GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

WELCOME

Biblical Expeditions welcomes you on this journey as you encounter your faith where it began. We hope this journey will enhance your understanding of the Bible and provide spiritual renewal as you enter the physical stage upon which God's revelation took place. This statement provides basic information about your program.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

A Four-dimensional Approach:

While many endeavor to help people read and study the Bible, few take seriously a four-dimensional approach necessary to understand God's revelation in time and space. These four aspects must be synthesized together to answer the question, "What did the Bible mean?" These four aspects function like lenses of a camera when pointed and focused upon an object are adjusted until the picture comes into focus.

These four lenses provide windows into the world of the Bible. By looking through these windows, we can step back into the world of the Bible, as best as we are able, and can hear it and its message as its authors intended. We find ourselves once again at the feet of Jesus hearing him as his original audience did. And once we enter into the world of the Bible, we can reenter our world and answer the question, "What does the Bible mean for us today?"

The Four Lenses:

- Spatial—the geography of the biblical lands provides the stage of the biblical story, but it's more than places on the map or roadways. The climate, geology, topography, flora, and fauna are all factors of the spatial setting of the biblical world that shaped the stories, prophecies, psalms, and wisdom sayings of the Bible.
- 2. **Historical**—history is "man's reflection upon his past," and the Bible reflects the history of the Jewish people and the land of Israel over hundreds and thousands of years.
- 3. **Cultural**—the Bible must be read within the context of its contemporary culture. In the Old Testament we refer to ancient Israelite culture within the larger context of Ancient Near Eastern culture, and in the New Testament we mean ancient Judaism within the larger context of Greco-Roman culture.
- 4. **Spiritual**—the Bible reflect the religious beliefs and outlooks of the ancient writers. Religion in the ancient world was part of everyday life and not negatively perceived as in much of modern Western Christianity.

Too often, modern readers of the Bible seek first to know what the Bible means for them today rather than realizing that it is the product of time, space, and culture. We must first endeavor to understand what the Bible meant, before we can know what it means. Through this tour or study program, we hope to empower you to transform the way you read, study, and engage Scripture.

PRE-TRIP PACKET

Atlas:

Geobasics

A regional atlas of biblical Israel. By using the maps on-site together with the Bible, we will gain an understanding of the relationship between the Bible and the land. Make sure to bring this with you on your trip. Upon your return home, this map book will be a valuable tool for your Bible study. For those who want to gain a deeper understanding of the physical settings of the Bible and how they shaped the story of Scripture, there is a map-marking guide for this book available at http://www.bibback.com/.

Pre-Trip Devotional:

A Pilgrim's Journey is a 30-day devotional to help program participants to begin to prepare themselves for their journey. Through this devotional, readers daily experience how the four-dimensional approach of Biblical Expeditions bring fresh spiritual insights. It opens the door to the time, space, and culture of God's revelation, enabling Him to speak to the reader in new and fresh ways.

Trip Notebook:

Biblical Expeditions will provide you a trip notebook that contains background information on the world of the Bible, biblical sites on your study tour, charts and lists, as well as ancient sources, biblical and non-biblical, that help us understand the world of the Bible. Make sure to bring this with you on your trip.

Trip Book:

Windows Into the Bible encapsulates the four-dimensional approach utilized in your program. This book contains studies that engage the spatial, historical, cultural, and spiritual dimensions of the Bible. It helps readers to understand how to synthesize these four aspects and answer the question, "What did the Bible mean?" It offers the reader an introduction to the learning and experiences to come on the trip, as well as providing a source of continued learning upon return from the lands of the Bible.

PROGRAM DYNAMICS

Accommodations:

The hotels and lodgings that you will be staying in are comfortable and provide a relaxing environment after a full day of sightseeing and learning. Breakfast and dinner are included in the overall program price. All rooms are double occupancy unless you paid for the single room option in your registration.

Clothing and Footwear:

Multiple lightweight layers most easily accommodate weather, modesty requirements, and personal comfort preferences. A cool morning often turns into a blistering day which can give way to a dry and chilling evening breeze, so plan to dress in layers and keep a light weight wind breaker handy to shield you from the elements—hot or cold. Each evening your Tour Leader will

alert you to any clothing requirements for the next day, so you'll have an opportunity to plan ahead, wash, or layout the clothes you'll need.

