



The Half Shekel Journals of 2023 by Pastor Ed Rice
#23012 Tue 21 Mar Ascending to Jerusalem

Our Israeli Tour Guide, Eli continued on the tour bus speaker, “Out to your right is Jericho, the oldest continually occupied city in the world, and the lowest altitude city in the world.”

In 1975 while posted at Griffiss Air Force Base, Rome NY, Bev and I had our name in the Rome paper when our middlest son was born, they did that back in the 1900s so all the door-to-door salesmen knew where to call next. So on our meager E2-pay we bought twenty-four volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica, with two volumes of World Almanac (and two more updated volumes promised in the next four years!). I recall



Judean Wilderness
near the Biblical Jericho Road

my parents pitched in \$50 to prevent our financial collapse. Eli was a walking twenty-four volume Britannica, with four volumes of World Almanac (Bev and I only ever had two), and more, ... he had a couple volumes of Bible Encyclopedia. It always amazed me that some men had minds like that,.. others of us not so much, we just had short pencils.



Judean Wilderness between
Jericho and Jerusalem of Route 1

Eli continued, “here by faith the walls of Jericho fell down, *after they were compassed about 7 days*” (Heb.11:30). Here Jesus met a wee little man in a sycamore tree. It was while departing from Jericho that Jesus heard blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, cry out, “*Jesus thou son of David, have mercy on me*”, and Jesus responded, “*Go thy way; thy faith hath made the whole*” (Mark 10). And in 1973, Jericho and all the West Bank of the Jordan River was given to the

PLO, in the Oslo Accord officially labeled a “Palestinian Liberation Authority (PLA).”

In the five-year transition, areas A, B, and C, were created; area A with 18% of the West Bank under “PLA” control; area B with 22% of the West Bank under “Shared” control; and area C with 60% of the West Bank area remaining under Israeli Civil, and Israeli Security control. This arrangement was completely untenable until the Israeli Security Control constructed a very effective wall to stop the PLO suicide bombers. Today the West Bank Area C is separated by barricades and security fences, that the PLA

and the liberal press call “The Apartheid Wall!” Eli bit his lip. He wanted to say more, and knew that this captive audience was 110% behind him, and eager for it.

I, for one, wanted that we pull the bus over at the West Bank security checkpoint and air out the whole ugly issue. I wanted it said out loud, shouted and not whispered, that the whole ugly liberal world and all of its media outlets blatantly and wrongfully called Jehovah God's chosen people, Israel, “Occupiers of Palestine!”. Wicked-Pedia and wicked presidents say, “the Israeli occupation of the West Bank began on 7 June 1967 when Israeli forces captured and occupied the territory then ruled by Jordan, during the Six Day war, and it continues to this present day.” It is brazen fabricated lie.

Barack Hussein Obama, in Egypt promoting an “Arab Spring¹”, was the first US president to call this “The Israeli occupation of Palestine!” I call our current president OBiden because Obama seems to be behind the scene pulling his senile strings of progressive liberal control. Control which is leading us down the Marxist path of complete chaos and overthrow. I don't much bite my lip.



