

# God's Faithfulness

*Church of the Epiphany*

*February 14 - 24, 2022*

*The Rev. Peter Frank, Tour Leader*

*A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary*

*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. 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 Monday February 14**

### **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. After our arrival at Ben-Gurion airport we take a short drive to **Beit Immanuel** in **Jaffa**, where we will hear about CMJ's ministry to the Jewish people over the past 160 year in Israel. From here we will travel to our hotel on the **Mediterranean Coast** for dinner, followed by a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and prayer. Overnight: Kfar Maccabiah, Ramot Gan

## **Day 2 Tuesday February 15**

### **THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS**

We begin our journey by climbing up through the strategic lowlands into the **Mountains of Judea**, to the burial **Cave of the Patriarchs** in **Hebron** (conditions permitting), 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 site** where we examine their lifestyle in order to shed light on the lives of Abraham and the Patriarchs. You will have the opportunity to try your hand at riding camels. 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 spa hotel on the **Dead Sea**, where we can enjoy a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters.

Overnight: David Hotel, Dead Sea

## **Day 3 Wednesday February 16**

### **THE JUDEAN DESERT - Seeking Refuge in the Wilderness**

Our theme today is the wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites. We begin our morning by driving 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. Our last site 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. Our last stop as we drive up the Jordan Valley will be **Tel Jezreel**. Jezreel was the capital of the

Northern Kingdom of Israel at the time of Ahab and Jezebel. After our visit we continue our drive to our hotel in the Galilee. Overnight: Nof Ginosar Sea of Galilee

#### **Day 4 Thursday February 17**

##### **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. Today we will visit 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. Other sites may include **Chorazin**, the well-preserved ruins of a typical Galilean village, where we study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. At the newly excavated **Magdala**, the home of Mary Magdala, we will visit the remains of an ancient synagogue from the time of Jesus or the lovely **Tabgha**, which commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fish, and where Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection. 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. After dinner we will meet with a local believer. Overnight: Nof Ginosar Sea of Galilee

#### **Day 5 Friday February 18**

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

Today we travel west and then down the coast, visiting a number of Biblical sites that testify to God's faithfulness to His word, past, present, and future. Our first visit of the day will be ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry. From Nazareth we travel to **Sepphoris**, the possible birthplace of Mary and the home to ancient churches and synagogues. We complete 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. Overnight: Seasons Netanya

#### **Day 6 Saturday February 19**

##### **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 may include: **Mt. Gerazim** (the "Mount of Blessing" from Joshua's time and scenic overlook and one of Abraham's campsites), **Jacob's Well**, **Beit El** and **Shiloh** (long-time location of the Tabernacle and the ark of the covenant). 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 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 Jerusalem

#### **Day 7 Sunday February 20**

##### **FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM**

This morning we will worship together with Christians from around the world at **Christ Church**, the oldest Protestant Church in the Middle East. Celebrate the Anglican liturgy and Eucharist while learning more about the Jewish roots of the faith. The afternoon is

free for rest, reflection, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City. You can visit the **Christ Church Heritage Centre** to learn about CMJ's 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people. *Shoresh will provide a list of interesting options for those who want to explore on their own.* Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse Jerusalem

#### **Day 8 Monday February 21**

##### **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** (conditions permitting), 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 and time permitting will visit 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. Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse Jerusalem

#### **Day 9 Tuesday February 22**

##### **THE RESTORATION OF HOPE - A Garland Instead of Ashes**

Today we study both a great tragedy and the wonder of the Lord's redemptive power. We will examine the systematic annihilation of six million Jews in the Nazi genocide, God coming to earth in the form of a man to save His people from their sins, and the loving witness of Christians committed to the Biblically prophesied physical restoration and spiritual rebirth of the Jewish people. We travel 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. From here we take 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. Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse Jerusalem

#### **Day 10 Wednesday February 23**

##### **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**. From here we walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus for a time of reflection at the end of the tour. Overnight: Christ

Church Guesthouse Jerusalem (For those groups with a late night flight, rooms will be held until departure for the airport.)

### **Day 11 Thursday February 24**

#### **TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**

Depending on flight departure time, there are several options for this day.

#### **Early Morning Departure: Straight Home**

We say farewell to Jerusalem and descend through the mountains of Judea to the airport on the coastal plain to catch the flight home.

