



ALIYAH FOUNDATION

PERSONAL ISRAEL TRAVEL GUIDE & JOURNAL



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WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF YESHUA

Your journey begins...

As President of Aliyah Tours and Founder of Aliyah Foundation, I welcome you to the journey of a lifetime. I have had the honor of leading many trips to the Promised Land, and one of my greatest joys is witnessing the transformation in the lives of those who make this Journey. And I can say with confidence, that your life will never be the same. Your journey and love for the Land of Israel and her people is just beginning.

“Aliyah” is a Hebrew word that means, “to go up” toward God, or more simply, “to rise or ascend.” Because Israel belongs to none other than God Himself, it is the most suitable place to connect with the Almighty. So, as you make “Aliyah” or “go up” to the Promised Land, I believe that God has something to reveal to you.

So, consider yourself invited to this land of promise with a Hebrew welcome “Baruch Haba B’Shem Adonai”, “Blessed is he/she who comes in the name of the Lord”. And please enjoy this Aliyah Foundation Israel Personal Journal Guide as our gift to you. We hope that you will use it to learn, reflect, and listen as God's Spirit speaks to you in a new way. This tour is only the beginning of your transformative experience. Allow God to ignite a deeper love and appreciation for Him, His Promised Land and His chosen people.

Aliyah Tours is a vital, impactful department under the umbrella and God-sized mission of Aliyah Foundation. Thank you for partnering with us at Aliyah Foundation in our mission of Blessing Israel. Transforming Lives. Bridging Faith Communities.

Shalom,



Paul Klassen

Founder, President and CEO of the Aliyah Foundation

DID YOU KNOW?

- 99% of Jews living in Israel do not recognize Yeshua as the Messiah.

(Source: Maoz Israel <https://maozisrael.org>)

- Two million Israelis live below the poverty line.

Source: Jerusalem Post

- 1/5 of all pregnancies in Israel end in abortion.

Source: Israeli Pro-Life Partner Bead Chaim

OUR MISSION

Blessing Israel. Transforming Lives. Bridging Faith Communities.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Join Aliyah Foundation as we Bless Israel,
Transform Lives, and Bridge Faith Communities
through the following programs:

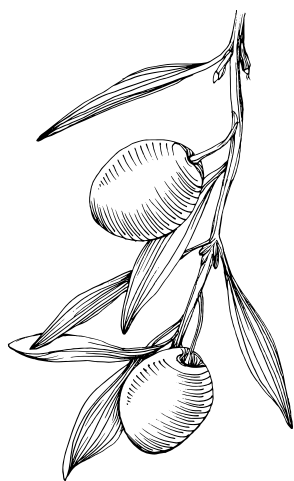
- Life-changing tours to Israel
- Spirit-led Shabbat dinners & Jewish holiday celebrations
- Cultural classes about the Jewish roots of Biblical Christianity
- Powerful devotionals & prophecy
- Opportunities to bless our nonprofit partners in Israel



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ISRAELI TRAVELERS BLESSING AND PRAYER

May it be Your will, Lord our God and God of our fathers, that You should lead us in peace and direct our steps in peace, and guide us in peace, and support us in peace, and cause us to reach our destination in life, health, joy, and peace and return us in peace. Save us from every enemy and disaster on the way, and from all calamities that threaten the world. Bless the work of our hands. May we find grace, love and compassion in Your sight and in the sight of all who see us. Bestow upon us abundant kindness and hearken to the voice of our prayer, for You hear the prayers of all. Baruch Atah Ado-nai shomei'ah tefilah. Praised are You, Lord who hears our prayer.



יהי רצון מלפניך יהוה אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו,
שתוליכינו לשלום ותצעידנו לשלום ותסמכנו לשלום,
ותגיענו למחוז חפצנו לחיים ולשמחה ולשלום, ותחזירנו
לביתנו לשלום. ותצילנו מפף בל-אויב ואורב ואסון
בדרך ומכל-מיני פרעניות המתרגשות לבוא לעולם.
ותשלח ברכה במעשה ידיו, ותתנו לחן ולחסד
ולרחמים בעיניך ובעיני כל-רואינו. ותשמע קול תחנונינו,
כי אל שומע תפלה ותחנון אתה. ברוך אתה יהוה שומע
תפלה.

Transliteration of the Traveler's Prayer:

Y'hi ratzon milfanekha Adonai Eloheinu velohei avoteinu shetolikhenu l'shalom v'tatz'idenu l'shalom v'ti'smihaynu l'shalom, v'tagienu limhoz heftzenu l'hayim ul-simha ul'shalom. V'takhziranu l'baitanu l'shalom.

V'tatzilenu mi'kaf kol oyev v'orev v'ason ba'derekh, u'mi'kol minei pur'aniyot hamitrag'shot la'vo la'olam. V'tishlah b'rakha b'khol ma'a'se yadeinu v'tit'nenu l'hen ul'hased ul'rahamim b'einekha uv'einei khol ro'einu. V'tishma kol tahanuneinu ki El shomea t'fila v'tahanun ata. Barukh ata Adonai sho'me'a t'fila.

Let's begin our journey...

OLD JAFFA

...is an ancient port on the Mediterranean Sea in the southern part of Jaffa-Tel Aviv municipality. This 4,000-year-old harbor has been in use since the Bronze Age making it one of the oldest functioning harbors in the world.

Through the ages Jaffa or Joppa, has been a desired port in the Middle East resulting in conquests by the Arabs, the First Crusaders, the Egyptian Saladin, King Richard the Lion heart, Ottoman Sultan Selim I, Napoleon I and the British.

Notable landmarks are Jaffa Hill, the site of 3,500 yr. old Egyptian gates, the Franciscan church of St. Peter named for the disciple, the Clock Tower built in 1906 in honor of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, Saraya governor's palace built in the 1890's and Rabbi Pinchas Street archeological excavation with walls and water conduits dating to the Iron Age, Hellenistic period, early Islamic period, Crusader period and Ottoman era.

From here the gospel went out to the Gentiles twice. Once during the time of Jonah and again after Peters vision.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • Boundary line for the tribe of Dan. | Joshua 19:46 |
| • Entry port or cedars of Lebanon for Temples | 2 Chronicles 2:16; Ezra 3:7 |
| • Embarkment for Jonah's sail to Tarnish. | Jonah 1:3 |
| • Peter at the home of Simon the Tanner. | Acts 10:5-23 |
| • Resurrection of Tabitha. | Acts 9:36-43 |

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Blank space for you to write any

- new discoveries you made,
- new foods you have eaten,
- New biblical insights and experiences you have had.
- New people you have met.
- Interesting conversations you had....

