

Canadian Single Adult Ministry HOLY LAND JOURNEY

12 – 21 MAR. 2006

hosted by

Rev. Dr. Roy Mathison

“I look forward, with great anticipation, in returning to Israel! Even for someone who has taught the Bible for many years, the journey brings the Scriptures to life in a new way. To sail on the Sea of Galilee, sit on the Mount of Beatitudes and celebrate Communion at the Garden Tomb makes for a life changing experience. I was deeply moved in a way I did not believe possible and each subsequent visit has been a unique spiritual experience.” Rev. Dr. Roy Mathison.

Rev. Dr. Roy Mathison is the teaching Pastor at Chartwell Baptist Church, Oakville, where he has ministered for the past 25 years. Holding both the ThM and ThD degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary he is also professor of the New Testament at Tyndale Seminary, Toronto. He has taught in numerous conferences around the world, in countries such as Columbia, Kenya, Indonesia, India plus The Philippines and has led numerous journeys to The Holy Land and the surrounding countries.

Let the journey begin !

SUN. 12 MARCH: Canada to Israel.

Today we depart from Canada on our overnight flight(s) to Tel Aviv, Israel. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. (D)

MON. 13 MARCH: Tel Aviv.

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport we are met by Isaac, our Israeli Tour Manager, who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach we relax and enjoy the short journey to our overnight hotel, in Tel Aviv, **The Metropolitan**. Tonight we enjoy our ‘Welcome to Israel’ dinner. (B,D)

TUE. 14 MARCH: Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo, Nazareth.

After breakfast we will embark on our journey, which will include;

Caesarea-The ancient Roman seaport capital of Israel where Pontius Pilate had his base.

Mount Carmel- Overlooking the city of Haifa with the Mediterranean Sea and Jezreel Valley on either side we stand where the Prophet Elijah performed his miracle and called upon the fire of God to conquer the Prophets of Baal. (1 Kings 2; 15:4,25, Isaiah 33:9; Zechariah 12:12)

Megiddo-Hebrew for **Armageddon**, Megiddo was strategically located on the main trading routes between Babylonia and Egypt. Here King Solomon built a giant fortress and city. (Judges 1:27; 5:19; 1 Kings 4:12; 9:15, II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12, Revelation 16:16)

Nazareth- Here is where Jesus spent his childhood with Mary and Joseph. Nazareth is also the site of The Annunciation and where the Nazarenes attempted to throw Jesus over the cliff. Now a suburb of Nazareth, Cana, is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle when he changed water into wine at a wedding. (Luke 1:26-38, John 1:46; 2:45-46; Matthew 2:23)

Dinner will be at our Kibbutz En Gev, home for the next two nights. Overlooking the shores of the Sea of Galilee we couldn't find better surroundings ! (B,D)

WED.15 MARCH: Sea of Galilee and Boat Ride.

After our Israeli buffet breakfast our full touring day involves visits to;

Bethsaida -Also known as ‘The House of The Fisherman’ this is the home of Peter, Philip and Andrew and also the place where Jesus fed the five thousand and healed the blind man. Here we will see recent excavations of this old city. (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13; John 1)

Capernaum-The center of Jesus’ Galilee Ministry. Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. The Greek Orthodox Church, Franciscan monastery and Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter make for an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture. (Matthew 9:1; 4:13)

The Mount of Beatitudes- Sit on the hill where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Looking directly south at the Sea of Galilee the flower filled gardens offer peace and tranquility. We will Worship and have a teaching here... (Matthew 5:1-8)

Tabgha- Located at the foot of the Mt. of Beatitudes this is the site of the Miracle of The Loaves and the Fishes. Here we will enjoy private worship and intercession by the shores of the Galilee. (Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 14:14-21, 16:18-19; John 21:15-19)

Ginossar- Here we will visit the **Jesus Boat Museum** exhibit. Discovered by accident during the drought of 1986 this fishing boat would have existed at the time of Jesus. Beautifully preserved it is a timeless reminder of life during that time. The museum has a gift shop with quality items on sale!

Sea of Galilee Boat Ride- Our day ends with an unforgettable sailing on the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner, tonight, will be at our Kibbutz this evening. **(B,D)**

THU. 16 MARCH: Immersion, Beth She'an Jerusalem.

After breakfast our journey for today takes us along the shores of the Sea of Galilee to the following;
After breakfast we begin our day with the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the **River Jordan** before returning to our Kibbutz. And then leaving Galilee and travel southwards through the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem. This was the route followed by Jesus and his disciples as they traversed the dusty roads towards Jerusalem for the last time. Our first stop today is;

Beth She'an- The largest of Israel's archeological digs. Even after it's initial discovery many years ago, archeologists are, today, still discovering more ruins from the Roman era when Beth She'an was one of the 10 cities in The Decapolis. This ancient city, although destroyed by an earthquake in the 8th Century, offers a fabulous insight into Roman life and times. After losing the battle to the Philistines, King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls. (Judges 4:7-8)

After Beth She'an we head further south and pass **GILGAL** ; where Saul was proclaimed king. Gilgal became a sacred place because the tribes of Israel first encamped and celebrated Passover there after their miraculous crossing of the Jordan River and before their conquest of the Promised Land.

