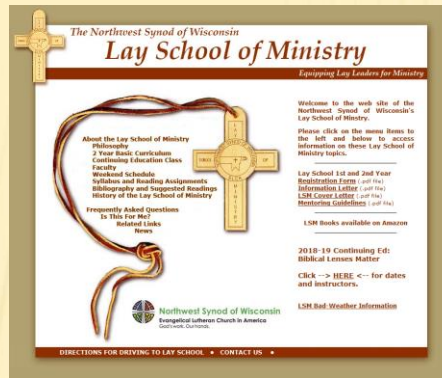


GPS: God's Positioning System

Reading the Bible through a Geographical Lens



Session 5

Walking in Jesus' Steps

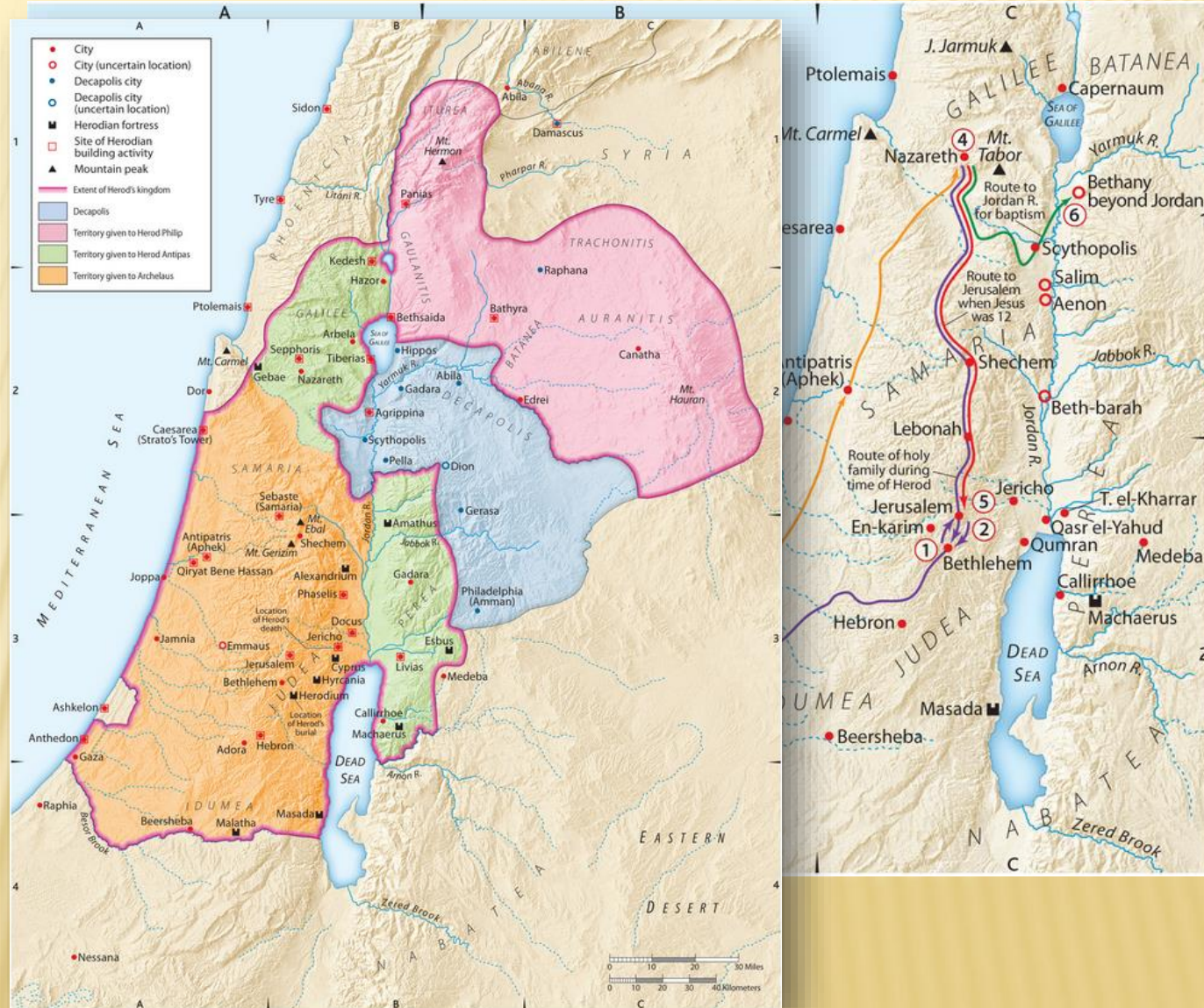
Geography of Jesus

JESUS: BIRTH NARRATIVES

MATTHEW

- ??: Annunciation to Joseph
- Bethlehem: Birth
- Jerusalem/Bethlehem: Magi
- Flight to Egypt
- 2.22f.:

But when [Joseph] heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth...



JESUS: BIRTH NARRATIVES

LUKE

- Jerusalem Temple: Zechariah
- Z. goes home to “a Judean town in the hill country” (Hebron? En Kerem [~4mi w of Jerus]?)
- Nazareth: Annunciation to Mary
- Hebron?: Mary visits Elizabeth > returns to Nazareth
- Judean hill country: Birth of John
- Census: Mary & Joseph > Bethlehem: Birth & Circumcision
- Jerusalem Temple: Purification; Simeon and Anna
- Return to “their own town of Nazareth”

MARK ?? Nazareth

JOHN ?? – Nazareth but cf. 7.41-42

Some asked, “Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?”

Bethlehem of Galilee



NAZARETH



NAZARETH

Church of St. Gabriel:
Eastern Orthodox site for the Annunciation.



