

The Life & World of Jesus

A Shoresh Study Tour

Hosted by Rev. David Drake, Mike Gould, and Woody Bowman

6th - 17th February 2017

We will trace the life of Jesus from his home in Galilee to Jerusalem, giving particular attention to the First Century Jewish context in which Jesus lived. Our goal is a better understanding of Jesus' ministry and a better application of His teachings for us today.

Day 1: Monday 6th February

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, where we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip. From the airport we will travel to our hotel on the **Mediterranean Coast**. Time permitting, we may have an opportunity to stroll on the beach or swim before dinner. Overnight: Ramada Hotel, Netanya

Day 2: Tuesday 7th February

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - Jews, Gentiles, and the Messiah

Today we travel north up the coast and then eastwards inland to the Galilee, visiting a number of Biblical sites that testify to God's faithfulness to His word, past, present, and future. We begin our day at the fabulous ruins of the Herodian city of **Caesarea Maritima**, the site of the conversion of Cornelius and the location from which Paul left the shores of Israel and set sail on his journey to Rome. We then travel up the coast to **Mount Carmel**, with a spectacular view over the North of Israel, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. We continue along the route of the ancient **Via Maris** to the spectacular ruins at **Sepphoris**, where we will examine Jesus' relationship to Elijah and His first miracle. We conclude our day at ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry. Overnight: Nof Ginosar Hotel, Galilee

Day 3: Wednesday 8 February

AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE - Daily Life and Religion in the Time of Jesus

Our day will be spent visiting various sites around the Sea of Galilee as we try to picture daily life and religion in the First Century, and seek to better understand the miracles and teachings of Jesus in His original Jewish context. We will start the day at **Chorazin**, the well-preserved ruins of a typical Galilean village, where we study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. Our next stop will be the **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, where we will consider the Kingdom of God in Jesus' teachings. After a short walk or drive down the hill we will arrive at **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. At lovely **Tabgha**, which commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fish, and where Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection, we will enjoy a contemplative time on the shore of the Lake. Later in the afternoon we will visit Kibbutz Ginosar to see the "**Jesus Boat**", a Galilean fishing boat from the First Century. From here we will set sail for a **boat ride on the Lake** to enjoy the views and some worship, prayer and reflective time. Overnight: Nof Ginosar Hotel, Galilee

Day 4: Thursday 9th February

NORTHERN ISRAEL - "Who Do Men Say That I Am?"

Today we explore Northern Israel, one of the most beautiful regions of the country. We will seek to understand what the Jewish people of 2,000 years ago expected of the Messiah, and how that was fulfilled in Jesus. We begin by climbing up to the magnificent **Golan Heights**. We will visit a reconstructed Talmudic village at **Katzrin**, where we will take another close look at life in New Testament times and the use of everyday imagery in Scripture. After a visit to a local Golan Heights winery, we continue north to travel along the lower slopes of **Mount Hermon** - Israel's highest mountain, and the most likely site of the Transfiguration. We will tour **Caesarea Philippi**, in the region where Peter made his famous confession that Jesus is the

Messiah. Along the way we will pass **Druze Villages** before coming to **Mt. Bental**, a lookout spot near the border with Syria and the area of the **road to Damascus** where the Apostle Paul met the Lord. Our final stop is the **Dan Nature Reserve**, where we see the incredible archaeological remains of the **OT city of Dan**, including the city gate from the time of Abraham, and consider ancient Israel's apostasy. We will also enjoy a pleasant walk by a stream and discuss the meaning of "living water" in the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus' teaching.
Overnight: Nof Ginosar Hotel, Galilee

Day 5: Friday 10th February

THE JORDAN VALLEY - "In the World But Not of It"

