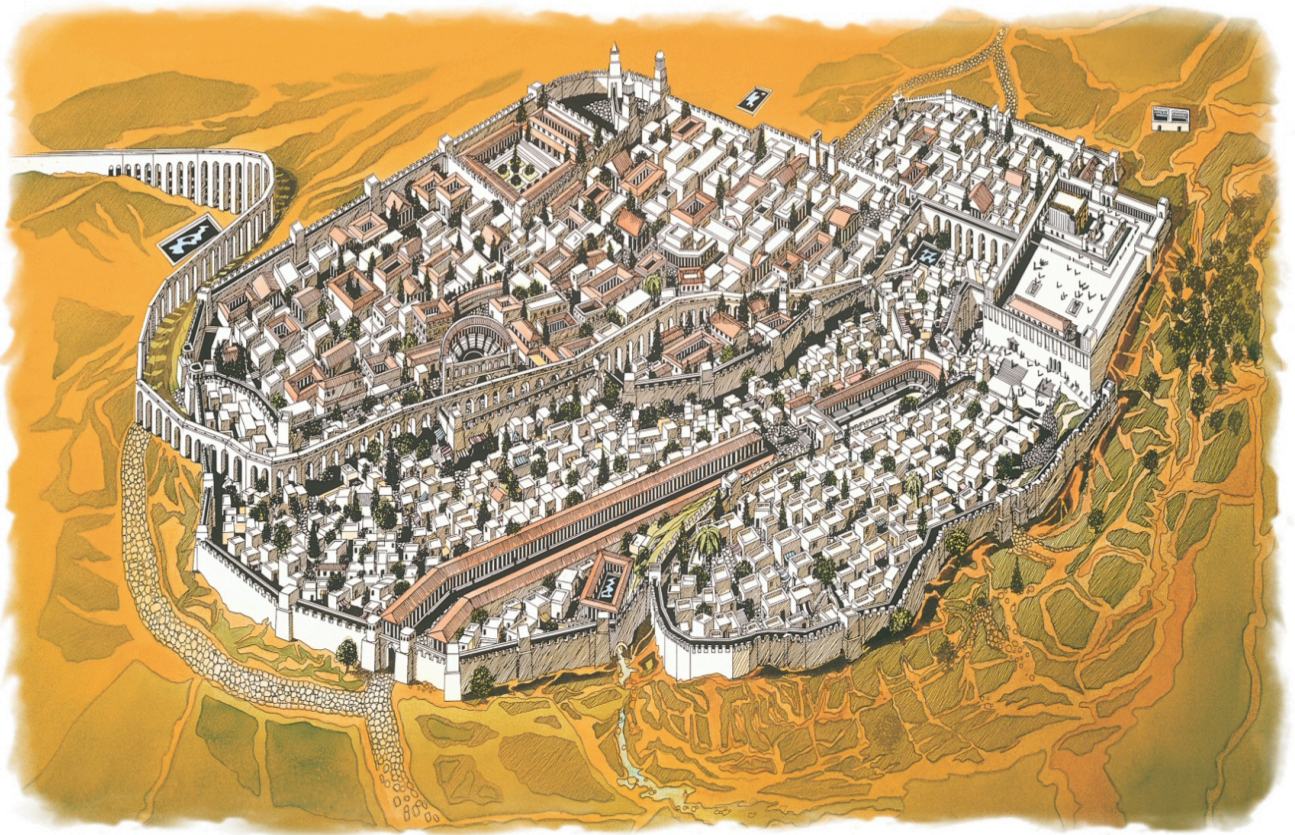


ISRAEL 2020



WITH CALVARY CHAPEL ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Tuesday, February 4th - Day One

- Flights to Israel (don't forget your passport 😊)

Wednesday, February 5th - Day Two

- Arrive at Tel Aviv Airport (around 7:30pm Israel time) and Transfer to the hotel on the Mediterranean Sea.
 - *Overnight - Ramada Hadera*
- **NOTE:** Israel is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

Notes

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Thursday, February 6th - Day Three

- *Breakfast at the hotel & check out*

- Coastal Plain -

Caesarea and Aqueduct

Phillip	Acts 8:20
Paul	Acts 9:30
Peter and Cornelius	Acts 10
Herod Antipas	Acts 23:12 – 26:32

Mt. Carmel

Saul	1 Samuel 15:12
Elijah	1 Kings 18
Elisha	2 Kings 4:18-37

Megiddo

Ahaziah	2 Kings 9:14-27
Armageddon	Revelation 16

Nazareth / Mt Precipice

Joseph and Mary	Luke 2:1-4
Jesus	Luke 2:39-40
Jesus	Luke 4:18

- *Dinner & Overnight - Leonardo Club TIB*
- *Free Time in the Evening*

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Friday, February 7th - Day Four

- *Breakfast at Hotel*

-Around the Sea of Galilee-

Wooden Boat Ride across the Sea of Galilee

Numerous Gospel accounts record activity on Galilee

Mount of Beatitudes

Matthew 5-7

Capernaum

Jesus and the Centurion	Matthew 8:5-13
Jesus and Peter	Matthew 8:14-17

Mt Arbel

Hosea 10:14

Baptism at Yardenit

Jesus	Mark 1:9-11
-------	-------------

Magdala

Mary called Magdalene	Luke 8:1-2
-----------------------	------------

- *Dinner & Overnight - Leonardo Club TIB*
- *Free Time in the Evening*

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Saturday, February 8th - Day Five

- *Breakfast at Hotel*

- Upper Galilee and The Golan Heights -

Tel Dan

Abraham and Lot	Genesis 14:14
King Jeroboam	1 Kings 12:16-31
King Jehu	1 Kings 10:29
Amos	Amos 8:11-14

Caesarea Philippi (Banias)

Jesus and Peter	Matthew 16:13-20
-----------------	------------------

Drive by Mt. Hermon and Nimrod's Castle

Psalm 42:6

Mt. Bental / Golan Heights

Damascus Road, Syria Overlook and 'Valley of Tears'

Saul (Paul)	Acts 9:1-19
-------------	-------------

Gadera

Demon Possessed Man Matt 8:28, Mark 5:1 Luke 8:26, 37

- *Dinner & Overnight - Leonardo Club TIB*
- *Free Time in the Evening*

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Sunday, February 9th - Day Six

- *Breakfast at Hotel & check out*

Gideon's Spring (Ein Harod)

Gideon & the 300 Men Judges 7

Beit Shean

Saul and his Sons 1 Samuel 31

Mount of Olives

David	2 Samuel 15:30
Jesus	Mark 13:3, Acts 1:6-12
Prophecy	Matthew 24
Second Coming	Zechariah 14:1-5

Palm Sunday Road / The Triumphal Entry

Jesus Luke 19:29-40

Israel museum; Shrine of the book & Model of Jerusalem

Dinner & Overnight - Dan Panorama JRS

Free Time in Jerusalem

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Monday, February 10th - Day Seven

- *Breakfast at Hotel*

-Jerusalem-

Psalm 122

The Temple Mount

Solomon 1 Kings 5

The Western (Wailing) Wall Tunnel

City of David

David 1 Chronicles 11

Warren's Shaft

David & Joab 2 Samuel 5

Pool Siloam

Blind Man Healed John 9:6-11

Bethlehem Overlook

Jesus Matthew 2

Valley of Elah

David & Goliath 1 Samuel 17

- *Dinner & Overnight - Dan Panorama JRS*

Free Time in Jerusalem

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Tuesday, February 11th - Day Eight

- *Breakfast at Hotel*

Drive by Qumran

Finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Masada

En Gedi

David	1 Samuel 24:1-15
Solomon	Song of Solomon 1:12-14
	Psalm 2

The Dead Sea

Genesis 14:3
Ezekiel 47:1-12

- *Dinner & Overnight - Dan Panorama JRS*

Free Time in Jerusalem

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Wednesday, February 12th - Day Nine

- Breakfast at Hotel

- **JERUSALEM** -

Davidson Center

The Southern Temple Steps

Blind Man Healed	John 9
Peter's Sermon	Acts 2

The Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus & the Disciples	Matthew 26:36-46
-----------------------	------------------

Calvary and the Garden Tomb

The Resurrection	John 19:38- 20:17
------------------	-------------------

- Dinner & Overnight - Dan Panorama JRS

Free Time in Jerusalem

Daily Sites & Scriptures

Thursday, February 13th - Day Ten

- Breakfast at Hotel & check out
- Leave hotel @ 6:30am
- Return Flights

Notes

Some Suggested Sites and Sights for Free Time in Jerusalem:

- [Church of the Holy Sepulcher](#) - In the heart of the Christian Quarter, near Jaffa Gate. Free
- [Yad Vashem](#) - (National Holocaust Memorial) Tell your cab driver “Yad Vashem” or take the light rail from Jaffa St to Mt. Herzl and follow the signs. Free.
- [Oskar Schindler’s Grave](#) - In the Christian Cemetery across the main road South of Zion Gate and Dormitian Abbey. The cemetery entrance is marked with a small sign, “Grave of Oskar Schindler”. Free.
- [Antonia Fortress & Ancient Street](#) (Jesus – Matthew 27:1-26, Paul Acts 21:26-22:29)
- [Pools of Bethesda and St. Annes Basilica](#) (Jesus and the Invalid – John 5:1-14)
- [Via Dolorosa](#) (Jesus and Simon of Cyrene – Luke 22:26-33)
- Jaffa Gate/South Ramparts (Luke 21:20-24)
- Mt. Zion/The Upper Room (The Last Supper – Luke 22:7-38, John 13-17)
- Hezekiah’s Wall (The Broad Wall) Hezekiah & Isaiah – 2 Kings 18:17 – 19:3

SHOPPING:

- Jewish Quarter & Crusader Cardo: Old City, near Dung Gate
- Arab Bazaar: Christian Quarter, Old City, Jaffa Gate
- Jaffa (Yafo) St: Huge outdoor pedestrian mall with shops, food and light rail. New city. Tell your cab driver, “Yafo Street”.
- Mahane Yehuda Market: Jerusalem’s amazing central marketplace. Connects with Jaffa Street, 1 mile NW of the Old City.
- Mamilla Mall: High-end outdoor mall extending northwest from the Jaffa Gate.

The English language is spoken sufficiently everywhere, so no language problem need arise. Part of the fun of shopping is the Middle Eastern culture of “bargaining” for an item. When bargaining with merchants, don’t appear too anxious to purchase an item, and never accept the first price as the actual price. In many cases the item can be purchased for less than half the “asking price.” Keep a written record of all your purchases, as this will make filling out your customs report easier when you return home. Be careful about exposing much money at any one time when you are shopping.

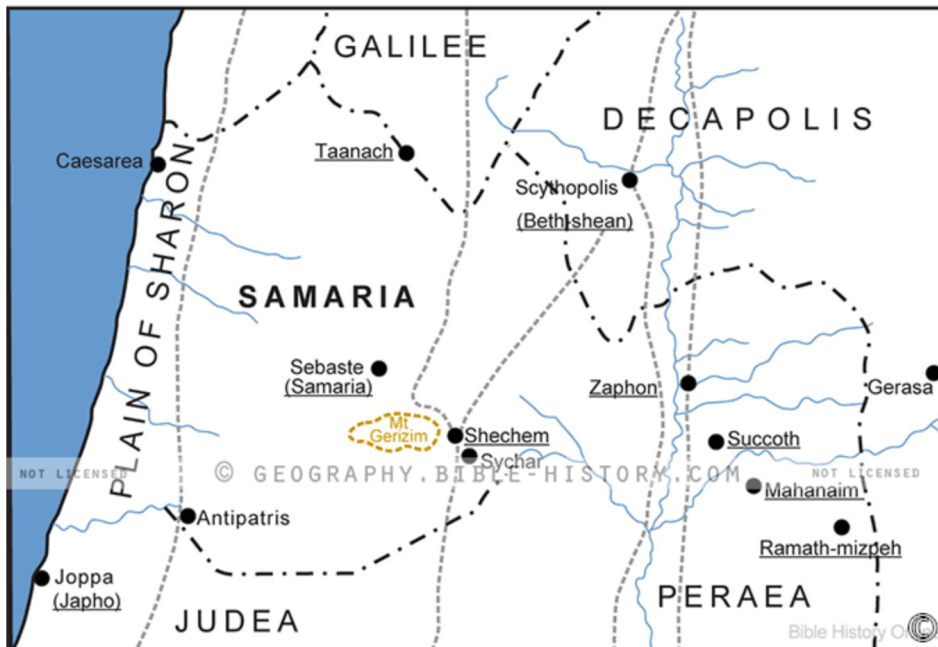
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



