

**Study Tour of the Holy Land:
Biblical Archeology, Pilgrimage, and Cross-cultural Studies of the Bible
(41-681)**

Instructor: K. K. Yeo, PhD (kkyeo@garrett.edu)

Tour: Dec 28, 2017-Jan 10, 2018

***Notes:**

1. The Study Tour (14-day) can be taken simply for personal enrichment or for cross-cultural fulfillment, in both cases you do not need to register for the course (i.e., no need to pay tuition fee). But if you register for the course, you will receive cross-cultural credit *and* 3-hour general elective credit simply by completing satisfactorily the cross-cultural assignments. New Testament elective credit is NOT offered this year in conjunction with this course.

2. If you register for the course 41-681, **you will also need to register for the trip** (www.jcbs.org/find_trip Tour=JC17 Date=122817G Tour Host ID=10939). Course registration alone will not get you to the Holy Land!

I. Course Description and Purpose:

A. *Being*—becoming a critical and faithful interpreter of the Bible and those in the Land, thus becoming a global-church Christian amidst the changing, broken, and unjust world. The course is primarily a 14-day cultural immersion experience on the ground for the class to grow as disciples of Christ in light of diverse religious realities in Israel-Palestine.

B. *Knowing*—the history, geography, and archaeology of the Holy Land and the biblical texts; the contemporary social, political, religious issues in our world today in the Land of the Holy; our hermeneutical assumptions re. biblical reading and conflicting issues in that Land.

C. *Doing*—with the critical tool of cross-cultural hermeneutics in the following aspects:

(1) begin to live in the historical connection between historical sites/texts and current issues in the holy land;

(2) begin to read the biblical texts with passion regarding its significance and problems to our contemporary world;

(3) begin using the theological tool to engage, analyze and empathize the current socio-political and religious problems in the Land.

II. Course Requirements/Grading:

A. Pass/fail grading only for cross-cultural requirement; default letter

grade for general elective credit of the course (41-681)--if you want pass/fail grade, then inform the Registrar's Office when you register.

B. Attend pre-trip and evening meetings during the trip, and turn in a complete reflection paper (10-page) before February 15, 2018.

Summary of grade (100%):

1. Readings and Meetings (20%);

2. Cross-cultural and Theological Reflection Paper (80%).

III. Textbooks:

A. Bible. NRSV is recommended. Doctoral students will require basic knowledge of biblical Greek and Hebrew, thus the use of BHS (MT), LXX, and GNT (UBS⁵ or NA²⁸).

B. Luker, Monte. *An Illustrated Guide to the Holy Land for Tour Groups, Students, and Pilgrims*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2013. Or: Page II, Charles and Carl Volz. *The Land and the Book, An Introduction to the World of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993. **Please read first 100 pages now, and sites information before the trip.**

C. Feiler, Bruce. *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*. (<http://www.brucefeiler.com/books/abraham.html>)

Collins, L. and D. Lapierre. *O Jerusalem!* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988. (history of the Israeli war for independence).

D. Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 2003. (a Palestinian priest tells his personal story).

E. Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989.

VI. Reference Reading List:

Aharoni, Y., and Avi-Yonah, M., *The MacMillan Bible Atlas*, third edition. New York: MacMillan, 1993.

Aharoni, Y., *The Land of the Bible*, revised and enlarged second edition. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1979.

Bhabha, Homi K. *The Location of Culture*. Routledge, 2004.

Ben-Barak, Zafrira. *Inheritance By Daughters in Israel and the Ancient Near East: A Social, Legal and Ideological Turning Point*. Archaeological Center Publications, 2006.

Ben-Tor, A., *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.

