



The Holy Land

PRECIOUS TO THREE FAITHS

WORLD TRAVEL AS LIFESTYLE SERIES

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ThethtolyLand



March 31-April 23, 2022

The eyes of the Bedouin girl in Jordan speak to the past centuries of the



difficult life of her ancestors. They were the shepherds to the sheep and goats in the deserts of tough pickings in the Holy Lands where the terrain is mostly brown all year. Her people have survived numerous times of strife and wars. It is the same to the present day. The question for her is about her future; will it be more of the same or will she find safety and happiness in another lifestyle.

In early January, Israel announced that they are open for visitors. If folks had all three vaccinations against the COVID 19 virus, they were welcome to enter the country. United Airlines had a r/t fare from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv for \$846. Jere Breneisen, my friend and neighbor, accepted my invitation to join this adventure. He was with me on three other major trips so he came aboard with high credentials. I checked with several agents and received an unusual response from one of them,



“What are you looking for? A Jewish tour, a Christian tour, an Islam tour, a historical tour...What?”

“How about a complete tour?”

Jere and I opted for 7 days on our own in Jerusalem and then 12 days with guides in Israel and Jordan. We chose the half board plan (breakfast

and dinner) at all our hotels for about an extra \$300. This was a wise decision because restaurant foods are sky high there. After we committed to the visit, Israel made some new rules. Visitors need a negative PCR test result 24 hours prior flight time, submission of a health chart to receive a QR to show on arrival and proof of a 50 thousand dollar trip insurance policy. We were notified by United Airlines on the morning of March 31 that our flight to Tel Aviv will be leaving from Chicago because of severe weather problems in Newark. No problem. The



security line to enter the waiting area at O'Hare that evening was three blocks long. Israeli security was thorough so that meant it was slow. As we waited to board our flight at 10 pm the flight was cancelled because of

lack of pilots who tested negative for COVID 19. So United put us up in the Hilton for the night with \$60 each for food money. The next morning it was back into the long security line and with perseverance, we did



manage to board the sold out flight to Tel Aviv. On arrival our driver was nowhere to be found to take us to Jerusalem. We did manage a connection with a fellow in a large Mercedes and we were on the 35 mile trek on the sabbath day (Shabbat). The terrain was flat and green for 25 miles and then we began to go uphill where the terrain became rocky. He told us that



Jerusalem was hilly, flat with lots of limestone. We learned later that another 8 miles east of Jerusalem it is desert- sand. Our arrival at the Prima Kings Hotel was cordial.

Jere and I are believers in the promises of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our desire for the journey was to walk where Jesus walked. Covid 19, canceled flights and crowded airport problems were not going to deter us from our goal. Here we are; hello **Israel !**



Jerusalem

There were many Hasidic Jews living in town as well as at the hotel.

They originated in the 18th century in Poland and have strict rules for living ever since. During Shabbat, they are not allowed to push a button. They take the stairs rather than the elevator. Families have to carry the stroller up the stairs. The modern coffee appliance has a hood over it. Meat and dairy are fine but do not mix; butter at breakfast but not at dinner. etc. The unleavened bread which is eaten during Passover took



some learning to appreciate. Men sing and dance in the lobby while



families relax by the fountain in front of the hotel. The streets are quiet



while the parks are full. Women and children are all dressed modestly. This matron stopped me and ask,

“Are you from America/“

“Yes.”

“Which state?”

“Pennsylvania.”

“I’m from New Jersey. I came here to live seven years ago; it is so wonderful to be home!”
Her dreams of her soul are now fulfilled.



We met C. Paul Jones in the restaurant at dinner. He's an evangelist from North Carolina doing his nineteenth trip to Israel over a fifty year span. He and his wife had an entourage of 30 folks of different ages. They had problems coming over. A lady had insufficient documentation who had to fly the next day. Her ticket change cost \$1500. When their tour was over, two ladies tested positive for COVID19 and had to quarantine for 7 more days. C. Paul was a fun and interesting person who loved good humor.

In the morning, we bought Shekels at the reception and headed for the City of David. We learned that the buses don't take money; we had to visit a kiosk and juice a card which the #38 bus would accept. But a good Samaritan learned about our problem and ordered us on the bus and then



paid with his card, turned and waved as he walked away. The city also has a light rail system to complete their public transportation needs.

The City of David is located down the hill from the Dung Gate of Old Jerusalem. It lies on a small hill that runs perpendicular to Old Jerusalem. The courtyard has a notable rest area among the olive trees. It's an archaeological site thought to be the original site of Jerusalem during the bronze age.



King Hezekiah , (751BC-696 BC), a descendent of David, feared the Assyrians would cut off the spring water that supplied the city. He had a tunnel built by pic axes through the limestone to channel the water to a secure pond. This is documented in 11 Kings 20, 20. They began to dig from each end, made many turns; it is a remarkable feat to have met in the center. How this was done in those days is pure speculation. The 1800 foot tunnel is elbow scraping narrow and head bumping in spots. They told us that the hike is not for the claustrophobic or weak hearted.



“Whatever you do don’t stop, there are folks coming behind you. To get the full effect feel your way in the dark, no flashlights.”

The spring water varied from ankle to mid thigh deep the whole way. The cold water cooled the nervous sweat. One of those experiences that you were glad to have done but have no need to do again. We found our hiking shoes that were clean and dry on the windowsill in the morning.

Jere likes to walk around the neighborhood when visiting a new town. One of the first nights he took what he thought was a shortcut from the Old City to the Prima Kings Hotel. He soon realized his mistake and it was getting dark. His other problem was that he needed a bathroom and there was none in sight. He kept walking and approached a hotel where there was an armed guard out front. The guard knew little English. He threw up his hands and yelled,

“No, no - Covid!”



A truck from a jewelry store was making a delivery to the hotel. He knew some English; was our second good Samaritan, and drove Jere back to the Prima Kings Hotel about a mile away. This experience will have major significance further on in our trip.

Yes, Jerusalem has a Kosher McDonalds! There was no such thing as a quarter pounder with cheese hamburger.

My straight quarter pounder meal cost \$14.50 was impossible for me to finish because I was unable to appreciate the taste. Jere's medium coke cost only \$4.50.





The Mount of Olives is made of soft stone, unlike the limestone that comprises most of Jerusalem. This is one reason why it is a graveyard which had to be outside of the Old City. It is also a place of fulfilled prophecies. It is a place of redemption, hope and prayer. Both David and Jesus prayed here. It has an excellent view of the Old City which is just across the valley. Most of the graves have small stones on the top following Jewish traditions.



A large, gnarled olive tree with a thick, twisted trunk stands in a garden. The tree's branches spread out, casting shadows on the ground. In the background, there are other plants, a white fence, and a building. A wheelbarrow is visible near the base of the tree.





There is a Catholic Franciscan church called The Basilica of Agony. It is one of the most magnificent churches in the Holy Land. Most of the locations in the Holy Land where Jesus did important deeds or spoke sermons are documented by a church.

The Old City of Jerusalem is only one square kilometer where



38,000 people live. It is divided into four quarters; Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Armenian. There is no ethnic segregation because 30% of the Muslim quarter is rented to Jews; Jews rent 70% of the Armenian quarter. The Old City is important to the Jews because of Abraham almost sacrificing Issac on the alter which is now owned by the Muslims. Jacob slept here dreaming of a ladder to heaven. At that time it was called Mount Moriah; its summit was where Solomon built the temple on the land which his father King David purchased from Aravnah. That temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC but was rebuilt 70 years later by Herod to its original glory. In 68 AD this temple was destroyed by the Romans and its stones were scattered leaving only the Western Wall. Only Muslims are now allowed to visit the gold colored dome building on the Temple Mount (the Muslim name is Haram al-Sharif). It is located in an elevated position by the Western Wall (also known as The Wailing Wall).



This term for the Wall was given by the British when they had control in 1920. Today the name is not used by religious Jews and others who think it is derogatory. The Jews hold this wall as a sacred remnant of the Temple



that remains for over two thousand years. Here are some photos by the Western Wall on a normal day. It is only about 200' long and it is made of



l a r g e
limestones.
The Western
Wall Tunnel
is a 1400'
hallway to
the North
a n d
underneath
the Muslim
Quarter. It
s h o w s
evidence of
the different

periods of construction, destruction and then reconstruction. The tunnels were believed to be the closest access to the Holy of Holies where people could come to pray. The Tunnels also supplied water to the Temple. There are many gates to enter the Old City, all are secured by the military with automatic weapons.



To enter a gate with a vehicle much paperwork is required in order to gain entrance. The defenders never know when that next vehicle might contain a bomb...not a pleasant work. Many streets are narrow and twisty with many merchants on both sides. The meat and veggies on sale are of prime quality.





The Via Dolorosa (Sorrowful Way) is well marked where Jesus



dropped the cross many times on the way to his crucifixion.

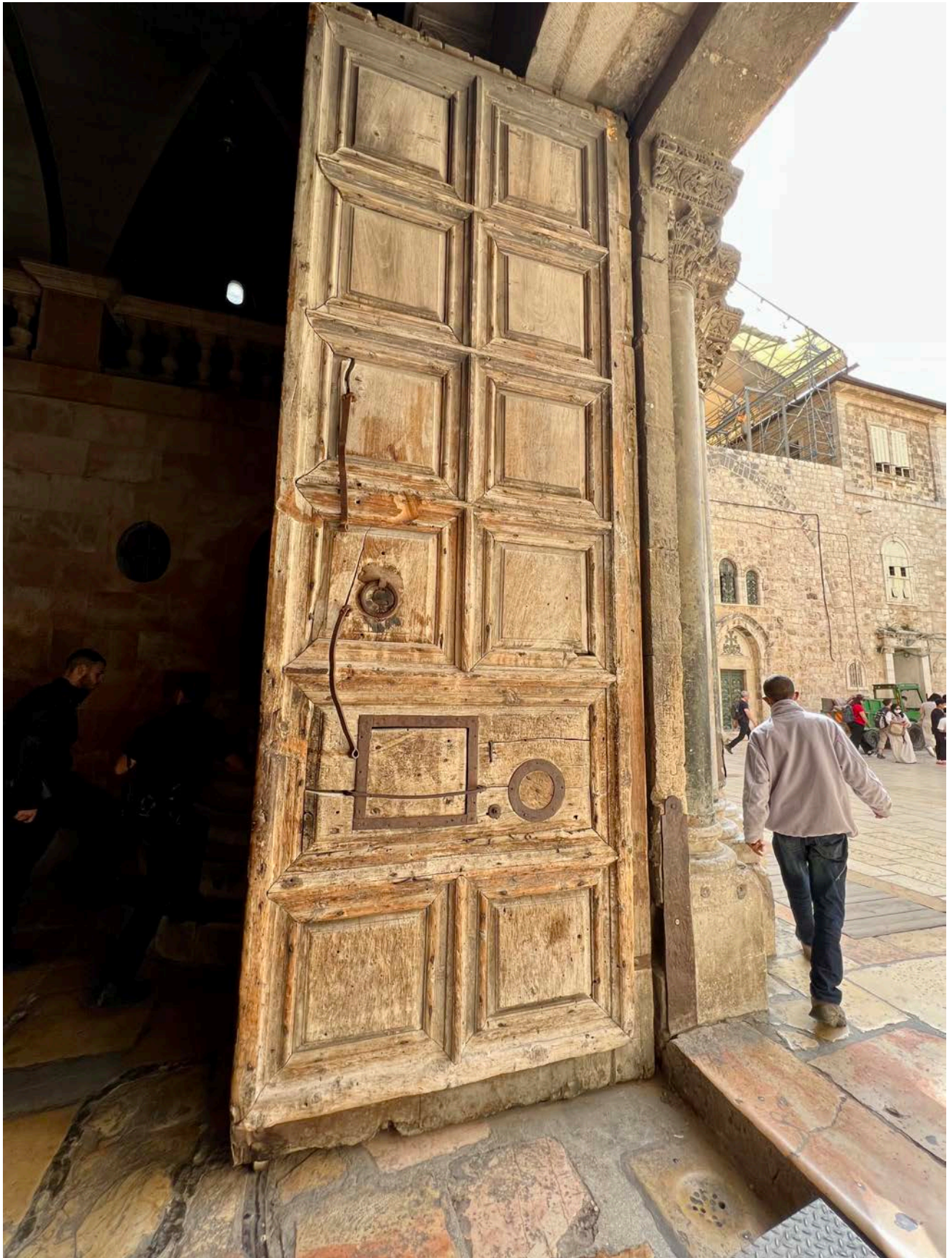


About half way there was a convey of soldiers in a good mood. The



path that Jesus took is about 2000' long that stretches from the Antonia Fortress to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The plaza and the front of the church is rather plain. The large limestone pavers are well worn. I

