

Lessons from the Holy Lands



Bellevue Church of Christ
Summer 2021

Helpful Link



<https://www.teamagee.com/class/>

✎ Copies of the slides with my notes

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

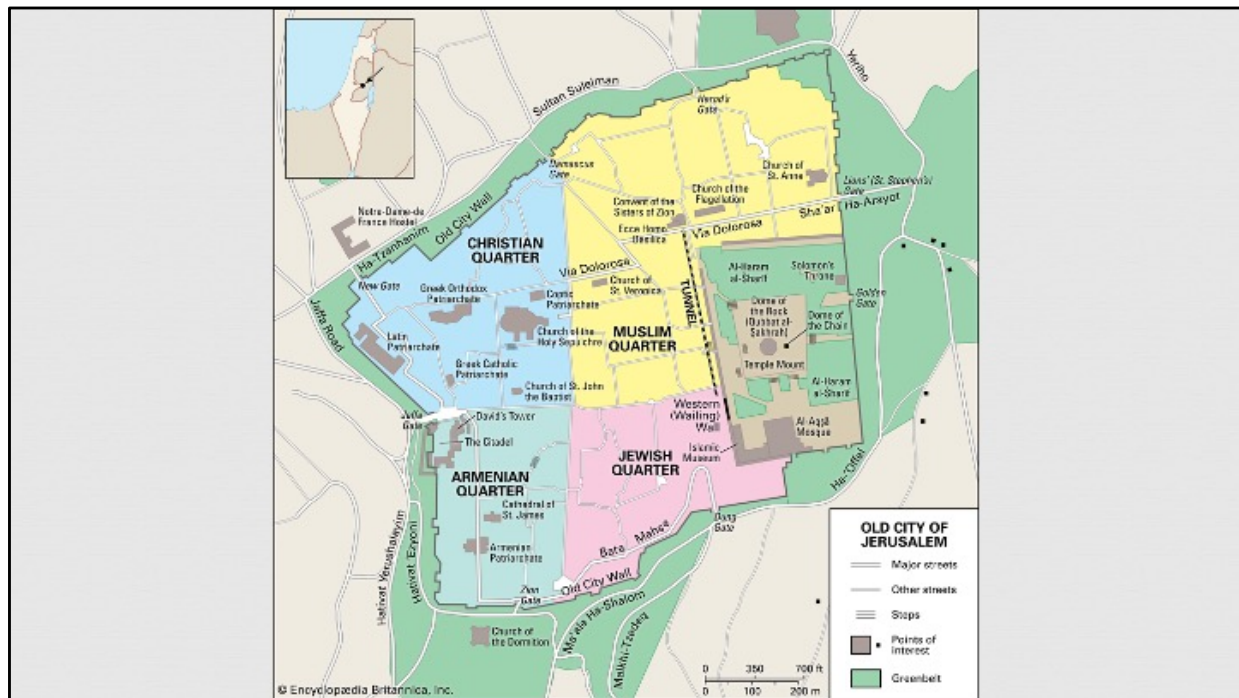




Photo is taken from the western slope of the Mount of Olives toward the Old City of Jerusalem (This is city is NOT the city of Jesus' time but is built on top of the city of Jesus' time). Between the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem is the Kidron Valley.



