

God's Faithfulness

A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary

Hosted by Rev'd Anni Douglas

March 8 - 19, 2014

We will travel through the land, from coast to desert to mountains, to visit the places where important Biblical events took place, and dig deep into the Scriptures in their original context to learn about God's faithfulness to His people, in the past, present, and future. Our tour includes sites from the Old and New Testaments as well as the history of modern Israel. In addition, we will learn about God's work amongst believers in the land today. Jesus will always be the center of our studies, as we seek a better understanding of His ministry, His place among the Jewish people, and the application of His teachings in our lives.

Day 1: Saturday, March 8, 2014

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

From the airport we will travel to our hotel on the Mediterranean coast.

Overnight: Holiday Inn, Ashkelon, Mediterranean Coast

Day 2: Sunday, March 9, 2014

THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS

After breakfast we will have an orientation meeting to get to know each other and pray for our tour. We shall then begin our journey by climbing up through the strategic lowlands into the mountains, of Judea, to the burial cave of the Patriarchs in **Hebron**, where we will look at God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Next we shall continue in the steps of the Patriarchs to the southern desert region called the **Negev** in the Bible (a name it still carries today). Here we will visit a **Bedouin museum** where we examine their nomadic culture in order to shed light on the lives of Abraham and the Patriarchs. Time permitting, our last stop will be **Tel Arad**, a pre-Abrahamic major city and later an Israelite fortress. We conclude our day travelling through the Judean Desert to our hotel on the Dead Sea, where we can enjoy a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters.

Overnight: Kibbutz Kalia, Dead Sea

Day 3: Monday, March 10, 2014

THE DESERT AS A REFUGE

We travel early along the shores of the Dead Sea to **Masada**, the most impressive desert palace-fortress built by Herod the Great. In the course of visiting the site we will consider the man Herod and how his personality casts its shadow through the New Testament. Masada is also famous as the last stronghold of the Zealot resistance against Rome. We will discuss their theology and its relevance to our understanding of Jesus' teaching. From Masada we take a short drive to **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we will walk into the nature reserve for a taste of this desert oasis. From there, we travel to **Qumran**, site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and probably home of the Jewish sect, the Essenes. While the Essenes are not mentioned by name in the Bible, they may play a significant role in understanding parts of the New Testament. Later in the day we will travel north up the Jordan Valley, crossing the Jordan River before we arrive at our kibbutz hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Overnight: Kibbutz Ginosar, Sea of Galilee

Day 4: Tuesday, March 11, 2014

AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE - DAILY LIFE & RELIGION IN THE TIME OF JESUS

Today we will focus on daily life in First Century Galilee and Jesus' teachings in light of that world. We will start the day at **Chorazin**, one of the three towns we know that Jesus frequented where we will consider the role of religion in everyday life. We proceed to the traditional site of the **Mount of Beatitudes** to consider the Sermon on the Mt. in light of the religious world of Jesus' day. Throughout the day we will discuss miracles that Jesus performed in the region, reflecting on their significance both then and now. An important stop will be **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. We will see the impressive remains and discuss Sabbath healings. After an outdoor lunch, weather permitting, we will take a **boat ride** on the Sea of Galilee and see the remarkably well-preserved remains of a Galilean fishing boat from the First Century AD. Time permitting, we will visit "the other side" of the Sea to briefly consider Jesus relationship to the non-Jewish world during the time of His ministry.

Overnight: Kibbutz Ginosar, Sea of Galilee

Day 5: Wednesday, March 12, 2014

EXPLORING THE GOLAN - THE KINGDOM OF GOD & BIBLICAL NATURE IMAGERY

Today we explore Northern Israel, perhaps the most beautiful region of the country. We begin with a pleasant walk in the **Dan Nature Reserve**, the largest source of the Jordan River. This site provides the opportunity for discussing water imagery in the Bible as well as enjoying its natural beauty. We will also see remains of the OT city of Dan and the pagan altar that was there. We'll discuss the significance of Dan's choice of this site rather than their tribal allotment on the coast. A short drive brings us to our next site, the waterfall of Baniyas (**Caesarea Philippi**), a possible location for Jesus' question to the disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" We continue our bus trip, ascending the lower slopes of Mount Hermon to discuss the Transfiguration. We end our day travelling along the **Golan Heights** with overlooks along the way.

