Greetings! Steve Austin and Brent Isbell would like to invite you to be part of TIBI’s sixth trip to Israel, from June 8-21, 2017.

Transform your perceptions of biblical sites, stories, and other texts, as the Bible goes from 2-D to 3-D, and from black-and-white to color! Read countless passages in a completely new light. Create lifelong bonds with family members, friends and even new acquaintances.

We look forward to you reserving one or more of the 36 available spots on this tour.

Stephen Austin*       Brent Isbell**

*Austin received his academic training at Abilene Christian University (B.A, M.A., M. Div. and D.Min.) He has served as a missionary to Buenos Aires, Argentina for seven years, as a bilingual minister at the Impact Houston Church of Christ for seven years, and as director of TIBI since June 2005. This will be his seventh trip to Israel.

** Isbell earned degrees from Abilene Christian University (B.B.A, M.R.E., M. Div.) and from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (D.Min.) He has served as a local minister in Texas churches for the last thirty years, preaching for congregations in Ennis, Grand Prairie, and Houston. For the past seven years, he has served with the University Church of Christ in Abilene. He is married to Melinda and has two daughters, Jordan and Sarah. This will be his second trip to Israel.
DAILY ITINERARY

**Thursday, June 8**
Depart early from Dallas, Texas by United Airlines jet to Newark, then by connecting flight to Tel Aviv.

**Friday, June 9**
After a morning arrival in Tel Aviv, we take a scenic drive up the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea Maritime to see Herod’s famous port city. After lunch we continue to Mount Carmel for a panoramic view of northern Israel from the church of Muhrqa, then drive through Galilee and the Jezreel valley, arriving at Tiberias for two nights in the Caesar Hotel on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

**Saturday, June 10**
We begin this day going south to the city of Beth Shan (Decapolis city of Scythopolis), with roots tracing back to Egyptian rulers. We cut west across the Jezreel valley to Jesus’ home town of Nazareth to see a living village based on first-century Nazareth life. Then we visit Cana, site of Jesus’ first miracle, and end the day back at the Jordan River baptismal site of Yardenit.

**Sunday, June 11**
We go first to the top of the Mount of Beatitudes with its gorgeous views of the Sea and the countryside of most of Jesus’ ministry. Descending the mount, we arrive at the church of the multiplication of loaves and fishes at Tabgha, and visit the church of the Primacy of St. Peter. We share lunch at a well-known Galilean restaurant, then visit Jesus’ ministry home of Capernaum, with its houses, synagogue, Peter’s home, and first-century finds. We take a scenic boat trip across part of the Sea of Galilee, and visit the museum at Nof Ginosaur with its “Jesus boat”, from at least the fourth century. Today’s Sunday service will be in a surprise location. Beginning this night, we will stay four nights in the picturesque Pilger Haus on the northwest shore of the Sea.

**Monday, June 12**
We start this day at Magdala, an important village on the Sea in Jesus’ time, and the home of Mary Magdalene. Next is Chorazin, a village in the hills above the Sea of Galilee, and its classic well-preserved synagogue. Then we go around the north of the Sea to the Zealot fortress at Gamla, with one of the only known first-century synagogues where Jesus likely taught. Afterwards we go south to the eastern shore of the Sea and the church at Kursi, near the possible location of the story of the demoniac and the pigs in Luke 8.

**Tuesday, June 13**
Free day in Galilee! You might want to rest, or go back to sites already seen (or passed) to spend more time. We’ll arrange transportation to several sites near the Sea to help you experience a memorable day that you design.

**Wednesday, June 14**
To the north! Our final day in Galilee begins at Tel Hazor, a major city since before the Conquest and Kingdom periods. Then we move up to Dan, a beautiful nature reserve in far northern Israel, home of the tribe of Dan and also site of idol worship. Next comes Banyas (biblical Caesarea Philippi), the site of Peter’s confession of Christ. Then we tour back through the Golan Heights and northern Israel, and finish the day atop the Cliffs of Arbel, with a spectacular view of the Sea and the surrounding area.
Thursday, June 15
We leave the Sea and head to Megiddo, another major tel overlooking the Jezreel valley, with 5000 years of history. Then we cross into Samaria and arrive at Sebaste (ancient city of Samaria), site of Omri and Ahab’s palace. We eat lunch at an authentic Palestinian restaurant, then continue south to Mount Ebal and Gerizim (blessings and curses), and the town of Nablus (biblical Shechem) that sits between them, where we also visit Jacob’s Well. We pass by Shiloh, an early location of the tabernacle, and visit the probably baptismal site of Jesus. Our last site of the day is biblical Jericho, with its 10,000-year history and famous tradition. We go “up to Jerusalem” to the popular first-class Olive Tree hotel, our lodging place for the last six nights of the trip.

