

Lessons From the...
Holy Lands

Lesson 10

Pool of Bethesda, Burnt House, Broad Wall,
Convent of Sisters of Zion, Via Dolorosa,
Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Garden Tomb

Pool of Bethesda



John 5:1-17

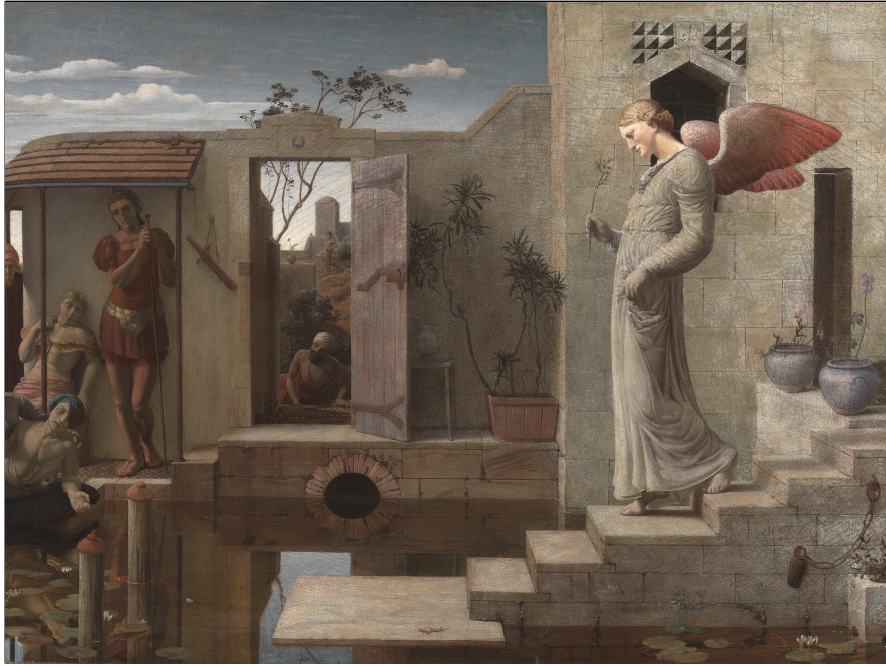
Pool of Bethesda



- ✧ This was excavated in the 19th century, and was the site of Jesus healing of the invalid in John 5:1-17
- ✧ John gives details about Bethesda that it was near the “sheep gate” and had a “five roofed colonnade. This would have placed it north of the temple and outside the city walls during the time of Jesus.
- ✧ Bethesda was two pools (North / South) and in between those are the remains of two different churches that have been built on the same site over the centuries.



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 19th century (January 2020)



The Pool of Bethesda painting by Robert Bateman (1877)



From the Model of Jerusalem > 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



Remains of the South Pool (June 2022)



Remains of the North Pool (June 2022)



Speaking to the group about the events of John 5 (June 2022)



The girls standing in front of the Church of Saint Anne which is beside the Pool of Bethesda. This building is known for its incredible acoustics. It is a French Roman Catholic Church, and much of the current structure dates back to the 12th century AD. Under the building is one of the traditional birthplaces of the virgin Mary. (June 2022)



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Burnt House



Matthew 24; John 19:34

Burnt House (Beit Katros)



- ✧ 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. (January 2020)



Charred beams from the house (January 2020)



A stone weight with the inscription “Katros,” which was a name identified in the Babylonian Talmud as a priest of the temple. This is why they call it Beit Katros. (January 2020)



Roman spearhead...brings to mind the Romans piercing the side of Jesus with a spear
(John 19:34) - (January 2020)

Broad Wall



Broad Wall



- ❧ A piece of the wall that remains from the 1st temple period. It is in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City
- ❧ The wall was excavated in 1970 and dated to the time of King Hezekiah in late 8th century BC.
- ❧ The length of wall fragment is 65 meters long and is preserved in places to a height of 3.3 meters. It is 7 feet thick.



Wall fragment is 65 meters long and is preserved in places to a height of 3.3 meters. It is 7 feet thick. (June 2022)

Convent of Sisters of Zion





A cistern that had been cut out of the moat that surrounded the ancient Fortress Antonio. This fortress was built by Herod the Great and was intended to help prevent uprising in the city of Jerusalem. This was likely the location where Jesus appeared before Pilate (Matthew 27:1-16; Mark 15:1-15; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:22), since Pilate almost certainly would have come to this place when in Jerusalem. It is also likely this is the place referred to as the “barracks” in Acts 21:37 where Paul was taken after his arrest in the temple. Paul would have been held here until he was moved to Caesarea in Acts 23:23. It was on the steps of the barracks that Paul made his defense before the Jews in Acts 22:1-21. (June 2022)



From the Model of Jerusalem > 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



Speaking to the group about the significance of the Fortress Antonia (June 2022)



Pavement stones from the streets of Jerusalem in the 1st century AD that have not been restored (June 2022)



Pavement stones from the streets of Jerusalem in the 1st century AD that have not been restored (June 2022)

