

# Israel – A Believers Journey



*Hosted By Tim Agee and Bruce Zupa*

*May 27<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>*



# Israel 2022 – Trip Preparation



Lesson 6  
April 26, 2022

## Future Class Dates



☞ 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



# Pool of Bethesda



John 5:1-17



Archaeological remains of the Pool of Bethesda (Located in Muslim Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem near the Lion's Gate) / Discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century



The Pool of Bethesda painting by Robert Bateman (1877)



Pool of Bethesda with red roof / Model of Jerusalem in the Israel Museum



Church of Saint Anne / Beside Pool of Bethesda / Incredible acoustics / French Roman Catholic Church / Much of the current structure dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD / Under the building is one of the traditional birthplaces of the virgin Mary.



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# Burnt House



Matthew 24; John 19:34

## Burnt House



- ✧ In the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem
- ✧ This is a museum dedicated to the excavation of the charred remains of a house from the first century AD.
- ✧ It was likely burned down when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70.
- ✧ The house was excavated in 1970, and it was found in the upper city where the temple priests would have resided during this period.
- ✧ Inside the house, they have found burned rocks and charred beams, a charred Roman spearhead made of iron, and lots of pottery and other vessels.



The house was excavated in 1970, and it was found in the upper city where the temple priests would have resided during this period. Inside the house, they found burned rocks and charred beams, a charred Roman spearhead made of iron, and lots of pottery and other vessels.



Charred beams from the house



A stone weight with the inscription “Kathros,” which was a name identified in the Babylonian Talmud as a priest of the temple. This is why they call it Beit Kathros.



Roman spearhead...brings to mind the Romans piercing the side of Jesus with a spear (John 19:34).

# The Garden Tomb



Matt 27:57-28:10; Mark 15:42-16:8;  
Luke 23:50-24:12; John 19:38-20:10

## The Garden Tomb



- ✧ On this site in the late 1800s was discovered a tomb from the time of Jesus.
- ✧ The site was established due to doubts about whether or not the tomb under the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was the true burial place of Christ since it was inside the city walls.
- ✧ However, it was determined later that the location of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre would have been outside the walls of Jerusalem as they stood in the time of Jesus.
- ✧ Whether or not it is the actual tomb of Jesus it is a great visual aid for understanding the biblical account of the burial and resurrection (Matt 27:57-28:10; Mark 15:42-16:8; Luke 23:50-24:12; John 19:38-20:10), because this tomb has features that line up with description in scripture.



Part of the reason why people think this is the tomb of Jesus is because it was located near a rock hill that bears a vague resemblance to a skull.





Entrance to the Garden Tomb. The track for the stone that would have been covering the door was clearly visible in the front. The stone was not found but they had a small one next to the tomb as an example.



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Inside of the Garden Tomb

# Overview of Jerusalem Just After the Time of Jesus



Model of Jerusalem from AD 40  
at the Israel Museum

# Model of Jerusalem



- ✎ The model is a 1:50 scale model of the city of Jerusalem in the late Second Temple period.
- ✎ The model measures 22,000 sq ft, and was commissioned in 1966 by the banker Hans Kroch, the owner of the Holyland Hotel, in memory of his son, Yaakov, an IDF soldier who was killed in the 1947–1949 Palestine war.
- ✎ The model was designed by Israeli historian and geographer Michael Avi-Yonah based on the writings of Flavius Josephus and other historical sources. The model includes a replica of the Herodian Temple. From 1974, Yoram Tsafrir (1938-2015) superintended the Holyland Model of Jerusalem.
- ✎ In 2006, the model was relocated to the southern edge of the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden at the Israel Museum. In preparation for the move, the model was sawn into 100 pieces and later reassembled. The Holyland Hotel spent \$3.5 million on the move.



Looking west over the city of Jerusalem from AD 40. For scale, note the two people standing on the far side of the model.



Temple and temple mount on the eastern side of Jerusalem. Royal Portico on the left, temple in the middle, and Fortress Antonia in the upper-right.



