

Jerusalem



- Psalm 122:3 — “Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:”
- Psalm 122:6-7 — “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.”
- Location:
 - Thirty-three miles east of the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Fourteen miles west of the Dead Sea.
- Jerusalem sits on a ridge which reaches from Mount Gilboa in the north to Hebron in the south. More specifically, Jerusalem sits on an irregular quadrangle of rock sloping northwest to southeast.
- The highest point of the city is 2,669 feet above sea level.
- The present wall around the old city was built in the middle of the 16th century by Suleiman the Magnificent (Solyman of Turkey (1494 - 1566). It has eight gates/entrances.
 - Zion Gate— Southwest corner
 - Jaffa Gate — West
 - New Gate — North
 - Damascus Gate — North
 - Herod’s Gate — North
 - St. Stephen’s Gate The Lions Gate) — East
 - Golden Gate — East
 - Dung Gate — South

- The old city is divided into four quarters:
 - The Christian Quarter — Northwest
 - The Armenian Quarter — Southwest
 - The Jewish Quarter — Southeast
 - The Moslem quarter — Northeast
- Valleys in and around Jerusalem:
 - Valley of Hinnom — On the west and south
 - Kidron Valley (The King's valley) — On the east
 - Tyropoeon (Cheesemaker's) Valley — The interior of the city from the Damascus Gate, pass the Wailing Wall, and through the Dung gate
- Mountains and hills in and round Jerusalem.
 - Mount Opel
 - Mount Moriah
 - Mount Scopus
 - Mount Zion
 - Mount of Olives
- The name "Jerusalem" comes from either:
 - Jebus (Jebusites) + Salem (Peace)
 - Jeru (City) + Salem (Peace) = "City of Peace"
- • Jerusalem has been anything but a city of peace. It has been:
 - Besieged 50 times
 - Conquered 38 times
 - Completely destroyed 10 times
- In 1996 Jerusalem celebrated its 3,000th anniversary.
- Jerusalem is known as the most holy city in the world. It is indeed a special city.
 - Special to the Jews
 - Special to the Moslems
 - Special to Christians
- Abraham came to Jerusalem about 1,800 years before Christ.
- Melchizedek was the king of Salem (Jerusalem).
- The Jebusites inhabited Jerusalem when the Israelites came to Canaan. Its king was slain by Joshua (**Joshua 10:23-26**) and the city was taken by the men of Judah (Judges 1:8). It was assigned to the tribe of Benjamin.
- David captured the city from the Jebusites. **1 Chronicles 11:4-7**
- David purchased the threshing floor of Orvan which became the location for Solomon's temple. **1Chronicles 22:5-12**

- Jerusalem came into prominence in Bible history at about the time of David. During this time it was sometimes referred to as Salem or city of David. After David had made Hebron his capital for about 7½ years, he chose Jerusalem as his capital city (**2 Samuel 5:6-7**). He also made Jerusalem the religious center of his kingdom. He built the walls of the city for defensive purposes (**2 Samuel 5:9**). The walls were later expanded by Solomon so as to include a larger area. David also brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (**2 Samuel 6:12**) and began making plans for the temple, the construction of which was carried out after David's death (**1 Kings 5:3-5**). The city prospered under Solomon. In addition to the temple he built the royal palace (**1 Kings 9:10**) as well as making many other improvements. During the period of the divided kingdom, Jerusalem became the capital of Judah (**1 Kings 14:2 1**). The city was besieged and completely destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (**II Kings 24:10-25:1**) and the inhabitants of Judah were carried away into Babylonian captivity. The city lay in ruins until its walls were rebuilt by Zerubbabel (**Ezra 5:2**). In subsequent years the city was invaded by various powers who desecrated the temple. The Maccabees retook it and purified it, but later it was desecrated again. In the year 37 B. C. Herod the Great repaired the walls of the city and built the temple which existed at the time of Christ. In 70 A.D. the Romans, under the leadership of Titus, laid siege to and completely destroyed Jerusalem, including the temple, Jesus foretold the event in **Luke 19:41-44; 21:20.24**.
- The infant Jesus was brought to Jerusalem and presented to the Lord, at which time Simeon held Jesus in his arms. **Luke 2:22-39**
- Jesus visited Jerusalem at the age of twelve. Here He discussed the Law with the religious leaders and **2:41-50**
- Here Jesus cleansed the temple on two separate occasions.
 1. **John 2:13-22**
 2. **Matthew 21:12-17**
- In Jerusalem Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. **John 2:23-3:21**
- The woman taken in adultery was brought to Jesus in this city. **John 7:53-8:11**
- In Jerusalem Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan here. **Luke 10:1-24**
- Jesus healed the 38 year old lame man at the Pool of Bethesda. **John 5:1-16**

