

Holy Land Tour

by

Sister Grace Vijaya Ts.

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FOREWORD

Most people dream of visiting the Holy Land. Some one said that ten days in the Holy Land is equal to a semester in a Seminary. The most practical understanding of the Bible archaeology, history and Geography will come to every one, who can view this book actually being there. It will explain the word pictures.

It will benefit both to the traveller and the dreamer. Special thanks to the friends who offered books to select matter and pictures. Many thanks to Dr.Deva S.Dandala, Editor, Spandana who took great interest in publishing Holy Land Tour in our regional language, Telugu.

That book and the pictures attracted many to know about the tour of the Holy Land and were greatly blessed in many countries of the world. I humbly praise God for that. This experience encouraged me to write about the Holy Land tour in English. My special thanks to Acharya R.R.K. Garu & Dr.Deva S.Dandala, and Spandana Offset Printer, David Dandala who took great care in printing this book, Brother Ephraim Dandala and Vijay who worked with setting pictures etc., My Childhood friend Rev. Rachel J.Komanapalli wrote a wonderful word about me and my books. My heart felt gratitude to her also.

I am sure that my husband Sri Sundara Rao Garu expressed his views about “The Legacy of Gods people” which is his first book to exhalt God’s name, and I congratulate him. My special thank to Mr.D.S.Sundara Rao, for helping a lot to edit, correcting the matter with good suggestions. I can not forget to thanks my Ganta brothers, Brother Peter Singh for he selected pictures for Holy Land, Brother Sudhakar gave me nice suitable pictures from his vast collections. My youngest brother Babu Ganta visited us in USA from Dubai and advised to my husband to put his thoughts in a book to reach many. May the Lord to be praised through this book so that many may come close to Jesus to spread the Gospel and meet to Lord Jesus.

Yours in Him,

Sister Grace Vijaya

Introduction

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill, May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, If I do not remember you, If I do not consider Jerusalem my highest Joy. Psalm 137:5,6

Brief History: Many prophets prophesied that Messiah, Jesus Christ would be born as King of Jews. Their prophecy was fulfilled when Christ was born to Mary in Bethlehem. According to the above verses Jerusalem was a blessed city. It acquired such a good name and fame due to King David and his son Solomon who constructed God's temple for His Glory.

God loved the Jews. According to the prophecies of many prophets Messiah would be born as King of Jews. The prophecies became true, Christ was born to virgin Mary. He preached the Gospel; did Miracles; healed the sick; died on the cross for the sins of humanity; the rose from the dead on the third day; talked to the disciples; ate with them; and was taken up to live with God as everlasting son.

According to the prophecy, Jerusalem was destroyed and the Jews scattered all over the world. But they would not be perished. The Lord promised that they would be brought back. "When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the Land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: " The Lord bless you, O righteous dwelling, O sacred mountain people will live together in Judah and all its town- farmers and those who move about with their flocks. I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint". (Jeremiah 31:23-25)

Proof of God's Prophecy:

As Isaiah prophesied "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the West" (Isaiah 43:5). Accordingly God brought them back. Israel Nation was founded. They got independence on May 14, 1948. Israelites came to live in their country from all parts of the world. By 1963 there were 4 millions of Jews in Palestine. By 1963 they were 2,239,000. When they celebrated the 30th Anniversary in 1978 some about 3,697,887 people were present. Today the population of Israel is increased to great number.

A BRIEF RECORD OF ISRAEL IN THE PAST

Israel is a promised country. According to Genesis 12:1-3 God called Abram from 'Ur' and asked him to go to the land that He would show. Abram obeyed God's

command. God changed his name to Abraham, the Father of many nations. Abraham got his promised son Isaac who had two sons, Esau and Jacob, and when Jacob struggled with God and God changed his name as Israel. Israel had 12 sons and they were known as Israelites. Out of the 12 sons, Joseph became prominent in Egypt. Thereby the children of Israel lived in Egypt for 400 years. God made Moses as the leader of Israelites. Israelites, though led by Moses, Joshua brought them to Canan.

God appointed many Judges to guide and rule Israel. On their request of Prayer God made Saul as the first King of the Israelites in 1040 BC. Later, in 1010 BC David was anointed to rule Israelites.

Solomon, the son of David, built the temple of God in "Jerusalem, his capital. The country was divided into two due to Solomon's sin after his death, ten plus two tribes. Later the temple of Jerusalem was destroyed and Jews were captivated. After many years Ezra took the responsibility to rebuild the temple. Fourteen years later Nehemiah rebuilt the wall with a slogan. Come, let us rebuild. 400 years passed away. Jesus was born as the promised Messiah, died on the cross, and sinners would be redeemed through His blood only.

A new church was born on the pentecost day when the power of the Holy spirit touched them.

To learn about Israel is a blessing to all of us.

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29 - 10 - 2008

Dearest Grace Vijaya,

Congratulations as you publish another book highlighting your Holy Land Tour. It makes me proud to know that my good friend is the author of so many life-giving books. I am thankful to God for your life's contribution to our Christian literary world. These books contain testimonies of many people around the world whose lives were touched wonderfully by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Your books are touching the hearts of many in our times and I truly believe they will be a great blessing to the generations to come.



You wrote in your book that you were inspired by Rev. Jean Coleman's book "Acts 29th Chapter" what a surprise and joy it was for you to meet her in my home during your visit to India! God has gifted you with such good communication skills and you have chosen to communicate the love of Jesus in the form of testimonies to glorify our Lord.

The apostles of Jesus – Peter and John said "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" I believe you are the modern day disciple who is inspired by the Holy Spirit to write down the wonderful things what you have seen and heard in the lives of people.

I thank God for you and your ministry of writing. May the Lord bless you and your family and the ministry of authoring such life-giving books.

Yours friend,

Rachel J. Komanapalli

Rachel J. Komanapalli.

MEMBER OF THE MANNA MINISTRIES FAMILY

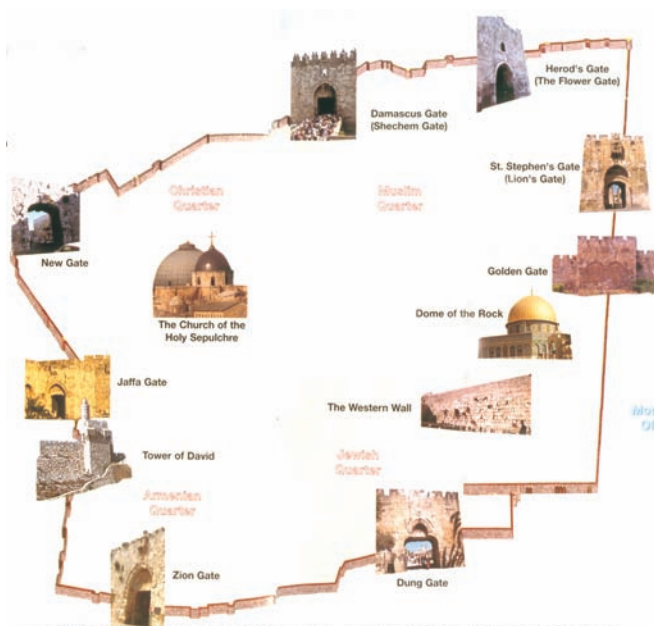
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ALL ABOUT THE HOLY LAND

The Holy Land is a unique and beautiful land, rich with variety of historical, archaeological and religious sites. Visitors are charmed by its sweeping vistas, hospitality of its citizens and inspirational images. This country is an enchanting mixture of ancient and modern.

In the holy land, you can experience the special thrill of walking in the foot steps of the Bible characters. Abraham roamed these sites four thousand years ago. About three thousand years have gone by since king David reigned here but for Christians follow the steps of Jesus in the Holy land constitute its ultimate moment.

In these regions Jesus the son of God was born. Here he grew in wisdom and stature. Here he was crucified. Here God raised him from the dead. We can see the divisions as three regions. North, center and South. In the Northern and Central regions, Jesus visited Jerusalem, sacred city and it is the Soul of the country. Southern areas are included because of its significance to patriarchs, prophets and kings of Judah.



GATES OF JERUSALEM AND FOUR QUARTERS

This book will unlock the message of the Bible and engage your mind and heart in the Wonderful world in which Jesus lived. We believe that this book is special as it describes the facts of the ministry of our Lord with the sites that recall his work & adds a rich new understanding to the meaning of the work of Jesus of Nazareth we trust it will also bring back many pleasant memories for those who visited the lands of the Bible.

This land is unlike any other. This region

has been called by various names such as Canaan, Palestine and new Israel in Biblical times. It was considered to be the center of the world and for three monotheistic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

It has been the focal point of their respective religious beliefs. Jewish people are still waiting for the messiah. For Christians, the new testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the messiah that is spoken of in the Old Testament has indeed become a reality in the person of Jesus Christ. For Islam on the other hand was founded in 6 AD by the Prophet Mohammed & both play an important role in this land. For Jews this land was predestined long ago by God. God also made them the chosen people, through Abraham and his descendants. For Christians this land is the cradle of Christianity for it was here that Jesus was born, lived dead & resurrected.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

1. The holy land is a region situated in the Middle East on the southeast shore of the Mediterranean.
2. Its position is at the cross roads of three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe.

3. The Northern boundaries of the Holy land are Lebanon and Syria.
4. Its eastern boundaries are the Jordan River and Jordan proper.
5. Its Southern boundary is Egypt.
6. The Holy land has three principal plains going North to South.

The coastal plain, the central plain and the Jordan Valley.

HISTORY

1. Palestine was the cross road of international highways which linked the super powers of different areas such as Egypt and Mesopotamia in 4000 B.C. and Greece and Rome from 300 BC to 300 A.D.



ANCIENT CEMETRY OF JEWS

2. It was also the land bridge where great trade took place with Pompey's invasion of the Holy land in 64 BC until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by Titus.

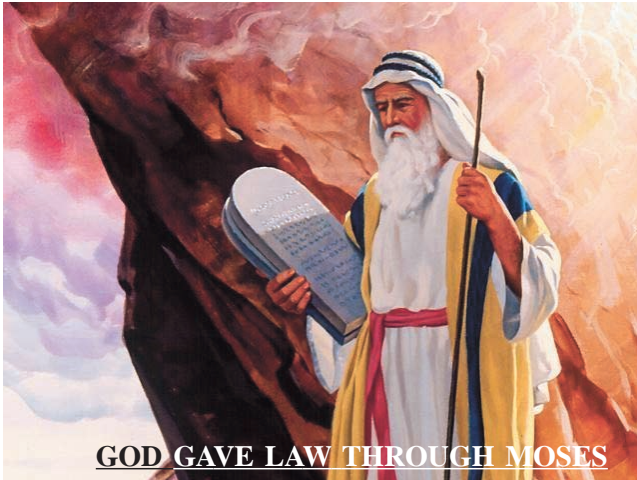
3. The land was ruled by the Romans as a depending of Roman state.

