

This is the correct order. The Text in green is the text for a screen overlay (not sure of the correct term).

1. JERUSALEM'S EASTERN GATE (*Mark 1:11*)
2. THE MARKETPLACE (*Acts 16:19*)
3. A GRAIN PIT (*Deuteronomy 28:8*)
4. POOL OF BETHESDA (*John 5:2-9*)
5. JACOB'S WELL (*John 4:6-10*)
6. BRICK MAKING (*Exodus 5:10-11*)
7. THE PASSOVER HOUSE (*Exodus 12:13*)
8. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (*Exodus 31:18*)
9. THE **TABERNACLE** (*Exodus 25:8-9*)
10. THE THRESHING FLOOR (*Joel 2:24*)
11. HEBREW ALTAR (*Exodus 20:24*)
12. A BOOTH OR SUKKAH (*Leviticus 23:42*)
13. **BETHLEHEM INN** (*Luke 2:7*)
14. **BETHLEHEM STABLE** (*Luke 2:12*)
15. THE SHEEPFOLD (*John 10:27-28*)
16. A WATCHTOWER & A WINEPRESS (*Isaiah 5:1-2*)
17. THE DEAD SEA (*Numbers 34:10-12*)
18. A STONE WHEEL (*Job 14:19*)
19. **SEA OF GALILEE** (*John 6:19-20*)
20. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE (*Matthew 26:36*)
21. THE **UPPER ROOM** (*Mark 14:13-15*)
22. **THE TOMB** (*Matthew 27:57-60*)

**Short video intro to the Holy Land similar to what you did for me as David the Shepherd.**

**1. NARRATOR JERUSALEM'S EASTERN GATE (Mark 11:1)**

The replica of the Eastern Gate is our entrance into the Holy Land. Please note the difference in the size of the pre-formed blocks. The smallest weighs 1000 pounds and the largest weighs 4000 pounds. Each lock was designed and poured with concrete to interlock during construction which makes a free-standing wall. The wall is 45 feet tall at the highest point and 35 feet at the lower points. The capital in the archways on top of the columns were fashioned and hand sculptured from photographs of the Eastern Gate.

**2. NARRATOR THE MARKETPLACE (Acts 16:19)**

Come with me as we enter through the gates into the marketplace which was typically located at the gates of the cities. Many things happened in the marketplace. It was made so they could come to buy or sell their wares, but it quickly became a place where they would also congregate for other reasons. You could find an out-of-work idler waiting to find work or the scribes and Pharisees parading in their long robes to gain recognition. The sick were sometimes brought here for treatment, or they would hold preliminary hearings for trials which were brought before rulers and held here.

The well in the middle was the first thing to be dug. It was dug down to the water table and once it was saturated with water permanently, a village would begin to develop around it. As travelers would pass through, they would stop at the well to water their camels and spread the news to the locals about what was happening in the locations they had recently traveled through. But the locals would gather around there when there weren't travelers to hear the latest gossip in their own village. It was also a perfect opportunity for the young men of the village to socialize with the young women since they had the daily chore of drawing water from the wells to supply for the family.

**3. NARRATOR A GRAIN PIT (Deuteronomy 28:8)**

Our first stop has the family gathered at their grain pit to collect grain for their cooking needs. I can see that the men have already taken the rock off of the top so we will be able to see their process. Let's stop to hear what she has to say.

**PRESENTER GRAIN PIT – Deuteronomy 28:8**

*I have to walk to our granary whenever I need grain for our family where we keep it stored in animal skin bags. The men made this storage by digging a hole down about ten feet and a wall up out of the ground a few feet. They lined it with rock to help keep it cool and then covered it with a large flat rock to protect it from the weather, insects, and other people. It takes at least two of my men to move this big flat rock on and off the granary. After they move the rock off the top, I climb down to get whatever we need. When I come back to the top, my men put the rock back over the opening, making sure it is secure. Right before I gather all that I am taking home, my daughter and I spill some of the grain onto the ground near the granary. This is for the poor in the area to come and take for themselves after we leave so they won't feel shamed. We are always to help those around us.*

**4. NARRATOR POOL OF BETHESDA (John 5:2-9)**

It looks like the waters of the pool are still at the moment and the women can now draw water out of it, although it is a very busy place today. They must be hoping the angel will stir the water soon because these people think they can be healed when that happens.

**PRESENTER CISTERN/POOL OF BETHESDA – John 5:2-9**

*I'm drawing water out of this cistern for our family to bathe with and to wash our clothes. We do not drink the water from here because we get our drinking water from a well. To use this cistern, I have to lower this bucket attached to this shaduf into the water. It is weighted in the back so I can lower it down into the water to fill it. I brought my own pot to carry the water back to our home. Now a cistern is usually dug down into the ground about ten feet, lined with rock, and has a small*

*wall on top of the ground. It gets filled with either spring water or rainwater. The wall is built up on top of the ground to keep the water from flowing over.*

*This cistern is called the Pool of Bethesda which means either House of Mercy or House of Grace. It has two meanings since it is seen as a place of disgrace due to the presence of the sick or a place for grace due to the healing found here. This is where the man who had always been sick met Jesus and was healed. That was a such a great day!*

#### **5. NARRATOR JACOB'S WELL (John 4:6-10)**

I believe this well is where they would draw their drinking water. It doesn't appear there is much happening here now, except for this woman leaving the well who seems incredibly happy. Let's stop to see what has her so happy.