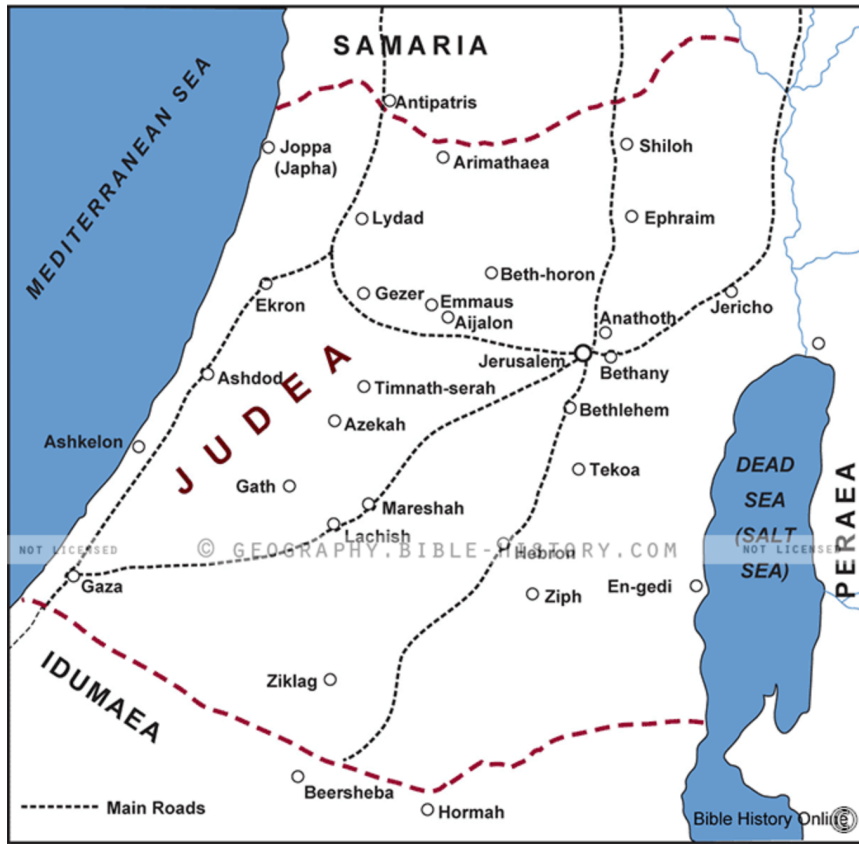
MAP OF THE GALILEE REGION IN NORTHERN ISRAEL



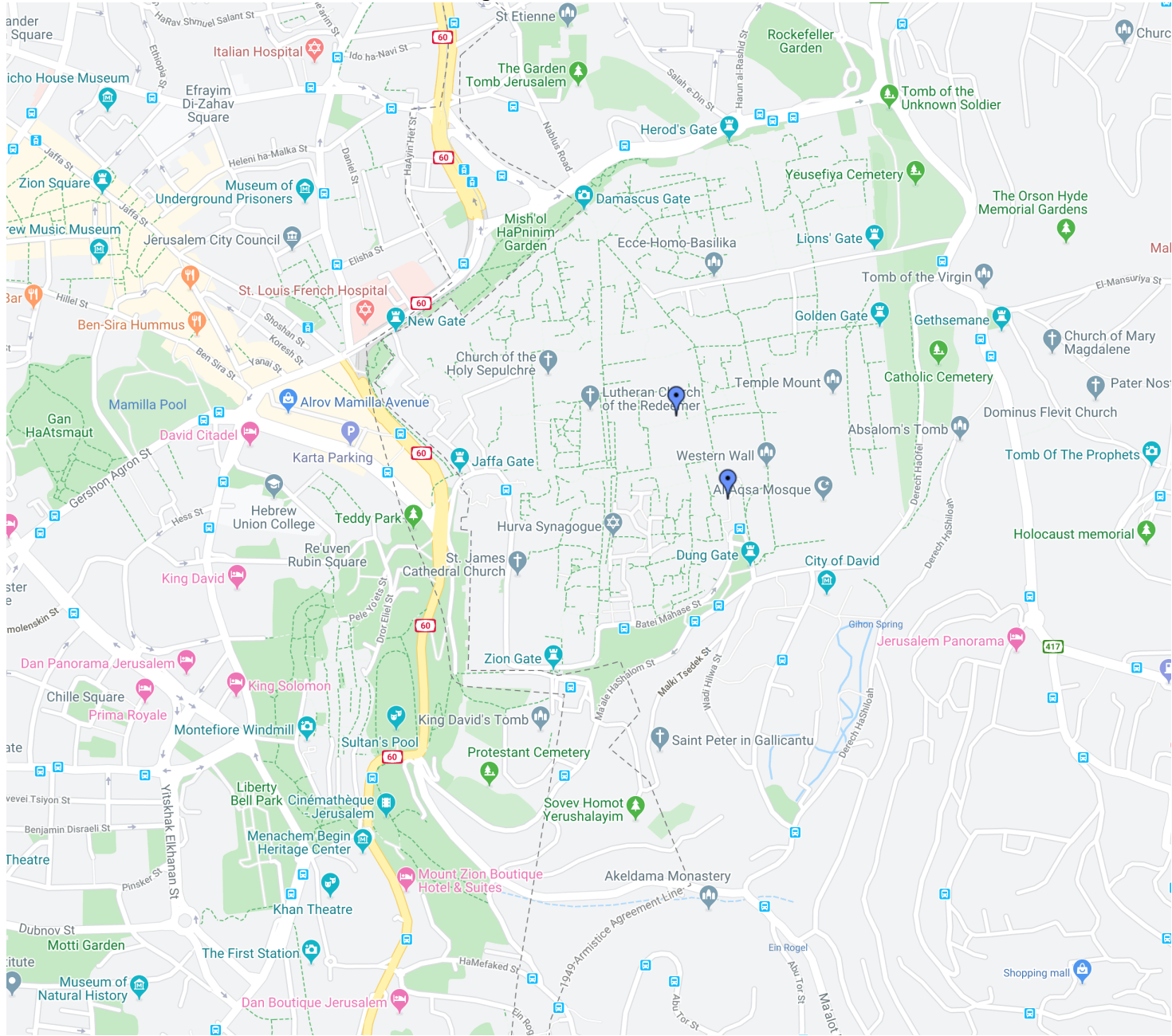
MAP OF SAMARIA AND CENTRAL ISRAEL



MAP OF JUDEA AND SOUTHERN ISRAEL



Map of Jerusalem



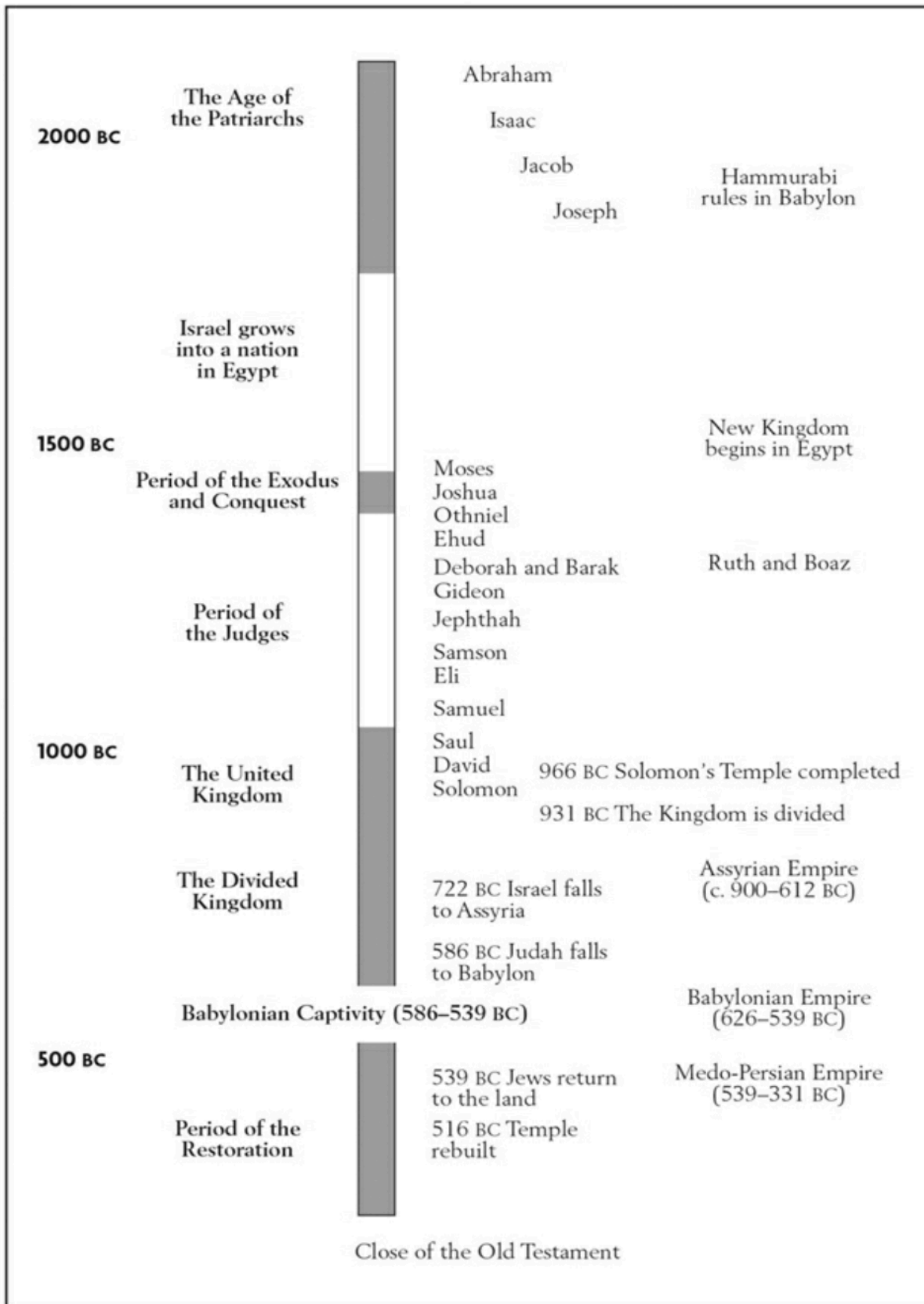
PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF JESUS

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Decapolis city
- Decapolis city (uncertain location)
- ★ Administrative capital
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Major roads
- Other roads
- First procuratorship
- Territory of Antipas
- Territory of Philip
- Syrian territory

Coponius was named the first prefect and established the administrative capital at Caesarea Maritima



The History of Israel



From the Patriarchs to The Apostles

BIBLICAL PERIOD	DATES	ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERIOD
Patriarchal Period	ca. 2000 BC to 1446 BC	<i>Middle Bronze Age</i>
Period of the Exodus	1446 BC to 1400 BC	<i>Late Bronze Age</i>
Period of Conquest	1400 BC to 1390 BC	
Period of the Judges	1390 BC to 1050 BC	<i>Late Bronze/Early Iron Age</i>
United Kingdom	1050 BC to 931 BC	<i>Iron Age</i>
Divided Kingdom	931 BC to 722 BC	
Single Kingdom	722 BC to 586 BC	
Babylonian Captivity	586 BC to 539 BC	
Restoration	539 BC to ca. 400 BC	<i>Persian Period</i>
Intertestamental Era	ca. 400 BC to 4 BC	<i>Hellenistic Period</i>
Life of Christ	4 BC to AD 33	<i>Roman Period</i>
Apostolic Age	AD 33 to ca. AD 70	

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ISRAEL & JEWISH PEOPLE

Written by: Israel Hanukoglu, Ph.D.

Quote from Charles Krauthammer - The Weekly Standard, May 11, 1998

"Israel is the very embodiment of Jewish continuity: It is the only nation on earth that inhabits the same land, bears the same name, speaks the same language, and worships the same God that it did 3,000 years ago. You dig the soil and you find pottery from Davidic times, coins from Bar Kokhba, and 2,000-year-old scrolls written in a script remarkably like the one that today advertises ice cream at the corner candy store."

The people of Israel (also called the "Jewish People") trace their origin to Abraham, who established the belief that there is only one God, the creator of the universe (see [Torah](#)). Abraham, his son Yitshak (Isaac), and grandson Jacob (Israel), are referred to as the patriarchs of the Israelites. All three patriarchs lived in the Land of Canaan, that later came to be known as the Land of Israel. They and their wives are buried in the Ma'arat HaMachpela, the Tomb of the Patriarchs, in [Hebron](#).

