

Israel – A Believers Journey



Hosted By Tim Agee and Bruce Zupa

May 27th – June 7th



Trip Updates



New Tour price - \$4640.00 up \$80.00 from previous \$4560.00

(change due to total number of group down since price quoted late 2021)

- ☞ We will get headsets free of charge
- ☞ Airline tickets will be issued about 6 weeks prior to departure. 4/15
- ☞ Reason we suggest cash in small bills (\$1,\$5, \$10 & \$20) if you pay with cash change is given in local currency. (drinks, snacks, lunches and some small purchases) Will not need a large sum of cash!
- ☞ Most, if not all meals (Breakfast and Dinner) will be buffet style in the hotel. I think you will be pleased with the quality and quantity. It will be kosher! Sorry, no bacon!
- ☞ Water is safe in Israel...bottle water will always be available. Other than coffee, other drinks will at your expense.

Daily Routine

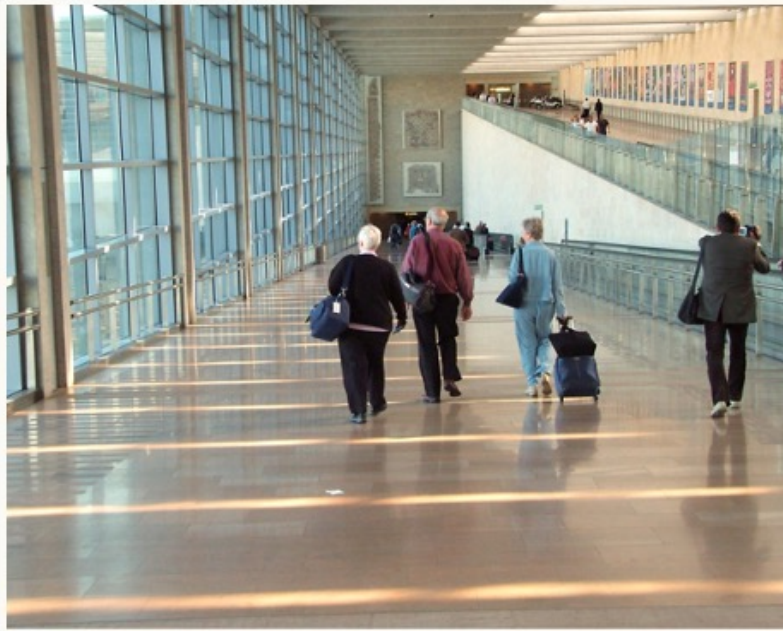


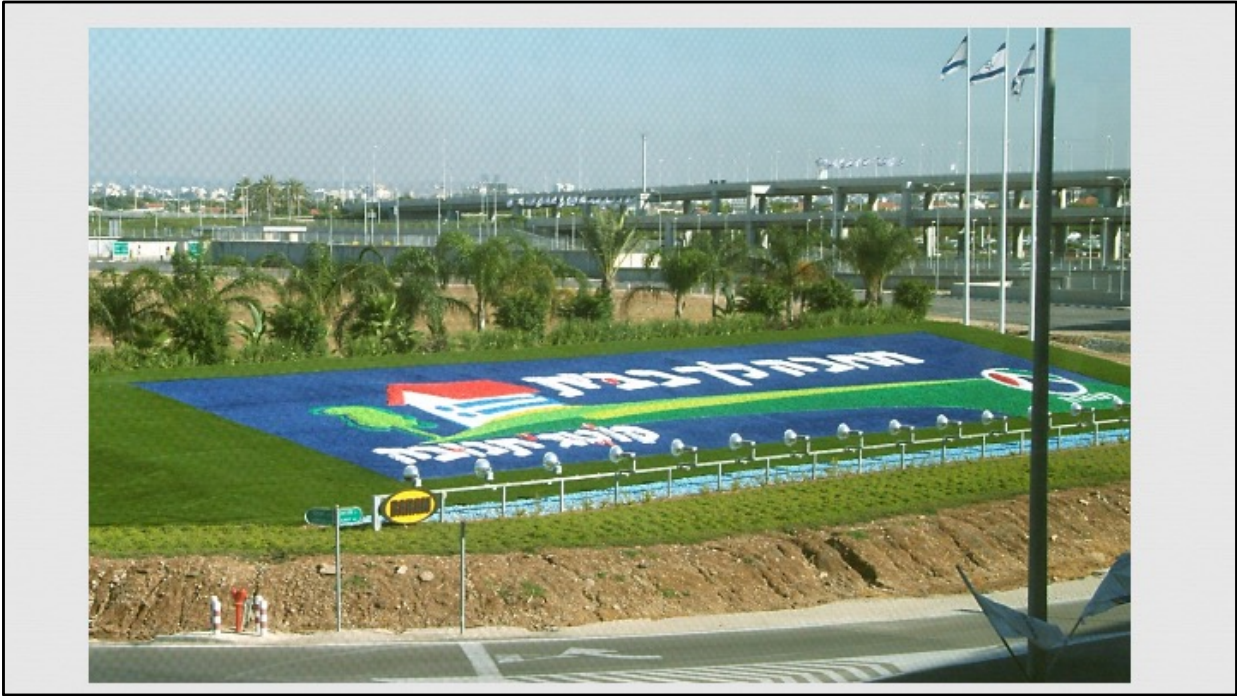
- ☞ **BE ON TIME FOR THE BUS DEPARTURE EVERY MORNING!!!**
Most touring days will start at 8:00, a few may begin at 7:30. (you will have a brief time after breakfast to return to your room before we depart for the day) We DO NOT return to the hotel during the day.
- ☞ **EVENINGS WILL BE FREE FOR TIME TO HAVE DEVOTIONALS OR GO OUT FOR WALKS.** (Primarily in Jerusalem)