Mary's Well

NAZARETH

Basilica of the Annunciation



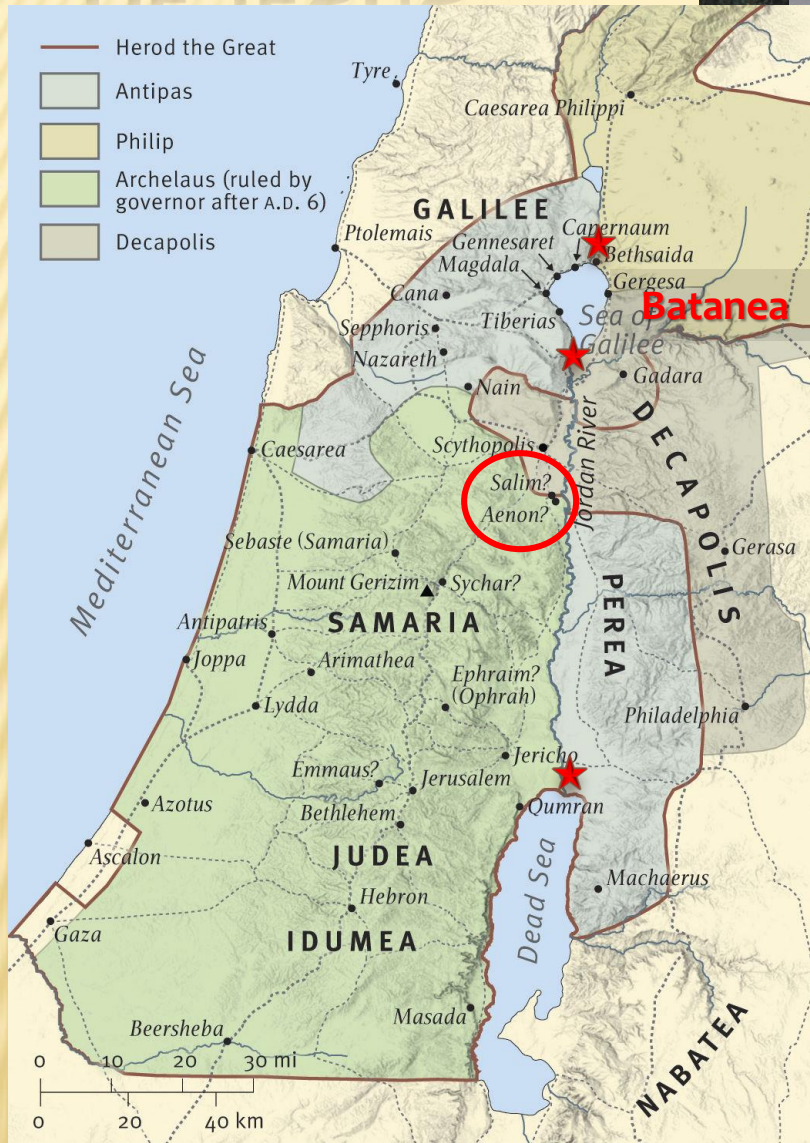
BETHLEHEM



BAPTISM OF JESUS



Upper Jordan near Bethsaida



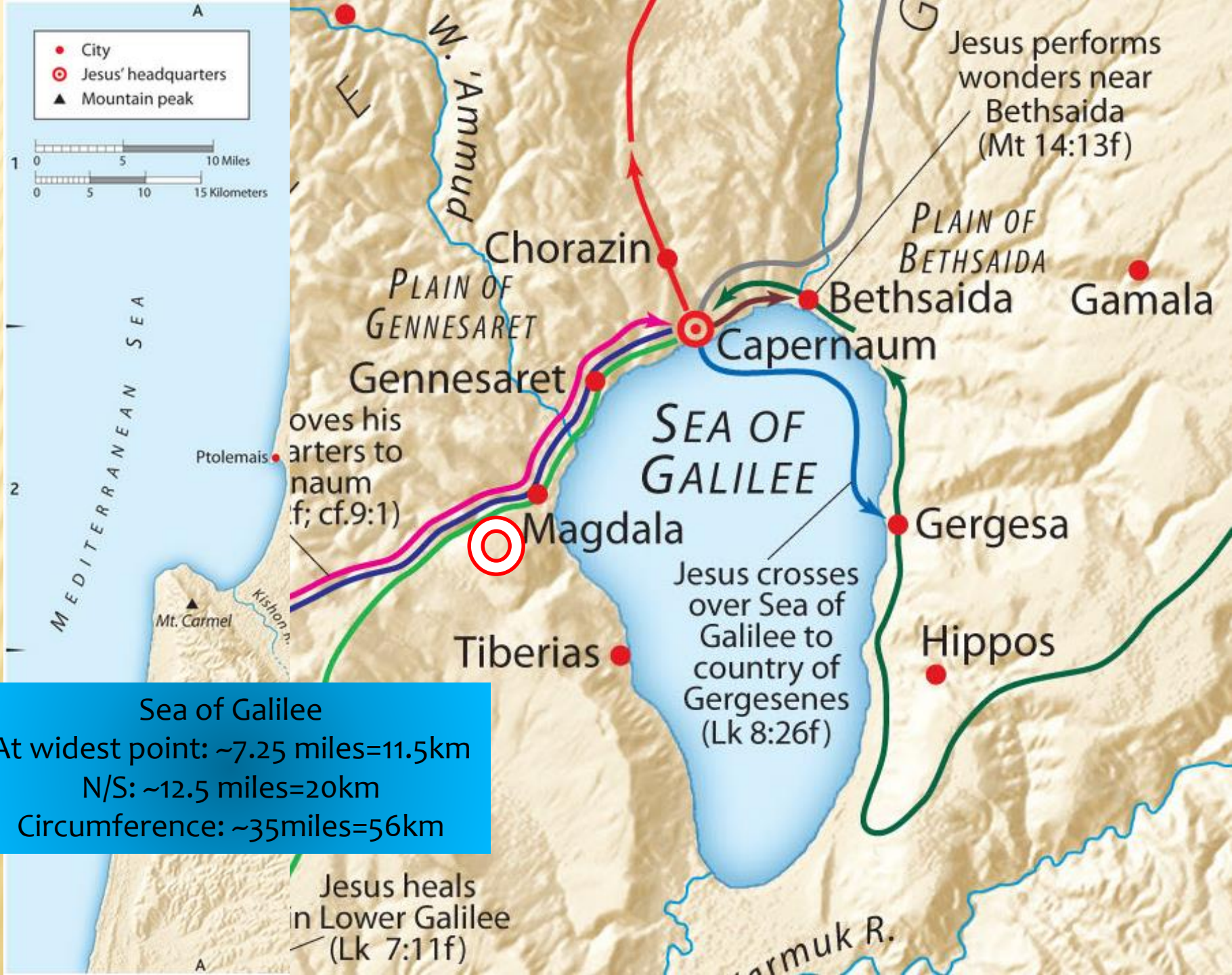
- Matt 3.1: John was in the wilderness of Judea
- Mark 1.4f: in wilderness ... All Judea and Jerusalem...
- Luke 3.3: all the region around the Jordan
- John 3.23: John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim... (later)
- John 1.28: Bethany beyond the Jordan (JB / Jesus)
 - >> Bethabara [Origen/Eusebius]
 - >> Batanea northeast of Sea of Galilee (apparently near Bethsaida – John 1.44)

BAPTISM OF JESUS

- Herod the Great
- Antipas
- Philip
- Archelaus (ruled by governor after A.D. 6)
- Decapolis



Traditional site
across from
Jericho in Jordan



Sea of Galilee
 At widest point: ~7.25 miles=11.5km
 N/S: ~12.5 miles=20km
 Circumference: ~35miles=56km

