Andrews University

Departments of Religion and Biblical Languages & Biology
Egypt – Turkey, May 4 – 21, 2027
Dr. Stephanie Carpenter
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https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_hOEWXLeQkiOE6s8LesgUeoVj2nWE327/edit?pli=1

May 3 Mon Andrews University Campus – morning and afternoon classes.

May 4 Tue Andrews University _ Early Departure
Depart Andrews University to O'Hare Chicago Airport. Departure from PMC Parking Lot at 6:00 am. Arrive to O'Hare Chicago at 8:30 am. Depart Chicago on Turkish Airlines TK 186 at 11:25 am – Arrive next day at 5:45 am.

E G Y P T

May 5 Wed Arrival in Istanbul – Layover- Cairo
Internal Transfer to Cairo TK 690, 6:45 am. Arrive at Cairo at 09:10 am. Meet & assist through immigration and customs, then transfer to Giza.
Morning visit to the **Giza Pyramids of Cheops, Chefren, Mikerinus,** and the **Sphinx**. Lunch. Proceed to visit **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization** including the Royal Mommies section, then visit **Khan El Khalili Bazaar**. Dinner and overnight in Giza. (B, L, D).

> **Biblical, Historical & Archeological Significance —** Egypt is one of the most important geographical settings in the Bible. Abraham traveled to Egypt during a time of famine (*Genesis 12:10–20*), Joseph was taken to Egypt and eventually became a ruler there (*Genesis 37–50*), and Jacob and his family settled in Egypt (*Genesis 46–47*). Most significantly, the Exodus describes Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt under Moses (*Exodus 1–14*). Egypt also provided refuge for the infant Jesus when Joseph and Mary fled from Herod (*Matthew 2:13–15*). While the pyramids and the Sphinx are not specifically named in the Bible—they are mentioned in the Coptic Christian Bible—they provide essential archaeological and cultural context for understanding the grandeur, political power and religious worldview of the society that grew along the Nile during the broader historical period represented in the Old Testament**.** The Royal Mummies Gallery displays the mummies of the ancient 17 Kings and 3 Queens of Egypt. The design aims to give the visitor the feeling of strolling down the Valley of The Kings, where most of these mummies were originally resting. Khan el-Khalili is one of Cairo's most historic and culturally significant marketplaces. Located in the heart of Islamic Cairo, the bazaar traces its origins to the 14th century, when it developed as an important commercial center along the historic trade routes of Cairo.

May 6 Thu Cairo
Extended visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum. Late lunch, then stop at a papyrus factory. Visit Memphis & Saqqara, including entrance into a pyramid and recent discoveries. Dinner and overnight in Giza. (B,L,D).

> **B, H &A —** Memphis is widely identified with the biblical city of Noph, in prophetic passages concerning Egypt, including *Isaiah 19:13*, *Jeremiah 46:14*, and *Ezekiel 30:13–16*. Visiting Memphis therefore connects archaeological remains with the biblical prophets' references to ancient Egypt and its major centers. Memphis was the capital of Egypt in the Eary Dynastic period and the Old Kingdom. Saqqara Step Pyramid of Djoser built around the 27th century BC provides an archaeological insight helping students understand the religious, political, and funerary culture of ancient Egypt that forms the historical backdrop to the patriarchal, Exodus, and prophetic narratives.

May 7 Fri Cairo – Luxor – East side
Early morning flight to Luxor. Arrive at Luxor. Visit Karnak Temple. Walk among the pillars of the temple dedicated to the god Amun Ra and along the avenue of the Sphinxes at Karnak. Lunch at a restaurant after the visit. Transfer to a Hotel for check-in. Pool time & rest. In the late evening, before dinner**,** visit the illuminated Luxor Temple. Optional: Horse Cart tour in Luxor. Dinner & overnight in a hotel in Luxor. (B,L,D). Vesper at the hotel.

