

Welcome

It's such a blessing for us all to come together to experience the Holy Land through a Virtual Tour of Israel.

Since we are unable to go to Israel, Israel has come to us! What a privilege to have Roni Winter come all the way from Israel to Temecula to lead us through the land that God loves.

Regardless of having been to Israel or not, our prayer is that God touches our hearts as we *virtually* walk where Jesus walked and see what Jesus saw. We pray this is a day like no other and that the Word of God comes alive like never before, as we see where the events of the Bible actually took place!

Love, Pastor Clark & Sally



Pastor Clark and Sally



both grew up in Orange County, California. Although Clark received salvation as a young boy, it was not until 1982 when he truly began living for the Lord. It was also at this time when he met and married his wife, Sally. They became part of the

fellowship at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa where they grew in the Lord and began serving in the Children's Ministry.

In 1989, Clark, Sally, and their two sons, moved from Orange County to Temecula where the Lord later put it on Clark's heart to attend Bible College in Vista. Simultaneously, the Lord opened the door for Clark to lead a home Bible study. It began as a small group of people meeting to study the Word and share Christ's love with one another. However, within a year, the once small group had grown substantially, and group members asked Clark to change the meeting day to Sunday and become their pastor. This was the most humbling experience of Clark's life, but he accepted knowing the Lord was calling him. Shortly thereafter, the property for Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship was purchased in Temecula Wine Country where the congregation meets today.

Aside from pastoring the Bible Fellowship, Clark was an instructor at the Calvary Chapel Bible College in Murrieta, California for 24 years. Clark and Sally both often speak at conferences, events, and retreats. They both have a passion for Israel and have lead groups of pastors and members of the congregation annually through a Biblical tour of the Holy Land for over 25 years. In their spare time, they enjoy studying the Word, surfing, and spending time with their five grandchildren.

Pastor Clark & Sally look forward to their trips to the Holy Land as a highlight of their year. It is always exciting to "walk where Jesus walked" and study His Word together with the saints. They are blessed to be with such a precious group of saints God has brought together!





Roni Winter

Born in Tel Aviv, Roni Winter has been a licensed tour guide in Israel since 1982. Roni speaks English, German, and Hebrew. His formal education includes studying archaeology and Israel's history at the Tel

Aviv University and marine archaeology at Haifa University in Israel. He also completed religious studies in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam at Montclair State University in New Jersey, as well as attending the Religions Institute in Jerusalem. From 1985 – 1993 Roni traveled across the USA as a speaker and ambassador promoting tours to Israel. He has provided trip orientations to a variety of organizations to help them prepare for their journey to the Holy Land.

Roni is married to his beautiful wife, Irit and they have 3 children and 6 precious grandchildren. Irit is a recently retired teacher, and we were so pleased as she was able to join our last tour in Israel. Clark & Sally have spent a lot of time together with Roni, as we have been touring with him for the past 25 years, sometimes twice a year. Clark and Sally consider Roni & Irit close friends and always enjoy their time together in Israel. Roni is also one of the best Tour Guides with a vast knowledge of the country, and a passion to share about God's beloved land!



Today's Schedule

8:30 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:10 am	<i>“Take off” & “Arrival”</i>
9:20 am	Begin the Tour
10:30 am	Rest Stop - Sheroteem
10:45 am	Back on the bus
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm	Snake Trail Hike to Masada (<i>Optional</i>)
1:00 pm	Back on the bus
2:30 pm	Rest Stop - Sheroteem
2:45 am	Back on the bus
3:30 pm	Snack Break
4:00 pm	Back on the bus
5:30 pm	Conclusion of Tour - <i>Farewell</i>



Notes~



Contents



Joppa

Caesarea Maritima

Mount Carmel

Megiddo: End Times Outline

Nazareth

Cana

Tiberias - Sea of Galilee

Capernaum - Sea of Galilee

Mount of Beatitudes – Sea of Galilee

Kursi - Sea of Galilee

Bethsaida - Sea of Galilee

Tel Dan

Caesarea Philippi

Jordan River

Mount Bental

En Harod

Beit She'an

Yardenet / Baptism

Qumran

En Gedi



Masada

Dead Sea

Beersheba

Beth Shemesh

Valley of Elah

Jerusalem / Mount Scopus / The Blessing

Mount of Olives

Garden of Gethsemane

City of David

The Upper Room / Mt Zion

Caiaphas' House

Southern Steps of David

Temple Mount / Mount Moriah

Church of St. Anne

Twin Pools of Bethesda

The Western Wall

Stephen's Gate

Yad Vashem

The Garden Tomb



Joppa

“Jaffa”

Jonah; II Chronicles 2:16, Acts 9-10

THE ANCIENT PORT of Joppa (Jaffa) has changed hands many times in the course of history. It is one of the oldest functioning harbors in the world. According to some sources, it is more than 4,000 years old. Archeological excavations from 1955 to 1974 unearthed towers and gates from the Middle Bronze Age. Subsequent excavations from 1997 to the present have helped date earlier discoveries. Today it harbors only small fishing boats.



Joppa is first mentioned in a letter written in 1470 BC that records its conquest by the Egyptian Pharaoh Thutmose III. Joppa was the main port of entry during the Turkish period for pilgrims and visitors entering the Holy Land and is mentioned several times in



the Bible. For example, it was the port from which Jonah set sail for Tarshish (**Jonah 1:3**), and the port where the wood for Solomon’s Temple arrived from Lebanon (**II Chronicles 2:16**).

Dorcas (also known as Tabitha) lived in Joppa (**Acts 9:36–42**). When she died, she was mourned by “all the widows...crying and showing [Peter] the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them”

(**Acts 9:39**). When Peter was sent for, he came from nearby Lydda to Joppa to raise Dorcas from the dead.



Notes ~



Caesarea Maritima

“By the Sea”

Acts 10:1-34, 12:7-9, Acts 22-24

IN THE YEAR 20 BC, Herod the Great built the beautiful city of Caesarea located on the Via Maris. He named the city Caesarea in honor of his master, Augustus Caesar. The city boasted of splendid palaces, public buildings, a marketplace, a magnificent marble temple, a theater, a hippodrome, and an impressive artificial harbor. The Romans built the theater, the aqueduct, and the hippodrome. Herod built the artificial harbor for his great ships by lowering massive stones into the sea, forming a semi-circular jetty. Caesarea was chosen to be the seat of the Roman procurators, serving as the capital of the Roman government in the area of Philistia for about 500 years. The city was abandoned and gradually buried under sand until 1956 when archaeologists began excavation.



During Jesus' day, Pontus Pilate lived in Caesarea, a fact that was under scrutiny until 1961. This is when the Pilate Stone was found here at this site with a partially intact inscription attributed to, and mentioning, Pontius Pilate, a prefect of the Roman province of Judea from AD 26 to 36. This stone gives us the first archaeological evidence of his existence. He had traveled to



Jerusalem for the Passover, and it was then that he condemned Jesus to the cross. The Crusaders' city covered an area of 35 acres, but the Roman city was about 6 times as large. The wall (*originally protected by a moat*) and gate are from the Crusader period.

In **Acts 10** we are told that Peter and some of the disciples came here from Joppa to Cornelius' house with the gospel. It was here that while Peter was still speaking that the Holy Spirit came *upon* the gentile church for the first time and they all heard them speaking in tongues praising God in their own language and prophesying!

According to **Acts 12** it was in the Theater at Caesarea where Herod Agrippa stood before the people as they were shouting, "The voice of a God and not of a man..." It was because



Herod received this praise of men, that God sent worms to eat him from the inside out, and he died a slow death!

In **Acts 24-26** we learn that this is where Paul was brought when he appealed to Caesar and as he presented the gospel, King Agrippa was "almost persuaded" to believe.

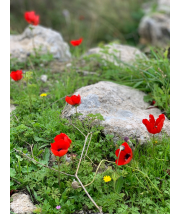
Notes ~



Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18-19, Revelation 19:11

MOUNT CARMEL derives its name from the Hebrew “Karem El” which means “vineyard of God.” In ancient times the area of Mt Carmel was covered with vineyards and was famous for its fertility. It remains green throughout the year and is possibly the most beautiful mountain in Israel with anemone’s, which look like poppies, covering the hillsides.



Mt Carmel is known as the scene of the great contest between God’s prophet Elijah and the prophets of Baal to call down fire from heaven. When the prophets of Baal called out to their gods, nothing happened. According to **1 Kings 18:38-39**, when



Elijah called out to God Almighty, “Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!”

At the foot of Mount Carmel is a cave that is believed to be where Elijah took refuge during one of his flights from the anger of King Ahab and Jezebel. This is a memorable site which has a high platform that serves as an overlook of the Valley of Megiddo or Armageddon when the wrath of God will be poured out on a God-rejecting world. (**Revelation 14:20**)



Notes ~



Megiddo

“Armageddon”

Joshua 17:16, Judges 1:27-28, 6:33 5:19-20, I Kings 4:12, 9:15-19, II Kings 9:27-29, 23:29-39, Hosea 1:5, Revelation 16:15-16

MEGIDDO is located on the southern edge of the plain of Jezreel. The Valley of Jezreel is the largest valley in Israel, stretching between the mountains of Galilee in the north and the mountains of Samaria in the south. It has the shape of a triangle and was famous in ancient times, as it is today, for its fertility. It is known as the “Breadbasket of Israel.” The strategic position and fertility of the plain also made it a symbol of war. In fact, it is one of the most famous battlefields of the ancient world, with over 20 battles fought over it. The Mount of Megiddo was excavated between 1925 and 1939 revealing the remains of 20 superimposed cities with each one represented by a distinct layer of ruins.



