

Teachers/Guides: Pastor Bob Crain Mrs. Naomi Van der Wal0074 Professor Doug Bookman		Grace Fellowship Church of Oak Forest, IL Study Trip to Israel June 6 – 18, 2011				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 29	May 30	May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4
June 5	June 6	June 7 ³	June 8 ³	June 9	June 10	June 11
<u>Optional Early Departure Date¹</u>	<u>Depart for Israel</u> by the flight of your choice and arrangement. ²	<u>Arrive Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel</u> Make your way to our hotel in Netanya, on the shore of the Mediterranean ⁴ Introductions & Preview ⁵ (after evening meal) ON: Netanya	<u>Coastal Plains & The Jezreel Valley</u> Caesarea Maritima Mt Carmel (MuhraKa) 2 nd Temple Tomb Megiddo Ein Harod/Mt Gilboa Nazareth Village Nazareth Illit ON: Golden Crown - Nazareth	<u>Sea of Galilee</u> Sephoris (overlook) Horns of Hittim Mt Arbel (hike) Ginosar (lunch), Tabgha/ Mt of Beatitudes Capernaum Gergasa Boat Ride (to En-Gev) ON: En Gev - Sea of Galilee	<u>Northern Galilee</u> Huleh Valley Chorazin, Hazor Dan Caesarea Philippi Mt. Hermon foothills Golan Heights Yardenit/Baptism ⁶ Gamla ON: En Gev	<u>Jordan Rift</u> Beth Shan Jericho Qumran Lunch / Dead Sea Swim En Gedi Masada (down siege ramp) Arad ON: Mizpah Ramon
June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18
<u>Northern Negev</u> Wilderness of Paran Arad Beer-Sheva Lachish Beit Guvrin Ashkelon Mt of Olives overlook ON: Gloria Hotel - Jerusalem	<u>Shephalah/ Western Approaches</u> Elah Valley/Azekah Sorek Val/Beth-Shemesh Ajalon Val/Ajalon Biblical Gardens (Yad HaShmonah) Nebi Samwil (Mizpah) PM: Preview of Jerusalem ON: Gloria Hotel	<u>Introduction to Jerusalem</u> Bethlehem (Shepherds Fields/Solomon's Pools) Herodion/Tekoa 2 nd Temple Model Shrine of the Book Haas Promenade Mt of Olives (walk to Kidron Valley) ON: Gloria Hotel	<u>Jerusalem/OT</u> Citadel of David Hezekiah's Northern Wall Model: 1 st Temple Jerusalem (Ariel Ctr) City of David Hezekiah's Tunnel/ Pool of Siloam Afternoon: Free ON: Gloria Hotel	<u>Jerusalem/NT</u> Temple Mt/Western Wall St. Anne's/Bethesda Sisters of Zion Via Dolorosa Holy Sepulcher Church Southern Excavations Jewish Quarter/Cardo Western Wall Tunnel ON: Gloria Hotel	<u>Jesus' Final Hours</u> Upper room, Walk to Gethsemane St. Peter in Gillicantu Christ Church Gordon's Calvary Farewell Dinner PM: Western Wall ⁷ Depart for airport ⁸	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Travel Home </div> ON: In your own bed!

¹The group will gather at the Blue Bay Hotel in Netanya on Tuesday, June 7. However, if you would like to have a day to recoup, you are welcome to arrive a day (or more, for that matter) early. The hotel has been alerted that some travelers may choose to arrive early, but you must make those arrangements yourself. The contact information for the Blue Bay Hotel is as follows:

Address: 37 Hamelachim St, Netanya 42228 Israel

Website: www.blue-bay.co.il

E-Mail: click on the "Contact Us" button on the hotel's home-page

The Blue Bay Hotel is on the shore of the Mediterranean (the beach is a few minutes walk away), and offers a full slate of amenities. It is situated just north of the very nice and modern town of Netanya, but it is a bit of a walk to shops and restaurants. (Taxis are available and reasonable.) The price of a regular room for Sunday night is built into the cost of the trip; if you choose to arrive early or to upgrade the room, you will need to cover the additional charge.

²Arrival in Israel on Tuesday will mean departing the US on Monday. Select any carrier you like, but be careful to schedule your arrival sometime on Tuesday, June 7. The earlier you arrive, the more time you will have to gather yourself before we start out on Wednesday morning.

³Tuesday/Wednesday, June 7-8, is the festival of Shavuot – Weeks in the OT, Pentecost in the NT – in Israel. We have to do some shifting in order to avoid the crush at hotels, as Israeli families enjoy staying at a hotel with their family on holidays such as this.

⁴The easiest way to reach the Blue Bay Hotel in Netanya is by shuttle or by taxi.

- Taxis are readily available at the airport, and will drop you at the door of the hotel. You need to budget in about \$40 for the trip. To secure a taxi, after passing customs and picking up your luggage, proceed through the Greeters Hall and exit at Gate #3; find the dispatcher's station and ask for a taxi to the Blue Bay Hotel in Netanya. (Have the address available, though it will probably not be necessary.)
- The commuter service is very reasonable and direct. You will need to contact the company by e-mail and make arrangements. A driver will greet you at the Greeters Hall and take you directly to the hotel. The cost will be under \$20/person. Contact: www.israel.airport-shuttle.com

Please note that the cost of getting to the hotel is not covered in the cost of the trip, so you will have to pay for this yourself. If you have a group of 3 or more, it might be just as reasonable to secure an individual taxi. Please do not be intimidated by this, as it is very simple and entirely dependable. I have arranged the trip this way in order to keep your cost at a minimum. By the way, in Israel tipping is optional, and if you do tip you should be modest.

With all that, it might be wise to travel with a cell phone which is useable in Israel. On the other hand, if you do not have a mobile phone, it will not be hard to find a phone to use. The tour guide will be carrying a cell phone and will be accessible at any time. If a plane is delayed or missed, he should be notified as soon as possible. It will not be difficult to make arrangements to get the traveler to the group, regardless of what delay might occur.

⁵We will regularly gather in the evenings to preview the region we will be exploring the next day.

⁶Travelers are sometimes anxious to be baptized in the Jordan River, and this is the place provided for that. If you are interested in doing this, there are details that should be attended to before the trip – does it qualify as a biblical baptism, who will do the baptizing, has it been arranged in partnership with your church and pastor, etc.

⁷Men from various synagogues June and sing their way to the Western (nee: Wailing) Wall on Friday to welcome in the Sabbath; it is a very interesting and compelling event to witness.

⁸We would like to gather on this evening for a farewell dinner together, so it would be best if you could schedule your departure late on Friday or early on Saturday. (Remember that you will have to be at the airport 3 hours before departure, and it will take about an hour to get to the airport.) Several airlines have very late departures – around midnight or shortly thereafter (which would mean departure from the hotel around 8 pm). Others leave early in the morning – around 8 am. Your room will be available to you as late as you need it. Once we know the various departure times, we will work with the hotel to arrange for a sherut taxi to pick you up at the time appropriate to your departure time. Don't be at all intimidated by this, as this is standard procedure for hotels in Jerusalem, and the ride will be directly from the hotel to the departure terminal at Ben Gurion Airport.