4. During Herod the great region (4 BC to 37 A.D.) the country

prospered. He built the temple of Jerusalem, theaters in Caesarea and fortress and places such as Massada, Cyprus and the Herodium.

5. After Herod's death, Samaria and Judea were put under direct Roman rule and Galilee was given to his son Herod Antipas.

During the time of Jesus birth, Emperor Augustus was reigned and the next Roman Emperor Tiberius Caesar (14-37 AD) ruled while Jesus was a teenager and an adult. It was Pontius Pilate the Roman procurator who presided at the trial of Jesus.



GOD GAVE LAW THROUGH MOSES

New Testament alone mentions 26 healing 'miracles, 9 nature miracles with over 32 parables.

LET THE BIBLE BE YOUR GUIDE

Trip to Israel is like leafing through the pages of a living Bible. Illustrations you can't see anywhere else on earth. You can

see your favorite passages come to life. Visit the domed church on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs. Travel through Judea to Jericho, the River Jordan, and Bethlehem, birth place of David. You can still visit the grotto where Mary placed the infant Jesus because "there was no room for them at the inn." From there, a seven-minute drive (an hour by donkey) will bring you to the gates Zion, walk around her, counting her towers of admiring her walls, reviewing her places.. "(Psalms 48:12). Page by page, town by town, you'll Re-live Biblical epics. And you'll follow the words of Jesus and His disciples, "through the cities and the villages, teaching and journeying..." (Luke 13:22). Come to Israel, You won't need to buy a guide book because you've already got the best one ever written the Holy Bible.

JESUS

The Northern Regions of the holy land flow with many streams, contain rich vegetation and are filled with a host of hidden, natural treasures. They offer numerous archaeological sites and exciting views.

1. During much of the year they are covered by a carpet of flowers, a rainbow of colors was in full bloom.
2. These regions contain much of the Holy Lands fresh water of the Sea of Galilee the Basalt of Golan heights and the lofty peak of Mount Hermon raise to the east.
3. The charming land scopes of Galilee extend west to Mediterranean Sea hiding between the mountains are fertile. Hula valley and Jordan River.

4. South West of the region is Mount Carmel on the coast, with the city of Haifa.
5. South of the Northern Region raises Mount Gilboa with its special vistas.
6. The Jezreel valley is also remarkable.

The Holy Land tour

1. In the Old Testament those who love Jerusalem are blessed. (Psalm 137: 5, 6) It is only because of King David.

2. All over the world, Jerusalem is famous for its Glory for King David's regime. More persecutions were done so many returned to this place.

3. In modern town like Tel Aviv above the population is 1, 53,800. The reason for their return to their place is that God had a specific plan of His own.

Brief History of Israel : Many prophecies were declared by many that Jesus Christ would born as a King of Jews. Many were fulfilled. (Luke 21:28, Mathew 24: 22, 33)



The people of Israel were compared to fig trees. In Hosea, it was compared to vineyard. Joel 1:7, Mark 11:11, Luke 13:6, Isaiah 5:7.

1. Jews were loved by God Before Christ was born 600 prior to that, Ezekiel prophesied in 37:1. Vision of dry bones. So now the Israel people are being benefited by receiving benefits from Government regarding education and living.

2. In 3000 B.C. many forgot the language of Hebrew. (Jeremiah 31:23). It was national language. After 2000 years were passed Hebrew language was reviewed as national language. According to Mathew 17:27. Shekel is now being used as currency including.

3. In 1935-1945 German Nazi Dictator Adolph Hitler's Cruel treatment was remarkable during Second World War. From the world history 60,00,000 Jews were completely perished only by letting all in a dark place without air provision, poisonous snakes, gases were sent to destroy

them. According Ezekiel 37:11 they were like dry bones. With in one hour, 10 Lakhs of Israelites soldiers walked on the roads to fight for their country. In modern Israel cultivation of land by new procedures made a wonderful yield with green beauty allover now.

4. All that happened is only based on the Biblical truths Ezekiel 37:19, 38:1. “Japan & Israel will be one “The dead will be raised”. This is the only blessed hope for all Christians.

In Jesus all of us have a blessed hope of meeting him. Now the country Gogu represents Russia. All the Jews will come back to Israel.



MOUNT TABOR

Proof of God’s prophecy

- 1) In 1982 Jews population were 24,000 only.
- 2) In 1914 during First World War, they were 85,000.
- 3) In 1927, 1, 50,000 Jews living in Palestine.
- 4) By 1947 Jews increase in number they were 6, 26,000.
- 5) The Israel got its independence on May 14, 1948. When we see the promise of God in Isaiah 43:5, 6. “I will establish and spread your Kingdom was fulfilled as with the help of British, Germany, Australia and people of Italy helped the Jews to return to their own land.
 - a) By 1953 the population of Jews increased to 50% as 87% of Eastern nations and Europe and oriental nation helped 10% for their return.
 - b) From the West people from Libya came back too many people are from Tunis, Algeria and Latin Americans.
 - c) From North Czechoslovakia Europe, Turkey, and Bulgaria too people came.

CHRUCH OF VISITATION



d) From South Yemen from old South Arabia 1, 48,000 Jews, Muslims dominated and humiliated Jews to suffer. Out of 10 members of Jews eight were died without proper shelter Huge flames spread allover the place.

On second day in old city of Jerusalem the wailing wall many were gathered. In 1897, the hope of the people was strong by Israel that time. Israel Chief came closet the original wall of the temple and said “This is a great day that many did not see.

3.After two days soldiers of Jordon entered in Jordan River, coastal area, who were chased by their enemies. Then the mighty people of God, Israelites came forward with great

courage like those in Joshua time reached the place of the Dead Sea. Then Arabs started cease fire Russians provided three billion worth of weapons and reached Sinai desert area. After that the blessing of God was visible as they fought and got their place to live. That is independence for Israel.

The reasons that how they got victory in 6 day war. The victory of 6 days war was the victory of god's people who believe in God's promises.

1. Israelites fought for their own land. They were humiliated by their enemies for 1900 years. They did not have shelter. Now they enjoy the land of milk and honey. As we see the beauty of Israel one cannot describe the green and fertile land.

2. Israel people fought for their victories in their lives. They strongly decided to drive the enemies always at any cost.

3. The strong hand that gave victory for Israel people only gave them that victory for sure. The British Chief was a native of Zion. He had the great foundation and had great faith in God. He only taught many techniques in the army lives. His name was Orde Wingale. Then



WAY TO BETHLEHAM

with creative skill he did his job. Next, the general of Israel was Moshe Dayan admired the Chief as a great teacher “If 100 people happen to fight with 3 men. Each man will be equal to 50 people. All were reminded about Gideon from Judges.

THE REASONS FOR THEIR SUCCESS WAS BASED ON SOME VALUES

1. Israel people pre planned how to attack the enemy in a systematic way.
2. People of Israel 8% were well trained and separated only to face the trial when needed.
3. Within 21 hours they placed themselves

in such a way to capture the citadel, and to make enemies to sink down. God’s hand was with Israelites. Aluf Shalomeo Gorem the Chief prayed a special prayer after good preparation. He just followed the principle of Jehoshaphat how he did by encouraging to praise and worship by keeping humble mind, "You are our refuge in times of trouble". They believed all the promises from the Bible (Psalms 20:34, 35: 1, 2, 83: 2; 3, 14 to 16).

According to the generals of Zion, at first Egypt people surrendered to Israelites. Every body feared, and then a person with white dress came close to him. Everybody saw it. Then, Egyptians ran from that place. All people heard a great sound of bomb blast no body were injured.

Then the soldier became a strong believer gave witness about his faith in God. The treasures of Israel were preserved and saved. Israel city was handed over to only Jews. The Glory was recovered after 1900 years. Every one got the self confidence. “If anybody can raise a hand against Israel, then the foot of the enemy will be ready from Israelites to attack back. The wonder of wonders is that only two and a half (2 1/2) million people of Jews attacked the enemies. But the Arabs were 80 million.



JERUSALEM WESTEREN WALL

The great promise was fulfilled Mathew 8:23 we will come with you 'God's presence will go with you' wherever you go.

ISRAEL IN THE PAST:

Israel is a promised country where the eye of God is always on them since 2000 BC.

1. At first God called Abraham from Ur. He asked Abraham to depend on Him to follow God. Genesis 12:1-3. Abraham got promised son Isaac, and from him had Jacob who was father of 12 sons who were non Israelites. God blessed the 12 tribes of Israel saved from poverty Joseph was chosen by God to uplift the lives of his brothers. They stayed for complete 400 years in Egypt. They were 3 millions.
2. Moses comes next to be remembered for his meekness and to be the leader for Israelites.
3. In 1451 BC Joshua was the leader next to Moses to lead the people to canan. He too faced opposition. During 450 yeas many judges took the responsibility for the people of God, Israelites. (Acts 13:20). In 1040 B.C. Saul became the first King of Jews. IN 1010 BC, David defeated Goliath against Philistines.
4. David son Solomon built the temple of God when David arranged everything for his son to take complete responsibility. Solomon's son Rehabam, time of his reigning in 922 BC, the twelve tribes were divided into ten plus two tribes.

5. In 722 BC the Assyrians were caught hold of Amorites. The two tribes belonged to southern part and in 600 BC. There were captured by enemies.