Megiddo is especially important to Christians because it is believed that this is where the battle of

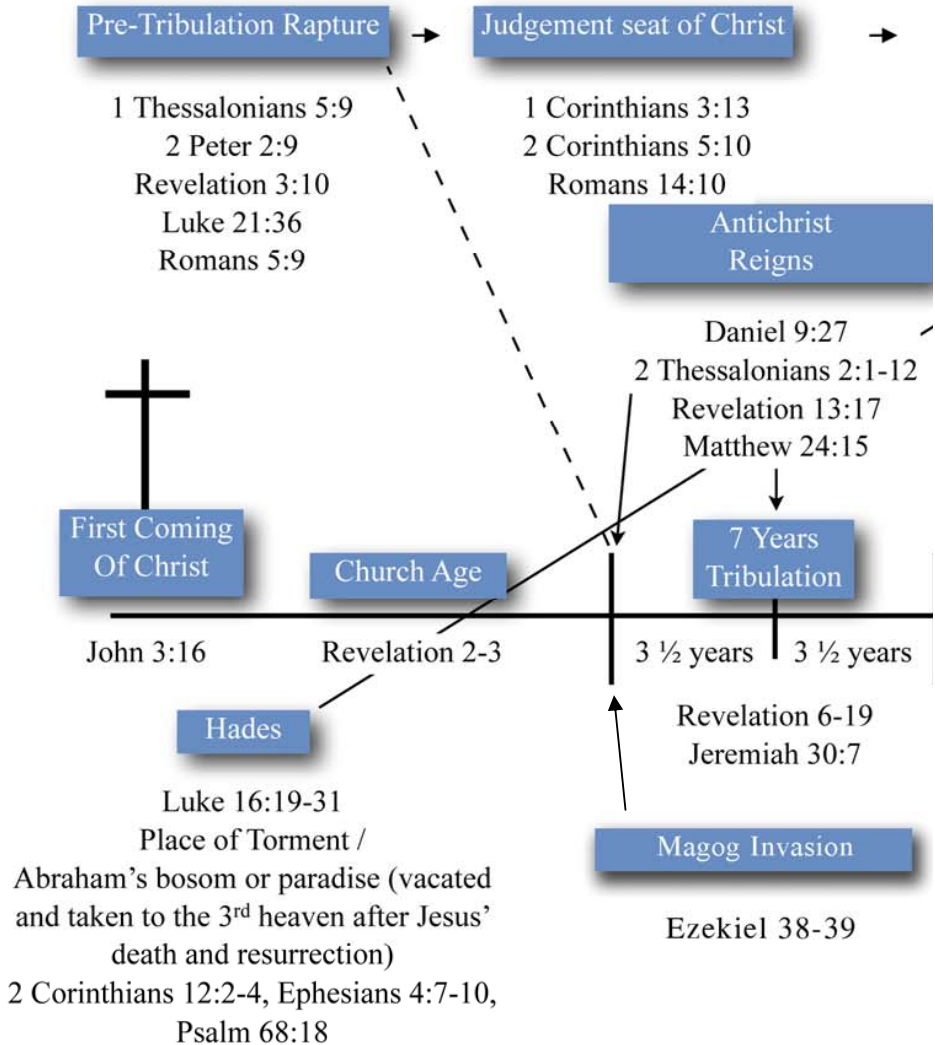
Armageddon will take place. (*See the end times timeline.*)



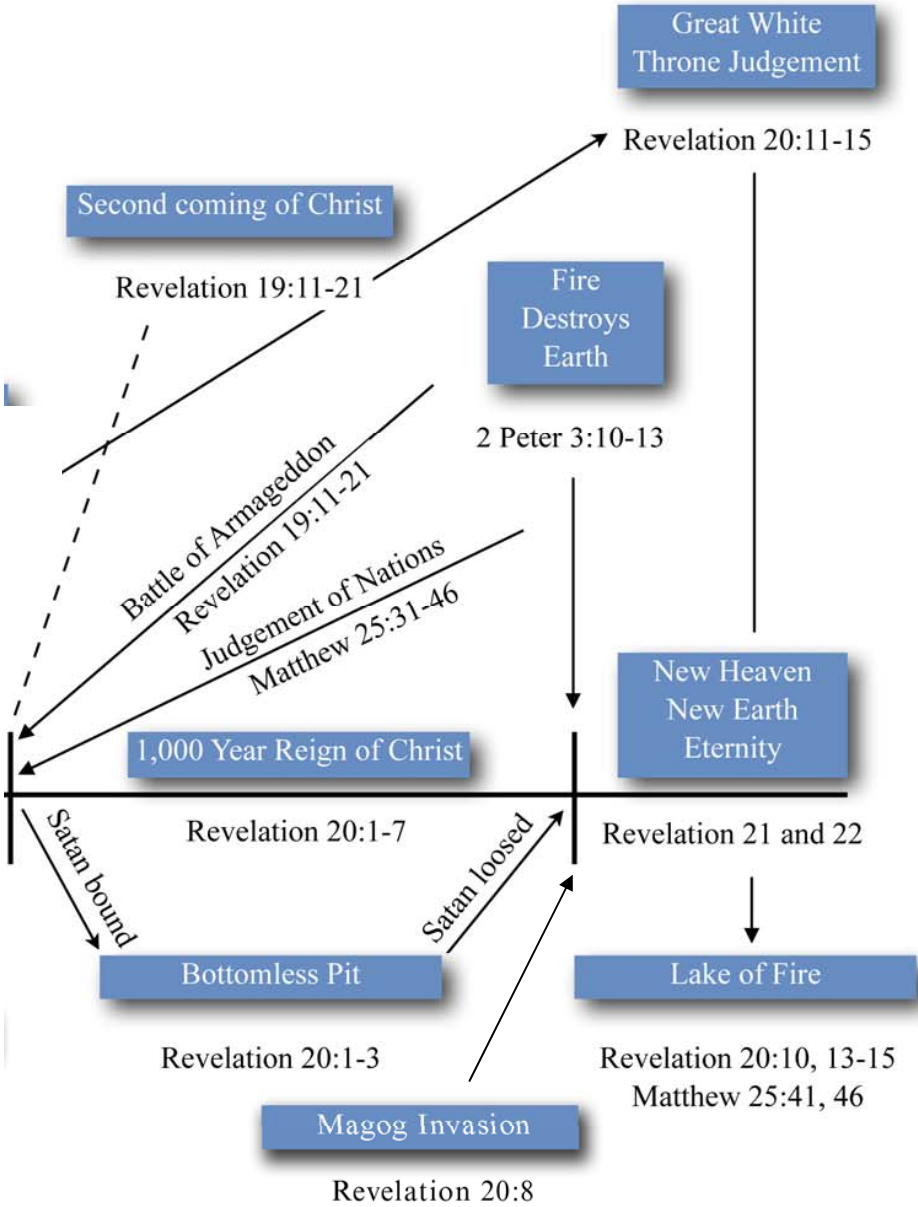
Notes ~



End Times ...



... Outline



Nazareth

Matthew 2:21-23, Luke 1:26-28, 2:39-40, 2:51-52, 4:16-30

There is no definite date when Nazareth came into being. Nazareth does not have a dramatic or violent history. But it is an interesting place because it is where Jesus grew up. Even at the time of Jesus, Nazareth was large enough to be considered a city, and the town has gradually increased in population ever since. Today, most Nazareth's inhabitants are Christian, but the city also houses the largest Arab community in Israel.



There was, and is, only one supply of fresh water in Nazareth, and that's Mary's Well. The spring gushes from the mountain and through a conduit to a public fountain where women draw water today. There is no doubt that Jesus and his mother, like all Nazarenes, drew water from this well.

One of the favorite stops for the group is at the open-air museum and discovery center at "Nazareth Village" where we see what life was like during the time of Jesus. Here, Bible scenes are brought to life by "villagers" who populate the farm and houses, living and working with the same type of clothing, pottery, tools, and methods that Mary and Jesus would have used.

Notes ~



Cana

John 2:1-11, 4:46-50

There are three or four sites that could be the Cana mentioned in the New Testament. One of these sites is more widely accepted than the others. It lies four miles along the road from Nazareth to Tiberias.



This city is known for the “wedding in Cana of Galilee” where Jesus turned water into wine according to **John 2**.



We read in **John 4** that it was in Cana that a certain nobleman came from Capernaum to seek out Jesus for healing on behalf of his sick son. Jesus told the nobleman to “go on your way, your son lives.” Indeed, Jesus had healed his son!

Notes ~



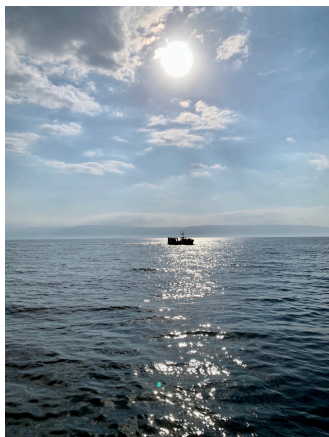
Sea of Galilee

“Tiberius”

Sailing on Faith with Daniel Carmel

John 6:1, 6:23, 21:1

SEA OF GALILEE is the area where Jesus spent much of His time and from where He chose His disciples. Much of Jesus’ teachings on faith took place on the Sea of Galilee. In **Mark 4**, the disciples were taught to have faith, even in the midst of storms, as Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat. It was an important lesson about Who was in control of, even the waves and the wind.



We read in **Mathew 14:22** that Jesus had just fed the 5,000 on the Northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. As He sent His disciples away in a boat they were in the middle of the sea when another storm arose. The disciples were greatly afraid, and when they looked up, they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water. Peter serves as an example that as we get our focus on the wind and waves, we will sink. When our eyes on Jesus, our faith is strengthened.

“Sailing on Faith” and worshipping with Daniel Carmel is always a highlight for the tour. The Sea of Galilee is one of the



few places that we can say *this* is where Jesus ministered and taught.

