

Tour
Israel
With
Me

Edith B. Grimes

TOUR ISRAEL WITH ME

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On Sunday Feb. 14/93 I was ready in time for Scott and Lisa Baker to pick me up at 6.15a.m.

We drove to "Set Free" in Anaheim where our luggage for Israel was loaded on the Set Free Bus.

We went to the 11a.m. church service. It was different but good as they had the different groups do their part, like the posse, etc. Then Phil Aguillar spoke for a few minutes. Everyone was friendly.

Eventually we boarded the bus for the L.A. Airport, everything was well organized.

We boarded the Scandenavian SAS 767 Plane and travelled 14 hours to Copenhagen, Denmark. Our flight was ahead of schedule so we waited in the beautiful Airport. I paid \$3.50 for a glass of Sprite, Wow! We checked our luggage and boarded the plane for Tel Aviv. It was a good flight all the way arriving in Tel Aviv at 8 p.m. on Monday.

We stayed at the Ariel Hotel where they had dinner waiting for us. Stacey, the Lady with the lovely long braids, was my room mate on the Tour. The 'Get up' signal came over the telephone at 6.30 a.m.

Tuesday: I quickly packed as breakfast was at 7 a.m., smorgasbord style with lots of vegetables. We left by 8.30 a.m. on the Bus for a sight-seeing Tour through Ariel then on to Caesarea. There we saw the great amphi Theatre. A huge stone built theatre with wonderful acoustics. A person standing down below can speak in a normal voice and be heard all over.

We walked on to the old Crusdaer Centre close by and Ezra, our Tour Guide, explained all about the good work the Crusaders had done.

I dipped my hand in the Mediterranean Sea. It was a lovely clear day with the sun shining though cold. We could look out over the Sea with real blue water right to the horizon.

We went on to Haifa where we went up on a high hill and looked out over the large Port and City, it is the third largest City in Israel. Also that day we had lunch at a Druz village. Then we went on to Mount Carmel where Elijah asked "If God be God then follow Him, if Baal then follow him!" There is a statue of Elijah winning the victory over Baal, standing with his foot on his neck(symbolic). We had a wonderful view of the Valley of Jezreel. Then to Mediggo Mountain and saw the Valley of Armeggedon. The scenery was beautiful with Mt. Hermon in the North, a very high snow capped Mountain, visible for miles.

As we travelled we came to the Gate of the Kabutz where we were to stay the night. At the Gate were three guards with khaki uniforms, they knew we were coming so gladly let us in.

A Kabutz is a Community of people who choose to live in a protected area of many homes. We were treated royally and the next morning had a walking Tour through the lovely grounds and their school from pre-kindergarten up. Also they have delightful home and care for their elderly, How nice! The grounds has a Park with water falls and very well kept. Many people come there to have a Wedding.

Wed. we left the Kabutz by 10 a.m. and went to Caesarea Philippi. At 10.30 we were at Banas - the source of the Jordan River, with pure crystal clear water from a spring. There was a large cave and a temple high on the side of the Mountain. Some filled their bottles with the fresh pure water for drinking. We had all bought a plastic bottle of drinking water to carry with us. We went on to the Golan Heights where we saw a War Memorial.

The visit to the Mount of the Beatitudes was beautiful, with the green grass on the hillside going down to the Lake. We had a meeting there with the Bible reading of the Beatitudes. I gave a short message on "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst--- for they shall be filled" I brought out how God wants us to be strong in Him, his Word and His power and have close fellowship with Him. It was a blessing to many.

Then on to the Sea of Galilee which is 350 miles long, 14 miles wide and 150 feet deep. We had an hours ride on a large two storey Boat. We were on the top floor where the Posse sang and danced, then we all joined in. The Captain of the boat came and took my hands and danced (sort of) with me.

The boat docked further down the lake from where we got on. The Bus was there to meet us. Before boarding it some went for a special fish dinner in a big Cafe, others went to a cheaper place, as the dinner cost \$16.50 but was worth it. They brought the whole fish sitting upright on your plate with slits in its sides. What an unusual sight? You just took your fork and began to eat, it was on a lovely bed of greens and vegetables. For dessert we had whole cooked dates that were delicious. What an unusual and delicious meal!

We boarded our bus and headed back to the Kabutz for the night. Dinner was at 7 p.m. after which we had singing and Bible Reading, we went to bed about 10 p.m.

On Thursday morning we started out early with Ezra as our guide. He was a fine older gentleman with a Jewish background who knew his history from before Christ. He made the tour very interesting explaining everything we saw and answering our questions.

By 10.30a.m. we were at the Baptisimal place on the Jordan River. Those who wanted to be baptized (including me) were given a large white bath towel and a heavy white twill robe to wear. There was a large dressing room to change in and bath rooms. I had been baptized as a child of seven, what a thrill to be baptized by Pastor Wayne in the Jordan River at 75 years of age! They have it set up in a delightful way with railings on both sides where you walk down in the cold water to be baptized, this way you have something to hang on to if necessary. The sun was shining though the weather was cool and the water ice cold. What a thrill being baptized in the same river Jesus was baptized in!

We went on to an Arena made of stone that seated 7000 people, it was three stories high and was built by the Romans some 2000 years ago. The accoustics were wonderful. There was lots of ruins to see and lots of arceology going on.

We arrived at the Dead Sea about 5.30 p.m. and stayed in the "Lot Hotel!" Some went for a swim in the Dead Sea but I didn't as I had, had enough cold water for that day. Those going incommented on the bouancy of the water and how they floated and couldn't sink. Dinner was at 7 p.m. Stacey and I had a lovely room.

