

Journey to the
Land of the Bible

Hosted by

Grace University

September 18—29, 2011

ITINERARY

Sunday / September 18

Our spiritual adventure begins as we depart from **Omaha** to connect with an overnight transatlantic flight to our long-awaited destination—Israel!

Monday / September 19

This afternoon we arrive at the Ben Gurion Airport in **Tel Aviv** where our guide will meet us. We will drive north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, where we will check into our hotel for dinner and a well-deserved rest.

Tuesday / September 20

We begin our day in **Caesarea** where Peter proclaimed the good news to the Roman centurion, Cornelius. We will visit the famous Roman theater, harbor, newly excavated hippodrome, palace, and aqueducts. We continue on to **Mount Carmel** to see the traditional place where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. Next we arrive at **Megiddo**, Chariot City of King Solomon, where we will explore its remarkable excavations and view the **Valley of Jezreel**, the location for the future gathering of the nations at Armageddon. This afternoon we will tour **Nazareth**, the hometown of Jesus, and then visit a recreation of this town as it looked during the time of Christ. Finally, we will check into our kibbutz on the **Sea of Galilee**.

Wednesday / September 21

Following in the footsteps of Jesus and the disciples, we board a boat for a time of worship on the **Sea of Galilee**. We proceed to the **Mount of Beatitudes** where Christ delivered the Sermon on the Mount. We then head to the ruins of **Chorazin** and then **Bethsaida**, two cities condemned by Jesus for their lack of faith. Crossing over the **Jordan River**, we will stop at **Kursi**, the site where the demons entered the swine after being cast out of the demoniac. Next, we visit **Capernaum**, the city of Jesus, to walk the streets that witnessed so many of His miracles. Later we will walk to the top of **Mount Arbel** for a breathtaking panorama of the **Sea of Galilee** and the biblical sites of Jesus' public ministry. We end our day with a visit to the ancient "**Galilee Boat**" from the time of Christ before returning to our kibbutz for dinner and overnight.

Thursday / September 22

Today we follow the route of the old International Highway between Egypt and Mesopotamia. We journey north past the Old Testament city of **Hazor** on our way to ancient **Dan**. A beautiful nature reserve provides a refreshing backdrop as we visit the northernmost city of ancient Israel and see the spot where wicked King Jeroboam set up a golden calf. After a short ride we will come to the New Testament city of **Caesarea Philippi** at the foot of **Mount Hermon**, where Peter made his great confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Our next stop is the breathtaking **Banias Waterfall** before driving up to the **Golan Heights**. Here we will focus on modern Israel's struggles with Syria and Lebanon and discover why this region is so strategic. Then we will return to our kibbutz for our final night in the region of Galilee.

Friday / September 23

We begin our day with a memorable **baptismal service**. Then, we journey past **Mt. Tabor** where Deborah and Barak led the forces of Israel to victory before arriving at the **Spring of Harod** where Gideon chose his 300 men. We continue down the **Jezreel Valley** to the ancient city of **Bet She'an**. We will walk through the remarkable restoration of the Roman ruins that sit in the shadow of the hill where the Philistines once displayed the bodies of King Saul and his sons. We then proceed down the **Jordan Valley** past **Old**

Testament Jericho, the ancient Canaanite city where the "walls came tumbling down." We will stop at **Qumran** to see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered before arriving at the lowest point on the face of the earth, the **Dead Sea**, and checking into our hotel along its shores.

Saturday / September 24

We begin our day by focusing on the wilderness areas traversed by the young shepherd David. We will depart early for **Masada** and ride a cable-car up to the magnificent ruins of Herod's lavish palace/fortress where Jewish zealots made their final stand in their revolt against Rome. We next drive to the **Oasis of Ein Gedi** to relive one of David's historic encounters with King Saul. Then, we will return to our resort along the shores of the Dead Sea for a **free afternoon** of rest and swimming in these unique waters.