#### **PRESENTER JACOB'S WELL – John 4:6-10**

*Most of the women come to draw water from this well in the early morning to avoid the heat. But I wait to come in the middle of the day, so I do not meet any of the other women of our town here. They do not like me because of my past and they never let me forget just how damaged I am. This day I met a Jew who said His name was Jesus. Now Jews are not to associate with Samaritans, especially men to women, but He asked me for a drink. He did look tired, but something was also different about Him. He told me about water that was living and that I would never thirst again. He opened up my whole past without ever having seen me before. I thought He must be a prophet, but He is the Messiah. I am heading back to town now to tell everyone what a great man He is, and that they need to come here and meet Him!*

#### **6. NARRATOR BRICK MAKING (Exodus 5:10-11)**

This family is always hard at work making bricks for the Egyptians whether they like what they do or not and everyone in the family works. They have so much to do, and they have to get it completed in a timely manner.

**PRESENTER BRICK MAKING – Exodus 5:10-11**

*My people have been slaves to these Egyptians for 400 years, so we must do everything they say. We have many different jobs in the land, but my family is one of those, including us young ones, who must make bricks for the Egyptians to use for building. We have to take the clay from the ground and mix it with the straw the Egyptians used to supply. We put the mixture into these forms and set them out in the hot sun to dry, which takes a long time.*

*The Egyptians are mad at us right now and demand that we keep making the same number of bricks as we always have, but now we have to get our own straw to mix with the clay! That is so hard for us to do.*

*Once the bricks are dry and ready to go, we stack them on this and put the rope around my shoulders for me to pull it to wherever the bricks are needed. It is so much hard work, but thankfully, we serve a great God who helps us each day to meet what we need.*

**7. NARRATOR THE PASSOVER HOUSE (Exodus 12:13)**

The people are busy getting ready for the first Passover here since Moses told them they could leave for the Promised Land soon. The Egyptians are not happy with all of the plagues they have had to endure while the Israelites have not because of God's protection.

**PRESENTER PASSOVER HOUSE – Exodus 12:13**

*Welcome to our home. We have a typical size Hebrew home. We only eat and sleep inside our home, so we do not spend much time inside. Our cooking is done outside in this oven. As we are in the desert, we don't have much wood to burn, so we use dried dung. It actually burns cleaner than wood and is easier to clean up.*

*Moses told us that we had to go to our flock on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month to take a lamb or goat in its first year without spot or blemish and keep it until the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Then we are to kill it and take the blood to put on the top and sides of our door post with a hyssop branch which is what my husband is doing now. We are to cook the lamb, make our bread without yeast, go inside, and eat it quickly as our meal and to not leave our homes tonight. We are to keep our cloaks on, shoes on, and our staffs in our hands ready to go at a moment's notice. Moses said God is coming through the land tonight and the destroyer will kill the first-born of both people and animals of the homes that do not have the blood on the doors. We will then be able to leave out of this bondage. Praise the Lord we will soon be free!*

#### **8. NARRATOR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exodus 31:18)**

How fortunate we are to find Moses by the stone tablets God wrote for His people. Moses has come a long way from them trying to take his life when he was born to being the leader of the Israelites. God had big plans for his life to protect him through so much.

#### **PRESENTER TEN COMMANDMENTS – Exodus 31:18**

I have finally made the journey back down the mountain for the second time after getting these tablets of stone. I am so thankful God gave me a second chance. The last time I went up the mountain, I was there for forty days because of all of the other information He gave me along with the tablets like the Torah and how to build the Tabernacle for Him to dwell. I had to go back up because the first time I brought them down, the people had built a golden calf out of all of their jewelry. They said they didn't know what happened to me, so they decided to do their own thing and that made me mad because it appeared they had already forgotten all of the things God had done for us on our journey out of Egypt. I threw those tablets of stone down on the ground, breaking them to pieces. I threw the calf they built into the fire to melt it down, pounded it into powder, threw it on the water and made them drink it. I went back to God, and He had me bring two

more tablets back up the mountain so He could write on them again. What righteous God we serve!

## 9. NARRATOR **THE TABERNACLE** (*Exodus 25:8-9*)

This incredible place of worship was designed by God for Him to dwell among His people. He planned every detail down to the sizes, shapes, colors, and materials as well the jobs for each person involved. I believe Aaron will take you from here into the Tabernacle to see what a day for him would be like.

### **PRESENTER** Tabernacle-Eleazar – Exodus 25:8-9

I THINK THIS SCRIPT IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HE DID.

Shalom and welcome to the Tabernacle. My name is Eleazar, son of Aaron, the high priest. My brother, Ithamar and I, are responsible for taking care of many things in here. Let me show you around and tell you how we run things.

The Lord told my uncle, Moses, exactly how to build the whole thing and it has taken a long time. It is very important we followed the instructions exactly because it is the place where The Lord Himself can dwell among us. It is still only my father who can go into the most Holy Place and commune with The Lord, but we help him become prepared each time.

Whenever The Lord wants us to continue our travels, He moves a cloud in the sky. We then have to take all of this apart and follow the cloud until The Lord stops it and we put it back together again. The Levites do all of the tedious work of tearing down and setting up and carrying the different items in the Tabernacle, but it is always set up facing East.

The twelve tribes of Israel who travel with us camp all around the outside of the Tabernacle and there are tens of thousands of men in those tribes. But the Levite tribes are much smaller and camp closest to the tabernacle surrounding the outer court. My brother, father, uncle and I camp in front of the Tabernacle.

Three times each year, the head of the household will select a male lamb or goat without blemish out of their flock and on Passover, Pentecost and The Feast of Tabernacles, they take it to be sacrificed according to the law. Now I know it may seem odd to you to sacrifice a perfect animal, but you see, God wants us to give our best to Him. It is our way to surrender ourselves to our Lord by giving up something of value.

The head of the household then meets either my brother or I at the gate where we examine the lamb for any blemishes.

We proceed together in through the gate to the next step which are these wooden structures called the 'killing tables.' The small one is for the lamb and the large one is for the bull. You will notice there are five finger looking bars inside each one which represent the very 'hand of God.'