CAESAREA



...is a seaport city situated on the Mediterranean approximately 30 miles north of the ancient port city of Jaffa. Herod the Great began building Caesarea in 22 B.C. to accommodate his summer palace, and it took 12 years to complete. The city is built on the ancient site of Strato's Tower, and served as the capital of the Roman government in the land that was called Palestine for about 500 years (Israel should never be referred to as Palestine, as this name was derived from the land of the Philistines and is considered derogatory by the Israeli people). The city was named in honor of Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1) and had lavish palaces, public buildings, a temple to Augustus, a theater, a hippodrome, an amphitheater and an elaborate sewer system.

The harbor Herod built was considered a great architectural achievement, as it was protected from the waves of the sea by a massive breakwater which was built by letting down huge stones into the water, 20 fathoms deep.

Caesarea was the home of the Roman procurators who governed the land, including Pontius Pilate. In fact, as you enter the excavated ruins on your left, you will see a replica of a stone discovered here which is the first archaeological evidence of Pontius Pilate's existence. It bears an inscription of the names of Emperor Tiberius (for which the Galilean city of Tiberias is named) and Pontius Pilate, who ruled from 26-36 A.D., and who sentenced Jesus Christ to crucifixion. In addition, Herod Agrippa the First died at Caesarea, having been eaten by worms (Acts 12:19-23).

Caesarea was the site of the beginning of the Jewish revolt in 66 A.D., which resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and Masada in 73 A.D.

Not far north of the theater there are the remains of a Crusader city with its dry moat (circa 1099). There are crumbled Roman columns, as well as a Minaret from the Turkish occupation (1517-1917). There is also see a Roman Hippodrome that spans over 1,000 feet and accommodated 20,000 people in the ancient city, as well as a 1st-century aqueduct that supplied water to the city from the Mount Carmel Springs, some 12 miles away.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Philip preached in Caesarea. Acts 8:40; 21:8-9
- Peter preached to Cornelius, who was baptized. Acts 10
- Paul visited here in Acts 9:30 and was later imprisoned here. Acts 23:22 - 26:32

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

MOUNT CARMEL

(Muhraka) The name itself means fruit garden. It has also been called the vineyard of God. Mount Carmel is a wedge-shaped mountain of limestone approximately 13 miles long. It divides the Plain of Acco to the north from the Plain of Sharon to the south. We'll ascend to the peak, which is 1810 feet above sea level. Here we'll have a fantastic view of the Valley of Jezreel. Mount Carmel is green year-round, and has been venerated since antiquity. The attraction of its garden-like beauty motivated the Egyptians and Canaanites to establish Mount Carmel as their center of worship for the pagan deity, Baal, in the time of Elijah and the prophets. Today, a Carmelite Monastery stands at the peak to commemorate Elijah's fiery confrontation with the false prophets of Baal.

As you stand on top of Mt. Carmel and look to the northeast you will see the Brook Kishon just below. This is the site where Elijah slew the prophets of Baal.

BIBLE REFERENCES

- Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal was here. 1 Kings 18:19-40
- A 3-1/2 year drought was ended here by Elijah's prayer. 1 Kings 18:41-45
- David's herd were pastured in the Plain of Sharon 1 Chronicles 27:25,29
- Plain of Sharon's splendor was spoken of by Isaiah. Isaiah 35:2; 65:10

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

VALLEY OF JEZREEL

Also known as the Valley of Esdraelon and the Valley of Armageddon. Jezreel is the largest and most fertile valley in Israel. Jezreel divides the mountains of Samaria (the heartland of Israel) in the south from those of Galilee to the north. Historically, this has been a major ancient battleground, with 21 Old Testament battles fought here. Because Israel is a land-bridge between Egypt to the south and Asia Minor/Europe to the north, this became the staging area and scene of battle between the Egyptians and their foes vying for power in the north. Hence, the Egyptians, Hittites, Israelites, Philistines, Assyrians, Babylonians, Medes-Persians, Greeks, Romans, Crusaders, Moslems, Turks, French and British have all fought here. In addition, God gave John a vision on the Isle of Patmos establishing this valley as the site of the end-time Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16; Zech 12:10-11; Zech 14).

The Jezreel Valley has five mountain passes: Carmel, Nazareth, Moreh, Tabor and Gilboa. These passes served as entrances to the valley and each was protected by a fortress city. During the time of the dispersion of the Jewish people from the land of Israel and the subsequent occupation of Palestinian and Turkish Moslems, the Valley became a malaria-infested swamp. Photographs are available from the turn of the century that shows water buffalo lying in the swamp waters.

Then in the early 1920's, God's people began moving back into the region and purchased this land, at a very high price, from the Arabs. They began drying up the swamp through drainage and by the planting of Eucalyptus trees. Today this valley produces the highest volume of food per square foot in the world! We can now see the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy as God restores the land of Israel and it becomes "... like the garden of Eden." (Ez. 36:35).

BIBLE REFERENCES

- This area was allotted to the tribe of Issachar.
 - This is the valley of Gideon's victory.
 - Here Elijah ran before Ahab's chariot.
- Joshua 19: 17-23
Judges 7
I Kings 18:46

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

MEGIDDO



...The fortress city of Megiddo. This was a royal city of the Canaanites and lies on the southern edge of the plain of Jezreel strategically located where the Via Maris enters the Valley of Jezreel (the Valley of Armageddon). This fortress city protected the greatest ancient trade route in the world. Under the shadow of this fortress passed the great armies of history and many of their most decisive battles were fought on the plain below. Thutmose, Ramses, Shishak, Pharaoh Necho, Sennacherib, Alexander the Great, Pompey, Titus, Saladin, Napoleon and General Allenby of the British all fought here! The very word Armageddon comes from Revelation 16:16 and means the hill of Megiddo.

Megiddo was occupied as early as 4000 B.C. Between 1925 and 1939, the University of Chicago did major excavations of the Biblical Tel that revealed 20 layers of major civilizations built one on top of the other from 4000 B.C. to 400 B.C. The excavations revealed a great deal about the time periods in the land and the cultures of the occupying peoples. A water system was found that dated back to 2800 B.C. and includes a water shaft 120 feet deep which connects with a spring located outside the walls of the city.

BIBLE REFERENCES

- Joshua killed the king and took the city. Joshua 12:7, 21
- Solomon fortified the city as one of his chariot cities. II Kings 9:15,19

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

NAZARETH



...is the place where Jesus lived with his mother, Mary, and his earthly dad, Joseph, a carpenter. Nazareth is the place where Jesus attended school in the local synagogue and worshipped with his family on the Sabbath (Luke 2:39, 51-52). It was here Mary first heard the Angel Gabriel's announcement of the birth of Jesus (Is. 7:14; Luke 1:26-38). It was here Christ entered the ministry at age 30 (we will visit the ancient synagogue where He preached His first sermon). It was here, when after hearing Jesus proclaim the truth of the Scriptures, the people took Him to the brow of the city to throw Him to His death, and He walked through them undetected and made His way to Capernaum to begin His earthly ministry (Luke 4:16-31).

