Explore the Holy Land

Trip Itinerary

Friday, Sept. 24th **TEXARKANA DFW**

Morning transfer by private motor coach from Texarkana to DFW. There we will board our American Airlines flight to Chicago. We will have some time to eat and shop at the airport before we board our overnight United Airlines flight to Tel Aviv.

Saturday, Sept. 25th **TEL AVIV HADERA**

Arrive at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport at 1:25pm. After clearing customs and immigration, we will meet our expert Israeli tour guide, Pilar, who is a Messianic Jew. Then we will transfer to Hadera (located on the Mediterranean Coast, 30 miles north of Tel Aviv) and check-in to our hotel. Free time after dinner.

Dinner **Ramada Hadera Hotel**

Sunday, Sept. 26th **CAESAREA MEGIDDO NAZARETH**

This morning we will visit **Caesarea**, a city built by Herod the Great to serve as his port. He also constructed a theater which held 3,500 people.
Mt. Carmel, 1791 ft high – the spot where Elijah challenged 450 prophets of Baal to see who could first light the sacrifice on the altar by fire.
The spacious **Jezreel Valley** spreads out to the north and east from Mount Carmel, providing convenient passage for international travelers in ancient times. The fertile alluvial soil makes this the country's breadbasket as well. The Bible speaks of the gathering of armies in this valley as the place of Armageddon.

Then to **Megiddo,** in a strategic location astride the Megiddo Pass and inside the busy **Jezreel Valley.** The modern road follows the ancient one. North of the Jezreel Valley and nestled in a circle of cypress-studded hills, **Nazareth** was a relatively isolated village in the time of Jesus' youth with a population of less than two hundred. Visit the **Basilica of the Annunciation**, the largest Christian Church in the Middle East which is said to mark the grotto where the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Virgin Mary. Today Nazareth is home to more than 60,000 Israeli Arabs and home to thousands of Jewish residents.

Cana is celebrated as the scene of Jesus' first miracle. It's actually the place of his first two public miracles in Galilee — the changing of water into wine and the remote healing of an official's son in Capernaum (19 miles away). Galilee (primarily the mountainous region of Israel) is one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Situated in the north, it is characterized by its lush landscape with agriculture, amazing natural landforms, historic sites and quaint rural villages.

Breakfast **Sea of Galilee Hotel** **Dinner**

Monday, Sept. 27th **GALILEE**

Boat trip-Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mt of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Jordan River

Today we will enjoy several memorable highlights of our trip. We will sail to Capernaum across the **Sea of Galilee** that Jesus calmed with His word. The highlight is when the captain cuts the motor and we're surrounded by landscapes sacred for thousands of years. In our wooden boat, resembling the ancient ones, we feel we've gone back to a time when people depended on wind and waves for their livelihood and their miracles. Here, Jesus walked on the water (John 6:19-21), calmed a storm (Matt. 8:23-26), and showed the disciples miraculous catches of fish (Luke 5:1-8; John 21:1-6).

While in **Capernaum,** the center of Jesus' activities during his ministry, we will visit the ruins of an ancient synagogue where Jesus most likely taught. We'll continue to the **Mount of Beatitudes**, site of the Sermon on the Mount and also the site of the miracle of the loaves and fish.

Tabgha - The Church of the Multiplication is believed to occupy the site where Christ performed His miracle with two fish and five loaves. This day could be one of the highlights of our lives as we will have the choice to renew our vows to God as those who choose to be baptized in the **Jordan River** may do so. It is the site where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. More than half a million tourists and pilgrims flock to this holy site each year, many to be baptized in its hallowed waters. There are 12 baptismal pools (visitors may rent white baptismal robes in order to enter the pools), as well as utilize changing rooms, and hot showers. Additional highlights include a waterfront promenade, a restaurant and a gift shop, where it's possible to buy souvenirs including holy water and stones from the River Jordan.

Breakfast **St. Peter's Fish Lunch** **Dinner** **Sea of Galilee Hotel**

Tuesday, Sept. 28th UPPER GALILEE

Tel Dan Caesarea Phillipi Golan Heights Mt. Bental

Today we drive to **Upper Galilee** and visit **Tel Dan**, a nature reserve and the source of the Dan and Jordan Rivers. It is an impressive archaeological site with unique remains of the Canaanite and Israelite cities and a Biblical High Place. At **Caesarea Phillipi,** Jesus turned to his disciples and asked them who the multitudes thought He

was. They responded that some thought he was John the Baptist, others Elijah, but still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asked them who they thought he was and Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matt. 16:15-16). Jesus blessed Peter and revealed to them "upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). We then visit the **Golan Heights,** referred to as "Bashan;" the word "Golan" derives from the biblical city of "Golan in Bashan" (Deut. 4:43, Josh. 21:27). This area was assigned to the tribe of Manasseh (Josh. 13:29-31). **Mt. Bental** is only 40 minutes from Tiberias and overlooks Syria; a great place to visit if you are curious about the Arab-Israeli conflict or want to take in an amazing view!

