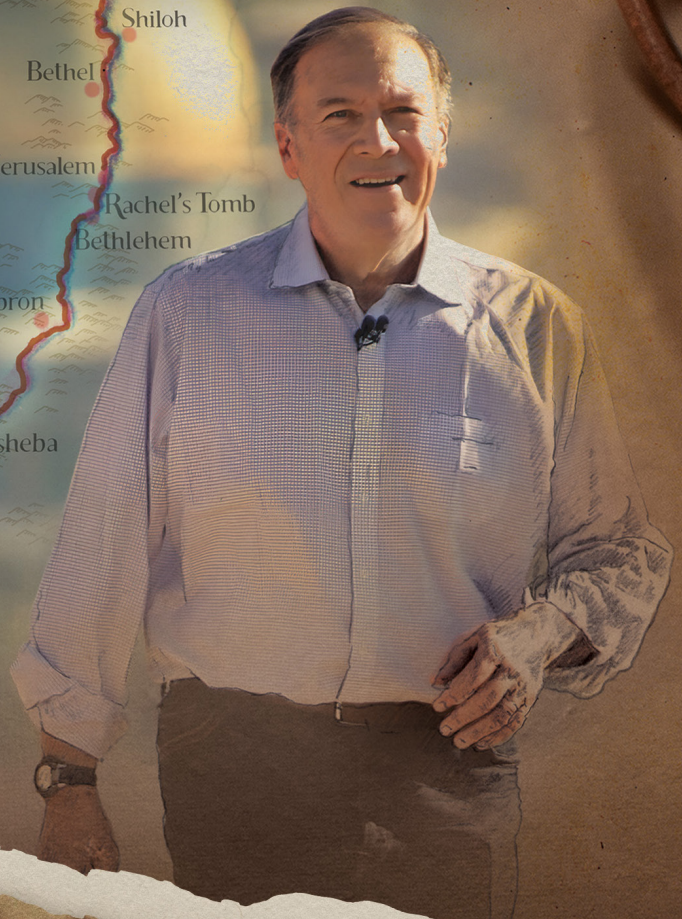
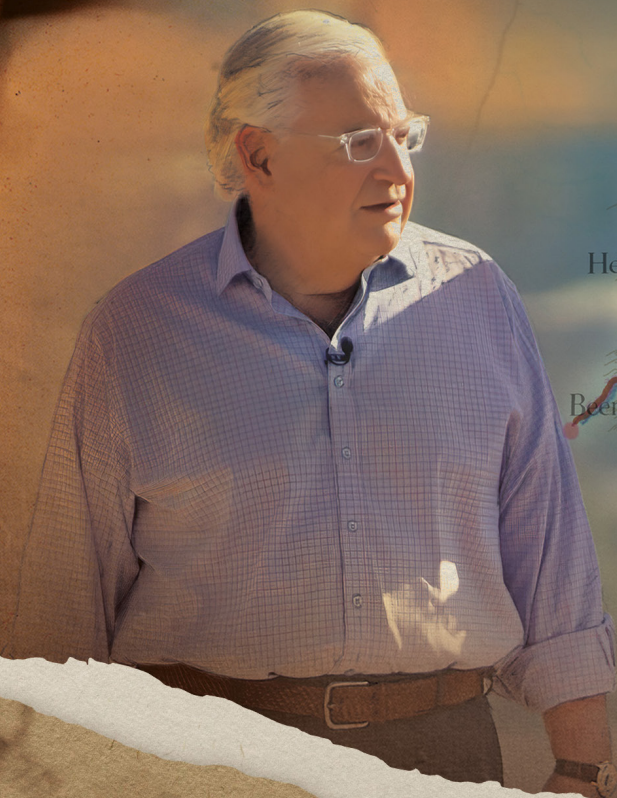


ROUTE 60 THE BIBLICAL HIGHWAY



DISCUSSION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION



Every nation has its key highways and Israel is no exception. As a trade route, its historically significant Route 60 has also seen its share of unrest and violence. Traversing south from Nazareth, Israel's largest Arab city, to the hi-tech center of Beersheba, this 146-mile two-lane road links the ancient and modern cities where Jews, Christians, and Muslims live, work and practice their faiths.

Sometimes referred to as the "Path of the Patriarchs," here travelers can encounter the roots of Judaism and Christianity through the stories of the Bible's Old and New Testaments.

Join David Friedman and Mike Pompeo as they commentate at each stop along the way. Biblical portions describe some of the events in the life of Abraham, Jacob, King David, and Jesus, which emphasize the significance of Israel's role in our world's past and coming future. Resplendent in natural beauty, more-than-ample resources, and hope-filled people, we hope this film about the Promised Land will inspire you to learn more.

This Discussion Guide was created in partnership with All Pro Pastors International and written by Pastor Joe Bowles, Dr. Daniel Stahl, Hanock Young, Pastor Jade Fulford, and Lead Writer Cheryl Johnston.

**To find out how you can view
Route 60: The Biblical Highway,
visit Route60.movie**

ROUTE THE BIBLICAL HIGHWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Viewers of this film will fall into two categories: those who have already visited Israel and those who hope to one day. No matter which group you find yourself in, the ensuing conversations after watching this film (or as you watch each segment) should prove interesting and enlightening.

David Friedman and Mike Pompeo each bring their own unique memories and perspectives of the various sites along Route 60: The Biblical Highway. And learning why these two diplomats appreciate the land of Israel so much will inspire you to read your Bible and learn more about the details in Scripture.

Teens and adults alike can learn from each other as they discuss each stop along the highway's journey from north to south. This guide also includes the Scripture passages so beautifully read by a female voice. We suggest that individuals and groups will find it helpful to read those aloud, in order to establish context and create questions.

