



**The Half Shekel Journals of 2022** by Pastor Ed Rice  
**#09 Wed 2 Nov pm The Dead Sea.**

Guide Joe told us about some Roman who described the three wonders of this land as 1) they have a temple where there is not a single graven image; 2) they have one day in the week were nobody works; and 3) they have a sea where everything floats: at about 4 PM on 2 November we pulled into Kalia Beach (38 miles north of Masada) on the north eastern tip of the Dead Sea, to experience that last wonder. It is a wonder, but the Dead Sea is so much more than that. The sea with multiple inlets and no outlet was destined to become very high in mineral content and it has the highest on earth, but it got that way in a single day, not in a million years of fictitious evolution<sup>1</sup>. The high density of the water makes a body float abnormally. In my military career I have worked with some very dense individuals, and I suppose even



they might float on the Dead Sea. It was a genuine worthwhile adventure to try it, and just as adventuresome to watch others in the group experience abundant buoyancy.

Exposing bodies to the extraordinary high mineral content of the Dead Sea supposedly has a myriad of health benefits. Consequently several snake-oil salesmen have made a business of concocting various lotions, soaps, and creams, prepared by the apothecary art, that we could buy for half price that day.

My sweet wife, Beverly, who is allergic to practically every perfume known to man, fled the sales room after 12 seconds of exposure to the air around these “healing” concoctions. I caught up to her in a park outside, I hadn’t seen her run that fast since we were in our 60s! Her face was already all

<sup>1</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica says “Beginning about 2.5 million years ago, heavy streamflow into the lake deposited thick sediments of shale, clay, sandstone, rock salt, and gypsum. Later, strata of clay, marl, soft chalk, and gypsum were dropped onto layers of sand and gravel. . . . During the past 10,000 years, the lake gradually shrank to its present form. In so doing, it exposed deposits that now cover the Dead Sea valley to thicknesses of between about 1 and 4 miles.” The Bible says the four mile deep layer of mineral deposits came in one day (Gen.19) for a reason (Gen.13:13).

puffy and her sinuses well swollen with, and reacting to, the aroma of air in the “health care” sales room. We waited in the fresh air for our tour group to hear the sales pitch, but they came out another way and we missed them entirely. We had missed the directions given to get our group to the changing rooms and then to the sea, so we made our way through the scantily clad crowd until we found a long line waiting at a longer stairway that made its way to to a jam packed beach of bathers. We stood on the precipice overlooking the beach, but couldn’t pick out anyone we knew. Back in the park we watched novices board and ride camels, very entertaining, until Bev’s sinus headaches were subsided a little (thanks to sudafed conjection relief). We would hear of the adventures of the floating on the Dead Sea in due time. It was well worth the stop, but it was not the pristine, quiet, Salt Sea that we were expecting.

The spiritual significance of the Dead Sea is squelched by the tourist trade, and categorically denied by our atheistic, agnostic, apostate society. When God rained down fire and brimstone<sup>2</sup>, the fertile plain that surrounded Sodom and Gomorrah, described in the Bible as being like the garden of the LORD, (Gen.13:10<sup>3</sup>), was turned into a brimstone laden, sulfuric, salt, and mineral laden slime which sunk so low



that it is now the lowest place on all of the LORD God's earth and its brimstone goes to depths of four miles!.

*So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the LORD hath laid upon it; And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom,*

