

# *Ladies, Lovers, and Leaders: Experiencing the Stories of the Biblical Women (and Men!)*

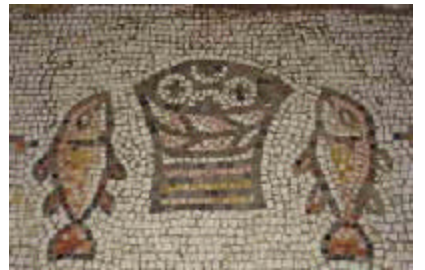
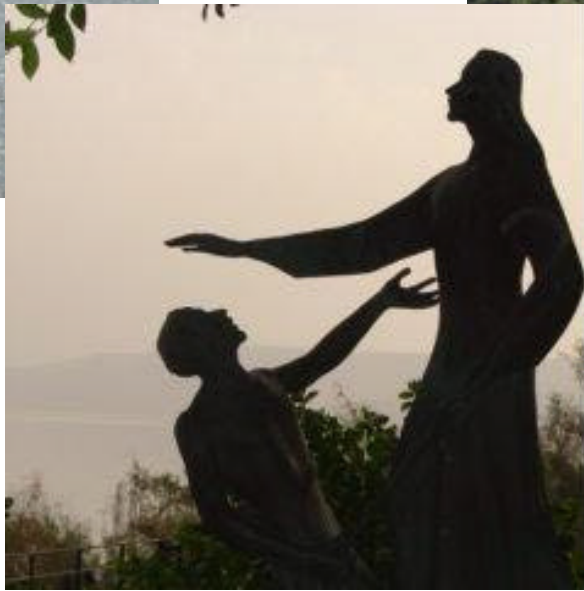


Led by

**Biblical Storyteller, Tracy Radosevic**

**January 3 - 13, 2009**

**\$2298\* From Baltimore**



### *Your Pilgrimage Includes*

- # Round-Trip Airfare (*contact ACTS for domestic flight*)
- # Daily Worship and Provocative Meditations
- # Continuing Education Credits Available
- # Guided Sightseeing and Entrance Fees
- # Deluxe Motor-Coach Transportation
- # Possible Gathering with Local Women's Group
- # On-Site Biblical Storyteller
- # Daily Breakfast & Dinner
- # Study Aids and Maps
- # First-Class Hotels
- # Small Intimate Group
- # Services of ACTS

*The Highest Quality at the Best Value*

On this spiritual pilgrimage through Israel/ Palestine, while we'll hear plenty of stories of important biblical men, we will pay *special* attention to the women listed below, hearing their stories told a bit (and sometimes a *lot*) differently from the way they're usually presented and understanding their lives through the lens of more contemporary scholarship in women's studies. Just who were these females and why should we care? Exactly what role did they play in the life of Jesus, his ministry, and the development of the early Church? What impact might they have had in their time—and what potential influence are they still wielding globally today?

- Rahab
- Mary
- Deborah
- Elizabeth
- Bathsheba
- Ruth and Naomi
- Medium of Endor
- Mary Magdalene
- Sarah and Hagar
- Woman at the Well
- Mary and Martha
- Woman with Flow of Blood
- Daughters of Zelophehad
- Woman with the Alabaster Jar
- Syro-Phoenician Woman



## *Your Daily Itinerary Includes*

**Day 1 & 2 - DEPART** from Atlanta for your overnight international flight to Tel Aviv. Upon arrival travel to Jericho for dinner and overnight. The evening is free for rest.

### **Day 3 - JERICHO/BEIT SHEAN/JORDAN RIVER**

Visit the ancient Tel of Jericho before traveling to Beit Shean, the only Decapolis city in Israel. Remember your Baptism at the Jordan River. Continue to Tiberias for three overnights.

### **Day 4 - GALILEE**

The sun will awaken you as you catch a glimpse of the Sea of Galilee from your hotel. Have your morning devotions aboard the boat as you cross the Sea to visit the biblical city of Capernaum and see the old synagogue and the house of Peter's mother-in-law. At the Mt. of Beatitudes listen again to The Sermon on the Mount. In the afternoon, visit Tabgha, the site of the famous miracle and the Church of the Loaves and Fishes and visit the 1<sup>st</sup> century ancient boat. Hear the words of Jesus to Peter, "feed My sheep," as you visit the Primacy of Peter Church. Travel through Migdal, home of Mary Magdalene.

