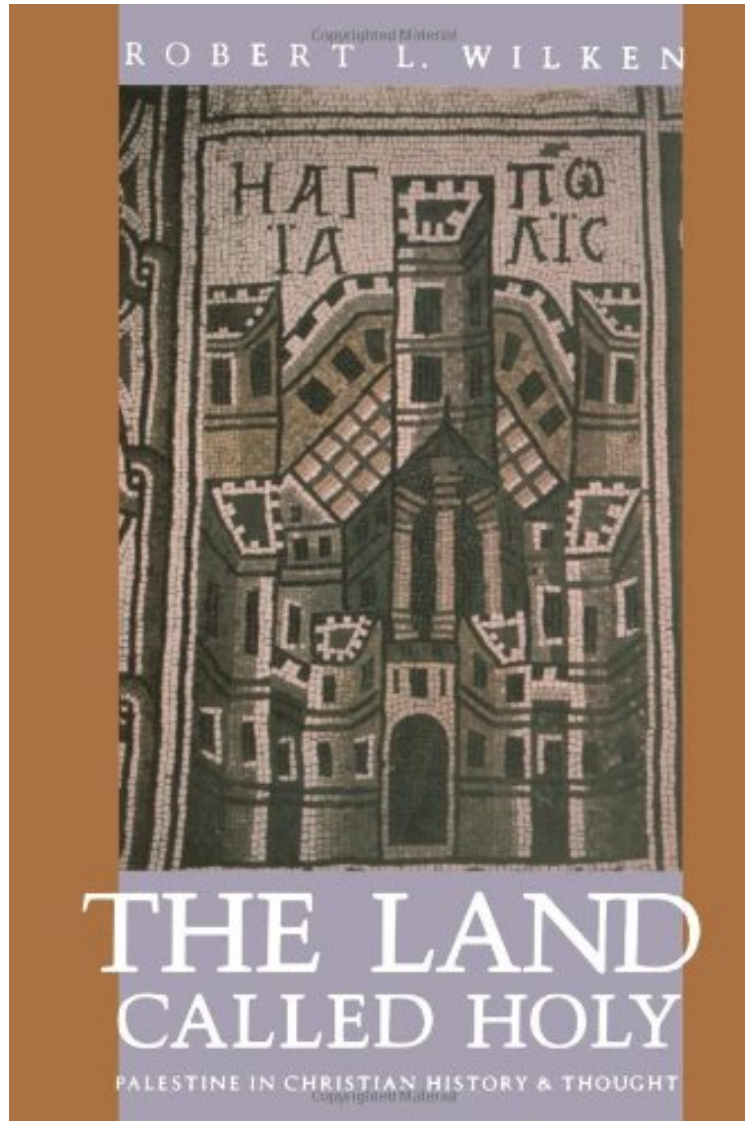


[Library ebook] The Land Called Holy: Palestine in Christian History and Thought

The Land Called Holy: Palestine in Christian History and Thought

Robert Louis Wilken

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Robert Louis Wilken : The Land Called Holy: Palestine in Christian History and Thought before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Land Called Holy: Palestine in Christian History and Thought:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. What? By J. Rogers I really don't know what the other reviewer here is complaining about. I can only assume that by "modernist," he means "scholarly." Wilken is a scholar of early Christianity primarily and any quick look at what this book is about would indicate how the author intended to tackle

the question of the Holy Land. Any complaint of a lack of discussion about Muslim-Jewish conflict is a misunderstanding: the book effectively ends with the Muslim conquest of Israel! It has an area of focus, which should be taken for what it is worth. As a review of Christian interpretations and understandings of the Holy Land, the book is excellent, particularly for someone one terribly familiar with the field. The opening sections discuss Jewish understanding. Wilken goes on to briefly analyze the New Testament sources. A large section of the book is devoted to early church fathers (Origen, Eusebius, Irenaeus and Justin Martyr in particular) and their writings on the city and the holy land. Overall, my only complaint is that some more time and space could have been devoted to a discussion of New Testament sources. This would have been interesting, at least just to see Wilken's opinion on difficult passages. He stops well short of a real textual analysis, leaving some questions he raises unanswered. His use of a variety of sources is compelling, interesting and shows a commendable thoroughness. As an introduction to a general study of the holy land in Christian perspective, it would serve anyone quite well. If you want to get more into interpretation of the NT sources, I have found PWL Walker's *Jesus and the Holy City* and WD Davies' *The Gospel and the Land* to be informative. The latter is older, but more thorough and, at least for me, comes across with less troublesome spots.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Scholarship
By Christopher Riedel
This is a very well written, scholarly work. The style is graceful enough that a laymen ca appreciate what is clearly a lifetime of work on Wilken's part, while also remaining useful to it's intended academic audience. It is very important to note that this book only goes up to the Muslim conquest of 638/40. Do not get this expecting to get a picture of medieval or modern Christian beliefs of the Holy Land. This fact in particular makes some previous reviews of the book distressingly misplaced. If you are interested, as so many are after "the Davinci Code", in the origins of Christianity, this is an excellent, challenging, and scholarly work that will be well worth your time. If you are interested in the Crusades or the modern conflict over Palestine, this will serve as deep background, but you'll have to fill in the gaps with other books.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tangential...
By compulsive readerA
wonderful scholarly work. Author knows his subject very well and gives lots of data. However the subject itself seems tangential to the Christian story. I find the typesetting of the first page of each chapter irritating to read.

From the time of Jesus, Palestine has been an integral part of the Christian experience. Not only have Christians always lived in Palestine, but more important, since the fourth century Christians gradually came to see Palestine as a Holy Land and Jerusalem as the Christian city. In this authoritative and accessible book, Robert L. Wilken discusses how Palestine became a Holy Land to Christians and how Christian ideas and feelings toward the land of the Bible evolved as they lived there and made it their own. Drawing on both primary texts and archaeological evidence, Wilken traces the Christian conception of a Holy Land from its origins in the Hebrew Bible to the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem in the seventh century. He also discusses Jewish ideas of the land and the Jewish response to the Christianization of the Land of Israel. The heart of the book considers how Jerusalem and the biblical land came to be viewed not simply as a place of pilgrimage, but as a place to live, a country with a unique history and privileged status in the Christian world. Wilken concludes with an account of Christian hopes for restoration of Jerusalem after the Muslim conquest, the continuation of Christian life under Muslim rule, and the adoption of Arabic as the language of Christian worship and thought.

From Publishers Weekly
University of Virginia history professor Wilkin examines the evolution of the Christian conception of a Palestinian Holy Land. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.