



Richard M. Davidson

I'd like to invite you to the adventure of a lifetime: Come study the Bible in the lands

of the Bible in what the Adventist Church has designated the "Year of the Bible." In cooperation with this emphasis, ATS is joining the General Conference Biblical Research Institute in co-sponsoring the First International Jerusalem Bible Conference. In a first for the church, leading SDA theologians and Bible teachers, administrators, pastors, and lay persons from around the world will gather to make the Bible come alive in the setting of the Bible lands.

The dates: June 8-14, 1998. During the mornings, theologians will present penetrating papers on vital themes; afternoons will feature in-depth tours of biblically related sites in and around Jerusalem. Evenings will include dynamic plenary sessions designed to enhance and apply what was studied and visited during the day. Friday we will visit Qumran, where the Old Testament Scriptures were so faithfully preserved. The con-

### **Your Invitation to the First International Bible Conference**

ference will climax with a weekend communion service at the Garden Tomb; a visit to the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are exhibited; a Sunday afternoon re-enactment of the disciples' Walk to Emmaus, and other unforgettable worship experiences.

But there is even more! You won't want to miss a pre-conference tour planned for June 2-8. Conducted by leading SDA archaeologists and theologians, this tour will explore the major biblical sites in the land of Israel. We will travel from "Dan to Beersheba," walking in the footsteps of the patriarchs, the prophets, Jesus, and the disciples.

And you can take your pick of two fabulous post-conference opportunities. During June 15-19 you can choose to visit Jordan and Egypt; view the Promised Land from Mt. Nebo; explore the Madaba plains and awesome magnificence of Petra; climb Mt. Sinai to watch the sunrise; and marvel at the Egyptian pyramids and the treasures of King Tut.

Or choose an equally thrilling adventure: Travel to Turkey and follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul as you visit the seven churches of the Book of Revelation.

More "Wow"!

If you've always wanted to be an archaeologist and have a surplus of energy, join SDA archaeologists as they begin another season of excavation in the Madaba Plains of Jordan. Yes, they're inviting you to work with them for a couple of weeks or even the whole summer. You can experience the thrill of discovery while wielding the archaeologist's spade! (For more information on this invitation, contact Dr. Randy Younker at the Institute of Archaeology, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104.)

You can see why I've spoken of the adventure of a lifetime. *Share in it, and your Bible will come alive!* I don't know whether ATS will ever be able to offer such a program again!

If you hesitate because of financial considerations, let me share my personal testimony regarding studying the Bible in the lands of the Bible. When my wife and I first had an opportunity to go to Israel, we were just out of school and as poor as church mice. Our car and furniture

were dilapidated, our savings almost nonexistent. But we decided the experience would have a lasting impact on our relationship to God and His Word. So we took the savings we had put aside to buy a few pieces of new furniture, and embarked on our Bible lands adventure.

Next to accepting God and getting married, that was the best decision we ever made! The Bible came alive for us as we never dreamed possible. Now, more than a decade later, as we read and teach and preach from the Word, the stories seem to leap from the page as we see in our mind's eye the places where they actually happened. We both got hooked on the Bible lands and people and have returned again and again for a total of almost every two years.

Yes, we still drive an old car (our 1982 van now has chugged 320,000 miles), and we still have the same dilapidated furniture, but we know beyond doubt we made the right choice.

If God impresses you that the decision to study the Bible in the Holy Land in 1998 is the right choice for you, call (616) 471-6575.

Let's make a date: Next year in Jerusalem! □

