

Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies

The BEST of Israel

“Ask for the ancient paths; ask where the good way is,
And walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16

\$4,750 Newark r.t.

15 Days March 16-30, 2022



Your Invitation:

Informative and transforming, the Bible Lands Seminar of the **Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies** (BICS) offers the traveler the opportunity to maximize one's biblical learning and spiritual development. We combine academic study with experience in venues where much of the biblical story unfolded.

We focus on vistas, the lay of the land, and on authentic biblical sites. We climb, hike, swim, and go to places off the beaten trail beyond ordinary, traditional tours. We dramatize Bible narrative. We make geographical and archaeological contact with the kings and prophets of Israel. We search out the land of Jesus – Galilee, Samaria, and Judea. We investigate the ancient streets and subterranean archeology of Jerusalem. We come home with Bible learning written with “indelible ink.”

Tour Leaders:

Mike Tuttle is the Vice President of Student Development at BICS and Minister of Family Life at Hope Church in Lenox, MA. He is an experienced Bible Lands traveler, having hosted/co-hosted the Seminar twenty times. He participated in the archaeological dig at Khirbet al-Maqatir (biblical Ai on the West Bank). At BICS, Mike is the instructor of the Bible Lands Seminar. He holds the MAR in Biblical Counseling from Liberty University.

Andy Rice is the President of the Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies and an experienced Bible Lands tour leader. After attending BICS as a student, he earned a B.S. in Bible from Lancaster Bible College before going on to earn two M.A. degrees in New Testament and Theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He also served as a pastor for nine years in Melrose, Massachusetts.

Steve Ross works as an administrator at Albany Medical Center; in addition, he is a faculty member at BICS and serves as an elder at Hope Church in Lenox, MA. Active in music ministry, he is also an experienced traveler in Israel. He will lead the devotional/worship component of the tour. Steve holds the B.A. in Theology from Berkshire Christian College and the MSW degree from SUNY-Albany.

Contact: Mike Tuttle
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REQUESTED HOTELS:

NETANYA: Ramada Hotel
TIBERIAS: Leonardo Club Hotel
DEAD SEA: David Dead Sea Resort & Spa
JERUSALEM: Ambassador Hotel



PIONEERS OF THE ACCLAIMED **REGIONALTOUR** SM
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P.O. Box 20488
Castro Valley, CA 94546
510-727-0380
E-mail: mail@igmtours.com

Newark r.t. \$4750.00

Price is per person, double occupancy.

PRICE INCLUDES: El Al Airlines r.t. from Newark International Airport, all overseas transfers, entrance fees, standard 1st class hotels (twin bedded, dbl. occ.), local tips, daily breakfast and dinner, English-speaking guide, portorage of one suitcase, Wilderness Desert trip with lunch, Nazareth Village and lunch, and personal copy of **BLR** (satellite map tour resource).

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: Daily lunches (except one at Nazareth and one at a Bedouin excursion), beverages other than coffee or tea at breakfasts, personal services requested.

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: \$1215



The Temple Steps, where we know Jesus walked.

Our Itinerary:

DAY 1 Wed Mar 16 USA DEPARTURE

Be at Newark International Airport at least 3.5 hours before departure for the security and check-in procedures.

BLR = Bible Lands Resource: daily tour readings

BLR Tracker: p. 2 - Roads, Rivers & Crossroads.

DAY 2 Thu Mar 17 ARRIVE TEL AVIV

Region: Coast of Sharon

Upon the evening arrival proceed through passport control into customs. Use free luggage carts (3-4 on each cart) to exit and meet your guide outside the airport terminal. Depart for a brief visit to **Joppa (Jaffa)** before continuing to Netanya for dinner and lodging.

DAY 3 Fri Mar 18 TO SEA OF GALILEE

Regions: Coast of Sharon, Jezreel Valley, Sea of Galilee

Depart for nearby **Caesarea Maritima**. In Acts 10 read about Peter's encounter with the god-fearer Cornelius. Paul also stood here before Festus and Felix. View the Pontius Pilate Stone. Continue to Herod's summer home, the stadium, the harbor and the Roman aqueduct. Depart for **Muhraqa (Mt. Carmel)** to consider Elijah's encounter with the prophets of Baal. Self-host lunch is available at a nearby Druze village. Descend Mt. Carmel for the **Jezreel Valley** and the sites of **Megiddo**. This is the site of the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). Walk to the overview of the Canaanite circular bama (altar). Explore the ruins and descend into the water tunnel. Cross the Jezreel Valley and proceed to your lodging for the next five nights at **Tiberias**.

