

Home for Bible Translators and Scholars

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Special Course on the Geography, Language, History, and Archaeology of the

Land of the Bible for Bible Translation Consultants

7-20 January 2015

This program is an in-depth study tour relating Scripture text to its historical, archaeological, geographical and cultural context. With Bible in hand, trips to the Biblical sites throughout the Land of the Bible are experienced with an eye toward Bible translation issues.

Textbook: It is suggested to bring a small Bible, but one can purchase or borrow a Bible from the HBT Library. We will be using the **Bible Lands Satellite Map** by William Schlegel as our textbook and **initial videos can be used to prepare** at <http://bibleplaces.com/satellite-bible-atlas-schlegel.htm>. If you are wanting to “map the Bible,” see the excellent book called *Regions on the Run* by James Monson with seven external maps that can be ordered at www.bibback.com. In addition, we will be providing handouts of Biblical texts for on-site discussions.

Assignment: Most days (usually the evening) time will be given to write a **one page summary** about what was learned during the day, describing specific items, ideas, or cultural aspects learned that day. The summaries can be organized into two categories: **1) new** information and **2) corrections** of previous information. A final summary of the summaries (ideally 3-4 pages) can be organized around categories of “contextual criticism”: geographical, historical, cultural, religious, and flora/fauna contexts.

Course Logistics

Meals: 7:30; 1:00; 6:00 unless otherwise indicated; Fieldtrips will include light packed lunches.

Field Trip Instructors: Dr. Halvor Ronning and Brian (Baruch) Kvasnica and other lecturers.

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Itinerary

7 January 2015 (Wednesday) – Settling in at the Home for Bible Translators

6:00PM Orientation (Textbooks, Maps, and Guidelines)

6:30PM Dinner, Fellowship and Discussion

JERUSALEM

8 January (Thur)–Lv 8:00am **MOUNTAINS ROUND JERUSALEM (Psalm 125:2)** [BK]

8:00AM Lecture with the *Satellite Map Atlas* and reference to *Regions on the Run*: Historical Geography of the Hebrew Bible: Topographical **Regions**, and The Historical and Archeological **Periods** of the Bible.

10:00AM Field Trip: Ps 125:2 - **Mt. Scopus** overlook - (view from the North) and then a stunning overview of Jerusalem from **Mt. of Olives** (view from the East; Zech 14; Luke 11; Acts 1). **Abraham’s View** of Jerusalem (Gen 22) – “the Promenade” (view from the South).

9 January (Friday) –**ANCIENT JERUSALEM** [BK]

Lv 7:45am: **Temple Institute** (Exodus 25); **Broad Wall** (Isa 22:10; Neh 3:8; 2 Kings 19: 20-21, 32-36) and the Jewish Quarter; **Southern Wall Excavations** (Davidson Museum); **City of David** (2 Sam 5) and the Pool of Siloam (John 9 and 7:37-39)

6:30PM Shabbat Meal and Summaries

10 January (Saturday)– **BETHLEHEM AND BIBLE TRANSLATION** [BK]

Lv 9:00AM Visit **Herodian** and view of **Tekoa** (2 Sam 14, Amos 1, 9 and Acts 13; Neh 3:5, 27); **Bethlehem** – Church of Nativity (Gen 35:19; Ruth 4; Micah 5; Matt 2; Luke 2) and **Grotto of Jerome**, the Bible translator. 4:00PM Preview of the Galilee - BK; 5:00PM – Lecture by Mirja Ronning “Insights from Translating Isaiah from the Hebrew”

THREE DAYS GALILEE [BK]

11 January (Sunday) – **JORDAN VALLEY & JESUS' MINISTRY AROUND SEA OF GALILEE:** [BK]

Lv 8:00am Travel via **Nahal Prat/Wadi Qelt** (St. Georges's Monastery) remembering Psalm 23, Luke 10 and the Good Samaritan, down to **Jericho** (Joshua 6) and **Kasr al-Yahud /Baptismal Site**; through via Jordan Valley (Luke 4, 10); **Beth Shean** (1 Samuel 31); **Chorazim** (Matthew 11:23-24; 23:1-3); Mt. of **Beatitudes** (Matthew 5-7); **Capernaum** (Matt 4:13; 17: 24; Mk 2:1).

Overnight in Galilee (Habler House, Tiberias)

12 January (Monday) - **THE GALILEE AND THE GOLAN**

Lv 7:45am **Hazor/Hatzor** (Joshua 11:10-11; 1 Kings 9:15); **Tel Dan** (Joshua 19: 4748; 1 Kings 12:26-32); **Caesarea Philippi** [Panias/Banyas] (Matthew 16); **Golan Heights/Bashan** (Kuneitra) and view of Hippos of the **Decapolis**.

