

Unto this day! - Walking with the Bible

Tour of the Bible Land Report by Bro Paul Mawango

Introduction:

It is commonly believed that the prophet Bro Branham never went to Israel and therefore going to Israel is lack of faith or a waste of money. But the prophet mentions that he went to Israel in some of his sermons. A sample of quotations is herewith recorded:

Future Home p56,

“Why is it God so thought and cared so much about that little place of Palestine (see) when its just a little spot. But right in there is where the temple is set. That’s where the New Jerusalem will break up right there Olive... Mount of Olives shall cleave part to the right and left (sure) when she push up from beneath..... in that day when He stands. His Holy feet upon the mountain.”

Wedding Supper 1956 page 11

“I often wondered on the parables rather of the Bible. You almost have to go to the eastern country to find out what the bible really means... If you ever go to the eastern country and see their unchanging habits you find out more about the Bible. It became a new Book to me after I went to the east”

Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today and Forever, 1956;

Now, that’s the faith that was introduced to early Christians, the saints. You see what I mean? He went up. One day He was going by the way of Jericho. But He had need of going by the way of Samaria. I wonder why? Now, Samaria’s up this way, and Jericho’s down this way. Jerusalem’s on a hill Jericho sets here, and Samaria sets over here. Instead of going right down that way, He went around this a way. Up around the way of Samaria. Oh, you ought to see the Orient once; I’m to be back there again in a few weeks”

To verify the facts, Pastor George Martin from Pretoria, South Africa also checked with Bro George Smith who is the son in-law to the prophet and he confirmed that the prophet went to Israel on a private trip in 1954.

The Tour of the Land of the Bible



From Right: Bro Paul Mawango (Reporter), Pastor George Martin (Tour Guide) and another Brother.

Day 1: Sunday 27 May

We departed on Sunday the 27th of May to South Africa where we had a Sunday service in Pretoria at the church of Bro George Martin. The delegation from Zimbabwe comprised of: Bro Innocent Dzawo, Bro Claudius Mavengavenyu, Bro Stephen Chitsinde, Bro T Kadenge, Bro Ray Bande and Sis Violla Bande, Sis Simbirai and my wife Sis G Mawango. We joined the brethren from South Africa and departed to Zurich by Swiss Airline arriving at 0610hrs (On Monday).

Day 2: Monday 28 May

We connected to Tel Aviv (revival of the ruins), formally known as Joppa (Jaffa).

The town is the biggest commercial town in Israel. Dating back from Solomon's time of building the temple where Cedar wood came from Lebanon and was floated to Joppa en route to Jerusalem.

In Jonah 1:3 " But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord and went down to Joppa and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid fare thereof and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 9:36 "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did".

When she died Peter prayed for her and life came back to her.

We were met by Amsalem Tours representatives and transferred by a luxury coach to Holiday Inn in Tiberius on the shores of Galilee.

Day 3: Tuesday 29 May

Bro George Martin was our **Tour Guide** armed with scriptures for every place and spoken word quotations. This is what God has about His word.

Romans 11:25 Paul says "For I would not brethren that ye should be ignorant of the mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceit that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in"

Deuteronomy 11:12 "A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."

Deuteronomy 11:10 "For the land, whither thou goest to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy, thy seed and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs."

Deuteronomy 11:11 "But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven."

In Deuteronomy 32:10 "He found him(Jacob) in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye"

There had to be a change from worshipping the Nile like the Egyptians, to worshipping the God of heaven.

Psalms 59:13 "Consume them in wrath, consume them that they may not be; and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. Selah"

This is why Israel has become the centre of world politics and religion. Furthermore in *Ezekiel 20:15 "Yet also I lifted my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands;"*

It is regretted why the king of Persia (now Iran) wants to wipe out Israel from the face of the earth for no justifiable reasons. Will this be the birth of Armageddon?

At 0800hrs we sailed in a replica of the fishing boats that sailed here during the time of Jesus Christ. We landed on **Tabga** which is the place where the miracle of 5 loaves and 2 fishes was performed which led to the feeding of 5,000 people in Bible days. *Mark 6:38 "He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew they, five, and two fishes"*

We were taken pictures without our consent and paid US\$4 for each per picture. This reminds us of the scripture in

Isaiah 61:6 "But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves." and Isaiah 60:16 "Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord am thy Savior....."

Jesus after He heard that John was imprisoned, He departed from Nazareth after being rejected and dwelt in Capernaum which is upon the sea coast in the borders of Zebulun and Naphthalem. Almost ¾ of Jesus ministry was around this town. We stopped near the Mount of the Beatitudes:

Luke 5:3 "And he entered into one of the ships which was Simeons and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught people out of the ship"

It is normal to speak from higher a ground, but Lord Jesus, being the Creator recognized geography in that moist air rises from the sea to the land and would carry the words to the multitudes on land. It was tried and found to be a real microphone.

We then walked down the hill to the sea side to the fascinating remains of the 1st century homes including one which may have been that of St Peter. This town (Capernaum) is still in ruins unto this day as said by the Lord Jesus.

Matthew 11:23 “ And thou Capernaum, which art exalted to the heavens, shall be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom, it will have remained until this day.”

We passed through The Mount of the Beatitudes of *Matthew 5 “And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a high mountain; and when he was set his disciples came to him; And he opened his mouth, and taught them saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*

After lunch we drove to Caesarea Philippi further north to the source of the Jordan River. This is the site were Jesus confessed to his disciples about who He was:

Matthew 16:13 “He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am?”

Jesus never went to any temples of the Gentiles but came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi.

We toured Mount Hermon and saw the temple of the pagans Pan and the roaring Jordan River headwaters from the bottom of Mountain as a “gusher”. The waters are cool and fresh

We walked to the ancient city and the high place where Jeroboam erected the golden calf.

1 Kings 12:28-29 “Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves, and said unto them, it is too much for you to go up Jerusalem behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee out of the land Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the one he put in Dan”

But the question is, was that a real favor?

On our way back to Tiberius we passed through Mahanaim where the angles of God met Jacob fleeing from Laban and going to meet his brother Esau in *Genesis 32:2 “And when Jacob saw them, he said, this is God’s host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.”*



The source of Jordan River

Day 4 : Wednesday 30 May

We drove to the well of Harod where Gideon selected his warriors before the battle against the Midianites. *Judges 7:1* “ Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon and all the people that were with him, rose up early and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the North side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

In verse 5 “So he brought down the people unto the water: and the Lord said unto Gideon, Everyone that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.”

The Lord required dogs of war Like Caleb (in Hebrew tongue means dog) to fight for this gospel. Gideon required three things from the Lord:

- 1) Fleece of wood on the floor and dew be on the fleece only and be dry upon the earth beside.
- 2) Fleece be now dry and upon all ground let there be wet. Still Gideon was not satisfied
- 3) Then went he down with Phurah (fruit bearing in Hebrew) his servant. And when Gideon was come, behold there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow and said, Behold I dreamed a dream, and lo a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell.....”



Well of Harod

This is treason nowadays and attracts death penalty. The Midianites and the Amalekites did not sow anything but waited for the harvest time to pounce on Israel. Although the Medianites died by Gideon’s sword the spirit never died as we saw the same in our country in 2000 where people even ‘brothers’ went to take farms and belongings and harvested where they did not sow and mingled their lives with politics.

On our way to this well, we passed through Mount Gilboa, at its foot was the battle of King Saul against the Philistines:

1 Samuel 31:1 “Now the Philistines fought against Israel and man of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell down slain in Mount Gilboa.”

Verse 3 “And the battle went sore against Saul and the archers hit him and he was sore wounded of the archers.”

Verse 7 “And when the man of Israel that were on the side of the valley... saw that the man of Israel fled and Saul and his sons dead; they forsook the cities and fled and the Philistines came and dwelt in them”

We passed through Beth Shan where Saul and his sons' bodies were fastened to the walls. Here the devil was rejoicing and making fun of God's anointed just like what he does to a backslidden brother in the message.

David mourned Saul: *2 Samuel 1:21 “Yea Mountains of Gilboa , let there be no dew neither let there be rain upon you nor fields of offering for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul as though he had not been anointed with oil”.*

From where David stood the mountain is distinctively green on the eastern side and the western side is barren unto this day although receiving the same amount of rainfall, sunshine and the same soil.



Mount Gilboa

We drove to Jezreel, home of Naboth, the Jezreelite where we recalled the story of Ahab envying the vine yard of Naboth.

1 Kings 21:2 “And Ahab spake unto Naboth saying., Give me thy vineyard that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house; and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it or if it seemed good to the I will give thee worth of it money.”

Verse 5 “But Jezebel, his wife came to him and said unto him Why is thy spirit so sad that thou eatest no bread?”