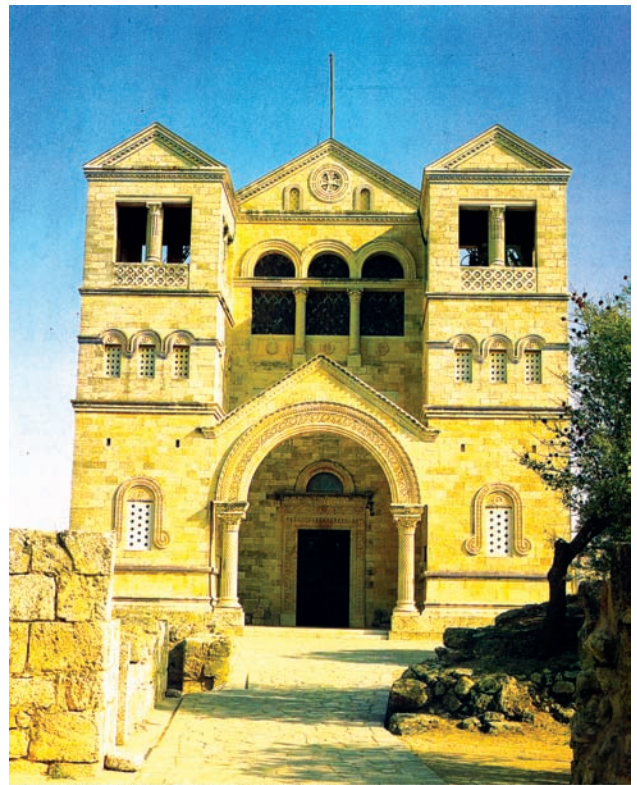
a). Three kinds of Jews pilgrimaged from Babylon to Judah. In 536 BC, the first group was taken care by Jerubbabel.

OLD MONASTRETRY AT HILL

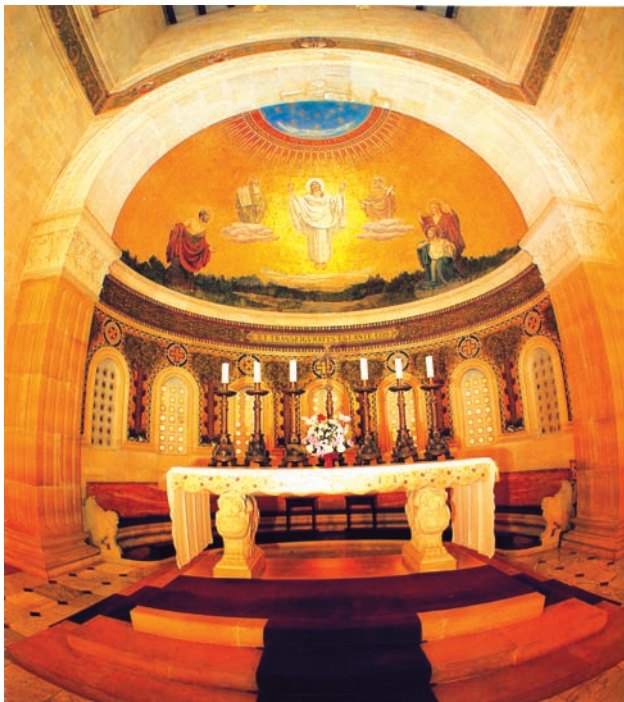


b) After 78 years Ezra took the responsibility to build the temple of God. After 14 years, Nehemiah; started with third batch and he rebuilt the wall “Come, let us rebuild” was the golden slogan. All the above leaders with a burning zeal and love for God did great things for God’s Family we can see 400 silent years and no property was given, they say it. Finally in 33 AD our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ died on the cross. He shed blood to save all sinners and we are redeemed only through His blood.

A new church was born on Pentecost day where the power of the Holy Spirit touched them. The blood of the martyrs



CHURCH OF TRANSFIGURATION



TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH

became the seed for building the Church of God and many people were persecuted for His name and victoriously died for Jesus. In the history of Israel in 70 AD Titus was a cruel and wicked person to destroy the blessed temple.

So many Jews were captured and were sold. Some of them were scattered “Half Million Jews were against Romans and one brave man Ben Kuchaba took leading part. They were called Palestinians in those days, not as Jews according to Philistines. Our Jesus was born in Bethlehem which is in Palestine today.

THE PRIMACY OF ST.PETER (Tegba)

Church of the Primacy with the Mensa Christi. (Christ Table) is a special attraction for all visitors. Jesus asked Peter three times “Do you Love me”. (John 21:15)

Jesus began his Ministry by the Sea of Galilee, In Tabgha, on the North Western shore of the sea, stands the Sanctuary of Primacy of Peter. It was built by the Franciscans on 1933. On the water front next to ancient steps leading down to the sea. Here tradition holds Jesus appeared to his disciples following the resurrection and restored Simon to the place of authority in the church following the denials. A flat rock, known as Mensa Christi mark of disciples ate that day.



**JESUS ASKED PETER THRICE,
PETER DO YOU LOVE ME?**

GOLAN HEIGHTS

The Golan Heights rises above the Sea of Galilee and the Hula Valley It high elevation and visiting view is breathe taking and beautiful.

From west one can see agricultural fields of the Hula Valley with its colorful patch work. Its South West lie the Sea of Galilee and the Jordon River which look like the eye of the needle and the thread with which the patch work is down. One can see Golan Archaeological Museum in Katzrin which is the center of Golan Heights.

HULA VALLY



HULA VALLEY

Lake Hula was the most northern, the highest and the smallest of the three body's water in the Jordan rift. The drainage of this and swampy lake was completed in 1957. It is above the sea level. Also called waters of merom (Jashu 11:7). One of Joshuas' great victories was won here (Josh 11:5-9).

TEL HAZOR

It is one of the most significant archaeological sites in the valley. It is in the site of ancient town of Hazor one of the Largest and most important towns in the ancient Holy land: Hazor is 9 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, The first city was built over 4,500 years ago.

1. Joshua burned it to the ground (Josh 11:1-13)
2. Deborah and Barak led Israel to a victory over Sisera. (Judges 4)
3. Solomon rebuilt Hazore. (1 Kings 9:15)
4. Hazor was destroyed by Assyrian King Tiglath Pileasar in 732 B.C. When Joshua and Israelites entered the Promised Land 1200 BC, they conquered Hazor “Hazore was the head of all those Kingdoms”. Jan 11:10. Some of the finds extend back to the time of King Solomon who made Hazor 9:15 one of the fortress Cities. I Kings 9: 15.



WELL AT HAZOR

ACRE (ACCO)

It is mentioned from the Bible (Judges 1:31). These people are Assyrians. St Paul came to this place. In those days the name was Ptolemai. Acts 21: 7. In 1906 Ottoman King built



ACCO (ACRO) CITY

a hotel when a clock tower helps and for explorers as land mark. It is located 9 miles North of Haifa at the Crescent shaped bay. It was assigned to

the tribe of Asher but was not taken at that time. (Josh 19:24-31).

It was called Ptolemais in Judges 1:31. It was named Ptolemais after the Ptolemies of Egypt. Napoleon captured it after two month siege in 1799. Today the town is Akko. Paul stopped here on his final trip to Jerusalem Acts 21:7.

ROSH HANIKRA

It is a beautiful place, the bright light shines of the small caves gives the beauty of nature and allows to praise God for the hand work of God. Rosh Hanikra is the Northern most point of Israel on the Mediterranean Coast and stands on Israel's border with Lebanon.



ROSH HANIKRA

It consists of a lime stone and chalk mountain. Its western cliffs slopping to the sea. Since creation the forces of nature have carved grotts and tidal caverns into the rock. There are incredibly beautiful and visitors view this sight through cable cars.

ZIPPORI

It is situated close to Nazareth six miles distance. It is a beautiful town as described by St. Paul. In 10-15 A.D. Jesus spent his childhood in this place and it was built at that time some traditional characteristics for Mary were imparted from this place. Herod Antipas built it, Hebrew tradition was written here.

It lay slightly to the North West of Nazareth. Jesus probably visited this Central City. He passed these way, some scholars say on his way from Nazareth to Capernaum. It was a Jewish city with administered political religious, social and cultural affairs. During 2nd century A.D. the Jewish counsel Sanhedrin met here.



ZIPPORI

ZIPPOORI CITY

Rabby Judah ha - nasi lived here. According to one tradition Anne, mother of Virgin Mary and her husband Joachin lived in Zippori.

Mt. CARMEL AND HAIFA

It is a beautiful coast as Israel's sea gate way. It is here where thousands of Pilgrims and immigrants first saw the land of the return.



It is Israel's third largest city. It has 207,000 population. It is a center of heavy industry, International trade technological training and research. Liners and Cargo ships unload in Haifa. The beautiful camel mountain rises above the Mediterranean Sea. It has thick, natural vegetation that remains all year green around and affords magical vistas of sea, mountain and plain. Haifa located at the junction of the Carmel mountain range and the Coastal regions. It is port city and an industrial commercial and service center for north and entire country.

1. From the Bible history it is a famous place I.Kings 18:17-40. Two villages are famous also Dilyat - el Carmel and Isliya Sletha.

2. Peak of the Carmel Muhraqa, One of the eastern peak of Carmel ranges is a monastery surrounded by a national park.

3. The view is spectacular as the Jezreel valley upholds below. Here that Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal and succeeded in proving that the God of Israel is the true God.

4. Mount Carmel is Vineyard of God (2 Chro. 26:10)

The King dugged many wells. Many farmers were existed.

ELIJAH STATUE AT MOUNT CARMEL

5. King Solomon appreciated its beauty in Song of Solomon, 7 : 5. Beautiful description from the Bible. Isaiah 35:2. Jeremiah 46:18, 52:19. When the mountains are spoken of as Languishing, this is a sign of God's Judgement on the Land. Nahum 1:4, Amos 1:2, Isaiah 33 : 9. A great history of the prophet. 1 King 18: 19-39, 41-45.

He prayed to the living God Elijah ran and hid himself 1 kings 18:46. The cave of Elijah is located at the foot of Carmel, where it is believed he hid from the anger of King Ahab. This place is very Holy one, and God's mighty power was revealed. The caves are like honey comb shape and looks very interesting. Many monks lived lonely here to the South of its mountain places I Kings 18:40.

There was a famous water fountain. From that spring only Elijah poured water on the altar. Twelve stones were placed in the altar put a round in A huge statue was put in a high place which reminds of that great day visitors admire and worship God's power there.

JAZREEL VALLEY

From Ancient times Jazreel was known for its well watered and fertile fields. The main road that linked Egypt with Mesopotamia ran through this valley, Tribal leaders and out side covered the valley for its location and abundance. Frequent battles in the region after determined who ruled this part of Holy land.

Jazreel Valley is between two mountain ranges three of Galilee in the North and Samaria to the South. It formed a land bridge for armies who marched to war between the Euphrates and Nile rivers.

