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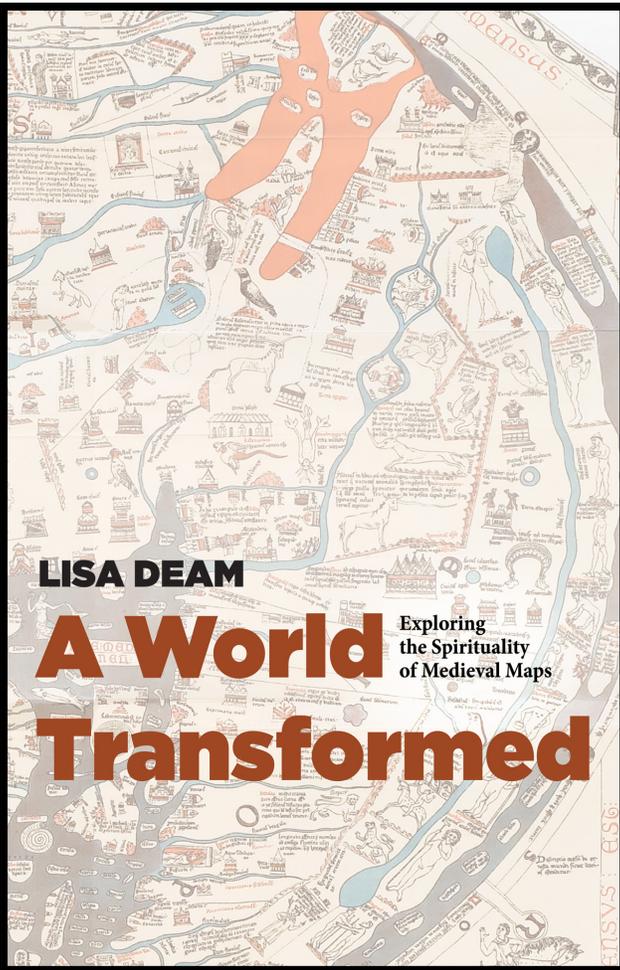
Contact Information:

Lisa Deam

lisa@lisadeam.com

New Title from Lisa Deam

***A World Transformed:
Exploring the Spirituality of Medieval Maps***



On the edge of medieval maps, monsters roam. In the west, pilgrims take well-traveled roads to Rome and Compostela. In the east, Old Testament history unfolds. And at the center, in the city of Jerusalem, Jesus saves the world.

A World Transformed invites you on an incredible journey through medieval maps. Be prepared to encounter a strange new world: nothing on these maps looks familiar to eyes normally glued to MapQuest or GPS screens. Yet art historian Lisa Deam shows that these fanciful maps are surprisingly useful if explored through the eyes of faith. Just as the maps engaged the theological imagination of the Christian Middle Ages, so they can engage and enliven our own. Their grace-filled geography helps us to plot, dream, and pray our way through our journey of faith. Join Lisa as she unlocks the secrets of medieval maps for spiritual seekers of the modern era.

Lisa writes with the rigor of an academically trained historian combined with the passion of someone who is herself on the spiritual road. Each chapter of her book not only inquires into the medieval world, it also poses questions for *our* world. The mix of spiritual guidance and historical perspective marks this book as a vital resource for anyone who is intentional about their journey of faith. *A World Transformed* is recommended reading for thoughtful individuals, spiritual directors and for classroom use.

Lisa Deam has a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Chicago. She writes and speaks on medieval art, maps, and spirituality. Visit Lisa at www.lisadeam.com.

A World Transformed
Exploring the Spirituality of Medieval Maps
by Lisa Deam

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Interview with author Lisa Deam

What is the book about?

This book explores the marvelous and monstrous world of medieval maps through the lens of the Christian faith. It asks the question, how can these 700-year-old maps be fresh and relevant today? The answer might surprise you: medieval maps are wonderful tools for spiritual growth and reflection.

So, why *are* medieval maps relevant today?

These maps plot not just the physical world, but a world enlivened by faith and history. Many of the maps' illustrations and features are metaphorical, making them as meaningful to us as to people in the year 1300. Their geography stands for what we fear about the world and what we need as we journey through it: compassion, love, assurance, redemption—and lots of signposts to guide our way.

Can you give an example of the maps' metaphorical geography?

On a group of maps made around the year 1300, the city of Jerusalem lies at the center of the world. Often it is accompanied by an illustration of Jesus' crucifixion or resurrection. By showing Jerusalem in this way, the maps picture the centrality of Jesus in space, in time, and in the Christian faith.

Why did you write this book?

I began studying medieval world maps from a scholarly perspective. I soon realized that the maps also spoke to my faith. The grace-filled world they portray is the kind of world I want to live in. I began talking about the maps to friends and people in my church—and no one had ever heard of them. When I saw what an untapped spiritual resource these maps were, I wanted to tell everyone about them! I knew I had to write a book.

Why did you choose to explore medieval maps from a spiritual angle?

These maps engage my mind but also my heart. They inform the way I see and practice my faith. That's why the book includes my personal experiences as well as words of guidance to help others on their spiritual journey.

Interview with Lisa Deam cont.

Why should people today be interested in *anything* medieval?