SEA OF GALILEE



Chorazin
Mount of
Beatitudes
Tabgha

Jordan River
Inlet
Capernaum
Bethsaida

Sea of Galilee

Plain of Genneserat

Nof Ginosar

Tiberias
Magdala

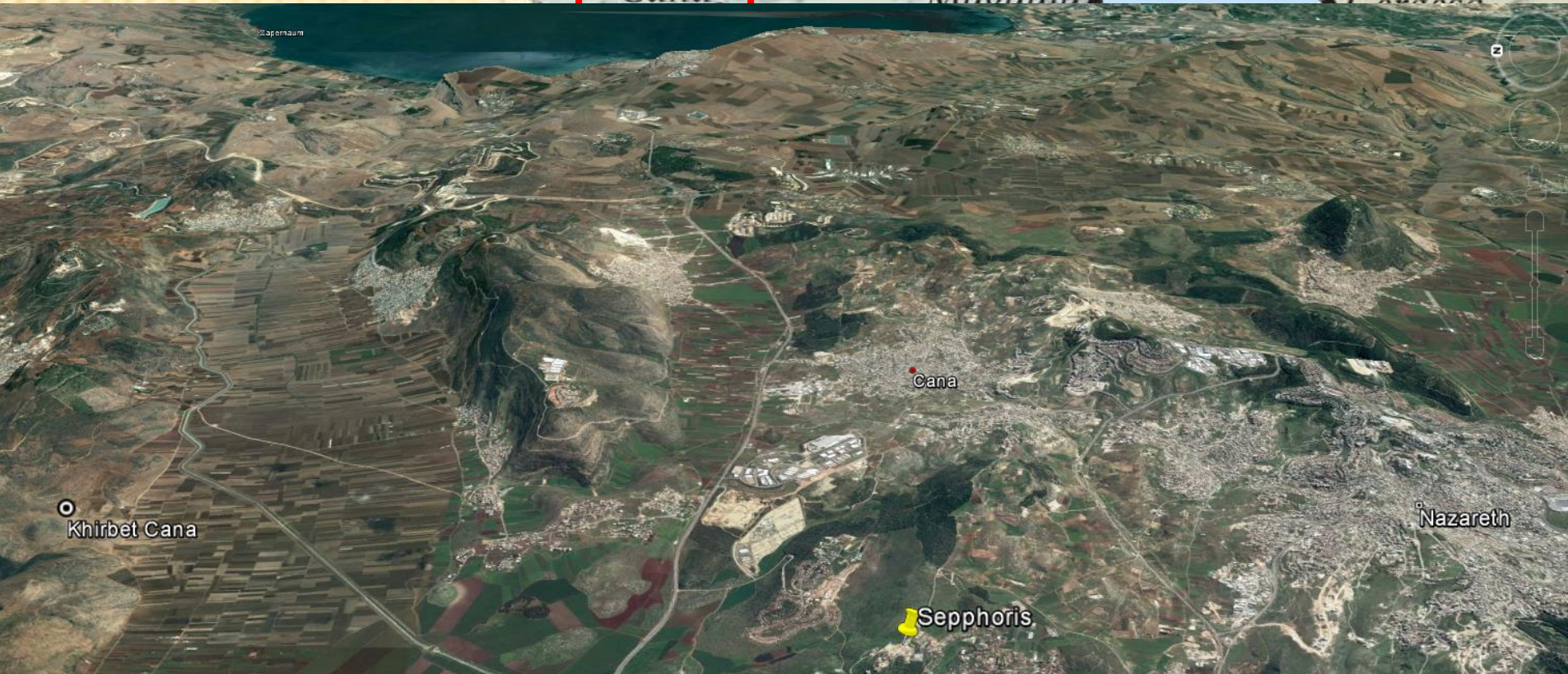
Sea of Galilee
From Arbel

1 mi
2 km

mgvh 2012

CANA

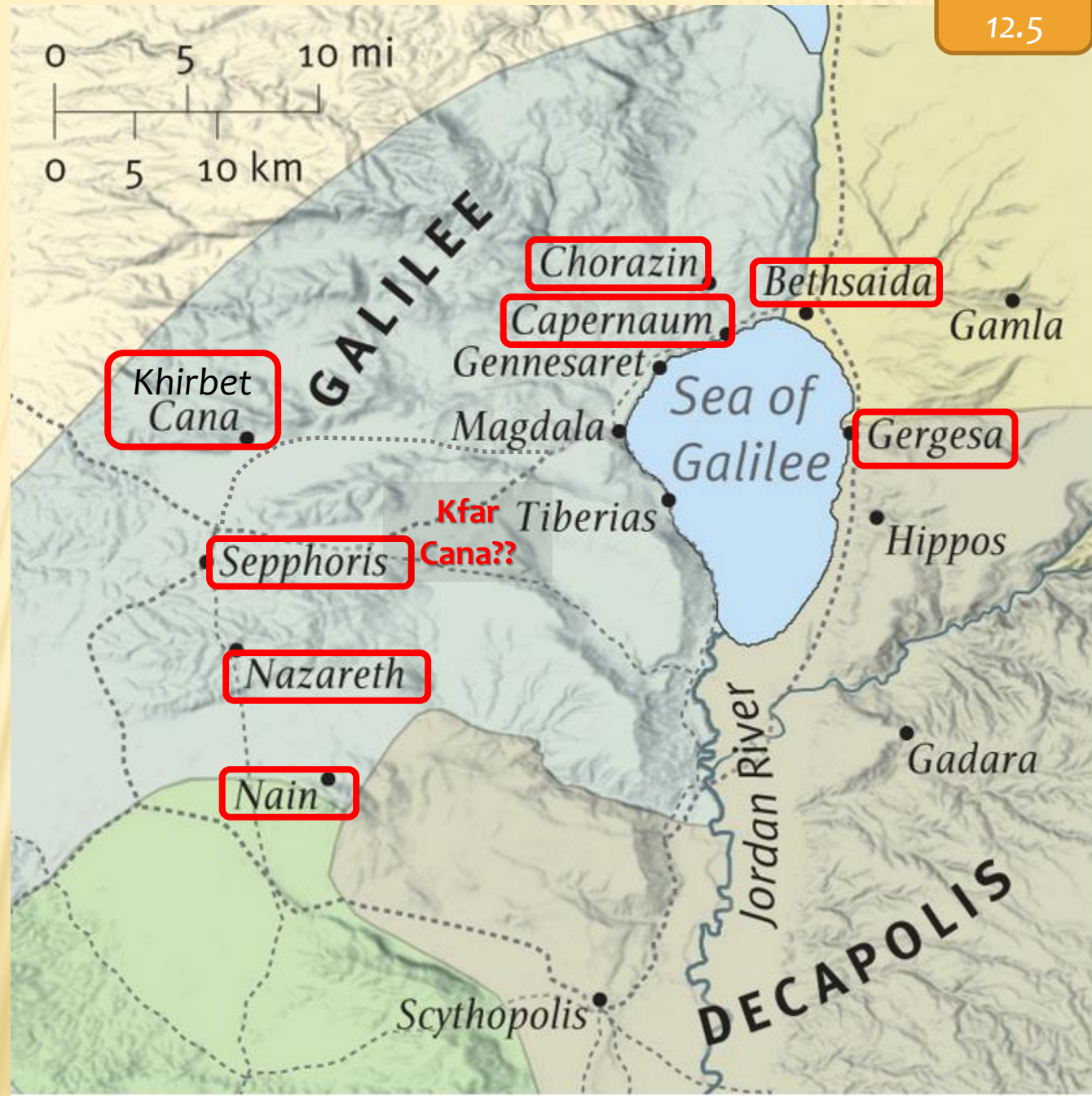
- Jn 2: Wedding
- Jn 4.46: On way to Capernaum
- Jn 21.2: Home of Nathanael



