

PRESS RELEASE

LANDMARKS OF FAITH Great Discoveries of the Bible

A trip to Israel isn't the only way to explore the roots of the Christian faith. Jeff Harrison, former teacher and guide in the Holy Land, brings the drama and excitement of history "to life" in the Landmarks of Faith seminar series.

In his last seminar, Pastor Harrison tackled the controversial Book of Revelation. This year's topic is the great archeological discoveries that have revolutionized our understanding of the times of Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David (the Old Testament). What do we really know about Noah's ark, the Tower of Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, and dozens of other fascinating topics?

In the first session, he will address the controversies concerning the Flood, and what they mean for our understanding of the earliest times of man on earth. This will include surprising evidence for the time before the Flood and for the Flood itself from outside of the Bible. The evidence for the location of Noah's ark will also be discussed. Evidence for the appearance of the Tower of Babel will be presented, and for the worldwide culture that resulted from its destruction.

In the second session, Harrison will turn to the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Some of the strange customs practiced by Abraham are explained by the thousands of clay tablets discovered at Nuzi in the 1920's. The strange covenant of Gen. 15 with the smoking torch and "oven" can now be understood more clearly, as can Abraham's near sacrifice of Isaac. Also considered are the strange standing stones used by Jacob in worship, and the meaning of the household gods stolen by Rachel.

In the third session, Israel's time in Egypt is considered, including the evidence for large numbers of Semites (including Israelites) in Egypt. Remarkable parallels will be discussed between the teaching of Moses and the religion of the Midianites, the people of Moses' father-in-law Jethro, including the use of a tent-tabernacle for worship and even a bronze serpent (like that made by Moses in the desert). The controversy over the route of the Exodus will be considered, including recent claims that Mt. Sinai is in Saudi Arabia.

In the fourth session, evidence for the arrival of the Israelites in Canaan will be considered, including the controversial Amarna tablets that speak of large groups of "Hapiru" entering the country from the east. Discoveries at Ugarit in Lebanon will be used to explain the beliefs of the Canaanites, and why they were so displeasing to God. The homes and material remains of the Israelites, as well as their method of warfare, will provide remarkable evidence of their way of life and beliefs. The surprising origins of the Philistines will also be discussed, as well as how those origins affected such familiar events as the battle of David and Goliath.

In the fifth session, new discoveries in David's Jerusalem set the stage for discussing the Temple of Solomon, the high point of the Israelite monarchy. But the seeds of corruption mentioned by the prophets receive graphic confirmation in the archeological evidence of compromise with false gods. Evidence of the dramatic last stand of Judah, first under Hezekiah and then under Zedekiah, illustrates the depth of suffering brought about by the nation's sins.

Pastor Harrison studied in Israel with some of the top Israeli archeologists and Christian scholars in Jerusalem. He and his wife and children are now missionaries in the Philippines. This seminar is one of the teachings he shares with pastors, Christian leaders, and churches in Asia. Through the use of information and media, Harrison takes seminar participants as close to the land of Israel as they can get without stepping on an airplane.

The Landmarks of Faith "Great Discoveries of the Bible" seminar will be presented at _____ located at _____ from (days and dates) _____ (meeting times) _____. Seminar booklets, which are necessary to follow along with the seminar, will be available for _____ each.* (Booklets can be shared by two people.) A free-will offering will also be taken. For more information contact _____.

[* Calculate copy cost for approximately 40 page booklet, one sided, stapled. Should be less than \$4.]