



Pastor Joe Fuiten and Pastor Jay Smith
12-day Biblical Journey to Israel
April 27 - May 8, 2019

Day 1, Sat, April 27—Depart from Seattle for our overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

Day 2, Sun, April 28—We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv in the afternoon where we will be met by our representative and directed to our driver and guide who will be with us on our journey through Israel. After a short drive through **Tel Aviv** we visit **Joppa** (pending flight schedule), one of the oldest ports in the world and where the Prophet Jonah set sail for Tarshish. Joppa was also the home of Simon the Tanner where Peter had his vision and where Tabitha was raised from the dead. We arrive at our hotel in Tel Aviv. After a delicious buffet dinner, enjoy a walk along the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 3, Mon, April 29—We travel to **Caesarea Maritima**. We see a well-preserved Roman theater still used for concerts today, remains from Herod's Palace, and a Hippodrome that seated 10,000 spectators where horse races, special events and games took place. See the aqueducts built by Herod that brought ample water from several miles away to supply thousands of Caesarea citizens. We stop at **Mt. Carmel** where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal and when God sent fire to the sacrifice they all cried "The Lord he is God!" We continue to **Megiddo** and to see the remains from Solomon's days and view the plains where the final Armageddon will be fought. We drive to **Nazareth**, the boyhood home of Jesus, and stop at the Precipice where the crowds attempt to throw Jesus. Continue to Tiberias to our hotel on the Sea of Galilee.

Day 4, Tues, April 30—We begin our day at the **Mount of Beatitudes**, the traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount. We visit **Capernaum**, the center of Jesus' activities in the Galilee and home to Peter, Andrew, James and John. We see the ancient synagogue where Jesus taught and explore the archeological gardens. At **Peter's Primacy**, we see the traditional site where Jesus restored Peter and take time to reflect on the scripture. Drive to Tiberias where we will enjoy St. Peter's Fish lunch on the shores of the Galilee. After lunch enjoy a special time of worship as we **sail across the Sea of Galilee** in a replica boat from 2,000 years ago. Visit the **ancient "Jesus" boat** discovered in 1986 that is consistent with boats from 200BC to 100AD. Next we visit **Magdala**, home to Mary Magdalene, where we see a recently discovered fishing village and the 1st century synagogue. This exciting archeological discovery was undisturbed for 2,000 years and in some places laid only 12 inches below ground. Although it is not mentioned specifically in that Jesus was in this synagogue, the Word tells us that Jesus taught in the synagogues around the Sea of Galilee. Due to its close proximity to Capernaum, most believe that Jesus taught in this very location. Overnight in Tiberias.

Day 5, Wed, May 1— Today we explore the northern part of Israel. We drive to Baniyas, one of the headwaters of the Jordan River and site of ancient **Caesarea Philippi** where Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" and declared that the gates of hell will not prevail. Then walking through the beautiful nature reserve of **Tel Dan** we see remains from Jeroboam's Altar built in disobedience to prevent his kingdom from returning to the Jerusalem Temple. We also see an ancient **Canaanite mud gate** from the time of Abraham. It is very likely he entered this gate to rescue Lot. Returning to Galilee we see the ruins of **Chorazin**, one of the three Galilean cities cursed by Jesus. An unusual find in the remains of the ancient synagogue was the Seat of Moses, carved out of a single basalt block, from which the Torah would have been read. At **Kursi**, see the site where Jesus ordered the demons to leave a man and they enter a herd of swine that ran into the Galilee. Return to Tiberias for overnight.

Day 6, Thurs, May 2—We leave the Galilee area and drive down the Jordan Valley to explore the latest excavations at **Beit Shean** revealing the remains of a Decapolis Capital, Israel's largest excavation. The city was destroyed in a massive earthquake in 749AD and was not rebuilt. At this amazing archeological we see a city that included public areas, agora, theaters, bathhouses (including a steam room), public toilets, markets, massive columns that line the main street, reflecting pools and residential homes. It was on the walls of Beit Shean that the Philistines hung the bodies of King Saul and his sons after the crushing defeat on Mt. Gilboa. We drive by **Mt. Gilboa**, site of Saul's death, and visit the **natural springs where Gideon** brought ten thousand to be tested. We visit **Jericho**, one of the oldest cities in the world, the city where the walls fell as Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land. We stop at **Qsar**

el Yehud, the site near the place where Jesus was baptized for an opportunity to be baptized in the Jordan River. We continue to the lowest place on earth, the **Dead Sea**, for overnight and an evening of relaxation, take advantage of the spa facilities and “float” in the therapeutic Dead Sea water.

