

VOLUME

5

# THE PROMISED LAND

By Pastor **John Hagee**

But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year.

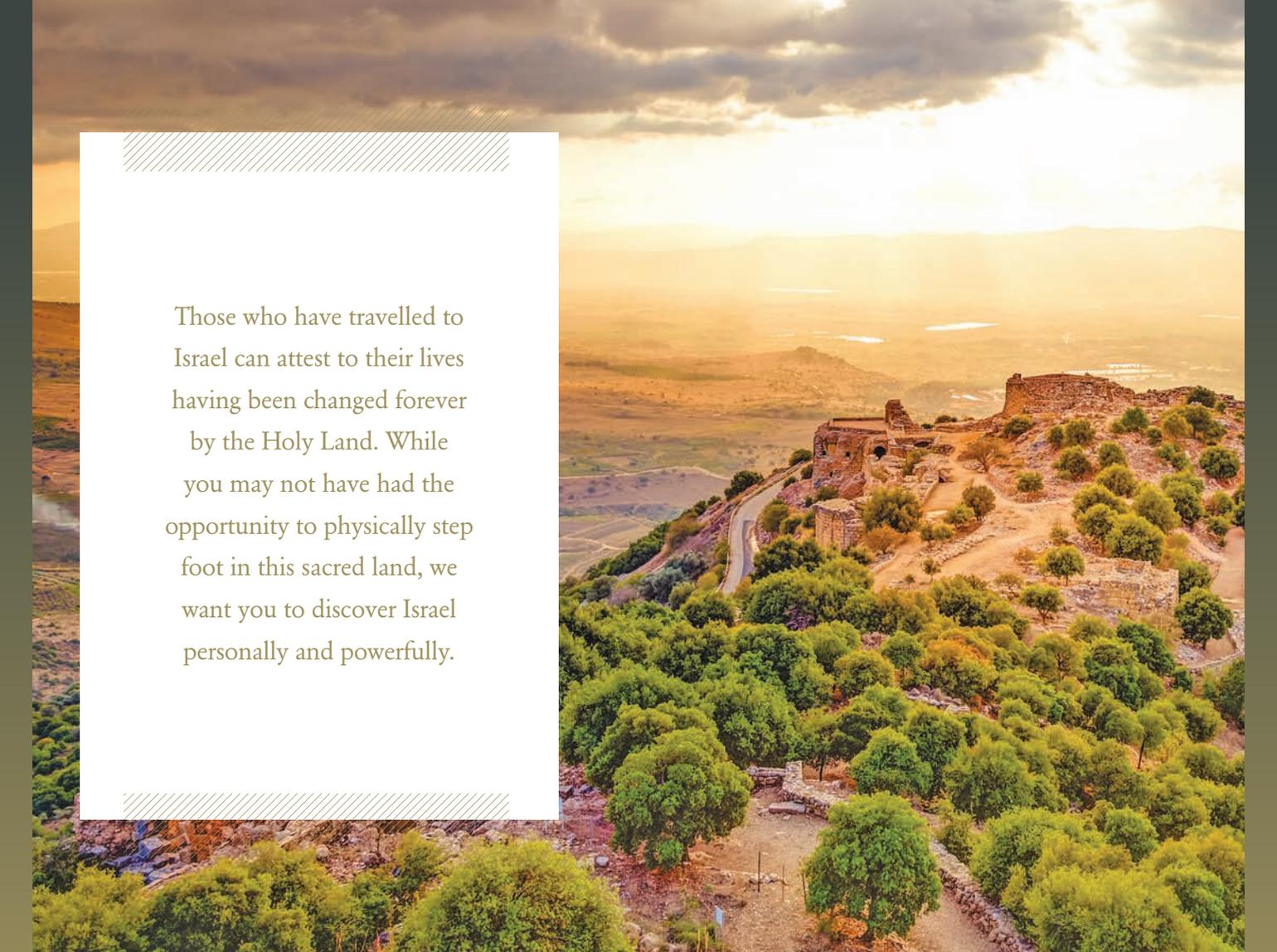
DEUTERONOMY 11:11-12

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Those who have travelled to Israel can attest to their lives having been changed forever by the Holy Land. While you may not have had the opportunity to physically step foot in this sacred land, we want you to discover Israel personally and powerfully.



CUFI's Promised Land booklet will bring the Holy Land to life and transform you. Engaging descriptions of important biblical and historical sites within Israel will transport you to the land of the Bible. You will see the Scriptures unfold before your very eyes as you follow in the footsteps of our Redeemer.

That the survival of the Jewish people as a culture is still anchored to the same Holy Scriptures, the same language, the same traditions, and the same land for more than 3,000 years is one of the greatest miracles of our time.

And it demonstrates the utterly unshakeable faithfulness of God.

Today, Israel is wonderfully diverse. Against the backdrop of familiar biblical accounts and sites, the Jewish people thrive in their ancient homeland while they protect the freedom and prosperity of all people and all faiths.

Get ready to be transformed as you encounter Israel. And as you learn about the Jewish state's amazing biblical history and modern-day miracles, take time to embrace the Jewish people to whom we owe much gratitude.



Dear Friend,

When I first journeyed to Israel, my life was forever changed. While you may not have had the opportunity to physically step foot in this sacred land, I know your journey through these pages will bring the Holy Land to life and transform you, too. Within this booklet, you will see the Scriptures unfold before your very eyes as you walk in the footsteps of our Redeemer.

This is the land where King David established Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. This is where Jeremiah and Isaiah penned the principles of righteousness that became the moral foundations of civilization. This land is where a rabbi named Jesus of Nazareth established the covenants of my faith that are chiseled in the depths of my soul.

The Bible is a journal of those who, through the inspiration of the Holy

Spirit, chronicled events that changed the world. There is no place on earth more significant than Israel. No matter how often I return, the reality of God's unbreakable covenant with Abraham never fails to impress me when I see the miracle of the modern Jewish state with my own eyes.

The survival of the Jewish people as a culture still anchored to the same Holy Scriptures, the same language, the same traditions, and the same land for more than 3,000 years is the end result of God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—there is no other explanation. The rebirth of modern Israel is the greatest miracle of our time.

Despite all the tragedies and horrific persecution that the Jewish people have suffered, the descendants of Abraham are living and prospering in the Land that God promised them in the book of

Genesis. After nearly two thousand years of exile, Jewish men and women returned to the barren places once inhabited by their biblical ancestors. They rebuilt cities out of swamps and transformed the desert into farmland. Israel lives—it is healthy, joyful, and prosperous, and it is a “light unto the nations.”

The Jewish State has become a hub of creativity and innovation that fuels life-giving global technologies. Israeli scientists are on the cutting edge of medical research, of creating agricultural programs that are helping the nations of the world overcome famine and drought. Israel is a global leader in disaster response training; its humanitarian aid teams bring healing and hope to international communities hit by natural disasters.

As the only truly free and democratic state in the Middle East, Israel is a beacon of hope and inspiration for all men and women who respect the value

of all human life as image bearers of our Creator. While you explore Israel through this booklet, I ask that you notice the beautiful diversity of this nation. Among the backdrop of familiar Bible accounts and sites, as the Jewish people thrive in their ancient homeland, they protect the freedom and prosperity of all people and all faiths.

I encourage you to treasure these pages and encounter the land of the Bible. As you learn about Israel’s amazing Biblical history and modern-day miracles, I ask that you take time to embrace the people of Israel—for they are the Apple of God’s Eye.

May the blessings of the Lord surround you as a shield as you experience the Promised Land.

  
Pastor John Hagee



## CAESAREA

*“Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually.”*  
 –Acts 10:1-2

Caesarea on the Mediterranean Sea coast is located midway between Haifa and Tel Aviv. The city was built by Herod in dedication to the Roman Caesar and served as capital of the Roman province. An important center of early Christianity, Caesarea has been the site of many significant archaeological finds, including the theater (which is still used today), the hippodrome (which used to seat 20,000 people), aqueduct, and Herod’s palace. In 1961, a Roman inscription bearing the name of Pontius Pilate was unearthed here. Furthermore, the artificial harbor created by Herod, probably the first of its kind, was a significant technological feat of the ancient world, making Caesarea an important port for trade between the Roman Empire and Asia.

The city of Caesarea also features prominently in the New Testament. Philip the evangelist settled in Caesarea at the close of his ministry (Acts 8:40). Cornelius the centurion, the Gentile “God-fearer” to whom Peter came and preached (Acts 10), also lived here. Paul, to

avoid Grecians who wished to kill him, was taken to this city to embark to Tarsus (Acts 9:30), and later visited here several times (Acts 16, 18:22, 21:8). He was also sent here by the Roman commander at Jerusalem to be heard by the governor Felix (Acts 23:23, 33). Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea before being taken to Rome for trial before his execution.

The story of Cornelius is worth focusing upon for a moment. Scripture tells us that Cornelius was a Gentile who feared the Lord, together with his entire household, and continually gave “alms” (money, goods, or acts of charity and mercy) to the Jews. Later, Cornelius is described as “a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well-spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews” (Acts 10:22). Peter preached to Cornelius’s household at the Lord’s command, beginning with, “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him” (Acts 10:34-35). The Holy

Spirit falls on Cornelius’s household, though they are Gentiles, and they are baptized.

The reason the Lord blessed Cornelius’s household with the message of salvation in Jesus Christ is given in verse 31 (c.f. verse 4): “Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.” Because he had blessed Israel and the Jewish people, Cornelius was blessed by God. The same principle holds true today (Genesis 12:3).

