

# Tour Tips

Israel Tour

June 13-25, 2011

## Tour Director

Dr. H. Wayne House



## Acknowledgement

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## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
DRESSING FOR THE TRIP	6
For the Ladies	7
For the Men	7
PACKING FOR THE TRIP	8
How to Pack	9
Extras Items Nice to Have Along	9
Voltage Converters	11
Medications	11
Health Requirements	11
FLIGHT INFORMATION	11
Baggage and All Flights	11
Meeting with Group on International Flight	12
Disembarkation Cards	13
Domestic Returning Flights	13
Security and Airport Taxes	13
ALL ABOUT MONEY	13
Extra Expenses	14
Credit Cards & Currency Exchange	14
ALL ABOUT SHOPPING	15
Where and How to Shop	15
Bartering	16
When to Shop	16
Customs Declaration	16
FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!	17
Kosher Food—What is It?	17
Middle Eastern Food	18
The Mideast Feast	18
CAMERA & PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES	18
For those are using film	19
Camera Equipment Suggestions	19

TOUR ITINERARY	20
PROTOCOL ON THE TOUR	20
Punctuality is Important	20
TOUR GUIDE AND BUS DRIVER	21
Tour Director	21
Tour Guide	21
Tour Bus Driver	22
Love Gift to Guide and Driver	22
PASSPORTS AND VISAS	22
FOR YOUR PROTECTION	23
Security Procedures	23
Is It Present Safe to Travel to the Middle East?	23
U. S. Travel Advisories	24
Security Suggestions	24
COMMUNICATION WITH HOME	24
Phone Calls Home	25
LANGUAGE	25
BEATITUDES FOR TRAVELERS	26
TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE TRAVELER	27
ROOM ASSIGNMENT	29
FLIGHT SCHEDULES	30

**Egypt Option Information**

## INTRODUCTION

We are excited about our coming trip, and most of all that you will be coming with us! As your director, I have prayed for the Lord to put this trip together in a way that will honor Him, serve you His people, and prepare each of us for the unfolding of His future program on earth. It has been said that the better the preparation for a trip, the better the trip! With this in mind we have created Tour Tips. It is a collection of the best advice we could find from years of our own experience, and the seasoned guidance of others. We trust that it will prove useful to you in physically planning for the trip and mentally preparing for the many new and exciting adjustments you will be making in the Promised Land! Pray together with us that this pilgrimage will increase your faith and understanding of God's Word, and that the Lord will use this unique opportunity to open all of our eyes anew to His plan for our world and our own lives.

Antonio Futterer, who explored the Holy Land in the 1920's during the period of the British Mandate, gave some comments in his book *Palestine Speaks*, which should provide some chuckles to you as you plan for traveling to the Holy Land. Futterer was one of the early British adventurers searching for the lost Ark of the Covenant (long before Indiana Jones!). In his book he recounts not only his experiences in Israel, but shares some "travel tips" with his readers. I thought before you get into the preparation for our trip that you might enjoy hearing about what it took to get there some seventy years ago. You will be glad to know that you will no longer need to be subjected to a chemical bath or have your clothes fumigated, and you can skip the use of the deck chair and woolen underwear! However, Futterer is still accurate when he advises us to prepare for inconveniences and to learn to be content under all conditions. That advice is as sound today as it was when the Apostle Paul, also a traveler in the Holy Land, wrote it to the saints at Philippi (Philippians 4:11-12).

Those involved in planning our tour have worked hard to schedule things as carefully as possible. Your tour director, Dr. House, the airlines, the hotels, and the travel agencies all want you to have a marvelous adventure and to return home safe and happy. Remember, however, that some circumstances are beyond everyone's control and there may be minor changes in the itinerary, airplanes that are late and/or overcrowded, and people who don't practice Phil. 4:12! Yet, culture shock, jet-lag, the language barrier, and the many other new situations we will encounter can help us expand our horizons (and develop our spiritual lives) if we decide to receive them as opportunities rather than difficulties. Experienced travelers tell us to "travel light." The best things to leave behind are our preconceived notions. If we come with hearts and minds prepared to receive spiritual truths, we will take home priceless treasures that can never be lost.

God's Blessings for our Great Journey,

H. Wayne House  
Distinguished Research Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, Faith Seminary  
Director of Christian Study Tours

## DRESSING FOR THE TRIP

You will be dressing for a desert climate in the summer: warm days with colder, breezy, nights (somewhat like California). It is most important that you do not over burden yourself with unnecessary or excessive items on the tour, but prepare for the difference between Judea and the Galilee and Dead Sea area. In the area of dress, two rules apply—casual and comfortable. No formal clothing will be needed. The countries we tour generally dress informally. Travel as lightly as possible! In most places where we visit, laundry may be washed and pressed overnight, (an extra charge to you on your hotel bill, so use this service at your own risk). The following are suggestions for items to include, however, the final decision is your own.

1. A good comfortable, sturdy pair of broken-in walking shoes—no heels or boots
2. Waterproof footwear for wading (flip-flops, boat shoes, or sneakers) and an umbrella
3. Light (not bulky) bathrobe
4. A sweater and/or windbreaker (evenings may be cold and windy)
5. Women: large scarf (for covering up of shoulders and arms), ankle-length wrap-around skirt (for covering legs, if wearing shorts); Men: long pants—required at religious sites. Best: khaki shorts with zip-on trouser legs
6. Swimsuit (for those who wish to swim when & where possible) & cover-up (for sun)
7. Large hat, cap or scarf, sun block (get highest protection rating) for sun protection
8. Pair of sunglasses (the oriental sun is intense and the reflection on sand and stone is very bright). Bring an extra pair if you are prone to losing them!
9. A pair of slippers or sock-type slippers (for overnight plane flight and long motor-coach travel)
10. Loose-fitting clothes like jogging suits, jeans, khakis, light pants/skirts & t-shirt, etc. (for comfort on plane trips and daily touring). Shorts may be worn some days, but not always!!!

Finally, choose what best suits your taste, keeping in mind the following considerations:

The Middle East has a climate similar to that of California, Texas, and Florida. In June the average Fahrenheit temperature in Jerusalem is around 75-85 degrees during the daytime and 50-60 degrees during the evenings. In the Galilee the average Fahrenheit temperature is around 80-90 degrees during the daytime and 60-70 degrees during the evenings and at the Dead Sea the average Fahrenheit temperature is around 90-100 degrees during the daytime and 75-85 degrees during the evenings. The humidity is usually low (i.e., dry heat), so you will find that dehydration, not perspiration, is the problem, though at this time of the year this will not be a

major problem. In such climate it is recommended that you drink lots of water or fruit juices throughout the day. Bottled water is usually available on the bus and canned juices will be available at rest stops. Generally dress for leisurely activity in a temperate zone remembering that modesty is a must in the Middle East (see comments below). The following are recommendations for men and women respectively concerning dress.

#### **FOR THE LADIES**

For women, the most important factor in travel wardrobe is a basic color scheme. Shoes and other accessories should be chosen in a color that blends with the entire wardrobe rather than different color sets that add extra weight (always pack less than you think you will need—you will be glad you did!). Above all, clothing should be chosen for comfort, style, and easy packing. Select garments that serve various purposes. Separates provide for greater flexibility. Sweaters and skirts/pants should be selected to mix and match with bright scarves and novelty belts for variation. Wash & wear dresses, blouses, and undergarments are preferable. Shorts may be worn, however, most Arab, Jewish and Christian sites we will visit require that legs and arms be covered for modesty. If you desire to wear shorts, plan to carry with you a sweater or wrap around skirt that can easily be put on at the site location. You will need a wrap, sweater, or warm jacket for the evening cold in Jerusalem, and something lighter for the Galilee and the Dead Sea.

The style during the day may be chosen in regard to travel convenience, while in the evening chosen in regard to being casual. Hotel dress in the dining room in the evening is usually at a higher standard, therefore shorts should be avoided. At Kibbutzim (guest houses) this requirement is not as necessary. It is highly suggested that you leave valuables (especially expensive jewelry) at home. If you choose to bring it, you alone will be responsible for its possible loss.