This afternoon we shall arrive in Jerusalem, check in to The Olive Tree Hotel and relax.

Dinner will be served at our hotel. **(B,D)**

FRI. 17 MARCH: Masada, Qumran, Ein Gedi.
After breakfast we will head into the Judean wilderness and follow the shores of The Dead Sea to visit;

Masada- This UNESCO World Heritage site was once Herod's mountain top palace and fortress. Here we ascend to the site by cable car and learn about the last Jewish stand against the Romans and the mass suicide of the 960 Jewish defenders. Teaching " Standing in the Gap for Israel" Prayer and Intercession

Ein Gedi- This national park and oasis hosts the caves of David's Gorge where David hid from Saul and his army. (I Samuel 24, Song of Solomon 1:14; Ezekiel 47:10)

Qumran- Home to the ancient Essenes. It is here that they wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls almost two thousand years ago. Here we will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and the view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947. (John 1; Luke 1:57-80; Isaiah 40)

Dead Sea- No visit to the Dead Sea would be complete without experiencing the unique buoyancy of these waters. Cover yourself in therapeutic black mud and float your aches and pains away!(Genesis 14:3;Deuteronomy 3:17 4:49; Joshua 3:16;12:3;15:2,5)
After another fascinating day we leave the Dead Sea and make our way back to Jerusalem. Dinner will be served at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

SAT. 18 MARCH: Jerusalem.

After breakfast we will spend our first full day in Jerusalem visiting;

Mount of Olives- We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound at this time with the Golden Dome of the Rock prominent. From here we shall walk down to The Garden of Gethsemane along the same path as that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday.

Garden of Gethsemane- The site where Jesus prayed at the Rock of Agony in the Garden. -"*My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.*" (Matthew 26:36-56;Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-14)

Mount Zion-Assumed by the Byzantine pilgrims as the original City of David this piece of land would have existed outside the original city walls. (II Kings 2:10; Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-38; John 13-17)

David's Tomb- Visit the stone cenotaph laid by Crusaders in the Church of the Apostles.

Upper Room- The traditional site where Jesus instituted a new Passover celebration and the new Covenant in His blood. (Mark 14:15)

Old City- Here we will walk through the streets of the Armenian and Jewish quarters of old Jerusalem

Dinner is served at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

SUN. 19 MARCH: Jerusalem. Free Time.

After breakfast we will spend our day in Jerusalem visiting;

Yad Vashem- Israel's national monument, memorial and museum to the Holocaust.

Scale Model of Jerusalem- This fabulous reconstruction of the old city of Jerusalem gives us a chance to better understand the importance of the second temple and the city during Herodian times.

This afternoon has been left free for you to peruse the shops of Jerusalem.

Dinner will be served back at the hotel. **(B,D)**

MON. 20 MARCH: Jerusalem,

After breakfast we will enjoy a relaxing day with opportunities to shop.

After breakfast our day of touring will include the following;;

Davidson Centre- This new facility uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the Temple Mount to life. This will give us a better understanding of the magnitude of Herod's construction versus what we see today.

Western Wall Tunnels- Also called The Wailing Wall. The holiest place of pilgrimage for the Jews! Here we can observe the Orthodox Jews as they pray, relentlessly, along with many

Christians. Some of us may wish to leave a hand written note placed in the crevices of the Western Wall. (I Kings 6:14; Matthew 12:6; Luke 2:46; John 2:19)

Via Dolorosa-The one mile long route through the Old City of Jerusalem from the point of condemnation by Pontius Pilate to Golgotha, Calvary Hill.

Holy Sepulcher Church- Stations X- XIV on The Via Dolorosa. This is the site of the Crucifixion of Jesus and where he was laid to rest.

Garden Tomb- Preserved by The Garden Tomb Association these beautiful gardens surround the traditional site of The Garden Tomb. Many believe that this was the actual garden of Joseph of Arimathea. (John 19:41)

*This evening we will enjoy our 'Farewell Dinner' at our hotel in Jerusalem. A wonderful time to share and reflect on what this journey has meant to you. **(B,D)***

TUE. 21 MARCH: Tel Aviv to Toronto.

Alas, this morning we check out from our hotel and take the transfer to Tel Aviv airport. Here we will say goodbye to our Tour Manager and driver. Our return flights will bring us back to Toronto in the early afternoon. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Breakfast, lunch and complimentary in-flight service will be provided. **(B,L)**

Though we have left the Holy Land it shall never leave us!

B = Breakfast. L = Lunch. D = Dinner.