

Diamonds in the Dust – 8

The Lay of the Land: Jerusalem

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode;
on the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*See the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove;
who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst t'assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.*

*Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near;
thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which he gives them when they pray.*

*Savior, if of Zion's city
I, thro' grace, a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name;
fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.*

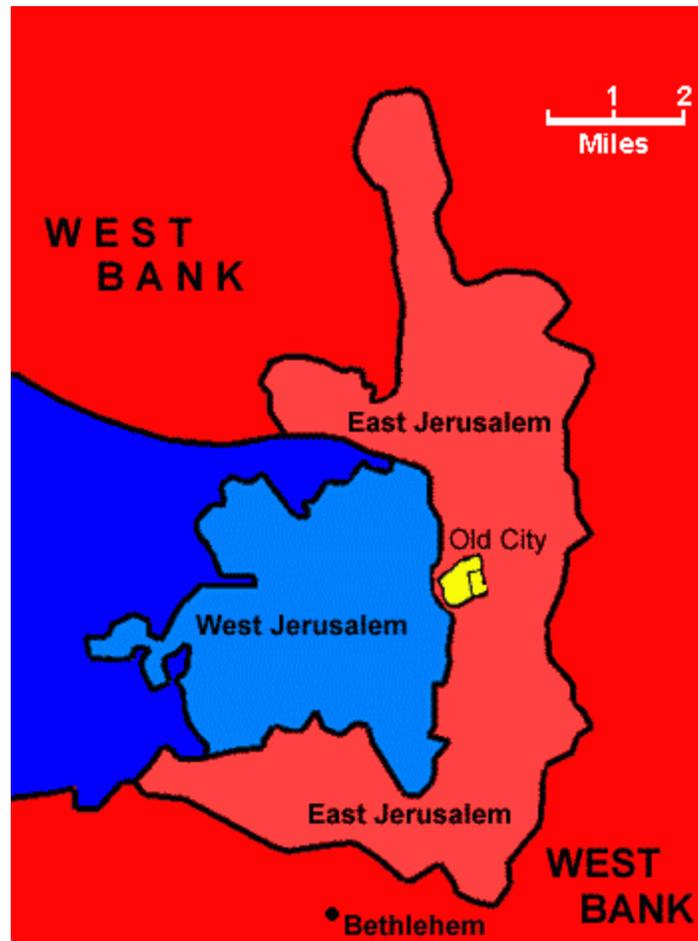
Jerusalem by the Numbers:

3 Parts

4 Old City Quarters + Temple Mount

8 Old City Gates

7 Mountains



1 City: 3 Parts

East Jerusalem

- Palestinian/Muslim
- Borders West Bank

West Jerusalem

- Jewish/Modern/Developed
- Borders Israel

Old City—Jewish/Muslim/Christian

- Armenian (Orthodox; Christian)—2,200 residents
 - Tower of David
- Muslim – 22,000
- Jewish – 2,200
- Christian (Roman Catholic; Christians)
 - Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Temple Mount Today
 - Dome of the Rock – Active for Muslim Worshipers
 - Al Aqsa Mosque – Active for Muslim Worshipers
 - Western Wall – Active for Jewish Worshipers
 - Archeological Park – Christian Interest – Robinson’s Arch, Teaching Steps

How did Jerusalem come to be the capital? And What Does Matthew 3:12 Mean?

- Abraham offers Isaac on Mount Moriah --

Genesis 22:1 -- *After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ 2He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of **Moriah**, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.’*

- David buys the Threshing floor

2 Samuel 24:18 -- *That day Gad came to David and said to him, ‘Go up and erect an altar to the Lord on the **threshing-floor** of Araunah the Jebusite.’*

- Displaces the Jebusites
- Makes Jerusalem the capital of the United Kingdom
- Builds “City of David”
- Jerusalem is not on a trade route
- On a mountain -- defensible

- Solomon Builds the Temple

2 Chronicles 3:1 *Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount **Moriah**, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the **threshing floor** of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.*

