

PHILOSOPHY

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The Palestinian readings of the western Russian departments of the imperial orthodox Palestine society as the most massive educational project of the Russian empire in the late 19th – early 20th centuries and its missionary significance

The article analyzes a significant socio-cultural phenomenon of the late 19th and early 20th centuries – the popular Palestinian readings conducted by the Western Russian provincial departments of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society (IOPS). The readings on the Holy Land in the Western Russian dioceses simultaneously fulfilled four tasks: educational, spiritual and educational, missionary and financial. It is shown that the Palestinian readings were massive, interesting to a wide range of the population and took place in crowded temples and auditoriums. The readings attracted not only the Orthodox population, but also often schismatics-Old Believers, Catholics and Jews. Sometimes, as a result of attending readings, Old Believers reunited with the official Orthodox Church.

Key words: Palestinian readings, education, Holy Land, provincial department, Western Russian province, Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, missionary work.

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