

The Word Made Flesh:

Biblical Storytelling in the Land of the Matriarchs, Patriarchs and Jesus

Through

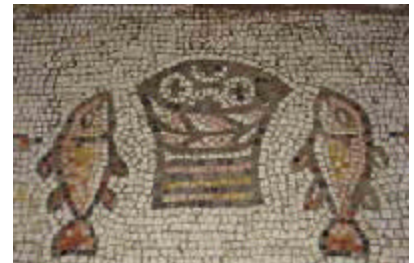
Israel/Palestine and Jordan

Led by

Biblical Storyteller, Tracy Radosevic

January 4-15, 2012

\$2799* From New York



Your Pilgrimage Includes:

- # Round-Trip Airfare (contact ACTS for domestic flight)*
- # Daily Devotions and Provocative Meditations*
- # Continuing Education Credits Available*
- # Guided Sightseeing and Entrance Fees*
- # Deluxe Motor-Coach Transportation*
- # Possible Gathering with Local Groups*
- # On-Site Biblical Storyteller*
- # Daily Breakfast & Dinner*
- # Study Aids and Maps*
- # First-Class Hotels*
- # Small Intimate Group Dynamic*
- # Services of ACTS*

What does it take to be a faithful woman or man of God? Who are the kinds of people God calls? What happens if we mess up or apply human standards to God's work? Well, if our matriarchs and patriarchs are any indication, God has always worked in mysterious and surprising ways! Designed programatically as an extended retreat, this pilgrimage through Israel/Palestine and Jordan will immerse us physically into the geography, intellectually into the history, and whole-heartedly into the stories of our spiritual ancestors. Through incarnational reflection, discussion and prayer we will grapple with the trials, triumphs, wisdom and wanderings of some of the most interesting, flawed, and remarkable people you'll ever meet ... among them:

- Mary & Joseph
- Saul & the Medium of Endor
- Elijah & the Widow of Zarephath
- Elizabeth, Zechariah & John the Baptist
- Joshua & Rahab
- Ruth, Naomi & Boaz
- Sarah, Abraham & Hagar
- David, Bathsheba & Abigail
- Martha, Mary & Lazarus
- Moses & the Daughters of Zelophehad
- Jesus & the Woman with the Alabaster Jar
- Mary Magdalene, Peter & the other Disciples



Day 1 and 2: Depart from your Gateway City. On your overnight flight to Amman enjoy dinner, breakfast and the movie of the evening. Upon arrival in the afternoon enjoy a brief city tour before transferring to your hotel for dinner. The evening is free as you prepare for the days ahead.

Day 3: PETRA

This morning we will tour the city of Petra, the "Rose-Red City Half as Old as Time." Travel part of the way on horseback and the rest on foot through the deep and narrow, naturally occurring passages that were carved millions of years ago by erosion. As you emerge from what seems like a hundred turns in the ravine, the magnificent Treasury appears in front of you.

Day 4: MT NEBO/NAZARETH/BEIT SHEAN

See the Promise Land as Moses did from the peak of Mt. Nebo. After crossing the Allenby Bridge travel north through the Jordan Valley to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus. Visit Beit Shean, the only Decapolis city in Israel, before arriving in Tiberias, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Day 5 - SEPPHORIS/MT TABOR/MEGIDDO

Walk the ancient streets of Sepphoris, home of Mary's parents, Anne and Joachim, and the site of the "Mona Lisa of the Galilee," an intricate and well-preserved mosaic floor. Hear the story of Deborah atop Mt. Tabor. Cross the Valley of Armageddon to Tel Megiddo.

Day 6 - GALILEE

The sun will awaken you as you catch a glimpse of the Sea of Galilee from your hotel. Have your morning devotions aboard the boat as you cross the Sea to visit the biblical city of Capernaum and see the old synagogue and the house of Peter's mother-in-law. At the Mt. of Beatitudes listen again to The Sermon on the Mount. In the afternoon, visit Tabgha and the 1st century ancient boat.

Day 7- MT CARMEL/CAESAREA/MT ZION

Hear the story of Elijah at Mt. Carmel. En route to Jerusalem see the Crusader City of Caesarea by the Sea and the Roman Aqueduct. Upon entering Jerusalem visit Mt. Zion.