- In Jerusalem Jesus told the story of the Pharisee and the Publican. **Luke 18:9-14**
- Jesus wept over the city. **Luke 19:4 1**
- Here Jesus taught about divorce. **Matthew 19:3-12**
- Little children were brought to Jesus in Jerusalem. **Matthew 19: 13-15**
- In this city the rich young ruler came to Jesus. **Matthew 19:16-20:16**
- Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. **Matthew 21:1-17**
- In an upper room in Jerusalem Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. (**Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:1-20**)
- In was in this city that Jesus was:
 - Betrayed
 - Arrested
 - Put on trial
 - Condemned to die
 - Scourged and beaten
 - Crucified
 - Buried
 - Resurrected
 - Ascended into Heaven
- The Lord's Church was established in Jerusalem. **Acts 2**
Luke 24:46-47 — "Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.'"
- Paul was arrested here. **Acts 21:15-40**

The Model City

- A scaled-down version of Jerusalem as it was in A.D. 66, some thirty-six years after the time of Jesus.
- The model is about 95 feet wide and 130 feet long.
- Built over a 4-year period from 1962 to 1966,
- It represents a city that would have been nearly a mile wide from east to west and a mile-and-a-quarter from north to south.
- The city is built to scale using hewn stones.
- Built under the guidance of the late Michael Avi-Yonah of Hebrew University, the model is revised from time to time as archeological discoveries are made.
- The model is located on the grounds of the Holy Land Hotel in Jerusalem.

Mount of Olives

- The mountain directly east of the city of Jerusalem.
- It is a ridge which runs along the east side of the city parallel to the Kidron Valley. There are three separate peaks on the ridge:
 - **Mount Scopus**
 - The northern peak of the ridge
 - The highest at 2,963 feet above sea level
 - “Scopus” indicates seeing or overlooking.
 - We get our modern terms “microscope” and “telescope” from this word.
 - The famous Hebrew University is built on the top of Mount Scopus.
 - **Mount of Olives**
 - The middle peak of the ridge.
 - Rises about 100 feet higher than Jerusalem at approximately 2,700 feet above sea level.
 - The Garden of Gethsemane is on the west slope of the Mount of Olives.
 - Bethany is located on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives.
 - Beautiful view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives.
 - **Mount of Offense**
 - Southernmost peak of the ridge
 - Considered by many not to be a part of the ridge at all.
 - Also called:
 - The Mount of Corruption
 - The Mount of Evil Counsel
 - Mount Scandal
 - So called because Solomon is thought to have built pagan altars here for his foreign wives. **1 Kings 11:7-8**
- The entire ridge is about two-and-one-half miles long
- It is believed that in ancient times the mount was covered with olive trees.
- Called “Mount of Ointment” in the Talmud.
- It was a Sabbath-day’s journey from the city, meaning three thousand feet or five stadia.
- Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- Jesus looked down on the Jerusalem and wept over the city. **Luke 19:41-42**

- Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives after cleansing the second cleansing of the temple and answered His disciples questions about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world. **Matthew 24 - 25; Mark 13**
- The Mount of Olives was the sight of our Lord's ascension back to Heaven. **Acts 1:6-12**