Day 7, Fri, May 3— This morning we drive to **Masada** where Jewish Zealots made their last stand against Rome in 73AD. Ascending by cable car, we tour the famous archaeological site and an ancient fortress. We stop at **Ein Gedi** to see the waterfalls where David hid from Saul. The adventurous can hike to the waterfalls and dip in the cool waters. We visit **Qumran**, the ancient city of the Essenes and site of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery. We continue to Jerusalem and stop for a magnificent view of **Jerusalem** from **Mt. Scopus** and offer a traditional blessing as was done during the time of Christ. We transfer to our hotel in Jerusalem where we stay for the remainder of the tour.

Day 8, Sat, May 4— Today we begin at the **Mt. of Olives** where we hear an explanation of the city, then walk down the **Palm Sunday** Road to the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus spent that agonizing night before his betrayal. Walking across the Kidron Valley, we enter the Old City of Jerusalem at the Lion's Gate. We see the **Pools of Bethesda**, where Jesus healed the lame man, and enjoy a time of singing at the Church of St. Anne's with its amazing acoustics. We walk through the Old City following the **Via Dolorosa** through the **Old Arab markets Antonia's Fortress** to see the original paving believed to be where Christ stood before Pilate, and markings of a cruel game used by the Roman soldiers. Continue to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, one of the sites believed to be the burial place of Jesus. We visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, Caiaphas' House, where Jesus was held before trial, and see ancient steps cut into the hill that led to the city, a path Jesus may have used.

Day 9, Sun, May 5—Today is a free day to rest, shop and explore on your own.

Day 10, Mon, May 6—We begin our day at the **Israel Museum** and see the **Holy Land Model**, a 1:50 miniature replica of Jerusalem during the time of Christ. Many historical documents were used to construct how Jerusalem looked in the first century. We will also see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** found at Qumran. We drive to **Bethlehem** to see the **Church of the Nativity**, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus, and the **Shepherd's Fields** where the birth of Jesus was announced and where we read the biblical account of Ruth and Boaz. This afternoon we drive to **Shiloh**, (circumstances permitting). Shilo was the home to the Tabernacle Tent after the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land. Shilo was an assembly place for the people of Israel for almost 400 years. We visit **Bethel**, an important Old Testament city and the place where Jacob had a vision of a ladder and angles and built an altar.

Day 11, Tues, May 7—We return to the Old City and visit the Temple Mount, the site of the Jewish Tabernacle and where the Dome of the Rock now stands. Next visit the **Western Wall** for a personal time of reflection and prayer, and then walk through the **Western Wall Tunnel** to see remarkable underground excavation of ancient Jerusalem. The Western Wall was built as a retaining wall for the Temple. Here you walk along distinctively carved and well-preserved Herodian stones that weigh over 100 tons. One of the stones is 400 tons, the largest ever quarried by man. Nothing near its size exist in Greece, the Pyramids or modern buildings of today. Next we stop at the **Davidson Center** to enjoy a virtual tour and explore the **Southern Steps** of Jewish Temple. Very few sites can claim for certain to be a place where Jesus walked. These steps were the only entrance for all who visited the Temple during the time of Christ. The archeological park has many public ritual bathing mikvehs, the market place where the money changers mostly likely conducted business, and a first century road with stones that were pushed from the Temple Mount by the Romans including the “trumpeters” stone from the area used to announce the Sabbath and Jewish Holy Days. Just outside of the Old City walls is the **City of David**. We visit these new excavations where some of the most exciting archeological finds of the ancient world. Archeologist have found what they believe is King David's Palace Pottery shards have been found from the time of David's monarchy and more recently a clay disc inscribed a name from the book of Jeremiah in ancient Hebrew that indicates the building was used by the king. Our tour of the City of David ends at the **Pools of Siloam** that was discovered in 2005. Pottery and coins found here indicate this was the pool used in the first century, where Jesus healed the blind man. We visit the traditional Upper Room as we remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Continue to visit the **Jewish Quarter**, see the ancient **Roman Cardo**, and visit the remains from **Hezekiah's Wall**. We end our day at the Garden Tomb, a highlight of our tour as we enjoy a time of worship and communion. Enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner and then transfer to the airport for our late night departure (pending flight schedule).

Day 12, Wed, May 8—We depart Israel just after midnight for our flight home and arrive home with a lifetime of memories of our Journey through the Holy Land.