JESUS IN GALILEE

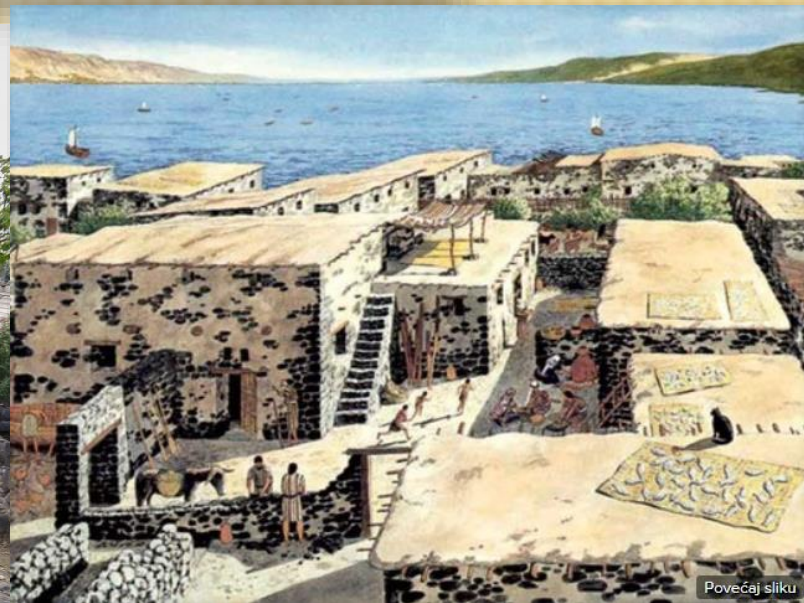
CEBA

12.5



CAPERNAUM

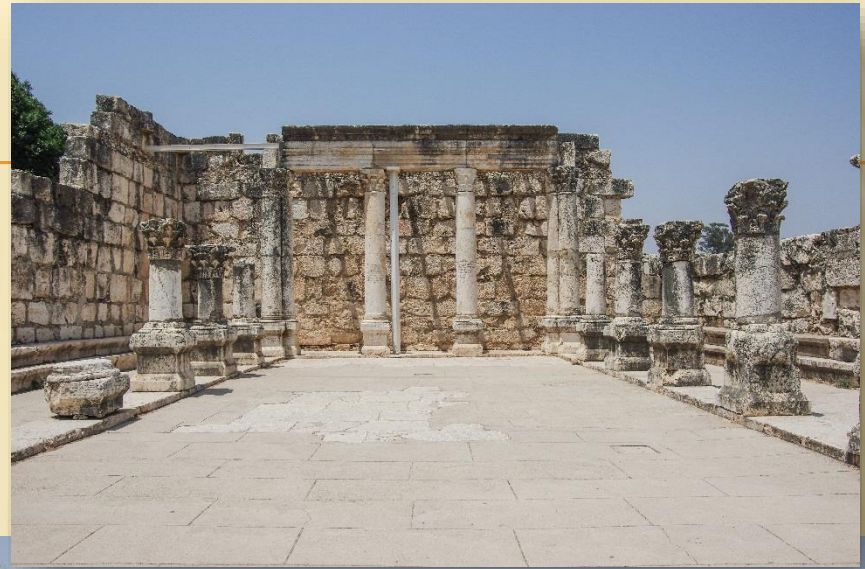
Jesus left Nazareth and
made his home in
Capernaum by the sea
Mt 4.13



Peter's House

CAPERNAUM

Synagogue (4th CE): Note underlying black basalt foundation from 1st CE?



CHORAZIN

Seat of Moses (Mt 23.2)

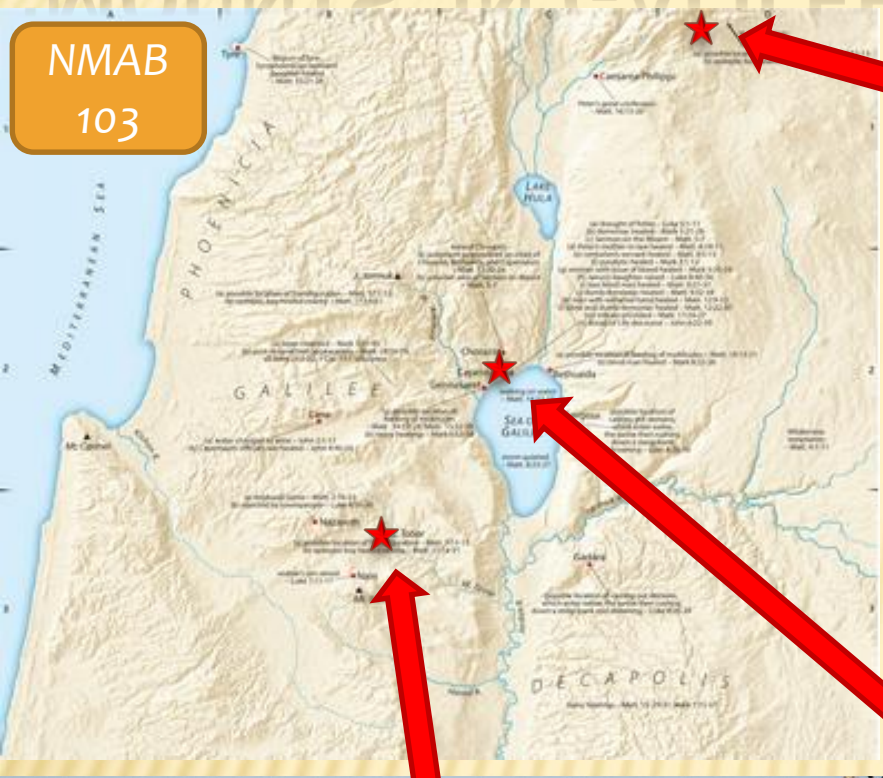
Synagogue 4th century CE



Jesus began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (Mt 11.20ff. – Capernaum also lamented)

