

Dr. Zur Shalev -- abstract

Sacred geography and enlightenment

My paper explores the interaction of *geographia sacra*, a long tradition of textual and visual engagement with biblical space, with emerging enlightenment ideals of representation in the early eighteenth century. I focus on Holy Land maps produced by two eminent members of the European republic of letters, the Dutch Orientalist Adrian Reland (1676-1718), and the English natural philosopher, William Whiston (1667–1752). Reland, in his influential *Palaestina ex monumentis veteribus illustrata* (1714), designed cleaner-looking maps, based solely on the evidence offered by ancient sources. Whiston, in his translation into English of the works of Josephus (1737), included a carefully crafted map of Palestine, which both followed and aimed to correct Reland's. I will discuss the larger theological-scientific contexts that shaped these projects and suggest that despite their scientific claims to accuracy and 'enlightened' style, these maps are better understood as part of a tradition of religious mapping, and were conceived as such by their authors.