

The Holy land, the Holy People
Mountain Sky Conference
10 Day Survey of the Bible with Contemporary Studies including Israel, the West Bank
8—17 January 2024
4 Day elective: The Tent of Nations: mission experience returning 21 January
4 Day elective: The Wonders of Petra returning 21 January
Syllabus

Objectives (subject to revision):

- 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 familiar with the nature and mission 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 (subject to revision): 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) Carter, Jimmy. *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2006.
- 3) Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Tarrytown, NY: Chosen books, 1984. Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- 4) Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- 5) Finnegan, Jack. *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Mediterranean World of the Early Christian Apostles*. New York: Routledge, 2016.
- 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) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

Itinerary (subject to revision):

Day 1 8.1, M	Depart gateway city (ORD, SFO, LAX)
Day 2 9.1, Tu	Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to Taybeh Overnight in Taybeh
Day 3 10.1, W	Theme: Birth & Baptism Field trip: Beit El (Israeli settlement, meeting with Hagi Ben Artzi—subject to confirmation), 1 st Century House/House of the Parables (Mt, 2, Lk 2), Jericho, Tel es Sultan, (Joshua 5-7, Judges 1: 27- 36), Qumran, Qasr al Yehud (baptismal site) Quaker—subject to confirmation)

Overnight in Taybeh

- Day 4
11., Th
Theme: Samaria & the Lower Galilee
Field trip: Nablus, Jacob's Well (John 4: 1-38), Jezreel Valley, Mishmar ha Emek (meeting with Lydia Aisenberg—subject to confirmation), Nazareth (Lk. 4: 16-30), view Mt. of the Leap, Basilica of the Annunciation (Lk 1: 26-38), Sisters of Nazareth Convent (koch tombs)
PM forum: Jonathon Cook (journalist—subject to confirmation)
Overnight Galilee
- Day 5
12.1, F
Theme: Jesus' Ministry Around the Sea of Galilee
Field trip: boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Wadi Hammam, Capernaum, Tabgha, Church of St. Peter's Primacy (John 21), Mt. of the Beatitudes (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24, Mark 4- 6, John 21) The Jordan Valley
Bet Shean, the Jordan River Valley,
Overnight in Jericho
- Day 6
13.1, Sa
Theme: The Judean Wilderness
Field trip: Masada, The Dead Sea, Tent of Nations (meeting with Daoud Nassar—subject to confirmation)
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 7
14.1, Su
Theme: Bethlehem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Bethlehem (Matt 2, Lk 2), Old City walking tour, Church of the Nativity, Herodion, Shepherd's Fields, Hebron (Gen 13, 23), Tombs of the Matriarchs and Patriarchs, Youth Against Settlements or Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (meeting with Issa Amro—subject to confirmation), wall tour with Walled Off Hotel
PM forum: Breaking the Silence (Israel Defense Force activists)
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 8
15.1, 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, Palestinian refugee camp
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 9
16.1, Tu
Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: 8:00 AM Al Waqf (tour Temple Mount/Harem esh Sharif including interiors of Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa with an official of Al Waqf/Islamic Trust), 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), time permitting: the Garden Tomb (Gordon's Calvary)
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 10
17.1, W
Return to USA

4 Day Elective: The Tent of Nations (\$1,081) per person based on 10 enrolled, including lodging, transportation, any field trips, and a \$200 donation)

Day 10-13 volunteering on a sustainable farm, hands on tasks include planting and pruning
17—20.1 grape vines, fruit trees, sundry other tasks. We match skills with tasks.
W, Th, F, Sa component can be as long or as short as you would like.

Day 14 Return to USA
21.1, Su

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

Day 10 Theme: The Negev and Wadi Araba
17.1, W Field trip: Hebron (Gen 13, 23), Cave of Macphelah/Ibrahimi Mosque, The
Negev, Ein Avdat, Maktesh Ramon, Araba crossing into Jordan,
Overnight Aqaba.

Day 11 Theme: Desert Exploration
18.1, Th Field trip: Wadi Rum jeep safari (optional \$55), Al Beidha (Neolithic settlement),
Siq al Barid (Little Petra), Overnight Wadi Musa

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

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

Day 14 Return to USA
21.1, Su

- 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.