Inclusive Days

Houston Graduate School of Theology presents

The BEST of Israel 2013

Hosted by:
Dr. Doug Kennard - Professor of New Testament
Dr. Chuck Pitts - Professor of Old Testament
May 14 – 25, 2013
Dear Friends,

**Regionaltour** may be one of the most remarkable tours you will ever consider. An ancient historian wrote that “the land itself is the fifth gospel.” He saw the impact of ancient trade routes and crossroads upon Bible literature. They helped to bring understanding to the power plays behind Bible narratives.

**Regionaltour** lets us see this, too. Standing at breath-taking vistas, viewing ancient crossroads, walking ancient Bible paths that Jesus and the prophets knew provides an exciting step toward making the pieces of the Bible fit together. This is much more than the usual crowded church shrine and souvenir shop tour.

For three wonderful days we will focus on the center of Jesus’ public ministry around the regions and shores of the Sea of Galilee. We will sail the sea on a double scale replica of a fishing boat (the Jesus Boat) found in our lifetime on the northern shores of Kibbutz Nof Ginosar. We may choose to overview the route of Joshua’s victory from Gilgal over the Benjamin Plateau on the edge of Jerusalem. Or, we may choose to visit the Valley of Elah and reconstruct the battle between David and Goliath.

In Jerusalem we will sit on the Temple Steps in the Ophel Ridge and reconsider the Kingdom Parables of Jesus in Luke 19-21. One prominent Jewish scholar insists this is the one place where we may say with certainty that we know Jesus was at this place, and where He taught parables. We will walk on the ancient Herodian pavement that was familiar to Jesus, adjacent to the Western Wall.

Come, walk, and learn the land of the Bible with us.

Read the brochure, especially the Tour Conditions carefully. Note that today group travel includes airfares, hotels, meals, transfers, expensive entrance fees, and a scholarly guide at low prices not available for individual travel. Imagine all of this in a fully escorted tour with a spiritual leader you respect.

Return the registration form with your signature, date and deposit right away to assure your space.

**Dr. Doug Kennard**

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**TOUR PRICE: Houston IAH round trip**

|$4,240 – 20 or more participants|

Price is per person, double occupancy.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Estimated United Airlines group economy airfare (non-refundable) r.t., standard 1st class & deluxe hotels (twin bedded, dbl. occ.), daily breakfast & dinner, English-speaking guides, group airport transfers, entrance fees, porterage of one suitcase, $115 local tips (guides, drivers, porters, dining & hotel desks), estimated air taxes and fuel surcharges (subject to change), group travel insurance.

**PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:** Daily lunches, personal services requested.

**SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:** $645

NOTE: The tour prices are based on projected airfares. After air space and fares are confirmed (early July 2012) price adjustments may be made.
Here is your itinerary:

DAY 1 Tue May 14  USA DEPARTURE
Be at the airport 3 hours before departure for security and check-in procedures. Hot meals and in-flight services are per the airline procedures for groups.

BLR = Bible Lands Resource: daily readings

DAY 2 Wed May 15  ARRIVE TEL AVIV
Region: Coast of Sharon
Arrive Tel Aviv per the airline schedule. Proceed through passport control into the customs area to claim luggage. Meet your guide outside in the group parking lot. Depart to your hotel for lodging. Optional is an after dinner to walk to Jaffa.

BLR: p. 6 - Coastal Plains

DAY 3 Thu May 16  TO SEA OF GALILEE
Region: Coast of Sharon, Jezreel Valley, Sea of Galilee
Visit Caesarea Maritima (Acts 10, Peter's encounter with Cornelius) to view the Roman theater, the Pontius Pilate stone, Caesar’s home and overview the stadium. Continue to the Crusader Fortress, the Roman harbor and the aqueducts. Depart for Megiddo, the Armageddon of Rev. 16. View the excavations, the water tunnel, and continue to Nazareth for a ridge view of Mt. Tabor and the Jezreel Valley. At Nazareth visit Mary's Well. Time permitting, continue to Sepphoris before departing for the Mt. Arbel cliffside overview of the center of Jesus' operations at Galilee. Proceed to your lodging for the next three nights.