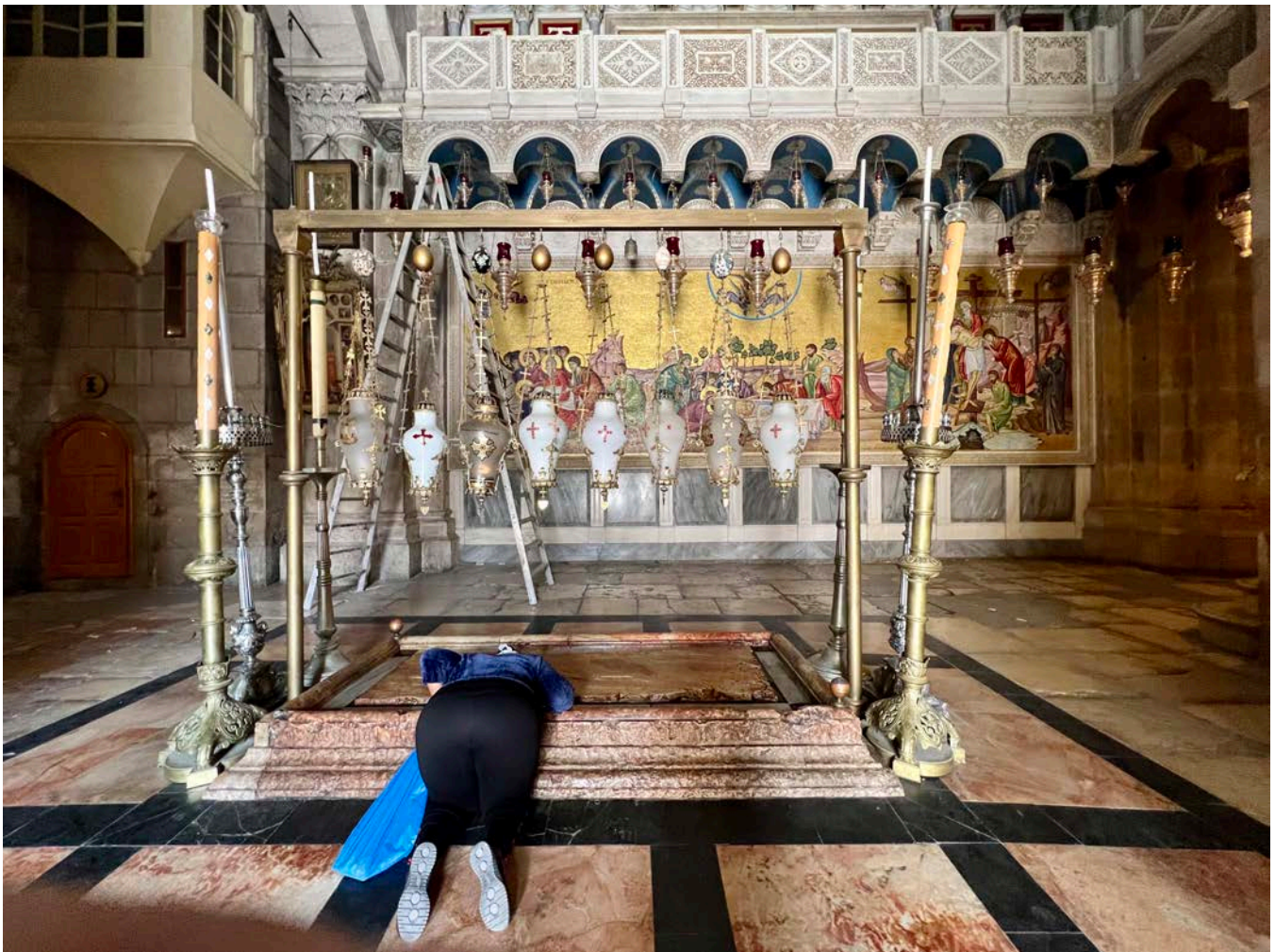




loved the door and the Byzantine priests standing by near the stone where



the body of Jesus lay before being laid to rest in the tomb. Behind the



stone the famous painting displays the events of that day. There were other eye catching scenes that lead to the tomb. The tomb is ornate which



is visited by unending line of people with the security folks yelling,

“No photos”

Inside another chap was more emphatic,

“Absolutely no photos!”

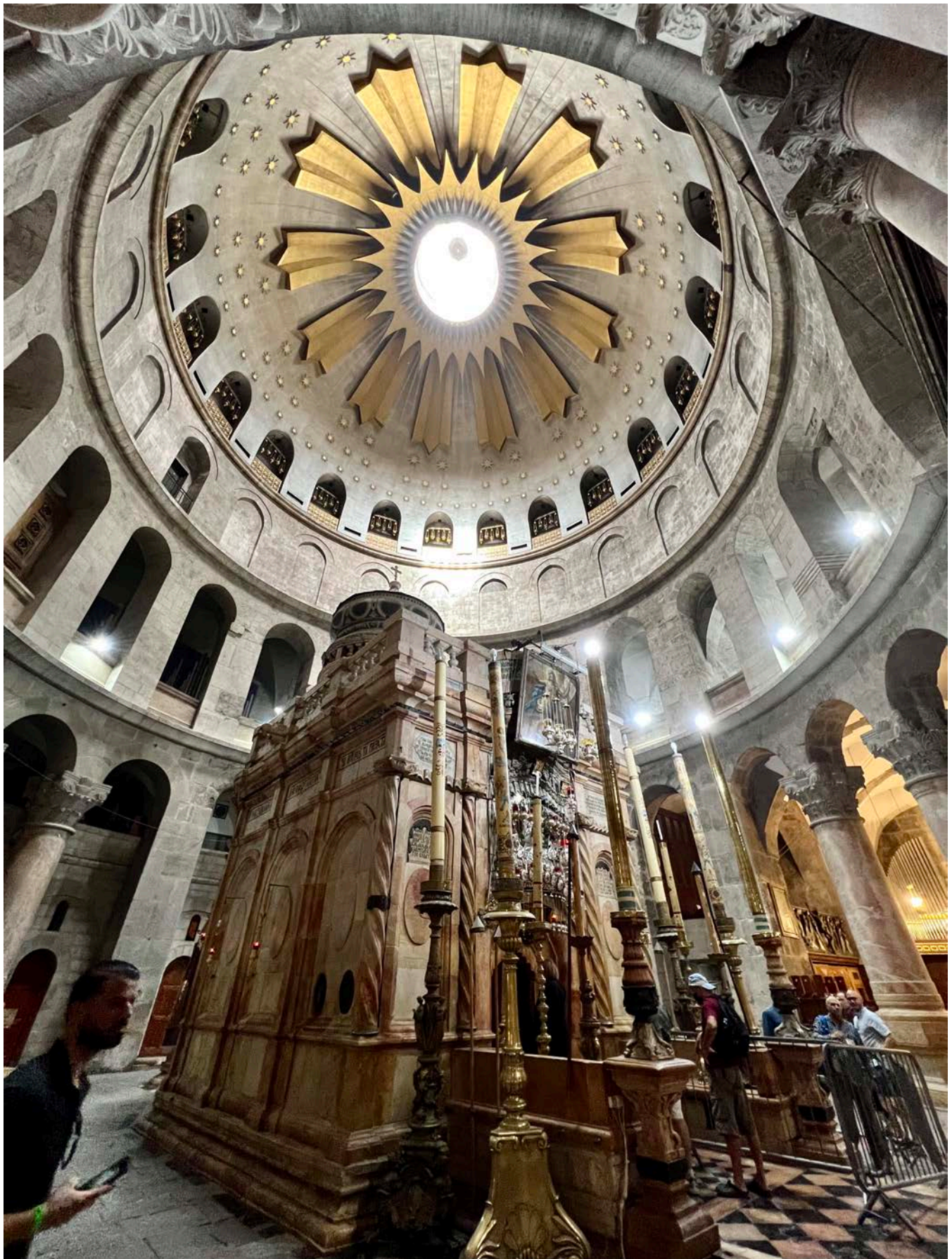
A lady behind me ran in front of me and blurted,

“He”s not watching, take my photo!”

As I obliged, she through herself down on the stone.

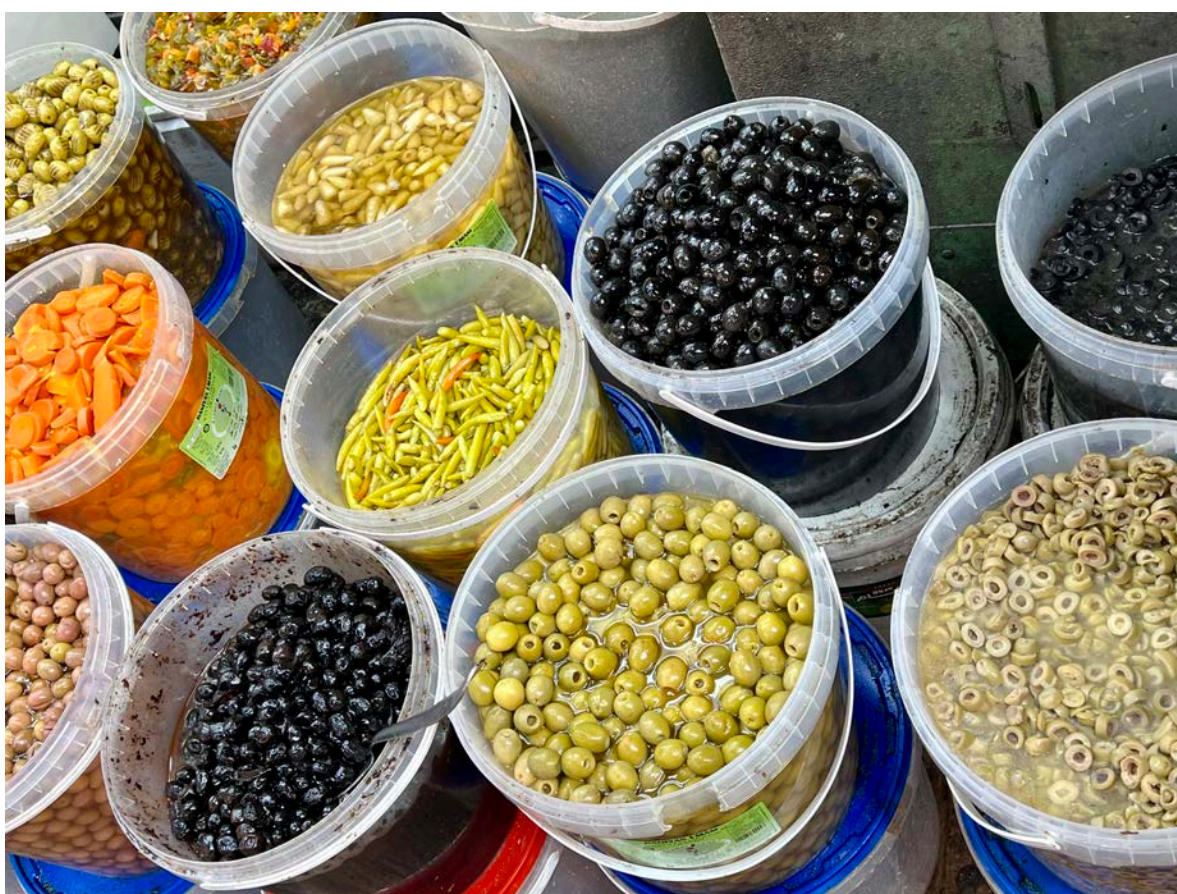


A few more scenes from the Church of The Holy Sepulcher:





The Muslim Quarter had some delicious fare on sale.



Through Mount Zion in the Jewish Quarter, it was a visit to The Room of the Last Supper.



In order to enter The Tomb of David all men were required to wear a yarmulka. Our fellow visitors looked different but were friendly.



The Jewish Quarter has been modernized for present day living. The children and rabbis mixed easily with the visitors. The menorah in the





middle of Ha-Hurva square is made of solid gold.

The Holy Bagel served a good lunch. More flavors while nosing about the Quarter.



The Holocaust Museum had the horrors of those times on full display. The stark surroundings told the story well. Photos depict the story

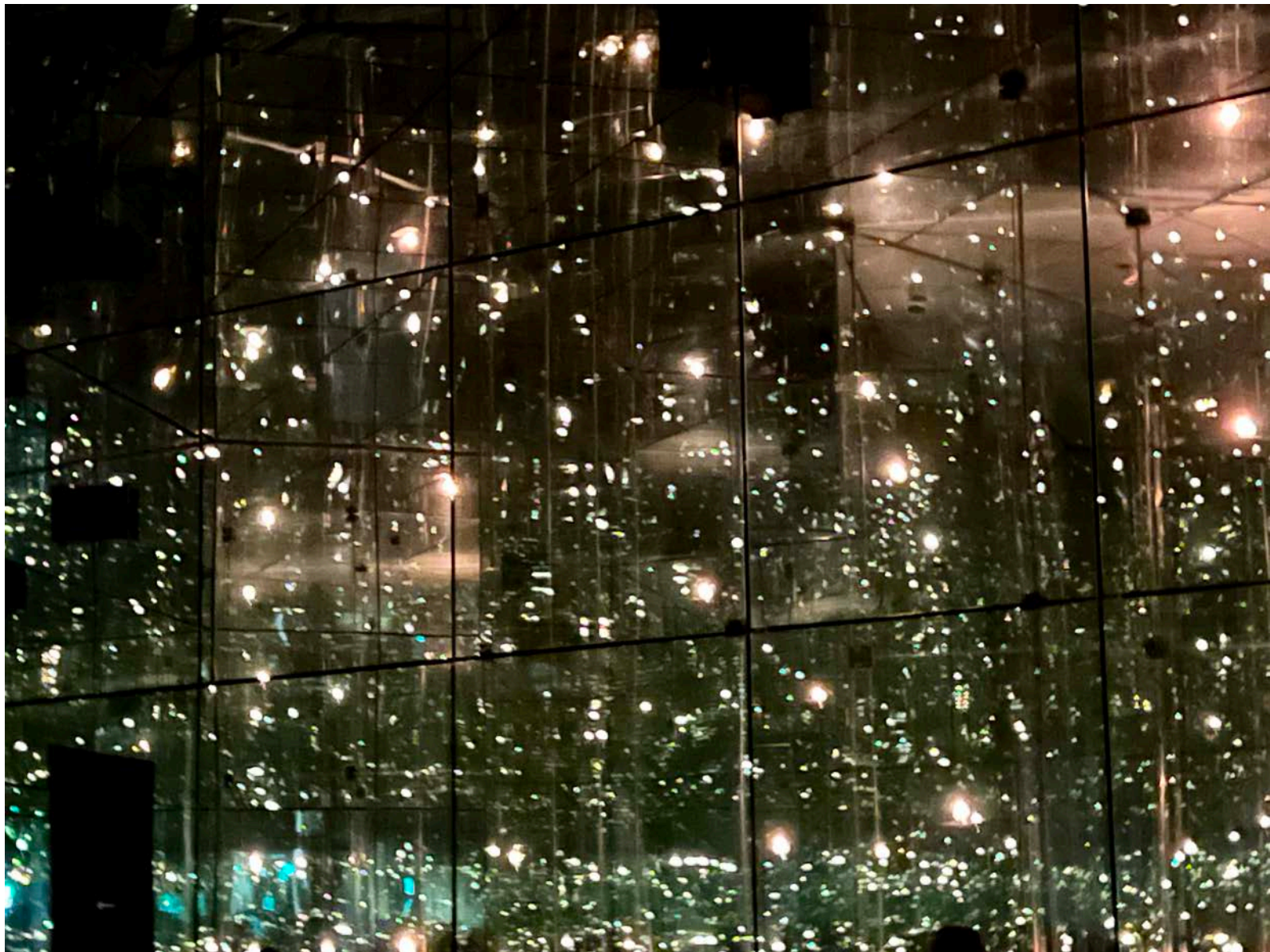




better than words.