During a drought year, an archaeological dig was undertaken by members of the Kibbutz Ginosar, the Antiquities Authority, and many volunteers. They carefully pulled a boat from the



mud off the shore of the Galilee without damaging it. The process was delicate, lasting 12 days and nights. The boat then had to be preserved by submerging it in a chemical bath for 7 years before it could be displayed. Today it is on full display at the Jesus Boat Museum.

Tiberias is one of Israel's most popular resorts both because it is situated on the Sea of Galilee and because it is adjacent to the famous hot springs of Tiberias.

Notes ~



Capernaum

“Kafar Nahum”

*Matthew 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17; Mark 1-2, 3, 5, 9;
Luke 4, 6, 7, 8, 10; John 2, 4, 6*

CAPERNAUM is located 2.5 miles from where the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee. It was here that there was a tax station for the Roman Government.



In **Matthew 18** Jesus taught that it would be better for a millstone (*see picture above*) to be tied around your neck and you be thrown into the depths of the sea than for you to stumble one of His little children.

In **Matthew 9:1** Jesus called Capernaum “His own city.” It is in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, fulfilling **Isaiah 9:1-2** as Jesus brought *Light* to the darkness.



Mark 2 tells us that this is where the paralytic was brought by his friends who lowered him through the roof, due to the crowds of people. Though they sought physical healing, Jesus emphasized the more important, spiritual healing.

We read in **Luke 8** about Jairus daughter as well as the woman with the issue of blood, where Jesus again emphasized faith.

In **Luke 10:15** Jesus eventually pronounced a curse on this city



for their disbelief. “And you Capernaum who are exalted to heaven will be brought down to Hades”. The prophecy was fulfilled, and today Capernaum is no more than a heap of rubble beside the lakeshore.

In 1905, archaeologists began excavation and discovered the second synagogue of Capernaum. The first synagogue was said to be built by the centurion whose servant was healed by Jesus in **Luke 7:1-10**. The second was built in the 4th century over top of these ruins and may have incorporated some of the carved stones from the first.

It is in Capernaum that Italian excavators may have actually uncovered the remnants of the humble house of Peter that Jesus called home while in Capernaum. This is



believed to be the house where “He saw Peter’s wife’s mother lying sick with a fever. So, He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.” (**Matthew 8:14-15**)

Notes ~



Mount of Beatitudes

Matthew 5-7, Mark 6-7, Luke 6

THE MOUNT OF BEATITUDES is located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Gennesaret (Ginosar), very near Tabgha. The actual location of the “Sermon on the Mount” is not certain but the present site has been commemorated for more than 1,600 years.

The Mount of Beatitudes overlooks the four-mile long Plain of Gennesaret, which is an area famous for its fertility. Josephus said this plain was one of “nature’s crowning achievement.” Several times, the New Testament records Jesus’ activities in this area, including when He healed the multitude (**Luke 6:17-19**) and when he faced Pharisaic condemnation for ritual impurity (**Mark 7**).

The Sermon on the Mount is a beautiful and vital teaching by Jesus found in **Matthew 5-7**.

Jesus teaches on not what to “do”, but rather how to “be” in the inner man. He teaches us how to pray, to not worry but rather be content. And He teaches us not to



judge others, because there is enough to worry about in our own lives. He then concludes by saying “Not everyone who says Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom of God.



Notes ~



Kursi

“Gadera – Gardarenes”

Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

KURSI is on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, opposite of Tiberias on the foothills of the Golan Heights.

Kursi is mentioned in the account of Jesus healing a demon-possessed man referred to as Legion. After healing the man, Jesus caused the demons to occupy a herd of swine numbering about two thousand, and they rushed down a steep bank into the sea of Galilee and were drowned.



Other translations of this name in different English versions are Gergesenes and Gerasenes.

Notes ~



Bethsaida

Matthew 11:21; Mark 6: 8; Luke 9, 10; John 1, 12

BETHSAIDA means “house of fishing,” or “house of the hunt.” The village is situated about two miles north of the Sea of Galilee and east of the Jordan River. Philip named it after Julia, the daughter of Caesar Augustus (**Luke 3:1**).



Bethsaida is mentioned frequently in the Gospels. It was home to at least three of Jesus’ disciples; Philip, Peter, and Andrew (**John 1:44; 12:21**). Bethsaida was the location for much of Jesus’ ministry as He repeatedly traveled there by boat (**Luke 9:10**), and according to Luke, the countryside near Bethsaida was the location for the feeding of the multitudes (**Luke 9:12–17**). It was in Bethsaida that He also restored sight to a blind man (**Mark 8:22**).

Notes ~



Tel Dan

Genesis 14; Joshua 19; Judges 18; II Kings 12

THE DAN SPRINGS emerge at the base of Mt. Herman next to Tel Dan. It flows four miles before joining the Baniyas Spring, and later the Iyon and Hasbani. These four springs merge to form the Jordan River. The city of Dan is the location of a beautiful nature reserve with gorgeous trails leading through dense forest, streams, and the Chatzani River. There is no doubt, this is some of the most beautiful territory in Israel.



This is also the site where the tribe of Dan once lived. Although they were allotted territory further south, the Danites didn't hold on to the land. They moved north, conquered the Canaanite town of Laish, and settled down next to the rushing stream (**Judges 18:29**). It was known by the name Lashem (**Joshua 19:47**) as well. Dan became synonymous with the northern border of Israel, such that the phrase "from Dan to Beersheba" came to symbolize all Israel (**Judges 20:1**). Later, when the kingdom was divided, the phrase "from Dan to Bethel" showed the markings of the border of the Northern Kingdom.

Archeological excavations have revealed numerous findings, the most impressive being a gate of the Canaanite city known as the 'Gate of Abraham.' It is believed to be the gate at the time Abraham rescued his nephew Lot from the Kings of the North. (**Genesis 14:14-15**).



The city was buried under sand but later excavated and preserved for inhabitation. With the expansion of the city, another gate was built and has been restored by archeologists. Adjacent to this entrance is a bench, perhaps of the type referenced as the “Seat of the Elders.” Tel Dan is also notorious for pagan artifacts, including a podium that is believed to be the one constructed by Jeroboam to house the golden calf at Dan.



Notes ~



Caesarea Philippi

“Baniyas or Paneas”

“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying,
“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”
Matthew 16:13

Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-20

IN HIS TRAVELS, Jesus reached as far as Caesarea Philippi. It is currently called Baniyas, which is a corruption of the Greek word Paneas. This is because there was once a shrine to the Greek god Pan located here. Philip built this city and named it Caesarea Philippi to honor the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, and himself. It is from Caesarea Philippi that the Baniyas Spring originates, one of the four headwaters that make up the Jordan River.



This site brings vivid enlightenment to Jesus’ words, “on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (**Matthew 16:18**)



Notes ~



Jordan River

Joshua 1-3, II Kings 2:11-12, 5:10-14, Matthew 3:4-6, Mark 1:4-8

THE JORDON RIVER is a stream flowing from the snow-capped heights of Mount Hermon to the depths of the Dead Sea. The river path is so winding that the water travels about 130 miles in length instead of the 60 miles it would take if straight. Because large quantities of water are used by Israel and Jordan, today it is a small, winding, dirty river with an average width of a mere 100 feet.



Notes ~



Mount Bental

MOUNT BENTAL is one of a series of volcanic mounds in the northern Golan Heights and is part of the Golan Heights Volcanic Park. The mountain is 3,900 feet above sea level, thereby providing stunning views in almost every direction, including views (on a clear day) of Damascus, Syria, the Golan, the Galilee, and Mount Hermon.



In the 1973 Yom Kippur war, one of the largest battles was fought at Mount Bental. Although the Syrians attacked with ten times the number of tanks Israel had, Israel knew that this position was too important to lose. The Syrians eventually retreated, although the area between Mount Hermon in the

North and Mount Bental became known as the Valley of Tears due to the many young soldiers' lives that were lost.



We are always moved to tears as Col. Shalom Almog shares his personal testimony as a Commander in the Israeli Defense Force who lost some of those young soldiers during the 6-Day War.



En Harod

“Gideon’s Spring”

Judges 6-8

THE SPRING OF HAROD (aka “Gideon’s Spring”) still flows today from the mouth of a cave at the foot of Mount Gilboa, where the water has refreshed innumerable travelers through the Harod Valley.



En Harod is where Gideon’s battle with 135,000 Midianites took place according to **Judges 7**. The LORD said to Gideon, “The people are still too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them for you there” (**Judges 7:4-24**).

In **Judges 8:10** we are told that God cut Gideon’s army down to 300 even though the Midianites numbered 135,000 soldiers.

Despite being outnumbered, God showed Himself faithful on behalf of His people, giving them a victory against all odds. Showing Gideon that with God all things are possible. This is where Gideon “built an altar to the LORD and called it The-Lord-is-Peace” or Jehovah Shalom.



Notes ~



Beit She'an

“*Scythopolis*”

I Samuel 31:10-12; II Samuel 21:12-14

HISTORICALLY, Beit She'an (*Scythopolis*) was one of the major cities in the Land of Israel. This was due to its geographical location at the fertile junction of the Jordan River Valley and the Jezreel Valley. This strategic position meant that Beit She'an essentially controlled access from the interior to the coast, as well as from Jerusalem to the Galilee. It was also known as the center for higher learning.



The Bible mentions Beit She'an as a Canaanite city within the tribe of Manasseh (**Joshua 17:11**, **Judges 1:27**), and its conquest by David and inclusion in the later kingdom is noted. Large Solomonic administrative buildings destroyed by Tiglath-Pileser III were uncovered from this period, and its ninth-century BC Biblical capture by the Pharaoh Shishaq is corroborated by his victory list.

It is in Beit She'an that Saul and his sons would end up, as his enemies took their headless bodies and hung them on the walls of the city (**1 Sam 31:12**).



