

## JERUSALEM | CITY OF GOLD

### SESSION 6: THE LOCATION OF THE TEMPLE

#### AN OUTLINE OF OUR JOURNEY

- Session 1: Jerusalem the Eternal Capital
- Session 2: Jerusalem at the time of Jesus
- Session 3: Jerusalem prior to the time of Jesus
- Session 4: Jerusalem in battles of the ages
- Session 5: Jerusalem spiritualized.
- Session 6: The Location of the Temple

#### THE LOCATION OF THE TEMPLE

##### RECENTLY QUESTIONING THE ASSUMPTIONS

- Ernest Martin wrote a book in 1994 called *The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot*. This 485 page book was a scholarly, logic-based argument that said the Temple was *not* on Temple Mount, but rather south of the Mount in the City of David (the ancient Jebusite portion of the city).
- Bob Cornuke, a former FBI Investigator turned archaeologist, popularized the theory in recent years with his 2014 book, *Temple: Amazing New Discoveries that Change Everything About the Location of Solomon's Temple*.
- Cornuke's work has been turned into a convincing documentary of the same name, featuring noted Bible teacher Chuck Misler and others.
- These works remind us of the truth of Proverbs 18:17, "*He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; But his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.*"

##### THE MARTIN / CORNUKE ARGUMENTS

- The destruction argument:
  - Matthew 24:2 promises total destruction, therefore the Temple Mount cannot be the location since the Western Wall remains.
  - They argue that the Temple Mount was actually the Roman's *Antonio Fortress*.
- The so-long-gone argument:
  - The Jews were banned from the city for so long that they couldn't recognize the location of the Temple when they returned.
  - The Crusaders removed the crescent from the Dome of the Rock and replaced it with a cross and called it the location of the Temple, thus starting the tradition.
- The *living water* argument:
  - In order to be purified, Priests had to go to the *micvah*, which had to be filled with flowing water.
  - Because of the number of sacrifices, some source of flowing water was necessary to continually wash the blood away.
  - Since there is no source of flowing water on Temple Mount, the Temple must have been located elsewhere, namely at Gihon Spring.

##### A RESPONSE TO THE ARGUMENTS

- The destruction argument:
  - The new theory fails to point out that v. 1 speaks of **the buildings of the Temple**, and does not include the surrounding support structure built by Herod (and never considered part of the Holy place).
  - Cornuke’s video gives an ominous quote from Josephus as *proof*, “there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited.” (Wars of the Jews, 7.3)
  - Cornuke fails to give the full quote from Josephus, “Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple, but should leave as many of the towers standing as were of the greatest eminency; that is, Phasaelus, and Hippicus, and Mariamne, and so much of the wall as enclosed the city on the west side. (2) This wall was spared, in order to afford a camp for such as were to lie in garrison; as were the towers also spared, in order to demonstrate to posterity what kind of city it was, and how well fortified, which the Roman valor had subdued; (3) but for all the rest of the wall, it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited. (Wars 7.1-3)
- The so-long-gone argument:
  - Emperor Hadrian rebuilt the city and built a temple to Jupiter on the site of the Temple Mount within 60 years of the destruction.
  - After the destruction in 70AD, Jews were allowed to return to the “Wailing Wall” once each year, on Tish b’Av.
- The *living water* argument:
  - King Solomon built a set of pools beyond Bethlehem that gathered water from local springs, then a set of siphon aqueducts that moved the water 15 miles to Jerusalem.
  - *Wilson’s Arch* is the entry point of the water into Temple Mount.
  - Recent excavations on the south reveal scores of *micvot*, which had to have *living water*.

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#### THE WHY DIDN’T YOU MENTION THIS RESPONSE:

- The micvot at the Southern Steps. *Why are they there, and how did they get their water?*
- The *place of the trumpeters* stone found at the southeast corner of the wall. *Why would this be at a Roman garrison?*
- The massive stones found at the base of the wall. *Why would the Romans destroy their garrison?*
- The size of the Temple Mount. Josephus mentions the size of the court of the Temple being four furlongs (880 feet) square (*Antiquities*, 15.400). This would not fit in the very narrow City of David.
- The discovery of thousands of bits of Temple archaeology in the Temple Mount Sifting Project.
- The warning signs discovered in 1871. ““No stranger is to enter within the balustrade round the temple and enclosure. Whoever is caught will be responsible to himself for his death, which will ensue.” Found at the north end of the Temple mount. Currently in the Istanbul Archeological Museum. This is a LONG WAY from where Martin/Cornuke argue the Temple was.