# Israel welcomes Easter and Passover throng

## Christians and Jews flock to Jerusalem, other holy cities for joyous celebration

By Elizabeth M.Oliver

Six shipping lines and 17 airlines run regular all-year round schedules to Israel with main points of departure from the US and from Europe - Marseilles Genoa,Naples, Venice and Istanbul.

However, never are they so busy as this season when the world's attention is centered on Easter and Passover and nd their religious origins in the holy cities of the Middle East.

Despite endless years of wars and rumors of wars, both Christians and Jews continue their own observances ot the rites they hold highest. Century after Century the Jews celebrate Pesah (Passover) and re enact the events of that proud period as they halt to commemorate the time when God smiting the first born of the Egyptians, passed over the houses of the Israelites.

Passover begins April 1 this year That date in 1980 is the third da day of Passion week marking the suffering of Christ and leading up to His crucifixion and the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 6.

The Land of Israel is the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here the cultural , religious and national identity of that people was formed and crystalized. Here it was proclaimed the universal message of the brotherhood of man and of world peace.

Jerusalemem and the Land of Zion are the center and focus of the lives and daily prayers and the hope of the Jews wherever they might dwell the world over—for a full national revival – a hope that was finally realized with the re-attainment of political independence in the Land in 1949

The origins of the Jews go back nearly 4 000 years and they are misted over by the clouds of time. The Book of Genesis tells of the progenitors of the Israelites, the Patriarchs Abraham Isaac and Jacob who was to be called Isr ael after wresting with an angel of God.

The Patriarchs made a covenant with the One God that they were to inherit the Promised Land Jacob and his 12 sons became the forefathers of the 12 Tribes, the children of Israel.

Christians who visit the Holy Land in pius belief include the holy shrines of both the New and the Old Testament tracing the glorious history from Genesis to their highest holy holiday, Easter and even beyond that to the journeys of the Apostles who banded together after the Crucifixion.

They visit Bethlehem where Jesus was born and trace his 33 years of life on earth from thence to His Triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (this year, March 30

The river Jordan in which John baptised Christ the largest river and the main source of Israel's water supply

The visitor can spend days even weeks seeing the historical and religious sites in Jerusalem and the adjacent countryside

Hotel accomodations range from the highest international standards to moderately priced hotels and comfortable guest houses Resort hotels along the Mediterranean have bathing beaches and swimming pools ideal for vacation.

Jerusalem lies on a plateau in the Judean hills 2,000 feet above sea level of the Mediterranean and has been continually occupied back through the Bronze Age and earlier

The city is a treasure house of religious centers. Not more than an hour away are Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, the Jordan River, the Dead Sea , Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Caesarea, Ashkelon and the Biblical strongholds of Hatzor. Lachish and Megiddo (Armegeddon.

I first saw Jerusalem from Mt. Nebo where Moses stood and viewed The Promised Land and I looked with great amazement across the Dead Sea and saw that Golden City faintly and in the mist that rose from the salty Dead Sea

Here is a sight never to be forgotten and you feel some of the sorrow that Moses must have experienced when he was told he would never enter that beautiful land

Founded nobody knows when) Jerusalem is referred to in Abraham's time as the residence of Melchizdek, about 2,000 B C and entered into history when David took it from the Jebusites shortly before 1,000 B C. Then it became the center of monotheism with the building of Solomon's Temple on Moriah, the present site of the Dome of the Rock.

The Temple enlarged so magnificiently by Herod was razed and Jews expelled by Titus in 70 A.D Hallowed by the Jews since the destruction of the Temple is the Western or Wailing Wall a mainly Herodian-Roman structure which forms a part of the former Temple

When Jerusalem was in 28 A.D a Roman Province, it was the scene of the Passion of Jesus The fortress built by Herod was the headquarters of P Pontius Pilot. There the tourist will go over the Stations of the Cross and walk the way of Jesus to His death. You will recall Judas and the Betrayal.