Notes ~



Yardenit

“Baptismal Site”

“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove, and a voice came from heaven; ‘Thou art my beloved Son, with thee I am well pleased.’” Mark 1:9-11



Qumran

II Chronicles 29:9-10

IN 1947, Mohammed Edib, an Arab shepherd, was looking for his lost goat in the western region of the Dead Sea area. Instead of a goat, he found what was to be the greatest discovery of



this century: The Dead Sea Scrolls. The story goes like this: Mohammed happened upon a cave. Hoping his goat was inside; he threw a stone into the opening of the cave. He heard the clatter of something breaking and ran away for fear that the cave was haunted. The next day, he and a cousin re-entered the cave and found eight jars, some with their lids still in place. They searched the cave with hopes of finding gold but were disappointed when all they found were bundles of leather filled with Hebrew writing. Because they did not understand Hebrew, they had no idea the archaeological value these seven scrolls contained. Later, when they became aware of the value of the scrolls, they searched the area again and found 900 pieces of scrolls in more than 30 caves. The scrolls were written on leather and papyrus with the exception of two scrolls written on copper. The most famous scroll was written by Isaiah and is one foot wide by twenty-four feet long. The scrolls are now exhibited in the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum.

Among the scrolls were hundreds of manuscripts that confirm that validity of the Bibles we study and carry with us today.

En Gedi

Joshua 15:62, I Samuel 23-24, Song of Solomon 1:14

EN GEDI is the largest, most fertile, and most beautiful oasis of the Dead Sea's western shore (**Song of Solomon 1:14**). Even though there are many springs around the Dead Sea, most have a high salt content and are therefore inhospitable. Because of the large availability of land for agriculture, the abundant fresh water, En Gedi has always been the most desirable place to settle near the Dead Sea. In ancient times, this area was allotted to the tribe of Judah, and today En Gedi sits along the southern bank of the Nahal Arugot.



En Gedi means “the spring of the young goat.” Ibex are regularly seen, and have always lived near En Gedi making it their home. You will also see “conies,” or rock badgers, in the trees and on the sides of the hills (**Psalms 104:18**).



Around 1000 BC, En Gedi served as one of the main places of refuge for David as he fled from Saul (**I Samuel 23:29**). One time, when David was fleeing from King Saul, the pursuers searched the nearby caves and this is where David subsequently cut off the corner of Saul's robe (**I Samuel 24:2-4**). This location brings an entirely new meaning to **Psalms**



42:1-2 where the Psalmist says, “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”

Notes ~



Masada

MASADA is about 2.5 miles from the western shore of the Dead Sea, in the wilderness of Judea. This is where the rock fortress of Masada stands. It is a half-mile long, 220 yards wide, and ascends 2,000 feet above the Dead Sea. In the middle of the Second Century BC, Alexander Jannai, a High Priest, built the first fortress on Masada's summit. In the year 40 BC Herod the Great built a huge, magnificent fortress here and, by his own account, "fortified it to protect himself from the Jews should they try and depose him." He embellished the fort for use as a residence in case Mark Anthony removed him from his kingdom. It was a masterpiece of engineering.



Masada is the site of one of the most dramatic episodes in Jewish history. In the year AD 70 the Roman legions conquered Israel and Jerusalem was beaten into the dust. A band of Jewish patriots, led by Eleazar Ben Yair, marched on Masada overwhelming the Roman garrison to capture it. Joined later by a few surviving patriots who evaded capture in Jerusalem, Eleazar Ben Yair's men were determined to continue their fight against the Romans and used Masada as a base for their guerrilla strikes. Silva, a general of Titus, decided to destroy this outpost at all costs in the year AD 72. He prepared himself for a long siege by building a wall three miles in circumference around the fortress. At strategic points around the base, Silva established eight military camps whose remains can still be distinguished. The blockade effectively cut off the



besieged from the rest of the country. For many months the Romans tried to storm the fortress but were repelled. Then the Romans eventually built a siege ramp to direct a battering ram against the fortress until it breached the wall. Eleazar Ben Yair and his small group knew that the Romans would overrun them



the following morning, so he gathered his men around him and delivered one of the most dramatic speeches in history:

“Life is the calamity of men, not death. All men are equally destined to death, and the same fate attends the coward as the brave. Can we think of submitting to the indignity of slavery? While freedom is our own and we are in possession of our swords, let us make a determined use of them to preserve our liberties. Let us die free men gloriously surrounded by our wives and children. And let us be expeditious. Eternal renown shall be ours by snatching the prize from the hands of our enemies and leaving them nothing but the bodies of those who dared to be their executioners.”

According to the historian Josephus, the AD 960 people decided to commit suicide rather than surrender to their enemies:

“While they embraced their wives and children for the last time, they wept over and stabbed them in the same moment, taking comfort, however, that this work was not to be performed by their enemies... They then cast lots for the selection of ten men out of their number to destroy the rest. These being chosen, the devoted victims embraced the bodies of their deceased families and then ranged themselves to the

hands of the executioners. When these ten had discharged their disagreeable task, they again cast lots as to which of the ten should kill the other nine. The nine devoted victims died with the same resolution as their brethren had done.

The surviving man, having surveyed the bodies and found that they were all dead, set fire to the place and threw himself on his sword among his companions.”

At dawn the next day, the Romans were astonished at the lack of opposition. On entering the fortress, they saw the bodies and heard the story from two women who had hidden themselves with five children. Josephus wrote,

“Far, however, from exulting in the triumph of joy that might have been expected from enemies, they united to admire the steady virtue and dignity of mind with which the Jews had been inspired and wondered at their contempt of death by which such numbers had been bound in one solemn pact. For the Romans it was a hollow victory.”

Many scholars felt that these writings of Josephus were only legend, but after Masada was excavated in AD 1955-1956, the remains that were uncovered confirmed what Josephus had written.



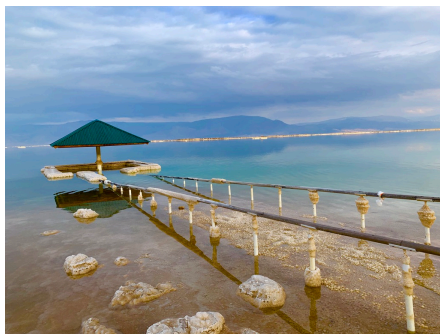
Notes ~



Dead Sea

Genesis 14:3, Deuteronomy 3:17, 4:49, Joshua 3:16, 12:3, 15:2

THE DEAD SEA, or the “Sea of Salt,” is a salt-lake that forms a partial border between Jordan and the West Bank of Israel. At 1,378 feet below sea level, its shores are the lowest points of land on the surface of the Earth, and at 1,083 feet deep, it is the deepest hyper-saline lake in the world. The Jordan River and several smaller streams pour into the sea from the East, bringing large amounts of fresh water. But, due to the area’s extreme heat, approximately 7,000,000 tons of this fresh water evaporates every day, leaving all the minerals behind and causing the salt and mineral content in the Sea to constantly increase.



For comparison: the salt content of the Gulf of Finland is .01%, the Black Sea is 1.7%, the Atlantic Ocean is 3.6%, and the Mediterranean Sea is 4%. But the Dead Sea is approximately 35% salt! In fact, it is the world’s second saltiest body of water (after Lake Assal in Djibouti). The high saline level kills all complex animal and plant life, and fish carried in the Dead Sea soon die.

The most notable spiritual lesson from this area is that the Dead Sea *looks* so refreshing from afar with crystal like beauty. Yet, just as the world *looks* refreshing and enjoyable, it too brings death. And just as Jesus offers *living water*, only the fresh water of En Gedi brings forth and sustains life!



1. David hid from Saul close to the shores of the Dead Sea.
2. It served as a barrier, blocking traffic to Judah from the East.
3. Cleopatra had cosmetic factories nearby.
4. Egyptians obtained embalming chemicals for their mummies from the seawater.
5. An advancing army of Ammonites and Moabites crossed a shallow part of the Dead Sea on their way to attack King Jehoshaphat (**2 Chronicles 20**).
6. Masada is nearby.
7. The cell of John the Baptist is nearby.
8. It is believed that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah lay beneath the lake.
9. The Dead Sea is thought to contain unique healing properties because of its high mineral content. The water contains thousands of millions of metric tons of calcium chloride, magnesium, sodium, and potassium.
10. The Dead Sea is not as prominent in the Bible as is the Sea of Galilee to the North. But the Dead Sea and surrounding areas still played an important role in history.
11. Ezekiel prophesied that one day the Dead Sea will be filled with fresh water and many living things, and fishermen will spread their nets along the shore (**Ezekiel 47:8-10**).
12. One of the greatest Biblical archaeological finds came from this area – the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumram!



Beersheba

Genesis 21, 22, 26, 46; Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20; and 1 Kings 5:5

Beersheba is mentioned 34 times in the Old Testament, and first mentioned as it pertains to Hagar wandering in the wilderness of Beersheba as she was sent away by



Sarai (**Genesis 21:14**). This is the region of the biblical account of God's revelation to the patriarchs (**Gen. 26:23-25; 46:1**) and its name is derived from the Hebrew word *shevu'a* (oath) or *shiv'a* (seven) as elaborated in **Gen. 21:31** and **26:33**. This is the place where Abraham and Abimelech swore an oath and Abraham called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God or *El Olam*. Beersheba symbolized the southern boundary of the Land of Israel, as in the phrase *from Dan to Beersheba*. (**Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20; and 1 Kings 5:5**)

Notes ~



Notes ~



Beth Shemesh

“Sorek Valley”

*Joshua 15:10; 19:41; 21:16;
I Samuel 4-7; II Kings 4:9; 14:11-14*

BBETH SHEMESH is

a town in the Valley of Sorek, 15 miles west of Jerusalem.

It is situated northwest of Judah’s territory near the Philistine border (**Josh**

15:10).

It was probably the same

city as Ir Shemesh (**Josh 19:41**), which was allotted to the tribe of Dan. Later, Judah gave Beth Shemesh to the Levites (**Josh 21:16**).