Today, Caesarea is one of Israel’s most popular tourist attractions. Caesarea National Park, one of Israel’s most impressive archaeological sites, is also home to the world’s only underwater museum where visitors can dive into the ruins of ancient Caesarea. If you fancy a swim after visiting the famous museum, Caesarea Aqueduct Beach is one of Israel’s most luxurious. Incredible restaurants overlooking the Mediterranean Sea also abound in this city.



## CAPERNAUM

*“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” –John 6:40*

When Jesus began His ministry, he moved from Nazareth to Capernaum, a fishing and trading village located along the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum is mentioned in the New Testament as the home of Peter, Andrew, James and John, as well as the dwelling place of Matthew the tax collector.

Capernaum is important for the study of the New Testament because of its central role in Jesus’ ministry around Galilee. Many of Jesus’ miracles, healings, and sermons are described by all four Gospel authors as taking place at Capernaum. Here, a wealthy Gentile centurion approached Jesus and implored Him to heal his paralyzed servant. Jesus praised the man, who believed Jesus could heal his servant even from afar, for his faith and used it as an example (Matthew 8:5-13, c.f. Luke 7:1-10). Matthew even goes

so far as to call Capernaum Jesus' "own city" (Matthew 9:1). John recounts that the disciples, on their way to Capernaum by boat, saw Jesus walking on water in the dark toward them. He greeted them with the words, "It is I; do not be afraid" (John 6:16-21). At this location, many of Jesus' disciples departed from Him, unable to accept His teachings. Jesus turned to His closest disciples and asked them if they would leave too. Peter replied, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

Jesus regularly worshipped and taught in the synagogue of Capernaum, and it is in Capernaum that declared Himself "the bread of life" in one of His famous "I Am" statements (John 6:35). Luke's gospel recounts that Jesus healed a demon-possessed man, Simon Peter's sick mother, and many others who were sick with various diseases and demon-possessed—all in one day in Capernaum (Luke 4:31-44). Despite this vibrant ministry, Jesus is described as cursing

the town because of their rejection of Him (Matthew 11:23).

Unlike other popular tourist attractions in Israel, today's Capernaum has an untouched aura—as though it is in its raw ancient form. Divided by Franciscan and Greek Orthodox ownership, Capernaum has fascinating ruins, including a fourth century synagogue built on the ruins of a first century one, at which Jesus likely would have taught, and the remains of the house believed to be that of Simon Peter. Walls dated to the first century were found at that site, along with evidence that the house had subsequently been converted into a church. Peter's name was found among hundreds of graffiti uncovered on the walls, leading archaeologists to believe it had been his home.

Today, a church sits above the excavation site, the ruins of Peter's home, supported by pillars. Glass flooring in the middle of the church allows one to look down into Peter's house from the church above it.



## CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

*“Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’” –Mark 16:5-7*

Identified by Emperor Constantine’s mother Helena as the site of Jesus’ crucifixion and burial in 326 AD, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre adjoins three separate constructs over these two holy sites: the basilica, an enclosed atrium (believed to be the site of Calvary), and a rotunda over the burial place of Jesus. Located within the northwest quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, this magnificent and ancient structure has been renovated several times since its original construction and remains a highlight of myriad Christian pilgrimages. The last four stations of the cross

(known as the Via Dolorosa) are also found inside the Church. The church has been damaged several times over the years.

Fourth-century historian and Christian, Eusebius, writes that in the 2nd century Roman Emperor Hadrian attempted to hide the burial place of Jesus by building a pagan temple to Venus over it. Two centuries later, Emperor Constantine converted the temple into a church and rediscovered the tomb during the process of construction. He built what is called the “Edicule” around the supposed burial bed of Jesus. The bed that visitors see today is dated to the 14th century. However, in 2016, archaeologists dug underneath it and discovered under several layers the original limestone burial bed dated to the 1st century, making it possible that this indeed could have been the site of Jesus’ burial and resurrection.

Thus, while some question the plausibility of third century Christians correctly locating the sites of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, others point to archaeological evidence indicating the sites’ credibility: in addition to the 2016 discovery, archaeological remains of the second north wall of Jerusalem, largely undisputed, point to the Church’s location just outside the wall, in keeping with the Gospel accounts’ description of Jesus being crucified and buried “near” the city (John 19:20).

Over a million pilgrims visit this holy site each year, kissing the places where Jesus is thought to been crucified, buried, and resurrected. Certainly, the most remarkable part about what may have been the burial site of Jesus is that the tomb now lays empty. Jesus is not there; He has risen, just as He said He would!



## CITY OF KING DAVID

*“Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, and they said to David, ‘You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away’; thinking, ‘David cannot enter here.’ Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David.” –2 Samuel 5:6-7*

The City of David is one of Jerusalem’s most active archaeological sites. The oldest part of Jerusalem, it was a settlement during the Canaanite period. King David captured the city over 3,000 years ago and brought the Ark of the Covenant here as a declaration of a united Israel and Jerusalem as its capital. It is within walking distance from the Old City of

Jerusalem and the Western Wall and is one of the most exciting sites in Israel. Visitors from all over the world come to see the strongest physical connection between the stories of the Bible and reality, the place where the Holy City started.

Today the City of David is an archeological park that tells the history of Jerusalem, its wars and hardships, its prophets and kings, and the history of the Jews during biblical times. The remains of the city are present in the ancient stones and the thousands of shards that cover the pathways between the buildings.

Among the archeological ruins are large elaborate houses that bear witness to the high social status of the city's residents. Warren's Shaft leads to the tunnel that was used to transport water from the Gihon Spring outside the city, next to the remains of one of several towers used to defend the well. It is thought that King Solomon was anointed and crowned king of Israel at this site. Among the ruins found in the city were personal seals

for signing letters and documents bearing the names of their owners, including seals of priests mentioned by the prophet Jeremiah. These were the effects of people who are mentioned in the Bible.

In Scripture, the City of David is so named because King David captured it from the Jebusites, built a stronghold there, and called it "the city of David" (2 Samuel 5:6-9). However, biblically, it is simply another way of saying "Jerusalem."

Exciting archaeological finds are constantly being unearthed in the City of David, and participants of CUFI tours have the opportunity to meet with Ze'ev Orenstein, Director of International Affairs for the City of David Foundation, and explore some of the area's most recent discoveries.



## DEAD SEA

*“And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.”*

*—Zechariah 14:8-9*

Called “Sea of Salt” in Hebrew, the Dead Sea is a hyper saline lake that is truly one of Earth’s unique places. It is the lowest spot on earth (1,290 feet below sea level) and has the highest mineral content of any body of water in the world. Truly a priceless national treasure, the Dead Sea boasts mounds of crystallized salt formations that dot the

shoreline creating breathtaking natural sites. Nothing grows in the immediate area. The sustenance of animal life, as we know it, is impossible; hence its name, the Dead Sea.

Biblically, it was a place of refuge for King David. It was one of the world's first health resorts (for Herod the Great), and it has been the supplier of a wide variety of products, from balms for Egyptian mummification to potash for fertilizers.

However, the Dead Sea does not figure prominently in the biblical narratives. Its most important role was as a barrier, blocking traffic to Judah from the east. An advancing army of Ammonites and Moabites crossed a shallow part of the Dead Sea on their way to attack King Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20). Ezekiel prophesied that one day the Dead Sea will be fresh water, and fishermen will spread their nets along the shore (Ezekiel 47:10).

The Dead Sea has been shrinking rapidly, declining 30% in the past 20 years. A

project called the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance is in the works by Jordan and Israel as a way of pumping water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, interestingly reminiscent of Ezekiel's prophecy. The goal of the project would be to stabilize the water levels of the Dead Sea and provide potable water to Jordan, Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Today, the Dead Sea area has become a major center for health research and treatment for several reasons. The mineral content of the water, very low content of allergens, reduced ultraviolet component of solar radiation, and the higher atmospheric pressure each have specific health effects. Additionally, the black mud found in vast quantities has scientifically recognized curative qualities. The salt and the minerals from the Dead Sea are also used to create a variety of cosmetics and skin care products.



## GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

*“And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, ‘Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.’... And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.” –Luke 22:41-42, 44*

The Garden of Gethsemane (at the foot of the Mount of Olives) is now a flowering garden where several ancient gnarled olive trees still bear fruit. The name is derived from the Hebrew words “Gat Sgemanim,” meaning “olive press.” The olive trees here are the oldest in Israel, over 900 years old,

still bearing fruit. It is likely these trees are offshoots of those in the area in Jesus's day.

It was here that Jesus loved to come and pray. It was here that He endured the anguish and intense anxiety of foreseeing the cross, and the cup He must drink, and yet yielded to His Father's will in perfect submission (Luke 22:39). Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss in this garden, and Peter cut off the ear of the Roman soldier to defend Jesus.

The Garden reminds Christian pilgrims of the perfect humanity of our Lord, who now sympathizes us in our weakness, as well as His example for us as believers. Despite Jesus' consistently busy schedule, He always took time to pray and be alone with His Father, a pattern most clearly showcased in Luke's gospel. We also must prepare in prayer to fulfill the calling which God has on each of our lives.

Adjacent to the Garden is the Church of All Nations, housing the very rock by which it is believed Jesus prayed. The church was so

named because 16 nations contributed to its construction. The Grotto of Gethsemane, the place where it is believed Jesus often camped with His disciples, is about 100 meters north of the church. Also called the Cave of the Olive Press, because a hole in the wall may indicate that a wooden beam was inserted to press olives there, the Grotto is now a chapel. A passageway from the Grotto leads to the "Tomb of Mary," one of the traditional sites where it is believed Jesus's mother is buried.



## GARDEN TOMB

*“Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.” –John 19:41-42*

The Garden Tomb is just a short walk from “Gordon’s Calvary.” It is believed by many Christians, generally Protestants, to be the site of the borrowed tomb of Jesus because it closely fits the description of the tomb in the Gospel of John 19:41-42 which says, “At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was

a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.”

