

THE BEST OF ISRAEL

with Stephen Katz, Chief of Staff for Jews for Jesus
and Senior Pastor Aaron Syvertsen

October 21 - 30, 2024



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A Message from Your Host

*Join Stephen & Laura Katz
for a very special trip to the Holy Land*



Stephen Katz currently serves as Chief of Staff with Jews for Jesus, a missionary agency reaching Jewish people. He grew up in a Conservative synagogue in the Chicago area and became a follower of Jesus while in college. He has been to Israel between 50-60 times, and on a number of occasions has lived there for extended periods. He speaks Hebrew and loves to lead groups to Israel. He and his wife, Laura, have four married children and eight grandchildren. He is thrilled to be a new member of Grace Church since 2021.



Aaron Syvertsen has been on the staff of Grace Church since 2015 and has been the senior pastor for six years. He and his wife, Rochelle, have been married since 2012 and they have four children: Kaden, Brinley, Graham, and Loren. Pastor Aaron can't wait to experience this trip together with the Grace Church family, to see the places where the events of the Biblical story took place, and to help people grow in their knowledge of Biblical history as they deepen their faith and expand their conviction to make his name known.

ITINERARY

October 21 & 22 - USA to Tel Aviv, Israel

Your pilgrimage begins as you depart on your international flight. You will be welcomed to Tel Aviv by our representative and transferred to your hotel in Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

October 23 - Caesarea / Mount Carmel / Megiddo / Tiberias

Follow an ancient caravan route through the Jezreel Valley to Tel Megiddo, an exciting archeological dig with layers of twenty different cities all built on top of each other. View Mount Carmel and recall Elijah's dramatic victory over the prophets of Baal. You will travel to Caesarea by the Sea on the Mediterranean coastline. It was here that Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized, and it was also where Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

October 24 - Sea of Galilee / Boat Ride / Magdala / Mount of Beatitudes / Tabgha / Capernaum

Cross the waters of the Sea of Galilee on a very special boat ride, complete with an onboard worship service. Visit the ruins of Magdala, home town of Mary Madalene and the site where Yeshua undoubtedly had visited. Visit the peaceful Mount of Beatitudes that overlooks the Sea of Galilee. On this hill, Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Stop at Tabgha, where the feeding of the 5,000 is remembered at the Church of the Loaves and Fish. After a St. Peter's fish lunch, travel to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee. Visit the synagogue that stands on the site where Jesus taught. Recall His teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. Remember your baptism at the Yardenit Baptismal site, where the Jordan River exits the Sea of Galilee on its journey southward (Matt. 3). Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

October 25 - Harod (Gideon's Spring), Beth Shean, Jordan Valley, Jericho (Drive By), Jerusalem

Today, we leave the Galilee and begin our journey up to Jerusalem. Visit Harod (Gideon's Spring), the site where the Lord showed Gideon who he should choose for his army of 300 to fight the Midianites (Judges 7). We will also stop at Beth Shean, one of the 10 cities of the decapolis and where the bodies of Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls after the defeat on Mount Gilboa (1 Samuel 31). We will drive past the outskirts of Jericho, the site of the city conquered by Joshua (Joshua 6:1, 2, 20). In the distance, we will see the traditional site of the Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11). Ascend the hills of the Judean Wilderness on our way up to the city of Jerusalem, where we will take a moment to view and reflect on its history before checking into our hotel for dinner and a good night's sleep.

October 26 - Bethlehem / Mount of Olives / Garden of Gethsemane

View Bethlehem and Shepherds' Field, where angels made the proclamation that the Savior of the world had been born. Time for shopping will be given today. Stand atop the Mount of Olives as Jesus did and enjoy a remarkable view of the "Golden City" of Jerusalem. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1). Visit the Chapel of the Ascension. Walk the Palm Sunday Road, down the Mount of Olives. Pray in the Garden of Gethsemane amongst the olive trees in the Kidron Valley across from the walls of Jerusalem.



October 27 - Mount Zion / Upper Room / Western Wall Tunnels / City of David / Southern Wall Excavations

A very full day of sightseeing is planned today. We begin traveling to Mount Zion and stand in the Upper Room, revered as the place of the Last Supper. View the site of King David's Tomb. The next stop is the house of Caiaphas, who was the High Priest at the time of Jesus' trial and crucifixion. Step back in time as you walk through the Rabbi's Tunnel, where there is stonework from the Second Temple Period! Pray alongside the Jewish faithful at the Western Wall. Visit the Jerusalem Archeological Park, including the Southern Wall Excavations. Walk through the City of David excavations, taking you back in time 3,000 years. Stand on the steps of the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus healed the blind man.

October 28 - Masada / Qumran / Dead Sea

Today, we will visit Masada and the Dead Sea. Ascend by cable car to Masada, Herod's legendary mountaintop fortress, which became the last desperate stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. You can still look down on the remains of the Roman camps and the siege ramp below. Continue to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were first discovered in 1947 by Bedouin goat herders. Over the next nine years, over 900 ancient scrolls would be found in this network of ten caves. End your day with a dip in the salt and mineral-laden waters of the Dead Sea.

October 29 - Israel Museum / Yad Vashem / Garden Tomb

View the model city of Jerusalem, giving an outstanding overview of what the city looked like during the Roman occupation in the first century. Also located here is the Israel Museum, housing artifacts that date back to the Canaanite era and early. After lunch, we will visit the museum and grounds of Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust

This itinerary is subject to changes in sequence of days, local conditions and preferences of the tour leader

Memorial, with its poignant exhibits honoring the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust. Take time to reflect on the agony of the cross at Gordon's Calvary and the miraculous reality of the resurrection at the Garden Tomb.

October 30 – Return to the USA

Return home with a transformed faith and memories to last a lifetime!

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New inclusion for 2024:
One-year individual membership to Museum of the Bible!

