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“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

2 Peter 3:18

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CAESAREA

In the year 20 B.C. Herod the Great rebuilt the town of Caesarea. The city was beautiful with splendid palaces, public buildings, market place, a magnificent marble temple, amphitheatre and hippodrome. Herod also built an ingenious artificial harbor by lowering massive stones into the sea to form a semi-circular jetty where great ships could safely lie at anchor. Herod names the city Caesarea in honor of his master, Augustus Caesar. After Herod's death, Caesarea passed under Roman rule and, because of its beauty, it was chosen to be the seat of the Roman Procurators. Pontius Pilate lived in Caesarea and from here he went to Jerusalem for the Passover during which time he condemned Jesus to the cross. A stone bearing his name was discovered here giving us the first archaeological evidence of his existence. Caesarea then served as the capital of the Roman government of Palestine for about 500 years. In 66 A.D. a riot broke out between the Jews and the Syrians, helped by the Romans. The massacre of 20,000 Jews was the main cause of the great Jewish revolt which ended with the destruction of Jerusalem and the second Temple. The city changed hands several times until 1291 when the Beybars devastated the city and completely destroyed it. This was the end of Caesarea, as the city was abandoned and gradually buried under the sand dunes until 1956 when archaeologists began excavating the city. The amphitheatre, the aqueduct and the hippodrome were built by the Romans. The wall (originally protected by a moat) and gate are from the Crusader period. The Crusaders' city covered an area of 35 acres while the Roman city was about 6 times as large.

Scripture Reference

CORNELIUS AND PETER'S VISION (IN JOPPA) OF UNCLEAN ANIMALS

Acts 10:1-34

PAUL SPEAKS TO THE CHURCH IN CAESAREA

Acts 18:18-22

PAUL VISITS PHILIP THE EVANGELIST IN CAESAREA (WITH DAUGHTERS WHO PROPHESED)

Acts 12:7-9

PROPHECY ABOUT THE KIND OF DEATH PAUL WOULD SUFFER

Acts 21:10-16

PAUL (UNDER ARREST) SENT TO GOVERNOR FELIX TO SAVE HIM FROM AMBUSH

Acts 23:23—26:32

CAESAREA PHILIPPI (Banias)

Caesarea Philippi was an ancient Roman city located at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon. The city is mentioned in the gospels of Matthew and Mark. It was located within the region known as the "Panion" (the region of the Greek god Pan), named after the deity associated with the grotto and shrines close to the spring called "Paneas". Its present name, Banias, is a corruption of the Greek word Paneas. In his travels, Jesus reached as far as Caesarea Philippi. The city was built by Philip the Tetrarch naming it Caesarea Philippi to honor the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus.

Scripture Reference

JESUS ASKS THE DISCIPLES WHO HE IS - *Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30*

CANA

There are three or four places which claim to be the Cana of the New Testament. Cana, which lies 4 miles along the road from Nazareth to Tiberias, is the most favored one.

Scripture Reference

THE FIRST MIRACLE - WATER INTO WINE

John 2:1-11

HEALING OF THE ROYAL OFFICIAL'S SON

John 4:46-50

CAPERNAUM

Capernaum is located 2 ½ miles from where the Jordan enters the Sea of Galilee. It was a customs station on the way to Damascus and the residence of a high Roman officer. It was a busy city where merchants brought silk and spices from Damascus and took back dried fish and the fruits from the Plains of Gennesaret. Jesus pronounced a curse on the city which was fulfilled. The site of the city was uncertain for a long time. Today, Capernaum is no more than a heap of rubble beside the lake shore. In 1905 archaeologists began exploring the site and the most important discovery was that of the Capernaum synagogue which had been built in the 3rd century over top of the ruins of a synagogue said to be built by the centurion whose servant was healed by Jesus (Luke 7). It is quite possible that some of the carved stones of the first synagogue were incorporated in the decoration of the second synagogue. This is an important location because Jesus spent a great deal of his three years of ministry in Capernaum.

Scripture Reference

JESUS LIVED FOR A TIME IN CAPERNAUM

Matthew 4:12-16

JESUS CONDEMNS CAPERNAUM

Matthew 11:20-24; Luke 10:15-15; Matthew 11:23-24

JESUS QUESTIONED ABOUT PAYING TAXES – TAXES PROVIDED BY MIRACLE

Matthew 17:24-27

JESUS TEACHING IN CAPERNAUM - THE EVIL SPIRIT ANNOUNCED WHO JESUS WAS

Mark 1:21-25; Luke 4:31-33

JESUS HEALS THE PARALYTIC WHO WAS BROUGHT BY HIS 4 FRIENDS

Mark 2:1-5; Matthew 9:1-8

THE DISCIPLES ARGUE ABOUT WHO IS GREATEST

Mark 9:33-35

JESUS STAYS WITH MOTHER AND BROTHERS IN CARPERNAUM

John 2:12-19

JESUS HEALS THE SON OF THE ROYAL OFFICIAL

John 4:46-54

JESUS HEALED THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

JESUS WALKS ON WATER AND THE BOAT MIRACULOUSLY ARRIVES AT CAPERNAUM

John 6:16-21

JESUS TEACHES IN CAPERNAUM - THAT HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE - MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES QUIT FOLLOWING BECAUSE OF THIS TEACHING

John 6:22-70

JESUS DELIVERED A MAN OF AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT AND HEALED PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:21-34; Luke 4:31-41

JESUS HEALS JARIUS' DAUGHTER FROM THE DEAD

Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56

JESUS HEALS THE WOMAN WHO HAD AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-35; Luke 8:43-48