Temple and temple mount on the eastern side of Jerusalem. Royal Portico on the left (red roof), temple in the middle, and Fortress Antonia in the upper-right. The gate "Beautiful" is in the front of the temple (Eastern side), and divided the court of the Gentiles from the Court of the Women. Solomon's portico would be the colonnade on the eastern side of the temple mount.



Fortress Antonia



Pool of Bethesda with red roof.



The walled area in the foreground would have been the outline of Jerusalem during the time of David.



The Pool of Siloam and the road leading up to the temple. The artist's recreation of this pool was inaccurate and should have included steps found at the archaeological site. The walled area to the right would have been the outline of Jerusalem during the time of David.



In the center of the picture, outside the inner walls, is the location where Church of the Holy Sepulchre is today.



In the area where the piled rocks are located is the location where Garden Tomb is today.

# The Western “Wailing” Wall



## The Western “Wailing” Wall



- ❧ Herod the Great created a platform with retaining walls upon which to build the temple. The Wailing Wall is a remnant of the western retaining wall as built by Herod. This wall would have been present in the time of Jesus.
- ❧ For the Jews, this wall, and the Temple Mount, are a reminder that they are without a temple. They believe that for the Messiah to come, the temple in Jerusalem must be rebuilt on the Temple Mount.
- ❧ The obstacle is that the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque are some of the holiest places in Islam and are located on the Temple Mount.
- ❧ Jews come to this wall to “wail” for the rebuilding of the temple and for the Messiah to come. They also write prayers on pieces of paper and stuff them in the cracks of the walls.



Wide-angle view of the western retaining wall



From the model of Jerusalem: Temple and temple mount on the eastern side of Jerusalem. Solomon's Portico on the left, temple in the middle, and Fortress Antonia in the upper-right. The gate "Beautiful" is in the front of the temple mount.



From the model of Jerusalem, this is the western side of the temple mount, the the “wailing” wall would be on the right side of the mount.



Hasidic Jewish Men with their black hats, long tassels, phylacteries, and black coats praying at the wall.



Pieces of paper crammed in every crack and crevice at the wall



Pieces of paper crammed in every crack and crevice at the wall



Al Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount



Dome of the Rock located on the Temple Mount.

# The City of David



2 Sam 5:6-10; 1 Kings 1:28-53; 2 Kings 18-20, 24-25;  
1 Chronicles 11:4-9; 2 Chronicles 29-32, 36

# The City of David



- ❧ Archaeological park on the eastern side of the “Old City”, outside of present-day walls.
- ❧ This is the area where city would have been located when David established it as the capital of Israel (2 Sam 5:6-10; 1 Chron 11:4-9) before it was later expanded by King Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chron 29-32).
- ❧ Sites here include a building and supporting wall from the time of David, Warren’s Shaft, a Canaanite water system and reservoir, spring of Gihon, and Hezekiah’s Tunnel.



The walled area in the foreground would have been the outline of Jerusalem during the time of David.



The Pool of Siloam and the road leading up to the temple. The artist's recreation of this pool was inaccurate and should have included steps found at the archaeological site. The walled area to the right would have been the outline of Jerusalem during the time of David.



Feral cat in the City of David



Remains of a large building that has been excavated and dated to the time of David in the 11th to 10th century BC. Some have speculated that this was David's palace, but many disagree. In this building was found a "bulla" or signet imprint from one of the officials of King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah (2 Kings 24–25; 2 Chronicles 36 / 6th century BC).



“Royal Area” which contained a retaining wall for building above which was also dated to the time of David.



“Warren’s Shaft,” which is a vertical shaft next to the Gihon Spring. It was discovered in 1867 by British engineer and archaeologist Sir Charles Warren and dated to the 18th century BC. Climbing down to this shaft was tough but was a neat experience. Some have speculated that this shaft might have been used by David to access the city of Jerusalem when he took it from the Jebusites (2 Sam 5:8). However, More recent excavations show this was not the case.



Excavated Canaanite water reservoir from the 18th century BC.