Another moving place was the tribute to Uziel who was murdered in Auschwitz in 1944. His life, and one and one half million other Jewish children's lives, are represented in a series of revolving lights.



A priest in Poland who perished trying to save the lives of Jewish



children. The exhibitions are successful in teaching the visitors how and why things happened and hopefully will never happen again.

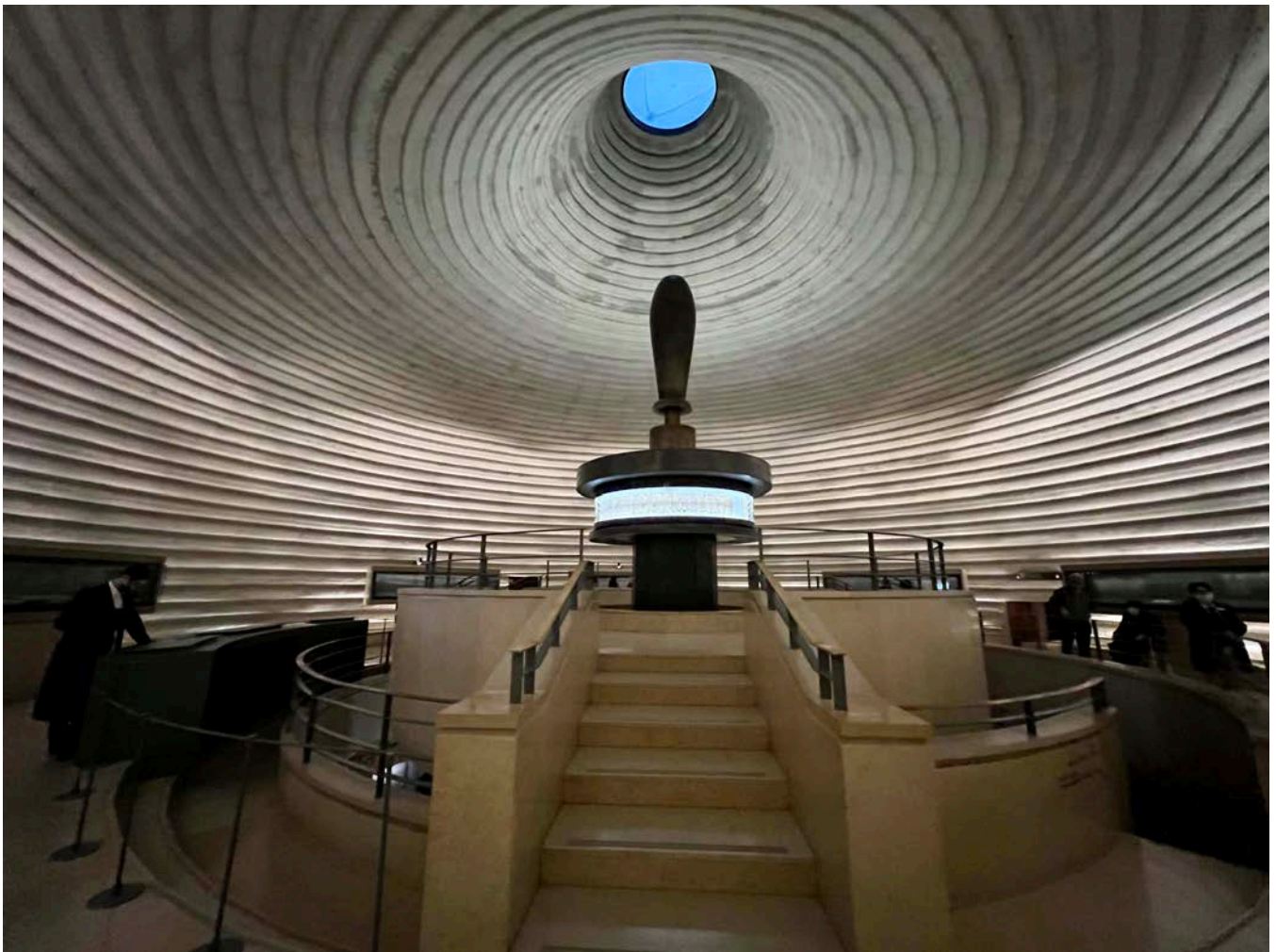
The Israel Museum has a wonderful statue by Rodin.



There is a detailed miniature of the walled city of “Old Jerusalem”.



But the main event is about The Dead Sea Scrolls. They were accidentally discovered by a Bedouin boy (Mohammed edh-Dhib) in 1947 who threw a stone in an open cave at Qumran while searching for his lost goat. He heard porcelain breaking. The scrolls were written on mostly papyrus and



parchment. For fifty years the contents of this cave and 10 others have



been thoroughly studied. Most of the scrolls were broken but when put together they showed the history of what happened in Israel from 520 BCE- 70CE. The outside of the museum features the White Dome of the Shrine of the Book which covers the scrolls on the inside. These are dramatic scenes. The stark scenes in Qumran in the Judean desert will be shown latter in this book. There is also a large collection of archaeology and art.

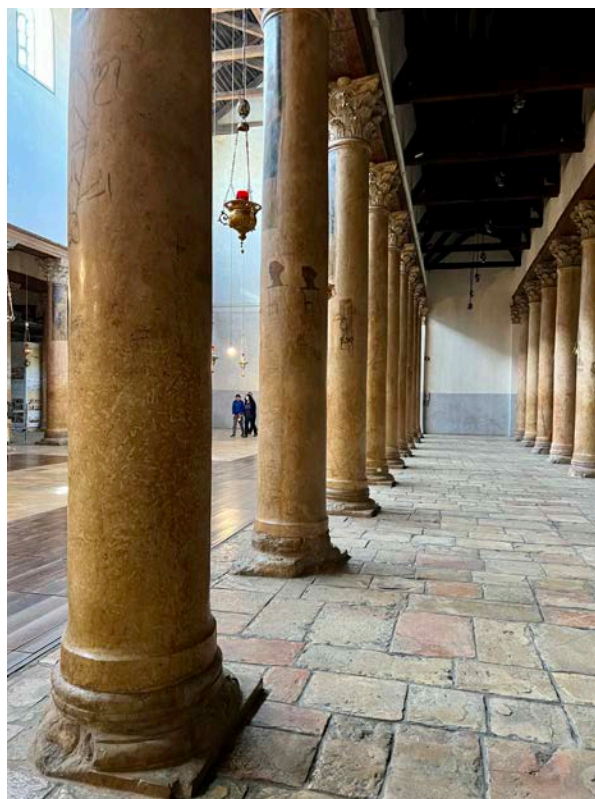
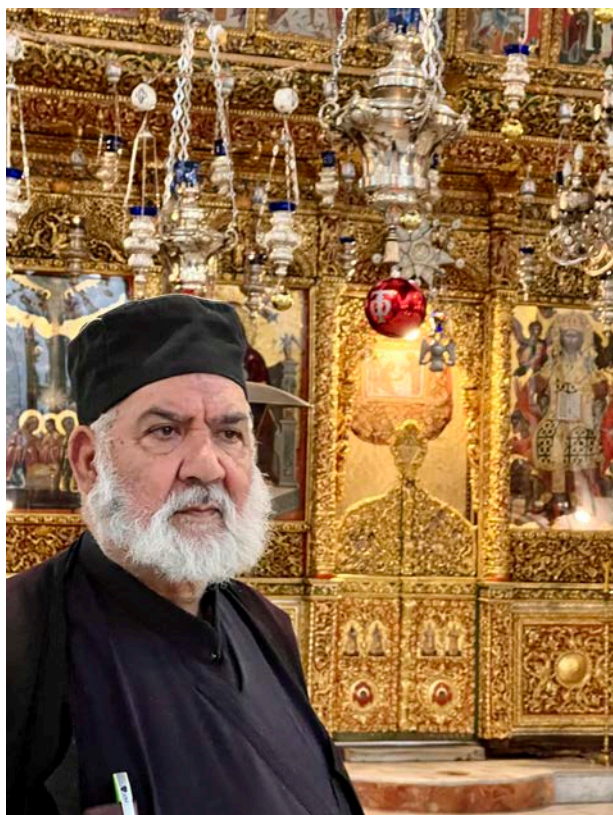
Bethlehem

The city is six miles South of Jerusalem with a higher elevation. It is controlled by Palestine. In 1947, it was 85% Christian. The city has about 25,000 citizens. Now the number of Christians have dwindled to only 15%. It is a popular visitor destination because Jesus was born here. His parents traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the birth. When King Herod heard of the event he ordered all boys two years old and under to be killed. Prompted by an Angel of the Lord, Joseph fled to Egypt with his family until after the death of Herod. When the family returned to Israel they settled in Nazareth.

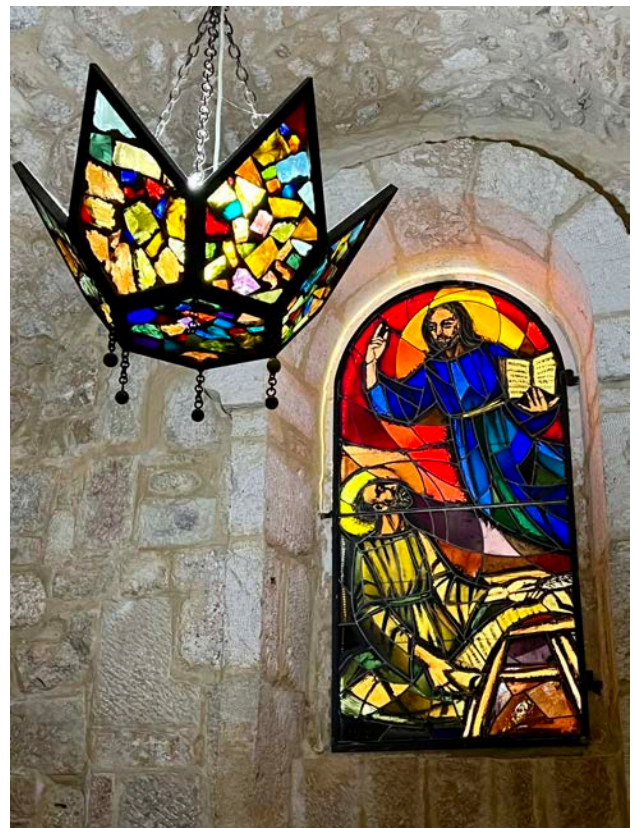
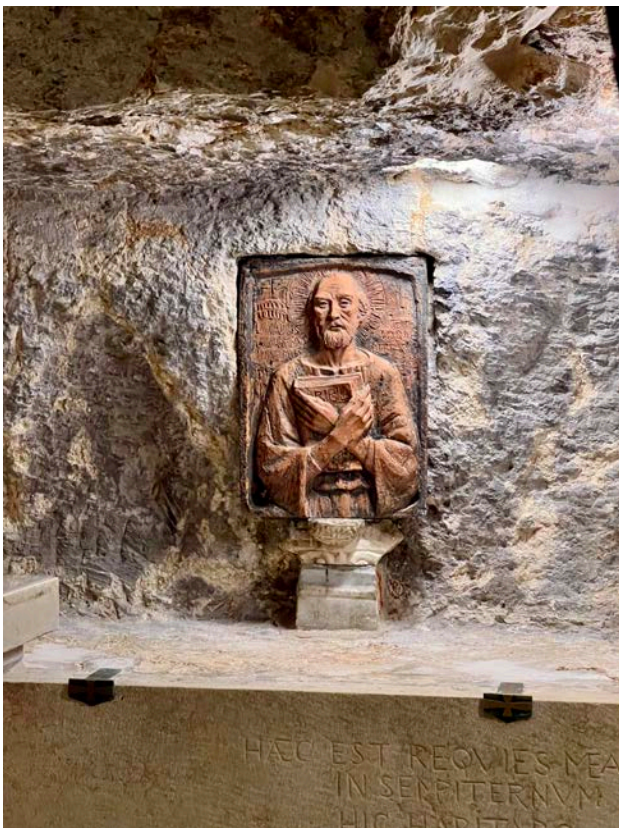
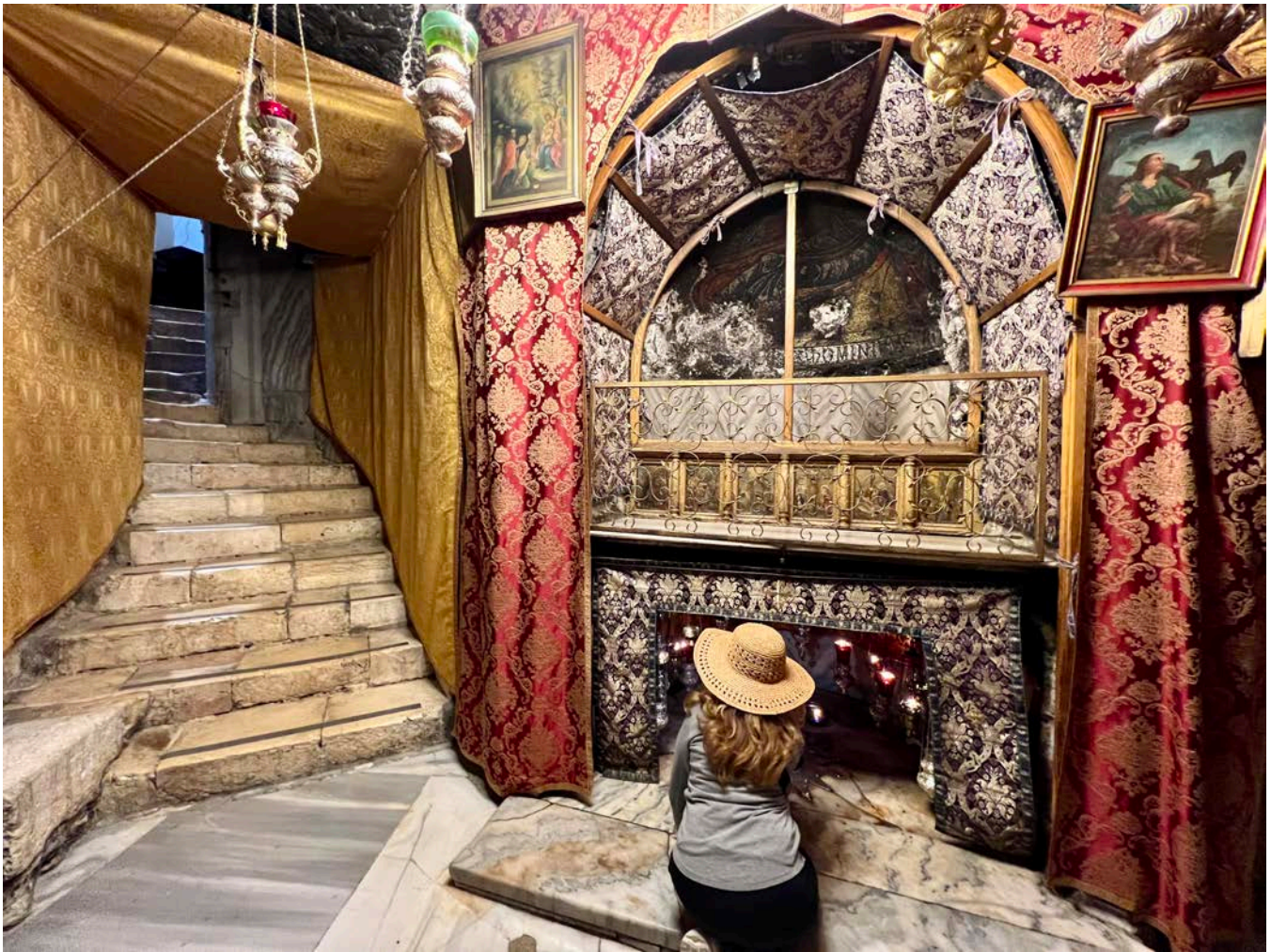
The Church of the Nativity is the oldest major church in the Holy Land. It shares affiliation with Roman Catholic, Armenien Apostolic and Greek Orthodox. It is extremely ornate. The entrance and exit to the