**THIS GUIDE CONTAINS SPOILERS
and is intended to use after a group has seen the film.**



WHY SHOULD PEOPLE CARE ABOUT ISRAEL?

Israel is the cradle of Western civilization, also known as Judeo-Christian civilization. In the Holy Bible, the world's best-selling and most widely read book, we learn the story of God establishing for His chosen people the nation that would also be called "The Promised Land."

It's especially notable that for centuries now, the Judeo-Christian values established by God in His Word have helped humans live responsibly and create better communities in which to enjoy their own life and family.

Using the ideals for behavior set forth in The Ten Commandments by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob made Israel into a strong nation, and the same could be said for America and other great nations as well. To love the Creator of heaven and earth, to honor one's earthly parents, and to love one's neighbor are just a few ideals that guide adherents to more peaceful and generous lifestyles.

God gave clear instructions to Abraham, the founding father of Israel, about that country's relationships with other nations. In Genesis 12:3, God said,

"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Since the blessings for the nations go through Israel, this tiny country's people, resources, and significant events should be of interest to the world. As Israel was established by God to be "a light unto the nations," so should other nations be. The Jewish people have embraced this challenge and actively involved Christians are always working toward this ideal.

*"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,"*

Isaiah 42:6 (NIV)

The prophet Jeremiah warned people of future events when Israel would rebuild its biblical heartland during times of dissension, both internal and external. We are watching this prophecy unfold today and all of humanity continues to benefit from the scientific, medical and technological developments credited to the gifted people of Israel.

Christians should be involved with and offer support to Israel because our roots are intertwined. Our religion arose from the teachings of Jesus, a Jew born in the biblical heartland city of Bethlehem. As people of faith, we cherish the land and stories detailed in the Old Testament and in the New Testament when Christ taught us to live simply, walk humbly, and honor God with our lives as we love Him and one another.

Our love for Israel is an eternal one. Jews and Believers from all nations see Israel differently because so much of history reveals how God set the land and its people apart. We are fascinated by the details our Creator reveals and by the prophecies He has already fulfilled.

The anonymous writer of **Psalm 102:13-14** praises God for His profound compassion for the land. He describes how the renown of the forever-throned Lord will endure through all generations and how even the dust and stones of Israel will be treasured.

*¹³ You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to show favor to her;
the appointed time has come.*

*¹⁴ For her stones are dear to your servants;
her very dust moves them to pity.*

The psalmist continues in **verses 15-16** with another reason people should love the land He loves. For one day -

*¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the Lord,
all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.
¹⁶ For the Lord will rebuild Zion
and appear in his glory.*

We should care about Israel because following God's word in **Psalm 122** means we are to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." In this verse from one of the fifteen songs of ascent up the steps to the temple built by King David's son Solomon, King David encourages worshippers to gather regularly in one place to honor God and to pray. This Old Testament passage is read in Jewish synagogues and Christian churches alike. Together, we all hope for the blessing David asks for all who love God.

*⁶ "...May those who love you be secure.
⁷ May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels."
⁸ For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, "Peace be within you."
⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your prosperity."*

Psalm 122:6-9 (NIV)

The reasons to care about, pray for, and support the Holy Land and its people, are more than plenty and too many to enumerate here.

But the bottom line is: We should love what God loves. He has granted us an eternal inheritance and appointed us as caretakers, watchmen, and servants. Thankfully, He trusts that we will follow through with the privilege to love Him with our all and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

QUESTIONS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION SESSION

Suggestions for Group Leaders

Note: If pre-printed materials are not yet available or have not been purchased, we suggest that each group member should receive a handout for notetaking that includes bullet points about each stop detailed along Route 60 and the scripture passage read in the film about those. Be sure to leave space for handwritten notes as the group members share their insights.

In addition, but without prompting too much effort on anyone's part, consider having a weekly snack or refreshments common to Israelis. Examples might include olives, chickpeas, fava beans, couscous, goat cheese, zucchini, avocados, or various citrus, fig, or pomegranate fruits. Though a little more work, falafels might be fun at the group's wrap-up celebration.

We also suggest that the leader or a class member read aloud the brief bio of the two tour hosts, David Friedman and Mike Pompeo.

David Friedman – An Orthodox Jew born in North Woodmere, NY; his father was a Rabbi at Temple Hillel; married to Tammy and father of five; fluent in Hebrew; Education includes a B.A. in Anthropology from Columbia University and his JD degree from New York University School of Law; under the Trump administration, Friedman was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Israel, during which time he helped negotiate the Abraham Accords and saw the U.S. Embassy moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; following that term he established Friedman Center for Peace through Strength which seeks to continue the inroads made by the Abraham Accords; his bestselling memoir, published in 2022, is entitled *Sledgehammer: How Breaking with the Past Brought Peace to the Middle East*.

Mike Pompeo – Born in Orange County, California; married to Susan and adoptive father of her son Nicholas; Education - graduated 1st in his class at West Point; after obligatory five-years of service as U.S. Army officer, he graduated from Harvard Law School; worked as an attorney until 1998 and then became an entrepreneur in the aerospace and oilfield industries; elected to the House of Representatives in 2010, representing Kansas's 4th congressional district until 2017. Trump appointed him Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in January 2017 and Secretary of State in April 2018; he was a vocal critic of the Chinese Communist Party; advocated for moving the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and the withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. During his tenure as Secretary of State, the State Department prioritized grounding human rights in religious liberty and brokering peace in the Middle East.

The most successful gatherings always begin with prayer. Let's open with prayer to ask God how we can best prove our love for Him and for Israel.