JESUS HEALED TWO BLIND MEN

Matthew 9:27-31

JESUS HEALED THE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

Matthew 9:32-34

JESUS HEALS THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND

Matthew 12:10-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11

JESUS HEALED THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

DEAD SEA

The Dead Sea or the “Sea of Salt” is a salt lake between the West Bank and Israel to the west, and Jordan to the east. At 420 meters (1,378 ft) below sea level, its shores are the lowest point on the surface of the Earth that is on dry land. Situated at the mouth of the Jordan River, the lake has no outlet and forms part of the border between Jordan and Israel. The Jordan River and several smaller streams pour into the sea from the East, bringing plenty of fresh water into the Sea that evaporates due to the area’s extreme heat leaving behind large deposits of solid chemicals. (Approximately 7,000,000 tons of water evaporates every day, leaving the minerals behind - causing the salt content to constantly increase.) The high saltiness kills all complex animal and plant life, and fish carried in the Jordan soon die. At 330 m (1,083 ft) deep, the Dead Sea is the deepest hyper saline lake in the world. It is also the world’s second saltiest body of water, after Lake Asal in Djibouti. The salt content of other bodies of water range from the Gulf of Finland and the Polar Seas, which have a saltiness of .01% or less, to the Black Sea at 1.7%, to the Atlantic Ocean at 3.6%, and the Mediterranean and the Red Sea at approximately 4% saltiness. In comparison, the Dead Sea is approximately 35% salt. Steep cliffs rise above the Dead Sea’s Eastern and Western banks, where light, cool wind currents originate from the several valleys can be detected. History has many sites along this coast. David hid from Saul here, Cleopatra had cosmetic factories nearby, Egyptians obtained embalming chemicals for their mummies from the sea, and Masada and the cell of John the Baptist are close as well. Also, the Dead Sea Scrolls, perhaps one of the greatest biblical archaeological finds came from this area. It is also believed, according to Biblical history, that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah lay beneath the lake. The Dead Sea has unique healing properties owing to the high mineral content of its water. Research shows that the water contains thousands of millions of metric tons of calcium chloride, magnesium, sodium, and potassium. The Dead Sea, unlike the Sea of Galilee to the north, does not figure prominently in the biblical narratives. Its most important role was as a barrier, blocking traffic to Judah from the east. An advancing army of Ammonites and Moabites apparently crossed a shallow part of the Dead Sea on their way to attack King Jehoshaphat (2 Chron 20). Ezekiel has prophesied that one day the Dead Sea will be fresh water and fishermen will spread their nets along the shore.

Scripture Reference

Genesis 14:3; Deuteronomy 3:17, 4:49; Joshua 3:16, 12:3; 15:2

EN GEDI

En Gedi is the largest oasis along the western shore of the Dead Sea. The springs here have allowed nearly continuous inhabitation of this site. This area was allotted to the tribe of Judah, and was famous in the time of Solomon. (Josh 15:62) Today the Israeli kibbutz of En Gedi sits along the southern bank of the Nahal Arugot. The abundant springs and year-round temperate climate provided the perfect conditions for agriculture in ancient times. Solomon compared his lover to “a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi,” and indication of the beauty and fertility of the site (Song 1:14). Even though there are many springs around the Dead Sea, most of them have a high salt content. En Gedi is one of only two fresh water springs located on the western shore of the Dead Sea and because of the greater availability of land for agriculture at En Gedi, it is the best spring by which to settle.

DAVID’S FLIGHT FROM SAUL

Around 1000 B.C., En Gedi served as one of the main places of refuge for David as he fled from Saul. David “dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi” (1 Sam. 23:29). En Gedi means literally “the spring of the kid (goat).” Evidence exists that young ibex have always lived near the springs of En Gedi. One time when David was fleeing from King Saul, the pursuers searched the “Crag of the Ibex” in the vicinity of En Gedi. In a cave near here, David cut off the corner of Saul’s robe (1 Sam 24).

JAFFA

The ancient port of Jaffa has changed hands many times in the course of history. It is one of the oldest functioning harbors in the world. Today it harbors only small fishing boats. Archeological excavations from 1955 to 1974 unearthed towers and gates from the Middle Bronze Age. Subsequent excavations, from 1997 to present, helped date earlier discoveries. The city is first mentioned in a letter written 1470 BC that records its conquest by Egyptian Pharaoh Thutmose III. Jaffa was the main port of entry during the Turkish period for pilgrims and visitors entering the Holy Land. Jaffa (also called Joppa) is mentioned several times in the Bible as the port from which Jonah set sail for Tarshish, a boundary line for the territory of the Tribe of Dan; and the port at which the wood for Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem arrived from Lebanon. According to some sources it has been a port for over 4,000 years.

Scripture Reference:

THE PORT THAT JONAH LEFT FROM FOR TARSHISH CEDARS FOR SOLOMON'S TEMPLE LEFT FROM JAFFA

II Chronicles 2:16

DORCAS LIVED HERE

Acts 9:36

THERE WERE MANY BELIEVERS IN JAFFA

Acts 9:42

PETER STAYED IN JAFFA WITH SIMON THE TANNER

Acts 9:43; Acts 10:32

WHERE PETER HAD THE VISION OF THE SHEET CONTAINING ALL THE ANIMALS NOT FIT TO EAT

Acts 11:5

JERUSALEM

Jerusalem, standing high amidst the poor Judean hills, has been crowned as queen of the world's cities for 30 centuries. Blessed with nothing material, it was chosen by God to be the bulwark of monotheism. It is the religious capital of half of the human race. To the Jews it is the symbol of their past glories and the hope of their future. To the Christians it is the city of Jesus' last ministry, the city which saw Jesus die and rise from the dead. To the Moslems it is the city where the Prophet Mohamed is believed to have ascended to heaven. There have been more wars fought at its gates than in any other city in the world. To walk in and around Jerusalem is to walk over a sea of human blood. Jerusalem has been besieged more than 50 times, conquered 36 times and destroyed 10 times. The origins of Jerusalem are lost in the mists of antiquity. It was first mentioned in the Bible during the times of Abraham under the name of Salem which ironically means "peace". Genesis 13:18; "And Melchizedek, King of Salem brought forth bread and wine, and he was the priest of the most High God." In the 10th century B.C. David captured the city from the Jebusites, made it his capital and brought the Ark of the Covenant into it. The present walls of Jerusalem are additions from different periods of construction. They were rebuilt in their final form, as they appear today, by the Turks under Suleiman the Magnificent in 1542 A.D. In these walls, which are 2 1/2 miles in circumference and average 40 feet in height, there are 34 towers and 8 gates - the New Gate, Damascus Gate, and Herod's Gate in the northern wall; St. Stephen's Gate and the Golden Gate (closed by the Turks in 1530) in the eastern wall; the Dung Gate and Zion Gate in the southern wall and Jaffa Gate in the western wall.

CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

When the Crusaders were driven out of Jerusalem they left behind more than 30 churches that they built. St. Anne's Church, which is the best preserved, is one of the finest examples of their construction. It was built in 1100 A.D. over a crypt venerated to be the birthplace of Mary and the home of her parents Joachim and Anne.

