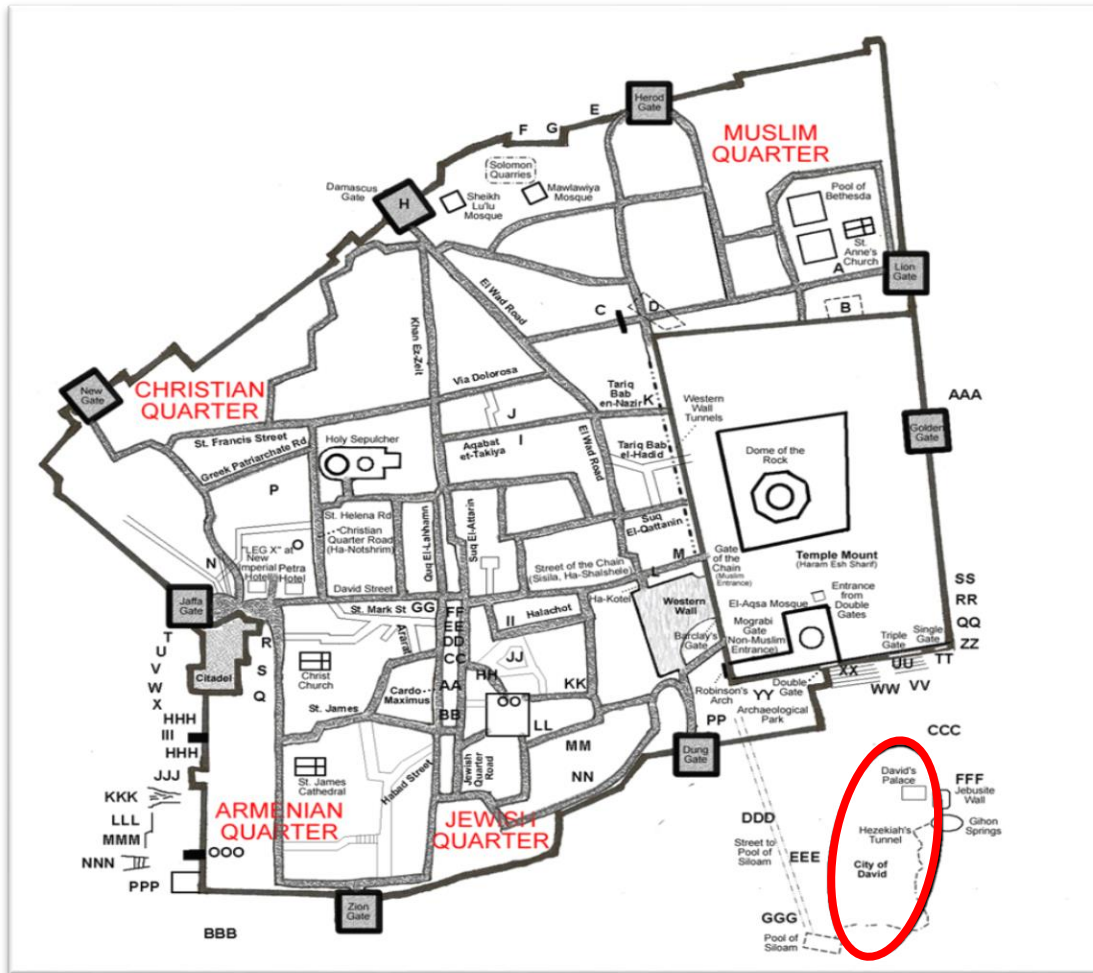




City of David Fact Sheet

Location: Just outside of the southeastern section of the Old City of Jerusalem, along the Kidron Valley.



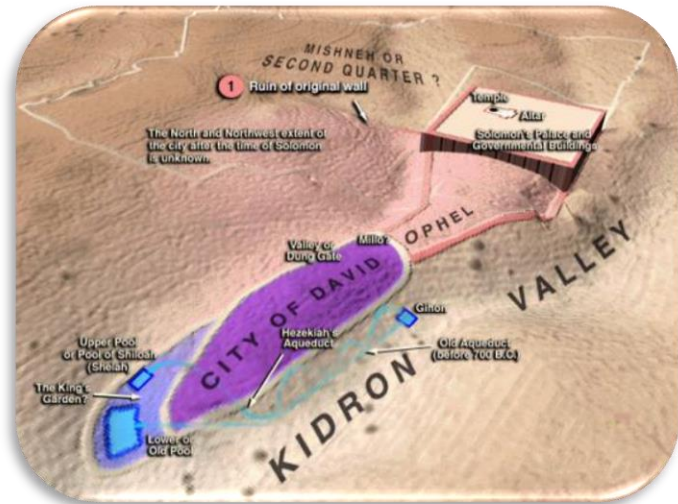
Meaning of Name: originally called Zion, which means “citadel”