Casual dress is recommended, such as lightweight pants/shorts and T-shirts (*shoulders must be covered at all times—men and women*). A lightweight hat is a must, preferably one with a brim that covers the neck and ears. Don't forget sunglasses and sunscreen.

Keeping a baggy pair of pants or a lightweight wrap/skirt in your bag means you'll never need to find facilities for a quick change. Quick changes will be required at many of the religious sites which have modest dress standards. Typically there are no facilities and time at these locations to change. A "modesty kit" that can be put in your daily bag allows participants to quickly change to modest attire and not hold up the group. A "modesty kit" refers to pieces of clothing (for both men and women), which allow participants to make sure that their shoulders and knees are covered. For women: long pants, skirts, or capris and shirts that cover the shoulders. For men: long pants and shirts that cover shoulders. "Slip-over" or "wrap-around" clothing is best for such occasions.

Most of the year is dry and hot. Between your own sweat and visits to various springs and water sources, moisture is always close by even when it's not raining. Breathable, quick-drying garments are best.

Part of the study tours of Biblical Expeditions is "learning the land with your feet." Good footwear is essential. If you're buying a new shoe or boot, consider that much of the walking in the lands of the Bible is on uneven surfaces, rocks, or dirt roads. If you are not accustomed to walking on such surfaces, you may want a shoe or boot that provides higher ankle support. You will also want a shoe that provides good traction. Many of the surfaces that you will be walking over are uneven and when wet are quite slippery. We recommend that you take the time to break-in your shoes before arriving on your study trip. Walk up and down stairs, unpaved inclines, and rocky trails to ensure that your footwear will provide the comfort and support that you need.

Most of the study tours of Biblical Expeditions provide opportunities for participants to wade, float, and swim in a variety of water sources. We recommend participants bring a pair of water shoes or sandals that will allow them to enjoy the water without scrapes, bruises, and cuts from hidden rocks. Flip-flops do not provide suitable protection, and are not recommended. Water shoes with a strap like Keens, Chacos, or Teevas are the best options.

Electricity:

The electric current in Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Greece, and Italy is 220 volts AC, single phase, 50 Hertz. The adapter needed for Israel, Jordan, Turkey, and Greece is Type C. For those groups traveling to Italy, the adapter required is Type L. *Remember, an adapter is not the same as a converter.*

Extra Cash:

In addition to regular tourist-type purchases and daily lunch expenses (\$10-20 per day), it is recommended that participants bring cash for incidentals of about \$15-25 per day (coffee, water, soda, snacks, maps, taxis, tourist guide books, etc.). US dollars and credit cards are accepted in most situations. There are ATM machines, but they are rare during the program,

difficult to locate and not readily available. It is recommended that participants not depend on ATM machines for their financial needs.

Heat and Hydration:

The heat in parts of this region is a serious concern. Even during the rainy season (*mid-October to mid-April*), it can still become hot. **Staying hydrated is extremely important**. Biblical Expeditions will always have a sufficient supply of water on the bus; however, water is not always available to participants during onsite hiking and touring. Dehydration occurs from excessive loss of water from the body brought on by heat, humidity, a lack of wind, etc. It is critical to stay hydrated before, during, and after the daily tours. A steady intake of fluids is most beneficial; consuming a large amount of fluid in a short period of time does not prevent dehydration and is stressful on the body. Some participants bring powdered electrolyte replenishment mix, such as Gatorade, Powerade, Propel, etc. Also, Biblical Expeditions recommends that participants limit their caffeine intake during the program, which may be wise to begin a week or two before departing for your tour.

Itinerary:

The daily schedule is pre-established but remains flexible. When circumstances permit, additional sites will be added to the program schedule. When necessary the daily itinerary will be adjusted to take advantage of changing circumstances. Sites may be visited in an order other than what was previously published. Participants should be prepared for flexibility regarding the daily activities. The most updated itinerary for your trip will be located on the individual program webpage (see biblical-expeditions.com).

Meals:

Breakfast and dinner are included in the program cost (usually an all-you-can-eat buffet at your hotel). Hotel buffets feature a wide variety of breads, salads, vegetables, and meat. Lunches are not covered; however, options are provided each day based on the program schedule. Some lunches may be picnic style onsite to avoid wasting precious time traveling to and from restaurants and waiting in line. As previously mentioned under "Extra Cash," please be sure to budget \$10-20 per day for lunch.