Once the lamb is laying in the 'hand of God', the head of the household will lay his hands on the head of the lamb asking God to accept the blood of the innocent lamb for the sins of his entire family. We then give the man a sharp knife to cut the arteries on either side of the lamb or goat's throat. The animal would die immediately with little or no pain at all.

We then catch the blood in a bronze bowl and carry it over to the brazen altar. It was amazing to watch as God Himself lit the brazen altar the very first time we had fire in it. There are so many ways to see God working among us during our travels.

Our Hebrew altars were always square and this one has horns on the four corners which represents the power and authority of God. We walk around here seven times pouring blood on the horns as we pass each one. If there is any blood left over, we pour it out on the base of the altar because we never want to waste any of our offering to The Lord. And we lay the pieces of the lamb on the altar to be burned for the sins of the family. It was such a sweet-smelling aroma to the Lord! We do the same thing every year on the Day of Atonement.

Everything you see here is not only built as The Lord said, but also positioned exactly where He told us. But one of the things He wasn't specific



about is this laver. He told us to make it out of bronze mirrors and where to set it, but that's all He said about it. The bronze mirrors were the offerings from the women who also worked outside the gate. My father, my brother and I must wash our hands and feet before we can enter into the Tabernacle, so we made it accessible for that purpose.

After we prepare ourselves by washing, we can then enter into the first room which is called the Holy Place. That's the only room my brother and I can go into. My father is the only one who can go into the next room, the Holy of Holies and then only once a year on the day of atonement.

In this first room, there are only three pieces of furniture in here. My brother and I are responsible to make sure everything is set up and ready each day. One of the first things we do is to make sure the golden lamp stand stays lit because that is the only light in this room. We need to be able to see well to perform all of our duties to prepare our father for the Holy of Holies.

The table of shewbread is right in front of the lampstand. It holds twelve loaves of unleavened bread which represent the twelve tribes and the bread of affliction which we carried with us out of Egypt. We change the bread every week on the Sabbath and the old bread is part of part of the compensation for the Levites.

The final piece of furniture is the golden altar of incense and is located near the Holy of Holies. In the center of the altar is a golden basin where we bring in hot coals from the brazen altar. We then add sacred incense on the hot coals which produces a sweet-smelling aroma. That represents prayer and praise going up to God and prepares the way for my father to enter the Holy of Holies.

God told us about the colors we are to use in here and what each of them represent. White stands for purity, purple for royalty, red for the blood sacrifice and blue for heavenly.

My father wears each of those colors in his attire and each of those things he wears represent specific things. First of all, he is barefoot because he is standing on Holy ground. He wears white next to his skin for purity. Next is the

blue robe because he is a servant of heaven. On the hem of the blue robe are pomegranates and golden bells which represent first fruit and a joyful sound and was very specific that each one was spaced every other one. The striped piece on next is the Ephod which stands for glory and beauty. It is made with fine linen woven with gold, blue, purple, and red thread by one of our skilled craftsmen. He actually refines real gold down to make the gold thread. On his chest is the breast plate with twelve different stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel, plus a pocket in which he can put the Urim and Thummim in which are used to answer any yes or no question for any action they should or should not do. On his shoulders are two onyx stones engraved with the names of the twelve sons of Israel and on his head is a turban with a gold band which reads, 'Holiness to the Lord.'

On the most significant day each year in the life of Israel is the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur. After we prepare all of the things in this room, my father then begins to prepare himself to go into the Holy of Holies. My brother and I would leave so he could be alone to do this.

The first thing he did was to take off his high priestly garments and wash before putting on the sacred linen garments of all white. The high priestly garments represent prestige, wealth, and authority, so they must be laid down before he can approach God.

There are still a few more things he has to do before he can enter into the presence of God, and I am learning all that he does since I will be the next in line for the high priest position.

The first thing he would do after he prepared himself was to fill the censor with coals from the brazen altar and take incense from the bowl on the table of shewbread and enters into the Holy of Holies with the censor so that the room can fill up with smoke to prepare for the next step. It is a sweet-smelling aroma to the Lord.

He sacrifices a young bull as a sacrifice for his sins and the sins of our family and catch some of the blood in a bowl to take into the Holy of Holies. He then

enters the Holy of Holies and sprinkles some of the bull's blood with his finger seven times before the mercy seat.

Next he goes to the front gate where he casts lots for two male goats brought for the sins of Israel, one for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat. He kills the goat for the Lord and brings its blood into the Holy of Holies and sprinkles it before the mercy seat as he did with the blood of the bull.

After he finishes making atonement for the people, he goes back to the gate where the other goat is, lays his hands on the head of the goat confessing over it all of the sins of the Israelites. The goat is then led far away into the desert and left alone to die which reminds us that the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life.

My father has told me about the Holy of Holies and what to expect. Inside is only one piece of furniture which is the Ark of the Covenant. The ark is made according to the Lord's command with acacia wood overlaid with gold. Inside the ark are the stone tablets with the ten commandments God gave to my uncle, Moses. A golden pot of manna would be placed in the room as a reminder of How God fed us as we traveled through the wilderness, and my father, Aaron's, rod that budded would also be in there to show who God chose.

The top of the Ark is the Mercy Seat and on that are two cherubim facing each other with their wings spread over it protecting it. In between them is a brilliant light which is the very presence of God. Can you imagine being chosen by God to go into His presence? I'm looking forward to the day when that will be me, but I would think it is both exhilarating and a little frightful as well.

I hope I have given you some information you can use as you journey through our land, but I must be getting back to work.

## **10.NARRATOR THE THRESHING FLOOR (Joel 2:24)**

It's not a very windy day today as we approach the threshing floor, but they are still busy getting their work accomplished. They bring out a good amount of

people for this process from the men who walk the oxen around on the stalks to break it apart to the women who throw what's been broken into the air and then sift it all. Even the children are involved in picking up the grain that's fallen back to the ground. This is quite a process and can take an entire day.

