

# The Roots of Faith

*A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary*

Hosted by Anni Douglas

Mar 14 - 25, 2019

*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.*

**Day 1: Thursday, March 14, 2019**

## **ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE**

From the airport we will journey in the steps of the Patriarchs to the southern desert region called the **Negev** in the Bible (a name it still carries today). Overnight: Leonardo Hotel, Ashkelon

**Day 2: Friday, March 15**

## **IN THE DESERT WITH THE PATRIARCHS**

After breakfast we visit **Tel Beersheva**, one of the most impressive and ancient fortified cities of the Kingdom of Judah. We will then visit the grave of **David Ben Gurion**, founder of Israel, at **Sde Boker**.

As Ben Gurion is often called a prophet, we will take time to discuss the nature of Biblical Prophecy and the role of the prophet in the biblical period and today. We will then take a short hike to a beautiful oasis in the **Zin Canyon**. Here we consider Moses disobedience in striking the rock to find water. We conclude our day travelling through the Wilderness of Paran to spectacular view over the **Ramon Crater** where we discuss the importance of Moses and the exodus from Egypt in Jewish religious thinking and its influence on Jesus and the Gospels.

Overnight: Ramon Inn, Mitzpe Ramon, Central Negev

**Day 3: Saturday, March 16**

## **OUT OF EGYPT INTO THE WILDERNESS**

We begin our day looking over the beautiful Ramon Crater, considering the true location of Sinai and study the geology of the area, and then take a short walk in the Crater where we consider what the Israelites learnt about dependence on God for provision in the Wilderness. Travelling through the **wilderness of Zin**, we visit the ancient caravan city of **Avdat** where we discover how the ancient Nabateans made the desert bloom. Next we will visit the Fountain of Tears sculptures by Rick Weineke in Arad. Time permitting we will go onto **Tel Arad**, a pre-Abrahamic major city and later an Israelite fortress. Our last stop is at a **Bedouin-style tent**. And a short camel ride before heading to the Dead Sea and later in the day we can relax in the spa at our **Dead Sea Hotel**.

Overnight: David Hotel, Dead Sea

**Day 4: Sunday, March 17**

## **THE DESERT AS A REFUGE**

We travel early along the shores of the Dead Sea to **Masada**, the most impressive desert palace-fortress built by Herod the Great. In the course of visiting the site we will consider the man Herod and how his personality casts its shadow through the New Testament. Masada is also famous as the last stronghold of the Zealot resistance against Rome. We will discuss their theology and its relevance to our understanding of Jesus' teaching. From Masada we take a short drive to **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we will walk into the nature reserve for a taste of this desert oasis.

From there, we travel to **Qumran**, site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and probably home of the Jewish sect, the Essenes. While the Essenes are not mentioned by name in the Bible, they may play a significant role in understanding parts of the New Testament. Later in the day we will travel north up the Jordan Valley, crossing the Jordan River before we arrive at our kibbutz hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Overnight: Ginnosar, Sea of Galilee

#### **Day 5: Monday, March 18**

##### **EXPLORING THE GOLAN - THE KINGDOM OF GOD & BIBLICAL NATURE IMAGERY**

Today we explore Northern Israel, perhaps the most beautiful region of the country. We begin with a pleasant walk in the **Dan Nature Reserve**, the largest source of the Jordan River. This site provides the opportunity for discussing water imagery in the Bible as well as enjoying its natural beauty. We will also see remains of the OT city of Dan and the pagan altar that was there. We'll discuss the significance of Dan's choice of this site rather than their tribal allotment on the coast. A short drive brings us to our next site, the waterfall of Banias (**Caesarea Philippi**), a possible location for Jesus' question to the disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" We continue our bus trip, ascending the lower slopes of Mount Hermon to discuss the Transfiguration. We end our day travelling along the **Golan Heights** with overlooks along the way.

Overnight: Ginnosar, Sea of Galilee

#### **Day 6: Tuesday, March 19**

##### **AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE - DAILY LIFE & RELIGION IN THE TIME OF JESUS**

Today we will focus on daily life in First Century Galilee and Jesus' teachings in light of that world. We will start the day at **Chorazin**, one of the three towns we know that Jesus frequented where we will consider the role of religion in everyday life. We proceed to the traditional site of the **Mount of Beatitudes** to consider the Sermon on the Mt. in light of the religious world of Jesus' day. Throughout the day we will discuss miracles that Jesus performed in the region, reflecting on their significance both then and now. An important stop will be **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. We will see the impressive remains and discuss Sabbath healings. After an outdoor lunch, weather permitting, we will take a **boat ride** on the Sea of Galilee and see the remarkably well-preserved remains of a Galilean fishing boat from the First Century AD. Time permitting, we will visit "the other side" of the Sea to briefly consider Jesus relationship to the non-Jewish world during the time of His ministry.

Overnight: Eshel Hashomron, Ariel, Samaria

#### **Day 7: Wednesday, March 20**

##### **SAMARIA: ANCIENT ISRAEL**

Today we journey into the northern homeland of the Patriarchs, of the Israelites under Joshua, and later the breakaway Kingdom of Israel. Sites visited will likely include **Shiloh, Mt. Gerezim, Mt. Kabir**, and an overview of **Bethel**. We will focus on our roots in the Old Testament, which are vital to our understanding of the New Testament. In the late afternoon we will enter Jerusalem, the City of the Great King. After a festive Shabbat 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 8: Thursday, March 21**

##### **JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS**

Today we explore Jerusalem on foot. In Jesus' day, the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life. We will visit the **Temple Mount**, the **Western Wall** place of prayer and the tunnels along the western foundation, and the **excavations at the Southern base** of the Temple Mt. In the rebuilt Jewish quarter of the Old City, we will visit the mansions of the wealthy class in the First Century and discuss

the lifestyle of the Sadducees, the Jerusalem priesthood, and how Jesus related to them. This evening we will have a special guest speaker, Ruth Fazal.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

**Day 9: Friday, March 22**

**FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM**

Today day is free for rest, relaxation, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

**Day 10: Saturday, March 23**

**IN THE STEPS OF JESUS - CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL & RESURRECTION**

We begin our day with a tour of the Christ Church Heritage Centre, to learn about CMJ's the amazing history of ministry to the Jewish people. Next we continue to an overlook of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives** and a view of a tomb from the time of Jesus. We descend the Mount of Olives on foot stopping at **Dominus Fleuit** (Our Lord wept) church and the Church of All Nations, the church that remembers Jesus' prayer in the **Garden of Gethsemane**. At these sites we will look carefully at the biblical passages concerning Jesus' last week in Jerusalem in order to understand the political and religious dynamic that resulted in the crucifixion. We will also visit **St. Peter in Gallicantu church**, the possible site of the High Priest's prison where Jesus may have been held. In the afternoon we will visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, a likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We end our tour with a reflective time at the **Garden Tomb**, the other possible site of Jesus' burial and resurrection.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

**Day 11: Sunday, March 24**

**WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH & RACHEL WEeping FOR HER CHILDREN**

In the morning, we are invited to join the worship service at **Christ Church** (optional). Then we will leave the Old City and travel **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 prior to and during this period of time. There we will also visit the Children's memorial and discuss the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish Christian relations today. In the 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: Monday, March 25**

**DEPARTURE**

We will descend through the Judean hills to the airport for our flights home.

***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 tour members to fully participate at all sites, but in some cases that may not be possible*