



15-Day Journey through the Bible with Dr. Lowell Stime January 10 - January 24, 2011

For more information, contact
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Day 1 – Departure from the USA to Israel.

Depart on your international flight from New York to Israel with the meals served on board.

Day 2 – Arrival to Israel

Reading: "Land and the Book" pages 19-94.

Upon arrival in Israel you will be met by our representative and transferred to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Lecture: "Orientation to the Land."

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 3 – Theme: Historical Geography of the Land

Reading: Genesis 37-50

Field Trip: City tour of Jerusalem, Israel Museum, City of David, Yad Vashem

Visit the Old City of Jerusalem. Understand better the Jerusalem of Jesus' day with a look at First Century Model of the City of Jerusalem, now housed at the Israel Museum. Also visit the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls, are displayed.

Wander the excavations of the City of David. Walk the steps to the Pool of Siloam, recently uncovered at the foot of the City. Explore Hezekiah's Tunnel, an amazing engineering feat that was dug from either end and met in the middle! Peer down Warren's Shaft, thought to have served as a fresh water drawing point for the city and could have been how Joab entered the city and opened it to David's forces (2 Samuel 5:6-8).

Walk the museum and grounds of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum, as a reminder of why we must never let this happen again. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 4 – Theme: Entering the Land of Canaan

Readings: Joshua 1-8; Land and the Book 142-46; 157-158; Matthew 3; Mark 1

Field Trip: St. George Monastery; Wadi Qelt Nature Hike; Jericho; Ai; Nabi Samuel

View St. George Monastery and hike the Wadi Qelt in the Judean Wilderness to Jericho to visit the ruins of Herod's three palaces at New Testament Jericho. Travel to Tel Jericho and visit the ruins of the ancient city, which was conquered by Joshua (Josh. 6: 1, 2, 20). From Jericho, you can see the traditional site of the Temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4: 1-11). Return to Jerusalem via the Jericho Road, which twists for miles as it climbs from below sea level into the Judean mountains. Jesus traveled the nearby Roman road, the setting of His parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-36).

Visit Nabi Samuel, thought to be the burial place of the prophet Samuel from which you can view the Beth Horon Ridge and Gibeon.

Day 5 – Theme: Intertestamental Period and Jewish Life under the Herods

Reading: Land and the Book, 111-114, 140-141, 202-203, Matthew 2; Luke 2

Field Trip: Bethlehem

In Bethlehem visit the cave revered as the place where Jesus was born (Matt. 1: 18 - 25; Luke 2: 1- 7). The church, which was constructed on the site, is the world's oldest functioning church. Nearby you'll view Shepherds' Field where the Good News was first heard.

Visit the Herodion, the fortified palace and final resting place of Herod, the Great.

Meet Dr. Mitri Raheb at Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and visit Bethlehem Bible College.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 6 – Theme: Hebrew Life under the Judges, Kings and Prophets

Reading: Land and the Book 106, 117-118, 131, 147-148, 1 Samuel 6-7; 17; 2, 19; 21:9; 2 Kings 18; Jeremiah 34

Field Trip: the Sorek Valley; Beth Shemesh; Wadi Elah; Bell Caves; Lachish; Ashkelon

Visit the Valley of Sorek and the city of Beth Shemesh, nearby is the recently discovered Sorek Cave with an impressive display of natural stalagmites and stalactites.

Beth Shemesh boasts a remarkable, man-made underground water system and the site where the Ark of the Covenant was returned on a cow pulled cart from the land of the Philistines (1 Sam. 6). Visit the Valley of Elah, famous as the site of the battle between David and Goliath.

