FAITH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STUDY & TOUR OF ISRAEL

January 13-23, 2014

Historical & Geographical Settings of the Bible

Open to all interested in Israel and the Bible!

An introduction to the geography, history, and archaeology of Israel.

For those who sign up as students

FALL, 2013 (offered at Faith Theological Seminary for credit or audit. Weekly, Monday evenings, 6:30-9:15
Historical/Geographical Studies of Israel (3 credits): BI E02, OT E04, OT 927 – Sept 9th – first class.
An introduction to the geography, history, and archaeology of Israel. Course-work and assignments are completed in preparation for BI E03 and TH 928 Historical/Geographical Studies of Israel (before arrival in Israel). This work provides the necessary biblical background and regional introduction for the study-tour in Israel. (See syllabus on-line.)

JANUARY 13-22, 2014 (offered in Israel for both credit students and all others)
Historical/Geographical Tour of Israel (3 credits): BI E03, OT E05, and OT 928
These courses follow BI E02 and TH 927 Historical/Geographical Studies. In Israel, students attend preparatory sessions designed to integrate assignments with daily field studies to understand the geography and culture of ancient Israel until the time of Christ.

For everyone on the tour

PROFESSOR and TOUR GUIDE – Rev. Gary Byers
Staff archaeologist with the Associates for Biblical Research and, after twenty seasons in the field, continues directing excavations in Israel’s West Bank and Jordan.

Costs of Israel Tour: price per person is only $2799.00. Deposit of $500 per person with reservation. NO credit card payments. Final deposit date is Sept 15. Final payment is Oct 12.

Contact sponsor for more information: Faith Theological Seminary, 529 Walker Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21212, (410) 323-6211
Email: fts@FaithTheological.org – Website: www.faiththeological.org
Organization of tour: Faith Travel Development & Consulting with Ophir Tours
Gary became a believer in his first year of college, started a church in Frederick, Maryland during senior year, at age twenty-two, and continued there for eighteen years. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Liberty University and Baltimore Hebrew University. He is a staff archaeologist with the Associates for Biblical Research (http://www.biblearchaeology.org) and, after twenty seasons in the field, continues directing excavations in Israel’s West Bank and Jordan. Gary has served for fourteen years as Spiritual Life Director of Helping Up Mission, a long-term residential spiritual recovery program for men with drug and alcohol addictions in Baltimore, Maryland. He continues there as Deputy Director today. Gary is well versed in all things related to Israel, having taken forty trips to the Middle East as a student, a tour leader, a researcher, and an excavator!

SOME ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENTS:

- Adjunct Professor (Historical/Geographical Studies of Israel and Historical/Geographical Tour of Israel) at Faith Theological Seminary (2013-present)
- Board of Directors, Near East Archaeological Society (2001-present)
- Board of Directors, Associates for Biblical Research (2004-present)
- Chairman, Annual Meetings of Near East Archaeological Society (2008-present)
- Visiting Professor, College of Archaeology & Biblical History, Trinity Southwest University
- Assistant Director, Tall el-Hamman Excavation Project, Jordan (2005-present)
- Administrative Director, Ai Expedition at Khirbet al-Maqatir, Israel (1995-present)
- Square Supervisor, Khirbet Nisya Excavation, Israel (1993-1994)
- Excavation team, Tel Miqne (Ekron), Israel (1984)
- Forty trips to Middle East as student, tour leader, researcher and excavator (1971-present)

SOME PUBLICATIONS:

Byers, Gary A, Away in a Manger, but Not in a Barn, Bible Study Magazine Vol 2 Issue 1 (2010).
Day 1  Our journey begins as we board our flight and depart for the Promised Land.

Day 2  Upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, we will be met by our tour leader and coach driver. We then drive to Jaffa, the ancient seaport from which the Prophet Jonah fled from God (Jonah 1:2), and the city where Peter stayed with Simon the Tanner and restored Tabitha (Dorcas) to life (Acts 9:36-43). Afterwards we transfer to our hotel for check-in and dinner.

