

Israel – A Believers Journey



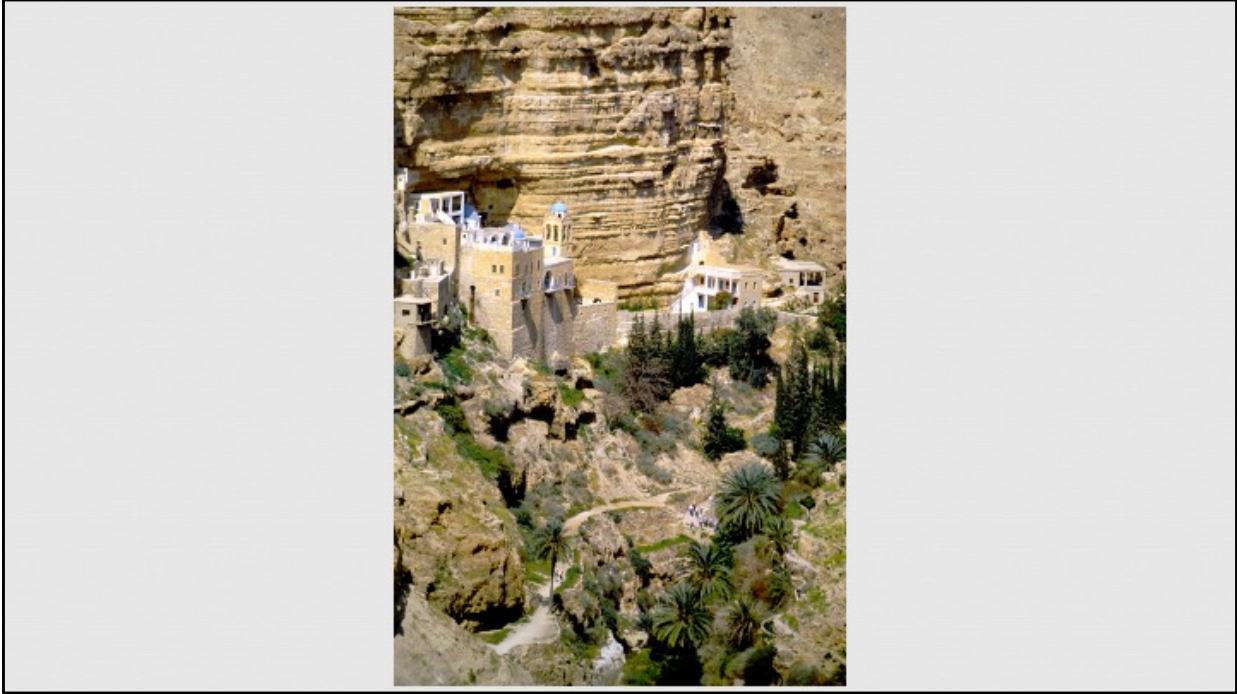
Hosted By Tim Agee and Bruce Zupa

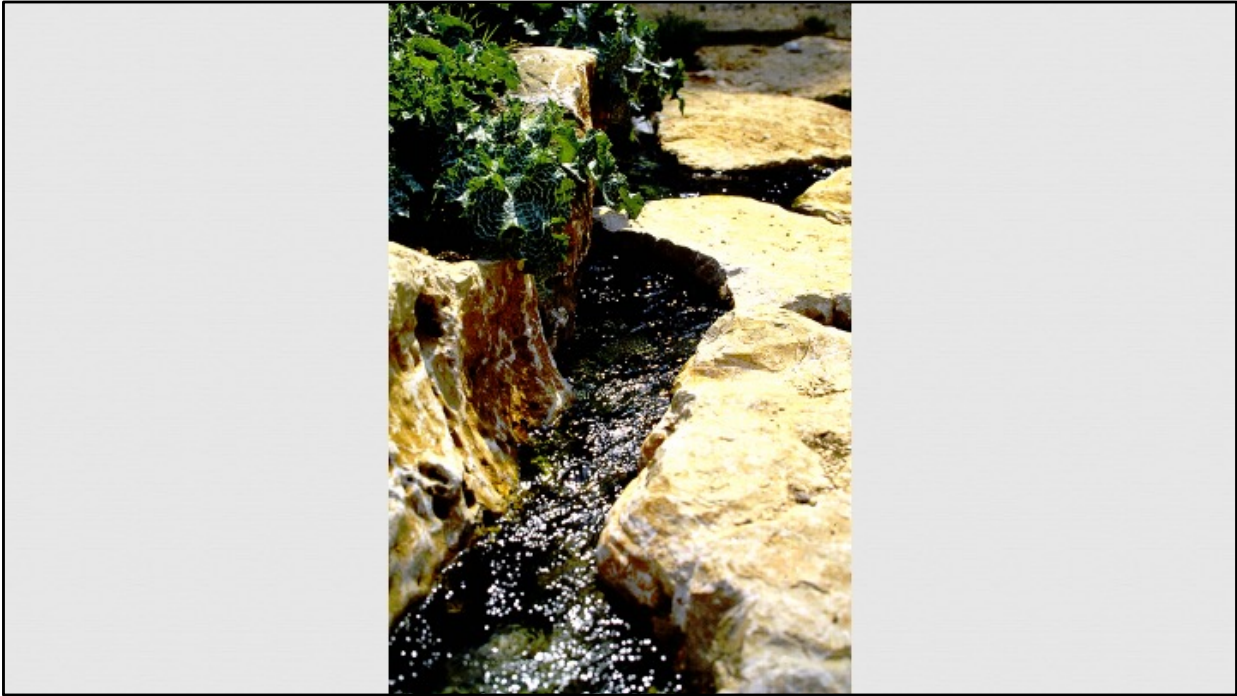
May 27th – June 7th







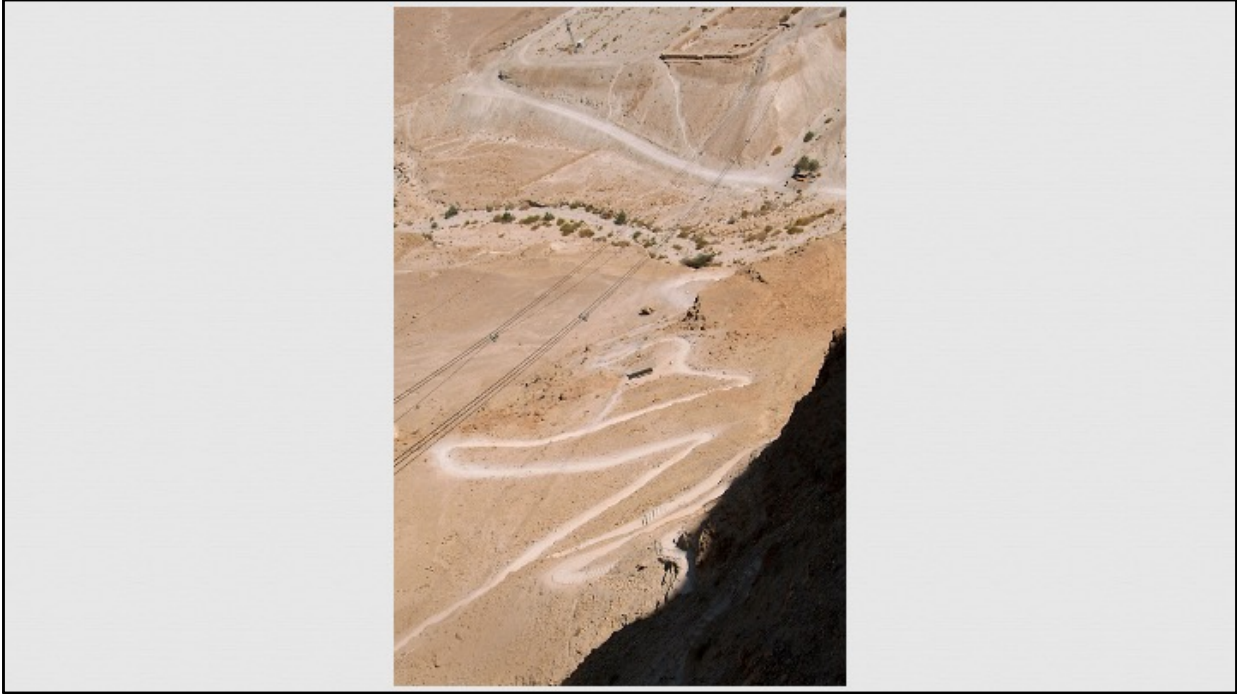