### **Day 5 - SEPPHORIS/NAZARETH/MT TABOR**

Visit the town of Cana of Galilee where the first miracle took place. Travel to the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth. Climb to the top of Mt. Tabor and walk the ancient streets of Sepphoris, home of Mary's parents, Anne and Joachim, and the site of the "Mona Lisa of the Galilee," an intricate and well-preserved mosaic floor.

### **Day 6- MT CARMEL/ MEGIDDO/CAESAREA**

Hear the story of Elijah at Mt. Carmel. Cross the Valley of Armageddon to Tel Megiddo. En route to Jerusalem see the Crusader City of Caesarea by the Sea and the Roman Aqueduct.

### **Day 7 - OLD CITY of JERUSALEM**

Begin the day by walking the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross), and visit the Pool of Bethesda and St. Anne's Church. Proceed to the Antonia Fortress where the crown of thorns was placed on Jesus' head and take time at the Stations of the Cross for prayer and reflection. Enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Walk the ancient Cardo of Jerusalem and take time for prayer at the Western Wall. Visit the Teaching Steps and the Upper Room. See the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock. Tread on the 1<sup>st</sup> century steps of ancient Jerusalem and visit the House of Caiaphas, where Jesus was held and Peter denied Him.

### **Day 8 - MT of OLIVES/BETHANY/BETHLEHEM**

Stand on the Mt. of Olives and overlook the Kidron Valley and the walled city. Walk the Palm Sunday path to the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the Church of All Nations and the Tomb of Mary. Visit Bethany and the tomb of Lazarus. In the afternoon travel to Bethlehem and kneel at the star which marks the birth of the Savior.

### **Day 9 -FREE DAY OR OPTIONAL DEAD SEA DAY**

Enjoy a free day in Jerusalem OR take a reflective moment in the wilderness before traveling to Masada, a well preserved palace of King Herod. Visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Time permitting, take a dip in the Dead Sea before returning to Jerusalem (*Optional Dead Sea Day, \$49*).

### **Day 10 - EIN KAREM/DEPART**

Enjoy a free morning. In the afternoon travel to Ein Karem, home of John and Elizabeth. Visit the Garden Tomb where our group can pray, sing, and commune together. Enjoy a Farewell Dinner before proceeding to Tel Aviv to board the overnight flight to the USA.

### **Day 11 - ARRIVE** home with a treasure of memories.

*You will see all of the above sites during your Pilgrimage. Flexibility in the itinerary may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances such as airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions.*



# Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.

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<b>Passenger 1</b> _____ As It Appears On Your Passport Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Departure Date: _____ Departure City: _____ How did you learn of this trip: _____
<b>Passenger 2</b> _____ As It Appears On Your Passport Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. If different than above Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Please Register Me For: HLW/010309 ____ Basic Program \$2298* from Baltimore ____ Basic Program \$2389* from Philadelphia (Or contact the ACTS office to travel from a city near you) ____ Dead Sea Day \$49 (free if paid in full by Labor Day)
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone (____) _____ Work(____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____ Roommate _____ Smoking? _____ Assign single room+ _____ Assign a roommate+ _____	<b>Please make a copy of the front page of your passport and send it to our office with this registration form.</b> Emergency Contact: _____ Contact Telephone: _____ <b>For Office Use</b> Deposit & Check#: _____ Date Received: _____

**AGREEMENT:** Registration constitutes acceptance of this agreement by the passengers.

**PAYMENT:** A \$250 per person deposit is required for registration. Registrations postmarked by Independence Day (07/04/08) will receive \$100 Early Registration Discount. Full payments received by Labor Day receive Dead Sea Day Option Free. Full payment is due 100 days before departure. Full payment must accompany registrations inside 100 days of departure. Registrations made less than 35 days before departure require a \$75 Late Registration Fee. Late payments will be charged a \$35 late fee. In an effort to maintain lower costs credit cards are not accepted. Canceled checks serve as receipt of payment. Travel Insurance is recommended and information will be provided upon registration.

**AIRLINES:** Air transportation will be provided using economy class aboard IAATA and ARC carriers with APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, unchangeable tickets for groups of 10 or more with the same itinerary. Flight times are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. Alpha Christian TourS, Inc. accepts no responsibility for airline delays and will not reimburse any expenses caused by such delays. Airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded after being purchased.

