especially in relation to God
  - It points out our rebellion against God
  - It reminds us that we have been bought with a price, that we belong to God
  - It shows us what authentic, God-honoring behavior looks like