After their victory at Aphek (**I Sam 4:1**), the Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant to Ashdod and Ekron, cities upon which God’s judgment quickly fell (**I Sam 5**). The ark was then brought here to Beth Shemesh (**I Sam 6:10-7:2**). It is recorded in **1 Samuel 6:19** that 50,070 people died when they looked into the Ark.

From Beth Shemesh, the Ark was taken to Kirjath Jearim. Later, Beth Shemesh was in the second administrative district of Solomon (**I Kings 4:9**). At Beth Shemesh, Israel's king, Jehoash, and Judah's king, Amaziah, met in battle (**II Kings 14:11-14**).



Notes ~



Valley of Elah

I Samuel 17

THE BEAUTIFUL VALLEY OF ELAH is located between Mt. Sochoh and Mt. Azekah. It was in this location that the Philistines and Israel came together to battle. We read in **I Samuel 17** that Goliath was the champion of the Philistines who stood “6 cubits and a span” tall. Along with a javelin in hand, he was covered with battle gear.



As Goliath challenged Israel to fight, he cried out saying, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight." In response to this Philistine giant, all the men of Israel fled and were afraid. It was a little shepherd boy named David, the son of Jesse, who stepped up in defense of the *armies of the Living God*. And in **1 Samuel 17:45** “David said, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, or *Jehovah Saboath*, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have

defied. And in verse 47 he said “Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's.” So, David killed Goliath. The Lord brought a great victory that day as He came in



the name of the Lord using only a sling and a stone!



Notes ~



Jerusalem

*Mount Scopus
“The Hebrew Blessing”*

JERUSALEM, standing high amidst the barren Judean hills, has been crowned as queen of the world’s cities for 30 centuries. Blessed with nothing material, it was chosen by God to be the bulwark of



monotheism. It is the religious capital of half of the human race. To the Jews it is the symbol of their past glories and the hope of their future. To the Christians it is the city of Jesus’ last ministry, the city that saw Jesus die and rise from the dead and where Christianity was born. To the Muslims it is the city where the Prophet Mohamed is believed to have ascended to heaven. As a result, there have been more wars fought at its gates than in any other city in the world. To walk in and around Jerusalem is to walk over a sea of human blood. Jerusalem has been besieged more than 50 times, conquered 36 times, and destroyed 10 times.

The origins of Jerusalem are lost in the mists of antiquity. It was first mentioned in the Bible during the times of Abraham under the name of Salem, which ironically means “peace.”

Genesis 13:18: “And Melchizedek, King of Salem brought forth bread and wine, and he was the priest of the Most High God.” In the 10th century BC, David captured the city from the Jebusites, made it his capital, and brought into the city the Ark



of the Covenant.

The present walls of Jerusalem are additions from different periods of construction. They were rebuilt in their final form, as they appear today, by the Turks under Suleiman the Magnificent in AD 1542. These walls are 2.5 miles in circumference and average 40 feet in height. There are 34 towers and 8 gates: The New Gate, Damascus Gate, and Herod's Gate in the northern wall; St. Stephen's Gate and the Golden Gate (closed by the Turks in AD 1530) in the eastern wall; the Dung Gate and Zion Gate in the southern wall; and Jaffa Gate in the western wall.

In AD 66 a riot broke out between the Jews and the Syrians (who were backed by the Romans). The massacre of 20,000 Jews resulted and was the main cause of the great Jewish revolt, which, in turn, ended with the destruction of Jerusalem and the second Temple. (When this Second Temple was built, they did not relocate the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, where it was in the First Temple, but left it in the secret room where King Josiah hid it. They were afraid that when the Second Temple was destroyed, the Ark of the Covenant might be captured or damaged and preferred to keep it for the Third, end-time Temple).



In AD 135 after the crushing of the second Jewish revolt, Hadrian profaned the site by erecting a temple dedicated to Jupiter. Early Christians looked on Mount Moriah as a place cursed by God, and it became a heap of rubble.

In AD 636 the Muslims conquered Jerusalem, cleared the rubble, and built a mosque on the site. In AD 691 that small mosque was replaced with a monument: The (golden) Dome of the Rock. In AD 1099 the Crusaders converted the structure into a church. After they were defeated in AD 1187, the cross,

which shone for 88 years above the dome, was removed and the crescent put in its place. The temple mount is the oldest site in Muslim religion *third* most sacred place after Mecca and Medina to the Muslim.

During the past 13 centuries, the Dome of the Rock has been repaired many times, but its outline remains the same as it was in AD 691.

Notes ~



Mount of Olives

II Samuel 15:27-31, Joel 4:1-2, Zechariah 14:3, 14:6, 14:8, Matthew 24:1, 24:3, 24:4, 26:27-31, Mark 11:1-3, 14:26-27, Luke 19:28-31, 21:37-38, Acts 1:12

THE MOUNT OF OLIVES is venerated by both Jews and Christians. For the Jews, it is sacred because the prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi are buried here. For Christians, it is associated with some of the most important events in the life of Christ.



The Mount of Olives is located East of Jerusalem across from the Kidron Valley. Its summit, which is about 300 feet higher than Jerusalem, offers a magnificent view of the Old City and a striking panorama of the Judean hills as far as the Dead Sea and the mountains of Moab. In **Luke 19:41** we are told that it was from this summit, overlooking Jerusalem that Jesus wept over their rejection of Him.

When on the slopes of the Mount of Olives we see the oldest and largest Jewish cemetery in the world. Many Jews come to Jerusalem in order to die and be buried near the valley of Jehoshaphat where it is believed the resurrection and final judgment will take place.

It was from the Mt of Olives that Jesus made His triumphal entry into the City of Jerusalem. In **Matthew 21:9** we are told that the people cried out "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"



Notes ~



Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:31-42, Luke 22:39-44

THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE lies at the foot of the Mount of Olives. It appears today as it was twenty centuries ago. This garden was a favorite retreat of Jesus and the place where He was



betrayed. In this garden are eight olive trees that some botanists believe to be over 2,000 years old. History tells us that in AD 70, Titus cut down all the trees in the vicinity of Jerusalem, but it is possible these trees escaped that fate and still bear fruit!

Gethsemane comes from an Aramaic word meaning Olive Press. This is where **Mark 14:33-36** tells us that Jesus brought Peter, James, and John with Him to the Garden to pray. As He began to be troubled and deeply distressed (*pressed*), He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death." This is where we are told that Jesus fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Your will be done." Shortly thereafter, Jesus was arrested and taken to Caiaphas' House for His trials before His crucifixion.



Notes ~



City of David

“Mount Ophel”

THE CITY OF DAVID is part of the original Jerusalem and lies outside the walls of the Old City. The City of David was built around 1000 BC, making it approximately 3,000 years old – about 1850 years older than the Old City.



King David wrote the Psalms from here; the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah thundered here; Nehemiah returned from Babylon to rebuild these walls. We have literally “found the Bible” and can go line-by-line and place-by-place to relive these Bible scenes through the City of David. This is an amazing archeological site that is a highlight for our tour.

Notable points of interest with rich Biblical and historical significance include:

- Gihon Springs (**I Kings 1:33, 38, 45; II Chronicles 32:30, 33:14**)
- Hezekiah’s Tunnel built in the seventh century to protect the city’s water supply (**II Kings 20:20**)
- The Walls rebuilt by Nehemiah on his return from Babylon (Book of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah**)
- David with Bathsheba (**2 Samuel 11**)
- The Pool of Siloam (**Isaiah 8:6, Matthew 22:9, John 9:1-12**)



Notes ~



The Upper Room

Mount Zion

“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.” Hebrews 12:24

John 13-17

THE UPPER ROOM is presumably located on Mt. Zion and may be the place Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples, thus establishing communion as well as giving the Upper Room Discourse in



John 13-17. The Upper Room Discourse is filled with significant instruction directly from Jesus to His disciples.

In **John 13** we see the incredible example that Jesus set for His disciples by girding Himself with a towel and in washing their feet. He said in John 13:15 “I have done this as an example, that you should do as I have done.”

Mount Zion is also where the first Christians had their headquarters. As early as the 1st century, a church was built here. That church was destroyed in 614 by the Persians, and then rebuilt in the 12th century by the Crusaders. The 12th century church remains today and houses King David’s Tomb in the lower chapel.

The Hinnom Valley borders Mount Zion on its western and southern sides.

Notes ~



Caiaphas' House

St. Peters Church in Gallicantu

Matthew 26:34, 26:75, John 11:45-54, John 18, Acts 4:5-11

THE CHURCH of St. Peter in Gallicantu (translated “crowing of the cock”) commemorates Peter’s denial of Christ after his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and during the time of his trial. This site is located on the southeastern slope of the hill, it is one of the traditional locations for the house of Caiaphas where He was taken after being arrested in the



Garden of Gethsemane to stand before the mock trials before His crucifixion. There are bedrock steps leading up from the Kidron Valley to this location.

Built atop the ruins of a Byzantine church and monastery, many believe that the prison in which Christ was held is located inside this church.



Notes ~



Southern Steps of David

John 7:37-39

THE WESTERN FLIGHT of stairs leading to the main entrances of the Temple Mount was 200 feet wide. Excavators uncovered the easternmost part of this staircase with its alternating long



and short steps. Some suggest that the fifteen long steps may have been one of the locations where pilgrims sang the fifteen Psalms of Ascent as they went up to worship.

These steps are located at the entrance to the Temple Mount, where Jesus stood “On the last day, that great day of the feast.” According to **John 7:37-39**, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

This is a moving site where they have uncovered the original steps of Jesus’ time. This is one place we can say with certainty, “this is where Jesus was.”



