



The Half Shekel Journals of 2022 by Pastor Ed Rice #18 Sun 6 Nov Mount of Beatitudes, Mt Arbel

Our Lords day in Israel was replete with the worship opportunities. Pastor Charlie had crowned each with scripture that resonated with what we



were seeing, thinking, and rehearsing, in our heart, mind, and eye. There was a little wonder what would be expounded as we assembled in an alcove on the Mount of Beatitudes.



We sat about halfway up the mountain that overlooks the sea, where Jesus preached his longest sermon. Our view of where Jesus stood was obscured by the Roman Catholic Church of the Beatitudes. As much as the 1938 Neo-Byzantine architecture, design by Antonio Barluzzi, blocked our view of the sea, the Roman religion, designed by Roman Emperor Constantine (272–337AD) blocks the view of

Christ's salvation by grace through faith.



I praise the Lord that in 1958 a Baptist preacher of the gospel, Cecil Palm, going door to door, knocked on the door of 40 Platte Street, and Levi and Doris Rice were marvelously converted from Roman Catholicism, to the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Photo by Cara Gates 11/6/22
Mount of Beatitudes Israel

“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Mt.18:3). I was born-again-saved two years later.

It would have been worth the time, sitting on the Mount of Beatitudes, to read all three chapters of Christ's sermon on the mount,



Photo by Cara Gates

but, alas, our schedule dictated what could and couldn't be covered here. Matthew, the opening book of the Bible's New Testament is, appropriately, the introduction to the new covenant, which steps us out of the dispensation of law, and into the dispensation of grace. In it the kingdom of heaven is offered to the Jews, who reject and crucify their Messiah, the son of God, who becomes the Passover Lamb of God, and the Saviour of men. Born in Matthew 1, worshiped in 2, baptized in 3, and tested in 4, his sermon on the mount in chapters 5-7 are the full details of the kingdom of heaven. His 9-Blessed “R”s of the introduction of

the sermon, divide into three groups of three. Three cover “getting in”, three cover “changes made to a soul”, and three cover “the world's treatment of those in the kingdom”.



Who gets in? The poor in spirit, who mourn over sin, and are meek. (Mt.5:3, 4, 5)
Ps 34:18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.



Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Isa 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.



Isa 66:2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite



spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Isa 61:2-3 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Ps 22:26 The meek shall eat and be



satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

Ps 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Ps 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the

earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Ps 76:9 When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of

the earth. Selah.

Ps 147:6 The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.



with salvation.

What do they get? The kingdom of God, a comforter, and the Earth as an inheritance (Mt.5:3, 4, 5).

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and



Ps 149:4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek



he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:26 But **the Comforter**, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 15:26 But when **the Comforter** is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.



Once

a soul is in the Kingdom of God, how do they change? They hunger and thirst, after righteousness, are merciful, and are pure in heart, praise the Lord (Mt.5:6, 7, 8).

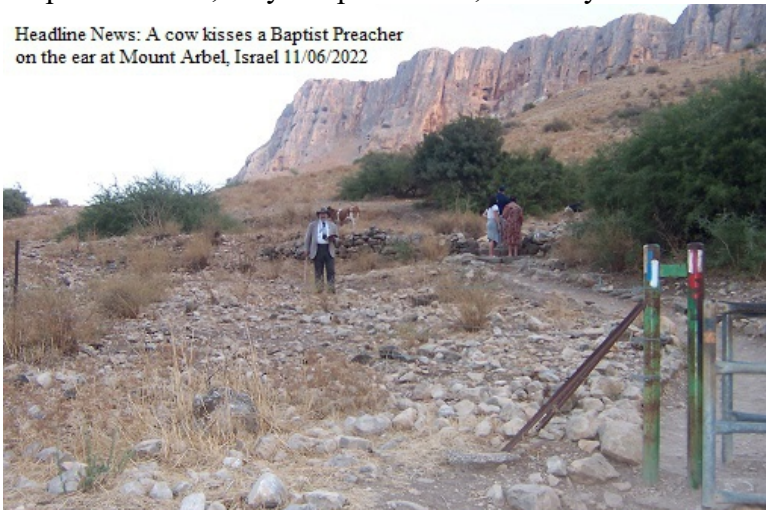
Our old nature did not hunger and thirst after righteousness. Rom 3:11-12 "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.12 They are all

gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Our old nature was not merciful, nor pure in heart; the new nature that God enlivens and plants in a born-again-saved soul, is merciful, and is pure in heart.

So, What do they get? They get filled, they get mercy, and they get to see God (Mt.5:6, 7, 8)!

