

# Our Trip to Israel

October 2012

Day Four

10-19-12

12:30, on the bus in Jordan



we were stamped, we had to walk through a duty-free store to get to an area where there were bathrooms and then a street. We crossed the street, got our luggage off the bus, and waited at a holding area for a bus to take us to another waiting area. At this holding area, there were many people who were all waiting for the same bus (really, it would have been quicker to walk to the second waiting area, but this was not allowed). Some of the people (I guessed them to be European?) were trying to get to the front of the line by just walking up and standing in the middle of our group. We tried to keep them out and for the most part succeeded. At least, we managed to keep enough of them out that when the bus – finally! – came, we were able to get our entire group onto the same bus. Doron did not get on this bus with us. We left him here and met up with our Jordan guide

when we got off the bus on the Jordan side. This second waiting area was on the Jordan side of the border, but we still weren't "in" yet. We waited at least another hour and a half to two hours at this stop for them to process our group.

We saw farmers selling fruit on the side of the highway in both Jordan and Israel. They were bravely selling as traffic passed them going ~60mph.



to our bus. Because of the wait and because Jordan is in a different time zone – it is one hour later in Jordan – it was after 12 noon when we were finally on our way.

It was quite an ordeal to get into Jordan. They are very concerned about passports here. We got on the bus at around 8 and drove about 45 minutes to an hour before we pulled up to the border. We got off the bus with only our passports and got in a line to pay our border tax - \$31 per person. Then we got in another line to get our passports stamped. Once our passports



First we collected all our passports and gave them to the Jordan guide. He took them inside and they hand wrote in each of them. After they had written in our passports we waited a while and then we went inside individually where we had to hand them our passports, get our picture taken, and get another stamp (this one wasn't hand-written). We left that building and got our luggage to walk to another building and go through security (x-ray machine and metal detectors). We walked from the security building

The landscape in Jordan is very different. It is mostly brown here, the only green is the trees. There are lots of rocks and trash here. We are driving through small towns on a very narrow road. The people here don't seem to be as used to seeing the tour buses as the people in Israel. There are several people who are friendly and waving and smiling. There are others who are angry and flipping off the bus. Then there are still many who are just ignoring the bus. The people you see on the streets are predominantly males. When we asked where the women and girls were, our guide joked that they were home in the kitchen where they belonged. Women and girls really don't leave the house much though.

One town we drove through had people that were leaving a funeral. Our guide said that when people die, only the men go to the visitation (which can last a couple days) and the funeral. The women might visit the grieving women in another place, but never in the same place as the men. We did not see any women leaving this funeral. When we were driving through these small towns, the biggest thing that you noticed was all the trash everywhere. Our guide said that you can not make the people understand that when they picnic – or whatever – that they should take their trash with them instead of leaving it there. The gutters of the towns were full of trash (it seemed like mostly plastic bags and other plastic trash, not food waste). Even in between the towns there was still trash along the highway.

A gas station in Jordan



**3pm**  
**Back on the bus**

The houses – for the most part – seem small and dirty. The outside of most of the houses appears to be very unkempt. It seems as if the people here do not claim an ownership for their houses or streets.

The culture here seems to be much different from Israel; more Arab. We stopped at Jerash and saw the Roman ruins there. The women that we saw there were either tourists like us or Arabs (about half and half). Of the Arab women, I only saw one in a full burka, and even she had her eyes out. The rest of the Arab women were in long – mostly black – dresses with their skirts going almost to the ground, their sleeves going all the way to their wrists and their scarf covering their hair, ears, and neck.

Corinthian Columns from the Roman era



Iconic Pillars from the Greek era





The ruins themselves were pretty awesome! Our guide and our guard came with us off the bus. We had to walk through a huge marketplace with many very colorful scarves, shirts, and skirts. There were beggars in the marketplace, even one

lady that was sitting there with a baby and a place for people to leave her money. Past the market, we walked through the South city gates of the ruin. These gates had Corinthian decorations on them. Corinthian decorations were from the Roman Era, Ionic decorations were from the Greek Era.