Found by a British soldier in the late 19th century, multiple archaeological discoveries lead many to believe that the Garden Tomb—located just a few yards from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre—was truly the burial place and resurrection site of Jesus. Between Calvary and the tomb, there is an ancient winepress and a very large water cistern, indicating this area was used as a garden. The tomb itself has two chambers cut from rock and dates back to the days of Christ. The tomb also has a shaft and metal pin for rolling back the stone which covered it, as described in the account of Jesus’ resurrection. Moreover, the cliff near the Garden Tomb is said to resemble a skull, leading many to believe it is why the hill where Jesus was crucified was called “Calvary” or “Golgotha” (“Place of the Skull”) in Jesus’ day.

Evidence further indicates that this not a typical burial site. Joseph of Arimathea was

believed to be a rich man and would have prepared an elaborate tomb for himself such as this one. Today, the Garden Tomb Association of London maintains the tomb and garden area.

Regardless of whether one believes the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or the Garden Tomb is the true site of Jesus’ crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, what matters is that Jesus is alive and seated at the right hand of God. And He will return with power!

As you reflect on this remarkable site, take the time to think of what might have happened in this historic place – the resurrection of the Son of God. Jesus revealed himself to Mary. Peter and John raced to the tomb, only to find the burial clothes on the slab along with His tallit—prayer shawl—folded neatly (John 20:1-18). This was visible proof of God’s authority over death, hell, and the grave, the verification that Jesus Christ was and is our Savior. As you meditate on this place, be assured as Mary was, that Jesus is alive!



## GAZA BORDER

*“O God, do not remain quiet; do not be silent and, O God, do not be still. For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves. They make shrewd plans against Your people, And conspire together against Your treasured ones. They have said, ‘Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.’” –Psalm 83:1-4*

The Gaza-Israel border is one of the most volatile places in the Middle East. The terrorist organization Hamas controls Gaza and uses its location there to regularly launch rockets into Israel. Since 2018, the group has held riots alongside the border intermingling armed terrorists with civilians in the hopes of drawing public condemnation against Israel for those

caught in the crossfire. Israel unilaterally disengaged from Gaza in 2005, in what then Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Daniel Ayalon, referred to as “a test case for peace.”

The hope and prayer were that by leaving the Palestinians to control the coastal enclave and leaving behind an economic infrastructure for the population to utilize, a new path forward could be forged. Unfortunately, Palestinians in Gaza destroyed the economic infrastructure – which would have provided for the welfare of 100,000 people – and turned the Gaza Strip into a base of operations from which to terrorize Israelis. A generation of Israelis has grown up under this constant threat, constantly being forced to take refuge in bomb shelters with only seconds to reach one. The situation is so grave that 63% of Israeli children living in communities near the Gaza border have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

During one sustained conflict in 2014, CUFI brought one pastor from each state in the union on a solidarity mission to southern Israel. The people of Sderot – known as “rocket town” due to the deluge they suffer on a regular basis – were so grateful that many came into the streets and met our busses with smiles and tears. In addition, CUFI supports the southern Israeli economy by regularly selling products produced there to our membership. Finally, while many in the media and elsewhere seem content glossing over the situation in southern Israel, CUFI works diligently to educate the press, our membership, and elected officials about the untenable state of affairs in that region through direct communications, our eight social media channels, and on our weekly television program, *The Watchman*, which airs on TBN and the Fox Business Network.



## GOLAN HEIGHTS

*“Hear my cry, O God; give heed to my prayer. From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a refuge for me, a tower of strength against the enemy.” –Psalm 61:1-3*

Geographically, the Heights are bordered on the west by a rock escarpment that drops 1,700 feet to the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River, on the south by the

Yarmouk River, on the north by Mount Hermon, and on the east by a largely flat plain, called the Hauran. The Golan is usually divided into three regions: northern (between the Sa’ar and Jilabun valleys), central (between the Jilabun and Daliyot valleys), and southern (between the Dlayot and Yarmouk valleys). The Golan Heights themselves are between 400 and 1,700 feet high and are the source of about 15% of Israel’s water supply.

In Biblical times, the Golan Heights was referred to as Bashan; the word “Golan” comes from the Biblical city of Golan in Bashan (Deuteronomy 4:43, Joshua 21:27). The area was assigned to the tribe of Manasseh (Joshua 13:29-31). In early First Temple times, (953-586 B.C.), the area was contested between the northern Jewish kingdom of Israel and the Aramean kingdom based in Damascus. King Ahab of Israel (who reigned 874-852 B.C.) defeated Ben-Hadad I of Damascus near the site of Kibbutz Afik in the southern Golan (I Kings 20:26-30), and the prophet Elisha prophesied that King Jehoash of Israel (who reigned 801-785 B.C.) would defeat Ben-Hadad III of Damascus, also near Kibbutz Afik (II Kings 13:17). In the late 6th and 5th centuries B.C., the region was settled by returning Jewish exiles from Babylonia (modern Iraq).

Today, Israel controls the Golan Heights that borders Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Prior to 1967, when Israel captured the Golan

Heights from Syria, the territory was used to shell innocent Israelis below and Palestinian terrorists used it as a staging ground for attacks. Fundamentally, any scenario where Israel is not in control of this territory would be untenable. Hostile forces bent on Israel’s wholesale destruction would be looking down into Israel with the strategic high ground enabling them to target innocent Israelis just as they did prior to the 1967 Six Day War.

In 2016, Israel conducted over 700 humanitarian aid missions to aid Syrians at the border with Israel in “Operation Good Neighbor.”

In 2018, the US recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which followed just one week after CUFJ released a statement backing associated legislation and after a month-long advocacy campaign. This courageous and historic proclamation has had significant implications for Israel’s security and the safety of her citizens.



## HERODIAN QUARTER

*“Now... Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king...” –Matthew 2:1*

In the time of Herod, the area of the modern-day Jewish Quarter was part of a luxurious “Upper City,” occupied primarily

by the families of important Jewish Temple priests. Excavations after the War of 1967 exposed the remains of several mansions dating to this period. This rediscovered Herodian quarter now lies from three to seven meters below street level, preserved in the Wohl Archaeological Museum. Inside

are finds from the First Temple Period and the Hasmonean Period, the ages of ancient Jerusalem's splendor.

On display are geometrically patterned mosaic floors, colorful frescoes, and costly glassware, stone objects, and ceramics that provide a peek into the domestic life of the elite in the days of Herod and Jesus. In the first part of the museum (called the Western House), several small stone cisterns have been identified as private mikveh, Jewish ritual baths; holograms depict their use. A small ascending staircase ends abruptly, a reminder that nothing above ground level survived the Roman devastation of 70 A.D.

In the Middle Complex is where archaeologists discovered the remains of two separate houses with a maze-pattern mosaic floor covered in burnt wood. This is believed to be fire damage from the Roman attack on Jerusalem. The largest and most complete of the Herodian houses is the Palatial Mansion, which also has signs of fire damage, likely

from the great fire of 70 AD when the Temple was destroyed, as well as beautiful mosaic floors and ritual baths.

Herod the Great is a biblical and historical figure who is featured in the narrative of Jesus' birth. History attests to Herod being in a state of mental and physical disorder in his last days, during which Jesus was born. He reportedly altered his will several times before finally disinheriting his son and killing him and attempted suicide before he died. The biblical account of Herod's order for all newborn males to be killed, in an effort to murder Jesus, is consistent with what is known of Herod's character in his final years of life (Matthew 2:16).



## JERUSALEM

*“How can we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget her skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy.”*

*–Psalm 137:4-6*

Jerusalem is the jewel of the ages and the city of David! The Bible records in I Chronicles

11:4-9 that the Lord gave Jerusalem into the hands of King David in 1004 B.C. David and his army took the city from the Jebusites and chose to make it his city. In Jerusalem, Solomon built the glorious First Temple; Nehemiah would later rebuild the Second Temple at the same site. Once David conquered the city (with God’s blessing) the die was cast for Jerusalem to be central in

world events. God chose this city as His own and decided that it would be the capital of Israel, the religious focal point of the Jewish people. Because of this, nations have both revered and reviled this most unique city.

Jerusalem, in the history of God's revelation and in His redemptive plan for man, is by far the most important site on this earth. This royal city is the capital of the only kingdom God has established among men. Here, the temple was erected, and sacrifices legitimately offered to the Lord. This is the place where Jesus died, resurrected, and ascended into heaven. And to Jerusalem, the Messiah will return.

No site noted in all the Scripture receives such constant and exalted praise. Also called "Zion" in the Bible, especially the poetical writings, Jerusalem is mentioned in the Tanak—the Hebrew Bible—over 800 times. According to one source, Jerusalem has been captured at least 20 times. It is a hub of religious significance to three of the world's major

religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Christians recognize and revere many holy sites located within Jerusalem, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Garden Tomb, Gethsemane, and others. Muslims, too, recognize holy sites in this ancient city, including the Dome of Rock (which sits where the Second Temple once was) and Al Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site.

While Jerusalem has been conquered a plethora of times and more than 100 battles have been waged over control of the city throughout its history, it has not been the capital of any ruling empire besides the Crusader kingdom's and the Jewish people's. Moreover, the Jewish people alone—no other people group—have consistently considered Jerusalem their eternal capital. Since David first claimed the city as his own, Jerusalem has always been the capital of the people of Israel.