Physical Demands and Preparation:

Biblical Expeditions endeavors to maximize the participants' time in the land providing them with a most unique and rewarding journey. At times, the pace is demanding and daily activities often go for a full 8-10 hours and walking 2-4 miles a day. Most Biblical Expeditions travel locations are not flat, nor are they smooth under foot; therefore, Biblical Expeditions strongly recommends that participants begin preparing for the physical demands of the program long before their departure date. If participants are physically prepared, the program will be far more enjoyable, educational, and meaningful.

Participants should consult their physician concerning these requirements and any medications or conditions that may have an impact on their ability to participate fully. If participants plan to use prescription drugs during the program, they should be packed in both their suitcase as well as their carry on luggage. Participants should bring along a written prescription as well, so that it can be filled if needed. Traveling on Biblical Expeditions programs requires no immunizations; however, participants should check to be sure that their tetanus shot is current.

While a treadmill can supplement your exercise habits, remember that uneven and rocky paths require much more ankle strength, balance and stamina. So in your physical preparation for your program, get outside and walk trails and paths that provide an uneven surface to prepare you for the walking you will do in the lands of the Bible.

Safety:

Biblical Expeditions constantly monitors the safety and security issues of the Middle East. Biblical Expeditions intends for every participant to enjoy a wonderful time of learning, fellowship, and spiritual development in a safe environment. Biblical Expeditions makes every effort to ensure the safety of its participants. The personnel affiliated with Biblical Expeditions are trained to assist and instruct participants in matters of personal and group safety.

While in the land, Biblical Expeditions monitor the situation each day and avoids any sites that may not be safe to visit on that particular day. Lodgings are located in safe, gated areas, with security staff. If there is ever a hint of potential danger, Biblical Expeditions does not travel into those areas. Biblical Expeditions does not take chances! Most participants upon returning from their program remark, "I never once felt unsafe." Like any form of travel, though, there can never be a 100% guarantee of safety. There is a difference between being a tourist on vacation and a traveler on a journey. Be mindful of your surroundings and respectful of the culture and people around you. Biblical Expeditions has an excellent safety record.

Timeliness:

For our programs to be successful and to maximize the limited time in the lands of the Bible, participants must all move as a group. A ten-minute delay here and there of one kind or another can cause the group to eliminate a site planned for visitation. The schedule is full and requires everyone to be punctual at departure times and to follow their leader and/or guide with diligence and closeness. Participants should not wander off.

Typical Day:

Most days begin with breakfast followed by a departure between 7:30 and 8:00am. The group will travel to sites by bus, where participants will begin their hikes and visits to the sites. Most days involve walking/hiking between 2-4 miles. Lunch usually falls between 12:00 and 1:30pm. It is highly recommended that you carry snacks with you. Eating small snacks throughout the day is best for keeping energy stored up in the body. At the end of the day, we will arrive at our hotel for dinner and needed sleep.

Weather:

Please use the below website to check the weather forecast prior to your departure.

http://internationalweather.net/

Regional conditions for all of our travel locations can vary considerably. It is important that you take this into account when considering how to prepare, and pack a variety of layered clothing to adjust to varied weather conditions.

Wi-Fi Access:

Most hotels will have internet access either in the lobby or in the sleeping rooms. Fees may be incurred. Most of the buses used by Biblical Expeditions have free Wi-Fi on them.

PROGRAM COST AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Program Cost: See biblical-expeditions.com.

Financial Note:

Biblical Expedition's programs are designed to eliminate the many incidental financial responsibilities one often encounters on packaged tours. Tour agencies and their clients often publish a low base price giving the appearance that viewers have discovered a bargain. On such programs, participants are held financially responsible for any number of fees not accounted for in the published program cost. These "hidden" or "unannounced" fees can add to as much as \$150-300 by the end of your trip.

In an effort to minimize individual responsibilities for undeclared fees, Biblical Expeditions has calculated these fees and included them into the overall program cost. Except for the daily lunch meal and items related to optional personal choices, the program cost covers all such incidental fees and tips. This allows Biblical Expeditions to provide participants with a realistic cost of the program and eliminate the hassle so often associated with "hidden" fees. For clarification, please review the "Covered" and "Not Covered" features listed below.