Day 8 - OLD CITY of JERUSALEM

Begin the day by walking the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross), and visit the Pool of Bethesda and St. Anne's Church. Proceed to the Antonia Fortress where the crown of thorns was placed on Jesus' head and take time at the Stations of the Cross for prayer and reflection. Enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Walk the ancient Cardo of Jerusalem and take time for prayer at the Western Wall. Tread on the 1st century streets of ancient Jerusalem and visit the Rabbi Teaching Steps. See the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock.

Day 9 - MT OLIVES/BETHLEHEM

Stand on the Mt. of Olives and overlook the Kidron Valley and the walled city. Walk the Palm Sunday path to the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the Church of All Nations. visit the House of Caiaphas, where Jesus was held and Peter denied Him. In the afternoon travel to Bethlehem to visit Shepherd's Field and kneel at the star which marks the birth of the Savior.

Day 10 - FREE DAY or MASADA/EIN GEDI/QUMRAN/JERICHO

Take a reflective moment in the Wilderness before continuing on to Masada, a well preserved Palace of King Herod. Hear the story of Saul at Ein Gedi. Visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Time permitting, take a dip in the Dead Sea. Climb the Tel of Jericho before returning to Jerusalem (Optional, \$49).

Day 11 - BETHANY/DEPART

Enjoy a free morning or opt to visit the Israel Museum and see the amazing model of 1st century Jerusalem and visit the Shrine of the Book (Optional, \$25). In the afternoon travel to Bethany and the tomb of Lazarus. Visit the Garden Tomb where our group can pray, sing, and commune together. Enjoy a Farewell Dinner before proceeding to Tel Aviv to board the overnight flight to the USA.

Day 12 - ARRIVE USA with a treasure of memories.

You will see all of the above sites during your Pilgrimage. Flexibility in the itinerary may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances such as airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions.



Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.

?621 Macon Place ? Raleigh, NC 27609 ? 919 783-8714 fax 919 783-8747 Alphantours@gmail.com www.Alphantours.com

Passenger 1 As It Appears On Your Passport Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Departure Date: _____ Departure City: _____ How did you learn of this trip: _____ Please Register Me For: _____ HLW/010412 ____ Basic Program \$2799* from New York (Or contact the ACTS office to travel from a city near you) ____ Israel Museum \$25 ____ Dead Sea Day \$49 (free if paid in full by July 4, 2011)
Passenger 2 As It Appears On Your Passport Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Please make a copy of the front page of your passport and send it to our office with this registration form. Emergency Contact: _____ Contact Telephone: _____ For Office Use Deposit & Check#: _____ Date Received: _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone (____) _____ Work(____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____	
Roommate _____ Smoking? _____ Assign single room+ _____ Assign a roommate+ _____	

AGREEMENT: Registration constitutes acceptance of this agreement by the passengers.

PAYMENT: A \$350 per person deposit is required for registration. **Receive the Dead Sea Day Option FREE if paid in full by July 4, 2011.** Full payment is due 130 days before departure. Full payment must accompany registrations inside 130 days of departure. Registrations made less than 35 days before departure require a \$75 Late Registration Fee. Late payments will be charged a \$50 late fee. In an effort to maintain lower costs credit cards are not accepted. Canceled checks serve as receipt of payment. Travel Insurance is recommended and information will be provided upon registration.

AIRLINES: Air transportation will be provided using economy class aboard IAATA and ARC carriers with APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, unchangeable tickets for groups of 10 or more with the same itinerary. Flight times are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. Alpha Christian TourS, Inc. accepts no responsibility for airline delays and will not reimburse any expenses caused by such delays. Airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded after being purchased.