> **B, H & A** — Luxor / Ancient Thebes: Modern Luxor is located at the site of ancient Thebes, (No-Amon) referenced in *Nahum 3:8* and *Jeremiah 46:25* as a powerful Egyptian city situated by the Nile and the capitol of Egypt during the 18th dynasty. Karnak, though not named in Scripture, reflects the religious environment of Egypt, helping students understand the theological contrast between Egyptian polytheism and biblical monotheism.

May 8 Sat Luxor – West side
Sabbath Worship at the Hotel – Room availability.
After breakfast, visit west side of Luxor to visit the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. Then Valley of Kings, where generations of Pharaohs were buried in crypts cut into the cliffs. Visit three tombs. Optional: visit Tut Ankh Amon's or Ramses VI tombs*. (for an extra ticket)*. Lunch Boxes. Visit Medinet Habu Temple and Ramesseum Temple. Stop by the Colossi of Memnon. (B,L,D.

Transfer to Cairo MS69 21:30-22:40. Airport for Turkish Airlines flight TK 687, CAI-IST, 02:15 – 04:35 am.

> B, H & A — The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut (Deir el-Bahari) provides an opportunity to explore one of the intriguing historical questions surrounding the Exodus: Hatshepsut remain as the historical hipothetsis of being the Egyptian princess who rescued Moses? (*Exodus :1:22-2:10; 6:20*; *Numbers 26:59*; *Acts 7:20–22*; *Hebrews 11:23–27*. The *Ramesseum* (Ramesses II) preserves reliefs of the Battle of Kadesh (ca. 1250 BCE), one of the earliest recorded military engagements, and the subsequent peace treaty with the Hittites, later associated with Carchemish, a site visited later in the tour. These events illuminate the international political world of the Late Bronze Age. At Medinet Habu, reliefs depicting the Sea Peoples, often associated with the Philistines, provide crucial archaeological context for biblical narratives involving Philistine-Israelite conflict (*1 Samuel 4–7*). The Valley of the Kings further illustrates Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife, contrasting with biblical perspectives on death and resurrection.

T U R K E Y

May 9 Sun Istanbul
Arrive Hotel at 6 am. Breakfast and some rest.Full day tour of Istanbul: Roman Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque with its beautiful blue tiles, the Hagia Sophia, the great basilica built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, one of the world's greatest architectural marvels and a designated World Heritage site. Continue to the Justinian Underground Basilica Cistern Lunch. Then visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, the Grand Bazaar, and transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight. Optional evening walk to Galata Tower (B, D).

> **B, H & A —** Istanbul, ancient Byzantium and later Constantinople (dedicated by Constantine in AD 330), is not named in the Bible, but it became the capital of the Christian East Roman Empire that preserved and transmitted the New Testament world. Later occupations once the Christendom fell include several Turkish minor tribes, with the Ottomans gaining control after the Byzantine state fell in 1453. The results of such a rich cultural history is that many worldviews influence food, faith, and beliefs. Istanbul was both an important port city and one for overland trade. Its location allowed for European, Asian, and African cultural traditions to merge into a "melting pot." The Hippodrome displays the Obelisk of Theodosius, originally raised at Karnak by Thutmose III, linking today's visit back to Egypt, and the Serpent Column from Delphi. Hagia Sophia (dedicated by Justinian in AD 537) and the Basilica Cistern illustrate Byzantine church-state life. The Istanbul Archaeological Museum

holds the Siloam Tunnel inscription, which commemorates the water tunnel of Hezekiah (*2 Kings 20:20*; *2 Chronicles 32:30*), and a Hittite–Egyptian treaty tablet related to the Battle of Kadesh seen at the Ramesseum.

May 10 Mon Istanbul (Constantinople)-Ankara
Morning visit the Chora Church, then Topkaki Palace including the Harem. Late lunch. Then Bosphorus boat tour, continue to Spices Bazaar. Evening drive to Ankara. Dinner on the way, Overnight in Ankara (B,D).