And Ahab told his wife in verse 6

“Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite and said unto him give me thy vineyard for money or else if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it and he answered I will not give thee my vineyard.”

Here Ahab changes the story from a giving a better one to another vineyard when he relates to his wife Jezebel probably because he feared his wife. This is where the spirit of Jezebel started usurping power from the husband and drinking the blood of the saints. The ruins of Ahab's house are still there unto this day.

From there we drove to Megiddo a chariot city for Solomon and Ahab. King Joram and King Ahazia were also slain here by Jehu in 2 Kings 9:24&27. *“But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this (Jehu) he fled by the garden house. And Jehu followed after him.....”* And Josiah fell in battle with Pharaoh Necho of Egypt in the same valley

In Revelation 16:16 *“And he gathered them together in a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon”* which is on mount Megiddo which is on the south side of the valley of Megiddo, south west of Mount Carmel. It is the key position between Euphrates and the Nile. It has been the battle field for many people throughout the ages.

Thothnes III the founder of the old Egyptian empire once said “Megiddo is worth a thousand cities”. The prophet says that the battle of the Armageddon will destroy all things and after that the Bride will return with the Groom for a thousand years.

We proceeded to Mount Carmel where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal.

1 Kings 18:21 “And Elijah came unto all the people and said how long halt yea between two opinions? If the lord be God follow him but if Baal then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”

In verse 40 “And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal, let not one of them escape And they took them and Elijah brought them to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.”

This is the mountain where fire fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust and leaked up the water that was in the trench. This event brought rain to Israel.

The distance between Mount Carmel and Ahab’s palace is 30 miles. Here God gave Elijah wheels on his loins or super natural power to outrun Ahab before the abundance of rain.

We drove to Nazareth where Jesus grew up and passed through Cana of Galilee site of the wedding wine miracle as in:

John 2:1 “And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there. And both Jesus was called, and His disciples; was called to the marriage.”

This was the third day after Jesus had left Jordan to start His ministry.

Day 5: Thursday 31 May

That morning, we left Tiberius and drove southwards along Jordan Valley to Mount Tabor site of the Transfiguration of Christ:

Mark 9:2 “After 6 days Jesus taketh with Him Peter, and James, and John and leadeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves and he was transfigured before them.”

Verse 3 “And His raiment became shiny exceeding white as snow, so as no fuller on earth can white them.”

Verse 4 “And there appeared Elias and Moses and they were talking with Jesus”

Luke 9:29 "And as He prayed the fashion of his countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistening."

Luke describes that Moses and Elias who appeared in Glory and spoke of his death which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. Here the Lord Jesus had foreseen the way He was going to die in Jerusalem. But Peter and them had slept, as maybe the mountain being very high, could have been tired. We had to use taxis to climb it in a winding road.

This mountain was where Barak assembled his army in *Judges 4 vs. 10 "And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kadesh and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet, and Deborah went up with him"*

At the foot of Mount Tabor is a small town called Deborah named after this prophetess Deborah. They fought against the captain of hosts of Sisera which dwelleth in Harosheth of the Gentiles. The Lord discomfited Sisera and his chariots.

We passed through Endor first on our way to Tiberius and just sighted it on our way to Jericho. Here King Saul consulted the medium on the eve of his last battle on Mount Gilboa:

1 Samuel 28:7 "Then said Saul unto his servants, seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit that I may go to her and enquire of her and his servants said to him, behold there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor"

Previously Saul had cut off those that had familiar spirits and wizards but as the dog returneth to its vomit so is what happened.

We drove to Jericho, the oldest and lowest city in the world. The town was first conquered by Joshua in

Joshua 6:1 "Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel. None went out, and none came in."

In *Joshua 6:26 "And Joshua adjured them at that time saying cursed be the man that riseth up and buildeth this city of Jericho."* The old city was never rebuilt and the existing city is just outside the ruins of the old city

2 Kings 2:19 "And the man of the city (Jericho) said unto Elisha behold I pray thee the situation of this city is pleasant as my Lord seeth but the water is naught and the ground barren."

Here Elisha requested for a new cruse and put salt therein and he went forth unto the spring of the waters and cast the salt into the water and the water was healed and death was removed henceforth.

Verse 22 "So the waters were healed unto this day according to the saying of Elisha which he spake". The waters are fresh unto this day, we tasted them.

