

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

Theology
Summer 2008
University of Notre Dame

Instructor: Virgilio Elizondo
Office (at ND) McKenna 250A
Phone: 574-631-4741
E-MAIL: elizondo.2@nd.edu

Dates: June 1 – 12, 2008
Place: Tantur, Israel
TA: Terry Garza
E-MAIL: garza.19@nd.edu

“Because of the Incarnation, every detail of the life of Jesus is part of the 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 that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.” (John 7:40-41)

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 organizes the theology, which is a reflection on the deeper meaning of the journey. In keeping with the tradition of the earliest followers of Jesus and of 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

Tentative Course Schedule – Theology Summer Course 2008 - Tantur
What Is a theological meanings of "Holy Place"
Note: be attentive to contrasts

May 31 (Saturday)

Suggested arrival - relax - time to get over jetlag

June 1 (Sunday)

Sunday Mass; - free morning

Afternoon: Introductions and general orientation;
supper followed by fellowship.

June 2 (Monday) -- a general overview of Jerusalem; Herod's Castle – The Herodian; Herod's tomb; Bethlehem; Shepherd's field; site of the Nativity; the Milk Grotto.

GUIDE: Fr. Michael McGarry

Supper, followed by evening reflection and fellowship

Scripture readings:

June 3 (Tuesday) --

morning tour of Jerusalem / afternoon reflection at Tantur

THROUGH THE OLD CITY OF JESUS, INCLUDING THE CENACLE, PLACE OF MARY'S "DORMITION," (PERHAPS SECOND PLACE OF THE LAST SUMMER, ST. MARK'S), , POOLS OF BETHESDA, THE ARMENIAN QUARTER (ANNAS HOUSE)

Supper followed by fellowship

Scripture readings:

June 4 (Wednesday)

morning tour of Jerusalem / afternoon reflection at Tantur

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER, VIA DOLOROSA; MAY ALSO VISIT THE "GARDEN TOMB," WHICH IS CERTAINLY NOT AUTHENTIC BUT RAISES IN SHARP FASHION; The Wailing Wall and Temple

Supper followed by fellowship

Scripture readings:

June 5 (Thursday)

Morning tour of Jerusalem / afternoon reflection at Tantur

suggest: Church of All Nations and Mt. of Olives; FOLLOWING THE STEPS OF JESUS FROM BETHPHAGE OVER THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, TO THE PLACE OF THE ASCENSION, PATER NOSTER CHURCH, DOMINUS FLEVIT, GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE, TOMB OF MARY

GUIDE: Fr. Michael McGarry (7:45a-12:15p)

Supper followed by fellowship

Scripture readings:

June 6 (Friday)

Morning reflection at Tantur FOR THE JEWISH DIMENSIONS OF THE OLD CITY, INCLUDING THE WESTERN WALL, THE SOUTHERN WALL (WHERE JESUS WOULD HAVE WALKED) AND PARTS OF THE OLD CITY.
A GUIDE FOR YOU FOR THIS DAY

Afternoon (optional) THE OPTION OF MAKING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH OTHER PILGRIMS AT 4PM

Scripture readings:.

June 7, 8 & 9: Galilee

Terry has made reservations at the Pilgerhaus for the nights of June 7 and 8. We will spend three days in Galilee with two nights at Pilgerhaus -- supper and evening reflections will be at Pilgerhaus.

(day 1-Saturday) leave early: On the way to Galilee: a stop in the desert & Qumran, Scythopolis and Nazareth

Scripture readings:

(day 2-Sunday) Within Galilee: leave early (7:30a) for Caesarea Philippi; a late lunch (1:00p) at Mount of the Beatitudes and Mass; In the afternoon - a tour of the area including Capernaum, Bethsaida, Primacy of Peter.

Scripture readings:

(day 3-Monday) tour surroundings of Sea of Galilee and Mt. Tabor
Supper and evening reflection at Tantur

Scripture readings:

June 10 (Tuesday) - tba IDEAS:

EIN KEREM (THE PLACE OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, VISITATION),
DESERT MONASTERY OF ST. JOHN IN THE DESERT

WE HAVE A GUIDE SET UP FOR YOU.

Supper and evening reflection at Tantur

June 11 (Wednesday) – tba TIME TO WANDER ON THEIR OWN AND DO SOME SOUVENIR BUYING

June 12 (Thursday) departures.

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 for Scripture reading, personal reflection, and evenings for group reflection.

Participants will be asked to work in teams of two or three, periodically changing teams and to write three brief reflection papers – each based on a possible theological meaning of one of the places visited.

Suggestions for possible background readings:

Virgilio Elizondo, *Galilean Journey*, especially Part II.

Virgilio Elizondo, *A God of Incredible Surprises*.

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

Sean Freyne, *Jesus a Jewish Galilean*, TT & Clark, 2004

Jerome Murphy-O'Connor *The Holy Land: An Archaeological Guide* (Oxford University Press) is indispensable.

Bruce Feiler, *Where God was Born*, William Morrow, 2005.

Malina, Bruce J., *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*, Westminster Press, 2001.

For great maps of the Holy Land, consult:

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

