

God's Faithfulness

A Shoresh Study Tour

Hosted by Todd & Beth Hoogland

22 January - 02 February 2018

We will travel through the land, from coast to desert to mountains, to visit the places where important Biblical events took place, and dig deep into the Scriptures in their original context to learn about God's faithfulness to His people, in the past, present, and future. Our tour includes sites from the Old and New Testaments as well as the history of modern Israel. In addition, we will learn about God's work amongst believers in the land today. Jesus will always be the center of our studies, as we seek a better understanding of His ministry, His place among the Jewish people, and the application of His teachings in our lives.

Day 1: Monday 22nd January.

ENTERING THE LAND OF PROMISE

Self transfer from the airport to Beit Immanuel.

Overnight: Beit Emanuel, Old Jaffa

Day 2: Tuesday 23rd January.

Jaffa & Hebron

After lunch, we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip. We begin our journey by visiting the ancient port of **Jaffa**, the point from which Jonah tried to escape his calling to warn the people of Nineveh and location of Simon the Tanner's house. We will continue through the strategic lowlands into the **Mountains of Judea**, to the burial **Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron**, where we will look at God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We conclude our day traveling to our hotel in Beersheva. After dinner we will have a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and prayer. Overnight: Leonardo Hotel, Beersheva

Day 3: Wednesday 24th January

THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS

After breakfast, we begin our day travelling in the steps of the Patriarchs to the southern desert region called the **Negev** in the Bible (a name it still carries today). Here we visit **Tel Beersheva**, one of the most impressive and ancient fortified cities of the Kingdom of Judah. Our next stop will be **Tel Arad**, a pre-Abrahamic major city and later an Israelite fortress. In the city of Arad we will interact with "**Fountain of Tears**" sculpture, a work exploring the relationship between Jesus and the victims of the Holocaust. We conclude our day travelling through the **Judean Desert** for an early arrival at our spa hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea for a therapeutic soak in the mineral rich waters. Overnight: David Spa Hotel, Ein Bokek, Dead Sea

Day 4: Thursday 25th January

THE JUDEAN DESERT - Seeking Refuge in the Wilderness

Our theme today is the wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites. We begin our day at **Masada**, Herod the Great's magnificent fortress palace in the desert, and the site of the last stand of the Zealots, a Jewish revolutionary group at the time of Jesus. In the afternoon we will explore **Qumran**, likely the home of the Essenes, a First Century Jewish sect which may have influenced early Christianity, and the site of the most exciting archaeological discovery ever made in Israel – the Dead Sea Scrolls. Time permitting we will visit **Jericho** – the oldest and lowest city on earth. After dinner, the Director of Shoresh will lead us on a short stroll to a **rooftop panorama of the Old City**, and then share some encouraging testimonies. Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 5: Friday 26th January

CITY OF DAVID & BETHLEHEM

We will spend the morning at the place where it all began – the **City of David**. Here we will learn about King David's conquest of the Jebusite city, and walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** to the **Pool of Siloam**. The rest of our day is free for rest, reflection, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City. In the afternoon we will take the short drive to **Bethlehem**, where we will visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the probable site of the birth of Jesus, and the **"Shepherd's Fields"** where the angels heralded the advent of Messiah. In the evening, we will enjoy a **festive erev Shabbat meal at Christ Church Guesthouse**.

Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 6: Saturday 27th January

IN THE STEPS OF JESUS - Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection

Today we focus on sites related to the Biblical passages concerning Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Our goal is to understand why He was crucified, how He was buried, and what it meant to the Jewish people of the First Century that He was raised from the dead. We begin our day with a panoramic overlook of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**, the site of Jesus' ascension to heaven and His future second coming. After viewing a **tomb from the time of Jesus**, we will walk down the Mount of Olives to **Gethsemane**. Depending on the group's interest, we may walk parts of the **Via Dolorosa**, stopping at several of the places mentioned in the Bible, and arrive at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. Rest of the afternoon will be free.

Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday 28th January

THE RESTORATION OF HOPE - A Garland Instead of Ashes

After breakfast we will join the **morning worship service** at Christ Church. After service we will enjoy a tour of the **Christ Church Heritage Centre** to learn about CMJ's 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people. Today we study both great tragedy and the wonder of the Lord's redemptive power. We will examine the systematic annihilation of six million Jews in the Nazi genocide, God coming to earth in the form of a man to save His people from their sins, and the loving witness of Christians committed to the Biblically prophesied physical restoration and spiritual rebirth of the Jewish people. Next we travel to **Yad VaShem**, the Israel Memorial Museum to the Holocaust. Here we examine the spiritual and theological roots of the most notorious genocide in history and the connection between the Church, Jesus and the Jewish people. Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 8: Monday 29th January

JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS - The Temple at the Center

Today will be devoted to learning about Jerusalem in Jesus' day, when the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life. We will study how worship was performed in the temple, the Sadducees and Jesus' attitude towards them, and generally enrich our insight into many important events in the gospels and book of Acts. An early start will take us up to the **Temple Mount** (conditions permitting), where we'll consider some of Jesus' activities there, as well as the claims of Islam. After a visit to the **Western Wall** place of prayer, Judaism's most holy site, we will take a trip to the subterranean **Western Wall Tunnels** to walk at what was street level in the time of Jesus. We then make our way through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City to see the **Herodian Villas**, the palatial mansions that were the home to the Sadducees, the ruling priesthood at the time of Jesus. We complete our day at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked.

Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 9: Tuesday 30th January

SAMARIA: ANCIENT ISRAEL

Today we journey into the northern homeland of the Patriarchs, of the Israelites under Joshua, and later the breakaway Kingdom of Israel. Sites visited (times and conditions permitting) include: **Mt. Gerazim** (the "Mount of Blessing" from Joshua's time), **Jacob's Well**, and **Shiloh** (long-time location of the Tabernacle and the ark of the covenant). Our final stop is the Biblical city of **Beit Shean** to examine the visually impressive excavations of its Roman-Byzantine period when it was one of the ten Hellenistic cities of the Decapolis. Overnight: Maagan Holiday Village, Galilee

Day 10: Wednesday 31st January

AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE - Daily Life and Religion in the Time of Jesus

Our day will be spent visiting various sites around the Sea of Galilee as we try to picture daily life and religion in the First Century, and seek to better understand the miracles and teachings of Jesus in His original Jewish context. We will start at **Mt. Arbel**, where an easy stroll brings us to panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee, giving an excellent orientation for our studies in the area. We will continue to **Chorazin**, the well-preserved ruins of a typical Galilean village, where we study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. Our next stop will be the **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, where we will consider the Kingdom of God in Jesus' teachings. After a short walk or drive down the hill we will arrive at **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. We will also visit **Magdala**, a unique site in the Holy Land, a complete first century city, a city where Jesus himself visited and taught. After dinner we will meet with a local believer.

Overnight: Maagan Holiday Village, Galilee

Day 11: Thursday 1st February

Our next stop of the day will be ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry. We then travel to **Mount Carmel**, with a spectacular view over the North of Israel, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. We complete our day at the fabulous ruins of the Herodian city of **Caesarea Maritima**, the site of the conversion of Cornelius and the location from which Paul left the shores of Israel and set sail on his journey to Rome. We conclude our day with a **closing dinner** at the seaside restaurant in Caesarea. Overnight: KfarMakabia, Mediterranean Coast

Day 12: Friday 2nd February
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

In the morning we say farewell to Israel and make the short drive to the airport to catch the flight home.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *Some days involve a significant amount of walking and/or steep climbing. Every effort will be made to enable all tour members to fully participate at every site, but in some cases that may not be possible.*