Pharaoh of Egypt, Hitler, Israelites, Philistines, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Crusaders, Turks and the British have fought on its plains. The prophet Hosea remarks. And the earth shall answer the grain, the wine and they shall answer Jezreel (Hos:2:22). Israel will look for mark to Millennial blessings after Armageddon (Hos: 2:21-23). Battle of Armageddon to be fought here. (Rev 16:13-16).

JORDAN VALLEY

1. Gideon and 300 soldiers, Routed the Medianites (Jud. 6:33,37).
2. Deborah and Barak defeated, Sisera and his army (Judges 4)
3. Hoshia Prophesied. Great Blessing up on the Nation in this place. (Hos.1:10,17)
4. Battle of Armageddon to be fought here (Rev.13:16).
5. Israel will look forward to millennial blessing after Armageddon (Hos 2:21-23).

MOUNT GILBOA

South of the Valley of Jezreel stand majestic mount gilboa Oh this mountain king Saul died by his own sword while fighting against Philistines (I Samuel 31) David lamented the death of the King and his dear friend Jonathan, the Kings son. (2 Sam.1:19-21)

Gideon and 300 soldiers routed the Medianites. (Judge 6:37,7). Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera and his army. (Judge 4). Hosea Prophesied great blessing upon the Nation in this place. (Hos 1:10-11). The Crusader fortress was there “Belvoir” established as a fortified farm, rests on the crest of the heights above Jordan Valley.

CHURCH OF THE VISITATION

Franciscan Church honours the occasion of the Virgin Mary’s visit. A Beautiful, mosaic was there Mary on her journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem decorates the interior of the church. Tablets in the church court yard record Mary’s Magnificent. (Luke 1:46-55)

ANCIENT CHURCH OF MARY’S ROCK

This is the earliest church dedicated to Virgin Mary mother of Christ. 1992 Authorities uncovered the remains of a large Octagonal Church built in Byzantine period.



MOUNT GILBOA

At the heart of the structure was found a large flat rock elevated above the surrounding floor. According to tradition the pregnant Mary rested on this stone during the difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Bethlehem the birth place of Jesus lies to the South of Jerusalem. It is David's home town, clearly Bethlehem ranks as a significant site for stories of Old Testament.

Catherine church was famous where circular lights indicate the death of Jesus. There are three caves. St. Jeron's small church and his houses room when he wrote more about the history. He translated New Testament and old in Latin language. They call it Vulgate.

The second cave is for memory of killed innocent kids in Herod time (Mathew 2:13-18). The third one is milk ghetto where Mary fed Jesus with her milk. Bethlehem is located on the mountain road which from ancient times linked the main hill top cities of Samaria, Shechem Bethel, and Jerusalem.

THE CHURCH OF NATIVITY

The first church was built above the Grotto of the nativity in the 4th Century AD by the Roman Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena built a majestic church adorned with Mosaics and beautiful marble.

In 6th Century Byzantine emperor Justinian built a new and ever more elaborate church here. All parts are covered with marble and gold plated mosaics. Luke 1:27, Mathew 2:1-11. Math 2:9-11 they were astonished by sight of the Persian sages. Out of respect for them they left the church intact.

BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem is located 5 miles South of Jerusalem Neither Joshua nor Nehemiah mentions Bethlehem as amount the cities of Judah suggesting that this was possibly an insignificant village in the old testament history. Bethlehem the birth place, it means house of bread.



ST. MARY'S TOMB ROCK

Ruth stayed here (Ruth chapter 3) A prophecy was fulfilled (Mich 5.2). Persians destroyed all the other churches except this because they saw persian King picture on the wall who adored Jesus.

EIN KEREM

En Kerem located in the Western part of Jerusalem. It was the home of Elizabeth and Zachariah; parents of John the Baptist, An angel appeared to Zachariah (Luke 1.5-10).

During 6th month of Elizabeth's Pregnancy, Mary visited her in Judea. Mary exclaimed praises to God for His magnificent blessing, a text referred to as fine magnificent in church tradition.



There are several churches around En Kerem the church of St.John is special because church courtyard displays in several language. The prophecy of Zachariah (Luke 1:67-79) referred to as the Benedictus” in church tradition.

RACHEL TOMB

Rachel, Jacobs's wife and one of the patriarchs of Israel is buried in the territory of Bethlehem. The traditional tomb is located on the main mountain route “On the way to Ephrata that is Bethlehem. Jacob Set a Pillar at her grave (Gen 35:19-20).

It said, Rachel's sorrow for her children the agony of many mothers during Herod's slaughter of the innocents. It was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah. “A voice was heard in Ramah, waiting and loud lamentation. Rachel was wept for her children. She refused to be consoled. Mathew 2: Rachel Tomb is located little North of Bethlehem. It is the first memorial erected to the dead mentioned in the Bible Gen 35: 19-20, I Samuel 10:2.

HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL

Perhaps the most impressive is **Hezekiah's Tunnel**. It was dug during the reign of King

Hezekiah. It transported water from the Gihon Spring to a reservoir, the Pool of Siloam, which lay inside the city walls to protect the water supply from enemies (2 Chr. 32:30). The tunnel is 533 meters (1748 ft) in length. Workmen began tunneling from each end and met in the middle. A Hebrew inscription was marked on the site where the two tunnels met.

SAFED

This is one of the significant places in upper Galilee. It is a child among mountains nature gave beauty to it. It was a spiritual center. This is Jewish learning center Jerusalem Hebron and Safed are considered as Jewish cities. All are active and hold

prayer services daily on Fridays they sing and pray to welcome the coming Sabbath the artist's quarter in the old city with workshop and galleries celebrate Klezimer festival of Jewish music.

SHEPHERD'S FIELDS

The traditional Shepherd's field is east of Bethlehem in an area which supported the agricultural needs of Judea. The area was perfect for grazing live stock. The agricultural lands spread out as far as Indian Desert and these areas not used for agriculture were taken up by pasture.

As mentioned in Mica 4:8. The place is associated with tower for the flock Mica 5:2. "A ruler who would one day arises from Bethlehem. An angel appeared and altered, shepherd that a saviour was born.

There are several churches in the area built above caves considered sacred near Arab village of Beit Sahur, east of Bethlehem Greek and Franciscan's churches were built. Modern



HIZKIAH TUNNEL

churches along with monasteries continue to recall the revelation to the shepherd's. Luke 2:8-18.

BAPTISM OF JESUS

The Jordan River flows South part, the Sea of Galilee through the Syrian African Rift to the Dead Sea. Many prophets in Israel found inspiration and comfort on the area around the Jordan. Mark 1:9-11, Mathew 3:1-3

Elijah hid by Wadi Cherith after he confronted Ahab with the Lord 1 Kings 17:3. Elisha, Naaman was healed after dipping in Jordan 7 times, 2 Kings 5:8-14. John the Baptist chose Jordan to Prepare away for the Lords coming. An event which marked the beginning of Saviour Public Ministry. Nearby more than 1200 years earlier, Israels crossed the Jordan and entered the Promised Land Joshi 3.

MT OF TEMPTATION

The mount of temptation according to Tradition stands, North West of Jericho, over looking the world's most ancient city. Mathew 4:1-4, Mathew 4:8-11



MOUNT OF TEMPTATION

THE AREA OF SAMARIA

It is located 9 miles north of Nablus. The cities of Samara make up the ten tribes over which Jerobam made himself king both east and west of Jordan. (1 King 13:32-34)

BETHANY

“Bethany” has three meanings. House of Dates; House of the Poor; House of Misery. It is also called El-Azariyeh or House of Lazarus.

1. Home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus (Lk. 10:38-42)
2. Lord’s prayer probably given near here (Lk.11:1-4)
3. Raising of Lazarus (Jn.11:1-46)
4. Christ anointed by Mary (Jn.12:1-8).
5. Jesus stayed here when he came to Jerusalem for Passover (Mt. 21:17). Known as the Quarantal Monastery means (Forty) from its balcony visitors can view Jericho and Jordan Valley.

SHECHEM (NABLUS)

The city of Shechem lives between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal in a fertile Valley which has attracted settler’s throughout history.

It is first mentioned in the Old Testament when Abraham and Jacob passed through the territory and built altars there. After the division of Israel, Jeroboam built shechem and resided there. 1 Kings 12:25. The Arabic name of the city today is Nablus. Nablus is a corruption of the Greek “Neopolis” the name given to Hellenistic period.

Tel Balatah, east of the modern city is the site of the Old Testament and Hellenistic village. The oak of Moreh stands near Shechem. Abraham built on a altar Gen 12:5-7 in respect of Divine promise and God’s appearance. Jacob too built an altar there El-Elohe -



Israel God, God of Israel. Gen.33:18-20. After Joseph died the Israelites Joshua 24:32 brought his bones back from Egypt.

WADI QELT

The person who asked Jesus “Who is my neighbor” at this very place. (Luke 10: 30,37)

There is one monastery for Greeks in St. George monastery was built few found a cave where five saints lived where one of the saints built a big bell above 40 ft and a plea too. During war it was destroyed but it was rebuilt in 1900.

WADE QUELT (Nahal Parat)

Nahal Parat is one of the beautiful and interesting streams in the country. It collects waters from Judean country side and runs into Jordan near Jericho.

Along the edge of the wadi a Roman road led upto the mount of Olives. Along the streams, there are remains of aqueducts fortresses, palaces and monasteries. This is where Elijah the prophet had and where ravens brought bread 1 Kings 17:2-7. This place belonged to parents of Mary.

JACOB'S WELL

In this Samaria area one can find Jacob’s well. Greeks were in charge of maintaining this precious place. (John 4:13, 14). In winter time Samaritans worship at Garezim mountain by fasting for 40 days. They worship God with dedication. They offer sheep for offering to God by traditions performances they follow Jews customs. This is the place where Jesus met Samaritan woman. (John 4:1-42). The well is situated on the land that Jacob purchased at Shechem.



WADI KELT

Mt. Garizim

Mt. Garizim and Mount Ebal mark the highest points of Elevation in the region. After Israelites crossed the Jordan, they erected an altar on Mount Ebal and set up stones inscribed with the words of Law. Josh 8:30.

Mt. Ebal became known as Mount of curse. (Deu 27:11). According to Samaritans doctrine, Abraham erected an altar to sacrifice his son Isaac Gen 22:1-19). Every year they celebrate Passover by sacrificing lambs on this mountain.

JERICHO

On this final journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Jericho. No desert Oasis is more



stunning than Jericho. It is one of the oldest cities of the world. The Vegetation which blankets the city - appears to give a green glow to the desert and its surroundings. Jericho reached its Pinacle of Prosperity in the times of Hasmoneans and Kings Herod.