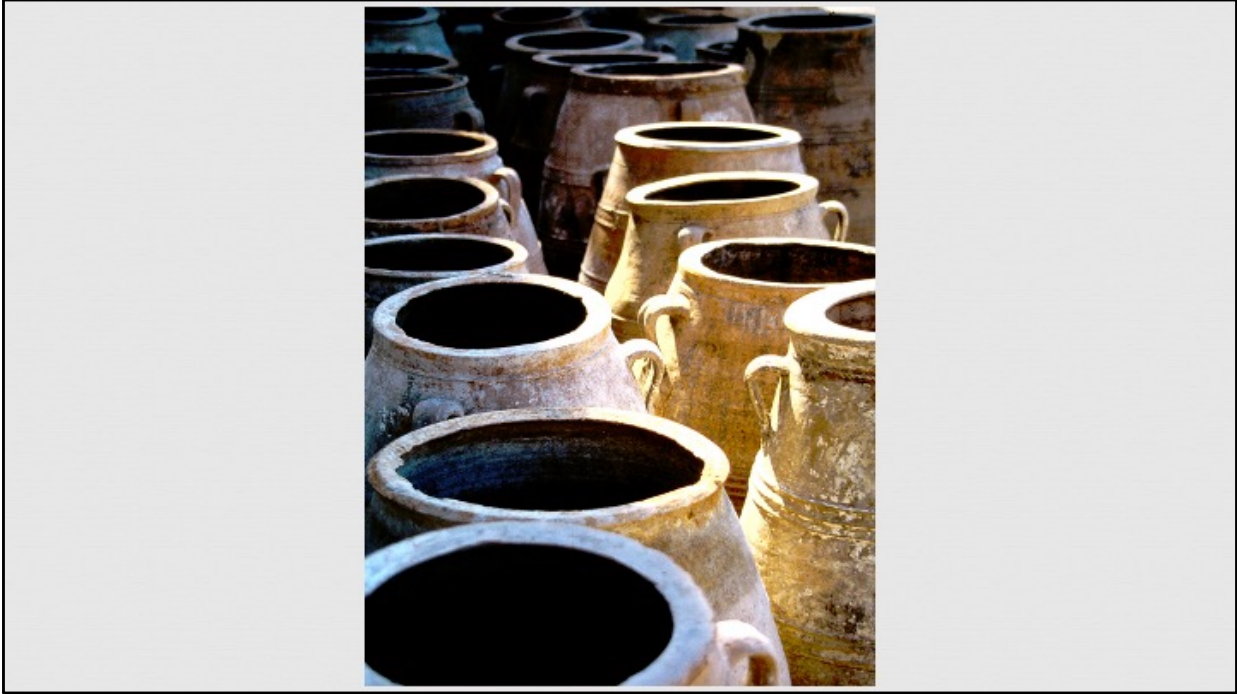














Israel 2022 – Trip Preparation



Lesson 5
April 5, 2022

Future Class Dates



☞ April 12 - Tim Out

☞ April 26

☞ May 10

☞ All classes will meet at 6:30pm

☞ Location - Bellevue Church of Christ / Room A120

☞ Will also be offered via Microsoft Teams for those who cannot meet in person.

☞ Please let Tim know in advance if you need us to setup a remote option.

