Entering Early Christianity via Pompeii

A virtual guide to the world of the New Testament

by Peter Oakes & Benedict Kent
This learning resource is intended for members of the public and for students interested in early Christianity and the New Testament. It uses the remarkable remains of Roman buildings at Pompeii to reconstruct the social world of early Christian communities. Peter Oakes is Professor of New Testament at the University of Manchester. These materials are based on his extensive research on Pompeii and early Christianity and the publications that have come out of it. Benedict Kent has a PhD in New Testament Studies from the University of Manchester.

Feedback: These materials are available for free download. The one thing we ask is for users to consider providing feedback to help us understand how the resources are being used, how useful they are, and how they could be improved. Please follow the links at the bottom of our homepage to complete our short online questionnaire after using the resource. It’s even more valuable to us if you can complete both our ‘before’ and ‘after’ questionnaires. If materials have been used as part of a study group, we’d also welcome feedback from group leaders.

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Additional resources: For a guide to Pompeii, downloadable maps and many further valuable resources about all the key sites in the region, visit the official Pompeii web-site, http://pompeisites.org/en/. For house summaries, visit AD79. For extensive photo collections of the houses, visit pompeiiinpictures.com.

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Acknowledgements

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Making sense of Roman Pompeii

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- Map of the Insula of the Menander, adapted from Ling 1997, fig. 24 (drawn by S. Gibson, J. S. Gregory, R. J. Ling, D. Murdoch), with thanks to Roger Ling for permission to reproduce this plan

Character cards

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A church in the elite house

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A church in the workshop

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A church in the cabinet-maker's house

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Modelling a craftworker house church

- Map of the house of the cabinet-maker, adapted from Ling 1997, fig. 24 (drawn by S. Gibson, J.
  S. Gregory, R. J. Ling, D. Murdoch), with thanks to Roger Ling for permission to reproduce this
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  cleprovost-3881971/?utm_source=link-
  attribution&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=image&utm_content=268
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A church in the bar

- ‘Illustration of a painting of a drinking scene found at Pompeii’, in William Smith (ed.),
  Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities, p. 258. Boston, 1849 by Internet Archive Book
  Images’ (https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/14759223346/Source
  book page: https://archive.org/stream/dictionaryofgree00omit_1/
  dictionaryofgree00omit_1#page/n277/mode/1up, No restrictions); https://
  commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=43451832’

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Worshipping the God of Israel

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Bibliography

This course draws on the research produced by Peter Oakes on Pompeii, house church life, and Christian texts, specifically:


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