Medical plants and spices particularly balsam are famous. Many palaces summer homes were built due to its climate. Some synagogues were also built during Byzantine period. If

became famous for important Christian Heaven with many churches and Monasteries.

There is an ancient spring called Arabic Eines - Sultan - It is also called Elisha's well. Elisha put salt in that water to make it sweet. (2 Kings 2:19-22).

Winter palaces Jewish synagogues were with decorations on Mosaic floor. Some Hebrew inscriptions which read shalom. Al ye Israel peace upon Israel were there to be admired.

ROAD TO JERUSALEM

After Christ had said this Parable in Jericho, he went on a road going to Jerusalem. Luke 19:28.

1. On this last Journey from Jericho to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled through an important road, Ascending Mount, Holy city. The route was full of twists and turns, robbers linger there. The way side inns and fortresses were set up along the way. Their remains are still evident today. Who is my neighbor “The parable based on this area? Luke 10:29, Luke 10:30-37.

BETHANY

Bethany means in 3 ways. 1. House of dates, 2. House of poor, 3. House of Misery, It is called as (El - Azariyeh) house of Lazarus. Home of Mary and Martha. Luke 10 : 38, 42. Lords Prayer probably given here. Luke 11: 1 - 4. Raising Lazarus. John 11: 1-46. Christ was anointed by Mary. John 12:1-8. Jesus stayed there when he came to Jerusalem for Passover. Mathew 21:1.

Bethany is a place on the way to Jericho from Jerusalem at a distance of 3 Kilometers. Jesus came to this place several times’ Jesus four close friends belong to this place, Mary Martha, their brother Lazarus and Simon the leper. There was a church dedicated to Lazarus. In 1952 a church was built old churches were already three there, A Bible verse was written (John 11:25). I am the resurrection and life.

BETHPAGE:

Bethpage means, tender figs (Mathew 21:1). Some call this as house of green figs. In this same village Jesus rode on donkey on Palm Sunday. Greeks built a small Church in 1883. They call it Monting stone of Christ. From this every Sunday a procession will follow. There are many churches as on of them. Peter Noster means father (Mathew 6:10, 13). Here



BETHPAGE

only Jesus ascended to Heaven. Close to this there is Kedron valley from where Jesus wept for Jerusalem.

ARMENIAN QUARTER

It is on the South West corner of the old city in the heart of the national, religious and cultural life of Armenian Orthodox in Jerusalem.

In the middle of it St. James Cathedral is the most important Armenian Church of the Holy Land. That is dedicated to St. James, the brother of St. John one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. Acts: 12:12. King Herod killed James with sword.

CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Roman soldiers crucified Jesus on a barren, rocky hill top. In Aramaic it was called Golgotha (Calvary in Latin). It means a place of Skull. Joseph of Arimathea provided a burial cave for Jesus adjacent to the place of his crucifixion, He sealed the entrance to the cave with



SKULL HILL

a large stone. After three days the disciples found the tomb empty (Mathe 28:1-7), (John 20:11-17) (Mathew 27:33-37, Luke: 23:37, Luke 23:37, Mark 15:33-34, Mathew 27:50-51, Mathew. 27:57-61. The Stations of the Cross within the sepulcher were 10 to 14 stations. Holy Sepulcher)

There are two places pointed out to visitors to the Holy Land as the place where Lord was crucified (Mt 27:33-50). There is traditional side of the crucifixion and burial of

Christ. Christian crucified out side of the gate.

GARDEN TOMB:

Located at the foot of the rock knoll known as Gardens Calvary is a rock at tomb dating from the Roman period. It belonged to Joseph of Arimathea when Jesus was buried. (Math 27:57-60). Next to it is the mound of Golgotha (Calvary). Below Golgotha is the chapel of Adam built in honour of the first man. The body of Jesus was laid prior to the burial on the

stone as tradition declared. Within the church complex many important chapels provide places of worship. The building was shared by many Christian denominations including Catholics, Crèche, Orthodox, Armenians.

THE TOWER OF DAVID, CITADEL:

The Citadel, better known as the Tower of David, sits on the Western hill of the city next to the Jaffa Gate. Both Pullers of



CITIDAL, TOWER OF DAVID

Jerusalem in second century BC and Herod the great in first century BC had fortified this place as a strong hold.

The Muslim minor built by the Ottoman. Turks and the lower of the upper lever are one of the well known land marks in Jerusalem. It got rich and varied history of the entire city.

THE JEWISH QUARTER:

It is in the South East part of the old city; and the recognised as center of Jewish spiritual life for hundreds of years. After 6th day war in 1967, man excavations were done. The old and new were wonderfully blend together makers all in a delightful fashion. Many synagogues like Roman, Sephardic Hurva were famous one.

Scale model of the Jerusalem with its accompanying 3-D sound and light show Cardo Museums the man thorough fare of the Roman Byzantine city. It may be of the most significant places in the Holy Land.

WESTERN WALL OR WAILING WALL:

Since June 1967, it has been known as the Western wall and by many it was called Joy wall. This retaining wall of the huge platform where both Solomon and Herod built their temples stood nearest to the Sanctuary.

THE MUSLIM QUARTER:

It lies in the North East part of old city. Adjacent to the temple mount and its holy Muslim sites. It contains most of the markets and bazaars of the old city making a walk through the vibrant streets an interesting tourist experience. Each shop has its own special smell and unique atmosphere.

The wares include antiques, jewelry, perfume, embroideries, leather goods, meats, foods with special sweets and oriental species. The streets of the Muslim quarter lead to the temple mount on which stands the Dome of the rock and El Aqsa Mosque, the sacred shrines of the Muslims.

Nain

At the Western base of the mount there is the Arab Village of Dabburiye which may be the place of Youth Stricken with Epilepsy. Math 17:134-21. Jesus other disciples likely waited here when their master ascended the mountain into Peter James and John.

The Lord felt compassion for widow and resurrected her son to the delight of all. All the Northern base of Mount Tabor sets the Bodowin village of Shibli Galilee Bodowin Heritage Cellar is located here visitors enjoy their coffee and hospitality also listen to the stories they tell.



CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Augustus Caesar presented the town with surrounding country to Herod the great, who build the temple there in honor of the emperor. Herod's son, Philip, the Tetrarch, enlarged the town and names it Caesarea.

Today it is called Banyas. It is historical site known as Panyas after Pan, the goddess of Shepherdess flocks and forests. Here we see one of the three sources of the Jordan River.

Here peter altered his great profession and Christ spoke prophetically. Mathew 16:13-18. North to Galilee sea coast, close to Hermon Mountain, we can see the flow of water from South Jordon River platoe, The name of the water flows is Banias. Its Greek name is Perias.

It is one of the Greek cities. It is under Herod. Then changed to Caeseria Philip. The flow of Banias water is one site long and beautiful. Mathew 16: 13-17

“What do people say” Jesus asked Peter and Peter replies “You are the Messiah, the son of the Living God. Then Jesus said,” Blessed are you” Oh, what a beautiful question with nice answer from Jesus. It is a question for us also. In Mark 5: 24-34, a lady who suffered for 12 years belonged to this place. One tradition holds that Jesus transfiguration happened near by. (Mathew 17:1-8) Its importance increased in the middle ages as a prosperous city on the road to Damascus many important remains can be found near the sources of the springs.

MOUNT OF HERMON

Mount Hermon with its white capped summit rises in the North of the Holy land; above the Hula vally and the Golan heights. It extends north east to the regions of Lebanon and Syria. Mount Hermon is referred to in the Old Testament as a blessed mountain and has been regarded as “Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name. Psalm 89:12.



The meaning of Hermon is place of fellowship among the cebonon Mood Mountains from east. It is the biggest in Palestine (2814 meters).

These details are in Mat.17:1-5. Mount Tabor with its beautiful and peculiar dome or cone hap rises majestically in Galilee. It is green throughout the year keeping special beauty. Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera here. (Jud 4:14-16). Because the height and location of Mount Tabor made it.

The Primacy of St. Peter (Tegba):

In the Ministry of Jesus the Sea of Galilee is very important place. In Tabga, on the North western shore of the sea stands sanctuary of the primacy of peter. It was built by Franciscans in 1933 on the water front next to ancient steps leading down the sea.

Here tradition holds Jesus appeared to his disciples following the resurrection and restored Smooth his place of authority in the church after his denials. A flat rock, known as the Mensa Christi or Christ's table marks the site where the disciples ate that day. The rock was incorporated into the ancient churches that stood here as well as the more recent church.

This is a place of strategic military importance. Gideon slew Zebalu and Zalmunna Midianite Kings, here Judge 8:18-21). Heathen worship took place on the mountain. (Hos.: 5:1). The traditional spot of Jesus transfiguration. (Mathew 17:1-13)

JERUSALEM CITY

This is a Holy city. City of prophets, city of peace. Jerusalem the blessed city with a hundred names is the only considered. The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem was called Psalm Sunday. Read Mark 11:1-11, John: 12:13. Hosanna. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. The King of Israel.

DOMINUS FLEVIT

As Jesus approached Jerusalem from Mount of Olives, he wept over it. On the descent from the mount of Olives, towards Jerusalem stands a Franciscan church of unique architectural form. Its dome is shaped like a tear. The altar faces Jerusalem as Jesus would have seen when he first drew near to the city and wept over it. Dominus Flevit, the Lord wept. Luke 19:41-44. In 7th century Byzantine, style building was found, and next to it was a large ancient cemetery was



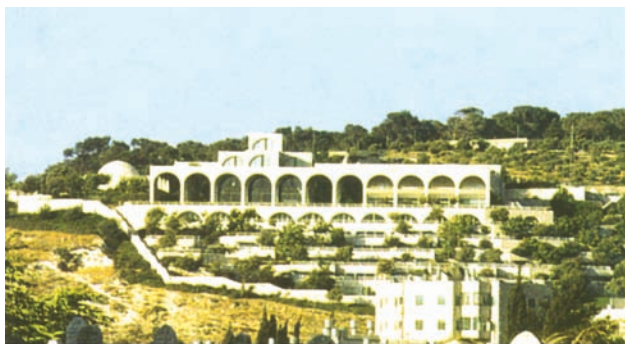
uncovered in the time of second temple period.

Stone boxes and stone coffins with human bones and pottery were found. There were 43 inscriptions bearing the names such as Simian Maria, Joshua. Some were engraved with a small cross next to its name. It might be burial ground for Jewish Christians.

