

COMPASS COMMUNIQUE

The following excerpt is from our exciting new historical novel THE LIST. Culturally and Biblically accurate, this excerpt covers the time Nicodemus comes to see Jesus at night (John 3). You'll be amazed by what you learn! Order details on page 3.

His heart beat in his throat as his hand rose with a mind of its own and lifted the knocker.

And there it was—the sharp metallic clack echoing into the space beyond.

No one came.

He waited several seconds. Still, no answer. He blew a long exhale. That was it then. It wasn't meant to be. Knock again? No, God had answered here. He turned to go.

And the door swung open.

A big man looked down. Dark hair to his shoulders. Thick beard. He had very rough hands. Working hands. He eyed Nicodemus for a long few seconds. He crossed massive arms across his chest and leaned a shoulder against the jamb. Then the strangest thing—he smiled. “Are you lost, Pharisee?”

“I hope not. I'm looking for Yeshua. The Nazarene.”

“You're a long way from the Upper City, my friend. These lower streets aren't safe, you know.”

“You believe someone would harm a Pharisee?”

The man lifted a muscled shoulder. “There are all sorts of people in the world. You never know.”

The gentle demeanor of such a huge, rough character disarmed him. Nicodemus' tide of nerves receded a few feet. “What have I to fear when an oak tree answers the door and calls me his friend? What's your name?”

A grin. “Nathanial.”

“Nice to meet you. I'm—”

“I know who you are, Nicodemus.” The man made no effort to move from the doorway. “You're a strange little mouse, though. Not what I expected.”

“Expected?”

“What do you want from Yeshua? The same as the rest? See him pull a shekel from thin air? Make a monkey disappear?” the giant said.

“No, I . . .” Nerves pressed again, closing Nicodemus' mouth.

A hand appeared on the big man's shoulder. He stepped back but didn't leave. Another man, somewhat smaller than the first but still a head taller than Nicodemus, stepped into the doorway. His eyes were light, inquisitive. “So, our Pharisee's arrived?”

“And he's a strange one,” Nathanial said.

What's happening here? “I should go,” Nicodemus said. “I think there's been some mistake.”

“You're Nicodemus, correct? Of the Sanhedrin?” Light Eyes interrupted.

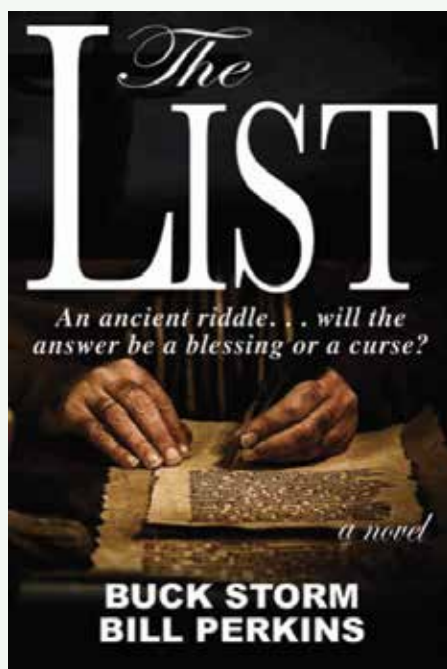
“Yes. How did you—”

“Then there's no mistake. Yeshua wants to talk with you. Come. Follow.” He started toward the interior.

Nicodemus stood his ground. “And you are . . . ?” The man turned. “I'm Philip.”

“You two are disciples of the Nazarene?”

“Two of many,” Nathanial said.



HOT New STEEL from STEELING THE MIND

B I B L E C O N F E R E N C E

Coeur d'Alene

It was a snowy day in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, but a standing-room-only crowd braved the weather and packed out the Coeur d'Alene Resort (plus thousands more watching via simulcast) for a full day of incredible Bible teaching. Biblical apologetics, Bible prophecy, signs of the times and more were taught by some of the best Bible teachers in America—great steel on steel for you, your family and your friends!

Order these great titles **TODAY** and pass them around!



Miller

25 Apologetical Defenses Christians Need To Know Russ Miller

Russ, one of the top Biblical apologists in the nation today, shows you how to easily defend the accuracy of the Bible by covering 25 of the most-often debated and discussed topics today. Excellent!