Online Resources



☞ <https://www.teamagee.com/category/israel2020/>

☞ Journal of my trip to Israel from 2019 to 2020

☞ <https://www.teamagee.com/israel2022/>

☞ Copies of the slides from this class

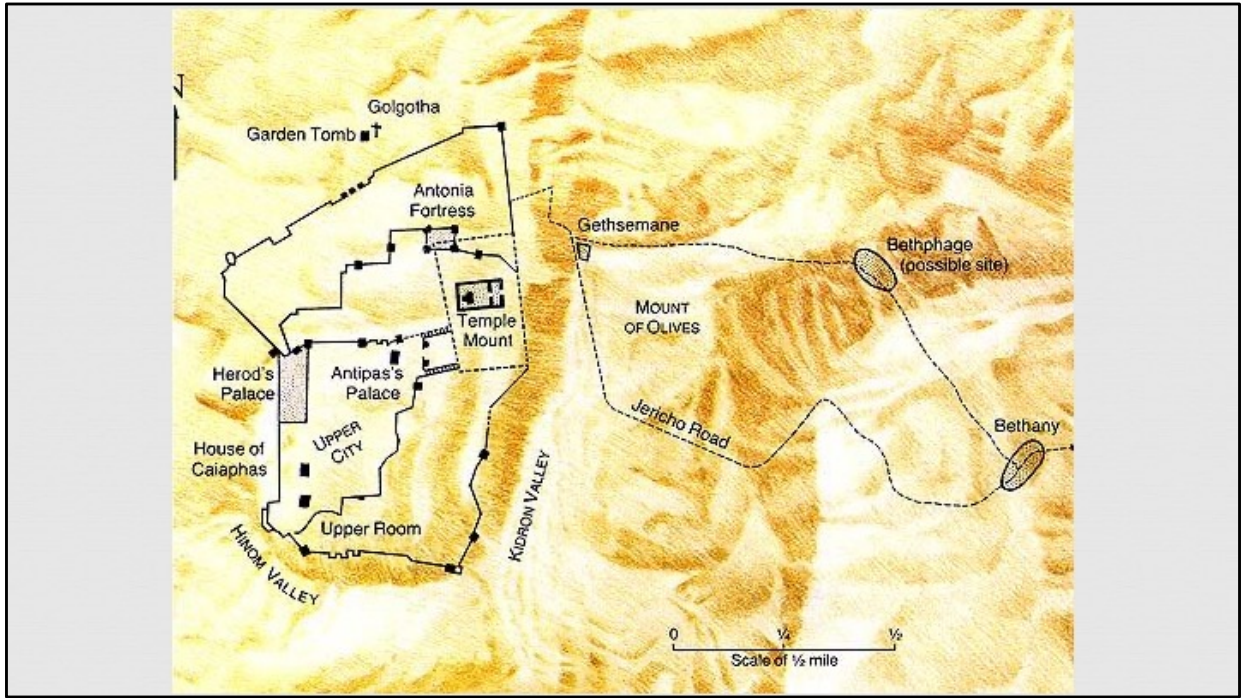


Mount of Olives



2 Samuel 15:30; 1 Kings 11:7; Ezekiel 11:23; Zechariah 14:4;
Matthew 21:1-11; 24:1 – 25:46; 26:30-56; Mark 11:1-11; 13:1-37;
14:26-50; Luke 19:28-44; 21:21:5-37; 22:39-53; 24:50-52; Acts 1:11-12





Mount of Olives



- ✧ The Mt. of Olives is a ridge running along the east side of Jerusalem, separated from the city walls by a ravine and the Kidron Valley.
- ✧ Today the Mount of Olives is dotted with many churches, including the Church of All Nations, the Church of Mary Magdalene, the Church of the Assumption, the Church of Dominus Flevit, the Church of St. Lazarus, and the Chapel of the Ascension.
- ✧ Today it is also covered in Jewish tombs.
- ✧ In the time of Jesus, this would have simply been a mountain filled with olive trees.

Mount of Olives (Cont.)



- ✧ The Mount of Olives was the site of many events in the Bible:
 - ✧ When David's son Absalom took control of Jerusalem, David and his loyal followers fled the city via an eastern route and David went up the Mount of Olives weeping (2 Samuel 15:30).
 - ✧ King Solomon used the Mount of Olives for idol worship (1 Kings 11:7).
 - ✧ In one of Ezekiel's visions, the prophet sees the glory of the Lord depart from Jerusalem and come to rest above the Mount of Olives (Ezekiel 11:23).
 - ✧ Jesus made many visits to the Mount of Olives (Luke 21:37). It was His "custom" to go there when in the vicinity of Jerusalem (Luke 22:39).
 - ✧ Every time Jesus visited Lazarus and Mary and Martha, He was on the Mount of Olives, for their village of Bethany was situated on the eastern slope.

Mount of Olives (Cont.)



- ✧ Jesus visits the Mount of Olives three times in the last week of life, and each time something of significance happened.
 1. The first visit during His final week was during the triumphal entry:
 - ✧ The donkey Jesus rode that day was found in the area of Bethany and Bethpage, on the east side of the Mount of Olives (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44).
 - ✧ Then, “when he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen” (Luke 19:37).
 - ✧ While still on the Mount of Olives, Jesus looked at the vista in front of Him, wept over the city, and pronounced a judgment against it (Luke 19:41-44).

