

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

INTRO: UPCOMING 'JUST JESUS' ARTICLES

A few years ago, a good friend of mine converted to Judaism, he said this, "There is a lot of archeology proving the Old Testament to be true, but there is NO archeology that proves the story of Jesus!" He had been convinced by a popular Jewish Rabbi that the story of Jesus is nothing more than fabricated nonsense. He was told that no biblical, historical, or archeological evidence supports the New Testament story of Jesus. **NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!!!**



The Solid Rock Israel Tour Group at a Rolling Stone Tomb – exactly like the tomb in which Jesus was buried. [Photo by Chip Thompson, March 2023]

Just last month, we returned from guiding our 12th annual Solid Rock Café Israel Tour. Since 2008, Jamie and I have been taking tour groups to Israel for a unique Holy Land experience. We decided years ago that we would create the kind of tour we would want to join and honestly, the most interesting sites on our tour are the 'JESUS SITES'. During our two week tour we visit 18 biblical sites that directly connect to Jesus. This month we will begin a new series of articles titled, 'JUST JESUS'. The evidence for Jesus in 1st century Israel is amazing. In the upcoming articles I plan to focus on biblical sites we visit on our tour that prove the story of Jesus to be absolutely true.

Solid Rock Israel Tours are different than the typical 'BIG BUS' tours. If you are interested in a smaller more intimate tour, we would suggest the Solid Rock Tour. On our tours, we use a sherut, a small bus, which allows us to go places big buses cannot go. Our small bus only holds 23 people, which means we can move faster and see more sites – we see 50 biblical sites in two weeks. We employ an Arab bus

driver which allows us to go into the West Bank and see biblical sites that other tourists rarely if ever get to see. Our tour is an OFF-THE-BEATEN-PATH tour. If that appeals to you, keep reading.



This is JACOB'S WELL, near biblical Shechem, where the story of Jesus and the woman of Samaria happened (see: John chapter 4) – very few tours make it to this remote West Bank site. [Photo by Chip Thompson, March 2023]

Solid Rock Café Tours focus on the 'JESUS SITES' where I have been trained by biblical archeologist Joel Kramer to explain the archeology and biblical connections [CHECK OUT: Joel's YouTube 'EXPEDITION BIBLE' channel and subscribe]. I have also participated in three archeological projects connected with the ancient biblical city of Ai – another site very few tourists ever see. We can prove, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that we are seeing the authentic biblical sites. We do our best to avoid the crowds of tourists (though this is sometimes impossible) and see the 'outback' of Israel.

As an overview, here is a list of 'JESUS SITES' we visit on our Israel Tour: Nazareth; Bethlehem; Mamre; Bethsaida; Capernaum; the Sea of Galilee; the Pools of Bethesda; Jacob's Well; Jericho; the Eleona Church; the Mount of Olives; the Temple Mount; Gethsemane; Gabbatha/the Stone Pavement; the Church of the Holy Sepulcher; the Ancient Synagogue in Jerusalem; Qumran Cave #1; and Megiddo. Over the next year and a half, we will focus on one of these sites each month and explain the history and/or archeology that connects to the story of Jesus.



We climb to Qumran Cave #1, located in the heart of the Judean Wilderness, where the greatest archeological find of all times was discovered, a complete scroll of the book of Isaiah. This one archeological find, that dates to at least 125 B.C., proves Jesus is the Messiah more fully than any other piece of ancient archeology. [Photo by Chip Thompson, March 2023]

You can follow these articles over the next year and a half to learn about the 'JESUS SITES' we visit on our tour, or you could join the next Solid Rock Israel Tour and see all these sites for yourself. We love to take local Utah people to Israel. On our March 2023 tour, nine local Utah residents joined us for the trip of a lifetime. They were blown away by the sites they saw and the places they visited. Walking where Jesus walked, standing where Jesus stood, and sitting where Jesus sat, always leads people into a more intimate relationship with their Savior. These experiences not only prove that Jesus existed, but they prove that Jesus is exactly who the Bible claims that He is: Our Messiah; Our Savior, and the Savior of the world.

Israel has never been more accessible, YOU can see these things for yourself and then YOU can know, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that these things are true. We are taking applications right now for the October 2023 Tour, why not join us?

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