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Jerusalem: Footsteps Through Time



Synopsis

There's more than one way to tour Jerusalem! This is a different kind of tour guide—a spectacular look at Jerusalem's old city that makes the words of Scripture come alive. Walk in the footsteps of Avraham, Look in on the camp of David in his conquest of Yevus, build the Temple with King Solomon—it's all here. Visit more recent history as well—relive the miraculous Six Day War by visiting the sites where major battles took place. Replete with hundreds of photographs, illustrations and detailed maps, and precise instructions to ensure that you don't miss a single detail. This is a book that you can take with you to the actual sites or read at your leisure. A much-appreciated gift for a special occasion. In attractive "coffe-table" format.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ahron Horovitz was born in Miami Beach, Florida and moved to Israel in 1968. Horovitz's special field of expertise is educational tours. He founded and currently is director of Derech Eretz, Israel's first Torah school of tourism which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism. He also heads Megalim, the City of David Institute for Jerusalem Studies. Mr. Horovitz is known as one of Jerusalem's leading tour guides, and his lectures on Jerusalem are much sought after. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This excellent book takes us by the hand and leads us through the various tours, with different study goals in mind for each. It's more than just a guidebook though. It's an educational experience unlike any I've had in my life. I'm delighted with it! Some scriptures I've always known are coming to life for me. I had never thought about the connection of Mount Moriah going back beyond Abraham.

Jacob's famous dream finally makes sense to me. I haven't learned so much in a long time. I want to tell everyone that they should get this book when they are ready for a serious study of the history of Jerusalem, starting further back than you might have thought. Of course it's written for Jews, but if you are a Christian, like me, don't think you won't be able to use it. If you run into a term that is unfamiliar to you, just keep reading and it will usually become clear. An example is The Kotel, which most of us have always known as The Western Wall. We as Christians also don't usually know much about the Bar Cochba Revolt from our Bible studies, so this may be new information. Other than that, it's all going to be familiar territory. Even if you've read through the Bible numerous times and gone to Sunday School all your life, you're going to be surprised how much more there is to learn from this book which puts us in Jerusalem on tour, listening as "the stones cry out" to us. If you love Jerusalem, you are very likely to appreciate this book very much. If you love archeology and/or history of the Holy Land, again, you are likely to love this book. I've been studying Hebrew along with the archeology of the Holy Land. I wish I could go back and physically do this tour as presented here, but I'm going to have to be satisfied by doing it by memory. There are ten tours: 1. Beginnings - In the Footsteps of Abraham 2. David and His City - The Rise and Fall of Biblical Jerusalem 3. Secrets of the Temple Mount Part A - Building a Temple Part B - Ascending with the Olei Regel 4. The Kotel and Environs 5. Underground Jerusalem - The Kotel Tunnels 6. From Splendor to Ashes - Second-Temple Jerusalem 7. "And Zion Will Be Plowed Like a Field" - from the Bar Cochba Revolt to the Middle Ages 8. The Jewish Quarter - A Dream in the Making 9. The Moslem Quarter 10. The Valley of the Dead Comes to Life This book is the serious approach to a tour of Jerusalem that I was looking for. In my own experience during a three-week tour last year, with ten days of it based in Jerusalem, we entered the Old City through different gates every day, running through the various quarters, not really knowing what we were seeing. Most tours are by nature not designed to be a serious study of the events that have taken place over time. Archeological Excavations Outside The Gates of The Old City: Recently there has been increased interest in the area directly outside the gates, where excavations continue to reveal amazing archeological findings from the time of David and Solomon and beyond. These are addressed in this 'much-more-than-a-travel-book' as well, with excellent pictures. We can take this tour from our own homes and probably get more understanding of it than those quick tours, even though being in Jerusalem is a great blessing no matter how quick the tour. If only I could go back in person and do it THIS way.

What a wonderful resource for when you visit Israel! It is like taking a knowledgeable travel guide accompany you to important sites and share their historical meaning with you. I first discovered this

book at a neighbor's house. I immediately bought it for my son, who was heading off for his second year at rabbinical school in Israel. Insights are "kosher". Perfect gift for a Yeshiva boy or sem girl.

