

the Joan Times

Another Fabulous Visit to the Holy Land!

Believing I'll become a better tour leader by experiencing a tour as a mere participant rather than staff, I've come on two Biblical Resources tours. While here I've completed arrangements for my own June 5 - 20 tour, making a few adjustments in the itinerary. At the end of a mini-tour similar to the 16-day study we will pursue together in June, I'm more excited about that trip than ever.

The major itinerary change comes on Days 3 and 4. We'll still have dinner in a Bedouin tent, then instead of sleeping there, we'll overnight in Eilat. Next morning, rather than ride camels, we'll view the gorgeous tropical fish in the Red Sea at an underwater observatory while those who wish go scuba diving.

Unparalleled Teaching

"How do you know so much?" the awestruck Jew from Brooklyn asked our teacher. "I've been studying this all my life, and you told them in four minutes everything I know about Jerusalem in the Second Temple period!!!"

This fellow had been edging along with our tour group as we studied from the fabulous miniature model of Jerusalem just before its fall in 70 A.D. We had learned by seeing where the city walls had been; where Jesus had been tried; where his crucifixion had taken place; where Jesus had taught - on the "rabbi's teaching steps" outside the Hulda Gate; where the wealthy and the poor lived at the time; how huge was the Temple platform and how impressive was the Temple; and eversomuch more.

A guide on another day stopped to say, "Your teacher should not be called a 'guide.' He is so much more!"

A minister on our tour told us he'd been to Israel five times with another tour organization and had thought he needn't come again - he'd seen it all. But the teaching on this tour was so rich, so broad, so exciting, he now knows he must come again --- with Biblical Resources!

Decision Time is Here

I sincerely hope you can take advantage of this invaluable opportunity. (If you can't, maybe a friend can and will report back to you.) With this newsletter I'm sending another copy of the registration form. If you are coming with someone else, you'll each need to fill this out

(photocopy is fine.) Feel free to ask me for additional copies of the trip brochure sent with Joan Times #35.

Here are the inclusive prices from the gateway cities:

From San Francisco \$2993.00

From Chicago \$2,975.00

From Atlanta \$2, 953.00

From New York \$2,949.00.

Airfare included

Sign on Now

We need a **\$250 deposit with your registration**, but \$150 of that will be returned if you must cancel (by April 5th. After that a prorated amount will be refunded.)

Given the inimitable teaching and that EVERYTHING is included except lunches and your beverage at dinner, these are extremely fair prices. Don't think about tips, portorage or entrance fees to the many sites we visit. Use your spending money for gifts and souvenirs.

I should be able to match you with a roommate, but if you choose to room alone, the single supplement is \$342.

Send in your registration as soon as possible, and I'll work out with you a payment schedule for the balance. Plan to have the full amount paid by the first of April. Then you'll have 2 more months to save up your spending money.

Next year in Jerusalem!

Optional Extension:

For those travelers who want to take advantage of having come so far, I am offering a four-day trip into fascinating Jordan at the end of the tour. We'll see Mt. Nebo, the closest Moses came to the Promised Land; Madaba where the oldest map of the Holy Land is a mosaic in the floor of a church; Jerash, a marvelously preserved Roman city and the unbelievable Petra, whose peek-a-boo view of the Treasury greets you from most brochures of Jordan. The price of this extension will be about \$600.

Tips from My Travels:

Even if you're unable to travel with me next June, some of these ideas may help you on other journeys . . .

Tip One: One afternoon I made the rounds of my favorite resale shops, selecting non-bulky, light-weight, summer clothing. I felt proud that I packed a wardrobe

weighing less than 10 pounds (not counting shoes) for five weeks in the Mideast. Two weeks later I approached that packed carry-on, resolved to remove one half the contents. So I reduced the 5 tops to 2, 3 shorts to 2, 2 slacks to 1, 2 skirts to 1 (for covering shorts on days we'd visit churches), and kept the 1 cool cotton dress. I replaced the housecoat with a lovely caftan, which I enjoyed for occasional evening dinners, and switched from slippers to sandals, also suited for evening wear. I'm probably the only person on both tours who wore everything in my suitcase and never lacked for anything. The dress was my favorite as it hangs freely from a yoke (no waistline) and I washed it many an evening to find it dry and ready-to-wear next morning.