Bible References: 42x

- 2 Sam 5:7-9/1 Chr 11:5-7 – city of David established in strong hold of Zion
- 2 Sam 6:10-16 – David brings ark of the LORD to the city of David
- 1 Kings 2:10 – David buried in his city
- 1 Kings 3:1 – Solomon brings Pharaoh’s daughter into city of David
- 1 Kings 8:1 – Solomon assembles men to bring ark of covenant out of city of David
- 2 Chr 32:30 – Hezekiah builds the tunnel
- Neh 3:15, 12:37 – city of David is repaired



History: Prior to being conquered and renamed by David, this section of Jerusalem was occupied by Canaanites and Jebusites as far back as the 19th century BC. David and his men took the city by way of the gutter (2 Sam 5:8) around 1000 BC. Solomon was anointed king at the spring Gihon (1 Kings 1:33-34). The city enjoyed relative peace and security through the kings of Judah until the destruction of the Northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians in the 700's BC. Now that they were threatening the kingdom of Judah, Hezekiah fortified the city and ordered the construction of the tunnel which now bears his name. Once the Babylonians came on the scene, they successfully captured all of Jerusalem in 587 BC.



Ancient location of city of David

After the Babylonians were overtaken by the Persians, King Cyrus authorized the rebuilding of Jerusalem under the guidance of Nehemiah; this included repairing the city of David. While the city remained inhabited after the birth of Christ, much of its historical significance was lost until the late 20th century. In the midst of the modern Arab town of Silwan, the city of David has been uncovered and preserved as a vital piece of evidence for the Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

Archaeological Significance: Many layers of the history of this ancient city have been uncovered in the



Bulla of Gemariah, son of Shaphan the scribe

past 30 years, dating back to the Iron Age. Major finds include walls that are believed to be the remnants of David's palace, several bullae (imprinted pieces of clay used to seal documents) with the names of biblical figures (Gemariah, Azariah, Gedaliah and Jucal to name a few), and remains of the wall constructed during Nehemiah's rule.

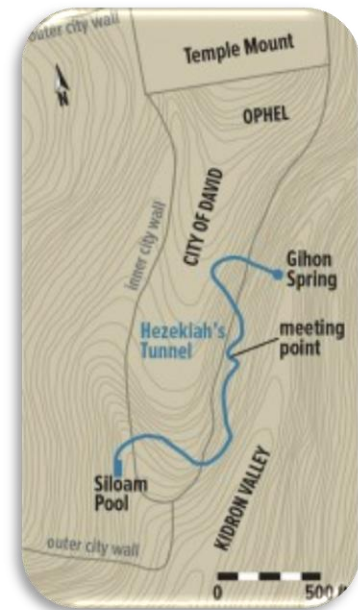


One of the most noteworthy discoveries is Hezekiah's tunnel. This 1,750 ft tunnel was constructed as a means to keep the invading Assyrian army from the potential water supply of the Gihon spring flowing into the Kidron valley; it also served as a way to have a protected supply of water within the walls of the city of David. Its construction is considered a marvel of engineering, especially since two teams started from the end points and were within 3 cubits of each other before connecting the ends of the tunnel. An inscription found at this meeting point describes the event, dated back to the 8th century



Hezekiah's Tunnel

BC. While a replica of the inscription can be found near the point of its discovery, the original is on display at the Istanbul Archaeology Museum in Turkey. The inscription (when translated) reads:



"[...when] (the tunnel) was driven through. And this was the way in which it was cut through: While [...] (were) still [...] axe(s), each man toward his fellow, and while there were still three cubits to be cut through, [there was heard] the voice of a man calling to his fellows, for there was an overlap in the rock on the right [and on the left]. And when the tunnel was driven through, the quarrymen hewed (the rock), each man 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 head(s) of the quarrymen was 100 cubits."



Siloam Inscription



At the end of Hezekiah’s tunnel is the pool of Siloam. Also called “Siloah” and “Shiloah” in scripture, it was included in the extended city of Jerusalem that Herod the Great built. Shortly afterwards, it was the place where Jesus told the blind man who He healed to go and wash in *John 9*. After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the original pool of Siloam was covered for almost 2,000 years. During the period of Arab rule, another pool was constructed on top of it; it wasn’t until 2007 that the Herodian-era pool was discovered underneath.



Pool of Siloam, circa early 1900's



Pool of Siloam today, after winter rains

Consider This:

- The City of David as a type of the Church:

City of David	Church
Captured from the gutter (<i>2 Sam 5:8</i>)	Rescued from the gutter (<i>Heb 7:25</i>)
Renamed after David (<i>2 Sam 5:9</i>)	Renamed after the Son of David (<i>Acts 11:26</i>)
Experienced God’s presence (<i>2 Sam 6:12-15</i>)	Experiences joy of God’s presence (<i>Jude 24</i>)
Michal hated David’s joy (<i>2 Sam 6:16</i>)	World hates the joy Jesus brings (<i>John 17:13-14</i>)
City protected by Hezekiah & Nehemiah from enemies	Church protected by God from enemies
Place where healed wash & receive sight (<i>John 9:1-11</i>)	Place where saved wash & receive sight (<i>Eph 5:26</i>)
Herod included in his borders, which led to decay	World includes in its borders, which led to decay