Day 3  This morning we visit Caesarea. It was here that Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized (Acts 10). It was also here that Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome (Acts 25 & 26). We continue on to Megiddo, a city with a long and important biblical history. Then we proceed to Nazareth, to see the Church of the Annunciation and visit Nazareth Village. We go on via Cana, commemorating Jesus’ transformation of water into wine. We end the day in Tiberias, our home for the next three nights.

Day 4  After breakfast we drive to the World Heritage Site of Tel Hazor. Tel Hazor is a testimony to a civilization that has disappeared – that of the Canaanite cities of the Bronze Age and the biblical cities of the Iron Age manifest in its expressions of creativity: town planning, fortifications, palaces, and water collection technologies. It was the largest fortified area in Israel during the Israelite period (ninth century B.C.E.). On to Tel Dan, what was known in the Bible as the High Place of Jeroboam. On the south side of the city’s wall, there remains the impressive Israelite Gate from the Iron Age. Near the Jordan River, the Dan spring is renowned as one of the most beautiful places in the Golan. We travel into the Golan Heights area where we discover the Road to Damascus (Acts 9) and view Mt. Herman at Caesarea Philippi (Banias), where Peter confessed “You are the Christ” (Matt. 16:13-20). Drive on the ancient Road to Damascus on the Golan Heights and descend to the Sea of Galilee, passing the area of Magdala, home of Mary Magdalene.

Day 5  Our morning begins after a breakfast buffet. Reflect from the Mount of Beatitudes (where Jesus taught on the blessings) and experience a breathtaking view of the sunset over the Sea of Galilee. We enter the 2,000 year old remains of Capernaum (Lk. 4:31-37) and stand in what is left of the synagogue in which our Lord ministered and see Peter’s house. We visit the traditional site where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7). We continue to Bethsaida across the Jordan River, to the north of the lake. Here, there are the remains of a street and fisherman’s home from the time of Jesus as well as the biblical walled city of Geshur. We then visit the 2000 year ancient boat and enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

Day 6  Then we journey south to Jerusalem, On our way, we visit the traditional site of John’s baptisms at Qasr El Yahud. Our next stop is Jericho, the ancient Canaanite city destroyed by the power of God (Josh. 5-6). It is the oldest known inhabited city in the world. It was in Jericho that Jesus encountered Zacchaeus (Lk. 19). Waters from the Spring of Elisha (II Ki 2) are also in this area. We then visit Khirbet el-Maqtir believed to be the location of the Biblical Ai of Joshua. After a short drive we arrive at Qumran, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and the home of the ancient Essene community. We then travel to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

Day 7  After breakfast, our first stop is the Mt. of Olives (Lk. 19:28-40 & II Sam. 15:30-36). We see olive trees that date back to the time of Christ, the site of the Ascension (Acts 1) and take time to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-56). Then we proceed to Bethlehem; visit Church of the Nativity, Shepherd Fields, and Mt. Herodion. Drive to the Elah Valley where the battle of David and Goliath took place. Then on to Tel Maresha, the highest city in the Judean Lowlands. It was fortified by King...
Rehoboam of Judah following the campaign to the region of the Egyptian Pharaoh Shishak: “And Rehoboam... built cities for defense in Judah... Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph” (2 Chron. 11:5-8). We end the day at Tel Gath where the excavations at Gath allow the tel its part of the tale. The view from the top of the mound shows the region where the two groups of newcomers clashed. To the west lay the coastal plain and present-day Ashdod, and to the east, the Judean mountains. This is the arena of many biblical stories, among them the exploits of Samson, the return of the Ark to Bet Shemesh, and David’s battle with Gath’s notorious native son – Goliath. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 We begin the day at the City of David & Hezekiah Tunnel where we will see one of the most exciting archeological sites of the ancient world. We will also see the Pool of Siloam. We emerge at the Davidson Center where we will see a 3D model of the Temple and the southern wall excavations.

