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Journal entry from 2000 based on his own personal journal.

May 15, 2000

Masada was the desert retreat for Herod the Great and the place where Jewish rebels took their last stand against the Romans in 74 CE. I have always wanted to visit this place after watching a show about the Jewish Revolt and the fall of Masada. The grounds must have been fantastic. It indeed was wonderful to be in such a place with the class today. I could understand the stories of the Bible more after being here, wandering around in the desert for 40 years or the temptation of Jesus in the desert.

I must admit that visiting Masada on my birthday was a great gift. My friend, Angie, took a birthday picture with me atop Masada! All in all it was a great time! It would have been cooler if we had climbed up the mountain, but riding the gondola was fun too!

Later in the day, we went to the Dead Sea!!! Salty!!!

What an exciting sensation to float in what like that. The experience of the Dead Sea was one of the most unique things I have ever done and not one I want to do again. The salt stung your skin and seemed to cling everywhere for the rest of the day, even after trying to shower it off.

After the Masada and the Dead Sea, we drove to the Red Sea and spent the night at a great hotel in Eilat. The class gave me a birthday card! It was a pleasant surprise.

Tomorrow we leave for Jordan and Petra!



Angie asked if she could have a picture with the birthday boy. I couldn't ask for a better present; standing atop the wall of Masada.



Roman encampments around Masada. Eleazer Ben Yair fled Jerusalem after it was destroyed in 70 CE. Led by Flavius Silva, a legion of 8,000 Romans built camps surrounding the base of Masada. On April 15, 73 CE the remaining rebels took their own lives to avoid becoming Roman slaves except for two women and five children who had hidden in cisterns.



Model of Masada from the time of Herod the Great (ruled from 37-4 BCE). Masada was a winter palace that sits 400 meters above the Dead Sea. Background: Angie McClanahan ('00), Dr. Barlow, Gavin Stephen ('02).



Dulcinea Boesenberg and Lydia Davis on wall of Masada. Both class 2002, I think.



The cliffs of Masada. The slope (with the road at the base) is the Roman ramp used to lay siege on the western wall.



Ryan Doyle ('00 ??) and I in the Dead Sea (May 15, 2000- My birthday) The Dead Sea is 30% salt (the ocean is 3-4% salt), allowing us to float with ease. Don't get it on your lips or eyes it stings, the women with shaved legs also complained it stung their legs.