



# BIBLE Passages *Journal*

## Dear Supporters and Friends,

Jerusalem is a highly religious city. Proponents of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are all vying for precious real estate near the traditional sites associated with significant religious events. Whether it is the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount for Muslims, the Western Wall for Jews, or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for Christendom, each of these sites are representative of just how revered and valued Jerusalem is as a city. Most days, the city is filled with tourists who are making pilgrimages to these sites. Some are there for history and understanding. Some go there hoping to encounter God, while others are simply wanting to retrace the steps of their forefathers of faith. Still others enjoy simply living in this historic place filled with so much beauty and mystique.

Walking up and down the narrow streets of Jerusalem (and it really is up and down because of all the hills and valleys) can sometimes be challenging. There's a bit of physical stamina required, to be sure, but a good bit of determination is helpful as well when trying to maneuver your

way through the crowded streets, lines of tourists, and the occasional salesman trying to make a sale. To get where you are going, sometimes you find yourself

inadvertently walking shoulder to shoulder with members of a group that is not your own. At other times you have to push your way through the melee to the light of day. In the process, you often hear brief bits and pieces of the conversations of others. Sometimes, it is a tour guide informing his followers, or perhaps a local businessman bargaining with a shopper. What I heard most recently has continued to reverberate in my ears, and has deeply touched my heart. It came from young woman who remarked to her companions that she could easily disprove Christianity. Those were the only words I heard as we quickly passed each other: she heading toward the Armenian Quarter, while Carla and I made our way down to the Jewish Quarter. I don't know if she was non-religious, a Jew, or a skeptic, but I wish I would have had the presence of mind to turn around and politely ask her, "How?"

The remark, "I can easily disprove Christianity," was a clear reminder that the Bible is under attack. The value and importance of defending the faith and redeeming the lost cannot be understated. Our fallen world with its doubters, skeptics and non-believers need to see the plethora of evidence for the inerrancy of scripture and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Being in Israel for

### Upcoming Schedule:

Aug - October: Bear Valley Bible Institute

August 15-20: (J&C) Polishing the Pulpit,  
Sevierville TN

August 21: Summer Series in Windsor, CO

September 12-15: (J) BVBI Lectures

October 5: (C) Ladies Day in Brighton, CO

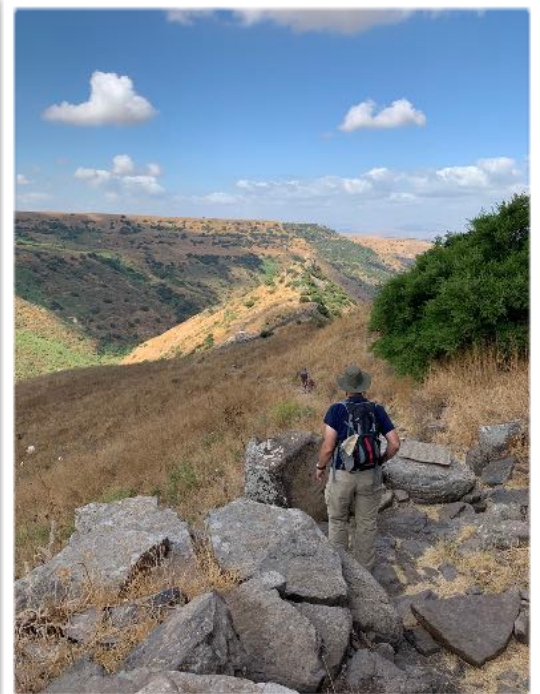
October 5-8: (J) Apologetics Seminar in  
Woodland Park, CO

October 11-13: (J&C) Marriage Seminar in  
Gilbert, AZ

October 25-27: (J&C) Ladies Day and  
Gospel Meeting in Buna, TX

November 8-10: (J&C) Marriage Seminar  
in Wahiawa, HI

November 10-13: (J&C) Schertz, TX  
Lectures



It was quite a hike down to the first century synagogue (near center of photo) at Gamla in the Galilee.

most of July enabled us to continue to study, analyze and document many of the archaeological and geographical evidences which reveal the verity of scripture. It's essential for the world to see that the Christian faith is valid, and that its historical context is verifiable. Likewise, the New Testament writers and their testimony concerning Jesus must be demonstrated to be reliable and credible. Bible Passages is committed to this goal.