CANCELLATION FEES: 100% of tour cost is refundable by the Optional Travel Insurance Program, provided the premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is insurable. The following cancellation fees apply to those who do not take Travel Insurance. Up to 130 days before departure ~ \$75 and any airline penalties. Thereafter, you will be charged a single room fee if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single room plus any airline penalties and the following charges apply: 129 - 100 days ~ \$350. 99 - 65 days ~ 35% of total trip cost. 64 - 31 days ~ 50% of total trip cost. 30 days to departure ~ 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

***NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE** (1) Basic Trip Gratuities ~ \$69, (2) Taxes, visa fees, handling fees, immigration, departure and/or border fees ~ \$456, (3) Non-refundable administrative fee ~ \$75. (3) Love Offering for the Drivers and Guides [suggestion of \$8-\$10/day] (4) Baggage charge, lunches, beverages at meals, laundry, passports, personal items are not included. ACTS reserves the right to add fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

+ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel rooms are based upon double occupancy. ACTS will provide single rooms at an additional charge of \$100 per night if available. Upon request, ACTS will attempt to assign (but cannot guarantee) a roommate. If itinerary changes necessitate extra nights there will be an additional charge (Single ~ \$125, Double ~ \$85). Single rooms are often smaller than double rooms.

NOTICE Except where otherwise stated ACTS works only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall ACTS be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. ACTS assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service. ACTS does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold ACTS harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. North Carolina law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of/ or concerns this brochure or your tour.

TRACY RADOSEVIC (www.tracyrad.com) is an internationally-acclaimed freelance storyteller who has traveled all over the United States and several foreign countries performing, teaching, preaching, and leading retreats. A longtime member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers (www.nbsint.org), she served as editor of their bi-monthly newsletter, *The Biblical Storyteller*, for eight years and is now the dean of their Academy for Biblical Storytelling. Tracy has a Master's Degree in Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, an M.A. in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University, and a Doctor of Ministry in "Spirituality for Transforming Community" from Wesley Theological Seminary where, along with the Ecumenical Institute of Theology in Baltimore, she is now an adjunct professor.



A frequent response I get after telling a biblical story is something along the lines of, "What a great script! Did you write that?" Many are astounded to find out that, not only did I not write it but, it's quite close to the "script" found right in their own Bibles! What's going on here? Probably several things. But one important element is that when I learn a new biblical story I do more than memorize it; in fact, I do more than "internalize" it ... I *embody* it with my whole being—physically, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually. It comes from an incarnational theology that believes these stories—and the book from which they come—are already alive and truly the Living Word of God. My job is to respect, maintain, and communicate them in that form. The result? The Word made flesh. As you can imagine, this multi-faceted visual and aural experience would have been powerful at any time, but it's especially potent and engaging in our current telecommunication era.

My first trip to Israel/Palestine was a life-changing experience for me. Walking the land, smelling the aromas, seeing the sites, and meeting the people had a visceral impact on me. Continuing to visualize, ever since, the land of our ancestors-in-the-faith has provided an ongoing source of deep spiritual formation for me. Subsequent pilgrimages to Israel/Palestine have included a biblical storytelling focus that has transformed this land—which I could already see in my mind's eye—into a fully-embodied adventure for me. I now have a profoundly personal relationship with this place and its people because I haven't just seen sites, but I have experienced their embodied stories (both histories and herstories) in a uniquely powerful way.

As one satisfied participant reported after a recent pilgrimage: *"The characters in the New Testament Gospels were always static—far removed—in my mind. Actually being in the places where all those events took place was like finally having scenery for the actors in a play. Once you dropped the characters into the scenery, they came alive—moving, breathing human beings. I could actually picture the events happening and felt like I had almost witnessed them myself. I can still close my eyes and see these stories happening. Actually being in the place where each story was set made them all that much more vivid and real."*

I would love to provide just such an opportunity for you! I know the impact of a well-told narrative and I've made it my life's work to tell the powerful, transformative stories of the Bible to others. We've all heard biblical stories before but what better place to experience this than in the land of their origins? I promise you that your relationship with the Bible will never be the same again. How *could* it be, once the **Word is Made Flesh** (and stone and sea and fields and wilderness and food and aromas and ...)?

~ Dr. Tracy Radosevic, Biblical Storyteller

"I am a 69-year-old woman who has always wanted to visit Israel but didn't feel comfortable going in this day and age due to security concerns. I am so glad that I changed my mind! When I got there I saw very strong security everywhere and never felt afraid. We went all over Israel, including Palestinian Authority areas, and I was always made to feel welcome. I would love to go again and spend more time there!!"

~ Danette from Cherryville, NC Traveled January 2008