





# Overview of Jerusalem Just After the Time of Jesus



Model of Jerusalem from the Late Second Temple  
period 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 (~66 A.D.)
- ✎ 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 the Late Second Temple Period (~66 A.D.). This is essentially the view from the Mount of Olives over the Kidron Valley. There were three walls around Jerusalem just before its destruction in AD 70. In the time of Jesus, only two of these walls would have been completed. The outer wall, or third wall, was started by Herod Agrippa I, and finished by his son Herod Agrippa II. This is important in considering where Jesus might have been crucified and buried since we know it was outside the city walls. For scale, note the people standing on the far side of the model. – June 2022



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 (Not Pictured). - January 2020





Temple upon temple mount. Note gate “Beautiful” on eastern side of temple (Acts 3:2) that separated the Court of the Gentiles from the Court of the Women (location of the Treasury – Luke 21:1-4 / John 8:20). – June 2022





Fortress Antonia attached to the northwest corner of the temple mount. This is the likely location where Jesus appeared before Pilate (Matthew 27:2). Also, the probable location referred to as the “barracks” in Acts 22:37 where Paul was taken after his arrest. – June 2022



Royal Portico with red roof on the southern end of the temple mount – June 2022



Southern steps – This was the main entrance to the temple mount during the time of Jesus. – June 2022





Southwestern corner of the temple mount. This is the location of the Western Wall and Robinson's Arch (note the red arrow that shows where the Western Wall is today) – June 2022



Western side of the temple mount. Note Solomon's Portico on the far side of the temple mount. Jesus visited there (John 10:23), and the early church met there (Acts 3:11; 5:12) – June 2022





Pool of Bethesda with red roof where Jesus healed the lame man (John 5:1-17). This was north of the temple mount by the sheep gate. – June 2022



The walled area in the foreground would have been the outline of Jerusalem during the time of David. – June 2022



The Pool of Siloam and the road leading up to the temple (from the southern side). 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. The Pool of Siloam is where Jesus healed the blind man in John 9:1-7. – January 2020





Western side of the temple of mount and Fortress Antonia. Note pile of rocks outside of the second wall. This is the location of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre today. – June 2022



In the center of the picture, outside the inner walls, is the location where Church of the Holy Sepulchre is today. – June 2022





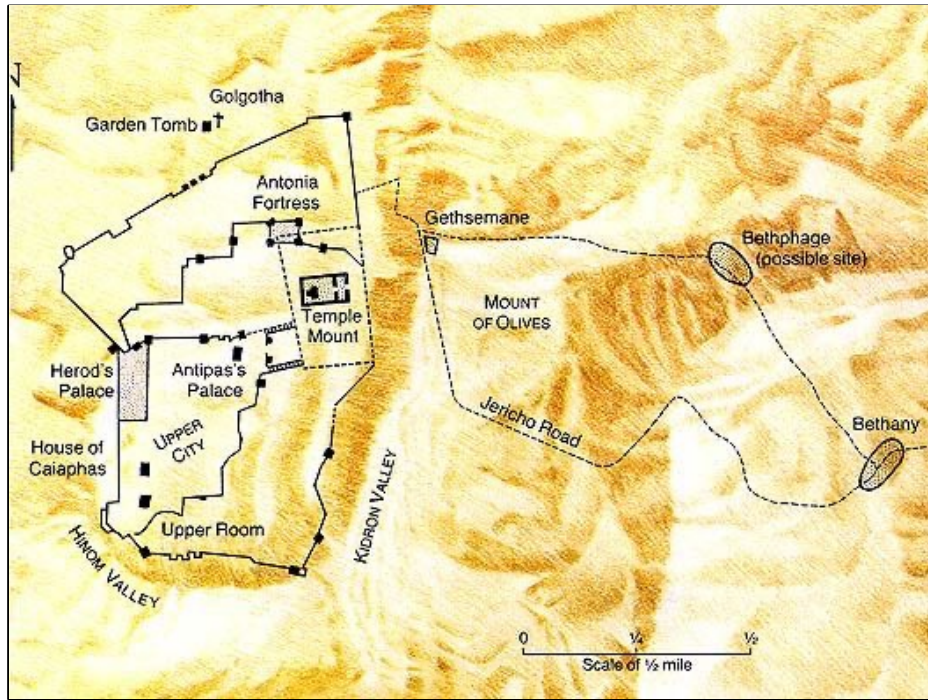
In the area where the piled rocks are located is the location where Garden Tomb is today. This is north of the temple mount, outside of the second wall. – June 2022

## 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 - Largest Jewish cemetery in the world
- ✧ 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).
  - ✧ 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 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 largely built on top of the city of Jesus' time). Between the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem is the Kidron Valley.  
– June 2022



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– June 2022



Speaking to the group on the Mount of Olives, and the events that happened here – June 2022





Someone in our group took a picture when I was talking to Olivia and the girls about the things that happened on the Mount of Olives. I remember telling them that while this is not a “Holy” place, some of the most significant events in history occurred here.