#### **PRESENTER THRESHING FLOOR – Joel 2:24**

*Shalom! You will have to forgive me for not taking much time away from our work. We are in the middle of working on our threshing. This is our threshing floor which is a flattened surface on top of a hill. We brought the sheaves of grain in and have already let the oxen walk around on it to break it apart, so since we have taken the oxen back to their field, we still have so much to do. Next we take the winnowing fork and throw the grain up into the air. The chaff is blown away by the wind on top of this hill while the grain falls back to the ground. After we finish this step, we will have to sieve it and then gather all the grain and put it into the vessels or bags provided to us. This makes for some hard day's work, but it will be worth it when we have the wonderful bread our women will make from this grain. Now, if you will pardon me, I have to get back to work.*

#### **11.NARRATOR PRE-TABERNACLE HEBREW ALTAR (Exodus 20:24)**

Even though we have just come out of the Tabernacle, let me show you a Hebrew altar they used before the Tabernacle was built. They built these square altars for different purposes such as for burning incense before the Lord, as memorials or sacrificial like Noah as he built an altar to thank and praise god for His protection and blessing.

#### **PRESENTER HEBREW ALTAR – Exodus 20:24**

I have been on that ark for 150 days and was thankful when I sent the dove out for the third time, and it did not return. I remember when I removed the covering

of the ark and saw the land had dried up from all of the water it held for so long. And then God spoke to me and said that my family and I could come out of the ark and bring all of the animals out with us. What a joyous day that was!

Now I have built a simple square altar out of stones so that I can offer praise and thanksgiving to our God in watching over us and guiding us, and to let Him know that my family and I will stay dedicated to Him as long as we live. I want it to be a sweet-smelling aroma to our God.

### **12. NARRATOR A BOOTH OR SUKKAH (Leviticus 23:42)**

We are now in the middle of the feast of Tabernacles and this family is getting their temporary place ready to dwell in for the next seven days. Even though they have their own homes, they were instructed by God to build these during this time.

#### **PRESENTER BOOTH OR SUKKA – Leviticus 23:42**

*Welcome to our Sukkah. We build these as our temporary place to live for the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles to remind us how God protected and delivered us on our journey out of Egypt. We must build it big enough for our family but with no roof so we can spend our nights looking at the stars and thinking about how great our God is!*

*The Feast of Tabernacles is also a celebration for the gathering of the harvest which is why we have hung the fruit and vegetables on our Sukkah. We are not to do work on the first or the last day and we read the Torah and say special prayers every day. We enjoy celebrating our Lord and all He has done for us!*

### **13. NARRATOR BETHLEHEM INN (Luke 2:7)**

It sure looks as though there are quite a few travelers at the Bethlehem Inn today. I'm not sure what has so many people here, but the innkeeper and his wife are busy taking care of them. Oh, and it looks like Mary has come back for a visit as well. Let's go greet her.

## Mother Mary Greeting at the WELL

Shalom, my name is Mary.

Follow me as I get water from the well. The well is very important to our lives and our economy. The ladies of Bethlehem come to the well the very first thing in the morning, bringing jars to get enough water for their families for the whole day. The well also gives the opportunity for any new bit of news to circulate as well as news from the outside provided by visitors and caravans traveling through who stop for water at this well. Things are bought and sold when the caravans come through which helps us to prosper.

Well, there is the Inn Keeper and I think he wants to take a break from his wood carving to tell you some things about the inn. Enjoy and come see me up at the stable before you leave.

### **Inn Keeper – Luke 2:7**

Welcome to Bethlehem Inn. Let me give you a tour of our grounds.

Let's begin outside and then work our way into the house. Right here would be the rooms that are rented first. As you travelers know, we only provide mats for your beds so bring your own cloak to wrap in to stay warm. We will begin the night filling each bed space in these rooms. Hope you are not too shy since there will be others sharing your space because we will fill each room and that could be 8-10 people. After one room is filled then we move to the next one. You will notice how low the doorways are. Be careful getting in and out. We keep them that way to keep the Romans from coming through the doors on their horses.

Yes, you will be safe here at Bethlehem Inn. The Romans would come in to harass us from time to time as you know. They would come into our homes riding those huge horses kicking, stomping, or destroying anything or anyone in their way. Lowering the doorways helped to put a stop to that accost.

Now, travelers, we also don't provide any meals. You will have to have your own food to cook. My children and I will keep this fire going 24 hours a day. We don't use wood since we don't have an abundance of it, so we use dung. Mostly camel dung. We have taught our children which to pick up and to make sure it is dry when gathering it. Don't want that wet stuff. The dry dung will not give off odors or add anything harmful to your food.

This enclosure is for any animals you travelers may have with you. We keep ours in the stable where Mary will be.

Once all the rooms are full, we begin to fill this courtyard. You will be allowed enough room to put your sleeping mat and lay down so don't be bringing all those bags and things inside here.

This is our house and before we enter or exit a home we touch the mezuzah as a sign of respect to God, then touch our mouth. This is a covering that holds a parchment called a klaf. On that is written a prayer which begins from Deuteronomy 6:4-6, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart." It goes on to say how necessary it is to teach these things to our children and their children.

Now, if you follow me into my home, I will show you some of the things here. {first room} Here is the gathering room for my family. We talk with visitors and family. These ovens are used to cook when the weather is cooler. Behind this room is our storage room for grains and other things kept for long periods of time. Right through here {second room} is our kitchen. Down below the table is one of our storage areas where we can keep things cooler for a short time, and above the table is where we keep food we want the animals to not be able to reach.

You notice the ladder here along with the room that is up there {point to room}. That is my family's bedroom. If we are really busy, after we fill the courtyard, we then begin to fill all the spaces on the floor down here in our own

home. Well, I do not want some stranger sleeping next to my family, so we take the children up with us as we go to sleep. I am the last one to come up after I lock up the gates for the night. I then bring up the ladder and lay it across the doorway and I lay next to the ladder. That way we are safe, and our money from the travelers is also safe with us.