'MOUNTS' IN GALILEE

NMAB
103



Mount Hermon from Hazor



▲ Sea of Galilee & Capernaum from Mount of Beatitudes

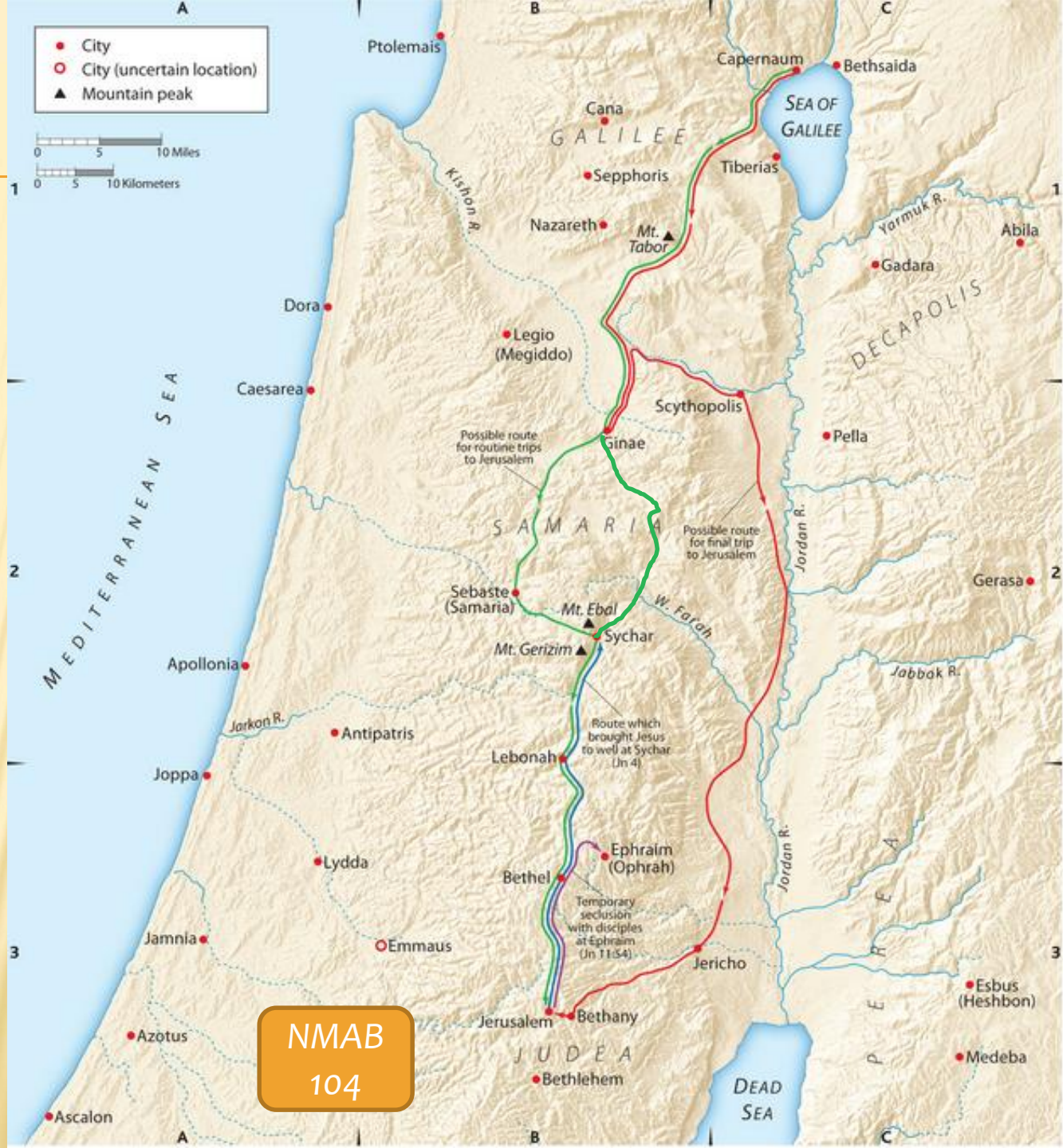
◀ Mount Tabor (trad. site of Transfiguration)