- John the Baptist Prophecies Cleansing of the Temple

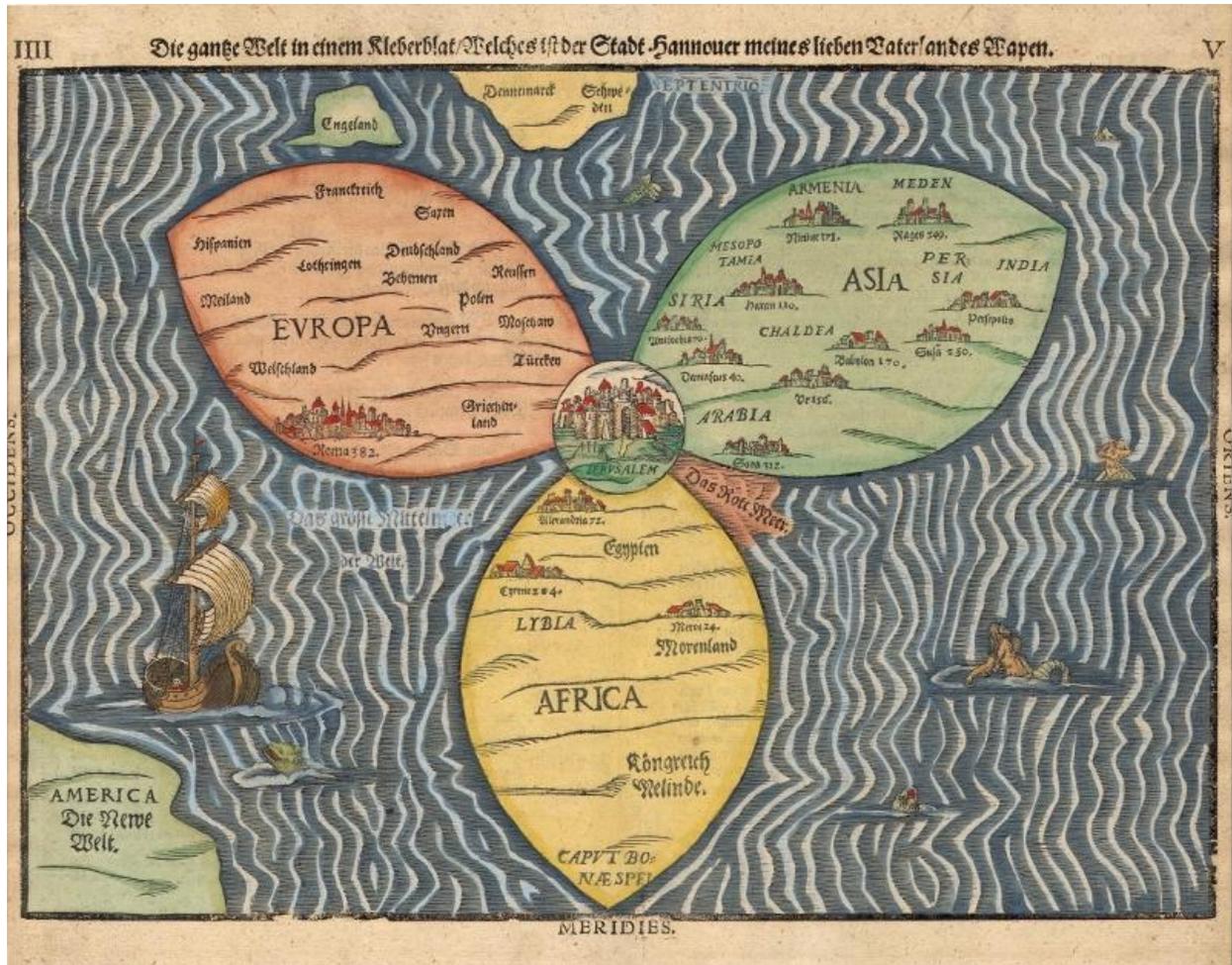
Matt 3:12 *His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will **clear his threshing-floor** and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’*

- Jesus in the Temple

Matt 21:12-13 *Then Jesus **entered the temple and drove out** all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves.*

Significance of Jerusalem in Jewish Thought

- Not just a city. Not just a capital city. Center of the world... (and even the center of the universe)

