



The Investigator's Gospel

Session 22 – Chapters 19-23 – Jesus in Jerusalem

The Temple Mount

Home today to the 7th Century Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque, the Temple Mount was constructed by Herod to create a monumental plaza for the construction of the expanded Temple, the first, constructed in the 900s BC by Solomon, having been destroyed by the Babylonians. The Herodian era Plaza and Temple was an eighty-year project, and considered a Wonder of the World. The Western Wall (known before 1967 as the Wailing Wall) Prayer Plaza is a small portion of the Western face of the Temple mount – not the wall of the Temple itself. The majority of the original Western wall is underground, to the north of the prayer plaza, and accessible through archaeologically excavated tunnels.

Archaeology on the Temple Mount is prohibited by the Jordanian-based Waqf, the Moslem religious organization responsible for the Mosque, Shrine and Plaza.

The Temple Steps

The western flight of stairs leading to the main entrances of the Temple Mount was 200 feet wide. Excavators uncovered the easternmost part of this staircase with its alternating long and short steps. This is mentioned frequently as a site where Jesus taught large groups of people. The previous entry points to the Temple are visible, but blocked off.

The Pool of Siloam

The Pool of Siloam, where Jesus ordered a blind man to go to wash mud out of his eyes, lay undiscovered until 2004. Then a drainage repair crew, working on pipe maintenance south of the Old City of Jerusalem, uncovered large stone steps that had led to an ancient pool dating from the first century BC. Until then, a much smaller pool 50 metres north-west, at the end of Hezekiah's Tunnel, had been regarded as the Pool of Siloam. The actual pool had been destroyed by the Roman conquerors around AD 70 and gradually covered by debris. The pool was fed by water from Hezekiah's Tunnel, through a channel leading from the smaller pool.

The Pool of Bethesda

One of the primary water reservoirs of the city, the Pool – actually, two pools – were also used for ritual cleansing prior to visiting the Temple. Each the size of a modern Olympic pool, the Pools were connected by a sluice gate. Only one of the pools was used for ritual cleansing purposes. It maintained its “ritually clean” properties through the opening of the submerged sluice gate, whereupon a portion of “clean” water would be let

in, symbolically restoring the purity of the other pool. In John 5, Jesus heals a man at the pool (long believed to be a place of healing, even much after Jesus' day). The man had complained that when the water bubbled up (some manuscripts: "when an angel touched the water") others got into the pool before him, by which time, he believed, the healing properties would have diminished.

The Upper Room

The Cenacle room on Mt Zion in Jerusalem is where two major events in the early Christian Church are commemorated: The Last Supper and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. The Cenacle is on the upper floor of a two-storey building near the Church of the Dormition, south of the Zion Gate in the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Archaeological research shows it is constructed on top of a church-synagogue built by the first-century Jewish-Christian community of Jerusalem. A fragment of plaster has been found with a sentence beginning "O Jesus, that I may live" This would have been the first Christian church.

According to early Christian tradition, the "upper room" was in the home of Mary the mother of John Mark. He was the author of the Gospel of Mark (and presumably also the young man who fled naked, leaving behind his linen garment, to escape the authorities when Jesus was arrested in the garden at Gethsemane, an event he recorded in Mark 14:51). This house was a meeting place for the followers of Jesus inside the city walls of Jerusalem.

The Garden and Grotto of Gethsemane

Gethsemane, near the foot of the Mount of Olives, is named in the New Testament as the place where Jesus went with his disciples to pray the night before he was crucified. The garden area, about 1200 square metres, was well known to the disciples as it is close to the natural route from the Temple to the summit of the Mount of Olives and the ridge leading to Bethany. Beside the garden is the Church of All Nations, built over the rock on which Jesus is believed to have prayed in agony before he was betrayed by Judas Iscariot.

The name Gethsemane in Hebrew means "oil press". Oil is still pressed from the fruit of eight ancient and gnarled olive trees that give the garden a timeless character.