All of our homes have a weaving loom in them because we make our own clothes. After the travelers have left us, we send our children out to collect camel hair, goat hair, as well as the wool left on the ground by their sheep so we can begin the long tedious process to get it ready to weave.

Right outside the back door is our very own mikveh or ceremonial bath, which is usually attached to a natural spring or well. This is used when we clean our bodies. For men it would be either before a ritualistic ceremony, after certain acts or preparing a dead body for burial. And for women, it would be once a month or after having a baby. Mary would have had to use this after having Jesus.

I hope that we can count on you to come back soon to see just how wonderful our Inn is for travelers once we are fully open for business.

I believe that Mary is ready for you to come see her in the stable. She loves telling the story of when Jesus was born, and I know you'll enjoy that.

#### **14. NARRATOR **BETHLEHEM STABLE** (Luke 2:12)**

The stable where Jesus was born has become an incredible place to remember. Such a humbling place for Mary and Joseph as they had to deliver their first baby with all of the animals. Mary is visiting in there now so maybe she could tell us how she felt about that time in her life.

**Mary at Bethlehem – Luke 2:12**



Welcome to our stable. I do not live here but love to come back when we are visiting Bethlehem and remember one of the most important days in my life. The days of my precious baby Jesus. Oh, blessed art Thou, Lord our God, King of the Universe who chose me to carry His precious child.

I myself was honored, but I was a little concerned how Joseph would feel? Would he believe me...would he have me stoned? He could have, but praise God he didn't! Truly an Angel told him in a dream to be unafraid of taking me as wife and to name the baby Jesus...and he did. He chose to love the child and to love me!

Soon after we were married, we were called to be counted. Ceaser Augustus decreed that we come here to Bethlehem, the ancestral home of Joseph. I thought it would be a painful and tiresome journey, over 85 miles...and a miserable journey it was, but it was time for Jesus to be born.

Once we arrived, we searched the town for a room, but found nothing! Not one single inn had a room or spot for us. You saw the inn at the bottom of the hill...no room meant NO ROOM. Imagine giving birth in the inn's courtyard...with all those eyes on you! I think it would be horrible.

But God...God provided what we needed! It wasn't anything like I thought...I mean, His Child...I thought He would have the best of the best rooms for us...but no, we ended up here in a cave! At least it was a private stable just for us. The hay was clean, soft, and sweet smelling. Thank God for knowing what we needed more than we do!

This cave is what we call a stable. We didn't have the trees enough to waste wood on stables, but we have an abundance of caves.

After Jesus was born I swaddled Him with the salts and oils as my mother had taught me and laid Him in this indentation, called a manger, we carve this out of the stone, to put feed or hay in for the animals. Joseph had cleaned it out and put fresh hay inside, I witnessed another miracle that night, seeing the love for this child that filled Joseph's heart as he tended to Jesus's needs.

We were safe...dry...and private...at least until those shepherds showed up.

Sweet boys but they were so excited and so loud! We had heard them long before they found us. They had been searching each stable in town looking for a baby swaddled in a manger. They came in laughing and roughly teasing each other, that is until they spotted us. They stopped in their tracks and stared. When their eyes fell on Jesus you could see their whole demeanor change. They stared with awe on their faces at my precious baby. When Joseph started to shoo them away, they explained what had brought them there. They said they had been tending their flocks when an angel appeared and spoke to them.

The angel said, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

The shepherds went on to say that suddenly the whole sky was filled with a multitude who were praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased."

After the angels went away the shepherds came looking. Well, I was so filled with God's love I couldn't speak and just kept it all inside. When the shepherds finally left they were glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard. I worshipped in my heart, so filled with love and awe at the greatness of God, and quietly thinking on what was happening that night in Bethlehem.

I'm still amazed that God would choose for His Son to be born in the lowliest of places to a common handmaiden, and the news of His birth first made known to those considered the least of men, the shepherds.

Thank you for coming and sharing my memories with me! I believe your chariot will arrive shortly.

## **15.NARRATOR THE SHEEPFOLD (John 10:27-28)**

Our next stop is a sheepfold which is a simple enclosure made of rocks and designed to protect the sheep and keep them from straying away. Sometimes I have seen a few shepherds with their sheep in there, but today it looks like there is only one shepherd with his sheep taking a break.

**Presenter SHEEPFOLD – John 10:27-28**

*I have stopped here for a while to get my sheep to rest some. I had to go and hunt one down earlier to make sure he was safe so I have put them all in this sheepfold so I can get some rest as well. I gathered all my sheep inside the fold and then I will sit in this opening all to rest. I also keep watch to make sure that nothing can get to my sheep. I take this responsibility very seriously and talk to them all the time. Sometimes I sing, other times I whistle or just simply call them by name. They get to know my voice and will follow me because they know I will always take care of them and love them.*

*If more than one of the local shepherds need to use this fold at a time, we take turns at guarding the entrance. When one leaves, we simply call our own sheep who will all come and follow us because they too know their own shepherd's voice. The rest will stay in the fold until their shepherd is ready to call them to leave. I am going to go try to get them to rest a little before our next journey.*

## **16.NARRATOR A WATCHTOWER & A WINEPRESS (Isaiah 5:1-2)**

I can see we are coming through the vineyard during the harvest. As you can see, there are many people very busy preparing to harvest their grapes soon. There is so much to do during this time, and it takes everyone in the family to get the work completed in time.