#### **FOR THE MEN**

For men, it is suggested that you wear jeans or casual slacks (e.g. Dockers, Sansbelt, Polo, etc.) Short-sleeved sport shirts or t-shirts for day wear are a good choice and a long-sleeved casual dress shirt for evening. Shorts also may be worn, but you should carry an extra pair of comfortable trousers that can be slipped on and off as a cover-up or buy the kind of pants that convert to shorts with the ease of a zipper! A cap or hat is highly recommended, and will be necessary as a head covering at certain Jewish sites. Socks should be comfortable, non-slip, and complimentary to your type of footwear. Since you will be doing a considerable bit of walking, be sure your day-time socks are athletic-type, preferably cotton, or with a high cotton blend. It is also recommended that you use a money clip rather than a billfold because pick-pockets (usually kids) work tourist areas.

No dinner jackets, neckties, or suits should be brought. Better casual attire for eveningwear is expected in the hotel dining room but not required. Shoes for men can range from good walking tennis shoes to sandals. The rule is comfort and support. Bring a pair of plastic or rubber boat shoes or flip-flops for wading. Conditions permitting, you will have the opportunity to get in the water in Hezekiah's Water Tunnel, the Sea of Galilee (fresh water), the Dead Sea (salt water), and the Mediterranean Sea (salt water). The beaches in these areas are not soft, sandy beaches (except Mediterranean Sea), but pebbled with all size rocks! In Israel there are no dangerous fish except in the Red Sea.

## **DRESSING FOR HOLY SITES**

Although sleeveless tops and shorts are perfectly fine for the majority of sites we will see, there are Christian, Jewish (and Islamic) holy sites where more covering is required. Showing extra modesty at these sites is not only a sign of respect, but is a necessary condition of entrance.

At these sites women are required to cover shoulders and legs down to the knees. This is why a shawl and a wrap are essential, since these may be used to temporarily cover up while we visit the site.

For men the standards are not as rigid, but generally shoulders and knees are required to be covered. Additionally, at Jewish sites, men's heads must be covered. Although small cardboard kippahs (head covers) are often provided at Jewish sites, baseball caps or other hats are acceptable. Conversely, at Christian holy sites although it is often not required to remove your hat, it is encouraged as a sign of respect.

You will be told the night before if we are visiting any holy sites the next day, so that you can know ahead of time and prepare accordingly.

## **PACKING FOR THE TRIP**

From the U.S. to foreign destinations on Continental you are permitted two pieces of checked luggage per person. The maximum weight of any one bag is 70 pounds, though this has even been lowered by some airlines. The dimensions of the first bag may not exceed 62 linear inches and those of the second bag may not exceed 55 linear inches [to get the linear dimension of each bag add the length, width, and height.] You are also allowed one carry-on bag that must not exceed 45 linear inches and not weigh more than 40 pounds and one personal item such as purses, cameras, camcorders, lap top computers, etc. Tour groups usually are treated less strictly than individuals with respect to luggage allotments and weights, and international flights are usually less picky than domestic flights. Even so, you may be charged extra if baggage is excessively heavy, especially on the domestic return when you are loaded down with souvenirs!

Luggage should be sturdy, lightweight and have good locks (if you use locked luggage this will need to be individually done after security is completed). The purpose of locks is to keep a suitcase from opening accidentally, but they are not effective against theft. Therefore, don't take anything on a trip that you can't afford to lose! Remember, too, you will have to open your luggage for security! Luggage itself should be given this consideration. Don't take your best set, it may get damaged or lost. Also add something distinctive to the outside of your luggage to make it readily identifiable by you.

*For the ladies*, a conveniently large travel handbag is a must. It should have an easily accessible compartment for passports, currency, and travel documents. A shoulder strap bag is best for touring, while a simple clutch bag will suffice for evenings out. You will want a place for your camera, cosmetics, and the extra scarf and wrap-around skirt, should you include them. You may want to pack extra canvas carry bags for use with souvenirs.

*For the men*, a backpack (if you like them) or tote-bag will work. A large camera bag can double for this purpose also. Also, be sure you have good luggage name/address tags (filled out!) attached securely on your luggage. Group bags are not always loaded together and the tags make it easier you to retrieve your belongings. Always put your name on the inside as well as the outside of your luggage. Even the best tags can fall (or be pulled) off. If you have locks, bring an extra suitcase key and put it someplace other than in your suitcase!

Airports are notorious for their treatment of baggage, and loss of luggage is not exceptional. For this latter reason, you should have some kind of travel insurance which covers theft for loss of luggage (the airlines will only replace your bag, not contents, unless you have a certified itemized list of all contents). Such baggage insurance coverage is about \$3-5 per day. Any travel agency can supply this kind of trip insurance, which can also include other coverage such as in-flight life insurance, land life coverage, and trip cancellation insurance (or for emergency interruptions of the tour requiring an early return home).

### **HOW TO PACK**

In order to travel light, and yet carry everything, one must pack correctly. There are two methods that seasoned travelers recommend: (1) Pack in layers, starting with the heavier and odd-shaped items, then fill in the remaining spaces with smaller items. A layer of tissue or plastic (garbage bags work well) between garments eliminates unnecessary creasing (so they say!). (2) Roll articles of clothing into a cylindrical shape and set them in rows next to one another. Clothing rolled in this fashion is not supposed to wrinkle (again, so they say!) As in the first method, fill in all space between items with smaller objects. If you have articles that must lie flat, they can be placed on top. If you pack any breakable items, they should be placed between the layers or rolls. It is best, however, to plan to take all breakables (especially souvenirs) in your carry on luggage. Save room in your bag for an extra carry-on bag for souvenirs. Pack the items you are going to need first in the most accessible places in your bag. Remember that your bags will be inspected and everything removed. Don't be too meticulous in packing or you will be frustrated by these unavoidable security checks.

In packing your carry-on luggage, consider what items you would be lost without and put them into your carry-on. Usually you and your luggage will arrive at the same time, but it is best to be prepared for the worst! Medications, glasses, a clean shirt, a change of socks and underwear, a hairbrush, and basic cosmetics should go with you into the cabin. Make sure your tickets, passport and money are with you (preferably on your person) at all times!

### **EXTRA ITEMS NICE TO HAVE ALONG**

The following are extra items that you may find useful, but might not remember to include:

Travel alarm clock	Kleenex	Prescribed medications
Small flashlight	Band aids	Favorite shampoo (hotel brands are poor)
Towelettes/anti-bac wash	Sewing kit	Zip-lock storage bags
Shower/swim cap	Address book	Q-tips
Water bottle carrier	Multiple vitamins	Extra batteries

Tape & Cam recorders—they should be light and battery operated. Take plenty of batteries as they are more expensive to purchase overseas. Rechargeable batteries work fine, but be sure you bring an adapter and converter. Most tour guides are happy to have their lectures recorded and the tapes will help you organize and review the trip photos and notes when you get home.

Hair dryers, curling irons, and other U.S. appliances—As a reminder, you will need a *transformer and an adapter plug to use your U.S. appliances*. However some brands make hair dryers and curling irons with built-in converters. For these, you must flip a switch on the appliance for use in Israel (move switch from 110 to setting closest to 220). If you have these types, you may need only an adapter plug (the two-prong, small, round type). Better Israeli hotels usually have an outlet in the bathroom that will operate U.S. electric razors; however, other appliances will not operate with these outlets.

Toiletries and cosmetics—Most toiletry items can be purchased at the hotel or a shop near to the hotel, however, keep in mind that U.S. brands can be more expensive in Israel. Time to buy these items may be provided in the evenings, however, most drug stores close before our touring day ends, so again, be prepared, we cannot stop for items along the way as we are on a strict schedule, and such delays may force us to miss touring certain sites! It is best to bring an ample supply of your favorite brands—and maybe even some luxury brands—spoil yourself a little on this trip (it helps reduce the stress of other unavoidable inconveniences).

Hangers for clothing—The hotels will supply these, but they are usually permanently fixed in the closet, so if you want to hand-wash clothing and hang them up for drip-dry you will need to include some from home.

Sleep masks and earplugs—Bring these if you are sensitive to light or noise when sleeping. We do everything we can to minimize these issues in our room assignments; however, sometimes it is impossible to totally eliminate bothersome sounds (such as Moslem calls to prayer on loud-speakers at early hours of the morning). Also, these will be useful for in-flight comfort, as you will encounter sunlight (and probably an in-flight movie!) during your normal nighttime hours as we move across time zones.