The video and photographic evidence we amassed included drone footage at 19 sites. We were privileged to film at places like Caesarea Maritima, Gezer, Azekah, Bethsaida, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, Libnah, Gath, and

Lachish. We also completed the goal of documenting the existence of seven proposed first-century synagogues. We will have more about this soon, but in the past, skeptics have suggested that the Bible was inaccurate because it stated that synagogues existed during the time of Christ. This documentation and research, along with our participation in an archaeological dig at Tel Burna (proposed biblical Libnah) has given us much to do as we continue our work on the Bible Land Passages videos. Cataloging, describing, and writing about many of these place will continue to be a lifelong process as well.

Our most exciting and rewarding work during July involved being able to spend time with our brethren at the Nazareth church of Christ. Each Sunday we made the two hour drive from our residence at Tzur Hadassah (southwest of Jerusalem) to the church building in Nazareth. We continue to be encouraged by the faith of these Christians who are living in a very difficult religious climate. Getting to preach one Sunday was an added blessing, but meeting with Christians in their home was the greatest blessing of all as we discussed the work of the church, the future of Israel, and the need for two of their guests that day to put on their Lord in baptism.

Other works throughout the month have included premarital counseling sessions with a soon-to-be-married couple, recording and editing work at World Video Bible School, and preparations for our work at Bear Valley Bible Institute. We are now back in Denver, and looking forward to the start of another great year with 40 full-time students. God continues to bless us with so many things to do and we are grateful to give you a small taste of what all has been happening. As we continue our work we covet your prayers, but likewise want you to know how deeply appreciative we are for your support and love. Your contributions and words of encouragement have meant so, so much. Thank you from the bottom of our heart for all you are helping us to do in His Kingdom. To God be the glory in all things. In Him, *John*

Join us  
March 14-28,  
2020 as we  
study the  
Bible on site  
in Rome and  
in Israel! Full  
details here: [www.biblepassages.net/](http://www.biblepassages.net/)

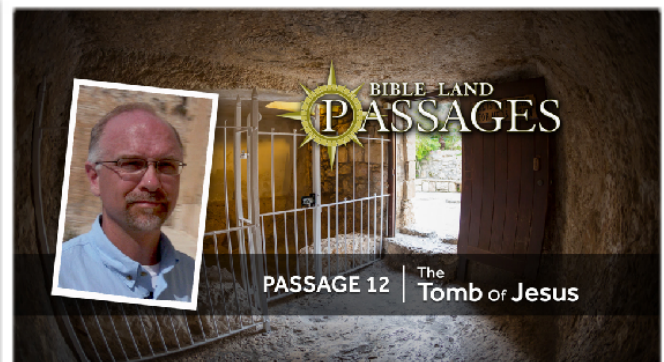


It's truly our very least favorite thing to do:  
asking for support.

But we have to.

In the three years we have been working through Bible Passages, we have not met our budget, but through some of you, God has provided for our needs. But if He allows, there is more that we need to do if we are financially able.

It is humbling to ask, but could you, someone you know, or your congregation possibly help to support the work of Bible Passages? If you'd like to know more about what we do, go to our website, and click the "[Work and Ministries](#)" tab. Thank you!



**EXCITING NEWS!** WVBS has a new channel on Faithlife TV (parent company of Logos software) - the Bible Land Passages video series and more great WVBS videos can be seen online!