B, H & A — The Chora Church preserves Byzantine mosaics and frescoes illustrating the life of Christ and the genealogy of Jesus (*Matthew 1; Luke 3*), a window into how the early church understood the Gospel story. Topkapı Palace displays Ottoman-era relics traditionally attributed to biblical figures, which students should treat as later traditions rather than verified artifacts. The Bosphorus separates Europe and Asia, the corridor crossed by Paul's missionary movement after the vision at Troas (*Acts 16:8–12*).

May 11 Tue Ankara - Hattusas – all day
Early visit to the Anatolian Archeological Museum, Ankara. Drive to the Yazikilaya rock sanctuary, and the city of Hattusas, Lion Gate, The Great Temple, Yerkapi Tunnel, the Kings Gate, lower and upper city and the Sphinx Gate in the Archeological Museum. Dinner and Overnight in Ankara (B, D).

B, H & A — Hattusa, capital of the Hittite Empire (c. 1650–1200 BC), sheds light on the "Hittites" of Scripture: Ephron the Hittite, from whom Abraham purchased Machpelah (*Genesis 23*), Uriah the Hittite (*2 Samuel 11*), and others (*Genesis 26:34*; *1 Kings 10:29*; *2 Kings 7:6*). Scholars debate how closely the biblical Hittites relate to the Anatolian empire. The Hittites are also connected to the peoples of Upper Mesopotamia (Old Assyrian empire) and from them the Hittites adopted the cuneiform script. The thousands of cuneiform tablets from Hattusa preserve treaties whose suzerain–vassal structure has been compared with the biblical covenant form (*Exodus 20*; *Deuteronomy*; *Joshua 24*), and the treaty with Egypt after Kadesh connects to the Ramesseum. Yazılıkaya, the Lion Gate and the Sphinx Gate show the religion and architecture of this Late Bronze Age power.

May 12 Wed Cappadocia
Drive to Cappadocia, land of unique landscapes and the unusual rock formations called "Fairy Chimneys". Visit Goreme Open Air Museum with rock Churches, Hiking and meditate at the monastic Zelve. Lunch,Visit the natural Citadel of Uchisar, climb the castle. Optional Whirling Dervishes Show in the evening or Turkish Bath. Dinner and overnight. (B, D).

B, H & A — Cappadocia is named in *Acts 2:9* among the regions represented at Pentecost, and 1 Peter 1:1 addresses believers scattered in Cappadocia. The Göreme, Zelve and Uçhisar rock-cut churches, dwellings and monasteries preserve Byzantine paintings and show how Christians lived, worshiped and found refuge here. Cappadocia later produced the "Cappadocian Fathers" (Basil the Great, Gregory of Nazianzus, Gregory of Nyssa), who shaped fourth-century Trinitarian theology and monastic life.

May 13 Thu Cappadocia – Gaziantep
Optional Hot Air balloon in early morning. Visit Kaymakli Underground City and drive to Gaziantep. Dinner and overnight (B, D).

B, H & A — Kaymaklı's underground city shows the cave refuges of Cappadocia; its use by early Christians is traditional and later Byzantine.

May 14 Fri Carchemish - Zeugma Museum - Gaziantep
After breakfast drive to Carchemish (*2 Chron 35:20*; *Isa 10:9; Jer 46:2*)—a major east-west crossing point of the Euphrates and which is mentioned numerous times in the ancient texts. We will then visit the site of Zeugma—on the Euphrates River. We drive to the new Zeugma Mosaic Museum in Gaziantep where the extraordinary finds from Roman Zeugma on the Euphrates are on display Overnight in Gaziantep (B,D).