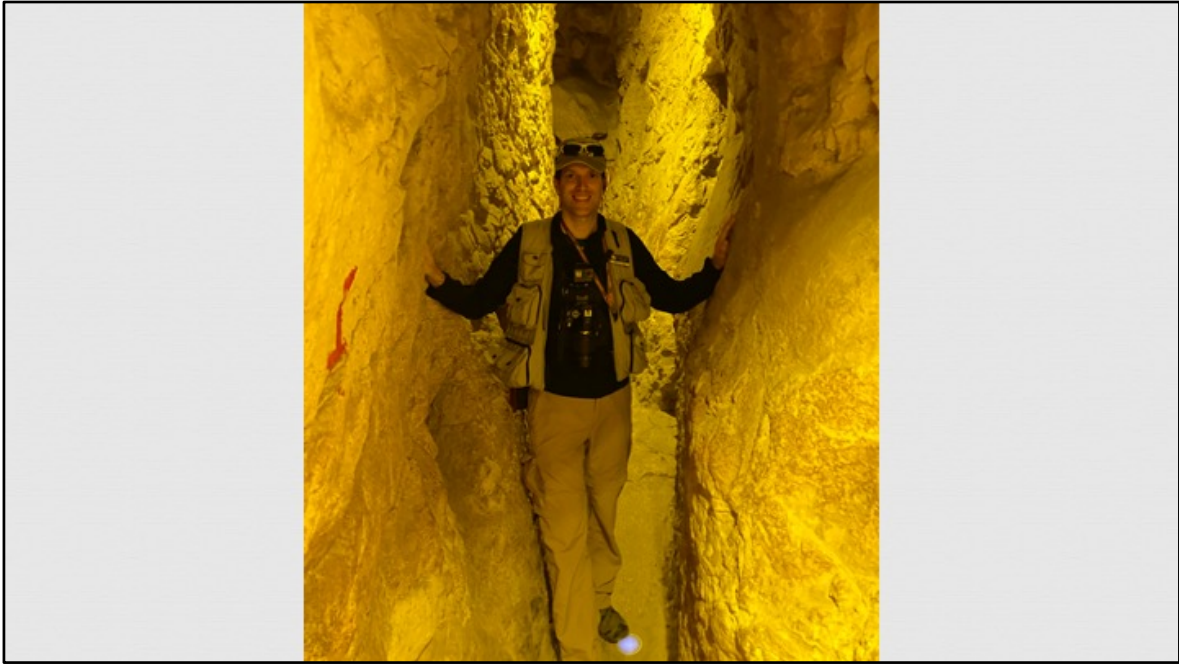
This water reservoir was located next to the Spring of Gihon and protected by a nearby tower that has been excavated.



After the tower is the entrance to Hezekiah's Tunnel, which is a 533m water channel that was built when Jerusalem was preparing defenses against the approaching Assyrian army in the 8th century B.C. King Hezekiah decided to protect the water source by diverting its flow deep into the city with a tunnel system that connects the Spring of Gihon with the Pool of Siloam (2 Kings 20:20; II Chronicles 32:30). An ancient stone carving found near the entrance describes the incredible operation and identifies it to the time of Hezekiah.



Spring of Gihon at Entrance to Hezekiah's Tunnel - This spring is mentioned several times in scripture and is most noted as being the location where Solomon was anointed as king of Israel (1 Kings 1:28–53).



Very skinny tunnel that was part of the ancient Canaanite water system.

# Pool of Siloam Pilgrimage Road



John 7:37-38; 9:7



Remains of the Pool of Siloam - location where Jesus healed the blind man in John 9:7



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Recently uncovered Pilgrimage Road connecting the Pool of Siloam with the Temple. In the time of Jesus, this is the road that the priests would have used during the 7 days of the feast of Tabernacles. Each day of the feast the priest would take a golden picture from the temple and walk down this road to the pool of Siloam. He would fill the picture with water and then walk back up to the temple and pour the water over the altar. This was in celebration of the water that God had provided the children of Israel in the wilderness. It was in this context that Jesus said the following in John 7:37-38:

**John 7:37-38** *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "*



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