The Middle Ages informs our culture today. Video games and movies are frequently set in the medieval era, and comparisons between our age and the Middle Ages are made on the national and international stage. Whether people love or hate the Middle Ages, they feel tied to it in some way. So it's important to try to understand this time period. For people of the Christian faith, the medieval era is especially relevant because it witnessed an outpouring of spiritual creativity. The works of art and devotional and theological texts of this period tie us to the historical life of the church and provide guidance for our walk of faith today.

What do you hope to accomplish with this book?

By writing about medieval maps, I seek to introduce people to a little-known part of their spiritual heritage. I hope that the book brings a new perspective to viewing and living out the Christian faith.

Who would be interested in this book?

Anyone who loves history or cartography will connect with the wonderful and wacky maps the book explores. There is so much about medieval maps to delight the mind and the eye! People seeking to deepen their journey of faith will find the way I engage with the maps especially compelling. My goal is to open the world of medieval maps for hearts wanting to grow.

So, what would happen if we tried to use a medieval map to take a trip?

Well, we'd get pretty lost! Many maps from the Middle Ages show the world from a spiritual and historical perspective. They show what people *believed*, not just what they *knew*. These maps weren't meant to guide physical journeys—but they are excellent at guiding spiritual ones.

Excerpt from *A World Transformed*

I always find it fascinating when a work of art reveals something about the way it was made. In a Rembrandt painting, for example, globs of paint ride the surface of the canvas, revealing each dab and stroke of the master's brush. Paintings in medieval manuscript books, by contrast, can be so transparent that the artist's preliminary sketch peeps out from under the surface. In both cases, we see a bit of the creative process at work.

Medieval maps sometimes reveal their making, too. In the center of the Hereford Map, there is a small pinprick or hole that is clearly visible to the naked eye (as long as you are close enough to the map to see it). Scholars believe that this rupture in the parchment marks the spot on which the mapmaker anchored his compass as he drew the circumference of the earth. Given the map's four-foot diameter, that must have been some compass!

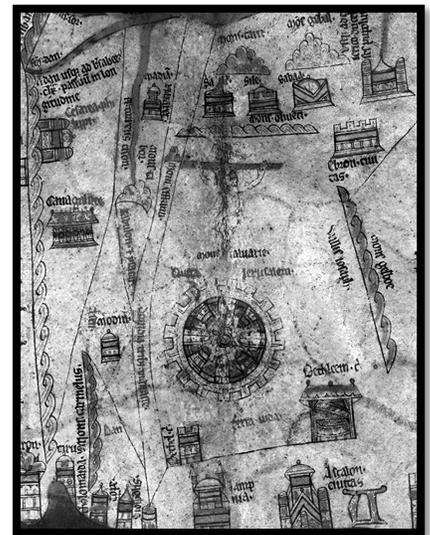
This small record of the map's making has a great deal of meaning. The little pinprick lies in the exact center of the world. And there, in that spot, an artist drew the city of Jerusalem. Above the city, another artist sketched in a small picture of the Crucifixion.

We can almost compare the hole in the parchment to the holes in Christ's hands, feet, and sides as he is nailed to the cross. The map's makers may not have thought of the pinprick in this way, but they certainly knew the significance of Jerusalem. With their pinprick and picture, they were following a time-honored tradition that placed this most sacred of cities in the center of the inhabited world.

What a beautiful way to make a map! Begin with the cross. Let Jerusalem shape the contours of the earth. The map's making contains an echo of what God did in the beginning, creating the world and ordering it around his son.

It also leads to questions about our world. Each day, we give shape to our world through our beliefs and our way of life. What does our world look like? Does it begin with the cross? Is it given form and coherence by Jesus Christ? Or has it begun to lose the perfect shape the creator gave it? These are challenging questions, even for Christians. So many things clutter our world—so many distractions, competing beliefs, and false promises—that Jesus sometimes gets crowded out. We forget the place that he once occupied in our life, the passion that we once had for him. Our world may no longer be recognizable to us.

Maybe it's time to reshape our world. Time to order it, chart it, plot its contours anew. To do so, we need to think like cartographers of old. We need to think medieval. That is the task of the present chapter. As we become familiar with medieval maps, we will discover how mapmakers saw their world, especially its sacred center. In the process, we may get the urge to become cartographers, too. By chapter's end, we may find ourselves pulling out our own compass and redrawing our little world.



Praise for *A World Transformed*

“The modern era did much damage to the faith, especially in its bias against anything ‘old’—‘Chronological Snobbery,’ as C. S. Lewis called it. Now as many disillusioned, directionless Evangelicals look to orient their modern compasses toward timeless truth, they are turning in great numbers to the ancient good of the Christian faith. Deam has expertly unpacked a beautiful spiritual map that points us home—and it’s a surprising journey that can change your life.”

—Chris Alford, Pastor, Epiclesis, Sacramento, CA

“As someone who trains people in spiritual direction, I highly recommend Deam’s book. . . . Like any good map, it will orient you to a new way of seeing—you will look through this time and place to another paradigm of living that can encourage Christians on their spiritual path today. By making medieval maps accessible and applicable to modern life, this book will help you discover your place in the story God is telling about the world.”

—Jeanie Hoover, Executive Director, Transformational Listening Center, Prospect Heights, IL

“*A World Transformed* is a beautifully written and spiritually enriching book. Deam takes us on a journey of faith inspired by the Christ-centered world depicted in medieval maps. I know of few books that do such an amazing job of bringing serious historical scholarship and Christian spirituality together in a way that serves the needs of the church and its people.”

—John Fea, Chair of the Department of History, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA