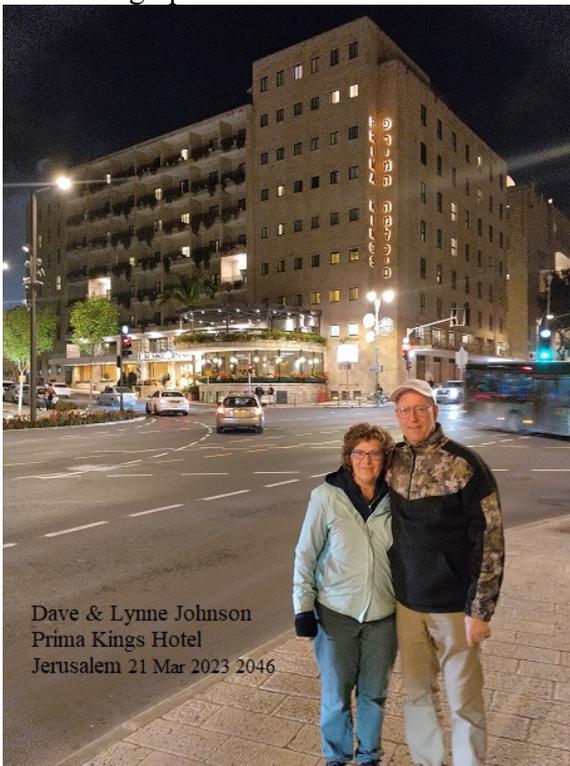
Leaving the West Bank checkpoint, Eli still biting his lip through a short pause, smiled and said, “We now begin our Ascent to Jerusalem.” Costia drove our King-Long tour bus directly into the sunset on Route 1, we were trying to make a Jerusalem overview before 1700. We were excited. Route 1 took us off Route 90 five miles below the very rugged all but impassible five mile canyon road that Jesus walked to Jerusalem. We did

1 Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world fueled by Muslim jihadists.

pass a sign for “The Good Samaritan Inn” up where our four-lane Route 1 met Jesus' one lane Jericho Road. I like to pick out the Inn of Jesus' parable whenever I go by. One could guess why. We watched out the windows as the rugged drab brown Judean wilderness wizzed by. We began a noticeable ascent when wilderness brown became spotted with a little green, and then still climbing, suddenly it burst into suburbs and populace.

As Jerusalem came into view in the bus windshield, at the urging of Pastor Pickett, I am sure, Eli recited the first of the Ascension Psalms in Hebrew. Pastor Lee recited it in English and gave some impassioned insights about all fifteen Psalms.

The Psalms of ascent sung by the Levitical priesthood as they ascended the fifteen steps to minister at the Temple in Jerusalem, became the Pilgrims Songs, sung by earnest pilgrims ascending up to Jerusalem. Three times in a year Israel was to pilgrimage to Jerusalem:



But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: ... 16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty: 17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee (Deut.12:5,

16:16-17).

We only had a short time at Jerusalem's very crowded City Overlook Park and we were back on the bus making our way to the Prima Kings Hotel for supper and rest. We were spending our first night in Jerusalem. It was euphoric.

When I was but a teen a Baptist preacher teaching on the Ascension Psalms assigned a “My or Thy” title to each of these fifteen Psalms. I dutifully jotted them down in my Scofield Study Bible, surprised that Scofield hadn't already included them. Every 15 years or so I would copy the titles to a new Old Scofield Bible, and at least twice a year, as I read through the Psalms and Proverbs annually, I took note of each of these Psalms' title as I read them. I copied them from my latest wide margin Scofield reference Bible below. It's funny, after 40 years of handcopy, this is the first time I've seen them in print.

Psalm	Ed's Title	Pastor Pickett's Israel Tour Booklet Title
120	My Nature	The Lord is salvation and peace.
121	My Walk	The Lord is help and security.
122	My Worship	Joy in the house of the Lord.
123	My Eyes	The Lord brings Mercy from above.
124	My Fate	The Lord brings hope.
125	My Future	The Lord preserves his people.
126	My Captivity	Sowing in tears reaping in joy.
127	My Home	Life without the Lord is vain.
128	My Fear	The fear of the Lord is walking in his ways.
129	My Affliction	The Lord is righteous power.
130	My Cry	The Lord gives hope in his Word!
131	My Haughtiness	It is good to be humble.
132	Thy Servant David	The Lord dwells with those who prepare themselves.
133	Thy Unity	The Lord loves unity in his people.
134	Thy Sanctuary	Worship brings Joy to the Lord.

Also when I ran an online Biblical Hebrew (Self-Taught) Study Group we recited the Ascension Psalms, reading them in Hebrew. It was not eloquent, but quite provocative. The resources for one to read and hear the first two Ascension Psalms in Hebrew are given below. For the more adventuresome, the notes for the whole Biblical Hebrew (Self-Taught) Study Group are still available at www.GSBaptistChurch.com/hebrew_study_group

Holy Bible Psalm 120 English

- 1 ¶ *«A Song of degrees.» In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.*
- 2 *Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.*
- 3 *What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?*
- 4 *Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.*
- 5 ¶ *Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!*
- 6 *My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.*
- 7 *I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.*

Holy Bible Psalm 120 Hebrew

https://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/16341
אֲשִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת אֶל־יְהוָה בַּצָּרָתָהּ
לִי קִרְאתִי וַיַּעֲנֵנִי
בַיהוָה הִצִּילָה נַפְשִׁי מִשִּׁפְתַי־שָׁקֶר
מִלְשׁוֹן רַמְיָהּ
גַּמְה־יִתֵּן לָךְ וּמַה־יִּסְיֵף לָךְ לְשׁוֹן
רַמְיָהּ
דַּחְצִי גְבוּר שְׁנוּנִים עִם גַּחְלִי
רַתְמִים
בְּאֵיזָה לִי כִי־גִרְתִּי מִשֶּׁרֶף שְׁכִנְתִּי
עַם־אֶהְיֶה קֶדֶר
וּרְבַת שְׁכִנְהָ־לָהּ נַפְשִׁי עִם שׁוֹנֵא
שְׁלוֹם
זֶאֱנִי־שְׁלוֹם וְכִי אֲדַבֵּר הִמָּה
לַמִּלְחָמָה

- 1 ¶ «A Song of degrees.» I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
- 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
- 8 The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

We may not be able to again hear our Israeli Tour Guide recite these Ascent Psalms, but there is a superb audio Hebrew Bible provided by Mechon Mamre (The Mamre Institute). One can hear each read aloud in Hebrew at: torahclass.com/audio-bible-in-hebrew/ (Select the chapter reference Psalm 120 and press <PLAY>.) Once you have learned the Hebrew alphabet and some Hebrew vowel marks, given below, it is surprising how well you can follow in the Hebrew text as the narrator reads each verse

אָ	a as in father
אַ	a as in father or aw as in saw
אֵ or אֵי	ey as in they
אֶ	e as in met
אִ or אִי	i as in machine
אֹ or אֹי	o as in alone
אוּ or אוּי	oo as in moon
אֲ	A schwa sound, like a in along or in end of syllable: silent
אָּ	A schwa sound with hint of a as in father
אַּ	A schwa sound with hint of aw as in saw
אֶּ	A schwa sound with hint of e as in met

Hebrew Vowel Points with their sounds

https://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/16342

אֲשִׁיר לַמַּעְלוֹת אֲשָׂא עֵינַי אֶל־
הַהָרִים מֵאֵין יְבֹא עֲזָרִי
בְּעֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְהוָה עֲשֵׂה שָׁמַיִם
וְאָרֶץ
גַּאֲלִי־תֵן לְמוֹט רַגְלְךָ אֶל־יְנוּם
שִׁמְרֶךָ
בַּהֲבִיחַ לֹא יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר
יִשְׂרָאֵל
בַּיהוָה שִׁמְרֶךָ יְהוָה צִלְךָ עַל־יַד
יְמִינְךָ
וַיּוֹמֵם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא־יִכָּכֵחַ וַיָּרֵחַ
בַּקֵּילָה
זַיְהוּה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל־רָע יִשְׁמֹר
אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ
חַיְהוּה יִשְׁמֹר־צִאתְךָ וּבואְךָ
מִמֵּעַתָּה וְעַד־עוֹלָם