A one-size-fits-all stopper for bathroom sink—While our hotels will have such, some of the Kibbutzim may not. If you plan on washing clothes in your room you may need this. Our Kibbutz, however, has a token-operated laundry-mat.

Extra pair of eyeglasses—Or a copy of your prescription. There are optometrists available; however, you will have to miss part of the tour to secure their services. Better to be prepared! Also include any equipment needed to clean contact lenses or to repair glasses (hinges, nosepieces, etc.).

Any medication you take regularly—As well as standard pain and nausea/diarrhea control items such as aspirin, Kaopectate, Lomotil, and cough drops. There is no cause for concern about food or water in Israel but some people have a bit of discomfort from any change in water. Note about packing liquids: If you plan on taking any items that contain liquid, remember that liquids tend to expand at high altitudes. Put liquids in plastic containers, filled only 3/4 full, and use screw on

lids instead of pop on or cork lids. For greater safety, put all liquid containers in plastic bags (just in case of spills). The plastic bags will also be useful for storing damp washcloths, bathing suits, and shoes.

**Bible**—A small, compact or thin-line edition (with your name in it). You will want one with both Testaments.

**Notebook**—Many people like to bring a notebook or travel diary to keep daily notes or jot down facts along the way. Be sure to include pens and/or pencils.

**Other useful items**—Zip-lock bags (noted above) have 1001 uses, so bring a bunch along. Also bring super glue, which fixes many various breakdowns. We've used it on everything from glasses to teeth! It can also help repair rubber soles that may split from the shoe during walking. Consider bringing scotch tape, small tools, an extra toothbrush, extra shoelaces, and nail polish for runs in nylons.

### **VOLTAGE CONVERTERS**

Because of the difference in electrical current, if you are taking a shaver, travel iron, hair dryer, contact heat-cleaning unit, etc, you may need a converter and adapter in your hotel and/or guest house room. Sometimes the hotel can supply you with one—just ask the Concierge at the front desk. However, for convenience you can buy your own in the States. Ask for an adapter plug set and transformer that can be used with 50 cycle-220 voltage circuits (ours is 60/110). This is especially recommended for our Kibbutz stay. Voltage converters are available at most discount electronics stores.

### **MEDICATIONS**

Please remember that it is your responsibility to take all medications as prescribed! If you are taking medication that is necessary for your health, be sure to get a separate written prescription from your doctor and take it along in addition to the bottle of medication you are carrying. Keep all medication in your flight or carry-on bag, as your stowed luggage may be kept for inspection, checked through to your ultimate destination, or delayed in transit.

### **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

No vaccinations, shots, or inoculations are required for travel to Israel. However, if you are behind on your basic inoculations (especially your DPT shot) you might want to update them. A good stress-formula vitamin supplement is suggested.

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Our scheduled international flights are on CONTINENTAL AIRLINES from Newark (EWR) via the domestic gateways of Dallas (DFW), Los Angeles (LAX), Portland (PDX), Providence (PVD), and Seattle (SEA) to Tel Aviv, Israel (TLV). You have already been booked on one of these flights, unless you elected to reserve your own domestic flight. To confirm your airline gateway check the departure destination beside your name on the rooming list (see last page). It

is your responsibility to arrive at your destination airport on time (at least 2 hours prior to departure on international flights). You are responsible for your own transportation to and from the departure cities. If you must fly to one of the departure cities (for example, DFW, ORD, PDX, LAX, SEA) or plan to join us in Newark, you are responsible for making your own arrangements for these flights. Please consult the schedules below in making all of your personal connections.

See appendix for complete listing of flights for the tour.

### **Baggage and All Flights**

Check your non-carry baggage through to Tel-Aviv at your check-in at the Continental ticket counter for your departure flight in Portland or Seattle. Be sure and put your name is clearly attached in some way to each of your bags and hand-carry items. Recommended: purchase some florescent pink plastic ribbon (comes on a roll from any discount store) cut in 8" strips and tie one on to each checked bag. If everyone does this we will be able to easily identify our entire group's luggage and save time in retrieving luggage at airports.

### **Meeting with Group on International Flight**

Our flights to Newark, although from different destinations and on separate aircraft, will arrive about the same time. We will all meet at the departure lounge for Continental flight 90 to Tel-Aviv and fly together to Israel. Individual nametags will be provided for you in Newark at our initial meeting together and we will orient you to the international travel arrangements at that time. I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH THE IMPORTANT OF GOING IMMEDIATELY TO THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE (unless you arrive early in which case you should go to the group lounge in the Continental terminal) SINCE THERE IS USUALLY LESS THAN TWO HOURS BETWEEN THE TIME OF ARRIVING IN NEWARK AND THE DEPARTURE OF THE PLANE TO TEL AVIV.

### **Time Differentia**

The time in Israel is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, 8 hours ahead of Central Standard Time, and 10 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time. Remember this when calling home! Flying time non-stop to Tel-Aviv from Newark takes a little more than 10 hours, and because of the change in time zones and the speed of the plane there will only be 2-2 1/2 hours of night sky! Some say that the herb Melatonin (available as tablets at most store pharmacies) helps with jet lag if you take it for 3 days before departure and 3 days after arrival. Also, in order to minimize the affects of jet lag, we will not allow you to sleep immediately when we get to Israel. It is always best to follow the country's time schedule to adjust properly! Since we have a late afternoon arrival, we will drive to Jerusalem, visit only two short sites, check-in to the hotel, have dinner, and be then allowed to retire. And remember, the time you lose going over you gain coming home, so you will practically get home the same day you leave Israel!

### **Disembarkation Cards**

Just before arrival in Tel-Aviv, the cabin attendants will give each individual a card to fill out. This is standard procedure. You will present the card to the immigration authorities as you go through passport control in Israel. Having the card filled out in advance speeds the entrance

process. Remember to keep a pen handy in your carry-on for just such a purpose. Keep the card in your passport since it will be collected when you leave.

### **Returning Flights to the United States**

Our return flight from Tel-Aviv requires us to be at the airport about 3 hours prior to the 11:55 P.M. departure (thus arriving at the airport before 9:00 P.M.). Since we are staying in Jerusalem we will have to depart from our hotel for dinner by 5:30 P.M. with the bus packed. Therefore you must have your luggage outside your room by 5:00 P.M. and be at the bus to identify your luggage at 4:45 P.M. Once at the terminal be prepared to wait in line for an hour and face a thorough Israeli security check!

### **Domestic Returning Flights**

Once you get off in Newark you are on your own and responsible for your own luggage. Upon arrival at your arrival in the U.S. you will have to pass through U.S. customs. If you have not purchased more than \$400 worth of goods you have nothing to declare. You may also have nothing to declare if the items you purchased are for religious or educational purposes. A lot of what you buy on this tour could qualify in this way - but let your conscience be your guide! After you have made this qualification and deduction, you should only list the amount in excess of this over \$400 (see more below). On this amount you will have to pay taxes, even if they are gifts. If you have another flight within the U.S. you are responsible for transferring your luggage to this flight.

### **Security and Airport Taxes**

Airlines and the airport have an additional charge for taxes, security and fuel which are beyond my control and uncertain until such time as the tickets are purchased. This was briefly mentioned in the brochure you received. I will inform you as soon as I know the cost. The cost for October 2010 tour is \$520.00.

## **ALL ABOUT MONEY**

Only you know your spending habits (and limits!). The tour price provides your basic necessities (breakfast & dinner), but you will need pocket money for lunch, snacks, bottled water, soft drinks, and beverages that are not included with meals. This could average between \$10-20 per person per day. In Israel, the local currency is the New Israeli Shekel (NIS) that can be used, although U.S. dollars are acceptable in most shops. When you do use dollars don't expect to always receive U.S. dollars as change in return. Shopkeepers will do this if possible, but coin change will always be in local coin (as foreign banks only deal with paper money). If using traveler's checks, you can also ask for change in U.S. dollars. However, be aware that some merchants do not like traveler's checks because they get less money in conversion from the banks. If you plan to purchase items such as gold jewelry, diamonds, original art, antiques, ancient coins, tapestries, carpets, olive wood, brass or ceramics, you should use credit cards. The merchant pays a higher price to accept the card and may want to pass this on to you, but you could negotiate this into the final price. In some cases personal checks may be accepted and are often preferred to credit cards.