During Jesus' time, Nazareth was an obscure village (Jn. 1:46). But today it is populated by a vast community of Moslems and Christian Arabs, as well as many Jewish people living in Upper Nazareth.

BIBLE REFERENCES

- Joseph & Mary left Nazareth for Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Luke 2:1-7
- Joseph, Mary and Jesus returned to Nazareth from Egypt. Mat. 2:21-23
- Jesus left here at age 30 to be baptized by John in the Jordan. Mark 1:9

Special Note: Many of the sights visited in Israel will be traditional sights. These are locations for which there is a valid basis according to tradition handed down from the 4th century. However, the Sea of Galilee and the cities surrounding it are authentic! On the Sea of Galilee Jesus calmed the storm, walked upon the water and at Jesus' command, Peter, too, walked upon the water. So when you make your way across the very waters upon which Jesus calmed and walked. Take a moment to praise Him for who He is, what He has done and is doing in your life, and that you have committed yourself to the God who is all-powerful!

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

TIBERIAS



... lies on the west side of the Sea of Galilee, about 10 miles south of Capernaum. This New Testament city was built by Herod Antipas in 26 A.D. and named in honor of Caesar Tiberius. Here Herod also constructed the finest Jewish synagogue ever built and as a result, the city became populated with Jews from all over Israel. Tiberias was the capital of Galilee under Agrippa the 1st and the Roman procurators and after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., many Jews moved from Jerusalem to Tiberias. The Bible never records Jesus being in Tiberias. Many believe that's because Tiberias is built on a cemetery, and Jesus would not defile himself by walking on this ground. The ancient city of Tiberias lies about four miles south of modern Tiberias at the base of the Bereniki Mountains. There are many hot springs located here; hence, today Tiberias is Israel's leading resort area and is the only city of any size located on the Sea of Galilee.

For those of you who want to be baptized in Israel, be sure to bring a bathing suit and read the description of the Yardenit Baptismal site.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

SEA OF GALILEE

...is 13-14 miles long by 7-8 miles wide, 130-157 feet deep, 686 feet below sea level, and 32 miles in circumference. The sea is fresh water and has several different names. It is known as Chinnereth, in the King James translation (Nu. 34:11; Josh. 12:3, 13:27), and Gennesaret in the New Testament. However, most Christians know it simply as the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 4:18, 15:29; Mk. 1:16, 7:31; Jn. 6:1). In Israel, it is best known as Kinneret, which means, "harp", because the sea is shaped like a harp. Several cities were located on the northwest shoreline including Tiberias, Magdala, Tabgha, Bethsaida, Capernaum and Chorazin.

BIBLE REFERENCES.

- Jesus spoke to the multitudes from Peter's boat. Mark 3:7-12; Luke 5:1-3
- Jesus calmed the storm. Mat.8:23-27
- Jesus walked upon the water. Mat. 14:22-33; Jn. 6:16-21

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

MOUNT OF BEATITUDES

This is the traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, the Mount of the Beatitudes. This site is located to the northwest of Capernaum. It is now the site of an Italian convent built by the Franciscan sisters in 1937 with money donated by Benito Mussolini.

Many believe this to be the probable site where Jesus taught the beatitudes. However, this sermon seems to be a composite of the essentials of kingdom life taught by Jesus in His entire Galilean ministry. Be sure to read Matthew 5-7 before visiting this site. We'll have an incredible view of the lake and its surrounding area from this vantage point. If you'll look to the shoreline, you can see a natural amphitheater where Jesus could have sat and taught and be heard by the crowds.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5-7
- Beatitudes. Matthew 5:3-12

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

CAPERNAUM



Kefar Nahum (village of Nahum the prophet), better known to us as Capernaum, lies about 2-1/2 miles from where the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee and 10 miles from Tiberias. In Jesus' time, it was a customs' station and the place of residence of the high Roman officer. Here the Romans built a synagogue for the Jews in the 1st century. Capernaum was Jesus' ministry base in Galilee. The Bible records when Jesus left Nazareth, He came to Capernaum and it became the center of His ministry for the last 18-20 months of His life on earth. Jesus performed more miracles here than anywhere, and, for this reason, placed a strong curse upon Capernaum as well as Chorazin and Bethsaida because of their failure to repent (Mt. 11:23-24). Capernaum had a population of about 10,000 people in Jesus' time.

Here Zebedee lived with his family. James and John shared in a fishing company with Simon and Andrew of Bethsaida (but who also lived in Capernaum). Here Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14); called the disciples to be "fishers of men" (Mt. 4:13, 18-22); called Levi, the tax collector, who became Matthew and later wrote the 'Gospel according to Matthew'; and preached in the synagogue. We will stand on the very sites where these things occurred! So many things were witnessed here by the Jews and yet they did not believe! Today we see only the ruins of Capernaum, because it was destroyed by a great earthquake just as Jesus said . . . because the people would not repent!

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Jesus made it "His own city". Matthew 4:13-17
- Jesus called His disciples. Matthew 4:13;18-22;9:9-13
- Peter lived here. Matthew 8:5,14
- Jesus taught in the synagogue. Luke 4:31-33
- Jesus healed the centurion's servant. Matthew 8:5-13
- Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. Matthew 9:18-26
- Jesus healed the nobleman's son. John 4:46-54

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

MAGDALA



... is located four miles north of Tiberius on the road leading around the Sea of Galilee. You most likely have already guessed what famous lady came from this village. However, the village in Jesus' time was known as Migdal. The word Migdal means guard tower. The city had a fortress tower which protected the roads converging from the Valley of the Doves and the Plains of Gennesaret.

Migdal was the home of Mary of Magdalene, or Mary of Migdal from whom Jesus cast seven demons and healed her (Lk. 8:2). Jesus most likely visited here often as it would have been the first city He came to when He was on His way to Capernaum. This was also the place where Jesus came after He fed the 4,000, and it was here where the Pharisees and Sadducees sought a sign from Him. Migdal was a wealthy city in the 1st century.

It was a center of agriculture, fishing, shipbuilding and trade. Rabbinical tradition says the city was known for her sexual sins. The Jewish historian Josephus, governor of Galilee, fortified the city after the death of Jesus but the city fell to Titus between 67-70 A.D. At that time, 6,700 Jews were killed, another 6,000 were deported to Corinth to build the canal, and nearly 30,000 were auctioned off as slaves.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Home of Mary Magdalene. Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9
- Jesus came here after feeding the 4,000. Matthew 15:39 - 16:4

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

YARDENIT BAPTISMAL

This lovely site allows believers the opportunity to be baptized in the waters of the Jordan. Although the area itself is in a cove of the Sea of Galilee, the waters of the Jordan River run through the sea from the north and continue their journey south to the Dead Sea. The area where Jesus was baptized by John as recorded in Jn. 1:28-34, Bethabara, is located seven miles southeast of Jericho and is not accessible to tourists. The Yardenit site has dressing rooms for changing as well as baptismal robes and towels for a small fee.

