



The tour includes

- Meeting and assistance upon arrival to & departure from Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv (if you arrive at the designated time for everyone).
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Breakfast, lunch, & dinner daily
- Farewell dinner in hotel

The tour does not include

- Expenses of a personal nature; hotel “extras”, drinks, telephone calls, etc.
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Bus and Staff tips
- Visit to Nazareth Village
- Boat ride on Sea of Galilee(?)
- Travel or medical insurance
- Passport fees (expiration date must be six months after return date)
- Transportation to and from the airport in USA

Historical & Geographical Tour of Israel

With option to Dig at Shiloh!

June 10-27, 2017



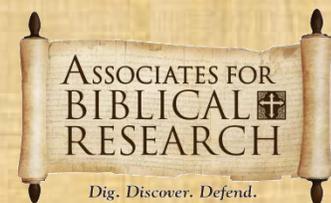
Open to anyone interested in Israel and the Bible!

Student option for FTS Seminary credit: Historical/Geographical Tour of Israel (3 credits): This course supports SC 3143 Biblical Archaeology, OT 6115 Historical and Geographical Studies of Israel, and OT 9103 Historical Geography and Archaeology of Israel. In Israel, students attend preparatory sessions designed to integrate assignments with daily field studies to understand the geography and culture of ancient Israel until the time of Christ.

ASSOCIATES FOR BIBLICAL RESEARCH

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Dates & Costs of Israel Tour and Archaeological Dig

The price per person is based on the number of people who commit to going, with three possible options:

Option 1: Tour (arrival June 17- departure June 27)

- 15-24 participants: 11 days, 10 nights. Double occupancy, 3 meals (boxed lunch), and bus
- **Total ground cost = \$1984** (1500 retail, apx 400 in cash for park entrance fees, bus and staff tips for entire trip = \$44)
- Airfare estimates to Tel Aviv (booked well in advance) = **\$900-\$1200**

Option 2: Tour (arrival June 17- departure June 27)

- 25 or more participants. 11 days, 10 nights. Double occupancy, 3 meals (boxed lunch), and bus
- **Total ground cost = \$1784** (1300 retail, 400 per day in cash for park entrance fees, bus and staff tips for entire trip = \$44)
- Airfare estimates to Tel Aviv (booked well in advance) = **\$900-\$1200**

Option 3: Archaeological dig of ancient [Shiloh](#) [click] and tour): (dig June 10-17 and tour June 18-28)

- Tour participants (see option 1 and 2 above) who wish to come early and join the Shiloh Excavation would get a 10% discount off the regular one week rate for the archaeological dig of \$1050. Total= **\$945**

Deposit due by Jan 2: \$750 (\$250 for airfare and \$500 for ground-costs) per person with reservation. Final payment due date for airfare is April 30. Final payment due-date for ground-costs (and/or dig) is April 30. The airfare deposit is non-refundable after April 1. The ground-cost deposits are to be considered non-refundable to the extent that we must cover any deposit monies, minus an administration fee. For payments in full, monthly, or quarterly, contact the FTS Business Office. Policies are subject to change.

A Travel Meeting for all interested parties will be held at the Seminary [date TBD]. Deposits will be required for all committed to go. Please RSVP to the Seminary at s.hague@fts.edu.

TOUR LEADER

Historical & Geographical Tour of Israel

Dr. Scott Stripling is the Provost and Professor of Biblical Archaeology and Church History at The Bible Seminary and the Director of the Shiloh Excavations, and was the Director of the Khirbet el-Maqatir Excavations from 2014-2016. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Houston Baptist University (Bible) and The Bible Seminary (Church History). Scott has



earned two Master's degrees (English & Biblical Literature) as well as a D.Min., with an emphasis in Ancient Near Eastern archaeology. He pastored for two decades and has written and spoken publicly on a variety of ministry, archaeology, education, and public policy issues. Previously, he worked as a Field Supervisor at the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project in Jordan and for two seasons as a supervisor at the Temple Mount Salvage Operation in Jerusalem. Articles recently published include: *Have We Walked in the Footsteps of Jesus? Exciting New Possibilities at Khirbet el-Maqatir*, Khirbet el-Maqatir: A Biblical Site on the Benjamin–Ephraim Border, Those Indefatigable Byzantines, Maqatir Monastery Money, Livias: A Lost City, Is Tall el-Hammam on the Madaba Map? Scott's book, *The Trowel and the Truth*, has been adopted as an archaeology textbook by several Universities.

