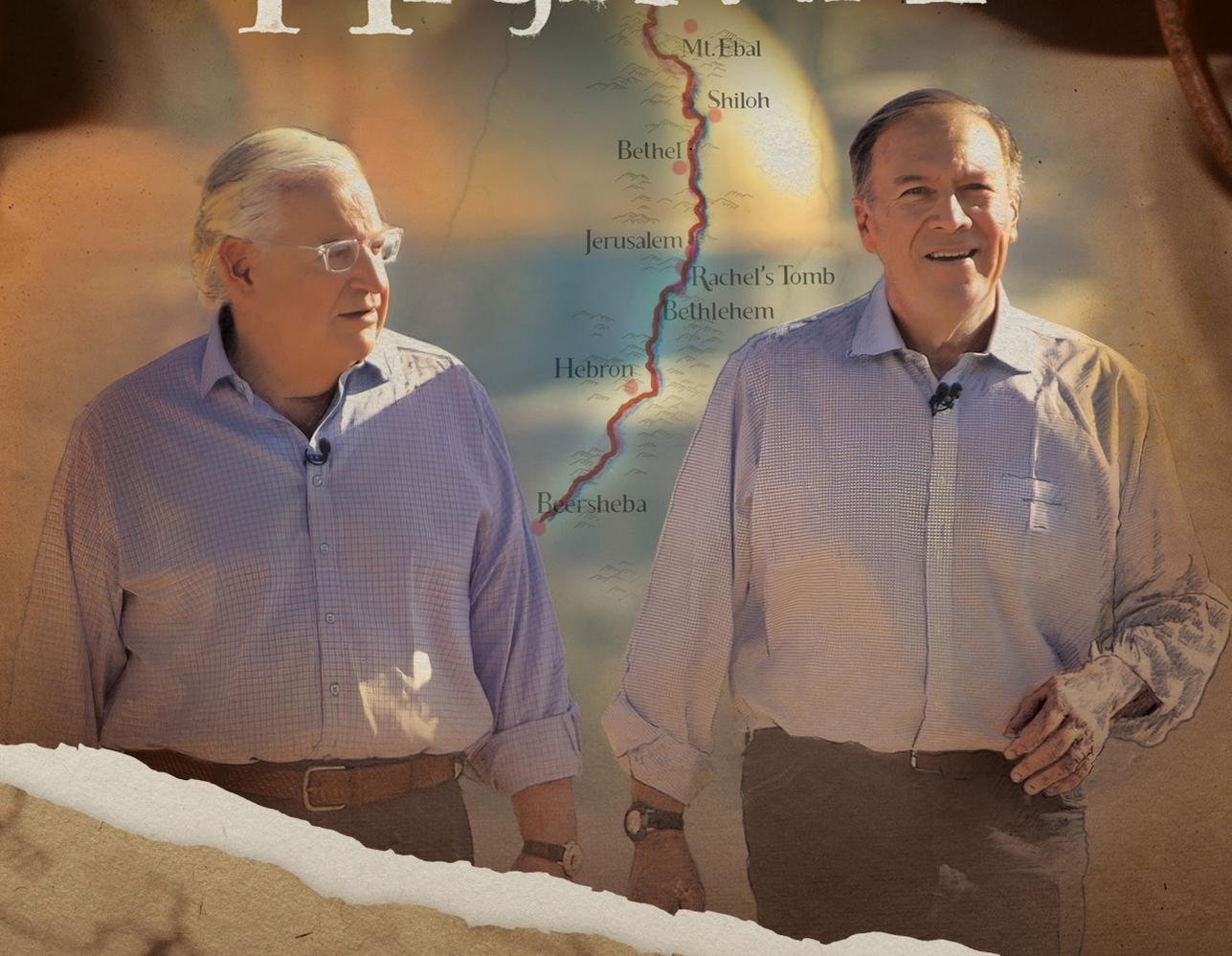


ROUTE 60

THE BIBLICAL HIGHWAY



5-DAY READING PLAN

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Route 60: The Biblical Highway is a film that will encourage your faith in God's plan and reinforce your responsibility to be His light-bearer. Hosted by former Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman and Mike Pompeo, former Secretary of State, their tour shares biblical history and personal experiences in eight ancient cities. May their deep appreciation for the Judeo-Christian foundations established by God give you hope for our future.