**PRESENTER Watch Tower – Isaiah 5:1-2**

*Wait, stop, who are you and why are you here? I am sorry, but we have to be careful of people trying to take our harvest. This is our watch tower built on the edge of our land to keep watch over our harvest. Our whole family is staying here since it is almost harvest time to make sure it is all done right and is safe from animals and people. We have had enemies come in to steal our harvest just as we were ready to gather it up. That left us with nothing and made it so hard on us during the long months without our grapes since we use them for multiple purposes. Some we will take off the vines and let them dry in the sun to become raisins, while others we use for sugar or juice, but mostly wine.*

### **Winepress**

*Follow me and I will show you our winepress. The women from our family stomp the grapes into juice by holding onto these ropes for stability. You will always know someone who works at stomping grapes when you meet them in the marketplace because their feet will be purple! After they stomp the grapes, the girls here will catch the juice to be put into wineskins. Some we will let ferment a little but not too much. Sometimes we need to add in a little more must, which contains some extra natural sugar, to overwhelm the yeast, stopping the fermentation before the wine turns to vinegar. We usually add some must in plain water to use as juice for our children. We need to make sure we have enough wine to last until the next harvest. It takes so much work for us, but it is worth it!*

### **17.NARRATOR THE DEAD SEA (Numbers 34:10-12)**

We are now at the lowest point on our Holy Land journey, and we can see the dead sea which is also the lowest elevation on the earth. Dwelling in caves near the Dead Sea took place before the Israelites came to Canaan, at the time of King David. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in jars in those caves in 1947.

## **PRESENTER DEAD SEA – Numbers 34:10-12**

*Shalom travelers, welcome to the Dead Sea. You are now at the lowest point of your journey. This sea sets at 1290 feet below sea level with a salt concentration of four times that of ocean water. This makes for a harsh environment in which plants and animals cannot flourish. It is said that you could not even drown here as the salt would just keep you afloat. There is no outlet because the sun takes the water away as much as the springs bring into it, so the surface level is always constant. These cliffs on either shore rise about 1500 feet and many people have taken to living in the caves that surround us here. Some of those people are scholars who even hide their writings in these caves to keep them safe from the weather and prying eyes. I have to be careful who I tell since not many people know about those writings.*

## **18. NARRATOR A STONE WHEEL (Job 14:19)**

This simple stone wheel was built over a water source with the lower part dipping down into the water so the buckets can gather the water as it passes through. The people of Israel were always so busy making things, so it's no surprise to see the men busy breaking rocks to use to build.

## **PRESENTER STONE WHEEL – Job 14:19**

*Shalom and welcome. As you can see, we are busy trying to break apart these rocks. This is our very own Stone Wheel. I have two of my sons inside the wheel to walk the wheel around and around so these buckets will fill over and over again. The water from the buckets will be brought over to this tree to be dumped onto the rods of wood that are hammered into the crevices of the rock face. These rods will eventually begin to swell from the water dumped on them. Once the rods are swelled enough, they will break apart the rock. When it is broken apart the rocks fall down this hill and another of my sons will gather them up to take them to*

*finish building our home. It is so much work and can take quite a while, so it is time for us to get back to work. Have a wonderful journey through our land!*

**19. NARRATOR SEA OF GALILEE (John 6:19-20)**

The Sea of Galilee holds the second lowest point next to the Dead Sea. It is partly fed by underground springs, but it's main source is the Jordan River. It looks like the fishermen are getting ready to take a break from their fishing so we might be able to talk with Peter for a minute.

**PRESENTER Peter at Sea of Galilee – John 6:19-20**

Hello, I am Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are here at the Sea of Galilee to speak of our Lord and Master. It was here where my family started their fishing business many years ago. My father, Zebedee, taught my brother and I the business. It's a beautiful freshwater lake which is in the shape of a harp. This sea is a busy place because it's the focus of Galilee's wealth with nine major cities connected to it. Many wealthy merchants do their trading through this area, and we are fortunate to be a part of that much work.

But it was also here that I was able to follow Him as no other has done. What am I talking about, you ask? Well, I will tell you. It was the same day as Jesus fed the 5,000 with just a boy's lunch. You would think after seeing so many miracles He had performed throughout our journey together that our own faith would have been big enough to do anything on that day, but not necessarily true. There were multitudes of people and we tried to get Him to send them away, but instead He wanted us to feed them. We only had a boy with a few fish and loaves to feed everyone with, but there were even some left over after we fed so many people. Okay, let me get back to my story. Jesus told us to get in the boat and go to the other side and He would meet us later. After the multitude went away, Jesus went to pray. Him going off to pray was a normal thing, sending us away was a little different, but He insisted. It was a very windy night, and we were not making much head way across the sea because the waves were batting us about

all over the place. We battled those waves all night. About the fourth watch we began to see something on the water. At first we thought it was a ghost. It seems funny now as I'm telling it, but it was not funny then. Just as we began to cry out, Jesus spoke and said "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Me, being the impulsive one of the group, jumped up and said if "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." Welllll, have you ever asked for something that you were not really wanting to have answered? That was me that night, but when Jesus said come, what could I do but obey? So looking at Jesus, I jumped out of the boat and began walking on the water toward Him! I was so surprised that I was actually doing it! It was a great feeling. Everything was fine while I kept my eyes on Jesus! It was fun!

It was fun until I began to think I should not be able to do this, and I looked at the waves and not Jesus. I began to become scared and started to sink. I knew I was in trouble and the more I sank, the more fear came over me. There is no place for fear when walking with Jesus. I should have remembered that, but those waves were so big! I just cried out "Lord Save Me!"

And just like that, Jesus was there pulling me out. All the others have never let me forget how I started to sink, but at least I got out of the boat. Jesus will always be there for us, ready to help. Not always as we want Him to but always as we need Him to!

You know, I think I see Him now.

## JESUS Walking on the Water

### Holy Land Jesus

Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this tree, uproot yourself and plant yourself into the sea and it will obey you. Nothing will be impossible for you. (Luke 17)

In this world, you will have trouble but take heart for I have overcome the world.  
(John 16:33)

I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even though they die will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11:25)

I am the bread of life whoever comes to me will never go hungry. Whoever believes in me will never thirst. (John 6:35)

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

“Let the one who is thirsty come. Come whoever wishes to take the free gift of the water of life.”