Currier

Why Capitalism vs. Socialism Is God vs. Satan Daniel Currier

Socialism is trying to make a comeback—should we be worried? Yes! While capitalism has its roots in the Bible, Socialism and its close-cousin Marxism is from the pit of hell. People seem amused at Bernie Sanders, but his socialistic dreams are a true threat to our Christian freedoms in America. This push for collectivism is real and this presentation was an eye-opener—to say the least!

Judgment In The Valley Of Jehoshaphat Dave Reagan

This one's a prophecy lover's dream — Dave walks us through the events at the end of the 7-year Tribulation into the 1000-year reign of Christ. From the horrible Tribulation to Jesus' 2nd Coming and the nations of the world being judged in the Jehoshaphat Valley—a fascinating study!



Reagan

Where Have All The Pastors Gone? Randy White

For the past 15 years the quality of teaching from our nation's pulpits has dropped to new lows. Someone questioning the pastor on a Biblical point is often asked to leave. And if you currently have a good pastor, who will replace him when he retires? Uncomfortable but necessary information!

Defending Biblical Creation Russ Miller

When asked to explain or defend the Genesis account of God's 6-day Creation, there are myriads of undeniable facts you can use. But most Christians don't know them! Russ walks you through 10 scientific truths that make the theory of evolution look downright stupid!



White

Steeling Your Body Dave Foster

Unfortunately, we live in a society that includes a lot of fruitcakes. And all people, Christians included, need to know the basics of personal safety for those "what if" situations. Dave's spent 25 years working with thousands of individuals and hundreds of corporations throughout the United States and Canada educating people on **what to do if they find themselves in an active-shooter situation** in a church, a mall, a movie theater, etc. You'll remember this one for the rest of your life!



Foster

Myths That Malign Israel Dave Reagan

The Bible says Christians are actually grafted into the promises given to Israel. Paul says we're adopted into the Jewish faith. That means when it comes to Israel, we're family. So as much as Satan hates Christians, he hates the Jews even more. Dave lists the major lies Satan has perpetrated about the tiny Jewish nation that's come back from the dead after some 2000 years of dispersion.

Wow!

Order TODAY! www.compass.org • 208.762.7777 or mail on page 15.

“Wow!” Josh McDowell
“Fantastic!” Dave Reagan



THE LIST

Jerusalem in tumult . . . could ancient writings hold the answers?

THE LIST is a new Christian historical novel from Compass. It's written from a new perspective of the Christ story, taking the reader through the three years of Jesus' miraculous ministry through the eyes of two rich and powerful Sanhedrin members—Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea—two vastly different men who are pulled together in a search for truth at the most pivotal moment the world has ever known.

The List introduces readers to an Israel most people have never imagined. From the mind-boggling spectacle of the ancient Passover in Jerusalem with 20,000 sacrifices in a single day, to chariot races in Herod's Caesarea, to volatile behind-the-scenes Sanhedrin council meetings, it's a completely new and unique walk through the Christ story.

Order Today!

By mail on page 15, by phone 208-762-7777, online at Compass.org or Amazon.com (search: **The List, Storm**)

392 pages, paperback • Compass Publishing

The List, continued from page 1.

“You believe in him that strongly then?”

“Yeshua is the Son of God,” Nathanial said.

Nicodemus still hadn't passed through the doorway. “The Son of God? You call him the *Son of God*? Why? Because you believe he turned water into wine?”

Nathanial shrugged. “What can I tell you that you'll believe? Come and see.”

“Yes, please. He's waiting for you. Follow now,” Philip added.

Nicodemus felt his Pharisaical dignity slipping away, water through fingers. “I don't think either of you understand. It's the other way around. *I* wanted to talk to *him*. He didn't summon me.”

The one called Philip smiled. “All right, if it makes you feel better. Now, are you coming or not?”

Nicodemus glanced up at Nathanial. “Do I have a choice?”

“Of course. We all have a choice,” Philip said.

Nicodemus stood as tall as his frame would allow, considering. “All right then. Lead on.”

“I told you he was a strange one,” Nathanial said.

They passed through a sparse room. A woman and a man talked quietly on cushions against one wall. They took no notice of Nicodemus. Only a single lamp burned, casting its undulating light on the walls and low, thatched ceiling. Then through

a rear door and into a fenced yard, much bigger than Nicodemus would have expected. A single torch burned. Coals smoldered in an outdoor oven. The familiar and comforting aroma of baking bread permeated the night. Several people stood or sat, talking, laughing softly. Some ate; others sipped from clay cups what Nicodemus assumed to be wine.