**To find out how you can view
Route 60: The Biblical Highway,
visit Route60.movie**

DAY 1

EMBRACING JUDEO-CHRISTIAN VALUES

EXODUS 20:1-20

Israel is the cradle of Western civilization, also known as Judeo-Christian civilization. In the Holy Bible, the world's best-selling and most widely read book, we learn the story of God establishing for His chosen people the nation that would also be called "The Promised Land."

It's especially notable that for centuries now, the Judeo-Christian values established by God in His Word have helped humans live responsibly and create better communities in which to enjoy their own life and family.

Using the ideals for behavior, set forth in The Ten Commandments by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, made Israel into a strong nation, and the same could be said for America and other great nations as well. To love the Creator of heaven and earth, to honor one's earthly parents, and to love one's neighbor are just a few ideals that guide adherents to more peaceful and generous lifestyles.

God gave clear instructions to Abraham, the founding father of Israel, about that country's relationships with other nations. In **Genesis 12:3**, God said,

*"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you;
and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

Since the blessings for the nations go through Israel, this tiny country's people, resources, and significant events should be of interest to the world. As Israel was established by God to be "a light unto the nations," so should other nations be. The Jewish people have embraced this challenge and actively involved Christians are always working toward this ideal.

The prophet Jeremiah warned people of future events when Israel would rebuild its biblical heartland during times of dissension, both internal and external. We are watching this prophecy unfold today and all of humanity continues to benefit from the scientific, medical, and technological developments credited to the gifted people of Israel.

Christians should be involved with and offer support to Israel because our roots are intertwined. Our religion arose from the teachings of Jesus, a Jew born in the biblical heartland city of Bethlehem. As people of faith, we cherish the land and stories detailed in the Old Testament and in the New Testament when Christ taught us to live simply, walk humbly, and honor God with our lives as we love Him and one another.

Our love for Israel is an eternal one. Jews and Believers from all nations see Israel differently because so much of HIStory reveals how God set the land and its people apart. We are fascinated by the details our Creator reveals and by the prophecies He has already fulfilled. And we look forward to those yet to come.

CALL TO ACTION

Meditate for a moment on **Isaiah 42:6**,

“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles...”

Consider the actions in your daily life that demonstrate you are a gospel covenant-keeper and a faithful witness for God to others. Think of other daily efforts you could make to help His light reach deeper into the nations, and in particular the nation He’s planted you in.

TALK ABOUT IT

Do you have a good understanding about Judeo-Christian values? If not, here’s a helpful link that will inspire your discussions with others about how important these ideals are to the hope of world peace.

<https://nsjonline.com/article/2023/02/prager-what-are-judeo-christian-values/>



DAY 2

GOD WILL REBUILD OUR NATIONS

PSALM 85:6
JEREMIAH 33:6-13

As you enjoy the tour stops our hosts make along Route 60: The Biblical Highway, you will see images of the ancient history and the current sites God has continued to use.

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The anonymous writer of Psalm 102:13-14 praises God for His profound compassion for the land. He describes how the renown of the forever-throned Lord will endure through all generations and how even the dust and stones of Israel will be treasured.

13 You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come. 14 For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity.

The psalmist continues in verses 15-16 with another reason people should love the land He loves. For one day -

15 The nations will fear the name of the Lord, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory. 16 For the Lord will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory.

We believe God is in the process of re-establishing America's solid rock foundations, too, as many Christians are standing up to express their righteous convictions based in the word of God.

This prayer from **Psalm 122:6-9** (NIV) is one the believers in every nation can pray for Israel and for their own county. When we “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,” we can also pray for our own communities. In this verse from one of the fifteen songs of ascent up the steps to the temple built by King David’s son Solomon, King David encourages worshippers to gather regularly in one place to honor God and to pray. This Old Testament passage is read in Jewish synagogues and Christian churches alike. Together, we all hope for the blessing David asks for all who love God.

⁶ “...May those who love you be secure.

