

The Word Made Flesh:

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

Through

Israel/Palestine

Led by

Biblical Storyteller, Tracy Radosevic

January 7-17, 2014

\$3349* 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*
- # Taxes, Gratuities and Administration Fee*
- # 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 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
- John the Baptist and other Prophets
- Ruth, Naomi & Boaz
- Sarah, Abraham & Hagar
- David, Bathsheba & Abigail
- Zacchaeus & the Good Samaritan
- Martha, Mary & Lazarus
- Peter & the other Disciples
- Moses & the Daughters of Zelophehad
- Jesus & the Woman with the Alabaster Jar



Day 1 and 2: DEPART from your Gateway City. On your overnight flight to Tel Aviv you will enjoy dinner, breakfast and the movie of the evening. Upon arrival in the afternoon you will transfer to your hotel for dinner. The evening is free for rest as you prepare for the exciting days ahead.

Day 3: GALILEE

Begin the day at the Mt. of Beatitudes listening again to The Sermon on the Mount. Visit Tabgha, the site of the famous miracle, and the Church of the Loaves and Fishes. Hear the words of Jesus to Peter, "Feed my sheep," as you visit the Primacy of Peter Church. In the afternoon, see the 1st century boat before boarding a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. Visit the biblical city of Capernaum and see the old synagogue and the house of Peter's mother-in-law. At the Jordan River take time to renew your baptismal vows.

Day 4: CAESAREA PHILIPPI/KURSI

Journey to the northernmost part of Israel to the beautiful site of natural springs where Peter answered Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?" with the affirmation, "You are the Christ." A view of Mt. Hermon, the region's highest peak, recalls the words of the Psalmist. We go on to visit the ruins of the Church of the Pigs in the place associated with Jesus' exorcism of the Gerasene Demoniac.

Day 5: MT CARMEL/MEGIDDO/CAESAREA/NAZARETH

Hear afresh the stories of the prophet Elijah atop Mt. Carmel. Cross the Valley of Armageddon to visit Tel Megiddo. Visit Caesarea and the Roman Aqueduct. Visit Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus.

Day 6: BEIT SHEAN/JERICHO/MT ZION

Visit Beit Shean, the capital of the Decapolis cities. See the Mount of Temptation in Jericho and the Old Roman Road. In the afternoon travel to Mt. Zion, visiting the Upper Room and King David's Tomb.

Day 7: OLD CITY - JERUSALEM

Begin your day at the Western Wall. Visit the Rabbi Teaching Steps and see the Dome of the Rock. Walk 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.

Day 8: MASADA/QUMRAN/DEAD SEA

Enjoy a free day in Jerusalem OR opt for a day around the Dead Sea. This morning we visit Herod's ancient fortress of Masada, built high atop a mountain on the edge of the Dead Sea. This afternoon visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Time permitting, swim in the Dead Sea (Option ~\$49).

Day 9: MT of OLIVES/BETHLEHEM

The day begins standing on the Mt. of Olives overlooking the Kidron Valley and the walled city of Jerusalem. Walk the Palm Sunday path to Dominus Flavit and the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the Church of All Nations built over the Rock of Agony. Visit the House of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where Jesus was held and Peter denied him. This afternoon travel to Bethlehem and visit Shepherd's Field where the angels first sang "Glory to God in the Highest." Visit the Church of the Nativity and kneel at the star which marks the birth of our Savior.

Day 10: BETHANY/DEPART

Enjoy a free morning in Jerusalem or opt to visit the Israeli Museum. This afternoon visit Bethany and the tomb of Lazarus. Worship at the Garden Tomb where your group can pray, sing and commune together. After a Special Farewell Dinner travel to Tel Aviv to board night flight to the USA.

Day 11: Arrive home 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 Alphatours@gmail.com www.Alphatours.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: _____ HL010714 ____ Basic Program \$3349* 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, 2013)
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 \$500 per person deposit is required for registration. Registrations postmarked by May 1, 2013 receive a \$100 Early Registration Discount. Receive the Dead Sea Day Option FREE if paid in full by July 4, 2013. 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 ~ \$500. 99 - 65 days ~ 35% of total trip cost. 64 - 36 days ~ 50% of total trip cost. 35 days to departure ~ 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

***NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE:** (1) Love Offering for the Drivers and Guides [suggestion of \$8-\$10/day divided between the two], (2) 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/professor

"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