**The Roots of Faith**

 **“Living Stones Israel Tour”**

***A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary***

***Hosted by Marie Fowler- All Glorious Within Ministry***

***March 31 – April 12, 2019***

*In the steps of the ancient people of Israel and Jesus the Messiah, we'll travel from the Sinai wanderings, through the heartland of Israel, and up north to the source of the Jordan River. The whole of the Land will become our spiritual classroom as we seek to understand God’s message to His people, both in those ancient days and our own.*

**Day 1 Sunday, March 31, 2019**

**ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE**

We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, where we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip.

**Afternoon or Evening Arrival: DINNER & REST**

From the airport we will travel to our hotel on the **Mediterranean Coast**. Time permitting, we may have an opportunity to stroll on the beach or swim before dinner. Later we will have a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and prayer.

Overnight: Leonardo Hotel, Ashkelon, Mediterranean Coast

**Day 2 Monday, April 1**

**IN THE DESERT WITH THE PATRIARCHS**

This morning we will travel to the **Valley of Elah (Judah)**, the location of the battle between David and Goliath. We continue our journey in the steps of the Patriarchs to the southern desert region called the **Negev (Simeon)** in the Bible (a name it still carries today). Here we visit **Tel Beersheva (Simeon)**, one of the most impressive and ancient fortified cities of the Kingdom of Judah. Our last stop of the day is **Tel Arad (Judah)**, a pre-Abrahamic major city and later an Israelite fortress. Time permitting, we will have a short **camel ride** before dinner at our accommodation in Bedouin-style tents or relax in the spa at our **Dead Sea** hotel. Overnight: Ein Gedi Dead Sea Spa Hotel

**Day 3 Tuesday, April 2**

**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 (Judah)**, Herod the Great’s magnificent fortress palace in the desert, and 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 (Judah)****,* where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we can walk into the nature reserve and possibly to the waterfalls. We may see some wildlife, including the furry rock badger and the graceful ibex. We will also discuss the temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. 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. Overnight: Ein Gedi Dead Sea Spa Hotel

**Day 4 Wednesday, April 3**

**THE JORDAN VALLEY – “In the World But Not of It”**

Today we leave the desert and journey north up the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley** to the Sea of Galilee. We will study the cultural tensions that existed at the time of Jesus, both between Greco-Roman culture and Jewish culture (and later the early church), and also between the Jewish religious establishment of the day and various spiritual reformers. Passing by the region of **Jericho** **(Ephraim)–** the oldest and lowest city on earth, we come to the **Jordan River (Crossing over into Habitation- 12 Tribes),** where we will discuss the ministry of John the Baptist and his relationship with Jesus. *If the tour leader wants to do baptisms, the group can visit a baptismal site on the Jordan River.* Conditions permitting, we will have dip in the beautiful spring fed pools at **Sachne**, near the base of **Mt. Gilboa**. Our final stop of the day will bethe Biblical city of **Beit Shean** **(Manasseh)** to examine the visually impressive excavations of its Roman-Byzantine period when it was one the ten Hellenistic cities of the Decapolis. From here we continue to our hotel near the **Sea of Galilee.**Overnight: Leonardo Hotel, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee

**Day 5 Thursday, April 4**

**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** **(Naphtali)**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. At lovely **Tabgha**, which commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fish, and where Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection, we will enjoy a contemplative time on the shore of the Lake. 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. After dinner we will meet with a local believer.

Overnight: Leonardo Hotel, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee

**Day 6 Friday, April 5**

**NORTHERN ISRAEL – “Who Do Men Say That I Am?”**

Today we explore Northern Israel **(Naphtali & Dan II)**, 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**. We will visit a reconstructed Talmudic village at **Katzrin,** where we will take another close look at life in New Testament times and the use of everyday imagery in Scripture. 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** before coming to **Mt. Bental**, a lookout spot near the border with Syria and the area of the **road to Damascus** where the Apostle Paul met the Lord. Our final stop is the **Dan** **Nature Reserve (Dan II)**, 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. Overnight: Leonardo Hotel, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee

**Day 7 Saturday, April 6**

**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 (Zebulun),** Jesus’ boyhood home and place of His early ministry. We continue along the route of the ancient **Via Maris** to **Megiddo (Manasseh)**, 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 to **Mount Carmel**, (**Gad**) with a spectacular view over the North of Israel, 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 (Manasseh)**, 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. At the end of the day we will travel to our hotel on the Mediterranean Coast and have the opportunity to stroll on the beach. Overnight: HaSharon Hotel, Herzliya, Mediterranean Coast

**Day 8 Sunday, April 7**

**JAFFA, SUCCAT HALLEL, CITY OF DAVID**

This morning we will visit the ancient port of **Jaffa (Asher)**, the point from which Jonah tried to escape his calling to warn the people of Nineveh and location of Simon the Tanner’s house. Next, we will make the final ascent to **Jerusalem (Judah/Levi/Benjamin)** – the City of the Great King. Here we will be able to visit the **Temple Institute** before visiting the place where it all began – the **City of David**. Here we will learn about King David’s conquest of the Jebusite city and walk through **Hezekiah’s Tunnel** to the **Pool of Siloam**. After dinner we will be treated to a short stroll for a **rooftop panorama of the Old City** and talk with the Director of Shoresh Study Tours.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

**Day 9 Monday, April 8**

**FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM**

Today is free for rest, reflection, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City. *Shoresh will provide a list of interesting options for those who want to explore on their own.* Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

**Day 10 Tuesday, April 9**

**JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS – The Temple at the Center and VISIT TO MINISTRIES**

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** (conditions permitting), 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 complete our morning at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked. In the afternoon, we will visit the prayer center of Succat Hallel as well as the ministry of Reuven Prager. Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

**Day 11 Wednesday, April 10**

**IN THE STEPS OF JESUS – Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection**

Today 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 with 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**. Next we cross the **Kidron Valley** and enter the Old City through **Stephen’s Gate**, stopping to examine the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda.** From here we walk tothe **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We end our tour with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus’ burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb**.

Overnight: Neve Ilan

**Day 11 Thursday, April 11**

**THE RESTORATION OF HOPE – A Garland Instead of Ashes**

Today we study both a 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. After breakfast, we will enjoy a tour of the **Christ Church Heritage Centre** to learn about CMJ’s 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people. Next we 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. From here we take the short drive to **Bethlehem (Benjamin)**, where we will visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the probable site of the birth of Jesus, and the **“Shepherd’s Fields”** where the angels heralded the advent of Messiah. Overnight: Neve Ilan *(For those groups with a late-night flight, rooms will be held until departure for the airport.)*

**Day 13 Friday, April 12**

**TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**

**Early Morning Departure: Straight Home**

We say farewell to Jerusalem and descend through the mountains of Judea to the airport on the coastal plain to catch the flight home.

**IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:**

* ***Most days on this itinerary involve a regular amount of walking and/or climbing. Therefore, this trip cannot generally accommodate those who have significant difficulty with climbing stairs or walking a half a mile at a time. Please be in contact with the trip leaders if you have any concerns about this.***
* ***Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.***
* ***It is mandatory for each participant to have travel insurance to cover medical costs or trip cancellations.***