- Braverman, Mark. *Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews, and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land*. Synergy Books, 2010.
- Calhoun, John, and Ranjan Solomon, edited. *Palestinian Prisoners. A Question of Conscience*. World Council of Churches, 2015.
- Crown-Tamir, Hela. *How to Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus and the Prophets*. Jerusalem, New York: Gefen, 2000.
- Currie, Robin and Stephen G. Hyslop. *The Letter and the Scroll. What Archaeology Tells Us About the Bible*. Washington: National Geographic, 2009.
- Freedman, D.N. ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Hoffmeier, James K. *The Archaeology of the Bible*. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2008.
- Isserlin, B.S.J. *The Israelites*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2001.
- Mazar, A. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible 10,000-586 B.C.E*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- McRay John. *Archaeology & the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1991.
- Meyers, E.M. ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Monson, J., *Regions on the Run*. Jerusalem: Biblical Backgrounds, 1998; *Geographical Basics in the Land of the Bible: Maps for Marking*. Jerusalem: Biblical Backgrounds, 1975, 1992.
- Page II, Charles and Carl Volz. *The Land and the Book, An Introduction to the World of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.
- Pappe, Ilan. *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Raheb, Mitri. *Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible through Palestinian Eyes*. Orbis, 2014.
- Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. Vintage, 1979; Ibn Warraq, *Defending the West: A Critique of Edward Said's Orientalism*. Prometheus Books, 2007.
- Sasson, J. M. ed. *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1995.
- Schwartz, Regina M. *The Curse of Cain: The Violent Legacy of Monotheism*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1998.
- Shanks, Hershel ed. *Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*, Rev. ed. Washington, DC: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1999.
- Stacy, R. Wayne. *Where Jesus Walked. A Spiritual Journey Through the Holy Land*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2001.
- Stern, E. ed. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. 4 Vols. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1993.
- Wagner, Donald E. *Dying in the Land of Promise: Palestine and Palestinian Christianity from Pentecost to 2000*. New updated edition. London: Melisende, 2003.
- Williams, Patrick and Laura Chrisman, edited. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*. Columbia University Press, 1994.
- Electronic Resources: **Please browse through the sites before the trip.**
Biblical Archaeology Review – see their web page at: <http://www.bib-arch.org/>
 Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: <http://www.icahd.org/eng/>
 BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
 Christian Zionist (Best of Israel's News in Real Time): <http://christianzionist.org/>
 Christian Zionism The True Story: <http://www.christian-zionism.org/altindex.htm>
 Defending the First Amendment against the Christian Right: <http://www.jewsonfirst.org/>
 Excellent news source on Middle East: <http://www.haaretz.com/>
 How to heal the world: <http://www.tikkun.org/>
 Churches for Middle East Peace: <http://www.cmep.org/>
 Mar Elias Educational Institutions: <http://www.meei.org/>
 Pilgrims of Ibillin: <http://www.pilgrimsofibilin.org/index.html>
 International Friends of Sabeel: <http://www.sabeel.org/old/friends.html>
 Prof. Monte Luker's lectures: <https://monteluker.squarespace.com>
 (Click on VISITOR ACCESS and the type in the password shown)
- Documentary Online (esp. for cross-cultural credit): **Please watch at least two of the following videos before the trip.**
 US aid to Zionism: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8A6oXdjkhY>
 Christian Zionist: <http://tr.youtube.com/watch?v=rUXks1cw24o>
 The Iron Wall: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8PKqqMOOtU>
 Occupation 101: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV_T551jw88

V. Course Outline

Pre-meeting: Nov 14, 2017 (Tuesday) 12:00-1:30 pm, room 210.

[14-Day Tentative Itinerary and Programs:](#)

Since some of you will take this course for the cross-cultural requirement, the field trip will focus on the historical studies of the sites and the biblical texts, but the discussion and lectures will always engage us to think theologically on the conflicts and issues of the Holy Land then and now. The following activities on site are being arranged (not guaranteed) will help to enrich our immersion experience:

1) Visit the Jerusalem: Children's Memorial and Yad Vashem holocaust museum. Before going for the trip, you may want to visit the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie:

<http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/>

2) Visit the International Peace Center at the Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and meet with the pastor to hear about Palestinian life in the West Bank. (The pastor is Rev. Mitri Raheb who wrote the book, *Bethlehem Besieged*, an account of the occupation of Bethlehem in 2002). http://www.annadwa.org/Con_Speeches.htm

3) Visit the Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives which is about the only hospital serving West Bank Palestinians in the area around Jerusalem. <http://www.avh.org/english.html>

4) Visit Elias Chacour, a Palestinian priest in Galilee, and the Elias College. He is the author of the book, *Blood Brothers*, one of the texts the class will read. Please browse the Pilgrims of Ibillin site:

<http://www.pilgrimsofibilin.org/>

5) We will meet with the Palestinian Christians like Rev. Mitri Raheb and Naim Ateek, and visit Christmas Lutheran Church and the Dar-Al Kalima College in Bethlehem. Will also visit Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. <http://www.sabeel.org/>

If time allows, 6) Have a visit with analysts and activists such as Dr. Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions: with an analysis of the Wall, <http://www.icahd.org/> And 7) There is also a group called Rabbis for Human Rights (Rabbi Erik Asherman or Jeremy Milgrom--son of the famous scholar Jacob Milgrom) and another wonderful group in Hebron, Christian Peacemaker Teams.

14-Day Tentative Itinerary and Themes:

Day 1 and 2: Departure from USA and Arrive in Tel Aviv. Transfer to Galilee for lecture and overnight. Lecture: "Orientation to the Land: Then and Now." Overnight in Galilee.

Note on square bracket below: [114] = page number reference of Page and Volz, *The Land and the Book*, p. 114. **So please read Page and Volz on the following sites as well as the Scriptures before December 28; then reread Page and Volz**

only on those sites we will visit the next day.

