

The Rev. Tom Ballard
Fountain City United Methodist Church
From Dan to Beersheba, a 10 Day Biblical Survey, including Israel and Palestine
11—20 February 2021
4 Day elective The Wonders of Petra returning 24 February 2021
Syllabus

Objectives:

- To gain an overview of the historical, geographical and cultural settings of the Bible
- To become familiar with Christian Origins and the nature of Christianity in the Holy Land
- To gain an overview of modern biblical scholarship, including the rudiments of archaeology, and its importance for clergy and lay people
- To gain understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for peacemaking

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

- 1) Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.
- 2) Braverman, Mark. *Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land*. Austin, TX: Synergy Books, 2010
- 3) Carter, Jimmy. *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2006.
- 4) Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Tarrytown, NY: Chosen books, 1984.
- 5) Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- 6) Finnegan, Jack. *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Mediterranean World of the Early Christian Apostles*. New York: Routledge, 2016.
- 7) Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: a History*. San Francisco: Harper, 1998.
- 8) Herxl, Theodor. *Der Judenstaat English*. Hamburg: Tredition Classics, 2012.
- 9) Magnes, Jodi. *The Archaeology of the Holy Land: From the Destruction of Solomon's Temple to the Muslim Conquest*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2012.
- 10) 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.
- 11) Miano, Peter J., Mitchell, Jason C., Phillips, Thomas E., eds. *Prophetic Voices on Middle East Peace*. Claremont, CA: Claremont School of Theology Press. 2016.
- 12) 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.
- 13) Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- 14) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress,

1995.

Itinerary:

- Day 1
11.2, Th Depart USA
- Day 2
12.2, F Arrive Tel Aviv, Orientation and Introductions, touring as time permits
overnight in Galilee
- Day 3
13.2, Sa Theme: Jesus' Ministry in Upper Galilee
Field Trip: Tel Dan (1 Kings 4:25), Banyas/ Caesarea Philippi (Mt. 17:1-7), Migdal Shams, the Golan
overnight in Galilee
- Day 4 Theme: Nazareth and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
14.2, Su Field trip: Kibbutz Mishmar ha Emek (Lydia Aisenberg) Nazareth,
Basilica of the Annunciation, Sisters of Nazareth Convent (1st Century koch tombs), Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, Mt. of the Precipice, Sepphoris—time permitting (Matt 2: 23, Luke 1: 26- 38, 4:16- 30)
overnight in Galilee
- Day 5
15.2, M Theme: Jesus' Ministry around the Sea of Galilee
Field trip: Capernaum, Tabgha, Primacy of Peter (John 21), Mt. of the Beatitudes (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24, Mark 4- 6, John 21), boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Wadi Hammam, Bet Shean (1 Sam. 31:10-12), the Jordan Valley
overnight in Jericho
- Day 6 Theme: Birth and Baptism
16.2, Tu Field trip: Jericho, Tel es Sultan (Josh 5-7), Qasr el Yehud (baptismal site), Taybeh, 1st Century House
overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 7 Theme: Bethlehem and Its Environs
17.2, W Field trip: Mt. of Olives, orientation to Jerusalem, Palm Sunday walk (Lk 19:29-44), Garden of Gethsemane, Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, Bethlehem, Old City walking tour, Church of the Nativity (Lk 2; Mt 2), Herodion (time permitting), Ash Wednesday observances
overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 8
18.2, Th Theme: The Way of the Patriarchs
Field trip: Hebron, Cave of Macphelah (Gen 13, 23), Beer-sheba (Gen. 21:22-34), visit Bedouin Village
PM forum: TBD
overnight in Bethlehem

Day 9 Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus

19.2, F Field trip: Field trip: 8:00 AM Harem esh Sherif/Temple Mount (al Waqf-Islamic Trust), Old City walking tour, Western Wall, Via Dolorosa, Lithostratos, St. Anne's Church (Jn 5), Church of the Holy Sepulchre
overnight in Bethlehem

Day 10 Return to USA or continue with 4 Day elective

20.2, Sa

4 Day Elective: The Wonders of Petra & Jordan (\$1,389 based on 10 enrolled)

Day 10 Theme: The Dead Sea & Wadi Araba

20.2, Sa Field trip: Qumran, Masada, the Dead Sea, Araba Crossing, enter Jordan
Overnight Aqaba.

Day 11 Theme: Desert Exploration

21.2, Su Field trip: Wadi Rum jeep safari (optional), Al Beidha (Neolithic settlement), Siq al Barid (Little Petra)
Overnight Wadi Musa

Day 12 Theme: Exploration and Wonder

22.2, M Field trip: Full day exploration of Petra
Overnight Wadi Musa

Day 13 Theme: The Desert Highway & the King's Highway

23.2, Tu Field trip: Shoback Castle (overview), Amman, Jordan Museum
Overnight Amman

Day 14 Return to USA

24.2, W

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 condition.

Morning and evening for a on various topics will be arranged throughout the program