Dinner at En Gev. Overnight in Galilee (Habler House, Tiberias)

13 January (Tuesday) – **THE COASTAL PLAIN AND THE JEZREEL VALLEY**

Lv 8:00am and visit **Nazareth Village** (Matthew 2:23; Luke 1:26; 4:16, 28-30; Jn 1:46); **Megiddo** (1 Kings 9:15; Revelation 15:12); passing by **Mount Carmel** (1 Kings 18:20-46) to **Caesarea** (Acts 10; 12; 25). And then traveling through the **Sharon Plain** past Aphek/Antipatris. Overnight at the Home for Bible Translators. Evening Summaries.

BIBLICAL PLANTS AND AGRICULTURE

14 January (Wednesday) – Lv 8:00AM **Biblical Plants and Agriculture and Torah Scribe**—at Neot Kedumim with Ronit Maoz? 7:00pm *Tentative* - **Victor Kalischer** (Director, Bible Society in Israel)

15 January (Thursday) – **BIBLICAL NEGEV and the PHILISTINE PLAIN** [BK]

Lv 7:45AM travel through the Philistine Plain (1 Sam 6:4,17) to **Ashdod/Azotus** (Joshua 11:22; 1 Sam 5:8-9; 2 Chronicles 26:6; Acts 8:40) for a visit to *Museum of Philistine Culture*; then travel past Ekron/Miqne (Achish inscription) and Gath/Tell es-Safi (Goliath: 1 Sam 17:4f; Achish: 1 Sam 21:10-15; 1 Sam 27:1-7) to the **Joe Alon Bedouin Center** and then onto visit **Tel Beersheba** (Genesis 21:14 – Hagar and Ishmael sent away; Genesis 21:27-34; *mishkenot* (2 Chr 32:28), *hutot* (1 Kgs 20:34); 33; 26:23-33; 'Dan to Beersheva' Jud 20:1; 1 Chr 21:2; 2 Sam 24:2; altar as asylum 1 Kgs 1:50, 2:28 but Ex 21:14; Josiah's reforms 2 Kgs 23:8; Hezekiah's reforms 2 Kgs 18:4,22). passing through the region of Gerar (Gen 20, 26) and Ashkelon (Judg 14:10-19; 2 Sam 1:17)) **Evening Summaries**

16 January (Friday) **ISRAEL MUSEUM, EZEKIEL'S VISION & MATERIAL CULTURE**

Lv 9:00AM Field Trip: Visit the **Israel Museum: Archaeological Wing**, the Shrine of the Book housing the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, and the **Model of Jerusalem** from 70AD; **Yad VaShem** Holocaust Museum (Isa 56:5 and Ezek 37); 4PM LECTURE????: Ray Pritz, Man-Made Objects in the Bible

17 January (Saturday)– **JUDEAN DESERT and DEAD SEA** [HR]

Lv 8:00am Drive through Northern Judean Desert down the Jericho road (Ps. 23 and Luke 10) and visit **Qumran** of the Dead Sea Scrolls and then **Masada**; overview **Ein Gedi** Oasis (1 Sam 24 and Psalm 57) & the **Dead Sea**. 6:30PM Shabbat Meal

18 January (Sunday) – **WORSHIP & SHEPHELAH / JUDEAN MIDLANDS** [HR]

Lv 8:30am – 9:30 Worship at **Christ Church**, Old City; Afternoon: **The Lachish Valley**: Lachish (2 Kgs 18:14,17 // Isa 36:2-3 and 37:33 - Assyrian ramp and ostraca from Babylonian conquest); **The Elah Valley**: Azekah, David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17; 21:9); **The Sorek Valley**: Beth Shemesh, Samson and the Philistines (1 Samuel 6-7). **Evening Summaries** Evening Summaries

19 January (Monday) - **JERUSALEM, AND RESURRECTION** [HR]

Lv 8:00AM **Gethsemane**; walk along the **Via Dolorosa** from the Antonia Fortress to the **Holy Sepulcher**, and the **Garden Tomb**. Afternoon – **Summary of Summaries** sent by email before **5:00PM Context Criticism – Discussion**: Sharing experiences of specific places and linguistic points that have brought about a new understanding of Biblical passages. 6:30 PM **Closing Biblical Meal** at HBT (with only foods mentioned in the Bible)