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



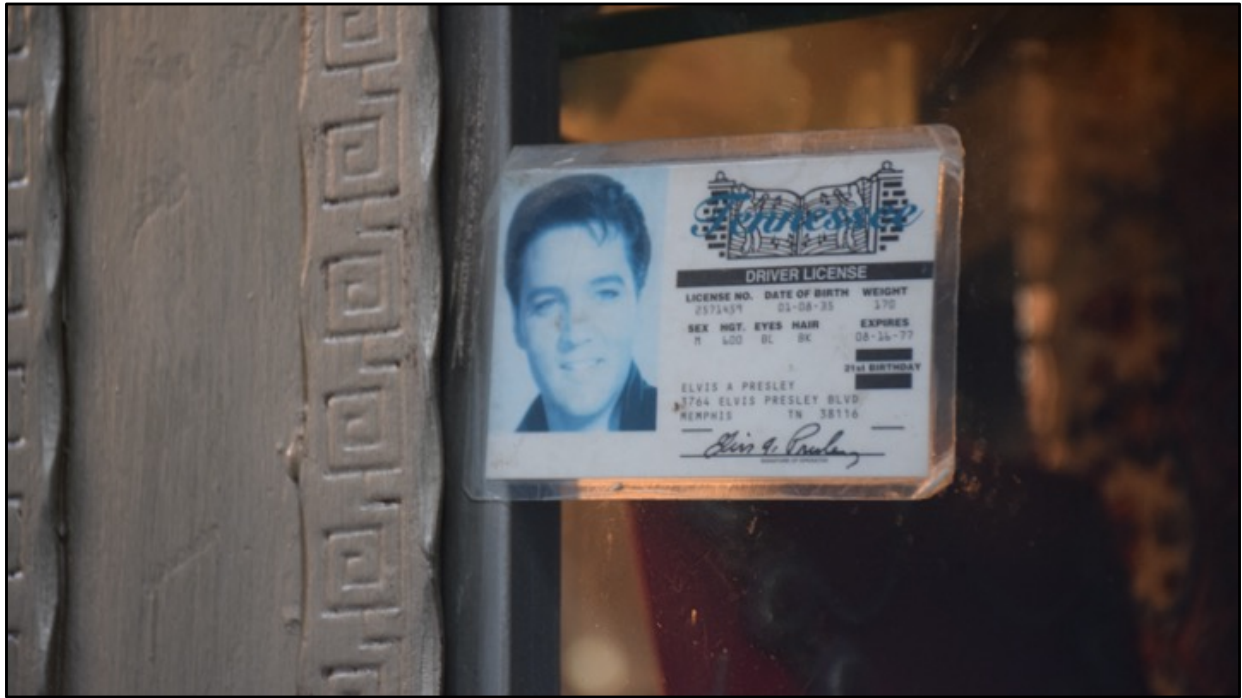
Sights from the Old City of Jerusalem



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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