The Kidron Valley

- Also known as the King's Valley.
- Only three miles long.
- Separates Jerusalem on the west and the Mount of Olives on the east.
- The Davidic kings owned property in the Kidron Valley. This led to its being called the King's Valley.
- In the Kidron Valley are:
 - Absalom's Pillar. **2 Samuel 18:18** — "Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself, which is in the King's Valley. For he said, 'I have no son to keep my name in remembrance.' He called the pillar after his own name. And to this day it is called Absalom's Monument.
 - The tomb of Zechariah, the last of the prophets of God in the Old Testament to be slain.
 - Tomb of James, the apostle who was killed in Jerusalem.
- David crossed the valley when he fled from Absalom. **2 Samuel 15:23**
- **Jeremiah 31:40** — "And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever.
- Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley many times. On the betray night, He left the upper room, crossed the Kidron Valley, and entered the Garden of Gethsemane. **John 18:1; Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26**

The Pool of Siloam & Hezekiah's Tunnel

- Siloani mans "sending" or "sender."
- **The Jebusite Shaft.** At age thirty-seven David was anointed king over all Israel. Moved his capital from Hebron to Jerusalem. He first had to take Jerusalem from the Jebusites. David told his military men in **2 Samuel 5:8** — "Now David said on that day, 'Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and Defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, who are hated by

David's soul), he shall be chief and captain.' Therefore they say, 'The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.'" Furthermore, he offered the position of commander of his army to the man who accomplished this task. **1 Chronicles 11:6** — "Now David said, "Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain." And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief" The Jebusites had constructed a horizontal tunnel from the Gihon Spring to the west. After digging ninety feet under the city, they hit a natural cave. From the cave they dug a vertical shaft forty-five feet long. From the top of the shaft they fashioned a sloping curving tunnel some 135 feet long which ended in a stair case which led to the city's summit. During a siege, water could be gained by going down the stairs and sloping tunnel to the vertical shaft which would act like a well. Apparently it was this shaft to which David referred and which Joab climbed, gaining access to the city.

- **Hezekiah's Tunnel.** At a later time when Hezekiah was king of Israel, the Assyrian King Sennacherib invaded Palestine and ultimately besieged Jerusalem. The ten tribes of Israel to the north had already fallen to the Assyrians. Sennacherib had already taken forty-six cities in the country of Judah. On three different prisms the Assyrian king would write, "I shut up Hezekiah like a bird in his own city." Ultimately God miraculously destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers and the remainder of the force was withdrawn (**2 Kings 19:35-36**). Nonetheless, in anticipation of Sennacherib's approach, Hezekiah made some elaborate plans. II Chronicles 32:3-4 — "He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him. So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying. Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water?" Then, he had a tunnel dug to channel the water inside the city to what became known as the Pool of Siloam. An S-shaped tunnel was discovered in 1867 by Charles Warren. It wound through the rock underneath Mount Ophel some 1,749 feet (more than a quarter of a mile) to the pool of Siloam. The Gihon and Siloam Pool are only about 900 feet apart, but the tunnel winds to make up the extra distance. The tunneling was done by starting at both ends and meeting in the middle. When the workmen met they were off only about twelve inches in elevation. A remarkable feat of engineering for those ancient people. The tunnel is two to three feet wide and six feet high. Normally the water is only a foot or so deep. Eighteen stone steps descend to the present Pool of

Siloam which is fifty by fifteen feet. Stumps of ancient columns can be seen in the water.

- The healing of the man boor blind. **John 9**

The Wailing Wall

- Also known as the Western Wall.
- Is a section of the wall which surrounded the Herodian temple and formed the support of the high platform on the temple complex.
- The height of the wall is some 70 feet with some 16 more courses of stone under the current ground level.
- The wall is exposed for some 165 feet. The total western wall would have been some 1,560 feet. In a practice that is several centuries old, Jews write down their wishes and prayers on small bits of paper, fold them carefully, and insert them into crevices between the stones of the Wailing Wall. They believe the messages will be read by God.
- In approaching the Wailing Wall area is separated so that men go to the left of the divider and women to the right.

The Dome of the Rock

- A Moslem mosque built in the area wherein the former Jewish temples stood.
- Oldest existing monument of Muslim architecture.
- Octagonal structure
 - Each of the eight sides measures 60 feet.
 - Total diameter of 480- feet.
 - Total height is 108 feet (not counting the crescent)
 - Four gates permit entrance to the structure.
 - Each of the eight sides has five windows.
 - The drum under the dome has another twelve windows.
- Inside the Dome of the Rock is the rock itself.
 - 58 feet long.
 - 51 feet wide.
 - 4 to 6½ feet high.
 - Believe to be the place where Abraham attempted to offer Isaac on Mount Moriah.
 - Believed to be the threshing floor of Oman.
 - Believed that the altar of the Holy of Holies of the three Jewish temples was above this rock.

