



Valparaiso University

ENCOUNTERS IN THE HOLY LAND

March 2-13, 2018 12 Days

Hosted by Prof. George C. Heider



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

FRI 02 MAR

Depart USA

Depart Chicago on the overnight flight to Istanbul via Turkish Airlines. (Meals in-flight)

SAT 03 MAR

Arrive Tel Aviv/Bethlehem

Connect in Istanbul with the continuing flight to Tel Aviv. Upon early evening arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, meet the guide and driver for the transfer to Bethlehem. Abu Gubran (Meals in-flight, D)

SUN 04 MAR

Bethlehem

Attend worship at Christmas Lutheran Church (in Arabic) followed by fellowship. Walking tour of Bethlehem's Old City including Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave stable where tradition says Jesus was born. Continue to Beit Sahour to see Shepherds' Field, where according to Scripture the angels announced the birth of Jesus. Abu Gubran (B, D)

MON 05 MAR

Bethlehem

Drive to west Jerusalem to visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum and see the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Shrine of the Book Museum. Return to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight. Abu Gubran (B, D)

TUE 06 MAR

Bethlehem

This morning visit Dar Al Kalima College with time for conversation with students. Drive to Efrat Israeli Settlement to meet with one of the residents. Visit Deheisheh Refugee camp for a conversation with Palestinian refugees. Stop for a close up view of the Separation Wall, and visit Claire Anastas' shop and Rachel's Tomb. Late this afternoon meet for conversation with the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (subject to his availability). Abu Gubran (B, D)

WED 07 MAR

Bethlehem

Today explore Herodium, the hilltop fortress built by King Herod and the likely place of his burial. Drive to Hebron to visit the Tombs of the Patriarchs (traditional burial site of Abraham and Sarah) at the Ibrahim Mosque. Take a brief walking tour in central Hebron. Later today meet with a Bethlehem mufti to learn about Islamic faith practices. Abu Gubran (B, D)



You are Invited...

A graduate professor of mine put it well: there are two kinds of biblical scholars, those who have been to the Holy Land and those who have not. What he meant was that actually being there provides an incomparable sense of the setting of the people and events in the Bible that can be obtained in no other way.

As a teacher of the Bible, I am committed to providing students with an opportunity to experience such an immersion in the biblical world. Moreover, as a Christian pastor, I have in recent years developed an increasing passion for the importance of the ongoing presence of a Christian community in this area of the world, which has been the inspiration for peace and a location of strife for thousands of years.

Out of these commitments and context, then, I invite you to join me for a series of brief but intensive Encounters in the Holy Land. We will visit important sites—Bethlehem and Jerusalem, Jericho and Nazareth—but more importantly we will meet the people of the Holy Land. We will talk with leaders and ordinary people of all three major faith communities: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim. We will hear the stories of Israeli settlers and of Palestinian refugees—real, human stories in a context filled, by turns, with conflict and with the hard search for dignity and shared humanity as children of God.

This rare opportunity is scheduled for Valparaiso University's Spring Break 2018, leaving on Friday, March 2, and returning on Tuesday, March 13. Participants may earn three credits in THEO-368: Topics in Abrahamic Religions, which can count toward a theology major or minor, upper-level

general education credit in theology, or the cultural diversity requirement in general education. For credit, students simply need to sign up for the course with their Spring Semester 2018 registration (and the tuition is part of that semester's regular tuition). For most, the only additional cost is the tour fee, as described in this brochure. In addition, non-Valpo students (such as parents or friends) are welcome, subject to availability of space.

However, spaces are limited, and we need to hear from you much sooner than spring registration, if you want to be sure to go: please send the form from this brochure and your deposit of \$395 (checks made out to Valparaiso University) TODAY to me to reserve your spot.

I look forward to joining you for some extraordinary Encounters!