birth grotto had wonderful stone work; the steps have been polished by



the feet of millions of visitors. Visitors come here to pray and meditate; it



is a quiet place. The outer courtyard has magnificent array of columns. Next door is The Church of St. Catherines which is Roman Catholic. There are caves and tunnels that lead to the Church of the Nativity. There are chapels, one to commemorate the Angel appearing to Joseph before they fled to Egypt. Some photos from the tunnels and caves. I can imagine the beautiful singing of carols when people gather at Christmas on the outside plaza common to these churches.

There was a popular store for visitors featuring ornate carvings of



biblical scenes using olive wood. The carvings were priced in the thousands of dollars. The icons were in the hundreds of thousands! A salesperson remarked,



“A chap bought one of our icons for only \$230 thousand and took it home and sold it to a museum for 400!”

Most of the customers that afternoon settled for buying a few refrigerator magnets.

Although Bethlehem was so different from Jerusalem, there were never any feelings of being unsafe. The fact that the population of Christians has dwindled was probably that there were easier economics to be found elsewhere.

Tel Aviv

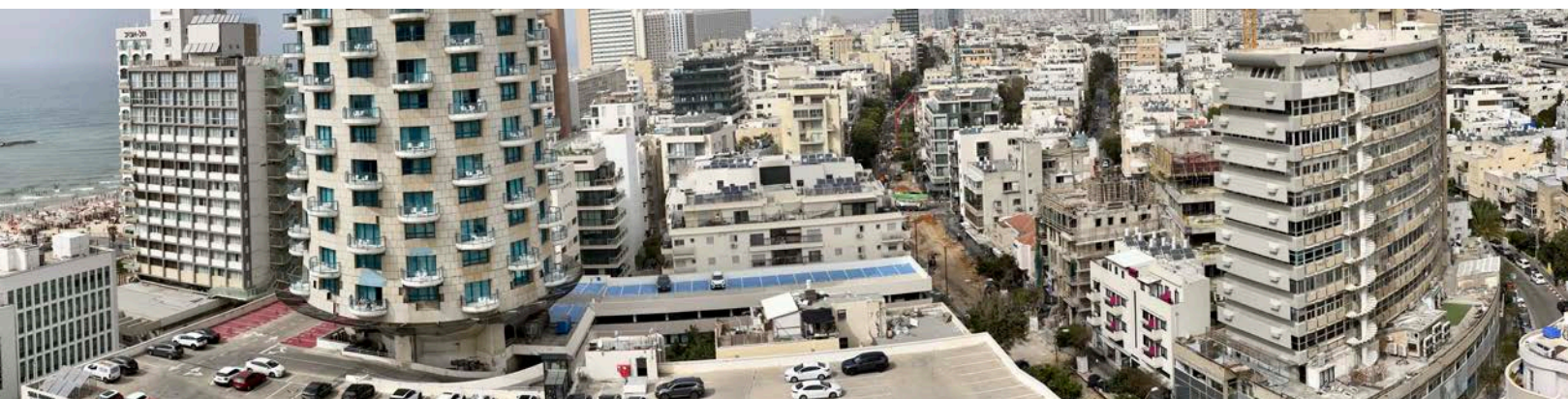
Israel's second largest city (460,000 people) is very different from Jerusalem. The Mediterranean beach city began as a township of Jaffa in

1921 and became independent in 1934. It is known as the "party city" of Israel.



The ladies dress "less" differently here than in Jerusalem.

We checked into the Metropolitan Hotel with a room on the 16th floor, where we had a partial view of Trumpeldor beach.



Here we met our guide, Rafishi Bolet (Rafi); he possessed a thorough knowledge of Isreal. His low key manner made him easy to understand.

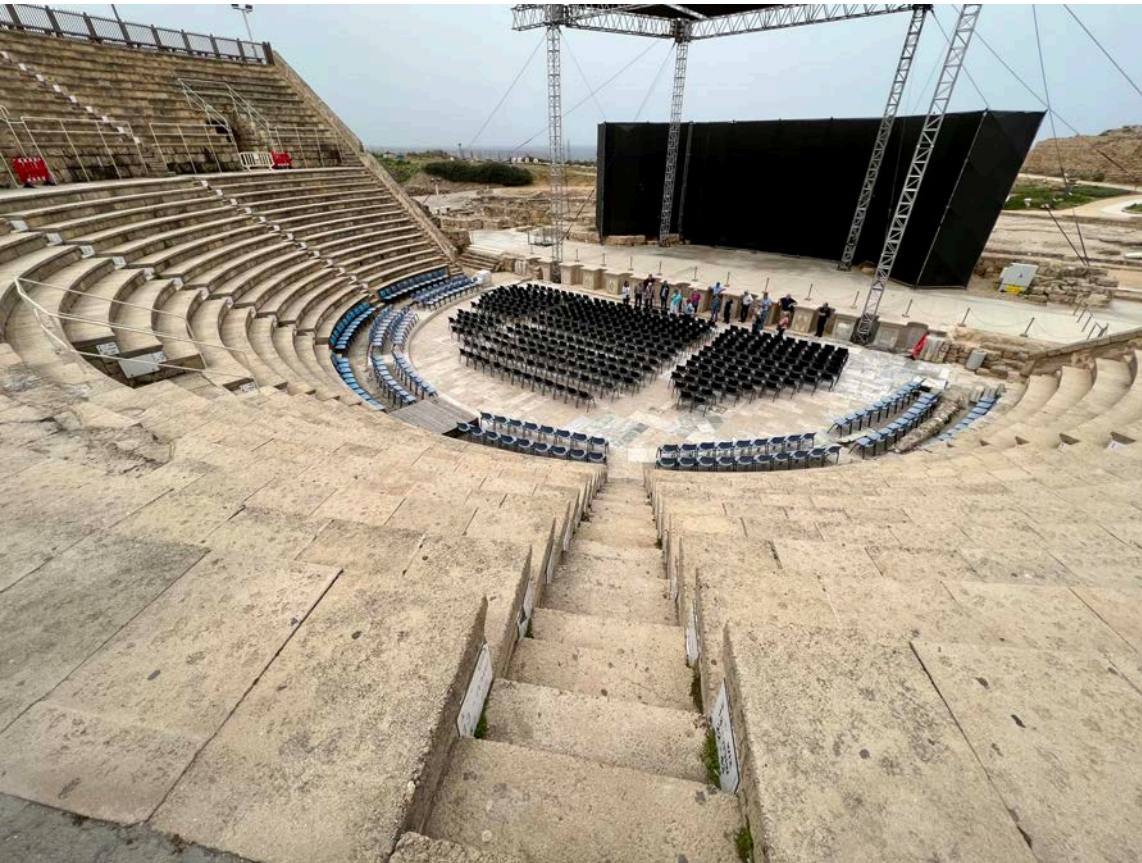




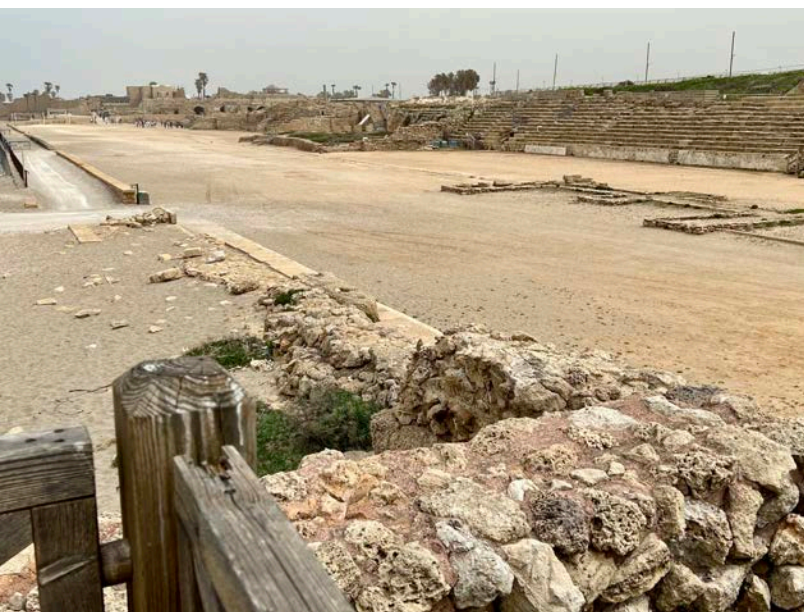
The city is active at night with overflowing pubs and restaurants. The arts are well represented in this town. It is the most expensive city in the world with its' eight mile beach.



Jaffa, the old port city to the South, dates back to Jonah, Solomon and Saint Peter. It has a lovely clock tower. The citizens are a mix of Christian, Jew, and Muslim.



Heading North from Tel Aviv to Caesarea which dates to Roman times. These archaeological ruins were built by Herod the Great in honor of Augustus Caesar. There's an amphitheater, a hippodrome and an aqueduct. Christians have been martyred here in those years.