Day 3: Theme: Jesus' Childhood and Complexity of Identity (God-Human, Personhood and Ethnicity/Race, Gender and Power, Tradition and Family)—Galilee Region [168-170], Nazareth [162] (Matthew 2:23; Luke 1:26; 4:16, 28-30; John 1:46); Tzipori/Sepphoris [171]; Megiddo [156] (1 Kings 9:15; Revelation 16:12-16). Overnight in Galilee.

Day 4: Theme: Jesus' Ministry around the Kinneret Boat ride on the Kinneret and the Question of Context and Audience of Christian Ministry in the World Today—Bethsaida [114] (John 1; Mark 8); Korazim/Chorazin [126] (Matthew 11:21); Capernaum [122] (Matthew 4:13; 17: 24; Mark 2:1); Mt. of Beatitudes [73, 173] (Matthew 5-7); Kursi [147] (Mark 5); Tabgha [173] (Mark 6; John 21). Overnight in Galilee.

Sun, Day 5: Theme: Socio-Political Realities Then and Now and Jesus' Ministry in the Golan and Upper Galilee—Hatzor (Hazor) [137] (Joshua 11:10-11; 1 Kings 9:15); Banyas (Caesarea Philippi) [107] (Matthew 16); Tel Dan [39, 126-130] (Joshua 19:47-48). Overnight in Galilee.

Day 6: Theme: The Lower Galilee and Jordan River Valley as well as the Issue of Jewish-Christian Dialogue—Jordan River [20, 25, 26, 59, 75, 122, 130, 217] (Matt 3:6; Mark 1:5), Beth Shean [115-117] (1 Samuel 31); En Harod [*] (Judges 7); Bet Alfa Synagogue; swim at Gan Hashlosha; Belvoir (Kokhav Hayarden) [87, 92]. Overnight in Galilee.

Day 7: Theme: Economic and Religious Reflection of the Coastal Plain and the Struggle of the Palestinians—Bet Shearim [*]; Mount Carmel (Mukhraka) [159] (1 Kings 18); Caesarea [118-121] (Acts 10; 12:25). Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8: Theme: Jewish Life Under the Herods and the Question of Nationhood/Liberation—Lectures: "Biblical Geography and Archaeology" and "The Herodian Dynasty." Field Trip: Bethlehem [111-114] (Matthew 2; Luke 2); the Herodion [140-141]; Shepherds' Field (Luke 2:8-20); Second Temple Period Model of Jerusalem; Israel Museum. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 9: Theme: "You" and the "Holy" Land. Sabeel; Jeff. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 10: Theme: The Wilderness of Judea and Responses of Diverse Religious Communities Old and New—Wadi Qelt hike (Matthew 4; Luke 4); Jericho [142] (Joshua 2-7; Luke 10, 18, 19); Qumran [163-167]. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 11: Free day. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 12: Theme: The First and Second Jewish Revolts and Contemporary Revolutionary Movements—Masada [149-156]; En Gedi [131] hike and synagogue; Dead Sea [130] swim. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 13: Theme: Jerusalem and (De-)centerizing of the World—Free morning for Sunday worship in Jerusalem; Old city [186-200]; Jewish Quarter [188]; Western Wall [189]; Temple Mount Excavations [201] (Matthew 23); City of David [177]; Warren’s Shaft and Hezekiah’s Tunnel (2 Kings 20:20 and 2 Chronicles 32:3,4, 30); Pool of Siloam [179] (John 9:1-7). Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 14: Theme: The Itinerary of Holy Week and (Im)possibility of Current Christian Story/Mission—Bethphage [114, 181] (Matthew 21); Mt. of Olives [181] (Luke 11; Acts 1); Garden of Gethsemane [179-180] (Matthew 26); Via Dolorosa [197-198] and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher [193] (Matthew 27-28; John 20); the Upper Room (John 13); St. Peter's Church [185]. Transfer to airport for return flight to USA.

Day 15: Arrival in USA

Reflection/Research Paper Due: Feb 15, 2018.

VI. Cross-cultural Reflection Paper (10 double-spaced paper, due Feb 15, 2018).

- A. Keep a journal on daily learning on especially three broad areas:
- (1) The relationship between biblical sites and the biblical text (OT or NT);
 - (2) The learning experience on the relationship between theology (faith/Bible/religion) and culture (history, custom, language, etc.);
 - (3) The hermeneutical relationship between “what was meant/there” and “what it means now/here”, crossing the first two

areas, especially the concern about cross-cultural sensitivity, immersion, and reflections of the trip. The focus of this course is on the historical meaning (65%), but for those taking this course for cross-cultural credit, they ought to demonstrate the learning experience of a cross-cultural hermeneutic.

- B. Based on the journal (do not submit the journal to the instructor) and some research, turn your summary of 10 double-spaced page reflection for those taking this course for cross-cultural requirement.