GOLAN HEIGHTS

The name means "circle" and lies to the east and northeast of the Sea of Galilee. We are told in Deut. 4:41-43 and in Joshua 20:8 that Golan was a city and that it was assigned to the tribe of Manasseh. The city of Golan was the principal city in this heavily populated region. Later, the city was lost and the area itself became known as the Golan. At the end of W.W.I the area was given to the Syrians and they held this region until the Six Day War of June 1967. In the years prior to the Six Day War, the Syrians used this region as their outpost to overlook the entire Lower Galilee and oftentimes shelled the Israelis from their vantage point. Taking the Golan Heights was a very difficult task and cost the lives of 115 Israeli soldiers. This area is essential to Israel's security and, as such, must never be given back to the Syrians.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Moses assigned Golan to the tribe of Manasseh. Deuteronomy 4:41-43
- It was assigned to the sons of Gershom. Joshua 21:27; I Chron. 6:71

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

MT. BENTAL

... is located in the middle of the Golan Heights atop one of a series of volcanic mounds at 1,170 meters above sea level. It offers a panoramic view of Golan, Mount Hermon, Syria, Druz villages and old bunkers & trenches.

The stretch of valley between Mt. Bental & Mt. Hermon is called the valley of tears. This was the site of the largest tank battle and bloodiest battle in history in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

CAESAREA PHILIPPI

is located at the foot of Israel's highest mountain, Mt. Hermon. Here we will see Canaanite shrines to Baal-Hermon and Roman shrines to the Greek god Pan. This is the mythological god who was half man and half animal. The Greeks named this city Paneas and it remained as such until Philip the tetrarch renamed it Caesarea Philippi to distinguish it from Caesarea on the coast in 4 B.C. after the death of Herod the Great. This city was the farthestmost northern limit of Jesus' travels. We have no record of him ever traveling farther north than this site. It was at this location Jesus asked the disciples, "Whom do men say that I am?" (Mt. 16:13ff). It was also at this place that Jesus began to explain to the disciples how He must go to Jerusalem and suffer and die (Mt. 17:1ff).

In addition, this is the place where we will see the headwaters of the springs which make up the Jordan River. The river is comprised of three springs, the Banias, the Dan and the Hasbani. These three form the famed Jordan River which name comes from the Hebrew words Jor, which means from, and Dan, hence, "from Dan".

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- The northern limit of Jesus' journeys to the north. Matthew 16:13; Mark 8:27
- Site of Peter's great confession. Matthew 16:13-20

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

BETH SHEAN



...or Beth Shan means house of security. This city protected the entrance to the Valley of Jezreel from the Jordan Valley. Beth Shean was inhabited as early as 3000 B.C. Excavations have revealed 18 levels of occupation with six pagan temples. The city was inherited by the tribe of Manasseh but they could never subdue the Canaanites at Beth Shean (Judg. 1:27). The Old Testament city walls of Beth Shean was the location where the Philistines hung the bodies of Saul and his sons after their deaths and it was from here the men of Jabesh-Gilead took down their bodies for burial. The New Testament city of Beth Shean, built by the Romans, was one of the cities of the Decapolis, or ten cities. It was the only one of the ten west of the Jordan River, and, as such, became a very important city. During the time of Jesus, the city became known as Scythopolis, or the "city of the skit". The city was destroyed by an earthquake in the 8th century and was not rebuilt until 1949, when the Israelis began to do so. Today, Beth Shean is one of the largest archaeological excavation projects underway in Israel. Recent excavations have revealed a beautiful city with magnificent temples, streets, theaters and Israel's only amphitheater. It was this theater where the Romans watched as the Jews and Christians alike fought wild animals.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Beth Shan was a part of Manasseh's inheritance. Judges 1:27
- Saul and his sons' bodies hung here. 1 Samuel 31:8-13

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

JORDAN VALLEY



The Jordan River Valley is part of the Great Syro-African Rift formed by volcanic activity. It extends some 5500 miles from Turkey to Mozambique, Africa. The lowest point in this rift is the Dead Sea at 1300 feet below sea level. The Jordan River will be our constant companion for our entire journey as it winds its way on our left side from Dan in the north to the Dead Sea in the south. The Jordan River is the boundary line today between Israel and her neighbor to the east, Jordan. The Jordan River is the only river in the world which runs its entire course below sea level.

The Jordan River Valley is a very important area today as well as in the past. From May 1948 until June 1967 the Israeli border to the east was the Old City of Jerusalem. However, in June 1967, the Israelis pushed the Jordanians eastward out of the Old City of Jerusalem and across the Jordan River establishing the river as the border. Prior to 1967, it was from this area the PLO would attempt to infiltrate Israel and commit acts of sabotage. After 1967, the valley was the scene of nightly military and terrorist activity until 1973 when things quieted down. What was once barren and deserted land has now become rich in agriculture on both sides of the river. A number of kibbutzim are now established along the valley and bring forth an abundant amount of fresh vegetables, grapes, and dates, as well as fresh flowers.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Lot chose the plains of the Jordan.
- Israel miraculously crossed it.
- John baptized many here.
- Jesus was baptized here.
- Jesus called His first disciples here.

Genesis 13:10-11
Joshua 3:13-17; 4:1-9, 20-24
Matthew 3:6
Matthew 3; Mark 1:4-11
John 1:25-51

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

JERICHO



... is thought to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, dating back nearly 10,000 years. Located beyond the northern portion of the Dead Sea (one of the lowest place on Earth), Jericho is also about the lowest city on earth. It is nearly 800 feet below sea level.

In Joshua 6, the Bible says the Israelites marched around the city for 7 days. On the last day, the priests blew their trumpets, the people shouted and the walls fell. Only Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute and her house survived, because she helped 2 Israelite spies.

Moreover, Jesus is said to have visited Jericho on his last journey to Jerusalem. Here Jesus gave sight to two blind men, and brought salvation to the house of Zacchaeus, the publican. Zacchaeus was a man of short stature, who had climbed up into a sycamore tree so that he could see Jesus when he walked by. Zacchaeus invited Jesus to spend the night at his home, after which Jesus blessed him and forgave him for all his sins. Luke 19:1-4.

Nearby is also the Mount of Temptation where Jesus fasted for 40 days and was tempted in Matthew 4.