The name Israel derives from the name given to Jacob (see the Torah). His 12 sons were the kernels of 12 tribes that later developed into the Jewish nation. The name Jew derives from Yehuda (Judah) one of the 12 sons of Jacob (Reuben, Shimon, Levi, Yehuda, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Yisachar, Zevulun, Yosef, Binyamin). So, the names Israel, Israeli or Jewish refer to people of the same origin.

The descendants of Abraham crystallized into a nation at about 1300 BCE after their Exodus from Egypt under the leadership of Moses (Moshe in Hebrew). Soon after the Exodus, Moses transmitted to the people of this new emerging nation, the Torah, and the Ten Commandments. After 40 years in the Sinai desert, Moses led them to the Land of Israel, that is cited in The Bible as the land promised by G-d to the descendants of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The people of modern day Israel share the same language and culture shaped by the Jewish heritage and religion passed through generations starting with the founding father Abraham (ca. 1800 BCE). Thus, Jews have had continuous presence in the land of Israel for the past 3,300 years.

The rule of Israelites in the land of Israel starts with the conquests of Joshua (ca. 1250 BCE). The period from 1000-587 BCE is known as the "Period of the Kings". The most noteworthy kings were King David (1010-970 BCE), who made Jerusalem the Capital of Israel, and his son Solomon (Shlomo, 970-931 BCE), who built the first Temple in Jerusalem as prescribed in the Tanach (Old Testament).

In 587 BCE, Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar's army captured Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and exiled the Jews to Babylon (modern day Iraq).

The year 587 BCE marks a turning point in the history of the region. From this year onwards, the region was ruled or controlled by a succession of superpower empires of the time in the following order: Babylonian, Persian, Greek Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Empires, Islamic and Christian crusaders, Ottoman Empire, and the British Empire.

Period	Empire	Major Events
587 BCE	Babylonian	Destruction of the first Temple.
538-333 BC	Persian	Return of the exiled Jews from Babylon and construction of the second Temple (520-515 BCE).
333-63 BCE	Hellenistic	Conquest of the region by the army of Alexander the Great (333 BCE). The Greeks generally allowed the Jews to run their state. But, during the rule of the king Antiochus IV, the Temple was desecrated. This brought about the revolt of the Maccabees, who established an independent rule. The related events are celebrated during the Hanukah holiday.
63 BCE-313 CE	Roman	The Roman army led by Titus conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the Second Temple at 70 CE. Jewish people were then exiled and dispersed to the Diaspora. In 132, Bar Kokhba organized a revolt against Roman rule, but was killed in a battle in Bethar in Judean Hills. Subsequently the Romans decimated the Jewish community, renamed Jerusalem as Aelia Capitolina and Judea as Palaestina to obliterate Jewish identification with the Land of Israel (the word Palestine, and the Arabic word Filastin originate from this Latin name). The remaining Jewish community moved to northern towns in the Galilee. Around 200 CE the Sanhedrin was moved to Tsippori (Zippori, Sepphoris) . The Head of Sanhedrin, Rabbi Yehuda HaNassi (Judah the Prince), compiled the Jewish oral law, Mishna.
313-636	Byzantine	
636-1099	Arab	Dome of the Rock was built by Caliph Abd el-Malik on the grounds of the destroyed Jewish Temple.
1099-1291	Crusaders	The crusaders came from Europe to capture the Holy Land following an appeal by Pope Urban II, and massacred the non-Christian population. Later Jewish community in Jerusalem expanded by immigration of Jews from Europe.
1291-1516	Mamluk	Islamic Dynasty
1516-1918	Ottoman	During the reign of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566) the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem were rebuilt. Population of the Jewish community in Jerusalem increased.
1917-1948	British	Great Britain recognized the rights of the Jewish people to establish a " national home in Palestine ". Yet they greatly curtailed entry of Jewish refugees into Israel even after World War II. They split Palestine mandate into an Arab state which has become the modern day Jordan, and Israel.

After the exile by the Romans, the Jewish people migrated to Europe and North Africa. In the Diaspora (scattered outside of the Land of Israel), they established rich cultural and economic lives, and contributed greatly to the societies where they lived. Yet, they continued their national attachments and prayed to return to Israel through centuries. In the first half of the 20th century there were major waves of immigration of Jews back to Israel from Arab countries and from Europe. During the British rule in Palestine, the Jewish people were subject to great violence and massacres directed by Arab civilians or forces of the neighboring Arab states. During World War II, the Nazi regime in Germany decimated about 6 million Jews creating the great tragedy of The Holocaust.

In 1948, Jewish Community in Israel under the leadership of David Ben-Gurion reestablished sovereignty over their ancient homeland. [Declaration of independence](#) of the modern State of Israel was announced on the day that the last British forces left Israel (May 14, 1948).

ARAB-ISRAELI WARS

A day after the declaration of independence of the State of Israel, armies of five Arab countries, Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Iraq, invaded Israel. This marked the beginning of the War of Independence. Arab states have jointly waged four full scale wars against Israel:

- 1948 War of Independence
- 1956 Sinai War
- 1967 Six Day War
- 1973 Yom Kippur War

Despite the numerical superiority of the Arab armies, Israel defended itself each time and won. After each war Israeli army withdrew from most of the areas it captured ([see maps](#)). This is unprecedented in World history and shows Israel's willingness to reach peace even at the risk of fighting for its very existence each time anew.

Note that with Judea and Samaria Israel is only 40 miles wide. Thus, Israel can be crossed from the Mediterranean coast to the Eastern border at Jordan river within one hour of driving.

BIBLICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES OF INTEREST

ISRAEL

Antonia Fortress

Fortress at the northwest corner of the Temple complex in ancient Jerusalem, it was originally called “the castle” and held the vestments of the priests. Herod later fortified it and named it Antonia in honor of his friend Mark Anthony. It was built on a rock plateau, separated on the north from the hill Bezetha by a ditch 9m deep and 50m wide.

- Paul gave his famous speech from the castle stairs to the crowd below. Acts 21:40-22:1: “Having received the commander’s permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic: ‘Brothers and fathers, listen to my defense.’”



Baptism at Yardenit

Yardenit is situated on the banks of the Jordan River, at the Southern tip of the Sea of Galilee. Each year it welcomes over half a million tourists and pilgrims, who come to experience the tranquility and spiritual beauty of the waters in which Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus practiced and preached across this part of the Holy Land which hosts a plethora of sites with biblical significance.

Yardenit provides pilgrims and tourists with modern comforts in the biblical setting of the Holy Land, offering a serene and spiritual setting for those wishing to baptize in the River Jordan:

“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove, and a voice came from heaven; “Thou art my beloved Son, with thee I am well pleased.” Mark 1:9-11



Beth Shean (Scythopolis)

The city on whose walls were hung the bodies of Saul and Jonathan after they died in a battle with the Philistines. Beth Shan stood on the eastern slopes of Mount Gilboa, overlooking the Jordan Valley. 1 Sam. 31:10: “They put his [Saul] armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.”



Bethlehem

Bethlehem was the town where Rachel, wife of the Old Testament patriarch Jacob, was buried. In the book of Ruth, it was the home of King David and his ancestors. The prophet Micah prophesied it would be the birthplace of the Messiah.

- All the Gospel writers except Mark identify Bethlehem as the birthplace of Messiah. In AD 327 Helena, mother of emperor Constantine, built the Church of the Nativity on the traditional site of Jesus' birth, making it one of the oldest churches in the world. Emperor Justinian rebuilt the church in the 6th century.
- Jacob buried Rachel here. Gen. 48:7: "As I was returning from Paddam, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan while we were still on the way, a little distance from Ephrath. So I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath (that is Bethlehem)."
- The birthplace of Jesus. Matt. 2:1: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi came from the east to Jerusalem."
- Herod slaughtered the children here. Matt. 2:16: "When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi."
- The Shepherd's fields were here. Luke 2:8: "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night."

Bethsaida

Bethsaida was located on the Plain of Batiha, east of where the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee. Et-Tell, a small mound on the northern edge of the plain, is identified with Bethsaida, but the ruins of el-Araj to the east are also considered likely location for the site. Bethsaida means "house of

fishing”, and is likely ancient Geshur, where Absalom fled after murdering his half-brother Amnon in 2 Samuel 13:34-39.

- The home of Philip, Andrew and Peter. John 1:44: “Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.”
- Jesus fed five thousand here. Luke 9:10-11, 16-17: “When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew themselves to a town called Bethsaida, but the crowds learned about it and followed him...Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.”

Caesarea

Caesarea was the Roman capital of Judea at the time of Christ and Paul. Located on the coast, it was 70km north of Joppa, and 36km northwest of Jerusalem. Herod the Great built the city between 25 BC and 13 BC in honor of Caesar Augustus. Caesarea was a busy and beautiful seaport and commercial center, nicknamed “Little Rome.” In AD 1256, the Sultan of Bibars of Egypt captured the city and destroyed most of its walls and buildings.

- The city where Peter visited Cornelius, and for the first time, brought the Gospel to the Gentiles. Acts 10:23-25: “The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.”
- The home of Philip the Evangelist. Acts 21:8: “Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven.”
- The city where Paul made his defense before King Agrippa II. Acts 25:13-14: “A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul’s case with the king.”



Caesarea Philippi

Caesarea Philippi is located at the foot of Mount Hermon. The area is well watered and lush with trees, vines and flowering shrubs, making it one of the most beautiful places in the region. In 20 BC Herod the Great built a temple at the foot of the cliff dedicated to Augustus Caesar. At Herod's death, the city fell to his son Philip, who enlarged and beautified the site, naming it Caesarea Philippi to gain favor with the new emperor, Tiberius.

- Peter made his great declaration here. Matt. 16:1: "When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'" Matt. 16:16: "Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'."



Cana

Cana of Galilee is traditionally identified with Kefr Kenna, 6.5km northeast of Nazareth on the road to Capernaum. It is rich with vineyards, orchards and has an abundance of water. There have been limited excavations on this site, while other scholars identify Cana as Khirbet Kana, a ruin atop a hill 13.5km north of Nazareth.

- Jesus performed his first miracle here, turning water into wine. John 2:1: "On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee..." Verse 11: This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee."

Capernaum

Located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum was the main commercial and social center of the area during Jesus' ministry. Here, on the highway between Syria and Judea, customs taxes were collected and a Roman garrison was stationed. It had at least one major synagogue.

- Jesus' hometown during his ministry years. Matt. 4:12-13: "When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake [in] Zebulun and Naphtali."
- Jesus healed a Roman centurion's servant. Matt. 8:5-7: "When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 'Lord,' he said, 'my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.' Jesus said to him, 'I will go and heal him.'"
- Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and many others. Matt. 8:14-17: "When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many others who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah."
- Jesus cast out a demon in the synagogue. Mark 1:21-25: "They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!' 'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly, 'Come out of him!' The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek."
- Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. Matt. 9:23-26: "When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, he said, 'Go away, the girl is not dead, but asleep.' But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region."



The Cardo

An ancient commercial street in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem. In Roman times the Cardo began at the northern gate (today's Damascus gate), bisecting the city from north to south, ending near the Dung Gate. The broad thoroughfare was flanked by rows of columns and shops, some of which are still visible.



Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Christianity's holiest site. Construction of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was originally ordered by Emperor Constantine the Great in 325-26 and carried out by his mother, Helena. Emperor Hadrian, in AD 135, built a temple to the pagan goddess Aphrodite over the site to defile what he believed was Jewish holy place. Upon his conversion to Christianity, Constantine ordered the demolition of the temple and the construction of the church. The building preserves within its walls the possible sites of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, making it the most important Christian pilgrimage site worldwide. The church was damaged by fire and earthquakes in the 6th and 9th centuries and almost completely destroyed by caliph Al-Hakim in 1009. A failed reconstruction project and multiple changing-of-hands of the site due to regional conflicts sparked the first Crusade, which liberated the church in 1099. As Jerusalem continued to change hands, the church remained accessible to Christian pilgrims even when the city was under Moslem control. Today the Church covers approximately half its original area and has become a dark and controversial shadow of its original glory. Stewardship of the Church is claimed by six Christian sects: Greek, Arminian, Coptic, Ethiopian and Syriac Orthodox, and Roman Catholic. These groups all declare authority over the holy site, and therefore do not get along. The "Immovable Ladder" over the main entrance stands as a monument to their sharp divisions, as no church property can be moved by any one group without agreement from the other five. The ladder has stood unmoved since the mid-1700's.