- ☞ **A SMALL PACK OR BAG TO TAKE ON THE BUS FOR SNACKS, CAMERA, WET-WIPES, BOTTLE WATER, NOTE PAD AND YOUR BIBLE!** (whether it's your traditional Bible or your phone/tablet version...your Bible is a must)

Miscellaneous Info



- ⌘ **VERY IMPORTANT** - GOING THROUGH CUSTOMS WHEN WE ARRIVE IN ISRAEL, **NO JOKING WITH THE AGENT!** ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ACCURATELY AND POLITELY AND **SAY NO MORE!**
- ⌘ All tips will be taken care of for you...NEVER TIP ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH OUR TOUR. If you want to tip after your lunch...a small amount is okay but not necessary.
- ⌘ LEAVE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT, YOUR ITINERARY AND HOTEL INFO WITH SOMEONE AT HOME.
- ⌘ ALSO, PLACE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT IN YOUR LUGGAGE AND IN YOUR CARRY-ON.

























Israel 2022 – Trip Preparation



Lesson 3
March 8, 2022

Future Class Dates



- ☞ **March 22 - Bruce & Tim Out**
 - ☞ *March 29* - Replacement for 3/22?
 - ☞ April 5
 - ☞ **April 12 - Tim Out**
 - ☞ *April 17* - Replacement for 4/12??
 - ☞ April 26
 - ☞ May 10
- ☞ All classes will meet at 6:30pm
 - ☞ Location - Bellevue Church of Christ / Room A120
 - ☞ Will also be offered via Microsoft Teams for those who cannot meet in person.
 - ☞ Please let Tim know in advance if you need us to setup a remote option.