DAVID'S TOMB

King David's Tomb is one of the most sacred Jewish sites in Israel, second only to the Western Wall. The site is on Mount Zion in Jerusalem near the Dormition Church. It is situated in a ground floor corner of the remains of the former Hagia Zion, a Byzantine church. The tomb was described and located here by Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela when he visited Jerusalem in 1172. II Kings 2:10

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

The Garden of Gethsemane lies at the foot of the Mount of Olives. It appears today as it was twenty centuries ago. This garden was a favorite retreat of Jesus and the place where He was betrayed. In this garden are eight olive trees that some botanists claim may be 3,000 years old. (History tells us that in 70 A.D. Titus cut down all the trees in the vicinity of Jerusalem but it is possible these trees escaped that fate.) The trees still bear fruit!

Scripture Reference

JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:31-42, Luke 22:39-44

THE GARDEN TOMB

This site north of the Damascus Gate is believed by many to be the place of the Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus Christ. In 1883, the British General Charles Gordon noted this rocky hill resembling a human skull might be the true Calvary. The presence of a nearby rock-hewn tomb, believed to be first century, helped strengthen this idea. The Garden Tomb gives a clear picture of what the place of the Crucifixion and burial of Christ looked like at the time of Jesus. The simplicity, beauty, and peaceful atmosphere of the Garden Tomb make it a beautiful spot for prayer and meditation. Matthew 27 & 28, Luke 22-24, John 19

HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS

The Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (translated “crowing of the cock”) commemorates Peter’s denial of Christ during the time of his arrest and trial. Located on the southeastern slope of the hill, it is one of the traditional locations for the house of Caiaphas. Built atop the ruins of a Byzantine church and monastery, many believe that the prison in which Christ was held is located inside this church. Matthew 26:34, 26:75 Caiaphas is seen three times in the New Testament.

Scripture Reference

AT THE RAISING OF LAZARUS - THE LEADERS RESOLVED THAT JESUS SHOULD BE PUT TO DEATH

John 11:45-54

CAIAPHAS PRESIDES OVER TRIAL OF JESUS

Matthew 26, John 18

CAIAPHAS APPEARS AT THE TRIAL OF PETER AND JOHN

Acts 4:5-11

MOUNT MORIAH - The Temple Mount

The Temple Mount is revered by three monotheistic faiths. For the Jews it is the ground where the great Temple stood; for Christians it is associated with many events of Jesus’ life and for the Moslems it is the third most sacred place after Mecca and Medina. Inside the Dome of the Pock is ‘the rock of Mount Moriah’ which tradition has identified as the site where Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac (the Moslems believe that it was Abrahams son Ishmael). Towards the end of his reign, David bought the bare hill-top of this Mount and built an alter to the Lord promising to build God a temple here. God gave David’s son Solomon that honor. Solomon’s temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C. and the Jews were taken as captives into Babylon. Fifty years later, they returned and rebuilt the Temple, on a small scale under the leadership of Zerubabel. In 20 B.C. Herod the Great, attempting to gain popularity with the Jews, began reconstruction of the Temple on a large scale. (When this Second Temple was built they did not relocate the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, where it was in the

First Temple, but left it in the secret room where it was hidden by King Josiah. They were afraid that when the Second Temple was destroyed the Ark of the Covenant might be captured or damaged and preferred to keep it for the Third, end-time Temple.) This second Temple was not completed until 64 A.D., six years before its destruction. Herod's Temple was the one Jesus visited. In 70 A.D. the Temple was completely destroyed by the armies of Titus. Titus tried to spare the Temple which was one of the world's marvels, but his soldiers threw a lighted torch through a window and set it on fire. The Menorah for the Temple was saved and carried with Titus in triumph back to Rome. In 135 A.D. after the crushing of the second Jewish revolt, Hadrian profaned the site by erecting a temple dedicated to Jupiter. The early Christians looked on Mount Moriah as a place cursed by God, and it became a heap of rubble. In 636 A.D. the Moslems conquered Jerusalem, cleared the rubble and built a mosque on the site saying it was the place where the prophet Mohammed went to heaven on his winged steed. In 691 that small mosque was replaced with the present one - the Dome of the Rock. During the past 13 centuries, the Dome of the Rock has been repaired many times but its outlines remains the same as it was in 691. In 1099 the Crusaders converted the mosque into a church. After they were defeated in 1187, the cross which shone for 88 years above the dome was removed and the crescent put in its place. The temple mount is the oldest site in Muslim religion.

Scripture Reference

GOD ASKS ABRAHAM TO SACRIFICE ISAAC

Genesis 22:1-19

JESUS' VISIT TO THE TEMPLE AS A BOY

Luke 2:41-49

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17, John 2:13-16

MOUNT OF OLIVES

The Mount of Olives is located east of Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley. (This valley has four ancient tombs traditionally considered to belong to Absalom, Jehosaphat, St. James and St. Zacharias.) Its summit, which is about 300 feet higher than Jerusalem, offers a magnificent view of the Old City and a striking panorama of the Judean hills as far as the Dead Sea, and the mountains of Moab in the east. The Mount of Olives is venerated by Jews and Christians. For the Jews, the prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi are buried here. For Christians, it is associated with some of the most important events in the life of Christ. On the slopes of the Mount of Olives be sure to look for the oldest and largest Jewish cemetery in the world. Many Jews came to Jerusalem in order to die and be buried near the valley of Jehoshaphat where it is believed the resurrection and final judgment will take place. Joel 4:1-2

Scripture Reference

LOCATION OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Acts 1:12

KING DAVID'S SAD JOURNEY UP THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

II Samuel 15:27-31

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY OF END TIMES

Zechariah 14:3, 14:6, 14:8

PROPHECY OF END TIMES BY JESUS

Matthew 24:1, 24:3, 24:4

PALM SUNDAY

Luke 19:37-40

PREPARATION FOR THE LAST SUPPER

Mark 11:1-3, Luke 19:28-31

EVENING OF THE LAST SUPPER

Matthew 26:27-31, Mark 14:26-27

JESUS TEACHING EVERY DAY OF PASSION WEEK

Luke 21:37-38

MOUNT ZION

“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” Hebrews 12:24

The modern Mt. Zion is a misnomer applied by Byzantine pilgrims who thought that the larger, flatter Western Hill must be the original City of David. Archaeological evidence has shown that this hill was only incorporated within the city’s fortifications in the 8th century B.C. but the name has stuck. The Hinnom Valley borders this hill on its western and southern sides.