Notes ~

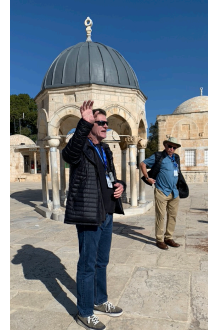


Temple Mount

“Mount Moriah”

Genesis 22; Ezekiel 40-42; Matthew 21; Mark 11, Luke 2

THE TEMPLE MOUNT is revered by three faiths. For the Jews it is the ground where the great Temple stood; for Christians it is associated with many events in Jesus’ life; and for the Muslims it is the place where the prophet Mohammed went to heaven on a winged steed. Inside the Dome of the Rock is ‘the rock of Mount Moriah’ which tradition has identified as the site where Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac in **Genesis 22**.



Solomon’s Temple

Towards the end of his reign, David bought the barren hilltop of this mountain and built an altar to the LORD, promising to build God a temple here. God gave David’s son Solomon that honor. Solomon’s temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BC and the Jews were taken as captives into Babylon.

Herod’s Temple

Fifty years after their capture by Nebuchadnezzar, they returned and rebuild a small-scale temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel. In 20 BC Herod the Great, attempting to gain popularity with the Jews, began reconstruction of the Temple on a large scale. This second Temple was not completed until 64 AD, six years before its destruction. This was the Temple of

In AD 70 the Temple was destroyed by the armies of Titus. Titus tried to spare the Temple, which was one of the world’s marvels, but one of his soldiers threw a lit torch through a

window and set it on fire. The Menorah for the Temple was saved and carried with Titus in triumph back to Rome.



The Tribulation Temple (Revelation 11:1-2)

This Temple will be built by the Anti-Christ during the seven years of tribulation. At the rapture of the church, the Antichrist will be

revealed and (**II Thessalonians 2:8**), he will confirm the covenant with many and (**Daniel 9:27**), and build the Temple.

Today, there is ample room for the next temple to be built on the northern side of the Al Aqsa Mosque. Pictured is what is called the “Dome of the Spirit” which has bedrock exposed at its base. This is believed to have been the “holy of holies” in the Temple. It lines up perfectly with the Gate Beautiful as well as the steps opposite of the gate.

Ezekiel’s Temple

According to **Ezekiel 40-42**, this temple will be built during the Millennial Kingdom, the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ.

Notes ~



Church of Saint Anne

WHEN THE CRUSADERS were driven out of Jerusalem, they left behind more than 30 churches that they built. St. Anne's Church, which is the best preserved, is one of the finest examples of their construction. It was built in AD 1100 over a crypt thought to be the birthplace of Mary and the home of her parents Joachim and Anne.

Notes ~



Twin Pools of Bethesda

Luke 5:2-4; John 5:1-15

“When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him,

“Do you want to be made well?”

John 5:6

THE TWIN POOLS OF BETHESDA lie a few yards from St. Stephen’s Gate inside the walls of Jerusalem. The pools were buried under debris for hundreds of years but were finally unearthed. We now know the pools were three hundred and fifty feet long by two hundred feet, by twenty-five feet deep. At the time of Christ, they were just outside the northern wall of the city near the Sheep Gate, which led into the Temple. They were the meeting place for invalids because their water had healing properties (**Luke 5:4**). They were surrounded on four sides by porches and divided laterally by a fifth porch (this confirms the words of John who described the pools as having five porches, **Luke 5:2**). One of these pools was for the washing of the sheep, before taking them to the Temple for sacrifice.



Notes ~



The Western Wall

I Kings 6:14, Matthew 12:6, Luke 2:46, John 2:19

THE WESTERN WALL is the holiest shrine in the Jewish world. It is revered as the last relic of the last Temple. It is a portion of the retaining wall that Herod built around the second Temple in 20 BC.

Titus, in AD 70, spared this part of the wall with its huge blocks to show future generations the greatness of the Roman soldiers who had been able to destroy the rest of the building.



The exposed section of the ancient wall is 187 feet (57 m). This section faces a large plaza, built in AD 1967 for prayer. The Western Wall stretches for 1,600 feet (488 m) most of which is hidden behind residential structures built along its length. The wall aboveground consists of twenty-four rows of stones of different dressings and age reaching a height of 59 feet (18m.) with twenty feet (6m.) above the level of the Temple Mount. In AD 1867 excavations revealed that nineteen additional rows lay buried underground, the lowest level sunk into the natural rock of the Tyropoeon Valley.



THE WESTERN WALL TUNNEL is an underground passageway exposing the Wall's full length. The tunnel is adjacent to the Wall and is located under buildings of the Old City



in Jerusalem. After the Six Day War, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Israel began the excavations. The excavations lasted almost twenty years and revealed many previously unknown facts about the history and the geography of the Temple Mount. The tunnels expose a total wall length of 500m and reveal methods of construction as well as the various activities that occurred in the vicinity of the Temple Mount. The excavations unearthed archaeological finds from the Herodian, Umayyad, Ayyubid, Mamluke and Hasmonean periods.



Warren's Shaft

Warren's Shaft lies approximately 150 feet into the tunnel. This sealed-off entrance was converted into a small synagogue called "The Cave" by Rabbi Yehuda Getz because it is the closest point to the Holy of Holies attainable for a Jew (assuming it is located at the traditional site under the Dome of the Rock). Remains of a water channel, which originally supplied water to the Temple Mount, were found at the northern portion of the Western Wall. The exact source of the channel is unknown though it passes through and underground pool known as the "Strouthion Pool." The water channel is dated to the Hasmonean period and accordingly dubbed the "Hasmonean Channel." The biggest stone in the Western Wall referred to as the "Western Stone" is also revealed within the tunnel and ranks as one of the heaviest objects ever lifted by human beings without powered machinery. The stone's length is 13.6 meters, its estimated width ranges from 3.5 to 4.5 meters, and its estimated weight is 570 tons.

St. Stephen's Gate

Lion's Gate

Acts 6-7

THE WALLS of Jerusalem's old City were built by the Ottoman Empire under the direct supervision of Sultan Suleiman in 1542. The walls stretch for approximately 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles) and are 3 meters (10 feet) thick. Altogether, the Old City walls contain 43 surveillance towers and 11 gates, seven of which are presently open. Stephen's Gate was one of two gates enlarged to allow the change of transportation from donkeys to automobiles.



The name "Stephen's Gate" arose because the martyrdom of Stephen is believed to have taken place outside of this gate. However, when built, Stephen's Gate was named Bab el-Ghor (Jordan Gate), but this name was not well used. The most common names are the Lion's Gate, St. Stephen's Gate, or Sheep Gate. The name Lion's Gate originated from the four figures of lions near the crest of the gate.

It is through this gate and to the right that the Twin Pools of Bethesda are located.



Yad Vashem

“Holocaust Museum”

Isaiah 56:5

YAD VASHEM, the “Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority,” is Israel’s official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. It was established in 1953 through the Yad Vashem Law passed by the Knesset, Israel’s parliament. The name originates from **Isaiah 56:5**, “And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (Yad Vashem) that shall not be cut off.”



Located at the foot of Mount Herzl on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a forty-five-acre complex containing the Holocaust History Museum and memorial sites such as the Valley of the Communities, a synagogue, archives, a research institute, a library, a publishing house, an educational center, and The International School for Holocaust Studies. Non-Jews who saved Jews during the Holocaust at personal risk are honored at Yad Vashem as “Righteous Among the Nations.”

Notes ~



The Garden Tomb

“Gordon’s Calvary”



Matthew 27, 28, Luke 22-24, John 19

THE GARDEN TOMB SITE

is located north of the Damascus Gate. It is believed by many to be the place of the Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus Christ. In 1883, the British General Charles Gordon noted that this rocky hill that resembles a human skull might be the true Calvary. The presence of a nearby rock-hewn tomb, believed to be first century, helped strengthen this idea.



The Garden Tomb gives a clear picture of how the place of the Crucifixion and burial looked at the time of Jesus. The simplicity, beauty, and peaceful atmosphere of the Garden Tomb make it a wonderful spot for prayer and reflection, communion, and worship.



Notes ~



Historical Highlights Timeline

2090 BC: The Patriarchs

The history of Israel began when Abraham was called by God to bring about the formation of a people with belief in the One God. Abraham traveled from Ur of the Chaldeans to Canaan. When famine spread through Canaan, Jacob (grandson of Abraham, son of Isaac) and his twelve sons and their families settled in Egypt, where their descendants were eventually reduced to slavery.

1445 BC: Exodus from Egypt

After 400 years of slavery, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. This was followed by forty years of wandering in the desert. During this time in the wilderness, God (at Mount Sinai) gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments and direction for worship.

1400 BC: Joshua Crossed the River Jordan

Under the leadership of Joshua, the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan, and divided the land between the twelve tribes. During times of war, the people rallied behind leaders known as “judges,” who were chosen for their political and military skills as well as their leadership qualities. The Prophets were religious sages and charismatic figures endowed with divine gifts of revelation. The prophets preached and acted as advisers and critics in matters of religion, ethics, and politics.

1050-1010 BC: Saul Crowned as King

The Israelites wanted to have a King like the nations around them instead of their tribal organization.



1010-970 BC: David Reigned as King of Israel

David established his kingdom as a major power by successful military expeditions including the final defeat of the Philistines and through a network of friendly alliances with nearby kingdoms.

1000 BC: Jerusalem becomes capital of Israel

David makes Jerusalem the Capital of Israel.

970-930: BC Solomon (David's Son) Reigned

960 BC: First Temple

The national and spiritual center of the Jewish people built in Jerusalem by King Solomon.

930 BC: Divided Kingdom

Judah (Southern Kingdom derived from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) and Israel (Northern Kingdom).

722 BC: Israel Captured

After 200 years and nineteen kings, the Assyrians captured the Kingdom of Israel. They took Samaria and the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom into captivity, ending the Kingdom of Israel.