Roman street



This city was Greek in ~200-100 BC. When it was conquered by the Romans, they changed many of the

decorations from Ionic to Corinthian. There are a few pillars, etc... that still



have the Ionic decorations on them, but for the most part, it seems that the Romans wanted the city to have a consistent Roman feel to it. We went through the city gates to the center of the city where people would have gathered to talk and visit the traveling market. This open area was right inside the South city gates. The middle of the city meeting area was paved with smaller stones only about 1 foot square. These were remnant of the Greek

Hippodrome



Era. Around the smaller stones in the middle were some much larger stones. These larger stones were from the Roman Era. To the right there was a road that went right through the city. This road is very similar to the road that Jesus would have walked on with his cross on His way to Golgotha. It was paved with large stones and about 10 feet wide. On either side, there was a three foot "sidewalk" (so that pedestrians could

chairs) and next to that a row of Corinthian pillars on space about six feet apart. We went to the left into the Hippodrome. The floor of the Hippodrome was made of very fine dirt – one sank down into the floor of the dome at least an inch. There was one horse in the Hippodrome at the time that we were there. The seats were mostly all gone, but there were a few remaining seats left. The guide said that it would have seated about 4000 and the seats were about 250 meters in length. We walked the length of the Hippodrome and walked down the steps and left again to go into the theatre.



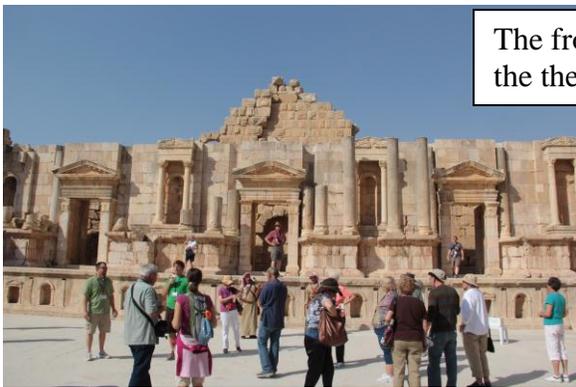
temple



theatre

The theatre was a huge semi-circle. It had a stage and floor in front (orchestra area). There was a specially marked stone in the middle where the acoustics were perfect. This was marked from the time that the theatre was used during the Roman Era. A few brave members of our group, stood on the special marking on the floor and sang. The stone floor of the stage was amazingly even.

Back out the theatre and to the right was the temple. It was a temple to Zeus. It was still in fairly good shape. We walked over to the temple but did not go into it. After looking at the temple, we went down to walk a bit on the road before heading back to the bus. It was very moving to walk on a Roman street that was like the streets that Jesus would have walked on. Some of the pillars had fallen, but many of them were still up



The front of the theatre

and still have the top decorative stone on them. The pillars going down the street all had Corinthian decorations on the top.

On the bus on the way to Mt. Nebo, we drove into Edom where the descendants of Esau live. When the Israelites

were on their way to the Promised Land, they asked for safe passage through Edom and were refused.

Jerash



Jerash city center



We also drove through Amon the ancient capital of the Amonites. King David himself conquered this city in II Samuel. After about an hour of driving, we came to Mt. Nebo where God took Moses to look out on the

Promised Land. After Moses had seen the Promised Land, he died and God buried him on Mt. Nebo. We first had a view facing north over the mountainous desert. We looked at the mosaic floor display that they had set up in front of the church.

Our Jordanian guide standing next to a statue at Mt. Nebo. Our guide was a Coptic Christian and was subject to discrimination and at times persecution for his beliefs.



The church was not open because they were currently remodeling, but we were able to head around the back of the church to look out to the northwest and see a similar view to what Moses would have had.

As you looked out, you could see what Moses would have seen when he stood there. It was foggy so you couldn't see as far as Moses would have seen, but Mt. Nebo looks out over the land of



Israel. Mt. Nebo was in the country of Moab during Moses' time. You could see the Dead Sea to the west. The valley in front of us was very agricultural. At the same site, they had a statue of the bronze snake that Moses made for the children of Israel to look out to and be saved. The reason for this is that they don't know exactly where this happened, but they do know it was probably in the same area on Mt. Nebo.

Back to the bus then for a sandwich on the way and a 2 1/2 hour bus ride to Petra where we will spend the night.



Is this what Moses saw from the top of Mt. Nebo?





