

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
616 N. Highland Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-2596  
Contact: Melissa Logan  
Communications Coordinator  
412-441-3304 ext. 2113  
[mlogan@pts.edu](mailto:mlogan@pts.edu)



March 31, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**ARCHEOLOGY LECTURE ON GALILEE**

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will hold “Excavating the Galilean House: Jesus, Judaism, and Roman Rule” Thurs., April 24 at 7:30 p.m. Jonathan L. Reed, professor of religion at the University of La Verne, La Verne, Calif., will present the lecture. This event, held in the Hicks Chapel, is free and open to the public. The Bible Lands Museum will be open 5:00-7:15 p.m. and following the lecture.

Scholars have hotly debated the character of Galilee. As the background to Jesus’ life and ministry, Galilee has been variously shaded to support competing scholarly claims that he was either a Hellenistic cynic-sage, a Jewish rabbi, or an anti-Roman revolutionary. Archaeological excavations have played an increasingly important role in this debate, though typically only public space is invoked, such as urban architecture, inscriptions, or coins. This heavily-illustrated lecture will examine the oft-neglected evidence from domestic space found in the houses of first-century Galileans to evaluate Jesus’ context.

Reed is a leading authority on the archaeology of early Christianity and has been involved in several major excavations in Israel, including the sites of Capernaum and Sepphoris in Galilee. Since the collapse of the peace process in 2000, Reed’s research has moved from Israel to the broader Mediterranean. He has been a visiting scholar at the American Academy in

-more-

Rome and the American School of Classical Research in Athens in addition to leading student tours to Greece and Turkey.

In addition to numerous articles, reviews, and a major scholarly monograph titled *Archaeology and the Galilean Jesus* (Trinity Press International), Reed has co-authored with noted biblical scholar John Dominic Crossan two best-selling books: *Excavating Jesus* and *In Search of Paul* (Harper San Francisco). His most recent publication is *The HarperCollins Visual Guide to the New Testament: What Archaeology Reveals about the First Christians*. He served as the senior historical consultant to the National Geographic Channel's 10-part series on Jesus. He holds degrees from Southern California College and Palmer Theological Seminary, and earned his doctorate in New Testament from the Claremont Graduate University.

Contact the Bible Lands Museum at 412-441-3304, ext. 2276 for more information.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a graduate professional institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Founded in 1794, the Seminary is located in Pittsburgh, Pa. and approximately 380 students are enrolled yearly in the degree programs. The Seminary prepares leaders who proclaim with great joy God's message of good news in both word and deed. PTS is rooted in the Reformed history of faithfulness to Scripture and commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

###