Friday morning we left at 8 a.m. and went to the Masada, which is a huge mountain flat on top with straight smooth sides. The city of Masada was built on top of it to protect them from the Romans. To reach the top we went up in a tram and walked through the ruins. We sat in the Synagogue and read the Word and worshipped the Lord. The Romans were so determined to conquer this City and break down its walls with their battering rams that they built a ramp which took a year to build. When they succeeded the people in the City committed suicide rather than be taken captive. Before this people of the City made large ball shaped stones that they rolled down on their enemies.

We went on to Bethsheba and on to Bethlehem where we shoped in a special store with discount. The owners were friends of Pastor Wayne and had a great variety of jewelry, carvings and other things of interest.

Then on to the Ariæl Hotel in Jerusalem where we stayed four nights. Dinner was at 7 p.m., after which I went to bed while some went to see the Wailing Wall. Pastor Wayne said we also would see it the next day.

Saturday morning we left at 8.15 am in the Bus to the place of the Ascention then stopped and overlooked Jerusalem. Went on to the Mount of Olives and went in to the Church of Silence then in to the Garden of Gethsemane where we sat on stone steps and had a

meeting. Scripture was read and expounded. The Lord anointed me to Prophecy, saying they were to leave their sins, burdens, failures, sicknesses and things they need deliverance from right there, that is where Jesus paid for it all.

We went on to the Scrolls of Jewish History. A monument of two large scrolls many feet high, leaning on each other. The sides were carved with pictures of History. Our Tour Guide, Ezra, knew his history from before Christ and really made it interesting.

We went on to the saddest part of the trip and that was the Memorial Building of the Holocaust. It was large with pictures on both sides of the isle. They were horrible. The spirit of "death" was so strong I just hurried through.

Within a short distance was the Building in Memorial of the Children who died in the Holocaust. One of the young Ladies said she would take me through as it was all in darkness. We walked on a high steel railing 'walk through'. Through a series of mirrors stars are shining above, all around you and under you. Each star represents a child's soul. In the darkness a woman is reading out one name after another slowly of those who died. How glad I was to get out of there!

We then went to Bethlehem and saw where Jesus was born and it was delightful!

Simon the Tanner's House was next where Peter had the Vision of the sheet let down from Heaven with the unclean animals in it. God said "Kill and eat", (Acts 10:9-22) but Peter objected then God said "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common!" Then three men came for him from Cornelius and the Gentiles received the Gospel, that means us. Praise the Lord!

What a view looking out over the Mediterranean Sea with water, deep blue in colour, all the way to the horizon.

"Set Free" has a center in Tel Aviv and we were invited for lunch. Long tables were set outside and an abundance of food was provided. What good fellowship we enjoyed! How wonderful to know the Gospel and liberty from drugs, etc. is being given forth by "Set Free!"

I wish you could see the high apartment buildings in Israel and the way they dry their clothes on pully clotheslines strung on the outside of their building from one of their windows to the other. How fortunate we are to have clothes driers!

We were back at the Hotel by 5.30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.

Sunday morning (Feb.21/93) we saw David's Tomb and the Gate of Zion. Our visit to the Upper Room was truly a high light of the trip. Pastor Wayne had me read the second chapter of Acts and then speak on it. What a privilege to tell of the value of Tongues. How the Holy Spirit knows all about God and how best to worship Him. He knows all about my heart, how I want to worship God and also the burdens and requests of my heart. If I pray in Tongues then the Holy Spirit is praying in the best language and words possible to worship God, He also takes my requests to God. Let us use the Gift of Tongues and worship God. Of course we need a balance praying in English and praying in Tongues. Paul and Stacey sang a beautiful song after this.

From there we went to see the miniture of the Tabernacle and the City of Jerusalem. It was a marvelous work that took years to produce, it covers a very large piece of ground. A Guide explains all as we go around it slowly, a magnificent piece of work.

After this we had a free time and went down town and ate pizza and ice cream, then back to the Hotel for a rest and dinner at 7p.m.

On Monday we went to Pilates Hall going down many steps to the Hole where prisoners were kept in

complete darkness. It is quite likely that Jesus was kept in it the night before the crucifixion. It was a very long upward path and steps to the Bus.

We went to the Mount of Olives and saw the form of a skull in the hillside. We went into the Tomb where Jesus had lain and rose from the dead. What a thrill coming out of the Tomb knowing we serve a living Christ and He lives today. Praise God He still saves, heals, delivers and transforms lives. What a privilege is ours to serve a living Christ and not a dead Buddha image!

There was a place with benches where we had a service and served communion, how wonderful!

We went back to the Hotel and had some free time. Some went down town but Lupe, Heather, Danny and I decided to go to some stores near by and we found a Cafe where we had some refreshments and good fellowship, then we went back to the Hotel to rest.

At 5pm Tamar and her family came to say Good Bye to us. She was our Tour Guide the first two days and certainly a wonderful person.

Dinner was at 7pm after which we had a farewell meeting right there in the Dining Room. Each one was to give a few words of Testimony of what the trip meant to them. Each one took their turn from where they sat at the table. When it came my turn Pastor Wayne said "No, you stay seated, I'm saving the best till the last!" How nice! When it did come my turn I thanked them all for their thoughtfulness and kindness to me. There was always an arm to take hold of to go up or down steps or a hand to hold going over rough places.

The Lord anointed me to challenge them to be strong and courageous, as God had challenged Joshua. "Be not afraid!" Fear is the opposite to Faith. God wants us strong in faith, courageous for Him, winning souls and helping set men and women free from Satan's

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bondages that they may live and worship God, winning
Souls for Him.

Be strong! Be courageous! Be not afraid! Win souls
for God!

What a wonderful Tour!

Do take it if you possibly can!