

# 1 February 2024

## “Israel Trip 2024”

### Introduction

\*Lots of pictures

\*We’ll make an application point at each stop

### **Day #1: Learning the Land (2 Slide)**

1. General map and traveling directions
2. Fields everywhere, yet everyone lives in tight high-rise building
  - a. Many people in land the size of New Jersey

They use every inch of what they have

### **Day #1: Caesarea Maritime (7 Slides)**

1. 18 of us from NJ, PA, GA, CO, ME
2. Model map / Jeff Cramer speaks at amphitheater
3. Amphitheater / Joy found interesting shells
4. Stone of Pontius Pilate found in June 1961
5. Palace w/ a pool / Hippodrome

6. Walking thru the city area / all floors unique
7. Walking thru the city area / storehouse bldgs.

Archeology is constantly proving the Bible accurate

### **Day #1: Hostage Memorial in Tel-Aviv (4 Slides)**

1. Spontaneously erected displays at this square
2. Video-posters / Video-Clock / Video-Table
3. Table / Table
4. Highchair for a baby that's a hostage

There's a great unity in Israel today longing for hope

### **Day #1: Joppa (4 Slides)**

1. Lots of palm trees
2. Right next to Tel-Aviv on coast / guide Andre
3. Thru Joppa / Traditional Simon the Tanner House
4. Where Jonah went from / Peter saw vision
  - a. Joy & I married b/c of Acts 10 from God

Allow the Lord to use the Bible to apply to you

## **Day #2: Mt. Carmel (4 Slides)**

1. Great height and view
2. They build monuments / The Word re: Elijah
3. Seeing the Valley of Armageddon
4. Same as #3

No natural rivers, relies on rainfall. When Elijah stopped the rains for 3.5 years, it was a big deal!

## **Day #2: Megiddo (3 Slides)**

1. ‘Tel’ is mountain, ‘Har’ is valley – this is both
2. Old city of Megiddo
3. F-16 / Video-from old city to Armageddon

This place has been, is and will be a place of war

## **Day #2: Nazareth (6 Slides)**

1. Everyone wanted to greet us
2. Video-Restaurant opened for us / Church over Mary’s home

3. Mary's Church / Inside Mary's Church
4. Joseph's Church / Inside Joseph's Church
5. Synagogue Church / 12<sup>th</sup> century synagogue built on the site of the original synagogue
6. Video-Nazareth from the hotel in Nazareth

Lots of steep cliffs of which to throw down Jesus

### **Day #3: Sea of Galilee Boat Ride (5 Slides)**

1. Joy & I with Mt Erbil in the background
2. Boat launch from the 'The Man in the Galilee Museum' at a Kibbutz near Magdala
3. Very calm early in the morning
4. Andre showing the towns / learning to fish
5. Our group / My date

East Greek side, West Jewish side. Feeding of the 5k w/ 12 left on west, feeding of the 4k w/ 7 left on east

## **Day #3: Mt. of Beatitudes (3 Slides)**

1. Close to Capernaum, north end of the Sea
2. Entering the compound
3. They build shrines around everything

From the Sea toward uphill is a natural echo chamber

## **Day #3: Capernaum (4 Slides)**

1. Take note of “Flip-flop Sam”, important later
2. Shrine on top of what was Peter’s house
3. Bad motivation to build these shrines, but great side effect of protecting the sites over the centuries
4. Video-Peter’s House / Synagogue ruins

To claim Jews have no history in or claim to the land is just simply absurd

## **Day #3: Magdala (4 Slides)**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> century synagogue found, Bemah rock
2. Hotel moved to build around it / Jesus used this

3. Unique b/c no others ruins are in this area
4. Church of Magdala / Portrait in the lower level

High assurance Jesus was here lots; yet we don't need a point or place of faith, we have a Person of faith

### **Day #3: Serving the Olim (4 Slides)**

1. Danielle & Eldad at Nir Etzion Hotel near Carmel
2. Making packages for Holocaust survivors
3. 660 Ethiopians Jews becoming citizens
4. Tell Eldad's story from Oct 7<sup>th</sup>

Don't know your history, doomed to repeat it (Judges)

### **Day #4: Gideon's Springs (Herod's) (2 Slides)**

1. Pastor Ed sharing the story of Gideon
2. Comes from the Mt cave / spring flows down

Not man-made but natural, this is oldest site we saw

## **Day #4: Bet She'an - Scythopolis (10 Slides)**

1. Largest ruins we saw by far (2<sup>nd</sup> Century)
2. Model of the city at its entrance
3. Video-Overlooking the city / Storehouses
4. Looking down the main road
  - a. Scythopolis is only city of Decapolis west
5. Every floor was uniquely crafted
6. Hot rooms at the bathhouse
7. Video-Most well-preserved theater in all Israel
8. Down the road or *cardo*
9. Can you guess what this is? Latrines
10. Vast number of pillars all around

Everyone always wants to control the trade routes

## **Day #4: From Mt Scopus in Jerusalem (2 Slides)**

1. View toward Jerusalem, Mt Olives to the left
2. Andre was amazing, switched out at this point

First views of Jerusalem make it all seem so real

## **Day #4: Mt of Olives (3 Slides)**

1. Jewish graves, Kidron Valley, Muslim graves
2. Another view / Video-showing graves clearly
3. Walking down to the Kidron Valley

Everyone's trying to help God out, or thwart God's plan, but "our God is in the heavens and does whatsoever He please" (Psm 115:3)

## **Day #4: Garden of Gethsemane (3 Slides)**

1. Pastor Loren Decker (Chambersburg) praying
2. Giant old fig trees (renew themselves)
3. New guide Eshcar telling of his love for Jesus