Breakfast Dinner Sea of Galilee Hotel

Wednesday, Sept. 29th BEIT SHE'AN JORDAN RIVER VALLEY

This morning, we visit **Beit She'an**, the excavations of one of the largest Roman cities in the world. It's strategic position in the fertile Beit She'an Valley made it one of the major cities in the Land of Israel. Drive through the Jordan River Valley and the West Bank past **Jericho -** administrative control was handed over to the Palestinian Authority in 1994.

Jericho is believed to be one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world and the city with the oldest known protective wall in the world.

In the desert along the banks of the Jordan River on the border with Jordan, we find the baptismal site of Qasr al-Yahu, the site where according to tradition, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Then the beautiful drive up to Jerusalem where we can view the city from Mt. Scopus.

Breakfast **Dinner** **Dan Jerusalem Hotel**

Thursday, Sept. 30th JERUSALEM

Free Morning **Jewish Quarter, Western Wall, the Temple**

The morning is free to sleep late, rest and relax, walk around and maybe shop a little. In the afternoon we will drive to the **Jewish Quarter.**

The Jewish Quarter is one of four traditional quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem. This 28 acre area lies in the southeastern sector of the

walled city, and stretches from the Zion Gate in the south, along the Armenian Quarter on the west, up to the Street of the Chain in the north and extends to the Western Wall and the Temple Mount in the east. In the early 20th century, the Jewish population of the Quarter reached 19,000 and is now inhabited by 2,000 residents.

The **Cardo** was Jerusalem's main street 1500 years ago. In its day, the Cardo was an exceptionally wide colonnaded street running through the heart (or cardo) of the city on a north-south axis. Today the Cardo is one of the key attractions in the Jewish Quarter. A section of the Cardo has been reactivated as a shopping street, full of arts and various special goods.

Herodian Quarter is the quarter of the priests, the wealthy and important residents of Jerusalem, where the houses of the priests who served in the Second Temple were discovered, containing beautiful mosaics, warehouses, and ritual immersion baths – all in one place. The site is underground.

Herod's Palace in Jerusalem was built in the 1st century BC by Herod I. The towers have been found in the present Citadel courtyard. The camp of the Tenth Legion was in the area of the palace ruins, a camp which covered the entire Western Hill.

We will visit the **Western Wall**, **the Temple area** and the colorful bazaars. We will stand on the very steps that Jesus walked to enter the Temple and will see where 3,000 were baptized in one day. The Western Wall is also known as the **Wailing Wall.** When Rome destroyed the Second Temple in 70 BC, the Western Wall was the only outer wall that remained standing.

Southern Steps of the Temple Known to Christians as the "Teaching Steps", the steps at the southern end of the Temple Mount are believed to be where Jesus would often teach when he was in Jerusalem. These steps led to the Hulda Gate which was the primary entrance to the Temple Mount in the time of Christ.

Breakfast Dinner Dan Jerusalem Hotel

Friday, Oct. 1st MASADA EIN GEDI QUMRAN DEAD SEA

Masada, a rugged natural fortress of majestic beauty, in the Judaean Desert overlooking the Dead Sea between Sdom and Ein Gedi, is a symbol of the ancient kingdom of Israel. Masada was Herod's royal citadel and later the last outpost of Zealots during the Jewish Revolt. The citadel was the site of the most dramatic and symbolic act in Jewish history, where rebels chose mass suicide rather than submit to Roman capture.

Ein Gedi is the largest oasis along the western shore of the Dead Sea near the Caves of Qumran. Also known as Tel Goren, the springs here have allowed nearly continuous inhabitation of the site. The area was allotted to the tribe of Judah, and was famous in the time of Solomon (Josh. 15:62).

The **Dead Sea,** unlike the Sea of Galilee to the north, does not figure prominently in the biblical narratives. Its most important role was as a geographical barrier, blocking traffic to Judah from the east.

Qumran is an archaeological site in the West Bank located on a plateau near the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 11 caves there from 1947 – 1956.

