

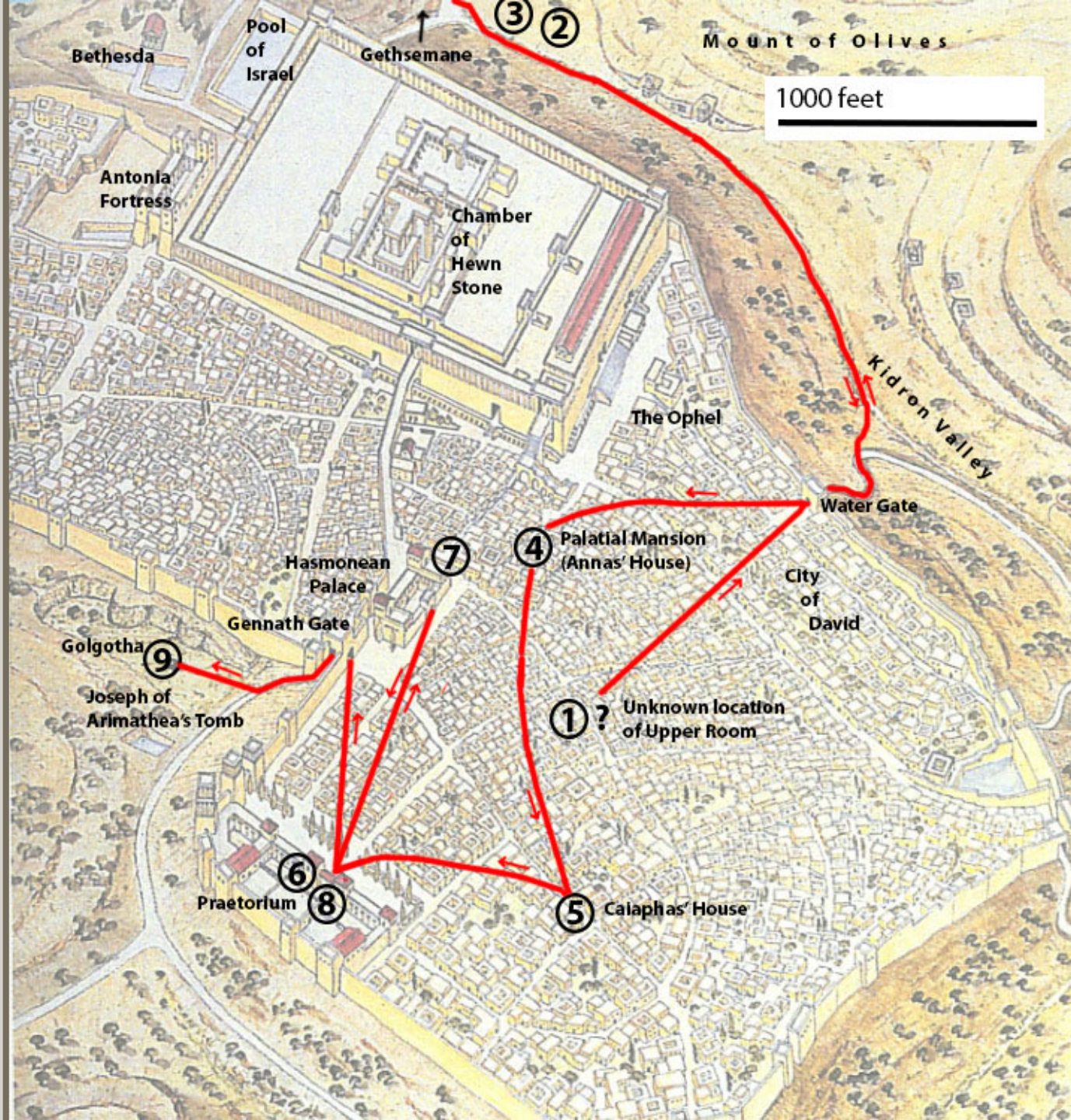


**(Matthew 28:1-20)
Messiah On A Mission
(Part 60)**

“He Is Risen”

**(MATTHEW
28:1-8)
THE LORD'S
DAY:**

The first day of the week is a reference to Sunday. From this day forward, believers set aside Sunday to meet and remember the miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2), and it became known as "The Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10).