Many visitors take their Bibles with them and trace historical spots as the scene of the Last supper, the Upper Room magnificently preserved and never disturbed although literally millions of people have passed that way

There is the Dormic(An Church where Mary the mother of Jesus fell asleep

The magnificient church which is beyond description is built over the Holy Tomb where Jesus was buried and from which He arose. Beside the tomb inside is the huge marble slab upon which his body was anointed and prepared for burial.

It will be long after you return home that you realize that you experienced a joy you have never known in actually walking the way of the Son of God.

You went up into the mountain where Jesus delivered his sermon on the Mount and said Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven– The Beatitudes – and His doctrine of Love

St Matthew's writings bring back to mind the fact that you walked into Jerusalem as the Savior did on Palm Sunday and at Eastertide the pathway is strewn with flowers as it was nearly 2,000 years ago

You will recall you almost heard the multitude singing.

You walked the way in person as did the multitude when He gave the people his Great Commandment Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind. and Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets

Pilgrims also walk the way of Jesus Great Tribulation and recall the time when he charged his followers to Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel It was later that he forecast the Second Coming of the Son coming in clouds of heaven and with power and great glory

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other Matt 24,30-45 The Last Judgement is described in Matthew 25 31-46

You can go to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed alone 'm while the Disciples slept Then you go to the place where Pilot ruled as the people wished for the Crucifixion and then washed his hands of the blood Next you go to Golgotha, the place of the skull Matt 27, 45 and yourseem to see the three crosses on the hill that Good Friday

You visit the sepulchre from which He rose and then go to the place where his followers met Jesus again in Galilee and he spoke to them.

It was here you realize that this was a new beginning and the Disciples did as commanded from then on, preaching the gospel of love to all the world.

Paul was later converted on the road to Damascus and you can follow his journeys on the street Called Straight and the house of ananias. Paul later went to Athens and you find him writing letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Thessolonians and others and where he uttered the immortal words, Death shall be swallowed up in victory Corinthians 1: 15-54-55 and "Oh death where is thy sting, Oh grave where is thy victory

Praise goes to the people of Israel who in just 31 years have transformed the country from desolation into a thriving democracy, straining to maintain the ancient Jewish ideals of ot equality and social justice.

Israel today welcomes persons from throughout the world. Just as thr throughout the ages the people of Israel have never lost hopeof returning to the land. They feel they have at last achieved peace with the signing of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty in Washington on March 26, 1979.

Despite long dipersion over the face of the earth and dis crimination and persecution, the Jews never forgot that it was to their forefathers, Abraham, p Isaac and Jacob that God promised the land of Israel in the 20th Century B.C. and that through Moses he

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EDITORS FROM EIGHT STATES visiting the Holy Land last fall included Elizabeth M. Oliver of the AFRO shown here with the group enroute to Bethlehem

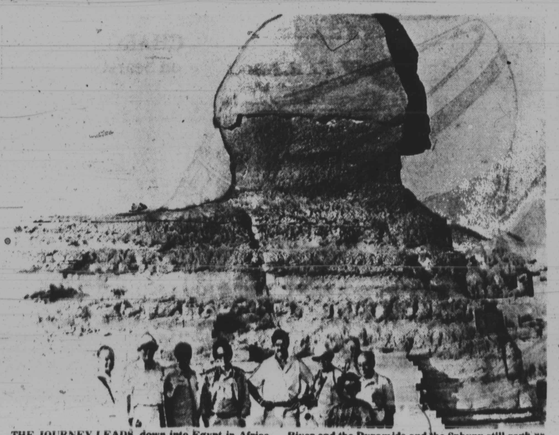
THE STREET CALLED STRAIGHT in Damascus is mentioned in the new Testament story (ACTS 9-11) of the conversion of St. Paul. Here today visitors view the ancient city's gates and walls just as they were over 2000 years ago.

ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE built before Christ's day has the same tier seats of granite encircling the arena which was used for chariot races, spectacles, dramas and some say persecution of Christians by lions or death to criminals by stoning.

VISITORS FROM MOROCCO in traditional dress are among the most colorful of all pilgrims to the Holy Land

HOLDING TO ANCIENT CUSTOMS in this modern day the Holy Land people walk along the same roads and narrow streets as did Christ and his followers.

## In Egypt too



THE JOURNEY LEADS down into Egypt in Africa, Moses was found in the bullrushes of the Nile River and the Pyramids and the Sphynx still rank as first of the Seven Wonders of the World



AFRO's EASTER PARADE SECTION

# Madison Ave. Church ladies get a peep at latest fashions

photos by Ry Ryales

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Chu Church's Ladies Guild held forth last Saturday noon with one of the most delightful o fluncheon-fashion shows of the season. Beautiful Emerald Gardens (now The Forum) w was crowded with nearly 800 guest themsels such Fashionable creatures they appeared to be models.

From beginning cocktails to the bea beauteous gormet fare and even unto the awarding of countless door prizes, the event was as lively and full of life as Springtime.

The Fashions of Brights" and delightful styles by Pauline Brooks showed what's ahead for the 1980's Spring and Summer as well and daringly sprinkled with garb for the men. .

The Ladies Guild officers arriving like the fashion plates they are incl uced Thelma Williams,president. Margurite Daniels, vice-president; Madie Rucker, secretary, Dorothy Lewis, treasurer; Alma Stubbs, hospitality and Pearl Green, parliamentarian.

Fashion Show committees were Chairladies Daniels and Lewis: Finance, Dorothy Lewis, Blanche Lindsay and Bennie Roey: Hostesses, Edmonia Miller and Ida Wiggins; Program, Adelaide Clark and Margurite Daniels and Publicity , Norma Bracy and M. Dameron.

Following the Social Hour Thelma Williams, the president gave welcome while the Rev. Reginald Daniels, the pastor, gave the blessing. (Later he changed his role to become a model and sported exactly what the guys will be wearing ere warmer weathecomes to stay.)

Models included Verna Brogden, Edith Harrison, Beverly Johnson, E Roxanne Miller, Carolyn Session, Europa Smith, Carolyn Wainwright and Tenyo Wiggins. Male models were George Chrsutian and Anthony Dease.

In charge with Paula Brooks as coordinator were Carolyn Wainwright, Geneva France and Abe Riley who gave the musical background.

HIGH FASHION is the business of the models in the Pauline Brooks show whenever they go on stage. In the extravaganza Festival of Brights for the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Ladies Guild were Verna Brogdon, Edith Harrison, Beverly Johnson, Rozanne Miller, Carolyn Session, Europa Smith, Carolyn Wainwright, Tenyo Wiggins. Cynthia McCrorey, an AFRO advertising salesladv. Male models are George Christian and Anthony Dease; comentator, Carolyn Wainwright; wardrobe, Geneva France; coordinator Paula Brooks.

FASHIONABLE GRANDSON, Melvin Delroy Thompson and Grandmother Mrs. Johnnie Mae Thompson, Freedom House official.

## —Other holy cities

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had given them the 10 Commandments.

Their 10 Commandments have since guided the behavior of the enlightened world. To them belong David, the poet and warrior and King Solomon, famed for his wisdom and his incomparable Song of Songs and the wonderous Temple he built in Jerusalem to Israel's One God.

Because Israel lies at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa, it has been coveted by great empires since the dawn of history . Therefore from the Jews valiant struggle to maintain identity, values and freedom, they have become known as Freedom Fighters and their struggle is likened to that of America's black citizens.

Their age-long desire to establish their national independence in their ancestral homeland and spirit of nationalism awakened all oppressed people. Towarr Toward the end of the 19th Century they began returning to the Promised Land.

The tourist to Israel today will find the Christian holy places preserved in reverence by the Jewish people.

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