Via Dolorosa
The Way of the Cross



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

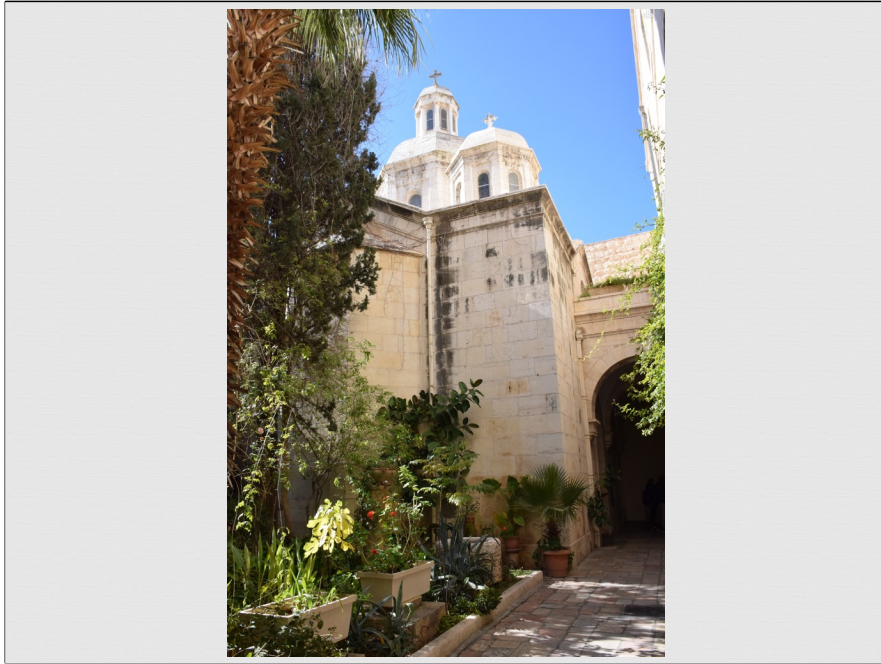
Via Dolorosa



- ✧ 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. Also, not all of these steps depict things that actually appear in scripture. (January 2020)



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<p>I المحك على يسوع بالموت ישוע נידון למות</p> <p>II يسوع يحمل صليبه ישוע נושא את הצלב</p> <p>III يسوع يقع للمرة الأولى ישוע נפל בפעם הראשונה</p> <p>IV يسوع يلاقي أمه الكريمة ישוע פוגש את אמו מרים</p> <p>V سيمان القيريني يساعد علي حمل الصليب שמעון מקيرנה עוזר לשאת את הצלב</p> <p>VI فرونیکا تمسح وجه يسوع بمنديل רדניקה מנבבת את פניו של ישוע</p> <p>VII يسوع يسقط أرضاً للمرة الثانية ישוע נפל בפעם השנייה</p> <p>VIII يسوع يلاقي النساء القديسات ישוע פוגש את הנשים הצדיקות</p> <p>IX يسوع يقع للمرة الثالثة ישוע נפל בפעם השלישית</p> <p>X يسوع يُعزى من ثيابه ويُسقى خللاً ومرارة מפשיטים את ישוע מבדיו</p> <p>XI يسوع يُسَمَّر على الصليب מסמרים את ישוע לצלב</p> <p>XII يسوع يُسَلَّم الروح على الصليب ישוע מות על הצלב</p> <p>XIII يسوع يُنَزَّل عن الصليب מורידים את ישוע מהצלב</p> <p>XIV يسوع يوضع في القبر ישוע נקבר</p>	<p>I Jesus is condemned to death Gesù è condannato a morte</p> <p>II Jesus carries his Cross Gesù è caricato della croce</p> <p>III Jesus falls for the first time Gesù cade per la prima volta</p> <p>IV Jesus meets his mother, Mary Gesù incontra Maria sua madre</p> <p>V Simon of Cyrene helps carry the Cross Il Cireneo aiuta a portare la croce</p> <p>VI Veronica wipes the face of Jesus La Veronica asciuga il volto a Gesù</p> <p>VII Jesus falls for the second time Gesù cade per la seconda volta</p> <p>VIII Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem Gesù incontra le pie donne</p> <p>IX Jesus falls for the third time Gesù cade per la terza volta</p> <p>X Jesus is stripped of his garments Gesù è spogliato</p> <p>XI Jesus is nailed to the Cross Gesù è inchiodato in croce</p> <p>XII Jesus dies on the Cross Gesù muore sulla croce</p> <p>XIII Jesus is taken down from the Cross Gesù è depresso dalla croce</p> <p>XIV Jesus is buried Gesù è sepolto</p>	
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Stations of the Via Dolorosa (January 2020)



Station 3 on the Via Dolorosa (June 2022)



First century pavement stones that have been relocated to ground level on the Via Dolorosa near station 3 (June 2022)



Station 7 on the Via Dolorosa (June 2022)

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 through modern times.
- ✧ From traditions dating back to at least the fourth century, this is the site of Golgotha (Matt 27:33; Mark 15:22; John 19:17) and Jesus's empty tomb (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 (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



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



Main entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (January 2020)



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Cupola over the Aedicula in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (June 2022)



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). (June 2022)

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.



Stairway leading up to "Golgotha" (June 2022)



Traditional location of “Golgotha” (upstairs) and the rock of Cavalry that people wait in line to touch and kiss. (June 2022)



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. (June 2022)



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Traditional crack that formed with the earthquake upon the death of Jesus (Matt 27:51). This is downstairs under "Golgotha." (January 2020)



Mosaic behind the anointing stone depicting Jesus being taken down from the cross (June 2022)



Mosaic behind the anointing stone depicting Jesus being anointed (June 2022)



Mosaic behind the anointing stone depicting Jesus being placed in the tomb (June 2022)



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. (June 2022)



Inside of the private tomb, where you can clearly see the slots for burial. (June 2022)

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.



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



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. (June 2022)



Entrance to the Garden Tomb. The Byzantines turned this site into a church in the 5th century AD, and that they painted the cross inside the tomb. In the time of the crusades, they converted the whole area into a donkey pen. The door to the tomb was enlarged to allow the donkeys to enter, and the channel in front where the stone would have been was enlarged to make a feeding trough. This is ironic, because they essentially turned the channel into a manger, which is where Jesus was placed when he was born. (June 2022)



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Inside of the Garden Tomb (Note Byzantine cross painted on the wall) – January 2020