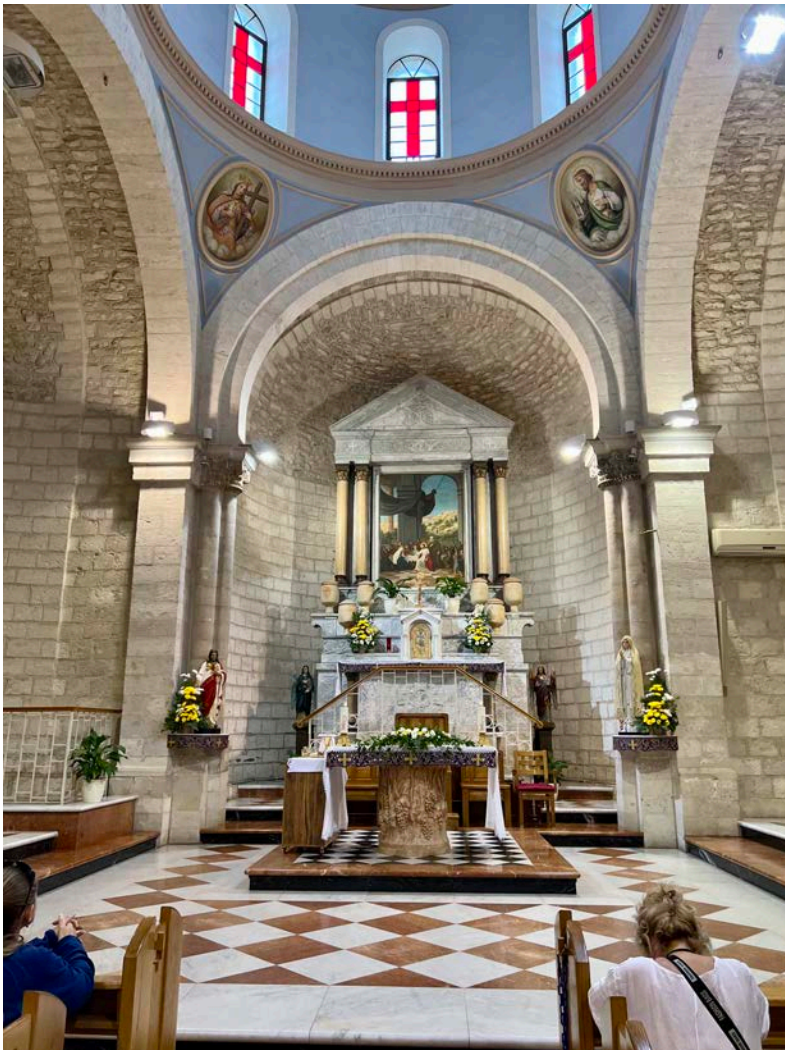
Tel Megiddo is a series of hills where there was an active civilization in the years before Christ. It was an active city from 6000-500 BC. From these hills, The Plain of Armageddon can be seen. According to Biblical Prophecy, this will be the location of the last war where the “blood will be as high as the horse’s bridle.” For now it is a peaceful place.

Nazareth

The largest city in the Northern District with a population of 77,000. It is about two third Muslim and almost one third Christian. Jesus lived his boyhood here. The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation is here. This is the place where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary giving her the news that she will become the mother of Jesus. The church



consists of two levels. Below is the Grotto of the Annunciation; nearby is the Catholic Church of St. Joseph. There are many churches here that celebrate this event. The bird stayed on the flagpole ever so briefly.



Kafr Kanna is an Arab town in Galilee where Jesus changed the water



into wine in the village of Cana. The mosaics are original.

The miracle of the feeding the five thousand was near the Sea of Galilee near the village of Bethsaida. The Byzantine Church (Church of the Multiplication) has tiny mosaics showing the loaves and fishes. Also, the peacocks are well done.

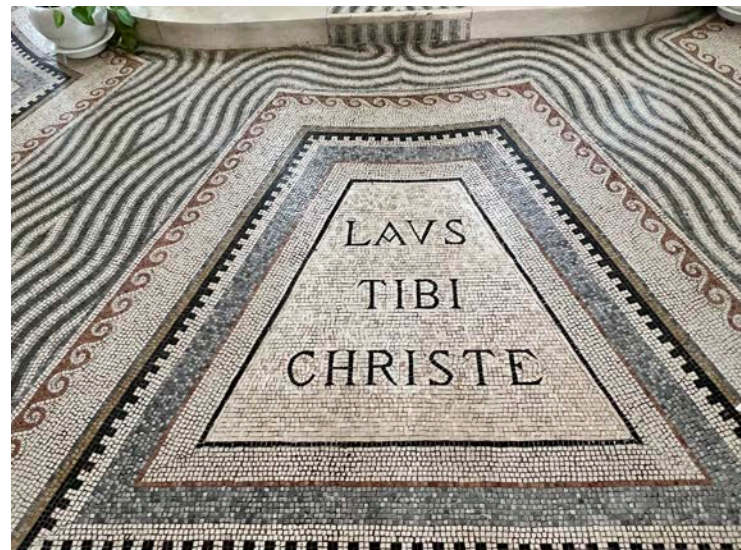


The Church of the Beatitudes sits in a beautiful setting above the Sea of Galilee. The crisp morning accented each beatitude written on separate monuments among the pine trees. Such





an idyllic setting for the location of “The Sermon on the Mount.” The Roman Catholic Church was the design of the famous Italian architect, Antonio Barluzzi and was completed in 1938 with the financing of Benito Mussolini. Israel has proven that they are “non woke!”. Again, the mosaics are eye catching.



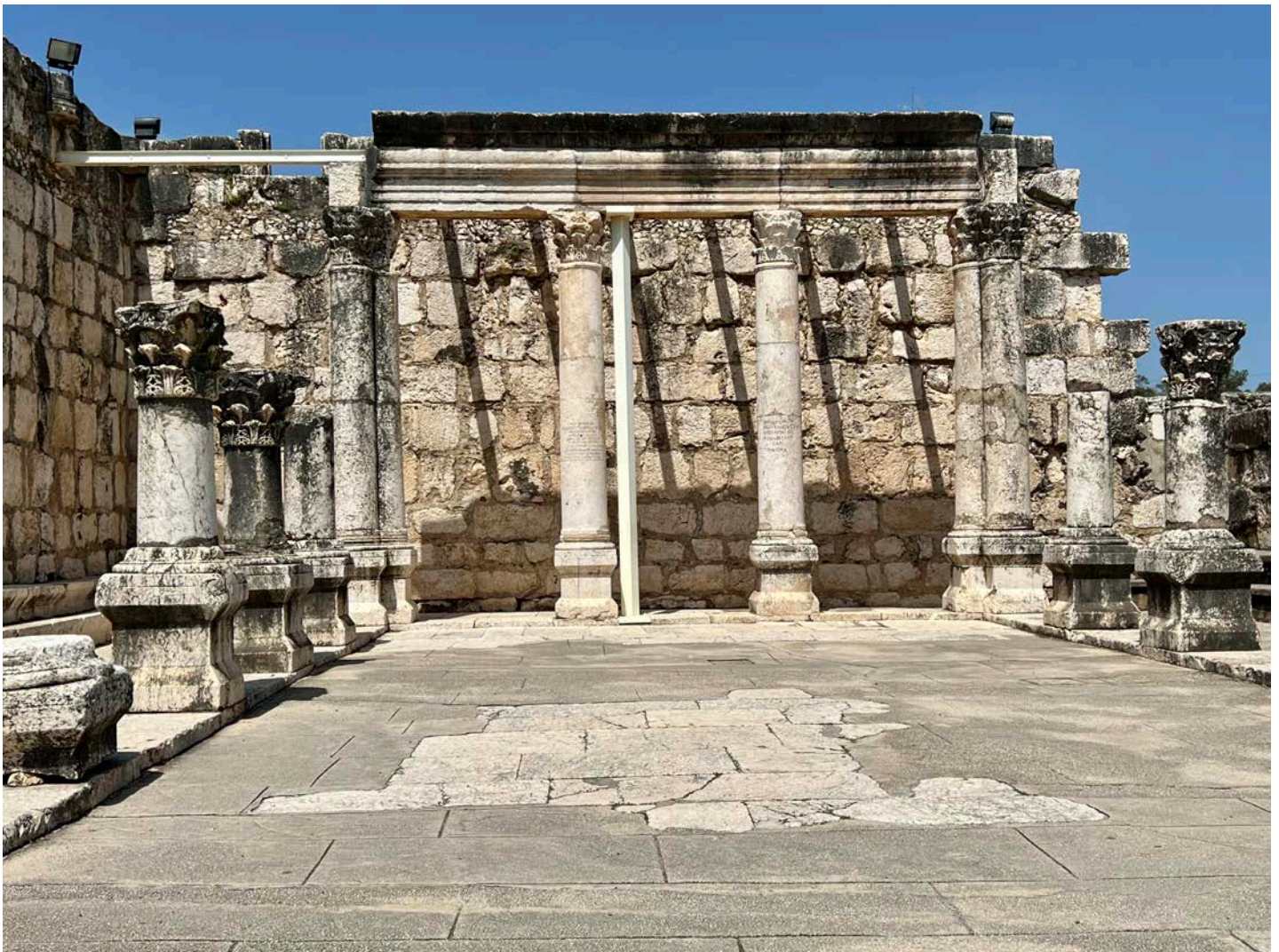


A must stop in the Northern District is the Sanctuary of Pan. It is a spring, a grotto and a dilapidated temple to the Greek god Pan. The water no longer rushes from the cave but still remains strong. The location dates back to Alexander The Great in the third century BC; is in the Golan Heights close to Syria. These waters are a source of the Jordan River.



My morning coffee was served in an eatable cup.

Capernaum used to be a small town on the Northern shore of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus preached in the synagogue. Today, there is no town; it is just a place known as the town of Jesus. He lived here after his temptation in the wilderness and performed many miracles of healing the sick. It is also the place where he recruited five of his disciples. Fishermen John, James, Peter, Andrew and Mathew the tax collector.

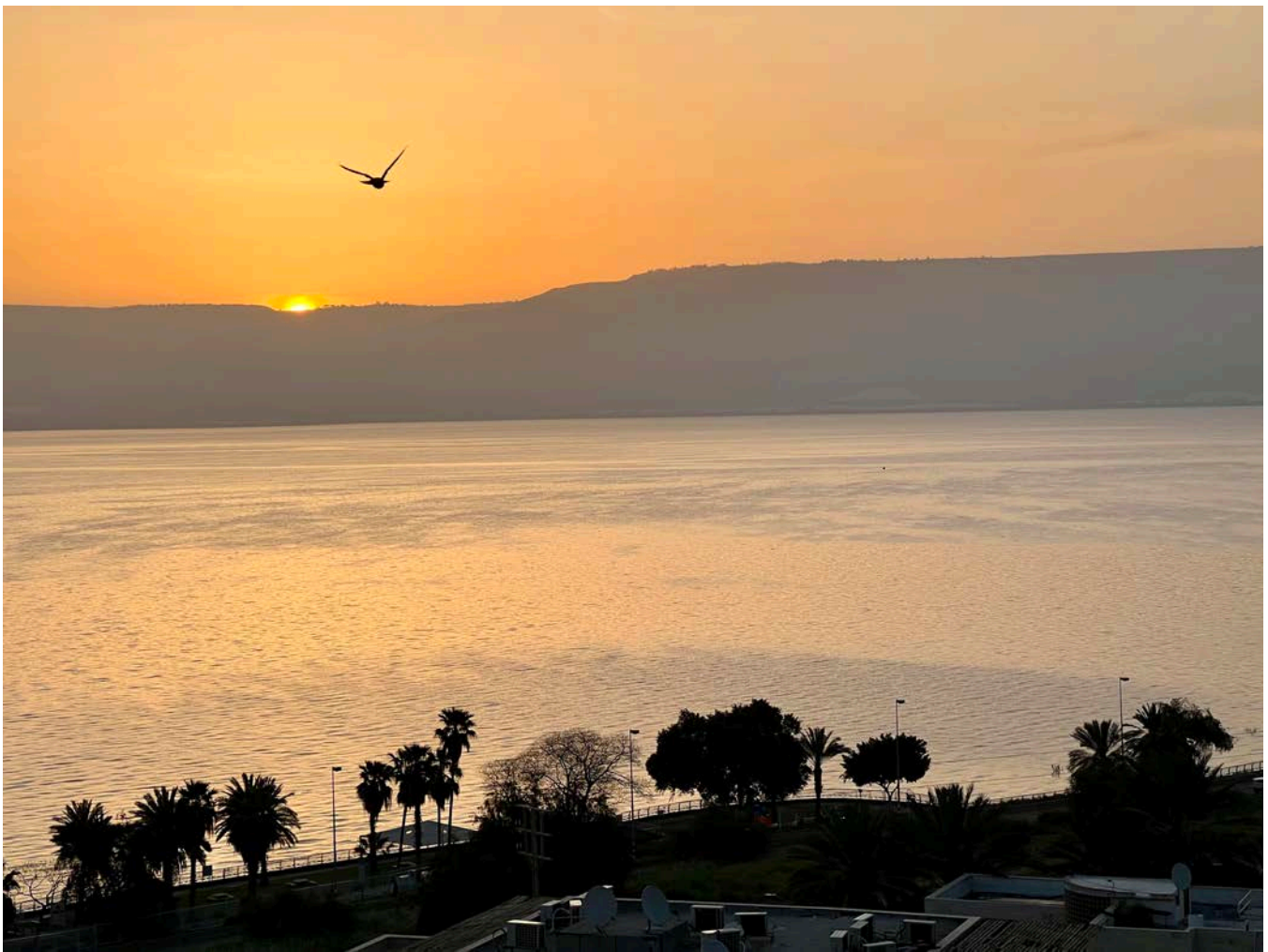


Fish for lunch was the best introduction to the Sea of Galilee near the city of Tiberius. The Reuban gave us a



