

REMINDERS FROM THE PAST

Introduction

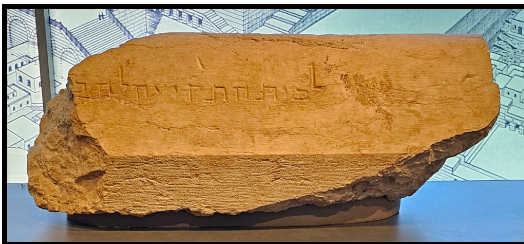
Israel is a special place. There is so much that has happened and will happen in God's Promised Land. A one-time trip overwhelms one with more than can be retained. I am thankful for three special places that enable one to look back and remember what was seen and not seen concerning the people and land of the Book. Notes and pictures will be from the Israel Museum, the Shrine of the Book and Yad Vashem.

Israel Museum

This museum in Jerusalem is one of the leading museums in the world. It has a number of impressive sections, including the Jewish Art and Life Wing, the Archaeology Wing, the Fine Arts Wing. A major display is an outdoor model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period, an Art Garden and one of the most visited buildings on the grounds is the Shrine of the Book which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls. The focus of this *Glimpse* will be on the Archaeology Wing and the Shrine of the Book.

- **Archaeology Wing**

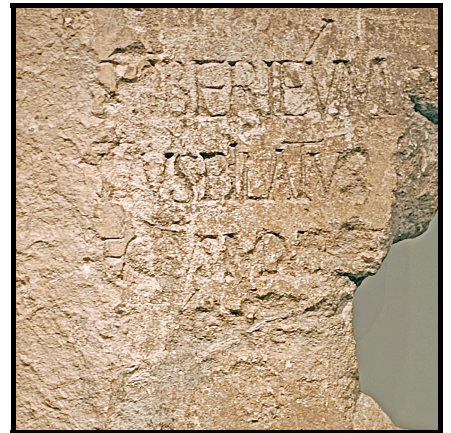
The museum pieces are in chronological order. The pictures below are those where the original is in the Israel Museum but we had the privilege of seeing duplicate in the actual location.



A stone from Temple where the trumpeter announced Sabbath start/finish



Sarcophagus of Herod the Great from Herodium



Inscription of Pontius Pilate from Caesarea by the Sea



A silver amulet with Aaron's blessing from Numbers 6



Heel bone of crucified man with nail embedded in the bone



Inscription from Caesarea that David is King

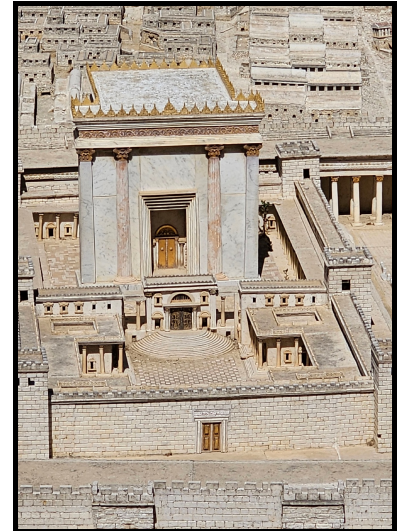
- **Model of Jerusalem**

It is a 1:50 scale model adjacent to the Shrine of the Book, representing Jerusalem before its destruction by the Romans in 70 A.D. It was designed by Professor Michael Avi-Yonah in the mid-1960s and stood on the ground of the Holyland Hotel in West Jerusalem until 2006 when it was brought to the Israel Museum.

According to the Israel Museum, *The reconstruction was based on three main sources of information: literary works, especially the books of Josephus, the Mishnah and Talmud, and the Gospels; ancient cities similar to Jerusalem; and archaeological discoveries in Jerusalem itself. Though the information available at the time of the model's construction was rather limited, extensive excavations in Jerusalem since then have greatly enhanced our understanding of the ancient city and enable us to improve and update the model. It is expected that such work will continue in the future ... The model is on a scale of 1:50; two centimeters represent one meter of the ancient city [1.97 inches = 3.25 feet].*



A view of the model of Jerusalem at the Israel Museum



A replica of the Temple

- **Shrine of the Book**

Manuscripts from the Qumran caves (Dead Sea Scrolls) were first discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin goatherder. The caves are one mile west of the northwest corner of the Dead Sea and eight miles south of Jericho. The first grouping of manuscripts were sold to an antiquities dealer in Bethlehem and then purchased by the archbishop of the St. Mark's Syrian Orthodox Monastery in Jerusalem. Others made their way to a professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Cave 4 was the "mother lode" with the discovery in 1952 of nearly 600 fragmentary manuscripts, including copies of every book in the Hebrew Bible except for Esther. The copies date between 250 B.C. - 50 A.D. A copy of the oldest complete copy of the Book of Isaiah is housed in the Shrine of the Book.

The biblical material from the Judean Desert is over 1,000 years earlier than medieval copies of the Hebrew Bible. They are several hundred years older than surviving ancient Greek translations of the Hebrew Bible. These early copies of the Hebrew Bible from Qumran address many questions scholars had asked about the quality of the biblical text that had been copied and recopied by many different hands over a long period of time. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has revolutionized the study of the Hebrew Scriptures. They are the greatest find in archaeological history. The Dead Sea Scrolls provide a new background against which one can study the NT and the beginnings of Christianity with greater understanding. They definitely contain references to messianic beliefs similar to those taught in the New Testament.



The Shrine of the Book

selflessly aided Jews in need; and researching the phenomenon of the Holocaust in particular and genocide in general, with the aim of avoiding such events in the future.



**Yad Vashem. The World Holocaust Remembrance Center
The Hall of Names rotunda**



**Yad Vashem. The World Holocaust Remembrance Center
The Hall of Names database files**

A permanent place for the Dead Sea Scrolls was constructed on the property of the Israel Museum. The unique design of the building represents the top of the clay jars in which the scrolls were stored in the caves. A black basalt wall is a contrast to the white dome, representing the war between the Sons of Light and the Sons of Darkness, a story contained in one of the scrolls found at Qumran.

Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem means *a memorial and a name* (taken from Isaiah 56:5). It is the official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and is located in Jerusalem. It is situated on a 45-acre campus comprising museums, exhibitions, monuments, sculptures, and memorial sites and the *Garden of the Righteous Among the Nation*. A core goal of Yad Vashem's founders was to recognize non-Jews who at personal risk and without financial or evangelistic motives, chose to save Jews from the ongoing genocide during the Holocaust. Also, the Hall of Names is the repository of those who were Holocaust victims.

Visitors may view personal diaries and artifacts, survivor testimonies and personal stories. According to *Wikipedia*, *It is dedicated to preserving the memory of the Jews who were murdered; echoing the stories of the survivors; honoring Jews who fought against their Nazi oppressors and gentiles who*