

Lessons From the...

Holy Lands

Lesson 9

Western Wall, Southern Steps
City of David, Pool of Siloam, Pilgrimage Road



The Western “Wailing” Wall



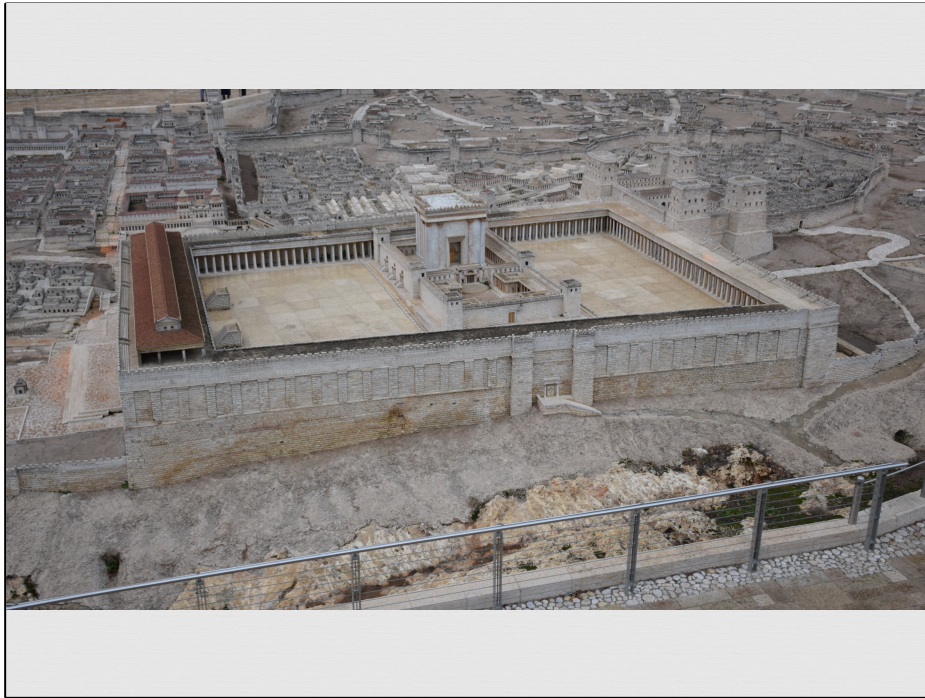
The Western “Wailing” Wall



- ❧ 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.



Standing in front of the Western Wall on the day before Pentecost (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



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 Wall from June 2022 – Day before Pentecost



Hasidic Jews purifying their hands before approaching the wall (June 2022). Men must have their head covered and are restricted to their own area to the left. Women are not required to have their head covered and their area is on the right.



Note the young man with a phylactery and machine gun (June 2022)



Hasidic Jewish Men with their black hats, long tassels, phylacteries, and black coats praying at the wall. (January 2020)



This area of the remaining temple mount is made of stones from many different eras. The larger stones go all the way back to the time of Herod the Great. Most of these stones are “framed” with a depressed area around the outside of the stone. Up higher, smaller stones were added over the centuries by the Romans, the Muslims, the crusaders, and the Turks. (June 2022)



Jews write prayers on pieces of paper and stuff them in the cracks of the walls. The head Rabbi periodically takes all the paper and burns them. (January 2020)



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Al Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount (June 2022) / This compound (along with Dome of the Rock) is considered the third most holy site in Islam



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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 / This compound (along with Al Aqsa Mosque) is considered the third most holy site in Islam



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



On the right side of the wall, note the beginning of an arch that is sticking out. This is known as “Robinson’s Arch.” Robinson was a Biblical scholar who identified this arch as being part of Herod’s Temple Mount in 1838, when he connected this arch with a description given by Josephus of the temple area. Before excavations began in the area, the wall was buried all the way up to the arch. (June 2022)



The girls are standing in front of some of the original stones from the time of Herod the Great (June 2022)



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Piles of large rocks at the base of the wall that fell during the destruction of the temple in AD 70 (Matthew 24:1-2) – June 2022

Matthew 24:1-2 (ESV)



¹ Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”



The Southern Steps



The Southern Steps



☞ The Southern Steps were the main way to access to Temple Mount in the time of Jesus, and there is no doubt that He would have walked on these rocks when he entered the temple:

☞ Mathew 21:12-17;

☞ Mark 11:11, 15-19, 27-22; 12:36-37;

☞ Luke 2:41-52; 19:45-48;

☞ John 2:13-22; 7:14-31; 8:2-11



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



Southern steps – This was the main entrance to the temple mount during the time of Jesus. – June 2022 / Possible that Peter’s Acts 2 sermon might have been delivered from these steps, and that the mikvah below were used to baptize the 3,000 on Pentecost.



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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. – June 2022



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. (January 2020)



Feral cat in the City of David (January 2020)



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). - June 2022



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“Royal Area” which contained a retaining wall for building above which was also dated to the time of David. – June 2022



Descending into the ancient Canaanite water system. (June 2022)



“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. 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. (June 2022)



Tower protecting the water reservoir (June 2022)



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. (June 2022)



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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). – June 2022



Very skinny tunnel that was part of the ancient Canaanite water system. (June 2022)

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 – January 2020



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Speaking to our group about the Pool of Siloam and Pilgrimage Road (June 2022)



Remains of the Pool of Siloam - location where Jesus healed the blind man in John 9:7 – June 2022



From June 2022 - 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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From the Model of Jerusalem: 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. (January 2020)



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