Is Nothing Sacred? Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Significance of Bible Lands

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Pilgrimage –

• expresses one’s own faith

• merit

• sacred space

• requires effort

• intention – self-improvement

• special religious acts / expectations
• space is uniform

• buildings are functional
“The Great Day of Jehovah is Near.”
-Zephaniah 1:14
The Exodus From Egypt

Israelites leave Egypt
Mosaic Law covenant 1513 B.C.E.

Joshua commissioned to succeed Moses 1473 B.C.E.

Settlement of the Promised Land

Joshua leads the conquest after crossing 1447 B.C.E.
Land allotted among 1317 B.C.E.

GREAT SEA,
SEA OF THE PHILISTINES

Possible Route of Exodus
Tower of Babel  
(Genesis 11:1-9)

As the human race dispersed from Mesopotamia, their religious ideas and memories went with them.
Sacred sites

• many owned by mainstream churches
• dubious authenticity
• associated with pagan festivals
• no special merit or benefits
Milan Cathedral

Old Cathedral, St Louis, Missouri
But some were saying: “The Christ is not coming out of Galilee, is he? Does the scripture not say that the Christ is coming from the offspring of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?” So a division over him arose among the crowd.

(John 7:41-43)
The name Har–Magedon means “Mountain of Megiddo.” But rather than being a literal place, it represents the world situation into which all nations are gathered in opposition to Jehovah God and where he will finally destroy them. This is global in extent.

“And those slain by Jehovah in that day will be from one end of the earth clear to the other end of the earth.”

(Jeremiah 25:33)
Nathan H. Knorr
(1905-1977)
President
1942-1977
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London walking tour
  “United in a Disunited World”
Royal Observatory, Greenwich
  “Time, Travel and Truth”
In the near future the reign of Christ the King will bring the establishment of pure, undefiled worship everywhere on earth, making necessary no pilgrimages here or bloody crusades to wrest one piece of ground from the grasp of its possessors. It was good to know this troubled area was being served by devoted believers in Jehovah’s service.

(Nnorrr 1952: 330)
• All earth as sacred space
  “All earth belongs to Jehovah” (Psalm 24:1)
• Bible as a special book
• special people
• sacred time