Dear Lord,

We are thankful for Your love and for how You are reaching the world with the Gospel. We are thankful that Jews and Christians and even those not yet practicing faith in the One True God can meet publicly to study Your word and Your ways. Please help us to imitate Your love for the Holy Land and its people. Help us to be a light to the nations in all we think, say, and do. More than anything else, we desire to honor You and bring glory to Your Name. Amen.

Next, as a means of connecting, ask group members who have already visited Israel to share in two sentences what that trip or trips meant to them. (Not an easy task in only two sentences, but the group can create more time for additional comments at another session or follow-up gathering.)

Then ask those who have not yet, by what date they would hope to. (This can become a prayer point for the group, too.)

Groups can decide whether to watch the film in its entirety first or watch smaller portions (Tour Stops) each time they meet. The discussion questions and classmate responses will prove to be a connecting point for members, even long after the class has moved on. Be sure to allow enough time for this important part of the experience.

Invite group members to offer a positive response as to the film's impact on their thinking about Israel. It's also fun to see these written out on sentence strips or poster board as classroom decor.

Invite each attender to Identify one new piece of information that surprised them during their first viewing of Route 60. (If you encourage one in the class to make a brief note of each person's response, these also can become points for further discussion and study later).



TOUR STOP #1

NAZARETH

Our tour along **Route 60: The Biblical Highway** begins in northern Israel only 91 miles from Jerusalem in the trade center city of Nazareth. Here the current population of 77,445 people work in industries such as technology, light manufacturing, tourism, and regional markets.

This is the city in which Jesus began much of his work, ministry, and pilgrimage. Mike Pompeo shared how this first stop reminded him of the start of his own faith journey to Christ when two West Point cadets invited him to a Bible study. Through God's word and those friends, he encountered Jesus.

Today, faithful followers of God and tourists in general enjoy a visit to one or both churches known as sites where the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would bear a son and call him Jesus.

The **Basilica of the Annunciation or Church of the Annunciation** was built by Catholics over what their tradition believes to be the site of Mary's home.

The **Greek Orthodox Church of St. Gabriel, also known as the (Greek) Orthodox Church of the Annunciation** is an Eastern Orthodox church situated over an underground outlet from an uphill spring. These followers believe Mary was drawing water here at the time of Gabriel's appearance to announce the good news.

The Scripture passage of **Luke 1:27-31** foretold the birth of Jesus.

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Write a few brief details of how, when, and where your faith journey began.
2. Was someone instrumental in helping you take those first steps to God?
3. Have you ever revisited the site where you began to believe in God? If so, what emotions did you feel?

As David Friedman and Mike Pompeo discuss the terrain of “100 miles of rocks and brush” on the drive south from Nazareth, they look out over Mt. Carmel and Mt. Gilboa. At this point, they are only 100 miles from the capitol cities of Beirut in Lebanon, Amman in Jordan, and Damascus in Syria. This gives us a better visual image of Israel’s size and proximity to its neighboring Arab countries.

At this point in the film, we hear the words from **Deuteronomy 16:16-17**, in which the Jewish people are commanded by God to celebrate three specific feasts annually.

¹⁶ Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: ¹⁷ Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.

Friedman explained how the prophet Elijah at **Mt. Carmel** dealt with the Baal worshippers’ challenge to monotheism and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He challenged them to call on their idols while he called on the One True God. As we know, our God’s mighty presence was evident and some Baal worshippers shifted their allegiance to Him.

He also shared how the Jewish people today offer the same affirmation annually at Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. At the end of their worshipful ceremony, they say in unison, “God is the Lord.”

The seven Jewish feasts are important because they foreshadow the coming Messiah and His ministry. Each one signifies an important aspect of God’s plan of redemption, which Christians believe comes through Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION CON'T

4. This expression of “God is the Lord” by faithful Jews should challenge everyone who professes faith in God. The question is: *Have you made Him the Lord of your life?*
5. And if so, are there any areas of your life He is still helping you change?

Mt. Gilboa is also in the same region, just a short distance from Nazareth. It was here where King Saul intentionally fell on his sword in his final battle as the first king of Israel. He perished as a failure and his son Jonathan died then as well.

6. Do the stories surrounding either of these two mountains trigger any battles of your own? If so, explain briefly about ways you are attempting to be victorious with God’s help.

TOUR STOP #2

NABLUS (ALSO KNOWN AS THE BIBLICAL SHECHEM)

Only 40 miles from Jerusalem, the approximately 160,000 residents of Nablus earn their living in the industries of education, agriculture, trade, handcrafts, and soap made from olive oil. This valley city is situated between **Mt. Ebal** on the north and **Mt. Gerizim** on the south.

In 900 B.C. at Mt. Ebal, the ten tribes of the Kingdom of Israel and the two tribes of the Kingdom of Judah separated from each other.

After the Israelites accomplished the battles at Jericho and Ai, their leader Joshua had the people gather near the middle of Samaria between the twin peaks. Here he built an altar with stones not hewn. This altar was built to be an instrument of peace. Here he read the blessings and curses Israel would incur for obeying or disobeying God's law. **Deuteronomy 11:26-29** records the Lord's words.

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God. . . . When the Lord your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses."

When the Assyrians arrived a couple of hundred years later, they wiped everything out and took the 10 tribes of Israel captive. At this time, 5/ 6 of Jewish people were dispersed into other nations. It wasn't until 1967 that Israel regained control of **Samaria** and the biblical Shechem.

Two other sites mentioned in this Shechem area are **Joseph's Tomb**, where Jewish life began and returned, and **Jacob's Well**, where Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well about "living water." Be sure to read **Joshua 24:32** and **John 4:12-14** for additional details.

