

The Rev. Byron Thomas
The Exodus Experience
13-23 September 2024
Syllabus: 11 Day Biblical Backgrounds & Christian Origins in Egypt
4 Day Elective: The Wonders of Petra & Jordan returning 27 September 2024

Objectives:

- To gain an overview of modern biblical scholarship, including the rudiments of archaeology, and its importance for clergy and lay people
- To gain an overview of the geographical setting of the Bible
- To become familiar with the nature of Christianity in the Holy Land and the work of the church today
- To explore liberation motifs in the Bible
- To become acquainted with desert civilization and desert spirituality
- To become acquainted with the models of missionary approaches to the Middle East in the 19th and 20th centuries

Texts: (in advance of the program, participants should read one of the following books)

- 1) Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- 2) Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- 3) Kimball, Charles. *Striving Together*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.
- 4) _____. *When Religion Becomes Evil*. New York, NY: Harper San Francisco. 2002.
- 5) Makari, Peter. *Conflict and Cooperation: Christian -Muslim Relations in Contemporary Egypt*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2007.
- 6) Miano, Peter J. *The Word of God and the World of the Bible: An Introduction to the Cultural Backgrounds of the New Testament*. London: Melisende, 2001.
- 7) Miano, Peter J., Mitchell, Jason C., Phillips, Thomas E., eds. *Prophetic Voices on Middle East Peace*. Claremont, CA: Claremont School of Theology Press. 2016.
- 8) Twain, Mark. *The Innocents Abroad or The New Pilgrim's Progress*. New York: Signet, 1980.

Itinerary:

Day 1 13.9, F	Depart USA
Day 2 14.9, Sa	Arrive Luxor, transfer to hotel, overnight in Luxor
Day 3 15.9, Su	Theme: The East Bank of the Nile Field trip: The Temple of Luxor, The Temple of Amun-Ra (Karnak), option: sailing in a felucca on the Nile overnight in Luxor

- Day 4
16.9, M Theme: The West Bank of the Nile
Field trip: The Colossi of Memnon, the Valleys of the Kings or Queens, the tombs of the Nobles, the workers tombs, the Temple of Hatshepsut, the Rameseum—time permitting overnight in Luxor
- Day 5
17.9, Tu Theme: Ancient Egypt
Field trip: transfer to airport, flight to Cairo, visit Saqqara: The Step Pyramid, Giza: the Great Pyramids & Sphinx
overnight in Cairo
- Day 6
18.9, W Theme: Ancient Egypt
Field trip: Dahshur: Red Pyramid, Bent Pyramid
PM meetings: All Saints Cathedral (Episcopal), Egyptian Christian in mission—Jesus is the Light of the World, Al Ahram Center—meeting with Dina Shehata, researcher and journalist
overnight in Cairo
- Day 7
19.9, Th Theme: Introduction to Modern Cairo and Egypt’s Religious Legacy
Field trip: The Egyptian Museum, the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, Muhammed Ali Mosque/Citadel, Al Azhar University, Khan al Khalili bazaar
PM forum:
overnight in Cairo
- Day 8
20.9, F Theme: The Exodus
Field trip: journey through Sinai by coach to St. Katherine’s Village with stops at Wadi Ferran (world heritage site), Ein Musa/Spring of Moses (Gen 2, 16-21)
overnight St. Katherine’s Village
- Day 9
21.9, Sa Theme: The Exodus and Desert Spirituality
Field trip: St. Katherine’s monastery, Mt. Sinai, 4:00 PM vesper/liturgy--subject to confirmation, tour private collections following vespers--subject to confirmation
Overnight St. Katherine’s Village
- Day 10
22.9, Su Theme: Travel Day
Field trip: TBD—transfer to Nuweiba, ferry to Aqaba, overnight Aqaba/Wadi Rum
- Day 11
23.9, M return to USA

4 Day Elective: The Wonders of Petra & Jordan

- Day 10
22.9, Su Theme: Travel Day
Field trip: TBD—transfer to Taba, Wadi Araba Crossing into Aqaba, overnight Aqaba/Wadi Rum
- Day 11
23.9, M Theme: Desert Exploration
Field trip: Wadi Rum jeep safari (optional, additional cost), the King’s Highway, The Petra Museum
Overnight Wadi Musa/Petra

Day 12 Theme: Exploration and Wonder
24.9, Tu Field trip: Full day exploration of Petra
 Overnight Wadi Musa

Day 13 Theme: The Desert Highway & the King's Highway
25.9, W Field trip: Little Petra: Al Beidha (Neolithic settlement) OR Siq al Barid, caravan
 route, Wadi Araba, view kerak Castle, the Desert Highway, the King's Highway,
 Madaba, Mt Nebo
 Overnight in Amman

Day 14 Theme: the Decapolis
26.9, Th Field trip: Jerash, Amman, souk al balad, driving tour
 Overnight in Amman

Day 15 Return to the USA.
27.9, F

* Worship will be arranged with indigenous Christians when appropriate.
* Meetings with indigenous people are subject to change. Appropriate substitutions will be made in the event a speaker is unavailable.
* Daily itinerary is subject to local conditions. Some alterations may occur due to local circumstances.