



# ISRAEL

ARMAND EGNEW

**Foreword by Pastor Mark Correll**

Photography Armand Egnew & Alyssa Egnew Vega



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Cover Photo: The Judean desert near Qumran. The Judean Desert is roughly 580 square miles and is framed on the west by the Mountains of Judea and the Dead Sea to the East.



## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my lovely bride Lisa who has put up with me for 37 years. She has been the driving inspiration behind this book. To my two daughters, Alyssa and Carly, who I love dearly, and their creativity never ceases to amaze me!

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Scripture quotations used in this book are from the King James Version.

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Photography: Armand Egnew & Alyssa Egnew Vega

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# THE PILGRIMAGE

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To my wife, who puts up with all my shenanigans and loves me dearly!



# FOREWORD

The Land of the Patriarchs, The Land of the Prophets, The Land of Jesus of Nazareth. Armand Egnew has captured the beauty, the intrigue, and the majesty of the land that has captured hearts and spirits for millennium. Seeing these images transports us to the tranquil shores of Galilee, the ancient walls of Jerusalem and the Power of the first century Resurrection tomb, with a photographic journey along the way that is truly breathtaking. Having the privilege to have led over 45 tours to this wondrous land I stand in awe as I take in the black and white beauty portrayed in these images. I know you will enjoy this work and the journey it unfolds. Israel is the world's jewel, and you are about to see it shine.

Pastor Mark Correll



# INTRODUCTION



Ralph Waldo Emerson sums it up best when he said, “It is a fact often observed, that men have written good verses under the inspiration of passion, who cannot write well under other circumstances.”

My dad instilled in us at a young age the importance of having a good work ethic, and that has been a driving factor in my life. I guess he could do just about anything and if he didn’t know how he would research it or ask someone who knew. He had a real gift for woodworking and preferred a clean work area, which led to our sweeping up the sawdust before it hit the floor. The words, “If you’re going to do something, do it right or not at all” still echo in my head.

Since my youngster years of growing up in the swamplands of south Louisiana, I’ve always pursued things with that same kind of passion, a positive character trait passed down to me from my dad. It’s the same passion and ethics I’ve tried to pass on to my two girls.

I accepted Jesus in my heart in my early twenties, and it was then that God redirected my life and my passions. When you combine the

excellent upbringing from your earthly father with the spiritual nature of the heavenly Father - great things happen! This coffee table book is a result of my passion for the things that God has blessed me.

I was called to the ministry while pursuing an Architecture Degree at Louisiana State University and went on to get a Ministry degree and a Bible degree from Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas. I had a passion for the things of God, and diligently sought ways to excel.

God eventually placed Pastor Mark Correll in my life. I am now a senior pastor, but I still consider him to be my senior pastor. It was through his passion for the nation of Israel that I was first introduced to the Holy Land. All my trips to Israel have been because of Pastor Mark - thank you, pastor!

I’ve always had a knack and passion for all things creative and artsy. I developed an interest in still photography a few years ago and began the hunt for excellence. I threw enormous effort into a hobby consisting of

good photography and creative post-production. I spent countless hours at night on my iPad, drooling over the works of great photographers, and honed my skills.

My heart's desire was to one day own a professional camera with an excellent lens and take another trip to Israel, where I could bring home some of those "Hero Shots" I'd been dreaming of snapping.

God also opened the door to another passion of mine, tennis! I have loved tennis and have played it all of my life. I went from being the "Tennis Dad" for my girls, as they both played in High School, to becoming the head coach of the Ridgeview High School Boy's Tennis Team. Coaching the team was God's way of supplying my financial needs in purchasing the camera, computer, and software necessary to make the trip to Israel. God is so awesome that He used both of my passions to answer my prayers!

Now, after some time, God has supplied all the resources, and after I spent the necessary time learning and perfecting my skills, mostly by offering to work for free, the opportunity came to take that dream trip to the Holy Land!

This is the lesson of God's timing and preparation periods we all must trek through.