Prior to this tour stop, David Friedman had never visited Mt. Ebal, a place that holds special meaning in his life as well. When he celebrated his bar mitzvah at the Western Wall in 1971, the Torah reading he memorized from the 54 sections of Torah was this Deuteronomy passage. Later in life, he was privileged to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Israel with oversight for the long-promised U.S. Embassy move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He credits God also for helping him in the Abraham Accord negotiations that normalized relations between Israel and the four Middle East nations of Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

Mike Pompeo was able to identify strongly with Joshua, the successor to Moses, who began as a fighter and became a national leader. As Secretary of State, Pompeo was the most senior diplomat of America. He recalled how each morning he would remind himself of his role in putting America in a position to aid world peace.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. What does the word “altar” mean to you? How would you teach others about this place of submission?
2. Do you know of anyone whose family endured dispersion? Were you able to assist in any way, even if it was just to hear and acknowledge their story?
3. Share a time when you experienced a Joshua moment or place?

TOUR STOP #3

SHILOH

Though minimal in population with only 4,356 people, Shiloh offers work in industries such as winemaking, agriculture, education, small factories, aluminum framing, leatherworks, and chicken farming. Located 22 miles north of Jerusalem in the hills of Ephraim in Samaria, this city was the midpoint of ancient Israel.

Friedman and Pompeo explained that America contains many cities called Shiloh and for good reason. This gender-neutral name of Hebrew origin means “tranquil,” “abundance,” and “His gift.”

Mentioned 34 times in the Hebrew Bible (Tanach), Shiloh is one of many Israeli towns still existing in the same place. Jewish religious life was centered here from the time of the Book of Joshua until King David established Jerusalem as the nation’s eternal capital.

Here David established a permanent location for the tabernacle. Here remained the Ark of the Covenant for 369 years until it was captured by the Philistines. Here, the Israelites stopped their wandering. And here, Hannah pleaded with God for a child in the Bible story that lays the foundation for the Jewish approach to prayer. In fact, many people continue to worship at the tel daily. Today, for the holiday of Lag Ba’Omer, joyful families make celebratory pilgrimages to the small hill built up over centuries of occupation. (Video footage shown in this stop features families dancing and singing here).

The Bible passages included in this tour stop included portions of Hannah’s story in **1 Samuel 2:1-2** and the Lord’s voice calling young Samuel into ministry in **1 Samuel 3:8-10**.

Hannah’s Prayer

*¹ And Hannah prayed and said,
“My heart exults in the Lord;
my horn is exalted in the Lord.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.
² “There is none holy like the Lord:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.*

The Lord Calls Samuel

⁸ And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

Here, Mike Pompeo mentioned that his wife was part of a Hannah Circle (prayer group) at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. And David Friedman explained how the area has lots of broken vessel shards, as remainders from the time of 1200-1300 B.C. when Israel was a sacrificial society that worshipped God. He also related that products exported now from this area need no longer be identified as "Made in the West Bank." Rather, the identifier reads "Made in Israel."

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Are you familiar with any cities or churches named Shiloh? If so, are they places that honor God?
2. Does your family have celebratory gatherings together? Explain their purpose and share a few details.
3. Describe the tabernacle where you worship God.

TOUR STOP #4

BETHEL

Only 19 miles from Jerusalem, the 6,042 folks who live in Bethel work in small factories, wineries, metal works fabrication, carpentry shops, and bakeries. Mentioned 60 times in the Bible, Bethel is the second most mentioned place behind Jerusalem, which is mentioned 699 times.

Here is the rock Jacob used as a pillow while he dreamt of a ladder from heaven on which angels ascended and descended from heaven.

The scripture portion of Jacob's Dream at Bethel and God's promise to him appears in **Genesis 28:10-17**.

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

The story continues with Jacob making a vow many Christians commit to today as they tithe to their local church.

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz. ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

When the nation of Israel was divided into two, the ten tribes under its first king, Jeroboam, desired a temple. So, to compete with the two tribes under Judah, Jeroboam built one at Bethel to be just like the Shiloh tabernacle. Sadly, instead of the Ark of the Covenant (which he no longer had), Jeroboam dishonored God and put a golden calf inside. Wisely, the two tribes of Judah remained centered around Jerusalem and the temple there. From **1 Kings 1:20**, we learn:

²⁰ When all the Israelites heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the house of David.

Jeroboam's sad story continues in **verse 32**.

³² He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made.

As the story ends 200 years later, the Syrians came in, deported everyone, and those ten tribes were lost forever. On the one hand we have this incredibly holy place, where God promised Jacob that He would make him into a great nation. We have a place where Jacob wrestled with the angel on the road back to Bethel, so his name starts here where God changed his name to Israel. Genesis 32:24-28 records his experience.

²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

"As much as Jewish people rely on their commerce and their wits and their army and their intelligence, they rely upon the spiritual underpinnings of the Bible," said David Friedman. "And we can't lose that."

He asks what America would be like "without its history, its founders, its great monuments built in Washington, DC and elsewhere about all the great battles, great leaders and great thoughts that animated America." He continued. "It's the same thing here in Israel. When we become untethered from these sights, these values, these leaders, and from the wisdom of God that accompanies it, we do lose our place as a great nation, I fear."

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever had a spiritual dream? Write and share a few details.
2. Have you ever wrestled with God? About what and what were the results?
3. If you could choose a new name for yourself, what would it be and why?
4. Are you a history buff? What historical subjects would you research now?

TOUR STOP #5

JERUSALEM

With a population of 874,186, Jerusalem's leading industries include: Education, Technology, Transportation, Government, Media, Sports.

As our two tour hosts walk through the one square kilometer of Old Town Jerusalem, here is the most history per square foot anywhere in the world. Since 1967, this city is the only place in a couple thousand years where three religions worship side-by-side.