*Cordially,
George C. Heider, Ph.D.
Professor of Theology*

George C. Heider serves as professor of theology at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Prior to coming to Valpo, he was president of Concordia University in River Forest, IL, and prior to that was a faculty member, administrator, and pastor in Seward, NE, and Cheshire, CT. He holds a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Yale University and has published on both the history and theology of the Old Testament. Encounters in the Holy Land will be the fifth group that he has led there, and likely the last, at least for Valparaiso University.



THU 08 MAR

Bethlehem/Nazareth

Leave Bethlehem and drive to Megiddo to see the excavations. Continue to Mt. Carmel visiting the Monastery of St. Elias atop the mount and the prehistoric caves at the foot. Stop in Ibilin to tour Mar Elias Schools and hear from Elias Chacour, former Archbishop of Galilee of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church and author of *Blood Brothers* and *We Belong to the Land* (subject to his availability). Later today arrive in Nazareth for hotel check-in, dinner and overnight. Golden Crown Hotel (B, D)

FRI 09 MAR

Nazareth

Tour Jesus' boyhood town of Nazareth this morning. Sail on the Sea of Galilee. Visit the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House in Capernaum. Drive along the north shore of the Galilee to visit the Church of the Multiplication and Church of the Primacy of Peter. End the day at the beautiful Church of the Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Return to Nazareth for dinner and overnight. Golden Crown Hotel (B, D)

SAT 10 MAR

Nazareth/Jerusalem

Travel to Jericho and ride the cable car up to the Mt. of Temptation. Stop at Qasr el Yahud baptismal site. Take the cable car to the Masada plateau where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans. Afterwards take time for an optional float in the Dead Sea, a unique body of water at the lowest point on earth. View from the roadside the actual caves at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Continue to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

SUN 11 MAR

Jerusalem

This morning gather for worship at the English language service at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Visit with Reverends Carrie and Robert Smith; Rev. Carrie is serving as the English-speaking pastor here (subject to availability). Then view the current excavations below the church that may relate to the neighboring Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Proceed to the Mt. of Olives for a glorious view of Jerusalem and walk down the Palm Sunday Road visiting Dominus Flevit Chapel. Arrive at the Garden of Gethsemane and Church of All Nations. Then visit St. Peter in Gallicantu where according to tradition Jesus was imprisoned the night before His death. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

MON 12 MAR

Jerusalem

Visit the Western Wall of the Temple Mount - this last vestige of the great Temple is the holiest of Jewish sites. Tour the Jerusalem Archaeological Park and Hezekiah's Tunnel in the City of David. Walk through Old City and see St. Anne's Church. Continue along the Via Dolorosa stopping at a couple of the Stations of the Cross and ending at the Church of Holy Sepulchre. This evening gather for a farewell dinner at the hotel. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

TUE 13 MAR

Jerusalem/Return to USA

Transfer this morning for the return flights to Chicago. (B, Meals in-flight)

*Code: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Itinerary subject to change.
Speakers subject to availability.*

TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$395 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due October 27, 2017. Final payment is due December 27, 2017. The tour price is based upon cash payment.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to October 26, 2017 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; October 27, 2017 - February 14, 2018 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; February 15, 2018 or after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than October 27, 2017. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago via Turkish Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ACCOMMODATION:** Ten nights accommodation in Christian guesthouses and/or superior tourist class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner daily as outlined in the itinerary.
- GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Tel Aviv through departure from Tel Aviv.
- GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$132 per person has been included).
- TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$587 per person).
- ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name badges, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when travel protection is purchased within 14 days of registration. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174

COST SUMMARY

\$4225*

Group Flights From Chicago
 Tour Gratuities (\$132).....Included
 Airport Taxes (\$587).....Included
 *Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room*.....\$495
 *Very limited availability on request basis. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed.

Costs: The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Chicago (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of January 2017, a minimum of 17 travelers, and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only. *Not all bookings have been made and all space/rates are subject to availability at time of booking.*

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional travel protection: trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. Please refer to the Travel Protection section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry visa.