B, H & A — Carchemish, the great Euphrates crossing, is named in *2 Chronicles 35:20*, *Isaiah 10:9* and *Jeremiah 46:2*. King Josiah died at Megiddo opposing Pharaoh Necho's march toward Carchemish (*2 Chronicles 35:20–24)*, and in 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar defeated Necho there, an event recorded in the Babylonian Chronicle and pivotal for Judah's fate (*Jeremiah 46*). Its Neo-Hittite reliefs and gates were uncovered by early British excavations. Zeugma, founded by Seleucus I as a crossing of the Euphrates, later became a prosperous Roman frontier city, and its mosaics in the Gaziantep museum illustrate the Greco-Roman art and culture of the eastern empire in which the New Testament church grew.

May 15 Sat Kahta - Cenderes - Perre - Mount Nemrut - Adıyaman
After breakfast drive to Kahta to see the huge heads of gods (Apollo, Zeus, Hercules) and goddess (Tyke=Fortuna) built by Antiochus I, King of the Commagene Kingdom in the 1st century, and the man-made hill, on top of the 2000 meters high mountain. Visit the late Roman Cenderes bridge. Visit the Ancient city of Perre and exciting Graves. Dinner and overnight in around Adiyaman (B,L,D)

B, H & A — Mount Nemrut has no biblical text, but the tomb-sanctuary of Antiochus I of Commagene (1st century BC) is a remarkable witness to the Hellenistic–Persian religious syncretism and ruler cult of the age just before and during the time of Herod the Great and Jesus' birth. The colossal statues of Apollo, Zeus, Heracles and Fortuna show the world of Greco-Roman deities that Christianity confronted. The Roman Cendere Bridge (built under Septimius Severus, c. AD 200) and Perre's rock-cut tombs illustrate Roman frontier engineering and burial customs in northern Syria–Mesopotamia.

May 16 Sun Harran - Gobeklitepe - Karahantepe – Sanliurfa (Urfa)
Drive to Harran- The place of Abraham, Laban, Jacob, Leah and Rachel (Gen 28:10–.) Visit Gobeklitepe, the oldest temple in the world and then visit Karahan Tepe which is thought to be even older. Drive to Urfa and visit the Museum and the Well of Job. Dinner and overnight in Urfa. (B, D).

B, H & A — Harran is central to the Patriarchal narratives: Terah's family settled here (*Genesis 11:31–32*), Abraham left for Canaan (*Genesis 12:1–5*), and Jacob fled to Laban, where he married Leah and Rachel and raised his family (*Genesis 27:43; 28:10; 29–31*). Mari and other ancient tablets mention Harran, and it was a center of the moon-god Sin cult. Göbekli Tepe and Karahan Tepe (Taş Tepeler) are monumental sites with T-shaped pillars, dated by excavators to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic (Agricultural Revolution); they raise questions about early human religion and how such dates fit with biblical chronology, worthy of careful classroom discussion. Şanlıurfa is traditionally linked with Abraham and is one candidate for "Ur of the Chaldeans" (*Genesis 11:28, 31*), though southern Mesopotamian Ur is the more common scholarly identification. Job's Well reflects local tradition connecting Job (*Job 1:1*) to this area. Urfa was also ancient Edessa, a major center of early Syriac Christianity.

May 17 Mon Fly Izmir – Sardis – Izmir
Morning flight to Izmir **(XQ9135 09:50/11:50)** .Drive to Sardis . Lunch, Visit Sardis Ruins, Gymnasium, Artemis Temple. Afternoon to Smyrna Agora and ruins by the theater/mountain. Dinner and overnight in Izmir . (B, D).

B, H & A — Smyrna (modern Izmir) is the church of *Revelation 2:8–11*, the "faithful unto death" congregation promised the crown of life amid tribulation and hostility. Its bishop Polycarp was martyred here around AD 155–156, and the agora and theater area help visualize the civic and imperial pressures on early Christians. Sardis (*Revelation 3:1–6*), the church with "a name that you are alive, but you are dead," was the capital of Lydia, famous for Croesus' wealth and its surprise capture by Cyrus in 547 BC. The huge synagogue integrated into the Gymnasium complex shows a large, influential Jewish community, and Sardis is often linked with "Sepharad" in *Obadiah 20*. The Temple of Artemis shows the dominant pagan cult.