"He is Risen!" (Matthew 28:6)

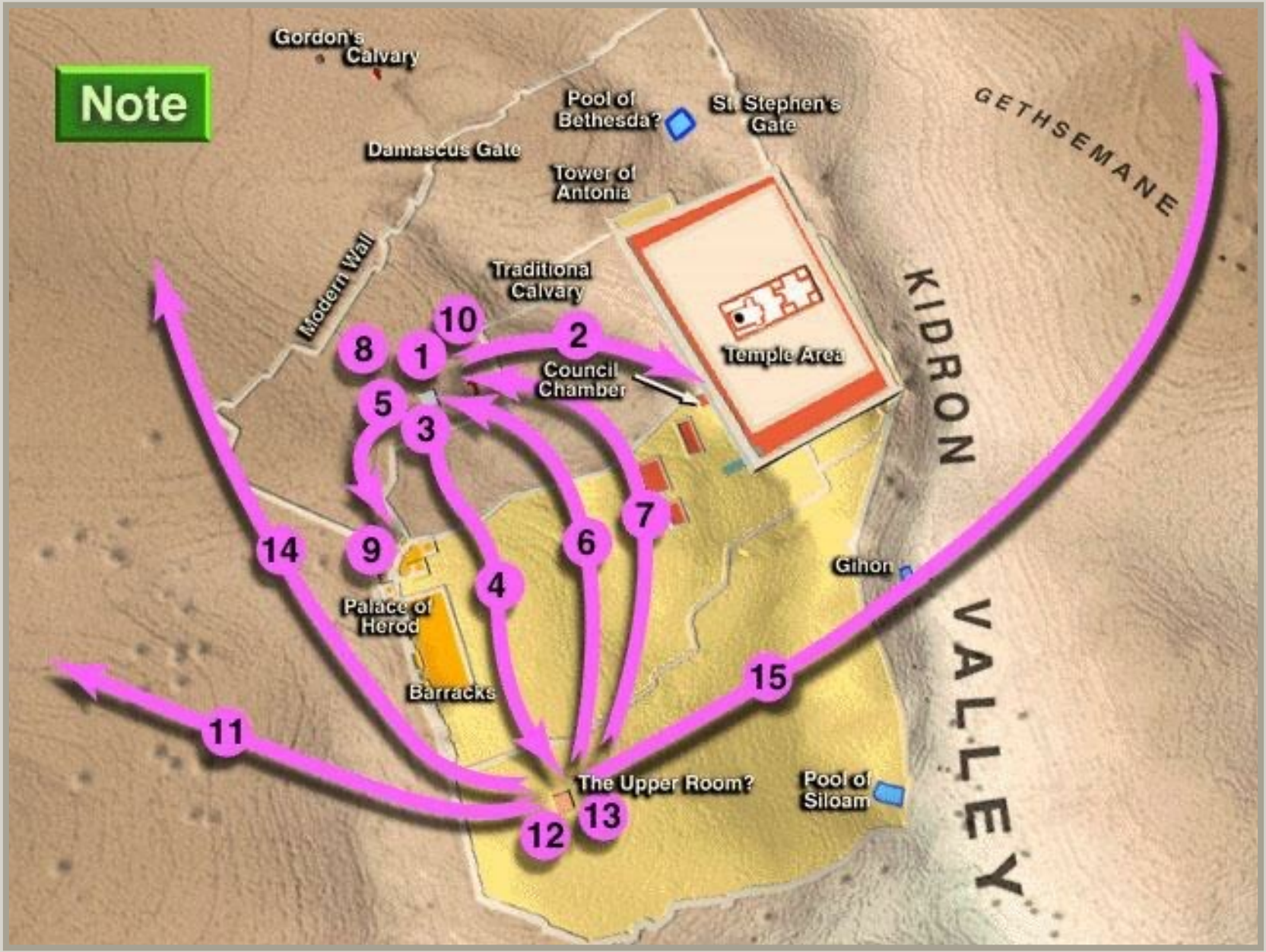
Jesus' resurrection is one of the central truth claims of the Christian faith (1 Cor. 15:4, 14) and the only plausible explanation for the empty tomb. Even Jewish leaders did not deny the empty tomb but fabricated a conspiracy theory that the disciples had stolen the body (Matt. 28:11-15).



