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Lententide in the Holy Land



**with Dr. Jean Bozeman
and Dr. Monte Luker**



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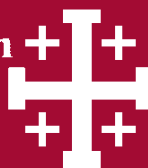
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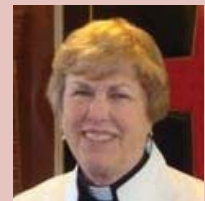
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Lententide in the Holy Land

March 11-24, 2012

Tour Host: Dr. Jean Bozeman

Professor: Dr. Monte Luker



Dear students enrolled in ACTS and other guests,

March in the Holy Land is the most beautiful time of the year. The desert is blooming and the Galilee is awash in wild flowers. Come join Pastor Jean Bozeman, who has traveled here twice before, on this Lenten Pilgrimage. Your instructor will be Dr. Monte Luker of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary who has focused much of his career on the meaning of the Land of the Bible for Christian education and discipleship. Meanwhile, we shall also meet the People of the Land, the Living Stones as they like to say, to learn how Israelis and Palestinians live together in this sacred place.

(1) Sunday March 11. Third Sunday of Lent. Depart USA to Tel Aviv.

(2) Monday March 12. Evening on the Sea. Arrive Tel Aviv and transfer to Netanya on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. Enjoy the sunset, a stroll on the beach, and a restful night.

(3) Tuesday March 13. Ancient and Modern Israel. Visit King Herod's harbor city, Caesarea Maritime. Travel to Megiddo, site of "Armageddon" at the base of Mount Carmel. Afternoon visit with Archbishop Elias Chacour, author of *Blood Brothers* (we shall read his book), and tour the Mar Elias schools he founded in the Palestinian village of Ibillin. Overnight the next four nights on the peaceful shore of the Sea of Galilee.

(4) Wednesday March 14. The Galilee of Jesus. Zippori (Sepphoris), described by Josephus as "the ornament of all Galilee," is where Joseph and Jesus likely worked as artisans while living in the nearby village of Nazareth, second on our journey today, including lunch at a Christian family restaurant. Conclude the day at Nazareth Village, a reconstruction of biblical life at the time of the Holy Family's dwelling there.

(5) Thursday March 15. The Golan Heights. Walk along the Dan River to the altar where King Jeroboam set up the golden calf (and in Bethel) saying, "Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt" (1 Kings 12:28). A bit further and we arrive at Caesarea Philippi where Peter confessed for the first time that Jesus is the Messiah while standing in front of "the Gates of Hades" (Matt 16:13-20). We'll have an authentic Druze lunch alongside a crater lake, view the UN peace keeping mission at the Syrian border, and end the day with a tour of the Golan Heights Winery, one of the chief Israeli industries in the Golan.

(6) Friday March 16. The Sea of Galilee. Having walked its shores and slept beside its waves, we spend our fourth day on and around the Sea where Jesus centered his Galilean ministry. Take a boat ride to Ginosar to view the first-century fishing boat discov-

ered recently after being covered by the lake for 2,000 years. Celebrate the Holy Eucharist on the Mount of Beatitudes. Explore the historical sites of Capernaum and Bethsaida, as well as the traditional Church of the Loaves and Fishes (Feeding of the 5,000), the Primacy of Peter (John 21), and Kursi on "the other side" where Jesus may have sent the pigs into the Sea (Mark 5).

(7) Saturday March 17. Going Up to Jerusalem. Beit Shean with its Old Testament connection to the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1) and its New Testament background as one of the Decapolis cities. A great Palestinian lunch in modern Jericho, then view the ancient city. On our way up to Jerusalem, we stop in the wilderness near where John baptized Jesus who subsequently was tempted by Satan (Mark 1:1-15). The next four nights we are in Jerusalem.

(8) Sunday March 18. Fourth Sunday of Lent. Worship with our Palestinian Lutheran siblings in Beit Sahour (Shepherd's Field) and afterward have lunch and discussion with Pastor Imad Haddad, a former student at Lutheran Southern Seminary, at the local restaurant he loves. Climb the Herodian, King Herod's desert palace where his tomb is just now being excavated. Conclude the day with a holy pilgrimage to Bethlehem.

(9) Monday March 19. Jerusalem the Gold. Ascend the Temple Mount where now stands the Dome of the Rock mosque. Pray at the Western Wall, the holiest site of Judaism. Walk the excavations around the Temple Mount conducted since Israel occupied East Jerusalem in 1967. Let's have lunch in a 19th century restaurant in the Armenian Quarter. Close the day with the City of David and walking Hezekiah's tunnel (for those who wish).

(10) Tuesday March 20. The Itinerary of Holy Week. As part of our Lenten pilgrimage in preparation for Easter, this day will be especially meaningful. Walk the journey of Palm Sunday beginning at Bethpage (Mark 11) and ending at the Garden of Gethsemane. Soak up the culture during an indigenous Palestinian lunch on the Mount of Olives. After the Pools of Bethesda and St. Ann's crusad-

The Rev. Dr. Monte Luker, Professor of Hebrew Scriptures at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, has lived and studied in the Holy Land for 30 years. In addition to the Land, his primary interest is in the literary and theological analysis of Scripture, and he has contributed numerous articles to *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*, *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, as well as scholarly and church-related journals. His books include *Doom and Hope in Micah and Passion*, *Vitality*, and *Foment: The Dynamics of Second Temple Judaism*.



Dr. Luker also serves as Faculty Associate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of South Carolina and has been Professor of Bible at the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies since 1997. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Schools of Oriental Research, the Biblical Archaeology Society, and the National Association of Professors of Hebrew.

er church (someone has got to sing Ave Maria here), we walk the Via Dolorosa ending at Golgotha and the Tomb of Christ (the Church of the Holy Sepulcher).

(11) Wednesday March 21. From Tragedy to Tranquility. Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum. The Israel Museum including the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Model of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. Travel now to the wilderness where the prophets and Jesus heard the "still small voice" of God. After lunch and a study tour at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, we overnight the final two nights at Kibbutz Ein Gedi, a Garden of Eden oasis in the wilderness.

(12) Thursday March 22. Listening to the Voice. Free day to swim in the Dead Sea, visit the spa or pool, read under a tree in the shade, walk among 1000 varieties of tropical plants, listen to the multitude of birds. This is paradise.

(13) Friday March 23. From the Desert to the Sea. Ascend King Herod's mighty Masada fortress and begin our journey westward, stopping at Arad with its Solomon temple and then Beersheva in the Negev where many of the Patriarchal narratives are located and also an early Israelite city. As we arrive at the Mediterranean Sea where our journey began, we spend a bit of private time watching the sunset one last time, and then share a festive closing dinner before we begin our journey home. Transfer to the airport.

(14) Saturday March 24. Arrive USA fortified for the Fifth Sunday of Lent and further preparation for Easter which is April 8. You will never worship nor hear the Scriptures the same after this journey of a lifetime.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information. While you will see all sites listed above, the **order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered** to accommodate changes in airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. Due to airline schedules, some participants may receive one or two extra leisure days at a nominal per day charge. This brochure and its pricing is valid until March 15, 2011.

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 Date = 031112B
 ID # = 51092

Host: Dr. Jean Bozeman ID#: 51092
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ITINERARY CHANGES: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While you will see all sites listed above, the order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. Due to airline schedules, some participants may receive one or two extra leisure days at a nominal per day charge and some extensions may not be available on all departure dates. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged \$90 per night; single rooms \$150 per night. Meals for extra nights are not included.

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