“Are you hungry? Thirsty?” Philip said.

“No, thank you. Is he—”

And then Yeshua was there. Right in front of him. Not several safe yards away like that day in the Stoa. But the same Yeshua. And Nicodemus was back on the precipice, fighting for balance. Seeing the same sun-darkened face. Same rough, cropped hair, dark but bleached lighter—almost gray in places—by the sun and wind.

An irrational temptation to run, to retreat, came over Nicodemus. *Stop it! Are you a child?*

Then Yeshua smiled a sunrise of joy . . .

Nicodemus felt hot tears well up. *What's the matter with you? Get ahold of yourself!*

Yeshua's smile offered no quarter. Deep lines around the mouth and eyes. Here was no king, no handsome, striking figure to pump fear into the heart of the enemy. The man was completely plain.

And completely beautiful.

Cont. on page 4. 3



STEELING THE EYES

at the rebuilt Noah's Ark
August 23-24, 2019

CALLING ALL LEADERS

Church Leaders

Ministry Leaders

Family Leaders

Civic Leaders

Business Leaders

The statistics are simply horrible—60% of pastors and youth directors view porn on a regular basis!

Porn is now the number one reason for divorce. Look at those around you—one in three are wrestling with porn today. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. We simply cannot wait any longer to address this in our churches, homes and businesses as lives are being destroyed DAILY!

So we've designed a conference for leaders to:

- 1) Understand the problem
- 2) Deal with the problem

Josh McDowell has taken on this topic head-on and will speak Friday night to these issues.

The conference is being held in Northern Kentucky where you can also visit the amazing rebuilt and life-size Noah's Ark and the Creation Museum during the day.

Someone from every church, family and business should attend this conference!

Details, registration and pricing available at Compass.org or by calling 208.762.7777

The List, continued from page 3.

"Come, Pharisee, sit," Philip said.

Nicodemus did, taking a stool across from Yeshua. The man didn't say anything, but those eyes... For an instant, Nicodemus had the ridiculous urge to cover himself. Or look away. Or hide... Anything to escape those smiling eyes laying him bare.

Instead, he did what he always did—he buried his discomfort in words. "Rabbi," —a little flattery couldn't hurt— "we know you must be a teacher sent from God. No one could do the signs you do unless God was with him."

Not a lie, exactly, but still, Joseph's story about the tavern magician and the donkey tugged at the edge of his mind.

Yeshua studied him. Then, amazingly, the man leaned forward and put a hand on Nicodemus' knee. Touched him—a Pharisee! A member of the Great Sanhedrin! When he spoke, his voice was unremarkable, yet the conversation in the yard quieted. At least that was Nicodemus' memory of what happened when he thought about it later.

"Listen to me, Nicodemus," Yeshua said. "Unless a man is born *again*, he'll never see the kingdom of God."

Born again?

"What do you mean? But how can a grown man be born? He can't crawl back into his mother's womb and be born a second time, can he?"

That smile again . . . "*Listen to what I'm saying. Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit . . . he can't enter the Kingdom of God.*"

A herd of questions galloped through Nicodemus' mind, leaving him dizzy.

Yeshua laughed. "Look, what's born of flesh is flesh, what's born of Spirit is spirit. So don't wonder that I told you you need to be born again."

A welcome breeze rose, cooling the yard, making the torch flames dance.

"See?" Yeshua went on, not waiting for Nicodemus to reply. "The wind blows where it wants; you hear the sound of it. Where does it come from? Where is it going? That's the way it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus leaned forward—or was pulled, he couldn't be sure. In fact, the whole thing was beginning to feel like a dream. The Kingdom of

Cont. on page 12.

Biblelands Cruise

September-October 2019



Hosted by
Josh McDowell

Set Sail on the Cruise of a Lifetime!
16 days, 12 cruise nights,
1 incredible trip!



ROME • JERUSALEM • GALILEE • MYKONOS • ATHENS • CORINTH
FLORENCE • PISA • VENICE • CYPRUS • MALTA • CRETE

Compass Biblelands Cruise

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2019

Wow!

