

A Needed Break

Israel is a small country near Egypt. It has many deserts and is very dry. Abraham was told by God to settle in this Promised Land. There are many religious sites in Israel, which is also known as the Holy Land, but I would like to visit the Dead Sea and the Jordan River. Coincidentally, these two sites are both bodies of water, where Jesus found peace. Jesus was born in the Promised Land in a town called Bethlehem. He preached throughout this country. Israel was the name of Jacob after he wrestled with an angel. Israel's sons and their descendants became established in the Promised Land.

My first Biblical site is the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is a great place to visit all year round as a result of the warm temperatures. The Dead Sea is located in Israel and is home to the Biblical towns of Sodom and Gomorrah. It has the lowest elevation on earth, no outflow, and is sometimes used for commercial purposes. It is shrinking! I would like to visit the Dead Sea because I have heard stories about how thrilling and exciting it is to float effortlessly in the water. After my teacher visited the Dead Sea, she told me about how she put mud all over her body, waited for it to dry, and washed it off in the water. It made her skin really smooth and recommended that I do the same thing. It would be fascinating to visit because it cannot sustain a lot of plant or animal life due to the salt. The Dead Sea would be a wonderful destination.

The second destination I would like to visit is the Jordan River, also located in Israel. I would love to visit the Jordan River because Jesus was baptized there. The Jordan River is a site for baptisms due to its significance in the life of Jesus. While I was baptized in a small baptismal font at our local parish church, it would be amazing to behold the river in which Jesus himself was baptized by John the Baptist all those years ago. The name Jordan means "descender," which makes sense because the river slopes down between two mountains. Along the slopes of Mount Hermon and the border between Syria and Lebanon, the river is more than 223 miles long. It flows south into the Sea of Galilee which is also known as Lake Tiberius. This river is mentioned 175 times in the Old Testament and fifteen times in the New Testament. Here are some of the books of the Bible where it is mentioned: Genesis, Joshua, Judges,

II Kings, II Samuel, and I Maccabees. If I were to visit the most sacred river in the Abrahamic faiths, I would bring home a tiny bottle of water as a keepsake from my trip.

Since both the Dead Sea and Jordan River have such a deep meaning in my spiritual life, they would be phenomenal places to visit. Both are bodies of water that Jesus enjoyed. I would like to feel the same joy and relaxation as Jesus did. Visiting another country would be a good idea because it would be a great change of scenery and a needed break from my life in the United States of America.

Works Cited

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