

JERUSALEM | CITY OF GOLD

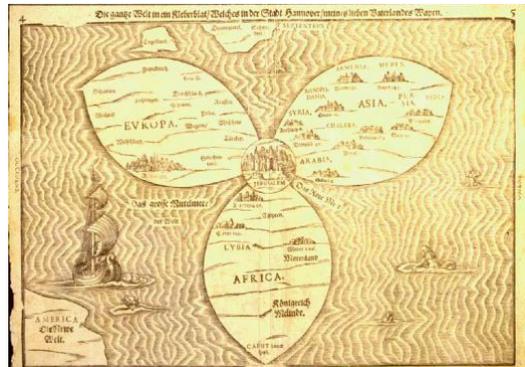
SESSION 2: JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF JESUS

AN OUTLINE OF OUR JOURNEY

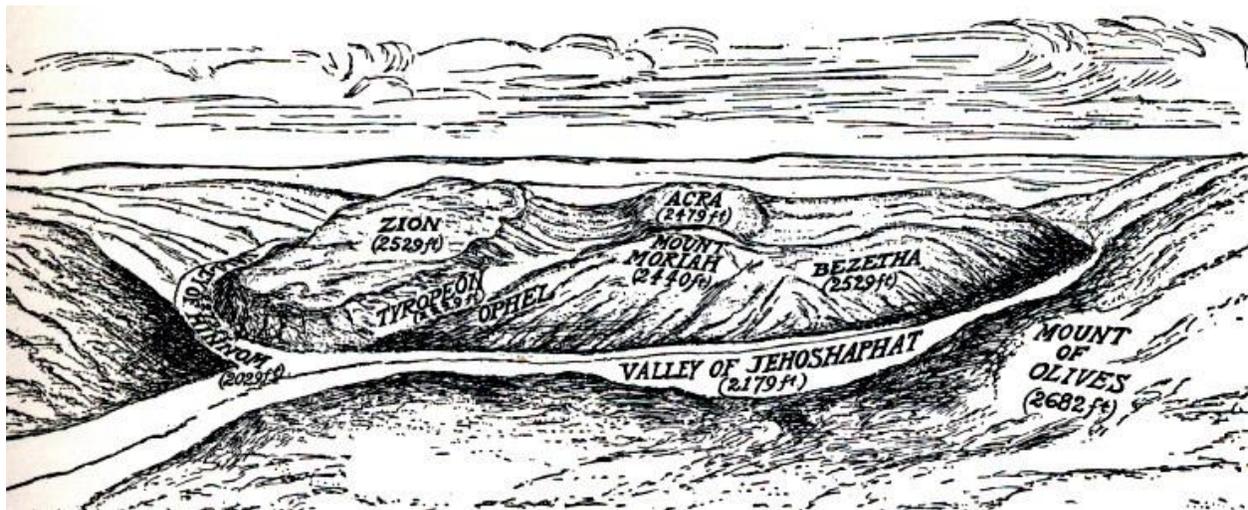
- Jerusalem at the time of Jesus
- Jerusalem prior to the time of Jesus
- Jerusalem in battles of the ages
- Jerusalem spiritualized.
- The Location of the Temple

JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF JESUS

- The name *Jerusalem* has a bit of a mystery. Rabbis teach that Abraham named the city *Jireh* (from *YHWH Jireh, the Lord shall provide*) and that Shem later named it *Shalem* (“peaceful”), then God put the two together to make *Jireh-Shalem*, or Jerusalem.
- At the time of Jesus (and the previous centuries), Jerusalem was the intersection between North and South, East and West.



- Psalm 48:2 says that Jerusalem is “the joy of the whole earth.”
- By the time of Jesus, Herod the Great had completed massive works in the city, making it a pristine jewel in the Middle East and in the Roman Empire.
- At the time of Jesus, the city was bordered by the Valley of Hinnom on the South and West, the Kidron Valley on the East, and the only the North side of the city was penetrable. The Kidron and Hinnom were steep ravines and where they meet is 670 feet below where they begin at the north end of the city.



- Alfred Edersheim in *The Temple: Its Ministry and Service* – “Sheer up from these encircling ravines rose the city of marble and cedar-covered palaces. Up that middle cleft, down in the valley, and along the slopes of the hills, crept the busy town, with its streets, markets, and bazaars. But alone, and isolated in its grandeur,

stood the Temple Mount. Terrace upon terrace its courts rose, till, high above the city, within the enclosure of marble cloisters, cedar-roofed and richly ornamented, the Temple itself stood out a mass of snowy marble and of gold, glittering in the sunlight against the half-encircling green background of Olivet. In all his wanderings the Jew had not seen a city like his own Jerusalem. Not Antioch in Asia, not even imperial Rome herself, excelled it in architectural splendour. Nor has there been, either in ancient or modern times, a sacred building equal to the Temple, whether for situation or magnificence; nor yet have there been festive throngs like those joyous hundreds of thousands who, with their hymns of praise, crowded towards the city on the eve of a Passover.”

- The Mount of Olives, to the east of Jerusalem, was a lush, cool, shady natural garden of olives, figs, cedars, pine, palm and many other flowers.
- Other important sites in the time of Jesus:
 - Antonio’s Fortress – Just north of the Temple, a military complex designed to keep authority of the Temple Mount.
 - Herod’s Palace – To the west of the Tryopian Valley, the judicial headquarters and possible site of the pavement in the time of Pilate.
 - The High Priest’s Palace – To the south and west, across the Tryopian Valley, on Mount Zion. The site included a palace and a dungeon.
- The Temple: built originally by Solomon, the Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians (586 BC) and rebuilt by the returning exiles. King Herod took it as his most ambitious building project, and leveled the mountaintop by building a retaining wall and filling in the 37 acres now “fenced off.” King Herod’s work began in 19BC. John 2:20 says it took 46 years to build.

POLITICAL RULE AT THE TIME OF JESUS

- King Herod the Great – First appointed Procurator (44 BC) then Tetrach (41BC) then King of the Jews (by the Roman Senate) in 37 BC).
- After his death (ca. 4-1 BC) his sons became Tetrachs-
 - Herod Achelaous of Judea – till 6 AD, when he was exiled to Vienna and the Romans began to rule Judea directly.
 - Herod Philip of Northern Israel – until his death in 34AD.
 - Herod Antipas of Galilee and Perea – until his exile to Gaul in 39AD. (This is the Herod who had John’s head on a platter).
- Herod Agrippa I (grandson of Herod the Great by Aristobulous, and raised by Herod the Great after he killed Aristobulous), friends with Caligula, first took Philip’s territory in 34AD, then Antipas’ in 39AD, and Judea in 41AD, thus reuniting the Kingdom of Herod the Great. His death took place in 44AD is recorded in Acts 12:22-23.
- Herod Agrippa II – King of Galilee (Judea reverted to direct Roman control), 44AD to 96AD. Heard Paul’s testimony. Aided Rome in the destruction of Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE PEOPLE

- The city was considered “public property.” Every home was a “bed and breakfast” so that there would be plenty of room for pilgrims.
- The city was and is to be the earthly focus of the Jewish people.
 - Psalm 137
 - Hatikva – English Translation

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart,
 With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,
 Then our hope - the two-thousand-year-old hope - will not be lost:
 To be a free people in our land,
 The land of Zion and Jerusalem.