Tip Two: I accumulated multiple travel-size containers of toiletries so luggage space would not be consumed by large, half-empty bottles. However, I found virtually every hotel provides shampoo, not always conditioners.

Tip Three: Before returning home, you may donate clothes, magazines, shoes, that unused shampoo, whatever, to needy in the Holy Land, so you'll have room for more gifts and souvenirs. Consider taking clothes you might leave behind.

Tip Four: Get yourself in condition. Study tours can be physically demanding. Although every activity is optional, you will enjoy your tour much more if you have taken the time to do some consistent walking in the weeks or months beforehand. The tour's walks and climbs (hillsides and stairs) are at a comfortable pace, but there are a lot of them.

Pertinent Readings

Whether you're actually coming, or sharing the trip with us vicariously, you may want to do some reading. Here are a few books for starters:

The Source -- James Michener

O Jerusalem -- Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre

From Beirut to Jerusalem -- Thomas Friedman

The Bible

The Four Gospels -- immerse yourself

Abraham, King David, King Solomon stories

Perhaps study maps of Israel and Jerusalem

My Jubilee Year

In Biblical times, every fiftieth year was a Year of Jubilee. Described in Leviticus, such a year has these requirements: Release prisoners; practice forgiveness, particularly of debts; do justice; and let your land lie fallow. (Without crops, folks might get pretty skinny by the end of the year.)

A millennial year, of course, was always a Jubilee Year, and I decided to take up the tradition. With my own variations. MY Jubilee Year began on July 1, 1999 and will culminate with my tour of the Holy Land in June. I will seek reconciliation with those I have injured, and will forgive a

debt or two. Landless as I am, I seek to let my own self lie fallow to the extent I am able. This means I will attempt to be less achievement-oriented. I hope to take more time for spiritual reading, take part in a retreat or two, take more time to "smell the roses."

Were I not lying fallow, I would have busted my whatever to get this newsletter out to you before I went to the Holy Land on September 2nd. I wrote the first draft in Jerusalem on a free day of the tour. But when I returned, impossible problems with my laptop and its maker WinBook, left me computerless for weeks. Finally I requested a refund. Two days after I returned to the travel trailer in North Carolina that has become my winter home, and **one** day after I finalized the order, I accepted delivery of my wonderful new reliable Dell laptop computer! I'm a happy camper.

My other Tour in the Middle East

Did I say two tours? Yes, I took another Biblical Resources Study Tour -- in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Wow! I saw totally incredible things like Straight Street, still a busy thoroughfare in Damascus; stone-tablet letters written in cuneiform eons ago; and the prison where Herod locked up John the Baptist. Now I have a different view when I read about John's disciples going back and forth with questions for Jesus. John's prison was not just around the corner; but an arduous journey away and on a mountaintop!

Note: Now my portrayals of **First Century Women** are international as I presented three times in the Holy Land. To enthusiastic responses. Hope **you** will see this sometime!

Be in Touch - Please and Thank You

To **Get on my mailing list** for the Joan Times,

To **Get off** said mailing list, (I won't be offended)

To **Book** a Presentation of "**First Century Women,**"

To get info or sign up for my **Tour 2000**, June 5 - 20, 2000

To **Order "Embracing the Yes!"** my personal inspirational odyssey that focuses on learning to recognize God's nudges and invitations (\$20. + \$5. for S & H; in CA +1.45 tax)

To **Send** me an update of **YOUR activities,**

Or to **Just say hello,** **Here's How:**

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Email I'm experimenting - sending this JoanTimes #36 electronically to those for whom I have an email address. Want to send me yours for the Joan Times #37?