

The Holy Land, The Holy People—A Gold Select Journey
 The Rev. Eric Huffman
 The Story, St. Luke's United Methodist Church
 10 Day Biblical Survey Program including Israel, the West Bank
 14—23 January 2020
 2 Day elective *Explore Jerusalem* returning 25 January 2020
 Syllabus

Objectives:

- To provide a Jesus centered overview of the geographical, social, historical, archaeological and cultural settings of the Bible
- To gain an overview of modern biblical scholarship, including the rudiments of archaeology, and its importance for clergy and lay people
- To become acquainted with the key issues in biblical studies and the study of Christian origins
- To become familiar with the nature of Christianity in the Holy Land and the role of the church today
- To gain deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for peacemaking

Texts: (All participants would find reading one or more of the following books to be beneficial.)

- 1) Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.
- 2) Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Tarrytown, NY: Chosen books, 1984.
- 3) Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- 4) Finnegan, Jack. *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Mediterranean World of the Early Christian Apostles*. New York: Routledge, 2016.
- 5) Miano, Peter J. *The Word of God and the World of the Bible: An Introduction to the Cultural Backgrounds of the New Testament*. London: Melisende, 2001.
- 6) Mitchell, George J. and Sachar, Alon. *A Path to Peace: a Brief History of Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations and a Way Forward in the Middle East*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2016.
- 7) Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- 8) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

Itinerary:

Day 1 Depart USA
 14.1, Tu

Day 2 Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to Taybeh.
 15.1, W Overnight Taybeh

Day 3 16.1, Th	Theme: Samaria & The Jezreel Valley Field trip: 1st Century House/House of the Parables (Matt 2: 23, Luke 1: 26- 38), Nablus, Jacob's Well (Gen 33:18-19, John 4), Sebastiya, Jenin, Tel Jezreel (1 Kings 21) Overnight in Galilee
Day 4 17.1, F	Theme: Jesus' Environment in Lower Galilee Field trip: Nazareth (Lk. 4: 16-30), The Basilica of the Annunciation, Sisters of Nazareth Convent (koch tombs), Sepphoris, (Wadi Hammam overview—time permitting) Overnight in Galilee
Day 5 18.1, Sa	Theme: Jesus' Ministry Around the Sea of Galilee Field trip: boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tabgha, Church of St. Peter's Primacy (John 21), Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves (Mk. 6:30-44), Mt. of the Beatitudes including walk (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24, Mark 4- 6, John 21), Wadi Hammam footpath, the Jordan River Valley Overnight in Jericho
Day 6 19.1, Su	Theme: The Judean Wilderness Field trip: Masada, Qumran, The Dead Sea, New Testament Jericho/Herod's Winter Palace, (Joshua 5-7, Judges 1: 27- 36), Baptismal site—Qasr al Yehud (Mk. 1:1-12; Mt. 3: 1-4:17; Lk. 3: 1-22; 4: 1-13; Jn. 1: 1-42), Wadi Qelt Overnight Bethlehem
Day 7 20.1, M	Theme: Bethlehem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus Field trip: Old City walking tour, Church of the Nativity (Mt 2, Lk 2), Herodium, Shepherd's Fields Overnight in Bethlehem
Day 8 21.1, Tu	Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus Field trip: Mt. of Olives overview and orientation to Jerusalem, Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book, 2 nd Temple Model. Overnight Bethlehem
Day 9 22.1, W	Theme: Jerusalem—Then and Now Field trip: Old City walking tour including the Western Wall, Temple Mount/Harem esh Sharif, St. Ann's Church, Via Dolorosa, Lithostratos, Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Mt. 27-28; John 20) Overnight Bethlehem
Day 10 23.1, Th	Return to USA or continue on one of the electives

2 Day Elective: Explore Jerusalem (\$732 based on 10 enrolled)

Day 10 23.1, Th	Theme: Walls and Gates Field trip: The Garden Tomb, Solomon's Quarries/Zedekiah's Cave, the Damascus Gate, the Ramparts Walk, the Jaffa Gate, afternoon free Overnight Jerusalem
Day 11 25.1, Sat	Theme: The Old City Field trip: the Jewish Quarter, The Cardo, The Broad Wall, Southern Wall Excavations, City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel (weather permitting—dry tunnel alternative), Gihon Spring, the Pool of Siloam (John 9:1-12), the Kidron Valley—time permitting Overnight Jerusalem
Day 12 26.1, Sun	return to the USA

- Meetings with indigenous people are subject to change. Appropriate substitutions will be made in the event a speaker is unavailable.
- Daily itinerary is subject to local conditions, including weather, opening and closing hours, holidays, flight schedules, etc. Sometimes the order of the itinerary will change due to such circumstances and sometimes substitutions will be made.
- Morning and evening fora on various topics will be arranged throughout the program.