THE POOL OF BETHESDA

The Pool of Bethesda lies a few yards from St. Stephen’s Gate inside the walls of Jerusalem. At the time of Christ it was just outside the northern wall of the city. It stood near the Sheep Gate which led into the Temple. It was the meeting place for invalids as its’ water was believed to have healing properties. The pool was buried under debris for hundreds of years and when it was unearthed they found it to be 350 feet long by 200 feet by 25 feet deep. The pool was surrounded on four sides by porches and divided laterally by a 5th porch confirming the words of St. John who described the pool as having 5 porticos. One of these pools was for the washing of the sheep to the Temple for sacrifice.

Scripture Reference

POOL OF BETHESDA

John 5:1-15

STEPHEN’S GATE

The walls of Jerusalem’s old City were built by the Ottoman Empire under the direct supervision of Sultan Suleiman in 1542. The walls stretch for approximately 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles) and have a thickness of 3 meters (10 feet). Altogether, the Old City walls contain 43 surveillance towers and 11 gates, seven of which are presently open. When built, Stephens Gate was named Bab el-Ghor, or Jordan Gate, but this name was not well used. The most common names are the Lion’s Gate, St. Stephen’s Gate or Sheep Gate. The name Lion’s Gate originated from

the four figures of lions near the crest of the gate. Tradition puts the martyrdom of Stephen outside of this gate. Stephen's Gate was one of two gates enlarged to allow for the change of transportation from donkeys to automobiles.

Scripture Reference:

THE STONING OF STEPHEN

Acts 6 & 7

THE UPPER ROOM

Coenaculum Dining Hall is located on Mount Zion and is the traditional location where Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples, establishing communion service. Also on Mount Zion the first Christians had their headquarters and as early as the 1st century a church was built. That church was destroyed in 614 by the Persians then rebuilt in the 12th century by the Crusaders. This church remains today and King David's Tomb is located in the lower chapel.

Scripture Reference:

PASSOVER

Mark 14:12-32; Luke 22:7-38

JESUS APPEARED TO THE DISCIPLES AFTER THE RESURRECTION

John 20:19-29

PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-4

THE WESTERN WALL

The Western Wall is the holiest shrine in the Jewish world. It is revered as the last relic of the last Temple. It is a portion of the retaining wall that Herod built around the second Temple in 20 B.C. Titus, in the year 70 A.D. spared this part of the wall with its huge blocks to show future generations the greatness of the Roman soldiers who had been able to destroy the rest of the building. The exposed section of the ancient wall is 187 feet (57 m). This section faces a large plaza, built in 1967 which is set aside for prayer. In reality however, the Western Wall stretches for 1,600 feet (488 m) most of which is hidden behind residential structures built along its length. The wall aboveground consists of twenty-four rows of stones of different dressings and age reaching a height of fifty-nine feet (18m.) with twenty feet (6m.) above the level of the Temple Mount. In 1867 excavations revealed that nineteen additional rows lay buried underground, the lowest level sunk into the natural rock of the Tyropoeon Valley. I Kings 6:14; Matthew 12:6; Luke 2:46; John 2:19

TUNNELS

The Western Wall Tunnel is underground exposing the Western Wall in its full length. The tunnel is adjacent to the Western Wall and is located under buildings of the Old City in Jerusalem. After the Six Day War, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Israel began the excavations aimed at exposing the continuation of the wall. The excavations lasted almost twenty years and revealed many previously unknown facts about the history and geography of the Temple Mount. The tunnels expose a total wall length of 500m and reveal methods of

construction as well as the various activities in the vicinity of the Temple Mount. The excavations unearthed many archaeological finds along the way to include discoveries from the Herodian period (streets and monumental masonry); sections of the reconstructed Western Wall dating to the Umayyad period; and various structures dating to the Ayyubid, Mamluke and Hasmonean periods constructed to support buildings in the vicinity of the Temple Mount.

“Warren’s Gate” lies approximately 150 feet into the tunnel. This sealed-off entrance was converted into a small synagogue called “The Cave” by Rabbi Yehuda Getz because it is the closest point to the Holy of Holies attainable for a Jew (assuming it is located at the traditional site under the Dome of the Rock). Remains of a water channel which originally supplied water to the Temple Mount were found at the northern portion of the Western Wall. The exact source of the channel is unknown though it passes through an underground pool known as the “Strouthion Pool.” The water channel is dated to the Hasmonean period and accordingly dubbed the Hasmonean Channel.” The biggest stone in the Western Wall referred to as the “Western Stone” is also revealed within the tunnel and ranks as one of the heaviest objects ever lifted by human beings without powered machinery. The stone’s length is 13.6 meters, its estimated width ranges from 3.5 to 4.5 meters, and its estimated weight is 570 tons.

YAD VASHEM

Yad Vashem, the “Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority,” is Israel’s official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust and was established in 1953 through the Yad Vashem Law passed by the Knesset, Israel’s parliament. The name originates from a Bible verse, “And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (Yad Vashem) that shall not be cut off.” (Isaiah 56:5)

Located at the foot of Mount Herzl on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a forty-five acre complex containing the Holocaust History Museum and memorial sites such as the Valley of the Communities, a synagogue, archives, a research institute, library, publishing house and an educational center, and The International School for Holocaust Studies. Non-Jews who saved Jews during the Holocaust at personal risk are honored by Yad Vashem as “Righteous Among the Nations.”

JORDAN RIVER

The Jordan River is a strange stream flowing from the snow-capped heights of Mount Hermon to the depths of the Dead Sea. Because large quantities of water are taken from the sources of the Jordan by Israel and Jordan, today the river is a small, winding, dirty stream that eventually empties into the Dead Sea. The river winds so much on its journey from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea that the entire course runs about 130 miles in length instead of the 60 miles it should be if it ran straight. Its average width is 100 feet.