**FAITH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
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**Historical-Geographical Tour Itinerary (subject to
change)**

June 17-27, 2017

Day 1 Our journey begins as we board our flight and depart for the Promised Land.

Day 2 Upon arrival at **Ben Gurion** International Airport in Tel Aviv, we will be met by our tour leader and coach driver. We then drive to **Jaffa** (Joppa), the ancient seaport from which the Prophet Jonah fled from God (Jonah 1:2), and the city where Peter stayed with Simon the Tanner and restored Tabitha (Dorcas) to life (Acts 9:36-43). Afterwards, we go to our Jerusalem hotel for check-in and dinner.



Day 3 This morning we visit **Caesarea**. It was here that Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized (Acts 10). It was also here that Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome (Acts 25 & 26). We continue on to **Megiddo**, a city with a long and important biblical history.



Then we proceed to **Nazareth**, to see the Church of the Annunciation and visit Nazareth Village. We go on via **Cana**, commemorating Jesus' transformation of water into wine.

Day 4 After breakfast we drive to the World Heritage Site of **Tel Hazor**. Tel Hazor is a testimony to a civilization that has disappeared – that of the Canaanite cities of the Bronze Age and the biblical cities of the Iron Age manifest in its expressions of creativity: town planning, fortifications, palaces, and water collection technologies. It was the largest fortified area in Israel during the Israelite period (ninth century B.C.E.). On our return to Jerusalem, we



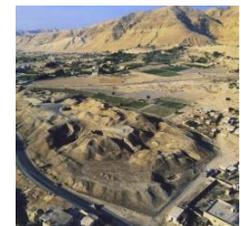
will stop at Shechem to see the massive Middle Bronze fortifications and the city gate from the Judges period, visit the traditional tomb of Joseph, and drive to the top of Mount Gerizim for a spectacular view of the valley below. We will easily be able to picture Joshua's covenant renewal speech. Heading south from Shechem, we will see the archaeological site of Shiloh where ABR is presently digging. Shiloh is a major historical site where Israel set up the Tent of Meeting and the Ark, and where Joshua divided the land among the tribes. It became the leading center of Israelite worship during the pre-monarchic period until David moved it to Jerusalem.



Day 5 Our morning begins with reflections on the **Mount of Beatitudes** (where Jesus taught on the blessings) and experience a breathtaking view of the over the Sea of Galilee. We enter the 2,000 year old remains of **Capernaum** (Lk. 4:31- 37) and stand in what is left of the synagogue in which our Lord ministered and see Peter's house. We visit the traditional site where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7). We continue to **Bethsaida** across the Jordan River, to the north of the lake. Here, there are the remains of a street and fisherman's home from the time of Jesus as well as the biblical walled city of **Geshur**. We then visit the 2000 year ancient boat and enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and drive to the **Jordan Valley** and stop at the ancient Israelite city of **Beit She'an**. It is here where the Philistines hung Saul and his sons after their defeat at the battle on **Mount Gilboa**. During the time of Jesus, this area became one of the ten cities of the Roman Decapolis, and there is an archeological site to view. You will be able to view the Mountains of Ammon and of Moab in Jordan.



Day 6 Jordon and Jerusalem. We visit the traditional site of John's baptisms at **Qasr El Yahud**. Our next stop is **Jericho**, the ancient Canaanite city destroyed by the power of God (Josh. 5-6). It is the oldest known inhabited city in the world. It was in Jericho that Jesus encountered Zacchaeus (Lk. 19). Waters from





the Spring of Elisha (II Ki 2) are also in this area. We then visit **Khirbet el-Maqatir** believed to be the location of the Biblical **Ai** of Joshua. After a short drive we arrive at **Qumran**, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and the home of the ancient Essene community.

