

The Society for Biblical Studies  
The Exodus Experience: An Alumni Invitational Journey  
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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 New York
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 Ahrām 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, dinner on your own  
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, market/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.