## Jerusalem Today

Today, one may enter the Old City of Jerusalem through the Jaffa Gate, a historic gate with a very deep significance to the Jewish people. Jaffa Gate is the main entrance to the Old City, built in the 16th century under Ottoman rule. It bears the marks of bullet holes from the Arab-Israeli war in 1948. However, not until 1967 during the Six-Day War did Israel successfully liberate the gate, allowing Jewish people access to the Old City of Jerusalem and the opportunity to pray at the Western Wall for the first time in 2,000 years.

Inside, one may shop in the market and follow the Via Dolorosa—the way which it is believed Jesus took carrying His cross to Golgotha. The Via Dolorosa (which means “Way of Suffering” in Latin) is 2,000 feet long. It is a five-minute walk from the Garden of Gethsemane.

More than 3.5 million tourists visit Jerusalem every year from diverse walks of life and myriad faiths. Israel’s legislative body, the Knesset, meets in Jerusalem. The city is home to over 1,500 public parks and gardens, 26 wineries, over 30 annual festivals, and 900-year old olive trees. Today, most of Jerusalem’s residents are Jewish and have been since almost a century prior to Israel’s declaration of independence in 1948. However, the city boasts a significant Arab population as well. Under Israeli control, people of all faiths can access their holy sites in Jerusalem, and the ancient city is closer to fulfilling its name, “city of peace.”

*We regard it as our duty to declare that Jewish Jerusalem is an organic and inseparable part of the State of Israel, as it is an inseparable part of the history of Israel, of the faith of Israel.*

-David Ben-Gurion; Israeli Prime Minister,  
Knesset speech (December 1949)



## JEWISH QUARTER – CARDO

*“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’ Our feet are standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that is built as a city that is compact together; to which the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord— an ordinance for Israel— to give thanks to the name of the Lord.”*  
 –Psalm 122:1-4

The Jewish Quarter is one of the four traditional quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem. The current Jewish Quarter, which today looks almost brand new, dates to roughly 1400. The quarter is inhabited by around 2,000 residents and is home to numerous synagogues and yeshivas (educational institutions that focus on the study of traditional religious texts, primarily the Talmud and Torah study).

The oldest synagogues – the Elijah the Prophet and Yohanan Ben Zakkai – are roughly 400 years old. In the main plaza, an arch stretches skyward where one of the walls of the notable Hurva Synagogue once

stood. Originally the Great Synagogue, the Hurva was built in the 16th century, but was destroyed by the Ottomans. The synagogue was rebuilt in the 1850s but was damaged in the War of 1948. Later, it was destroyed again after the Jordanians took control of the Old City. The arch still remains as a memorial and prominent landmark in the Jewish Quarter. In 2010, the synagogue was rebuilt and dedicated on March 15th. Today, it remains an active synagogue and center of study, a testament to the Jews' long history in the area.

Just off the plaza is the Cardo, which was a Byzantine road roughly the equivalent to an eight-lane highway running through the heart of the city. In the ancient Roman Empire, some streets were decorated with tall stone columns; these were called "Cardo." Jerusalem's Old City had a Cardo as well, running from the Damascus Gate in the north to the Zion Gate southwards. The northernmost section dates to the Roman times, while the southern section was built

by the Byzantines in the 6th century. Today, if you visit Israel, you can walk, shopping for souvenirs and mementos, on this ancient street that is filled with rich history of the Jews' continuous presence in their ancestral homeland.



## JORDAN RIVER

*“And they came to John and said to him, ‘Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him.’ John answered and said, ‘A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, “I am not the Christ,” but, “I have been sent ahead of Him.”’” –John 3:26-28*

To the West, we find the Jordan River, the source of which comes from several springs on the side and base of Mt. Hermon in the North. Beginning at an elevation of some 1,700 feet above sea level, the river flows to about 700 feet below sea level at the Sea of Galilee and then to the Dead Sea at 1,300 feet below sea level. It is the only river in the world which flows for most of its course below sea level. The river meanders through the Jordan valley some 200 nautical miles, though only 65 miles as the crow flies. Jordan lies a hand reach away from Israel in this area, just beyond the yellow floating barrier in the

Jordan River. Israel and Jordan have been at peace since 1994.

In the Bible, the Jordan River is noted as a place of cleansing and entrance into the Promised Land; it is symbolic of a place of crossing over into newness of life. The waters were held back so that Joshua and the Israelites could enter the land foretold to Moses and given to Abraham (Joshua 3). In the days of the Prophet Elijah's disciple Elisha, the special benefits of immersing in the Jordan River first became known (2 Kings 5:10).

John the Baptist proclaimed the message of repentance and used the river to symbolize the washing away of sins (Matthew 3:11). Jesus was baptized in the Jordan as He began His ministry of grace and truth. At that divine moment we note the presence of the Trinity of God, the Father proclaiming the affirmation of the Son in the presence of the Holy Spirit seen as the descending Dove (Matthew 3:13-17).

Since John baptized Jesus in the Jordan, immersion in these waters has been a highlight of Holy Land pilgrimage. It has become a tradition to be baptized at Yardenit. Here, the water flows into the Jordan River, eventually flowing into the Dead Sea located more than 100KM to the south. Though baptism by water is not what saves us (1 Peter 3:21), it is an important step in one's Christian journey to profess publicly one's commitment to Christ and the new birth that has taken place through God's Spirit. Many take the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be baptized in the place where Jesus was baptized when they visit Israel.



Photo Credit: Susan Law Cain / Shutterstock.com

## LEBANON BORDER

*“The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’ The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, ‘Rule in the midst of Your enemies.’”*  
 –Psalm 110:1-2

Israel’s border with Lebanon has long been an area of conflict. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) used territory in southern Lebanon as its base of operations in the 1970s until Israel expelled them from that land in 1982. By 1985, Israel had withdrawn the bulk

of its forces from the area and subsequently withdrew its small buffer force from southern Lebanon in 2000.

During the early 1980s the world saw the rise of one of the most powerful terrorist armies in the world: Hezbollah. In 1983, Hezbollah bombed barracks housing American and French military personnel, killing 241 American and 58 French service members. With Iranian support, Hezbollah presently controls southern Lebanon and is the dominant military force in the country. Recently, Hezbollah and its allies gained control of the government in Beirut.

Significant evidence indicates that rather than curtailing Hezbollah's power by disarming the terrorist organization and removing it from Israel's border, as stipulated by UN resolutions agreed to after the 2006 Lebanon War, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) has proven ineffective and, on many occasions, even collaborated with Hezbollah. Moreover, with hospitals, health centers, schools,

student scholarships, a satellite television network, and numerous seats in the Lebanese National Assembly, Hezbollah has thoroughly infiltrated Lebanon.

Today, Hezbollah has well over 100,000 rockets aimed at Israel. Hezbollah's terrorist attacks and Iran's efforts to strengthen the terrorist organization have resulted in skirmishes along Israel's northern border - most notably the 2006 Lebanon War. Though Hezbollah knows it cannot defeat Israel militarily, its primary goal in a future conflict with Israel will be to see as many civilians as possible killed. While Israel discovered Hezbollah's terror tunnel network, Hezbollah's rockets still pose a significant threat to Israel. In a future conflict, the terrorist organization will use their large rocket arsenal to target Israeli civilians. Moreover, they have hidden those rockets amongst Lebanese civilian population centers, thus compelling a counterattack that will almost surely cost Lebanese non-combatants their lives.



Photo Credit: trabantos / Shutterstock.com

## MAGDALA

*“[After seeing the risen Jesus] Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ and that He had said these things to her.”*  
—John 20:18

Magdala was a prosperous fishing village at the time when Jesus was ministering in this

region, located on the coast of the Sea of Galilee. It was fortified and severely damaged during the great revolt against the Romans. Archaeologists uncovered the remains of the village dating from the time of Jesus and a large Byzantine monastery.

A first century synagogue in Magdala is currently the oldest excavated in the Galilee, one of only seven first-century synagogues in Israel. A coin minted in Tiberias (29 AD) was found inside the synagogue, indicating the synagogue was from the time of Christ. It is highly likely that Jesus taught in this synagogue as the Bible tells us that Jesus taught throughout Galilee.

Magdala was the home of Mary Magdalene, known as one of Jesus' devoted followers. She had seven demons exorcised out of her (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2), supported Jesus' ministry out of her own personal funds (Luke 8:3), and was at the cross when Jesus was crucified (John 19:25).

Matthew 15:39 describes Jesus' returning to this region after the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. In the original language, the word for "fish" used in Matthew 14:17 indicates a "smoked" or "pickled" fish. According to historians, Magdala was known for its cured fish factory.

Archaeologists have discovered a first-century marketplace, including a fish store within it which bears indentations in the ground where fish would have been kept. This could have been the place where the small boy had purchased the fish that the disciples gave Jesus during the famous account of the feeding of the 5,000 recorded in all four Gospels.

Interestingly, Mark Twain, when he visited Magdala, wrote that the city was "thoroughly ugly, and cramped, squalid, uncomfortable, and filthy." Yet those who visit Magdala today can attest to its rich historical value, biblical significance, and beautiful scenery.



## MASADA

*“I will say to God my rock, “Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”... Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.” –Psalm 42:9, 11*

Isolated on a crag rock at the southwestern tip of the Dead Sea looms the ruins of King Herod’s fortress called Masada. It was here that nearly a 1,000 besieged Jews took their own lives when faced with defeat at the hands of the Roman Army in 73 A.D. Excavations have revealed the story told by historian

Josephus Flavius, who described how 960 people drew lots to establish who should die and who should put them to death.

