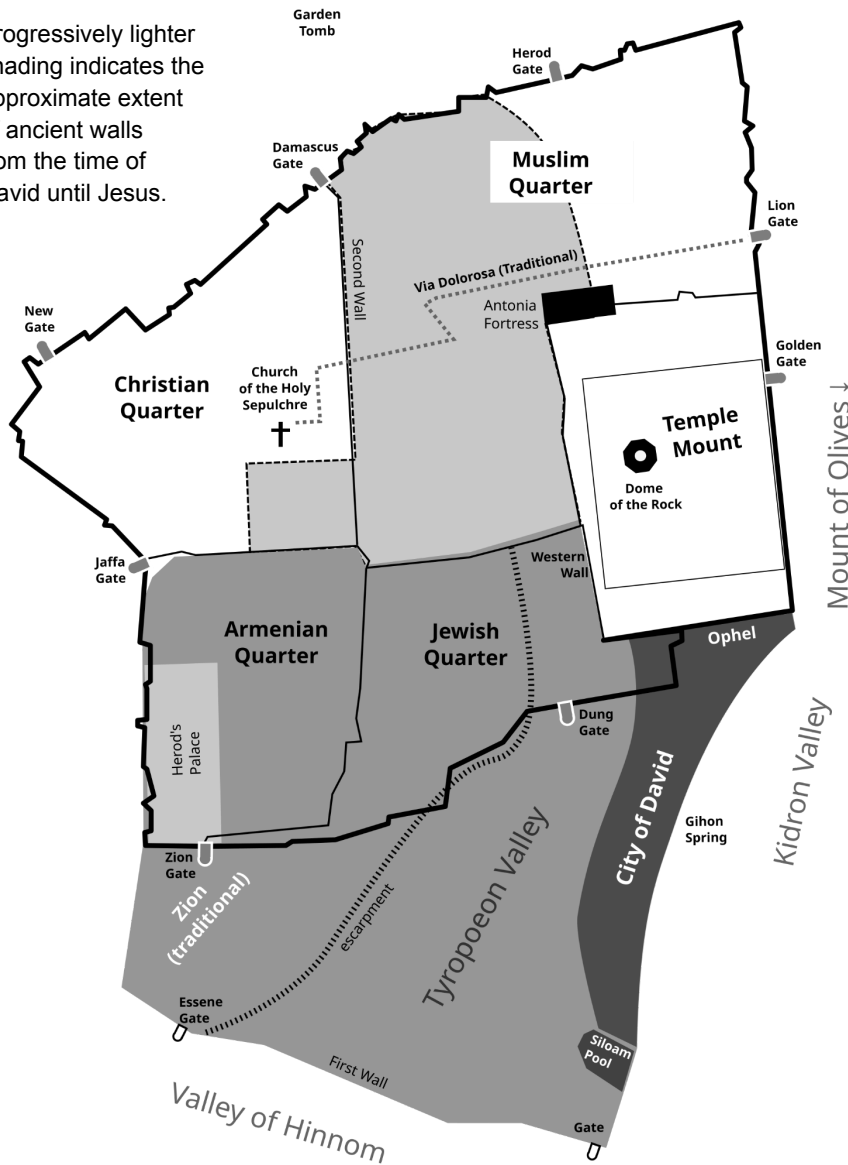


Map of Old Jerusalem

Dark outlines indicate present-day walls and divisions between the four sectors of Old Jerusalem

Progressively lighter shading indicates the approximate extent of ancient walls from the time of David until Jesus.



ANCIENT WORLDS *of the* BIBLE

Study Guide 1

by Pastor Daniel McFeeters

Jerusalem: Crossroads of the Ancient World

The Promises

The story of Jerusalem begins with the story of God's covenant with Abraham:

Genesis 12:1-2 "I will make you a _____; I will bless you. And you shall be a blessing."

Genesis 15:5 "Look now toward _____, and count the _____ ... So shall your descendants be."