Overnight: Kibbutz Ginosar, Sea of Galilee

Day 6: Thursday, March 13, 2014

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - JEWS, GENTILES & THE MESSIAH

Our first site of the day will be ancient **Nazareth**. We will visit the church and the remains of the town from Jesus' day and take a fresh look at the Annunciation, attempting to hear it as a First Century Jewish audience would have understood it. Leaving Nazareth we pass through the **Jezreel Valley**, referred to in the Book of Revelation as the Valley of Armageddon. We proceed then to a viewpoint on **Mount Carmel** where we will overlook the northern part of Israel. Here we will reflect on Elijah's defeat over the prophets of Baal and the significance of that event to us today. We conclude our day at **Caesarea Maritima**, the impressive port facility built by King Herod just before the birth of Jesus. Perhaps the most important post-Pentecost biblical event occurred here – the conversion of Cornelius, which we will discuss during our visit.

Overnight: Seasons Hotel, Netanya, Mediterranean Coast

Day 7: Friday, March 14, 2014

SAMARIA: ANCIENT ISRAEL

Today we journey into the northern homeland of the Patriarchs, of the Israelites under Joshua, and later the breakaway Kingdom of Israel. Sites visited will likely include **Shiloh, Mt. Gerezim, Mt. Kabir**, and an overview of **Bethel**. We will focus on our roots in the Old Testament, which are vital to our understanding of the New Testament. In the late afternoon we will enter Jerusalem, the City of the

Great King. After a festive Shabbat dinner we will be treated to a short stroll for a rooftop panorama of the Old City and talk with the Director of Shores Study Tours.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 8: Saturday, March 15, 2014

IN THE STEPS OF JESUS - CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL & RESURRECTION

We begin our day with a tour of the Christ Church Heritage Centre, to learn about CMJ's the amazing history of ministry to the Jewish people. Next we continue to an overlook of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives** and a view of a tomb from the time of Jesus. We descend the Mount of Olives on foot stopping at **Dominus Flevit** (Our Lord wept) church and the Church of All Nations, the church that remembers Jesus' prayer in the **Garden of Gethsemane**. At these sites we will look carefully at the biblical passages concerning Jesus' last week in Jerusalem in order to understand the political and religious dynamic that resulted in the crucifixion. We will also visit **St. Peter in Gallicantu church**, the possible site of the High Priest's prison where Jesus may have been held. In the afternoon we will visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, a likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We end our tour with a reflective time at the **Garden Tomb**, the other possible site of Jesus' burial and resurrection.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 9: Sunday, March 16, 2014

WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH & RACHEL WEeping FOR HER CHILDREN

In the morning, we are invited to join the worship service at **Christ Church** (optional). Then we will leave the Old City and travel **Yad VaShem**, the Israel Memorial Museum to the Holocaust. Here we examine the spiritual and theological roots of the most notorious genocide in history and the connection between the Church, Jesus and the Jewish people prior to and during this period of time. There we will also visit the Children's memorial and discuss the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish Christian relations today.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 10: Monday, March 17, 2014

FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM

Today day is free for rest, relaxation, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City. In the evening we will expand our understanding of the role of the Lamb of God by celebrating a **Jewish Passover Seder** meal together, making Biblical connections to the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 11: Tuesday, March 18, 2014

JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS

Today we explore Jerusalem on foot. In Jesus' day, the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life. We will visit the **Temple Mount**, the **Western Wall** place of prayer and the tunnels along the western foundation, and the **excavations at the Southern base** of the Temple Mt. In the rebuilt Jewish quarter of the Old City, we will visit the mansions of the wealthy class in the First Century and discuss the lifestyle of the Sadducees, the Jerusalem priesthood, and how Jesus related to them.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 12: Wednesday, March 19, 2014

DEPARTURE

We will descend through the Judean hills to the airport for our flights home.

Please note:

- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *Some days involve a significant amount of walking and/or steep climbing. Every effort will be made to enable tour members to fully participate at all sites, but in some cases that may not be possible*