South Peoria Baptist Church Holy Land Tour
March 1 – 11, 2027

Day 1- Monday, March 1, 2027
Depart PHX for your trip to Israel.

Day 2- Tuesday, March 2, 2027
Arrive in **Tel Aviv** and travel to your Hotel on the Mediterranean Sea.
Hotel- David's Harp Hotel, Netanya

Day 3- Wednesday, March 3, 2027
The day begins at **Caesarea Maritima**. This important biblical seaport was built by Herod the Great around 22 BC in honor of Caesar Augustus. Herod spent 12 years building (using about 18,000 workers) on the site of an ancient Phoenician city. Philip the evangelist preached at Caesarea, Peter was sent there to minister to the Roman centurion Cornelius, and Herod Agrippa died at Caesarea. Caesarea was also prominent in the ministry of the Apostle Paul. He made Caesarea his port of call after both his second and third missionary journeys. (Acts 8:40; Acts 10:1, 24; 11:11; Acts 9:30, 18:22; 21:8)

Next, we travel to **Mt. Carmel**. This mountain is where the battle between Elijah and 850 false prophets took place. Mount Carmel was a place of worship for the false god Baal. (1 Kings 18:17-40)

We then head to **Megiddo**. The city of Megiddo was large and a strategic stronghold. Major traffic that would pass through northern Israel would have to pass by Megiddo. Twenty-six separate layers of occupation were found at Megiddo, each built on top of the ruins of the previous city. Armageddon is the compound that means "mountain of Megiddo". (Joshua 12:7, 21; Judges 1:27, 5:19-20; Zechariah 12:11; Revelation 16:13-16)

The last stop of the day is **Mount Arbel**. History and tradition point to Mount Arbel as the place where Jesus gave the Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Mount Arbel is located on the west side of the Sea of Galilee and is the tallest mountain around the Sea of Galilee. Matthew 28:16-20
Hotel- Gai Beach Hotel, Tiberias

Day 4- Thursday, March 4, 2027
The day begins with a visit to **Tel Dan**. This is where God appeared to Jeroboam and promised to bless him if he would serve Him. However, Jeroboam turned away from the Lord and built golden calves in Bethel and Dan. After a severe warning from God, Jeroboam continued the worship of false gods, and the sin of Jeroboam became a pattern that the rest of the kings of Israel would follow. In 722 BC, as judgment from God for their continual disobedience, the 10 northern tribes of Israel were deported by the Assyrian Empire. Today a replica of an altar is on display. (1 Kings 11:38; 1 Kings 12:25-31; 1 Kings 13:33–34; 1 Kings 15:33–34; 1 Kings 16:26)

Next, we visit **Caesarea Philippi**, the northernmost limit of Christ's ministry. It sits on the southern slopes of Mt. Hermon near the ancient city of Dan. Jesus brought His disciples to Caesarea Philippi to put into their hearts and minds the truth of who He was and what the mission of the church would be over evil. It was in Caesarea Philippi that the apostle Peter confessed Jesus to be "the Christ, the Son of the living God". (Matt. 16:13–20; Mark 8:27–30; Luke 9:18-22)

The last stop of the day is **Nazareth Village**. This small village is a recreation of what it would have looked like in the time of Jesus. Nazareth overlooks the Jezreel Valley and became important because it was the hometown of Jesus. Mary was here when an angel came to her and announced that she would be the mother of Jesus. Jesus preached His first recorded sermon in Nazareth. (Luke 1:26-38, 2:41-52; 4:16-30)
Hotel- Gai Beach Hotel, Tiberias

Day 5- Friday, March 5, 2027
We start the day with a **Sea of Galilee Boat Ride** and a visit to the **Jesus Boat Museum**. The Sea of Galilee is referred to in Scripture by names like Ginnosar, Lake of Gennesar, Gennesaret, Sea of Chinnereth, Kinneret, and Sea of Tiberias. Many of Jesus' miracles were done around the Sea of Galilee. The two most famous are when He calmed the storm while on the sea and when He walked on water to meet up with His disciples. (Numbers 34:11; Matthew 4:18-22, 23-27, 14:22-33; Luke 5:1; John 21:1)

Next, we travel to the **Mount of Beatitudes**. This is the area where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. A Byzantine church was erected here in the 4th century and was used until the 7th century. Its ruins have been discovered just a little downhill from the present church there today. The current Church of the Beatitudes is an octagonal building representing the eight Beatitudes. (Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:17-49)

Our next stop is **Capernaum**. Jesus moved to this special town, located on the Sea of Galilee, after being rejected in Nazareth. Jesus used Capernaum as His ministry base. He taught at the synagogue at Capernaum and healed Peter's mother-in-law here. He also healed the centurion's servant, the paralytic man who was let down through the roof, and raised Jairus's daughter from the dead. (Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:21-34, 5:21-43; Luke 5:17-26, 7:1-10)

The last stop of the day is at the **Jordan River** for those who desire to be baptized. Jordan means "go down". The river flows from Mount Hermon to the Sea of Galilee and then down to the Dead Sea. The river is mentioned several times in both the Old and New Testaments. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:4-8; John 1:28-34
Hotel- Gai Beach Hotel, Tiberias

Day 6- Saturday, March 6, 2027
We leave the hotel early, heading south, and stop at **Bet Shean**, which had been inhabited for over 5,000 years. It was known as Scythopolis and was mentioned in B.C. Egyptian documents. During excavations, 18 different cities have been unearthed that were built upon its ruins. The Philistines nailed the body of King Saul here after their victory at Mt. Gilboa (1 Samuel 31:8-12). The city was then captured during the days of King David. An earthquake in 749 A.D. destroyed the city leaving the ruins we see today. (Joshua 17:11, 16; Judges 1:27)

Continuing south, we have a short stop at **Qumran,** which sits on the northwestern side of the Dead Sea. The first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in one of the caves here in 1947 by young Bedouin Shepherds.