Sunday / September 25

Today we journey south to **Beersheba**, the southernmost city of Israel in the Old Testament and the place where Abraham built an altar to the Lord. We continue on to **Beth Shemesh** where Samson lived and the Philistines returned the Ark of the Covenant to the Israelites. Then, we will enter the **Elah Valley** to relive the battle between David and Goliath. We will stop at **Bet Guvrin** to see the unique **Bell Caves** carved beneath the earth before participating in an **archaeological dig**, uncovering treasures from the Hasmonean era and learning more about what happens on a dig. Finally, we will journey up to the city of **Jerusalem** and check into our hotel.

Monday / September 26

Our first glimpse of Jerusalem is from a panoramic vista on the **Mount of Olives** where we are reminded of what the Messiah saw as He looked out over this magnificent city. We will walk down this historic hillside to visit **Dominus Flevit**, the traditional spot where Jesus wept over Jerusalem, and the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus prayed the night he was betrayed. Next, we journey to the edge of Jerusalem to view **Bethlehem**, the town of Jesus' birth. We will visit the **Model of Herodian Jerusalem** to see an excellent picture of the city as it would have looked during the time of Christ. We then tour **Yad Vashem**, Israel's unforgettable memorial to the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust. This evening we will experience the **Night Spectacular**, a dramatic sound and light show at the Citadel that tells the story of Jerusalem.

Tuesday / September 27

We begin our day in the **Old City** at the **Tower of David Museum**, originally constructed 2,000 years ago by Herod the Great. From there we walk to the traditional location of the **Upper Room** before beginning a winding journey through the narrow streets and colorful bazaars of the Old City on our way to **Hezekiah's City Wall** and the **Cardo**. En route we will visit the **Herodian Mansion**, the possible site where Christ stood mute before the High Priest and was condemned. We then spend some memorable time at the excavations of the **Southern Steps** of the temple, a place where you can actually say, "I walked today where Jesus walked." This afternoon we will tour the original **City of David** to see the ruins of **David's palace**. We will view **Warren's Shaft**, the "waterspout" through which David's forces climbed to capture the city, and visit the recently excavated **Pools of Siloam**. We have the option of taking a walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** before concluding our day at the **Western (Wailing) Wall**, the Jews' most sacred site.

Wednesday / September 28

Our final morning begins with a view of the **Temple Mount** where the Al Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock are located and the

spot on which Israel's Temple once stood. From there we walk to the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the man at the pool. We will visit **St. Anne's Church** before beginning our journey along the **Via Dolorosa** (the Way of the Cross) to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. En route we will visit **Antonio's Fortress**, the place where Jesus was mocked by the soldiers and a crown of thorns was placed upon His head. This afternoon we will conclude our walk of Jesus' last days with a special communion service to celebrate Christ's resurrection at the **Garden Tomb** (Gordon's Calvary). We then bid farewell to Jerusalem and drive to **Joppa**, the city of Jonah and Simon the Tanner. Here we will see the ancient port and the artists' colony that has grown up around it. We will enjoy a special cultural dinner in this historic city before driving to the airport for our flight back to the U.S.

Thursday / September 29

With heart-changing memories of our walk in the footsteps of history, we will return to the United States!

COST OF THE TOUR

\$4,250 per person, based on two people sharing a double or twin-bedded room.

\$625 additional for single occupancy (Participant is responsible for finding a roommate. Single rooms must be paid for if a roommate is not secured.)

PAYMENT INFORMATION

\$500 deposit due with reservation form
\$1,200 due on May 20, 2011
Final balance due June 30, 2011

INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THE TOUR

Air Transportation—Round-trip transatlantic economy class from Omaha. A limited number of seats will be confirmed. Participants will be given these seats on a first come, first served basis. Airfare used is based on economy class effective at date of publication. *Airfares and airlines are subject to change should more seats be needed than allocated.*

Hotels—First Class Hotels and kibbutzim throughout, double occupancy.

Meals—Breakfast and dinner daily except where noted on itinerary. (Beverages provided at breakfast only.)

Sightseeing—As itinerary specifies, in deluxe motorcoaches with English-speaking guide. All entrance fees are included.

Transfers—All group transfers between airports and hotels.

Porterage—Porterage of one suitcase (standard size).

Tips—Tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff.

Taxes—Airport departure taxes in the U.S. and Israel; amount is subject to change and is based on tax rates & fuel surcharges at time of ticketing.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THE TOUR

Lunches—Also beverages at meals, other than coffee and tea with breakfast.