HADASSAH HOSPITAL

Hadassah Hospital is the famous place. It is a centre where many British soldiers were buried.

In 1949 cease fire, mount Scopus became an Israel enclave in Jordanian territory. It regimented the rest of the city in 1967.



HADASSA HOSPITAL

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

It is one of the most important sites around Jerusalem. It played a central role on the life of Jesus. He came here often. He prophesied to his disciples that the temple would one day fall. Luke 19:41-44.

He went to pray. Mark 14:26-42. Judah arrived with company of officials and soldiers to arrest. John 18:1-12. The name Mount of Olives derives from Olive groves that cover the hill east of old city of Jerusalem across the Kidron vally.

THE CHAPEL OF ASCENSION

The peak of the Mount of Olives is considered the site of the ascension, since 4th century AD several churches have been erected, In 387, Matron poet menia founded the church of the Ascension on this site, it was destroyed by Persians in 614.

The crusaders built a small holy building surrounded by arched columns. These supported an open dome and sheltered a rock with celebrated foot primates of Christ. After the crusaders were defeated by Muslims in 12th century the building was burnt and turned to Mosque. But the original still stands today.

Russian Church of Ascension. It has the tallest spire in the area of Land marks of Mount of Olives. It honours John the Baptist Lutheran Church of the Ascension.

TOMBS OF PROPHET

Burial places of prophets like Haggai and Malachi were found grottos convict for the important places.

GATHSEMANE (OIL PRESS)

The garden is maintained by Franciscans. Olive tress were there in Jesus time. Titus cut down all the trees in 70 AD Duhem, he destroyed Jerusalem. The Church of all nations is named after 16 countries, who helped to build it.

1. Jesus agonised in this place. Mathew 26:36-46. Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested by Soldiers. Math: 26: 47-56,

Luke 22: 47-53, Mathew: 26: 30-46. At the foot of the Mount of Olives just above the Kidron Valley stood the garden of Gethsemane filled with Olive trees. Jesus spent his last hours in solitude here. Shortly after he was captured by the Romans. Today in Gethsemane visitors come to the Garden the Gethsemane. Basilica a Franciscan church which is one of the most beautiful in Jerusalem.

CHURCH on the TOMB OF VIRGIN MARY

Situated at the foot of the Mount of Olives in the Kidron Valley, the Church contains the traditional tomb of the Virgin Mary.

In 4th century AD, the church was built when the tomb of virgin many was surrounding rock the complex was surrendered by a wall which looks like a castle. In the center of the lower level is the Holy tomb of the Virgin Mary.



TOMBS OF PROPHETS

Kidron Valley

It is also called the Valley of Jahoshaphat. The valley runs 2-3/4 miles along the east wall of Jerusalem. During the reforms by Israel's Kings, Idols and other Pagan items used in worship were disposed of in the Valley 1 to 5 pts.

The traditional site of the last supper and the house of Caiphas the high priest who examined Jesus before his crucifixion. In his coming and young men where there going to the temple to Gethsemane and to Bethlehem. Jesus crossed over Kidron valley many times.

The church of St. Peter in Galli Cantu

This church is dedicated to Peter's denial, so the word Galli Canter refers to the crowing of the cock. Many churches by Byzantine monastery were discovered on the grounds of the church. They were built on the ruins of the second temple period structure.

It contains underground rooms which may have been used as guard houses and a prison. The discovered steps into the hill which leads to a path to the city of David, the Kidron valley and Gethsemane. This is the path that Jesus looks on his way from upper room to Gethsemane and his way back from Gethsemane to Ciapha's house. The Armenian Church of

Caiphas' is close to the Zion gate. Few found dwellings from the second temple period some of those have underground rooms and cellars. Armenian Patriarchs were buried in the cemetery next to the church.



Hinnom Valley:

Hinnom Valley lies South West of Mt Zion. Bible says that child sacrifice took place in this area. (Jeri. 7:31-32). That was used as a cemetery for Pilgrims to Jerusalem. The Chief Priests purchased this property with 30 pies of silver returned by Judas and used it as a place to bury foreigners (Math 27:3-10).



TOMB OF DAVID

The tomb of David is the traditional burial place of King David. It includes a large stone covered with silver crown and Torah Scrolls. During Muslim rule the tomb was taken over and turned into Mosque. The original shape has therefore been adopted for that purpose.

CITY OF DAVID

David city is matrix of the city of Jerusalem has been inhabited continuously. Since the time of King David. In connection with Melchizedec King of Salem “Priest of the Most High” who blessed Abraham assured him of Victory over his adversaries and received from him a tenth of every thing Gen. 14:18-20.

According to Isa. 5:8-10. Over 3000 years ago David defended the city’s inhabitants, the Jebusites and occupied the ancient Jerusalem. David brought to Jerusalem the Ark of the Covenant, a Symbol of Unity of tribes and the covenant between the people of God.

Abraham built an altar where the story of sacrifice of Isaac on the mountains of the land of Moriah. The remains of the city of David are South of the present wall of the old city. Neh 2:11-

OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

The old city of Jerusalem may be likened to a thick book with each page another chapter in its history. In each period different people and rulers stamped their particular mark on the face of the city. Due to those changes now it is a classic city.

The walls were built by Ottoman during Turkish sovereign in 16th century by sultan Suleman who is magnificent.

Now we can enter into 7 gates. The eight gates, the golden gate in eastern wall of the temple mount was sealed by the Muslims many years ago. The gates lead to different quarters of the old city.

DOME OF THE ROCK

The Octagonally shaped mosque with brilliant blue Persian tiles erected over the site of the Jewish temple. The mosque was built in seventh century over the immense rough rock about 40 feet by 52 feet which rises 7 feet about the level of the temple area. It formed the base of the Jewish altar where burnt offerings were offered. The grooves and hole in the middle of the rock were there.

THE CHRISTIAN QUARTER.

Armenian quarter, Jewish quarter, And Muslim quarter. The temple mount Moriah, comprises about 35 acres the story of Jesus begins at temple mount. As Zechariahs, the father of John the Baptist, served the Lord in the temple, an angel appeared (Luke 5:5-20) John would be the fore runner of the Messiah as the prophecies declared.



In Jesus day, the second temple stood proudly on the crest of the mountain for all to see. It was built originally in the 6th century BC. The temple Jesus entered has been renovated and enlarged by Herod the great in the 1st century BC. Jesus visited temple mount many times during his life. Forty days after his birth Luke 2:27. When Jesus was lost and found. He asked the parents Luke 2:29.

“Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father’s house?”. During Jesus temptation experience Devil brought Jesus to the temple to test him. Luke 4: 9 to 12).

Jesus temple triumphal entry in Jerusalem, out religious officials he accused of defiling the temple. Mark 11:15-18. Jesus said “My house shall be called the house of prayer for all the nations but you have made it a den of robbers.

But the final days of the temple would be disastrous as Jesus warned in his prophecies. It is written in Luke 21:5-6.

HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT

In the Biblical story of the temple mount, appears first as one of the mountains of the land of Moriah, the place where Abraham nearly sacrificed his son Isaac and built an alter...

Kind David purchased the area from Araunah the Jebusites and erected there an alter to God. 2 Sam 24:16-25. Solomon built the first temple. 2 Chor. 3:1, Second temple was built on the topic. According to Jewish tradition, the Summit serves as the center of the world, the foundation of the universe.

David’s son, King Solomon erected the first temple here and dedicated it in the tenth century BC. Countless sheep and Oxen were slaughtered there to mark the dedication. 1 Kings. 8:62

Construction of the temple lasted for seven years. The palace complex was built immediately to the south over a thirteen years period. During the renovation 586 BC Babylonians totally destroyed.

Heraclius reign: Again Jerusalem was in the hands of Muslim Arabs. The Caliph Amar identified that Muhammad ascended into heaven, so the first Mosque was built on the mount. Now the attraction of many visitors is dome of the rock and El Aqsa Mosque, it is called Mosque of Omar. The rock is one of the most beautiful Shrines in Islamic world and one of the most exquisite land marks in Jerusalem.

EL AQSA MOSQUE

On the southern end of the mount, was built the dome of the Rock. It was apparently, begun by Abdul Malik and completed by his son Walid - I.

The columns, ceiling, carpets and stained glass windows dominate the mosques interior, while the dome of the rock has presented its original plan and decoration. The El Aqsa Mosque is entirely different from what it was originally in the eighth century.

South of the temple Archaeological garden Ophel displays historical levels of Jerusalem for 3000 years of the past. North of the temple mount west wall tunnels revealed entire length of western wall (approx. 500m. 1650 feet) church enclosed the Herodian temple mount. The pool of Bethesda (Beth-Zatha) John 5:2-9.

During Byzantine lime the crusaders Christians built large churches in honour of healing the paralysed. At the same churches commemorates Mary's birth place, traditionally located in the era. Today church of St. Anne stands next to the poor. It helped the water supply system. I was built by the crusaders around 1130 and dedicated to St. Anne Mary's Mother.

It is one of the beautiful crusader churches in the Holy land. After the defeat of the crusaders Saladin turned the church into school to foster Islamic faith. In 1886, following the Crimean war. The Ottomans Turk presented the site to Franking gratitude for their support during the war.



TIMNA HILLS

THE JORDAN RIVER

Jordan is the Baptismal site for Jesus. Jordan River runs from the Northern Region of the Holy Land through the Sea of Galilee on its way south to the Dead Sea originating at the “Foot of Mount Hermon. The river collects three streams for its water (1) The Dan, Snir (Hatz Bani) and Hermon (Banias). The Syrian African Lift the deepest land rest in the world.

Jordan River got its own meaning “Go down” Feel adventurous people used to sky and play there with small boats. It flows to 65 miles some it seems flow seems to be wild and some times very soft and ends, in Dead Sea above that we can see, it as a huge snake moving with man turish flow high.

THE MOUNT OF BEATITUDES:

From this we can learn the lesson on the values of Christianity.