Sites in Jerusalem along the Pilgrimage Road include:

Pool of Siloam - When a sewer pipe burst in 2004, the ancient steps discovered led to a main street where many vendors sold their products along the way. Jewish pilgrims coming from all directions to Jerusalem would rinse off and refresh themselves in the Pool of Siloam after a dusty journey. Jesus walked and talked here on this road, too. Visitors today enjoy new murals painted on the walls.

The story in **Acts 3:6-8** (NIV) relates the exciting incident when Peter and John were heading to the temple to pray and a man lame from birth asked for money.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

This is also the city where King David coined his fifteen Songs of Ascent. Can you imagine the spiritual power of tens, hundreds, and thousands of people singing those psalms as they head up to worship their God?

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Have you prayed for healing for yourself or others? Were you confident that God heard your prayer?
2. How did He answer your prayer(s)?

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION CON'T

3. Have you or anyone you've known experienced a miraculous healing – one that has only come through God's power?
4. How have you given God praise for His healing help?

Western Wall – At this holy site, Friedman and Pompeo were welcomed by Rabbi Schmuel Rabinovitch. In his role as Rabbi of the Western Wall, he has accompanied every world leader on their visit to the Wall.

After Solomon completed the Temple in Jerusalem, he asked God to answer the prayers of Jews and non-Jews. At this place of prayer for all nations, Solomon recognized that the entire world could have a relationship with God. We read of this in **I Kings 8:41-43**.

⁴¹ “Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name’s sake ⁴² (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty and and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³ hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.”

David Friedman has one very clear memory from his early years, when one morning in June of 1967 he came downstairs to find his parents in tears, tears of joy. The news was reporting that the Israeli Defense Force had successfully reunified Israel. And Rabbi Goren stood at the Western Wall, blowing a shofar. “My parents were crying uncontrollably, and I understood just how for them this was the realization of a 2,000-year-old dream.”

Temple Mount

People call the Wailing Wall the holiest site in Jerusalem, but Friedman said The Temple Mount is actually the holiest site in all of Israel.

King David moved the kingdom of Israel from Hebron to Mt. Moriah, where Abraham bound his son Isaac, in obedient preparation for sacrifice to God. This is also the place where Solomon would eventually build the Temple.

Genesis 22:9-12 (NKJV) relates how Abraham didn't have to sacrifice Isaac after all.

20 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 21 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 22 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 23 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me."

When a Jebusite saw King David coming with all his troops, he offered his threshing floor to David. But the king insisted on purchasing the land, saying he would not build a house unto the Lord on land received through conquest.

The holy Wall where so many pray daily is the remnant and an outer retaining wall of the temple built by Solomon. That temple lasted 400 years, but was destroyed in 500 B.C. This story is told in **2 Kings 25:8-9** (NKJV)

8 And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 9 He burned the house of the Lord and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.

The Jews were banished to Babylonia. After King Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylonia, he let Ezra and Nehemiah bring the Jews back around the year 4 or 5 B.C. to rebuild the city's wall. The temple rebuilt by King Herod lasted until the year 70 A.D. when it was destroyed by the Romans.

David Friedman considers "the glory of Jerusalem to be in the history books." For example, the Arch of Titus (the Roman ruler who destroyed the temple) contains images of the menorah and other articles of worship used in the temple.

It's a bittersweet place for Friedman, as he explained. "In the best of times, here after 2000 years, the Jewish people are restored to their biblical homeland and have control and sovereignty over Jerusalem. With consideration to others, the State of Israel has permitted both the Temple Mount and the Wailing Wall to be under the administration of the Kingdom of Jordan. Israel has no interest in a religious battle between Jews and Muslims. Indeed, the access given to the Muslim faithful to pray on the Temple Mount, which is so holy to Jews, is extraordinary."

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Think about people, places or events you consider to be the glory of America. List a few here.
2. What bittersweet memories do you hold about your experiences in our country?
3. What hope do you now have for America and for Israel?

City of David

Here was the home of Israel's great warrior, poet, political leader, and king. And The Messiah comes through David's bloodline. The high vantage point of his home led to his great sin of adultery with Bathsheba, as introduced in **2 Samuel 11:2-3** (NKJV)

² Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

David Friedman reminded us, "But then we think of how David dealt with his sins. He was punished by God, lost the child and had rebellion in his own family as two sons turned against him. But David took ownership of his actions. He repented and taught us the importance of repentance and taught us of the mercy of God's forgiveness. God pulls people out, not necessarily obvious choices, gives them a task to do, and then holds people accountable."

Mike Pompeo agreed. "You talk about non-obvious choices. I was running a machine shop in Wichita, Kansas and became the Central Intelligence Agency Director and the Secretary of State." Of his talks with world leaders, he noted: "We never knew what was in these world leaders' hearts. Only the Lord knew that. We were deeply imperfect as well. When we pray, when we bring God's grace, we have to own it and try to do our best to fix it. Standing here in the City of David reminds us of that responsibility, to both your people as a leader, but also to your Savior."

Friedman added, "There's too little responsibility now. We veered a little off course as a nation. It's our incredible skill for excusing bad behavior, the things that would not have been allowed in the past. The lesson of King David is accountability. David wanted to build the temple, but God would not allow it because He did not want the temple built by a warrior, someone who didn't have blood on his hands, who hadn't experienced the horror of taking another life."

Psalm 51:10-11 is a prayer we can all say often.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a
steadfast – Do not cast me away from your presence and
do not take your holy spirit from me.*

Our God is a redeemer. He allowed Bathsheba to give birth to a second child, Solomon, who God ordained to build the magnificent first Temple.

Pompeo and Friedman agree that our nation, the United States of America, is a Judeo-Christian nation. Both Jews and Christians are deeply connected through our two Abrahamic faiths. We believe in the inherent value of every human being.