586 BC: Judah Captured

After 400 years and 19 Kings (from the lineage of David), Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonia) conquered Judah. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed and most of the people were taken into captivity in Babylon. (i.e., Daniel)



536-142: BC Persian and Hellenistic Periods

Over four centuries the Jews knew varying degrees of self-rule under Persian (538-333 BC) and later Hellenistic (Ptolemaic and Seleucid) lordship (333-142 BC).

538-515 BC Babylon Conquered

Cyrus, King of Persia, conquered Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel rebuilt the Temple.

334 BC: Israel conquered

Alexander the Great conquered Israel and after his death, the Ptolemies of Egypt controlled it.

198 BC: Egypt Defeated

Antiochus III of Syria defeated the Egyptians and Israelites passed into the hands of Seleucids.

175 BC: Antiochus IV became King

In an effort to impose Greek-oriented culture and customs on the entire population, Antiochus IV abolished the worship of Jehovah and desecrated the Temple by offering swine in the Temple altar.

166-63 BC: Hasmonean Dynasty

166 BC: Maccabean Revolt

Jews were angered by the loss of their right to worship. An aged priest named Mattathias and his sons lead the Jews in revolt against the Seleucids. The Jews defeated the Seleucids and subsequently entered Jerusalem and purified the Temple (164 BC). This event is commemorated each year by the festival of Hanukkah.



166-63 BC: Jewish Independence

After further Hasmonean victories, the Seleucids restored autonomy in Judea (Israel). With the collapse of the Seleucid kingdom (129 BC), Jewish independence was achieved. Under the Hasmonean dynasty, which lasted about 80 years, the kingdom regained land just short of what had been acquired in Solomon's time. The Jewish people flourished.

63 BC-AD 313: Roman Rule

63 BC: Pompey Conquered Israel

When the Romans replaced the Seleucids as the great power in the region, they granted the Hasmonean king, Hyrcanus II, limited authority under the Roman governor of Damascus. The Jews were hostile to the new regime, and the following years witnessed frequent insurrections. A last attempt to restore the former glory of the Hasmonean dynasty was made by Mattathias Antigonus, whose defeat and death brought Hasmonean rule to an end (40 BC). The land subsequently became a province of the Roman Empire.

40 BC: Capture of Rome

The Parthians surprised the Romans and captured the land.

39 BC: Herod the Great expelled the Parthians

The Romans appointed Herod, a son-in-law of Hyrcanus II, as King of Judea. Granted almost unlimited autonomy in the country's internal affairs, he became one of the most powerful monarchs in the eastern part of the Roman Empire. A great admirer of Greco-Roman culture, Herod launched a massive construction program, which included the cities of Caesarea, Sebaste, the fortresses at Herodium, and Masada. He also remodeled the Temple transforming it into one of the most magnificent buildings of its time. However, despite his many achievements, Herod failed to win the trust and support of his Jewish subjects.



4-1 BC: Birth of Jesus Christ

AD 8: Roman Administration

Ten years after Herod's death Judea came under direct Roman administration. Growing anger over increased Roman suppression resulted in sporadic violence.

AD 20-33: Ministry of Jesus

AD 30-33: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

AD 66: Jewish Revolt

The Zealots led a full-scale revolt against the Romans.

AD 70: Jerusalem and the Temple Destroyed

Superior Roman forces led by Titus were finally victorious. The destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple was catastrophic for the Jewish people. According to historians, hundreds of thousands of Jews perished in the siege of Jerusalem and elsewhere throughout the country. Thousands more were sold into slavery.

AD 73: Masada

The last Jewish outpost at Masada was defeated.

AD 132-135: Bar Kokhha, the 2nd Jewish Revolt

The revolt was crushed by Hadrian who destroyed Jerusalem and rebuilt it as a Roman City called Aelia Capitolina.

AD 330-636: Byzantine Rule

Following Emperor Constantine's adoption of Christianity (AD 313) and the founding the Byzantine Empire, the Land of Israel



became a predominantly Christian country. Churches were built on Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Galilee. Monasteries were established in many parts of the country. The Jewish people were deprived of their former relative autonomy as well as their right to hold public positions. Furthermore, they were forbidden to enter Jerusalem except one day of the year to mourn the destruction of the Temple.

AD 614: Persian Invasion

Aided by the Jews, the Persians invaded Israel. Thousands of Christians were slain, and hundreds of churches were destroyed. In gratitude for their help, the Jews were granted the administration of Jerusalem, an interlude that lasted about three years. After that time, the Byzantine army regained the city (629) and again expelled its Jewish inhabitants.

AD 636-1099: Arab Rule

AD 636: The Muslims conquered Israel

The Muslims conquered Israel and made Jerusalem their third most sacred city. The Arab conquest of the Land came four years after the death of the prophet Muhammad (632) and lasted more than four centuries, with caliphs (an Islamic ruler) ruling first from Damascus then from Baghdad and Egypt. By the end of the 11th century due to increasing restrictions, heavy taxes, and economic discrimination, the Jewish community in the Land had diminished considerably and lost some of its organizational and religious cohesiveness.

AD 691: Dome of the Rock

The Muslims build the Dome of the Rock on the site of the First and Second Temple in Jerusalem.



AD 1009: East vs. West

Fatimid Khalif Hakem destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulcher together with many other Christian buildings. This sparked two hundred years of war and East/West animosity.

AD 1099-1291: Crusader Domination

AD 1099: Jerusalem Captured

Crusaders captured Jerusalem and the Latin Kingdom was established in Jerusalem. For approximately 200 years the Crusaders dominated the country. Following an appeal by Pope Urban II, they came from Europe to recover the Holy Land from the “infidels.” After a five-week siege the knights of the First Crusade captured Jerusalem, massacring most non-Christian inhabitants in the city. Barricaded in their synagogues, Jews were burned to death or sold into slavery.

AD 1187: Crusaders Defeated

Saladin, a Muslim prince from Egypt, defeated the Crusaders at the Horns of Hittin ending their reign of Jerusalem.

AD 1263

The Mamluk Sultan Beybars of Egypt captured the remaining Crusader strongholds and coastal cities. They ruled them for the next 250 years.

AD 1291-1516: Mamluk Rule

During the Mamluks rule, Damascus, Acre, Jaffa and other ports were destroyed for fear of future crusades. This resulted in the interruption of maritime and overland commerce. By the end of the Middle Ages, the country’s towns were virtually in ruins, most of Jerusalem was abandoned, and the small remaining Jewish community was poverty-stricken. The period



of Mamluk decline was further darkened by political and economic upheaval, plagues, locusts, and devastating earthquakes.

AD 1517-1917: Ottoman Rule

The Ottomans conquered the Land and divided it into four districts, which they ruled from Istanbul. At the beginning of Ottoman rule, some 1,000 Jewish families lived in the country, mainly in Jerusalem, Nablus, Hebron, Gaza, Safed and the villages of Galilee. These were descendants of Jews who had always lived in the Land as well as immigrants from North Africa and Europe. Orderly government brought improvements stimulating Jewish immigration until the death of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent (1566). By the mid-16th century, the Jewish population had risen significantly. With a gradual decline in the quality of Ottoman rule, the country suffered widespread neglect. By the end of the 18th century much of the land was owned by absentee landlords and leased to impoverished tenant farmers where taxation was crippling. The 19th Century began to show signs of progress. British, French and American scholars launched studies of Biblical archaeology and Britain, France, Russia, Austria and the U.S. opened consulates in Jerusalem. Travel and commerce increased with the opening of the Suez Canal, and the increased use of steamships from Europe.

AD 1860

First neighborhood built outside of Jerusalem's walls.

AD 1882-1903: First Aliyah

Large-scale immigration, mainly from Russia.

AD 1897: Zionist Organization Founded



AD 1904-1914: Second Aliyah

Mainly from Russia and Poland.

AD 1909: First kibbutz founded

Tel Aviv, the first modern all-Jewish city founded.

AD 1917: End of Ottoman Rule

Ottoman rule ends after 400 years. Israel was taken by the Allies in World War I under British General Allenby.

AD 1918-1948: British Rule

AD 1919-1923: Third Aliyah

Mainly from Russia.

AD 1920: Haganah Founded

Jewish and Arab communities were granted the right to run their own internal affairs. The Jewish defense organization known as Haganah, and the Jewish community, known as the Yishuv were founded. A self-governing body was elected based on party representation that met annually. During this time agriculture expanded, factories were established, new roads were built throughout the country, the waters of the Jordan River were harnessed for production of electric power, and the mineral potential of the Dead Sea was tapped.

AD 1922

The League of Nations entrusted Great Britain with the 'Mandate for Palestine' (the name by which the country was then known.)

AD 1924-1932: Fourth Aliyah

Mainly from Poland.



AD 1933-1939: Fifth Aliyah

Mainly from Germany.

AD 1939

Jewish immigration severely limited by British White Paper

AD 1939-1945: World War II and the Holocaust

AD 1944

Jewish Brigade formed as part of British forces.

AD 1947

UN proposes the establishment of Arab and Jewish states in the Land of Israel.

AD 1948: State of Israel

AD 1948: May 14

State of Israel Proclaimed.

AD 1948: May 15

Israel invaded by five Arab states.

AD 1949

Armistice agreements signed with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

AD 1948-1952

Mass immigration from Europe and Arab countries.



AD 1967: Six-Day War

On June 5 war broke out between Arabs and Israelis. It ended after six days of fighting with Israel occupying the entire Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, and the West Bank of the Jordan River.

AD 1973: Yom Kippur War

On October 6 war broke out between the Arabs and the Israelis. After sixteen days of fighting a cease-fire was reached.

AD 1978: Camp David Accords

Included framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

AD 1979: Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty signed

AD 1985

Free Trade Agreement signed with the United States.

AD 1991

Israel attacked by Iraqi scud missiles during the Gulf War.

