

JOEL KRAMER ISRAEL STUDY TRIP ITINERARY – March 2024

DAY 1: DEPART FROM HOME

DAY 2: ARRIVE / MEET-UP

- make your way from the airport to the hotel
- group meets for supper (apx. 6 pm) / group orientation meeting (apx. 7 pm)

DAY 3: THE COASTAL PLAINS & THE JEZREEL VALLEY

- **Joppa** - considered a pivotal city in God's message going out to the Gentiles: Jonah attempted to flee from there when told to go to Nineveh, and years later the Lord prepared Peter to go from Joppa to the household of the Roman centurion, Cornelius
- **Caesarea Maritima** – built by Herod the Great, the Roman headquarters in Judea, site of a massive temple to Caesar Augustus from whom the city derives its name, where the Holy Spirit was first poured out on gentiles (Cornelius and his family), where Paul was imprisoned before being sent to Rome, an important place in the development of the early church.
- **Tel Megiddo** – Biblical city that guarded the main coastal travel route, the gathering place for the final Battle of Armageddon

DAY 4: SEA OF GALILEE

- **Nazareth** – (Church of the Annunciation) where the angel Gabriel announced the birth of the Messiah to the virgin Mary, the town where Jesus grew up, significant archaeological remains
- **Mount Arbel / Mount Tabor** (driving by)
- **Capernaum** – the headquarters of Jesus' Galilean ministry, where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law
- **Sea of Galilee Boat Ride** – much of Jesus' ministry took place on the northern portion of the Sea of Galilee

DAY 5: NORTHERN GALILEE

- **Hazor** – the head of all the Canaanite kingdoms, the key city for Joshua's northern conquest, burned by Joshua, one of the key cities built up by King Solomon
- **Tel Dan** – the northernmost city in ancient Israel, the capital city of the tribal territory of Dan
- **Caesarea Philippi / Banias** – cult site for the worship of the god Pan, location of Peter's confession of Christ, one of the springs that feeds the headwaters of the Jordan River
- **Golan Heights** – the northernmost area of Israel

DAY 6: JORDAN RIFT

- **Beth She'an** – the place where Saul and his sons were hung on the city wall by the Philistines, the only Greek Decapolis city on the west side of the Jordan River
- **Masada** – fortress used by Herod the Great, site of one of the last stands against the Romans in the First Jewish Revolt
- **Qumran/Dead Sea Scroll Cave (hike)** – area where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in a series of 11 caves, Cave #1 is where the initial discovery was made

DAY 7: JERUSALEM

- **Hezekiah's Broad Wall** – built by Hezekiah to expand Jerusalem in order to take in refugees from the 10 northern tribes fleeing from the Assyrian army, the wall was breached by the Babylonians in 586 BC
- **Western Wall** – a Jewish holy site, the foundation wall on the western side of the platform (the Temple Mount) on which the Jewish temple stood
- **Southern Archaeology Park** – within this park are the original steps that led to the temple entrance as it stood in Jesus' time, piled up stones thrown down from the temple in the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem
- **City of David:** the site of Melchizedek's city of Salem which David conquered from the Jebusites and made the capital of Israel
 - **David's Palace** – David's residence, a monumental building
 - **Hezekiah's Tunnel (walking through)** – the water tunnel built by Hezekiah to prepare for the Assyrian invasion
 - **David's Tomb** – the site where King David was buried
- **Ben Hinnom Valley / Gehenna** – the lowest valley in Jerusalem, the place that represents Judah's sin of child sacrifice, the location where Judas hanged himself after betraying Jesus

DAY 8: BENJAMIN / JUDEA

- **Ein Gedi (hike)** – a wilderness hideout where David and his men hid from Saul
- **Jericho** – the first city the Israelites conquered after crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land
- **Dead Sea** – float in the incredibly salty water of the Dead Sea

DAY 9: EPHRAIM / SAMARIA

- **Jacob's Well** - site where Jesus conversed with the Samaritan woman in John's Gospel
- **Shechem** – a Biblical city that is the location of many Old Testament stories including Abraham, Jacob, Joshua, and Rehoboam, in between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal where the Israelites renewed the covenant
- **Samaria** – the final capital of the northern kingdom of Israel before it was destroyed by the Assyrians, later built up by Herod the Great
- **Bethel** – second-most mentioned city in Israel after Jerusalem, associated with Jacob's staircase/ladder dream
- **Ai** – the second city that the Israelites attacked after Jericho
- **Burj Beitin** – where Abraham pitched his tent and worshiped God

DAY 10: JUDAH

- **Bethlehem** – (The Church of the Nativity) the birthplace of Jesus
- **Mamre** – The campsite where the Lord appeared to Abraham and Sarah and promised that Isaac was to be born
- **Hebron/Machpella** – the place where the Biblical patriarchs and matriarchs are buried (Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Leah), the location from which David ruled over the southern kingdom of Judah for 7 ^{1/2} years

DAY 11: JESUS DAY

- **Mount Moriah/Temple Mount (7 am)** – where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac, where Solomon and Zerubbabel built temples, Jesus' teaching platform
- **Mount of Olives** – the location where Jesus ascended into heaven and to which He will return
- **Garden of Gethsemane** – the site where Jesus prayed before his crucifixion and where he was betrayed by Judas
- **Herod's Palace Complex** – the monumental palace Herod built for himself in Jerusalem
- **Gabbatha** – the location of Jesus' trial under Pontius Pilate
- **Golgotha** – site of Jesus' crucifixion
- **Tomb of Jesus** – where Jesus was buried and resurrected
- **Church of the Apostles** – location of the Last Supper and Pentecost

DAY 12: WESTERN FOOTHILLS

- **Tel Gezer** – a city that the Pharaoh of Egypt conquered and gave to King Solomon as a wedding present, location of a Canaanite high place
- **Azehkah/Elah Valley** – area of the battle between David and Goliath
- **Lachish** – the second most important city in Judah after Jerusalem, conquered by Joshua, Sennacherib, and Nebuchadnezzar
- **Farewell Dinner (Crowne Plaza Tel Aviv Beach)** – our last time together as a group to recap and reflect about the tour

DAY 13: FREE DAY / DEPARTURE DAY (Tel Aviv)

- final shopping/exploring/packing
- depart for the airport according to your flight schedule – you must arrive at the airport 3 hours before your departure time

(Be clear about your departure time. Is your ticket showing AM/PM or military time? A departure time of 12:15 means that your flight is leaving in the middle of the night at 12:15, just after midnight.)

DAY 14: ARRIVE HOME

(If you are flying to the United States, you may arrive on the same date that you depart from Israel because you will be crossing back over the International Date Line.)

**The tour will follow this itinerary as closely as possible. However, at times, circumstances beyond control may require changes to the itinerary (ex: weather conditions, transportation delays/issues, site closures, medical emergencies, political events, local holidays, etc.).*