

THE CITY OF DAVID



A picture of Jerusalem looking west from Mount Scopus

Introduction

- Mount Scopus overlooks Jerusalem to the southwest with dramatic views of the Dome of the Rock, Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Eastern Gate and the City of David.
- The historian Josephus noted that Roman soldiers camped on Mount Scopus while they laid siege to Jerusalem during the Jewish War of 70 A.D.
- Burial vaults dating to the first century have been located on Mount Scopus, including the Cave of Nicor, one of the seven chosen to distribute food in the early church, Acts 6:5, 1-6, *Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.* Today, Mount Scopus is home to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The City of David

- The City of David is on Mount Ophel which is the southeastern side of present-day Jerusalem.
- David captured Jebus in the seventh year of his reign as king in 1003 B.C. Note 2 Samuel 5:6, *And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, “You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off”—thinking, “David cannot come in here.”*
- He moved his throne from Hebron to Jebus which was more centrally located for his kingdom. He reigned there for 33 years and Jerusalem became to the seat of Israel’s government until the exile in 586 B.C.
- The area is referred to as the City of David but Bethlehem is also mentioned as the City of David because it was his birthplace, Luke 2:11, *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*
- The City of David is also identified as Zion, 1 Chronicles 11:5, *The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You will not come in here.” Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David.*
- Once the ark of the covenant was transferred to Moriah [what is now the Temple Mount], the entire area of Jerusalem came to be called Zion.



The harp represents King David and is near the entrance to Hezekiah’s Tunnel

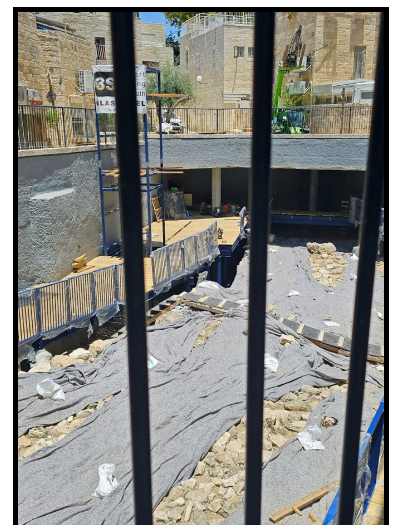
Hezekiah’s Tunnel



Area near Hezekiah’s Tunnel

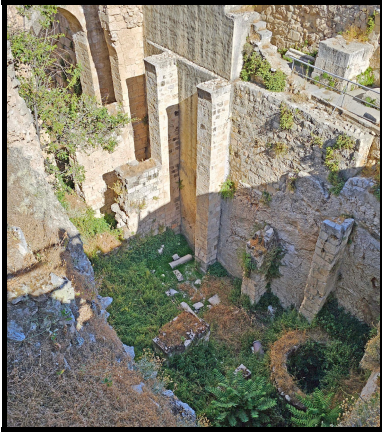
- This is a tunnel carved beneath the City of David that runs from the Gihon Spring to the Pool of Siloam in the time of King Hezekiah, 13th king of Judah (727-699 B.C.). Note 2 Kings 20:20, *The rest of the deeds of Hezekiah and all his might and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?*
- Edward Robinson discovered and explored the tunnel in 1837. The tunnel begins at the Gihon Spring on the eastern side of the City of David—the oldest settled portion of Jerusalem—and winds underground for a total of about 1,750 feet (733 meters) to the pool of Siloam on the southwest side of the city.

- King Hezekiah built the tunnel in preparation for the Assyrian attack led by King Sennacherib in 701 B.C. Note 2 Chronicles 32:1-6, *After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself. 2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, 3 he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him. 4 A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, “Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?” 5 He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance. 6 And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them ...*
- There three water systems that connect to Gihon Spring: Warren’s Shaft within the walls of Jerusalem that allowed residents to reach fresh water during sieges; the Siloam Channel which brought water from the Kidron Valley into Jerusalem; and Hezekiah’s Tunnel which superseded the Siloam Channel.



Recently unearthed wall built by King Hezekiah

- In 1880, archaeologists discovered a partial inscription located about 20 feet from the southern end of the tunnel, near the pool of Siloam. The inscription consists of about 100 words written in ancient Hebrew and discusses the completion of the tunnel. It indicates that the tunnel was carved from both ends simultaneously, describing how workmen, approaching each other from opposite sides, called to each other and swung their axes toward each other, saw a “crack” in the rock, and finally broke through the rock to open the tunnel. *When the tunnel was driven through ... each man toward his fellow, and while there were still three cubits to be cut through—the voice of a man calling to his fellow. ... And when the tunnel was driven through, the quarrymen hewed, each toward his fellow, axe against axe; and the water flowed from the spring toward the reservoir for 1200 cubits, and the height of the rock above the heads of the quarrymen was 100 cubits.* The stone is now in a museum in Istanbul, Turkey.



The Pool of Siloam

Pool of Siloam

- It was an artificial pool that received waters from the Spring of Gihon through Hezekiah’s Tunnel.
- Jesus told a man blind from birth to wash in the Pool of Siloam, John 9:5,7, *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.* ... and said to him, *“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent).* So he went and washed and came back seeing.

Spring of Gihon

- The Spring of Gihon comes from the word meaning *to spring forth*.
- When David conquered the city of the Jebusites, he entered the city through tunnels built to access the Spring of Gihon (2 Samuel 5:8).
- While Adonijah tried to usurp the throne in an anointing ritual at En-Rogel, Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon as the legitimate king at the Spring of Gihon, 1 Kings 1:33, *And the king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon.*
- Manasseh refortified the walls west of Gihon and the Fish Gate, *Afterward he built an outer wall for the city of David west of Gihon, in the valley, and for the entrance into the Fish Gate, and carried it around Ophel, and raised it to a very great height. He also put commanders of the army in all the fortified cities in Judah.*