*⁷ May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.”*

*⁸ For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, “Peace be within you.”*

*⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your prosperity.”*

The reasons to care about, pray for, and support the Holy Land and its people, are more than plenty and too many to enumerate here.

But the bottom line is: We should love what God loves. He has granted us an eternal inheritance and appointed us as caretakers, watchmen, and servants. Thankfully, He trusts that we will follow through with the privilege to love Him with our all and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

CALL TO ACTION

God is a Redeemer and Restorer. In His great love, He will always have our back and He always has a plan. What foundational principles would you like to see reinforced or restored in your own country?

As a citizen with Judeo-Christian values, what are you doing to ensure these remain strong for future generations.

TALK ABOUT IT

Discuss with your friends and family how they feel about American values today. Are we still embracing Judeo-Christian values, or have we become untethered to the dream our Founding Fathers shared?

What is your greatest fear for our nation's future? And what is your greatest hope?

DAY 3

YOUR TESTIMONY MATTERS

MATTHEW 2:23
MATTHEW 13:54
JOHN 1:46
REVELATION 12:11
ACTS 14:3

Nazareth is the city in which Jesus began much of his work and ministry. In the **Route 60** film, Mike Pompeo shared how this first stop reminded him of his own journey to Christ that began when two West Point cadets invited him to a Bible study. Through God's word and those friends, he encountered Jesus.

David Friedman was raised to know God. His father was a highly regarded rabbi at Temple Hillel. So, faith was at the center of his family's life as they lived out the values taught in scripture.

Today, faithful followers of God and tourists to Nazareth enjoy visits to one or both churches known as sites where the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would bear a son and call him Jesus. Joseph was also visited by an angel, who confirmed he was to take Mary as his wife. These dreams became critical elements of their own testimonies.

In **Deuteronomy 16:16-17** the Jewish people are commanded by God to celebrate three specific feasts annually.

¹⁶ Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: ¹⁷ Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.

The seven Jewish feasts are important because they foreshadow the coming Messiah and His ministry. Each one signifies an important aspect of God's plan of redemption, which Christians believe comes through Jesus Christ.

From the beginnings of Jewish culture, families modeled and taught the value of generosity to their children. They give thanks to God for all He supplies, for the wisdom He bestows on them, and for the love that rules everything. Today, in acknowledgement and in praise, the Jewish faithful offer an affirmation annually at Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. At the end of their worshipful ceremonies, they say in unison, "God is the Lord."

And to that tribute, every believer would say, "Amen!"

CALL TO ACTION

This expression of “God is the Lord” by faithful Jews should challenge everyone who professes faith in God. The question is: Have you made Him the Lord of your life? And if so, are there any areas of your life He is still helping you change?

Studying research on the Jewish Feasts can be fascinating and especially helpful in understanding how the celebrations God ordained point to the Messiah. Set aside a little online time to dig deeper this week and make notes of points that intrigued you.

TALK ABOUT IT

Discuss with believing family or friends about ways you can share spiritual testimonies with those in your path who have not yet embraced God and His love through personal relationship. Perhaps some would be interested in attending a “Family Story Night,” during which several could share how faith changed their life.

DAY 4

PRAYER BRINGS PEACE AND TRANQUILITY

HEBREWS 5:7
MATTHEW 6:9-14
LUKE 3:21
LUKE 6:12
JOHN 14:16

America contains many cities called Shiloh and for good reason. This gender-neutral name of Hebrew origin means “tranquil,” “abundance,” and “His gift.” Mentioned 34 times in the Hebrew Bible (Tanach), Shiloh is one of many Israeli towns still existing in the same place. Jewish religious life was centered here from the time of the Book of Joshua until King David established Jerusalem as the nation’s eternal capital.

Here, David established a permanent location for the tabernacle. Here remained the Ark of the Covenant for 369 years until it was captured by the Philistines. Here, the Israelites stopped their wandering. And here, Hannah pleaded with God for a child, as seen in the Bible passage from **1 Samuel 2:1-2**. Hannah’s Prayer lays the foundation for the Jewish approach to prayer and is one we could all pray daily.

And Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies because I rejoice in your salvation. “There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

Mike Pompeo mentioned that his wife was part of a Hannah Circle (prayer group) at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. And David Friedman gets emotional when he shares how he and his wife prayed Hannah’s Prayer at Rachel’s Tomb near Bethlehem when their newlywed son and daughter-in-law desired to have a child. When God honored that request, they calculated back the from the projected due-date and determined she must have conceived on the day they prayed in Israel.

Answered prayer is certainly an important part of our spiritual testimonies. Praise God for hearing His children!

CALL TO ACTION

Keeping a written list of reasons to praise God could one day become a treasured keepsake for your family members. Some create a “Gratitude Journal” for this purpose. Others keep a “Prayer Journal” in which they date the details of their requests. Often, they return to update when specific prayers were answered. These spiritual disciplines will encourage you as you re-read and add-to from time to time. Accept this challenge to begin this week.

TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever attended a Celebration of Life during which entries from the deceased’s prayer journal were read? If so, how did that affect your perspective of prayer? If not, discuss what entries you would write for your own Celebration of Life. These entries often paint a beautiful picture of our loving Father God’s faithfulness and of a humble child’s reliance on His mercy, grace, and love.

DAY 5

OWNING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

The City of David in Jerusalem was the home of Israel's great warrior, poet, political leader, and king. And The Messiah comes through David's bloodline. As we know, David also sinned and suffered consequences for his moral failures.

But when we think of how David dealt with his sins, we can take heart. He was punished by God, lost the child, and had rebellion in his own family as two sons turned against him. Yet, David took ownership of his actions. He repented and taught us the importance of repentance and of the mercy of God's forgiveness. God pulls people out, not necessarily obvious choices, gives them a task to do, and then holds people accountable."

As diplomats and imperfect men as well, Friedman and Pompeo acknowledge that only the Lord knows a person's true heart. As they worked with world leaders to solve international problems, they knew their prayers could invite God's grace into tough negotiations. They trusted Him to supply the wisdom needed to accomplish a just end. Today, their powerful testimonies include involvement in the Abraham Accords and in moving Israel's capitol from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

These days too little responsibility is a problem for many nations. We excuse bad behavior that Judeo-Christian foundations wouldn't allow in earlier times. The lesson of King David is accountability. Despite his flaws, he remained committed to and accountable to God. His testimony includes the many psalms he wrote through his personal relationship with the King of the Universe.

Psalm 51:10-11 is a prayer we can all say often.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast - Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Both Jews and Christians are deeply connected through our two Abrahamic faiths. As Judeo-Christian nations, we believe in the inherent value of every human life. America's forefathers believed in meritocracy - that everyone should work and embody the right values. Our Declaration of Independence and Constitution are based on the principle that human rights come from God, who has endowed every person with certain unalienable rights.

Our founders knew that the rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," all find their source in the Old Testament. In **Isaiah 2:3** (ESV), we learn from which physical place our guiding principles were first established. *"Out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."*

May the nations continue to seek God for guidance, so our freedoms are not lost. May we remember His grace given through the words of **Isaiah 122:1-2** - *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord. Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem."*

And with God's help, may we all seek His will, so our testimonies become part of HIStory.

CALL TO ACTION

The history of nations and the HIStory of God's love for mankind involves a lifetime of lessons as we study the past and God's word given in Scripture. Commit to do a little each day to learn something new - from the history books and from the Bible. Make appointments with yourself if you need to establish a routine to "learn something new every day." This one habit will grow your mind and change your life. We promise!

TALK ABOUT IT

Share with family and others about how a trip to the Holy Land has or might one day change your life. Pray together that God will reveal Himself even more as you travel life's highway. And pray He will make a way for you to visit Israel, either for the first time or again. Gauge their interest and make a plan to go with those you love. Search online to discover wonderful Christian tours. This visit is one you'll never forget.

Be sure to see ***Route 60: The Biblical Highway*** in select theaters on September 18-19, 2023. And take friends. Truly, this beautiful and encouraging spiritual travelog is one to own and to share in small groups.

Oh, the testimonies you'll hear and the conversations you'll have.

This view just may be your best.trip.ever.

To find a theater near you and get tickets, visit Route60.movie now.