

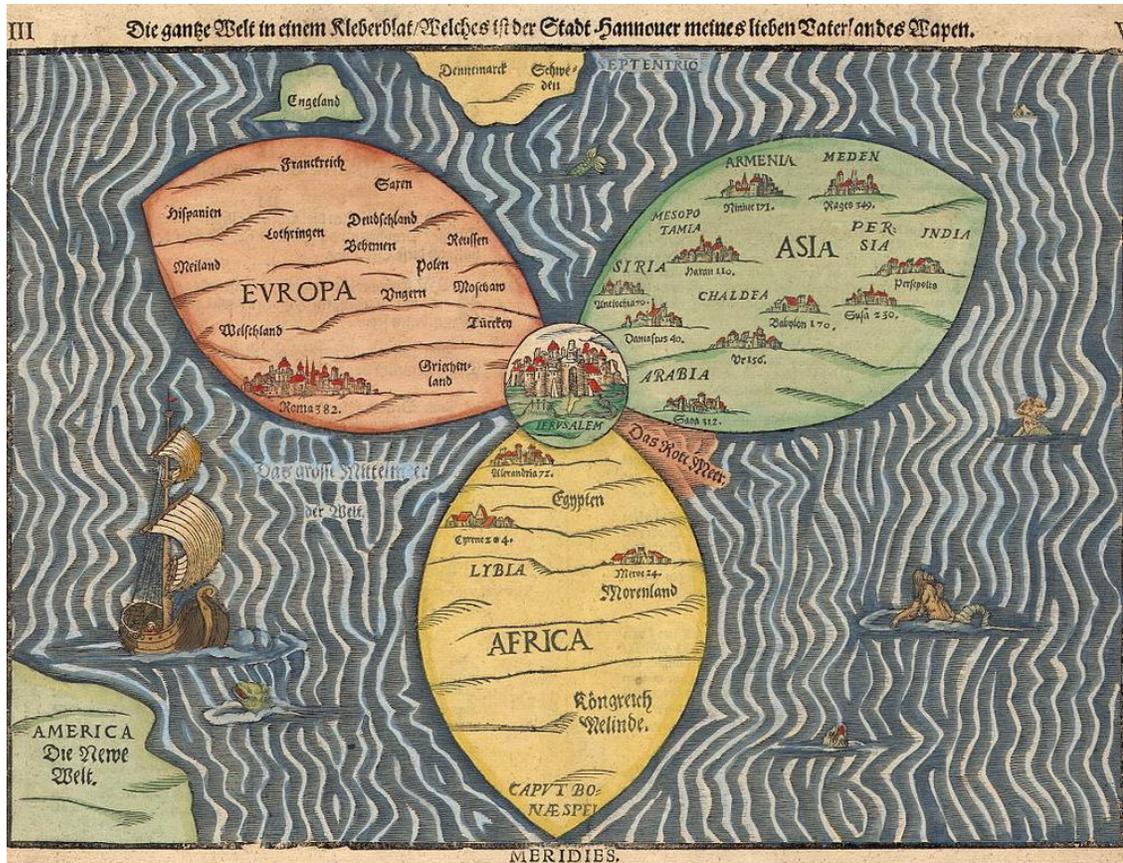


Shalom fellow traveler,

Israel . . . Land of the Bible . . . Land of Faith . . . the Holy Land, revered throughout recorded history as the cradle of monotheistic religion. For a person of faith whose beliefs are rooted in the Bible, there is no place on earth like the Holy Land. In this narrow strip of land lies the source of religious belief of much of mankind. Here, amongst the barren hills and fertile plains, man's spirit learned to soar and from here a new message went out to all the world:

“And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion (*hill next to Jerusalem*) shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 2:3)

The unique factor about the Holy Land is its special location in the World. A world map drawn in 1581 has Jerusalem at its very center with what were the then-known continents of the world surrounding it. It resembles a ship's propeller with the shaft in the center being Jerusalem.