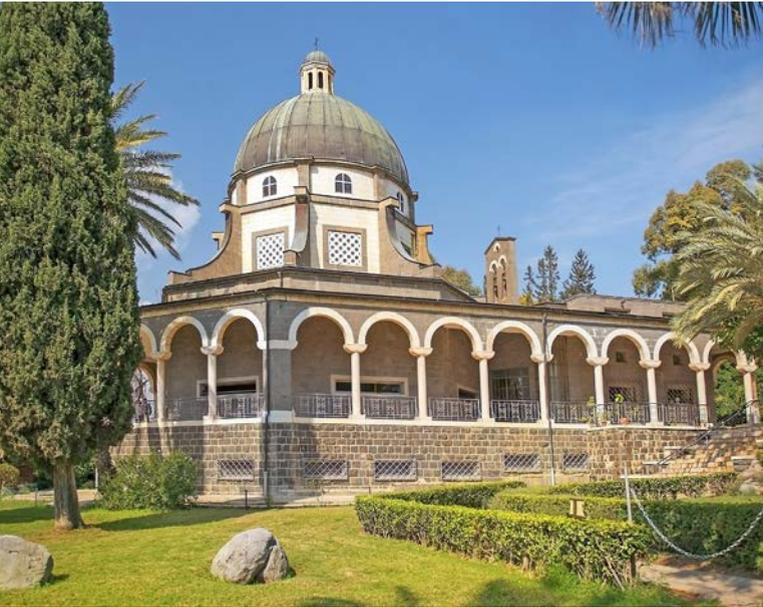
This fortress was built by King Herod as a place of retreat and refuge in the event of a rebellion by the people. It proved to be the last stronghold for the Jewish people as the Roman armies under Titus swept through Israel. The Jewish patriots were able to withstand the Romans for three years, yet Titus was determined to eradicate this rebellion and leave no remnant of hostility. Roman armies built encampments around the fortress and then constructed a ramp on the western side of the plateau, which literally took years. When the ramp was complete and the fortress doors burned and battered down, the invading armies only found two women alive. The rest had taken their lives rather than live in slavery and bondage.

Masada has become a shrine and a symbol to the new nation of Israel. "Masada shall not fall again!" is the proud oath which cadets swear

during the impressive graduation ceremony of Israel's military academy.

It would be fitting to stand at Masada and declare also, "Am Yisrael Chai!" – the people of Israel live! Although Israel and the Jewish people have suffered defamation, persecution, dispersion, crushing wars, and the world's greatest genocide, they have not only survived, but with God's supernatural intervention and blessings, they have thrived! Today, Israel is one of the most successful nations in the world. The descendants of the patriarchs built cities out of swamps and made streams in the desert. Israel today is flourishing.

Though Masada is not directly mentioned in the Bible, it is speculated that after David met Saul in the caves of Ein-Gedi, sparing his life but cutting off a piece of his garment, David retreated here (see 1 Samuel 24).



## THE MOUNT OF BEATITUDES

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” –Matthew 5:14-16*

The Mount of the Beatitudes, which overlooks the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, is believed to be the site where Jesus gave the famous Sermon on the Mount, a lengthy discourse containing the passage known as the Beatitudes (Matthew 5-7). The teaching has nine verses, each starting with “Blessed are the...” or in Latin “Beati...” The Latin word gave this hill its name, Beati-tudes.

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult*

*you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*  
(Matthew 5:3-12)

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus “amazed” the crowds by His teaching which was full of divine authority (Matthew 7:28-29). Jesus revealed the deeper requirements of the Law as demanding inward righteousness, not merely external actions, and summed up the true standard of righteousness: “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). He warned against self-righteousness and railed against hypocrisy, encouraging His followers to do good for an audience of One and receive their reward from the Father (Matthew 6:1-6).

During this discourse, Jesus also taught His disciples how to pray:

Pray, then, in this way:

*‘Our Father who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
‘Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we also  
have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever.  
Amen.’* (Matthew 6:9-13)

Finally, He taught on fasting, wealth, anxiety, judging, seeking the Lord in prayer, bearing true fruit, and building one’s life on a foundation of trust in the Lord (Matthew 6-7). Take time to read over Jesus’ sermon and reflect on His teachings.

Are you, like the crowds, amazed at Jesus’ great authority? Are you, like the disciples, drawn to Jesus’ powerful presence and words of life?



## THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

*“As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, shouting: ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’” –Luke 19:36-38*

The Mount of Olives, which rises to over 800 meters, has special significance for Christians. It is the place of some of the most important events in the life of Christ, both past and future. It was here that Jesus taught His disciples during His mission in Jerusalem. Here He was made a prisoner, He wept for Jerusalem, made a triumphal entry into the city as we celebrate on Palm Sunday, and later ascended to heaven.

The Church of all Nations, located at the Mount of Olives, has an ornately decorated facade. The Garden of Gethsemane nearby, with its grove of ancient olive trees, dates back

to Byzantine times and is cared for today by the Franciscan Brotherhood. Both are important holy sites for Christian pilgrims.

The next elevation to the south is called “The Tomb of the Prophets” because of the presence of catacombs, believed to be those of Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The southernmost elevation is called the Mount of Offense, being associated with the places of idolatrous worship that Solomon built through the influence of his heathen wives. The hill is covered with churches and shrines, most commemorating places where Jesus stopped during His last week before the crucifixion (commonly called Passion Week). The mountain has always been a burial ground, and pious Jews still take pains to be buried here, since Scripture promises the Messiah will return to Jerusalem from this vantage point (Zechariah 14:4).

Indeed, Scripture prophesies:

*“In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east;*

*and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. . . . And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.”*  
(Zechariah 14:4, 9).

Standing at the Mount of Olives today offers one of the most scenic and breathtaking views of the Old City of Jerusalem and neighboring vicinities, including the Temple Mount, the Valley of Hinnom, and hints of the Judean desert in the distance. Several churches may be visited on the Mount, while the Jewish cemetery, the Tomb of the Prophets, the Russian Orthodox Church of Mary Magdalene, and the Catholic Church of Dominus Flevit may be visited on its western slope. At the latter site, the grave of Oskar Schindler, who saved over a thousand Jews during the Holocaust and declared Righteous Among the Nations, may be visited. Visitors often lay stones on his grave out of respect in keeping with a Jewish custom.



## MOUNT ZION

*“Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion in the far north, the city of the great King.”—Psalm 48:2*

Mount Zion, also called the Southwestern Hill and the Upper City, is the raised hill adjacent to the southwestern corner of the Old City, south of Armenian Quarter. In ancient times, a deep valley (the Tyropoeon Valley, or Valley of the Cheesemakers) separated Mt. Zion from Mt. Moriah. It is believed that this location contains the Tomb of David, which is the place where the prayer requests that fall out of the Kotel (Western Wall) are brought.

First-century Christians built a church that has become known as the Church of the Apostles here, but it was later destroyed. In fact, many churches were built and subsequently destroyed at this site. The so-called Tomb of King David with a large stone monument lies in a room built using three of the walls from the original Church of the Apostles. While this was never actually David’s tomb, it has been accepted as the memorial site for King David’s resting place. Between 1948 and 1967, when Jordanians had control of the Temple Mount—the Jews’ most holy site—Jews

were not allowed to access it. Instead, during that time, it is said they would climb to the rooftop of the Tomb of David to pray.

This site, sacred to both Jews and Christians, is also considered to possibly be the site of the Last Supper and the Upper Room experience of the 12 disciples, who had gathered for prayer awaiting the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1). Many also believe the house of the high priest Caiaphas was located on the hill's southeastern slope.

Today, many layers of ruined city and rubble from Jerusalem's many destructions completely fill the Tyropoeon Valley. In fact, at the Western Wall (the Kotel or Jewish prayer plaza), about half of the old wall of the Temple Mount lies below the present ground level.

In Scripture, all of Jerusalem is sometimes metaphorically called "Zion" or "Mt. Zion," while "Daughter of Zion" may refer to Jews in

exile or the people of Jerusalem in general. For example, Micah prophesies:

*And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways, And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Micah 4:1-2,7)*

Likewise, Zechariah declares, "Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain" (Zechariah 8:3).



## POOL OF BETHESDA

*“When Jesus saw [the lame man] lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, ‘Do you wish to get well?’” –John 5:6*

Bethesda, meaning “house of grace,” is the location of the spring-fed pool where invalids would wait their turn to step into the mysteriously troubled waters. Walking through the Lion’s Gate at the time of Jesus, one would

have seen what is sometimes called the Sheep Pool on the left, but it was filled in during the mid-1900s and converted into a square.

On the right sits the monastery of St. Anne. In the 19th century, archaeologists discovered within the grounds the remains of a pool fitting the description of the one in John 5. The pool is located next to St. Anne's Church just inside St. Stephen's Gate.

It was believed an angel stirred the waters, and at the time of the stirring, healing was released to those who could rush in the pool. The fifth chapter of John's gospel recounts Jesus' miraculous healing of the man who had been an invalid for 38 years.

John 5 begins: *Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have*

*no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. (John 5:1-9)*

Today, when one visits the Pool of Bethesda, it is fascinating to look down into its depths and marvel at how far below the present Jerusalem was the city in which Jesus walked in His day. Near the pool archaeologists have also discovered the remains of a fifth-century Byzantine basilica and second-century Roman pagan temple for Asclepius, the Greek god of healing. The remains of a 12th century Crusader chapel have also been uncovered nearby.



## THE QUMRAN CAVES

*“Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, ‘In the mount of the Lord it will be provided.’”*

–Genesis 22:13-14

(one of the fragments found at Qumran)

Qumran is located on the northwest corner of the Dead Sea, some 28 miles southeast of Jerusalem. It was here that a second century Essene community lived. The Essenes, meaning “pious ones,” lived here as a community, writing the Scriptures on scrolls and preserving them for future generations. It is believed that while under attack from the Roman armies, this community bound the

scrolls in leather and hid them in the caves above the village. The Essene village was probably wiped out, and the scrolls became an unfound treasure until 1947.