Scripture Reference:

JOSHUA LEADS THE ISRAELITES ACROSS THE JORDON RIVER

Joshua 1-3

JOHN THE BAPTIST BAPTIZES IN THE JORDON RIVER

Matthew 3:4-6; Mark 1:4-8

ELIJAH WAS TAKEN INTO HEAVEN IN A CHARIOT

II Kings 2:11-12

NAAMAN WAS CURED OF LEPROSY BY WASHING IN THE JORDON

II Kings 5:10-14

MASADA

About 2 1/2 miles from the western shore of the Dead Sea in the wilderness of Judea stands the rock fortress of Masada. It is a half mile long, 220 yards wide, and ascends 2,000 feet above the level of the Dead Sea. Alexander Jannai, the High Priest, was the first to build a fortress on the summit of Masada in the middle of the second century B.C. In the year 40 B.C. Herod the Great built a huge, magnificent fortress on top of Masada and, by his own account, "fortified it to protect himself from the Jews should they try and depose him." He embellished the fort for use as a residence in case he was removed from his kingdom by Mark Anthony. It was a masterpiece of engineering.

Masada has become a shrine for the Jews as it is the site of one of the most dramatic episodes in their history.

In the year 70 A.D. when the Roman legions conquered the whole of Palestine and Jerusalem was beaten into the dust a band of Jewish patriots, led by Eleazar Ben Yair, marched on Masada overwhelming the Roman garrison to capture it. Joined later by a few surviving patriots who evaded capture in Jerusalem, Eleazar Ben Yair's men were determined to continue their fight against the Romans and used Masada as a base for their guerrilla strikes. Silva, one of Titus' generals, decided to destroy this outpost at all costs in the year 72 AD. He prepared himself for a long siege by building a wall three miles in circumference around the fortress. At strategic points around the base Silva established eight military camps whose remains can still be distinguished. The blockade was complete effectively cutting-off the besieged from the rest of the country. For many months the Romans tried to storm the fortress but were repelled as the fortress was well fortified and defended. Then the Romans built a ramp to direct a battering ram against the fortress until it breached the wall. Eleazar Ben Yair and his small group knew that the Romans would overrun them the following morning so he gathered his men around him and delivered one of the most dramatic speeches in history. "Life is the calamity of men, not death. All men are equally destined to death, and the same fate attends the coward as the brave. Can we think of submitting to the indignity of slavery? While freedom is our own and we are in possession of our swords, let us make a determined use of them to preserve our liberties. Let us die free men gloriously surrounded by our wives and children. And let us be expeditious. Eternal renown shall be ours by snatching the prize from the hands of our enemies and leaving them nothing but the bodies of those who dared to be their executioners." According to the historian Josephus this is how the 960 people decided to die rather than surrender to their enemies. "While they embraced their wives and children for the last time, they wept over and stabbed them in the same moment, taking comfort, however, that this work was not to be performed by their enemies... They then cast lots for the selection of ten men out of their number to destroy the rest. These being chosen, the devoted victims embraced the bodies of their deceased families and then ranged themselves to the hands of the executioners. When these ten had discharged their disagreeable task, they again cast lots as to which of the ten should kill the other nine. The nine devoted victims died with the same resolution as their brethren had done. The surviving man, having surveyed the bodies and found that they were all dead, set fire to the place and threw himself on his sword among his companions." At dawn the

next day, the Romans were astonished at the lack of opposition. On entering the fortress they saw the bodies and heard the story from two women who had hidden themselves with five children. Josephus wrote, "Far, however, from exulting in the triumph of joy that might have been expected from enemies, they united to admire the steady virtue and dignity of mind with which the Jews had been inspired, and wondered at their contempt of death by which such numbers had been bound in one solemn pact. For the Romans it was a hollow victory."

Many scholars felt that these writings of Josephus were only legend but after Masada was excavated in 1955-1956, the remains that were uncovered confirmed what Josephus had written.

MEGIDDO

Megiddo is located on the southern edge of the plain of Jezreel where the “Way of the Sea” leaves the plain and passes through a long and narrow defile into the plain of Sharon by the coast. Because of this strategic location, numerous battles have been fought at Megiddo making it a symbol of war. Christians believe that the last and final great battle of the world will be fought at Megiddo. (Rev. 16:16) The Mount of Megiddo was excavated between 1925 and 1939 revealing the remains of 20 superimposed cities with each one represented by a distinct layer of ruins.

Scripture Reference:

MANASSEH DID NOT DRIVE PEOPLE OUT OF MEGIDDO

Judges 1:27-28, 5:19-20

SOLOMON USES FORCED LABOR TO BUILD THE TEMPLE

I Kings 9:15-19

KING AHAZIAH WOUNDED, ESCAPED TO MEGIDDO AND DIED

II Kings 9:27-29

KING JOSIAH KILLED AT MEGIDDO

II Kings 23:29-39

ALSO CALLED ARMAGEDDON - THE PLACE OF THE FINAL BATTLE

Revelations 16:15-16

JEZREEL VALLEY

The Valley of Jezreel stretches between the mountains of Galilee in the north and the mountains of Samaria in the south. It is the largest valley in Israel. It has the shape of a triangle and was famous in ancient times, as it is today, for its fertility. It is known as the “Breadbasket of Israel.” The strategic position and fertility of the plain makes it one of the most famous battlefields of the ancient world where more than twenty battles were fought for its control.

Scripture Reference:

Joshua 17:16, 19:18; Judges 6:33; I Kings 4:12; Hosea 1:5

MOUNT CARMEL

Mount Carmel's name is derived from the Hebrew "Karem El" which means vineyard of God. In ancient times it was covered with vineyards and famous for its fertility. It remains green through the year and is the most charming mountain in Israel. It is renowned as being the scene of the great contest between God's prophet Elijah and the priests of Baal. At the foot of Mount Carmel is the cave believed to be where Elijah took refuge during one of his flights from the anger of King Ahab.

Scripture Reference:

ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL - AHAB AND THE MIRACLE OF RAIN

1 Kings 18:16-45; Joshua 17:16, 19:18; Judges 6:33; 1 Kings 4:12; Hosea 1:5

MOUNT OF THE BEATITUDES

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8

The traditional location for the Mount of Beatitudes is on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum and Gennesaret (Ginosar). The actual location of the “Sermon on the Mount” is not certain but the present site (also known as Mount Eremos) has been commemorated for more than 1600 years. The site is very near Tabgha. The Mount of Beatitudes overlooks the four-mile long Plain of Gennesaret which is famous for its fertility. Josephus said this plain was the location of “nature’s crowning achievement.” Several times the New Testament records that Jesus was in this area to include when He healed the multitudes and when he faced Pharisaic condemnation for ritual impurity.