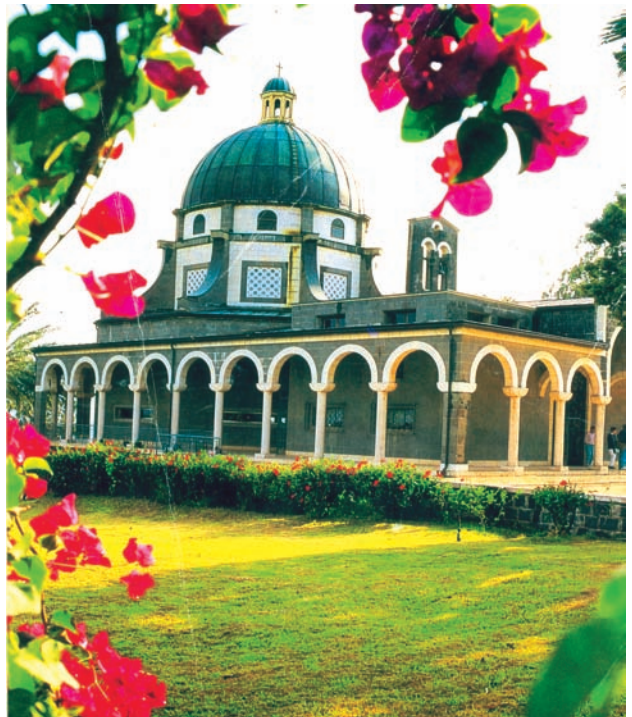
Many historical places and the message of salvation and valuable ocean of Gospel of Jesus is seen here: (1) Charity, (2) Justice, (3) Prudence, (4) Hope, (5) Faith, (6) Fortitude, (7) Temperance, (8) Virtues eight valuable messages are included in the message.

In 1911 Antonico Barluzzia famous artist showed his talents in the decorations of the churches some instructions to the pilgrims must follow: 1. Honour the nature, 2. Be Silent, 3. Dress in Modesty, 4. Keep the premises clean.

From this beautiful spot north of the sea of Galilee above springs of Tabgha, Jesus gave his most famous address.

Sermon on the mount. The church was built in surrounded by well aimed gardens.

The church was built on 1936-8. It was designed by Barlezzi who took special pride its architecture. The Building is Octagonal to



represent eight beatitudes from the Sermon on the mount. On the mount there is an incredible vantage point over looking the sea of Galilee and see the ruins of the ancient church dedicated to the sermon on the mount. Inside the church of beatitudes, golden plated lid for altar part eight beautiful decorated windows were placed. This is the place where Jesus taught to His disciples before the trial.



MOUNT ARBEL:

1. In 1187 an important and famous battle took place here between crusaders and Muslims. In that clash Saladin defeated the Crusaders Kingdom of Jerusalem.

2. On one stop of the mountain guests can visit a site Holy to the Druze called in Arabic Nebi Shuayb. It is said to contain the tomb of the prophet. Jethro father in law of Moses. In Exo.18 chapter Jethro advised Moses.

3. It is known as Mount Nithai. In the caves of Arbel attack them King Herod's soldiers reached the caves by throwing rupees from above found a synagogue with several strata to dating from Roman and Byzantine periods.

SOLOMON POOLS:

South to Bethlehem there are three famous pools as they belong to ancient times called Solomon pools. All the water from hills will be accumulated King Herod built it. We cross the road from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. In olden days they remembered way to Egypt only because of Moses Exodus 20:4.



BETHSAIDA AND CHORAZIN

Mathew 11:21-23, Luke 10:13-15, Mathew: 15:21. Baptism of John Luke 1:8. Mary and Joseph traveled (Math 2:13, 18). Jesus traveled north to these cities located on the Coast of Modern Lebanon. Jesus pronounced “Woe” against Chorazin and Bethsaida, because they refused to follow his teaching Tyre and Sodom will fare better also. We can see the seat of Moses herein Chorazin.

In Korazin National Park: North of Capernaum, one can see the remains of the ancient Jewish town of Chorazin. The excavations of Bethsaida are located in, Bert Saida Reserve (The Plain of Bethsaida) on the North East shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Streams that flow from Golan Heights to the Sea of Galilee show down here and create an urge and multibranched delta with a large variety of flora and fauna.

Tabga

The fertile Tebgha spreads along the North Western shore of the Sea of Galilee. It's name comes from the Greek Heptapeg on which means seven springs; but has been corrupted into the Arabic name Tabgha. The Multiplication of the Loaves and fish (Mathew 14:19-21).

In Tabgha the North Western shore of the Sea of Galilee within a beautiful Garden stands the Catholic church of the foist feeding of the Multitudes. It contains most beautiful mosaic flooring. The Mosaic with two fish and five conves indicate. The miracle Jesus did at that place. In 614 A.D. The Church was destroyed in the Persian invasion. Mark 8:10.

This is the combination of 3 places. Jesus asked Peter to feed his sheep, if he could love Him. Jesus questened him three times. A big statue with black polished stones was seen here is beautiful.

This is a place where Jesus did a miracle of five loaves of bread and two fishes to feed 5000 thousand men. The mount of beatitude is adjacent to that other places. This is North West to the sea of Galilee. If came from great



word Hetapegon means seven springs the Aramaic name is Tebgha. The place got importance for healing a chiefs son's sickness in capernaum. Actually the church of Tegba belonged to 5th Century but renovated again. They saved the same mosaic stones to use in modern constructions. The stones used for it is called Oasald in the church. They called it chapel of primacy. It is built in 1933.

CAESAREA NAMED IN HONOUR OF CAESAR AUGUSTUS

It is located on the Mediterranean Coast and was originally a phoenician trading post called strations lower. In 25 BC Herod the great built on artificial harbor and a large city. It was designed to like Decapoles with Rome. After Heewads death Caesarea became the seat of the Roman by Government of India and Pilate resided here. Famous for theater, hippodrom of our ared aqueducts.

Hamath in Tibirias: Hamath means for stress Apostles Mark, Luke wrote about Jesus and His Ministry including Healings Mark 2:1 Luke 5;6. It is close to see of Galilee many came to get healings here. The temperature is very high 60C (140F). Traditional Jews left 12 land marks of special figures.

Today the sight is for burial place of some famous Jewish rabbis. One of the crusaders church was dedicated to St.Peter here.

SHRINE OF THE BOOK

Part of the Israel Museum building was constructed especially to house the Dead Sea scrolls. These scrolls were found in caves near the dead sea at Qumran. They were written in Hebrew. They were found in Judean desert. The building with while dome resembles the did of the earthen ware jars in which the scrolls were hidden. Shrine of the blood is the house of the dead sea scrolls which were discovered in Qumran in 1947.

YAD VASHAM:



CAESARIA

The Yad Vasham honours the victims of Holocaust. It is a memorial to the destroyed community of the children's memorial.

It means Martyrs and Heroes remembrance authority a permanent exhibit presenting the event of Holocaust and authentic objects from the ghettos and concentration camps. A memorial was erected in memory of the six million Jews who were scattered in world war-II Baunt in 1967, the name was taken from the prophecy 56:5, connected with the memorial there is an institute building containing photo graphic filmed material:



SHRINE OF THE BOOK

TIBERIAS:

Today it is a nice tourist center. The anicient city western boundary was marked by Mount Berenice which give beautiful view of sea of Galilee. Some churches are found regarding Roman period. I n 1033 liberians destroyed due to earth quake. In Southern sectors of Tiberia hot springs attract visitors for recreational center. Several Synagogue were found in 4 to 8 centuries.

Some increptions were famous containing a wheel with signs of Zodiac with Jewish Symbol of Torah ark and Renorha. (John 6:1, 28, 21:1)

Tiberias is located on the West shore of see of Galilee, 10 miles south of Capernaum. It was built by Herod. Antipas in 20 A.D. on his new capital and named for than ruling emperor of Rome, Tiberias. It is having Therapeutic hot springs. It is nick names to the lake it boards John 6:1, 21:1



YAD VASHAM

EMMAUS LUKE 24:13-31

Several churches have been built to dedicate the occasion when Jesus appeared to Cleopas and his companion. The ancient Emmaus is linked with Ayalon Valley known as Emmaus in the 3rd Century A.D. and was granted the status of a city and named NICOPOLIS.

Many churches are established. Aylon vally is famous with historical back ground.

HEBRON

South to the Jerusalem Hebron is one of the oldest cities in the holyland. It is famous for beautiful springs, fertile land made many to get settled in it. The information about ancient Hebron comes from the Bible where it is called Kiriath arba and mamre located 22 miles (35 Kms) South West to Jerusalem in the territory.

Hebron became famous for the association with Abraham (Gen. 13:18). In Gen 18:1-10. God appeared in the form of three men to Abraham near Oaks of Mamre (Elonei Mamre) King David ruled Judah for 7 1/2 years before he made Jerusalem his capital (2 Sam 2:11). Hebron is frequently mentioned in later sources from the Hellenistic period through the Ottoman period.



HEBRON

Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and his wife Rebekah and Jacob's wife Leah buried in Machpelah. The monument structure above the cave was built in second temple period. It is commonly attributed to Herod the Great. Hebron is seen from the Bible from different references gives more details.

Tel Aviv: It is situated in 1909 means the hill of the spring. In 1909 some Jewish settlers moved from Jaffa in the South to form new city and called it Tel Aviv. It is a home for many immigrants, having population 400,000. It is the largest city in Israel with approximately 15% of Israel's 3,100,000 Jewish people. It is a city of Museums, art galleries, concert halls and theaters and a vigorous commercial and industrial center. Tel Aviv It is the oldest support and also a rock of mud.

Long back it is called Joppa. This place is very strong hold for Israel. Financial organisation is held here. It is named as Merina beach of Mediterranean sea.

A big stadium is built by King Herod in 20BC. In Caesaria it is famous sea port in the world. It is capital for Romans in 600 BC. Ptolemy ruled this city. Philip served a person on the



TEL AVIV ARIAL VIEW

Chariot here Acts 8:40. It is also home for Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and Operahouse. Now the city is filled with 15 Mayors house many buildings, including, Open roof cinema halls are provided. It is an educational cultural and art center. One of the best museums is Diaspora

Important monasteries of the desert

East of Jerusalem and Bethlehem the Judean desert drifts down to the Jordan valley. Though the desert may be small in size, the significance of its history has been enormous. Hundreds of monks prayed in natural caves.

Monastery of St. Euthymius Mar Saba Monastery Ancient Martyrius Monastery which was uncovered in residential area East of Jerusalem on the road to Jericho.

Jaffee or Joppa :

In Hebrew "Yafo". It is ancient Joppa. It is one of the biggest cities in the Holy Land. Its beauty is engraved in the minds of visitors since centuries. It is a port city Egyptians conquered in 15th century BC. It is the gate way to Holy Land.