In 2016, my daughter Alyssa and I had the opportunity to return to the Holy Land. Alyssa had just spent nearly six months attending "Technion," Israel's School of Technology in Haifa. What a role reversal, as she spoke broken Hebrew and was telling me how to get around, I loved every minute of it.

Pastor Mark, Alyssa, and I talked about various books that could come from this trip, so we shot with several devotionals in mind. Alyssa is an excellent photographer and had her assignment of what to shoot. These are still on the back burner but will be moved forward real soon.

Pastor Mark and George Maskubi, from "Biblical Journeys," were the tour guides on this fabulous trip to the Holy Land. Of all the trips I've taken, this was unequivocally the best one.

Equipped and well prepared, the realization of God's blessings now dawned on me, a trip to Israel with a dream camera and equipment has now come to fruition.

I was like a kid with a new toy, not only with a new toy but in a dreamland of photo opportunity. I filled up my memory cards in the day and at night dropped them onto our MacBook Pro and Dropbox folder. These photos were handled like a valuable Rembrandt painting, very very carefully with a three-way redundancy.

It's taken me another three years to finally listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit, (I'm kind of a slow learner at times) and pull some pictures together and write a book.

My initial intentions were to pick the "Hero Shots," the best of the best only, and make a small Coffee Table Book for friends and family. The plan changed when I met with Pastor Mark for a weekend of talking, praying, and taping some videos for my podcast.

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, Pastor encouraged me to do something bigger, a Coffee Table Book/Tour Book/Devotional Book! He suggested we put a Coffee Table Book together that followed the tour through Israel. It would not only be informational but inspirational as well.

In collaboration with Pastor Mark Correll, we have finally released our Coffee Table Book of Israel in high contrast, black and white! We are praying that God will bless others as He has blessed us in the making of this book.

The Bible gives clear instructions on what to do with our passion for Him! *Colossians 3:23*, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the LORD, not for human masters..."

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. said, "I think that, as life is action and passion, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time at peril of being judged not to have lived."

God assures the Believer that everything we are experiencing in life will always work together to bring about His purpose. *Romans 8:28*, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

So this book, "ISRAEL," is a result of my passion for God and the talents He has so graciously provided for me - Bless His Holy Name!

*Armand Egnew*



## TEL AVIV

A night photograph capturing Tel Aviv, Israel, a city that never sleeps! Tel Aviv is known as a “party city” that stays alive 24 hours a day and embraces an active nightlife. The city, with a population of nearly a half-million people, has grown to become the country’s leader in technological and economic growth. Tel Aviv was founded in 1909, but in 1950 merged with the ancient port city of Jaffa and its suburb. Tel Aviv means Tel (a mound of earth) and Aviv (spring), symbolizing both the oldness and newness of the city!

The name Tel Aviv may have come directly out of the Book of Ezekiel!

### EZEKIEL 3:15

*“Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days.”*



Every spiritual pilgrimage begins with the light of God, illuminating the spirit of man. A visit to the Holy Land is the most spiritually illuminating trip you will ever make!

Tev Aviv is where our pilgrimage begins into the Holy Land.



## TEL AVIV - JOPPA

An amazing Sunrise in Tel Aviv detailing it's stunning skyline! Tel Aviv is the second most populated city in Israel, just behind the city of Jerusalem!

Tel Aviv's "White City" is one of four historical sites in Israel that have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site! Tel Aviv is home to more Bauhaus (International Style) architecture than any city in the world.

Tel Aviv encompasses Joppa, an ancient biblical city mentioned many times in both the Old Testament and the New Testament! The Book of Acts details the account of the apostle Peter had a life-altering encounter with God on the rooftop of a building during the First Century in the city of Joppa!

### ACTS 11:5

*"I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me."*



As the sunrise brings the hope and expectancy of a new day, so God brings newness to the soul every day!

The Tel Aviv sunrise was signaling the beginning of a new day and the heightened expectation of spiritual renewal as the pilgrimage begins!