א	Aleph	silent	ʾ
ב	Bet	b as in boy	b
ג	Gimel	g as in God	g
ד	Dalet	d as in day	d
ה	He	h as in hay	h
ו	Waw	w as in way	w
ז	Zayin	z as in Zion	z
ח	Oet	ch as in Bach	ḥ
ט	Tet	t as in toy	ṭ
י	Yod	y as in yes	y
כ	Kaf	k as in king	k
ל	Lamed	l as in lion	l
מ	Mem	m as in mother	m
נ	Nun	n as in now	n
ס	Samek	s as in sin	s
ע	Ayin	silent	ʿ
פ	Pe	p as in pastor	p
צ	Tsade	ts as in boots	ṣ
ק	Qof	k as in king	q
ר	Resh	r as in run	r
ש	Sin	s as in sin	ś
שׁ	Shin	sh as in ship	š
ת	Taw	t as in toy	t

with a slight pause between verses. Hebrew reads right-to-left. It is also pretty easy to follow the reading in English as one can recognize key words. Expand your horizons a little and try it. We will all be speaking man's original language, Noah's language, Hebrew, when we step into Glory. Praise The Lord.



Msg #2311 Visiting Israel HS#01 Journal Excerpt

What The Bible Says Good Sam's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

While Pastor Rice and Bev are touring Israel with Pastor Lee Pickett from March 16th – March 31st, here is an entry from their journal of last years trip: (view the whole journal by visiting our website and clicking “Journaling a Preacher's Pilgrimage to Israel”)

From Half Shekel Journal Entry #01: While Pastor Rice tours Israel here is an entry from last years trip: Our bus ride toward the Temple Mount did not interrupt our worship. “Lord, let the awe of being in your Jerusalem, this holy city of Zion, never lessen in me.” Eiad's miracle maneuvering of a 40 foot Irizar i6S bus through the narrow streets of Jerusalem was repeatedly interrupted with our guide Joe's reports that on the right you can see the Kidron Valley² and the walled up Eastern Gate, ... don't forget them as we will talk more of them shortly; on the left you see the tombs that line the Mount of Olives, remember them we will visit Gethsemane Today. ...

Joe again tries to catch up on the sites rapidly passing our bus windows. Much needs to be said here about the inferno of the old Valley of Hinnom³ that we passed, and the City of David, that we will visit. I couldn't capture all that swept by our bus windows, but alas we careened to a halt somewhere near the Dung Gate. Joe said he probably did not need to expound how this gate got its name. Here we would enter and make our way toward the Temple Mount.

The hatred that Muslims have for the Holy Bible, for God's chosen nation Israel, and the people of the book, i.e. Bible believing Christians, would be on full display as we entered the Muslim controlled Temple Mount. We were instructed to leave all Bibles and Christian literature on the bus, and to conceal all “religious” jewelry and talk, none would be allowed in the Temple Mount area. I even left my walking stick (that the VA calls my cane) behind because it was inscribed with, “In the beginning God” in both English and Hebrew (בראשית ברא אלהים the first three words of the Hebrew Bible). This was to be an awesome incursion into the Temple Mount area of the Mount Moriah of Bible times. It is curious that Israel hating, Jehovah hating Muslims are in control of the whole Temple Mount area. In a brief explanation Joe implied that in order to ward off WWII, the area was gingerly handed back⁴ to them after the whole city of Jerusalem was conquered during the Six Day War⁵. ...

Lots of drama unfolded at the checkpoint as they searched us to ensure we were not carrying any contraband literature, and god forbid any Holy Bibles. It was quite like Satan himself was in full control of who and what got into this temple mount area.

Fifty born-again believers, nine of them Pastors and Preachers of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ got in just the same, and looked in amazement at the unholy Muslim mosque that stood before us. “O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps” (Ps.79:1).

An Essay for week #11 - Mar 12, 2023

A Holy Land Tour Journalled at www.GSBaptistChurch.com/israel22

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- 2 See the Journal for extensive note on: The Kidron Valley.
 - 3 See the Journal for extensive note on: Valley of Hinnom.
 - 4 See the Journal for extensive note on: the Six-Day War.
 - 5 See the Journal for extensive note on: Summary of the 1967 war.