Biblelands Cruise

September-October 2019

Join us for a 16-day trip of a lifetime!



Parthenon • Athens

Oh wow, the land of the Bible!

You've read about it, now it's time to see it with your own eyes! And once you do, you'll simply never be the same. Come with us and see your Bible change from black and white to full living color!

We don't send you to the Holyland, we take you!

Over 25 years of escorting groups through the magnificent Biblelands has given us in-depth knowledge and experience—critical in choosing the very best destinations, accommodations, schedules and guides to make your trip to God's special place on earth the best it can be.

We've designed a fantastic itinerary on a remarkable 16-day trip that includes 12 fabulous cruise days. You'll experience up-close the forever-impacting Mediterranean ports of **Athens (optional Corinth)**, **Jerusalem** (two days), **Galilee**, **Rome**, **Malta** and **Rhodes**. Plus the knock-your-socks-off islands of **Crete**, **Mykonos** and **Cyprus**! Combine all those sites with stellar at-sea Bible studies and there's not a better Holyland itinerary on any ship!!



Empty Tomb • Jerusalem

But there's more!

You also have the option of extending your trip a few extra days by adding two nights in **Venice** and two nights in **Tuscany**, visiting the **Leaning Tower of Pisa** and breathtaking **Florence**. If you've got the time and a few extra bucks, this is a no-brainer to include!

Finally, the ship is **Celebrity's** stunning **Infinity** . . . in a class by itself. **Celebrity Cruises'** ships have recently been voted "Best Premium Cruise Line" (10 years in a row) by *TravelWeekly's Readers' Choice Awards*.

So it's 16 days, 5 countries and a lifetime of mem-

ories—pray about joining us for this incredible trip! To reserve your stateroom, just fill out the registration and mail it to: *Compass*, P.O. Box 3747 • Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816, fax to (208) 762-3363, email staff@compass.org or send phone pic of completed form to 208-660-3333.

Register early for best cabin incentives!



Biblelands Cruise Baptisms in the Jordan River



Photo by Judy Birschbach

Colosseum • Rome

Your Cruise Hosts and at-sea lecturers



Josh & Dottie McDowell Married 46 years

God has used Josh as a Christian apologist, writer and speaker for over 50 years. He has over 150 books published, including *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* and *More Than a Carpenter*, selling tens of millions of copies. He speaks hundreds of times each year around the world on various Christian topics.

Bill & Susie Perkins Married 43 years

Bill and Susie founded *Compass* in 1993 with the mission to defend the accuracy of the Bible through *Steeling the Mind Bible Conferences* and Bible trips to the Holyland. They also co-author *Good Morning Lord!* daily email Bible studies and have authored numerous books and DVDs.



Pre-cruise trip to Corinth



Many people elect to arrive a day early to acclimate to the time change, etc., before boarding the ship. So we have a no-brainer option—an easy day tour of Ancient **Corinth** where Paul lived for 18 months and addressed two of his New Testament letters. It's an excellent tour day that includes the **Temple of Apollo** ruins, the remnants of the infamous **Bema Seat** and an incredible museum. Also includes the **Corinth Canal**, **Mycenae**, and the theater at Epidaurus. Cost for airport pickup, hotel, dinner and breakfast, full day tour, all entrance fees, guide, Class A bus and an awesome lunch is \$279 pp dbl occ. **Just check the box for the Corinth option on your registration!**

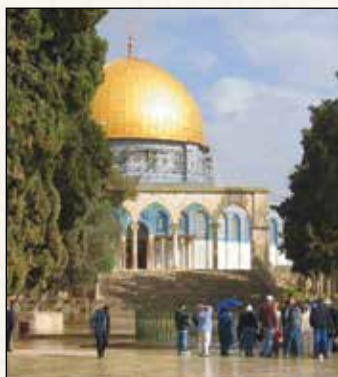


A Taste of Italy

If you can stay a few extra days you can top off your amazing cruise by adding unbelievable **Venice**, the world-famous **Leaning Tower of Pisa** and historic **Florence/Tuscany** which includes visiting Michelangelo's world-famous Statue of David. In Venice you'll spend two picturesque days on the island photographing the historic Venetian waterways, eating in its world-famous canal-lined restaurants and visiting 900-year-old theaters and museums. You'll fly home from Venice.