What to look for:

- Golgotha Rock: encased in the interior chapel immediately to the right of the main entrance at the top of the stairs. You can touch the rock by kneeling under the alter table and reaching through a star-shaped hole on the floor.
- The Stone of Anointing: a man-sized slab of red marble on the floor immediately inside the entrance, traditionally the place where Jesus was prepared for burial. The site is not historically noted until the crusades; the current stone was placed in 1810.
- The Rotunda / The Tomb of Jesus: the interior of the chapel contains fragmentary remains of an ancient tomb, venerated by early 2nd century Jewish Christians. The tomb was reshaped from a cliff-face into a free-standing chapel by Constantine's mother Helena, with the church built around its centrality. The chapel was all but destroyed by Caliph Hakim in 1009 so that the floor and lower edges of the tomb are all that remain of the original sepulcher. The current chapel is an Ottoman-baroque style that was finished in 1810.
- The Chapel of St. Helena: inside the main entrance, follow the hallway to the right, past Golgotha Chapel (aka, "Calvary Chapel"), until you come to a descending flight of stairs. The stairs lead to a chapel dedicated to Constantine's mother. The right and left walls of the stairway are extensively decorated with small crosses carved by Crusaders during their occupation of the church. The lowest room is located to the right of the chapel down a second flight of stairs into the remains of an ancient cistern decorated with a fresco of a Roman ship. Legend maintains that the "true cross" was found there by Helena, thus verifying the entire location as the place of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.
- Ethiopian Monastery (Deir El-Sultan): accessible from Souq Khan al-Zeit St., on the far east end of the Church. Before entering the compound, turn right into a small chapel, pay the priest 5 NIS and visit the huge cistern under the floor—it is an example of the vast, ancient water storage complex hidden beneath Old Jerusalem. Not for claustrophobics.

Church of St. Anne

The Church of St. Anne is the best-preserved Crusader-era church in Israel. Constructed in AD 1100 in the Romanesque style, it was built over the site of Pools of Bethesda (John 5:1-15) and a crypt venerated by some as the home of Mary's parents (Joachim and Anne) and the birthplace of Mary.

City of David

David took from the Jebusites the fortress of Mount Zion. He "dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David" (1 Chr. 11:7). This was the name afterwards given to the castle and royal palace on Mount Zion, as distinguished from Jerusalem generally (1 Kings 3:1; 8:1), It was on the south-west side of Jerusalem, opposite the temple mount, with which it was connected by a bridge over the Tyropoeon valley.

Bethlehem is called the "city of David" (Luke 2:4, 11), because it was David's birth-place and early home (1 Sam. 17:12).



Corazin

Jesus preached and did many miracles here, but its people refused to repent. One of three towns He cursed for their unbelief.

- Matt. 11:21-22: "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you."



Davidson Center

Davidson Center, the Jerusalem Archaeological Park, is located nearby the Western Wall in the Old City. Davidson Center is one of the Jerusalem's top tourist attractions due to its historical and archeological significance and, of course, its beauty. You will find archaeological finds and displays from the First & Second Temple periods: the ancient city wall, the Temple's staircase, a preserved ancient street, ritual immersion baths, and stores.



Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is a long, deep lake fed by the Jordan River, but lacking an outlet it is devoid of plant and animal life due to its extreme salt and mineral content. There are approximately 350 grams of salt per kilogram of water, more than nine times that of earth's oceans. The Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth—some 400m. below sea level, 400m. deep, 75km long and 6 to 16km wide.



Ein Gedi

Literally, “the spring of the goat”, En Gedi is 120m. above the west shore of the Dead Sea. Immense springs of warm water emerge from beneath limestone cliffs, cascading onto a small, fertile plain on the lake shore. In ancient times there were vineyards, palms, balsam, camphor, sugar cane, melons and many other edible fruits that made it one of the world’s famed garden spots. Today, En Gedi remains a freshwater oasis of springs, waterfalls and lush tropical vegetation.

- David encountered Saul here. 1 Sam. 24:1: “After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi.” So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Craggs of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.



Elah Valley

The Elah Valley runs west to the north of Socoh in the tribal territory of Judah. Elah means “oak” or “mighty tree”. It was here that Philistines forces challenged Saul and David fought Goliath. Goliath was from nearby Gath and David from nearby Bethlehem.

- 1 Sam. 17:1-4, 48: Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the Valley between them. A champion named Goliath who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall." V. 45: "David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head." ...As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.



Gadara

Named for the tribe of Gad, Gadara was the capital of the Roman province of Peraea. Perched on the summit of a mountain 9.5km SE of the Sea of Galilee, Gadara was famous during the Roman period for its buildings, orators, poets, artist and philosophers. It also served as a resort for Romans who bathed at the nearby al-Hemma hot springs. The city had fertile soil, abundant water and was located near vital trade routes connecting Europe and Asia.

- Archeologists have uncovered three theatres, a temple, a colonnaded street and an aqueduct. There are also many tombs carved into nearby cliffs that contain numerous chambers, some more than 6m square.

- Gadara is associated with Jesus' healing of two demoniacs, banishing their demons into a large herd of pigs that drowned in the lake. Matt. 8:28-34: "When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gaderenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. 'What do you want with us, Son of God?' they shouted, 'Have you come to torture us before the appointed time?' Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demon begged Jesus, 'If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.' He said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what happened to the demon-possessed men. The whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region."



Garden of Gethsemane

The Garden of Gethsemane is one of the great sacred places of Christianity. Situated in the Kidron Valley at the foot of the Mount of Olives, "Gethsemane" is derived from the Hebrew, Gat Shemen, or "place of the olive press" (a reference to the many olive trees and oil presses in the area). The garden site today contains olive trees that are hundreds of years old.

- Jesus prayed for hours in Gethsemane prior to his arrest. Mark 14:32-34: "They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray...'"



Garden Tomb

The “Garden Tomb” is located near the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem’s Old City. It is a tomb with two compartments cut out of solid rock, including a large weeping chamber and a channel for a rolling stone. The tomb is in a rock face near the ruins of a large house that some believe to be the home of Joseph of Arimathea.

- The tomb was unearthed in 1867. Archeologists disagree about its age, but many describe it as a 1st c. AD Jewish tomb. In later years, it may have been used for Christian worship, as there is evidence of a chapel structure and early Christian crosses.
- Jesus’ body was wrapped and taken to the tomb by Joseph of Arimathea. Matt. 27:58-60: “As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.”

- The tomb had never been used, nor was it ever finished. John 19:41-42: “At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”



Gideon's Spring

Known as Ein Harod, the “Spring of Trembling” flows northward from a cave at the base of Mt. Gilboa, toward the Valley of Harod.

- Here Gideon reduced his army by 10,000 men to 300, selecting those who knelt and lapped water from their hands rather than those who knelt to drink. Judges 7:4-8: “But the LORD said to Gideon, ‘There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you, He shall not go.’ So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, ‘Separate those who lap water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink. Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees

to drink. The LORD said to Gideon, 'With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands...'"

Golan Heights / Mt Bental / Valley of Tears

The Golan is a chain of high, mostly volcanic peaks providing a barrier between the fertile Jordan Valley and the arid lands of Syria. It was captured from Syria by Israel in 1967 and 1973.

The Mount Bental overlook is beautiful and provides stunning views of Mount Hermon and the Golan. Located in the Golan Heights, Mount Bental is 1,170 meters above sea level. The road to the top has recently been repaved and tourist facilities have been renovated and rebuilt. In a region where much is inaccessible to tourists due to restrictions on non-military traffic and poor roads, Mount Bental offers a rare and rewarding sight. The overlook is managed by Kibbutz Merom Golan, the first Kibbutz established in this region after the 1967 war. From the overlook one can see Mount Hermon (3,000 meters above sea level), several Druze villages as well as a network of old bunkers and trenches. Just to the east of Mount Bental is Syria, with Damascus lying just 60km away.

In the Yom Kippur War of 1973, Mount Bental was the site of one of the largest tank battles in history. Mount Bental is a key strategic point for Israel due to its advantageous observation point. Israel knew it could not risk losing this mountain, nor any of the Golan Heights. The Syrians attacked the Golan with 1,500 tanks and 1,000 artillery pieces. Israel countered with only 160 tanks and 60 artillery pieces. The long stretch of valley in between Mount Bental and Mount Hermon became known as the Valley of Tears. The 100 Israeli tanks were reduced to seven under extreme enemy fire. However, the Israelis managed to take down 600 Syrian tanks in the process. The Syrians eventually retreated, but not without inflicting heavy casualties on Israel.



Herodian Mansion (Wohl Archaeological Museum)

The ruins of a huge Second Temple Period villa were unearthed in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem directly opposite the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. Now a museum, the building is believed to have been the residence of a major religious leader or high priest who lived at the time of Jesus. Archeologists have discovered features coinciding with certain events that occurred on the night of Jesus' arrest and imprisonment.

- The palatial mansion includes a courtyard, a peristyle building and a complex of ritual baths called mikvaot. The Jews who owned these mansions were of the highest economic strata in Jerusalem and enjoyed all the benefits of classical Roman life within the constraints of their religious beliefs.

Herod's Palace

Recently excavated in Jerusalem, the dig has partially uncovered the northwest corner of King Herod the Great's palace and swimming pool, provoking a reevaluation of the location of some important traditional Christian sites in Jerusalem. Herod the Great occupied the palace during Jesus' infancy, making it the location of his meeting with the Magi of the nativity account. After Herod's death, it became the Roman Governor's quarters in Jerusalem, including Pontius Pilate, and the likely location of the Praetorium, trial and scourging of Jesus. Accessible via the Tower of David Museum at the Jaffa gate.



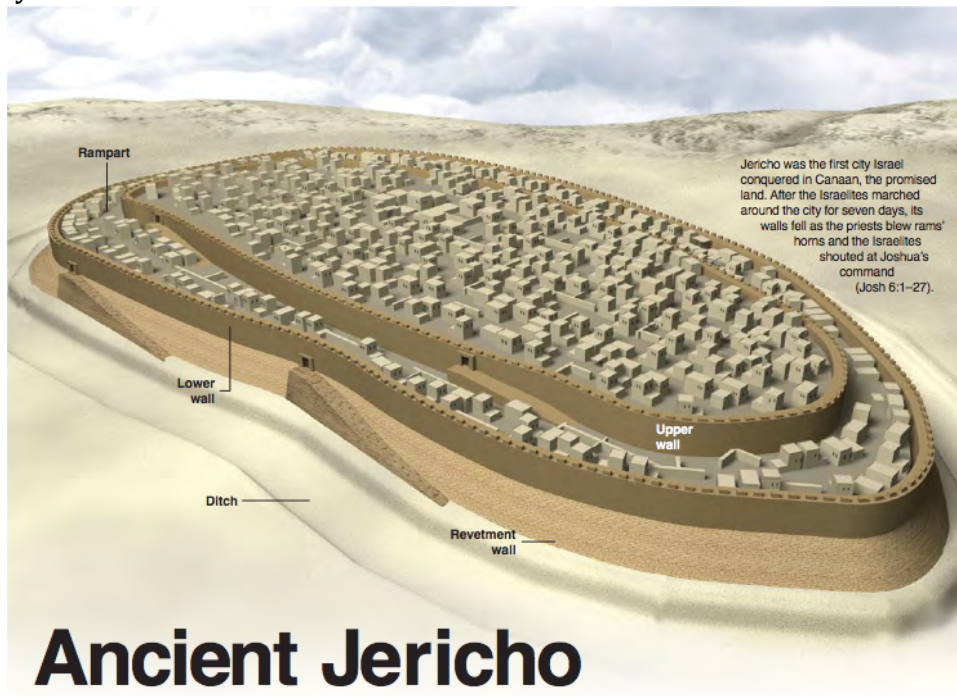
Jerash

Gerasa was established as a Greek city by Alexander the Great around 333 BC. In 85 BC, the Jewish monarch Alexander Jannaeus conquered the city. Gerasa remained in Jewish hands until Pompey brought it under Roman control in 63 BC, at which time it was incorporated into the province of Syria and later included in the Decapolis. The site of Gerasa is identical with the modern Jerash.¹

Jericho

Jericho lies 27km northeast of Jerusalem in lowest part of the Jordan River Valley. It is one of the oldest known cities in the world and is the lowest city on earth, at -260 m.

- Jericho was the first city attacked by Joshua and the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land. Joshua 6:1-2: "Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. The LORD said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.'"
- Elijah passed through Jericho before being taken to heaven in the fiery chariot. 2 Kings 2:4 "Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.'" Verse 11: "As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind."
- Jesus passed through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem before his death. In Herodian Jericho, he ate with Zacchaeus and healed blind Bartimaeus. Luke 19:1-2 "Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy."