Items Covered in the Program Cost:

- a) Roundtrip airfare (from designated airports; may not be available for some programs)
- b) All scheduled program activities and entrances
- c) Program accommodations
- d) All hotel and program-related tips (e.g., guide, driver, etc.)
- e) All inland transportation
- f) Local guide
- g) Biblical Expeditions Instructor
- h) Breakfast and Dinner daily
- i) Pre-trip packet including 30-day devotional, program notebook, *Windows Into the Bible*, *Geobasics* map book, and other items necessary for your specific program.

Not Covered in the Program Cost:

- a) Daily lunches and specialty beverages (including bottled water, coffee, and other specialty drinks)
- b) Personal health or accident insurance—Required
- c) Personal travel insurance—Recommended
- d) Any incidental personal expenses for snacks, souvenirs, shopping, etc.
- e) Any flights, lodging, transportation, or meals not included in the program schedule and itinerary.

Airfare Taxes and Tariffs:

The roundtrip airline ticket was prearranged by Biblical Expeditions months in advance of the departure date. Often taxes or tariffs associated with the ticket are adjusted by the airlines at the time the airline ticket is issued. In the event an increase of cost is applied by the airline, participants are financially responsible for the increase in airfare. Biblical Expeditions cannot determine in advance if a tax or tariff is to be applied. If an increase is applied, Biblical Expeditions will inform participants and request payment.

Single Room Supplement Fee:

Biblical Expedition's programs are priced based on double-room occupancies. If participants desire a single room, an added fee will be applied. Biblical Expeditions will make single room requests on the participant's behalf. A single room is not guaranteed by Biblical Expeditions since it is up to the various hotels to comply with the request. Historically, though, such requests are faithfully honored by the hotels that Biblical Expeditions works with. Visit your specific program page at biblical-expeditions.com for a single room supplemental rate.

REGISTRATION

Registration:

Program registration is available online at biblical-expeditions.com.

Deposit Fee:

A non-refundable deposit (*per person*) is required. This fee is applied to the overall program cost. All cancellations forfeit the deposit fee; however, registrants may apply their deposit to another program within twelve months of their initial registration date.

Disclaimer:

The program itinerary is subject to change. In the event of an unforeseen change in the schedule, every effort will be taken to provide participants with the same goals and objectives as outlined in the published itinerary. The published program price is subject to change should circumstances warrant. This would include (*but not limited to*) changes in airfare, airport taxes, visa fees, airline fuel surcharges, rate changes by agents and their suppliers and changes in international currency exchange rates.

All Biblical Expeditions programs are considered unconfirmed (*provisional*) until 25 participants are registered 90 days prior to the scheduled date of departure. This is unless an arrangement for a private tour (*20 participants or less*) has been previously agreed upon by Biblical Expeditions and the client. In light of the early unconfirmed status of Biblical Expeditions' programs, it is recommended and important that the following two items be considered:

- 1) Individuals and groups should make sure to register ASAP to be counted as part of the required minimum number of participants.
- 2) Participants are also advised not to make any personal travel plans until the program is considered confirmed at 90 days prior to departure.

Should a participant desire to purchase personal airline tickets, make additional hotel arrangements, or purchase any other travel arrangements not under the auspices of Biblical Expeditions administration (*prior to 90 days of the scheduled departure date*), it is recommended that he/she consult Biblical Expeditions prior to any such purchases. Biblical Expeditions cannot be held responsible for any personal flight or land arrangements made by a participant.

Program Correspondence:

Please note that the primary correspondence between Biblical Expeditions and registrants will be conducted by email. If a participant does not have email, or experiences email compatibility problems, alternative arrangements can be made via mail or phone. If there is a group leader

overseeing group registration for the study program, he or she may be able to answer some questions directly. However, all other correspondence is to be directed to Biblical Expeditions. The Biblical Expeditions website serves as the primary and authoritative source of program information (biblical-expeditions.com). Participants should review the website periodically just in case there are revisions or updates to the program, materials, and/or responsibilities (*financial or otherwise*).