About 100 metres north of the church is the actual olive press cave, today known as the Grotto of Gethsemane, where Jesus and his disciples sheltered, concealed and protected from the elements, at night. In this natural grotto the disciples slept while Jesus prayed, and Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested. It has been identified since the 4th century as a place of pilgrimage.

The Trial

Built on an almost sheer hillside, the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu stands on the eastern slope of Mount Zion. On its roof rises a golden rooster atop a black cross -

recalling Christ’s prophesy that Peter would deny him three times “before the cock crows”. Galli-cantu means cockcrow in Latin.

The scene of Peter’s disgrace was the courtyard of the high priest Caiaphas. Built over the ruins of a Byzantine basilica, St Peter in Gallicantu stands on the likely site of the high priest’s house. Under the church is a dungeon thought to be the cell where Jesus was detained for the night following his arrest. The ancient steps mark the 1st century roadway, almost certainly the very path used by Jesus and the disciples between Mount Zion and the Mount of Olives.

The Antonia Fortress

Named for Herod’s friend Marc Anthony, the Antonia was the Roman military control station, overlooking the Temple Mount from the North-West corner. It is possible that the trial of Jesus by Pilate was held here; it is also possible that the trial took place at Herod’s palace by the Jaffa Gate, where Pilate would have been in residence. Little remains of the Antonia today; archaeology is exceedingly difficult in the Moslem quarter. The likely location is today under a building housing a boy’s school!

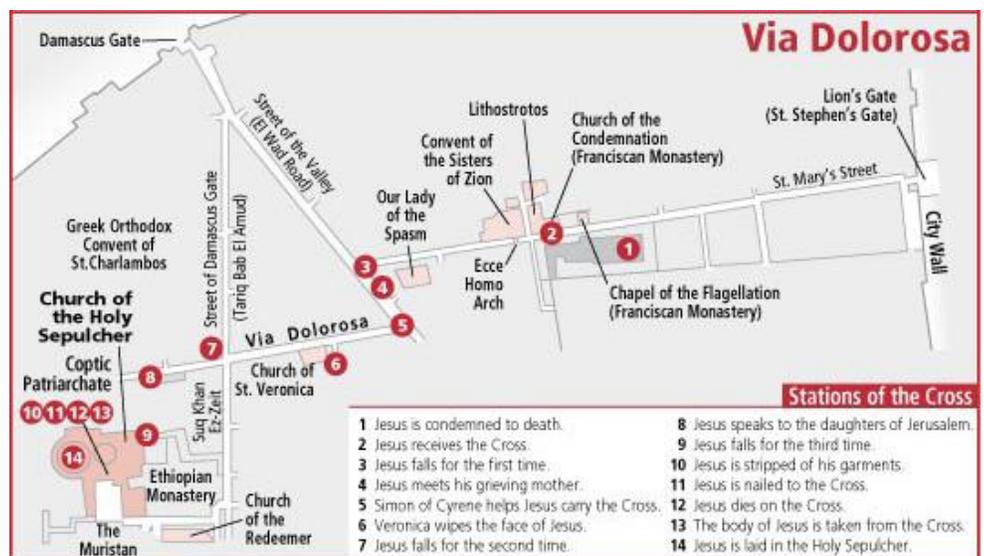
Herod’s Palace

The second most likely location for the Trial of Jesus under Pilate (it is possible that the Trial was held in two parts, separated by Jesus’ appearance before Herod). Now known as The Tower of David, and located at the Jaffa Gate, much of the foundation of the original structure remains, and extensive archaeology is bringing more of the former luxury palace to light. It currently houses the Tower of David museum.

