

Diakonos

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Spring was slow in coming to Michigan this year (we had snow again on Easter Monday), but gradually we have moved forward. For me, at least, I had the



A beautiful sunset over the Pacific from the University of the Nations campus in San Antonio del Mar was definitely a welcome change from the snows of Michigan!

benefit of a late winter reprieve by traveling to places where the sun was shining, this time to the School of Biblical Studies in San Antonio del Mar, Mexico. This is the same campus at which I taught in November, but this time I was in a different department. Here, I covered the last texts of the Old Testament, Malachi, 1 & 2 Chronicles, and intertestamental history, including the Dead Sea Scrolls. Most Christians know very little about intertestamental history, and it was largely new ground for the students as well. The beginnings of different Jewish groups one meets in the New Testament, like Pharisees and Sadducees, are important preparatory work for reading the gospels. The texts from this period are important also, both those

composed by the Jewish community, the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, as well



This ancient text from 419 BC contains a letter from a certain Hananiah in Jerusalem, exhorting the Jews in Elephantine, Egypt to celebrate the Passover. The author identifies himself as “the brother,” quite possible the brother of Nehemiah (Neh. 1:2), whom Nehemiah placed in charge of Jerusalem (Neh. 7:2).

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

as the major translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek, which we call the Septuagint, a translation that became the Bible for most of the earliest Christians.

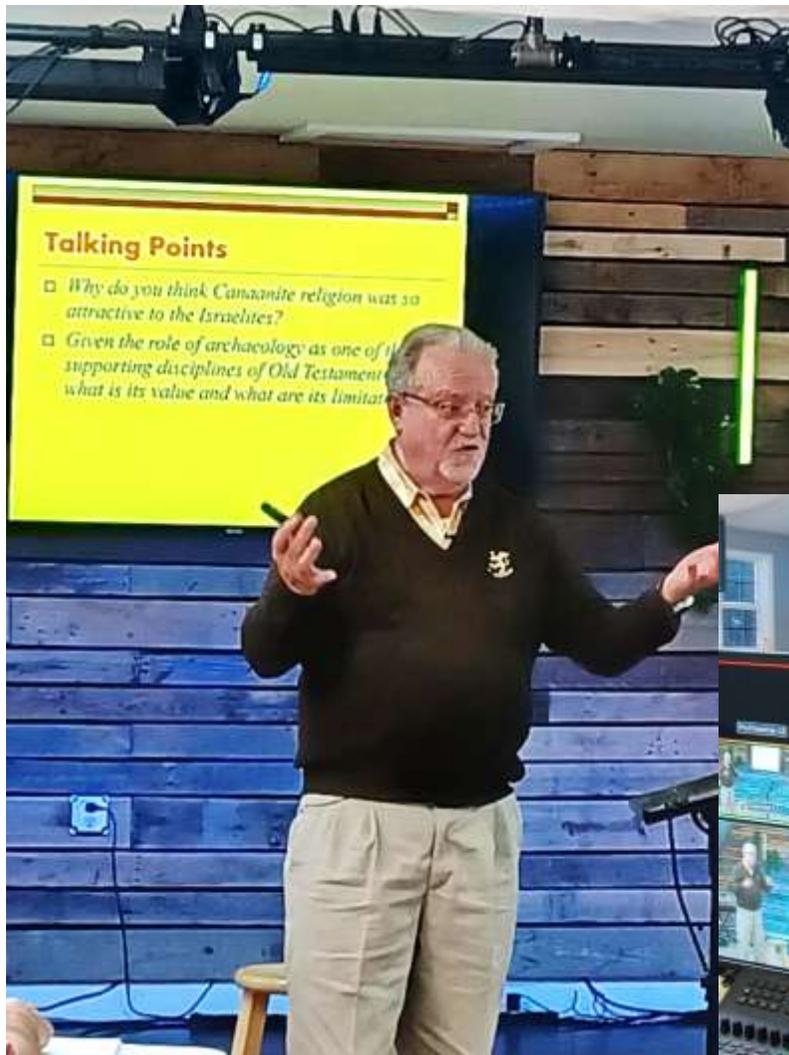
In early April, I flew to Vancouver B.C., Canada to yet another School of Biblical Studies. Here, my subjects were the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, the two large works by Luke comprising just over a quarter of the New Testament. My students were from the various provinces

of Canada including Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Fortunately, I was able to lecture in English without having to worry about French (Canada, of course, is a bi-lingual nation).



At the left is the Vancouver waterfront and at the right are Christy and Mari, two of the staff at U. of N., Vancouver. Mari is a brilliant linguist, fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and English and working on Biblical Hebrew through the Jerusalem University.

Canada was not much warmer than Michigan at this time of year, but there were some sunny days, and it was warm enough to stroll around the city with a light jacket.



Home only for Easter, Peggy and I drove to the U. of N. Campus in Richmond, Virginia in late-April, where I lectured on 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings. While these lectures were to a live class of students, they also were video-recorded by Zaatar Studies, which is



As you can see to the right, the camera crew had multiple screens set up for the different cameras. The final edition of these recordings will not be completed for another three months, so it will be awhile before I can see them myself. However, I've been assured that I will have links to the lectures so they can be available on my website.

producing a professional grade recording for television broadcast purposes. The

recorded lectures will be mixed down by the technicians into a documentary style presentation, and while teaching, I worked within a set of parameters, including clothing that enhances one's skin color, floor markings with boundaries for camera pulling and framing, and of course, a film crew. This was all a rather new

experience for me. Still, I had a good group of live students, ranging from Michigan to Georgia and a few other states, and one delightful young man from Colombia, South America. In addition to the two weeks of lectures, Peggy and I had the opportunity to see our grandkids in Virginia, who live in a suburb of Richmond, so that was surely a bonus!

I was back home for a couple of weeks before flying to Orlando, Florida to another U. of N. campus. This time, I was teaching on the post-exilic books of



It was nice and warm in central Florida, so lecturing in shorts was certainly a pleasant change for spring!

Ezra-Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi and the intertestamental history, similar to what I covered in Mexico. There was a very engaged bunch of students in Orlando on quite a large campus—186 acres! The students, after completing their present course of study in the next few weeks, will be off on a mission trip to South Africa.

As always, I keep up with my language students, even when on the road. Snezhi Yankova, my Bulgarian Hebrew student, has just completed the on-line course in Biblical Hebrew. She was an incredibly bright student and a pleasure to work with! I also have added a new Canadian student for New Testament Greek.

So, this is the current state of things. Upcoming summer lectures trips will be to Kona, Hawaii; Medellin, Colombia; and Seattle. Also, there is a new Basic Core Course just opening up in Detroit on the east side, and I've agreed to do a set of lectures for them on the Book of Hebrews. I'll have the month of August free, but then in the fall, I'll have trips to England for two weeks; Honolulu, Hawaii; and then Kona, Hawaii once again, this time for two weeks. The University of the

Nations main campus is the one in Kona, which I usually get to once or twice each year.

Grace and peace to you all! As always, if these newsletters are not something you wish to receive, no offense whatever will be taken. Just drop me an email note at danlewis@dkonos.org, and I'll take care of it. Many, many thanks to all who have contributed to this ministry!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan and Peggy Lewis". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

Dan and Peggy Lewis

P. S. – As always, should you wish to access any of my materials on-line, you are more than welcome to do so. My website address is: www.dkonos.org

Here you will find biblical commentaries on most books of the Bible, theological commentaries, explorations of biblical archaeology, and video and audio lectures as well. Everything is free.