BLR Tracker:

p. 6 - Coastal Plains



Caesarea Maritima

DAY 4 Sat Mar 19 SEA CIRCLE TRIP

Region: Sea of Galilee

Circle the sea visiting sites of Jesus' ministry. Depart for the Yarmuk River and ascend the Aphek Plateau for an unobstructed view of the Sea of Galilee from Kfar Haruv. Continue to **Koursi** ("demons into the swine") and **Bethsaida** (home of Peter, Philip, Andrew). Visit the **Mt. of Beatitudes**, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7). Optional is a foot-descent to the seaside of **Tabgha**. Visit **Capernaum**, the center for Jesus' Galilean ministry. Board the **Jesus Boat**, a double-scale replica of a Roman fishing boat, to sail the sea and enjoy some of the inspirational Bible geography references.

BLR Tracker: p. 6 - Mountains & Valleys, p. 7 Overview, #17 Jesus at Galilee, Rift Valley

DAY 5 Sun Mar 20 UPPER JORDAN

Regions: Upper Jordan, Sea of Galilee

Depart on the ancient Via Maris road to **Chorazin** (one of 3 cities cursed by Jesus), dwellings carved by volcanic basalt. Continue to **Hazor** (ancient crossroads, largest Canaanite city) for a brief stop. Proceed to **Tell Dan**. Walk into the Nature Preserve beside the roaring Dan River (Ps. 42) to Tell Dan (biblical Laish). View the High Place of Jeroboam. After a self-host lunch, proceed to **Banias (Caesarea Philippi)** to consider Peter's confession of Jesus as Christ. Time permitting, visit the palace of Agrippa II. Return via Quneitra to view the Syrian border and continue to Tiberias. *BLR Tracker p. 7 - The Upper Jordan*

DAY 6 Mon Mar 21 NAZARETH, MT. PRECIPICE

Region: Sea of Galilee

Return to the Jezreel Valley to visit the hometown of Jesus, **Nazareth**. Visit the **Nazareth Village** to explore the lifestyles of Jesus' lifetime. Following orientation to the village, a complimentary lunch will be served. Ascend to Nazareth for a **Mt. Precipice** ridge view of **Mt. Tabor** and the Jezreel Valley. Visit **Mary's Well** and the Church of St. Gabriel, as well as the **Nazareth Synagogue**. Walk to the **Basilica of the Annunciation** to view an archeological museum and excavations. Visit the nearby **Sisters of Nazareth Convent** to view a 1st Century burial site (tombs and roll stone) and Byzantine era cave-church. Depart Nazareth by way of **Caná** to consider the first recorded miracle of Jesus (John 2). Return to Tiberias. *BLR Tracker: p. 6 - Mountains & Valleys, Overview #4, #5*



Mt. Arbel

DAY 7 Tue Mar 22 MT ARBEL, TEL BETH-SHEAN

Regions: Lower Galilee, Sea of Galilee

Depart for **Mt. Arbel** for a dramatic overview of Jesus' public ministry on the north shores of the **Sea of Galilee**. Motor to the **Valley of the Winds** below the Arbel. Here one may see the untouched hills and valley as a reminder of what it was like in the days of Jesus. Continue to the seaside ruins of **Magdala** for the archaeology of a 1st century synagogue. After lunch visit **Ma'ayun Harod (Gideon)** and descend into the Jordan Valley to **Tel Beth Shean**. Approach a Roman bridge to ascend the Tel for the presentation of the death of Saul, Israel's first king. Descend to the reconstruction of **Scythopolis**, the leading city of the Greco-Roman Decapolis. Return to Tiberias. *BLR Tracker: p 8 - Lower Jordan*

DAY 8 Wed Mar 23 SAMARIA, JERICHO, DEAD SEA**Regions: Samaria, Jordan Valley, Dead Sea**

Depart for Dothan and **Samaria** (royal city of the Northern Kingdom) and Sebaste (King Herod). Continue to **Nablus** for Tel Balata and nearby **Jacob's Well**. Continue to the site of **Shiloh** to consider the tabernacle of Joshua 18:1. Continue to **Bethabara (Bethany beyond Jordan)** for the excellent Israeli site of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. Return to **Jericho** to consider the findings of Dr. Bryant Wood at Jericho's wall. Depart for an oasis-like hotel at the **Dead Sea** for lodging. *BLR Tracker: p. 6, #8 Manasseh, #9 Ephraim, p. 8, #18 Lower Jordan, #19 Dead Sea*