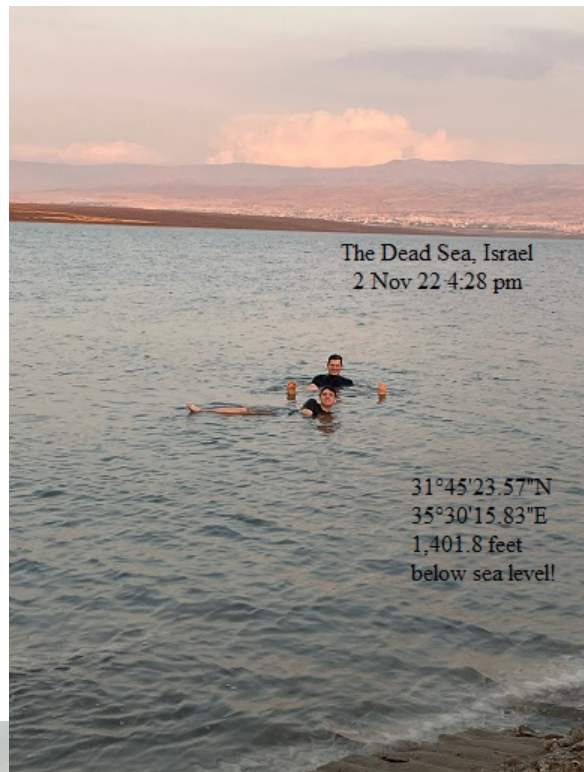
*and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath: Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger? (Deut.29:22-24)*

2 Noah Webster's 1828 - BRIM'STONE, n. Sulphur; a hard, brittle, inflammable substance, of a lemon yellow color, which has no smell, unless heated, and which becomes negatively electric by heat and friction. It is found, in great quantities, and sometimes pure, in the neighborhood of volcanoes. It is an ingredient in a variety of minerals and ores. The sulphur of commerce is procured from its natural beds, or artificially extracted from pyrites.

3 *Ge 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.*

When God uses adjectives to describe the sin that went on in those two cities they exceed all others in the vile, disgusting, sinfulness, of all other abominations.<sup>4</sup>

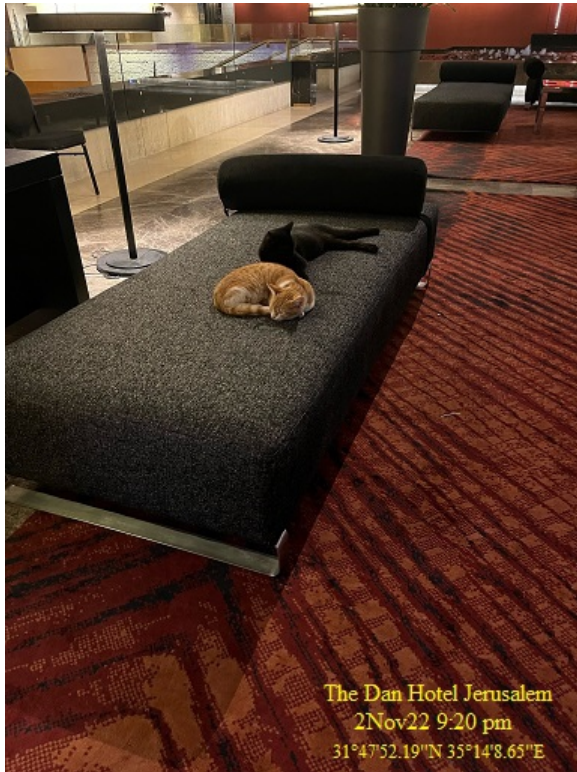
Consequently the destruction of that sinful place became a perpetual monument of what brimstone does to prime real estate when God turns his wrath upon it. That is precisely where all that mineral content came from; actual blocks of brimstone are quarried out of this place to this day! Hiroshima and Nagasaki (ref Atomic bombings of, Aug 6-9, 1945) were eventually re-populated, but this place, this Dead Sea, will remain a dead sea until the healing waters from the throne of our Lord Jesus Christ flow into it and rejuvenate the Earth during the millennial reign of Christ.



*Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. ... And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be*

4 “The first use of the word that pertains to what God finds disgusting, loathsome, vicious, vile and abhorred is found in Leviticus 18:22, “*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination* <08441 תועבה tow'ebah or to-ay-baw'>” .... Sexual sinfulness, particularly sodomy, is again called out in the Bible as being exceedingly sinful (Genesis 13:13), very grievous (Genesis 18:20), and now as sin that God finds disgusting, loathsome, vicious, vile and abhorred. We are not here profiling any sin, we are doing word studies that examine some first use Hebrew words for sin and find that sodomy is ranked up there as the most vile sin for heathen nations.” See “A Systematic Theology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Volume 07 Hamartiology - Chapter 4 Etymology of Sin”, [www.GSBaptistChurch.com/theology/21cent\\_vol07Hamartiology.pdf](http://www.GSBaptistChurch.com/theology/21cent_vol07Hamartiology.pdf), pg 27-45.

*consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine. (Ezek.47:8-9,12, cf Rev.22:2)*



If you have not secured a place in that Kingdom of Heaven, you need to do it now. *“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven”*(Matt.18:3). You cannot enter God's Kingdom carrying the condemnation of sin, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ tells us:

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ... 36 He*

*that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life* (John 3:16-18, 36, 5:24)

Salvation from that condemnation is a free gift, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom.6:23).

Christ paid your sin debt on Calvary, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom.5:8).

It is a free gift but there is a formal acceptance policy for it, that you must take advantage of to get into the Kingdom, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Rom.10:9-10).

Being saved from condemnation and entering the family of God to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven is just that simple, anyone can do it anywhere! Be sure you have, be sure you are “IN”. *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Rom.10:13). *“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”* (1Jo.5:12).

The information about the Dead Sea's origin, is known to born again Bible believers, but concealed from a blinded world. It is that blinded world, led by Hell itself, who resurrects the hideous sin of sodomy, and wants it as our society's preferred lifestyle

today. God help us... Oh, by the way, he will.

Everyone knows someone, or has a family member who is entangled in the queer sin of sodomy. It is the dregs of our society, but they are not: they can be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with prayer, and supplication with thanksgiving. You can play a part in reaching them with such a simple gospel message. God bless you as you pray, ... and try, and keep trying.

The bus loaded with exciting talk and stories about floating on the Dead Sea. Eiad pointed it back toward the Dan Hotel in Jerusalem. Joe nicely summarized what all we had seen and Pastor Charlie gave benediction to the day, and voilà<sup>5</sup> we were debarking at the luxurious Dan Hotel.

This was a much more relaxing day than Tuesday, but some of us had kept over some of our exhaustion since the plane flew us into Israel on Monday. A nice catnap settled me in for an exquisite meal with friends n family. Kosher buffets with overstuffed desert counters would not be lessening my obesity this week. This was unbelievably pleasant. Bev and I again settled into the hotel's luxurious foyer and read our Bibles aloud with a pianist playing classical music in the background. We read Romans chapter 1 thru 3 as listed in our chronological Bible reading schedule<sup>6</sup>, and then Psalm 125

because we read a Psalm/Prov. each day and this was the 125<sup>th</sup> day of the second half of the year 2022. The Bible is a living book wherever you read it, but reading it here above the Mount of Olives, in Jerusalem, made it even livelier than normal. Praise our Lord Jesus Christ.



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5 Voilà is essentially a French combination of two words: voir (to see/look) and là (there). So literally speaking, voilà is an instruction. When you use it, you are telling people to 'look there'. So you can use voilà to draw attention to something that you can physically see. "Wah-Lah" should probably be pronounced, "V-wah-Lah" with a "V" sound at the start. For sure it would be spelled "voila" and not "Wa-La." Be careful, however, because "Wallah" means I swear/by God it literally means "I swear to God," and it is sure to come up in conversation way more times than appropriate, given what Exod.20:7, Deut.5:11, and .Prov.30:9 say about using his name in vain.

6 See [www.GSBaptistChurch.com/kjv/bible\\_read\\_sched\\_fam20xx.pdf](http://www.GSBaptistChurch.com/kjv/bible_read_sched_fam20xx.pdf) .



**The Half Shekel Journals of 2022** by Pastor Ed Rice  
**#10 Wed 3 Nov The Israel Museum**

Viewing the model of Jerusalem in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Period is hands down the very best visualization of where things were in the days when our Lord Jesus Christ walked amongst men.