Once "in", what are they to the world? They are peacemakers, they are persecuted, and they are reviled.

Headline News: A cow kisses a Baptist Preacher on the ear at Mount Arbel, Israel 11/06/2022



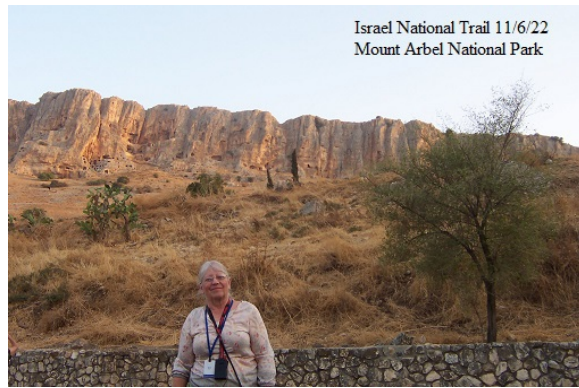
And what do they got for all that? They get called "the children of God", for theirs "is the kingdom of heaven", and they can "rejoice and be exceeding glad" (5:9,10, 11).

That is a quick, deep dive into the 9-Blessed "R"s; three Rs get us in, three Rs change us up, and three Rs make us say, "This world is not my home."

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how

unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Rom.11:33).

The sermon on the mount goes on for three chapters but, alas, our visit to the hill where Jesus taught it, had more time restrictions than he did. We sang a hymn together, then wandered around the beautifully maintained park surrounding the Roman Catholic



Israel National Trail 11/6/22
Mount Arbel National Park

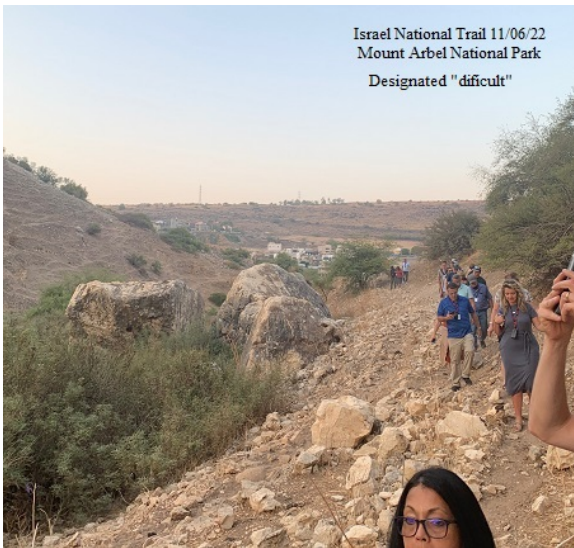


Church, some ventured in for photos, and we meandered back to the bus.

I knew that we were at Mount of Beatitudes after Capernaum (12:34 pm) and before the Israel National Trail (04:19 pm), but I found no photo evidence in all the Rice photos. So, I made the WhatsApp plea below:

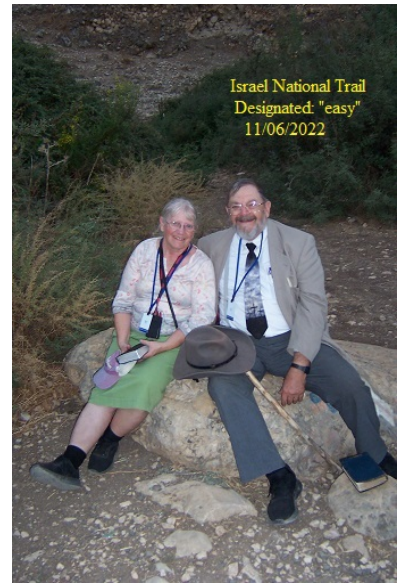
WhatsApp Chat sent to 47 participants on Sat 13 May at 5am: "Micah Rice, Bev Rice, and I, remember gathering at the Mount of Beatitudes (32.880858, 35.555792) on Sunday Nov 6th, and hearing Pastor Charlie teach, then wandering around the Roman Catholic Church of the Beatitudes for a moment before departing. It is in my journal. The Rices do not seem to have a single picture verifying this. Shane's Apple iPhone XS Max documents being at Capernaum at 12:34pm and 1:23pm, being at lunch at Hilik's Junction at 2:07pm, and then being at the Israel National Trail at 4:19pm. There is a reward (like, a printed copy of my journal) for anyone providing photographic evidence that we were at (and when we were at) the Mount of Beatitudes on November 6th 2022. Thank you for participating in this quest. Pastor Ed Rice."

