

Jerusalem, the Desert, and Galilee
A Theological Study Tour through the geography of Salvation
Summer 2014

Professors: Virgilio Elizondo Dates: May 29- June 12, 2014
 Kevin Grove, c.s.c.
E-Mail: elizondo.2@nd.edu Place: Tantur, Israel
Office: 250 A McKenna Hall
Office Phone: 574-631-4741

Graduate Assistant: Margaret Blume: margaret.a.blume.8@nd.edu

Assistant to Fr. Elizondo: Ms. Nolvía Ramos: Nolvía.E.Ramos.46@nd.edu

Why the Land?

“Because of the incarnation, every detail of the life of Jesus is a part of revelation.” (*Redemptor Hominis*- John Paul II)

“Christ’s whole life is a mystery of redemption. Redemption comes to us through the blood of the cross, but this mystery is at work throughout Christ’s entire life.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*-517)

“Others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say the Christ will come from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”

Course Description:

This two-week course through the land of Jesus will seek to explore the theological themes of the gospel narratives informed by the socio-cultural and historical perspectives.

The journey through the land organized the theology, which is a reflection of the deeper meaning of the journey. In keeping with the tradition of the earliest followers of Jesus and the subsequent generations of Christians, by returning to the places of origins, we will seek a better understanding of the foundational words, persons, events, and places mentioned in the gospels so as to probe their redemptive value for us today.

The course will consist of readings, lectures, guided visits, theological reflection and written papers or video projects.

The bulk of the course will take place in Tantur and its surroundings (Jerusalem, Bethlehem, etc.) with a three-day intensive trip into Galilee.

Registration: Through the Theology Department of Notre Dame.

Course Work:

This will be a course in theological reflection based on the possible social/theological meanings of space based on some of the significant places of the gospel narratives.

What could God be trying to tell us in choosing this particular place for a significant action?

There will be brief orientation lectures.

Most of the time will be spent visiting significant places during the day, time Scripture reading, personal reflection, and evening for group reflection.

On the evenings before the visit to a site, participants will be assigned to (1) offer a brief reflection on the Gospel text referring to the place we will visit; (2) from Jerome Murphy-O'Connor's book or some other source present some archaeological insights about the sites we will visit.

In the evenings of the visit participants will be asked to work in teams of two or three, periodically changing teams, to reflect together on the theological signification of the places we visited; group reflections will be followed by a plenary session sharing the insights of each group.

PROJECT

Be creative! Use your imagination! Suggestions:

A power point or video presentation; or you could write three brief reflection papers – each based on a possible theological meaning of one of the places visited. – brief meditations; catechetical lessons, sermons, etc.

Suggestions for Possible Background Readings:

Elizondo, Virgilio P. *A God of Incredible Surprises: Jesus of Galilee*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

Elizondo, Virgilio P. *Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2000.

Stepehn Doyle, *The Pilgrim's New Guide to the Holy Land*, Liturgical Press

Feiler, Bruce S. *Where God Was Born: A Journey by Land to the Roots of Religion*. New York: William Morrow, 2005.

Freyne, Seán. *Jesus, a Jewish Galilean: A New Reading of the Jesus Story*. London: T & T Clark, 2004.

Lassalle-Klein, Robert Anthony. *Jesus of Galilee: Contextual Christology for the 21st Century*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2011.

Malina, Bruce J. *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*. Atlanta, GA: John Knox, 1981.

***Murphy, O'Connor. *The Holy Land: An Archaeological Guide*. Oxford UP, 1980. (This book is essential to the course)**

Clemens Kopp *The Holy Places of the Gospels* (an old book, but good on Patristic references to the holy places).

Malina, Bruce J., Gerd Theissen and Wolfgang Stegermann, *The Social Setting of Jesus and the Gospels*, Fortress Press, 2002

Wilken, Robert Louis. *The Land Called Holy: Palestine in Christian History and Thought*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1992.

Theological Studies. The Galilean Jesus 70.2 (June 2009).

For great maps of the Holy Land, consult:

<http://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CP051GOSPELMAPS.htm>