The price is \$1,895 (pp dbl occ) and includes two nights in Florence (Santa Maria Novella Hotel), two nights in Venice (Danieli Hotel on the

Grand Canal), transportation from Rome to Florence, Florence to Pisa, Florence to Venice and all transfers. **Just check the box for the Taste of Italy option on your cruise registration to add this incredible option.**



Jerusalem Overnight

Spend a memorable night in history-rich Jerusalem! If you choose this option, you'll disembark the ship our first morning in Jerusalem with your overnight bag and at the end of the day, rather than returning to the ship (a one-hour drive each way) you'll be transferred to a five-star hotel in the heart of Jerusalem. The sights and sounds of Jerusalem will forever be etched into your mind.

The cost is \$195 (pp dbl occ) and includes the hotel, an incredible Jewish dinner and breakfast and all transfers. There is just something about spending the night in Jerusalem that permeates your soul forever! **Just check the box for the Jerusalem Overnight on your registration.**

Bibleland

Post-Cruise Option

Taste of Italy

Italy



Venice



Florence



Pisa

Pisa
Venice
Florence
Rome

Compass At-Sea Sessions
Ma



Celebrity Cruises was just recently voted "Best Premium Cruise Line" (10 years in a row) by *Travel Weekly's Readers' Choice Awards*.

Celebrity Cruises' "Infinity"



What our

"We made life-long friends."

"We were duly impressed with the quality of this trip."

"We should have taken this trip a long time ago."

"This was a dream come true!"

September-October 2019 Biblelands Cruise

Main Cruise—Sept 27-Oct 12
Taste of Italy—Oct 12-16

16 Days!

The Trip of a Lifetime!

- 5-star ship
- 12-day cruise
- 5 countries
- 3 days in Israel
- 1 day/night in Athens, Greece
- 1 day/night in Rome, Italy
- Optional extension to Venice/Florence

Balconies available!



What past Biblelands travelers have said ...

"I thought calling it 'The Trip of a Lifetime' was a bit of a stretch. I was wrong. Now it's an understatement!"

"Israel is nothing like what you see on TV."

"Now it's like I'm reading a different Bible."

"Well organized, solid teaching, great group of people."

"This trip was a life-changer. I'll never be the same."

"This trip would have been worth it for twice the money."

"Great guides, great Bible studies, great food, great ship. I'm coming back!"

"Viewing the Temple Mount from the Mt of Olives, knowing Jesus is going to rule the earth from that very spot, was incredible."

Biblelands Cruise

September-October 2019

CORINTH PRE-CRUISE OPTION

- 26-Sept Depart USA.
- 27-Sept Arrive **Athens, Greece**. Overnight Athens.
- 28-Sept Visit **Corinth** and Canal. Overnight Athens.

CRUISE ITINERARY

- 27-Sept Depart USA.
- 28-Sept Arrive **Athens, Greece**, overnight Athens.
- 29-Sept Visit Athens, board ship.
- 30-Sept **Mykonos, Greece**.
- 1-Oct **Rhodes, Greece**.
- 2-Oct **Cyprus**.
- 3-Oct **Jerusalem** (see itinerary at right).
- 4-Oct **Jerusalem** (see itinerary at right).
- 5-Oct **Galilee** (see itinerary at right).
- 6-Oct Free day at-sea, optional lectures.
- 7-Oct **Crete, Greece**.
- 8-Oct Free day at-sea, optional lectures.
- 9-Oct **Malta**.
- 10-Oct Free day at-sea, optional lectures.
- 11-Oct Arrive and tour **Ancient Rome** and **Vatican Square**, overnight in Rome.
- 12-Oct Travel home or **begin Taste of Italy** tour.

ISRAEL ITINERARY—OCT 3-5

Included in cruise package.

Saturday, Oct 3: Jerusalem

Wailing Wall, Southern Steps, Jewish Quarter, Broad Wall, Temple Mount, Bethlehem overlook. Return to ship or choose optional overnight in Jerusalem.

Sunday, Oct 4: Jerusalem

Mount of Olives, Palm Sunday Road, Garden of Gethsemane, Caiaphas House, St Ann's, Pools of Bethesda, Antonia Fortress, Golgotha and communion at the Empty Tomb. Return to ship.


