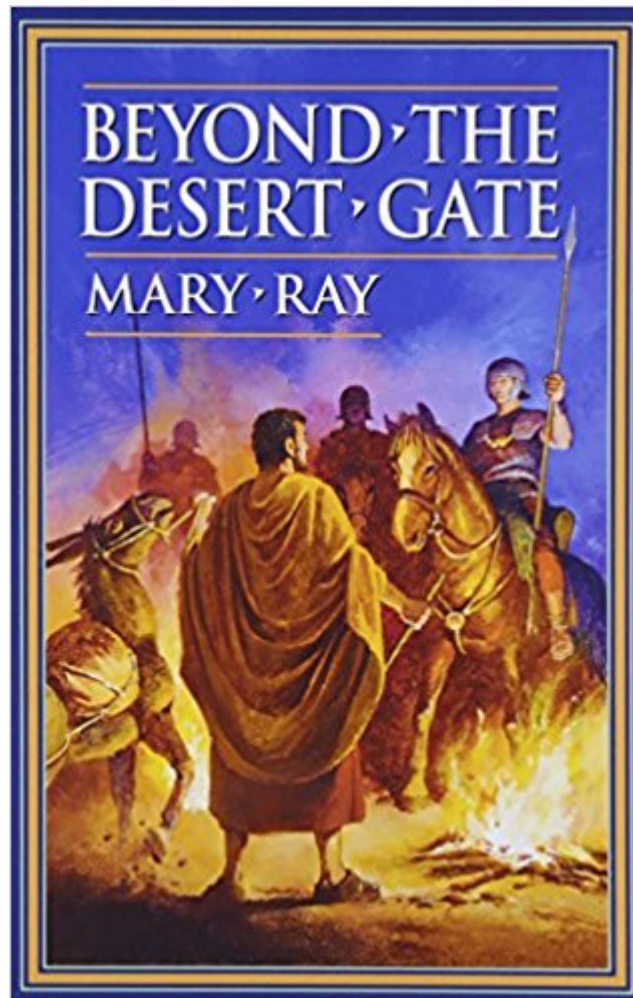




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Beyond The Desert Gate



Synopsis

Palestine, first century A.D.-the Jews have revolted against Roman occupation. The ten Greek cities of Palestine-the Decapolis-want only to continue their peaceful trading existence, but they find themselves caught in the middle of the uprisings. Apollodorus, a merchant of Philadelphia, takes a risk and rescues a man whom a Roman patrol has left to die in the desert. When Apollodorus is killed by robbers, his three sons are left almost penniless and must each find a way for themselves. Philo, the youngest, is befriended by Xenos, the man saved from the desert, who has lost his memory. From him the boy learns the art of the scribe, and together they try to find their identity-one from the past, the other for the future. A serious story of an important time in history. Sequel to The Ides of April.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a read-a-loud for SonLight Curriculum 6th grade. My kids and I really enjoyed this book and even read ahead. Jesus doesn't make a cameo appearance but is discussed a lot. The main character is a young boy with a Jewish mother (deceased) but raised mainly Greek by his father during the Roman occupation. The boy's merchant father dies and the adventure is about he and his brothers trying to survive. The boy and his one brother look Greek but the 2nd brother favors their mother, an interesting way to weave the political conflicts. The boys show real grit and ingenuity with a little help from friends. There are wonderful lessons about humility, patience and perseverance. It's a great read for any young boy.

Beyond the Desert Gate is an historical/Christian fiction story set in the Roman Empire. It was slightly suspenseful, and interesting enough to keep me reading to the end.

History and fiction blended well. Enough detail to help children understand without being overly graphic for older children most definitely.

Reading this well written book is an easy way to learn about the political turmoil of first century Israel. It introduces older children to the difficulties of that time and place while providing an interesting story line that keeps their attention.

This series came highly recommended and was suggested as good material to fill in some history gaps. I thought these historic novels would be a nice way to supplement what we already have. Unfortunately, my sixteen-year-old son and my seventeen-year-old daughter did not like the books at all. I am only posting to Beyond the Desert Gate since that's the only title I read (in order to confirm their dislike for the series) and I have to agree that the dialogue is interminable and tedious. It reads like an exaggerated soap opera and I prefer to have my children read well-written works. It hurts to be critical of an author, but I am compelled to be honest for the sake of other home educators who may also be on a strict budget.

This is an excellent history depicted story which is middle school appropriate and the we received it in ample to time to my student's need .

A good view of life in the middle east just after Christ. Greek life and views are nicely presented. The non-ending is a bit of a downer. Part of a larger series.

read this book to my son and enjoyed reading it together. Ray created great characters. It's good history! well worth the read!

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