RESERVATION APPLICATION • CLIP AND MAIL

Valparaiso: Holy Land • March 2-13, 2018 • (G#180302) • Department of Theology, Valparaiso University, 1400 Chapel Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46383

(Name as it appears on passport)

1. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

2. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Roommate _____ I will pay the supplement for a single room.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/We will take the group flights from Chicago.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.
Please contact GTD for land- only rates.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL PROTECTION (please check one)

Please reserve _____ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:

\$ _____ **\$643 per person inclusive of travel protection.**

\$ _____ **\$395 per person without travel protection.**
 I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre- existing waiver.

Please make checks payable to Valparaiso University.

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. *Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.*

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION

Travel protection is optional, but we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan. GTD offers an extensive and competitively priced plan from Travel Insured International. Travel protection can help provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. If you decline coverage at the time of reservation, you may purchase it later, but the Pre-existing Conditions Waiver is available only if the plan is purchased within 14 days of the initial trip deposit. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174. Review your Plan Document for Schedule of Benefits and Plan Details.

GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION INCLUSIONS

Trip Cancellation.....	up to Tour Cost*
Trip Interruption.....	up to 150% of Tour Cost**
Travel Delay.....	\$750
Missed Connection.....	\$300
Baggage.....	\$1,000
Baggage Delay.....	\$200
Medical Expense.....	\$50,000
Evacuation/Repatriation.....	\$500,000
Accidental Death.....	\$10,000
Political Emergency Evacuation.....	\$100,000
ID Theft Resolution Services.....	included
Assistance Service.....	included

* a maximum of \$4000 per person
 ** a maximum of \$6000 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Protection is \$248 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan.

This document contains highlights of the plan. The Plan contains insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company. Fairmont Specialty and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best Company 2015. The Plan also contains non insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization, OnCall International, and not by United States Fire Insurance Company or Travel Insured International. Review the Plan Document for complete terms, including benefits, conditions, limitations and exclusions that apply. The Plan Document will be provided to you upon purchase of the plan. Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions.

EXCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS

Insurance benefits are not payable for any loss due to, arising or resulting from: suicide, attempted suicide or any intentionally self-inflicted injury of You, a Traveling Companion, Family Member or Business Partner booked to travel with You, while sane or insane; an act of declared or undeclared war; participating in maneuvers or training exercises of an armed service, except while participating in weekend or summer training for the reserve

forces of the United States, including the National Guard; riding or driving in races, or speed or endurance competitions or events; mountaineering (engaging in the sport of scaling mountains generally requiring the use of picks, ropes, or other special equipment); participating as a member of a team in an organized sporting competition or participating as a professional in a stunt, athletic or sporting event or competition; participating in bodily contact sports, skydiving or parachuting, hang gliding, or bungee cord jumping; piloting or learning to pilot or acting as a member of the crew of any aircraft; being intoxicated as defined herein, or under the influence of any controlled substance unless as administered or prescribed by a Legally Qualified Physician; the commission of or attempt to commit a felony or being engaged in an illegal occupation; normal childbirth or pregnancy (except Complications of Pregnancy) or voluntarily induced abortion; dental treatment (except as coverage is otherwise specifically provided herein); amounts which exceed the Maximum Benefit Amount for each coverage as shown in the Schedule of Benefits; due to a Pre-Existing Condition, as defined in the Certificate. The Pre-Existing Condition Limitation does not apply to the Emergency Medical Evacuation or Return of Remains coverage; medical treatment during or arising from a Trip undertaken for the purpose or intent of securing medical treatment; due to loss or damage (including death or injury) and any associated cost or expense resulting directly from the discharge, explosion or use of any device, weapon or material employing or involving chemical, biological, radiological or similar agents, whether in time of peace or war, and regardless of who commits the act and regardless of any other sequence thereto.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part

of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors travel industry developments (strikes, etc.) as well as world events. If any such matters affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>

For more information, contact:

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