



A Holy Land Journey with Bert and Patricia

The Gospels in Context

10 Days, 15—24 October 2024

2 Day Elective: A Deeper Dive into Jerusalem, returning 26 October 2024

Syllabus

Objectives:

- To introduce prospective group leaders to experiential, contextual study for the purpose of exploring the feasibility of future group travel
- To provide an overview of the geographical, social, historical, archaeological and cultural settings of the Bible
- To become acquainted with the key issues in biblical studies and the study of Christian origins
- To gain an overview of modern biblical scholarship, including the rudiments of archaeology, and its importance for clergy, professors, students and lay people
- To learn about Christians in the Holy Land
- To become familiar with the nature of Christianity in the Holy Land and the role of the church today
- To gain understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for peacemaking

Texts (All participants will find reading one of the following books to be beneficial.):

- 1) Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.
- 2) Borg, Marcus J. *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. New York, NY: Harper San Francisco, 1994.
- 3) Braverman, Mark. *Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land*. Austin, TX: Synergy Books, 2010
- 4) Burg, Avraham. *The Holocaust is Over, We Must Rise from Its Ashes*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.
- 5) Carter, Jimmy. *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2006.
- 6) Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Tarrytown, NY: Chosen books, 1984.
- 7) Gary, Bert. *Jesus Unplugged*. Grand Rapids, MI: Faithwalk Publishing, 2005.
- 8) Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Real Jesus*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
- 9) Kimball, Charles. *Striving Together*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.
- 10) 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.
- 11) Oz, Amos. *Israel, Palestine and Peace*, New York, NY: Vintage, 1994.
- 12) Pappe, Ilan. *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- 13) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

10 Day Itinerary (subject to change due to local circumstances):

- Day 1 Depart USA
15.10, T
- Day 2 Arrive Tel Aviv
16.10, W overnight in Taybeh
- Day 3 Theme: Jesus in the Samaria
17.10, Th Field trip: Nablus, Jacob's Well, Kibbutz Mishmar ha Emek, Tel
Jezreel (John 4, 1 Kings 21)
Overnight in Galilee
- Day 4 Theme: Jesus in the Lower Galilee
18.10, F Field trip: Sepphoris (Matt 13:55; Mark 6:3), Nazareth, Basilica of the
Annunciation (Matt 2: 23, Luke 1: 26-38, 4:16-30), Bethsaida, optional worship in
a Tiberias synagogue
Overnight in Galilee
- Day 5 Theme: Ground Zero of Jesus' Ministry
19.10, Sa Field trip: The Sea of Galilee Boat Ride (Matt 11:20-24; Luke 10:13-
15; John 1:44, 12:20-22), Mt. of the Beatitudes (Luke 13:10-21; Matt 5-7, 11:20-
24, Mark 4-6), Tabgha (John 21), view Mount Arbel from Wadi Hamam
Overnight in Jericho
- Day 6 Theme: Dead Sea Environs
20.10,Su Field trip: Qasr al Yahud (baptism site with worship), Masada, Ein Bokek, Qumran
Overnight in Jericho
- Day 7 Theme: Bethlehem, the Birthplace of Jesus
21.10, M Field trip: Wadi Qelt Overlook Market walk, Church of Nativity, Herodium, Tent
of Nations, the separation/security wall art and graffiti (time allowing)
PM forum: TBD
Overnight in Jericho
- Day 8 Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
22.10, T Field trip: Mt of Olives, Dominus Flevit (Luke 19:41-44), Gethsemane (Matt 26:36;
Mark 14:32; Luke 22:39-41; John 18:1), Israel Museum/Second Temple
Model/Shrine of the Book
Overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 9 Theme: The Old City
23.10, W Field trip: Lion's Gate, 8:00 AM Temple Mount/Haram esh Sherrif (subject to
confirmation), Bethesda Pools (John 5: 1-15), Lithostratos, Via Dolorosa, Western
Wall/Jewish Quarter, Hurva Square, Zion Gate, Cardo, Holy Sepulcher (Matt 27-
28; John 20), Jaffa Gate
Overnight in Bethlehem

Day 10 Return to USA OR continue with the elective A Deep Dive into Jerusalem
24.10, Th

2 Day Elective: A Deep Dive into Jerusalem

Day 10 Theme: Jerusalem—North Side
24.10, Th Field trip: the Garden Tomb, Zedekiah’s Cave (Solomon's Quarries), Damascus Gate, New Gate, Citadel, Ramparts
Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 11 Theme: Jerusalem—South Side
25.10, F Field trip: Western Wall Tunnel, Southern Wall Excavations (Jerusalem Archaeological Park), Dung Gate, City of David, Hezekiah’s Tunnel (2 Chron 32:30), Siloam Pool (John 9), Monumental tombs of the Kidron Valley (time permitting)
Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 12 Return to Atlanta, GA, USA
26.10, S

- 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 and other considerations, including weather, opening and closing hours, holidays, flight schedules, etc. Sometimes the order of the itinerary will change due to such circumstances and sometimes substitutions will be made.
- Morning and evening fora on various topics will be arranged throughout the program.