## EXTRA EXPENSES

The following may constitute extra expenses:

Beverages—not included with meals: \$5-7 per day. This includes bottled water and soft drinks at each meal or rest stop, which cost about \$1-2 a piece (Iced Tea in some better hotels may cost as much as \$2-4). Remember that you will need to drink a lot to avoid dehydration, so the money will be well spent! These may be charged to your room in the hotel. You will have to settle the bill at checkout. Please do this early, so that you do not delay the tour group at departure!

Lunch/Snacks —\$10 per day per person. It is usually recommended that you eat a snack at rest stops mid-morning (and afternoon), and a light lunch. This will help you keep up your energy for continued walking. In the evenings at the coffee shops and outdoor cafes you will probably exceed your budget---you just can't help yourself! It is possible to pack something small from the breakfast buffet *-but only if you are discreet* since the whole group doing this might appear to be pillaging the restaurant!

Taxi fare—Although it is possible to walk to places of interest from most of our hotels and a hotel shuttle may also be available, if we should have a free day in Jerusalem, you may want to use a local taxi to go to distant parts of the city. This is also necessary if you plan to stay out late in the city—the easiest way back to the hotel will be a taxi. There are “specials” which are for private hire for a higher price or “regulars” which can be called by asking the bell captain for this courtesy or simply “hailing” one if downtown. It is best to ask the driver to use the meter, though in some cases a negotiated fee for a small group is better, but at any rate a group will split the metered fare. You do not have to tip the driver, and be sure that he gives you correct change.

## TRAVELERS CHECKS & CURRENCY EXCHANGE

You may want to carry traveler's checks for your protection (for added security, keep records of your check numbers separate from your checks and leave a list of numbers at home also), but remember that these are not as welcomed as in times past. American Express, Bank of America, VISA, Citicorp, and Thomas Cook are checks that will be accepted. Checks in \$20-\$50 denominations are the best and safest way to carry your money when traveling. You may cash U.S. traveler's checks in most shops that serve tourists. Traveler's checks are especially useful in purchasing higher priced items. You can convert them to local currency at banks (located in every international airport) and at your hotel. Remember also that wherever you change currency there is a charge for converting money both into and from the local currency. However, that charge will usually be given in the currency of the country.

In addition to cash and traveler's checks, other methods of payment are possible. While not a general policy, personal checks are often accepted, with proper identification, at many shops (always ask first!). Credit cards may also be used. However, a **warning about credit cards** is in order. Unfortunately, certain stores in the old City are noted for poor business practices. If you use credit cards, be sure you get and save the receipt. This will protect you in case of a problem. Be sure and check your monthly statement when you receive it to be sure there was no confusion (there rarely is) about the conversion rate and you were charged dollars instead of the local currency (unless the item is quoted and paid in dollars).

## ALL ABOUT SHOPPING

When you travel to Israel with us, we encourage you to get to know the people of the land. One good way to do this is by shopping. You will enjoy talking to shop keepers, absorbing the sights and sounds of the busy streets, roaming through the oriental bazaars, spending some leisure time indulging in a pastry and coffee at a sidewalk cafe and seeking out that special gift or antiquity for a friend or relative back home. Shopping for souvenirs is not only an exciting experience in the culture of the lands we will visit, but can also be an opportunity to buy ahead for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, etc. They are special gifts that carry with them not only the exotic, but also the remembrance of the spiritual events associated with the places of their origin. You will find a variety of items to buy that are unique to each country and less expensive than in the U.S. Biblical period antiquities are now in high demand since there are new government policies (especially in Israel) that are restricting dealers from acquiring new finds and therefore prices are higher for remaining merchandise. Most shops provide a certificate of authenticity. Even so, you take a chance that the item you purchase is not genuine. Olive wood manger scenes are another item purchased frequently for display at Christmas. Whatever size you buy can be shipped home for you (most arrive safely). We may also make available for order items such as a necklace with your name in gold or silver in Hebrew or Arabic that will be delivered to our hotel at an appointed time. These are usually good deals, but if you make an order, you should plan on paying for the items, even if you find them cheaper elsewhere. Be careful of vendors on the streets or at sites trying to force items (usually beaded necklaces or picture postcards) on you. Ignore them and *don't ever open a purse or show them money*. Above all, enjoy browsing and buying, but remember some of the best souvenirs are the pictures you will carry home in your head and your heart!

### WHERE AND HOW TO SHOP

A word needs to be said concerning the place and procedure of purchases. First, as to the place for souvenirs, it is suggested that you obtain the advice of the tour director or tour guide. While in the Old City you will encounter local bazaars or shuks (open-air markets) where you will get better prices on your selections, however, we would not recommend buying serious jewelry or antiquities from these places. From sad experiences we know gold sometimes turns green, stones are glass, antiquities are faked, and the merchant has vanished! For this reason we will make an opportunity to visit internationally recognized stores for these purchases. One of these shops will be the Olive Wood Factory Store in Bethlehem that we visit early in the tour. It provides one of the best selections of native crafts, but still one must still haggle for the best price even though prices are marked and you are given an up front discount. Wherever you shop, compare prices. However, if you find something you really want, it is better to buy it than wait for a better price and lose the item if it cannot be found. In Israel when you purchase something ask if there is Value Added Tax (V.A.T.). If so, be sure and get a V.A.T. form and receipt that records the amount of V.A.T.! You will be able to get your V.A.T. back only at the Tel-Aviv airport and only at a bank upstairs after completing security check-in and only if you keep the V.A.T. forms and receipts together. REMEMBER, YOU HAVE BEEN ADVISED!

### **BARTERING**

Bargaining is the expected procedure in shopping in the Middle East. You will have an opportunity to try your skills at this in the bazaars of the Old City. You must learn not to be intimidated or settle for a price if it is not what you want to pay, or feel good about paying. If you have found an item at another shop, and can record the price and location you can exercise great leverage in bargaining with this information. Don't be afraid to walk away from something you want. The owner will probably follow you out and offer you a much lower price. When bargaining, you must remember that the merchant's will try to make you feel as though you have cost them money while in effect they have tripled their profit! I have found that in bargaining with Arabs they will not settle on a price unless it is the one they have finally suggested (saving face is all important). Once they have made you an offer that is reasonable, you should agree on it with no further argument. Be sure that in every perspective purchase you thoroughly examine the article or object of interest to evaluate its quality. Items may have been broken and glued, (especially olive wood objects), poorly stitched together (most t-shirts are of very inferior quality, especially in the Old City), discolored, cracked, missing a part, or uneven. No one will be responsible for the quality of your purchases but you! Inordinately expensive shops, such as those at airports and hotels, have fixed prices. Many of the items found here are imported and the overhead is tremendous. Buy here only if absolutely necessary. It is also recommended that you totally avoid street peddlers. They are a nuisance and a hindrance to the group, generally have nothing of real value, and may actually be pickpockets! NEVER EXPOSE YOUR MONEY TO PEDDLERS!

### **WHEN TO SHOP**

Your tour has been designed with scheduled shopping at selected places and times. We have planned this trip to maximize our touring; however, we do want you to have FUN! It helps to shop with an experienced shopper (someone who has traveled to the countries before or one of the tour hosts). Compare prices between vendors and then attempt to bargain them down to a lower price. One reason we restrict shopping is because in some places the merchants and especially, young entrepreneurs will follow you endlessly and hound you when you wish to see the sights. Another reason is that we want time to see the sites—that is what you paid for! Remember that while we are on tour that you must discipline yourself to be quite stern with peddlers and ignore them completely. We will never allow these people inside the bus, and be warned again that many of these people (even kids) may be pickpockets!

### **CUSTOMS DECLARATION**

Upon our arrival in Israel, a representative land operator will meet us. He will help us get our luggage through customs and to our bus. This will not take long, and generally our entire tour group will pass straight through the customs line under the sign that reads "Nothing to Declare." At this point you will be outside the Ben-Gurion terminal and will proceed directly to our bus to meet our tour guide and driver.