Online Resources



☞ <https://www.teamagee.com/category/israel2020/>

☞ Journal of my trip to Israel from 2019 to 2020

☞ <https://www.teamagee.com/israel2022/>

☞ Copies of the slides from this class



Sea of Galilee



Matthew 8:24-26, 14:22-33; Mark 4:35, 6:45-53





Sea of Galilee

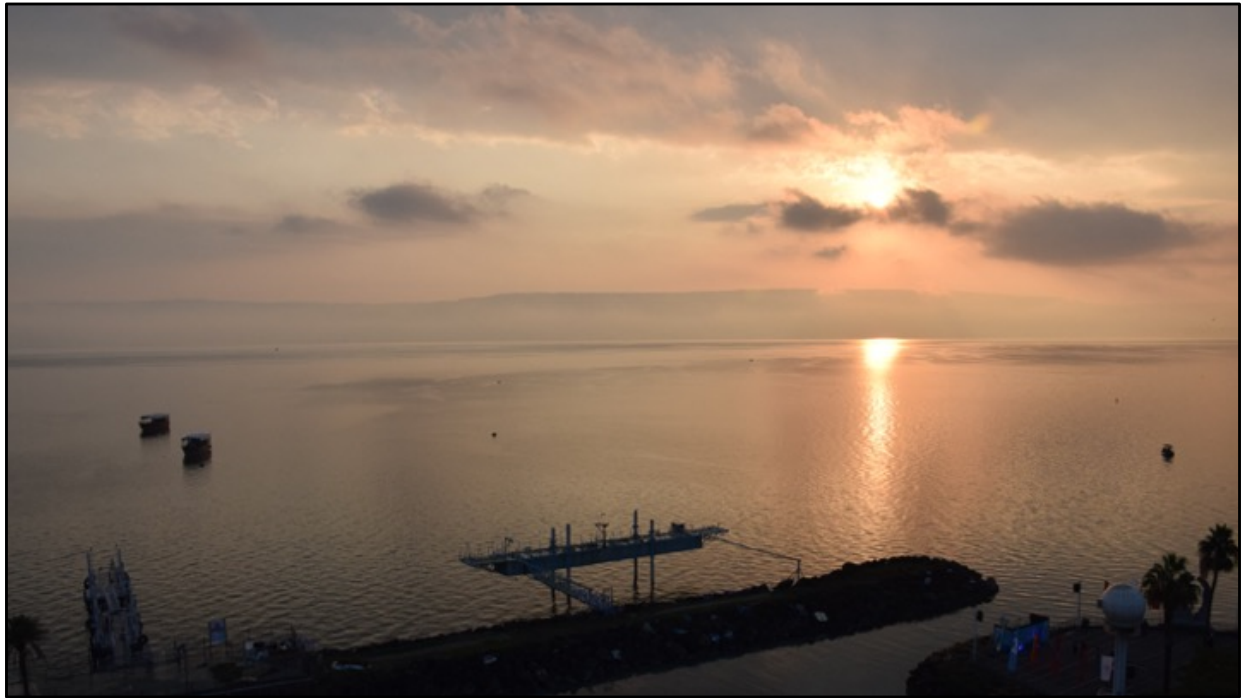


- ❧ The Sea of Galilee has a surface area of 64 square miles.
- ❧ Its maximum depth, measured in the northeast, is 157 feet.
- ❧ The lake is 13 miles from north to south and 7 miles from east to west.
- ❧ Its surface elevation was long given as 686 feet below sea level, but for decades the annual water level generally has been 6.5 to 13 feet below the traditional level.
 - ❧ The Sea of Galilee provides 40% of the fresh water to the surrounding area
- ❧ The Jordan River feeds into the Sea of Galilee from the north and flows out from the south. The sea takes water from the Jordan and then gives it to the Dead Sea.

Sea of Galilee (Cont.)



- ☞ The Sea of Galilee is known by the following names in scripture:
 - ☞ Sea of Chinnereth (Numbers 34:11; Joshua 12:3; 13:27)
 - ☞ Sea of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1)
 - ☞ Sea of Tiberias (John 6:1; 21:1)
 - ☞ Sea of Galilee (Matthew 4:18)
- ☞ The Gospels refer to the Sea of Galilee 53 times (48 times as “sea” or “Sea of Galilee”; five times as “lake”).
- ☞ Two significant events that occurred on the on the Sea of Galilee:
 - ☞ Jesus’ calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee (Matt 8:24–26; Mark 4:35).
 - ☞ Jesus’ walking on the Sea of Galilee (Matt 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–53).