Friedman added, “What’s so great about America is that our forefathers believed you didn’t get to rule just because of who your parents were. They believed in merit, in meritocracy. Hard work, right values, right views, and right skills qualify you to lead.”

He explained about the song the Jewish faithful sing from Psalm 89: “David the King of Israel lives Forever” (David Melech Yisrael Chai Vikayam). “We see the Messiah coming from David because that combination of strength, courage, humility, and accountability is what we see as the necessary ingredients for leadership. We have our Declaration of Independence. Those are revolutionary documents. Our founding fathers determined for the first time that human rights come from God and that every human being is endowed with certain unalienable rights by their Creator. That changed the world.”

Our forefathers knew that the rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” all find their source in the Old Testament. And it was here in the City of David the word of God in the Old Testament was given to mankind. In **Isaiah, 2:3** (ESV), the prophet spoke this encouragement: “*Out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*”

Paraphrasing David Friedman, we who believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob can agree. The City of David is an American Heritage site. America has many places that recall our nation’s start – Valley Forge, Plymouth Rock, Gettysburg. We know where we came from because it wasn’t that long ago. But the spiritual bedrock of America comes from Jerusalem, in the City of David. (Show image of plaque, October 2020)

During its final days in power, the Trump Administration paid tribute to the relationship between the United States and Israel. The U.S. officially recognized the ancient City of David in Jerusalem as a place of great historical significance and an icon of America’s Judeo-Christian values. David Friedman, the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Israel, and Paul Packer, chairman of the Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, attended a special ceremony dedicating a plaque to honor the City of David.

The inscription from **Psalm 122:1-2** says it all.

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord. Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem."

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Think about commemorative plaques or monuments you've seen. Where are they located and what do they recall?
2. Have you experienced the privilege of honoring something or being honored yourself? What did that feel like?
3. Who would you honor today and why?

Gethsemane and Mt. of Olives

The Garden of Gethsemane and Mount of Olives are special places for Christians. Jesus came to this garden after the Last Supper with a couple of his closest associates to pray. Picture these words from **Matthew 26:39**.

"He went a little farther and fell on. His face and prayed, saying, Oh my father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Jesus knew what was before him, but like us, when we have troubled times, difficult things, we pray to the Lord, asking 'Is there any other way? Do I have to go through this hardship in front of me?'

His experience gives us all the courage and inspiration to accept challenges. We don't want them and pray we don't need to confront them. But then we pray we'll be able to prevail over those difficult situations.

During the second time President Trump sent him to North Korea, Mike Pompeo met with Chairman Kim. Just prior, Kim had returned an American hostage - Otto Warmbier, a 22-year-old student. He died in a comatose state shortly after his arrival back in the States because of mistreatment by North Korean guards. Pompeo's goal was to retrieve the three remaining American prisoners and thankfully that mission was accomplished with all three in good shape. Pompeo added, "It's very emotional for me to tell this story. They thought they were on their way to be killed when they left that prison. I think of the strength I needed to make that demand, but it doesn't compare to what they had to suffer."

Friedman came into office with a commitment to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He credits President Trump for giving him “the runway to work on that.” But the idea was vehemently opposed by our then Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and National Security Advisor. The effort became an interagency process, during which General McMaster created a pros/cons T-chart with six pages of cons. Friedman asked for permission to write the pros. He remembered thinking, “It’s on me.” There was no way around the challenge, and he had to confront it. Obviously, he was successful.

The Jewish faithful say the main prayer three times a day: “God, please, open my lips” (that my mouth may declare Your praise” – **Psalm 51:17**)

They ask God to open their lips, so they’ll say the right words. “We’ll always have challenges,” said Friedman. “Sometimes the best path is not to avoid but to take those straight on with the inspiration we draw from a place like here, and with God’s help we’ll succeed.”

Being in Gethsemane reminded both hosts of the work they did to help generate the Abraham Accords. The results have been that now Israelis, Emiratis, Bahranians and Moroccans genuinely like each other. They’re traveling back and forth, visiting each other. The hope is that more and more of Israel’s friends in the Gulf will come to Jerusalem.

Friedman added, “We confronted, and I think we defeated hatred. Hatred is the toughest emotion to break. We haven’t broken it fully, but there’s nothing I’m prouder of than where there once was hatred, we now find love. I think it’s the Highest level we can achieve in our careers, our professions, and in our faith.”

This garden was also the place where the disciple Judas betrayed Jesus and Peter, on multiple occasions afterward, denied Jesus. They were both unable to do the right thing that night, but they handled their missteps in very different ways. Judas killed himself, while Peter has a historically great second act. If we give God the chance, He will redeem our failures.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever had a Gethsemane prayer experience, during which you asked God to remove an assignment? Provide a detail or two here.
2. Have you ever been disappointed in your prayer efforts or those of others? Explain.

Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Complex historically, archaeologically, and politically, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre derives its sanctity from the hill of Golgotha (or Calvary) located behind it. Here, Jesus was crucified and millions worldwide come to revere Him for the price He paid. Located in the Christian Quarter of the Old City, this church is a major pilgrimage destination and one of the most venerated sites in Christendom. The church complex holds five of the fourteen Stations of the Cross, the last places Jesus has walked. Inside are rooms with various objects associated with Christ. In the film we see visitors kneeling to kiss or place hands on the Stone of Anointing, where his body was cleansed and anointed before burial. They also walk quietly through the Edicule shrine that encases the ancient cave where, according to Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian belief, Jesus' body was entombed and resurrected.

