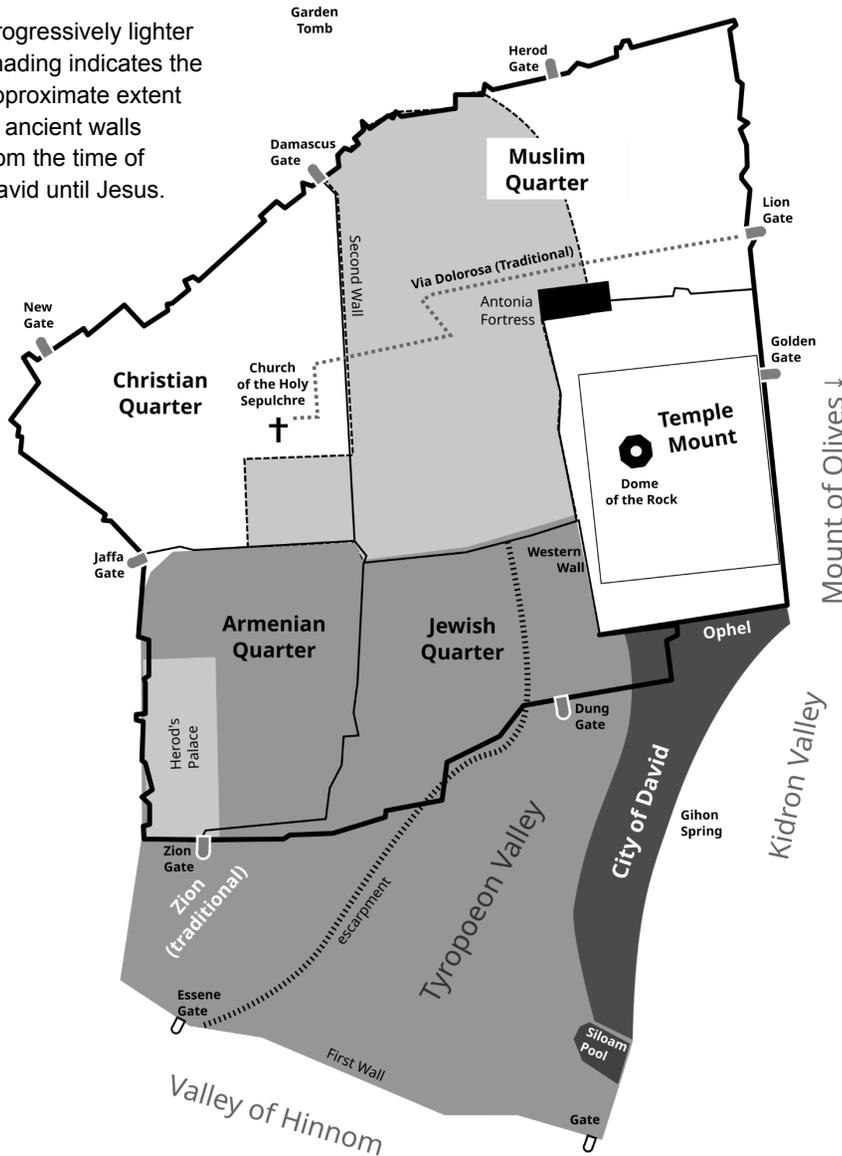


Map of Old Jerusalem

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 title 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.

In our study, we will use “Makhloket” to refer to a conflict or tension between something you know is true, versus other apparent truths or things that others claim to be true. Where you do discover “Makhloket”?

How do you know what is true?

QUESTION: What puzzled you the most in the presentation?

RESPONSE: Do you believe that God is love?

More resources at www.pastordaniel.net/ancientworlds0925