Scripture Reference:

Mark 6-7; Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6

NAZARETH

There is no definite date when Nazareth came into being. The springs which still supply the well (Mary's Well) with water attracted inhabitants since ancient times. Mary's Well was and is the city's only water supply. There is no doubt that Jesus and his mother, like all Nazarenes, drew water from this well. The spring gushes from the mountain and through a conduit to a public fountain where women draw water today. At the time of Jesus, Nazareth was larger than a village and always considered a city. Nazareth does not have a dramatic history. The town has gradually increased in population and today Nazareth houses the largest Arab community in Israel (35,000) with the majority of its inhabitants being Christians.

Scripture Reference:

THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY IN NAZARETH

Luke 1:26-28

JOSEPH TAKES MARY AND JESUS TO LIVE IN NAZARETH

Matthew 2:21-23

JESUS GROWS UP IN NAZARETH

Luke 2:39-40 & 51-52

JESUS TEACHES IN THE SYNAGOGUE IN NAZARETH – THE PEOPLE TRIED TO KILL HIM

Luke 4:16-30

SEA OF GALILEE

The Sea of Galilee is thirteen miles long, seven miles wide, and 686 feet below sea level. It is also called Tiberias and Kinneret originating from the Hebrew word for harp as the sea is shaped like a harp. The sea is abundant in different varieties of fish and, as in ancient times, the fish are caught with nets.

Scripture Reference:

JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES

Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

JESUS HEALS MANY

Matthew 15:29-31

JESUS HEALS THE DEAF MAN

Mark 7:31-37

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

Matthew 8:1-4

JESUS SPEAKS TO THE MULTITUDES FROM PETER'S BOAT

Mark 3:7-12; Luke 5:1-3

JESUS COMMANDS THE VIOLENT STORM TO BE STILL

Matthew 8:23-27

JESUS WALKS ON STORMY WATER

Matthew 14:22-23

12 APOSTLES ORDAINED ON A MOUNTAIN NEAR THE SEA

Mark 3:13-19

THE RISEN LORD APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES

John 21:4-19

TABGHA

This name comes from the Greek word Heptapegon meaning seven springs. It is a place with a plentiful supply of water. Traditionally, this is the site Jesus fed the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes. Two successive Byzantine churches were built on this site in the Fourth and Fifth centuries. In 1932 the remains of a Byzantine church was discovered with the best preserved mosaic in all Israel.

Scripture Reference:

JESUS FEED THE 5,000

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:36-44; John 6:1-6

TEL AVIV

Tel Aviv, (literal meaning: “Hill of Spring”) is the second largest city in Israel. The city is situated on the Israeli Mediterranean coastline and is the largest most populous city in the metropolitan area of Gush Dan. Tel Aviv was founded in 1909 on the outskirts of the ancient port city of Jaffa. The growth in population of Tel Aviv soon outpaced Jaffa which was largely Arab at the time. Tel Aviv and Jaffa merged into a single municipality in 1950 just two years after the establishment of the State of Israel. Tel Aviv’s Whit City, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, comprises the world’s largest concentration of Modernist-style buildings. Tel Aviv is a global city, Israel’s economic hub and wealthiest city in the country. It is home to research and development centers, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, and corporate offices. Its beaches, bars, cafés, restaurants, upscale shopping, great weather and cosmopolitan lifestyle make it a popular tourist destination. It is the country’s financial capital and a major performing arts and business center. Tel Aviv’s urban area is the Middle East’s second biggest city economy.

TEL DAN

The largest of four sources of the Jordan River, the Dan Springs emerges at the base of Mt. Hermon next to Tel Dan. It flows for four miles before joining the second largest source of the Jordan River, the Banias Spring. Together the four sources (also the Lyon and Hasbani) of the Jordan River drain a total area of more than 2700 sq. kilometers. This is the location of a beautiful nature reserve with gorgeous trails leading through dense forest, streams and the Chatzbani River. This is the site where the tribe of Dan once lived. Although allotted territory further south, the Danites weren't able to hold on to that land. They moved north, conquered the Canaanite town of Laish, and settled down next to the stream. Dan became synonymous with the northern border of Israel, such that the phrase "from Dan to Beersheva" came to symbolize all Israel. Later, when the kingdom was divided, the phrase "from Dan to Bethel" showed the markings of the border of the Northern Kingdom. Archeological excavations have revealed numerous findings, the most impressive being a full standing gate of the Canaanite city contemporary to Abraham, buried and preserved by later inhabitants. With the expansion of the city, another gate was built and has been restored by archeologists. Adjacent to this entrance is a bench, perhaps of the type mentioned in Biblical reference as the "Seat of the Elders." Tel Dan is also notorious for many evidence of the pagan "high places" mentioned throughout the biblical text, including a podium that nearly all archaeologists agree was the one that Jeroboam constructed to house the golden calf at Dan. (II Kings 12)

TIBERIAS

Tiberias, one of the four holy cities of Judaism, is located in northeastern Israel on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The 2,000 year old Tiberias was constructed by Herod Antipas around the year 20 AD. As early as Roman times, this thriving recreational spa was built around seventeen natural mineral hot springs more than 600 feet below sea level and welcomed visitors from every part of the ancient world. The city was dedicated to the Roman Caesar Tiberius, and is mentioned only in passing in the Gospels, "Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks." (John 6:23) The historian Josephus Flavius reports in his book, "The Jewish War," that during the Great Revolt against the Romans the inhabitants of Tiberias surrendered to the Romans without a fight. After the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, Tiberias became such an important center of learning that it rivaled the great center of Babylon. The Jewish courts (Sanhedrin) moved to Tiberias, and it is there that most of the Jerusalem Talmud was edited. Today Tiberias is one of Israel's most popular resorts both because it is situated on the Sea of Galilee and because it is adjacent to the famous hot springs of Tiberias.

Scripture Reference:

JESUS FEED THE FIVE THOUSAND

John 6:1, 6:23

JESUS AND THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH

John 21:1

SHOPPING TIPS

When shopping in the market feel free to haggle, however, in shops this is NOT acceptable. Feel free to purchase trinkets and souvenirs from street vendors. Be sure to purchase expensive items only from reputable shops.

TRAVEL TIPS

At The Table – In the hotel dining room soft drinks, milk, and bottled water are not included in the menu. If you order them the waiter will be around to collect before you leave the table.