When you return to the U.S., you will pass through U.S. customs. You must declare all articles acquired aboard in your possession in excess of \$400. A form will be provided on the plane for this purpose (the disembarkation card). Therefore, keep a record of your purchases as you make them. By law, you are required to open all baggage for inspection if so requested. Try to pack articles that were acquired abroad separately and keep sales receipts handy. You may legally

each bring home \$400 worth of duty-free purchases. "Unsolicited Gifts" with a limit of \$50 each may be sent duty-free by mail to the U.S.—these gifts must be so marked and have the value listed on the outside of the package. You can send as many parcels as you want, but no more than one per day to the same person. Those gifts do not reduce your \$400 exemption and do not need to be declared to U.S. Customs. Call your nearest U.S. Customs office for information on GSP (Generalized System of Preferences), whereby several countries (over 140, including Egypt and Israel) enjoy a duty-free treatment for certain articles purchased by U.S. citizens, provided they were manufactured in that particular country. These purchases also do not affect your basic \$400 exemption.

## **FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!**

Leave your American tastes at home and venture a bit! Israeli breakfasts are great; however, don't be surprised to see a salad bar-type spread for breakfast! Water on the airlines and in the hotels is safe to drink, but you should buy bottled water on the bus or from local shops to carry with you at sites. If any place we visit is questionable, we will advise you ahead of time. All mineral water and bottled carbonated drinks, which are similar to those in the U.S., are safe and available most everywhere. Many fruits and vegetables are available and delicious. But be very, very sure to wash these products carefully (with soap & water) if you buy it on the street (you probably do this with similar items bought from your local grocery store). You may want to bring packets of instant coffee or tea from home, or artificial sweeteners (Sweet & Low will be available in Israel) and other things you enjoy but don't expect to find away from the States. International customs laws forbid you to bring any fresh fruits or vegetables into another country, so stick to packaged snacks. Remember, if you have any special food requirements, let us know in advance as we must make the request known to the airline food providers and hotels.

### **KOSHER FOOD—WHAT IS IT?**

Most hotels and many restaurants in Israel serve Kosher food. Both our hotels and Kibbutz are Kosher. Jewish dietary laws prescribe which foods are allowed and which are taboo. They try to follow the Biblical laws as to which animals are clean and how meat is to be prepared. Meat must come only from animals with cloven hoofs that chew the cud, such as cows, sheep, goats and deer. Fish must have fins and easily removable scales, for instance carp, trout, salmon or herring. This leaves sea creatures such as shrimp, squid, lobster, and oysters out of the Kosher Jewish diet. The common varieties of poultry, such as chicken, duck, and turkey, are permitted and a popular staple in Israeli diet. A crucial point in Kosher cooking and serving of food is the strict separation of meat and milk. These must not be cooked together, nor eaten together, and all utensils used in their preparation and consumption must be kept strictly separate. The separation of meat and milk extends to all dairy products as well. The reason for the strict separation of meat and milk is found in Deuteronomy 14:21 which says, "You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk," which Jewish law interprets as a "combination of the two in any form" (such as in the stomach). To assure that this law is not broken, preparation and consumption of meat and milk is kept entirely separate. In practical terms, this means no bacon, ham or sausage with eggs

(although you can have fish!), no cheese on burgers or a burger with a milkshake or grated cheese and meat pizzas! This also means no coffee with cream except at breakfast, since breakfast is always dairy (however, a non-dairy creamer may be provided, or you may bring your own). Kosher hotels either have two dining rooms, one for meat meals and the other for dairy dishes, or alternate meat and dairy at different meals. The advantage of a kosher restaurant is the rich dairy, fruit, and vegetable dishes (of which Israel has an enormous variety) you will experience. Those restaurants that meet the standards of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, where hygiene, cooking, and service are concerned, are listed as such and display the tourism emblem.

### **MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD**

In Israel you can eat your way around the world. About half of the population has its roots in over 100 different countries. Some of them have brought their original cuisine with them and dish it up in their own distinctive restaurants. The native born (Sabras) are not to be outdone either, and they are represented in restaurants serving the food of the Land.

### **THE MIDEAST FEAST**

At our hotels and outside restaurants the dining style is a multi-course meal. Before you even have a chance to look at the menu, every inch of table space is taken up by a dozen different salads, give or take a few depending on the season. Some of the more notable are cucumber in yogurt, pumpkin salad, fried eggplant and eggplant with sesame sauce, and, of course, the Middle Eastern staple, humus - a paste of chick-peas with olive oil. To attack these in true style, you wipe them up with pieces of flat, round bread or pieces torn from a large sheet of thin bread neatly folded on a plate. When the waiter spies a flagging interest in the panoply of salads, he appears once more, balancing a new array of dishes. Now it's the turn of the stuffed vegetables. If you succeed in polishing off vine leaves, eggplant, artichoke stalks, carrots, peppers and courgettes, all stuffed with rice, you will be stuffed yourself. Leave room for a special delicacy sometimes accompanying this course: kubeh, spheroid meatballs coated with cracked wheat. The meat lovers, who have been neglected up to this point, get their chance now. They have a choice of kebab, shish kebab, roast lamb, lamb chops, and even lamb testicles, all served with steaming rice. Now comes the moment when the gourmards regret their gluttony. More prudent eaters will have kept an eye on the luscious display of sweetmeats and regulated their intake accordingly. Baklava is only one of these delicious confections made with nuts, almonds, dates, and honey. The traditional conclusion of this is a tiny cup of Turkish coffee spiced with cardamom.

## **CAMERA & PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES**

A good reliable camera is a must! Cameras and video cameras can be used almost everywhere except museums. You will be able to purchase excellent sets of color slides of the sites we visit in each country (and this may be a consideration to some as to spare money and photographic supplies), however, there is nothing like personalized pictures (i.e., pictures with you in them!), and for these you need a camera. Also, the Middle East scene changes all the time, and purchased slides will not necessarily represent modern conditions.

You will have to use a 35mm camera to do justice to the exquisite scenery and sites, although many modern digital cameras take excellent pictures, even featuring the landscape mode. If you

do not want to purchase a camera ask a friend if you may borrow one. If possible, use a camera with a built-in light meter as we will encounter a variety of light conditions. The use of zoom, telephoto, and wide-angle lenses are especially recommended. For most conditions an ASA of 200 will produce good pictures, however, with the greater light and reflection of rocks, a slow speed film—ASA 25 or 64—may work well. For museum photos, where flash is prohibited, a fast film (ASA 400-1000) is recommended. I have found that for slides, Kodak, Kodacrome, or Fujichrome slide film gives the best results; however, this film can only be developed and printed by a film company. Be sure and get fresh film as these pictures cannot be replaced. It is suggested that if you buy a new camera or use an unknown brand of film that you test out a roll before the trip. Israel has one-day photo shops, so if you want to try some shots and get the film developed in time to try the shoot again it is possible. Ask your photo shop to give you suggestions on how to improve your photographs. It would also be good to purchase a polarizer for your camera as the conditions of bright sun and stone produce a great deal of glare. The polarizer will also give you greater contrast in your pictures. Many people have also had great results from the disposable cameras and those that provide panoramic shots.

### **SELECTING FILM**

Concerning the purchase of film, I suggest that you consider the use for your pictures when you return from the tour. Slide film will allow you to store conveniently and show broadly your pictures, while print film will provide a permanent record with limited accessibility. Prints may be ordered from your slides at a later time, if desired. Digital pictures enable you to quickly store on a computer and share them by email with friends and family. Be sure to take some sort of carrying case and to carry your camera with you at all times. If you must leave it in your hotel room, please lock it up in such a fashion that no one but yourself can retrieve it, or else check it in at the desk and promise a tip for having it watched.

### **CAMERA EQUIPMENT SUGGESTIONS**

If you purchase a new camera or camcorder for the trip, take your sales receipt, or copy, with you. Foreign-made cameras without receipt should be registered in a U.S. Customs office. Be sure to practice with any new camera at home before your trip. Bring all the film you will need. Film in Israel is often more expensive, and is less fresh than that you could purchase in the U.S. Therefore, take as much as you think you will need (and then some!). A general rule of use is 1-2 24 exposure rolls per day, however, take extra—you can always sell it to another tourist shutterbug who is low on film. If you need to purchase film, the more common brands are readily available at prices not much more than the states (but be sure and check the expiration dates!). Videotape cartridges may also be found at some locations, but the price will be higher than at home—so it is best to bring as many hours as you think you'll need—and the same with batteries. The security X-ray unit usually does not damage film, but to be on the safe side you may want to invest in a lead-lined film bag to carry your exposed film. These bags can be purchased in most camera stores. According to the X-ray technicians, only film speeds of 1000 or higher will be affected by the X-rays, and these can be passed by hand. Remember to use discretion while taking pictures in Israel. A few places are restricted, such as the Israel Museum (including the Shrine of the Book—Dead Sea Scroll Museum), inside the Dome of the Rock, Israeli broadcast stations, military utilities, and military vehicles or installations (especially in the Golan Heights). Your tour guide will point out the sensitive areas and ask you not to take photographs in these places.