Situated as it is, Israel straddles the divide between Africa and Asia and the area has almost always been a battleground. Wave after wave of conquerors poured into it, anxious to control the strategic trade routes linking the centers of the ancient world. The main highways were the Via Maris (the way of the sea) and the Kings Highway, as shown on the map. It's not by accident that it's virtually in the center of the world. In God's master plan of creation, He decided to place it exactly in the center of His creation. Located on a tiny land bridge between Africa and Asia, there is no other way to get between the two of them except through Israel. It's located on the crossroads of the world. Whoever wanted to trade between the two continents, or control the known world, had to conquer and control Israel. For this reason, there have been more wars and events that have taken place in Israel

than any other country on earth. God positioned Israel in its unique location in order to influence the world and be on "Centre Stage" so all the "all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." 1 Samuel 17:46.

For nearly 2,000 years, Christian visitors from all over the world have come to the Holy Land, the land of their spiritual heritage. With Bible in hand, they have walked the places Jesus walked, and prayed in the places He preached and prayed. For Christians, Israel is a place like no other. It provides them a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience the land of the Bible, to deepen their faith, and to be spiritually transformed for a lifetime. You will get to experience all of this soon as you travel on The Land of the Bible tour!



The Western Wall (Wailing Wall) plaza area with Mt of Olives in the background.

Some great sites to look forward to seeing...

Jordan River Baptisms

As part of your tour, you will visit some famous sites where Jesus preached, taught and ministered, including; Capernaum, Tabgha and Mt Beatitudes. There will also be an opportunity to get baptized in the Jordan River either as your real commitment of faith in believers' baptism or as an affirmation of your faith simply as a tourist memento.



Yardenit Baptismal Site, Jordan River

Masada - Herod's Fortress

One of the highlights of the Judean Wilderness is a visit to Masada where you can ride the cable car to the top, or for the more fit and adventurous, you can walk up the trail.

Herod the Great built a palace for himself on the mountain and fortified Masada between 37 and 31 BC. As you stand upon the top and look down toward the Dead Sea, one wonders if David wrote about God being his fortress as he passed by this magnificent rock structure in the wilderness. "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me." (Psalm 31:3)



According to Josephus, the siege of Masada by Roman troops from 73 to 74 AD, at the end of the First Jewish-Roman War, ended in the mass suicide of the 960 Sicarii rebels who were hiding there.

Western Wall Tunnel Tour

The Western Wall of the Temple Mount is one of the most magnificent and significant remnants in Jerusalem from the days of the Second Temple, destroyed approximately 2,000 years ago. The Western Wall stretches along almost half a kilometer, but today, the part visible to all at the Western Wall Plaza is a mere 70 meters of it. The tour of the Western Wall Tunnels will allow you to reach the segments of the Wall hidden from view, and to touch the original and special stones that tell the story of the Jewish nation. You will walk through ancient and fascinating subterranean spaces with exquisite archaeological findings, such as large stone arches, water pits, an ancient water aqueduct that ends at the Struthion Pool, and more.



Via Dolorosa

You will get to walk the ancient pathways that Jesus trod on the final week leading up to Calvary. Walking along the Via Dolorosa, you will be able to recall the places where Jesus was mocked by the Roman soldiers in Pilates Hall and imagine them tormenting the Savior of the world - Matthew 27:29 *"And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!"*



The House of Caiaphas



When you stand in the House of Caiaphas and see the actual steps Jesus walked up to face an unjust trial, the sobering realization of what He went through for us all will impact you.

You will be able to stand in the dungeon where Jesus was held by the High Priest in fulfillment of Psalm 88:6 *"Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps."*

The stairs Jesus walked up to Caiaphas' house

Golgotha

Golgotha (the place of the skull), is the place where they crucified our Lord.

As part of the tour, you will get to see both the traditional site of the crucifixion, and the other proposed site of Golgotha as depicted in the photo here.

This site today is a busy bus stop just outside the Damascus gate on the north of the old city of Jerusalem.



The Garden Tomb

You will walk through a garden nearby, which is another proposed site for the tomb of Jesus. It is a uniquely special time for the Christian to be able to stand inside the empty tomb!



*God Bless,
Kurt (Tour Host)*