

WELCOME TO ISRAEL

You are about to embark on what many people consider their “trip of a lifetime”. For many people a trip to the Holy Land is a dream that is fulfilled only once. For some it is an overwhelming emotional and spiritual experience. The sights and sounds are often captured on film or video, but the thoughts that accompany them are sometimes fleeting.

In the second century Christians from foreign lands began to come to the land where Jesus spent his years as a human on earth in the second century. They endured many trials, discomforts, and tribulations on their journey. However, like travelers today, undoubtedly their reaction was similar in that it made their Bibles come alive. People who have been to Israel have vivid memories in their mind every time they read or hear the Gospels.

In this journal you will find room to record your impressions and feelings as you visit the sites of Jesus birth in Bethlehem, Nazareth, and the sites of His miracles around the Sea of Galilee, the River Jordan and Jerusalem. Make notes of the things you learn and want to remember. The verses from the Bible on each page will give you the location of the Biblical text and it is hoped that the photos will enable you to retain the image of what you have seen. There is, also, a space at the bottom of each location to record your digital photo frames.

I hope you enjoy your trip.

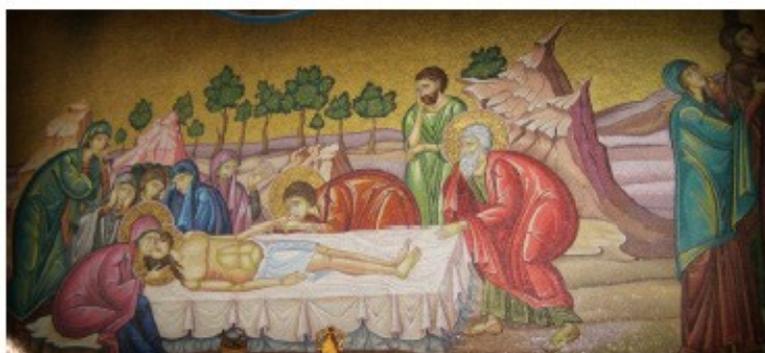
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

After the death of Jesus there was a constant Christian presence in Jerusalem at least until the time of Constantine. It is reasonable to assume that the Christians living there would have venerated the site of Jesus' death and burial.

In 132 AD there was a major revolt of the Jews against the Romans known as the Bar Kokhba Revolt. It was put down with great loss of life to both the Romans and the local population by 135 AD. Hadrian, the Roman Emperor who personally led some of the troops in the battles, was so angry that it was determined to wipe out all evidence of a Jewish presence in the land. The name of the country was changed from Judea to Palestine; Jerusalem was plowed under and rebuilt as a pagan Roman city named Aelia Capitolina and, since the Temple Mount was still in ruins, Hadrian built a temple to Jupiter on the site of the 2nd Temple.

In an effort to wipe out anything remotely "Jewish" Hadrian also built a temple over the site venerated by the Christians. Here he constructed a temple to both Jupiter and Venus. When the mother of Constantine visited Jerusalem in 325 AD she had the Roman temple demolished because of the local Christian tradition that this was the site of Jesus' tomb. A tomb area was indeed discovered beneath it. Constantine had a church constructed over the site with a small structure inside to enclose the tomb itself. The present Church of the Holy Sepulchre is a continuation of that church and even today an unadorned first century tomb may be seen within the building.

The church was destroyed in 614 AD and rebuilt in 626 AD. Although absolute certainty is impossible, the evidence points to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher as being the actual site of Jesus' tomb.



MOUNT OF BEATITUDES



“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor...comfort the broken hearted...proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.” Is 61:1 Cir 730 BC

“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” Matt 7:28-29 Cir 30 AD
The Beatitudes: Matt 5-7

Reflections

Date _____

Picture Frame From _____

To _____