Then we proceed to Mt. Zion on the south side of Jerusalem, King David’s city. We sing praises in the Upper Room (Lk. 22:7-38), view the traditional tomb of King David, and proceed to Caiaphas’, the High Priest, house (Jn. 18), where we walk through some of the ancient rooms. The day will come to an end at the Israel Museum to see a scale model of Jerusalem and/or visit the Bible Lands Museum.

Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 9 We depart early for Masada, the spectacular mountaintop fortress built by Herod, which is famous for being the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. From the top of Masada, the Roman camps and siege ramp can still be seen.

Stop at Ein Gedi. See the waterfalls at this oasis in the desert, which is mentioned several times in the Book of Psalms, the place where King David hid from King Saul. The combination of Ein Gedi’s abundance of water and tropical climate provides wonderful exotic plant and animal life. We continue to the shores of the Dead Sea to feel the saltiest water on earth as we float in the mineral filled water.

We travel back to Jerusalem for dinner.

Day 10 Our final day begins as we see a part of Herod’s temple and pray at the Western Wall. We walk up onto the original Temple Mount platform where King Herod’s temple stood and visit the Dome of the Rock.

We walk through the Old City, visiting the Pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5), and viewing the shops and the unique way of life that these ancient customs and lifestyles have maintained.

We proceed to Pilate’s Judgment Hall in the Fortress of Antonia (Jn. 18:28—19:26). We see the games of the soldiers still etched in its stone floor, sense the agony of Christ’s crucifixion at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Lk. 23:50—24:12). Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner before returning to our hotel for overnight.

Day 11 We drive to the airport for our return home.

Price Per Person $2799.00.
Deposit of $500 per person with reservation form. NO credit card payments.
Final deposit date is Sept 15.
Final payment is Oct 12.
Based on two people sharing a room.
Single Supplement will apply

The tour includes:
• Meeting and assistance upon arrival to & departure from Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv.
• Porterage at airport and hotels
• sightseeing as per itinerary
• Government licensed English speaking tour guide
• Entrance fees as per itinerary
• Visit to Nazareth Village
• Boat ride on Sea of Galilee
• Masada cable car round-trip
• Nine overnights in the three Star hotels
• Breakfast & dinner daily in hotels beginning with dinner on Day two and ending with breakfast on Day eleven
• Arrival and departure transfers with guide including
• Farewell dinner in hotel

The tour does not include:
• Expenses of a personal nature; hotel “extras”, drinks, telephone calls, etc.
• Travel or medical insurance
• Lunches or any meals not mentioned
• Tips to driver, guide, restaurant/ hotel staff.
• Water on the bus
• Any other services not mentioned under “included services”
• Passport fees(Exp. Date must be 6 months after return date)
• Transportation to and from BWI airport
Terms and Conditions
We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription (price is based on twenty five travelers). In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client.

Responsibility: Faith Travel Development & Consulting officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances be liable to the client under or by reason of this agreement directly or indirectly for any accidents, injury, delay, damage, or inconvenience caused to the client by negligence of others, by malfunctions of transportation systems or equipment, by acts of war, terrorism, or rebellion, strikes, theft, itinerary changes, extreme weather conditions, or cancellations, and the client hereby releases the above mentioned corporation and persons from any and all such liability. The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger’s contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. Air transportation is via special, nonrefundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client. Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

Currency: Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy: All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 100 days before departure, a $100 administrative fee will be assessed. From 99-14 days, a $300 cancellation penalty plus any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers as well as any penalties imposed by airlines (if applicable) will be assessed. Airline tickets once written are usually not refundable. Anyone canceling less than fourteen days prior to departure will receive no refund. Purchase of health, baggage and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Price will increase slightly if number of participants falls below twenty five.