Breakfast Dinner Dan Jerusalem Hotel

Saturday, Oct. 2nd NEW JERUSALEM BETHLEHEM

This morning we will view the **Knesset,** Israel's unicameral parliament which is the country's legislative body. The Knesset took its name and fixed its membership at 120 from the representative Jewish council convened in Jerusalem by Ezra and Nehemiah in the 5th century BC.
Then to the **Israel Museum** which was founded in 1965 as Israel's national museum. **The Shrine of the Book** is a wing of the museum which houses manuscripts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. The **2nd Temple Period Model** is also located in the museum.

Yad VaShem Memorial is Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. It is dedicated to preserving the memory of the dead; honoring Jews who fought against their Nazi oppressors and Gentiles who selflessly aided Jews in need. Established in 1953, Yad Vashem is on the western slope of Mount Herzl, also known as the Mount of Remembrance. We depart Jerusalem and view

Bethlehem. Visiting there is not an easy journey these days as it is in Palestinian Territory. There, the **Church of the Nativity** is revered as the place where Jesus was born (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7). The church, which was constructed on the site, is the world's oldest functioning church. Nearby we'll view **Shepherds' Field** where the Good News was first heard.

Breakfast Dinner Dan Jerusalem Hotel

Sunday, Oct. 3rd CITY of DAVID Mt. ZION CAIPHAS' HOUSE

This morning we are on our own to rest, relax or sleep late. In the afternoon we will visit the City of David Archeological Site, then to **Mount Zion** for a visit to the **Tomb of David** and the **Upper Room** where we remember the Last Supper and the Fire of Pentecost. Mount Zion is a hill just outside the western wall of the Old City. The term Mount Zion has been used in the Bible for the City of David (2 Sam. 5:7, 1 Chron. 11:5; 1 Kings 8:1, 2 Chron. 5:2) and for the Temple Mount.

Caiphas' House (St. Peter of Gallicantu), the condemned cell where Jesus was held. Appreciate the modern chapels with lovely paintings and don't miss outside the steps where Jesus walked to this place which is built over the house of Caiphas, the high priest. This is where Peter denied Christ three times before the cock crowed.

Breakfast Dinner Dan Jerusalem Hotel

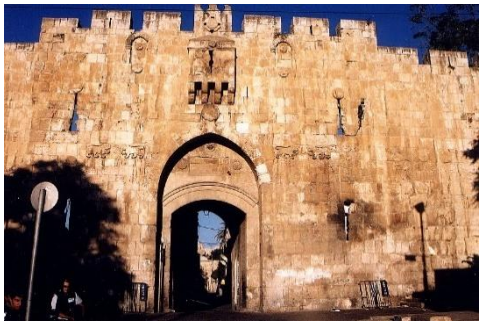
Monday, Oct. 4th THE OLD CITY of JERUSALEM

Mount of Olives Garden of Gethsemane Via Dolorosa Garden Tomb

Jesus often traveled over the **Mount of Olives** on a walk from the Temple to **Bethany**. He also went there to pray or to rest. He went down the mount on his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, weeping on his way over the city's future destruction (Luke 19:29-44). In a major address to his disciples on the mount, he foretold his Second Coming (Matt. 24:27-31). He prayed there with his disciples the night before he was arrested (Matt. 26:30-56).
He ascended into heaven from there (Acts 1:1-12).

This morning, near the foot of the Mount of Olives, we will pray at the **Garden of Gethsemane** and worship nearby in the **Church of the Agony**, built over the rock on which Jesus is believed to have prayed in agony before he was betrayed by Judas Iscariot and arrested. About 100 meters north of the church is the **Grotto of Gethsemane**, where Jesus and his disciples often camped at night. In this natural grotto, it is believed, the disciples slept while Jesus prayed. Near the grotto is the **Tomb of Mary**, where a Christian tradition holds that the mother of Jesus was buried after she "fell asleep" in death.

We will start the walking tour of the Old City by entering via the **Lion's Gate**, also known as St. Stephen's Gate (one of 7 open gates in the Old Wall of Jerusalem). It is located on the eastern wall and marks the beginning of the traditional Christian observance of the last walk of Jesus from prison to crucifixion.



We will arrive at the **Via Dolorosa,** which will take us to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Singing praises to God in the **Church of St. Anne** will bring us closer to the glory of His Presence and

prepare us to stand beside the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus touched the lame man and commanded him to take up his pallet and walk.

Pools of Bethesda: Among the most famous of Jesus' miracles is recounted in the Gospel of John, where Jesus heals the paralytic at the Bethesda Pool (John 5:2-9).

St. Anne's, a beautiful 12th century Crusader church erected over the traditional site of the birthplace of Anne, mother of Mary. The church is next to the Bethesda pool and ruins of a Roman temple.