#### **Afternoon Departure - Option A: THE HOPE OF RESTORATION**

This morning, we focus on the miraculous restoration of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. We begin our day at **Beit Immanuel**, the CMJ ministry center in Jaffa. Here we will learn of CMJ's ministry to the Jewish people over the past 160 years. Time permitting, we may also visit the ancient port of **Jaffa**, the point from which Jonah tried to escape his calling to warn the people of Nineveh and the location of Simon the Tanner's house. From here we go the airport. *If your group has already done these sites as part of a morning arrival on Day 1, we can visit other interesting site(s) along the coast, Sharon Plain, or Judean Hills.*

#### **Afternoon Departure - Option B: NATURE IMAGERY IN SCRIPTURE**

This morning we will visit the Biblical landscape reserve of **Neot Kedumim** in the Judean lowlands. Walking on the beautiful hillsides, we will discover some of the rich symbolism of the cedar, hyssop, olive and other trees and plants, as well as trying our hand at herding sheep and goats. We will drive across the Sharon Plain to the airport in plenty of time to catch the flight home. *If your group has already done these sites as part of a morning arrival on Day 1, we can visit other interesting site(s) along the coast, Sharon Plain, or Judean Hills.*

#### **IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:**

- *Most days on this itinerary involve a regular amount of walking and/or climbing. Therefore this trip cannot generally accommodate those who have significant difficulty with climbing stairs or walking a half a mile at a time. Please be in contact with the trip leaders if you have any concerns about this.*
- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *It is mandatory for each participant to have travel insurance to cover medical costs or trip cancellations.*

#### **ADDITIONAL TOURING DAYS**

*For groups wishing to spend more time in Israel, we can arrange additional days of touring on a variety of themes. These can include activities such as: outdoor adventures (hiking, camel treks, swimming, etc.), wine tasting, visits to see Israeli agricultural innovations, service and outreach*

*projects, visits to local ministries, retreats, prayer experiences, as well as Biblical and historical teaching at more sites throughout the country.*

*Here are just a few examples of the many options for additional touring in Jerusalem:*

### **INTRODUCTION TO JERUSALEM (Full day)**

After breakfast 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. We will continue to the **Museum of the First Temple** in order to better understand not only the story of Solomon building the Temple, but how the Temple priesthood and sacrificial system foreshadowed the ministry of Jesus the Messiah. After this overview, we will spend the rest of the morning at the place where it all began – the **City of David**. Here we will learn about King David’s conquest of the Jebusite city, and walk through **Hezekiah’s Tunnel** to the **Pool of Siloam**.

### **THE HEART OF THE NEW CITY (Half day)**

Most of the Biblical sites in Jerusalem are inside or nearby the Old City. But most of the population of modern Jerusalem lives outside the Old City walls, in the bustling and vibrant **New City**. For a glimpse of modern Israeli society, we will follow pedestrian streets: along **Jaffa Road** to **Zion Square**, then up **Ben Yehuda Street** to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market, where Jerusalemites shop for some of the best and freshest foods in Israel and sit in cozy cafes. The whole walk is filled with interesting history, as well as great people watching, photographic and eating opportunities.

### **WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH or a MESSIANIC CONGREGATION (Half day)**

Depending on tour dates, on a Saturday it may be possible to join a worship service at a local Messianic congregation, or on a Sunday to participate in the morning worship service at Christ Church or another local congregation.

### **ITINERARY OPTIONS**

*For groups returning to Israel who would like to see some new sites, here are some of the many options available for the itinerary:*

#### **Day 3**

*For those wishing to skip Masada and substitute a different site further north up the Jordan Valley:*

- You might enjoy stopping at **Kibbutz Alfa** to examine a beautiful mosaic of a very early synagogue floor, where we can study the reasons of the separation of Jewish believers in Jesus from what had become a mostly non-Jewish church in the early centuries.
- We can walk a gentle trail from **Tel Jezreel**, Ahab’s winter capital, and visit **Ein Harod** known as “**Gideon’s Spring**”.

#### **Day 4**

- During the longer days of the year, time might allow for a visit to “the other side” of the Sea to briefly consider Jesus relationship to the non-Jewish world during the time of His ministry, including the site of **Kursi**.

- A special visit is tranquil **Beit Bracha**, CMJ's prayer retreat center in Migdal, to hear about the work of the ministry.

#### Day 5

- One interesting option is **Kibbutz El Rom**, with a documentary on Israel's miraculous survival in the 1973 "Yom Kippur" War.
- We may also visit the ruins of ancient **Gamla**, the "Masada of the North" where a great battle was fought. Today the area is home to Israel's largest birds.

#### Day 6

- An alternative to Megiddo or Nazareth is **Mt. Arbel**, where an easy stroll brings us to panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee, giving an excellent review of our studies in the area.
- An alternative to Megiddo is ancient **Sepphoris**, where we can examine Jesus' relationship to Elijah, as well as His first miracle.