View over the Sea of Galilee from our hotel room in Tiberias



Sea of Galilee from the boat dock on the north shore



View from the boat toward what was likely the land of the Gadarenes during the time of Jesus



View from the boat toward the city of Tiberias



View from the boat

Ancient Galilee Boat



- ❧ Ancient boat that was discovered at the Sea of Galilee in 1986.
- ❧ The boat is dated to the first century AD and was discovered during drought time by two men who found ancient nails sticking up through the mud.
- ❧ The extraction was completed by covering the entire boat in polyurethane foam and sailing it on the sea so that it could be extracted by a crane.
- ❧ The preservation process was extensive and took 10 years before it was ready to display.



Ancient Galilee Boat – Dated to the first century AD



Preserved using polyurethane foam as depicted in this model



Ancient boat covered in foam and floating on the Sea of Galilee

Zippori (Sepphoris)





Zippori



- ✧ Zippori was a major city in lower Galilee, four miles northwest of Nazareth.
- ✧ It is never mentioned in the Bible, but it is possible that Jesus might have come here due to its proximity to His hometown of Nazareth.
- ✧ The name of the city is derived from a word meaning bird, because it is on a hill (i.e. bird's eye view).
- ✧ The Sanhedrin moved to Zippori in the 2nd or 3rd century AD.
- ✧ The Mishnah was completed in Zippori during the 3rd century AD.



A mosaic floor from a 5th century AD synagogue.



It included elements from the temple worship such as the menorah and shofar,



A depiction of Abraham sacrificing Isaac



A zodiac featuring Helios god of the sun. This shows the influence of the Greeks and Romans on Jewish worship.



A Greek style theater from the 2nd century AD.



A residential area with many ritual baths (Mikveh) from the Roman period and beyond.



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A citadel from the period of the Crusades that was at the very peak of the hill.



View of lower Galilee from the Citadel



View of Nazareth from the Citadel



The remains of a private house from 2nd century that is called the Dionysus House. Dionysus was the Greek god of wine. This name comes from a beautiful mosaic floor that depicts Dionysus.



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The mosaic also contains a beautiful, detailed depiction of a woman's face that is known as the "Mona Lisa of Galilee." This would have been the house of a wealthy family and would have had room for 3 beds. It was destroyed by an earthquake in the 4th century AD.



A public building known as the House of the Nile River from the 5th century AD (Byzantine Period). This building has a very detailed mosaic floor that contained scenes from the Nile River.



Roman road from the 2nd century AD



Children's games carved in the road



Ruts from chariots in the road

Jordan River



Gen 13:10; Josh 3-4; 2 Kgs 2:6-8, 14, 5:9-14, 6:4-7;
Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22.



Jordan River



- ❧ Fed by four tributaries:
 - ❧ Hasbani River, Baniyas River, Dan River, and the Iyyon Stream
- ❧ The river rises on the slopes of Mount Hermon and flows southward through northern Israel to the Sea of Galilee.
- ❧ Exiting the sea, it continues south before emptying into the Dead Sea.
- ❧ The Jordan River is more than 223 miles in length, but, because its course is meandering, the actual distance between its source and the Dead Sea is less than 124 miles.
- ❧ The diversion of river water by both Israel and Jordan has significantly diminished the Jordan's flow into the Dead Sea and has been a major factor in the considerable drop in the Dead Sea's water level since the 1960s.

Jordan River (Cont.)



- ✧ The Jordan is mentioned over 180 times in the Old Testament and 15 times in the New Testament. Here are some notable highlights:
 - ✧ First mentioned in Gen 13:10: Lot admires the land “like the garden of Yahweh.”
 - ✧ Joshua leads the children of Israel across the Jordan into the Promised Land and sets up the memorial stones from the Jordan (Josh 3–4).
 - ✧ Elijah crosses the Jordan prior to his ascension (2 Kgs 2:6-8)
 - ✧ The river is prominent in Elisha’s miracles – the parting of the Jordan (2 Kgs 2:14), the healing of Naaman (2 Kgs 5:9–14), and the floating ax head (2 Kgs 6:4–7).
 - ✧ John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River (Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22).