Antonia Fortress, where Jesus Christ went before Pilate, where He was flogged, where He was crowned with thorns as the soldiers played the king's game with Him...where He was given the cross.

Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow) is a street in Old Jerusalem, believed to be the path that Jesus walked, carrying His cross, on the way to His crucifixion. The route begins at Antonia Fortress and continues to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre.** The route is 650 yards long and is marked by 9 stations of the Cross (plus 5 stations in the church). We then visit

The Garden Tomb, a rock-cut tomb unearthed in 1867**,** believed by many to be the garden and sepulchre of Joseph of Arimathea, and therefore a possible site of the resurrection of Jesus. Here we will observe The Lord's Supper. Then we enjoy our farewell dinner before our transfer to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv for our overnight flight to Newark.

Tel Aviv – Chicago: Depart Tel Aviv

Tuesday, Oct. 5th Arrive DFW TEXARKANA

Chicago-DFW:

We arrive at DFW and transfer to Texarkana by private motor coach.

Circumstances, weather, religious ceremonies and other factors may cause us to revise this detailed daily itinerary although we will visit and include everything listed in the itinerary.

Trip Financial Details:

Total price of this deluxe 12-day tour is $4875.00 per person, double occupancy (two to a room).

Single Supplement is $795.00 per person (for a single room).

Trip Inclusions:

Flights with United Airlines from DFW to Newark to Tel Aviv and back

First class hotel accommodations – 9 nights

All meals noted in itinerary – breakfast daily, dinner daily and 1 lunch

Guided tours and entrances as noted in the itinerary above

Airport transfers from Texarkana to Dallas and return

Baggage handling and porterage throughout the trip

All air taxes, hotel taxes and fuel surcharges

Whisper headphones throughout (enables good communication with guide)

Tips to guide and driver **are not included** (usually $75 - $100 per person).

Payment Schedule:

Initial Deposit - due at sign-up	$ 700.00 per person
Final Payment – due Jul. 10, 2021	$ 4175.00 per person

IMPORTANT: We recommend that all participants have CANCELLATION INSURANCE
Check with your Insurance agent, go online to INSUREMYTRIP.com, or contact Bill Shields at Abrams travel at abramsdfw@hotmail.com.

Payment Procedure

All checks should be made pay to the order of First Baptist Church with "Holy Land" on the memo line. Checks should either be brought to the Associate Pastor's Office or mailed to:

Larry Sims
First Baptist Church
3015 Moores Lane
Texarkana, TX 75503

Send to Larry's attention or your check may wind up in our budget offering!

Credit card payment is available online, but all fees will be incurred by the card holder (this will add a significant increase to your travel cost).

IMPORTANT: We recommend that all participants have cancellation insurance. You can check with your insurance agent, insuremytrip.com or several other on-line insurance companies.

Cancelation Penalties:

