



Holy Land Exploratory Journey

10 Days, 23 February—4 March 2023

4 Day Elective: The Wonders of Jordan, returning 8 March 2023

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 would 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) Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Real Jesus*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
- 8) Kimball, Charles. *Striving Together*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Oz, Amos. *Israel, Palestine and Peace*, New York, NY: Vintage, 1994.
- 11) Pappe, Ilan. *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- 12) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

Itinerary (subject to change due to local circumstances):

- Day 1
23.2, Th Depart USA
- Day 2
24.2, F Arrive Tel Aviv, Orientation & Introductions
overnight in Taybeh
- Day 3
25.2, Sa Theme: Backgrounds & Beginnings
AM forum: Orientation to FAM
Field trip: 1st century house/House of the Parables, Jericho (Josh 5-7), Hisham
Palace, Qasr al Yehud baptismal site (Mk 1:1-20, Mt 3:1-17, Lk 3:1-22, Jn 1:19-
32), Wadi Qelt overview (Mt. 4:1-11, Lk 4: 1-13)
PM Forum (TBD)
Overnight in Taybeh
- Day 4
26.2, Su Theme: Samaria & Lower Galilee
Field trip: view Mt. Gerezim , Nablus, Jacob's Well (Jn 4:1-26), Jenin, Nazareth,
Sisters of Nazareth Convent, Basilica of the Annunciation or Church of St.
Gabriel, (Matt 2: 23, Luke 1: 26- 38, 4:16- 30, 1 Kings 21, John 4: 46-54)
PM forum: The Benefits of Biblical Travel for Professors and Pastors
Overnight in Galilee
- Day 5
27.2, M Theme: Jesus Ministry and Resurrection Around the Sea of Galilee
Field trip: boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tabgha,
(John 21), Mt. of the Beatitudes (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24,
Mark 4- 6, John 21), Jordan River Valley, Bet Shean (time permitting)
PM forum: TBD
Overnight in Jericho
- Day 6
28.2, Tu Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: The Mount of Olives, orientation to Jerusalem, Dominus Flevit, Garden
of Gethsemane, Tent of Nations, Israeli settlement
Overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 7
1.3, W Theme: Bethlehem & its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Old City walking tour, Church of the Nativity (Lk 2; Mt 2), Herodion,
Shepherd's Fields
PM Forum: TBD
Overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 8
2.3, Th Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Temple Mount/Harem esh Sharif, Old City walking tour, Western
Wall/ Via Dolorosa (Mt. 27-28; John 20), Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jewish
quarter (time permitting)
PM forum: TBD

Overnight in Bethlehem

Day 9
3.3, F Theme: Free Day
Field trip: day at leisure or optional excursion to Masada, Qumran, the Dead Sea (Price to be determined by the number of people enrolled)
overnight in Bethlehem

Day 10
4.3, Sa Return to USA OR continue with the elective *The Wonders of Petra & Jordan*

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

Day 10
4.3, Sa 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.
Overnight Aqaba. Dinner on your own at a great restaurant of your choice near the hotel.

Day 11
5.3, Su Theme: Desert Exploration
Field trip: Wadi Rum jeep safari (optional), Al Beidha (Neolithic settlement), Siq al Barid (Little Petra). Overnight Wadi Musa

Day 12
6.3, M Theme: Exploration and Wonder
Field trip: Full day exploration of Petra. Overnight Wadi Musa

Day 13
7.3, Tu Theme: The Desert Highway & the King's Highway
Field trip: Shoback Castle (overview), Madaba, Mt. Nebo. Overnight Amman

Day 14
8.3, W Return to USA