

**ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE Nov 15-25, 2006**

**DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

DATE	SCRIPTURE	COMMENT & PRAYER
22-Sep	Mt 2:1 - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,	Jesus was a real person. The event happened just as God's Word says. His birth represents my claim. I belong to Him and He belongs to me. I want to take this opportunity to see and hear and do as much as I can in the Word and in Israel. Lord help me prepare for this trip.
23-Sep	Mt 3:5 - Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan;	My faith is often tested and sometimes I fail the test. Help me Lord today to begin growing in my faith to where You want me to be.
24-Sep	Mt 16:21 - From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.	I'm going to Jerusalem. I will see all of the places where Jesus ministered, suffered and died. It will encourage me. I will become better equipped to serve where I am because He served where He was. I am praying for my family and friends. Encourage my family during my trip to Israel. Give them strength and confidence about my trip. Remind them of how much You love them. Bless them while I am gone.
25-Sep	Mr 11:1 - As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethpage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples,	Life happens whether I am prepared or not. What often seems very ordinary can be an opportunity for me to excel. Guide my hands and feet. Set a guard on my mouth. I'm praying for our Israeli guide, driver and the time in Israel. Keep us safe.
26-Sep	Mr 11:27 -They came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him,	Jesus continues to teach me each day. I want to be open and teachable. Lord guide me and speak to my heart. When I walk up the southern steps to the Temple in Jerusalem I will remember this. What an experience Lord!
27-Sep	Lu 2:41 - Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.	Ramat Rachel is just off of the road Mary and Joseph would have walked that first time from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. Guide me as I walk in Jerusalem.
28-Sep	Lu 4:9 - And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here;	I experience exploitation by sin everyday. I am grateful Lord that you know exactly what I am going through. Help me to face temptation with the same strength you did. I will see the pinnacle of the Temple and will learn from my Israel preparation.
29-Sep	Lu 9:53 - But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem.	My faith is not well received by the world. Help me to be transparent and strong. I am praying for our friends in Israel that are faithfully serving the Father.
30-Sep	Re 21:2 -And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.	This journey to Israel will be one of the greatest experiences of my life. Lord make everything work together smoothly and well. I am praying for each member of our pilgrimage group today. Help me prepare for this wonderful experience.
1-Oct	Isa 62:1 -For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning.	Today I am praying for our country's leadership, church leaders, and members of my church. I pray that the Lord's will be done and that I am faithful in doing it. I am praying for each day of my Israel pilgrimage, for the places we will visit, the places we will stay and the conversations we will have. Bless this trip Lord.
2-Oct	De 5:29 - Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!	My daily time with Jesus helps me to get to know Him better. My journey to Israel will help me to see the Scripture in 3-D. I will see where Jesus walked and will understand much better what His Words are saying. Help me Lord to grow in Christ likeness as a result of this journey to Israel.
3-Oct	De 6:5 - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.	I am called into a closer relationship with Jesus. I pray for peace and joy in my heart and that Jesus will open my eyes to know Him better.

