# **ISRAEL 2013**

Some have called the land of Israel the "Fifth Gospel." Indeed, there is no place on earth like Israel and no other experience of faith like having the opportunity to travel to Israel to both see and experience firsthand those places in which Jesus himself walked and carried out his ministry. Indeed, Israel is the land of biblical events. A visit to Israel means that the places, events, and people of the Bible come alive in one's own experience. After a visit to the Holy Land itself, the printed page of the Bible never looks the same again. The stories, the people, the places, the topography of the land become an indelible memory that cannot be gained any other way than by visiting the land itself—including places where we absolutely know Jesus was, literally following his steps 2000 years later. Going to Israel makes biblical experience real and makes it personal, walking in the shadow of the ancient Israelites or Jesus himself. There is simply no substitute for experiencing Israel firsthand for yourself and taking in what is important for you.

The Israel 2013 tour will take one to Old Testament sites like Hazor, a city conquered by Joshua and later fortified by Solomon; ancient Dan, one of the two worship places built by king Jeroboam in the northern Kingdom of Israel; Beit Shean, important from before the time of Saul through New Testament times; Megiddo, with its huge Canaanite altar, structures from the time of Solomon, and fascinating water system; and, of course, Jerusalem, the site of David's capital and Jesus' final ministry. One will see both authentic and traditional sites in Jerusalem important to Jesus' life and ministry, as well as remaining structures built by Herod the Great even before Jesus. Archaeological exploration includes not only original biblical sites, but also discoveries in various museums and field sites which document and aid in comprehension of life in biblical times. Time spent in the Galilee will revolutionize one's understanding of the ministry of Jesus, as one visits Nazareth, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, spends time around the Lake of Galilee, and travels through the countryside.

Visits to Bethlehem, as well as to Caesarea, Gamla, Qumran, Masada, and even Jerusalem itself help to understand the ancient struggles of this land. Experiencing the "Fifth Gospel" of the Land aids in the development of full appreciation for the Four Gospels.

It may be best to simply let participants from earlier Israel travel opportunities speak for themselves.

"What an experience to climax the Christmas Holidays with a trip to Israel to see and walk where Jesus did while here on earth. To prepare for the trip, Dr. Roger Greene invites you to attend his weekly lectures on the sites to be seen and gives very useful tips for traveling. The trip is great. Traveling on a small bus with a local driver and guide plus Dr. Greene gives the group of college students and adults the opportunity to see and enjoy so much more. This is the only overseas trip I have chosen to repeat. Glad I did."

-Anne Martin Campbell, Clinton/Jasper, GA, Class of '53, Israel '97, Israel 2009

<sup>&</sup>quot;I am so grateful that I was able to have the opportunity to journey to Israel, a land of diversity, beauty, and rich spiritual history and meaning. My life has been forever changed . . . . and I long to return. . . . the venture changed how I see and read the Bible . . . brought the

Bible to life in my once limited imagination. . . . I grew to have a better understanding of why Jesus taught certain parables the way he did . . . it helped me to better see and comprehend his life and ministry. . . . my faith definitely increased just by knowing that I was in the same region where Jesus was, especially along the shore of Galilee. . . . God changed my life on this trip forever! It grew my faith and will continue to be a very special place in my life. If you are contemplating going on this trip, please go! . . . Words cannot and will not do it justice."

#### -Erin Lambert, Natchez, ISRAEL 2009

"Israel changed my life.... the places I experienced in the Holy Land gave me a better understanding of scripture and the life of Jesus.... This is the trip of a lifetime. The most unbelievable and humbling experience of my life.... my morning quiet time on the shore of the Lake of Galilee as the sun rose over the Galilean countryside.... a boat ride across the lake .... the Mount of Beatitudes ... a service together ... Jesus' Sermon on the Mount .... Being there simply brings the gospels of the New Testament to life. The places I experienced left me speechless and enhanced my Bible study and prayer life.... I long to be back in the Holy Land on a weekly basis. A smell, a sound, a sight, or a feeling takes my mind back to those experiences of Israel."

#### -Chase Sims, Laurel, ISRAEL 2009

"My journey to Israel was life changing.... a spiritual experience unlike any other. My faith came alive... the trip was filled with priceless experiences... my trip was more than a spiritual pilgrimage. It was an encounter with a rich and diverse culture. My trip was also an opportunity to build relationships with fellow students as we discovered the land of the Bible together... going to Israel was one of the most fun and rewarding opportunities of my time at Mississippi College."

## -Chase Caldwell, Vidalia, LA, ISRAEL 2009

"Going to Israel has forever changed my view of the Bible and especially the gospels in which Jesus' life and ministry is portrayed. . . . I woke up and watched the sun rise over the Sea of Galilee and I was speechless. . . . there is nothing like the hills, mountains, and waters that make up Galilee. . . . the places at which Jesus walked, ministered, and performed miracles changed my view of the gospels and to an extent my relationship with Christ. Jerusalem was exciting with all of the people and markets. . . . Having the best tour guide helped . . . the relationships that were made on that trip have lasted and we all share a special bond."

