

God's Faithfulness

A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary

Led by Rev. Chua Siang Guan

12 - 24 November, 2017

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. In addition, we will learn about God's work amongst believers in the land today. 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.

Monday, 11 November ETD 2010hrs on CX 675 ETA TLV 0700hrs on CX 675

Day 1: Sunday, 12 November

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE (CX 675 07:00)

After an early arrival at Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip. This morning we will have the opportunity 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. From here we will travel to the Mediterranean coast for a brief visit at the **Israel College of the Bible** in Netanya to learn of their interesting ministry. This afternoon we will check into the Gilgal Hotel in Tel Aviv which is owned by the messianic evangelist Jacob Damkani. We will have a relaxing afternoon, either resting or walking along the promenade on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Overnight: Gilgal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 2: Monday, 13 November

THE HOPE OF RESTORATION

Today we focus on the miraculous restoration of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. We begin our day in Tel Aviv at **Independence Hall** where we will learn of the growth and struggles of this tiny country immediately prior to and since her independence. 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. From here we will travel to our hotel on the **Mediterranean Coast** for dinner.

Overnight: Holiday Inn, Ashkelon, Mediterranean Coast

Day 3: Tuesday, 14 November

THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS

We will begin our day in the steps of the Patriarchs to the southern desert region called the **Negev** in the Bible (a name it still carries today). Our first stop will be **Tel Beersheva**, one of the most impressive and ancient fortified cities of the Kingdom of Judah. From here we will have the opportunity to visit a Bedouin Tent and have the opportunity for a

short camel ride. 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 4: Wednesday, 15 November

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 day at **Masada**, Herod the Great's magnificent fortress palace in the desert, and the site of the last stand of the Zealots, a Jewish revolutionary group at the time of Jesus. From Masada we drive north to the beautiful subtropical oasis of **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we can walk into the nature reserve. We may see some wildlife, including the furry rock badger and the graceful ibex. 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. Later we will travel north up the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley**, crossing the **Jordan River** before we arrive at our hotel on the shores of the **Sea of Galilee**.

Overnight: Ma'agan Holiday Village, Sea of Galilee

Day 5: Thursday, 16 November

NORTHERN ISRAEL - "Who Do Men Say That I Am?"

Today we explore Northern Israel, one of the most beautiful regions of the country. We will seek to understand what the Jewish people of 2,000 years ago expected of the Messiah, and how that was fulfilled in Jesus. We begin by climbing up to the magnificent **Golan Heights**. Our first stop is the **Dan Nature Reserve**, where we see the incredible archaeological remains of the **OT city of Dan**, including the city gate from the time of Abraham, and consider ancient Israel's apostasy. We will also enjoy a pleasant walk by a stream and discuss the meaning of "living water" in the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus' teaching. Next we will travel along the lower slopes of **Mount Hermon** - Israel's highest mountain, and the most likely site of the Transfiguration. Our next stop is **Caesarea Philippi**, in the region where Peter made his famous confession that Jesus is the Messiah. Along the way we will pass **Druze Villages** and we will stop at a lookout spot near the border with Syria and the area of the **road to Damascus** where the Apostle Paul met the Lord. Overnight: Ma'agan Holiday Village, Sea of Galilee

Day 6: Friday, 17 November

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. We will start the day at **Chorazin**, the well-preserved ruins of a typical Galilean village, where we study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. Our next stop will be 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. We may have the opportunity to enjoy a contemplative time on the shore of the Lake in the region of **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.

Overnight: Ma'agan Holiday Village, Sea of Galilee

Day 7: Saturday, 18 November

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. We continue along the route of the ancient **Via Maris** passing by **Megiddo**, one of King Solomon's cities, and according the Book of Revelation possibly the assembly point for the armies marching to the battle of Armageddon. We then travel up the coast to **Mount Carmel**, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. 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 Hotel, Netanya, Mediterranean Coast

Day 8: Sunday, 19 November

SAMARIA AND JUDEA: ANCIENT ISRAEL AND MESSIAH'S BIRTH

Today we journey into the northern homeland of the Patriarchs, of the Israelites under Joshua, and later the breakaway Kingdom of Israel. After an early visit to the Israel College of the Bible in Netanya, we will drive through biblical Samaria, in the region of Mt Gerizim and Mt. Kabir, and Shiloh, the first settled location of the Ark of the Covenant. After a tour of ancient Shiloh, we will travel through the region of Bethlehem to the **Herodion**, the burial place of King Herod with a spectacular view of the Jerusalem-Bethlehem region and beyond. Our focus will be on our roots in the Old Testament, which are vital to our understanding of the New Testament, and on Jesus' birth. 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, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 9: Monday, 20 November

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**, 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 to see 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. This evening we will have the option of taking a short walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 10: Tuesday, 21 November
Free day

Day 11: Wednesday, 22 November

IN THE STEPS OF JESUS & THE GOD OF ISRAEL who Rescues and Restores

This morning 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 drive to 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**. Time permitting, we may briefly stop at the church of St. Peter in Gallicantu to consider the events of Jesus' arrest and trials. This afternoon we study both 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 will 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. This evening we will expand our understanding of the role of the Lamb of God by celebrating a **Jewish Passover Seder meal** together, making Biblical connections to the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 12: Thursday, 23 November

FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM AND DEPARTURE

This morning we will have the opportunity to participate in a communion service at Christ Church, the oldest protestant church in the Middles East, followed by a tour of the Christ Church Heritage Center to learn about CMJ's 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people. The rest of the day is free for rest, reflection, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 13: Friday 24 November

This morning we say farewell to Jerusalem and descend through the mountains of Judea to the airport on the coastal plain to catch the flight home. ETD 1245hrs on CX 676; ETA Singapore 1155hrs on 25 November on CX 691.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *Some days involve a significant amount of walking and/or steep climbing. Every effort will be made to enable all tour members to fully participate at every site, but in some cases that may not be possible.*