Passports – When traveling your passport is your dearest friend next to God. Never let it out of your sight unless your tour leaders or a customs official has it. Never leave your hotel without it. Carry it on your person at all times. **DO NOT PACK YOUR PASSPORT IN YOUR SUITCASE** as you travel. Keep it with you at all times.

Taxis & Sherut – All city taxis have meters which must be used by law. Prices are fixed between cities. Taxis can be ordered by phone or simply hailed in the street. Tipping is optional. A shared (sherut in Hebrew) taxi or van is available between major cities and on certain urban routes as well.

Useful Phrases – Though many Israelis speak fluent English, knowing a few Hebrew words and phrases will help you enjoy your Israel experience more.

Shalom.....Hello, goodbye, peace

Toda.....Thank you

Toda Raba.....Thank you very much

Bevakasha.....Please, you're welcome

Kama.....How much?

Boker tov.....Good Morning

Erev tov.....Good Evening

TsoHoRaYIMToVeeM.....Good Afternoon

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF ISRAEL

1950 BC The Patriarchs

The written history of Israel begins when Abraham was called by God from Ur of the Chaldeans to travel to Canaan to bring about the formation of a people with belief in the One God. When famine spread through Canaan, Jacob (grandson of Abraham, son of Isaac) and his twelve sons and their families settled in Egypt where their descendants were eventually enslaved.

1300 BC Exodus from Egypt

After 400 years of slavery, Moses led the Israelites from Egypt followed by forty years of wandering in the desert. In this wilderness the Israelites received the Ten Commandments and the form of their worship from God (at Mount Sinai).

1250 BC Joshua Crossed the River Jordan

Under the leadership of Joshua the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan, and divided the land between the twelve tribes. During times of war the people rallied behind leaders known as “judges”, chosen for their political and military skills as well as their leadership qualities. The Prophets were religious sages and charismatic figures endowed with a divine gift of revelation who preached during the period of the monarchy until a century after the direction through their close relationship with God and acted either as advisers to kings or as their critics in matters of religion, ethics and politics.

1025 BC Saul Crowned as King

The Israelites wanted to have a King like the nations around them instead of their tribal organization.

1004-965 BC David Reigned as King of Israel

David established his kingdom as a major power by successful military expeditions including the final defeat of the Philistines and through a network of friendly alliances with nearby kingdoms.

1000 BC Jerusalem becomes capital of Israel

David makes Jerusalem the Capital of Israel.

965-922 BC Reign of King Solomon (David’s Son)

960 BC First Temple

The national and spiritual center of the Jewish people built in Jerusalem by King Solomon.

953-930 BC Divided Kingdom

Judah (Southern Kingdom derived from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) and Israel (Northern Kingdom).

722-720 BC Israel Captured

After 200 years and nineteen kings, the Kingdom of Israel was captured by the Assyrians who captured Samaria and took the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom into captivity, ending the Kingdom of Israel.

586 BC Judah Captured

After 400 years and 19 Kings (from the lineage of David) Judah was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonia), Jerusalem and the Temple (1st) were destroyed and most of the people were taken into captivity in Babylon. (e.g. Daniel)

536-142 BC Persian and Hellenistic Periods

Over four centuries the Jews knew varying degrees of self-rule under Persian (538-333 BC) and later Hellenistic (Ptolemaic and Seleucid) over-lordship (333-142 BC)

538-515 BC Babylon Conquered

Cyrus King of Persia conquered Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. The Temple was rebuilt by Zerubbabel.

334 BC Israel conquered

Alexander the Great conquered Israel and after his death it was controlled by the Ptolemies of Egypt.

198 BC Egypt Defeated

Antiochus III of Syria defeated the Egyptians and Israelites passed into the hands of Seleucids.

175 BC Antiochus IV became King

In an effort to impose Greek-oriented culture and customs on the entire population, Antiochus IV abolished the worship of Jehovah and desecrated the Temple by offering swine in the Temple altar.

142-63 BC Hasmonean Dynasty

167 BC Maccabean Revolt

Jews angered by the loss of their right to worship were led by an aged priest Mattathias and his sons (and later by his son Judah the Maccabee) in revolt against the Seleucids and defeated them. They subsequently entered Jerusalem and purified the Temple (164 BC). This event is commemorated each year by the festival of Hanukkah.

142-63 BC Jewish Independence

After further Hasmonean victories, the Seleucids restored autonomy to Judea, as the Land of Israel was now called, and with the collapse of the Seleucid kingdom (129 BC), Jewish independence was achieved. Under the Hasmonean dynasty, which lasted about 80 years, the kingdom regained boundaries not far short of Solomon's realm and political consolidation under Jewish rule was attained in which Jewish life flourished.

63 BC - 313 AD Roman Rule

63 BC Pompey Conquered Israel

When the Romans replaced the Seleucids as the great power in the region, they granted the Hasmonean king, Hyrcanus II, limited authority under the Roman governor of Damascus. The Jews were hostile to the new regime, and the following years witnessed frequent insurrections. A last attempt to restore the former glory of the Hasmonean dynasty was made by Mattathias Antigonus, whose defeat and death brought Hasmonean rule to an end (40 BC), and the land became a province of the Roman Empire.

40 BC Roman was Captured

The Parthians surprised the Romans and captured the land.

39 BC Herod the Great expelled the Parthians

Herod, a son-in-law of Hyrcanus II, was appointed King of Judea by the Romans. Granted almost unlimited autonomy in the country's internal affairs, he became one of the most powerful monarchs in the eastern part of the Roman Empire. A great admirer of Greco-Roman culture, Herod launched a massive construction program, which included the cities of Caesarea, Sebaste, the fortresses at Herodium, and Masada. He also remodeled the Temple transforming it into one of the most magnificent buildings of its time. However, despite his many achievements, Herod failed to win the trust and support of his Jewish subjects.

4-1 BC Birth of Jesus Christ

8 AD Roman Administration

Ten years after Herod's death Judea came under direct Roman administration. Growing anger against increased Roman suppression of Jewish life resulted in sporadic violence.

20-33 AD Ministry of Jesus

30-33 AD Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus

66 AD Jewish Revolt

A full scale revolt against the Romans was led by the Zealots.

70 AD Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed

Superior Roman forces led by Titus were finally victorious. The total destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple was catastrophic for the Jewish people. According to historians, hundreds of thousands of Jews perished in the siege of Jerusalem and elsewhere throughout the country with thousands more sold into slavery.