DAY 9 Thu Mar 24 BEDOUIN TENT & LUNCH**Region: Arabah**

Visit **Tel Arad** and the ancient temple sites on the edge of the Syro-African rift. The north-south stretch of land from the tip of the Dead Sea to the Red Sea is almost 100 miles. Although not a desirable route for ancient caravans, the nomadic Bedouins found subsistence. **Ride camels** into the Arabah sands. The journey into Makhtesh Ramon is a window of **explanations about the Bedouin ways**, desert, and the famous spice route. The complimentary lunch will be in a traditional Bedouin tent, and includes **traditional Bedouin service and stories**. Some Bible scholars note that until one visits the wilderness the land of the Bible has not been visited, since 70% of Bible narratives involve the wilderness. Return to the Dead Sea. *BLR Tracker: p. 8, #20 - ARABAH*



Masada – Siege Ramp

DAY 10 Fri Mar 25 MASADA, TO JERUSALEM**Regions: Dead Sea, Judean Wilderness**

Depart for the **Masada** fortress and ascend via the tram. Explore the legendary last stand of the Jewish Zealots against the forces of Rome. Explore the dig which includes the Jewish synagogue and the Roman assault ramp. Descend to the Dead Sea and **Ein Gedi (David and Saul)** and walk the path to the waterfall. Visit **Qumran** to view the caves. En route to Jerusalem, detour on a Roman Road to the **Wadi Qelt (reference to the Parable of the Good Samaritan)**. From the road, survey the cliffside St. George's Monastery. Return to the highway to visit **Lazarus' Tomb in Bethany**. Proceed to **Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus** for a first view of the Old City and an ancient Genesis welcome. Lodging is in Jerusalem. *BLR Tracker: p. 8 - #19 Dead Sea, p. 6 Overview: Jerusalem*

DAY 11 Sat Mar 26 JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM**Regions: Jerusalem, Judean Hills**

Visit the **Mt. of Olives** for orientation to Jerusalem's Old City (Ps. 122). Walk on the traditional **Palm Sunday route** past the Dominus Flevit Church and continue to the **Garden of Gethsemane**. Proceed to the Dung Gate and ascend the **Temple Mount** to walk past the Al-Aksa Mosque and the **Dome of the Rock**. Continue to the St. **Stephen's Gate** to visit St. Anne's Crusader Church and the **Pool of Bethesda**. Walk on the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. Depart for the Judean wilderness, the **Herodion (Herod's grave)** and to view **Shepherds' Fields**. Continue to Bethlehem's Manger Square and the **Church of the Nativity**. Visit an olivewood shop before departure for Jerusalem. *BLR Tracker: p. 7 - #12 Judean Highland*

DAY 12 Sun Mar 27 JUDAEAN SHEPHELAH, ARABAH**Region: Judean Shephelah, Arabah**

Descend Jerusalem on the Beth-horon Road into the Ajjalon Valley (the sun stood still). Pass Nahal Sorek (Delilah) and arrive **Beth-shemesh** (Samson, Ark of the Covenant). Continue to the **Valley of Elah**. Visit **Khirbet Qeiyafa** (time permitting) to consider an early planned fortified city from the time of David. **Ascend Azekah** and reference the battle geography of **David and Goliath**. Depart for **Hebron** (conditions permitting) to view the extraordinary Herodian building, a classic structure illustrating the stone dressing of Herod the Great, the ancient master builder. Return to Jerusalem. *BLR Tracker: p.7 - #11 Judean Shephelah, p. 8 - #20 Arabah*

DAY 13 Mon Mar 28 JERUSALEM SIGHTSEEING

Proceed to the Dung Gate to see the joyful ancient tradition of Bar Mitzvahs this morning at the **Western Wall**. Proceed to the Ophel Ridge to walk on the Herodian pavement, view and touch the Temple foundation, and **sit on the Temple steps from Jesus' time**, the one place where we know Jesus walked and taught (Lk. 19-21). Proceed to the nearby **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, (bring old shoes for the knee-deep water) and walk to the **Pool of Siloam** (Jn. 9). Visit the lower Pool of Siloam. Explore the newly opened **Pilgrim's Road**. Walking through the **Western Wall Tunnel** is subject to time confirmation. *BLR Tracker: p. 6 - Overview: Jerusalem*

DAY 14 Tue Mar 29 JERUSALEM

Visit the Jerusalem **Garden Tomb**. There will be time for personal reflection. Proceed to the Damascus Gate and walk through the shuq (old city) to the **Western Wall**. Continue to the eastern slope of **Mt. Zion** for the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantua**. Ascend the Mt. Zion entry into the Old City to visit the **Upper Room**. Walk to the Cardo and **Hezekiah's Broad Wall**. Enter the **Wohl Museum** to view the upper Jerusalem of Jesus' time. Motor to the **Israel Museum** to view the biblical archaeology and the **1/50 model of Jerusalem** in the Herodian period. Nearby is the Shrine of the Book. *BLR Tracker p. 3 - Mythologies & Philosophies, Greek & Roman Gods.*

DAY 15 Wed Mar 30 TO THE USA

Proceed to the Ben Gurion Airport at Tel Aviv for the nonstop return flight to Newark.