That year, two young Bedouin shepherds accidentally discovered an ancient scroll several yards long bearing the Book of Isaiah. Eventually, 11 caves in all containing ancient fragments and manuscripts, in various degrees of completeness, were found.

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, as they are called, is one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century. The most famous of the Dead Sea Scroll caves, Cave #4, is also the most significant in terms of finds. More than 15,000 fragments from over 200 books were found in this cave, along with 122 Biblical scrolls (or fragments). Fragments from every Old Testament book has been discovered in the Qumran caves, except the book of Esther. No New Testament books or fragments were found in this location.

Most of the scrolls, the majority of which are parchment, are written in Hebrew, while some are in Aramaic and a handful are in Greek. The manuscripts are regarded as the oldest copies of Old Testament books that have been found, dating back over 2,000 years. The striking lack of variances from the manuscripts that scholars had on hand prior to the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery points to the reliability of the copies of the Bible that we have, and God's own miraculous preservation of His Word for generations. We can be certain that the Bible we read today is accurate and every word of God is true (Psalm 119:160).



## THE SEA OF GALILEE

*“But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.*

*The people who walk in darkness*

*Will see a great light...” –Isaiah 9:1-2*

The Sea of Galilee is Israel’s largest freshwater lake. Fed mainly by the Jordan River, it sits 680 feet below sea level and its depths range from 60-180 feet. Most famously known in Scripture as the site where Jesus walked on water and summoned Peter to walk on the water to him, the Sea of Galilee is also the site where Jesus calmed the storm that threatened to sink the boat on which He and his disciples traveled.

Referred to in the Old Testament as the Sea of Chinnereth (later Lake of Gennesaret), it is also called Lake Kinneret (by Israelis) and Lake Tiberias. In the past, it has served as one

of Israel's primary sources of drinking water. Today, it accounts for about one fourth of Israel's drinking water.

Of the ten major cities (collectively called Decapolis) that surrounded the Sea of Galilee at the time of Jesus' ministry, only Tiberias remains. Much of Jesus' ministry occurred along the Sea of Galilee. Jesus called both Peter and Andrew while walking by the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 4:18, c.f. Mark 1:16) and later appeared to Peter and the disciples by the Sea of Galilee after His resurrection (John 21).

Eighteen of the 33 recorded miracles of Jesus performed were in this area, ten of which were in the small fishing village of Capernaum. The Church of the Beatitudes, located on a small hill overlooking the sparkling Sea of Galilee, is so named because it is believed to be where Jesus preached his famous Sermon on the Mount. Tabgha, a town nearby, is thought to be where the feeding of the 5,000, recorded in all four Gospels, occurred. Today, the

Church of the Multiplication is found there to commemorate that miracle.

The region surrounding the Sea of Galilee was the site of the first Jewish kibbutz (a Jewish agricultural community, collectively owned and run) in 1909, called Degania which means "cornflower." Though it was privatized in 2007, the kibbutz (now called Degania Alef) still flourishes today.



## SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” -Romans 12:15*

The US-Israel relationship is founded on shared values, such as a love of life and liberty. But the true depth of friendship is often realized on one’s darkest day. On September 11, 2001, Palestinians danced in the streets, and Israelis wept for their American brothers and sisters. No people on earth understand the pain, anger, and loss Americans experienced on that horrific day as do the Israelis. It is thus sadly fitting that on a hill in the Arazim Valley of Ramot, Jerusalem, in direct view of Jerusalem’s main cemetery, there exists the only memorial to 9/11 victims outside the United States listing the names of all 3,000 victims of that attack. The base of the memorial (pictured here) is made of a piece of metal from the ruins of the Twin Towers. And people from all over the world come to this hallowed place in the world’s holiest city to pay their respects to those lost on the morning

of the second Tuesday of September 2001.

It is evident that Israel needs the United States, and the United States needs Israel. We are two nations forged in shared values, engaged in a united fight against those that seek to destroy our Western way of life, and ordained with a common destiny. The United States was the first country to recognize Israel's independence in 1948, and the first country to recognize Israel's right to claim Jerusalem as its capital. Israel's close relationship with the United States has benefited both our countries tremendously. Our countries strengthen each other through national security cooperation, joint military training and shared military technology, mutual economic investment, and scientific research and development.

More than a pragmatic alliance, the close friendship between our countries is based on shared democratic values. The Judeo-Christian worldview emphasizes personal freedom, universal civil rights and places a deep value

on all human life. This is the value system upon which America was founded and it is reflected in Israel's vibrant society. Support for Israel has historically been one of the only issues that generates consistent bipartisan agreement amongst elected officials.

Additionally, Israel is the West's sole outpost of freedom and democracy in the Middle East, therefore CUFJ supports American aid to Israel as well as the maintenance of the Jewish state's qualitative military edge in the region and seeks to shape and strengthen the US-Israel relationship.



## ST. PETER IN GALLICANTU

*“Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, ‘Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.” –Luke 22:60-62*

Few structures combine the ancient with the new as successfully as the dazzling Church of St. Peter on the eastern slopes of Mount Zion. The church takes its name from the Latin word “Gallicantu,” meaning cock’s crow and was erected in 1931 in commemoration of Peter’s triple rejection of Jesus “...before the cock crows twice” (Mark 14:30). The church is an amazing blend of contemporary lines, primitive art, and antiquity. Brilliantly fused together to create a superbly designed masterpiece, this is far more than an ordinary house of worship.

Beneath the church are a series of carved-out chambers from the Second Temple period. Since Catholic tradition positions the palace

of Caiaphas on this very site, it follows that Jesus may have been imprisoned in one of these very same underground crypts.

A Byzantine shrine dedicated to Peter's repentance was erected on this spot in the middle of the fifth century, but later destroyed by Muslim invaders. The chapel was rebuilt by the Crusaders and given a new name, St. Peter's in Gallicantu. Today a golden rooster protrudes prominently from the sanctuary roof.

As you reflect on this site, reflect on Jesus' forgiveness and the power of redemption. Though Peter, the most prominent of the disciples and outspoken about his loyalty to Jesus (e.g., Matthew 26:33), denied Jesus three times, Jesus did not abandon Him. Instead, when Jesus had risen from the dead, the angel commanded the women at the tomb: "Go tell His disciples, and Peter..." (emphasis added). Jesus sought out the same disciple who had just rejected Him thrice. Moreover, He appointed Peter as the lead shepherd of Jesus'

sheep after His ascension (John 21:15-19). After that encounter, the Apostle Peter went on to become the lead shepherd over the early church, just as Jesus appointed him to be.

In the same way, the Lord welcomes us back when we have wandered from Him and woos us with grace and purpose. He has promised to be faithful to us, even when we are faithless (2 Timothy 2:13). Peter knew this truth, as he had experienced it powerfully in his own life. In his second letter to the church, and his last before being martyred for his faith, he wrote, "So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to [a new heaven and a new earth], make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation..." (2 Peter 3:14-15a, NIV).



## TABGHA

*“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.’” –John 6:35*

Tabgha is situated on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Some Christian historians have surmised that Jesus may have come here when looking for solitude to meditate, especially since it was close to the Galilean city of Kfar Nahum (Capernaum). Tabgha is popularly considered the site of two of Jesus’ miracles: the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes and the place Jesus appeared the fourth time after His resurrection (John 21:1-24).

The Gospels recount that when Jesus was told the fate of His cousin, John the Baptist, “He withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place” (Matthew 14:13). But the populace followed Jesus on foot from nearby towns and Jesus, who saw the crowd that had gathered, preached all day, and healed their sick.

“Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, ‘Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place’” (Luke 9:12). The disciples had just completed their first missionary journey, after Jesus had called them, given them authority to preach and heal, and sent them on their way (Luke 9:1). Exhausted, having had no time to eat, the disciples had followed Jesus for a retreat (c.f. Mark 6:31) yet were met with around 15,000 hungry people instead.

Jesus, knowing all this, welcomed the crowd and encouraged the disciples to “Go look” for what they already had that may feed these crowds (Mark 6:38). The disciples returned with a few loaves of bread and a couple fish.

Blessing the meal and looking toward heaven, Jesus performed a miracle, feeding five thousand men “besides women and children” with only the five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14:13-21). The crowds left having

been fed more than enough and having seen a miracle. Yet the disciples received a great gift as well: 12 baskets were leftover (Mark 6:42). In love and compassion for the disciples as well as the crowds, Jesus ensured that enough was left over for the exhausted and famished disciples.

Today, the serene “Church of the Multiplication,” reconstructed over the Byzantine sanctuary on the site with part of the ancient mosaic floor on display, may be visited in Tabgha. It is so named in commemoration of this famous and treasured miracle.



## TEL AVIV

*“He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’” –Isaiah 49:6*

The city of Tel Aviv was established in 1909 by 60 Jewish families as a neighborhood near Jaffa. Originally named Ahuzat Bayit, the name was changed in 1910 to Tel Aviv meaning “hill of spring.” One of the reasons behind this name change was Ezekiel 3:15

which describes the prophet visiting Jewish exiles at Tel Aviv, a Jewish city in Babylon at the time of Ezekiel.

In 1948, Israel declared its independence as a state in Tel Aviv.

In 1950, Tel Aviv and Jaffa merged into Tel Aviv-Yafo. In biblical times, the city of Jaffa (also called Joppa) was the only populated city in what now makes up Tel Aviv. Jaffa was an important port city with which readers may be familiar from the book of Jonah. Jonah fled to Tarshish in an attempt to escape the command of the Lord from the port city Joppa. In Acts 9, Peter raises a woman named Tabitha from the dead in the city of Joppa and many believe in Jesus as a result (Acts 9:36-43). Jaffa was also the city where Peter stayed prior to meeting Cornelius, a Gentile God-fearer whose whole household was saved (Acts 10).