Monday, Oct 5: Galilee

Nazareth, Valley of Armageddon, Cana, Sea of Galilee boat ride and Bible study, Ancient Boat, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, baptisms in Jordan River.

TASTE OF ITALY POST-CRUISE OPTION

- 12-Oct Travel to and tour historic **Florence**.
- 13-Oct Astonishing Leaning Tower of **Pisa**.
- 14-Oct Travel to Venice by train via **Tuscany**.
- 15-Oct The mind-blowing water canals of **Venice**.
- 16-Oct Travel home from Venice.

September/October 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Sept 22	23	24	25	26 <i>Depart USA for optional Corinth extension</i>	27 <i>Arrive Athens</i> Depart USA	28 <i>Corinth</i> Arrive Athens
29 Athens, Board Ship	30 Mykonos, Greece	Oct 1 Rhodes, Greece	2 Cyprus	3 Jerusalem <i>(Optional overnight in Jerusalem)</i>	4 Jerusalem	5 Galilee
6 Free Day At Sea	7 Crete, Greece	8 Free Day At Sea	9 Island of Malta	10 Free Day At Sea	11 Arrive, Tour Rome	12 Depart Rome or <i>(Optional) Taste of Italy To Florence</i>
13 Pisa/ Tuscany	14 To Venice via train	15 Venice, Italy	16 Travel Home from Venice	17	18 	19

Sign me up for the trip of a lifetime!

Biblelands Cruise 2019

Registration



Sept 26-28



Pre-Cruise
option:

Corinth \$279 pp dbl occ

See page 7 for details.

- One night in Athens
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Corinth Canal
- Bus, guide and early arrival transfers
- Full-day tour of Ancient Corinth
- Not included: Tips and VAT

Sept 27-Oct 12



**Biblelands
Cruise**

Prices are pp dbl occ.

Choose a stateroom:

- ☐ Ocean View \$5,995 *Sold out!*
- ☐ Veranda/Balcony ~~\$7,595~~
- ☐ Concierge/Balcony \$7,995
- ☐ Aqua Class/Balcony \$8,295
- ☐ Suite: Call for pricing

Includes:

- 12-day cruise on Celebrity's *Infinity*
- All group airport and ship transfers
- Roundtrip airfare from NYC
- Three full days of private Israel tours with Israeli guides, site entrance fees & lunches

- Shipboard meals and entertainment
- *Compass* group credentials for at-sea sessions
- Overnight stay (incl. meals) in both Athens and Rome
- Private Athens and Rome tours

Not included: Tips, taxes, port charges & optional tours



Oct 12-16



Post-Cruise
option:

Taste of Italy \$1,895 pp dbl occ

See page 7 for details.

Includes:

- Two nights in Florence and two nights in Venice (On the island/Danieli Hotel on the Grand Canal/San Marco area!)
- Entrance fees to Michelangelo's David
- Walking tours of Florence and Venice
- Train trip to Pisa and Venice from Florence
- **Not included:** Tips, taxes, lunches and dinners

Optional:

- ☐ **Jerusalem overnight** \$195pp dbl occ includes hotel, awesome Israeli dinner & breakfast (see page 7 for details).
- ☐ **Single room** (no roommate): For cruise, Athens & Rome + \$3,900 (Ocean View) • *Taste of Italy* option + \$995 • Corinth + \$99.
- ☐ **Trip Insurance** (Recommended). We'll send you a quote for you to approve. You're billed only when you accept.

Choose your options above and fax, email, postal mail or phone picture this registration to Compass. You will receive a statement confirming registration details, balance and payment due dates.

Deposit per person: Cruise \$750, Taste of Italy \$250

Balance due: 50% April 1, 2019 and 50% (balance) June 15, 2019.

I wish to pay my deposit by check (enclosed) or bill my credit/debit card below.

☐ Check Enclosed *Make payable to Compass* ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

_____ Exp. _____ Security Code _____

Email _____ Daytime Phone _____

(Email is important! We use it to communicate when possible and never sell or rent our lists!)

Cell Phone _____

(Required by ship as an emergency contact number.)

I accept the "Terms and Conditions" of this trip listed at Compass.org/articles.