Yes, I am coming soon." (Revelation 22:12-20)

## **20. NARRATOR GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE (Matthew 26:36)**

You can see through this grove of trees, an olive oil press sitting in the middle of the Garden of Gethsemane. It's located at the foot of the Mount of Olives located to the east of Jerusalem. This garden was in was probably one of the most visited locations by Jesus as He would come here often to pray.

## **PRESENTER GARDEN OF GETHSAMANE – Matthew 26:36**



*Peace to you, my friends! Welcome to the Garden of Gethsemane here at the foot of the Mount of Olives which is filled with olive trees. There is an oil press right here in our lovely garden because Gethsemane means 'oil press'. Some of the oil needed in the temple comes from our olives.*

*This is a place where Jesus has come with his disciples and other followers many times during His travels. It is a place of rest and safety for all our travelers who stop here.*

*It was here that Jesus prayed, "Not My will but Yours, Father" right before His crucifixion. Jesus was arrested in this garden on that fateful evening. He knew what was ahead but went willingly for the world's salvation! What an example He was to us!*

**21. NARRATOR THE UPPER ROOM (Mark 14:13-15)**

I can see the disciples have gathered in this upper room for their seder. It's located in an upstairs room above the main house and usually served the purpose of a guest room. It looks like John is coming out to tell us a little about what is going on here today.

**PRESENTER John at Upper Room – Mark 14:13-15**

Something very important happened in this room. **[looking around]**

What would you do if you had less than two days to live? Would you tell your closest friends? Would you celebrate with a meal with your closest friends? Jesus told us, but we just did not catch His reference to Him to be crucified.

Hello, my name is John, and I am a disciple of Jesus. I have followed Him for over 3 years. We have traveled many places together and I have learned so many things from Him about how to live. The last meal we spent together before His death was one that that left a great impression on me.

Pesach, the Hebrew word for “Passover”, is a celebration! We laugh, we eat, and we remember. We remember how we were freed from Egypt and celebrate the miraculous things we saw. There are many blessings that all begin with “Blessed are You, oh Lord, our God! King of the Universe!”. There are four questions that all begin with “Why is this night different from all other nights?”. And there are four cups of wine with a blessing ending with “Creator of the fruit of the vine”.

Using the meal, we remember that OUR Creator did many wonderful and fearful things. The final, and most terrifying, wonder happened on our final night in Egypt. We were told to prepare a lamb for supper and put its blood on the top and side doorposts of our homes in order to protect us from the death. We were told that God would “pass over” us and we believed.

When we have Passover it has to be done in a specific order with specific things. We have times of blessing the wine and food. We are also commanded to use unleavened bread which is simply bread with no yeast. My people had no time to let the bread rise so they would be ready to leave suddenly. In God’s Word, the yeast represents sin or corruption so unleavened bread reminds us to separate from the sinful world and dedicate ourselves to God alone.

Each person recites blessings from the *Haggadah* [pronounced hog-ah-dah], meaning ‘order of service’, remembering the wonders, often called “the plagues”. During one part of the service, we would dip our finger in the cup of wine and place a droplet on our plates, one drop for each wonder or plague: [act this out as you recite each plague]

Other parts of the Seder include *karpas*, usually parsley, dipped in salt water to represent the tears of the enslaved people, lamb representing the Messiah, and the breaking of the matzoh which prophecies the breaking of the Messiah’s body, to be hidden away only to rise again. [provide matzah to show to the people, break it in half to mimic the breaking of the Jesus’s body, his time in the tomb, and his rising again]

“Why is this night different from all other nights?” Because of Jesus.

Jesus came in and so much peace filled the room! He saw that the servant was bringing the water to wash the feet of those in the room. This is our custom for the owner of the home to provide a servant to wash your feet once you came into the home. Jesus, being the most important man in the room was not a servant, but He took the bowl and wrapped the towel around himself. She started to protest because she didn't want to get in trouble for letting a guest, especially such an important one, wash feet. Jesus looked at her and said it was something He just needed to do.

He went from disciple to disciple, washing their feet, when Peter, stood up and began to say that Jesus was NOT going to wash his feet. Well, Jesus just looked at him and said, “If I don't wash you, you have no share with me.” Peter quickly said that not just his feet, but wash his hands and face, too! Jesus said, “A man who has had a bath doesn't need to wash, except his feet — his body is already clean. And you people ARE clean, but not all of you.”

The women of our group offered to help the landlord with getting the meal together. There were things like the bitter herbs to gather, called *maror*, lamb to cook, matzoh to make and the room to clean... all in a hurry. Those poor servants, even Mary Magdalene helped with the serving.

Something else that I remember so clearly is the breaking of the matzah. Jesus became very sad as he broke the bread in half and said, “I tell you that one of you will betray me.” We were all shocked. We were all asking if it we were the one who would do this horrible thing. He said something to Judas, and he got up and left. No one was very concerned about it. We all thought it was something about getting the temple taxes paid. James asked later if there was something wrong because Judas's face did not look happy, but again we gave it no real thought as he was the one in charge of the money for us all.

After the Passover meal was done, Jesus broke more bread and passed it around. He told us to eat it for it was His body and that He wouldn't eat it again until the Day of the Lord. He wanted all of us to remember Him. I could never

forget Him! He brought another goblet of wine and passed it around like He did the bread, telling us to drink for it was His blood. He said that He would not drink it again until it was fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. We were just coming to the point of knowing He was the Son of God. We had been in Passover meals our whole lives, but this was something not usual, but very shocking to us all. We were beginning to realize that His body was the one to be broken and His blood was to be spilled out. We had more questions and few answers.

I don't think anyone really understood all what Jesus said that night, until much later.