Mount of Olives (Cont.)



2. Jesus' second visit that week was to deliver what has come to be known as the Olivet Discourse, recorded in Matt 24:1 – 25:46. Parallel passages are found in Mark 13:1–37 and Luke 21:5–36. The content of the Olivet Discourse is Jesus' response to His disciples' question "When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?"

Mount of Olives (Cont.)



3. Jesus' third visit that week was on the night He was betrayed. That evening began with the Last Supper in Jerusalem and ended in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives (Matt 26:30-56; Mark 14:26-50; Luke 22:39-53).
 - ☞ He took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane (literally, "Garden of the Olive-press") located on the western slope of the Mount of Olives.
 - ☞ There Jesus prayed in agony as He contemplated the day to come.
 - ☞ After Jesus prayed, Judas Iscariot arrived with a multitude to betray and arrest Jesus.

Mount of Olives (Cont.)



- ✧ After His resurrection, Jesus once again stood on the Mount of Olives where He ascended into Heaven (Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:11-12). Acts 1:12 specifies that “the vicinity of Bethany” was indeed the Mount of Olives.
- ✧ According to the prophet Zechariah, Jesus will return not only in the same way, but to the same place. In a prophecy related to the end times, Zechariah declares, “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south” (Zechariah 14:4).



Photo is taken from the western slope of the Mount of Olives toward the Old City of Jerusalem (This is city is NOT the city of Jesus' time but is built on top of the city of Jesus' time). Between the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem is the Kidron Valley.



Today the Mount of Olives is covered in Jewish tombs.



View of the western slope of the Mount of Olives from the City of David covered in tombs.



Kidron Valley below the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem - The brook and valley are on the eastern side of Jerusalem. This location is mentioned numerous times in scripture as a boundary (2 Sam 15:23, 1 Kgs 2:37, etc.).



Traditional spot of the Garden of Gethsemane (While we know that the garden was on the western side, we don't know the exact spot). This location contains 8 ancient olive trees that are dated to be approximately 900 years old (much past the time of Jesus).



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They are located next to the Church of All Nations or the Church of Agony, named after Jesus' prayer of agony in the garden. The front facade of this church building is covered in beautiful mosaics, and the inside contains mosaics depicting Judas' betrayal kiss (Matt 26:47-50; Mark 14:43-46; Luke 22:47-48), Jesus' prayer of agony (Luke 22:44), and Jesus healing the ear of Malchus after Peter cut it off (Luke 22:51; John 18:10).



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The "Old City" of Jerusalem



“Old City” of Jerusalem



- ❧ This is largely NOT the city of Jesus' time but is built on top of the city of Jesus' time.
- ❧ The whole city is a Tel with many strata.
- ❧ The Old City covers one square kilometer and has a population of 50,000 people.
- ❧ The walls around the old city were built in 1536. The city wall has eight gates, and the Golden Gate (or Gate of Mercy), has been sealed since medieval times.
- ❧ The Old City is today divided into quarters: Armenian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim

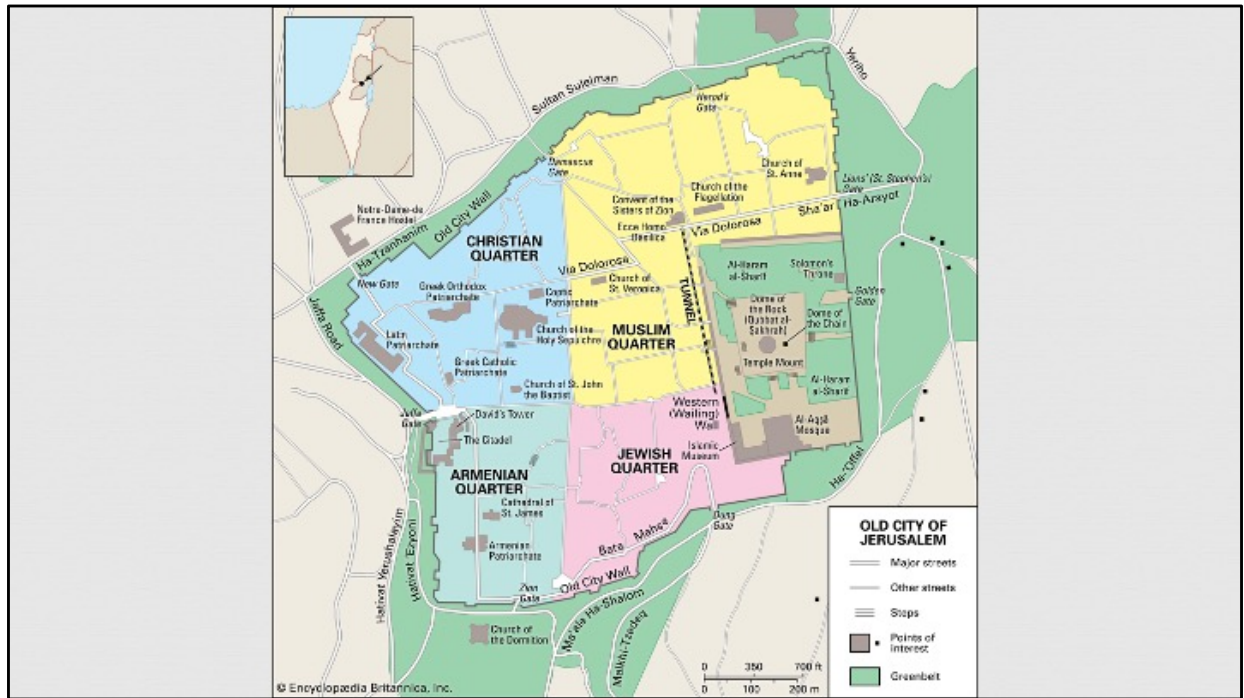




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The Dome of the Rock – An Islamic shrine located on the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem. It was initially completed in 691–92 AD. It covers the “Foundation Stone” that Muslims believe to be the site where Abraham attempted to sacrifice his son on Mt. Moriah. This is the most striking place in the skyline of Jerusalem.



Picture taken from the Kidron Valley. The Golden Gate (or Gate of Mercy), has been sealed since medieval times.



Herod's Gate



Lion's Gate on the eastern side of the city, also known as St. Steven's Gate, because this is the traditional site of the stoning of Steven in Acts 7:58.



Feral cat on the streets of Jerusalem



Feral cat on the streets of Jerusalem



The Damascus Gate, which is one of the main entrances to the Old City of Jerusalem. It is located city's northwest side and connects to a highway leading out to Shechem and from there to the Damascus. Beneath the current gate, and to the left, there are the remains of an earlier gate dating back to the time of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, who visited the region in 130–131 AD.



Old City of Jerusalem just inside the Damascus Gate



Sights from the Old City of Jerusalem



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Sights from the Old City of Jerusalem



Soldiers carrying machine guns as they were being trained in large groups about the culture of the city.