QUMRAN



This was the site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the spring of 1947, the most significant archaeological find of the 20th century! Prior to this discovery, the most recent copy of the scriptures was the 6th century A.D. This find now gave us copies that date from 300 B.C. to 70 A.D. and exactly match, letter for letter, word for word, with the 6th-century copies. Today, many of the scrolls are housed in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

DEAD SEA

At 417 meters below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth. It is bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel and the West Bank to the West. It boasts the highest concentration of salt in the world, 340 grams per liter, preventing any existence of life forms and thus earning its' names Salt Sea or Dead Sea.

Fed only by the Jordan River, this high concentration of salt is created by a greater quantity of water evaporating than water flowing into it. Creating a mineral rich sea and mud of calcium chloride, magnesium, sodium and potassium, the sea is said to hold healing properties and a natural buoyance for those adventurous to go it.

Prophecy states that the sea will be healed and made fresh enabling it to sustain life.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Borders of the tribe of Judah. Joshua 15:2,5
- Prophecy of waters healed. Ezekiel 47:8-10
- Prophecy of living waters flowing to eastern sea. Zechariah 14:8

MASADA

... is one of Herod's three fortress cities built between 37-4 B.C. Masada is located in the wilderness of Judea about 2-1/2 miles from the western shore of the Dead Sea and about 15 miles north of Sodom. This fortress city is 1/2-mile north to south, 220 yards east to west, and 2000 feet above the level of the Dead Sea. Masada not only was one of Herod's winter palaces, it also became the place where in 66 A.D. a group of Jewish Zealots fled to escape the persecution of the Romans. Under the leadership of Menachen Ben Yehuda, this small band held off the Roman Legion for 3 years until finally committing suicide on April 15, 73 A.D. On this day 960 men, women and children died in lieu of being ravaged by the Roman army. Several years ago, a wonderful movie was made about this exciting historical location and I recommend you rent the video.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

EN GEDI



... meaning kid-spring in Hebrew, is an oasis in the Judean Dessert. It is situated near the shore of the Dead Sea and at the bottom of cliffs not far from Masada. It is here that David took refuge from King Saul and in 2 Chronicles it is referred to as Hazazon Tamar.

Once an important source of balsam, it is redolent with rivers, deep canyons, lush vegetation and animal life such as ibex and hyrax. There is an excavation site of Jewish settlements from the 3rd-6th centuries where you can see the ruins of a synagogue and dwellings.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- City of the tribe of Judah. Joshua 15:62
- Prophecy of a fisherman's town. Ezekiel 47:10
- David hides from Saul & spares Saul's life. 1 Samuel 24:1-7
- Vineyards of Ein Gedi. Song of Solomon 1:14
- Moabites & Ammonites gathered to fight Jehoshaphat. 2 Chronicles 20:2

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

JERUSALEM

"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore." -Psalm 125:1-2 (NIV)

Welcome to the most important City in the world! Jerusalem has been, is, and always will be at the very heart of the issues of the world in which we live. It is God's city! This city, whose name means "peace", has had more wars fought over her than any city in history. Jerusalem has been known through the centuries as Jebus, Salem, City of Peace, Zion, City of David, Aelia Capitolina, the Holy City and the Golden City.

Jerusalem is located on the tops of the Judean Mountain range about 3000 feet above sea level (2740 feet to be precise), 38 miles from the Mediterranean and 14 miles from the Dead Sea as the crow flies.

In about 1000 B.C., David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel when he moved from Hebron and brought the Ark of the Covenant to dwell here (2 Sam. 5:6-16; 6:1-2). Solomon, his son, made the city beautiful by building palaces, strengthening her walls, and building The Temple, the dwelling place of God! After the death of Solomon the twelve tribes of Israel were divided (1 Kings 12) into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms with ten tribes in the north and two in the south. Israel and Judea had many kings, some good, but most bad!

In 722 B.C., the Northern Kingdom was attacked by the Assyrians under Sennacherib and the people required to pay heavy tribute (2 Kings 18:3-16) to Assyria. Many were led captive to the north and lost to history, but not to God. These became known as the LOST TRIBES of ISRAEL.

In 609 B.C., PHARAOH NECHO OF EGYPT captured Jerusalem for the Egyptians. However, this was short-lived, for in the spring of 605 B.C., NEBUCHADNEZZAR OF BABYLON laid siege to the city and carried away many captives until finally, in 586 B.C., the city fell. The Jewish people remained in captivity in Babylon until their 70 years of prophesied captivity came to an end, and they were allowed to return to the land under the Medo-Persian King Cyrus in the spring of 536 B.C. The city walls were repaired under the leadership of Nehemiah and the Temple and religious life repaired under the leadership of Ezra the scribe, and Zerubbabel (Ezra 1).

ALEXANDER THE GREAT captured Jerusalem in 332 B.C., and in 320 B.C., one of Alexander's four generals, Ptolemy Soter, took it. In 302 B.C., Jerusalem was annexed to Egypt and later came under the control of the Greek, Antiochus Epiphanies of Macedonia. When this pagan ordered a pig slain on the altar of the Temple, the Jewish people had had enough, and the rebellion of the Maccabees broke out, led by Judas Maccabees. The revolt led to the expulsion of the Greeks. The Jews were then in control of the land and their lives and ruled by Hasmonean kings from 167 B.C. to about 63 B.C. when they were invaded by Rome. The Romans appointed Herod the Great to rule over the Jews in 37 B.C., and he set about building great cities and harbors and beautifying the Temple in Jerusalem even more than Solomon.

JERUSALEM *(Continued)*

HEROD THE GREAT died in about 4 B.C., thus the Jerusalem Jesus knew was the one beautified by Herod. The Jewish people lost their country, land, cities, and even their religious freedom because they failed to be what God intended them to be. Because of Israel's rebellion against God, they were dominated by foreign powers until 66 A.D., when they revolted against Rome. TITUS, the grandson of the Roman Emperor Vespasian, was sent to put down the revolt. The prophecy of Jesus spoken on the Mount of Olives and recorded in Matthew 24 became a reality. Jerusalem was destroyed, the Temple leveled, and the city burned. Thousands of Jews lost their lives, and finally in 73 A.D, Masada, the last stronghold, fell. Rome had won, and the Jewish people were scattered from the land God had given to them into all the world, in the event known as the Great Diaspora or scattering. A small group of Jews remained in the land until 135 A.D. when Bar Kokhba led another revolt, and this time, Hadrian, the Roman Emperor, finished what Titus had begun. He literally ordered his soldiers to plow asunder the Temple Mount area, thus fulfilling to the letter Jesus' prophecy: "not one stone here will be left upon another; every one will be thrown down." (Matt. 24:2).