L-R: Good men from the Nazareth congregation...After the dig, pottery washing!...A photo from the drone above a site that has been in the news, with the Jordan river behind it... Archaeological dig at Tel Burna (biblical Libnah)...One Sunday at worship, we met this sweet family from Ghana in Israel for medical treatment for their son.....blessed to have lunch in the Jadon's home...we loved spending two weeks in Israel with Neal & Kathy...cats, the reason we can stay in Israel for free...If there's a hole in the ground, he wants to see what's in it (this was an ancient tomb)...Jordan speaking at Dripping Springs' Discipleship University...gathering after worship in Nazareth (sweet Magdalena on left.)



## Carla's Comments

Two Sunday nights ago, our last in “Drippin” before we returned to Denver, our worship service was led by the young men. Two biblical, relevant, well-developed lessons were excellently presented by young men, Alec and Kasey, who had been taken to a preacher training camp by Parker LaGrange, who now works with the youth in Dripping Springs. You might remember that Parker is a graduate of Bear Valley Bible Institute, and that he began his studies there the same day that we began working with this good school. And as I sat there listening to these young men, I had a bit of a light bulb moment that I will explain in a moment.



Blessed by these babies!

John has a gift for seeing the big picture, of seeing the forest AND the trees of what we “do” on a daily basis. He has a way with words and can easily explain our purpose and our goals and our mission (which, if you’re an online reader, can be seen [here](#).) I confess that sometimes that I get a little bogged down in the trees. Maybe even the grass. I know that our purpose in our daily activities (whether gathering evidence in Israel to use in BLP videos, teaching students in classrooms or doing what we can to strengthen marriages) is to glorify God and draw souls to Him, but I confess that sometimes I have a difficult time verbalizing the specifics, and sometimes it is hard to see in a tangible way that what we do is, in fact, glorifying God and drawing souls to Him. Hence the light bulb moment last Sunday night. God gave us the opportunity to serve Him at Bear Valley Bible Institute, where John was able to help teach and encourage Parker. God gave Parker the opportunity to serve Him in Dripping Springs, where he has been a teacher and encourager of Alec and Kasey. God gave Alec and Kasey the opportunity to encourage and teach me and about 150 other people last Sunday night, and now He will give the rest of us opportunities to reach others. None of this is about John or me or Parker or anyone else, but it is about looking for and taking advantage of and sharing in the opportunities that God gives to each of us. That thought made me smile. In his prayers, John often thanks God for allowing us to serve in His ministry, and I’m so grateful that that is what we “do”. All glory and honor belongs only to the Lord.

July flew by, as we spent three weeks in Israel. Our Israeli travel agent, Lindy, asked if we’d cat-sit while she spent the month in her native country of South Africa. This gave us a free place to stay and car to drive. John always has an agenda of places he wants to see and document (he got a lot of amazing drone footage,) and we saw a lot of new sites where we had not been, two of which have made international news in the last few weeks. What made it even more fun was that for two of those weeks, we had our dear friends Neal and Kathy Pollard along with us. While they were with us, we drove all over Israel, walked at least 60 miles, spent a few days on an archaeological dig, climbed a LOT of steps, sang a lot of songs and made a lot of memories. It was a blessing!

John’s parents have had health struggles this year and in particular over the last couple of months. Anita and Roland are so very wonderful with their care—not just for John’s parents, but my mom as well. We are involved as much as possible when we are there, but we know that so much responsibility rests on their shoulders and we are so grateful for their loving care. Janice (John’s mom) spent some time in rehab and then more time in skilled nursing after her surgery in June, and hopes to be able to go home this week. She and Grady have missed being together. Grady had some important tests last week and we hope to have results the middle of this month. Mom’s difficulties more recently have been home repairs. And now we are back in Denver for the first quarter of the 2019-2020 school year, and while we absolutely *love* the work and the fellowship and friends we have here, it is hard being away when we know we are needed. We ask for your prayers for our entire family. And as always, we thank you for your support and encouragement! May God always bless and keep you - *Carla*



Digging up the past is dirty and fun work!