Even in city life, Jesus found His quiet prayer closet

## **Day #5: Jordan Valley (3 Slides)**

1. Galilee is lush, 1 hr drive it becomes desert
2. Video-Sheep, shepherd / Video-& camel rides
3. Totally difference climate

Learn to follow the shepherd in a dry & weary land



## **Day #5: Masada (5 Slides)**

1. Herod's palace & last stronghold for Israel
2. Estimated to house 1,000 people on top
3. Riding the cable car up, Sam & Greg hiked up
4. Video-on top / 3-tiered palace off front edge
5. Lots of individual buildings

Jews withstood Rome here until 73AD, who knew God had a plan to bring them back 2k years later

## **Day #5: En Gedi (4 Slides)**

1. David resorted here while running from Saul
2. Walking to the springs / Zac brings the Word
3. Lower of 2 springs / Video-Acacia tree
  - a. Ark & crown of thorns made of Acacia
4. Entrance sign / Chuck Smith is pictured

Almost completely unspoiled over time, David would have lived a very simple but satisfying life here.  
Don't despise the days of small things

## **Day #5: Qumran (3 Slides)**

1. Entrance to Qumran Visitor Center
2. Actually pottery (1<sup>st</sup> Century) / Replica scrolls
3. Cave #4 / pointing to other caves

God's Word is continually proved to be reliable

## **Day #5: Dead Sea (4 Slides)**

1. Lowest Place on earth gets lower every year
2. Warning of the salt / interesting rocks & salt
3. Muddy & easy to float
4. If you have a cut, you'll find out quickly

Cursed by God at Sodom, area is slowly getting ready for the underground fresh water prophesied in Zechariah

## **Day #6: Temple Mount (4 Slides)**

1. Octagonal Dome of the Rock – traditional contains the rock the Abraham offered “Ishmael”
2. Walking by the Al-Aksa Mosque

3. Video-Al-Aksa Mosque / Dome of the Rock
4. Purifying water between Mosque & Dome

Even speaking of Jewish rights to this area here would start a riot – Muslims walking by were listening to us

### **Day #6: Western Wall or Wailing Wall (4 Slides)**

1. Only part of Solomon's Temple that remains
2. No Muslims here – can speak openly
3. Ultra-Orthodox Jews gather here constantly
4. Tunnels belong show the lower Western wall /  
Video-Death of the original Temple Western wall

If the Jews only knew that the Temple of God can be they themselves – They want to be close to God

### **Day #6: Southern Steps of the Temple (2 Slides)**

1. Greg teaches on the steps
2. Only place largest enough For Peter in Acts 2:6

Can you picture mass repentance & salvation here?

## **Day #6: City of David (3 Slides)**

1. That oldest part of Jerusalem – southern end
2. Middle of modern city...they dig down deep
3. Even having indoor toilets – this was a palace

This is right where the Bible says David 1<sup>st</sup> settled

## **Day #6: Jebusite & Hezekiah's Tunnels (3 Slides)**

1. Tunnels from City of David to Pool of Siloam
2. Starting downward in the City of David
3. Entering the tunnel / Joy in the Jebusite Tunnel

Used to bring water into the city, Hezekiah's Tunnel is still filled with 3' of water at most places

## **Day #6: Pool of Siloam (2 Slides)**

1. Jesus told blind man to go wash here – healed
2. Group of youths excavating the site right now

Everything is just where the Bible describes it to be

## **Day #6: Yad Vashem/Holocaust Museum (2 Slides)**

1. Hundreds of young soldiers going thru to learn
2. Tower dedicated to those that rebels in Ghettos

One amazing story after another – know your history & teach the next gen or you're doomed to repeat it

## **Day #7: Lion's Gate – Pool of Bethesda (4 Slides)**

1. North end of the city and Temple Mount
2. Church to Anne (supposed mother of Mary)
3. Pool was much deeper than you would imagine
4. Had privilege of teaching our group from John 5

Healing lame man in midst of a great crowd, reminds us that Jesus came for the ONE, we too should focus on winning souls one at a time

## **Day #7: Walking the Via Dolorosa (6 Slides)**

1. Antonia Fortress where Jesus was judged
2. Each stop had another traditional event

3. It's turning into a market / Video-Good juice
4. 6 churches run Church of Holy Sepulchre & can't agree with to do with the 100-year-old ladder / Inside the church there's many Greek Orthodox
5. The traditional spot / another tomb inside
6. Met 6 Brazilians so happy to see us

Men always commercialize, turning the godly into idols but Christians always rejoice in likeminded faith in God

## **Day #7: Hadassah Hospital (6 Slides)**

1. Haddasah has become a network of hospitals
2. Original one back & forth from Israel to Jordan
3. Just received permission to build the new one
4. Leading us to what was to be a parking garage
5. Turned into a 130-bay clinic since Oct 7<sup>th</sup>
6. Hospital staff / Tell story of this mother of 10

Everyone is shocked into seeking unity & hope, we have it and they're being primed to receive the Gospel

## **Day #7: The Garden Tomb (5 Slides)**

1. Only other possible site of Jesus' burial
2. Englishman flew in just for us / Golgotha
3. The tomb / the stone door moved to the garden
4. Inside the tomb
5. Group picture outside the doorway

It's ok that we don't know which of the two is the real tomb b/c Jesus isn't there – He is risen!

## **Day #7: Israeli Museum Jerusalem Model (4 Slides)**

1. It's so big, it's outside
2. Model depicts 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple period (Jesus' time)
3. Sign / Video-Showing the whole thing
4. Recent tweet that sums up things well

## Questions / Conclusion

As Christians we've been grafted into the vine that is ISRAEL. We need to bless them & help them see Christ