X _____
Signature _____ Date _____ Home airport _____

Name 1) _____ ☐ M ☐ F Passport # _____ Exp _____ DOB: _____
As it appears on passport MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY

Name 2) _____ ☐ M ☐ F Passport # _____ Exp _____ DOB: _____
As it appears on passport MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY

☐ Passport has been applied for (please send picture/copy of passport via email, mail, or text to (208) 660-3333 when received).

TSA PreCheck/Global Entry/Clear #(s) 1) _____ 2) _____

Nickname(s) (for name tags) 1) _____ 2) _____

Address for FedEx shipping _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Name of Roommate (if different from above) _____ Group (if any): _____

Friends/Family (for dinner seating, bus, etc.) _____ Capt's Club # 1) _____ 2) _____

Questions?
Call 208-762-7777

Sign & Send Today! Mail, Fax, Email or Phone Picture

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COMPASS
INTERNATIONAL
A non-profit ministry.

God? Physical versus spiritual? Could the man read minds? This was no blustering would-be messiah. In fact, Yeshua was like no one Nicodemus had ever come across before. “How can these things be?”

Yeshua leaned back. “Are you really the teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things?”

How in the world did this man know him?

Yeshua’s gaze wandered the yard for a second or two. When his eyes found Nicodemus again, the joy had ebbed, chased away by what? Regret? No; more a deep, deep sadness.

“We talk about what we know. We testify about what we’ve seen with our own eyes. But you won’t receive our witness, will you?” Yeshua ran rough fingers through his hair. Shook his head. “Here I am, only telling you earthly things and you don’t believe. How will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into Heaven but the one who descended *from* Heaven—the Son of Man. Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, remember? The same thing has to happen to me, the Son of Man, so that everyone who believes in me will have eternal life.”

Eternal life? And who, or *what*, was the Son of Man? Was he talking about himself? Surely he wasn’t equating himself with God? The *Son of God*, Nathaniel had said. Whether the Nazarene was equating himself with God or not, it seemed his disciples had no problem doing just that.

Again, Yeshua seemed to thumb through Nicodemus’ thoughts with ease. The sunrise-smile. He reached for Nicodemus’ knee again. “For God so *loved* the world He gave them His only Son, so that *whoever* believes in Him can have eternal life. He didn’t send his Son to judge the world but so the world should be saved through Him!”

Judgment? He speaks of judgment to a member of the Sanhedrin? If Beryl or Caiaphas were here, they would have the man flogged on the spot.

Yeshua lifted a cup and sipped, eyeing Nicodemus over the rim. He lowered it and stood in a fluid movement. “Everyone who does evil hates the light. And he won’t come to the light lest his deeds be exposed.”

Nicodemus looked up at the man. “I think I was wrong. I shouldn’t have come here.”

Those eyes again . . . searching, speaking . . . pulling. “Nicodemus, he who practices the truth—who *seeks* the truth—comes to the light. Everything he does is birthed in God.”

But *you* came, Nicodemus, the eyes seemed to say. *You sought the Truth* . . .

Then it was over. The eyes released him. Yeshua walked over to the outdoor oven. A man cut a chunk of meat from a larger piece roasting over the coals, tore a fistful of bread, and handed both to the Nazarene. Yeshua laughed and said something Nicodemus couldn’t make out.

Philip touched Nicodemus on the elbow. “Feel better, Pharisee? Time to go now.” He headed for the door leading to the interior room

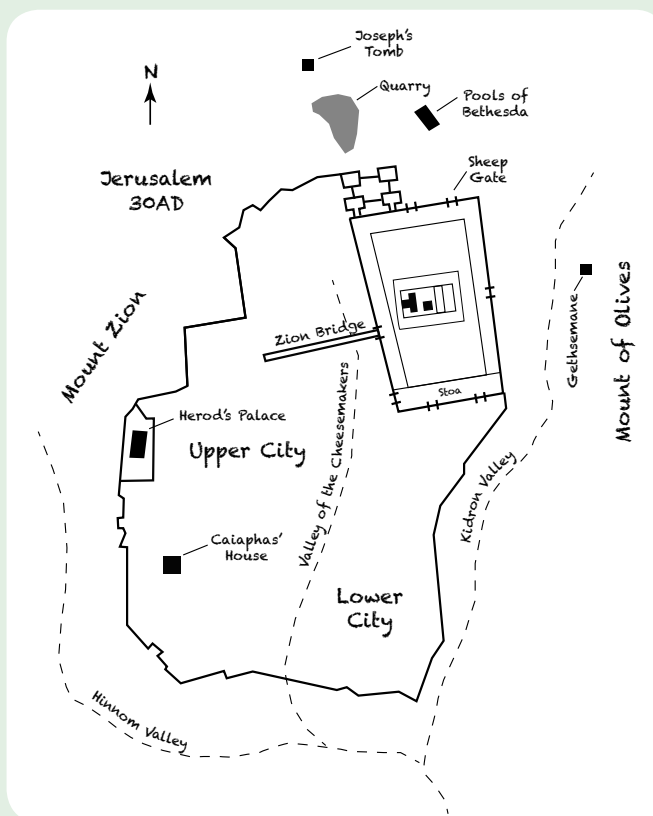
and then the street.