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4-Oct	De 26:16 - "This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.	I know a lot about the Bible. I pray that this journey will help me to see the Word come alive. I want to be equipped for service and have the faithfulness I need to be a good servant. I ask You Lord to care for my family and give us a safe journey.
5-Oct	De 30:2 - and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons,	I believe that this trip is important and do not want to miss anything. Lord give me safety, good health, strength and deep joy as I travel to and in Israel. Make everything work together smoothly and well.
6-Oct	De 30:14 - "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.	Lord put in me a yearning to know You better. Help me to put the Words I do not practice well to active application in my life. Lead me Lord in Your way.
7-Oct	1Sa 12:24 - " Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.	I am overwhelmed with this opportunity to travel to Israel. There is so much I want to know. Equip me to see and hear what You want me to know Lord. Mark my heart with Your teaching. I will pray each day for this trip and all of my fellow travelers.
8-Oct	1Ki 3:9 - "So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"	I am praying for peace in Jerusalem today. I am praying for our travel agents, for those in authority in the US and Israel and for the airlines. Help me Lord to be more understanding of those I am traveling through life with.
9-Oct	1Ki 8:18 - "But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.	I want to feel Your presence Lord. Speak to my emotions and to my experience. I pray that as we travel the land of Israel I will see the Word come alive. I am praying for each one of the Kibbutz's where we stay. Give me an opportunity to share about Jesus.
10-Oct	1Ki 8:39 - then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,	I'm really going to Israel. Awesome thought. Cleanse my heart Lord. I want to be like Jesus. Use this trip to Israel to really do a work in me that will change me forever. I want to be useful and usable. Make it so Father. I pray for our guide and our bus driver today. You know them and I am requesting Your intercession in their life.
11-Oct	1Ki 9:3 - The LORD said to him, " I have heard your prayer and your supplication, which you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built by putting My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.	The Lord is with me. I know that His work is effective right where I am. But to see where His activity began, where He wrote of His love and concern for me brings the Word of God to life before my eyes. Lord I want to see and to walk where You exploded on the world scene. I pray that this experience will help me to have a deeper concern for those You have sent me to. I believe, Lord Jesus, help my unbelief.
12-Oct	1Ki 18:37 - "Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and {that} You have turned their heart back again."	I did nothing to merit salvation. But Jesus saved me. More than 2,000 years ago the Lord wrote of His love and concern for me. I pray for a heart that burns for a relationship with You, Lord. I want to be with You and serve You. Equip me for this journey to the Land of the Bible.
13-Oct	2Ki 20:3 - " Remember now, O LORD, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.	I will see the Temple Mount and the wall that surrounded Jerusalem at the time of Hezekiah. Help me Lord to develop a heart that is pure and an insight that is wise. Israel is a real opportunity for me to discover new truth and to remember old lessons. I am praying for my family today for their safety while I am gone.
14-Oct	1Ch 16:10 - Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.	Joy is a blessing and Father I want joy. I am praying for my fellow travelers. I am praying for their preparation and safety.
15-Oct	Ps 4:4 -Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still.	Jesus walk with me as I prepare to travel to Israel. Open my eyes so that I will see Your Word in a new and fresh way. Remind me of the importance of our work together. People need Jesus.

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16-Oct	Ps 7:10 - My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.	Jesus never brings bad things into my life and when bad things happen He always stands with me. I am not alone.
17-Oct	Ps 9:1 -I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.	I am thinking of those Jesus raised from the dead. What a wonder. I am remembering my own salvation, what a blessing. Thank you Lord for loving me.
18-Oct	Mr 12:30 - AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'	Israel is still in the center of the world's activity. I am going there to see for myself the things that have happened there over the last 3,500 years. I'm a part of that as a child of God. Jerusalem is the city that the Lord loves. I'm going there.
19-Oct	Lu 2:19 - But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.	Closeness to Jesus doesn't create questions, it assures our soul. Eternity is impossible to full comprehend but I know Jesus loves me. I am praying for the lost today.
20-Oct	Lu 12:34 - "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.	I am praying for the Seminary and it's faculty, including their families and their ministry.
21-Oct	Lu 18:1 - Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,	I am praying for my church, my work and opportunities for ministry. Israel will be an experience that will open my eyes to the need around me.
22-Oct	Mt 16:23 - But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."	Traveling through the Dead Sea area and near Jericho I will look up at the Judean Wilderness and remember the Lord's struggles. Jesus help me with my own personal struggles. Use my struggles to equip me to help others.
23-Oct	Ac 1:14 - These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.	I pray for togetherness on this pilgrimage to Israel. That we as a group will pray together and experience the presence of Jesus. That this will be a time of encouragement, strengthening, insight, and a wonderful spiritual experience. Help each one of us love you more Lord.
24-Oct	Job 38:36 - "Who has put wisdom in the innermost being Or given understanding to the mind?"	The Lord is with us. I am praying that we each know Him better at the end of our journey to Israel. Help me not to waste the preparation or the time in Israel.
25-Oct	Ps 26:2 - Examine me, O LORD, and try me; Test my mind and my heart.	I am praying for my friends. I pray that each one of our N. O. Seminary students get a chance to go to Israel. Thank you Lord for this trip.
26-Oct	Ps 110:4 -The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."	I will pray for those that live in Israel both Jew and Gentile. I especially pray for the poor and hungry. I also pray for peace in the Middle East. As I prepare to go on this pilgrimage I am also praying for peace in my city.
27-Oct	Pr 18:15 - The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.	Lord help me to listen. Help me to identify sin in my life and confess it to you. Help me to mature and grow as Your child. Guide me in the everlasting way.
28-Oct	Mt 5:17 - "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.	I want to claim all of the promises of the Lord. I realize there are more than 7,000 promises but I want all I can see. Thank you Lord for your wonderful work in my life.
29-Oct	Jud 16:4 - After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.	I am praying for our first day of travel in Israel when we travel through the Sorek Valley. As we pass Bet Shemesh I pray that I will be reminded of how important it is that I surrender my will to you, Lord.
30-Oct	1Sa 17:1 - Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.	I will see Azekah looking over the camp of Israel. It will be a beautiful picture of the providence of God. It was effective in David's life and it is effective in my life. What an exciting day this will be. Give us safe travel this day Father.
31-Oct	Jos 10:33 -Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish, and Joshua defeated him and his people until he had left him no survivor.	The spies for Israel came through this place. Lachish is just over the hill from our highway and was the first to fall when the Southern Kingdom fell. Secret sin is so destructive. Help me Lord to give you my secret sin and follow you.
1-Nov	Mic 1:10 - Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all. At Beth-le-aphrah roll yourself in the dust.	We will travel near Gath as we head to Beersheva. This is voicing David's lament in 2 Sam 1:20 for Saul and Jonathan. Deliver us from sin Lord and do not let us go down in defeat.