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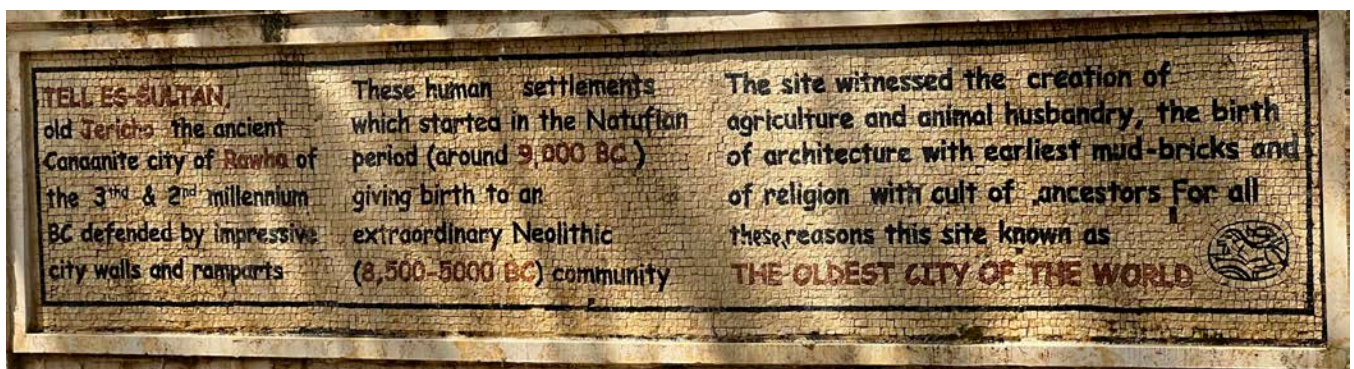
The Bet
S h e ' A n
National Park
is the preserved
remains of an
ancient Roman
and Byzantine
City. The
massive theater
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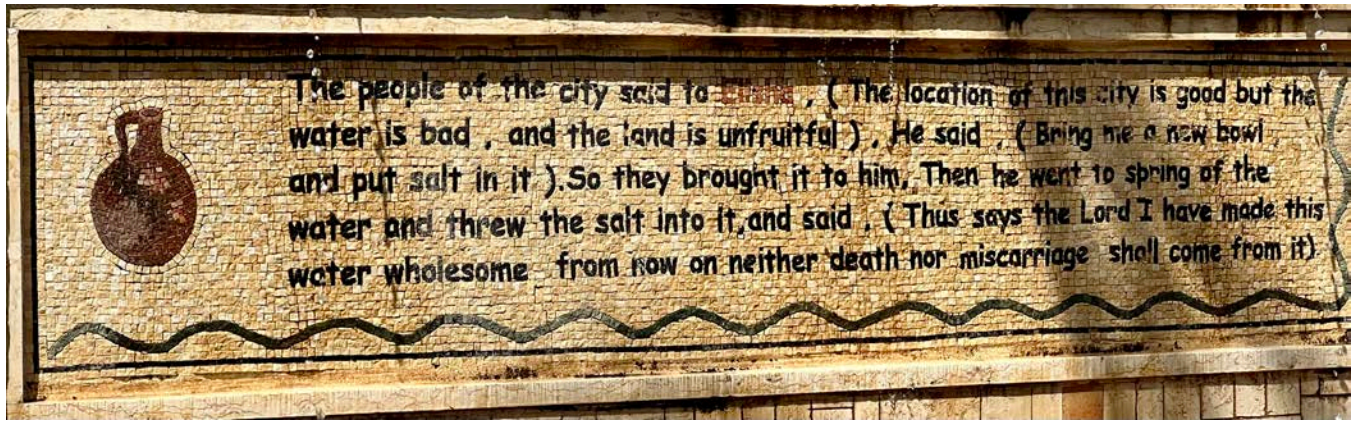
As we



approached Jericho, it was a comfort to see that the wall has not been rebuilt. Loved the name of our restaurant for lunch.

The wall mosaics by the Elisha Springs Fountain do a good job of telling the Jericho story.





The site on the Jordan River where John the Baptist baptized Jesus draws throngs of visitors to be baptized in the muddy waters.



Back for a brief stay in Jerusalem our Grand Court Hotel had a vast lobby.





Because it was the time of Passover the management arranged a dinner for non Jews at another restaurant which was served to us within a “palace”

Descending from the rocks of Jerusalem heading East less than 10 miles one meets the sand of the desert. The houses of



Bedouins dot the landscape.



Masada (Fortress) is a mesa that overlooks the Dead Sea and is now a



national park. It was built in the first century BC by King Herod to be used as a hiding place. The rock has a good view of the Dead Sea almost 1000 feet below. There are two steep trails to visit but most folks ride the cable car. In its heyday a thousand people existed here hiding from the rest of the world.

Their way of acquiring water was phenomenal. They had bath and swimming pool facilities. The settlement lasted until 74 AD when the



Romans attacked and it is believed that most of the residents committed suicide.

The stark landscape of Qumran at the top of the Dead Sea has excavations near the caves where the Bedouin boy discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls. The environs looked so simple for such a discovery of world renown. It was in the cave on the lower left where the first scrolls were found.



When one is so close to the Dead Sea there are no excuses for not testing the waters. Because of the high saline content, there is no way you can sink. The Dead Sea is almost 1300 feet below sea level so the bar along the path to the water it for sure the...”.



There was a belief that the mud rubbed all over your body would make you more intelligent. I was fearful that my feet would rise to the top to put me upside down.

Jordan



Flag



The country is a Hashemite Kingdom which is 95% Arab . Religiously , it is 97% Islam and only 2% Christian . Eleven million people live here who have a per capita income of ten thousand dollars. It is an

arid country, one of the driest countries of the world. Politically, they are quite stable within the region and get along peaceably with their neighbors.

The authorities needed proof of possessing enough Covid 19 vaccines along with a negative test as we entered the country North of Amman near Irbid. It was a hilly, rocky, pastoral region.



Ahmad Qaia had a command of English that we had to learn to love, but did provide us a hotel in Amman, The Regency Palace, which had good food. One morning we came to breakfast early with only coffee provided on the buffet. The waiters came with so much food that it would not fit on the table.

The Jerash (Jarash) Ruins are 30 miles North of Amman that date back to 7500 BC but came into prominence during the heyday of the Greeks and Romans. The city of Jerash is known



as the city of 1000 columns. Earthquakes destroyed much of it in 749 AD



but its popularity was resurrected by the Ottomans in the 16th century.



Today there is preservation of a stadium, a theater and a hippodrome.





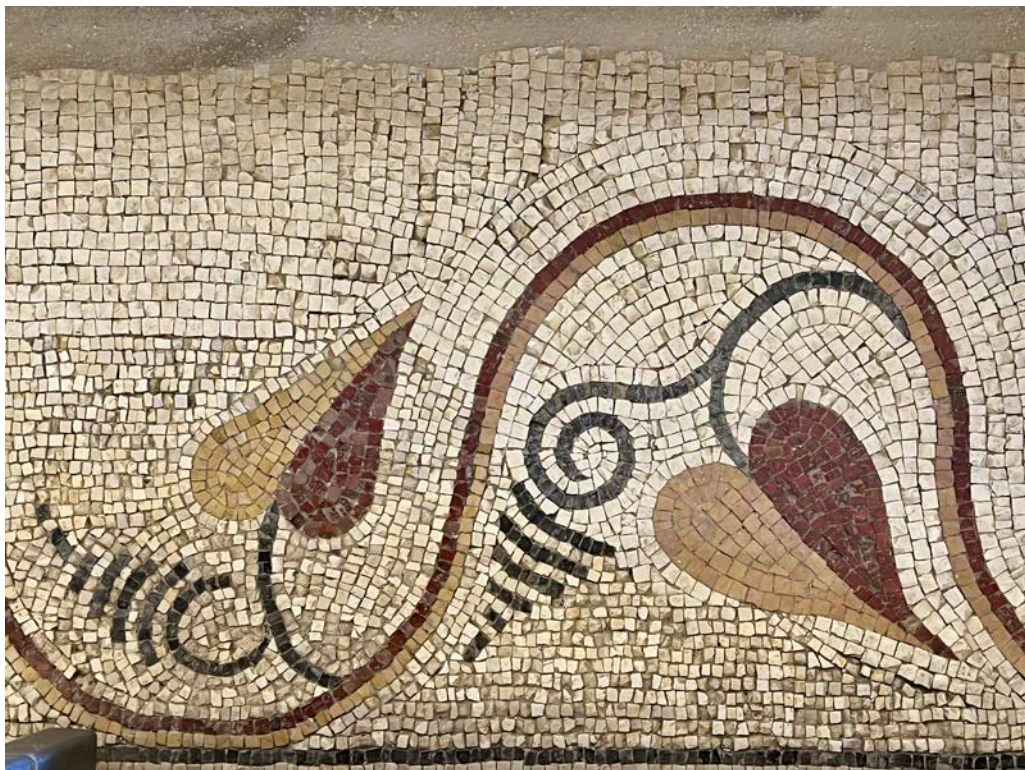
Mt. Nebo is hamlet in Southern Lancaster, Pa. that boasts a good view of the Susquehanna River. The Mount Nebo in Jordan, where God brought Moses to view the Promised Land (The Land of Canaan) , is 5000 feet above The Dead Sea. It is a dramatic sight. On a clear day the Mount



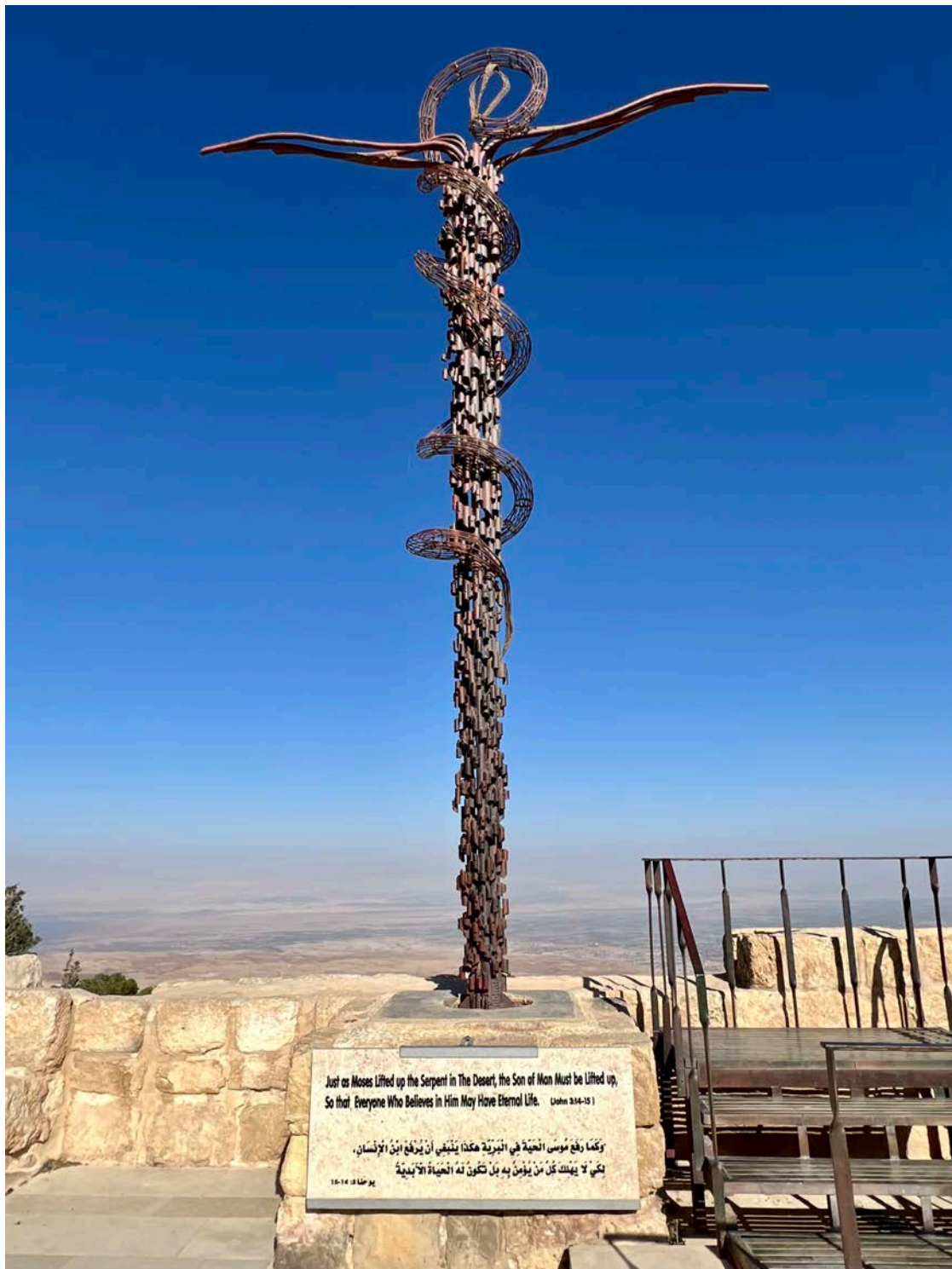
of Olives, Jerusalem (only 30 miles away), the whole Jordan valley and



Jericho are visible. It is part of the Abarim mountain range. Here is where Moses died. There is a Byzantine Chapel with fine mosaics.



A serpentine cross sculpture by Giovanni Fantoni that faces the valley in front of the Chapel. It symbolizes the Moses miracle of the serpent and the cross where Jesus was crucified.





Near Mount Nebo, I purchased a hand knotted silk rug that was made by a Jordanian family. It represents three years of labor.

Madaba has the remarkable Greek Orthodox Church of St. George.



The Church has a mosaic map of the sixth century Holy Land. There are mosaics on the walls as well. The doors and gates demonstrate the Greek influence in a foreign land.





A pomegranate was necessary to prepare for the long hike in Petra.