May 18 Tue Pergamum – Acropolis – Asklepion – Izmir
Leave for Pergamon. Visit to the Acropolis with the steepest theater of the ancient world and the Temple of Trajan. Lunch. Visit Asklepion. Continue to Izmir for dinner and overnight (B,D).

B, H & A — Pergamum is one of the seven churches of Revelation (*Rev 1:11; 2:12–17*), the city "where Satan's throne is," where Antipas was martyred. Archaeology illustrates this setting: the Acropolis with the steepest theater of the ancient world, the Temple of Trajan (emperor worship), the great Altar of Zeus, and a renowned library associated with the development of parchment. The Asklepion, a healing sanctuary of the god Asklepios, symbolized by the serpent and made famous by the physician Galen, gives a backdrop to the contrast between pagan healing cults and Christ the true healer (compare *Numbers 21:8–9*; *John 3:14–15*).

May 19 Wed Ephesus – Pamukkale
Drive to Ephesus, Terraces Houses. Afternoon visit to the Archeological Museum, Basilica St John, Artemis Temple. Drive to Pamukkale for Dinner and overnight (B, D).

B, H & A — Ephesus was Paul's base for about three years (*Acts 18:19–21; 19:1–41*), the place of the riot over Artemis in the great theater (*Acts 19:23–41*), and the destination of the letter to the Ephesians. Timothy served here (*1 Timothy 1:3*), and the church is the first of the seven in Revelation (*Rev 2:1–7*). The Terrace Houses reveal the wealth and daily life of Roman-period elites, while the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, explains the silversmiths' concern in Acts 19. The Basilica of St. John commemorates the early tradition that John the apostle lived and was buried here.

May 20 Thu Hierapolis – Colossae – Laodicea – Pamukkale
Morning Drive to Pamukkale. Visit Hierapolis ruins (Philip's Tomb, Theater, Necropolis). Drive to new excavations at Colossae. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Pamukkale. Swimming is available at the hot spring pool of your hotel. (B,L,D).

B, H & A — Colossae was the home of the church addressed in Colossians and Philemon (*Col 1:2; 4:9*, *12–13*). Paul had not personally visited it (*Col 2:1*), and the church appears to have been founded by Epaphras (*Col 1:7*). The site is still largely unexcavated, so new digs are notable. Hierapolis is mentioned with Laodicea in Colossians 4:13. Its Martyrium is associated with Philip, and its theater, necropolis and thermal springs reveal the cultural setting of the Lycus Valley. Aphrodisias is not named in the New Testament, but its inscription listing "God-fearers" (theosebeis) alongside Jews illuminates the Gentile sympathizers seen in *Acts 10:2* and *13:16, 26*, and its Aphrodite cult sets the pagan context.

B, H & A — Laodicea is the last of the seven churches of Revelation (*Rev 3:14–22*), rebuked as "lukewarm." Archaeology illuminates its imagery: a wealthy banking center that rebuilt after the earthquake without imperial help, a renowned medical school and eye remedies ("eye salve"), fine black wool, and a water system carrying hot or mineral-laden water. Paul wrote about this church and mentions a letter "from Laodicea" (*Col 2:1; 4:13–16*). Its early church remains and the regional Council of Laodicea (c. AD 363) show how Christianity developed here. The drive to Ankara crosses ancient Galatia (*Acts 16:6; 18:23*; *Galatians 1:2*).

May 21 Fri Flight to Istanbul – Chicago
Early fly from Denizli to Istanbul – Chicago TK 5 14:10. Arrive at 17:35 same day. Return Bus to Andrews University.

STUDY TOUR COST:

Six undergraduate Religion and/or History credits plus a travel fee of $1,550 paid in three installments.