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2-Nov	Ge 21:33 - {Abraham} planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.	Lord I want to be kind and I want to be bold. Help me to express my faith everywhere I go in word and deed. As I stand before the well of Abraham call me to reaffirm my faithfulness to you.
3-Nov	Nu 21:1 - When the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, then he fought against Israel and took some of them captive.	I can see the tree line above Arad and where the desert begins. It looks so desolate and yet so much happened there. Help me Lord not to judge my own life but to be faithful and committed to doing what I can where I am for you today. I'm praying for my family today.
4-Nov	Jud 7:1 - Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him, rose early and camped beside the spring of Harod; and the camp of Midian was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.	Jesus so many times I only see what I don't have. En Harod is a simple little place that was filled with the glory of God. I want to be filled with your glory and to accomplish the tasks that you put before me. Change me Lord Jesus and make me useful and useable. Give me eyes that see and a sensitive spirit. Help me recognize Your hand and Your actions in my life.
5-Nov	Mt 4:12 - Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;	I am praying for our time in the Galilee where Jesus performed the majority of his ministry. I pray that this will be a time of spiritual refreshment.
6-Nov	Mt 4:13 - and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.	I look forward to walking the streets of Capernaum and seeing the synagogue where Jesus preached and the house where Peter lived. I am praying for our journey that everything will work together smoothly and well.
7-Nov	Joh 4:46 - Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum.	Jesus was really here. Just like He ministered in the Galilee He is active in my life. Thank you Lord for speaking to me, guiding me and using me. I am praying for our SBC representatives in the Middle East and their families.
8-Nov	Lu 10:13 - "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.	I will see the basalt village of Chorazin. It is empty and deserted. This happened. I don't want my life to be empty and deserted. Help me Lord to survive difficulties and serve you with a willing spirit. I am praying for the places we will stay, Kibbutz Ramat Rachel, Moshav Shoresh, Kibbutz Kalia, and Kibbutz Maagan.
9-Nov	1Ki 4:25 - So Judah and Israel lived in safety, every man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.	From Dan to Beersheba was a common saying in ancient Israel. Dan was a place of idol worship and a stumbling block for the Northern Kingdom. It was a lie and the people believed. Lord help me to make sure that what I believe is what you have said.
10-Nov	Jer 4:15 - For a voice declares from Dan, And proclaims wickedness from Mount Ephraim.	I am seeking to know Jesus better. This requires me to evaluate what I do in light of the commands of Christ. Help me grow Lord. Make me sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
11-Nov	Mt 16:13 - Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"	I want to know Jesus better than I know anything else. This journey to Israel will help me to understand the words of Jesus in the Bible better. I am praying for my work, my family and my friends today.
12-Nov	1Ki 18:19 - "Now then send {and} gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, {together} with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."	When I stand on Mt. Carmel I will relive in my heart this ancient event. What does this say to me? How can I apply the spiritual lessons of this event to my life? I am willing Lord to be and do whatever you say.
13-Nov	Jud 5:19 - The kings came {and} fought; Then fought the kings of Canaan At Taanach near the waters of Megiddo; They took no plunder in silver.	My life will always involve significant spiritual warfare. The Jezreel Valley is beautiful and will be a blessing to travel through. I will have traveled where every civilization in the Middle East and Western world has come. Many fought great battles here. I need to make sure that I am prepared for the spiritual warfare in my life.
14-Nov	Ac 21:8 - On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.	Jesus is coming back. This idea gripped the minds and hearts of the early church members. Jesus is coming back and I pray that I will be at work sharing Christ every day when Jesus arrives. You are first in my life Lord Jesus.