See remarkable caves, known as Bell Caves hewn out of the soft chalk in the area of Bet Guvrin and visit the tel of Maresha, a city built by King Rehoboam. Visit Lachish, a city that dates back to over 2000 years before Christ and Ashkelon, which is home to archeological excavation that dates back to Philistine times. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 7 – Theme: The Aftermath: The First and Second Jewish Revolts

Reading: Land and the Book 130-132; 149-156; 163-67; 1 Samuel 24

Field Trip: Masada, Qumran, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea

Visit the Judean Wilderness, driving along the shores of the Dead Sea to the spectacular mountaintop fortress of Masada built by Herod. Masada is famous for being the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. From the top of Masada the remains of the Roman camps and siege ramp can still be seen. Visit the Ein Gedi reserve, home to native

wildlife and area where David hid from King Saul (I Sam. 23). Visit Qumran, famous for being the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8 – Theme: The Coastal Plain and the Jezreel Valley

Reading: Land and the Book 118-121; 156-157, 159-162; 171

Jesus and the Land 39-70

Acts 10, 12: 25; 1 Kings 18: 20-46; 1 Kings 9: 15; Matthew 2: 23; Luke 1: 26; 4: 16, 28-30; John 1: 46

Field Trip: Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo, Nazareth, Tzippori

Travel to Caesarea by the Sea on the Mediterranean coastline. It was here that Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized (Acts 10), and it was also where Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome (Acts 25 & 26). See the top of Mt. Carmel, where Elijah prayed down the fire from heaven and defeated the 450 prophets of Baal (I Kings 18). Visit Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon (Rev. 16). Travel to Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home (Luke 26-56). Nearby is Tzippori, the cosmopolitan Roman capital of Galilee until Herod Antipas built Tiberias. It is heralded as the traditional birthplace of Mary. Overnight in Ein Gev.

Day 9 – Theme: Jesus' Ministry in the Golan Heights and Upper Galilee

Field Trip: Banyas [Caesarea Philippi] (Matthew 16); Mt. Hermon (Matthew 17);

Dan (1 Kings 12: 29); Hatzor, Golan Heights

Explore Hazor, one of the oldest archaeological sites in Israel. The 3000 year old city was the inspiration for The Source, James Michener's epic history of the region. Here, Joshua fought against Jabin (Josh. 11: 1-11). Hazor was later fortified by Solomon. At nearby Tel Dan, see the mud brick arch constructed in pre-Israelite (Canaanite) times and where The House of David fragment - from the First Temple Period - was discovered. Visit Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus traveled with His disciples and where nearby Peter made his great confession to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16: 16). Continue on to Mount Hermon, probably the site of the Lord's Transfiguration (Matt. 17: 1- 9). Travel on through the strategic tableland known as the Golan Heights. Overnight in Ein Gev.

Day 10 – Theme: Jesus' Ministry around the Sea of Galilee

Field Trip: Boat Ride on the Kinneret; Capernaum (Matthew 4:13; 11:23-24); Tabgha

(Mark 6; John 21); Mount of Beatitudes (Matthew 5-7); Korazim; Kursi (Mark 5);

Bethsaida (Mark 8)

Watch the sunrise over the Sea of Galilee where fishermen work the waters with nets much as in the time of Jesus. Ride across the waters to explore Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry. Visit the synagogue, which stands on the site where Jesus taught. Recall his teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom (Matt.4: 13, 23). Stop at Tabgha for the Service of the Holy Communion, where the feeding of the 5,000 is remembered at the Church of the Fish and Loaves (Luke 9). Also stop at the Chapel of the Primacy, where Peter confessed his devotion to Christ 3 times (John 21). Visit the peaceful Mount of Beatitudes, which overlooks the Sea of Galilee. On this hill, Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Not far away is Bethsaida where Jesus chose five of his disciples (Matt. 4: 18-21; John 1: 39-51). Visit Chorazim, the town cursed by Jesus because He did mighty works there and they "repented not" (Matt. 11: 21). On

the far shore of the sea is Kursi where Jesus cast out evil spirits from a demon-possessed man and cast them into a group of swine which ran violently down a steep hill and drowned in the sea (Mark 5: 1-13). At Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar, you will learn about the "Ancient Boat", a rare example of the kind of boat in which Jesus would have sailed. Overnight in Ein Gev.