Because Jordan occupied Jerusalem in 1948 when Israel declared its independence, Tel Aviv became the temporary home of

government offices and the temporary capital. In 2018, however, the US recognized Jerusalem as Israel's legal and eternal capital and moved its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, simply acknowledging what has always been true: Jerusalem is Israel's capital.

### Tel Aviv Today

Nonetheless, Tel Aviv is a very special city. The second largest city in Israel, Tel Aviv feels like New York and acts like Silicon Valley, all while sitting alongside the pristine waters of the Mediterranean. It has often been said that Israel is a beautiful amalgamation of the ancient and modern, and Tel Aviv is Israel's hi-tech gem. Just over 100 years ago, Tel Aviv was a desert. Today it is a 21st century city with an entrepreneurial spirit that is second-to-none.

Israel boasts more companies listed on the Nasdaq than any other country, save the US and China. It leads the world in venture capitalism as a percentage of GDP, produces

more scientific papers than any nation on earth, and is the second most highly educated country in the world.

The epicenter of this modern miracle is Tel Aviv. And as a result of this ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit, Israel is fulfilling its God-given mandate as a light unto the nations. Israeli technological breakthroughs have changed the way we live our lives in this digital age, and Israeli medical breakthroughs affect everything from routine medical care to how one treats battlefield wounds. Additionally, Israel's scientific advancements have made deserts bloom, changed how we grow crops, and brought water to parts of the world where its scarcity costs lives.

Israel is often referred to as the startup nation, but to the believer this should come as no surprise. Israel is commanded by God to be a light unto the nations (Isaiah 49:6), and in today's modern age that light shines brightly from the tops of the skyscrapers of Tel Aviv.



## THE UPPER ROOM OF THE LAST SUPPER

*“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” –1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

The Upper Room of the Last Supper is a second-story room in Jerusalem that commemorates the “Upper Room” in which Jesus shared the Last Supper with the disciples. It is located directly above the Tomb of David and near the Dormition Abbey on Mount Zion.

As you likely recall from Scripture, Jesus shared a Passover meal with His disciples before He was betrayed that night in the Garden by one of them, Judas Iscariot.

While eating, Jesus encouraged the disciples to love one another and demonstrated that love by washing their feet – a supreme act of selflessness and service. While the disciples guessed who was to betray Jesus, the Lord reminded them that He had chosen them for a special purpose.

After a while, Jesus told Judas, “What you do, do quickly” (John 13:27), and Judas left the meal to prepare his betrayal. Meanwhile, Jesus continued to instruct the disciples to love one another, to trust Him and abide in Him, bearing fruit (John 14-15). Here, also, Jesus gave the promise of the coming Holy Spirit. Finally, Jesus prayed over the disciples before entering the garden where He would be betrayed (John 17).

The site of the Last Supper is unknown, and the Gospel accounts provide few clues. It cannot be the present room, which was built in the 12th century, but this room could possibly be near the original site of the Last Supper and/or Pentecost.

Beneath the floor of the building are Byzantine and Roman pavements, the foundations of which go back to at least the 2nd century A.D. It is possible that the “little church of God” that existed on Mount Zion in 130 A.D. (mentioned by Epiphanius of Salamis) was on this site.



Photo Credit: Benoit Soubayran from Jerusalem, Israel / CC BY (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)

## U.S. EMBASSY – JERUSALEM

*Let the word go forth from Jerusalem today*

*– ISRAEL LIVES!*

*Shout it from the housetops—ISRAEL LIVES!*

*Let every Islamic terrorist group hear it*

*– ISRAEL LIVES!*

*Let it be heard in the halls of the U.N.*

*– ISRAEL LIVES!*

Let it echo down the marble halls of the presidential palace in Iran—ISRAEL LIVES!

Let it be known to all men, that ISRAEL LIVES because, “He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.” –An excerpt from Pastor Hagee’s Benediction at the opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem on May 14, 2018

For 3,500 years, Jerusalem has been the epicenter of the Jewish people. Since Israel’s modern independence in 1948, the holy city has served as the Jewish state’s capital, but was divided until its liberation and reunification in 1967. For decades, the United States refused to recognize the fact that Jerusalem is Israel’s eternal capital. In 1995, Congress passed and the President signed the Jerusalem Embassy Act which recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and called for the US Embassy in Israel to be moved there. But the law included a waiver, invoked by every president since the bill’s passage, which enabled the application of the law to be delayed. For years, every

president would sign that waiver every six months, delaying implementation of the law for more than two decades.

The recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital had been part of CUFI's policy platform since our founding in 2006, and with President Trump's election, we saw an opportunity to make this a reality.

President Trump promised during his campaign to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and when the President took office, CUFI made the realization of this promise a top priority. 135,000 CUFI members emailed the White House asking the President to keep his pledge, and in the late summer of 2017, CUFI founder and Chairman Pastor John Hagee privately met with the President. During the meeting, the President assured Pastor Hagee that his promise on Jerusalem would be kept despite the effort by foreign policy elites to convince President Trump not to recognize Jerusalem.

On December 6, 2017 President Donald Trump formally recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Then in May of 2018, the US Embassy in Jerusalem was opened. In recognition of CUFI's integral role in the effort to advance this policy, Pastor Hagee was invited to give the benediction at Embassy's opening ceremony. He was joined at the ceremony by CUFI's Co-Executive Directors Diana Hagee and Shari Dollinger, as well as several members of CUFI's leadership and staff.



## THE WESTERN WALL

*“You will arise and have compassion on Zion; For it is time to be gracious to her, For the appointed time has come. Surely Your servants find pleasure in her stones And feel pity for her dust. So the nations will fear the name of the Lord And all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the Lord has built up Zion; He has appeared in His glory.” –Psalm 102:13-16*

The Western Wall was built by King Herod in 20 B.C. during his expansion of the Temple enclosure and is part of a retaining wall that enclosed the western part of the Temple Mount. According to the Roman-Jewish historian Josephus, construction of the walls took 11 years. During this time, it rained in

Jerusalem only at night so as not to interfere with the workers' progress. In 70 A.D., the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and its Temple. During the Ottoman Period (beginning in the 16th century), the wall became the Jews' primary destination to lament the destruction of the Temple.

The Western Wall (Ha-Kotel Ha- Ma'aravi) in Jerusalem is the holiest of Jewish sites, sacred because it is a remnant of the Herodian retaining wall that once enclosed and supported the Second Temple. It has also been called the "Wailing Wall" by European observers because for centuries Jews have gathered here to lament the loss of their temple. The Western Wall Plaza (the large open area that faces the Western Wall) functions as an open-air synagogue that can accommodate tens of thousands of worshippers at one time. Prayers take place here day and night, and special services, celebrations, and memorials are held here as well.

If you were to step foot in the Western Wall Plaza and see the Jewish people praying faithfully to our God after millennia of exile, dispersion, heartache, and grief, you would be overcome with the emotion and intensity of the moment. You may hear singing and a chorus of prayer as you approach the Wall. Perhaps you would bring prayers written on small slips of paper, either for you or on behalf of your loved ones, and slip them into the cracks of the Wall as you whisper "Amen."

Undoubtedly, standing at the Western Wall leaves one with the impression of unity and solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Together, we worship one God – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And together, we believe God's promises to give us "a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).



Photo Credit: Robert Hoetink / Shutterstock.com

## THE WESTERN WALL TUNNELS

*“By Your favor do good to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem.” –Psalm 51:18*

The Western Wall of the Temple Mount is one of the most significant remnants in Jerusalem from the Second Temple. The Western Wall is

nearly half a kilometer but the part visible at the Western Wall plaza known as The Wailing Wall, or Kotel in Hebrew, is only 187 feet.

Following the Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem, the Western Wall Tunnels Project commenced as an effort to expose the entire length of the Western Wall.

This allowed us to learn more about the wall itself and the various structures in its vicinity. Near the Western Wall are tunnels created by numerous arches stacked side-by-side that support staircases going from the city to the Temple Mount.

In ancient times, there was a shallow valley (called the Tyropoeon) running along the western side of the Temple Mount. This is now filled in due to constant demolition and rebuilding, but it once separated the rich Herodian quarter from the Temple. It was the need to bridge this gap that originally caused the arches to be built. These pathways still hold up the streets today, and the tunnel goes directly underneath the Muslim quarter.

The Western Wall Tunnels Museum takes visitors on a tour of the tunnels to provide a glimpse of the Jews' ancient past that would otherwise be unattainable. As you walk through the tunnel along the ancient wall, you can pause opposite the place that is closest to the Holy of Holies and see pavement built by

Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:21) and foundations from the Praetorium (Matthew 27:27).

Archaeologists have also uncovered a 20-mile section of paved road and an even older Hasmonean aqueduct that lead to the Temple Mount. Tourists can follow it along to a public reservoir and proceed to a new short tunnel that will lead them outside to the Via Dolorosa in the Muslim Quarter.



## YAD VASHEM – HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

*“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.” –Psalm 116:15*

The Holocaust Memorial Center in West Jerusalem honors the six million Jews who perished under Hitler between 1933 and 1945. Its library of 50 million documents is the world’s largest Holocaust archive. The purpose of this magnificent memorial is to safeguard the memory of the victims and the events of the Holocaust by documenting accurately one of the darkest chapters in the history of humanity.

In 1961, Yad Vashem inaugurated the Hall of Remembrance (Ohel Yizkor), the first Holocaust commemoration. Engraved on the mosaic floor are the names of 22 of the most infamous Nazi extermination camps sites that existed throughout Europe.

