

The Land of Jesus: Then and Now—Gold Select Journey
Bishop Hee Soo Jung, the Rev. Scott Carlson
Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
10 Day Biblical Survey Program including Israel, the West Bank
11—20 January 2024
5 Day elective *The Wonders of Jordan: Petra, Wadi Rum, Jerash* returning 25 January 2024
Syllabus

Objectives:

- To awaken enthusiasm for biblical study, the Bible and the biblical faith
- 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) Braverman, Mark. *Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land*. Austin, TX: Synergy Books, 2010
- 3) Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Tarrytown, NY: Chosen books, 1984.
- 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) Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: a History*. San Francisco: Harper, 1998.
- 7) Herxl, Theodor. *Der Judenstaat English*. Hamburg: Tredition Classics, 2012.
- 8) Magnes, Jodi. *The Archaeology of the Holy Land: From the Destruction of Solomon's Temple to the Muslim Conquest*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2012.
- 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) Miano, Peter J., Mitchell, Jason C., Phillips, Thomas E., eds. *Prophetic Voices on Middle East Peace*. Claremont, CA: Claremont School of Theology Press. 2016.
- 11) Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- 12) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- 13) Twain, Mark. *The Innocents Abroad or The New Pilgrim's Progress*. New York: Signet, 1980.

Itinerary:

- Day 1
11.1, Th Depart USA
- Day 2
12.1, F Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to Taybeh
Overnight Taybeh
- Day 3
13.1, Sa Theme: Beginnings—Birth & Baptism
Field trip: Israeli settlement, 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: Palestinian speaker
Overnight Taybeh
- Day 4
14.1, Su Theme: Samaria & Lower Galilee
Field trip: Nablus/Shechem (John 4), Jezreel Valley, Megiddo (time permitting), (1 Kings 21, John 4: 46-54), Nazareth (Lk. 4: 16-30), The Basilica of the Annunciation, Sisters of Nazareth Convent (koch tombs)
Overnight Galilee
- Day 5
15.1, M Theme: Jesus' Ministry Around the Sea of Galilee
Field trip: boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tabgha, Church of St. Peter's Primacy (John 21), Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves (Mk. 6:30-44), Mt. of the Beatitudes (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24, Mark 4- 6, John 21)
PM forum: Israeli speaker
Overnight Galilee
- Day 6
16.1, Tu Theme: Bethlehem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Naharayim (Island of Peace), Jordan River Valley, Bethlehem, Old City walking tour, Church of the Nativity (Lk 2; Mt 2), Herodion, Shepherd's Fields
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 7
17.1, W 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, Tent of Nations
Overnight Bethlehem

Day 8 Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
18.1, Th Field trip: 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)

Day 9 Theme: The Judean Wilderness
19.1, F Wadi Qelt overview, Masada, Qumran, The Dead Sea, Overnight Bethlehem

Day 10 Return to USA
20.1, Sa

5 Day Elective: The Wonders of Petra & Jordan (\$ 1,829) based on 10 enrolled, four dinners included

Day 10 Theme: The Negev and Wadi Araba
20.1, Sa 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 Theme: Desert Exploration
21.1, Su Field trip: Wadi Rum jeep safari (optional), Petra Museum
Overnight Wadi Musa

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

Day 13 Theme: The Desert Highway & the King's Highway
23.1, Tu 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
24.1, W Field trip: Jerash, Amman, souk al balad, driving tour
Overnight in Amman

Day 15 return to the USA
25.1, Th

- 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.