## TOUR ITINERARY

The tour itinerary in the tour brochure (see appendix) has attempted to set forth our expected daily schedule. Even so, be aware that it may change as the tour director and the tour guide daily adjust to local conditions at the time of travel. Please understand that this is a tentative tour itinerary that can change if it becomes necessary. (see appendix)

## PROTOCOL ON THE TOUR

Conduct on a tour means more than the reputation of a group of people, it affects the image that locals have of our native country. We are representatives of our country, and our actions abroad do determine in some measure foreign opinion. Remember, most Israelis and many Arabs understand and/or speak English, even though some will pretend they do not. Words of criticism concerning differing standards, or careless mocking of cultural peculiarities will surely be heard. Do not say anything that would reflect upon any country we will visit. It would be most indiscreet to judge a people in their own land. Many of these countries have a far greater sense of national and ethnic pride and religious zeal (and far less tolerance) than the majority of Americans. Remember the words of Ecclesiastes 10:12: “Furthermore, in your bedchamber do not curse a king, and in your sleeping rooms do not curse a rich man, for a bird of the heavens will carry the sound, and the winged creature will make the matter known.”

### PUNCTUALITY IS IMPORTANT

A word needs to be said about the pace of the tour. In order to accommodate the available time for inclusion of our itinerary sites, **we must maintain a strict schedule**. We expect you to get off and on the bus when we so direct, because we are watching our time carefully at each location. You will be provided ample time in which to take photographs of the various sites and scenery. Please do not linger behind and continue to photograph while the rest of the group waits for you. Remember that others have also invested in the sharing of this trip and it is not considerate or fair to delay the tour for one person—even for a brief moment. If a particular site warrants a longer stay we will decide as a group (because this may mean deleting another site).

Please be prompt to every event of the schedule. Adequate time will be given to allow you to dress and enjoy breakfast (usually group wake up at 6:00, breakfast from 7:15-7:45), but everyone must be at the front door of the hotel and completely prepared to go (**on the bus by 8:00 sharp**) or else the entire day's schedule may be affected and we will have to forfeit seeing some site or engaging in an activity as planned. If you need more time to get ready, simply call ask the desk to give you a personal wake-up call at the time you choose. Because a tour must stop at many places in the course of the day, we cannot always allow browsing in tourist shops or snack breaks at any stop. Please come directly to the bus when the general call is made!

Please stay with our group at all times during the tour, especially in crowded areas. Be aware of the other members and keep track of friends or family. This is especially important when traversing the narrow winding streets of the Old City. We will have a tour host in the lead and the rear to assist you along; however, if you get left behind because of straggling, it will be your responsibility to locate and rejoin the group or to return to the hotel! You can get help from

Israeli soldiers, police, or shop vendors to order a taxi to take you the next stop on the itinerary or to the hotel.

When the tour director, tour guide, or one of tour host is speaking, please give him your undivided attention. He may have to compete with other tour guides speaking to other groups at the same spot! Consider also the other members of the tour who will want to hear what is being said. The tour is a learning experience and we all want to receive the maximum benefit!

## **TOUR GUIDE AND BUS DRIVER**

We will meet our Israeli guides upon arrival in Israel. They will attempt to ensure that every hour spent touring is quality time and a valuable experience. Local guides are proficient in biblical backgrounds as well as the geography, sociology, art, history, archaeology, Middle Eastern culture, as well as Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions.

### **TOUR DIRECTOR**

Your tour director is Dr. H. Wayne House. He is Distinguished Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Faith Seminary, in Tacoma, WA, and formerly Professor of Constitutional Law at Trinity Law School of Trinity International University, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Dallas Seminary.

He possesses a B.A. in Classical and Hellenistic Greek from Hardin-Simmons University; M.A. in Biblical and Patristic Greek from Abilene Christian University; M.Div in Pastoral Studies; Th.M. in Biblical Studies, from Western Seminary; Th.D. in Exegetical Theology from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and a J.D. in Law from Regent University School of Law. He has been a professor of theology, biblical studies, or law for nearly thirty years at such places as Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon; Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas; Simon Greenleaf School of Law, Anaheim, California; Michigan Theological Seminary, Plymouth, Michigan, and Trinity Law School, Santa Ana, California. He has authored, co-authored, or edited nearly thirty books, and almost a hundred articles. Dr. House was also the national president of the Evangelical Theological Society. He has led several tours to the Bible lands, including Israel, Jordan, Greece, and Turkey.

He and the tour guide will provide the instruction on the tour.

### **TOUR GUIDE**

We are especially privileged to have Halvor Ronning as our tour guide. Dr. Ronning grew up in Chicago where he began his education. Later, he was a Fulbright scholar at the Ruprecht Karl Universitat, Heidelberg, Germany. He received a B.A., St. Olaf Lutheran College; B.D., Lutheran Theological Seminary; M.A., Yale University; and Ph.D. studies in Comparative Religions from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His dissertation, "The Direction of Literary Dependence between the Gospels of Luke and Mark," was prepared under the direction of Professor David Flusser. Dr. Ronning is director of the Home for Bible Translators in Jerusalem and a founding member of the Jerusalem School of Synoptic Research. An officially licensed Israeli tour guide, he has lived in Israel for over thirty-five years. He and his wife Mirja have reared four children.

### **TOUR BUS DRIVER**

Our Israeli driver is supplied by our land operators in Israel and is specially trained and certified to drive for tour groups. Bus drivers are among some of the most highly trained professionals, as so much of the transportation industry depends on bus lines. Always treat him as a professional— usually they are as knowledgeable as most guides about sites, having heard years of tour guides' lectures! Their job is to get us to each of our sites safely and on time—a real chore (especially since we do more than many tours and go to out of the way sites). Your guide and driver have authority on the bus. They have been hired to assist the group through each day's schedule. The guide will have the primary authority and the driver secondary authority (but both will report to the tour director). Feel free to ask them questions and develop a rapport, but always do as they direct! The driver, in particular, expects to supplement his modest income for driving by receiving a small percentage of tourist sales from shopkeepers. This is a customary and expected procedure and does not affect the price at which you purchase goods.

### **LOVE GIFT TO GUIDE AND DRIVER**

**Please be aware** that it is customary at the end of the tour (last day) to collect a love gift to be divided between the guide and the driver. As a guide for giving we suggest for a tour of our size and length of stay an average of \$50 per person. Keep in mind that this is for a job well done and also serves as a Christian witness to these men who have gone the extra mile for us! I will collect this gift on the morning of our departure from Jerusalem; however, you may give me your gift at any time during the tour. This is totally voluntary but will help these men who have worked very hard.

## **PASSPORTS AND VISAS**

### **YOU CANNOT TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT A PASSPORT!**

U.S. passports are good for ten years. If you have one, please check to see that it will not expire for six months **after** our tour ends! It is your responsibility to check your passport to see if it is up-to-date, or to obtain a valid passport. You will need a copy of your birth certificate for this procedure, and some people run into difficulties at this point. If you do not have a birth certificate, for whatever reason, an affidavit signed by qualified witnesses (doctors, clerks, etc.) that have known you since birth (and can testify to citizenship) is required (always check with the Passport Office about the proper procedure). Start the procedure as soon as you think you may be going to travel. Notify your tour host if you are having trouble. Make sure you have it with you when you leave home. Passports should be kept on your person at all times, not in your luggage, while en route. You will need to show it several times during the trip. Most passports can be replaced if you are prepared. You need the number of your passport and two photos. It is best to make a photocopy of your passport, preferably color, or write down all of your passport information and store in a safe place on the tour (usually with the tour director). If you lose your passport, with this photocopy you can get a new one in about 24 hours from the American embassy in Israel (Tel-Aviv). If officials have to wire Washington to get your number from a file, you could easily end up spending most of your trip waiting for the new passport.