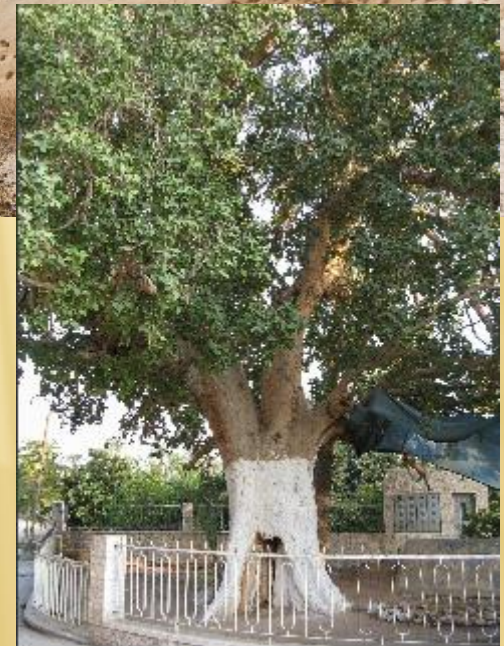
MOUNT OF BEATITUDES & SEA OF GALILEE



JOURNEYS TO JERUSALEM

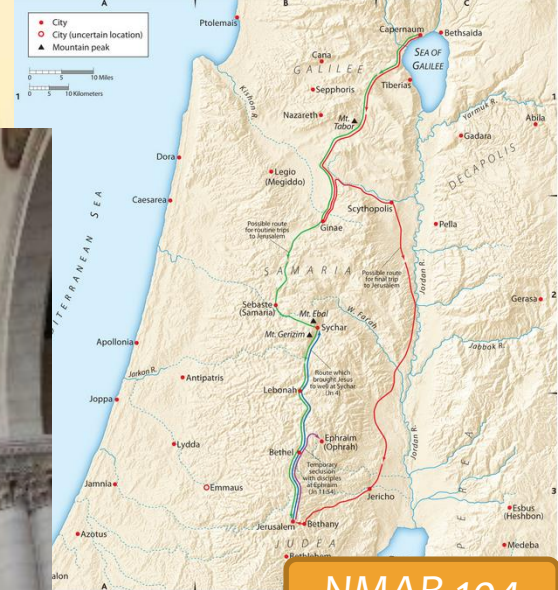


JERICH0 TO JERUSALEM



TO GALILEE FROM JERUSALEM VIA SAMARIA

SYCHAR and the Woman at the Well



NMAB 104

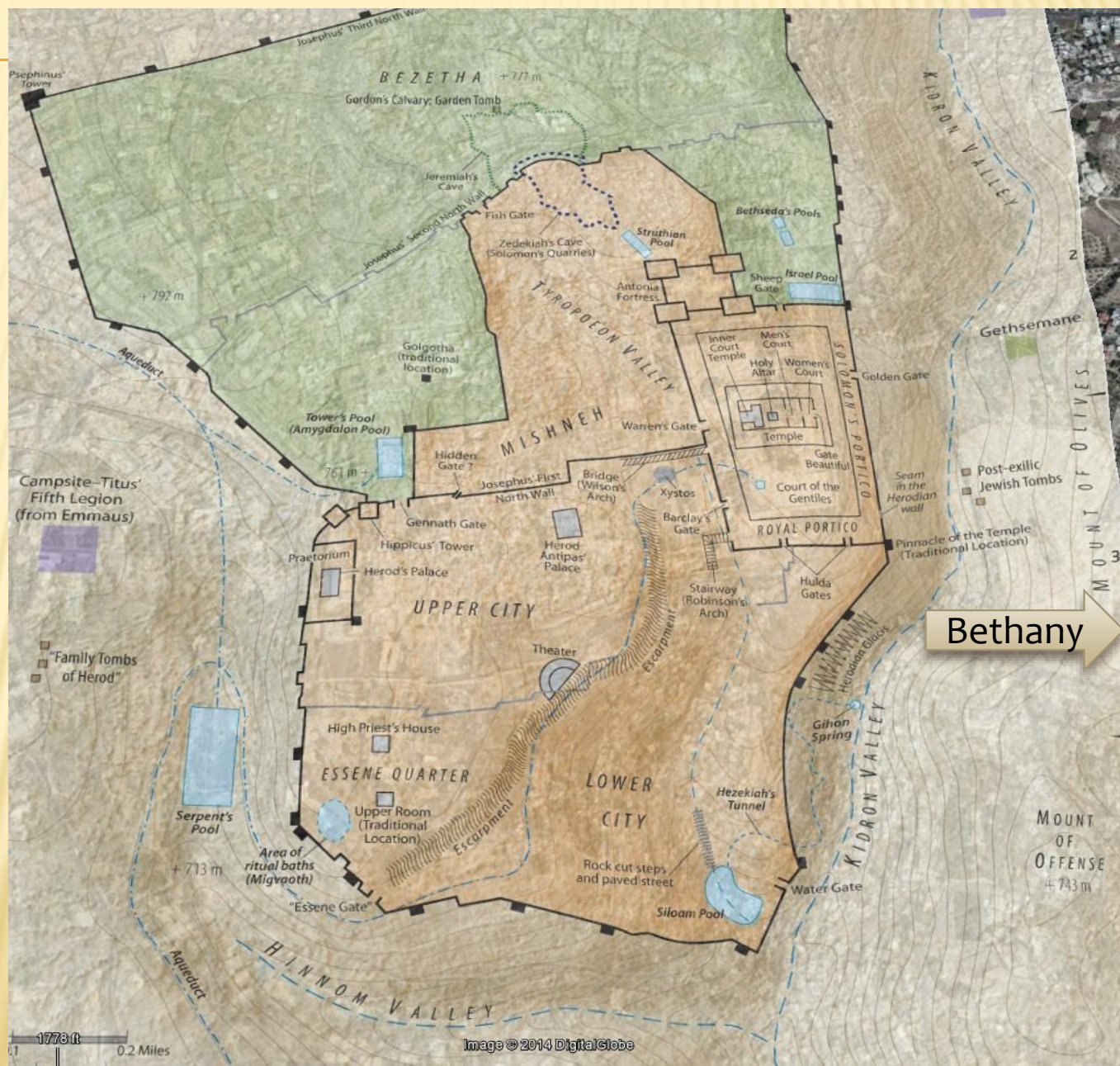


NEW TESTAMENT JERUSALEM

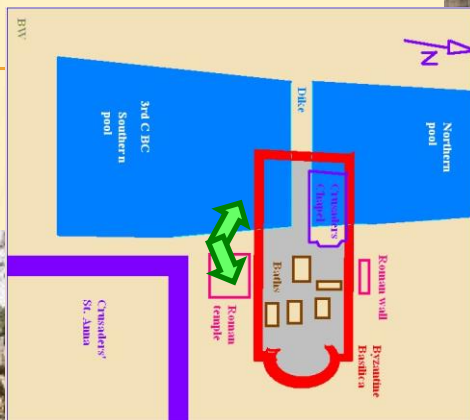
Use NTJerusalem.kmz file in Google Earth

JESUS & JERUSALEM

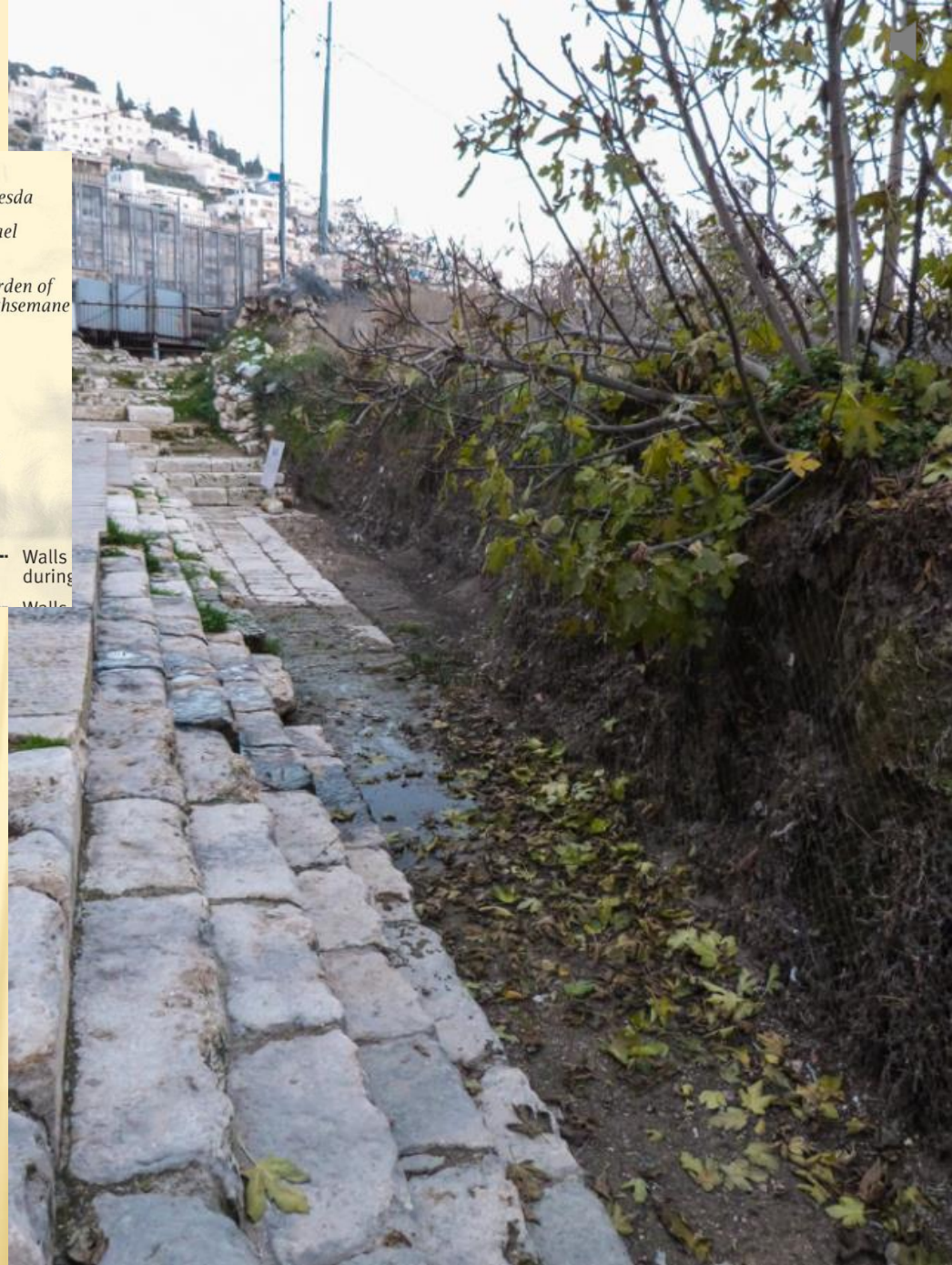
- Presented in Temple (Lk 2.22-38)
- As a boy in the Temple (Lk 2.41-51)
- Cleanses Temple (Jn 2.13-25)
- Heals paralyzed man at Bethesda pools (Jn 5.1-18 – 5 porticoes?)
- At the Festival of Booths (Jn 7-8)
- Blind man healed at Siloam Pool (Jn 9)
- Festival of Dedication (Hanukkah: Jn 10)
- Lazarus at Bethany (Jn 11.1-12.11)
- Entry into Jerusalem