Further, HADRIAN rebuilt the city, renamed it Aelia Capitolina, and forbid that anyone call it Jerusalem under penalty of death. He built pagan temples on sacred sites and Jews were banned from the city. Hadrian also changed the name of Israel from Judea to Syria Palestina or Syria of the Philistines, hence, the name, Palestine (Is. 14:29, 31).

And so it remained until the Roman emperor, CONSTANTINE, in 332 A.D., converted to Christianity. He then ordered his mother, QUEEN HELENA, to begin to build churches on the sacred sites, the oldest being the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in 325 A.D. Constantine's conversion brought about a split in the Roman Empire, as prophesied in Daniel 2; and the eastern half of the Roman Empire became known as the Byzantium Empire with its capital at Constantinople, modern-day Istanbul. The Byzantines remained in control of Israel until the Persians took Jerusalem on May 20, 614 A.D., and killed more than 33,000 Jews and Christians.

Then, in 637, a new religion, Islam, founded by Mohammed, dominated Israel; and Islam began to spread throughout the Middle East.

Finally in 1009, a Moslem leader, Fatimid Caliph Hakim, ordered the destruction of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, thus sparking the Crusades from Europe which took place from 1099-1187. The Mamelukes from Egypt came into power until 1517, when the Ottoman Turkish Empire dominated this part of the world.

Israel, called Palestine, remained under the Turks' control until the end of W.W.I, when it was liberated under General Allenby and his British forces, and we entered the time known as the British Mandate, 1917-1948.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

ISRAEL'S REBIRTH

Then, on May 14, 1948, Israel became an independent state and modern-day Israel was re-born; however, Jerusalem was a divided city! The Old City of Jerusalem, that is, the part enclosed by the city walls, remained under the control of the Arab Palestinians until the Six Day War of June 1967, when it, along with the land east to the Jordan River, the Golan Heights in the north, and the Sinai in the south, were taken by the Israelis. With the Old City regained, Jerusalem became a united city, under Jewish control for the first time in over 1900 years, and once again the Jewish people had access to their sacred sites. The Old City walls that stand today have been destroyed and rebuilt at least five times, the last being by Suleiman the Magnificent in 1542. There are eight gates and 34 towers and the walls are 2-1/2 miles in length and average 40 feet in height.

It is often said Jerusalem is home to the three great religions of the world, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. However, we must never say this for Jerusalem is home to two of the world's religions and "THE WAY"! Christianity must never be placed on the level of man's religions, but stands alone as Jesus Christ reaching down to sinful man and reconciling man to Himself through the shedding of His innocent blood.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Jerusalem is mentioned more than 800 times in the Bible.

"Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers, consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell them to the next generation. For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our GUIDE even to the end." -Psalm 48:12-14

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

MOUNT SCOPUS



As you look over the city of Jerusalem you will be standing on Mount Scopus, meaning "to look over," looking to the south. Mt. Scopus is connected to the Mount of Olives on the northern end and has always been a strategic location. This is the area where the Roman legions under Titus camped in 70 A.D., the Crusaders in 1099, the British in 1917, and the Arabs in 1948 and 1967.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

MOUNT OF OLIVES

This limestone ridge is located between Bethany to the east and Jerusalem to the west. It rises 240 feet above the Temple Mount area and is separated from it by the Kidron Valley, also known as the Valley of Jehoshaphat. As we stand looking west from the top of the mount, we see several important sites:

- Jewish Cemetery, located just below, is the largest and oldest Jewish cemetery in the world and dates back to biblical times. The Jews believe the final judgment and resurrection will take place here.
- Palm Sunday Path is to the left and is the traditional road most believe Jesus traveled as He made His Triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Lk. 19:28ff). It descends from the Mount of Olives, goes across the Kidron Valley, and up through the Eastern Gate into the Temple area.
- Dominus Fleuit Chapel, Latin for our Lord cries or weeps, is a Franciscan church and is not very old. This small chapel is the traditional site where Jesus stopped, looked over the city of Jerusalem and wept (Mt. 23:37-39; Lk. 19:41-44).
- Russian Orthodox Church of Mary Magdalene It can be easily recognized by its seven onion-shaped spires. It was built in 1888 by Alexander the III and is maintained today by the White Russian nuns.
- The Church of All Nations is located in the Garden of Gethsemane and is the largest building in the area. This church was built in 1924 on the site of a Crusader church, and inside is the traditional Rock of Agony where Jesus was to have prayed.
- Kidron Valley also known as the Valley of Jehoshaphat, is a Wadi about three miles north to south, lying between Jerusalem and the Mt. of Olives. The valley is the site of four tombs: Absalom's Pillar, Tomb of Jehoshaphat, Grotto of St. James and Tomb of Zechariah.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| • Jesus taught the Mt. of Olives discourse. | Matthew 24 |
| • Scene of the Triumphal entry. | Luke 19:28-44 |
| • The fig tree was cursed. | Matthew 21:17-22 |
| • Place of the ascension of Jesus. | Acts 1:4-12 |

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

The Garden of Gethsemane, which means garden of the wine press, is located at the base of the Mount of Olives and is maintained by the Franciscans. This beautiful garden contains eight ancient olive trees, claimed by botanists to be over 3,000 years old. However, the historian, Josephus, records that Titus cut down all the trees in the environs of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Whether these trees were spared or they grew later from their deep roots, we do not know. We do know, however, it was to this area Jesus came often and prayed. Especially on the last night of His life on earth. We will depart the traditional garden area and step across the narrow Palm Sunday path and there enter a private garden where we will have a wonderful time of praise and prayer.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Gethsemane was a garden across the Kidron. John 18:1
- It was across from the Golden Gate. Luke 22:39
- Here Jesus took upon himself the sins of mankind. Mat. 26; 36-56; Luke 22:39-53
- Site of betrayal of Jesus and His arrest. Mat. 26:47-56; John 18;1-13

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

CITY OF DAVID



The earliest site of the biblical Jerusalem is the City of David where around 1004 BCE, King David captured the city from the Jebusites and established his kingdom. The city location provided a water supply from Gihon Spring and 3 natural barriers of protection to the ridge upon which it was built; the Kidron Valley to the east, the Tyropoeon Valley to the west and the Hinnom valley to the south. It is a major archaeological site including Hezekiah's tunnel, the Pool of Siloam and Archeological Gardens.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Jesus birth in Bethlehem is also called City of David. Luke 2:4,11

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

MOUNT ZION

We ascend Mt. Zion (fortress) to visit the traditional site of the Upper Room and the Tomb of King David. Here we say “traditional” because the Mt. Zion of today and the Mt. Zion of David's time are two different locations. The Zion of David's time was north of the area of the Pool of Siloam, and the Gihon Spring occupied by David was just south of Mt. Moriah (Temple Mount). We know this because of the 48th Psalm. In this Psalm, David says Zion is to the north. In Jesus' time, Mt. Zion, then inside the Old City Walls, now outside the walls, was relocated to the southwest part of the city. In addition, Mt. Zion is another name for Jerusalem. Some of the sites we will visit in this area are;

1) Tomb of King David. We understand that David is not buried here since scripture indicates he was buried in the city of David, (1 Kings 2:10). This site marks his burial and has done so since about 1173 A.D. It is considered a holy site to the Jewish people.