The Eternal Flame, burning from a base fashioned like a broken bronze goblet, continuously illuminates the Hall, its smoke

exiting the building through an opening at the highest point of the ceiling. A stone crypt stands in front of it, containing the ashes of Holocaust victims that were brought to Israel from the extermination camps.

We must never forget! And we must never again allow this hatred to grow unchecked in our midst.

The story of the Holocaust is one of darkness and despair, one that palpably demonstrates the depths of depravity to which humans may sink. But Yad Vashem also beautifully commemorates the actions of non-Jews who took great risks to help Jews during the Holocaust at The Righteous Among the Nations memorial.

These Righteous came from different nations, religions and walks of life, and rescue took on many forms. What they had in common was that they protected their Jewish neighbors at a time when hostility and indifference prevailed. Their spirit is an inspirational reminder of the

human capacity for love and hope even in the most brutal circumstances.

Today, CUFI and our over eight million members are the spiritual descendants of the Righteous Among the Nations. We are modern-day Dietrich Bonhoeffers who refuse to be silent and passive in the face of evil, for that is evil itself. Instead, we are interveners for Zion's sake. We are committed to defending Israel and combatting anti-Semitism in all its forms, wherever it may be found, for the sake of our Jewish friends and neighbors until this evil hatred is fully and finally eradicated.

# BECOME PART OF ISRAEL'S STORY

## Now is the time for action!

Learn how you can become more effective in your support for Israel and the Jewish people.

**Attend a CUFI Event** - Learn the facts you need to defend and support Israel. We hold over 50 events across the nation each month. When a CUFI event comes to your city, church, or campus, join us and bring your friends. [cufi.org/events](https://cufi.org/events)

**Follow us on Social** - Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube for breaking news and engaging educational content. We share Israel's story in real-time with millions of Christians across multiple platforms. CUFI's social media followers are one of the most engaged and passionate online audiences of any grassroots organization in America.

**CUFI Action Alerts** - CUFI members have generated millions of emails to their elected officials and as a direct result, American policy in the Middle East is stronger and more pro-Israel than at any time in history.

 @ChristiansUnitedforIsrael

 @CUFI

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**Sign the Israel Pledge** - Every signature demonstrates Christians are committed to Israel's security. Every signature makes Israel safer. [cufi.org/pledge](https://cufi.org/pledge)

**Bring CUFI to Your Community** - Educate your community by bringing a CUFI speaker come to your community. CUFI speakers provide dynamic presentations that will open your community's eyes to the current situation in the Middle East and why and how they should stand with Israel. [cufi.org/host](https://cufi.org/host)

**Attend the CUFI DC Summit** - Join thousands of pro-Israel Christians in the nation's capital to learn from renowned speakers, national leaders, and experts in Washington and Jerusalem. You will have the opportunity to personally encourage your member of Congress to support the US-Israel relationship. [cufi.org/summit](https://cufi.org/summit)

**Sign the Shine the Light Pledge** - As members of CUFI we will not simply curse the darkness, we are committed to shining the light on anti-Semitism in all its forms, wherever it may be found. Please join us to commit to combatting this scourge. Please join us in pledging to Shine the Light at [cufi.org/shinepledge](https://cufi.org/shinepledge)



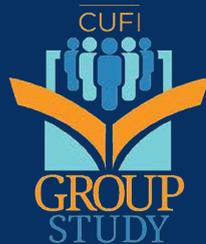
**Support CUFI's Film on Anti-Semitism** - One of the ways CUFI is combating anti-Semitism is by launching our first-ever, full-length documentary, "Never Again?"— set to debut in 800 theaters in October 2020.

This one-of-a-kind film features the journeys of two men—Holocaust survivor Irving Roth and transformed radical anti-Israel activist Kasim Hafeez. The film follows them throughout Slovakia, Poland, the United Kingdom, Israel, and the US. Their personal accounts vividly depict the parallels between the hatred of Jews preceding the Holocaust, which culminated in the slaughter of six million Jews, and examines today's widespread anti-Semitism. [neveragainthemovie.com](https://neveragainthemovie.com)

**Host a Small Group Study** - CUFi's small group educational program enables our members to gather together locally to learn and mobilize in defense of Israel. The small group curriculum includes study booklets, videos, articles, book recommendations and additional resources to further your education and better equip your advocacy for Israel. [cufi.org/group](http://cufi.org/group)

**Use CUFi's High School Curriculum**  
The current anti-Israel climate on our college campuses demands that we reach Christian students with the pro-Israel message and education before they even step foot on a college campus. We are providing an accreditation worthy, comprehensive, and incremental 20 lesson curriculum and instructor's guide for private Christian schools, Home School Associations, and Christian high schoolers across the nation. The curriculum lessons will cover subject matter from the biblical reasons to support Israel as a Christian, to the history of Israel and the Jewish people, the modern state, what to expect on a college campus, and more! To provide interaction for 14-18-year old's, each lesson contains discussion questions, videos, group projects, homework, and further reading. [cufi.org/highschool](http://cufi.org/highschool)

**Join CUFi's Coffee Break** - Learn about Israel's history, political situation, and biblical significance in minutes. Each week, you will receive a bite-sized —yet powerful— Israel lesson in your inbox. [cufi.org/coffee-break](http://cufi.org/coffee-break)



# LEARN ISRAEL'S STORY

In order to better defend Israel, you need to know her story. Christians United for Israel is here to help you...

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL



FROM WHY SHOULD I CARE TO WHAT CAN I DO

## Download The Why Israel Ebook

Most Christians know it's "good" to support Israel. But knowing WHY changes everything. From the nation's miraculous rebirth as a modern state to the dangerous threats that Israel presently faces, the Jewish state's inspiring journey is laid out comprehensively in these pages. [cufi.org/whyisrael](http://cufi.org/whyisrael)

**Watch The Watchman** - The Watchman is CUFi's cutting-edge weekly television show that gives you the inside story on what's happening in Israel and the Middle East. The Watchman airs on TBN and the Fox Business Network. [cufi.org/watchman](http://cufi.org/watchman)

**Receive CUFi's Daily Briefing** - CUFi provides a daily briefing via email to keep you up-to-date on the latest Israel and Middle East news. Each morning, you will receive a snapshot of current events surrounding Israel in your inbox. Sign up to receive CUFi's Daily Briefings to ensure you never miss an important development. [cufi.org/daily-briefing](http://cufi.org/daily-briefing)

**Download CUFi's Issue Primers** - CUFi's Primers provide focused information on current and relevant topics in a clear and concise fashion to inform our members. Our primers cover foundational topics such as the biblical foundation of Christian Zionism, US security assistance to Israel, and the rising tide of anti-Semitism, as well as time sensitive issues such as the Iranian threat, Hezbollah, Hamas and much more. [cufi.org/issue-analysis](http://cufi.org/issue-analysis)

**Download CUFi's Why Christians Should Support Israel Ebook** - Learn why Israel has a biblical and historic claim to the land. Learn why it is important to bless Israel. Learn why modern Israel matters to the world. [cufi.org/why](http://cufi.org/why)



### Israel: 70 Years of Miracles

God performed one of the greatest miracles in history when the Jewish State was reborn in 1948. Israel's story over the last 70 years is one miracle after another. In this exciting booklet, you'll see how God's destiny for Israel has been woven throughout her history, and how CUFi now plays a critical ongoing role in Israel's story of miraculous rebirth and resilience. [cufi.org/70](http://cufi.org/70)

**Download The War Against the Jews Ebook** - Ancient hatred still threatens God's Chosen People. We cannot take these threats lightly. In this eye-opening mini-book packed with historical truth, you will follow the thread of anti-Semitism that continues in an unbroken line from Haman to Hitler to Hezbollah. [cufi.org/war](http://cufi.org/war)

**Download the Sin of Silence Ebook** - One of the most sinister propaganda movements to advance in recent years has been the organized efforts to deny the occurrence and/or diminish the consequences of the Holocaust. The Sin of Silence will help you educate yourself about the history of the Holocaust and be prepared to speak up about the sins of the past. [cufi.org/silence](http://cufi.org/silence)

**Subscribe to The Torch** - CUFi's quarterly magazine is filled with inspiring and educational articles covering current events surrounding Israel and the work CUFi is doing to make Israel stronger and her people safer. [cufi.org/torch](http://cufi.org/torch)

**Watch CUFi's Israel Micro-History** - Do you want to learn more about Israel in just a few minutes? In less than 3 minutes each, these micro-educational videos explore significant developments in Israel's history, from her rebirth as a modern state to the trials she faces today. You'll receive in-depth information about Israel in the same time it takes you to scroll through your social media feed. [cufi.org/micro-history](http://cufi.org/micro-history)

### Take a Virtual Tour of Israel

CUFi's Virtual Tours will provide engaging descriptions of important biblical and historical sites within Israel that will transport you to the land of the Bible. You will see the Scriptures unfold before your very eyes as you walk (virtually) in the footsteps of our Redeemer. [cufi.org/virtual-tours](http://cufi.org/virtual-tours)

### Watch Israel Collective Films

Experience Israel Collective's award winning short films and videos that showcase the true spirit of the Israeli people. These beautifully cinematic, emotionally gripping stories will educate you and capture your heart. [israelcollective.org](http://israelcollective.org)

**Watch CUFi Webinars** - Learn from a variety of accomplished speakers, including members of CUFi's team and Middle East experts from around the world on significant Israel-related topics. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to get informed and become a better defender of Israel from the comfort of your home. [cufi.org/virtual-webinars](http://cufi.org/virtual-webinars)





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