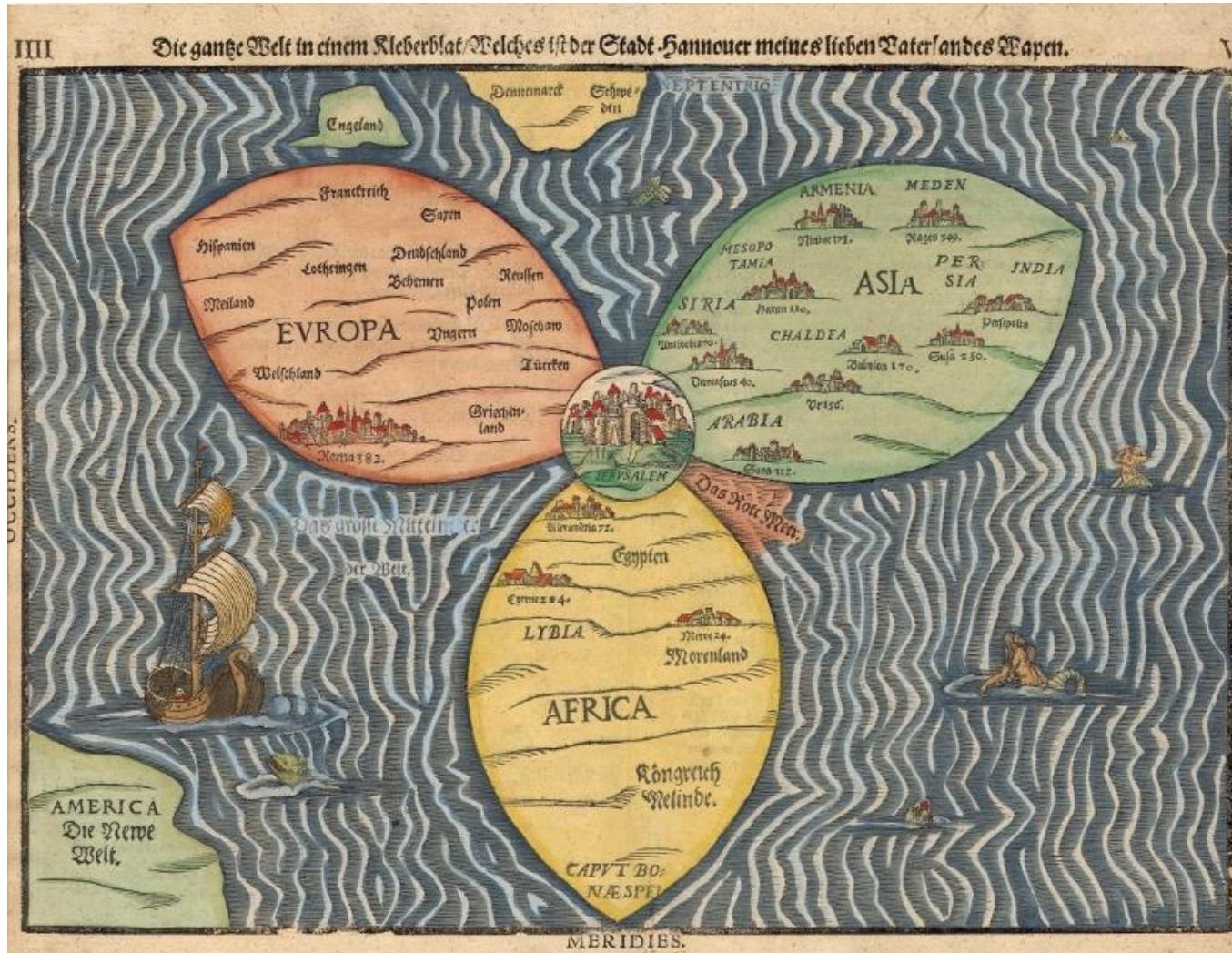


In this week's Parashah of Bereishit, the first Parashah in the Torah, we read about the Creation of the World. This week's NLI resource features a map of the World as it was viewed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



Parashat Bereishit  
Volume 2 Edition 1  
Written by Shosh Hill  
in conjunction with NLI

# Three Leaf Clover map



This well-known, colourful map from the 16<sup>th</sup> century was created by the medieval priest and cartographer (map-maker), Heinrich Bünting and was first published in his book, "A Journey through Holy Books" in 1581.