Jerusalem

Jerusalem has been called the “City of God”, the “City of David” and the “Joy of the whole Earth”. It was besieged, captured or destroyed in whole or in part more than forty times. Ruin has been piled upon ruin, and debris rolled into valleys until, in some places, the present ground level is more than 10m above the street level of Jesus’ day and nearly 21m above the ground on which David would have walked. Research and excavation have been hampered by political controversies as well as the construction of many new buildings and cemeteries. Despite these factors, researchers have continued to dig, often tunneling beneath politically sensitive areas to obtain data.

- Jerusalem is Israel’s capital, with a population of over 700,000.
- The Old City of Jerusalem is divided into four quarters: the Christian, Moslem, Jewish and Armenian. The walls of the old City encompass an area barely a third of a square mile. Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent built the current walls in the 16th century, roughly tracing those built by the Romans in the 2nd century AD. A “ramparts walkway” affords an excellent view of the Old City. The walls are 4km in circumference and average 12m in height with 34 towers and eight gates.
- Of Jerusalem’s eight gates, seven are open and one remains sealed. The four main gates—Jaffa, Damascus, Lion and Zion were constructed according to the four directions of the compass and led to the main cities of the region.
 1. **The Jaffa Gate:** bears the inscription of Suleiman, who ordered its construction in 1538-1539. It is the busiest of the gates, facing west toward the port city of Jaffa.
 2. **The New Gate:** facing north, it was opened in 1887 to provide direct access into the Christian Quarter.
 3. **The Damascus Gate:** the most picturesque gate and main entrance into the Muslim Quarter, it faces north towards Damascus in Syria.
 4. **Herod’s Gate:** also facing north, known as the Flower gate because of the floral designs engraved on its façade.
 5. **The Lion Gate:** adorned with heraldic “lions” (actually panthers) on either side of the portal, it was restored by the Ottomans in 1538-1539. Also known as St. Stephens Gate, it faces east towards Jericho.
 6. **The Golden Gate:** facing east, it is called in Hebrew and Arabic the “Mercy Gate”. According to Jewish tradition, this is the gate through which the Messiah will enter Jerusalem. The Muslims established a cemetery in front of the gate and in 1541 sealed it to prevent the Messiah’s entry.
 7. **The Dung Gate:** facing south, it is the gate closest to the Western Wall.
 8. **The Zion Gate:** also called David’s Gate, it was built by the Suleiman the Magnificent in 1540 and stands atop Mount Zion. The gate faces south in the direction of Hebron.



Joppa

An ancient Egyptian and Canaanite city, Joppa is considered the world's oldest port and the gateway to ancient Palestine. It is built on a rocky knoll 35m high that protrudes into the sea, forming a small and beautiful cape. Excavations have been few, but enough artifacts have been discovered to confirm to its antiquity.

- It was here that Jonah ran from the Lord. Jonah 1:3-4: "But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for the port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD."
- Peter stayed here with Simon the Tanner, where he saw a vision and received the visitors from the Roman Centurion, Cornelius (Acts 10).

King David's Tomb

Jewish tradition identifies Mount Zion as the last resting place of King David and his descendants, though more recent digs suggest it was located near the southeast base of the City of David.

Magdala

"Along the shores of the Sea of Galilee sits an archaeological site that, until recently, sat undetected for millennia. The ancient fishing village of Magdala touches our lives in significant ways for it touches the life of Jesus. Magdala was the next town over from Capernaum at the time of Jesus ministry and from this city came one of the most mentioned women in the New Testament—Mary Magdalene. A woman who had been set free of demonic activity by Jesus (Mark 16, Luke 8) and who became a devout and loyal companion. So much so that she was there along with Jesus mother and a few other women from the Galilee near the cross as Jesus died. (Matt 27, Mark 15, John 19) She was there sitting vigil with those who loved him at his tomb and she was on her way to anoint His body when an empty tomb was found. Mary Magdalene was among the first to share the news that would change the world...He is risen. (Matt 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20) Magdala is a recent and ongoing archaeological site. A rare gem in all of Israel. Where most places have many levels of civilization Magdala has been sitting just beneath the surface of the ground since the time of Jesus. A synagogue has been discovered in Magdala that was never built upon. No other memorial churches were constructed over it in the years after Jesus was in the region. It is one of the rare places a pilgrim can come and see the actual, untouched ruins of a place where Jesus would have stood to bring the message of the Kingdom. And one of the only untouched synagogues that would have been in use during the time that the temple stood in Jerusalem. It gives us a rare glimpse into the life and times that the Savior ministered in the land of the Galilee."

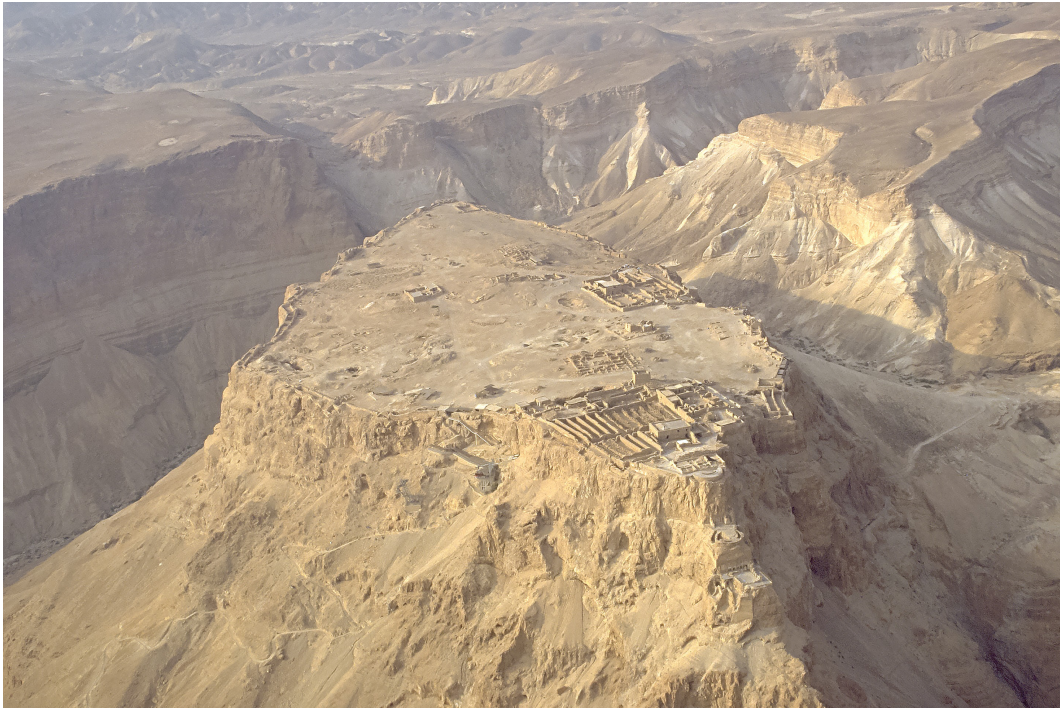


Masada

Masada is one of the most startling natural fortifications in the world. A majestic twenty-three acre ship-shaped mesa, it is 601m long, 300m wide and is 16km south of En Gedi and 4km west of the Dead Sea. Masada sits atop sheer rock cliffs 300m above the barren Judean wilderness and 400m above the waters of the Dead Sea.

- Masada was first fortified in the 2nd century BC by “Jonathan the High Priest” as a royal retreat. In 40 BC Herod fled from Jerusalem to Masada with his family to escape from Mattathian Antigonus, whom the Parthians had crowned king. Between 36 and 30 BC, Herod encircled the entire top of the plateau with a great casemate wall 1400m long, 6m high, 4m thick, and coated it with oiled white plaster. As his royal retreat, he erected a palace complete with a throne room, living quarters and apartments, and stocked the complex with enough provisions and arms to supply ten thousand men for several years.
- Herod used Masada only as an occasional winter resort and a few holiday trips. After his death in 4 BC, a small Roman garrison was stationed at the fortress.
- When the Great Jewish revolt broke out in AD 66, a Jewish sect, the Sicarii, made a lightning raid on Masada and displaced the Romans. As fighting continued throughout Judea, additional zealous Jews came to Masada, bringing their number to 967. In the autumn of AD 72, general Flavius Silva of the 10th Roman legion, his entire auxiliary troops and thousands of Jewish

prisoners of war laid siege to fortress. The Jewish patriots defended themselves for months but the Romans eventually completed an enormous earthen ramp to the top, allowing them to batter the walls and set fire to the fortifications. The Jewish leader Eleazar convinced the rebels that they should die by their own hands rather than be taken by the enemy. When the Romans overran the fortress the next day, only two women and five children were found alive, hiding in a cistern.



Megiddo

Originally a royal Canaanite city, it later became one of Solomon's three major chariot cities. The valley of Megiddo was part of the plain of Esdraelon in the Jezreel Valley, historically known as the great battlefield Har-Megiddo, or Armageddon. Megiddo is located at the head of the Kishon brook, 14.5km west of Jezreel.

- The Egyptians defeated King Josiah here, who was wounded in battle and died as he was taken away in his chariot. 2 Chron. 35:22-24: "Josiah, however, would not turn away from him, but disguised himself to engage him in battle. He would not listen to what Neco said at God's command but went to fight him on the plain of Megiddo. Archers shot King Josiah, and he told his officers, 'Take me away; I am badly wounded.' So they took him out of his chariot, put him in the other chariot he had and brought him to Jerusalem. He was buried in the tombs of his fathers, and all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him."
- Solomon heavily fortified the city and maintained stables for his chariot horses. 2 Chron. 9:25: "And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in chariot cities, and with the king in Jerusalem."
- The city overlooks the Valley of Armageddon where the Final Battle will be staged. Rev.16:16: "Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. The

seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice, saying, 'it is done!'"



Model of Jerusalem

Located in the Israel Museum, Professor Michael Avi-Yonah spent 30 years assembling an impressive scale model of Jerusalem as it looked in AD 66. The materials used in the model correspond to those used in the actual construction of Jerusalem. The scale is two centimeters for every meter of the original city.

Mount Arbel

Standing 700 feet above the Sea of Galilee, the Cliffs of Arbel provide a panoramic view stretching from the Golan Heights to the Jordan River valley. The snow-capped Mount Herman can be seen in the distance on clear days. Perhaps the most prominent physical landmark around the Sea of Galilee is towering Mount Arbel. Mount Arbel is located near the sea's western shore in the vicinity of ancient Magdala, home of Mary Magdalene. The mountain's sheer face can be easily picked out by the casual observer from most points around the lake. Below Mount Arbel lies the Valley of the Doves, a natural access route into the lake area and a route probably used by Jesus as he traveled back and forth to Cana and Nazareth.

Arbel has only one possible mention in scripture. In Hosea 10:14 we read: "Therefore tumult shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be plundered as Shalman plundered Beth

Arbel in the day of battle; a mother dashed in pieces upon her children.” From this early reference we realize that Arbel had a rather bloody history. Apparently the Assyrians had mercilessly killed many Israelites by forcing them off the face of this mountain. Later, the historian, Josephus, mentions that the Seleucid general, Bacchides, captured the mountain and executed many people there (Josephus Ant. XII, 11). Also in 39 BC, as Herod the Great rose to power, he too killed many of those Jews who opposed him by slaughtering them on this same mountain. As they hid in caves on its sheer north side, Herod let his men down in baskets and fished them from the caves, forcing them off the cliff to their destruction below.



Mount of Beatitudes

Located above Capernaum, the Mt. of Beatitudes is the traditional hill where Jesus delivered His Sermon on the Mount.

- Matt. 5:1-3 “Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him and he began to teach them, saying: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’”



Mount of Olives

The Mount of Olives is a long ridge running north and south, east of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley. It offers magnificent views of the Old City, Judean Hills, Dead Sea and the mountains of Moab to the east. The prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi are buried here.

- Jesus foretold the destruction of Jerusalem here. Mark 13:1-4: “As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, ‘look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!’ ‘Do you see all these great buildings?’ replied Jesus. ‘Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.’ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ‘Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to be fulfilled?’”
- Jesus ascended into Heaven from here. Acts 1:8-9 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit come on you; and you be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.



Mount Carmel

The place where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, proving to the Israelites that Yahweh was greater than Baal. 1 Kings 18:16-19 “So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When he saw Elijah, he said to him, ‘Is that you, you troubler of Israel?’ ‘I have not made trouble for Israel,’ Elijah replied. ‘But you and your father’s family have. You have abandoned the Lord’s commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.’”



Mount Hermon

Mt. Hermon, the highest mountain in the region, is a ridge 8km wide and 32km long. Consisting of three peaks, the tallest is 2,794m above sea level and capped with snow most of the year. The snowmelt is the main source of water for the Jordan River.