Personal Expenses—Such as passport fees, visas for non-US citizens, travel insurance, laundry, phone calls, etc.

Single Room Supplement—A limited number are available at an additional cost of \$625 per person.

Services—Not specifically mentioned above.

Dear Friends,

The 2011 Israel tour is going to be a memorable one! If you are a first-timer to the Land of the Bible or a returning veteran, this journey will provide you with many new and exciting experiences with the Lord Jesus and the Land He loves.

No picture can portray, no words can convey, no story can illustrate what awaits you in the land of Israel. Imagine walking in the steps of Jesus and the heroes of both the Old and New Testaments: Capernaum, Chorazin, sailing on the Sea of Galilee, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo, the Dead Sea, Beersheba and, of course, Jerusalem—and many other places. We will also climb (or ride up to) Masada where the zealots stood against ruthless Rome, and visit Qumran to see the caves of the Dead Sea scrolls. Mt. Tabor, the Jezreel Valley, Mount Hermon, and the Golan Heights are just a few of the other biblical sites we will visit.

We will sing, study the Word, and pray in the Land of God's Word. The attached itinerary gives you the overview of our trip. As you see the places associated with God's people and the gospel message that changed the world, you will be transformed spiritually and your faith will be deepened.

Working closely with Morning Star Tours, we have carefully selected the airline, land operator, and bus company to ensure your comfort and safety throughout the trip.

Perhaps now more than ever, God is calling you to Israel, the Land that He loves! Your presence there will bless God's people and change you forever.

In His mighty grasp,



James P. Eckman, Ph.D.

SPECIAL NOTES

Reservations—A deposit of \$500 must accompany the reservation form for each participant enrolling in the tour. An additional partial payment of \$1,200 is due by May 20, 2011. Final payment is due by June 30, 2011.

Tour Prices—All tour prices are based on costs, charges, taxes and US dollar exchange rates known at the time of booking. We regret should any of these costs change, a surcharge may be added to the cost of your tour. You would be notified prior to travel.

Deviations & Changes—Participant requests for deviations from itinerary are subject to space plus an applicable airfare surcharge, and a \$50 deviation fee per person. To enable finalizing of group arrangements, requests and changes are not accepted less than 60 days prior to departure.

Cancellations—All cancellations must be received in writing.

| <u>Date of Cancellation</u> | <u>Refund Policy</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Prior to May 20, 2011 | Full refund less 50% of your deposit |
| May 20 to June 30, 2011 | Penalty of 50% of your deposit plus \$500 |
| July 1, 2011, until departure | No refund |

Passports—You must have a valid passport with expiration not less than 6 months after your return to the US. It takes about eight to twelve weeks to secure a passport so don't delay. Non-US passport holders must contact Morning Star Tours to confirm need for visa. Passport information along with applications can be obtained on the WEB by going to: www.travel.state.gov/passport/index.html

Baggage Allowance—Due to bus size we can only allow one checked piece, not to exceed 62 inches (length plus width plus depth) and 50 lbs. You may also bring one carry-on item.

Insurance—Baggage, trip cancellation and emergency medical insurance is STRONGLY recommended. Forms will be provided. **Important:** The exclusion of Pre-Existing Conditions is waived provided the premium is received no later than fifteen days after the initial deposit for your trip.

The tour operator reserves the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary.

RESPONSIBILITY

Morning Star Tours, with their officers and staff, act only as agents for the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, carriage, automobile, airplane, or other conveyance which will be used either wholly or in part. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, omission, or any injury, loss, accident, or any delay which may be occasioned by reason of defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in the conveying of passengers. Morning Star Tours accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delays or changes in motorcoach, train, airplane services, or that of any other conveyance, sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine, or other causes; and all such losses or expenses must be borne by the passenger. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract, as issued by the airlines or other transportation companies involved with the tour, shall constitute the sole contract between the purchaser and the airlines or transportation companies and limit the responsibilities of the tour sponsors concerning the related travel and accommodations. Prices and schedules that appear in any brochure or website are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice.

Payment of deposit for this tour signifies full understanding and acceptance of the above-mentioned conditions.

For More Information Contact:

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