

## ISRAEL READING LIST

*Preparing for Israel is more than physical. It's also mental. For this reason, we ask that everyone commit to doing his or her best to tackle the reading. The more you read, the more you will get out of the trip.*

**The Bible is a top priority. Here are the excerpts required for the Israel trip:**

|               |                     |          |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|
| Genesis 12-50 | I and II Samuel     | Mark     |
| Exodus        | I and II Kings      | Luke     |
| Deuteronomy   | I and II Chronicles | John     |
| Joshua 1-10   | Psalms              | Acts 1-2 |
| Judges        | Matthew             |          |

***Below is a list of an additional five books that should be read in preparation for the Israel trip:***

**The Source** | James Michener.

This book is a novel and is mostly helpful for understanding archeology and the development of the Jewish society and culture. It is clearly written from a non-Jewish/non-Christian perspective, yet if you can ignore the evolutionary perspective, you will not regret reading this very long work of fiction.

**The Epic of Eden** | Sandra L. Richter

This is an academic work in which the author organizes the Old Testament into a manageable structure and explains its relevance for Christians today.

**God's Shalom Project** | Bernhard Ott

The author sees God as a gracious parent, intent on a restored relationship with humans. It is that ongoing effort which Ott calls the Shalom Project. Ott believes that "God wants a Shalom people," a community of the faithful who together love God and each other, and then live in the world within that strength.

**The Light on the Difficult Words of Jesus** | David Bivin

What if we could step back into the first-century world of Jesus and walk on a dusty road with him as one of his first Jewish disciples? How would Jesus' lifestyle as a first-century Jewish rabbi look and how would his words would have been understood? David Bivin will guide you through the multi-hued Jewish landscape that frames the words of our Lord. His words will grow in clarity and depth when seen in the light of their original setting.

**The Gospel According to Moses** | Athol Dickson

"Years ago I exposed myself to the possibility that Judaism might have great truths to offer, and Chever Torah (Jewish Bible study) rewarded my open mind with radical improvements in the way I live and view my Christian faith." After he spent five years attending this study, Athol Dickson found his faith radically changed resulting in a deeper relationship. In beautiful and simple language, this book illustrates Dickson's journey of faith exploring some of the primary theological differences and similarities between Christianity and Judaism.