Critical deadlines are as follows:

- **November 15, 2026 -** Interview and Registration: $500. Please schedule an interview with any professor. This fee is refundable until Dec 1, 2026.
- **December 2, 2026 -** Airline ticket reservation: $600 (Non-refundable).
- **March 3, 2027** - Final payment: $450 and financial clearance signed by the Finance Office.

Costs above include tickets, hotels, insurance (Adventist Risk Management), museum entrance fees, guided tours and more, and per person double occupancy. Additional fee of $1,120 for a Single Room Supplement. **If there is an odd number of male or female student, we will place three students in one room with three separate beds.*

Classes to be registered for summer 2027

- HIST110 Worldviews, Cultures and Gods (3), Dr. Stephanie Carpenter
- HIST437-001 Topics History (3) Dr. Stephanie Carpenter
- HIST437-002 Topics History (3), Dr. Stephanie Carpenter
- RELB210 Jesus in His Time and Ours (3), Dr. Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo
- RELT 250 Personal Spirituality and Faith (3), Dr. Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo
- RELG 360 Topic: Biblical Backgrounds (3), Dr. Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo

INCLUDING:

Flights:

- Roundtrip international flights between Chicago – Istambul – Chicago on Turkish Airlines.
- Sanliurfa – Izmir domestic flight.
- Cairo – Luxor – Cairo domestic flight

EGYPT

Including:

- Meet and assist service upon arrival and departure in Cairo, Luxor and airports.
- 2 Nights in 4 stars standard **Baron Cairo Hotel** (or similar) in Cairo based on half board basis.
- 1 Night in 4 stars standard **The Temple Luxor Hotel** (or similar) in Luxor based on half board basis.
- Lunches during the day tours + dinner in a restaurant in Luxor the last day before flight.
- Entrance fees to all archaeological sites included in the program.
- English Speaking licensed tour guide throughout the itinerary.
- Transfers & transportation by private A/C bus.
- Domestic flight tickets: Cairo/Luxor/Cairo.
- Portage for one piece of luggage at the hotels.
- Guide system.
- Service charges and local taxes.
- Tips to hotels staff.

Prices do not include:

- Egypt visa: Please apply for your e-visas online before arrival at Cairo Airport. Here is the link Egypt e-visa link: **Egypt e-visa**
- Drinks in the whole trip.
- Personal expenses, any other item which is not included above.
- Charges for camera permits at museums and some sites.

TURKEY

Including:

- 1 Night at **Grand Halic Hotel in Istanbul** or similar
- 2 Nights at **Radisson Blue Hotel in Ankara** or similar
- 1 Night at **Dilek Kaya Hotel in Cappadocia** or similar
- 1 Night at **Tugcan Hotel in Gaziantep** or similar
- 1 Night at **Ramada Hotel in Adiyaman** or similar
- 1 Night at **Anemon Hotel in Sanliurfa** or similar
- 1 Night at **Kordon Cankaya Hotel in Izmir** or similar
- 2 Night at **Kaya Thermal Hotel in Pamukkale** or similar
- **Daily breakfast** at the hotels (B=Breakfast)
- **2 Lunch** as mentioned in the itinerary (L=Lunch)

- **12 Dinners** as mentioned in the itinerary (D=Dinner)
- All Entrance fees in Turkey, Egypt as per above itinerary
- English speaking private guides for all the sightseeing tours
- Meet and assist at all airport upon arrival and departure.
- All transportation by private AC Buses
- Service charges and local taxes
- Tips to tour guides and drivers in Turkey, and Egypt
- Headsets

EXCLUDING:

- Meals which are not included above
- All drinks
- Travel, Health Insurance, all kind of insurances

Land Cancellation Penalty:

90-60 days prior to departure:	No Penalty
59-45 days prior to departure:	25%
44-30 days prior to departure:	50%
29-15 days prior to departure:	75%
14 days & After	No refund

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T U T K U E D U C A T I O N A L T R A V E L
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Some Claude IA used for clarity and enhancement