Those rituals, prayers, and symbolic foods of the Passover Seder were a wonderful part of a delicious holiday meal, which was all we were thinking about actually.

After the meal Jesus said we needed to go to the Garden of Gethsemane. I will now send you over to Mary Magdalene who has more to tell you about our wonderful Lord! She is awaiting you at the empty tomb. May you remember Him with joy in your heart for all He has done for us! Thank you!

## **22.NARRATOR** **THE TOMB** (*Matthew 27:57-60*)

Our last stop on this journey is the tomb where the religious leaders thought they had defeated Jesus. They sent Him to the Roman's where they beat Him, spit on Him, publicly shamed Him, hung Him on a cross to die and had Him buried in this tomb. But praise God they couldn't keep Him in the grave!

### **PRESENTER Mary Magdelene at the Tomb – Matthew 27:59-60**

My name is Mary called Magdelene. I am a follower of Jesus. Let me tell you my story.

He healed me of being possessed of 7 demons. I was so thankful to Him for healing me that I became a loyal follower of His.

I traveled with Jesus, His disciples, and the other women learning so much about this new life. Oh, such precious times to sit and listen to Him, until He began talking about His own death.

I don't think any of us understood what He was telling us on how He would die and be raised after three days. That is until the day we came face to face with it.

The religious leaders didn't like Jesus or any of His words. They felt He was a threat to them. They set about to find a way to have Him killed. The night after our Passover meal, we went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus had been intensely praying but the rest of us had fallen asleep until He woke us up saying it was time. A huge crowd was running towards us.

This crowd sounded like they wanted blood. Looking back later, I guess they did. Just as they came to a stop Judas came and kissed Jesus and the crowd went crazy. Judas had just betrayed Jesus with a kiss! He had walked and talked with Jesus for over three years! He had learned at the feet of our Lord and Master. How could he betray Jesus?

The leaders said they wanted Jesus of Nazareth and Jesus answered, "I am He". He said it with such power and authority that everyone fell backwards. We thought it was funny to see them hit the ground like that. Jesus went on to say, "I told you that I am He, so if you seek Me, let these men go." Jesus always looks after His followers.

Peter wanted to protect Jesus and ended up cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus told him not to put his sword away and healed the servant.

That did not stop the crowd because they still arrested Jesus. We were all scared and so we scattered. Some of the disciples did follow them from a distance and saw that the crowd had taken Jesus to Annas's house who was a former High Priest and the father-in-law to our current High Priest, Caiaphas. He did not like Jesus so made up lies and accusation. He sent Jesus to Caiaphas who hated Jesus so much he wanted Him dead. Caiaphas took Jesus to Pilate.

Pilate said he could find nothing worthy of death that Jesus had said or done, but the crowd did not listen. Pilate, hearing Jesus was from Galilee, sent Him to King Herod who was in town. Herod could not get anything out of Jesus, so he sent Jesus back to Pilate. Pilate tried to release Jesus, but the crowd was up in arms. They began yelling to crucify Jesus louder and louder! Pilate had Him whipped to try and appease the crowd. It ripped His back to shreds. Some of the guards even put a crown of thorns on His head piercing the skin into the skull. Finally, Pilate washed his hands and turned Jesus over to the Jews.

The Jews had Him carry His own cross, until He just couldn't anymore and someone else was made to carry the horrible thing. The crowd could not let Him be, they were still so angry that they even began pulling His beard out of His face.

By the time He was on the cross at Golgotha you could not even tell who He was. Golgotha means place of the skull. It is a hideous place of death. You can see the horrible thing from here. I will never forget the final hours, the pain in His voice when He cried out to His father from the cross. I will also never forget the sound of victory in His voice when He said, "It is finished!"

Joseph of Arimathea went to ask Pilate if he could take Jesus body for burial. Pilate was surprised that He was already dead but agreed to the request. Nicodemus had brought some myrrh and aloes to put on Him and then the two of them wrapped Jesus in linen cloths with the spices, took Him to the tomb that Joseph had which had never been used before. Jesus's mother and I had followed to see where they were laying Him so we could come back after the Sabbath.

The religious leaders were still so afraid of Jesus that they demanded guards and a seal on the tomb.

Early on the first day of the week I went to the tomb. I did not know how I was going to move the stone or get past those guards, but as I came closer to the tomb, I found the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. I ran to tell the disciples and to ask if they knew where He had been put. Peter and John came back with me to see for themselves. John got there first but stopped at the mouth of the tomb. Peter ran on inside. What he found made no sense. He saw

the strips of linen that had been around Jesus's body just lying in there and the napkin that had been around His face was folded next to it.

It is our custom that when we eat our meal, if the head of the household gets up from the meal and is finished, he would throw his napkin on the table. But if he were coming back, he would fold his napkin beside or on his plate. Here in the tomb the napkin was folded and placed beside where Jesus's head would have been. What could that mean? Peter and John went back to the others to try and find some answers.

I stayed behind, I was still crying and still looking for Jesus. There did appear someone in the tomb. He asked who I was looking for, I said I was looking for Jesus. He said something about not looking for the living among the dead. Truly I didn't understand for I had seen Jesus beaten nearly to death and had watched as He died on that awful cross. I knew He was gone.

Someone else was in the garden that morning I thought it was the gardener and he might have seen where they had taken Jesus. He asked why I was crying. I told him I was looking for Jesus and if he knew where He was to tell me and I would go get Him. He called my name, and I knew who it was! It was Jesus, Himself! I won't say there wasn't any squealing or laughter or tears...He did say I could not hang on to Him. I wanted to stay with Him, but He told me I had to tell the disciples He was alive! That was something I could not wait to do. I ran down the streets screaming "He is Alive. He is alive! That is something we all need to tell everyone we meet, so they too can get to know our Savior and the joy He can bring.

You have come to the end of your trip in our land. I hope you have a very blessed journey home.