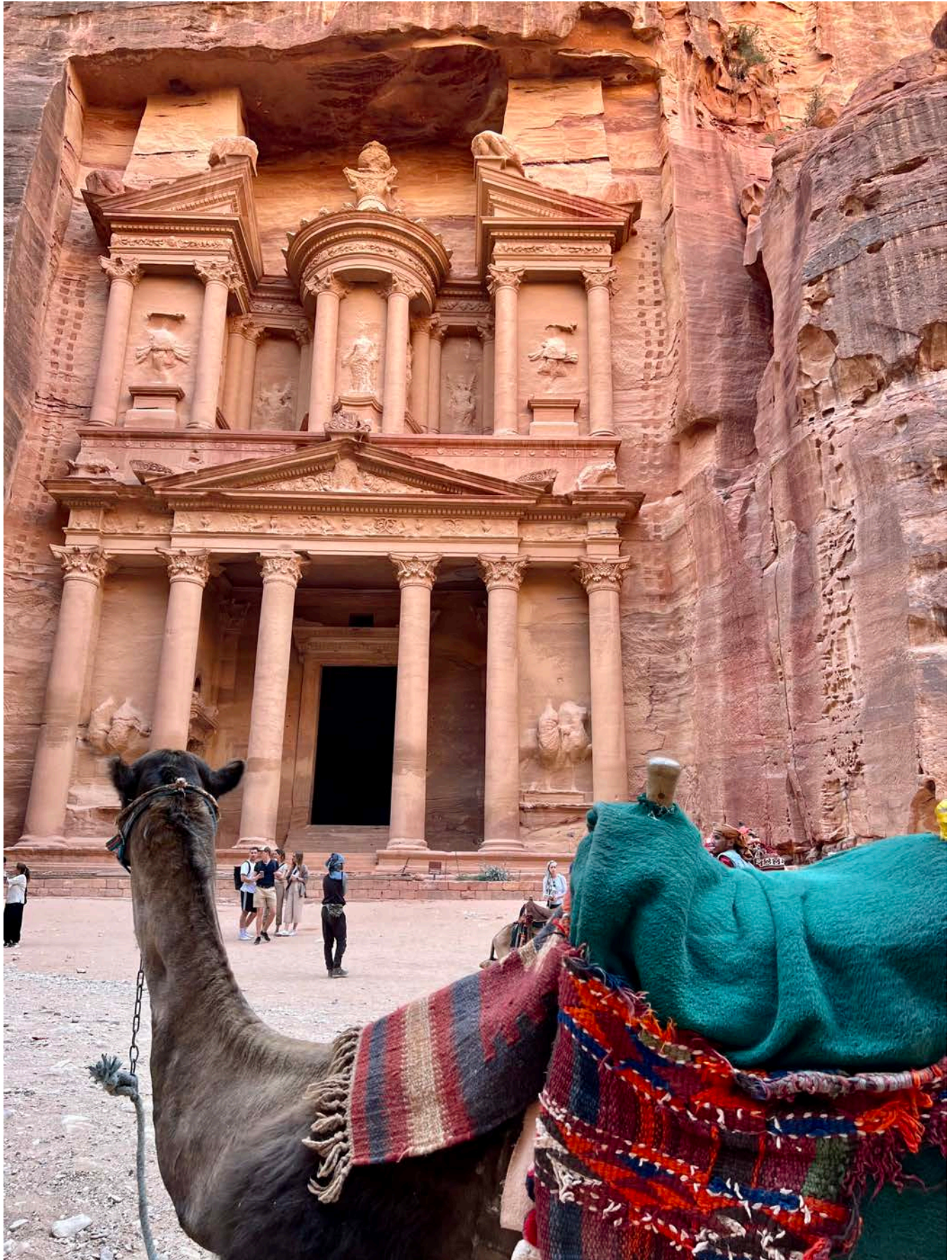
Petra is a city of historical and archaeological importance near the Jabal Almadbah Mountain. It is the creation of the Nabataean people who were makers of incense. They were used to living in the desert but in this place of dry mountains they could defend themselves from their enemies. They excelled in conserving rainwater, farming and stone carving of the red rock. Their peak was in the first century AD. Later the Romans defeated them and the earthquake in 363 AD destroyed many of the buildings. The city declined to just a few nomads until it was “discovered” by Johann Ludwig Burckhart. In 2007, the area was voted as one of “The New Seven Wonders of the World.” They give you choices of transportation to visit the wonderments...horse, camel, golf cart or shoe leather. We chose the later. It was the best choice because one could take the time to to fully enjoy this red rock world. To see it all, it is a fifteen mile day; some of it is easy but the lower part is sand. The photos do depict some of these beautiful moments. I opted for the golf cart to return uphill to Petra town. In 2019, over one million folks visited here.

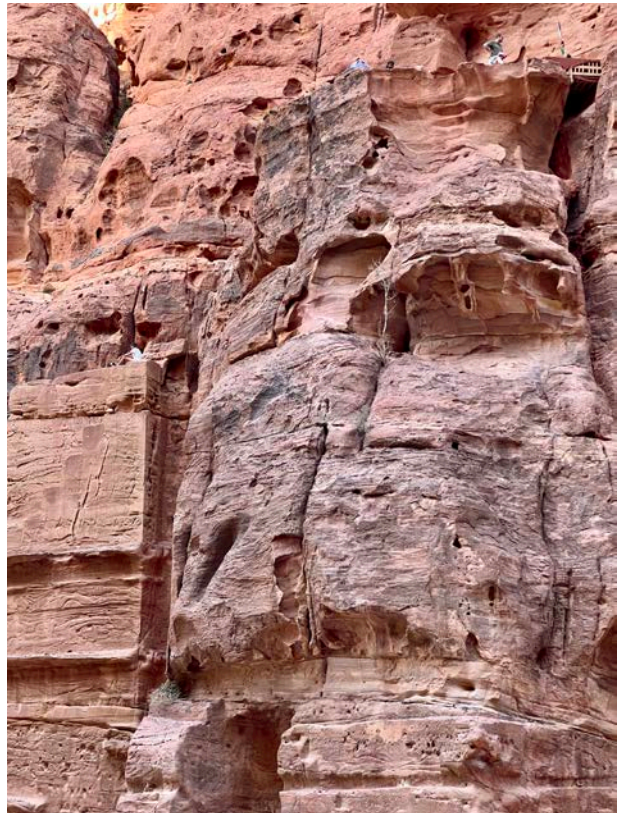
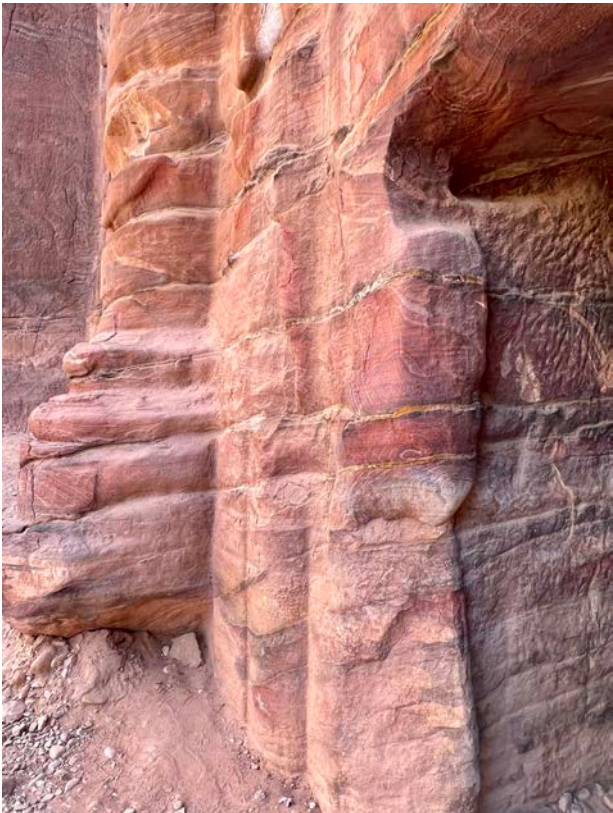


