



**VIEW WEST:** THE DOME OF THE ROCK ON JERUSALEM'S TEMPLE MOUNT. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES NEAR THE HOTEL WHERE DAVID GALBRAITH TOOK US FOR OUR FIRST VIEW OF JERUSALEM.

**BELOW (VIEW NORTHEAST):** 1-THE BEQA VALLEY OF LEBANON, 2-UPPER GALILEE, 3-LOWER GALILEE, 4-UPPER JORDAN VALLEY, 5-SNOWCAPPED MT. HERMON, 6-SYRIA (NEAR DAMASCUS), 7-THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, 8-THE SEA OF GALILEE. I CREATED THIS LANDSAT-9 SATELLITE IMAGE USING NATURAL SCENE DESIGNER PRO.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I traveled to Israel for the first time in January 1975. I had recently returned from serving on a mission in Perú for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Crossing the BYU campus one day, I came across a booth where Dann Hone and his wife Shirley were recruiting students for the Jerusalem Study Abroad Program. I listened, liked the idea of joining, discussed it with my father (who supported my decision enthusiastically and financially), and prepared to go. The rest is history. Those were wonderful days immersed in the Old and New Testaments and a comparative religion course taught by local Jewish and Arab professors. As students, we lived in East Jerusalem's City Hotel for six months until June 1975. Our studies took us on tours of the land, including a weeklong trip to Sinai.

The first person I met in Israel was David B. Galbraith. At the time, he was the resident director of the Jerusalem program. He greeted us at the Allenby Bridge, which connected Jordan and Israel across the Jordan River. David rode with us on the bus and introduced us to the land en route to Jerusalem. I remember my first glimpse of the Temple Mount as if it were yesterday. When I replay the moment in my mind, I see and experience today what I saw and experienced then.

Over time, David and I became best friends. It started when he opened his private library to me, an eager BYU student who spent many afternoons in the Galbraith home. David has encouraged, supported, and stood by me in difficult times, never wavering in his loyalty and readiness to offer counsel and direction. This book would not have happened without his support over the nearly fifty years we have known each other. I cannot properly express how much this man and his wife, Frieda, mean to me. David is, as President Monson once remarked, a man without guile.

I met five people while writing this book who contributed significantly to the final product. The first two are Michael and Ann Hansen. Ann graciously consented to writing the foreword. I talk about Ann and Michael in Appendix A on page 295. The third person is Hannah Skaggs. I found her on Upwork, an online service where one can hire top freelancers in almost any field. I was looking for an editor, and Hannah was the first to respond to my inquiry. As advertised, she is a “meticulous English proofreader and copy editor.” I've worked with editors over the years—good ones. But I've never known anyone with Hannah's eye for detail. If I use a sentence or story twice, she lets me know. If a transition between subjects is “jarring,” she'll recommend that I take a second look. Hannah edited two other books for me: *Rush Limbaugh—A Tribute: Why I Listen and What I've Learned*, and *Evil's Promise: Dooming People to Lives of Abject Misery*. I don't remember rejecting any of her recommendations. Although I alone am responsible for the content of my books, Hannah makes me look better than I am.

The fourth person is Richard Turylo (he's also on Upwork). He designed the covers of my *Rush Limbaugh* books as well as the cover of *Blessed Pilgrimage*, vol. 1. He will also design the covers for volumes 2–4 of this series. Like Hannah, Richard has an eye for detail. He presents an idea with some variations, provides a few options, then leaves all decisions up to me. He's also patient, since I seem to always change something after the so-called final draft. And, like Hannah's, his prices are fair and reasonable.

The last person I'll mention is Brett Casebolt, the developer of *Natural Scene Designer Pro*, a powerful program for “creating pictures, 360 degree panoramas, animations, and shaded relief images from 3D terrain models.” With Brett's software, I was able to lay Landsat-9 satellite scenes over a digital terrain model to create the maps found in this book. It is because of his work and excellent program that I can generate a map in minutes compared to the hours it used to take, without 3D effects. Brett provided a solution every time I ran into a problem. We have gone back and forth through emails and on the phone. He was always willing to help.

Because of David's friendship, encouragement, and support, and because of the finely tuned skills of the other people mentioned on this page, I was able to write and produce *Blessed Pilgrimage: The Way of Christ the Lord*. I hope you enjoy it.