

GROUP JOURNEY TO ISRAEL FROM 3 to 13 MAY 2019

'I rejoiced with those who said to me: Come, let us go to the house of the Lord. Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem. '

Psalm 122:1



We were told that when we go up to Israel and turn our feet to Jerusalem we are blessed. And that is how we experienced it too. We were traveling with Mazzel Tov journeys led by tour guide David Hiemstra. This journey with the theme: "In the footsteps of Jesus" was unforgettable. From Tel Aviv to the Dead Sea, with Jerusalem as highlight. Overwhelming!

Very special was attending a service of the Messianic Church Kehilat HaCarmel on the Carmel while at the same time hundreds of rockets were simultaneously fired from Gaza. We felt a deep connection with God's people when we started to praise the Lord.

Getsemané, Golgotha and the Garden tomb also impressed us deeply. The grave is empty. Jesus is alive! After all, the angels said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" At Calvary we heard, as it were ringing in our ears: "It is finished." The Lord Jesus was slain there as the perfect Lamb of God for the sin of the whole world.

On the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem we were reminded of Zechariah 14: 4. "On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem." In the explanation of how an olive press works we were told that the olive has three pressings. One for food preparation, one for cosmetics etc. and one for household use.

This referred to the Lord Jesus when he prayed three times under inhumane pressure in the garden of Gethsemane: "My Father if You are willing, take this cup from me: but not my will, but Yours be done. "

We could also enjoy the beautiful scenery and various views several times. E.g. in the Baniyas National Park, the origin of the Jordan and Engedi with its arid, dry rocks, between which a stream flows and waterfalls can be admired. The view from the Carmel on the Jezreel valley was breathtaking.



With the Wailing Wall we were reminded of what Jeremiah 33: 3 says. "Call to Me, and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." A powerful promise to the people of God.

The Sea of Galilee and the surrounding area is an area where the Lord Jesus gladly stayed and preached a lot and did many miracles. We visited the places of Nazareth, Tiberias and Capernaum. Also the mountain of Beatitudes and the place of the wonderful feeding (Tabga). During the boat trip on the lake we were reminded of Matt. 14:29 "And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water."

To walk in ancient Jerusalem with its countless streets and alleys is an experience in itself. And not to mention the countless shops. Three population groups live together there. The Jews, the Muslims and the Christians, although each in their own neighbourhood.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how many times have I wanted to gather your children like a hen's chickens under its wings, and you have not wanted." This journey has emphasized the deeper meaning of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus and made the greatness of the God of Israel tangible. It is as if a missing piece has been inserted into our spiritual life. It feels complete now.

Eltjo en Loes