Day 7 Our first stop is the **Mt. of Olives** (Lk. 19:28-40 & II Sam. 15:30-36). We see olive trees that date back to the time of Christ, the site of the Ascension (Acts 1) and take time to pray in the **Garden of Gethsemane** (Matt. 26:36-56). Then we proceed to **Bethlehem**; visit **Church of the Nativity, Shepherd Fields**, and **Mt. Herodion**. Drive to the **Elah Valley** where the battle of David and Goliath took place. Then on to **Tel Maresha**, the highest city in the Judean Lowlands. It was fortified by King Rehoboam of Judah following the campaign to the region of the Egyptian Pharaoh Shishak: “And Rehoboam. . . built cities for defense in Judah . . . Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph” (2 Chron. 11:5-8). Next is **Tel Gath** where the excavations at Gath allow the tel its part of the tale. The view from the top of the mound shows the region where the two groups of newcomers clashed. To the west lay the coastal plain and present-day Ashdod, and to the east, the Judean mountains. This is the arena of many biblical stories, among them the exploits of Samson, the return of the Ark to Bet Shemesh, and David’s battle with Gath’s notorious native son – Goliath.

Day 8 We begin the day at the **City of David & Hezekiah’s Tunnel** where we will see one of the most exciting archeological sites of the ancient world. We will also see the Pool of Siloam. We emerge at the Davidson Center where we will see a 3D model of the Temple and the southern wall excavations. Then we proceed to **Mt. Zion** on the south side of Jerusalem, King David’s city. We sing praises in the Upper Room (Lk. 22:7-38), view the traditional tomb of King David, and proceed to Caiaphas’, the High Priest, house (Jn. 18), where we walk through some of the ancient rooms. The day will come to an end at the **Israel Museum** to see a scale model of Jerusalem and/or visit the **Bible Lands Museum**.



Day 9 We depart early for **Masada**, the spectacular mountaintop fortress built by Herod, which is famous for being the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. From the top of Masada, the Roman camps and siege ramp can still be seen. Stop at **Ein Gedi**. See the waterfalls at this oasis in the desert, which is mentioned several times in the Book of Psalms, the place where King David hid from King Saul. The combination of Ein Gedi’s abundance of water and tropical climate provides wonderful exotic plant and animal life. We continue to the shores of the Dead Sea to feel the saltiest water on earth as we float in the mineral filled water.

Day 10 Our final day begins as we see a part of Herod’s temple and pray at the **Western Wall**. We walk up onto the original **Temple Mount** platform where King Herod’s temple stood and visit the Dome of the Rock. We walk through the **Old City**, visiting the Pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5), and viewing the shops and the unique way of life that these ancient customs and lifestyles have maintained. We proceed to **Pilate’s Judgment Hall** in the Fortress of Antonia (Jn. 18:28—19:26). We see the games of the soldiers still etched in its stone floor, sense the agony of Christ’s crucifixion at the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** (Lk. 23:50—24:12). Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner before returning to our hotel for overnight.



Day 11 We drive to the airport for our return home.



Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription (price is based on minimum number of travelers). In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client.

Responsibility:

No officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall under any circumstances be liable to the client under or by reason of this agreement directly or indirectly for any accidents, injury, delay, damage, or inconvenience caused to the client by negligence of others, by malfunctions of transportation systems or equipment, by acts of war, terrorism, or rebellion, strikes, theft, itinerary changes, extreme weather conditions, or cancellations, and the client hereby releases the above mentioned corporation and persons from any and all such liability. The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The

passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice.

Air transportation is via special, nonrefundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client. Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

Currency: Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy: All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date.

RESERVATION FORM is available online at or call the Business office of FTS. You may also contact ABR with questions and to submit the reservation form.