Genesis 17:19 "...Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name _____; I will establish My covenant with him for an _____ covenant, and with his descendants after him."

Genesis 22:8 "My son, God will provide for Himself the _____ for a burnt offering."

Genesis 22:18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be _____, because you have obeyed My voice."

2 Samuel 7:16 [Speaking to David] "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established _____." (See Psalm 132:13, 14, 17)

A Brief History of Jerusalem

ANCIENT WORLDS *of the* BIBLE

- Abraham gives tithe to Melchizedek, “king of Salem” (Genesis 14:18, c. 2000 BC)
- “Urusalim” is referenced in the Amarna letters of Abdi-Heba. (c. 1330 BC)
- David captures Jerusalem from the Jebusites and makes it into the capital of the United Kingdom (2 Samuel 5, c. 1000 BC)
- Solomon builds the First Temple (c. 970 - 931 BC)
- The Kingdom is divided, Jerusalem remains the capital of Judah
- Assyrians lay siege to Jerusalem, Hezekiah builds tunnel (701 BC)
- The Babylonians destroy Jerusalem (2 Kings 25, Jeremiah 39, 586 BC)
- Cyrus allows Jews to return and rebuild (Ezra 1, 538 BC)
- The Second Temple is completed (Ezra 6, 516 BC)
- Artaxerxes’ Decree commands the rebuilding of Jerusalem and restores civil authority to Jerusalem (Ezra 7, 457 BC)
- The walls are rebuilt (Nehemiah 1-6) and Ezra restores the law
- Alexander the Great takes control of Jerusalem peacefully (332 BC)
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrates the Temple, leading to the Maccabean Revolt and the establishment of the Hasmonean Dynasty (168–164 BC)
- Jerusalem becomes a Roman province (63 BC)
- Herod the Great expands the Second Temple to grand proportions, builds fortresses, palaces, and walls around Jerusalem (37–4 BC)
- Jesus Christ ministers, dies, and is raised to life again; the Christian Church is born in Jerusalem (AD 31)
- The Jewish factions controlling Jerusalem revolt against Rome, leading to the first Jewish-Roman war, culminating in the destruction of Jerusalem by the armies of Titus (AD 66–70)
- Hadrian rebuilds Jerusalem as Aelia Capitolina, Jews are mostly banned, and a pagan temple is built on the Temple Mount (AD 135)
- Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena embrace Christianity, build the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (AD 335)
- Muslims peacefully capture Jerusalem and allow Jews to return (AD 638)
- Dome of the Rock built on the Temple Mount (AD 691)
- Jews and Muslims are massacred in the First Crusade (AD 1099)
- Muslims retake Jerusalem, allow Christians and Jews to return (AD 1187)
- Suleiman the Magnificent rebuilds Jerusalem’s city walls (AD 1535–1541)
- British capture Jerusalem during WWI (AD 1917)
- Jerusalem is divided in the Israeli War of Independence, East Jerusalem including the old city is held by Jordan (AD 1948)
- Israel recaptures East Jerusalem during the Six-Day War (AD 1967)

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

SCRIPTURE:

What did Abraham do when he faced a crisis of God’s promises?

“He _____ in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6)

REFLECTION:

When it seems like promises fail, Abraham’s story teaches us that we can still trust in God even if it requires a miracle. Faith is a key part of our journey to discover truth.

EXPERIENCE:

Have you ever been to Jerusalem? What was your gut response—how did it increase or change your faith? How do you think that a trip to Jerusalem would affect your spiritual life?

PARADOX:

“*Makhloket*” is a term used in the Jewish community to refer to a debate or dispute. It’s not something to be shunned, but an opportunity to discover clearer truth through paradox.

Where do you discover Makhloket: a conflict or tension between things that you believe are true, and things that others claim?

How do you know what is truth?

QUESTION: What puzzled you the most in the presentation?

RESPONSE: Do you believe that God is love?

More resources at www.pastordaniel.net/ancientworlds0425