Sights from the Old City of Jerusalem



Haramban Synagogue in the Jewish Quarter

Via Dolorosa The Way of the Cross



Matt 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18:28-19:42

Via Dolorosa



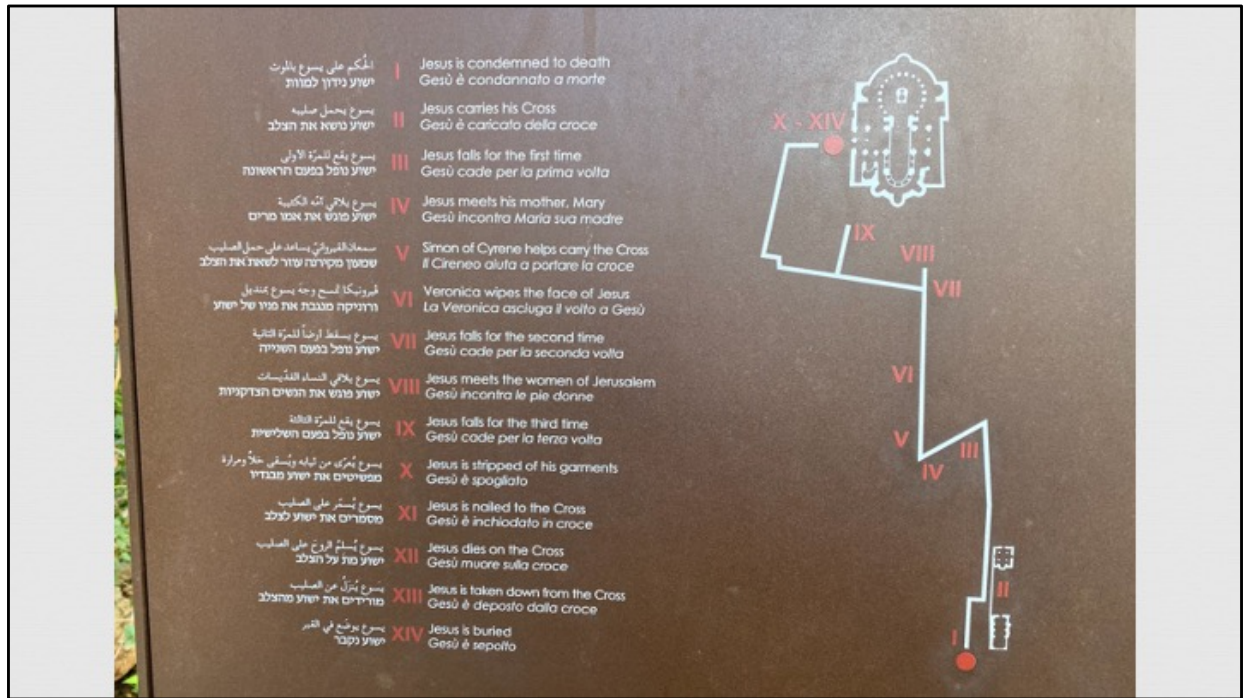
- ✧ It is the traditional path that Jesus took, forced by the Roman soldiers, on the way to his crucifixion.
- ✧ The winding route goes from the traditional site of the former Antonia Fortress to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – about 2,000 feet.
- ✧ The current route has been established since the 18th century, replacing various earlier versions.
- ✧ It is today marked by nine Stations of the Cross; there have been fourteen stations since the late 15th century, with the remaining five stations being inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Church of the Flagellation.... It is believed that Church of the Flagellation and the Chapel of Condemnation are near the spot where Herod's Fortress of Antonia was located, which is a possible place where Jesus was tried by Pilate. This site marks the beginning of the 14 steps that are included in the "Way of the Cross" that was created to show the way of Jesus from his trial to burial (Matt 27: Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18:28–19:42). In reality, we don't know the exact spot where any of these things occurred, because we don't have any evidence from the time of Jesus. Jerusalem was destroyed and rebuilt and destroyed and rebuilt, and to get to times of Jesus would require destroying modern layer. Also, not all of these steps depict things that actually appear in scripture.



Church of Condemnation.... It is believed that Church of the Flagellation and the Chapel of Condemnation are near the spot where Herod's Fortress of Antonia was located, which is a possible place where Jesus was tried by Pilate. This site marks the beginning of the 14 steps that are included in the "Way of the Cross" that was created to show the way of Jesus from his trial to burial (Matt 27: Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18:28–19:42). In reality, we don't know the exact spot where any of these things occurred, because we don't have any evidence from the time of Jesus. Jerusalem was destroyed and rebuilt and destroyed and rebuilt, and to get to times of Jesus would require destroying modern layer. Also, not all of these steps depict things that actually appear in scripture.



Stations of the Via Dolorosa



Station 3 on the Via Dolorosa



Station 5 on the Via Dolorosa



Station 7 on the Via Dolorosa

Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Matt 27:33, 51, 57-28:10; Mark 15:22, 42-16:8;

Luke 23:50-24:12; John 19:17, 38-20:10

Holy Sepulchre



- ✧ The structure on this site has been built and rebuilt several times from 335 AD to 1048 AD, and even through more modern times.
- ✧ According to traditions dating back to at least the fourth century, this Church the site where Jesus was crucified (Golgotha – Matt 27:33; Mark 15:22; John 19:17), and Jesus’s empty tomb, where he was buried and resurrected (Matt 27:57-28:10; Mark 15:42-16:8; Luke 23:50-24:12; John 19:38-20:10).
- ✧ The tomb is enclosed by a 19th-century shrine called the Aedicula.
- ✧ The Status Quo, an understanding between religious communities dating to 1757, applies to the site.

Holy Sepulchre



- ✂ As example of Status Quo, there is wooden ladder that has been propped up on the outside of the facade since 1728. The ladder is referred to as “immovable” due to the agreement of the Status Quo that no cleric of the six Christian orders may move, rearrange, or alter any property without the consent of the other five orders.
- ✂ The main denominations sharing property over parts of the church are the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic, and to a lesser degree the Coptic Orthodox, Syriac Orthodox and Ethiopian Orthodox.