Luke 19:1 "And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And behold there was a man named Zaccheus which was the chief among republicans and he was rich..."

The same climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus for He was to pass that way. We saw the tree which is very old.

Mark 10:46 "And they came to Jericho and as He went out of Jericho with his disciples blind Bartimues the son of Timaeus, set by the High way side begging..."

He immediately received his sight after Jesus pronounced his healing.

The city of Jericho is ruled by the Palestinians and behold it is very dirty.

We left Jericho for the baptismal site of the Jordan River were John the Baptist baptized Jesus Christ as in

Matthew 3:13 "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him."

Verse 17 "And lo a voice from heaven saying this my beloved son in whom I am well pleased"

In our generation the Prophet was baptizing the 17th person in Ohio the same Voice spoke and said "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the 1st coming of Jesus Christ so shall you be sent to forerun the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ."

Pastor George Martin baptized three people on the same site under the watchful eyes of the Jordanian army and the Israeli army as the area is now a military area. This site is were the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River into the Land of Canaan:

Joshua 3:15 "And as they that bear the ark were come to Jordan and the feet of the priest that bear the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest"

Verse. 16 " That the waters which came from above stood and rose up upon a heap very far from the city of Adam... and the people passed over right against Jericho"

Verse 17 "And the priest that bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground until all the people were passed clean over Jordan".

In 2 Kings 2:8 "And Elijah took his mantle and wrapped it together and smote the waters and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground." This marks the 2nd parting of Jordan River

In 2 Kings 2:13 " He (Elisha) took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and went back and stood by the bank of Jordan and he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and smote the waters and said ,Where is the Lord God of Elijah? And when he also had smitten the waters they parted hither and thither and Elisha went over." This being the 3rd miracle to complete the number.

We had supper by the Dead Sea.

Day 6: Friday 1 June

We went to the Dead Sea for a weightless swim. The waters are very clear but are oily. They are said to be medicinal on wounds and other skin diseases but very dangerous to be swallowed. We drove along the Dead Sea Southwards and through Arava the Eastern Plain of Negev Desert formally Kadesh. We saw the ruins of the old city of Tamar where Edom refused the children of Israel to pass through.

In Numbers 20:17 "Let us pass I pray thee through thy country. We will not pass through the fields or through the vineyards neither will we drink of the water of the wells. We will go by the kings highway, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders"

But Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border wherefore Israel turned away from him. The children of Israel diverted eastward to Hor. This is the area where Aaron and Miriam died.

We drove westwards to Beer Sheba the city of Abraham.

In Genesis 21:14 "And Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a bottle of water and gave it unto Hagar putting it on the shoulders and the child and sent her away and she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beer Sheba"

In Genesis 21:25 "And Abraham reproved Abimelech because of a well of water which Abimelech servants had violently taken away."

In verse 30, Abraham makes a covenant with Abimelech *"And he said for these seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand that they may be a witness unto me that I have digged this well"*

Wherefore he called that place Beer Sheba because there they swear both of them. The well is on a hill where there are ruins of Abraham's house. We toured the well which is open at the top being entrance and open at the bottom to the lower part of the hill.

Day 7: Saturday 2 June

We drove southwards to Mt Sinai.

In Exodus 24:4 "And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord and rose up early in the morning and builded under the hill and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel"

We saw the remains of this altar together with twelve pillars.

We pitched out tents at the bottom of this mountain and started the journey up the mountain.

In Exodus 24:15 & 16 "And Moses went up unto the mount and a cloud covered the mount. And the Glory of the Lord abode upon Mount Sinai and the cloud covered it 6 days and the 7th day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud"

Vs17”*And the sight of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.*”

Day 8: Sunday 3 June

We drove to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight through the highway from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem where we saw the remnants and wreckage of the vehicles burnt during the 1967 war (Israel’s Six Days war) against the Arabs who occupied Jerusalem.

In the morning we drove to the Mount of Olives for a panoramic view of Jerusalem, the city of Gold.

In Zachariah 14 “Behold the day of the Lord commeth and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee”

Verse. 4 “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of the Olives which is before Jerusalem and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west and thee shall be a great valley, and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it towards the south”

“... the Lord thy God shall come and all the saints with thee.

Verse 8 “And it shall be in that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem...”

We visited the church of Ascension, the place where Jesus ascended into heaven.

Acts 1: 9 “And when He had spoke these things while they beheld He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, two men stood by them in white apparel.”