#### -Seth Brill, Clinton, ISRAEL 2009

"Israel is by far the most beautiful place I have ever been in my short life. . . . I would highly recommend . . . . the world of the Bible became so much more real to me. . . . to sit on the steps of the Temple where Jesus taught and see some of the things He would have seen is amazing. . . . to see a village setting of Nazareth that is similar to that Jesus would have grown up in is also

amazing.... going to Israel helped put the Bible and its stories in a more pure context. It is almost as if one is able to feel the presence of God even stronger over there. My favorite memory... is sitting on the hill where it is believed that Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount and reading the Beatitudes for a time of worship.... it truly was God's 'Promised Land.'"

## -Andrew Hollingsworth, Fulton, ISRAEL 2009

"The brochure says it is a trip for '11 Days of Biblical Discovery' but from my time and experiences on the trip, it has been exactly 361 Days of Biblical Discovery and counting. . . . It has been amazing how now, when I read my Bible, and I see in the Gospels where Jesus is walking from here to there . . . the setting has been laid out for me. . . . Mount [of Beatitudes] was amazing! Beautiful! Dr. Greene did a short devotional and we sang the first verse of Amazing Grace. Got teary eyed when we read, 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.' [And further, with regard to Caesarea] Paul used that very port and the steps that came off the dock are still there! So I probably stepped on the same steps that Paul did when coming and going from his missionary journeys. So cool to be in the very places that so many biblical stories took place."

#### -Seth Stanley, Braxton, ISRAEL 2011

"My experience in Israel was one I will never forget. It was incredible to see first-hand so many of the places I had read about in Scripture. It made the Bible come to life! . . . This trip really strengthened my faith as the people and places became more real to me. . . . I was so thankful that I was not only able to go, but that I was accompanied by a wise and knowledgeable professor and tour guide who were able to further explain the various sites. . . . We would read Scripture together at the different locations, and I felt as though I could practically see the events taking place. . . . To be where Jesus was, during both his teaching and his final hours before the crucifixion, was indescribable. The Holy Spirit was very present and used this trip to change me. I would highly recommend this trip to everyone! It was truly the trip of a lifetime!

#### -Breanna Smith, Vancleave, ISRAEL 2011

"I am so grateful for the opportunity that I had to go to Israel. Words cannot fully describe my experience. We began our trip in Galilee where the disciples fished and Jesus walked on water. We saw ancient ruins and the Mediterranean Sea. We walked around Jerusalem and swam in the Dead Sea. Walking on the steps of the Temple in Jerusalem where Jesus taught made the deepest impact on me. The entire trip changed how I view the people and places of the Bible. The Bible is so much more alive to me now. Israel truly is a beautiful and diverse land. Going to Israel was definitely one of the best opportunities that I have had at Mississippi College because I know that what I saw and experienced there will impact me for the rest of my life.

-Kristen Fowler, West Point, ISRAEL 2011

"Visiting Israel was a once in a lifetime opportunity I will never forget. The people are wonderful and the countryside beautiful. Traveling with the Mississippi College group was great. We met as strangers and in a few days we were family. Our guide and driver were excellent! Every morning we headed out to see something new. . . . it seemed somehow familiar—then it would hit me—I read about this place in Luke or Matthew or some other book of the Bible! It brings all those verses to life when you actually see where the people of the Bible actually walked. It took very little imagination to picture the scenes that I had read about—the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem, the High Place of Jeroboam and Jesus . . . sailing the Sea of Galilee. I could almost hear the words of Jesus quietly echoing across the hillside at the Chapel of the Beatitudes. History was present everywhere we visited. . . . Zippori, Tel Hazor, . . . Bet She'an . . . . Caesarea Maritima . . . . Masada, . . . Jerusalem's Old City bears the scars of time but it is so alive. The Western Wall still stands to hear the prayers of Israel. 'Next year in Jerusalem'—Oh, don't I wish!"

# -Alice Carolus, Ridgeland, ISRAEL 2011

If you have ever wanted to travel to the land of biblical events and Jesus' ministry, you will never have a better opportunity to realize your life-long dream than to travel with a Mississippi College group of students, alumni, and community persons, under the direction of Dr. Roger Greene. Dr. Greene is a long-time professor who has served 33 years at Mississippi College in the Department of Christian Studies. His teaching responsibilities have included courses on Old Testament, New Testament, biblical archaeology, and the life and teachings of Jesus. He has archaeological experience in Israel. He has taken college related groups to Israel and other related biblical lands numerous times. Israel 2013 is thus a custom-designed travel opportunity that reflects the very best of significant biblical sites, as well as other sites not generally included in a standard tour of Israel, all of which serve to offer one a life-changing experience of the Holy Land and the modern state of Israel.

If one wishes to experience archaeological discovery, biblical understanding, and spiritual inspiration afforded only by visiting the land of biblical events, one is invited to participate in Israel 2013. One may also participate in BIBLE 440, an on-campus evening course offered in preparation for the trip.

For further information and a copy of the brochure, contact Dr. Roger Greene at Mississippi College, 601-925-3291, <a href="mailto:rgreene@mc.edu">rgreene@mc.edu</a>, P.O. Box 4012, Clinton, MS 39058. A full copy of the brochure may also be viewed on Dr. Greene's faculty website.