

The Holy Land, The Holy People—Gold Select Journey
The Rev. Dr. C. Mark Gooden\
First Centenary United Methodist Church
10 Day Biblical Survey Program including Israel, the West Bank
24 January –2 February 2023
4-Day elective *The Wonders of Jordan: Petra, Wadi Rum* returning 6 February 2023
Syllabus

Objectives:

- To provide an overview of the geographical, social, historical, archaeological and cultural settings of the Bible
- To gain an overview of modern biblical scholarship, including the rudiments of archaeology, and its importance for clergy and lay people
- To become acquainted with the key issues in biblical studies and the study of Christian origins
- To become familiar with the nature of Christianity in the Holy Land and the role of the church today
- To gain deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for peacemaking

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

- 1) Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.
- 2) Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Tarrytown, NY: Chosen books, 1984.
- 3) Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- 4) Finnegan, Jack. *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Mediterranean World of the Early Christian Apostles*. New York: Routledge, 2016.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Mitchell, George J. and Sachar, Alon. *A Path to Peace: a Brief History of Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations and a Way Forward in the Middle East*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2016.
- 7) Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- 8) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

Itinerary:

Day 1 Depart USA
24.1, Tu

Day 2 Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to Taybeh
25.1, W Overnight Taybeh

- Day 3
26.1, Th Theme: Beginnings—Birth & Baptism
Field trip: 1st Century House/House of the Parables, Jericho, Tel es Sultan, view Ein es Sultan (Joshua 5-7, Judges 1: 27- 36), Baptismal site—Qasr al Yehud (Mk. 1:1-12; Mt. 3: 1-4:17; Lk. 3: 1-22; 4: 1-13; Jn. 1: 1-42, (Matt 2: 23, Luke 1: 26-38
PM Forum: TBD
Overnight Taybeh
- Day 4
27.1, F Theme: Samaria & the Coastal Plain
Field trip: Nablus/Shechem (John 4: 46-54), Caesarea Maritima (Acts 10; Acts 24), Jezreel Valley (1 Kings 21), Megiddo (Rev.16:16), Time permitting—Nazareth (Lk. 4: 16-30), Time permitting—Sepphoris
Overnight Galilee
- Day 5
28.1, Sa Theme: Jesus' Ministry Around the Sea of Galilee
Field trip: Capernaum, Tabgha, Church of St. Peter's Primacy (John 21), Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves (Mk. 6:30-44), 2:30 PM boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Mt. of the Beatitudes (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24, Mark 4-6, John 21)
PM forum: TBD
Overnight Galilee
- Day 6
29.1, Su Theme: Bethlehem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Jordan River Valley, Bethlehem, Old City walking tour, Church of the Nativity (Lk 2; Mt 2), Herodion, Shepherd's Fields, Solomon's Pools (time permitting)
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 7
30.1, M Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Mt. of Olives overview and orientation to Jerusalem, Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book, 2nd Temple Model,
PM forum: TBD
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 8
31.1, Tu Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: 8:30 AM Harem esh Sharif/ Temple Mount, Old city walking tour including the Western Wall, St. Ann's Church, Via Dolorosa, Lithostratos, Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Mt. 27-28; John 20), free time at your leisure, optional visit to the so-called Garden Tomb, Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 9
1.2, W Theme: The Judean Wilderness
Wadi Qelt overview, Masada, Qumran, The Dead Sea, Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 10
2.2, Th Return to USA

4 Day Elective: The Wonders of Petra & Jordan (\$1, 465 based on 10 enrolled)

Day 10 2.2, Th	Theme: The Negev and Wadi Araba Field trip: Hebron (Gen 13, 23), Cave of Macphelah/Ibrahimi Mosque, The Negev, Ein Avdat, Maktesh Ramon, Araba crossing into Jordan, Dinner on your own Overnight Aqaba.
Day 11 3.2, F	Theme: Desert Exploration Field trip: Wadi Rum jeep safari (optional), Al Beidha (Neolithic settlement), Siq al Barid (Little Petra), Overnight Wadi Musa
Day 12 4.2, Sa	Theme: Exploration and Wonder Field trip: Full day exploration of Petra, Overnight Wadi Musa
Day 13 5.2, Su	Theme: The Desert Highway & the King's Highway Field trip: Shoback Castle (overview), Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Overnight Bethlehem
Day 14 6.2, M	Return to USA

- 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, 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.