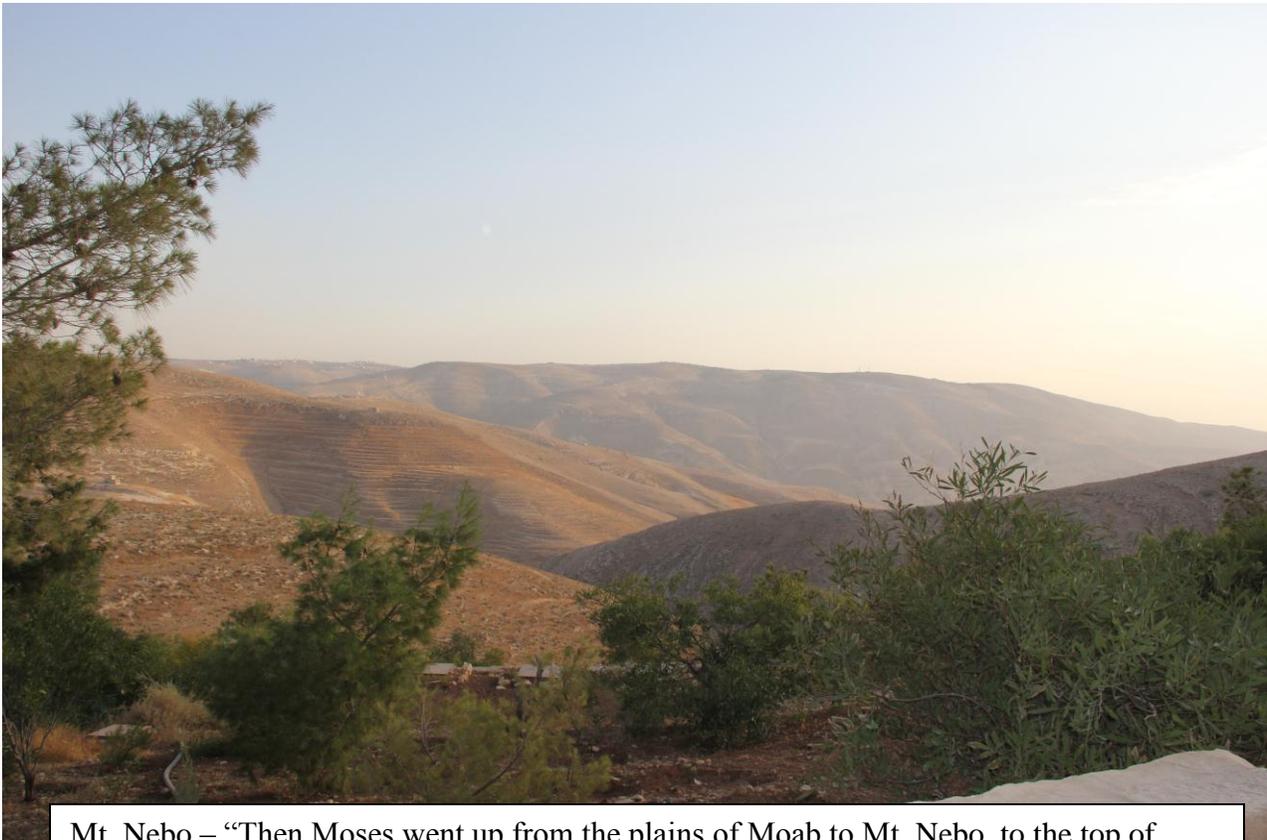
**11:45 pm  
at our hotel in Jordan**

Wow our hotel is nice!! I hate to go to bed and miss out on the nice hotel, but it is very late. The time here is one hour later than Israel. I'm sure that's why I don't feel like going to bed now, but I'm sure that I'll feel pretty tired when the 6am wake up call comes in. ☺

The door to our hotel room. Each room had an outside door along a walkway.

The buffet here was fabulous!! The salads really aren't my thing – too spicy – but I think Dan enjoyed them. The entrée was great! I tried both the chicken and the lamb (my first time having lamb) they were both very good!

It is definitely not kosher here, unlike the last place – they had both meat and dairy for supper.



Mt. Nebo – “Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mt. Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land... So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. Deuteronomy 34:1, 5-6