2) Upper Room. We visit the traditional site of the Last Supper Passover meal. This upper room serves only to allow us an opportunity to remember the last meal Christ shared with His followers, (.Mt. 26:17-30; Jn. 13:1-30) and the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, (Acts 2:1-42)

The building housing the Upper Room dates only to 1335 and was used as a Moslem Mosque until 1967.

3) House of Caiaphas. This was the Palace of the High Priest Caiaphas. Today this house is outside the Old City. However, in Jesus' time it was inside the Old City walls and just southwest of the Temple complex.

4) St. Peter Gallicantu. Gallicantu, meaning the cock's crow in Latin, commemorates the apostle Peter's triple denial of Christ before the rooster crowed, (Matthew 26:69-75). Built in 1931, it sits on the eastern slope of Mount Zion. Upon its' roof sits a rooster atop of a cross.

During the first temple period, caves under homes were used as cellars, water cisterns and baths. It is believed that Jesus was jailed in one of the caves in the basement of the church after his arrest.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

****CLOTHING NOTE****

As we tour Jerusalem today we will be visiting the Western Wall. Because it is considered holy ground, modest clothing is required. Both men and women must have clothing that reaches their knees and a head covering. Men may wear a hat or kippah. Women may use a scarf or shawl. Women should wear modest tops with their shoulders covered.

TEMPLE MOUNT

This area of roughly 27 acres is the top of Mount Moriah. This is the place where, as recorded in Gen. 22, God directed Abraham to bring his only son Isaac and prepare to offer him as a sacrifice. This is the place where, as recorded in 2 Sam. 24, God stops the plague and David buys the threshing floor from Araunah the Jebusite. This is the site where Solomon builds the Temple to God, which was first destroyed by the Babylonians in

586 B.C. and where the second Temple of Jesus' time was re-built during the days of Zerubbabel, Nehemiah, and Ezra and later enlarged and beautified by Herod the Great. Today, the Temple area is under the control of the Moslems in an effort to keep peace. The Temple is gone and in its place is the Moslem Shrine known as the Dome of The Rock. This shrine was built between 687-691 A.D. and is decorated with blue, green, yellow and white Persian tiles. The dome rises some 108 feet

above the ground and is covered with an aluminum bronze alloy from Italy. This shrine was used as a church by the Crusaders from 1099-1187. The Dome of the Rock is used for individual prayers, while on the southern end of the area is the lead-domed El Aksa Mosque where the Moslems gather for group prayers. This is the site where King Abdullah of Jordan was assassinated in 1951, thereby allowing for his grandson, King Hussein, to become the ruler of Jordan. El Aksa means distant place with reference to its being far removed from Mecca.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

KOTEL

... or the Western Wall OR Wailing Wall is a portion of the retaining wall Herod built around the western side of the Temple Mount and is the holiest shrine in the Jewish world today. The wall today is holy to the Jews because this portion is all that was left of the Temple compound from 70 A.D. when Titus of Rome destroyed the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. The portion of the wall that is today exposed is 60 yards in length and about 60 feet high. Each Friday evening, as the Sabbath begins, one can see great crowds of Jews gathering at the wall to pray. In addition, almost any time of the day or night one can see people at the wall praying.

To the right of the wall, or south, one should notice the Robinson's Arch protruding from the Western Wall. This arch was a bridge which connected the upper city to the Temple area.

WESTERN WALL TUNNEL

The Western Wall Tunnel, informally called the Rabbi's Tunnel, is an underground tunnel running under buildings in the Old City Jerusalem and adjacent to the Western Wall. This tunnel connects the north-south side of the Temple Mount to the Western Wall prayer area.

An additional 1,591 ft. of the wall can be seen in the tunnel as well as excavations from the Herodian, Umayyak, Ayyudid Mamluke and Hasmonean periods. Within the tunnel is the sealed entrance of "The Cave" synagogue where early Muslims allowed Jews to pray close to the Temple ruins for hundreds of years.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

SOUTHERN STEPS

The Southern Steps are situated at the southern end of the Temple Mount. They led to the Huldah gates where Jews entered the Temple Mount especially on pilgrimage festivals of Passover, Shavuot (Pentecost) and Sukkot (Feast of Weeks) during the time of Christ.

These steps known as “Teaching or Rabbi Steps” are believed to be where Jesus often taught.

JEWISH QUARTER

One of the four quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Jewish Quarter is situated in the southeastern sector of the walled city. Covering approximately 15 acres, it extends from the Zion Gate in the south, to the Street of the Chain in the north. Its western border runs along the Armenian Quarter with the Western Wall and the Temple Mount to the east.

When it was captured by the Arabs in the 1948 War of Independence, all Jews were expelled and their buildings destroyed. In the 6 Day War of 1967, the Jews regained 32 acres of land in Jerusalem and reconstructed the Jewish Quarter.

Today the quarter is home to residents, restaurants, shops, yeshivas and synagogues.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

THE BURN HOUSE

Just around the corner from the Herodian Museum is the Burn House. So called because this, too, was a portion of a house that was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. Here the skeletal remains of a young Jewish girl were found as she died trying to escape the fire up the stairs. We will view a very interesting video presentation that will help us understand what happened in 70 A.D.

HERODIAN MUSEUM

This fascinating museum was opened just a couple of years ago and houses a partially reconstructed residence of a wealthy Jewish family, perhaps a priestly family, from the time of Jesus, up to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. In addition, we will see many stone jars, pieces of furniture from the period, and even ashes from the fires which destroyed the house and the city.

HURVA SYNAGOGUE

European immigrants settling in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem built the Hurva Synagogue in 1701. Destroyed in 1721 by marauding Arabs it was rebuilt in 1864 only to be destroyed again by the Jordanians in the 1948 War of Independence.

Once again the Hurva Synagogue was rebuilt in 2010 restoring it to its' former magnificence.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

VIA DELOROSA

Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross. We look up the way and see the Ecco Homo Arch, built over the Via Dolorosa. This arch was built by Hadrian in the 2nd century, and is a section of a triple gateway leading to the rebuilt city of Aelia Capitolina.