Verse12 “Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day journey.” This is just a mile as this is the maximum distance allowed on a sabbath.

We went down the hill to Garden of Gethsemane. This garden has very old Olive trees.

In Matthew 26:38 “Then He saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto to death: tarry ye here and watch with me.”

Verse 39 “ And he went a little further and fell on his face praying saying, O my father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will but as thou will.”

He said these words when He saw me and you as the Bride. The devil seemed to try to kill Jesus before he could get to Calvary and would defeat God’s plan of redemption.

In St. John 18 Jesus crossed the River Kidron to Gethsemane and wept and hundreds of years earlier.

In 1 Samuel 15:13 “And there came a messenger to David saying the hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.”

Verse 23 “And all the country wept with a loud voice and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.” as a rejected king. In vs. 30 David weeps.

We got to a place that could have been the palace of David. We viewed the city from the top. We read from *2 Samuel 11 vs. 2* “*And it came to pass in the evening time , that David arose from his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.*” . Several questions came to us as we viewed the city.

- 1) Why was she washing in public in view of the king?
- 2) Did she not know that such open and close view would be a source of temptation to David?
- 3) Could there have been some design on her part?
- 4) Was she wholly blameless?

Here David paid the price. In verse 4 Beth Sheba never resisted the messenger and she conceived and told David.

The first plot was to cover sin. He says “*Go down to thy house and wash thy feet...* But Uriah slept at the door of the king.”

The 2nd plot, David made Uriah drunk so that he can go and be with his wife but Uriah went not down to his house. Making a man drunk is a sin on its own.

The 3rd plot was where David placed Uriah at the hottest part of the battle.

In *verse 26* “*And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.*” What a deception. Adultery carried a death penalty.

We descended underground into the ancient water supply which supplied Jerusalem during Assyrian siege. This tunnel was built by Hezekiah:

2 Chronicles 32:30 “This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper water course of Gibon and brought in straight down to the west side of the city of David, And Hezekiah prospered in all his works”

Armed with torches we went down through the tunnel. The waters are cool and clear and the water went as high as our hips. We sang songs of praising the Lord for 45 minutes to chase away fear. The ventilation inside this tunnel is just but excellent.

Day 9: Monday 4 June

We drove to temple Institute, the museum of the Holy temple. We had a lecture on the procedures in the temple, as explained below, how it is going to be erected in direct conflict with the doom of Omar built by Muslims. The building plans are housed here. We ascended to Temple Mount where the Holy temple once stood but there is the Doom of Rock, which is the Holiest place of Islam, near that spot.

We visited the Western wall, the only remains of the destroyed temple. Here Jews gather mostly in the evening to read the scrolls and pray both parents and children, for the temple to be rebuilt.

We went to the house of Pilate as in *John 19:13* “When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth and set down in the judgment seat in a place that is called Pavement, called in the Hebrew, Gabbatha”.

We climbed the ancient steps that Jesus walked. We walked through the Via Dolorosa, which is the Way of Sorrows of our Lord going to Calvary through the Damascus Gate. We proceeded to the Upper Room, the same place where Jesus had the last supper with his disciples. Being the first place in which the Holy Ghost fell after the Lord Jesus had ascended into heaven, we burst into a song after some Scriptures and Spoken Word quotations were read to us by Bro George Martin.

All Time Holy Spirit

“They were in the upper chamber
They were all in one accord
When the Holy Ghost descended
As was promised by our Lord....

We prayed and the Glory of the Lord filled the room. We experienced the original move of the Holy Ghost and knowing that this was the first place for the Holy Ghost to fall after Jesus had gone. There is always something about this place and its anointing.

A Lecture on the Proceedings in the Temple

Twice the temple was destroyed and the Jewish people dispersed yet the spirit of the temple sustained them through bitter exiles. The main purpose of the temple is “sacrifice” (Korban). The goal of temple sacrifice is nothing less than the aim of dedicating human life to a higher sphere of awareness, to be closer to the creator and the source of all life. It is not an idea of giving something up or loosing something for value but it strives for nearness to God. As a God of love, not the God of punishment or death, He has prepared the sacrificial system as a method of restoring and purifying man’s immoral and spiritual life.

Sin offering was not acceptable unless it was accompanied by a true repentance.