BLR: p. 6 - OVERVIEW, #5 - Lower Galilee, #7 - Carmel

DAY 4 Fri May 17  SEA CIRCLE TRIP
Region: Sea of Galilee
Depart for the Yarmuk River and ascend the Aphek Plateau for an unobstructed view of the Sea of Galilee from Kfar Haruv. Continue past Kourci ("demons into the swine") to Gamala. Proceed to Bethsaida, home of Peter, Philip, Andrew. Continue to Chorazin. Visit the Mt. of Beatitudes (Mt. 5-7). Optional is a foot descent to the seaside of Tabgha. Visit Capernaum, the operations base for Jesus' public ministry. Sail the sea in the Jesus Fishing Boat, a double-scale replica of a Roman fishing boat. Visit the modern baptismal site of the Jordan River.

BLR: p. 7 - #17 - Sea of Galilee, JESUS AT GALILEE

DAY 5 Sat May 18  TO UPPER JORDAN
Region: Upper Jordan, Sea of Galilee
Briefly visit the Tiberias synagogue mosaics before departing the sea on the ancient Via Maris to Hazor (ancient crossroads). Continue to Tel Dan. Walk through the Nature Preserve beside the roaring Jordan River to Hazor (ancient crossroads). Continue to Tel Dan. Walk through the Nature Preserve beside the roaring Jordan River to Hazor (ancient crossroads). Proceed to Banias (Caesarea Philippi), Peter's confession of Christ. Visit Nimrud Castle, and return to the Sea of Galilee via Quneita to view the Syrian Border.

BLR: p. 7 - #16 - The Upper Jordan

DAY 6 Sun May 19  SHECHEM, JACOB'S WELL, JERUSALEM
Region: Samaria, Jordan Valley, Jerusalem
Visit Tel Beth-shean (Bible crossroads) to consider the demise of Israel's first king, Saul. Briefly overview the dig of Scythopolis and pass by Dothan and Samaria (royal city). At Shechem visit Tel Balata (view the Joshua stone?) and Jacob's Well (Jesus met the Samaritan woman). Depart for the Benjamin Plateau and continue to the ancient city of Jerusalem. From Mt. Scopus enjoy an ancient first view of the Old City and receive a special Genesis welcome to Jerusalem. Continue to lodging.

BLR: p. 6 - #8 - Manasseh, #9 - Ephraim, #10 - Benjamin Plateau

DAY 7 Mon May 20  JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM
Region: Jerusalem, Judaean Hills
Visit the Mt. of Olives for orientation to Jerusalem's Old City. Walk the Palm Sunday route past the Dominus Flevit Church to the Garden of Gethsemane. Proceed to the Dung Gate and visit the Western Wall (Bar Mitzvahs today). Enter the Ophel Ridge to view the Herodian pavement, the Temple foundation, and the Temple steps where we know Jesus walked and taught (Lk. 19-21). The Western Wall Tunnels are subject to time confirmation. Depart for Herodium (Herod’s grave?), the view of Tekoa (Amos’ home), the Judaean Hills and Bethlehem. Visit shepherds' fields, the Church of the Nativity, and take time for olivewood shopping before returning to Jerusalem.

BLR: P. 6 - OVERVIEW: Jerusalem, p.7 - JESUS AT JERUSALEM
DAY 8 Tue May 21  JERUSALEM
Region: Jerusalem
Enter the Dung Gate and ascend the Temple Mount to view El Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Continue to the intact St. Anne's Crusader Church (hymn-sing?), the Pools of Bethesda, and the Ecce Homo Arch. Walk through the market place into the Jewish Quarter to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Continue to Zion Gate, Mt. Zion and the Upper Room. Proceed to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Visit the Israel Museum (open from 4 pm to 9 pm Tuesdays) to view renovated Bible archaeology, the Shrine of the Book and the 1/50 scale model of Herodian Jerusalem.

DAY 9 Wed May 22  DEAD SEA, MASADA
Region: Judaea Wilderness, Dead Sea
Depart for the ancient walls of OT Jericho. Motor beside the Dead Sea to the fortress of Masada. Ascend by cable car. View the ruins of the Zealots last stand against Roman forces, including the siege ramp and the synagogue. Swim in the Dead Sea and continue to Ein Gedi (David and Saul). Walk the path to the waterfall. Depart for Qumran to view the caves. Return to Jerusalem.

BLR: p. 7 - Rift Valley: OVERVIEW - #19 The Dead Sea, #19 - Dead Sea

DAY 10 Thu May 23  JERUSALEM, FREE AFTERNOON
Region: Jerusalem
9:00 A.M. private tour and communion at the Garden Tomb. Walk to the Damascus Gate and proceed to the Jewish Quarter to visit the Wohl Archaeology Museum and view the underground excavations of Upper Jerusalem of Jesus’ lifetime. The Herodian Mansion may possibly be that of the High Priest Caiaphas. Continue via the Cardo to view the Byzantine Cardo Map (Madeba map replica) and walk the Herodian period pavement. Proceed to the southern excavations of the Ophel Ridge. Enter Area G to explore the dig of the City of David and continue to the Warren Shaft. Descend to the Gihon Spring and walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel (bring old shoes for the walk through knee-deep water) to the Pool of Siloam (Jn. 9). The balance of the day is at leisure for personal interests in Jerusalem. Optional this evening is the Tzabarim Israeli and Arab Folklore Show (song and dance) at the YMCA.