Mount Nebo

The peak of the mountain of Abarim in Moab, where the Children of Israel camped (Num. 33:47) and from which Moses beheld the land of Canaan before his death at Mt Nebo. The Bible locates it in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho (Deut. 32:49; 34:1, 4). The location of the mountain is not known exactly.

Mount Zion

Mount Zion was originally the southwestern hill of Jerusalem known as Ophel, or the City of David. Later, Mount Moriah became the Temple Mount and was generally referred to as "Zion". Geographically, Mt. Zion is the southwest ridge of the Old City that extends south from the Zion Gate exit.

- Isaiah 4:5: "And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night; upon all the glory shall be a defense."
- Zech. 8:3: "Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountains of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain."

Nazareth

Nazareth rests in a secluded valley in the craggy mountains along the eastern edge of the Jezreel Valley. Today it is an Arab city, but in first century AD it was small—barely a dozen families—situated on an important trade route between Egypt and Mesopotamia.

- The town where Jesus spent his boyhood. Luke 2:39-40 “When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.”
- Jesus attended and taught in the synagogue. Luke 4:16-17: “He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue as was his custom.”
- The people of Nazareth refused to believe the teachings of Jesus. Matt. 13:53-58: “When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?’ they asked. ‘Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary? And aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where did this man get all these things?’ And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, ‘Only in his hometown and in his own house a prophet without honor.’ And they did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.”



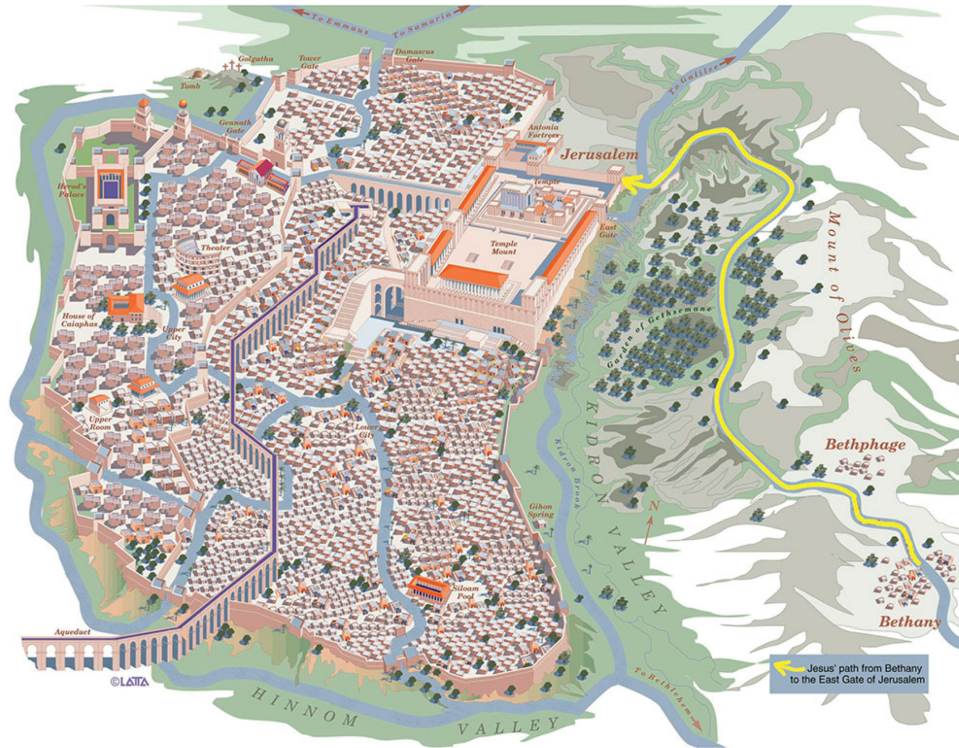
Palm Sunday Road / The Triumphal Entry

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY Term used for the entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem on the Sunday prior to His crucifixion. Due to the fact that palm branches were placed before Him, this day is often called

“Palm Sunday.” The event is recorded in Matt. 21:1–9; Mark 11:1–10; Luke 19:28–38; John 12:12–15. All accounts agree in substance with each adding certain detail. Whether by prearrangement or by divine foreknowledge, the disciples found a colt in Beth-phage as Jesus had described. (Matthew ties the account closely to Zechariah’s prophecy [9:9], mentioning the colt and its mother.) It is possible that Christ rode the donkey for the more difficult part of the journey, transferring to the colt upon actually entering Jerusalem. There a large crowd applauded Him, spreading the road with their garments and with branches. They acknowledged Him as the son of David.

The triumphal entry is of vital significance in understanding the messianic mission of Jesus. Prior to this moment, Jesus had refused to allow any public acknowledgement of His being the Messiah. By conducting His ministry outside Jerusalem, He had avoided further intensification of conflict with the Jewish religious leaders. Now, however, the time was at hand. The opponents of Jesus understood the strong messianic implications of the manner of His entry into Jerusalem. The riding upon the colt, the garments and palm branches in the road, and the shouts of the multitude—all of these pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. When He was urged to quiet the people, Jesus replied, “If they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out!” (Luke 19:40 HCSB). Ironically, though the triumphal entry was a public acceptance of Jesus being the Messiah and presented a direct challenge to His enemies, it must have been a disappointment to many of His followers. Christ did not enter Jerusalem upon a warhorse of conquest but upon a colt representing humility. As a result, the religious leaders demanded His crucifixion, while the multitudes ultimately turned away with indifference





Petra

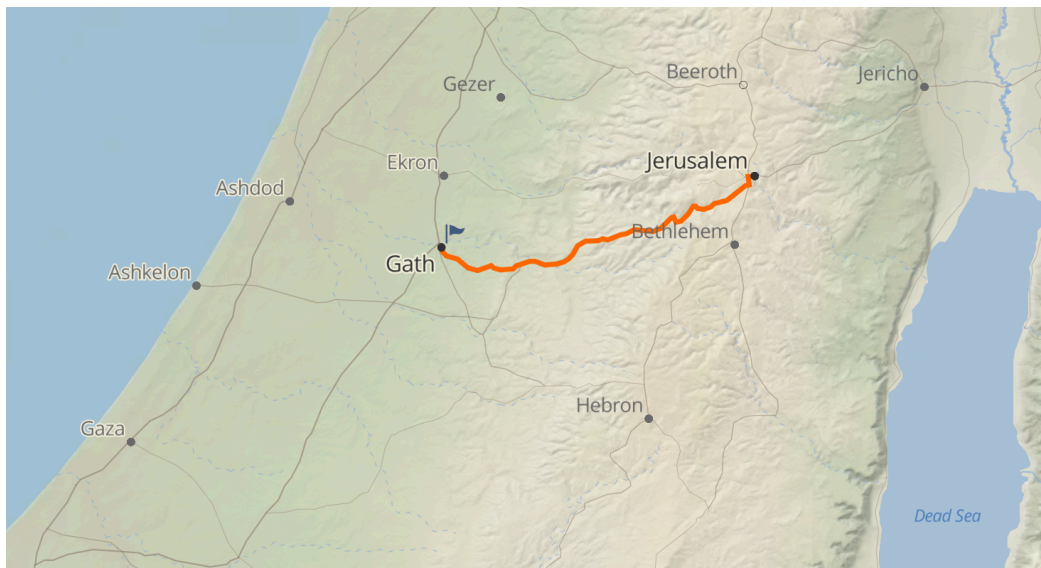
Capital of the Nabataeans, who first appear in history in 312 BC. These people were of Arab origin, though their ancestry is uncertain. They occupied the old land of Edom and made Petra their capital. Petra lay in an impressive valley about 1000 yards wide among the mountains of western Edom, some 60 miles north of Aqaba. The only access to the valley is through a narrow gorge called the Siq. On all sides massive cliffs of reddish sandstone arise. Today ruins of many temples, houses, tombs, and other structures hewn out of the reddish sandstone remain. A Roman basilica and theater are still to be seen.

Petra is not known biblically but has been identified, tentatively, with Sela (es-Sela'), a site 2½ miles northwest of Bozrah (Buseira) since the 3rd century BC (See Septuagint: 2 Kgs 14:7; Ob 3).



Philistine Country

The Philistines were an aggressive sea-going people who by 1200 B.C. had invaded and settled the eastern Mediterranean coast. The Philistines were Israel's principal enemy from the time of Samson until their defeat at the hands of David around 980 B.C., occupying an area roughly 160 by 24km along the coast of southern Israel. The five main Philistine cities were Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath and Gaza. The most famous Philistine was Goliath.



The Pools of Bethesda

Bethesda (“House of Mercy”) was a double-reservoir with five porches located near the ancient Sheep-Gate. The pools were rectangular, measuring about 106m in length, 61m wide and 7.5m deep. Many infirmed people waited by the lower pool for an angel to stir the waters—the first one into the pool after the disturbance would be cured of their ailment.

- The pool is where Jesus healed the lame man. John 5:1-5: “Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.” Verse 8: “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.’”



Pool of Siloam

Mentioned in John 9. Jesus, after anointing with clay the eyes of a blind man, directed him to go and wash in the pool. The man obeyed. He washed and came back with his sight fully restored.

The pool of Siloam of NT days marked the emergence of Hezekiah’s tunnel, dug during the threat of the Assyrian invasion about 700 BC. This tunnel is S-shaped and is described both in 2 Kings 20:20 and 2 Chronicles 32:2–4. Archaeologists found an inscription in the tunnel consisting of Hebrew letters chiseled into the side of the tunnel indicating the progress and the meeting place of the two groups of workmen (each of which had started on one side and worked their way to the middle). This inscription has since been removed and is now in the museum in Istanbul. The ancient Hebrew reads:

When the tunnel was driven through ... each man toward his fellow, and while there were still three cubits to be cut through—the voice of a man calling to his fellow.... And when the tunnel was driven through, the quarrymen hewed, each toward his fellow, axe against axe; and the water flowed from the spring toward the reservoir for 1200 cubits, and the height of the rock above the heads of the quarrymen was 100 cubits.

The purpose of the pool originally was to bring water inside the city walls and deny it to invaders of Jerusalem. It flowed through the temple mount to the inner part of the city, where it was accessible to the residents. Water from Gihon Spring flows through the tunnel, emerges at the pool (also called the King's Pool in Neh 2:14 and the pool of Shelah in 3:15), continues down the valley through the ancient area of the king's gardens, reenters the Kidron Valley, and makes its way toward the Dead Sea south of the Essene site at Qumran. The Gihon Spring, the only natural source of water in Jerusalem, is a copious perennial stream. This, together with a rugged terrain, explains the strength of Jerusalem and the reason why it had been chosen for a place of habitation since the early Bronze Age.

Siloam now lies outside the old city of Jerusalem. The pool today measures 50 feet (15.2 meters) long and 5 feet (1.5 meters) wide and lies 16 steps below street level. A Byzantine church stood over the pool until it was destroyed by the Persians in AD 614.



Qumran

Qumran, site of an ancient Essene monastery, is best known as the location where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. The discovery of the scrolls began in the spring of 1947 when an Arab shepherd boy, searching for a lost goat, threw a stone into a cave and heard breaking pottery. Entering the cave, he found several clay jars, 25-29in. high and about 10in. wide. Inside the jars were leather scrolls wrapped in linen cloth covered with a pitch-like substance. The shepherds tried to sell the scrolls to a Bethlehem antique dealer, who directed them to Jerusalem where several were bought by a Syrian archbishop and a Hebrew University archeology professor. The shepherds revealed the cave's location but a war made further study impossible until 1949. When investigation resumed, more than 900 different manuscripts and fragments were discovered, about a third of which were Old Testament related, along with commentaries, hymns, psalms, liturgies, apocryphal and wisdom books, community procedures, rules and other documents.

- The scrolls have been linked to a semi-monastic community of Essenes who lived in the area from 110 BC to AD 68.