Picture is from the northern part of the river near the Sea of Galilee.



Very popular baptismal site

Beth-Shean



Judges 1:27; 1 Sam 31:8-13; 10:8-12; 1 Kgs 4:12



Beth-Shean



- ❧ Beth-Shean is located about five miles northeast of Mt. Gilboa along the Harod Brook, where the Jezreel Valley meets the Jordan Valley.
- ❧ During the Hellenistic period, the city spread out around the Tel, eventually encompassing 400 acres. During the Hellenistic Period, the city was included in the Decapolis under the name of Scythopolis (“city of the Scythians”).
- ❧ Even though this Beth-Shean is mentioned in the Bible, most of the excavations today are from the Byzantine Period during the 4th and 5th centuries AD.

Beth-Shean (Cont.)



- ❧ The book of Joshua first mentions Beth-Shean as one of the cities of Manasseh.
- ❧ According to Judges 1:27, the city was still inhabited by Canaanites during the period of the judges.
- ❧ First Samuel records that after the Philistines killed Saul in battle at Mt Gilboa, they hung his body and those of his three sons on the walls of Beth-Shean and placed his armor in the temple of Ashtaroth (1 Sam 31:8-13). According to 1 Chronicles 10:8-12, the Philistines also hung Saul's head in the temple of Dagon.
- ❧ Beth-Shean eventually came under Israelite control, and according to 1 Kgs 4:12, it became one of King Solomon's administrative districts.



View of Beth Shean toward the ancient Tel



Pool outside of the bathhouse



A bath house that includes 3 rooms (1) hot room or sauna (2) cold room (3) cool room for transition from sauna to cold. Note the remains of pillars made of mud bricks that were used to lift up the floor. Slaves would burn wood outside through arches to heat the sauna. This was a very large structure.



A baptismal font on the back side of the bath house. The bathhouse site also functioned as a Byzantine church.



A road behind the bath house where you could see several layers or strata over the centuries. One of these layers contained intricate mosaics.



Palladius Street that was lined with columns and had an underground drainage “pipe” running under the street.



A beautiful Greek-style theater that is quite large.



Fallen columns from the earthquake in 749 AD that destroyed the city.



This Tel is comprised of 20 strata dating back to 5th millennium BC. It is likely that within one of these strata is the wall where Saul's body was hung. Today, the only significant excavation on top of the Tel is a house of the Egyptian governor from the 12th century.



View of Beth Shean from the top of the Tel



View across the Jordan Valley into the country of Jordan.

Qumran







Qumran



- ❧ Site where many of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found beginning in 1947.
- ❧ Qumran was home of the Essenes during the time of Jesus, who were one of the three Jewish sects identified by Josephus.
 - ❧ Some say that John the Baptist was a member of the Essenes but this is very unlikely
- ❧ Qumran is one of the most important archaeological sites, because the Dead Sea Scrolls contain fragments from the time of Jesus and they include representations from all books of the Old Testament, except for Esther and Nehemiah, including the entire book of Isaiah
- ❧ This discovery proves that the Old Testament we have today is essentially the same as what Jesus had during his time. The wordings / translations are very similar to what we have today.



View of the mountains at the north-end of the site



“Cave 1” at the top of the mountain at the northern end of the site where three Bedouin farmers found the first 8 clay jars in 1947 (Including the book of Isaiah). These farmers had no idea what they had found and sold them to a dealer in Jerusalem for \$16.



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Replicas of the original jars that were found in Cave 1.



“Cave 4” down in a valley at the southern end of the site where they later found 15,000 scroll fragments that made up 530 total scrolls in 1952.



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First century ritual bath (Mikveh) excavated in Qumran



First century cistern at Qumran