BLR: p. 6 - OVERVIEW: JERUSALEM

DAY 11 Fri May 24  JUDEAN SHEPHELAH, FAREWELL
Region: Benjamin Plateau, Judaea Shephelah
Visit Nebi Samwil, Samuel's grave, to view an ancient approach to Jerusalem, and Joshua's conquest route. Descend on the Beth-horon Road into the Aijalon Valley (the sun stood still). Visit Tel Gezer (Caananite stronghold, Gezer Calendar). Pass Beth-shemesh (Samson, Ark of the Covenant) and continue to the Valley of Elah. Ascend Socoh and consider the geography of David and Goliath's encounter. Visit Tel Maresha's underground house and the columbari. Also visit the Beth Guvrin caves. Return to Jerusalem. Celebrate a special Farewell Dinner tonight before transferring to the Tel Aviv airport for the night flight to the USA.

BLR: p. 7 - #11 The Shephelah

DAY 12 Sat May 25  ARRIVE USA
Fly through the night reliving the experiences of Holy Land experiences. Arrive USA this morning. Proceed through passport control and into customs. Clear customs and return to your home.

REQUESTED HOTELS:
TEL AVIV: Dan Panorama Hotel
TIBERIAS: Ron Beach Hotel
JERUSALEM: Gloria Hotel
TOUR CONDITIONS:

1. DEPOSITS: Registrations require a signed and dated IGM form and a $400 deposit per person. Late Deposit fees are: $50 for less than 100 days and $150 for less than 60 days (after invoice period) before departure. Late registrations risk airspace not being confirmed.

2. FINAL PAYMENTS: Final payments must be received by March 14, 2013, 60 days prior to departure. Payments received later will be assessed $50 per person and must be paid by a Cashier's Check or Money Order. If final payment is not received by 40 days prior to departure, the participant's tour space will be canceled and the deposit forfeited.

3. DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENTS: Payable to IGM TOURS.

4. CREDIT CARDS: VISA and MasterCard credit cards accepted for deposits and Final Payments made before March 14, 2013.

5. FINAL DOCUMENTS: Final tour documents (including airline tickets and any itinerary adjustments) will be available one week before departure to facilitate any last minute changes.

6. TOUR CANCELLATIONS: Written cancellations must be sent directly to IGM TOURS. Cancellations (for any reason whatsoever) are subject to an IGM $50 administrative fee. 90 days prior: $150 per person plus applicable airline fees. 40 days prior: The full tour price is charged. There are no refunds for international tickets once issued!

7. AIR TRANSPORTATION: United Airlines group economy airfares (10 persons flying the same route) are non-refundable and issued about 40 days prior to departure. Tickets do not permit changes in names, cities, or dates without penalty. Airfares are subject to change until ticketed. Bonus and discount coupons are not applicable.

8. HOTELS: Prices are based on 1st class & deluxe hotel rooms (twin bedded, dbl. occ.). If changed, similarly priced hotels are used. Single room occupants (for any reason) must pay single room surcharge.

9. MEALS: Daily breakfasts & table d'hote dinners. Coffee/tea are only included with breakfasts.

10. GROUP TRANSFERS & ENTRANCE FEES: Overseas group transfers and entrance fees are included. Individual transfers are not included for those who deviate from tour itineraries.

11. GUIDES: English-speaking guides are provided.

12. PORTERAGE: Overseas porterage of 1 suitcase is included. The fee for additional suitcases/flight bags is $1 per hotel.

13. LUGGAGE: Group touring is limited to one normal size suitcase (not to exceed 50 lbs), one camera case, and one flight bag.

14. PASSPORTS & VISAS: Each participant is responsible for a valid passport with 6 months validity from the scheduled end of the tour, and must mail to IGM a legible copy (do not fax). Data is required 60 days prior to departure. A visa is not required on this tour for U.S. passports. Other than U.S. passports must advise IGM at the time of registration.

