

[9:37 AM, 5/4] : We made it safely here. Thanks for your prayers. Keep em coming.

[9:10 PM, 5/4] : After 11 hours of sleep. We're up at 4:30 am (local time) and ready for our first full day in Israel.

We were told to avoid the Shabbat elevators. They stop at every floor so you don't have to command them to work. Just the larger hotels have them and it's just one of the elevators if so. We didn't see any.

[12:55 PM, 5/5] : Caesarea turned out to be a bigger deal than we had realized. Spent the whole day there today. Now are at Tiberius for the evening.





[10:03 PM, 5/5] : Sunday morning on the lake of Galilee. I'm waking up around 4:00 every day here. Love being an early bird. Ps, We walked about 6 miles yesterday and almost had a head on collision in the valley of Armageddon but God is watching after us. Keep praying. We're trying not to travel, as much as possible. It is a little crazy but the one near head on was rare and they quickly zipped back into line. It seems a fender bender is almost inevitable though. I'm keeping my arm inside the car after almost touching a motorcycle as it zipped by between cars at a light. I did buy the full coverage insurance.

[12:11 PM, 5/6] : Saw Peter's house, tried to get a boat tour on the lake but they were full, then saw the sermon on the mount site, tried kayaking on the Galilee but they were closed, saw the Jordan River baptism site.



[12:22 PM, 5/7] : Had the famous Israeli breakfast that keeps you full until midafternoon. It includes a salad.



[12:26 PM, 5/7] : Today we went kayaking in the Galilee, went through Nazareth, then drove across Mount Carmel, And south down to Arad for the night. It's the desert area of Israel.

[1:54 PM, 5/8] : Went to Masada and what we think is a city of Sodom. Our friends have found sulfur balls there.



[9:56 PM, 5/8] : There are sulfur balls in the area and these charcoal. Not too many people seem interested in this site. You can walk to it from the Masada parking lot but we were the only ones there while hundreds were around Masada.





<https://youtu.be/DBSIs2bHi5g>

[10:24 PM, 5/8] : Finding charcoal at Sodom.

[10:48 PM, 5/8] : This is an interesting crack in the ash. It's the perfect shape of a 12-15' arched entry way and was hollow behind it. They just had a real heavy rain here so this may have just opened up



[12:37 AM, 5/9] : Entry to a city that has been burned to ash? Notice the “gateway” in the background.



[10:32 AM, 5/9] : We found out this was probably Gomorrah. Went back there today.

[10:33 AM, 5/9] : Ps. My (mike) phone got dropped in the Dead Sea (combination of events, i put it in Sam's shoe and he went to clean his shoe in the water.)

[10:30 AM, 5/10] : Ein Geri then Qumran caves then Jerusalem!!





[10:43 AM, 5/10] : They said our hotel was built during the Ottoman Empire and was used as a police station and later as a hospital.

[11:48 AM, 5/12] : This is the Eastern gate which was sealed up as prophesied it would be in Ezekiel 44.



[11:54 AM, 5/12] : The real gold manora created for the new temple and the wailing wall. The guide said they (the Jews) are not going to rebuild the temple but will wait for the messiah to come and rebuild it (of course it was her view and they say where you have two Jews you have three opinions so I'm not sure how many Jews believe it this way). You can see how they can be easily fooled by the Anti-Christ when he comes, claiming to be the messiah and rebuilds their temple (or a tabernacle).



[8:17 AM, 5/13] : Much more police and military presence today. [Jerusalem Day]

[8:20 AM, 5/13] : Went to the David tower museum and learned a lot about Israel's history. Went to Mount of Olives. Went to garden tomb but it was closed.

[9:32 AM, 5/13] : Here's the Jerusalem Day crowd.



[10:11 AM, 5/13] : it is touching to see these people in their homeland and so happy for it. Remembering the holocaust and all they've been thru makes it especially touching.

[8:14 AM, 5/14] : Made it to the garden tomb and back with no issues whatsoever (it's about 100 yards from an Israeli soldier outpost next to the Damascus gate).



We watched a documentary that the crucifixion site may have been where we are standing in the below picture. A person passing by said he was here about two years ago and the planks you see in the picture weren't there and you could see three holes in the rock ground that would seem to be for crosses to set into. He said you could also see a crack in the middle hole. Some people believe Jesus' blood went through this crack to the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant (where the high priest usually sprinkled the yearly blood sacrifice). The ark may have been buried in a cave underneath this location many years prior during the Babylonian invasion.

The person we talked to also said the rabbis say they know where the Ark is, it's just not time to reveal it because the temple is not ready to be rebuilt. It's all pretty wild speculation but it is interesting that they covered the holes with these planks. The person we talked to said the people that run this garden don't believe the theory at all. It's strange that they are even hiding the holes.



[12:37 PM, 5/15] : This was a special serendipity. We actually got lost just for a few minutes and ended up at the Tomb of David (you can only do that in Jerusalem). There we met a very friendly, happy and zealous Jew. When he found out that Sam was the age of 13 he gave him a special blessing that included a dance in a circle.



[12:40 PM, 5/15] : Went to the city of David museum today. It includes Hezekiah's tunnel which ends at the Pool of Siloam. The start of Ramadan is tomorrow (tonight) and another tourist said he was told to be out of the old city by 9:00 pm so we did too. We'd had our fill of touring. We usually walk around 6 or 7 miles a day and sleep like a rock.

[12:15 PM, 5/16] : Had a rest day and sought the Lord a lot. (We'd purposely shifted our rest day to this potentially violent day) Also went to the friends of Zion museum (it was really good, has a very strong message on the Christian support for Israel) and watched some history documentaries on Israel in the hotel on YouTube.

<https://www.fozmuseum.com/>

[2:27 PM, 5/17] : Went to Friends of Zion again. Went shopping a little. Went to the western wall. And then a concert At the Christ church. But it was all in Latin and so we left.



[11:12 AM, 5/18] : Today we basically just moved out of one hotel and into the other. That was like moving out of the ghetto and into a palace.

[1:13 PM, 5/19] : Israel museum then Pentecost (Shavuot) service at the wall. This is one of the festivals that Jews are required to attend. That's why "they [the disciples] were gathered together in one place" (Acts 2:1), the day He decided to give the Holy Spirit and empower them. Amazing to see how He follows His calendar.



[10:24 AM, 5/20] : The girl we met in Jerusalem told us about this neat hotel in Yad Hashmona. It's a place to see on its own. Before heading out of Jerusalem we saw the Garden of Gethsemane and the little church where they think Jesus ascended.



[10:25 AM, 5/20] : This town is halfway between Jerusalem and the airport so it gets us a little closer to the airport. Yad hashmona means 'memorial to the eight'. The land was given to Finnish believers by Golda Meir to honor the 8 Finnish believers that fought for Israel in the war of independence. It's owned and run by Believers.

[10:51 PM, 5/21] : Just landed in Dallas. I usually like to share interesting stuff for your edification and education but thought I should share that too so everyone would know we made it here safe.

[10:45 AM, 5/22] : Home sweet home. Thank you everybody for your prayers. And remember to keep praying for the peace of Jerusalem. And pray that God would water the few seeds we planted.