

Multi-perspective Pilgrimage to Israel & Palestine

January 4-13, 2021

frederickuu.org/pilgrimage

Covenant

- **Use “I” statements:** speak your truth in ways that respect the truth of others.
- **Share the airtime:** “take space or make space” depending on your relative frequency of participation compared to the rest of the group
- **Incline yourself toward “identifying *in*”:** noticing what you *agree with & appreciate* about a person, place, or idea at least as much as what you disagree with (“identifying *out*”) to help counterbalance our brain’s “negativity bias.”
- **Turn to curiosity & wonder** if the going gets rough

Covenant

- **Practice “both/and”** thinking
- **Take new ideas for a test drive** even if they don't end up fitting you long term.
- **Ok to “agree to disagree,”** but *not* to shame another person.
- **Ok to ask a clarifying question** in the spirit of curiosity.
- **Practice consent culture:** each individual always has the right to “pass.” (Listen to your emotions and your conscience.)

Focal Themes

Pilgrimage: “A *tourist* passes through a place,
a *pilgrim* allows a place to pass through them.”

Perspectives:

- Israel means at least the modern State of Israel and the historic Land of Israel.
- Palestine means both a historic region in the Middle East as well as modern state recognized by 138 of the 193 United Nations members. (The United States does not recognize the State of Palestine.)

Peace: “The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all” (UU Sixth Principle).

What does **Jerusalem** mean to you?





Check-in: 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

~? minute(s) each

[1-2 Minutes or silence to reflect]

- Name
- What does **Jerusalem** mean to you?
 - What does *traveling to* and/or being *physically in* Jerusalem mean to you?
 - If you have visited Jerusalem previously, what resonated with you most? What do you remember?

What does Jerusalem mean?

- *[Montefiore xxi - xxii]*

What do you notice on this map?



Day 2 (of 10): Tuesday, Jan 5, 2021

Jerusalem

What do you notice on this map?



Jerusalem

1. March (Arrival & Gathering): *Israel/Palestine* by Dowty
2. **April** (Jerusalem): **Insights/Observations/Questions from book, films, etc. this month?**
 - *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths* (471 pages: Knopf, 1996) by Karen Armstrong
 - *My Neighborhood*, streaming at justvision.org/myneighbourhood/about
3. **May** (Day 3: Geopolitical Jerusalem): **Anti-Semitism**—books, films, articles, & more at frederickuu.org/pilgrimage

Day 2 (of 10):

Jerusalem Narratives (Bus, Both Guides)

Tuesday, Jan 5, 2021

- Meet your two guides — one Palestinian Arab and one Jewish Israeli — for a short orientation and an overview of Jerusalem's religious history from the Mount of Olives.
- Then tour the Old City's Jewish, Christian, & Muslim holy sites with your guides.
- Visit the Temple Mount / *Haram al Sharif*, and see the Dome of the Rock and *al-Aqsa Mosque*.
- Meet with a representative of the Islamic Waqf that oversees the site, and then explore the Muslim Quarter.

Day 2 (of 10):

Jerusalem Narratives (Bus, Both Guides)

Tuesday, Jan 5, 2021

- Next, visit the Western Wall and Jewish Quarter.
- Tour the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to learn its history and its fragile ecumenical peace.
- Over dinner meet with a local rabbi.
- Overnight: Holy Land Hotel or similar, Jerusalem

Timeline

c. 5000 BCE Early inhabitants of city we now know as Jerusalem

1900s BCE Pottery: “Ursalim”

[Montefiore 18]

Timeline

2000-1550 Ancestral Period

➤ **2000: Abraham & Sarah** [*Montefiore 20*]

➤ grandson Jacob —> “Israel” [*Montefiore 21*]

➤ *1700 Famine in Canaan (Israel to Egypt) — 400 years in slavery*

➤ **1300: Exodus (EGYPT)**



Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Anatolia

ASSYRIA

Media

Mediterranean Sea

Levant

PHOENICIA

Fertile Crescent

MESOPOTAMIA

Tigris

Euphrates

Syrian Desert

Lower Egypt

Sinai

Upper Egypt

Persian Gulf

Nile

Nubian Desert

Red Sea

North

0 250 500 1000

kilometers

Timeline

- 1280-1020 Conquest and Settlement
- 1020-922 United Kingdom
 - 1000: David (monarchy) [*Montefiore 17, 28*]
- 922-721 Two Kingdoms
 - 721 Destruction of N. Kingdom of Israel
- (ASSYRIA)

Timeline

- 721-587 Judah Alone
- 587-539 Babylonian Exile
 - 586/7: Jerusalem destroyed; begin **(BABYLONIAN)** exile
- 539-333 Return and Restoration
 - 539: Return from Exile (**PERSIA**...Cyrus the Great)

Nomenclature

Hebrews: ancestors
(before Israel was a nation)

Israelites: Moses until exile
(when Israel destroyed)

Jews: Babylonian exile
(only the tribe of Judah survived)

Israelis: citizens of the modern state of Israel
(founded in 1948)

Timeline

- 333-70 C.E. Judaism and Hellenism
 - 333: Alexander the Great (**GREECE**—*Hellenism*)
 - 63 B.C.E. **ROME** takes control of Middle East (*Greco-Roman*)
 - 70 C.E. **destruction of Jerusalem Temple** — *Rabbinical Judaism and Christianity as siblings*

Timeline

- 630-660 Arab Conquest
- Muhammad's Night Journey
- 691/2 Dome of the Rock completed

Timeline

- 1099 Crusaders storm Jerusalem
- Cross placed atop the Dome of the Rock
- Some crusaders told story that Dome of Rock built by Solomon or Constantine

Relatively soon back in Arab/Muslim control—eventually to Ottoman Empire

What does Jerusalem mean?

- *[Montefiore 538]*

Check-out:

- Question, Insight, Observation, Intention, Ah-ha moment (“takeaway”)
- Any new connections with our themes?
 - **Pilgrimage:** “*A tourist* passes through a place, *a pilgrim* allows a place to pass through them.”
 - **Perspectives** *plural*
 - **Peace:** “The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all” (UU Sixth Principle).
(then “look ahead”)

Looking Ahead

June (Day 4: Tzfat & the Galilee): **The Quest for the Historical Jesus**

July (Day 5: Nazareth, Jericho, Ramallah):
Settler Colonialism & Palestinian Resistance

August (Day 6: Judean Desert & Jordan Valley):
Qumran & the Dead Sea Scrolls

September (Day 7: Masada & Hebron): **Myth & Revolt**

October (Day 8: Greater Bethlehem): **Zionism**

November (Day 9: *Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam*): **Paths to Peace**

December (Day 10: Departure): **U.S. Role in Peace Process**

January (Integration): **Healing/Transforming Israel/Palestine**