

# The World <sup>of</sup> <sub>the</sub> Bible: Ancient Sites & Current Struggles in the Holy Land

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
hosted by Professors Esther Menn and Ray Pickett

## Journey Highlights

- Join a pilgrimage of study, archaeology and faith reflection, including Bible study, prayer, journaling, and readings
- Tour Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Hebron, Masada, Nazareth, Capernaum and more
- Explore important archaeological sites of the Bible; immerse ourselves in the world of Jesus and biblical Israel
- Converse and experience worship with Christians, Jews and Muslims of the Holy Land
- Walk the Palm Sunday Road and the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem
- Worship with Palestinian Christians; visit Lutheran institutions
- Visit Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Museum
- Meet with leaders in the peace and reconciliation movement, and discuss the theological basis for their beliefs
- Visit a Palestinian refugee camp, and talk with a Jewish settler
- See replicas of the Dead Sea Scrolls and where they were found at Qumran
- Float in the Dead Sea
- Experience kibbutz life at an Israeli kibbutz in the Galilee region
- Extend your stay with a visit to Mt. Sinai in Egypt



January 5-18, 2010  
14 Days

Optional extension to St.  
Katharine's and Mt. Sinai in  
Egypt: January 18-21, 2010

**M**ost Christian tours of “the Holy Land” focus entirely on the sites associated with the events and people of the Bible, especially those linked to Jesus. This fourteen-day study tour does this and much more. We will visit key sites in the Galilee (Nazareth, Capernaum and Megiddo), Jerusalem (Temple Mount, Mount of Olives, Church of the Holy Sepulchre), and Bethlehem. An optional extension will take us to Mt. Sinai in Egypt. We will dialogue with key persons and groups struggling for peace and justice today, learn about a kibbutz, and visit a Palestinian refugee camp. In the best sense, this trip will be a pilgrimage for participants, because engaging “the world of the Bible” does indeed involve both ancient sites and current struggles, and how they are intertwined.

## YOUR STUDY TOUR HOSTS

**Esther Menn**, Professor of Old Testament at LSTC, developed her deep love for the rich history, beautiful landscapes, and diverse peoples of the Holy Land during frequent sojourns, including year-long stays in 1980-81 and 1998-99. Her experiences have included fieldwork at an archaeological dig in the Galilee, milking cows on a Kibbutz in the Negev, and living with a Muslim family in East Jerusalem. She has been a Visiting Scholar at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, an Associate Fellow at the Albright Institute, and a participant in interfaith conferences at the Shalom Hartman Institute. She continues to pray for peace in the region, as she anticipates this 2010 pilgrimage to a land of contrasts, conflict, and hope.

**Ray Pickett** is professor of New Testament at LSTC. He has led several trips to Turkey, Greece and Rome and more recently led a group to the Holy Land. He loves to use archeological sites to bring biblical texts to life by imagining the cultural contexts and everyday struggles of the ancient communities for whom they provided a counter-cultural vision of life. He has also been involved in interfaith dialogue throughout the years with Jewish and Muslim communities through involvement with the National Conference and the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue. He has contributed to a volume of the People’s History of Early Christianity and is interested in how encounters with people from other cultures and faith traditions illuminate the scriptures and their significance for our lives.

## ACADEMIC CREDIT

One course academic credit is available to Masters students who register with LSTC. Credit can also be transferred to other seminaries upon arrangement with the registrar and payment of requisite tuition fees. If more students apply for the trip than we can accept, first priority will be given to LSTC students and to students from the Covenant Cluster (Wartburg, Trinity), followed by those from other seminaries. LSTC alumni, ELCA pastors and friends of the seminary are also welcome.

### DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY - MAIN TOUR

#### **TUE, 05 JAN** Depart U.S.

A meaningful journey of learning and discovery begins today. Board your aircraft in Chicago and connect at JFK airport in New York City with the trans-Atlantic flight to Tel Aviv. (Meals in-flight)

#### **WED, 06 JAN** Arrival Tel Aviv/Haifa

Arrive Tel Aviv this afternoon and transfer to Haifa for overnight at the Carmelite Monastery Stella Maris. Gather for a welcome dinner this evening. (Meals in-flight, D)

#### **THU, 07 JAN** Haifa/Galilee

Depart Haifa and drive along the coast to Caesarea, once the Roman capital of Palestine. See the Crusader fortifications, the Roman amphitheater, aqueduct, and the harbor from where St. Paul was taken to Rome. Continue up Mt. Carmel for a panoramic view of the Jezreel Valley. Proceed to Tel Megiddo, known as one of Solomon’s chariot cities; see the shaft and tunnel made by one of the twenty civilizations that built cities on this strategic site. Visit with Patriarch Elias Chacour of Mar Elias University. Upon reaching the Sea of Galilee, take a boat ride on the peaceful waters and celebrate communion. Check in at Kibbutz Ein Gev on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Kibbutz Ein Gev (B, D)

#### **FRI, 08 JAN** Galilee

Drive north, near the Lebanon border and visit Tel Dan, and then Banias Springs (Caesarea Philippi),

a source of the Jordan River. Ascend the road towards Mt. Hermon and tour the Golan Heights for expansive views of the fertile Huleh Valley. Return to the Galilee and on the north shore visit the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter’s House at Capernaum. Drive along the shore to Tabgha for visits to the Church of Multiplication, commemorating the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; and the Church of the Beatitudes, one of the most beautiful in the Galilee. Return to the kibbutz for a Shabbat dinner then have an introduction to kibbutz life and share in conversation with a member of the community after dinner. Kibbutz Ein Gev (B, D)

#### **SAT, 09 JAN** Galilee/Bethlehem

Start the morning by visiting the Jordan River for an affirmation of baptism. Visit the Jesus Boat then drive to Sepphoris, where the Mishnah was codified around 200 AD, to see an ancient synagogue and marvelous Roman and Byzantine mosaics. Drive to Nazareth to visit to the Church of the Annunciation, the Greek Orthodox Church and Mary’s Well. Continue through the Jordan Valley past Jericho. Upon arrival in Bethlehem this afternoon, check in at your Bethlehem lodging. Have a delicious Palestinian dinner at Il Illiyeh Restaurant at the International Center of Bethlehem, followed by a discussion at ICB “Who are the Palestinian Christians?” Grand Hotel (B, D)

#### **SUN, 10 JAN** Bethlehem

Worship and enjoy fellowship at 10:30 AM with members of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. Visit the Church of the Na-

tivity and Manger Square, and stop at Rachel’s Tomb, if possible, before driving to Shepherds’ Field. Continue to Deheisheh Palestinian refugee camp to meet with one of its residents followed by a visit at Efrat Israeli Settlement. Dinner at Il Illiyeh Restaurant at Abu Gubran, followed by a talk by an ICB staff member who will discuss women’s perspectives on peacemaking. Grand Hotel (B, D)

#### **MON, 11 JAN** Hebron/Bethlehem

Depart Bethlehem after breakfast to travel to Hebron and visit the Ibrahimi Mosque. In Hebron tour with representatives of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel; and meet with a staff person at the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee. Stop at the Hebron Glass Factory after departing Hebron. Return to a Bethlehem mosque and learn about Islamic faith practices with a Muslim Mufti. Grand Hotel (B, D)

#### **TUE, 12 JAN** Bethlehem/Jerusalem

This morning learn about the ministries of the Diyar Consortium. Then depart Bethlehem and arrive in Jerusalem to enjoy spectacular views of the Golden City from the Mount of Olives. Later see the scale model of Jerusalem in Jesus’ time, then continue to the Israel Museum and Shrine of the Book, which houses replicas of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Drive past the Knesset (the Israeli house of parliament) and visit Yad Vashem, the moving memorial to the Holocaust, and hear Jewish Israeli perspectives on the contemporary situation. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**WED, 13 JAN**

**Jerusalem**

Meet with a representative of B'Tselem this morning. Then walk the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane. From the Lion's Gate journey the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Continue through the Jewish Quarter to the Western Wall and the Haram al Sharif (visit to Dome of the Rock if possible). Lastly visit the Southern Steps Archaeological Dig. Return to the guesthouse for dinner and overnight. After dinner meet with representatives of the Bereaved Families/Parents Circle. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**THU, 14 JAN**