Scripture describes at least ten distinct appearances of Christ between the resurrection and ascension.

He appeared:

1. To Mary Magdalene at the tomb (Mark 16:9; John 20:11–18);
2. To the women on the road (Matt. 28:9–10);
3. To the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–32);
4. To Peter (Luke 24:34);
5. To ten of the eleven disciples, Thomas being absent (Luke 24:36–43; Mark 16:14; John 20:19–25);
6. To the eleven disciples (with Thomas present) eight days later (John 20:26–31);
7. To seven disciples by the shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1–25);
8. To more than five hundred disciples, probably on a mountain in Galilee (1 Cor. 15:6)
9. To James (1 Cor. 15:7); and to the apostles when he ascended into heaven (Acts 1:3–11).
10. After His ascension, He appeared to Paul (1 Cor. 15:8). The next time He appears, it will be in glory (Matt. 24:30).



Matthew Jesus Resurrection Map Wikimedia Commons

John Dominic Crossan, an ardent foe of orthodox Christianity and a scholar whose flair for presentation makes him popular with the media, has updated these criticisms. He likes to say that Jesus was crucified, deserted by all his disciples, then buried in a shallow grave, with other criminals. His body was probably eaten by scavenging dogs. As for his body, “those who cared did not know where it was, and those who knew did not care.”

And when they saw him,
they worshipped him: but some
doubted. And Jesus came and spake
unto them, saying, All power is given
unto me in heaven and in earth.

(Matthew 28: 17-18)

FOOTNOTE:

The Location of Jesus' Tomb

According to the New Testament, Jesus was buried in a new tomb hewn out of rock (Mt 27:60; Mk 15:46; Lk 23:53) in a garden near the crucifixion site (Jn 19:41), just outside the city (Jn 19:20; Heb 13:12). In addition, the entrance was low and sealed with a stone (Mt 27:60; Mk 15:46; Jn 20:11), and on the right side it was possible to sit where the body of Jesus had lain (Mk 16:5; Jn 20:12). Based upon the Biblical description and upon other known first-century tombs, the tomb of Jesus can be reconstructed as having had a small forecourt, a low entry passage and a burial chamber with benches, or “couches,” on three sides for the placement of the deceased.

FOOTNOTE (cont.):

There are two leading contenders for the location of Jesus' tomb in the Old City of Jerusalem: the Garden Tomb, 275 yards (251 m) north of the Damascus Gate, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter. The Garden Tomb, however, has no ancient tradition associated with it. It was suggested as the site of Jesus' burial after the renowned British military hero Charles Gordon while visiting Jerusalem in 1883, suggested that Calvary would have been located on a nearby hill. This led to the identification of a tomb on the western side of the hill as Jesus' burial place, once referred to as Gordon's Tomb.

FOOTNOTE (cont.):

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre location, on the other hand, has a tradition going back to early Christian times. When the Roman emperor Hadrian rebuilt Jerusalem in A.D. 130/131, he constructed a temple to Jupiter and Venus over the site of the present Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In A.D. 325, Constantine ordered the removal of Hadrian's temple. Local Christian tradition had claimed this to be the site of Jesus' tomb, and, remarkably, when Hadrian's temple was cleared away, a tomb area was indeed discovered beneath it. Constantine had a church constructed on the site and built a small structure, or edicule, within the building to enclose the tomb itself. The present Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the continuation of Constantine's church.

FOOTNOTE (cont.):

In favor of the authenticity of this location is the fact that there was a continuous Christian presence in Jerusalem from Jesus' death until Constantine uncovered the tomb. This Christian community doubtless would have venerated the site of Jesus' burial, preserving the memory of the location of his tomb. Also, the site of the church was an old quarry during the time of Jesus, although at least part of it had been made into a garden (Jn 19:41). The fact that the site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre had been a quarry implies that it was outside the walls of the city (it is today inside the Old City). This agrees with the fact that Jesus was crucified outside the walls. Within this area, at least four tombs cut into the western rock face have been discovered, only one of which corresponds to the type in which Jesus was buried.