**CANCELLATION FEES:** 100% of tour cost is refundable by the Optional Travel Insurance Program, provided the premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is insurable. The following cancellation fees apply to those who do not take Travel Insurance. Up to 100 days before departure ~ \$50 and any airline penalties. Thereafter, you will be charged a single room fee if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single room, any airline penalties plus the following charges apply: 99 - 60 days ~ \$100. 59 - 35 days ~ 25% of total trip cost. 34 - 15 days ~ 50% of total trip cost. 14 days to departure ~ 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

**\*NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE:** (1) Basic Trip Gratuities ~ \$54, (2) Taxes, visa fees, handling fees, immigration, departure and/or border fees ~ \$335, (3) Non-refundable administrative fee ~ \$50. (3) Love Offering for the Drivers and Guides [suggestion of \$8-\$10/day] (4) Excess baggage charge, lunches, beverages at meals, laundry, passports, personal items are not included. (5) CEU certificate, if required. ACTS reserves the right to add fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

**+ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel rooms are based upon double occupancy. ACTS will provide single rooms at an additional charge of \$80 per night if available. Upon request, ACTS will attempt to assign (but cannot guarantee) a roommate. If itinerary changes necessitate extra nights there will be an additional charge (Single ~ \$125, Double ~ \$85). Single rooms are often smaller than double rooms.

**NOTICE:** Except where otherwise stated ACTS works only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall ACTS be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. ACTS assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service. ACTS does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold ACTS harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. North Carolina law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of/or concerns this brochure or your tour.

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**TRACY RADOSEVIC** ([www.tracyrad.com](http://www.tracyrad.com)) is an internationally-acclaimed freelance storyteller who has traveled all over the United States and several foreign countries performing, teaching, and leading retreats. A longtime member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers ([www.nobs.org](http://www.nobs.org)), she has served as editor of their bi-monthly newsletter, *The Biblical Storyteller*, since 2000 and was recently named Dean of their newly-formed Academy for Biblical Storytelling. Tracy has a Master's Degree in Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, an M.A. in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University, and a Doctor of Ministry in "Spirituality for Transforming Community" from Wesley Theological Seminary where, along with the Ecumenical Institute of Theology in Baltimore, she is now an adjunct professor.

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**People make friends through the telling and hearing of stories. That is the unique nature of narrative: people have a different relationship with those they have seen and been around after these folks have given them a story. Stories open up relationships.**

If, as Christians, we believe that our purpose is to love God and love our neighbor, then we already know a bit about the importance of relationships. And I think that women in particular—the nurturers, sharers, and engagers—have an inherent understanding of this. How appropriate, then, to combine these purposes in a trip that will allow us to connect with the land, its people (especially its women), and each other through story.

My first trip to Israel/Palestine was a life-changing experience for me. Being able to actually visualize the land of our ancestors in the faith has continued to be a source of deep spiritual formation for me. My last two trips to Israel/Palestine were biblical storytelling pilgrimages that transformed this land that I could already see in my mind's eye into a *visceral* connection for me. I now have a profoundly personal relationship with this place, its people, and my fellow travelers because I've not just seen sites but have experienced their embodied stories in uniquely powerful ways within the context of a faith community.

As one satisfied pilgrim reported after last year's trip: *"The characters in the New Testament Gospels were always static—far removed—in my mind. Actually being in the places where all those events took place was like finally having scenery for the actors in a play. Once you dropped the characters into the scenery, they came alive—moving, breathing human beings. I could actually picture the events happening and feel like I had almost witnessed them myself. I can close my eyes and see these stories happening. Actually being in the place where each story was set made them all that more vivid and real."*

I would love to share this experience with you! I know the impact of a well-told narrative and I've made it my life's work to tell the powerful, transformative stories of the Bible to others. What better place to do this than in the land of their origins? And what better way, as Christians, to enhance our relationship with God and others than to make friends with other pilgrims along the same spiritual journey by sharing these sacred stories with one another?

~ Dr. Tracy Radosevic, Biblical Storyteller

*"I am a 69-year-old woman who has always wanted to visit Israel but didn't feel comfortable going in this day and age due to security concerns. I am so glad that I changed my mind! When I got there I saw very strong security everywhere and never felt afraid. We went all over Israel, including Palestinian Authority areas, and I was always made to feel welcome. I would love to go again and spend more time there!!"*

~ Danette from Cherryville, NC Traveled January 2008