Personal Information:

Biblical Expeditions does not share any personal information with program partner associations or vendors unless it is required for the program. Biblical Expeditions does not sell information to any third party vendors for advertising or marketing.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Passports:

All participants must have a passport! Passports must be valid for a full six months after the return date of the program. If a participant's passport expires before this projected date, he/she will need to renew his/her passport. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If participants do not have a U.S. passport, they must notify Biblical Expeditions since special circumstances may apply to their entry into their program's countries.

If participants have an entry or exit stamps in their passport reflecting previous travels to an Arab or Muslim nation, the participant must notify Biblical Expeditions.

Participants needing to obtain or renew their passports must take steps immediately to go through the process. This is most important. Dozens of administrative documents are dependent upon participants having their passport information. See the following U.S. State Department website for passport information:

https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html.

Seven to ten days after submitting an application for a passport, participants may view the delivery status of their passport at the following U.S. State Department website: https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html.

The U.S. Postal Service also has passport applications to secure a new passport or to renew an old one. Visit https://www.usps.com/. Perform a search for "Passport" and follow the links.

Visas:

Each country that Biblical Expeditions travels to has different visa requirements. For participants with U.S. passports who are traveling to Turkey, a visa must be acquired online prior to the trip's departure. This visa can be acquired at the following link: https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/.

All other countries included in Biblical Expeditions' programs do not require entry visas for U.S. passport holders. All participants with a passport from any other country must contact Biblical Expeditions to obtain information about their visa requirements.

INSURANCES

Overseas medical coverage is required by Biblical Expeditions; however, travel insurance is only recommended. Biblical Expeditions does not issue such insurance policies and any need to secure such a policy is the participant's personal responsibility. Program participants may have to pay for medical services upfront but will be reimbursed by the insurance company. Biblical Expeditions requires documentation of overseas medical coverage. This can provide ongoing care in the event that a participant requires long-term care and services upon returning to the United States or residing country. Biblical Expeditions is not involved in securing the participant's personal coverage.

Optional Travel Insurance:

If participants wish to protect their travel investment against an unforeseen cancellation or a needed emergency return flight home, it is recommended that they purchase a travel insurance policy. If a participant desires to purchase such a policy, he/she should be aware that most insurance companies will restrict certain coverage unless he/she submits for coverage within 14 days of registration for the program. Consequently, the participant should not delay in purchasing insurance.

Insurance Assistance:

If participants need to purchase either medical or travel insurance, they should refer to the list of providers below. Please note Biblical Expeditions is not involved in securing travel insurance or the medical insurance offered by these companies and is not under any contract with the companies listed below. Any questions or concerns related to travel or medical insurance should be directed to Biblical Expeditions.

- Brotherhood Mutual 1-800-333-3735 ext. 5680 (http://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/)
- Access America—1-866-807-3982 (http://accessamerica.com/)
- Insure My Trip—1800-487-4722 (https://www.insuremytrip.com/)
- Travel Guard—1-800-826-4919 (http://www.travelguard.com/)
- Travelex—1-800-504-7883 (https://www.travelexinsurance.com/)
- AAA—1-800-463-8646 (http://aaa.com/)

WHAT TO BRING

Medical and First Aid Items:

Medical problems usually revolve around three common illnesses:

- 1) **Dehydration**: The lands of the Bible have a very high solar intensity and as a result participants will need to drink water more frequently to avoid dehydration.
- 2) Diarrhea/Constipation: This is most often caused as a result of the body adapting to new foods and new water. The food and water in Israel is sanitary, safe, and comparable to U.S. standards. Nevertheless, most participants on the program will undergo mild, moderate or more severe episodes of diarrhea. Participants should be prepared with a 5-7 day supply of anti-diarrhea and/or laxative tablets.

Many of the participants on the program will experience one or more of the above conditions. It is unavoidable. If participants are prepared in advance and have the proper medical aids, they

can manage these discomforts successfully. If participants neglect to prepared for these conditions, this could result in their having to spend a few days at the hotel for medical rest and recovery. Not only would this be uncomfortable; it would also cause participants to miss some valuable sites and instruction while not traveling with the group. Should circumstances warrant, participants will receive professional medical attention to bring them to a speedier recovery.