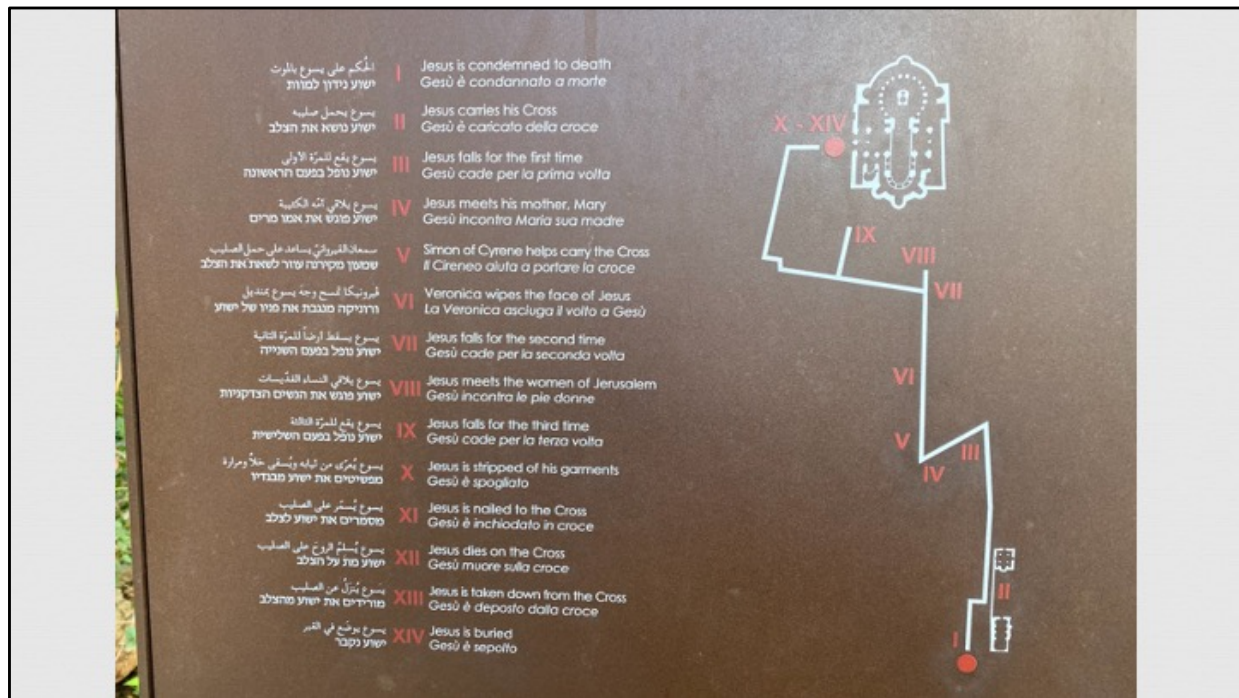
- ✧ It is the traditional path that Jesus took, forced by the Roman soldiers, on the way to his crucifixion.
- ✧ The winding route goes from the traditional site of the former Antonia Fortress to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre — about 2,000 feet.
- ✧ The current route has been established since the 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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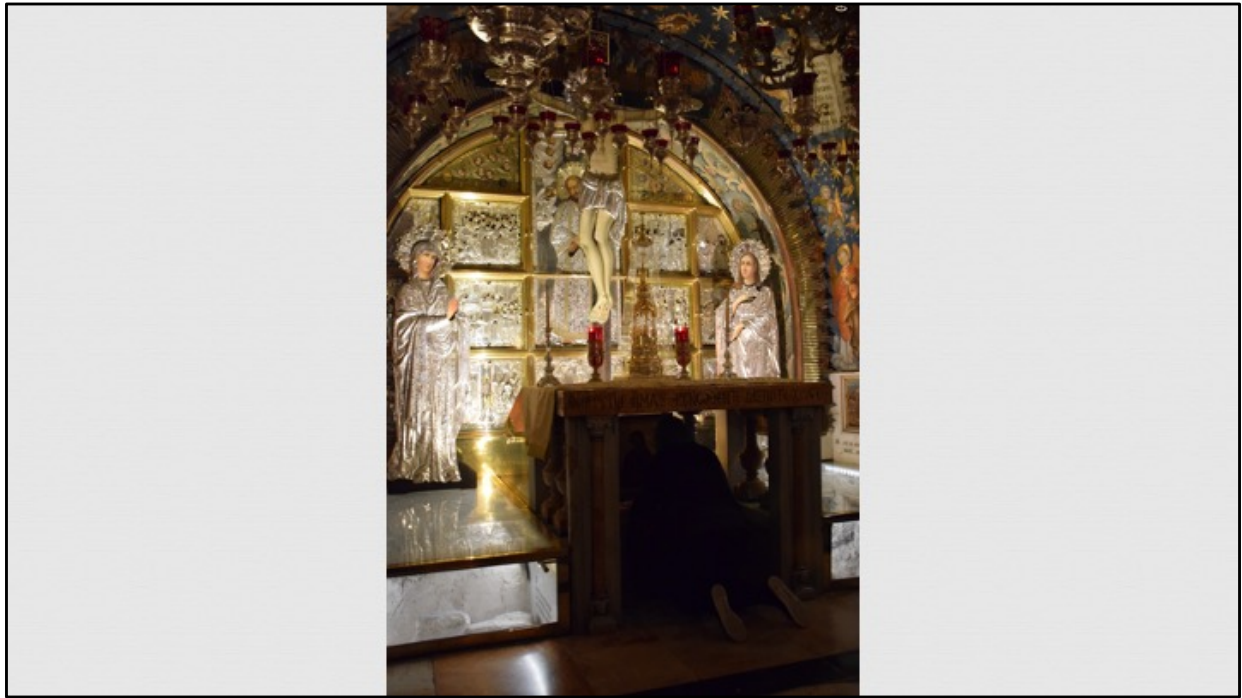


Cupola over the Aedicula in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



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.

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 “Katro,” which was a name identified in the Babylonian Talmud as a priest of the temple. This is why they call it Beit Katros.



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.



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