Friday, June 16
We spend most of this day in the Old City, starting with Herod’s Gate on the north, tracing the Way of the Cross to the site of Calvary in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Then we enter the Citadel of David, originally part of Herod’s Jerusalem palace, to gain a fascinating political and religious preview of Jerusalem’s history. We visit the famed Western (Wailing) Wall in the Jewish Quarter, then head to the Southern Steps and excavations where Peter likely gave his Pentecost address in Acts 2. We make a short hop over to Gallicantu, a possible site of Jesus’ trial before Caiaphas and Peter’s denial, then end the day at the City of David, walking through Hezekiah’s Tunnel to the Pool of Siloam.

Saturday, June 17
Today we focus on the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea region, first stopping at Qumran, where the stunning Dead Sea scrolls were discovered. We trace David’s steps to Ein Gedi (Wadi David), an oasis in the desert where he hid from Saul. We follow the western coast of the Dead Sea, the lowest point in the world, to Herod’s imposing palace/fortress at Masada, also site of the famous siege between the Romans and the Zealots in the latter first century. We finish the day on the shore of the unusual Dead Sea, where we’ll have a unique “unsinkable” floating experience.

Sunday, June 18
One of the high points (literally) of the trip comes as we begin the day at the top of the Mount of Olives, overlooking the Old City. We follow Jesus’ steps on Palm Sunday, visiting the Dominus Flevit church and the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane, planning to enjoy our Sunday service and communion in the Garden. Afterwards we go to the Israel Museum to see some of the Dead Sea Scrolls, as well as an impressive model of Jerusalem in the time of Christ. You’ll have some free time here to visit any of the Museum’s varied and remarkable exhibits.

Monday, June 19
This day will again be mostly free time for you to go to sites where you’d like to spend more time, or that may not be on our formal itinerary. It’s possible we’ll take a short time this day to go to the Temple Mount, with the famous Muslim Dome on the Rock, which some believe to be the site of Abraham’s near-sacrifice of Isaac, and possibly Solomon’s and Herod’s temples. We also may visit the Rabbinical tunnel which runs along an original first-century street next to the Temple platform from the time of Christ.

Tuesday, June 20
This morning we become amateur archaeologists at Emek Tzurim, where we’ll sift through dirt that comes from the Temple Mount. Some of the most important recent discoveries in Jerusalem’s archaeology have come from this site—you could find coins, seals, pottery or more from early centuries! Then we go south to Judah, where we hope to visit the key 8th-century BC city of Lachish, second-most important city to Jerusalem during Hezekiah’s time. We follow this with Herodion, another impressive fortress/palace near Bethlehem, then go directly to Bethlehem and visit the Church of the Nativity and the surrounding countryside. We have time to shop for souvenirs, and close the day with our final banquet at a restaurant in Bethlehem. We return to Jerusalem to prepare for our homeward trip.

Wednesday, June 21
We have a morning transfer to Tel Aviv Airport for our return flight home, change planes in Newark, and arrive in DFW at about 11 PM.
TOUR CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

The cost for this unforgettable experience is $3888 per person (or a biblical $7777 per couple!). Your trip will include:

• 12 nights of accommodations in 4-star hotels or better, in scenic locations.
• Breakfast and dinner each day.
• Certified, experienced tour guide.
• All transportation in country in an air-conditioned, comfortable bus.
• All entrance fees to sites.
• All tips for the included services, security fees, airport taxes, and fuel surcharges which may vary slightly until ticketed.
• Round trip airfare in economy class to Israel from Dallas.

If you choose to purchase your own airfare, or use miles to get your tickets, you can handle that on your own and pay us just the land tour cost of $2489.

___ I choose to reserve my own flight now (non-refundable), and let VIP Travel bill me only for the land portion of $2489.

___ I plan to depart from ___________________.

NOT INCLUDED IN COST: U.S. passport fee, personal and baggage insurance, lunches, souvenirs, items of a personal nature, and any other items not specifically mentioned as being included.

RESERVATIONS: A deposit of $400 per person is required to secure space on the tour. Balance of the tour cost is due 60 days before departure, or earlier.

CANCELLATIONS: The deposit is fully refundable until March 8, 2017. From March 9 to April 8, a $200 cancellation penalty will apply. All monies paid are subject to forfeiture after this time. Trip cancellation, travel accident and baggage insurance is recommended and can be secured through VIP Travel.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Tour prices are based on a minimum of 32 guests. Prices may change if the group minimum is not reached. Tour rates will be final March 15, 2017, subject to group size and group airfare contract.

Red: difficult sites for walking or climbing
Blue: moderate sites for walking/climbing
Green: relatively easy sites for walking/climbing