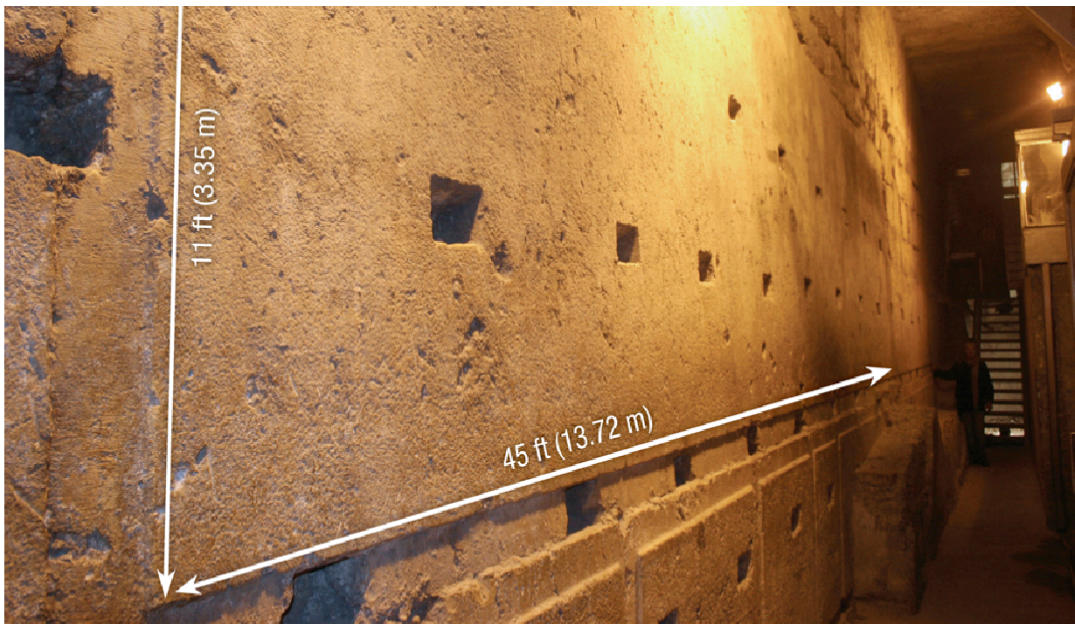
The “Western Wall Tunnels”

The “Western Wall Tunnels” was the project of Jerusalem Orthodox rabbis that began in 1967 under the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The excavation started under the Western Wall Plaza and ran north along the outside of the western retaining wall of the Temple Mount. The project proceeded with government knowledge but without its oversight, igniting political controversy. Professional archeologists had little interest or involvement in the project.

- In 1982, while digging north along the western retaining wall of the Temple Mount, the rabbis discovered an ancient sealed gate. Breaking through the gate they began to clear out chambers beneath the Mount, looking for the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy of Holies of the ancient Jewish temples. Palestinian workmen above heard their digging via a cistern and climbed down

to the gate complex where they discovered Jews clearing out the gate room and passageways beneath the Temple Mount. The Israeli government halted the work and sealed the gate following a Palestinian riot. The rabbis, however, were allowed to continue excavating northward along the outside of the Western Wall.

- In the late 1980's, the rabbis reached the north corner of the Temple Mount where they found a pre-Herodian water tunnel north of the Temple platform. With the discovery of this ancient rock-carved water system, the project became known as the "Hasmonean Tunnel".
- The project, finished in 1988, was stabilized so tourists could visit the tunnel. In 1996, the government opened a northern exit onto the Via Dolorosa that provoked an explosive reaction by the Palestinians. Many people died in the ensuing violence. The tunnel is still open today by appointment only.



In the 1990s a tunnel was opened alongside the underground course of stones so that visitors could see the full extent of the Herodian construction. In the course exposed in this tunnel is one of the most massive of the foundation stones yet discovered. Its measurements are 45 feet (13.72 m) by 11 feet (3.35 m) by 14-16 feet (4.27-4.88 m) and it weighs nearly 600 tons. (Baker Photo Archive)

Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee (known today as "Kinnereth") is a lake 21km long, 11km wide and 46m deep. Home of more than 18 indigenous species of fish, it afforded the livelihood for most of Jesus' disciples.

- Jesus called many of his disciples here, including Peter and Andrew. Matt. 4:18-19: "As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'"



Sepphoris

The city of Sepphoris is on the must-see list of archaeological sites in Israel today. Visitors are especially awed by the ancient city's colorful, intricately-designed mosaic floors. These remains and many others, while striking and imaginative, all post-date the time of the Gospels. In the early first century A.D. Sepphoris was a place just being (re)built. Even the theater, shown here early on in its excavation, was only possibly built during the reign of Herod Antipas (3 B.C.—A.D. 39). This makes it unlikely that Joseph or Jesus ever sat in its seats, although it is reasonable to assume that they participated in initial work in the city. A crusader citadel, now the site's museum, sits above.



Shiloh

A religious center of Canaan where the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant stood for more than three hundred years prior to the building of the First Temple.

- The town where Joshua cast lots for the distribution of the Promised Land among the twelve tribes. Joshua 18:10: “Joshua then cast lots for them in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD, and there he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their tribal divisions.”

Southern Steps of the Second Temple/Hulda Gates

These steps ascend to the original entrance of the Temple Mount during the Second Temple period. Jesus would have climbed these steps many times during His visits to Jerusalem.



Tel Dan

Tel Dan is located 12km east of Kiryat Shemona at the foot of Mt. Hermon. Prior to its conquest by the tribe of Dan, it was the Canaanite city of Laish, which covered more than 50 acres (huge by ancient standards). The later construction of an encircling rampart eventually caused the interior to settle, making a crater effect. King Jeroboam of the Northern Kingdom of Israel set up a pagan worship center at Dan for his golden calf cult. Archeologists have discovered the high-place where the calf was worshiped but not the idol itself. Another significant find were pieces of a large standing stone slab (stela) near the Israelite gate—one of which held the inscription, “House of David”—a term that described the King David’s successors who ruled Israel from Jerusalem. Until this inscription was found, no evidence of King David existed outside the Bible. The find helped quell a growing school of critics who presumed the accounts of David and Solomon were myths.

- The city was formerly called Leshem or Laish. Joshua 19:47: “But the Danites had difficulty taking possession of their territory, so they went up and attacked Leshem, took it, put it to the sword and occupies it. They settled in Leshem and named it Dan after their forefather.”

- Judges 18:28-30 “...the Danites rebuilt the city and settled there. They named it Dan after their forefather Dan, who was born to Israel—though the city used to be called Laish.”
- After the death of Solomon, Rehoboam and Jeroboam vied for succession. Ten of Israel’s twelve tribes sided with Jeroboam, calling their new nation ‘Israel’ (the Northern Kingdom), while Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to Rehoboam. Since king Rehoboam ruled over Jerusalem and the Temple, Jeroboam made golden calf-idols for his people to worship. 1Kings 12:26-29: “Jeroboam thought to himself, ‘The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam, King of Judah. They will kill me and return to Rehoboam. After seeking much advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, ‘It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan.”



Temple Mount (Mt. Moriah)

Jerusalem’s Temple Mount is arguably the most important acreage in the world. In 960 BC King Solomon built a temple on the site of a threshing floor purchased by his father, King David. In subsequent eras, the mount was the site of Ezra’s and Herod’s temples, a Roman pagan temple, mosques and was a Christian site during the Crusader Period.

- Since the 2nd century AD, Jews have not had access to the Temple Mount. The Western Wall is the closest spot to the site of the destroyed Jewish temples.
- The foundations of the first and second temples are under the area between the Dome of the Spirits and the Dome of the Rock. Solomon’s Temple was the central place of worship for the

Jews for four centuries, until Babylon destroyed it in 586 BC. The Second Temple was begun in 16 BC by Herod the Great and finished 84 years later. Titus destroyed it in AD 70.

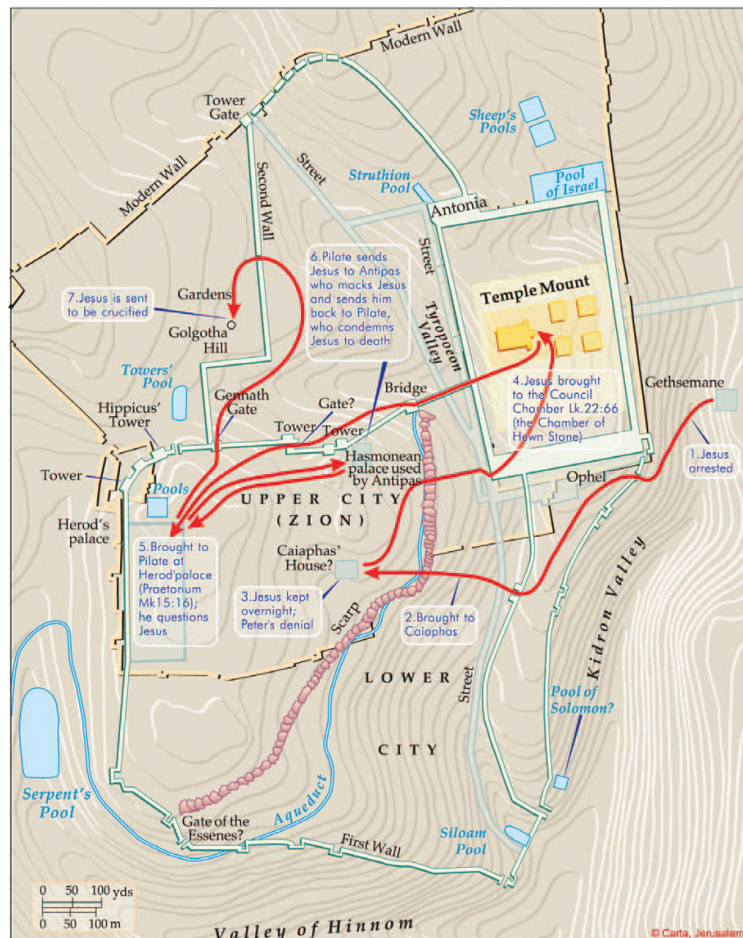
- The Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aksa Mosque are the third holiest shrines in Islam (the Kaaba in Mecca and Mohammed's tomb in Medina are first and second). The Jews identify the rock under the Dome as the place where Abraham was to sacrifice his son Isaac; Muslims venerate the rock as the site where Muhammad ascended to heaven at the end of his Night Journey.



Via Dolorosa (“The Way of the Cross”)

The Via Dolorosa is the traditional route Jesus carried the cross from the Antonia Fortress to Calvary. The route has 14 “Stations of the Cross”, which are not Biblical, but rather traditional, locations.

1. The Praetorium where Jesus was condemned to death.
2. Jesus receives the Cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls for the second time
8. Jesus speaks to the daughter of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls for the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus dies on the Cross
13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross
14. Jesus is laid in the Holy Sepulcher



Warren's Shaft

Scholars date the digging of this underground water conduit to the 9th or 10th century BCE. It is accessed by a descending tunnel which terminates in a vertical shaft the bottom of which is at the level of the Gihon Spring.

Using this system, residents of ancient Jerusalem could obtain water during periods of siege or war without having to venture outside the city wall. The shaft bears the name of its 19th-century discoverer, the British scholar Charles Warren.

WARREN'S SHAFT A shaft within Jerusalem that allowed residents to reach fresh water during sieges. It is possible that this shaft was used by Joab to launch a surprise attack from inside the city (2 Sam 5:8; 1 Chr 11:6).



Western “Wailing” Wall

The Western Wall is part of the retaining wall built by Herod the Great that surrounded the Temple Mount. After the destruction of the temple in AD 70, Jews were forbidden to enter Jerusalem until the Byzantine period, when they could visit once a year on the anniversary of the destruction of the temple to weep over the ruins. Jews were later forbidden to visit the wall from 1948-1967 when it was in the Jordanian section of the city. After the Six-Day War, the Western Wall became a place for national rejoicing and prayer as the last accessible relic of the temple. Over time, it has become the most important place of worship for the Jews of the world.

- Jews come to the wall to pray or offer prayers written on small pieces of paper that are inserted between the stone blocks. When the rabbis remove written prayers, they are taken out of the city and reverently buried.



Wooden Boat Ride across the Sea of Galilee

Mk 4:35-36 One evening in the autumn, Jesus and his disciples set off across the Sea of Galilee in a wooden fishing boat in order to escape from the crowds.

Mk 4:37-41 The lake is subject to sudden squalls, especially during the autumn. Winds blow from the west, funneling between the hills and whipping the lake up into a fury of waves. A sudden storm threatens to sink the boat while Jesus is asleep. The disciples are terrified and wake Jesus. They're even more amazed when he rebukes the waves and the storm calms down.



Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem (Hebrew: **יָד וּשְׂמ**; literally, "a monument and a name") is Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. It is dedicated to preserving the memory of the dead; honoring Jews who fought against their Nazi German oppressors and Gentiles who selflessly aided Jews in need; and researching the phenomenon of the Holocaust in particular and genocide in general, with the aim of avoiding such events in the future.

Established in 1953, Yad Vashem is on the western slope of Mount Herzl, also known as the Mount of Remembrance, a height in western Jerusalem, 804 meters (2,638 ft) above sea level and adjacent to the Jerusalem Forest. The memorial consists of a 180-dunam (18.0 ha; 44.5-acre) complex containing two types of facilities: some dedicated to the scientific study of the Holocaust and genocide in general, and memorials and museums catering to the needs of the larger public. Among the former there are a research institute with archives, a library, a publishing house, and an educational center, and the International School/Institute for Holocaust Studies; among the latter, the Holocaust History Museum, memorial sites such as the Children's Memorial and the Hall of Remembrance, the Museum of Holocaust Art, sculptures, outdoor commemorative sites such as the Valley of the Communities, and a synagogue.