TOUR CONDITIONS:

1. **DEPOSITS:** Registrations require a signed and dated **IGM** form and a **\$400** deposit per person. **Late Deposit fees are:** \$50 for less than 100 days and **\$150 for less than 75 days (after invoice period)** before departure. **Late registrations** risk airspace not being confirmed.

2. **FINAL PAYMENTS:** Final payments must be received 60 days prior to departure. Payments received 45 days prior will be assessed \$50 per person and must be paid by a Cashier's Check or Money Order. **If final payment is not received by 40 days prior to departure, the participant's tour space will be canceled and the deposit forfeited.**

3. **DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENTS:** Payable to **BICS**.

4. **CREDIT CARDS:** Major credit cards are accepted.

5. **FINAL DOCUMENTS:** Final tour documents (including airline tickets and any itinerary adjustments) will be available one week before departure to facilitate any last-minute changes.

6. **TOUR CANCELLATIONS:** **Written cancellations must be sent directly to IGM TOURS.** Cancellations (for any reason whatsoever) are subject to an **IGM \$50 administrative fee.**

91 days prior: an additional \$150 per person plus applicable airline fee. 40 days prior: the full tour price is charged.

There are no refunds for international tickets once issued!

7. **AIR TRANSPORTATION:** **EL AL Israel Airlines** economy group fares (10 persons flying the same route) are non-refundable and issued about 40 days prior to departure. Tickets do not permit changes in names, cities, or dates without penalty. Airfare taxes are subject to change until ticketed. Land Only tour participants must be declared prior to 91 days before departure. Seating is in a group block designated by the airline. Window or aisle preferences may be submitted but they are not guaranteed.

8. **HOTELS:** Prices are based on 1st class hotel rooms (twin bedded, dbl. occ.). If changed, similarly priced hotels are used. Single room occupants (for any reason) must pay single room surcharge.

9. **MEALS:** Daily breakfasts and dinners (table d'hote or buffet), and two lunches. Coffee or tea is included only with breakfasts. Special dietary needs are the responsibility of individual travelers.

10. **GROUP TRANSFERS & ENTRANCE FEES:** All overseas group transfers and entrance fees are included. Individual transfers are not included for those who deviate from tour itineraries.

11. **GUIDES:** An English-speaking scholarly guide will travel with the group from beginning to end.

12. **PORTERAGE:** Overseas portage of 1 suitcase is included. All additional suitcases/flight bags are \$1 per hotel.

13. **LUGGAGE:** Group touring is limited to one normal size suitcase (not to exceed 50 lbs), one camera case, and one flight bag.

14. **PASSPORTS/VISAS:** Participants must provide IGM a legible copy of passports valid for 6 months upon return (do not fax). Copies are required for security 90 days before departure for ticket processing. Visas are not required for U.S. passports. All other passports must advise IGM at the time of registration. A blank page is required!

15. **SMOKING POLICY:** Smoking is not permitted on coaches or flights.

16. **ITINERARY CHANGES:** The itinerary has been planned under the direction of your tour leader. It is possible that the daily itinerary may be adjusted by unforeseen circumstances.

17. **PRICING FLUCTUATIONS:** Tour prices are based upon current tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure production, Nov. 2021. These factors are outside the control of **IGM**, and will be defined by **IGM** at least 75 days before departure. **But if the fuel surcharges increase any time prior to ticketing you will be assessed.**

18. **DEVIATIONS/CHANGES:** Deviations/changes must be requested in writing to **IGM** (\$50 per person plus applicable airline fees) at least 91 days before departure, and are subject to airline regulations and possible airfare adjustments. **Requests less than 91 days (invoice period) are not accepted.** There are no exceptions.

19. **REFUNDS:** Refunds are made only per the guidelines listed below.

20. **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** **IGM strongly recommends** the purchase of travel insurance for protection of one's tour and luggage investments. The coverage may commence from the day of tour deposit throughout the tour duration.

