



Richard M. Davidson

Dear Friend:
As the sun sets over the Judean hills, I look down on the little town of Bethlehem. From an outdoor patio at Ramat-Rachel Hotel, I see its lights beginning to twinkle across the shepherds' fields directly below me. To the north is the walled Old City of Jerusalem, with its golden Dome of the Rock and the gray-domed Church of the Holy Sepulcher. As the sky pinkens, the plaintive tones of the Moslem *mawazine's* evening call to prayer, coming from mosque minarets in both East Jerusalem and Bethlehem, pierce the silence of my hilltop Jerusalem lookout.

In the gathering dusk, I wander through landscaped grounds—with lawns and shade trees, rose gardens, and outdoor patios and paths—to the archaeological mound of Ramat-Rachel. From here, the site of the upcoming First International Bible Conference, I view the spectacular panoramic layout of Jerusalem. I stand on what was probably the

**“If I forget you, O
Jerusalem,...”**

administrative center and palace for the southern half of Jerusalem, from the time of King Hezekiah all the way through to the period of the New Testament. Excavations here have yielded rich archaeological finds. Today, this whole area, including the hotel and archaeological tel, is part of the only kibbutz (collective farm) within the city limits of Jerusalem. Named Mitzpeh Ramat-Rachel—literally, “lookout of the height [overlooking the tomb] of Rachel”—it is off the main thoroughfare of noisy buses and trucks about midway between downtown Jerusalem and downtown Bethlehem.

Awesome Location

I can hardly believe that this awesome location is also the site of our June Bible conference! With pastor Richard Elofer, president of the SDA Israel Field, I tour the facilities of the Ramat-Rachel Hotel. From a tastefully decorated guest room, a hotel manager named Hillel (after the

famous rabbi who lived just before the time of Jesus), points out the nearly completed high-rise wing with 80 additional guest rooms and new dining room, which, he assures us, will be completed before June.

The conference facilities are superb. The main congress center seats up to 300 guests in an acoustically excellent sunken amphitheater with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment. In adjacent areas are numerous classrooms and smaller conference rooms, where theological papers on a variety of topics will be presented simultaneously. (So far, we have received more than 60 proposals from Adventist Bible teachers and scholars from around the world.) In a nearby spacious dining room we will share tasty vegetarian cuisine.

The hotel lounges as well as out-

door garden patios offer lovely informal settings for conference participants to get better acquainted. I know my son and daughter will enjoy the large swimming pool, sauna and Jacuzzi, the basketball court, and tennis on the lighted courts after evening meetings. Hillel gave me a brochure that describes other services available at the hotel and the kibbutz—playground and water slide and children's farm, gift shop and flower shop, beautician and masseur, same-day film processing and laundry services. Bus No. 7 comes to the hotel every 15 minutes, offering transportation to downtown Jerusalem for those who might desire adventure beyond the conference itinerary.

Walk Around Zion

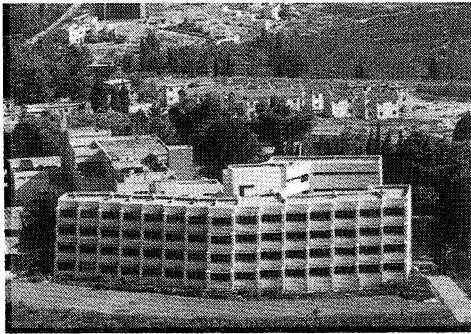
I don't have space to describe all

GOALS OF THE ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- To affirm the centrality of the cross
- To reaffirm the surety of the Word
- To confirm the Spirit of Prophecy
- To seek revealed truth
- To consider principles of interpretation
- To investigate unsettled questions
- To fellowship with believers
- To pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

See page 59 for information on how to become a member of ATS and to receive its publications.

the details of the touring planned for afternoons of the Bible conference. Two days exploring them, however, have indelibly re-etched the words of the psalmist upon my mind: “Zion, the perfection of beauty...Beautiful in elevation...is Mount Zion” (Ps. 50:2; 48:2, NKJV). From the top of the Mount of Olives, I absorbed the beauty of Jerusalem amid the hill country of Ephraim: “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people” (Ps.



Ramat-Rachel Hotel

125:2, NKJV). There’s nothing quite like contemplating the Lord’s enveloping care while actually surrounded by Jerusalem’s seven mountains: “Walk about Zion, And go all around her. Count her towers; Consider her palaces; That you may tell it to the generation following” (Ps. 48:12, 13, NKJV).

My travels these past two days have taken me around the walled Old City several times. As I’ve viewed the towered walls and

remains of biblical palaces, strolled through the narrow covered lanes and bazaars, and walked through almost every gate of the Old City, I’ve coveted the opportunity to share the experience with you next June. “The Lord loves the gates of Zion...Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!” (Ps. 87:2; 122:2, NKJV).

A visit to the Temple Mount and its Western Wall—and viewing the model of the reconstructed temple—will help you “relive” the experience of worshiping at Solomon’s and Herold’s temple with the people of Israel and Jesus Himself. What a privilege to study and proclaim the Word of God and sing praises to His name in the Golden City! During the Bible conference we shall look backward to the historical Jerusalem, where so many biblical events took place. And from Jerusalem today we shall look forward to the descent of the New Jerusalem and the re-creation of Mount Zion as the “perfection of beauty” and holy center of the universe.

Your Invitation: RSVP

Tonight—from the hilltop citadel of the Ramat-Rachel Hotel, overlooking the site of the Holy City to the north and the birthplace of the Holy Child to the south—I invite you to join me and fellow Adventists from around the world June 8-14 for an experience of a lifetime! Come

and sing “O little town of Bethlehem” as you look from your hotel room on that site known throughout the universe. Join us as we sing “Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God”! (Ps. 87:3, KJV)! Savor a foretaste of that great day when “the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads” (Isa. 35:10, NKJV). Catch the fervor for Jerusalem—the old and the new and the heavenly. Exclaim with the psalmist: “If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her skill! If I do not

remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—if I do not exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy!” (Ps. 137:5, NKJV).

Come, study the Bible in the Land of the Bible in the Year of the Bible!

Make it a reality: “This year in Jerusalem!”

Exuberantly and expectantly,

Richard M. Davidson

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SHARE THE JERUSALEM EXPERIENCE!

Make your reservation NOW for June’s joyous “Jerusalem Experience”—the First International Jerusalem Bible Conference.

Simply contact Lila Abrams at Foundations of Faith:

Phone: 1-800-338-7075.

Fax: 301-236-9061

Address: 2909 Friendlywood Way, Burtonsville, MD 20866.

Deadline for applications and full payment: April 15.

(We must determine the number of rooms to reserve even earlier, so don’t delay!) Ask Foundation of Faith to send you information on

- The pre-tour of Israel
- Post-tours of either Jordan and Egypt or Turkey and the Seven Churches.

This is a historic year. For the Jews, it marks the Jubilee Year since the independence of Israel (1948). For Seventh-day Adventists, it is designated the Year of the Bible. Make this year in Jerusalem a historic landmark in your own Christian experience!