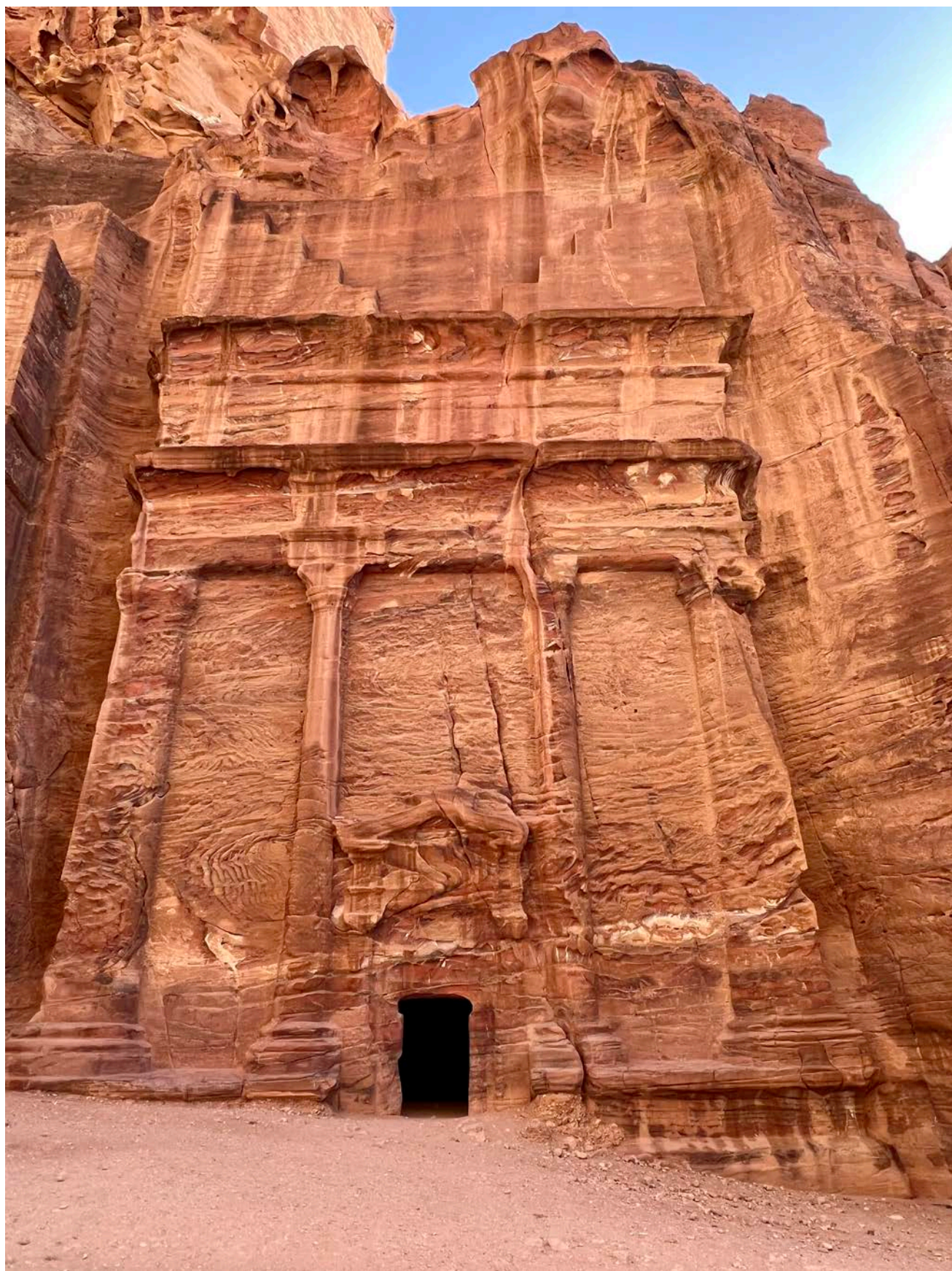






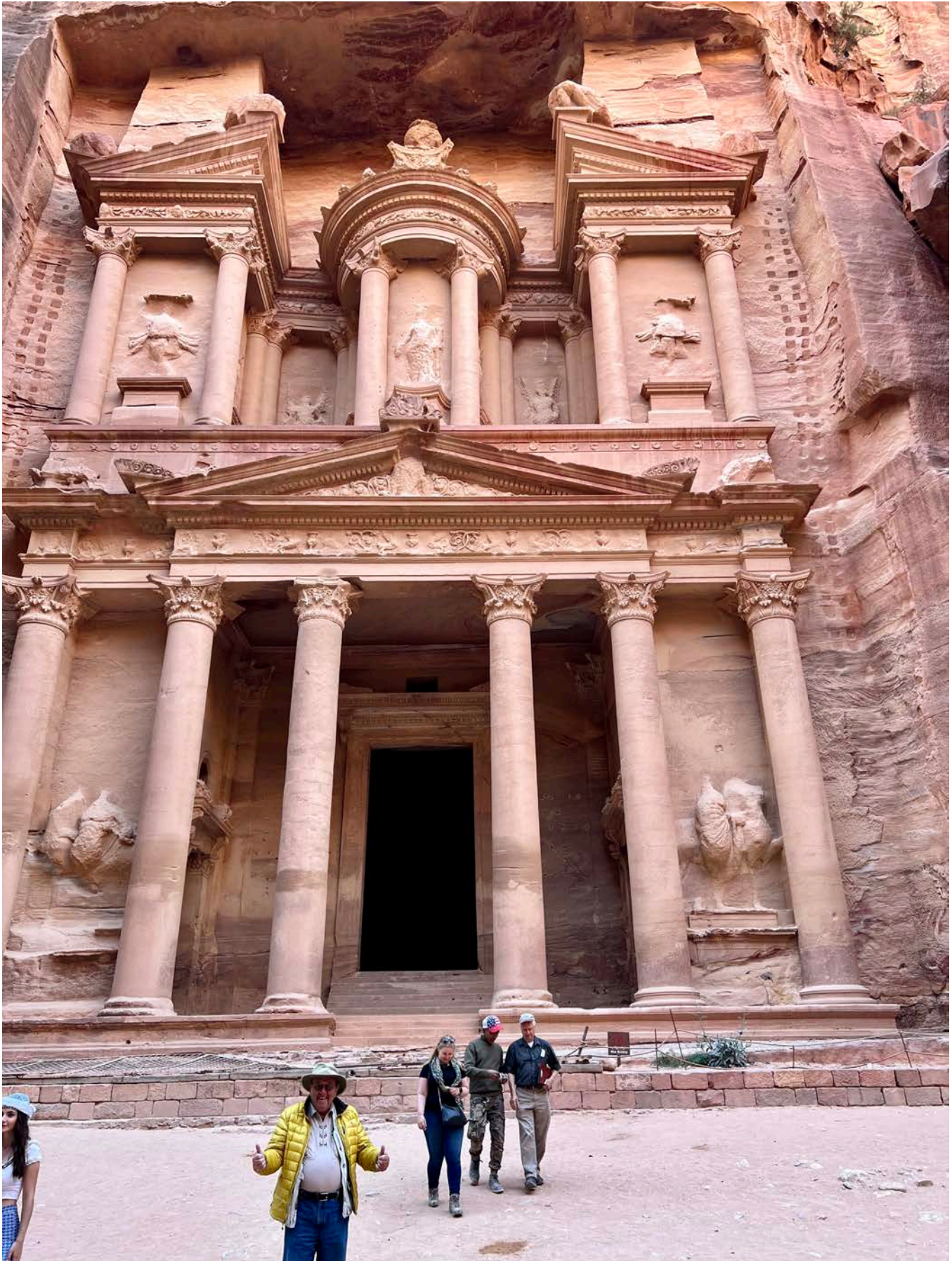


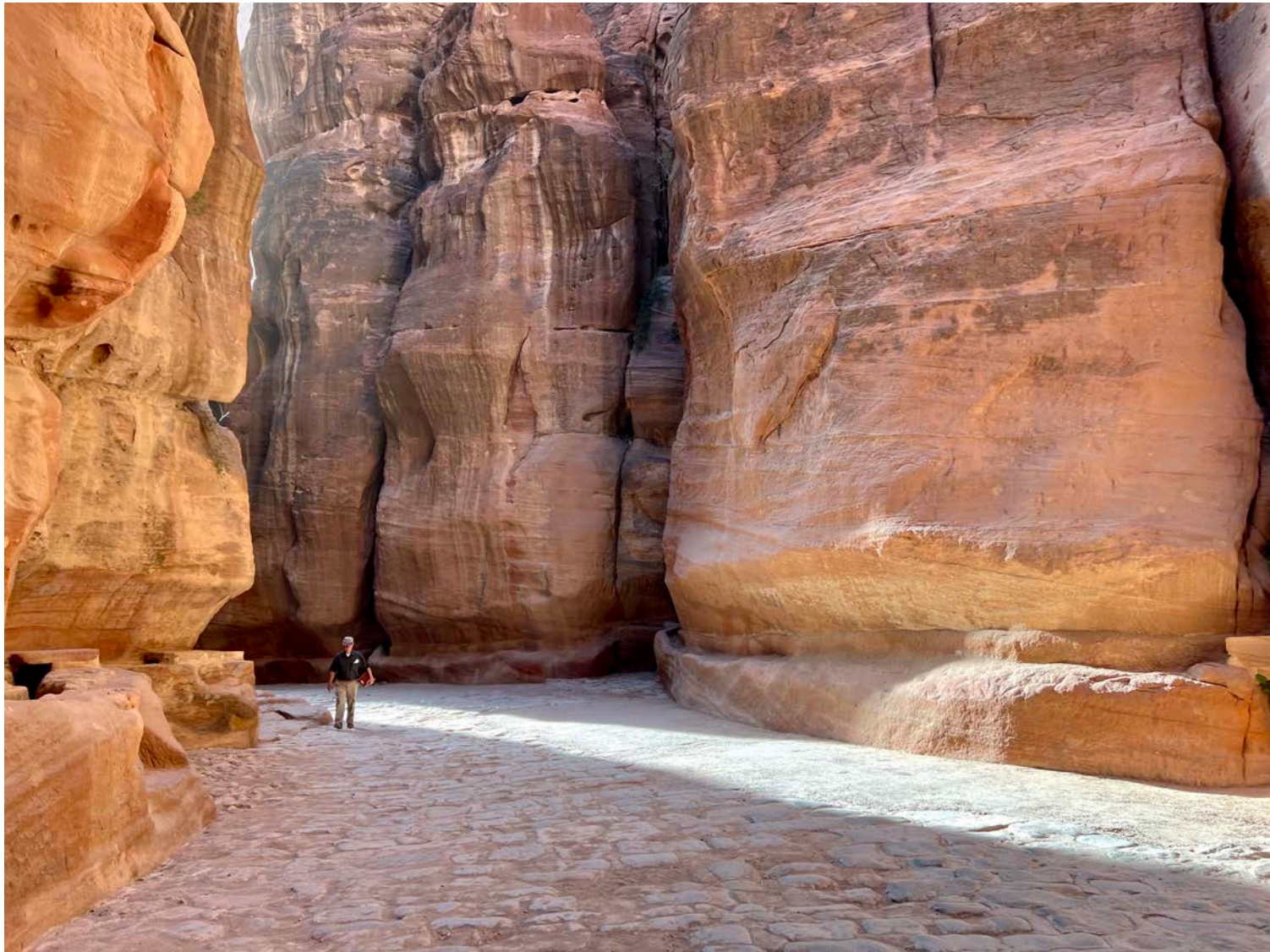
















From Ma-an it was possible to look down on the Petra region.



Wadi Rum is only 37 miles from Aqaba, the Southern most town and only seaport of Jordan. It is also that close to Saudi Arabia. Another name for the Wadi Rum is The Valley of the Moon. Laurence of Arabia made



the area famous when he made his camp here during the Arab Revolt of

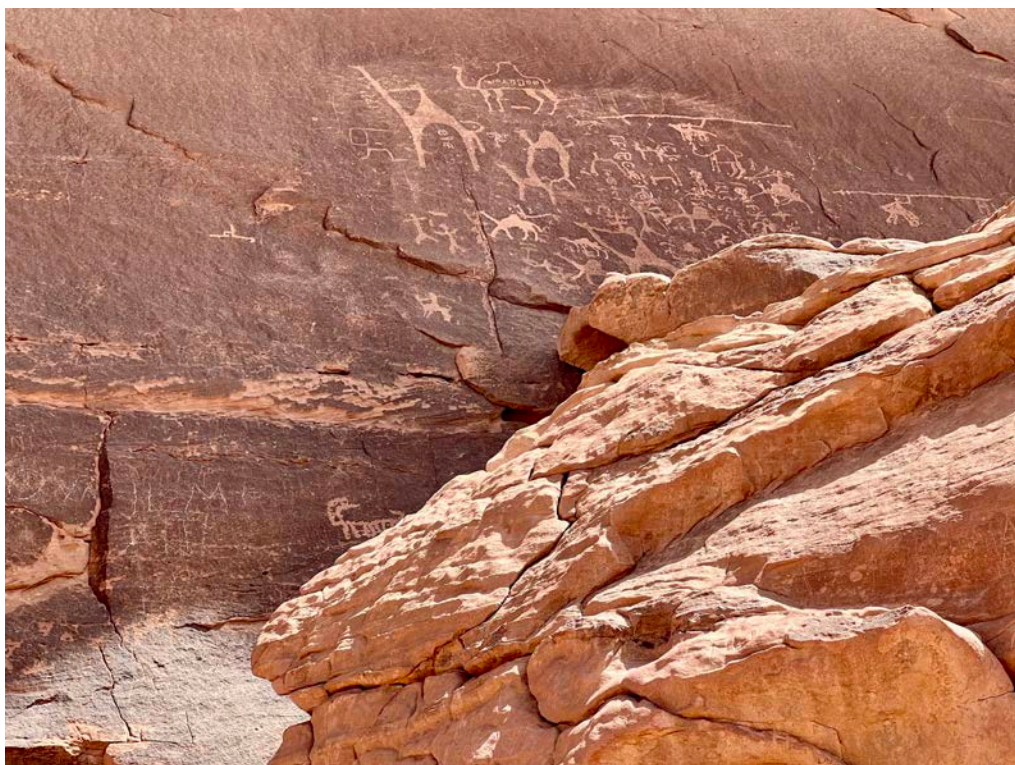
1917-18. The Seven Pillars of Wisdom are easy to visit when you navigate in the sand on the back of a four wheel drive truck.

The white sand in the distance holds a large aquifer twenty feet below. The desert air is so dry that it can evaporate the mucosa in your



nose. It was so wise to drink water even when one was not thirsty. The big attraction were the resident Bedouins whose unique lifestyle is attractive to visitors.

I enjoyed how they “dressed” their camels.





Their tents are made of goat hair. I was allowed to go inside.





Ancient petraglyphs and inscriptions grace some of the rock.

Tea was served in the meeting room. My young host joked that he put a little vodka in mine. I caught a guy relaxing with his cell phone.







On our return to Amman we stopped for a drink and a fellow arrived by car and parked beside us. His mission was to test us for COVID19 in order to return to Israel tomorrow. We received our negative results at dinner in our hotel.



We celebrated with our new friends from Hong Kong- Tasman Tam and Wilma Kwok. They were joy to know.

< Check2Fly AA

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Omega & Rambam Medical Center
CORONA Laboratory
3 Habarzel St., Tel-Aviv, ISRAEL

Liora Katz Jan, PhD
Head of Check2Fly SARS-Cov2 Lab

Medical Certificate - COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test

Name: John Bucher Herr
Passport No: 568121909
Birth Date: 30/01/1936
Sample No: AG194525
Test: COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test
Result: Positive
Sampling Date: 17/04/2022
Sampling Time: 20:31

Certified by Rambam Medical Center, Ministry of Health, Israel

ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Owned by Omega Israel

Please note that in accordance with regulatory requirements, Check2Fly is obligated to delete your details from the system, 30 days after your last test. For this reason, you may need to re-register for

We were tested by Israel the next morning before we returned to the Metropolitan Hotel in Tel Aviv. In the evening we went for another antibody test in order to fly home to America the next day. We were shocked to hear the result that both of us tested positive. I didn't feel sick but Jere had a few symptoms. We were quarantined immediately. We needed to go to Jerusalem by taxi to the Dan Boutique Hotel-Israel's answer to those with COVID. This was the same hotel that Jere



encountered on his first night in Jerusalem when he desperately needed a bathroom. What destiny! We were not allowed to leave the room for any reason. At 8, 12 and 6; a knock on the door signaled our grub. The noon meal was pretty good.

Breakfast included a six inch cucumber and three patio tomatoes...



After two days, they began to test us. There were no answers to our questions. We had a TV and a porch. Marjan Vuurman would FaceTime us from Costa Rica twice a day. It was good that we had plenty of stories to tell to pass the seeming endless hours. We had a taste of what prison life would be like. On the morning of the seventh day, the front desk called,

“Did you get the letter from the doctor yet?”

“What letter?”

“Oh, we will work on that. Both of you have tested negative twice.”

ביקור רופא
לראות רופא ומהר *6101

תאריך: 22/04/2022

הנדון: אישור על החלמה מ COVID-19

הנני מאשר כי,

Surname:	Bucher Herr	שם משפחה:
Given name:	John	שם פרטי:
Passport Number / ID:	568121909	מספר דרכון / ת.ז.:
Phone Number:	03-5192727	מספר טלפון:
Positive test date:	17/04/2022	תאריך בדיקה חיובי:
Recovery date:	22/04/2022	תאריך החלמה:

סיבת השחרור: המחלים משתחרר לאחר 7 ימים ויותר של בידוד במלונית או בבית בשל העדר תסמינים קליניים של מחלת הקורונה – יכול לחזור לביתו לעיסוקיו ללא כל מגבלה.

הנני מאשר על ידי:

The patient is discharged from quarantine after being 7 days or more due to COVID-19 positive test. The patient is without symptoms. The patient does not need any PCR test in order to get out from quarantine.

ד"ר אמארה אמיר
מ.ר. 1-130112

ד"ר אמארה אמיר
מנהל רפואי
מ.ר. 1-130112
דוא"ל: coronaproject@bikurofe.co.il

הנהלה ראשית: מרכז אשדוד כניסה ד', רח' ינאל אלון 90, תל אביב 67891, טל 03-6272333 (רב קווים),
פקס: 03-5613011 www.bikurofe.co.il

Our letters arrived in an hour and we called United Airlines immediately. We were blessed to book a flight to leave at one am tomorrow. We were

now on an emotional high as we packed our suitcases. Jere called the reception to order a taxi to take us to the airport in TelAviv.

“Oh, you cannot leave until tomorrow.”

Jere’s answer was that we are leaving tomorrow (I am).

Our airport arrival was smooth through the ultra tight security. At the United check-in we proudly presented our letters from the doctor to the agent who frowned and grabbed the phone. Shortly, two men in black suits showed up and looked at our letters and responded.

“These are no good, you both need to be retested”.

“OH no”!

“Leave the terminal and go to the laboratory in the parking garage”.

We got there and were told to make an appointment for our tests which could be done with my iPhone. The rub was that it was written in Hebrew. The fellow who was doing the tests knew English helped us negotiate our applications on the iPhone. We paid for the tests by credit card.. Jere had a 50 shekel bill left of his Israel money. As our tester sat at his desk Jere slid the 50 shekel note towards him slowly as he said,

“We want to thank you for your help making our applications on the iPhone”.

The fellow took it and it slowly disappeared into his pocket. 20 minutes later we received our negative results via my iPhone; Thank you, Jere the genius! We were now allowed to board the aircraft. The first thing I did when I arrived home? I mowed four hours reveling in my freedom!

Kudos and many thanks to Israel for their diligence and hospitality during our extended stay in their country. We were not charged for the

hotel, food or tests during our quarantine. We were extremely privileged to have experienced a wonderful look at The Holy Land and her people. Israeli towns, that we learned about in Sunday school, are now so very close; nothing is far in Israel.





Thank you, Israel, for coming to my home now to give me nurture and protection always...

Text and Photos

John Bucher Herr