A core goal of Yad Vashem's founders was to recognize non-Jews who, at personal risk and without a financial or evangelistic motive, chose to save Jews from the ongoing genocide during the Holocaust. Those recognized by Israel as Righteous Among the Nations are honored in a section of Yad Vashem known as the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Yad Vashem is the second-most-visited Israeli tourist site, after the Western Wall, with approximately one million visitors each year. It does not charge any fee for admission.

The name "Yad Vashem" is taken from a verse in the Book of Isaiah: "To them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever" (Isaiah 56:5 Hebrew: וְנָתַתִּי לָהֶם בְּבֵיתִי וּבְחֹמֹתַי יָד וְשֵׁם, טוֹב מִבְּנִים; שֵׁם עוֹלָם אֶתֶן לוֹ, אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִכָּרֵת (ומבנות; שם עולם אתן לו, אשר לא יכרת). Naming the Holocaust memorial "yad vashem" (Hebrew: יָד וְשֵׁם, yād wā-šēm, literally "memorial and a name") conveys the idea of establishing a national depository for the names of Jewish victims who have no one to carry their name after death. The verse refers to those who can't have children and believe that since they're destined to be forgotten, that they don't need to improve their ways. If they walk with G-d and "grasp his covenant tightly," then they'll be rewarded.



Preparing for Israel

Physical Exercise

- You will be doing a great deal of walking on your trip. It is strongly recommended that you do some walking now—in the shoes you're taking on the tour—to condition yourself. If you're buying new shoes for the trip, plan to wear them weeks before departure so they are “broken in” and you are comfortable walking in them.

Dress Requirements

- You can dress like you normally dress. Shorts are acceptable most days. However, certain Holy sites will require shoulders and knees to be covered. Capernaum, Temple Mount, Western Wall Prayer areas. You will need pants, slacks, skirts or a dress - *no leggings* - for such areas. Your guide will let you know so you may dress accordingly.

Immunizations

- You do not need shots or immunizations beyond what is already recommended for the United States, to visit Israel/Jordan. Check the Center for Disease Control for any updates prior to your trip.

Money

- The US dollar is accepted all over Israel and Jordan! If you want to convert currency, you certainly can, but it is not necessary. US credit and debit cards will also be accepted at many stores. You may want to alert your bank or credit card company that you will be traveling in Israel so they don't see charges in another country, and freeze your card. The best place to convert your money if you want some shekels, is at the hotel.

Tips About Tipping

- Your Guide and Bus Driver will be top notch. Your Pastor/Tour Leader will be taking care of the tipping for your Guide, Driver & Hotel Head waiter. If you want to add more at the end of the trip, talk to your Pastor/Tour Leader.

Cell Phones

- Call your service provider and ask about using your cell phone for calls, texting & data overseas. Carriers offer international plans for traveling. Most hotels/Kibbutz provide free Wi-Fi. Your Tour Bus has free W--Fi

Laundry

- The hotels have 'overnight' laundry services, but it can be pricey and will only be available while staying in the hotel for multiple nights. Some people wash out their clothes in the sink and roll in a towel, then put on a hanger to dry.

Drinking Water

- Drink lots of water. Bring a container to fill in your hotel and/or bottled water will be available on your bus for \$1 per bottle.

Weather

- Weather in Israel is very changeable, and November through March is the rainy season. While you should have many beautiful days, expect to see some rain, especially in the hill country. The average temperature can vary greatly depending on where you are in Israel. Expect cool days and cold nights in Jerusalem. Following are the average high/low temperatures for various places in Israel in the winter.

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Jerusalem	67/54	56/47	53/43	57/44	61/46
Tel Aviv	76/54	66/47	65/49	66/48	69/51
Sea of Galilee	78/59	68/53	65/48	67/49	72/51
Dead Sea	83/61	74/51	70/49	73/51	79/56

Allowance

You are allowed to check **one** piece of luggage which cannot exceed 62 inches (height + width + length) & 50 lbs. Bags oversize or overweight will be charged an extra fee by the airline & slow down your group check-in. Carry-on must not exceed 21" wide x 15" length x 9" high & 17 lbs. It must fit in the overhead compartment or under the seat.

As a reminder, don't pack your back out to 50 pounds, leave some room and weight for souvenirs you may buy while in Israel.

Airplane Tickets and Boarding Passes

For boarding passes and ticketing, we will simply show up at the airport at Dulles International Airport with our passports, get in line at the ticketing counter for Turkish Air, show our passport and ticketing will take place there for everything we need all the way through to Tel Aviv.

International flights we are recommended to be at the ticketing counter three hours before flight. The Turkish Air is probably not going to open up until two and a half hours before the flight.

First and foremost, before we leave for the airport - do you have your passport with you..... everything else we can work around, except forgotten passports :-)

Items to Pack in Hand Luggage

- Airline tickets once received at the ticketing counter, your passport, one-day change of clothes, essential toiletries (remember TSA 3-1-1 rule regarding small sizes) neck pillow and sleeping mask (for sleeping on airplane) good book(s) to read on plane.

Clothing

- Blouses, shirts, socks, underwear (take a limited supply—use wash-and-wear) shorts, slacks, jeans, skirts (take a limited supply) personal modesty kit (for entering "holy places" and conservative communities) heavy sweater or jacket swimsuit walking shoes (plenty of walking! Good shoes are very important!) flip-flops or old sneakers (for the beach) sunglasses hat.

Toiletries/Medications

NOTE: The TSA requires all carry-on liquids to be in 3.4 ounce (100 ml) or less (by volume) bottles and to be placed in a single quart-sized, clear plastic, ziplock bag. Any other liquids need to be in your checked luggage. Any special medicine..... make sure you have the full 10 day supply (in original bottles with labels) with you on your carry-on.

Miscellaneous

- Travel alarm, plastic bags (for wet washcloth, laundry, etc.) pen, notebook, and small Bible (Old and New Testament), small sewing kit, adapter or converter for all electrical appliances, tiny flashlight, handkerchiefs or tissues, laundry detergent (small supply), washcloth* camera, charger, extra batteries, extra memory cards extra pair of eyeglasses (or prescription) electrical appliances (hair dryer, razor, curling iron) small umbrella or rain hat (November-April) boxed snacks (individually packed, travel size)

Istanbul Connecting Flights

When we land in Istanbul, we do not go through baggage claim or customs, we simply go to our connecting flight and our baggage will meet us in Tel Aviv, and we will go through Customs there. Israel Customs does not always stamp American's passport, so if that is something you want as a memory token, please ask the Custom agent to stamp your passport in the event he/she doesn't stamp it.

We will arrive in Tel Aviv around 7:30 PM. We will pass through immigration and we will have to have our passports available. After immigration will pick up our baggage and we will be met by our tour group host who then will take us outside to meet our tour guide and our bus driver. Our tour guide and bus driver will be with us from this point on through the whole trip. Our tour guide's name is Danny. Please be in prayer for him as he is vital and important to our trip.

While in Israel

Breakfast & Dinner Are the Big Meals of the Day

Every morning we will have a buffet breakfast and we will be back at the hotel every night for a buffet dinner, so there'll be plenty of food for breakfast and dinner. It is recommended that at breakfast, grab some fruit and even make a sandwich and the hotel allows it to be done, and then take it with you on the tour bus as you can eat that as a light snack. From stop to stop, there are from time to time, places to grab a light snack or even a full lunch to eat, but those are tradeoffs of time eating in restaurant compared to time on sites doing the sightseeing and the tour. There will be special times where we will stop to get a cafe or a coffee or an ice cream at a special local shop. We will try to stay flexible with eating and stopping for treats, but we will also try to stay on our focus of the tour and seeing the sites of this trip of a lifetime. So breakfast and dinner are the main meals every day.

Departing Every Morning on Tour

We will usually be on the bus most every day around 8:00 AM. We will make an announcement every night on what time we will be starting each morning. Breakfast starts at the hotel most every morning around 6:00 AM, so there will be time to eat a good solid breakfast before getting

on the bus.

Throughout the Day

The bus has Wi-Fi and so does the hotel for you to stay connected.

The bus does have water bottles for sale at \$1 a bottle.

The bus will be secured at all time with the driver so you can leave anything you want on it and be sure that it will be safe. It is recommended to bring layered clothing through the day as the temperatures will vary from site to site as we travel from point to point. But again you can leave anything want on the bus, so bring a bag and bring clothes and a jacket that you can wear or leave depending on the weather for that moment. It is to be expected this time of year that there will be rain, so it is recommended to bring some type of rain gear with you.

We will be taking a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and the exciting news is the size of our group, we will have our own boat and therefore we will be able to stop and have a time of devotion in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.

We should be at the hotel every night around 4:30, the time to go back to the room and refresh. Dinner is around 6:00 PM every night to 9:00 PM. Dinner is flexible, nobody has to attend dinner as a group. Everyone's free to have dinner at their leisure between 6:00 and 9:00, but we will communicate every night of what the target time is for group fellowship for those who would like to eat as a group. Every night after dinner, everybody will be free to do what they please, whether that's take a walk downtown or just go back to the room and rest or just sit in the lobby and fellowship. It is totally open once we get back to the hotel. We will begin again every morning at the bus tentatively for now at 8:00 AM.

When we do the baptism, the baptism has locker rooms to change. They have hot showers to take after the baptisms. There are robes available and there will be a certificate of your baptism in the Jordan River. The cost per person for the facilities is \$10 per person.

We will spend half of our nights in a wonderful hotel in Jerusalem and it is about a 10-minute walk from the hotel to Downtown Jerusalem. Taxi service are available for those who would like to take a taxi downtown.

When we're in Jerusalem, we will have the opportunity to tour some of the tunnels that were dug during the times of the kingdom of Israel. The two tunnels are optional in that you can stay on the bus, and the bus will take us to the next meeting place, which is the Pool of Siloam or you can walk through the tunnel. One of them has a wet tunnel so you will need flashlight and flip-flops. And the other tunnel is a dry tunnel which goes under the city and nothing special is required for that tunnel.

When we go to Masada, the walk up is rather strenuous. It can take 40 to 60 minutes or there is a cable car available. We will communicate very clearly when we get to Masada, when we will be having our group teaching, which will be relatively short. But there will be a time together where we will explain what happened in the history of Masada and we will work that in for those who

are walking and for those who are taking the car.

When we get to the Dead Sea, there will be opportunity to swim and there too will be a locker room, showers and towels. There is a minimal cost to use the facility.

When we get to the Garden of Gethsemane, we will have a very specific time that we will have to be there so that we can have our dedicated and group-only private time that will be set apart for us.

Likewise, when we get to Calvary, we'll have a special area that is fenced off that will be a private place just for us as a group and communion will be set up and we will do communion and worship there. Our worship through the whole time, as we will have worship at various locations, will be via a boombox and our own voices and give praise to the Lord for his goodness.

Most everywhere we go, American currency is accepted. 99% of the places will take the American dollars. It has been recommended that the best place to do your exchange if you do want some shekels for spending while there is to do it at the hotel.

Again, we will have Wi-Fi at the hotels and on the bus and so we do have a good opportunity to have group communication via our phones. If you do not have a phone, that will not be a problem. We will still make sure that we have a means to get all relative information regarding the trip. But if you have a phone number, please provide it to Jen & Shen and they will be creating a group list so that we can send out group text to communicate any information. But we will also use other means necessary to make sure that we all stay in communication of what's next. But again, every morning at 8:00 AM is when we will be leaving. And so that will stay as a fixed time of departure.

Regarding proper attire for proper location. Our tour guide, the night before, will inform us of what special attire will be required in the next days tour. We will make that information available every night at dinner or via our text messaging, or we will personally communicate that at breakfast.

We will have a short Bible devotion every morning on the bus (about 10 minutes) as we drive to our first stop; from time to time throughout the day Pastor Ray will invite anyone who has something they want to share (an experience, a Bible verse that spoke to them while at a site, a praise report) to come up to the microphone that at the front of the bus to share with the rest of the team.

One last note, the tour is led by Pastor Ray and is aided by the Tour Group (meaning it is Pastor Ray's tour / it's out tour); Pastor Ray will focus on getting us the most exposure of the Land, at a pace that is comfortable and relaxing. Pastor Ray welcomes your comments and suggestions during the trip so as to meet special requests if possible.