BETHESDA (BETH-ZATHA) POOLS



SILOAM POOL



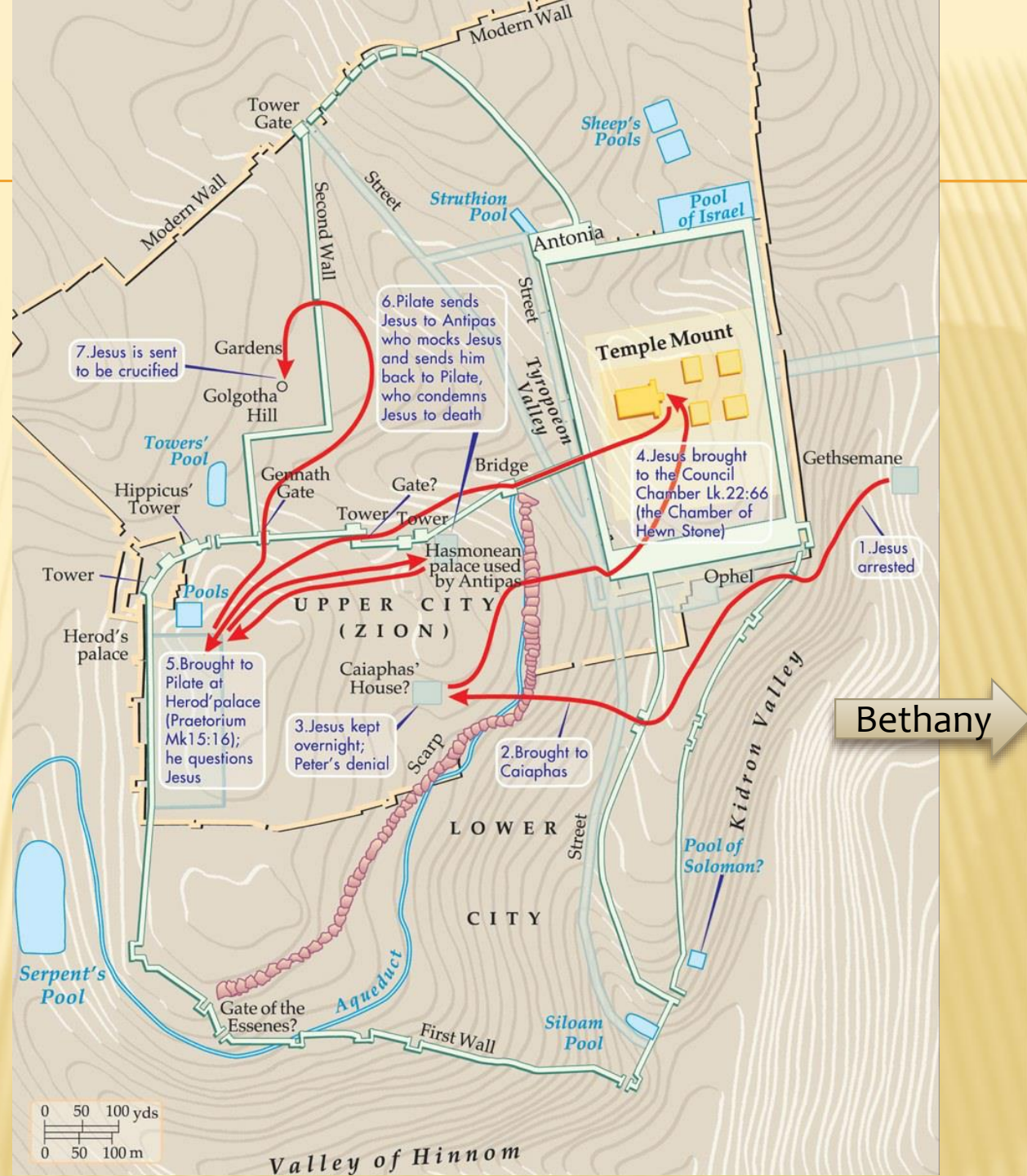
^ Exit from Hezekiah's Tunnel
(previously thought to be Siloam Pool)

Recently excavated Siloam Pool >

PASSION WEEK

~ According to Synoptics w/
some details from John

- Mt Olives: Weeps over Jerusalem (Lk 19.41ff)
- S: Entry into Jerusalem; looks around Temple; returns to Bethany
- M: Cleanses Temple
- T: Teaching in Temple
- W: ?
- Θ: Passover (?) Supper (Zion?) > Gethsemane > Arrest > Caiaphas (Zion?)
- F: Sanhedrin (Temple) > Pilate (Herodian Palace) > Herod Antipas (Hasmonean Palace) > Pilate > Crucifixion & Burial (Golgotha)