Also, participants should bring traditional first aid supplies such as band-aides, antibiotics, sunblock, aspirin, and a full supply of prescription medicine. Experience has shown that it is not recommended that participants stop any medication just prior to the program. Rather, participants should wait until the program is concluded before stopping any medication. Participants should treat all of the above symptoms early and immediately. Participants should inform Biblical Expeditions during the program if they are experiencing any of the above illnesses. Biblical Expeditions intends for all participants to remain healthy for travel.

Baggage Restrictions:

Baggage size and weight restrictions differ with each airline. Please be sure to check with the airline being used for your program about their specific requirements. We would ask that each participant limit their luggage to one checked bag and one carry-on.

Packing Suggestions:

Customarily, most people tend to over pack for international travel. A good rule of thumb is for participants to pack their bags and then eliminate at least 25-33% of their items. This will reduce the amount of the packed contents and provide needed space for purchases made during travel. There is limited space available on the bus for luggage. Participants should keep their luggage size and contents to a minimum.

Recommended Clothing List:

There is no single list of clothing articles that can meet the needs of every participant or every trip. However, the list below can offer participants some assistance on what would be appropriate to bring. For a December, January, February, or March program, please adjust this list for warmer clothing:

- Wide-brimmed hat
- Long lightweight pants
- Shorts (*no short-shorts*)
- Light jacket
- Sweater/sweatshirt/fleece
- Comfortable, sturdy boots/shoes
- Water-shoes
- Sandals or comfortable casual shoes
- Swimsuit and towel (one-piece swimsuit please for cultural sensitivity)

Recommended Packing List:

- Passport...Passport...Passport
- Facial washcloths as needed (not typically provided by hotels)
- Travel clock with alarm
- Durable Sunglasses
- Copies of travel documents and e-tickets
- Medical and traveler insurance papers
- Refillable water bottles

- Bible
- Biblical Expeditions Notebook
- Geobasics
- Journal
- Pens and highlighter
- Small flashlight
- Snacks: granola bars, protein bars, nuts, trail mix, dried fruit, crackers, beef jerky, etc. (avoid snack with chocolate in them; it tends to melt on the hot bus)
- Small and large zip-lock bags for snacks and collectibles
- Cash and credit card (alert your credit card company about your overseas travel)
- Camera and smartphone
- Powerade, Gatorade, Propel powder, or something for electrolyte replenishment (if desired)
- Imodium A-D, aspirin, ibuprofen
- For women, bring a supply of feminine hygiene products
- Hand sanitizer (small bottles are recommended)
- Personal toiletry and medical items
- Sunscreen
- Small plastic bottle of laundry soap in a zip-lock bag to wash clothes in your room (if desired or necessary)
- Electrical adapter (220 voltage, European type)
- Inflatable pillow for airplane and bus (if desired)
- Sleeping aid (drinking a lot of water on the flights will significantly decrease the symptoms of jet lag)
- Small first aid kit
- Tissue packs (potentially 1-2 per day) as some of the bathrooms do not supply toilet paper

DAY OF TRAVEL

International Flight

On the day of travel, please arrive at your international departure airport at least 3 hours prior to flight departure in order to check in. The security procedures for international flights can be time consuming as you will be screened and asked a number of questions. Remember this is for your safety. Be patient and straightforward with your answers. If you can respond with a "yes" or "no," please do so; they are not looking for long answers.

If you have any questions before your trip, or if you miss a connection while traveling to your international destination, contact Biblical Expeditions at 417-379-4659 or info@biblical-expeditions.com

Arrival at Your Destination:

Upon arriving at your international destination, you will be required to go through that country's passport control process. Please be patient. You are almost done with your travel day. Once through passport control, you will proceed to the baggage claim to retrieve any checked luggage.

Once you have claimed your bags, please look for the group you are traveling with. Either a Biblical Expeditions representative or a member of our inland team will meet the group in the baggage claim area. If you are flying separately from the group, please make sure Biblical

Expeditions is aware of your schedule and that arrangements have been made to transfer you from the airport to the hotel.

Begin Your Journey:

Now that you have arrived, you will have the chance to check in at your hotel, enjoy a satisfying dinner, and rest up for your biblical journey ahead. We pray your experience gives you an unparalleled opportunity to rediscover your faith where it began!