

# ***The Land of the Bible***

## ***with Dr. Randy Smith, GraceConnect, and Liz Cutler Gates***

### **Day One: Fri, Mar 2, 2018**

Depart JFK for Tel Aviv, Israel. Overnight: In flight.

### **Day Two: Sat, Mar 3, 2018**

Arrive Ben Gurion Airport. Transfer to the hotel, check in; dinner and a good night's rest! Overnight: Tel Aviv area. B,D

### **Day Three: Sun, Mar 4, 2018**

*Four Conflicts in the Background of the Gospels:* Today's study focuses on four key conflicts in the background of Jesus' public ministry. Sites: Caesarea Maritima, Mt. Carmel, drive through Valley of Armageddon, Zippori (Roman villa with Mona Lisa of Galilee), Nazareth (cave homes). Overnight: Nazareth. B,D

### **Day Four: Mon, Mar 5, 2018**

*Characteristics of the Disciples:* Using the four gospel accounts, we will investigate the hints on the background, education and theology of the disciples. Sites: Mt. Arbel, Magdala, boat ride, Ancient Boat exhibit, Mt. Beatitudes, Capernaum. Overnight: By the Sea of Galilee. B,D

### **Day Five: Tue, Mar 6, 2018**

*Private Teachings for the Disciples:* Based on the five sermons in the Gospel according to Matthew, our focus will be on the common teaching style of the ancient rabbis. Sites: Dan Nature Reserve and Tel Dan with the Canaanite (Abrahamic) city gate, Banias (Caesarea Philippi), overlook into Syria, Katzrin (Talmudic Village). Overnight: By the Sea of Galilee. B,D

### **Day Six: Wed, Mar 7, 2018**

*The Perea Ministry of Jesus:* We will discuss the issues of the Perea Ministry, with particular examination of Luke 10-19, the "special section" of this account. Sites: Beth Shean (huge excavations of a Decapolis city), Jordan Valley, Qumran (Dead Sea scrolls), "swim" in the Dead Sea from the comfort of our beach-front hotel. (Anticipate arrival at the hotel by 3:00p.) Overnight: Dead Sea spa hotel. B,D

### **Day Seven: Thu, Mar 8, 2018**

*Hebrew Themes of the Wilderness:* Ascend Masada via cable car and learn of the zealots' final stand against Rome. Traveling north along the Dead Sea, topics for discussion include the desert storm of Habakkuk, the salt covenant of David, and various Biblical wilderness themes. After Jericho we stop at Genesis Land for a camel ride and some desert hospitality ... and then "Up to Jerusalem". Sites: Masada, Ein Gedi, Jericho, Genesis Land. Overnight: Jerusalem. B,D

### **Day Eight: Fri, Mar 9, 2018**

*Messianic Expectations and Disappointments:* With a specific view of the history of "other Messiahs" we will discuss the expectations for the Messiah, and their relationship to the record of the preaching of Jesus. Sites: Mt. of Olives, Gethsemane, House of Caiaphas.

*Setting of the Birth Narrative:* We will investigate what the Biblical accounts tell us of Jesus' birth, based on both the Matthew and Luke accounts. Sites: Bethlehem, Shepherd's Fields. Overnight: Jerusalem. B,D

### **Day Nine: Sat, Mar 10, 2018**

*Jewish Questionings and Roman Trials of Jesus:* The arrest, trial and conviction of Jesus will be our subject as we journey through the "salvation geography" of Jerusalem in the Gospel According to John. Sites: Temple Mount, Pools of Bethesda, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre, Garden Tomb (with communion). Overnight: Jerusalem. B,D

### **Day Ten: Sun, Mar 11, 2018**

*A Living People:* Visit to Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial). Jewish Quarter, Western (Wailing) Wall plaza, South Wall excavations (Davidson Center). Overnight: Jerusalem. B,D

### **Day Eleven: Mon, Mar 12, 2018**

Day at leisure allows time to shop, explore or relax and take in the local culture. We check out of our hotel rooms, enjoy a final dinner, and transfer to the airport for the late night flight. B,D

### **Day Twelve: Tue, Mar 13, 2018**

Flight from Tel Aviv to JFK, arriving later the same day.

*Every effort will be made to complete the full itinerary. Yet, because conditions are often unpredictable in travel, we reserve the right to make changes during the tour.*

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