

*Eternity Past*

*Eternity Future*

# The LandBetween

M I N I S T R I E S

*The mission of the LandBetween Ministries is to equip leaders to fulfill Christ's Great Commission of heart-focused discipleship in a broken world.*

Newsletter

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*"You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood..."*

— 1 Peter 2:5a

**More fighting, bloodshed, and failed peace talks have taken place over Jerusalem and the "Temple Mount" than anywhere on Earth.**

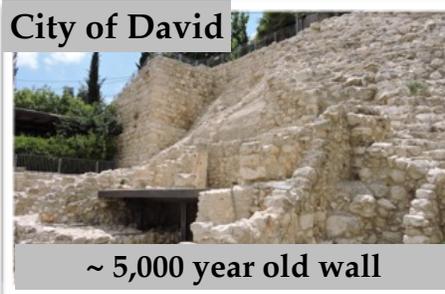
## The Temples of Yahweh — Part 2

### BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

In this Part 2 article, I will share more evidence proving Jesus' words were completely accurate pertaining to Solomon's, Herod the Great's, and other versions of God's Temple in the City of David.

**Acts 21:27 - 23:20.** The context of these verses in Acts is Paul's arrest outside the Temple. The religious leaders spread false rumors about Paul in Jerusalem that provoked a violent riot and death threats against Paul. News of the riot got up to a Roman Army commander and, **"At once he took along some soldiers and centurions and ran down to them; and when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul."** (Acts 21:32). Notice how the Roman soldiers **"ran down"** to Paul. Robert Cornuke, who has extensively researched the Temple location, writes, "If the Temple Mount was the place of Paul's riot scene, then the big question is where would someone go down from to reach Paul." (Cornuke, *Temple*, p. 90). Then, we see in Acts 21:35-37

that the rioting crowd was so violent around Paul the soldiers had to carry Paul up the steps leading to the Roman Army barracks. Robert Cornuke correctly points out the going "up" and "down" by the soldiers and Paul, "...can only apply if the temple, for instance, is in the old City of David in the area of the Gihon Spring" (Cornuke, *Temple*, p. 91).



**1 Kings 1:38-39.** The context of these verses is the anointing of Solomon as King. Solomon had to both ride on David's mule and be anointed at the Gihon, a powerful spring in the City of David. Verse 39a, **"Zadok the priest then took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon."**

Dr. Ernest Martin teaches the tent from which Zadok got the oil to anoint

Solomon was the same tent that King David had already built for the Ark of the Covenant and the altar for sacrifices in the City of David (1 Chronicles 15:1; 16:39). Dr. Martin: "This means that for the last twenty-seven years of David's reign and the first eleven years of Solomon's reign (that is, for 38 years before Solomon built the Temple), all Israel resorted to this holy spot at the Gihon Spring to worship God and to offer sacrifices." (Martin, *The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot*, p. 295).

The pagan Jebusites built their heavily fortified city, making sure it encompassed the Gihon spring. They built large walls to keep others from getting to their highly valued spring water. The Jebusites were so proud of their protected city and its Gihon Spring they taunted David when he came to overtake Jebus. The Jebusites chided David by saying that even the blind and lame could keep David from taking Jebus (2 Sam. 5:6). But, the unexpected happened...

**"David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David."** (2 Samuel 5:7).

After the Jebusites learned it wasn't a good idea to "trash-talk" God's anointed King, Yahweh had David build an altar to the LORD on the wheat threshing floor of

a Jebusite man named Ornan (1 Chronicles 21:18). It was near this same threshing floor in Zion that David would help gather the building materials for his son, Solomon, to build the first stone Temple for God in the City of David (1 Kings 6).

**MT ZION — WHICH ONE?**

The original Mt. Zion was just south of the Temple Mount. With the picture below as a reference, Mt. Zion was down and south of the Temple Mount; south of the Gihon Spring. Dr. Ernest Martin’s research revealed that during Simon the Hasmoneans’ tenure as Israel’s Chief Priest and ruler between 142-135 BC, Simon leveled off Mt. Zion to its bedrock. Mt. Zion’s fill dirt was used to raise the steep valleys near the Temple which helped expand Jerusalem. In the film, “Jerusalem and the Lost Temple of the Jews,” Ken Klein and David Sielaff show how Mt. Zion was cut down to its base and the “new” location for Zion was formed. **Therefore, today’s Zion is not unusually “high” or “beautiful” as described in Psalm 48:1-2 because it is not the original Mt. Zion.** The original Mt. Zion jutted up very high just south of the adjacent Temple Mount complex.

**EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS**

Dr. Martin writes: “Aristeas in about 285 BC personally saw the Temple and he stated that a *natural spring* was emanating from its interior”; also, “Tacitus, the Roman historian 400 years later (quoting eyewitness sources) said there was an *inexhaustible spring* located *within* the Temple at Jerusalem” (Martin, *ibid*, 149). These witnesses attest that the Temple was above the Gihon Spring. It is the only spring within five miles of Jerusalem. The “Rogel” is only a well. Also, the Roman General Titus, Jewish Commander Eleazar, Eusebius, Josephus, and others support Jesus’ prophecy about Jerusalem and the Temple’s fall. They also confirm Fort Antonia survived.

**EZEKIEL 47 — EXACT MATCH**

Reputable British archeologist, Dr. Kathleen Kenyon, did research which confirmed that the City of David was on the southeastern ridge of Jerusalem, near a 5,000 year old wall, next to the “Tower of Siloam” which guarded the Gihon Spring (See photo on Page 1). Decades of subsequent discoveries by archeologist Dr. Eli Shukron has expanded upon Dr. Kenyon’s work. Upon hearing of Dr. Kenyon’s research, Dr. George W. Buchanan separately concluded the prophecy of Ezekiel 47 further proves the Temple was over the Gihon Spring. Ezekiel prophesied that water will flow from under the Temple down to Arabah (the Dead Sea). It’s amazing how water really did flow from

(Josephus, *Wars*, V. 244, Thackeray/Loeb, *Harvard Press*, pp. 78-79). Roman’s 10th Legion had about 6,000 soldiers and with its support crew totaled around 10,000. **It is logistically impossible for 10,000 people to live in what modern scholars say was Fort Antonia**, which they depict was a tiny garrison on the NW corner of today’s Haram Al-Sharif. For a variety of reasons, dating from the 11th century AD and after, most of today’s scholars inaccurately state only a “cohort” (~ 618) of soldiers served at Fort Antonia. If leaders have a religious, political, or cultural agenda to keep the Temple Mount on the Haram Al-Sharif, they will mistranslate Josephus and ignore the Scriptures. However, Jesus was 100% accurate when He

prophesied that Jerusalem would not have one stone left on one another (Luke 19:41-44). The idiom, “Leave no stone unturned” is from when the Romans dug up the Temple stone by stone searching for gold that melted between the stones. God used Rome to decimate Jerusalem in 70 AD. Yet, Fort Antonia was considered Roman territory, and not part of Jerusalem, so it was spared from destruction and stands today.

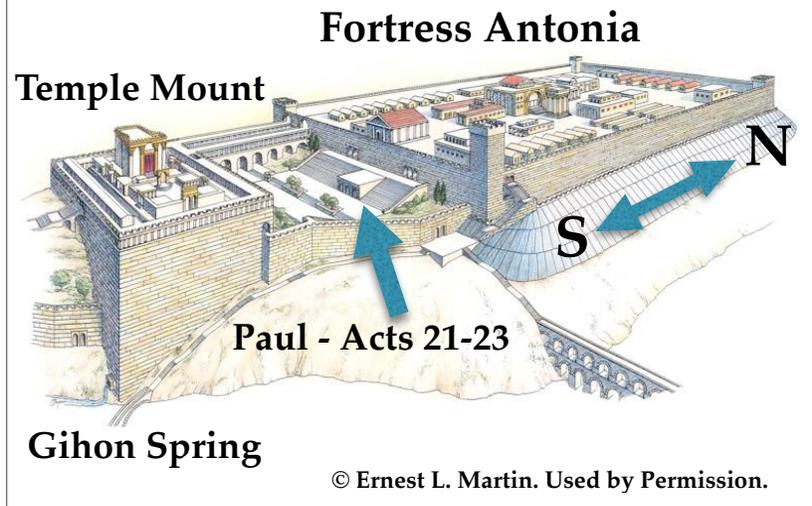
**Thus, God perfectly fulfilled Jesus’ prophecy in Luke 19:41-44.**

Rome did not decommission Fort Antonia until 289 AD (CE) (Martin, *The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot*, 49). Today, Israel has control over the true Temple site in the City of David. This means Israel could rebuild the Temple without interference, which is significant. It is uncertain if Israel will acknowledge the true Temple site. But, it is certain that Jesus will keep His word: **“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.”** (Rev. 21:2).

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the Gihon all the way down to the Dead Sea. In contrast, water has never “flowed” from the Haram Al-Sharif (formerly Fortress Antonia) because as noted there is not a spring there, only cisterns. Joel 3:18 states, “A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house....” Psalm 46:4 says a “river whose streams...” flowed in God’s city (Zion) and “holy dwelling” (Temple); (cf. Rev. 22:1). These passages verify how the Gihon Spring flowed within and out of the Temple in Zion, the City of David.

**JOSEPHUS MISTRANSLATED**

Flavius Josephus is known as the authoritative eyewitness historian of Jerusalem during Jesus’ time. Josephus wrote in Greek there was a legion (tagma) of soldiers permanently stationed in Jerusalem