An entrance visa will be stamped on your passport upon your arrival in each country. Israeli passport control also stamps a separate paper which you can carry in your passport while in

Israel and must be surrendered upon your exit from Israel, so keep it in your passport at all times!

If you have your passport we would *appreciate your sending us a photocopy* of the inside pages (those with your picture and typed info) BEFORE THE TRIP. For those still waiting for passports, please bring a copy to us at the airport on the day of departure. If you want to fax your copy you may send it to: (503) 874-1104 or mail it to: Dr. H. Wayne House, 929 Madison Street, Silverton, Oregon 97381

## FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Preparing to travel to any place other than home always presents concerns, but when the travel is to a foreign land, and especially an unknown and often troubled land, it is important to realize how much has been invested for your complete protection. In this section we will describe the security procedures that Israel constantly enforces to insure every visitor a safe trip.

### SECURITY PROCEDURES

As a passenger traveling in the Middle East, you must be prepared to pass through a security clearance before entering each country and perhaps even at your domestic check-in in the states! You will certainly have such an inspection on your departure from Tel-Aviv on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> or Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The purpose of these security checks is to make sure that your flights are safe, which is something you surely want! The security agents are not employees of the airline, but law enforcement officers. Their manner is very business-like and may seem stern to you. They don't smile a lot but are usually courteous. Their job is to keep people with evil intentions off the aircraft that you are about to board. Therefore, be prepared to answer their questions and assist them in every way. At times, their questions may seem irrelevant or repetitious, but don't get irritated, and don't offer unnecessary information---just answer and remember they are trying to protect you. You will be asked if you have accepted gifts to bring to the country as well as other questions. Don't be nervous; just say yes or no and give only necessary information and only when asked. The security person asking you these questions will then go talk with another security person who has talked to others in our group or a central officer, to compare statements. This, again, is for your safety. So, enjoy your trip and consider your security checks as part of the adventure of traveling abroad. They usually make great stories when you get home!

### IS IT PRESENTLY SAFE TO TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

Tens of millions of tourists over the last several years have walked where you will walk and most returned home safe and sound with a desire to go again! The attacks (if any) are generally aimed at Israeli targets **not tourist sites**. However, the security in Israel is universally recognized as the best in the world. It should be remembered that travel anywhere is a risk and in our own country we have had terrorists acts in Waco, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, the World Trade Center in New York, and at many post offices, churches, and schools. Furthermore, our own big cities are far less safe than most of the cities in Israel that we will visit. Still, this is a troubled region. Rest assured that if any significant danger should erupt before the tour we won't be

allowed to travel. However, travel at the present time is considered safe in normal touring regions and our local land operators will be monitoring our itinerary and the local conditions daily to maximize our safety in travel. Since tourism is a major economy in Israel, the government takes great pains to take very good care of their tourists! Every precaution is taken to guarantee your safety and comfort. We will have a private coach that is locked at all times with the driver guarding it. We never allow unauthorized persons on board. Because we do want to preserve a safe climate for the whole group, we may have to deviate from our planned itinerary at times, but only if necessary and then with suitable substitutions. With these safeguards, there should be no safety concerns in making this trip. Most tourists often come expecting anxiety and are amazed at the measure of peace and the sense of God's presence they feel. If family or friends are still concerned, tell them to try reading through some of the Psalms and lay all fears aside. You can almost depend on some unsettling news being aired just before you leave for Israel (it always seems to happen!) But if you feel led to come to the Promised Land, then trust God's promises, follow His Will and let nothing discourage you. Give thanks for the protective security procedures, and plan to enjoy yourself! You will travel and return from Israel glad you made the trip and feeling that it had been most relaxing and secure throughout.

### **U. S. TRAVEL ADVISORIES**

The U.S. State Department issues advisories for travel to different parts of the world. Conflicts erupt suddenly and much as we would like to forewarn you, details may escape us, or due to time constraints, may prove difficult to communicate to you. In order to help us, please call the U.S. State Dept. Travel Advisory Section when in doubt. Travel advisories to the Middle East can be *quite general*, and problems anywhere (such as in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, etc.) can cause a warning to be issued. This does not necessarily affect our itinerary, any more than the Oklahoma bombing or destruction at the World Trade Center affected safe travel to the rest of our county, or even to Oklahoma City or New York. Even if an advisory is issued for Israel it does not mean that a tour group would necessarily be unsafe to travel. This warning applies to individuals, whereas safeguards for tours are significantly greater.

### **SECURITY SUGGESTIONS**

Leave at home an extra photocopy of your passport that includes the number, date, and place of issue. If you lose your passport and your photocopy, this back-up copy can be faxed to your hotel or the American Embassy from the States. Also, you might leave a copy of your itinerary, your insurance policy, and a list of hotel addresses and telephone numbers with family or friends. In addition, leave at home any fears about traveling abroad! God is in control and there is little more than we can do than we have done to assure our safety and comfort. Look forward to getting to know the people in our group and enjoying the wonderful experience ahead in the world of the Bible.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH HOME**

Our travel agency in Jerusalem is Blue and White Travel and they can assist your business or family in contacting you should an emergency arise. Their phone number, in an emergency, is 011-972-508-873-227. They are our agents for the entire trip so someone will be able to get in touch with us at all times. While in Israel they will be in constant radio and cell phone contact

also. The hotel information needed for daily contact will be included in information to be sent soon.

### **PHONE CALLS HOME**

You can dial "18" for overseas information. It is cheaper to arrange to have those at home call you—but warn them of the time difference. Phones will be available in your room at the hotel, and during our tour in the field at most of our sites. Public telephones in Israel are operated by phone cards with pre-set amounts (as in the U.S.), available from hotel gift shops. If you use your own calling card ask for an AT&T operator or calling card company from the local operator. Hotel calls will be added to your bill and will often charge their own per minute fee in addition to the toll call charge. It is always best to ask the hotels policy on charges to avoid misunderstanding at checkout.

### **LANGUAGE**

Almost everyone speaks English so Israel is easy on American visitors. You will have to listen a bit more carefully as accents differ. Remember your regional American accent is not necessarily "right," it is just with which you are familiar. You will hear Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, and maybe even some Yiddish, and Amharic. Try to master some of the Hebrew phrases you will be taught and practice them when you have opportunity. Natives will appreciate your efforts and will help you by correcting your pronunciation. Be sensitive to the social and cultural differences inherent in these languages! If in doubt just say, "hello!" The tour director and guide will teach you useful phrases and expressions on the tour. Use these in greeting the guide and driver daily, and they will be quite impressed by your diligence, and you will learn this small part of the language much more quickly (use it or lose it, as they say!) Remember that English is often well understood, even when someone does not speak it very well. This will be helpful to know when trying to communicate and also to safeguard you from saying something in front of someone you shouldn't! On this and the next page you will find Beatitudes for Travelers and Ten Commandments for Travelers. Read these and take them to heart! You might add an eleventh commandment: "Every day of thy tour thou shalt do at least one kind thing for thy roommate or for a fellow traveler!" May we all abide by this advice, which is quite biblical (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:10; cf. Phil. 2:3-7, 14; Col. 3:12-15; Heb. 10:24 I Jn. 3:16-18).

# **Appendices**

## **BEATITUDES FOR TRAVELERS**

Blessed are those who do what the natives do, but remember to use American friendliness.

Blessed are those who can wait and smile, for they shall surely enjoy themselves.

Blessed are the ones who seek to speak in the local language, for they will be remembered.

Blessed are those who keep on time, for they will not be left!

Blessed are those who pray each day for their trip, for they will find His peace.

## **TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE TRAVELER**

Thou shalt not expect to find things as thou hast them at home—for thou hast left home to find things different!

Thou shalt not take anything too seriously—for a carefree mind is the beginning of a fine vacation.

Thou shalt not let the other tourists get on thy nerves—for thou art paying out good money to enjoy thyself!

Remember thy passport so thou knowest where it is at all time (never in thy luggage)—for a person without a passport is a person without a country!

Remember to take only one-half of the clothes you think you will need and twice the amount of money!

Remember if we were expected to stay in one place we would have been created with roots!

Thou shalt not worry. He that worrieth hath no pleasure—few things are ever fatal.

