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Join Rev. Ian Bailey for

# HOLY LAND 2023

January 16 – 26, 2023



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## January 16 (M) – USA to the Holy Land

Your journey begins as you depart the USA.

## January 17 (T) – Arrive Tel-Aviv

Arrive in Tel Aviv and transfer to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

## January 18 (W) – Herodion, Bethlehem - Shepherds' Field /Church of the Nativity / Dinner with a Palestinian Family

Travel to Herod's palace fortress known as the Herodion, where he was buried. In Bethlehem, gaze out over Shepherds' Field and visit the cave revered as Jesus' birthplace (Matt. 1: 18 -25). Visit the Church of the Nativity, built above the cave and considered the world's oldest functioning church. Tonight, enjoy dinner with a local Palestinian family.

## January 19 (H) – Masada /Jericho /Qumran and Dead Sea

Begin your day passing down through the Judean Wilderness to visit to intriguing Masada, the spectacular mountaintop fortress built by Herod that later became the final tragic stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. Ride the cable car to the top to explore the fortress and look down upon the remains of the Roman camps and siege ramp below. Head to Jericho to visit the ruins of the ancient city Joshua conquered (Josh. 6:20). Off in the distance, you can see the traditional site of the Temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4:1). Continue to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd. Before returning to Bethlehem, stop at the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth, for an opportunity to take a quick dip in the mineral-laden waters.

## January 20 (F) – Jacob's Well / Samaria / Tel Dothan / Valley of the Doves / Boat Ride / Ancient Boat

Today, visit modern day Nablus (ancient Shechem) and see Jacob's Well, where Christ encountered the Samaritan woman (John 4). See Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, where the Israelites recited the blessings and cursings of the Law. Continue to Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom, and home to Ahab and Jezebel. Continue past Tel Dothan, thought to be the place where Joseph found his brothers with their flocks (Genesis 37). Pass through the Valley of the Doves and see Mount Arbel (Isaiah 9:2) on your way towards the Sea of Galilee. This was a major pathway in the time of Christ. He and his disciples passed through this valley as they walked through the Galilee. Cross the waters of the Sea of Galilee on a very special boat ride, complete with an onboard worship service. At Kibbutz Nof Ginosar, see the 2,000 year old "ancient boat," a rare example of the kind of boat in which Jesus might have sailed.

## January 21 (S) – Sea of Galilee / Capernaum / Mount of Beatitudes / Church of the Loaves and Fish / Tabgha / Chapel of the Primacy / Magdala / Baptismal Site

Travel to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee. Stand in the ruins of the synagogue built on the remains of the one where Jesus taught (Matt. 4). See the other excavations, including where Peter's house is thought to have been located. Stand atop the Mount of Beatitudes, where the Sermon on the Mount took place. Stop at Tabgha (Mark 6, John 21), where the feeding of the 5,000 is remembered at the Church of the Loaves and Fish (Luke 9). Also, stop at the Chapel of the Primacy, where Peter confessed his devotion to Christ 3 times (John 21). In Magdala, once home to Mary Magdalene, visit a recently discovered first-century synagogue. Remember your baptism at the Yardenit Baptismal site, where the Jordan River exits the Sea of Galilee on its journey southward (Matt. 3). Return to your Galilee hotel for dinner and overnight.

## January 22 (U) – Caesarea Philippi / Nazareth & Mount Precipice / Mount Tabor / Jezreel Valley / Mount Carmel to Jerusalem

Journey to Caesarea Philippi, where Peter proclaimed, "You are the Christ" (Matthew 16). Visit Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus (Matthew 2: 23) and the Mount of Precipice, where an angry crowd from the synagogue attempted to throw Jesus of a cliff (Luke 5:28-30). Explore the Nazareth Village, a living presentation of the life, times, and teachings of Jesus. Recall Jesus' first miracle as you pass through Cana (John 2). View Mount Tabor, the traditional site of our Lord's transfiguration (Matthew 17 and Mark 9). Time permitting, travel to Mount Carmel and recall Elijah's dramatic victory over the prophets of Baal (I Kings 18). Then continue to Jerusalem via the Jordan River Valley.

## January 23 (M) – Mount of Olives / Garden of Gethsemane / Upper Room / St. Peter in Gallicantu

Stand on the Mount of Olives as Jesus did and enjoy a remarkable view of the "Golden City" of Jerusalem. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9 -12). Take time to pray as Jesus did among the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 18). Beneath the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, you can walk through some of the ancient rooms of the house belonging to Caiaphas the High Priest. Many believe that Jesus was held overnight here before His crucifixion (Luke 22). Stand in the Upper Room, the traditional site of the Last Supper (Mark 14).

## January 24 (T) – Southern Wall Excavations – Teaching Steps & Western Wall / Temple Mount / Pool of Bethesda / Church of Saint Anne / Herod's Antonia Fortress / Via Dolorosa / Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Walk the Cardo, the ancient main street of the Old City. Explore ancient Jerusalem at the Teaching Steps and the Western Wall. View the Temple Mount, once the site of the Temple of Solomon and home to the Dome of the Rock. View the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus performed the Sabbath miracle (John 5: 1-31). Sing a hymn in the Church of St. Anne and experience its rich acoustics. Visit Herod's Antonia Fortress, where Jesus appeared before Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:1), and follow in Christ's steps on the Via Dolorosa ("the Way of the Cross"). At the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, take time to reflect on His sacrificial love.

## January 25 (W) – Garden Tomb / Ein Karem / Nebi Samuel / Emmaus / Valley of Elah

Share communion together at the Garden Tomb in celebration of His Resurrection. Travel to Ein Karem, birthplace of John the Baptist and where Mary visited Elizabeth (Luke 1:26 -40). Visit Nebi Samuel, thought to be the burial place of the prophet Samuel. In Emmaus, recall how the resurrected Jesus appeared to two of His disciples (Luke 24:13). Journey through the Valley of Elah, where David defeated Goliath (I Samuel 17). Visit Joppa and stop at the traditional site of St. Peter's house. Enjoy dinner in this area.

## January 26 (H) – Return to the USA



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