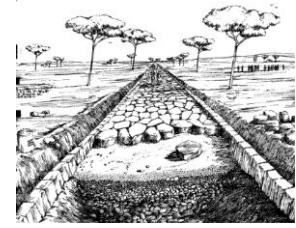


MEETING JESUS ON THE WAY

The importance of highways
in history, in the Bible, and in Indiana



Video #2:

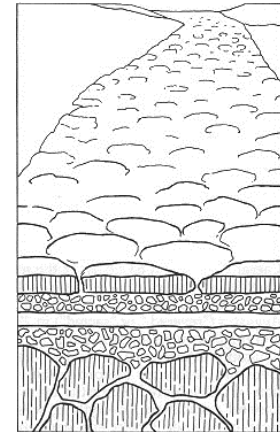
Important Roads in History

Derek דֶּרֶךְ is the primary Hebrew word for *path, way, road*. Its root means “to tread down,” and it refers to an ungraded path created by the constant trampling of feet.

Mesillah מְסִלָּה is the main word for *highway*. Its root means “to _____, to heap up;” in contrast to *derek*, it refers to a main route, a lengthy and well-maintained thoroughfare. Foot paths can just *happen*; but highways are planned and executed.

The Hittites held their empire together by the use of military roads. Sennacherib boasted about the roads he built in Nineveh. The “Royal Road of the Persians” connected the Mediterranean with the Persian Gulf. Herodotus traveled it and vividly described its way stations, fortified hostels, garrison posts, toll gates, and services. The longest known highway of ancient times was the famous Silk Road, by which the treasures of China were carried to Rome. “By such roads the Nestorian Christians made their way to China, the Jews traveled to establish their colony at Kaifeng, and Marco Polo made his way to Peking (Beijing).” (*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*)

The Romans didn’t make the _____ highways, but they did build the _____. “Roman highways were constructed to last. First, a foundation of large stones was laid, followed by a layer of smaller stones. This was cemented together with lime. Then a third layer of small stones was spread above this, and the whole was capped with flat blocks of flint paving stones. The roads were arched, and gutters ran along their sides to carry off rain water.” It is a testimony to their skill and determination that “several of the two- to three-foot-thick roads constructed in the first century *still exist today*.” (*The Bible Readers Companion*)



The Appian Way (Via Appia) was one of the first and most important roads in the Roman Empire. Built in 312 BC, it was known as “the queen of the long roads.” It connected Rome with Brindisi in southeast Italy, and was used to transport troops and as a main route for military supplies. After surviving a shipwreck, the apostle Paul was brought to the coastal city of Puteoli; then he went on the Via Appia all the way to Rome. Roman Christians heard of his journey and met him at different points along the road and escorted him to the capital city (Acts 28:13-15).

The Egnatian Way (Via Egnatia) was another one of the most important roads in the Roman Empire, connecting Italy to the provinces of Asia Minor. The Apostle Paul traveled on this road when he visited Philippi and Thessalonica on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:12, 17:1).

For follow up ...



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