Although not mentioned in the film, The Garden Tomb is another "must see" site some believe was the place of Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Owned and administered by The Garden Tomb (Jerusalem) Association, a charitable trust based in the United Kingdom and in Israel, the ministry has focused since 1894 on proclaiming Jesus Christ to the nations, so all can know and live for His glory. Located just outside the city walls of Jerusalem, this site revered by many pilgrims to Israel feels like holy ground. Planted in the shadow of Skull Hill (a.k.a. Golgotha) near the Damascus Gate, this beautiful garden with its ancient empty tomb is a sacred space for contemplation on Christ's sacrifice and one's personal relationship with Him. It's a peaceful and comforting spot for prayer, worship, and communion, too.

Two of the gospel writers relate a portion of the story.

³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"

Luke 23:34-35

And after he's dead, the family is eager to bury him, but where? Joseph of Arimathea offers his own tomb. The empty tomb - is typically the climax of any pilgrim coming to the Holy Land.

We read in **John 20:1** that Mary Magdalene was the first to discover it after the crucifixion.

Now the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early.

And they speak, as recorded in **John 20:16**.

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

This place recalls the sacrifice God made. The guide inside the church finished his tour by noting: "The most important component of the Christian faith is the Resurrection of Jesus."

And to that, we can all say, "Amen."

Rachel's Tomb

Israeli Jews would like to see the walls separating the location of Rachel's Tomb taken down one day. Here is a sacred place where people from all three monotheistic religions pray for various reasons.

We read a portion of Rachel's story from **Genesis 35:16-20** (ESV)

¹⁶ Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. ¹⁷ And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son." ¹⁸ And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. ¹⁹ So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), ²⁰ and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's Tomb, which is there to this day.

Rachel is celebrated as the mother of the Jewish people. If the Jewish people celebrated Mother's Day it would probably be on the day she died, the 11th day of Cheshvan. Today, people come to this holy site to pray when they're suffering or struggling.

Rachel was buried along the road leading into Bethlehem rather than in Hebron because that trip was lengthy, and Jacob was busy caring for the children and livestock. Some say that Rachel, more than any other Biblical figure, is connected to the exile and return to Zion. Her identity as a yearning mother and the solitude of her burial site gave the people of Israel strength and courage as they passed by her on their way to exile. It was reassuring to believe God would keep his promise to return them. The words from **Jeremiah 31:15-17** are on the cloth over her tomb.

¹⁵ Thus says the LORD:
"A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more."

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD:
“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.
¹⁷ There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.

In the men’s section of the building, Friedman related a personal story. While at home in New York, the family’s Rabbi came to the house and spoke to his son, who had just gotten married. The new husband asked for prayer so that they could become pregnant. So, two months later, David and his wife prayed at Rachel’s Tomb in Israel. When they returned to New York a few months later, they learned their daughter-in-law was pregnant. Tracing back the calculations, Friedman determined she must have conceived on the day of the prayer in Israel. He said, “I can’t come here without getting emotional.”

The Friedmans have a special story relating to the women’s section as well. A cousin was engaged to marry Nava Applebaum. She and her father, Dr. David Applebaum, were enjoying a few moments alone at Café Hillel on September 10, 2003, the night before her wedding. Suddenly a suicide bomber pushed through the entrance door and an explosion killed both her and her father, along with 13 others. Many more were injured. Ironically, Dr. David Applebaum was known as “the first man on the scene,” for spending years dashing to treat the wounded at bomb sites. He was also an innovator in emergency medical services. Today, because the family wanted to memorialize the event and give meaning to it, Nava’s wedding dress has been recut and turned into a memorial covering in the women’s section of the tomb. The family believes it to be a fitting tribute to her memory.

Many who visit here pray for children, for blessings on their family, and for salvation. Sadly, some people, like those killed in battles, in accidents, or in a senseless bombing, are never able to live out the promise of their lives.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. If you have children or grandchildren, how and what do you pray for them?
2. Do you know anyone who has suffered a terrorist attack? Offer a detail or two.

TOUR STOP #6

BETHLEHEM

Only six miles from Jerusalem, the town made famous by a birthday is home to 28,591 people. Families in Bethlehem work in the industries of handicraft, textiles, olive wood, stone and concrete. The popular place for weddings is also the annual highlight for Christians at Christmastime, with the dramatic portrayals of the birth of Jesus. In communities around the world, children dress up as shepherds and many plays include livestock as well.

We celebrate because **Luke 2:11-14** (ESV) reminds us of the miraculous sign.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

While we all can relate to Mary as a holy mother, think of Joseph. He is instructed to marry a young woman who will give birth to a child not his. He works, protects and provides for her, to maintain her dignity to marry. God lovingly sent an angel to Joseph as well, assuring him that He had ordained this union.

When considering the beautiful palaces and gold-laden buildings of others, the story of a babe born in a lowly manger touches our hearts. In Mary and Joseph’s day, life could be difficult. Simple things like trying to stay healthy, to eat properly and care for children were tasks that occupied a significant part of their day. God understood people who toiled and worked. He honors our best efforts, and this is what he did for the family of Jesus, too.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever viewed online or read news of the Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem? What are your thoughts?
2. What things made life difficult for your parents or for you and your own family?
3. How do you celebrate the birth of Christ?

TOUR STOP #7

HEBRON

Only 18 miles south of Jerusalem, the 215, 452 people living in Hebron are supported by the work in the industries of leather and shoes, olive wood, Eastern handicraft, concrete, iron and aluminum.

It was near Hebron, on the plains of Mamre, that three angels visited Abraham in his tent. They told of the miracle that awaited him, which would be the birth of a son. The 99-year-old patriarch and his 90-year-old wife Sarah were incredulous. After she laughed, God asked Abraham, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” When their son arrived, they named him Isaac, which means “to laugh.”

Tomb of the Patriarchs

This completely intact tomb in pristine condition was built by King Herod as a monument to the patriarchs and the matriarchs. Unlike all others he built, it still stands. Remarkably, there is no dispute over what happened in this place, something all faiths can appreciate.