Today we leave the Galilee and journey south down the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley** to the Dead Sea in the arid Judean wilderness. Our first stop is **Kibbutz Gesher**, where we'll see what is known as one of the hydraulic wonders of the world. There we'll learn how a Jewish engineer worked to harness the great rivers of the Jordan and Yarmuch to provide electricity for both Jew and Arab during British Mandate Palestine. At the **Jordan River**, we will discuss the ministry of John the Baptist and his relationship with Jesus. Our next stop is the Biblical city of **Beit Shean** to examine the visually impressive excavations of its Roman-Byzantine period when it was one of the ten Hellenistic cities of the Decapolis. From here we continue down the Jordan Valley to the arid Judean Wilderness, passing by the region of **Jericho** - the oldest and lowest city on earth. Our last visit this afternoon will be **Qumran**, likely the home of the Essenes, a First Century Jewish sect which may have influenced early Christianity, and the site of the most exciting archaeological discovery ever made in Israel - the Dead Sea Scrolls. We will finish our day by enjoying a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters of the **Dead Sea**. Overnight: David Hotel, Dead Sea

Day 6: Saturday 11th February

THE JUDEAN DESERT - Seeking Refuge in the Wilderness

Our theme today is the wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites. After an early start, we begin our day at **Masada**, Herod the Great's magnificent fortress palace in the desert, and the last stand of the Zealots, a Jewish revolutionary group at the time of Jesus. From Masada we drive north to the beautiful subtropical oasis of **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we can walk into the nature reserve and possibly to the waterfalls. We may see some wildlife, including the furry rock badger and the graceful ibex. We will also discuss the temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. We then make the final ascent to **Jerusalem** - the City of the Great King. After dinner we will be treated to a short stroll for a rooftop panorama of the **Old City** and talk with the Director of Shoresh.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday 12th February

JERUSALEM - The City of the Great King

This morning we are invited to join in worship at **Christ Church**. In the afternoon, we will head to the **Citadel ("Tower of David") Museum** where we will enjoy breathtaking views overlooking Jerusalem and have an introduction to the fascinating historical geography of the Old City. The rest of our day is open for rest, reflection, shopping or, for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 8: Monday 13th February

JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS - The Temple at the Center

Today will be devoted to learning about Jerusalem in Jesus' day, when the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life. We will study how worship was performed in the temple, the Sadducees and Jesus' attitude towards them, and generally enrich our insight into many important events in the gospels and book of Acts. An early start will take us up to the **Temple Mount**, where we'll consider some of Jesus' activities there, as well as the claims of Islam. After a visit to the **Western Wall** place of prayer, Judaism's most holy site, we will take a trip to the subterranean **Western Wall Tunnels** to walk at what was street level in the time of Jesus. We then make our way through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City to see the **Herodian Villas**, the palatial mansions that were the home to the Sadducees, the ruling priesthood at the time of Jesus. We complete our

day at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked. After dinner, Simon from the Palestinian Bible Society will share with us.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 9: Tuesday 14th February

BETHLEHEM - Birthplace of the King

We begin this morning with a tour of the **Christ Church Heritage Centre** to learn about CMJ's 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people. We then make the short drive to **Bethlehem**, where we will visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the probable site of the birth of Jesus, and the "**Shepherd's Fields**" where the angels heralded the advent of Messiah. The remainder of our day is free.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 10: Wednesday 15th February

THE RESTORATION OF HOPE - A Garland Instead of Ashes

We will spend our morning at the **Israel Museum**, home of the Second Temple Jerusalem model and the Shrine of the Book, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** are displayed. In the afternoon we head to **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. This 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 Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 11: Thursday 16th February

IN THE STEPS OF JESUS - Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection

Today we focus on sites related to the Biblical passages concerning Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Our goal is to understand why He was crucified, how He was buried, and what it meant to the Jewish people of the First Century that He was raised from the dead. We begin our day with a panoramic overlook of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**, the site of Jesus' ascension to heaven and His future second coming. After viewing a **tomb from the time of Jesus**, we will walk down the Mount of Olives to **Gethsemane**. Next we cross the **Kidron Valley** and enter the Old City through **Stephen's Gate**, stopping to examine the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda**. Depending on the group's interest, we may walk parts of the **Via Dolorosa**, stopping at several of the places mentioned in the Bible, and arrive at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. Time permitting, we may visit **St. Peter in Gallicantu**, a possible site of the prison where Jesus was held. We end our tour with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb**. Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 12: Friday February 17th

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

We say farewell to Jerusalem and descend through the mountains of Judea to the airport on the coastal plain to catch the flight 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 all tour members to fully participate at every site, but in some cases that may not be possible.*