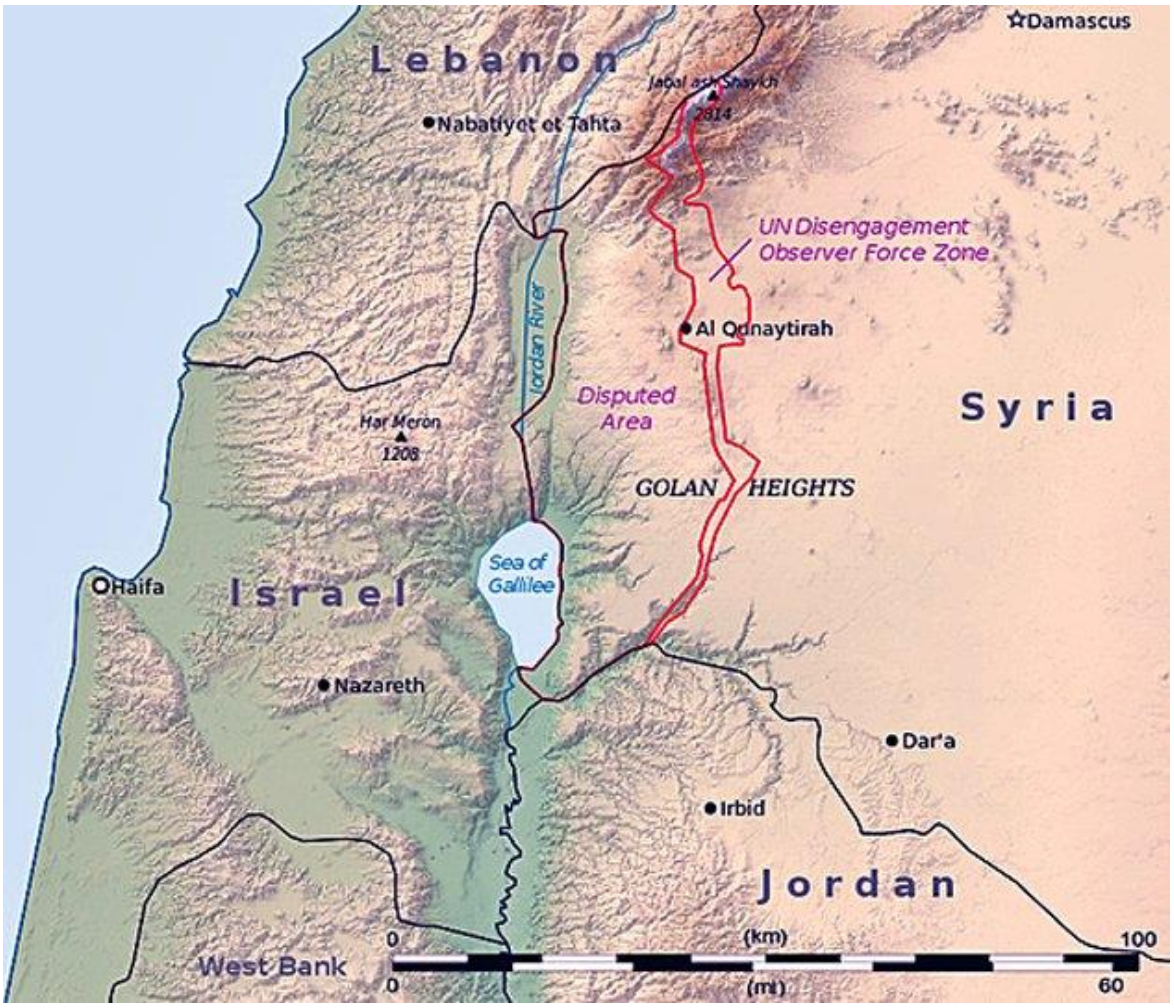
More than 90 days prior to departure…	**No Penalty**
From 90 days to 76 days prior to departure…	**$700.00 penalty**
From 75 to 61 days prior to departure…	**$1250.00 penalty**
From 60 to 35 days prior to departure…	**$2500.00 penalty**
From 34 days to the day of departure…	**No Refund**

The HOLY CITY of JERUSALEM - Located in the Judean Mountains, between the Mediterranean Sea and the northern edge of the Dead Sea, modern Jerusalem has grown far beyond the boundaries of the Old City. Jerusalem is a holy city to the three major Abrahamic religions – Christianity, Judaism and Islam. In Christianity, Jerusalem has been a holy city since, according to the New Testament, Jesus was crucified in 30 AD and 300 years later Saint Helena found the True Cross in the city. In Judaism, Jerusalem has been the holiest city since, according to the Torah, King David of Israel first established it as the capital of the United Kingdom of Israel in 1000 BC, and his son, Solomon, commissioned the building of the First Temple in the city. As a result, and despite having an area of only 0.35 sq. miles, the Old City is home to sites of key religious importance, among them the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Dome of the Rock. During its long history, Jerusalem has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times. The oldest part of the city was settled in the 4th millennium BC, making Jerusalem one of the oldest cities in the world. The old walled city has been traditionally divided into four quarters, although the names used today—the Armenian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Quarters—were introduced in the early 19th century.

Ramada Hadera

Sea of Galilee Hotel

Dan Jerusalem Hotel


Damascus
Lebanon
Jabal ash Shaykh
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Nabatiyet et Tahta
UN Disengagement
Observer Force Zone
Al Qunaytirah
Jordan River
Disputed
Area
Syria
Har Meron
1208
GOLAN HEIGHTS
Sea of
Galilee
Haifa
Israel
Nazareth
Dar'a
Irbid
Jordan
West Bank
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TERRITORIES OCCUPIED
BY ISRAEL
SINCE JUNE 1967
LEBANON
Quneitra
Nahariyya
GOLAN
Nawa
SYRIAN ARAB
REPUBLIC
Haifa
Tiberias
Nazareth
MEDITERRANEAN
SEA
Jenin
Netanya
Tulkarm
Nablus
Qalqilya
Jordan
Tel Aviv
WEST BANK
Amman
Ramle
Jericho
Jerusalem
Bethlehem
Gaza
Hebron
Dead
Sea
GAZA
Rafah
Bersheeba
JORDAN
ISRAEL
EGYPT
SINAI
Armistice Demarcation
Line, 1949
Boundary of Former
Palestine Mandate
International Boundary
0 10 20 30 40 km
0 10 20 30 mi
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35°
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