**Jerusalem**

Begin the day with a tour of Augusta Victoria Hospital. First meet with Rev. Mark Brown of Lutheran World Federation, whose offices are located on the hospital grounds. Then tour the hospital to learn of the work being done there for local Palestinians. Have lunch (individual payment onsite), and this afternoon tour the ancient City of David. This evening meet with a representative of a local interfaith organization. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**FRI, 15 JAN**

**Jerusalem**

Learn about the work of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAH), which is dedicated to challenging the Israeli practice of tearing down Palestinian homes. Observe MACHSOM Watch at work. Enjoy some free time this afternoon for shopping. Later, join Shabbat observances at the Western Wall and share a Shabbat meal with a Jewish peace leader. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**SAT, 16 JAN**

**Jerusalem**

From Jerusalem travel through the Judean desert to the lowest point of the world, the Dead Sea. Hike up Masada, or take the cable car (additional payment onsite). On this rocky plateau, the Zealots held their last resistance against the Roman conquerors. Continue to Ein Bokek for time for

an optional float in this unique body of water and lunch on your own. Stop at Ein Gedi Nature Preserve before continuing on to Qumran to see the actual caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Visit Jericho, the oldest city on earth, and enjoy an early dinner in Jericho. Return to Jerusalem for closing worship and overnight. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**SUN, 17 JAN**

**Jerusalem/Departure**

Worship at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer this morning and enjoy coffee-hour, then check out of the hotel (the travelers continuing on with the Egypt extension will not check out until tomorrow morning). We will keep two day-rooms until departure for the airport this evening. The afternoon is at leisure for individual exploration. Gather for a farewell dinner prior to transferring to the airport for flight departure at 11:25P. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**MON, 18 JAN**

**Arrive U.S.**

Connect in Atlanta this morning with the continuing flight to Chicago. Arrive home today enriched with a new understanding of the ancient world and the Bible. (Meals in-flight)

Code: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**  
Itinerary subject to change.

**ITINERARY - OPTIONAL EXTENSION**

**Jerusalem/St. Katharine's,**

**MON, 18 JAN**

**Sinai, Egypt**

Check out of the hotel this morning and travel through the Negev Desert to the border crossing at Taba. Meet your Egyptian guide and coach for the transfer through the rugged, crystalline mountains to St. Katherine, the stone-built village at the foot of Moses' Mt. Sinai campsite. Get to bed early tonight to rise at 2:00am to begin an optional climb up Mount Sinai. (B, D)

**MAIN TOUR COST SUMMARY**

**\$3449**

Group Flights From Chicago

Tour Gratuities (\$148).....Included  
Airport/Foreign Departure Taxes (\$360).....Included  
Tax Deductible Contribution to  
Student Scholarships (\$100).....Included

*\*Costs per person based on double occupancy in US*

**Optional Individual Supplement**

Single Room\*.....\$420

*\*In addition to base tour cost.  
Very limited availability on request basis.  
GTD can assist in finding roommates;  
however, this cannot be guaranteed*

**TOUR EXTENSION COST SUMMARY**

**\$645**

Tour Gratuities (\$20).....Included  
Airport/Foreign Departure Taxes (\$38).....Included

*\*Costs per person based on double occupancy in US  
Price subject to confirmation*

**Optional Individual Supplement**

Single Room\*.....\$145

*\*In addition to base tour cost.  
Very limited availability on request basis.  
GTD can assist in finding roommates;  
however, this cannot be guaranteed*

The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Chicago (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of June 2009, a minimum of 25 travelers (10 on the optional extension), and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only.



**This strenuous, fast-paced tour requires considerable walking; please check with your tour leader if you have questions.**

**RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#100105 • OR CLIP AND MAIL**

LSTC • Holy Land • Jan 5, 2010 • (G#100105) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Mr. Mrs. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. boxes please) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Evening ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

*Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this can not be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.*

**FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)**

- I/We will take the group flights from Chicago.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from \_\_\_\_\_ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements. Please contact GTD for a land only rate.

**DEPOSIT/TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$559** per person inclusive of travel insurance for the **main tour**.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$590** per person inclusive of travel insurance for the **main tour + the extension**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$395** per person **without travel insurance**. I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre-existing waiver.

**PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when insurance is purchased at the time of reservation / deposit. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174**

**Participant Profile**

On a separate sheet of paper and in an e-mail to emenn@lstc.edu and rpickett@lstc.edu, please describe:

1. Your interest in this study tour
2. Your connection (if any) to the Lutheran School of Theology Chicago
3. Any physical concerns you might have.

**YES! Please sign me/us up for the extension tour.**

\*Enclosed is my additional tax-deductible contribution towards student scholarships of:      \$100      \$300      \$500      other (Separate check payable to Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago)

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G # 100105.

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TUE, 19 JAN****St. Katharine's/Taba**

Begin your climb up Mt. Sinai at 3:00 this morning to see the sunrise; it's a two-hour hike that exhilarates everyone with the spectacular views of colorful mountains and wadis. (Here you will also find camels for hire, in case you need some assistance.) Be sure to bring a warm jacket and gloves for the mountaintop. After breakfast visit St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Monastery, which was founded in the 6th century at the foot of the mount where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments. See its ancient buildings, icons and mosaics. Travel from Mt. Sinai to a resort on the Gulf of Aqaba for dinner and an evening of relaxation and enjoyment. (B, D)

**WED, 20 JAN****Departure**

Make the return journey across the Taba border and to Ben Gurion Airport, stopping for dinner on own en route. Check in for flight departure at 11:25P. (B, Meals in-flight)

**THU, 21 JAN****Arrive U.S.**

Code: Breakfast, Lnch, Dinner  
Itinerary subject to change.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS****Main Tour**

- Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago via Delta Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- Eleven nights accommodation in Christian guesthouse, kibbutz and superior tourist class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- Breakfast and dinner daily as outlined in the itinerary.
- Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Tel Aviv through departure from Tel Aviv.
- Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$148 per person has been included).
- Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$360 per person).
- Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

**Optional extension**

- Two nights accommodation in Christian guesthouses and/or superior tourist class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- Two breakfasts and one dinner as outlined in the itinerary.
- Transfers and transportation by mini-coaches.
- Local English-speaking guide assistance in each country
- Border taxes for exit and entry to each country (currently \$38 per person).
- Sightseeing and entrance fees per the itinerary.
- Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$20 per person has been included).

**Items Not Included**

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended. Please refer to the Travel Insurance section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No visa is required for U.S. citizens visiting Israel/Palestine or the Sinai; non-U.S. citizens may require a visa.

**TOUR CONDITIONS**

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** Your reservation and deposit of \$395 per person are requested by September 25, 2009, to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Final payment is due November 2, 2009. The tour price is based upon cash payment.

**REFUND POLICY:** All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance prior to departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to September 24, 2009 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; September 25 - December 21, 2009 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; December 22, 2009 or after - No refund.

**CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS:** The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than September 25, 2009. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

**LATE BOOKINGS:** Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

**For more information, contact:**

**Profs. Esther Menn or Ray Pickett**  
LSTC  
1100 East 55th Street  
Chicago, IL 60615  
Tel: 773-256-0763 (Menn)  
Tel: 773-256-0755 (Pickett)  
Fax: 773-256-0782  
Email: emenn@lstc.edu  
rpickett@lstc.edu

Or

**Group Travel Directors**  
2000 West 98th Street  
Bloomington, MN 55431-2593  
Tel: 952-881-7811 or 800-747-2255  
Fax: 952-881-6276  
Email: groups@gttd.org  
www.gttd.org

**NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:**

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

**GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is included as an option with the initial tour deposit and is highly recommended. For residents of the U.S., GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company. By purchasing insurance at the time the tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, i.e., pre-existing medical conditions (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days with the pre-existing conditions waiver or you may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174.

**GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUSIONS**

Trip Cancellation.....	up to Tour Cost*
Trip Interruption.....	up to 150% of Tour Cost**
Travel Delay.....	\$750
Missed Connection.....	\$300
Baggage.....	\$1,000
Baggage Delay.....	\$200
Medical Expense.....	\$50,000
Evacuation/Repatriation.....	\$500,000
Accidental Death.....	\$10,000
Assistance Service.....	included

\* a maximum of \$3500 per person  
\*\* a maximum of \$5250 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Insurance is **\$164** per person (**\$195** including the optional extension). Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered.

**CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also includes Esther Menn, Ray Pickett, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and its affiliates.