



In the Footsteps of Paul: A Biblical Journey Through Turkey and Greece

Reading and Movie List from Trip Scholar Madelon Maupin

BOOKS

Biblical and Paul-focused books (non-fiction):

***Biblical Turkey: A Guide to the Jewish and Christian Sites of Asia Minor* – Mark Wilson** A thorough, current guide to the New Testament sites in modern Turkey (Ephesus, Antioch, Pisidian Antioch, Galatia, the Seven Churches, etc.). It's written for both travelers and more academic readers and is great to read before or during your trip.

***A Guide to Biblical Sites in Greece and Turkey* – Clyde E. Fant and Mitchell G. Reddish** Includes clear descriptions, maps, and biblical context for major sites connected to Paul's journeys in Turkey, such as Antioch (Pisidian and Syrian), Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Ephesus, and the Seven Churches. Both this book and the Mark Wilson one above are worth packing with you to have on hand at the sites. You wouldn't bring both, but choose one or the other. Both are excellent.

***Paul: A Biography* – N.T. Wright or *The Apostle: A Life of Paul* – John Pollock** Wright offers a theologically rich, scholarly-but-accessible life of Paul; Pollock is more popular-level and narrative-driven. Both help you "hear" the letters of Paul against the geography and cultures of Turkey.

***Christian Origins in Ephesus and Asia Minor* – Mark R. Fairchild** Shorter, readable essays focused on the churches Paul founded in Asia Minor, including Ephesus and the surrounding provinces, which are the heart of your itinerary.

Fiction set in or connected to Turkey (with biblical flavor where possible):

***And Walk in Love* – Henrietta Buckmaster.** (Historic Fiction, 1956). Buckmaster was the Home Forum page Editor of *The Christian Science Monitor* for many years. She wrote another book, *Paul: A Man Who Changed the World* (1965). These are readable biographies that use a more narrative style, quite different from a drier, more scholarly approach. They are also much older than more current books that can take advantage of later scholarship and discoveries.

***Birds Without Wings* – Louis de Bernières** A sweeping historical novel set around a Greek-Turkish town in southwest Anatolia, touching on the end of the Ottoman Empire and the Christian-Muslim legacy of the region. It's not "biblical" per se, but it gives emotional texture to the landscape you'll walk.

***The Bastard of Istanbul* – Elif Shafak.** This is contemporary fiction that weaves Turkish family life with Armenian and missionary histories; a good window into Istanbul's layered Christian-Muslim past and present.

***A Strangeness in My Mind* – Orhan Pamuk** A panoramic novel following a man building Istanbul over decades; it's less explicitly religious but helps you feel the rhythms of modern urban Turkey.

General Turkey books (non-fiction) – about modern Turkey's culture, politics, and history:

***Atatürk: The Biography of the Founder of Modern Turkey* – Andrew Mango** The standard biography of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk; essential background for understanding modern secular Turkey.

***Crescent and Star: Turkey between Two Worlds* – Stephen Kinzer** A concise overview of Turkey as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East; very readable before or after your trip.

***Portrait of a Turkish Family* – Irfan Orga** A memoir-style account of a Turkish family in Istanbul through

FILMS

Hollywood Films Shot in Turkey:

***Skyfall* (2012):** James Bond chases villains through Istanbul's Grand Bazaar and other sites, with additional scenes in Adana and Fethiye.

***Taken 2* (2012):** Liam Neeson battles kidnappers in Istanbul neighborhoods like Balat, Kadıköy, and Haydarpaşa.

***The Water Diviner* (2014):** Russell Crowe's WWI drama was shot at Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque, and Kayaköy in Muğla. Also shows Cappadocian valleys; streams on Netflix or Apple TV.

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011), with Nicolas Cage, used Cappadocia's surreal terrain for chase scenes; check Tubi, Prime Video, or YouTube.

Bond Series Connections:

From Russia with Love (1963): Sean Connery's Bond navigates Istanbul, including the Basilica Cistern and Hagia Sophia.

The World Is Not Enough (1999): Pierce Brosnan's mission unfolds around the Maiden's Tower in Istanbul.

Turkish and Art Films Set in Turkey:

Once Upon a Time in Anatolia (2011): A Palme d'Or-nominated crime drama exploring rural Turkey.

Winter Sleep (2014): Anuri Bilge Ceylan's film delving into human relationships in Cappadocia.