(Immediately, in response to this WhatsApp plea Harrison Moore sent 6 excellent videos, Chris Mann sent 4 excellent photos, and Cara Gates sent 4 excellent photos, all of the Mount of Beatitudes, but all without time stamps.)



schnitzel (breaded and deep-fried). They just pack the slaw, schnitzel, and slices of bread together to enjoy what's probably the best Kosher lunch you've ever had.

Or one could try the Pastrami on Rye from *Boulder Locavore*. Pastrami (Romania: pastrama) is a food originating from Romania usually made from beef brisket. Later recipes use lamb, pork, chicken or turkey. (Corned beef is made from the leaner flat brisket. Pastrami is made with point brisket, which contains more marbling and fat. Pastrami can also be made with other cuts of beef, such as deckle (a lean shoulder cut) or navel (aka beef belly, which comes from the plate, a juicy section just below the ribs) (ref foodnetwork.com). Again this classic deli sandwich has coleslaw thrown in.



My Sunday 7:35 am chat said "Excellent, excellent, and Thank You. Your photos will be published in Half Shekel Journal #18 this week and I will mail a 1st draft book when published.

Our Sunday lunch stop was at 2 pm at Hilik's Junction, Migdal, Israel (32°50'13.22"N 35°30'36.28"E). I lost count of how many times we ate Schnitzel. It is a Sumac¹ Slaw Sandwich with slaw and fried chicken



1 Sumac is any of about 35 species of flowering plants in the genus *Rhus* and related genera in the cashew family. Sumacs grow in subtropical and temperate regions throughout the world. Sumac is used as a spice, as a dye, and in medicine. Scientific name: *Rhus* Family: Anacardiaceae Kingdom: Plantae Order: Sapindales.

I'd never try their Roasted Eggplant and Pickled Beet Sandwich myself. They say, when you're going meatless, you don't have to stick to hummus and lettuce— you can try roasted eggplant and pickled veggies to keep things interesting! They just roast slices of eggplant and store it in the fridge until needed. The pickled beet salad, accented with olives, fresh herbs and scallions, is also made ahead of time.

I also avoided the Smoked Salmon Sandwich - Gravlax with Cream Cheese

(Gravlax is fresh salmon that's been cured with a combination of salt and sugar. It's arguably the ultimate easy-to-make luxury food.) and the Lox on Challah (Lox is a fillet of brined salmon, which may or may not be smoked). Lox is frequently served on a bagel with cream cheese, and often garnished with tomato, sliced onion, but here it is on Challah. Challah is *pareve* (Yiddish for containing neither dairy nor meat—important in the laws of *Kashrut*), unlike brioche and other enriched European breads, which contain butter or milk. Challah is a special bread of Ashkenazi Jewish origin, usually braided and typically eaten on ceremonial occasions such as Shabbat.



After a short but refreshing, entertaining lunch, Eiad pulled the tour bus up to the Israel National Trail, a part of the Mount Arbel National Park, at about 4 pm. Mount Arbel is not mentioned in the Bible, which

“We will just have the Schnitzel and two Coca Colas please.”

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is curious, given that our Lord Jesus Christ centered his ministry in lower Galilee, and centered in lower Galilee are these high cliffs, a visible landmark from most anywhere on the sea of Galilee. It stands sharply and prominently over the sea, and its graceful stature provides a magical view of the sea, the Golan Heights, and Mount Hermon. (Mount Hermon is mentioned in scriptures in Deut.3:8–9, 4:48, Ps.89:12, 133:3).

Our guide Joe pointed out that in 161 BC “Arbela” was the site of a battle between the Jews, united with the Maccabees, and the evil Seleucid General Bacchides, who defeated and brutally killed his opponents. Josephus mentions in his “Antiquities” that the Greek general captured the many people who had taken refuge in the caves at Arabella. Recall that this Maccabean revolt would eventually overthrow the vile Seleucid Antiochus IV, Epiphanes² who desecrated the temple, and controlled all Judea.

The beautiful, well cared for, Arbel National Park was perfectly enticing. Many hiked up to the caves but us older ones stuck to the trail designated as “easy”. The sun setting on the mountain made for a relaxing close to a very busy day.

Dinner at the Gia Beach Hotel, on the Sea of Galilee, brought with it the stimulating conversation that described every adventure of the day. Followed by an evening stroll on the moonlit Sea of Galilee. That was an anniversary Bev and I will never forget.

2 “*Epiphanies*” means “god manifest” but people changed his name to “*Epimanes*”, meaning “the mad”.