In **Genesis 23:1** (ESV), we learn:

¹ Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah.

² And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

The story continues in **Genesis 23:7-9**.

⁷ Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. ⁸ And he said to them, “If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, ⁹ that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”

It is here that Isaac, the father of the Jewish nation, and Ishmael, father of the Arab nations, were reconciled when together they carried their father Abraham to this burial place. Known also as the “first family of Israel,” Abraham and his wife and children made an enormous difference to people of every faith. It’s the beginning, where everything began.

Inside this monument, Jews pray at the Abraham and Sarah pavilion, Muslims pray at the Isaac and Rebekah pavilion, and Christians pray at the Jacob and Rachel

pavilion. Friedman explains, “This place is the paradigm for religious freedom, for inspiration, and for everyone recognizing that we all come from a common humanity. Our cousins across the road see the world differently. They think that until every grievance is addressed and remedied, there can be no progress. We broke that mold and disproved it.”

Here at this monument, we can think about the continuum of life. God’s promise is for all of us, that our children, grandchildren, and descendants ‘will be like the stars in the sky, too many to count.’”

Knowing where you came from and where you’re going and growing, is a blessing. Friedman shared again, “My great- grandparents could never have imagined an opportunity to visit Israel. My grandparents at the end of their lives took that El Al flight just before they passed away. Together, we’re here, strong, vibrant, confident, and now we have to look forward and keep that going, keep growing and keep bringing the blessings of God to earth by following his commandments and teachings.”

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever laughed at God, and if so, why? Have you ever sensed Him laughing at you and for what circumstance?
2. Do you know much of your family’s history – where they came from, the hardships they endured, their goals and dreams? Explain.
3. Does your family follow any traditions for funeral services or burial? Describe a few.

TOUR STOP #8

BEERSHEBA

70 miles south of Jerusalem

Population: 250,000

Industry: Technology, Education and Defense

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are all deeply connected to Beersheba. Abraham, a very wealthy man with lots of sheep and property, lived here most of his life.

The people and animals needed a lot of water, so his sheep and shepherds were fighting the sheep and the shepherds with King Melech of the Philistines.

Friedman likes to say, “The way they solved this dilemma became the first of the Abraham Accords. It’s not named after him. This is the real one, the one made by Abraham.” Of the last city on our Route 60 tour, he adds, “This stop is not the end of the road. It’s simply the beginning of all the optimism and inspiration we derive from this road.”

Beersheba is thriving economically. Surrounded by desert, the capital of the Negev is a cybercenter. Through technology, innovation, and hard work, these people have made the desert bloom. And the world benefits from their efforts.

There’s a huge continuum with huge connectivity. From here were the beginnings of the Jewish nation, the Christian faith, and the connectivity of peoples and values.

Compared to Israel, America is a young country. Our historical sites range in age from 200- to 400-years-old. In Israel, with sites from 2000 to 3000 years ago, 200 years is like yesterday. In the 21st century, many of us feel a little confused about which direction the world is going, even a little untethered to our Judeo-Christian values. Friedman asks, “What matters anymore, what counts, what should we make of our lives? We have such great thirst for authentic values, for things that are real, permanent, and enduring.”

Here in Israel is where they all reside. To come here, to reconnect is so important.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research a little about Israel’s contributions to technology, medicine, and agriculture. Share something that surprised you.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION CON'T

2. What is your opinion about Israel's ability to host the three major monotheistic religions of the world.
3. In two or three sentences, answer the questions: "What matters most and what should we make of our lives?"

TOUR HOSTS' HIGHLIGHTS

Now it's time for we viewers to think about our favorite locations or events from the Route 60 road trip.

The **Altar of Joshua** greatly impressed David Friedman. Joshua brought the Israelites across and into the Promised Land, and immediately engaged in battle, first with Jericho and then with the nation of Ai. Then he builds this altar. The symbolism of the uncut stones being wedged together in awkward fits is a visual reminder that more than being a good general, Joshua's journey was about being a good leader and a faithful leader of God listening to His commandments about being a Jewish nation. This place reminds Friedman of how all God's people should work together. Together those stones were the first real formation of the Jewish nation.

Mike Pompeo thinks back to the **people and the prayer**. He encouraged, "I pray we will do everything we can and honor Him in every action we take."

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. \What was your favorite location and why?
2. In what ways has this film strengthened or grown your faith?
3. With what person or group would you like to share *Route 60: The Biblical Highway*?
4. Do you expect to plan a trip to the Holy Land? If so, when is your goal for travel and who would you like to take with you?

CONCLUSION

In closing and with encouragement, former ambassador Friedman offered a unifying perspective. "It can be said that for everything we wish to learn or want to become, there is a road to follow."

He continued, "From the beginning, the road to believing in the One True God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, has carved its route through the ancient land of Israel. And for centuries, travelers on this road have heard the call. Build your life on truth. Build your life on faith. Build your life with the purpose of knowing God."

In **John 17:3** (ESV), we hear this truth.

"This is eternal life. That they may know you. The Only True God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

This verse does not define eternal life simply as living forever. Instead, knowing the one true God in this life is the path to eternal life.

Friedman continued, "In Jewish teaching, the term Chayei Sha'ah describes a fleeting life, one focused on temporary matters relating to our existence. On the other hand, Chayei Olam means eternal life, one focused on matters of eternal importance, which are the foundations of Judeo-Christian values."

His final thoughts include the Aaronic Blessing from **Numbers 6:23-26**. "It is a nation, a people, a family, a person - building a life that is truly life. Along this road you are traveling,

"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord cause his countenance to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. And May the Lord lift his divine presence unto you and grant you peace."

Shalom!

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