AD 1998

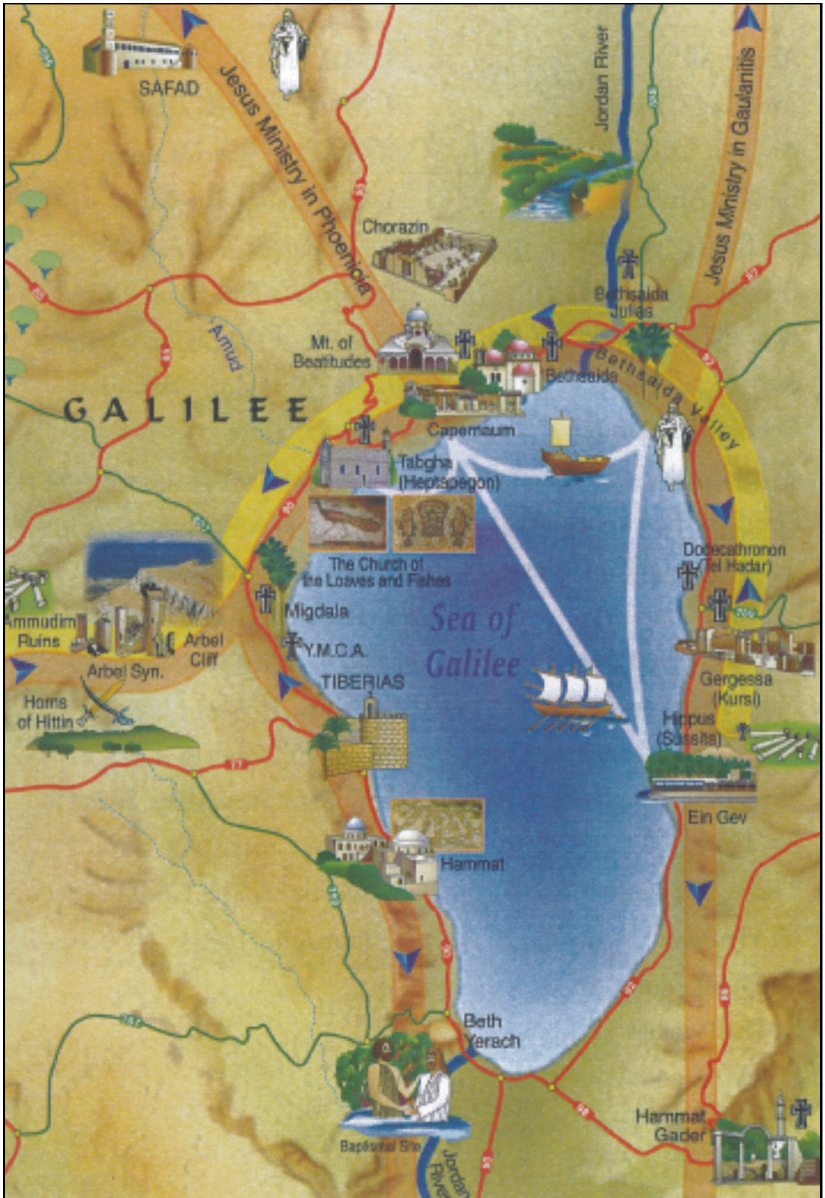
Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary.



Biblical Israel

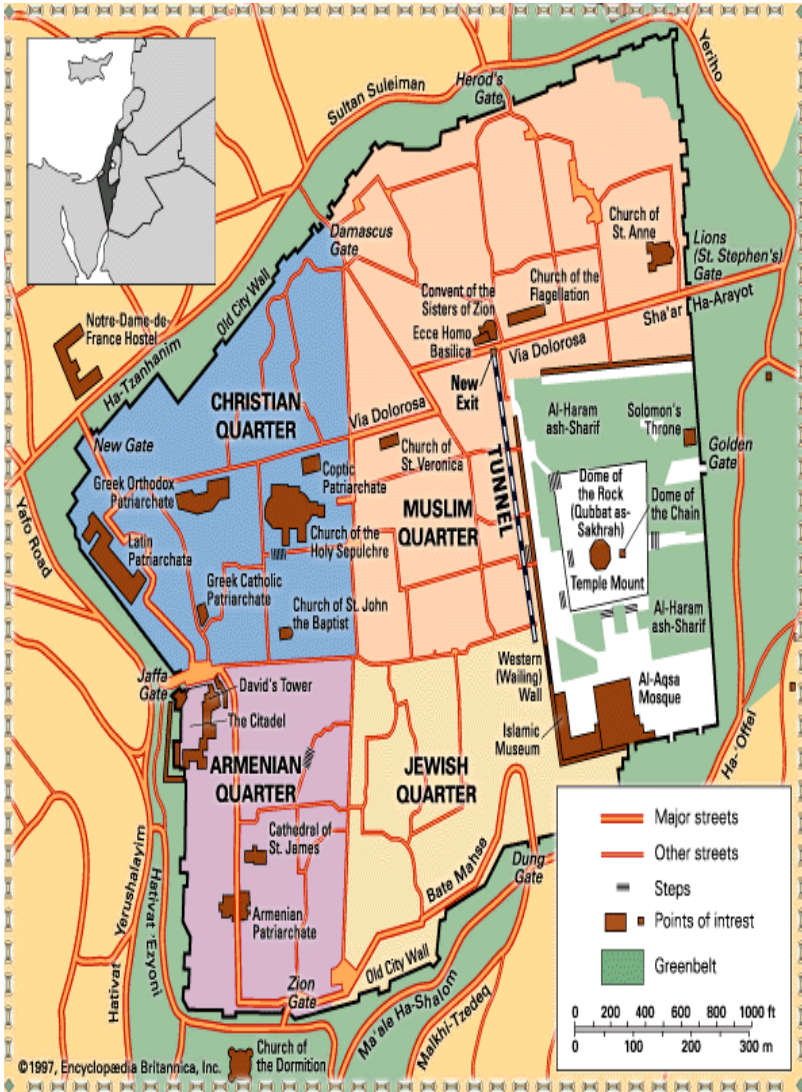


Galilee



Jerusalem

“The Old City”



Terminology

Diaspora

The term Diaspora (Anc. Greek. “a scattering or sowing of seeds”) refers to any people forced to leave their traditional homeland. The Jewish Diaspora is commonly accepted to have begun with the Eighth to Sixth-century BC conquests of the ancient Jewish kingdoms, destruction of the First Temple, and expulsion of the enslaved Jewish population. It is also associated with the destruction of the Second Temple and the aftermath of the Bar Kokhba revolt, during the Roman occupation of Judea in the 1st and 2nd Century.

Zionism

Zionism is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people. The name comes from “Zion” which is the traditional synonym for Jerusalem and the Land of Israel. The idea of Zionism (the redemption of the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland) is rooted in the continuous longing for and deep attachment to the land of Israel, which has been an inherent part of Jewish existence through the centuries. Political Zionism emerged in response to continued oppression and persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe and increasing disillusionment with the emancipation in Western Europe because it neither put an end to discrimination nor aided the integration of Jews into local societies. The Zionist movement contains both ideological and practical elements aimed at promoting the return of Jews to the Land; facilitating the social, cultural, economic, and political revival of Jewish national life; and attaining an internationally recognized, legally secured home for the Jewish people in its historic homeland. In this way, Jews would be free from persecution and able to develop their own lives and identity.

Purim

Purim is a Jewish festival held in spring to celebrate the defeat of Haman's plan to massacre the Jews as recorded in the book of Esther. It's a very festive time in which people young and old wear masks and dress in costume. The festival spans three days.

Kibbutz

In Hebrew, Kibbutz is translated as gathering. It is an Israeli rural communal settlement based on the principle of joint ownership of property, equality, and cooperation of production, consumption, and education. It is the fulfillment of the Marxist idea, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." Forced by necessity into communal life, and inspired by their ideology, the kibbutz members developed a pure communal mode of living that attracted worldwide interest. While the Kibbutzim lasted for several generations, most of today's kibbutzim are quite different from the original. The Kibbutzim has given Israel a disproportionate share of its military leadership, intellectuals, and politicians. Although Kibbutzim comprises only 5% of the Israeli population, a surprising number of kibbutzniks become teachers, lawyers, doctors, and political leaders. 75% of Israeli air force pilots come from the kibbutz movement.

Chanukah (Hanukah)

Chanukah is the eight-day festival of light that celebrates the triumph of light over darkness. More than twenty-one centuries ago, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who sought to forcefully Hellenize the people of Israel. Against all odds, a small band of faithful Jews defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, driving the Greeks from the land, reclaiming the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, and rededicating it to the service of God. When they sought to light the Temple's menorah, they found only a single cruse of olive oil had escaped contamination by the Greeks. Miraculously, the one-day supply burned for eight days until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity. To commemorate



these miracles, the sages instituted the festival of Chanukah. At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting: a single flame on the first night, two on the second evening, and so on till the eighth night when all eight candles are lit. On Chanukah, prayers are recited that offer praise and thanksgiving to God for delivering the strong into the hands of the weak, many into the hands of the few, the wicked into the hands of the righteous. Chanukah customs include eating foods fried in oil such as latkes (potato pancakes) and *sufganiot* (donuts), playing with a *dreidel* (a spinning top), and the giving of gifts to children.



Useful Hebrew Phrases

Though many Israelis speak fluent English, knowing a few Hebrew words and phrases will help you enjoy your Israel experience more.

Shalom	Hello / Goodbye / Peace
Todá	Thank you
Todá Rabá	Thank you very much
Bevákasha	Please / You're welcome
Kama	How much?
Boker tov	Good Morning
Erev tov	Good Evening
TsoHoRaYIMToVeeM	Good Afternoon
Effo	Where is
Sher-o-teem	Restroom
Slicha	Excuse me / I'm sorry
Ma	What?
Ken	Yes
Lo	No
Akhshav	Right Now!



Misc. Notes ~