Today the Mount of Olives is covered in Jewish tombs. This is the largest Jewish cemetery in the world. All the graves are above ground, and people leave small stones on them to simply say “I was here.” – June 2022





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View of the western slope of the Mount of Olives from the City of David covered in tombs. – January 2020



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.). – June 2022





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). – June 2022





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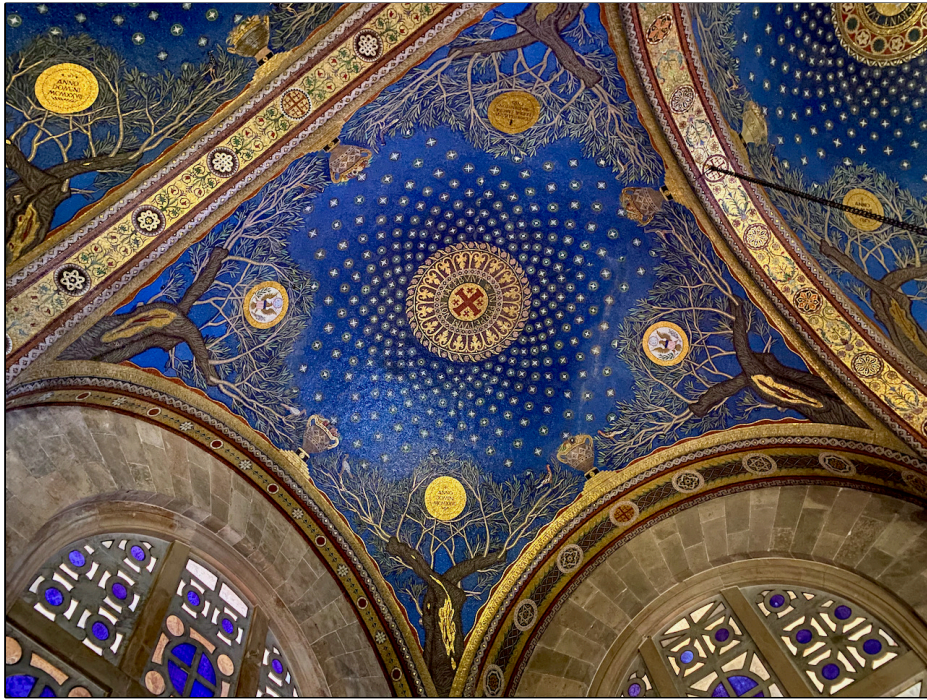


They are located next to the Church of All Nations or the Church of Agony, named after Jesus' prayer of agony in the garden. The front facade of this church building is covered in beautiful mosaics, and the inside contains mosaics depicting Judas' betrayal kiss (Matt 26:47-50; Mark 14:43-46; Luke 22:47-48), 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). – June 2022



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Even the U.S. contributed to this structure, and you can see an eagle at the top of one of the domes inside. – June 2022



# 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

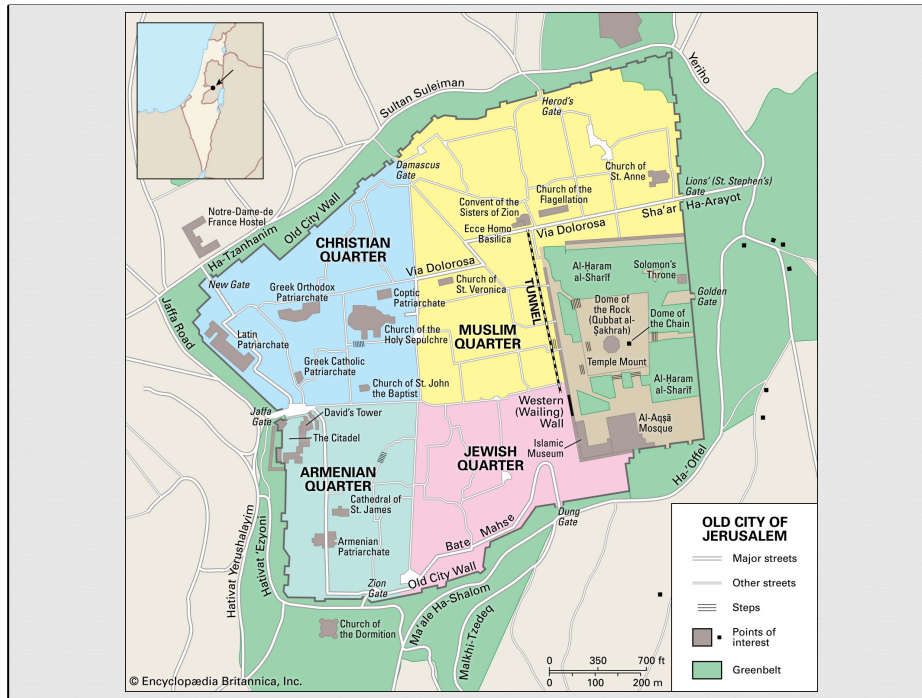




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Muslims took over the city in the 7th century. Mohammad made a special trip from Mecca to the Temple Mount, and according to Islam, this is where he ascended into heaven. The Muslims built a shrine to commemorate this event, which is called “Dome of the Rock.” 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 Ishmael on Mt. Moriah. This is the most striking place in the skyline of Jerusalem. - January 2020



The Golden Gate (or Gate of Mercy), has been sealed since medieval times. – June 2022



Herod's Gate – January 2020





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. – January 2020





Zion Gate with bullet holes – June 2022



Zion gate with bullet holes – June 2022



Jafa Gate – June 2022





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. – June 2022





Old City of Jerusalem just inside the Damascus Gate – January 2020



Sights from the Old City of Jerusalem (January 2020)



Sights from the Old City of Jerusalem (June 2022)





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Feral cat on the streets of Jerusalem – January 2020





Feral cat on the streets of Jerusalem – January 2020



Soldiers carrying machine guns as they were being trained in large groups about the culture of the city. – January 2020



Sights from the Old City of Jerusalem (January 2020)





Haramban Synagogue in the Jewish Quarter (January 2020)





Byzantine Cardo (Heart of the City) from the 5th century AD – June 2022



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