Day 11 – Theme: Jesus' Ministry in Galilee

Field Trip: Jordan River, Beth Shean, Gideon Spring, Mt. Gilboa, Jerusalem

At the Yardenit Baptismal site, situated where the Jordan River flows out of the Sea of Galilee on its way to the Dead Sea, enjoy the peace and tranquility of the natural surroundings and participate in a baptismal service in the river in which Christ was baptized by John the Baptist (Mark 1: 9-11). Travel to the ruins of Beit Shean where the bodies of Saul and his sons were displayed on the walls there after they were killed in battle (I Sam. 31: 10,12). Beit Shean is also noted for having the best-preserved ancient Roman theatre in Israel. Also visit Gideon's Spring (Ein Harod) where Gideon chose his army of 300 by observing how they drank from the springs (Jd. 7). The spring is in the shadow of Mt. Gilboa where Saul fought and died. His death made David lament and pray that no dew would fall on the mountain (2 Sam. 1:19-27). You will view the mountain and see that, to this day, Mt Gilboa is bare of trees. Transfer to Jerusalem for overnight.

Day 12 – Theme: The Patriarchs and the Exodus

Field Trip: Beersheva (Genesis 21: 14, 33; 26: 23-33); The Wilderness of Tzin; Avdat; En Avdat Nature Hike; Arad (Numbers 21: 1-3; Joshua 12: 14; 2 Kings 18)

Proceed to Beersheba, meaning well of swearing, the place where Abraham and the Philistine king, Abimelech, made a covenant (Gen. 21: 22, 31).

Visit Ein Avdat. Ein Avdat is a part of the largest Wadi, the Nahal Zin. It is an amazing narrow canyon in the Negev. At the opening of the canyon the water of numerous springs descends into two deep pools in a series of waterfalls. Ein Avdat is a spectacular natural wonder, as the source of the water is yet unknown.

Travel to Arad, mentioned only four times in the Bible, yet an important city in biblical times. The most remarkable discovery in Arad is the only Israelite temple yet excavated. Its plan appears to follow that of Solomon's temple. Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 13 – Theme: Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

Field Trip: Bethpage (Matthew 21); Mt of Olives (Luke 11; Acts 1); Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26); Mt. Zion and the Upper Room (John 13); St. Peter's Church, Temple Mount Excavations (Matthew 23)

Travel to Bethpage, and continue to the Mount of Olives to enjoy the remarkable view of the "Golden City" of Jerusalem, as Jesus did he "Golden City" including the Temple Mount and Dome of the Rock. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1: 9-12).

Visit Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives and meet with Rev Mark Brown, the head of the Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem.

Walk to the Garden of Gethsemane and pray there as Jesus prayed (Matt.26: 36-44). Visit the Southern Wall excavations of the Temple including the Teaching Steps and the Western Wall.

On Mount Zion visit the House of the High Priest Caiaphas where Jesus was imprisoned for a night (Matt. 26: 57 - 65). Stand in the Upper Room, revered as the place of the Last Supper (Mark 14: 12 – 26). View the site of King David's Tomb. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 14 – Theme: From the Trial before Pilate to the Resurrection

Field Trip: Temple Mount (Haram El- Sharif; Old City; the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Matthew 27-28; John 20)

Attend the morning service at Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Old City. View the Pool of Bethesda (John 5: 1-31) where Jesus performed the Sabbath miracle, and sing a hymn in the Church of St. Anne. Visit Herod's Antonia Fortress where Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate (Luke 23: 1-11). Walk the Via Dolorosa, "the Way of the Cross", and stand in reverence at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Spend some free time in Jerusalem in the afternoon.

After dinner transfer to the airport for your evening flight home.

Day 15 – Return

Return home with the memories of the journey to last for the rest of your life.