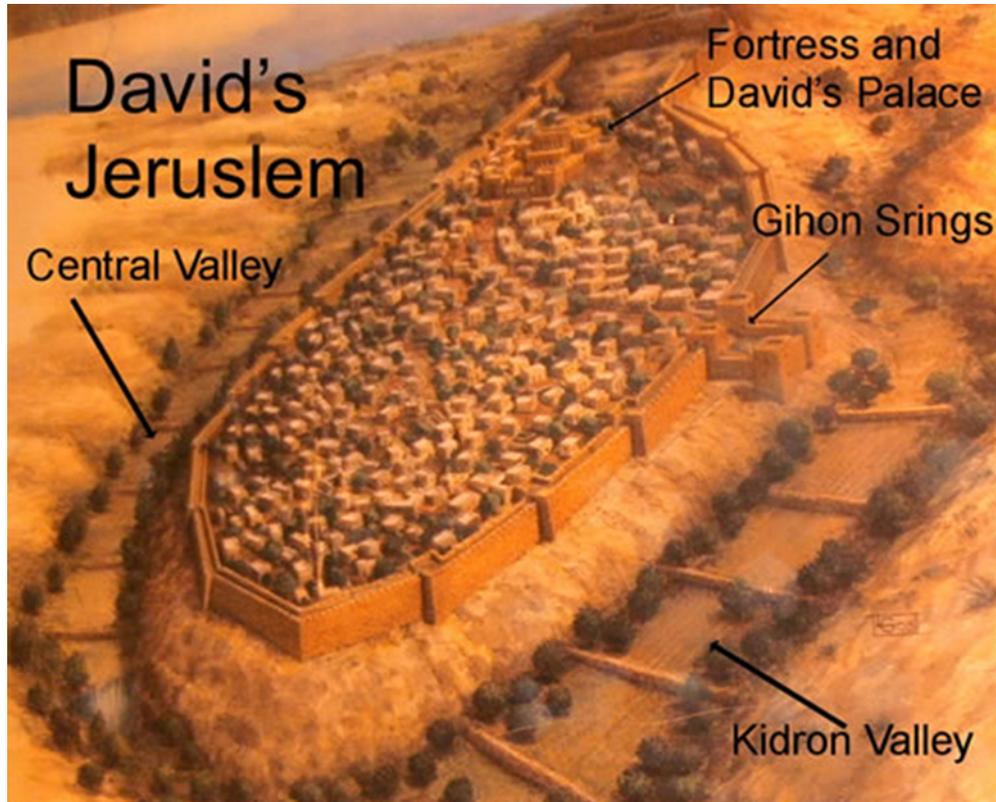


HEINRICH BÜNTING -- German, 1545-1606

This is a reduced and retouched reproduction of the largest known medieval world map, made at or for the Benedictine abbey of Ebstorf in about 1235. The original, measuring almost 12 feet in diameter, was destroyed in an air-raid on Hannover, Germany, during World War II. It was a classic mappamundi, a type of medieval world map or map-painting whose chief purpose was to teach Christian history to the faithful.

Jerusalem's Other Names

- "City of David" – Which is a particular area demarking the city limits in David's time; pre-Temple; 1000 BC



- What is the other “City of David”?
 - Bethlehem

- “Zion” – named for Mount Zion -- *the hill on which the fortress of the city was built.*

The term Mount Zion or simply Zion has been used in the Hebrew Bible first for the City of David (2 Samuel 5:7, 1 Chronicles 11:5; 1 Kings 8:1, 2 Chronicles 5:2) and later for the Temple Mount

meaning has shifted -- now used for Jerusalem's Western Hill.