21. **TOUR OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITY:** **IGM TOURS, Inc.**, herein and hereafter referred to as **IGM** and/or its agents, act only in the capacity as a broker agent for the passenger in all matters connected with hotel lodging, sightseeing, tours and transportation, whether by air, rail, motorcoach, boat, or any other means and as an agent holds itself free of responsibility for any damage or expense resulting from any cause whatsoever. **IGM is a bonded wholesale travel broker which complies with California's "Seller of Travel State Law": CST#2018950-50. IGM and/or its agents will not be responsible for any damage or expenses or inconvenience caused by late registrations, late airplanes, trains, boats, or changes in any of their schedules due to strikes or any other reason whatsoever.** **IGM** operates 9:00 AM-5:00 PM weekdays excluding holidays. **IGM** will not be responsible for the loss or damage to luggage or any passenger's personal belongings. **IGM recommends the purchase of Travel Insurance to cover such events.** **IGM** reserves the right to refuse any person as a tour member at any time before or during the actual tour. **IGM** reserves the right to cancel, change, or withdraw the tour in whole or in part at any time. The sole obligation of **IGM** is to refund payments received in connection herewith if not acceptable by tour members. Refunds for canceled fares and services abroad for any reason will be made only after having been received from the airlines, hotels, or companies performing these services, less any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the operation resulting from those cancellations and will follow the guidelines herein contained for cancellations. Requests for any refund due to absence from the itineraries abroad must be submitted to **IGM** in writing not less than 60 days prior to departure and are subject to agreements with overseas Operators. Any dispute arising out of these tours will be settled in the courts of the City of Hayward, CA.

22. **AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:** **EL AL Israel Airlines** is responsible only for the air travel portion of this tour performed for it on behalf of tour participants in accordance with the terms and conditions of their individual passage contracts and subject to the applicable laws, treaties and regulations governing air transportation. Tour services, including but not limited to carriage by land or sea, guide services, hotel accommodations, restaurants and all services other than carriage by air, are furnished by contractors who are independent and do not act for or on behalf of the above airline and the above airline shall not be responsible for any act, omission or event occurring prior to the tour participants embarkation upon or after his/her disembarkation from the aircraft. The usual passage contract by the airline when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the tour participants and in purchasing a passage contract as part of this tour, the tour participant acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions. **EL AL Israel Airlines** is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board its aircraft.

23. The coronavirus, **COVID-19**, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. An inherent risk of exposure to **COVID-19** exists in any public place where people are present. You consent to travel with **IGM Tours, Inc** acknowledges you hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless **IGM Tours, Inc.**, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from all liabilities, claims, actions damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to your travel with **IGM Tours, Inc.** and the possible transmission of **COVID-19**. You understand and agree that this release includes all claims, whether a **COVID-19** infection occurs before, during or after your travel with **IGM Tours, Inc.**



The BEST of Israel Registration Form



Group: **BICS – March 16-30, 2022**

Full Name: _____ Gender: Male Female
Name *exactly* as printed on passport!

Badge Name: _____ Email Address: _____
Name as you would like it to appear on your nametag

Address: _____
Mailing *and* Physical address (if different)

City, State & ZIP: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Citizenship: _____ Passport #: _____
Country issuing passport Please scan/email or mail a copy of your passport!

Occupation: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone Number(s): _____

Physical restrictions, allergies, or other concerns: _____

Roommate Request: _____
(select one) I want BICS to assign my roommate for me, if possible.
 I request single room lodging and accept the supplemental charge of \$1,215.

Departure/Arrival Plans: I will provide my own transportation to/from *Newark Liberty International Airport*.
Arriving by: Air Car Public Transportation
 I will meet the group in Lenox, MA and travel with them to/from the airport in Newark.
(\$25 transportation fee each way)

I have carefully read the brochure and Tour Conditions and agree to these terms and conditions as a binding contract when my registration and deposit are received by BICS / IGM TOURS.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Required Deposit: \$400

- \$100 pre-registration deposit – *due by September 1, 2021*
- \$300 registration deposit – *due by December 10, 2021*

Final Payment: \$4,350 (plus any supplemental charges/fees) – due by January 10, 2022

Payment Methods:

- 1) Pay via check made out to BICS and mailed to: BICS | PO Box 1888 | Lenox, MA 01240
Please indicate “BLS 2022” and traveler’s name(s) on the memo line.
- 2) Pay via credit card at <https://berkshireinstitute.org/travelpayment/>. Note: All online payments will incur a 3% fee.

**Return this form with a copy of your passport to:
BICS | PO Box 1888 | Lenox, MA 01240 or biblelands@berkshireinstitute.org**