Thou shalt not judge the people of a country by the one person with whom thou hast had trouble!

Thou shalt not make thyself too obviously American—when in Rome (Israel), do somewhat as the Romans (Israelis) do!

Remember thou art a guest in every land—and they that treateth their hosts with respect are treated as honored guests!



# Songs for the Tour

**All Hail the Power**  
**Amazing Grace**  
**As the Deer Pants**  
**Crown Him With Many Crowns**  
**Fairest Lord Jesus**  
**Give Thanks**  
**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**  
**He Has Made Me Glad**  
**He Is Exalted**  
**His Name Is Wonderful**  
**Holy Ground**  
**Holy, Holy, Holy**  
**How Great Thou Art**  
**Lord, I Lift Your Name On High**  
**Majesty**  
**O For A Thousand Tongues**  
**O Worship The King**  
**Shout To The Lord**  
**The Holy City**  
**The Old Rugged Cross**  
**This Is The Day**  
**We Bow Down**

## **All Hail the Power**

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring for the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all! (2x)

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all! (2x)

Let every kindred, every tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all! (2x)

O that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all! (2x)

## **Amazing Grace**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.

‘Twas “Law” that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come,  
‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
than when we’d first begun.

## **As The Deer Pants**

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart’s desire,  
And I long to worship You.

Chorus:

You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart’s desire,  
And I long to worship You.

You’re my Friend and You are my Brother  
Even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other,  
So much more than anything!

## **Crown Him With Many Crowns**

Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne!  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him Who died for thee!  
And hail Him as they matchless King  
Through all eternity!

Crown Him the Lord of love!  
Behold His hands and side!  
Those wounds, yet visible above  
In beauty glorified!  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life  
Who triumphed o'er the grave!  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save!  
His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die!

Crown Him the Lord of heaven,  
Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the King to Whom  
is given the wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns,  
as thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
for He is King of all.

### **Fairest Lord Jesus**

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature  
O Thou of God and man the Son  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor  
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring.  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer  
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations  
Son of God and Son of Man.  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine.

### **Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks unto the Holy One,

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong",  
Let the poor say, "I am rich",  
Because of what the Lord has done for us" (repeat)

Give thanks . . .

## **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

-Chorus-

Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see,  
All I have needed, Thy hands hath provided,  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine with ten thousands beside.

## **He Has Made Me Glad**

I will enter His gates  
with thanksgiving in my heart.  
I will enter His courts with praise.  
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made.  
I will rejoice, for He has made me glad.  
He has made me glad; He has made me glad.  
I will rejoice, for He has made me glad.  
He has made me glad; He has made me glad.  
I will rejoice, for He has made me glad.

## **He Is Exalted**

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,  
I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted and  
I will praise His name!  
He is the Lord,  
Forever His truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth rejoice in His Holy Name.  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

### **His Name Is Wonderful**

His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful,  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything;  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.  
He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,  
Almighty God is He.  
Bow down before Him, love and adore Him.  
His name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

### **Holy Ground**

As I walked through the door I sensed his presence  
And I knew this was a place where love abounds  
For this is the temple, "Yahweh" God abides here  
And we are standing in his presence  
On holy ground

We are standing on holy ground  
And I know there are angels all around  
Let us praise Jesus now  
We are standing in his presence  
On holy ground

In his presence there is joy beyond measure  
And at his feet peace of mind can still be found  
If you have a need, I know He has the answer  
Reach out and claim it for we are standing  
On holy ground

We are standing on holy ground  
And I know there are angels all around  
Let us praise, Jesus now  
We are standing in his presence  
On holy ground

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning

Our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea.  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee.  
Though the eye of sinful man,  
Thy glory may not see.  
Only Thou art holy! There is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty.  
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name  
In earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

### **How Great Thou Art**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.  
And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.  
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

### **Lord, I Lift Your Name On High**

Lord, I lift Your name on high  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.  
I'm so glad You're in my life,  
I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth

To show the way  
From the earth to the cross  
My debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave  
From the grave to the sky  
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

## **Majesty**

Majesty, worship His majesty,  
Unto Jesus be all glory, power, and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
Flow from His throne unto His own,  
His anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high  
The Name of Jesus!  
Magnify, come glorify,  
Christ Jesus, the King!  
Majesty, worship His majesty;  
Jesus Who died, now glorified; King of all kings.

## **O For A Thousand Tongues**

O, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King.  
The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy Name.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free,  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to His voice  
New life the dead receive,  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ.  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come,  
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

## **O Worship The King**

O worship the King, all glorious above.  
And gratefully sing His power and His love.  
Our Shield and Defender,  
The Ancient of Days.  
Pavilioned in splendor  
And girded with praise.  
O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
His chariots of wrath  
The deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path  
On the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills;  
It descends to the plain  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

### **Shout To The Lord**

My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord there is none like You,  
All of my days I went to praise the wonders of Your mighty love  
My comfort, my shelter  
Tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath, all that I am  
Never cease to worship You.

Chorus:

Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

### **The Holy City**

Last night I lay a-sleeping, there came a dream so fair,  
I stood in old Jerusalem beside the temple there.  
I heard the children singing and ever as they sang,  
I thought the voice of angels from heaven in answer rang.

I thought the voice of angels from heaven in answer rang.

Refrain

Jerusalem! Jerusalem!  
Lift up your gates and sing,  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna to your King!

And then me thought my dream was changed, the streets no longer rang,  
Hushed were the glad Hosannas the little children sang.  
The sun grew dark with mystery, the morn was cold and chill,  
As the shadow of a cross arose upon a lonely hill.  
As the shadow of a cross arose upon a lonely hill.

Refrain

Jerusalem! Jerusalem!  
Lift up your gates and sing,  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna to your King!

And once again the scene was changed; new earth there seemed to be;  
I saw the Holy City beside the crystal sea;  
The light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide,  
And all who would might enter and no one was denied.  
No need of moon or stars by night, or sun to shine by day;  
It was the new Jerusalem that would not pass away.  
It was the new Jerusalem that would not pass away.

Refrain

Jerusalem! Jerusalem!  
Lift up your gates and sing,  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna to your King!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna to your King!

## **The Old Rugged Cross**

On a hill "near to here" stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,

and exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
has a wondrous attraction for me;  
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above  
to bear it to dark Calvary.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
a wondrous beauty I see,  
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
to pardon and sanctify me.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,  
where his glory forever I'll share.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it some day for a crown.

**This Is The Day**

This is the day that the Lord has made  
I will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Oh, this is the day that the Lord has made.  
I will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Rejoice in the Lord,  
Rejoice in the Lord,  
Rejoice in the Lord.  
Celebrate the presence of the Lord  
For He is worthy to be praised.  
Celebrate the presence of the Lord

For He is worthy to be praised.  
Celebrate the presence of the Lord for He is worthy to be praised.

### **We Bow Down**

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,  
Lord of the land and the sea,  
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,  
And Lord of all Lords you will be.

We bow down and we worship You Lord,  
(repeat 3x)  
Lord of all Lords You will be.

You are King of creation and King of my life,  
King of the land and the sea,  
You were King of the heavens before there was time,  
And King of all Kings You will be.

## Israel's Roads

(adaptation of Country Roads by John Denver)

Almost heaven, land of Israel  
Judah's mountains, Jezreel Valley  
Life is old there, older than the trees,  
Younger than the mountains, blowing like a breeze.

Israel's roads, take me home,  
To the place, I belong.  
Land of Israel, Jewish homeland  
Take me home, to David's home

I hear her voice in the morning, how she calls me  
Radios remind me of my home far away,  
Riding down the road, I get a feeling that should have been here yesterday, yesterday.



Wayne House's impersonation of John Denver at the Hootenanny stole the show, and House walked off with first place honors. House and company are again performing "Thank God I'm A Country Boy."

Israel's roads, take me home,  
To the place, I belong.  
Land of Israel, Jewish homeland  
Take me home, to David's home  
Take me home, Israel's roads.



Phil Burks presents Wayne House, first place winner of the Hootenanny, with a gift certificate to Radio Shack. Related picture on page 4.

## ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

### **Room Assignment for Israel:**

*Single Rooms:*  
Wayne House

*Double Rooms:*

*Triple Room:*



# Flight Information