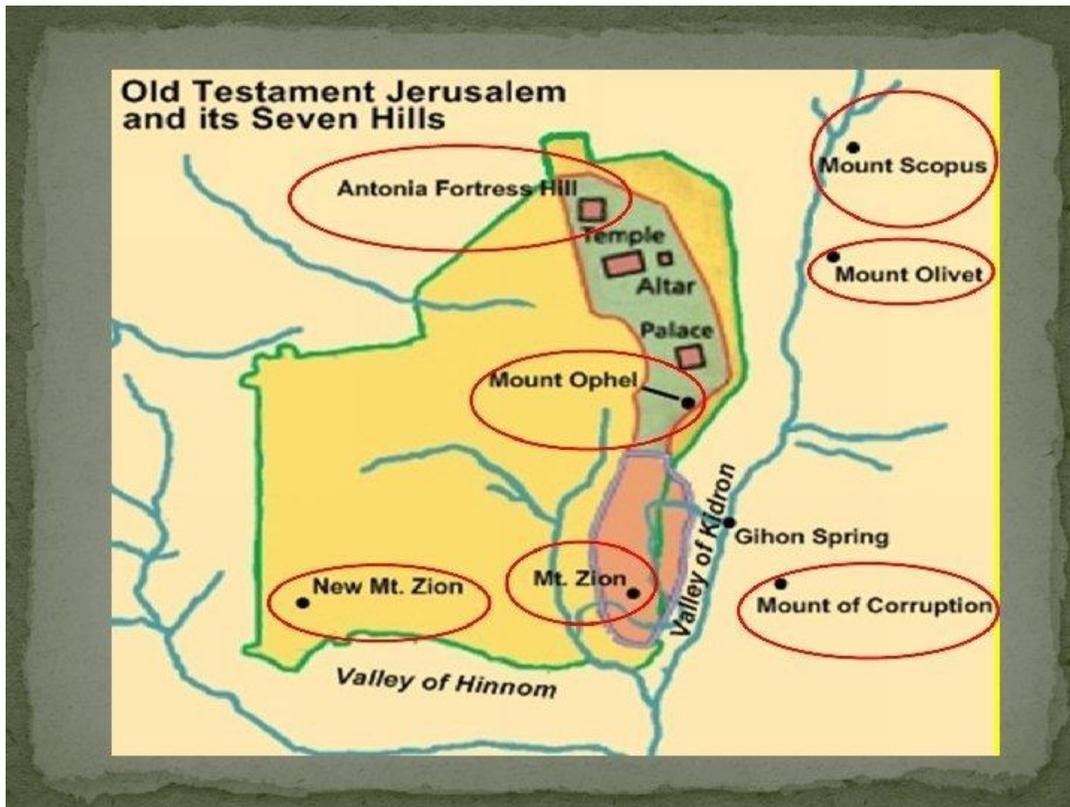
“Zion” is also used for the entire Land of Israel or State of Israel – e.g. Zionists advocate for the State of Israel in the historic land of Israel.

For example: Psalm 137:3

 - *New International Version: -- for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”*
 - *New Living Translation-- For our captors demanded a song from us. Our tormentors insisted on a joyful hymn: “Sing us one of those songs of Jerusalem!”*

Sum: Zion = mountain = Temple Mount = Temple = Israel

- City of Peace -- Jeru-salem means "city of peace."



The 7 Mountains of Jerusalem (at least the 3 important ones)

1. Mt. Moriah – Abraham/Temple/Antonia Fortress

location of Abraham's sacrifice attempt of Issac/Ishmael

Antonia Fortress Hill -- named for its patron Mark Antony

2. Mt. Olives - Gethsemane

- *a mountain ridge east of and adjacent to Jerusalem's Old City*
- *named for the olive groves that once covered its slopes.*
- *Jewish cemetery for over 3, 000 years and holds approximately 150, 000 graves.*

3. Mt. Zion – location of City of David

Gates of Jerusalem

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart*

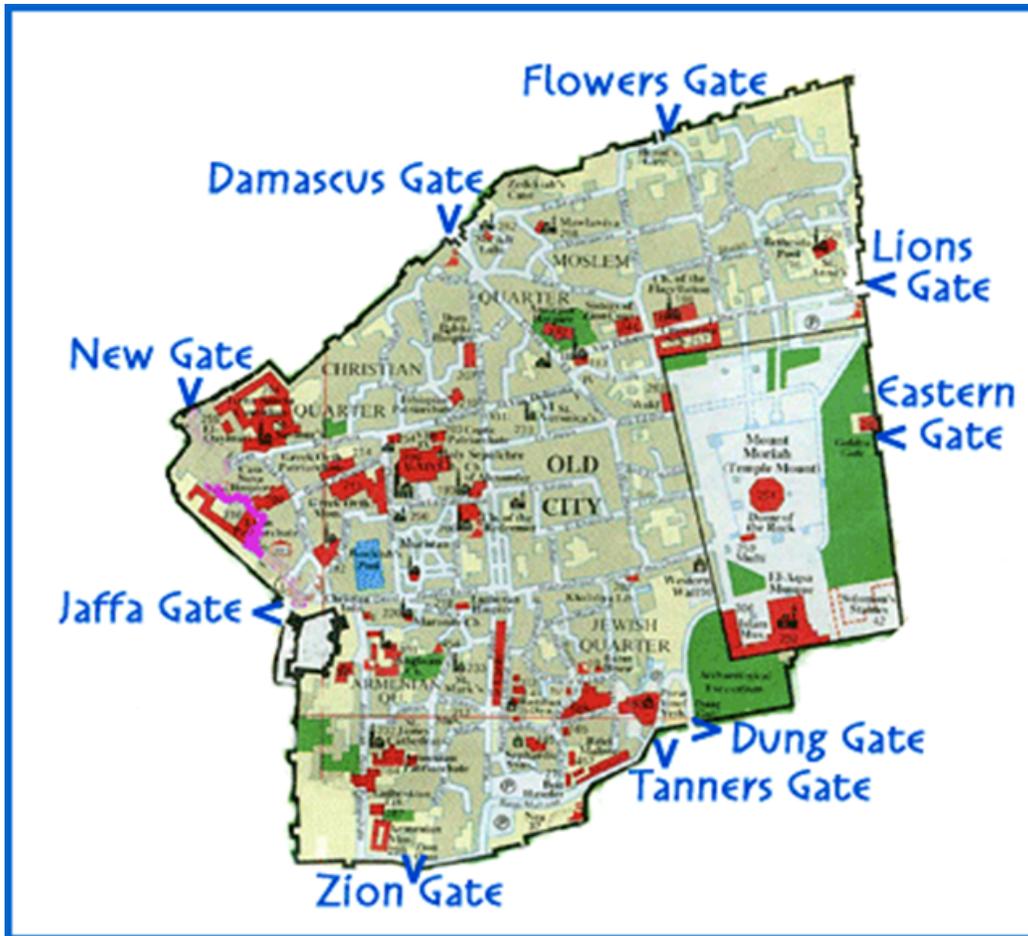
*from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.
Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.*