Our last stop of the day is at the **Dead Sea** to enjoy floating on the water. The Dead Sea (the "Salt Sea" as the Bible calls it) is 1400 feet below sea level and is the lowest point on the earth's surface. It is approximately 35 miles long and 11 miles wide. Sodom, Gomorrah, and other cities of the plain were located around this area. The area around the Dead Sea was lush and well-watered before God destroyed the area with fire & brimstone. (Genesis 13:10, Genesis 18 and 19)
Hotel- David Resort & Spa, Dead Sea

Day 7- Sunday, March 7, 2027
We start the day ascending to the top of **Masada**. The name Masada means "stronghold" and was a fortress and palace built by King Herod. It sits atop a 1380 ft. mountain between the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea. The fortress was used by Jewish Zealots against the Romans, in which 960 zealots died by suicide, rather than be taken and enslaved by the Romans. Some of David's Psalms may have referred to this location. (1 Samuel 22:3-5; Psalm 18:2, 31:2-3, 71:1-3, 144:1-2)

The next stop takes us to **Ein Gedi**, an oasis near the Dead Sea. It has an abundant supply of water and even a few falls along the way. It was at Ein Gedi where David hid in a cave while hiding from Saul. A few of the Psalms may have been composed by David here. (I Samuel 23:15-29; 24; Psalms 57; 142)

Genesis Land Lunch Experience will end our day before driving to Jerusalem. Genesis Land is situated in the heart of the Judean desert, in the land where the Patriarchs lived. You will experience life as it was in biblical times, ride a camel, and enjoy a delicious meal.

We then drive to **Jerusalem** for the next 4 nights and the remainder of the tour.
Hotel- Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 8- Monday, March 8, 2027
We start the day at the **Mt. of Olives** for a panoramic view of Jerusalem. The Mt. of Olives not only is the mountain with the Garden of Gethsemane, but it also is the place where Jesus preached the Olivet Discourse, and where He ascended to heaven. (Matthew 24 and 25; Acts 1: 6-12)

We walk down from the Mt. of Olives to the **Garden of Gethsemane**. Gethsemane means "oil press". It is here where Jesus would frequently go to pray with His disciples. Jesus was in Gethsemane when He was arrested the night before He was crucified. (Matthew 26:30-56; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-11)

This afternoon will be spent in **Bethlehem** and a visit to the **Church of the Nativity** and **Shepherds Field**. Bethlehem means "house of bread". It is the shepherds' field, that is believed to be the birthplace of Jesus. Also, this is the birthplace of King David, and where he was a shepherd tending his father's flocks. Samuel the prophet of Israel anointed David in Bethlehem. (Luke 2:1-7; I Samuel 16:1-13, 17:34-37)
Hotel- Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 9- Tuesday, March 9, 2027
The day starts at Yad Vashem, the holocost museum. This is a memorial to the 6 million Jews who lost their life in World War II.

Our next stop is the **Pool of Bethesda** and the **Church of St. Anne**. Bethesda means "House of Mercy". It was at this pool in John 5:1-15, that Jesus healed a paralytic man who had suffered for 38 years.

We continue through the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem walking the path of the **Via Dolorosa**, which means "The Painful Path or The Way of Suffering." It's the route Jesus walked as he went from His trial before Pilate, at Antonia's Fortress, to His crucifixion at Golgotha. The Via Dolorosa has 14 stations honoring the events that took place as Christ made His way to Golgotha to be crucified. (Luke 23:13-56)

The **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** is the last stop on the Via Dolorosa. This church is within the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. Some of the denominations that share this property are Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Armenian Apostolic. Their traditions hold that two holy sites are here, where Jesus was crucified and Jesus' empty tomb.

The afternoon will be free time in the **Old City of Jerusalem** to explore.
Hotel- Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 10- Wednesday, March 10, 2027
We begin our last tour day at the **Western Wall and Tunnel Tour**. The First ("Solomon's) Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. When the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD, part of the western side of the Temple Mount Platform survived. For hundreds of years before 1967, people prayed in the small area of the wall that could be seen at that time. However, in 1967, following the Six-Day War, Israelis excavated below the ground level of the wall and found two more stone rows. They then cleared the area around the wall to create the Western Wall Plaza that is seen today.

Then we go to the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park**. Included in the park are the remains of the Second Temple Period of Jerusalem. The site includes the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount, the stairs to the Hulda Gate, the remains of Robinson's Arch, ritual baths used by migrants, and a Herodian Street.

We then drive to the **City of David** and visit **Hezekiah's Tunnel** and the **Pool of Siloam**. Hezekiah's Tunnel is believed to date back to the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah. The tunnel is 583 yards long and is an engineering marvel considering the lack of tools they had. The pool is fed by waters from the Gihon Spring, located in the Kidron Valley. According to the Gospel of John, it was at the Pool of Siloam where Jesus healed the blind man. (2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chronicles 32:1-5, 30; John 9:1–11)

Our last stop will be at **Golgotha** and the **Garden Tomb**. This garden is owned by a non-denominational, British charity. Although it cannot officially be claimed as the place where Jesus was crucified and buried, it does fit with historical and biblical accounts. Location matters little, what does matter is that Jesus died for our sins and that He is risen! (Matthew 27:32-66; Mark 15:21-47; Luke 23-24; John 19:16-42; 20:1-18)

We end the day with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant before heading back to the hotel for the last night in Jerusalem.
Hotel- Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 11- Thursday, March 11, 2027
Depart the hotel early morning for our flight home. Arrive back home with wonderful memories of our trip to the Holy Land.