With a last look at Yeshua, Nicodemus trotted after. “No. No, I don’t feel better. He didn’t answer my question. I came to hear about the signs. How does he do the signs?”

“You’re wrong.”

At the front door, Nicodemus stepped out, then turned and looked back. “About which? About what I came for? Or that he didn’t answer?”

“About both,” Philip said. He smiled as he closed the door.



Christian Heritage Weekend

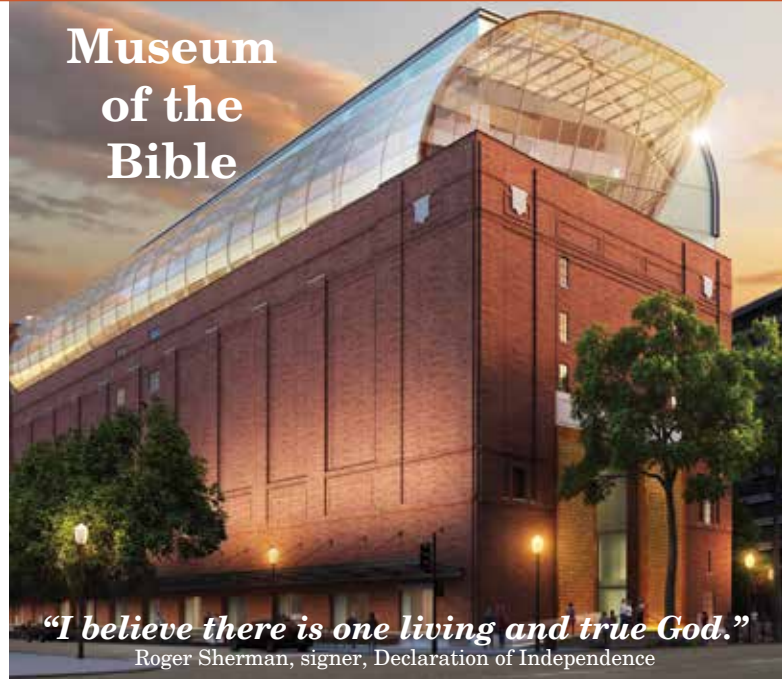


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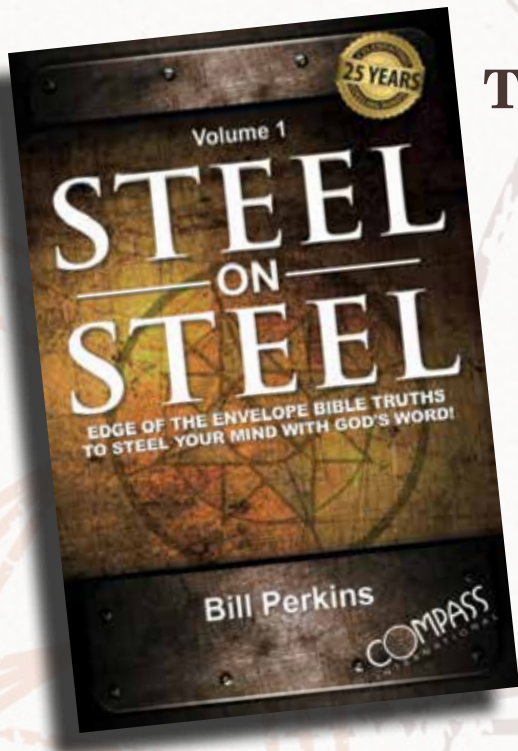
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