1) Priest: Duties

a) Officiating at the sacrifice and other parts of the services, they need to be holy and set aside to the service of God. The altar was on the same site of Mount Moriah were Abraham bound Isaac for Sacrifice.

b) Lighting the Menorah *Exodus as 25:32* “And six braches shall come out of the sides of it, three braches of the candle stick out of the one side, and three branches of the candle stick out of the other side”

In verse 37 “And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof and they shall light the lamps thereof that they may give light to each other”

c) Officiating in the incense service.

The priest's garments must be dignified and beautiful and must have the following:

- 1) Breastplate- of Judgment (Urim and Thummim). This refers to the mystical divine Name of God. When the high priest bore the breast plate into the holy place, Israel was remembered for peace.
- 2) Ephod- a sort of apron worn on top of his other garments to hold two stones of onyx bearing the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 3) A crown- inscribed "Holiness to the Lord".
- 4) Others were a broidered coat, mitre and a girdle.
- 5) They were not sewn but woven in one piece without seams. The bottom of the gown was also decorated with bells made of pure gold.

Day 10: Tuesday 5 June

We drove to the Tomb of Rachel.

Genesis 35:19 "And Rachel died and was buried in the way to Ephrath which is Bethlehem and Jacob set a pillar upon her grave that is the pillar of Rachel's grave into this day."

Bethlehem is walled and is ruled by the Palestinians, so our Israeli buses could not go in, in case they could be stoned. We were guided by a Palestinian Priest to the birth place of Jesus Christ near a cave. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born near this cave Naomi and Ruth came from Moab and lodged in this cave:

Ruth 1:19 "So they went until they came to Bethlehem...in the beginning of the valley harvest".

Boaz field was in the eastern side of the cave which hundreds of years later was the shepherd's field abiding in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. The Palestinian guide was complaining all the way about the oppression by the Jews in that they are not allowed to come out of the wall freely to look for employment so they only depend of the few tourists who come to Bethlehem.



Gruesome torture by the Germans

Back in Jerusalem we visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum. We saw and heard comments from the survivors of Hitler's gruesome tortures, murder and hatred for the Jews. Among the crowd who were calling for the extermination of the Jews were Catholic priest angered on why the Jews killed Jesus Christ.

Soldiers on National Service are shown this history to enable them to have unwavering allegiance to the state of Israel. They say there is no better place a Jew is safer than the land of Israel.

We saw the Model of the 2nd Temple and the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea scrolls are housed. The scrolls were unearthed in 1947 when two (2) Bedouin shepherds accidentally came across a clay jar containing seven parchment scrolls. These are the full 66 books of Isaiah as indicated by the guide.

We walked to the Garden Tomb on Mount Golgotha; the Place of a Skull named after David defeated Goliath and took the skull to the place on crossroads as declaration that the Devil has been defeated.



Entrance into the empty tomb

In *1 Samuel 17:54* “And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem but he put his armor in his tent”

In *Mark 15:46* “And he (Joseph of Arimathea) brought fine linen and took him down and wrapped him in a linen and laid him in sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre”. This sepulchre is within metres from Calvary and in a garden.

In *Mark 16:5* “And entering the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting in the right side clothed in a long white garment and they were affrighted and he said unto them be not affrighted ye seek Jesus of Nazareth which was crucified he is risen, he is not here, behold the place were they laid him.”.

The setup in the grave dovetails with these verses. We saw where Jesus had been laid and where this angel set in the sepulchre.

Day 11, Wednesday 6 June

We drove West of Jerusalem to a botanical garden where we learnt about the botany and zoology and daily life in biblical times. We drove southwards to Zorah the birth place of Samson. We saw the ruins of Timnath where Samson slew the lion and created the riddle. He also caught three hundred foxes and took firebrands and turned tail to tail and burnt up both the stocks of wheat and corn with the vineyards and Olives. Delilah enticed him where his strength lieth.

We went further south to the Valley of Ellah:

1 Samuel 17:10 “And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day give me a man that we may fight together.”

But in verse 41 “And the Philistine came and he drew nigh unto David and the man that bear the shield went before him.”

Here the devil said one man but he bought his shield bearer to make two against one (David). That's what the devil always does to man. He fights you with the whole of his legion.

Conclusion:

Your life can never be the same again after you visit Israel. The Bible becomes new to you. We thank the Lord for affording us this opportunity to set our feet and eyes on the Land of the Bible. We thank all the Saints for their prayers. Moreso, we would like to appreciate our Tour Guide, Pastor George Martin from Pretoria. May the Good Lord richly bless him.

God Bless You.