73 AD Masada

The last Jewish outpost at Masada was defeated.

132-135 AD Second Revolt of the Jews by Bar Kokhba

The revolt was crushed by Hadrian who destroyed Jerusalem and rebuilt it as a Roman City called Aelia Capitolina.

313-636 AD Byzantine Rule

Following Emperor Constantine's adoption of Christianity (313 AD) and the founding the Byzantine Empire, the Land of Israel became a predominantly Christian country. Churches were built on Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Galilee. Monasteries were established in many parts of the country. The Jewish people were deprived of their former relative autonomy as well as their right to hold public positions. Furthermore, they were forbidden to enter Jerusalem except one day of the year to mourn the destruction of the Temple.

614 AD Persian Invasion

Aided by the Jews, the Persians invaded Israel. Thousands of Christians were slain and hundreds of churches were destroyed. In gratitude for their help, the Jews were granted the administration of Jerusalem, an interlude which lasted about three years. After that time, the Byzantine army regained the city (629 AD) and again expelled its Jewish inhabitants.

636-1099 AD Arab Rule

636 AD The Muslims conquered Israel

The Muslims conquered Israel and made Jerusalem their third sacred city. The Arab conquest of the Land came four years after the death of the prophet Muhammad (632 AD) and lasted more than four centuries, with caliphs (an Islamic ruler) ruling first from Damascus then from Baghdad and Egypt. By the end of the 11th century due to increasing restrictions, heavy taxes, and economic discrimination, the Jewish community in the Land had diminished considerably and lost some of its organizational and religious cohesiveness.

691 AD Dome of the Rock

Built on the site of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem.

1099 AD Fatimid Khalif Hakem destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre together with many other Christian buildings sparking two hundred years of war and animosity between the East and West.

1099-1291 AD Crusader Domination

1099 AD Jerusalem Captured

Jerusalem was captured by Crusaders and the Latin Kingdom was established in Jerusalem. For approximately 200 years the country was dominated by the Crusaders who, following an appeal by Pope Urban II, came from Europe to recover the Holy Land. After a five week siege the knights of the First Crusade captured Jerusalem massacring most non-Christian inhabitants in the city. Barricaded in their synagogues Jews defended their quarter only to be burned to death or sold into slavery.

1187 AD Crusaders Defeated

Saladin, a Moslem prince from Egypt, defeated the Crusaders at the Horns of Hittin ending their Kingdom of Jerusalem.

1263 AD

The Mamluk Sultan Beybars of Egypt captured the remaining Crusader strongholds and coastal cities ruling them for the next 250 years.

1291-1516 AD Mamluk Rule

During the Mamluks rule from Damascus, Acre, Jaffa and other ports were destroyed for fear of new crusades resulting in the interruption or cessation of maritime and overland commerce. By the end of the Middle Ages, the country's towns were virtually in ruins, most of Jerusalem was abandoned, and the small remaining Jewish community was poverty-stricken. The period of Mamluk decline was further darkened by political and economic upheaval, plagues, locusts, and devastating earthquakes.

1517-1917 AD Ottoman Rule

The Ottomans conquered the Land dividing it into four districts which they ruled from Istanbul. At the beginning of Ottoman rule some 1,000 Jewish families lived in the country, mainly in Jerusalem, Nablus, Hebron, Gaza, Safed and the villages of Galilee. These were descendants of Jews who had always lived in the Land as well as immigrants from North Africa and Europe. Orderly government until the death (1566 AD) of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, brought improvements stimulating Jewish immigration. By the mid-16th century, the Jewish population had risen significantly. With a gradual decline in the quality of Ottoman rule, the country suffered widespread neglect. By the end of the 18th century much of the land was owned by absentee landlords and leased to impoverished tenant farmers where taxation was crippling. The 19th Century began to show signs of progress. British, French and American scholars launched studies of Biblical archaeology with Britain, France, Russia, Austria and the U.S. opening consulates in Jerusalem. Travel increased when steamships instituted regular routes from Europe. Commerce increased substantially with the opening of the Suez Canal.

1860 AD

First neighborhood built outside of Jerusalem's walls.

1882-1903 AD First Aliyah

Large-scale immigration, mainly from Russia.

1897 AD Zionist Organization founded

1904-1914 AD Second Aliyah - Mainly from Russia and Poland.

1909 AD First kibbutz founded

Tel Aviv, the first modern all-Jewish city founded.

1917 AD 400 years of Ottoman rule ends

Israel was taken by the Allies in World War I under General Allenby (British).

1918-1948 British Rule

1919-1923 AD Third Aliyah - Mainly from Russia.

1920 AD Haganah Founded

Jewish and Arab communities are granted the right to run their own internal affairs. The Jewish defense organization known as Haganah was founded. Also founded was the Jewish community, known as the yishuv. They elected a self-governing body based on party representation which met annually. During this time agriculture expanded, factories were established, new roads were built throughout the country, the waters of the Jordan River were harnessed for production of electric power, and the mineral potential of the Dead Sea was tapped.

1922 AD

The League of Nations entrusted Great Britain with the 'Mandate for Palestine' (the name by which the country was then known.)

1924-1932 AD Fourth Aliyah - Mainly from Poland.

1933-1939 AD Fifth Aliyah - Mainly from Germany.

1939 AD

Jewish immigration severely limited by British White Paper.

1939-1945 AD World War II: Holocaust in Europe

1944 AD - Jewish Brigade formed as part of British forces.

1947 AD UN proposes the establishment of Arab and Jewish states in the Land.

1948 AD State of Israel

1948 AD May 14 - State of Israel Proclaimed.

1949 AD

Armistice agreements signed with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

1948-1952 AD

Mass immigration from Europe and Arab countries.

1967 AD Six Day War

On June 5 war broke out between Arabs and Israelis. It ended after six days of fighting with Israel occupying the entire Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, and the West Bank of the Jordan River.

1968-1970 AD Yom Kippur War

On October 6 war broke out between the Arabs and the Israelis. After sixteen days of fighting a cease fire was reached.

1978 AD Camp David Accords

Include framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

1979 AD Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty signed

1985 AD Free Trade Agreement signed with the United States.

1991 AD Israel attacked by Iraqi scud missiles during the Gulf War.

1998 AD Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary.

"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:3

MAPS

OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