Our feet stood within thy gate, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem built up, a city knit together.

Psalm 122:2-3

City gate =s

- *where kings gave decrees to the people,*
- *armies were commanded for war*
- *seats of authority (Ruth 4:11)*
- *wisdom was uttered (Proverbs 1:21).*
- *administering justice (Deuteronomy 16:18)*
- *Judges and officers served at the gates and the councils of state were held (2 Chronicles 18:9)*
- *important governmental and societal business took place at gates*
- *Sum: the "town square" of culture in Biblical times.*



Important Gates:



The Golden Gate as viewed from the Mount of Olives looking over the Kidron Valley.



- Golden Gate a/k/a Mercy Gate a/k/a Beautiful Gate a/k/a Eastern Gate – Eastern Wall of Temple Mount

- Messiah will enter from the East, through this gate: Isaiah said that the Messiah would come from the wilderness east of Jerusalem (Isa. 40:3).
- sealed in the 700s to prevent Jewish zealots from creating and promoting a messiah like political figure to rally around.
- Sealed to stop invaders
- Crusaders kept the gate blocked, but twice each year they would unblock and open it for Palm Sunday in the spring and for a fall festival called "Exaltation of the Cross."
- gate has not been unblocked since the Crusaders lost control of Jerusalem.
- Muslims do not see a need for a Messiah
- Jews are still waiting for Messiah
- Christians know the Messiah has already come.
- Between Mt. of Olives and Mt. Moriah/Mt. Zion (Kidron Valley)
 - Was it the Palm Sunday Gate?
 - Jim Fleming's Discovery
 - Sum: the sealed gate we can see is much newer than the gate Jesus went through. Ancient Gate is underground, below a modern Muslim cemetery.
- Arab graves fill the space in front of the entire length of the eastern wall
In 1969 Jerusalem archaeologist James Fleming was investigating the Eastern wall of the Temple where a Muslim cemetery has long been located
 - student from the American Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem (now called Jerusalem University College).
- *It had rained heavily the night before and the ground remained soggy the next day. As he investigated the area immediately in front of the Golden Gate, the ground beneath his feet gave way and he dropped into a hole about eight feet deep. Fleming found himself "knee-deep in bones"*



- *he had fallen into a mass burial site.*
- *view of five large wedgeshaped stones set into a massive arch.*
- *he had discovered an ancient gate under the present Golden Gate: The ancient gate beneath the Golden Gate may date from Solomonic times or at least from the time of Nehemiah. (BAR, Jan./Feb. 1983, p30)*

- Very soon after this discovery the Muslim caretakers covered the chamber, cemented over the top, and surrounded the mass grave with a protective iron fence.
- Joppa Gate
 - Close to the Temple Mount and Christian Quarter



Gate Design: L shape design for defense