Entrance into the courtyard in front of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Main entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



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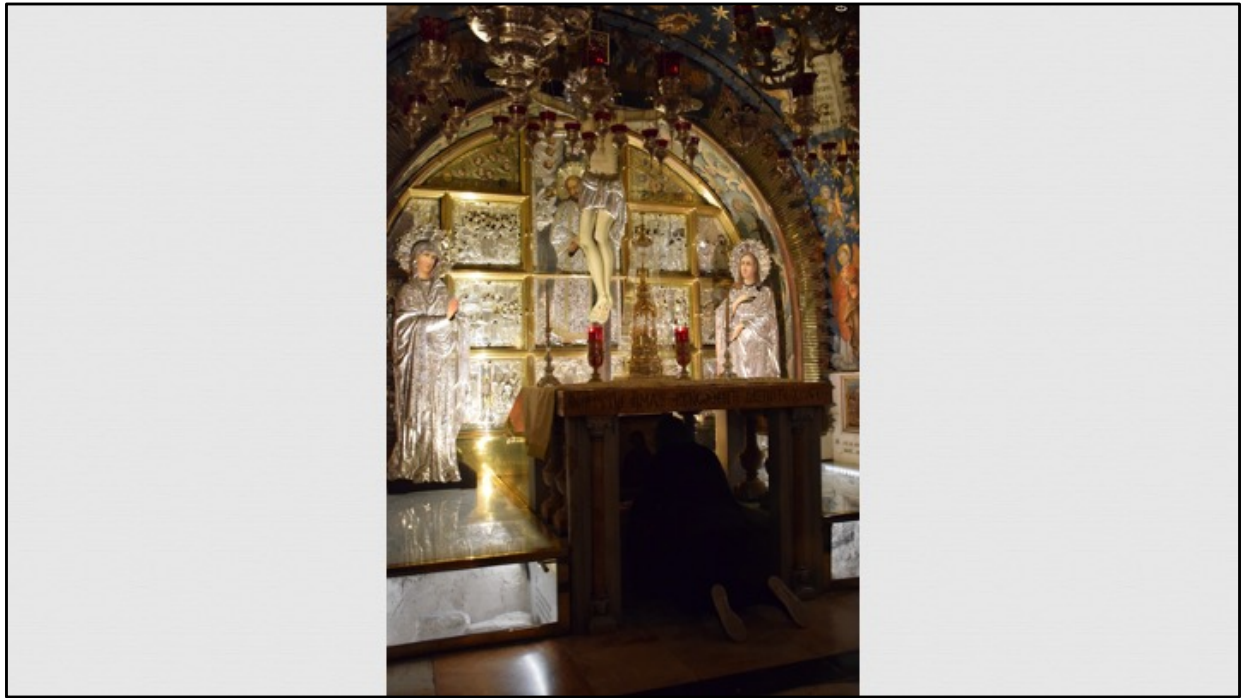


Cupola over the Aedicula in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Aedicula with the traditional tomb beneath. There were long lines of people waiting to get into the Aedicula. Archaeology cannot prove the location where Jesus was buried, but this leaves room for faith. Jesus himself told Thomas “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (Jn 20:29). This is the nature of faith (Heb 11:1).

This place is quite corrupt, with priests accepting bribes to bypass the lines for the Aedicula or Golgotha. Compare this to what was happening in the temple when Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers.



Traditional location of “Golgotha” (upstairs) and the rock of Cavalry that people wait in line to touch and kiss.



Traditional crack that formed with the earthquake upon the death of Jesus (Matt 27:51). This is downstairs under "Golgotha."



Traditional stone in the floor where the body of Jesus was supposedly anointed prior to being placed in the tomb. Lots of people kneel to kiss the stone. There were beautiful mosaics in the area behind the stone depicting...



Jesus being taken down from the cross,



Jesus being anointed, and



Jesus' body being placed in the tomb.



Downstairs near the Aedicula, there is another tomb from the time of Jesus that is traditionally identified as the place where Joseph of Arimathea was buried. We don't know whose tomb it is, but it is a good example of a private tomb of the time. You can clearly see the track for the rolling stone.



Inside of the private tomb, where you can clearly see the slots for burial.