The Via Dolorosa

From the earliest days of the church, Christians in Jerusalem and those on pilgrimage to the Holy City have followed the path of Christ from the Gethsemane to Golgotha – from the place of the arrest of Jesus to the place of the crucifixion. Stopping at various places along the way,

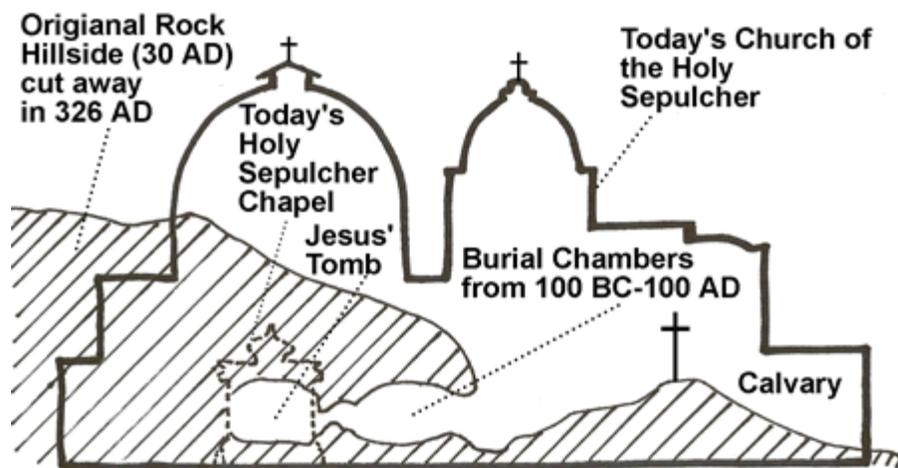
the Scriptures would be read and prayers prayed, remembering that night and day of long



ago. Today, in Jerusalem, the Stations of the Cross continue, with thousands walking the Via Dolorosa, retracing the path of Christ.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

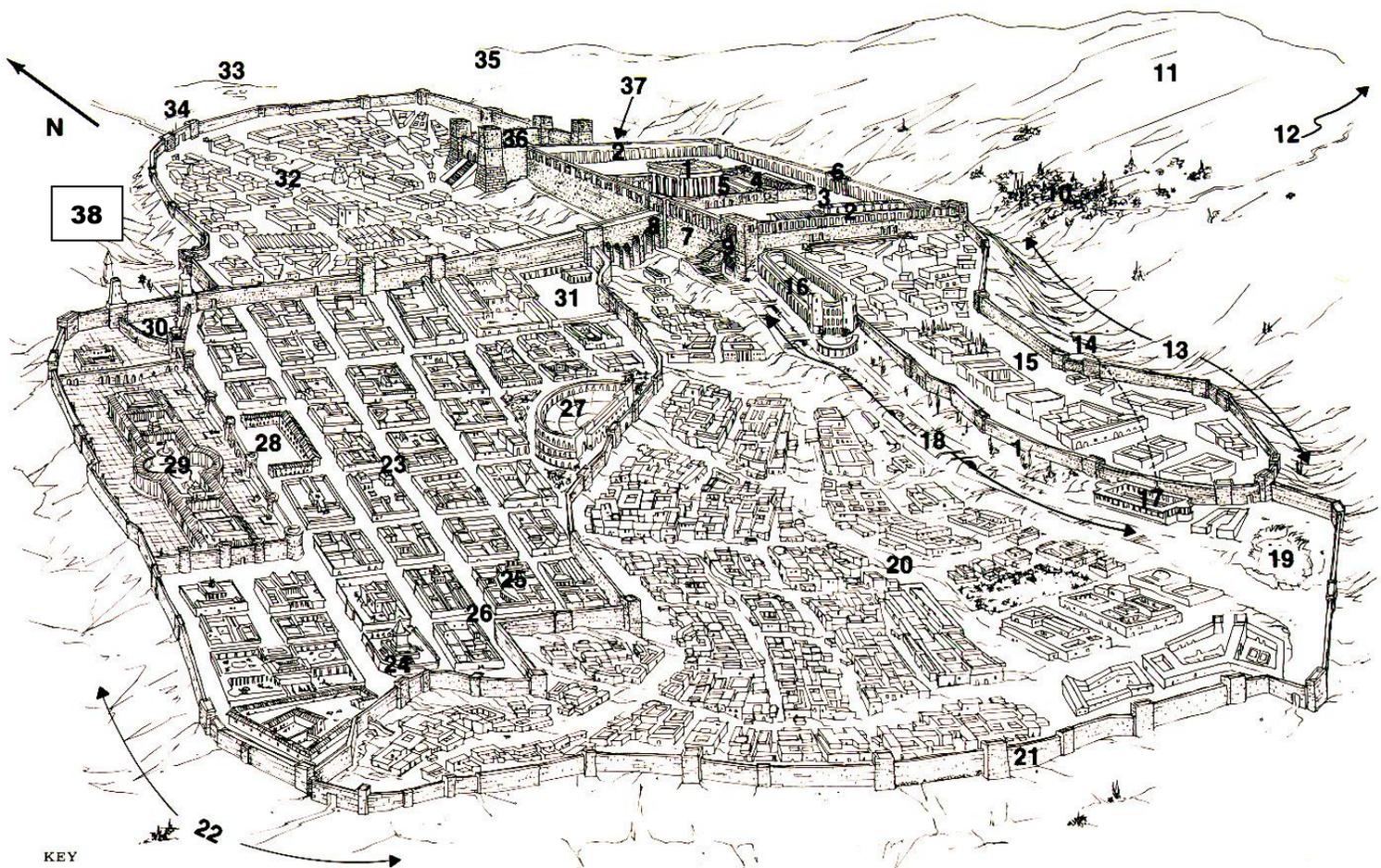
First constructed in the early 300s, and rebuilt a number of times following fire, war, and earthquake, the Holy Sepulchre is located over the site of both the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Originally located outside the walls of the city, but incorporated into the city limits when Herod Agrippa expanded the northern wall in the mid 40s AD, Golgotha was an abandoned quarry, converted into a garden area containing a number of newly carved tombs. In addition to the tomb in which Jesus was interred, there are several first century tombs contained within the church. Additionally, areas of the original quarry are also readily seen.