ST. ANNES

The Church of St Anne is a Roman Catholic church, located on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. It stands about 50 meters inside Lions' Gate north of the Temple Mount.

According to tradition Anne and Joachim lived here where their daughter, Virgin Mary, was born in a cave under the basilica. Named for Marys' mother, Anne, it is considered to be the best-preserved Crusader church in Jerusalem.

It was built by Baldwin I, king of Jerusalem, and his widow between 1131 and 1138. The current church is erected near ruins of the original Byzantine basilica which was built upon a series of piers over the Pools of Bethesda.

- **Lion's Gate.** The Lion's Gate, also known as St. Stephen's Gate. This gate, one of eight, is on the east side of the city and was built with reliefs of lions on it, due to a dream of the Sultan Suleiman, hence, the name. It is also called St. Stephen's Gate because tradition has it that Stephen was stoned near here, (Acts 7:54-60)
- **Pool Of Bethesda.** The pool of Bethesda, which means house of mercy. This ancient pool, which is only partially excavated, is about 60 feet below the present ground level. The pool, according to Scripture, had five porticos or porches. It is the site where Jesus healed a sick man. (John 5:2-9)

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

ECCE HOMO CHURCH

The gospel of John records Pontius Pilate condemning Jesus to death and presenting him to the crowd saying, “Behold the Man” which in Latin means Ecce Homo. This Roman Catholic church is built over the Pretorium, the site of Pontius Pilate’s residence, where this event took place. Located on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem it is currently the home of the Convent of the Sisters of Zion.

Upon the stones, which are today about 30 feet below street level, we can see the area called the Lithostrotos, paved squares where the Romans marked the stones in order to play their games of fun. One such game is known as Basilicus. This game was the one most likely played with Jesus as the Basil or King (Mt. 27:27-30). This area was adjacent to the Temple area to the north. Here we will have a special time of prayer as we contemplate His suffering and death for our sin.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Here was location of tower of Hananeel in Nehemiah's day. Nehemiah 3:1; 12:39
- Jesus before Pilate. Matthew 27:2, 11-31

CARDO

The Cardo was a wide colonnaded street running north –south through the heart of Jerusalem 1500 years ago. This main street served as the hub of economic life. Rows of parallel columns supported red ceramic tile roof lined with shops and vendors. The Cardo was Jerusalem's main street 1500 years ago. The Roman Emperor Hadrian originally paved the Cardo in the 2nd century. In the 6th century, the Cardo was extended south to today’s Jewish Quarter by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian.

Some pillars remain around the main square in the Jewish Quarter. Nearby are fascinating archaeological excavations from First and Second Temple Jerusalem.

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

GARDEN TOMB

North from the Damascus Gate and outside the Old City is a site known as Skull Hill and Gordon's Calvary. This acre of land is controlled today by the Garden Tomb Association and was purchased by the British organization in 1893.

This special place fulfills all biblical requirements as to the validity of the location where Jesus suffered, died, was buried and arose after three days and nights. Our tour of this special place will be led by a member of the association, usually a British minister or businessman on sabbatical. This is one of the most exciting places we will visit during these days, for here we will focus on the location of Calvary and the empty tomb, as well as the atoning work of the sacrifice of our Lord and the proof of its acceptance, the resurrection! We know the Romans crucified at major intersections and on ground level, not on a hill as the famous hymn suggests! Outside the Damascus Gate, at a very busy intersection of Jaffa Road and the road to Damascus is a place that qualifies as Skull Hill. The Roman writer Quintillion in his Declarations clearly indicated the purpose of doing so; "Wherever we crucify criminals, very crowded highways are chosen so that many may see it, and many may be moved by fear of it." In 1956 an Arab bus station was built at the base of the hill and today we must contend with noise and fumes. However, we can clearly see the skull and nearby is the garden with the tomb of a rich man! We knew before we came the tomb was empty! We know it because we have experienced the risen Lord Jesus in our lives, but what a joy to enter this tomb and see the place where Jesus was laid and know that nothing could keep Him in the grave for He Lives! We will tour the garden and then have a special time of sharing.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Here Jesus was crucified and resurrected. Matthew 27:32-56; John 19:16-37

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

KNESSET

The Knesset is the legislative branch of the Israeli government. In Hebrew it means, the gathering or assembly. It is located in an area of Jerusalem called Givat Ram along with other national institutions such as the Israel Museum.

SHRINE OF THE BOOK

This is the famous Israel Museum which houses the Shrine of the Book. This building is easily recognized by the onion-shaped top that was constructed to resemble the top of the stone jar in which the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum is the world center for documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust for the Jewish people. Established in 1953, it not only safeguards memories of the Jewish people but honors non-Jews who saved Jews as well as educating future generations. It is situated on the western slope of Mount Herzl 2,638 feet above sea level on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem adjacent to the Jerusalem Forest.

This 1,900,000 sq. ft. complex contains a vast array of research, educational & memorial facilities such as: the Holocaust History Museum, Children's Memorial, Hall of Remembrance, The Museum of Holocaust Art, and the Valley of the Communities.

And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (a "yad vashem")... that shall not be cut off." -Isaiah 56:5

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

TEMPLE INSTITUTE

Here we can visit with a group of zealous Jews who are ready to rebuild the Temple. This group, led by Rabbi Richmond, have prepared the items to be used in Temple sacrifice and worship. We will view the linen garment to be worn by the high priest, as well as the incense burners, shovels and numerous other items used in Temple sacrifice and view a video regarding the work of this group. Their goal is to rebuild the Temple and find the Ark of the Covenant in order to hasten the coming of the Messiah. We know from Daniel 9:25 there is going to be a Third, or Tribulation Temple that will be built during the tribulation period. This group who is ready to rebuild only causes us to be reminded of just how close to the rapture of the church we truly are!

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BIBLE REFERENCES:

- Prophecy

Daniel 9:27

NOTES AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:



RESOURCE GUIDE

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CELEBRATE- Join Aliyah Foundation in celebrating Shabbat in your church, home, or school.

I would like to celebrate a Shabbat with Aliyah Foundation.

SHARE- Become an Aliyah Foundation Ambassador. For your birthday, anniversary or other special occasions, set up an online opportunity for people to donate to Aliyah Foundation in your honor, and/or host an Aliyah Foundation Vision Party with your friends and loved ones for people to learn the vision and mission of Aliyah Foundation.

I would like to become an Aliyah Foundation ambassador.

Name

Email

Address

Phone



Please prayerfully consider giving.

- Scan to **give online** or send a **check** to: PO Box 74111 | Richmond, VA 23236
 - Give stock through The Signatry Aliyah Foundation Single Charity Fund.
- Download the form from aliyahfoundation.org website.



ALIYAH FOUNDATION

"Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad."

-Psalm 14:7

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