15. NO SMOKING POLICY: Smoking is not permitted on coaches or flights.

16. ITINERARY CHANGES: The itinerary has been planned under the direction of your tour leader. It is possible that the daily itinerary may be adjusted by unforeseen circumstances.

17. PRICING FLUCTUATIONS: Tour prices are based upon current tariffs, agreements, and exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure production - April 2012. These factors are outside the control of IGM, and will be defined by IGM at least 60 days before departure. But if the fuel surcharges increase any time prior to ticketing, you will be assessed.

18. DEVIATIONS/CHANGES: Deviations/changes must be requested in writing to IGM ($50 per person plus airline fees) at least 90 days before departure. Such deviations/changes are subject to airline regulations. Requests less than 90 days (invoice period) require an added $75 fee per person. They are not accepted less than 60 days. No exceptions.

19. REFUNDS: Refunds are made only per the guidelines listed below.

20. TRAVEL INSURANCE: IGM strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance for protection of one's tour and luggage investments. HGST tour price includes this travel insurance. Coverage commences on the day of tour deposit throughout the tour duration.

21. PHYSICAL STAMINA: We will be walking up and down stairs and on rough terrain for about 3 miles each day. It would be advisable to get used to such exertion by walking or doing what it takes to be in shape.

22. TOUR OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITY: IGM TOURS, Inc., herein and hereafter referred to as IGM and/or its agents, act only in the capacity as a broker agent for the passenger in all matters connected with hotel lodging, sightseeing, tours and transportation, whether by air, rail, motorcoach, boat, or any other means and as an agent holds itself free of responsibility for any damage or expense resulting from any cause whatsoever. IGM is a bonded wholesale travel broker, which complies with California's "seller of travel state law": CST#2018950-50. IGM and/or its agents will not be responsible for any damage or expenses or inconvenience caused by late registrations, late airplanes, trains, boats, or changes in any of their schedules due to strikes or any other reason whatsoever. IGM operates 9:00am to 5:00pm weekdays excluding holidays. IGM will not be responsible for the loss or damage to luggage or any passenger's personal belongings. IGM reserves the right to refuse any person as a tour member at any time before or during the actual tour. IGM reserves the right to cancel, change, or withdraw the tour in whole or in part at any time. The sole obligation of IGM is to refund payments received in connection herewith if not acceptable by tour members. Refunds for canceled airfares and services abroad for any reason will be made only after having been received from the airlines, hotels, or companies performing these services, less any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the operation resulting from those cancellations and will follow the guidelines herein contained for cancellations. Requests for any refund due to absence from the itineraries abroad must be submitted to IGM in writing not less than 60 days prior to departure and are subject to agreements with overseas Operators. Any dispute arising out of these tours will be settled in the courts of the City of Hayward, CA.

23. AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY: The participating airline, United Airlines, is responsible only for the air travel portion of this tour performed for it on behalf of tour participants in accordance with the terms and conditions of their individual passage contracts and subject to the applicable laws, treaties and regulations governing air transportation. Tour services, including but not limited to carriage by land or sea, guide services, hotel accommodations, restaurants and all services other than carriage by air, are furnished by contractors who are independent and do not act for or on behalf of the above airline and the above airline shall not be responsible for any act, omission or event occurring prior to the tour participants embarkation upon or after his/her disembarkation from the aircraft. The usual passage contract by the airline when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the tour participants and in purchasing a passage contract as part of this tour, the tour participant acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions. The above airline is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board its aircraft.
The BEST of Israel 2013 - Registration Form

Group: Kennard, HGST – May 14, 2013

Name: ____________________________________________ (Gender and names exactly as printed on passport!)

Address: ____________________________________________

City, State & Zip: ____________________________________________

Phone (area code): ____________________________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________

Citizenship: ____________________________________________ (Country issuing passport)

Passport #: ____________________________________________ (Mail a copy of passport to IGM TOURS. DO NOT FAX.)

Departure City: ____________________________________________

Roommate Name: ____________________________________________ (Singles must pay surcharge!)

____ I request single room lodging. ____________________________

($645 supplemental surcharge)

I have carefully read the brochure and Tour Conditions and agree to these terms and conditions as a binding contract when my registration and deposit are received by IGM TOURS.

Enclosed is my deposit of $_________ ($400 per person)

________________________________ Date: ______________________

Signature(s)

Mail deposit to:

IGM TOURS
P.O. Box 20488
Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 727-0380
(510) 538-8777 fax
E-mail: igmtours@aol.com

VISA and MasterCard payments: Call IGM TOURS or submit the card number, name on the card, expiration date, security code and billing zip code.