- Moslems believed Mohammed took his night journey to Heaven while on his horse on this rock. Thus, it has become the second most holy sight to the Moslems, second only to Mecca in Saudia Arabia.
- Mohammedans also believe that Jesus ascended to Heaven from here.
- The Mohammedans captured Jerusalem in 637 A.D.
 - Oniar began the building of the first mosque on the site of the Jewish temple.
 - Construction began in 691 A.D.
 - The actual builder was Abd Al Malik.
- On the outside of the mosque is a dark blue border just below the dome. The Arab writing thereon is from the Koran.

The Golden Gate – The Beautiful Gate

- The Golden Gate is the Beautiful Gate where the lame man was healed by Peter & John in **Acts 3:1-11**.

The Garden of Gethsemane

- Gethsemane means “olive press.”
- No doubt, Gethsemane covered a much larger area during Jesus’ day than it does now.
- The oldest known olive trees in the world are to be found here. Eight large trees.
 - Some have as many as 1,900 rings.
 - Still producing.
- Josephus indicates that the area east of Jerusalem was cleared by the Romans, “who cut down all the trees that were in the country that adjoined to the city and that for ninety furlongs round about” when they besieged Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Therefore, if these eight aged olive trees were not there when Christ was, they must be the direct offshoots of them.
- Christ’s agony and prayer. **Luke 22:42; Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:35**
- The three G’s (There is a hardness about all three)
 - Gethsemane — His prayer and agony before God.
 - Gabbatha (The Pavement) — His trial before Pilate
 - Golgotha — His crucifixion before the world.

The Akeldama – The Field of Blood

- **Acts 1:19** — “And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.”
- Located at the east end of the Hinnom Valley.
- This is the field that was purchased with the blood money Judas returned to the chief priests and elders. **Matthew 27:1-10**

The Via Dolorosa

- Via Dolorosa means “Way of Sorrows.”
- The traditional path followed by Jesus from his condemnation by Pilate until his death on the cross.
- Fourteen traditional stops or stations between Pilate’s palace and Golgotha:
 - Station 1: The site where Jesus was condemned.
 - Station 2: The site where Jesus received the cross.
 - Station 3: The site where Jesus fell the first time.
 - Station 4: The site where Jesus met His mother.
 - Station 5: The site where Simon the Cyrenian took the cross from Jesus. **Luke 23:36**
 - Station 6: The site where Veronica wiped the face of Jesus
 - Station 7: The site where Jesus fell the second time.
 - Station 8: The site where Jesus spoke to the daughters of Jerusalem. **Luke 23:38**
 - Station 9: The site where Jesus allegedly fell a third time.
 - Station 10: The site where Jesus was stripped of His clothes.
 - Station 11: The site where Jesus was nailed to the cross.
 - Station 12: The site where Jesus died on the cross.
 - Station 13: The site where Jesus’ body was taken down from the cross.
 - Station 14: The tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Christ’s Tomb

The Garden Tomb – “Gordon’s Calvary”

- Golgotha is an Aramaic word meaning “the skull.” Appears three times in the Bible.
 1. Matthew 27:33
 2. Mark 15:22

3. John 19:17

- **John 19:41** — “Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.”
- The tomb is 650 feet from the Damascus Gate.
- The tomb is cut out of solid rock.
 - 14 feet wide.
 - Ten feet deep
 - 7½ feet high.
- In 1882 General Charles Gordon, while sitting on the roof of a house in Jerusalem, noted the hill that looked like a skull.
- In 1867. a Greek doing some construction work at the foot of the hill, found a rock-hewn tomb. Site is also known as Gordon’s Calvary

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre

- Constantine began to build the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 326 A.D.
- Was destroyed by the Persians in 614 A.D., then was immediately rebuilt.
- The current basilica was constructed by the Crusaders.

