

OUR PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



Jerusalem

My wife carefully planned a family trip to Israel, Jordan, and Malta that we thoroughly enjoyed. Through this unique trip, we got to know places of great historical value. We had the guidance of Carmen Bernabé Urbieta, Ph.D. in Biblical Theology from the University of Deusto in Spain, and with the company of two more theologians, Mari Carmen, my wife, and my sister-in-law, Lucila. Thanks to this, the trip was rich in reflections and deep conversations with family members of different generations ranging in age from 6 to 80 years, both of our immediate family and that of my brother José Ignacio and his wife Pilar. Sharing this exceptional pilgrimage allowed us to strengthen family ties.

We visited Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Megiddo, Tiberias, Saint John of Acre, Caesarea Philippi, Sepphoris, Nazareth, Mount Tabor, Tabgha, Capernaum, Bethshean, Jericho, Mount Olives, Mount Zion, the Holy Sepulchre, the Herodium, Bethlehem, Masada, the ruins of Qumran at the Dead Sea, the temple of Jerusalem, the Holocaust Museum, Gerasa, Petra and Malta, among others. As my grandson would say, "we walked in the footsteps of Jesus and saw the Bible come to life."

The Sea of Galilee, a freshwater lake, roughly 12 by 20 kilometers in size, is at a major junction that connected South Africa with Asia and Europe. Around this place Jesus spent much of his time, living simply and humbly but transforming lives and changing the world. Through this sea Abraham also entered the promised land. Each traveler made a personal connection to this mystical place.

Israel is relevant not only for its historical value, but for the future. It is one of the nations with the entrepreneurial and innovative chip. They have created last-generation technology. Also, despite being a desert region, it is called the Israeli miracle, thanks to its successful management of water resources.

We, as a family, were interested in listening to the different voices of the multiculturalism that this region has. Israel is part of the history in the Bible but also part of its future. What the Middle East needs is the same as that of the hearts of the world: PEACE.

I close this blog wishing you a year of learning, reflection, achievements, and unity, to contribute to peace and prosperity for all.