This is an ancient city 2 Chronich 2:2-16 dating back at least 3,500 years named after Japheth. The son of Noah. It is part of David's inheritance; when Israelites settled the land. It is known as Japho in Joshua time (Josh 19:46). During Solomon's reign, it was 2 Chroni 2:2-16. a chief sea port used to float the cedars of Lebanon to Jerusalem for use in building the temple. Zerubbabel brought leaders here to rebuild the temple. (Ezra 3:7). Jonah Sailed from here to Tarshish rather than to Obey God. (Jona 1:3). Dorcas Lived, died and was raised from dead by Peter. (Acts 9:36). Simon the Tanner lived here. (Acts 9:43). Peter's vision and commission to take Gospel to gentiles.

Nazareth:

This is native place of mother of Jesus Mary. It is a small village i.e. Galilee now filled with Arabs and Christians. It is in Holy City in 1968.



Church at Joppa

Few churches were rebuilt with beautiful decorations. In the caves few found the inccriptions read XEMAPIA, means hail Mary First word of Gabriel in Greek. In the center is Mary well. An anqueduct carried water from the spring to the well. Church of Gabriel is close to Marys well.

CANA

Present day Kfar cana definitely not the actual site of New testament Cana. It is located 4 miles north east of Nazareth on the road to Tiberias. (John 2:1-10)

The first miracle of Jesus was performed. His public miracle in Cana of Galilee changing water to wine.

Jesus healed nobleman's son from Capernaum in Cana. (John 4:46-54). It was the home of Nathanael, one of Jesus disciples. (John 21:2). Jesus came to the place only two times in his life. Soon after Jesus was tempted by Satan after his fast for 40 days. Jesus healed the son of the Chief. (John 4:46-54). The important church is called Kerkana, When Jesus did his first miracle.

The steeples of the churches stand erect above the houses and serve as a constant reminder of the significance of this place for the story of Jesus.

DEAD SEA SCROLLS.

In the early spring of 1947, a young Bedouin boy made a startling discovery in one of the more than 250 caves that riddle



ST. ANNS CHURCH



CHURCH AT CANA

the hills of this area. In an attempt to retrieve a lost sheep, he wandered into a lonely cave and discovered the seven most famous scrolls in the world, the first of many finds that make up the Dead Sea Scrolls. Unaware of the importance of these manuscripts, the lad took them to a Beth-lehem merchant and antique dealer named Kando. Four of the scrolls were purchased from this dealer by the Archbishop Metropolitan Samuel of the Syrian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem. The other three were purchased by the Israeli archaeologist Dr. E. L. Sukenik. Subsequently the Dead Sea Scrolls became known as “the greatest archaeological discovery of the twentieth century.”

But why are the scrolls so important? Because they are dated between 200 B.C. and A.D. 100. The manuscripts from which our Old Testament is translated date to about A.D. 1000. Although the Dead Sea Scrolls were written about 1000 years earlier than these were, both are almost identical. This wonderfully validates the accuracy of the Bible. For that reason these scrolls are extremely important. In fact, a special museum at the Hebrew University was built just to house these scrolls. It is known as THE SHRINE OF THE ROCK:



Peter's House



Eilat -Red Sea



under sea a beautiful fish



The model photographed from the northeast: in the front is the third wall.

JERUSALEM

THE THIRD TEMPLE, ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN PROPHECY:

The Bible describes two temples that existed in the past. There was Solomon's temple, dedicated in 959 BC., and destroyed in 586 BC. by the Babylonians. Seventy years later in 516 BC, under the leadership of Zerubbabel, the Israelites returned from the Babylonian Captivity to rebuild the temple. The second temple did not have the majesty of the former one. Herod the Great began a renovation of this temple in 20 BC., which continued through the time of Christ. "Herod's Temple", as it was commonly called, was destroyed in AD 70 by the Roman armies. But the Bible teaches that another temple will be built, and perhaps it will be soon.



Model of Ancient Jerusalem

In telling about the Antichrist, who will be on earth during the Tribulation, the Bible describes him as one “who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (II Thess. 2:4). In order for this prophecy to be fulfilled, another temple must be built. Since it will be used during the Tribulation, it is sometimes referred to as the “Tribulation Temple”.



Mount Zion and Dormition Abbey, massive Church adjacent to the Last Supper Room

In trying to determine where the events of the Tribulation fit into God's program in relation to other events, Matthew 24 is a key passage. The disciples asked Jesus three specific questions: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (v.3).

THREE PERIODS OF TIME

In answering these questions, Jesus alluded to three different periods of time these events would take place. The first period of time is found in Matthew 24:4-6. Jesus said, “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet”. When the Bible refers to the “end”, we must determine whether the subject under discussion is the end of the Church Age, the end of God’s program for Israel or the end of the world.

Matthew was writing primarily to Jewish Christians who were concerned about God’s program for the nation. The ‘end’ they were concerned about the Tribulation, which would precede the Kingdom Age. Jesus told His listeners that although they would continue to hear of many who would claim to be the Messiah (Christ), this would not prove that the end had come. In other words, such claims would not prove that the Tribulation had begun.

TRIBULATION DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

The seven years of the Tribulation are divided into two segments of three and a half years each. Matthew 24:9-14 indicates what it will be like during the first segment. The second segment will be evident when people see “the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place” (v.15).

The “abomination of desolation” has to do with the desecration of the Holy of Holies. When the Antichrist sits in the temple and demands to be worshiped as God (see II Thess. 2:4), this is the desecration of the temple, or the “abomination of desolation”.

Jesus described how terrible the last half of the Tribulation will be (see Matt. 24:16-26). But at the end of the Tribulation, Christ Himself will return to earth to judge the Gentiles and to establish His Kingdom. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with

a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (vv.29-31).

DANIEL REFERS TO EVENTS

The Book of Daniel also refers to the events of the Tribulation. Daniel 9:24-27 records Daniel’s prophecy of the 70 weeks. A careful study of prophecy indicates that the length of these weeks is seven years each. Sixty-nine of these weeks (483 years) have already been completed. The 70th week is the seven years of Tribulation that will come upon Israel and the whole world in the end times.

How the Antichrist fits into the 70th week of Daniel is seen in verse 27: “He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate”.

So, at the beginning of the Tribulation, the person known as “the Antichrist” will make an agreement with Israel, but in the middle of the week (after three and one-half years), he will break his agreement with the nation. This coincides with other prophecies that indicate the Antichrist will place himself in the temple and will demand to be worshiped as God in the middle of the Tribulation.

Again, believers are to be reminded that for these prophecies to be fulfilled, a third temple must be built in Israel.

SITE CHOSEN FOR THE TEMPLE

Israel’s religious history revolved around two temples. The Bible reveals that a third temple will be in existence during the Tribulation. A major consideration concerning the third temple is where it will be built.

In tracing Israel’s history, it is interesting to note that a particular spot had special significance as long as 2000 years before Christ. This was the spot where God told Abraham, “Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell

thee of “ (Gen. 22:2).The mountain God showed Abraham is thought to be Mount Moriah, on which other significant events were to take place later.

On Mount Moriah David purchased a threshing floor from Ornan (also known as Araunah) in order to offer burnt offerings to God (see II Sam. 24:18-25) .Second Chronicles 3:1 shows that this was the same place where Solomon’s temple was later built: “Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite”. After Solomon’s temple was destroyed by the Babylonians, it was rebuilt on the same spot about 70 years later and then remodeled by Herod about the time of Christ.

Some say that what is known, as the “Wailing Wall” today is the remains of the western wall of Herod’s temple. Whatever the case, it is evident that the location of the temple has had special significance in Israel’s history for nearly 4000 years. Today it is believed that Islam’s Dome of the Rock stands in this precise place.

JERUSALEM HOLDS A UNIQUE POSITION

The city of Jerusalem has held a unique position in God’s program for Israel, and it will continue to play a prominent role in the future. At the dedication of Solomon’s temple, the Lord said through Solomon, “Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I, any man to be a ruler over my people Israel: but I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel” (II Chron. 6:5,6).

The city of Jerusalem has had violent history, and it will experience extremely difficult times in the future, according to biblical prophecy. Both the past and the future of Jerusalem are referred to in the Gospels.

Luke 21:20 says, “When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh”. Notice that the sign of desolation was an encompassing of the city by armies. When this sign occurred, the instructions were “Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all

things, which are written, may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give such, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people” (vv. 21-23).

These are the recorded words of the Lord Jesus Christ. He concluded these statements by saying, “They shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles, be fulfilled” (v.24). The tragedy predicted here was fulfilled in A.D. 70 when Titus, the general of the Roman armies, destroyed Jerusalem and scattered the Israelites among the nations. The people of Israel will remain scattered “until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”.

Another prophecy concerning Jerusalem is recorded in Matthew 24. Christ said, “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains” (vv.15,16). Notice that the sign given here concerning Jerusalem’s destruction is “the abomination of desolation” standing in the holy place. This refers to the Antichrist, who will stand in the third temple during the Tribulation and demand to be worshiped.

Although there are many similarities between Luke 21 and Matthew 24, there are also significant differences. The sign given in Luke 21 was the encompassing of the city by armies; the sign given in Matthew 24 is the abomination of desolation in the holy place. Luke 21 refers to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies in A.D.70. It also foreshadows the surrounding of Jerusalem by armies in the future. Matthew 24 refers to the enemy’s coming in, although the city is not completely destroyed.

Matthew 24:27-31 tells what will occur at the end of the seven years of tribulation. The Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth. At the Rapture of the Church, referred to in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, the Lord will only appear in the clouds to catch away believers from the earth. But at the end of the Tribulation, Christ will return to the earth (see Zech. 14:1-5).

Notice particularly that verses 4 and 5 say, “His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: Yea, Ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee”.

THREE TIME PERIODS

Although Luke 21 refers especially to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies in A.D. 70, three time periods are actually referred to in this chapter. The first one refers to the destruction that occurred in A.D. 70: “When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.... And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations” (vv.20,24). The second one talks about the times of the Gentiles: Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (v.24). The third time period refers to the return of Christ to earth at the end of the Tribulation: “There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring... And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (vv.25,27).

The first time period is already past; the second time period appears to be almost over, and the third time period is still ahead.

Although God has not given all the details of what is going to take place. He has given a broad outline of events. It is important that Christians be faithful witnesses for Him while there is still time. Now is the time to accept the Lord and to be fallowers of Lord Jesus. May the good Lord prepare for His Kingdom. Praise the Lord. Amen.

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