

# EMBASSY

## COLLEGE



## TEXTBOOK (ACADEMIC VERSION)

### Israel: The Holy Land

COURSE: THE ISRAEL TOUR: VIRTUAL (HT610)

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# Israel: The Holy Land

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# CONTENTS

Chapter One—General Introduction.....	5
About Your Holy Lands Tour .....	5
Suggestions .....	6
Chapter Two—Israel.....	10
Geography.....	10
Economy .....	11
Administration and Social Conditions .....	13
Chapter Three—History.....	15
Biblical Period .....	15
Babylonian Period .....	19
Persian Period .....	19
Greek Period .....	20
Hasmonean Period .....	20
Roman Period .....	21
Byzantine Period.....	23
Arab Period.....	24
Crusader Period .....	25
Mameluke Period.....	27
Turkish Period .....	27
Modern Period .....	29
Population and Religion .....	32
Israel Today .....	33
Chapter Four—Significant Points of Interest .....	36

Jerusalem .....	36
Chapter Five—North of Jerusalem to Galilee .....	65
Chapter Six—	
West from the Sea of Galilee to Megiddo .....	65
Chapter Seven—	
Megiddo South Down the Coast to Jerusalem	70
Chapter Eight—East and South of Jerusalem .....	75

## **Chapter One**

### **ABOUT YOUR HOLY LANDS TOUR**



It is important that we all fully understand the unusual nature of this experience which we are about to share together.

Your journey has been designed to give you the maximum amount of exposure to the Bible Lands that has ever been possible in such a limited amount of time. You will know the background of your Bible when you come home in a manner which will surprise even you.

Our journey together has a very serious basic purpose to achieve. It has been designed to combine the ultimate in sightseeing exposure by visiting a maximum of the Bible Lands together. We will be seeing frequently visited places like Jerusalem, and also going to very remote areas such as Patmos. We will have the use of modern buses and, of course, the service of top professional guides in each place. This journey will offer you the opportunity for happy fellowship with many new friends from across America. We will spend many of our pleasant evenings together in rich times of study and inspiration, as we prepare for the events of the following day. We look forward to sharing these “previews” with you on as many evenings as are helpful in adding to your enjoyment. We want you to learn much, enjoy much, and

come back genuinely inspired by what you have seen and done.

Each day, from the time you get up for breakfast until you are ready to retire for the evening, you will have planned sightseeing. In the evenings following our meals together, we will have a time of “preview” and inspiration. The most descriptive words for this journey are “active” and “inspirational.”

## **SOMEONE HAS WELL SUGGESTED**

When you pack your bags to explore the beauties of your own country or to travel around the world, consider these keys to a happy journey:

Travel lightly! You are not traveling for people to see you!

Travel expectantly! Every place you visit is like a surprise package to be opened. Untie the strings with an expectation of high adventure.

Travel humbly! Visit people and places with reverence and respect for their traditions and ways of life.

Travel hopefully! “To travel hopefully,” wrote Robert Louis Stevenson, “is better than to arrive.”



Travel courteously! Consideration for your fellow travelers and your hosts will smooth the way through the most difficult days.

Travel gratefully! Show appreciation for the many things that are being done by others for your enjoyment and comfort.

Travel with an open mind! Leave your prejudices at home.

Travel with curiosity! It is not how far you go, but how deeply you go that mines the gold of experience. Thoreau wrote a big book about tiny Walden Pond.

Travel with imagination! As the old Spanish proverb puts it: “He who would bring home the wealth of the Indies must carry the wealth of the Indies with him.”

Travel fearlessly! Banish worry and timidity; the world and its people belong to you just as you belong to the world!

Travel relaxed! Make up your mind to have a good time. Let go and let God.

Travel patiently! It takes time to understand others, especially when there are barriers of language and custom; remain flexible and adaptable to all situations.

Travel with a good spirit! You'll discover that people are basically much the same the world around. Be an ambassador of good will to all people.

We sincerely hope that you will now begin the happy experience of anticipation. What a marvelous satisfying experience awaits you as you visit the Bible lands.



## **Chapter Two**

### **ISRAEL**



Israel—the land where Jesus walked, where Old Testament patriarchs trusted Jehovah. Our pilgrimage to this land will be meaningful only if we understand something about the land and its history, before examining its biblical significance.

#### **Geography**

Israel is divided into four natural regions. First, there is the coastal plain, a narrow strip 115 miles long, running along the Mediterranean Sea from Mt. Carmel in the north, to the Negev Desert in the south, around Ashkelon and Gaza. Second, the hills region, which covers north and central Israel, starts in the upper Galilean mountains (about 6,000 feet) and Mt. Meron (3,963 feet) in the north. It continues southward to the lower Galilean mountains, the Gilboa Mountains, Samaria Mountains, south to the Judean Mountains and the Hebron area, ending in the Negev Desert area. In the east, the mountain region is closed by the third region; the Great Rift Valley, one of the great fissures in the earth's crust, starts in the north in Syria, to the Lake of Galilee (696 feet below sea level), along the Jordan

Valley to Eilat, the Red Sea (1,302 feet below sea level); then goes south along the Arava Valley to Eilat, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aquaba to Eastern Africa. The fourth region is the Negev Desert area which is composed of a wide plain starting from the Mediterranean coast and Hebron Mountains to a desert mountain range, south from Beer Sheva, going south to Eilat on the Red Sea and to the Sinai Desert great massif.

In the north of Israel, at the Galilea mountain range, Israel is bordered by Lebanon. To the east, over the great Rift Valley, there is the mountain Plateau of Syria and Jordan (the Golan Bashan and Edom Plateaus). To the south, the border runs from the Red Sea to Egypt and Sinai Peninsula. The total area is 7,992 square miles.

## **Economy**

The distinctive element in the economic development of Israel has been the Jewish migration to Palestine starting in 1920 which brought highly skilled labor power and financial investment. After the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, a large amount of capital was given in the form of gifts and donations from Jewish communities around the world; grants and aid from the U.S. government; reparation money from the German Federal Republic; loans and investments by foreign investors; and of course, capital brought by the immigrants. About 23% was invested in industry, mining, electricity, and housing equipment. Six

percent went to irrigation and agriculture, 25% to transportation and communication development, and 25% to housing development.

Due to the lack of rainfall in the southern wide plains and along the coastal plain, huge investments were made in the development of irrigation projects, from 75,000 acres in 1949 to 442,000 acres in 1970. Capital was also granted for the development of mechanizing the agriculture and development of agricultural exports, from 6.5 million in 1949 to 126 million dollars in 1970.

Mining and export of fertilizers, potash, phosphate, bromide and copper amounted to about \$93 million by 1970, after heavy investments were devoted to the development of the Dead Sea Potash Works, copper mining, phosphates, and by products of the acid industry in Limna beside Eilat. Manufacturing has been increased from 1948 to 1970 in 14% annual growth with textiles, diamond cutting, and chemicals as the major products. Aircraft and electronic industries have been developed as well as military equipment and supplies industry. Tourism brings to Israel about \$100 million a year and a large investment in freight shipping lines has been developed. An oil pipeline, bypassing the Suez Canal from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, has been built to hold a capacity of 25 million tons.