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15-Nov	Ezr 1:3 - Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.	I'm getting ready for my pilgrimage to Israel. Lord give me a joyful heart and make everything work together smoothly and well. Give me rest each day and safety every place I step. I want to enjoy every moment of this pilgrimage. Take care of my family and friends.
16-Nov	Lu 10:33 - "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,	Today is the day. I pray for a safe and comfortable journey. Help me to be organized and calm. Give me strength and peace. Help me and my fellow travelers today Lord as we journey to Israel. Give us a safe and relaxed plane ride.
17-Nov	Mt 9:36 -Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.	The Lord is my shepherd. I am praying that the Lord will give me favor with all I meet and that our arrival in Tel Aviv and trip to Moshav Shoreshe will be a blessing. I am praying for a good nights sleep and that I will be ready for my first day of touring.
18-Nov	Ge 46:1 - So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.	Today's journey will be on an ancient road and will include ancient cities. I want to see the Word alive and active and working in me. Bless this day and give us safety. Help me to stay awake and hear what You have for me.
19-Nov	2Sa 1:17 - Then David chanted with this lament over Saul and Jonathan his son,	Today we will see where the leadership of Saul ended and David rose as king. David never acted against the anointed leader of Israel, Saul. Jesus is in control.
20-Nov	Mt 8:24 - And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.	Sometimes my life seems overrun and out of control. That is just the deceiver trying to stampede me. Jesus is in control and He loves me. I'm praying for family, good health and safety today.
21-Nov	Mt 18:21 -Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"	Lord I know that I am often my own worst enemy. Help me to be quick to forgive and quick to confess sin. Today I am praying for our time together, the Bible study and our fellowship.
22-Nov	Ac 10:24 - On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.	My faith is personal but epidemic. Help me Lord to be the kind of person that spreads his belief everywhere he goes. Teach me to talk, walk and think like Jesus. This is the day the Lord has made and I will rejoice in it.
23-Nov	Joh 19:41 -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.	We will have a worship service at the Garden Tomb. It may or may not be the exact place but it will feel like it. Lord make this a powerful, spiritual experience for me.
24-Nov	Mt 21:14 -And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.	Lord open the eyes of my heart that my Israel experience will equip me to continue to grow in Christlikeness.
25-Nov	Ze 12:3 "It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.	Conflict in Jerusalem has been going on for many years. I am praying for peace in Jerusalem, that everything will go smoothly and well on the trip home and that the Lord will write the experiences of this trip on my heart so that I will not forget them.
26-Nov	Ac 20:22 -"And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,	I have been to Jerusalem. I am praying for peace in Jerusalem and that God's Word will come alive now that I've walked through the land.
27-Nov	Re 21:2 -And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.	I've seen the Holy Land. Now I will begin to make every place I go Holy Land. Guide me Jesus and help me to serve.