Golgotha itself is a spur of limestone standing up some 20 metres from the surrounding terrain. Cracked and porous, it was never quarried. The Romans used the area as a crucifixion site presumably because it was convenient to but not within city limits, and was easily seen from the main gate into the city, providing an object lesson for passers-by. Christians visited the tomb as a site of pilgrimage to commemorate both the crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. In 135, Roman Emperor Hadrian built a pagan shrine complex over the site (as he did in Bethlehem) and the tomb was concealed beneath a gravel plaza until excavated under the orders of the Emperor Constantine. Since its uncovering, it has been a centre of Christian worship for 1700 continuous years.

Map of Ancient Jerusalem

This map is an approximation of the layout of Jerusalem in the days of Jesus. All of the 36 sites indicated are confirmed by archaeological remains (with the exception of 27, the Theatre, described by Josephus, but discoveries in late 2017 place it closer to the Western Wall).



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|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Temple | 13. The Kidron Valley | 25. Priestly Homes |
| 2. Royal Stoa Collonades | 14. Gate of Gihon Spring | 26. Caiaphas' House |
| 3. Sanhedrin | 15. City of David . | 28. The Market Place |
| 4. Outer Court of Temple | 16. Temple Steps | 29. Herod's Palace |
| 5. Inner Court of Temple | 17. The Pool of Siloam | 30. Jaffa Gate |
| 6. Golden Gate | 18. Tyropoean Valley | 31. Hasmonean Palace |
| 7. "Wailing Wall" | 19. Quarry | 32. Northern City |
| 8. Priestly Bridge 9. "Robinson's Arch" | 20. Lower City (Poor) | 33. Golgotha |
| 10. Gethsemane | 21. Gehenna | 34. Damascus Gate |
| 11. The Mount of Olives | 22. Hinnom Valley | 35. Mount Scopus |
| 12. Road to Bethany | 23. Upper City (Wealthy) | 36. Antonia Fortress |
| | 24. The Upper Room | 37. Pools of Bethesda |
| | | 38. Golgotha |