Of this map, Bünting said, "The whole world in a clover leaf, which is the crest of the city of Hannover, my beloved fatherland."

The three continents of the Old World - Europe, Asia and Africa - are shown divided by the seas but connected by Jerusalem as the centre of the world. This was because of Jerusalem's religious importance. The blue ocean is named "The Great Mediterranean Sea of the World" and has been drawn complete with a sailboat, mermaids and sea monsters. Only the Red Sea is coloured red and shown separately.

At the top of the map are islands symbolising England and Denmark, whilst America appears almost as an afterthought in the margin of the map and is referred to as the "New World". The explanatory text in Bunting's book reads: 'As far as the fourth part of the world, namely America, is concerned, which has recently been "invented," there is no need here to say more as it is not mentioned in the Holy Scripture.'

# A brief history of Jerusalem

Jerusalem is an important city for three major world religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam, which is why Bünting placed it at the centre of his map of the world. Here is a (very) brief history of the beautiful city of Jerusalem:

1676 BCE: According to the Torah, The Binding of Isaac occurred on the site of the future Beit HaMikdash (Temple) in Jerusalem.

860's BCE: The Tanach (Bible) says that King David, the second king of Israel, built his palace in Jerusalem. His son Solomon, the third king of Israel, built the Beit HaMikdash in Jerusalem.

586 BCE: Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar II, the king of Babylon. At this time, the palace of King David and the Temple of Solomon were burned and the Jews were captured and taken to Babylon.

516 BCE: Seventy years later, the Persian King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Beit HaMikdash.

322 BCE: The Greeks, led by Alexander the Great, conquer Israel.

37 CE: The area was occupied by the Romans. King Herod the Great, enlarged the Beit HaMikdash in an effort to gain Jewish favour. It became famous for its beauty and magnitude.

70 CE: The Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Beit HaMikdash. The Jews who lived in Jerusalem were captured and enslaved. The Romans renamed Jerusalem with the Latin name of Aelia Capitolina.

324 CE: The Byzantine Empire ruled Jerusalem.

628 CE: The Muslims ruled the city.

1099 CE: The Pope in Rome sent the Crusaders from Western Europe to regain Jerusalem.

1260 CE: the Mamluks ruled Jerusalem.

1512 CE: Until the 20th century, Jerusalem was part of the Ottoman Empire.

1917 CE: The British ruled Jerusalem.

1948 CE: The State of Israel is born.

1967 CE: Israel gains control of the entire city of Jerusalem.

## Activities:

Look at the map overleaf. Why do you think Bünting included just three continents?

Something to discuss

Look closely at the cities for which Bünting included diagrams. Why do you think he chose these particular cities to illustrate?

Create a picture of the Old City of Jerusalem from coloured paper or tissue paper using just basic shapes (rectangles and semi-circles).

(Image below from CreativeJewishMom.com).



Make a collage of the Kotel (Western Wall) using various brown paper squares as bricks and green wool or tissue paper as the plants. You could even write a note to place between your bricks.



Why do you think Bünting placed Jerusalem at the centre of the map?



To watch a brief history of the City of Jerusalem.



For young (and not-so-young) readers, follow this link to join Grover of Sesame Street as he visits Jerusalem:

If you were to design your own symbolic map of the world, in what shape would you choose to draw it?

Why would you choose this shape?

What locations would you include on your map and why?

Try to draw your map – submit your entry to: education.uk@nli.org.uk