For those who will be traveling to Israel for the first time, and even for veteran tourists, there is no doubt that the holy city of Jerusalem; in all its resplendent majesty continues to be a focal point of any journey. Jerusalem is known as "the center of the world" and as such is steeped in thousands of years of rich and vibrant religious history. Because each tourist desires a visit that is rife with powerful personal meaning along with a lifetime of vivid memories, then Ahron Horowitz's new book entitled, "Jerusalem: Footsteps Through Time - Ten Torah Study Tours of the Old City" (Feldheim Publishers) is simply indispensable. It is safe to say that after reading this stellar travel guide that one can leave the well meaning but feckless tour guide behind because this book provides a trenchant ride through the annals of Jewish history. And for the visitor who possesses the predilection for meticulously researched Torah tours of the Old City of Jerusalem, then this book delivers a veritable wealth of invaluable information on the heart and soul of the city of gold. Mr. Horowitz serves as our personal tour guide to the Old City of Jerusalem by highlighting each sight with direct quotes from the entire Tanach, the meforshim (commentaries), the Mishnah, Talmud and other scholarly seforim. Our sojourn is brilliantly enhanced by the impressive array of exceptionally beautiful color photos that will satisfy even the couch potato tourist. The highly informative narrative also includes the seminal discoveries of such renowned British archeologists as Stuart MacAlister, G. Duncan, Kathleen Kenyon as well as Raymond Weill, Yigal Shilo, Ronni Reich and Eli Shukron; who had all conducted extensive digs in and around the Old City; uncovering a plethora of artifacts dating back to the era of the patriarchs. One cannot help but feel as if we are personally experiencing the awesome holiness of Jerusalem alongside our ancestors as they traverse the magnificent landscape. We begin in the "Footsteps of Abraham" as we learn about the first time that Avraham Avinu saw the city when commanded by Hashem to bring his son Yitzchak as a sacrifice. Avraham sensed the holiness of this place that we know today as Har Habayit (the Temple Mount) and we are told that "through his devotion, Abraham discovered the mountain's spirituality. He named it 'Hashem Yireh' - G-d will see - hoping G-d would one day observe His people serving Him in a house of worship on this site." Other tours include "David and His City: The Rise and Fall of Biblical Jerusalem" in which we follow in the footsteps of King David's conquest of Jerusalem. Stepping back in time, we learn of the growth and expansion of Jerusalem during the reign of King Solomon and how the first Beis HaMikdash was built until the destruction of the city by the Babylonians. What is most amazing is that this tour includes extensive research on the provincial

water systems and how they played a significant role in the city's capture and vitality. Analyzing the life and character of King Herod who built the second Beis HaMikdash, we explore the remnants of the walls of the Temple Mount as well as getting an insider's look into the cutting edge modalities of construction in a tour called, "Secrets of the Temple Mount". If you've ever wondered what everyday life was really like during the second temple period, this tour introduces us to the "Main Street" of Jerusalem as we absorb the sights and sounds of the stores, the sidewalks, secret tunnels, the mikvaos, the grand concourse, the hotels, the shopkeepers and the patrons of 2000 years ago. The reader will surely be moved by the author's description of the Kotel (Western Wall) and its environs on Tisha B'Av in the year 70 CE. "Titus and his armies burned down the Temple, after which they razed the walls of the city and the Temple Mount. Had we had been there, looking up from the deep Tryopean Valley at the huge, western wall, we would have seen Roman soldiers toppling stones down into the valley against a background of smoke billowing up from the burning Temple, amid the din of cries of the wounded and dying", says the author. We move underground for tours of the labyrinth of tunnels built under the Old City and then to the upper city of the second temple period for a detailed sketch of the last 100 years of that era. Lamentably, one of the bleakest periods of the Old City came subsequent to the Bar Kochba revolt and this tour, "And Zion Will Be Plowed Like A Field" takes us through until the Middle Ages. Our spirits brighten in the next several tours which document the re-building of the Old City as we read of the religious fervor and mesiras nefesh of our great Torah luminaries. The promise of the sublime eternal character of the Jewish people and the city that is the center of their lives will resonate with the reader as Jerusalem of yesteryear leaps forth from these pages and in to souls of its readers.

There's more than one way to tour Jerusalem, and this book is definitely the best way! In large format, with dozens of photographs and extremely clear maps, it guides the reader through Jerusalem's Old City, pointing out every single point of interest, and explaining historic background, biblical sources, etc. The author brings his wealth of experience and knowledge as a tour guide to this book--you don't even have to leave your living room to feel like you're standing in the Old City! I can't stop raving about this book, and all the reviews it's been getting in newspapers are 100% accurate. It should be on the bookshelf of every Jewish home, and in the office of every diplomat!

So much history one can get lost in it. "Jerusalem: Footsteps Through Time: Ten Torah Study Tours of the Old City" is a guide for visiting Jews and those with a strong interest in the Torah, for when they come to visit Jerusalem. All the vitally important sites in Jewish history are covered, spanning

the timeline from the Book of Genesis to Israel's current endeavors to maintain their sovereignty. An absolute must for any tourist who will be visiting Israel in the future.

Good pictures but difficult to follow. If you want a college course this is for you.

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