Herodian Palace with
Praetorium outside wall
to the west

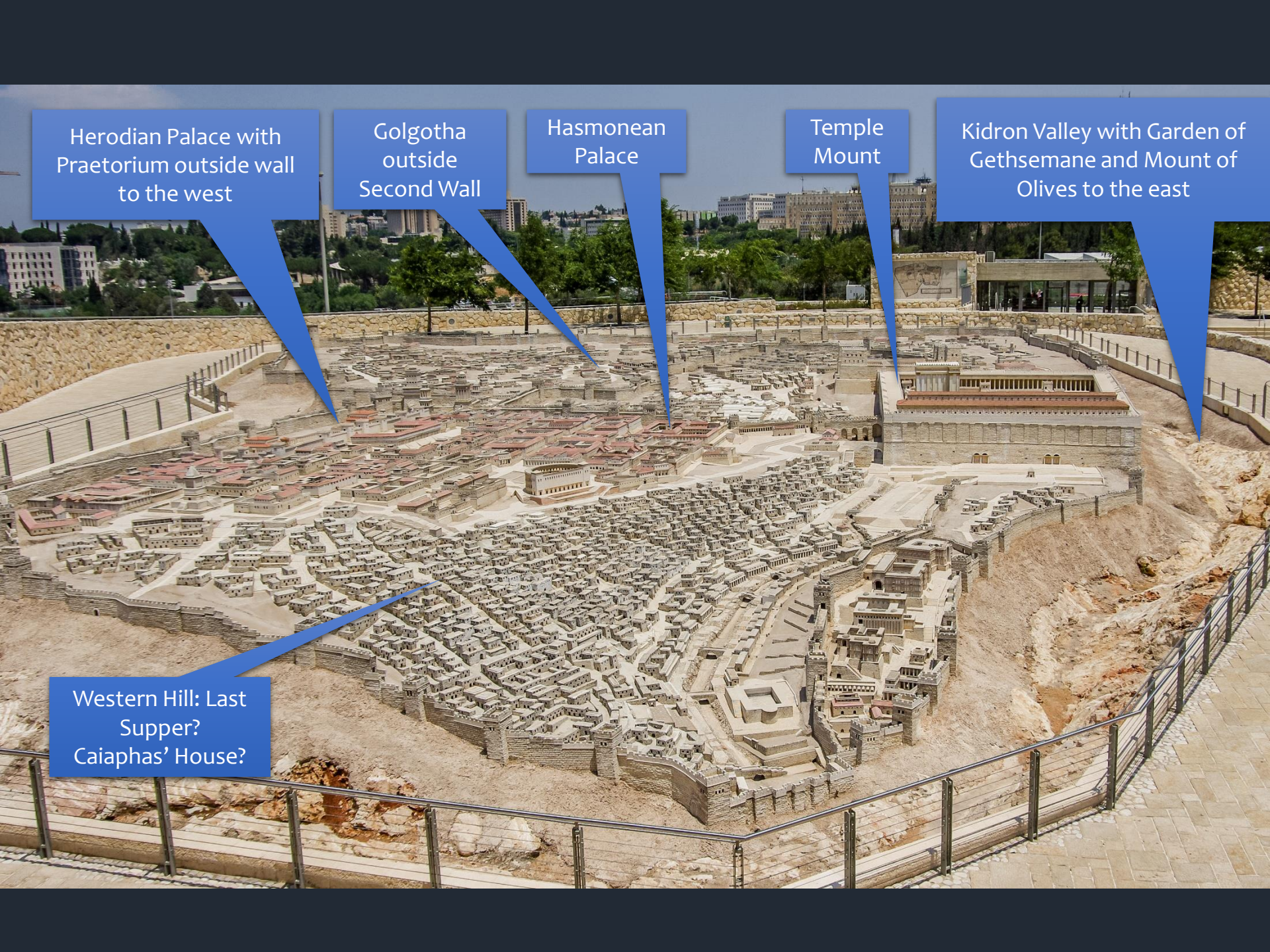
Golgotha
outside
Second Wall

Hasmonean
Palace

Temple
Mount

Kidron Valley with Garden of
Gethsemane and Mount of
Olives to the east

Western Hill: Last
Supper?
Caiaphas' House?



DOMINUS FLEVIT ENTRY TO JERUSALEM



ENTRY TO JERUSALEM



1862

JERUSALEM
March 26, 1862

The Temple Mount in Jesus' Time

THE TEMPLE MOUNT IN THE TIME OF JESUS

Herod's Temple Mount was the focal point of Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. Sitting atop Jerusalem's north-eastern ridge, it occupied one-sixth of the city's area. Under Herod the Great, the Temple Mount's foundation was expanded to encompass approximately 1.5 million square feet (140,000 square meters). Its foundational walls were constructed using gigantic stones, the largest found being 45 feet long, 11.5 feet high, and 12 feet thick (13.7 m by 3.5 m by 3.7 m).

Wilson's Arch formed a bridge over the Tyropoeon Valley below, leading from the Temple Mount to the Hasmonean Palace. A section of the western wall south of Wilson's Arch (187 feet/57 m long, sometimes called the Wailing Wall) has been a place of prayer for Jews for the last 700 years. The lowest seven stone courses, which can be seen at ground level, are Herodian.

The early square Temple Mount preserved its identity as a separate area with its own walls and gates.

The Antonia Fortress was where Herod (and later the Romans) commanded the garrison in order to protect the temple and to suppress religiously motivated rebellion.

The Court of the Women was the farthest point of the inner temple complex that women could enter.

The Pool of Israel was probably used to wash sacrificial animals before they were led to the Temple Mount.

Robinson's Arch and its massive stairway led from the Tyropoeon Street below up to the Royal Stoa.

The Golden Gate, then known as the Shushan Gate

Stairs descended from the Muster Gate into the Kidron Valley and eventually went up to the Mount of Olives.

The eastern city wall of Jerusalem

Solomon's Porch, the portico built along the eastern wall, was a place of congregation (cf. John 10:23; Acts 3:11).

The Double Gate and its monumental stairway

A ritual bath-house for pilgrims to cleanse before entering the temple precincts

A Council House for legal proceedings

The Triple Gate and its stairway

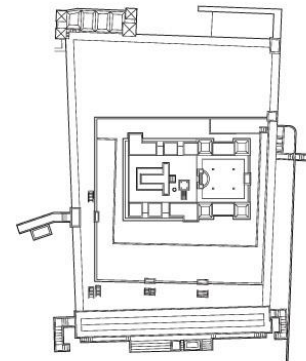
Small shops, which had a narrow street built above them, were built along the southern wall of the Temple Mount.

The soleg (a low, latticed screen or railing) prohibited Gentiles or non-purified Jews from entering the temple courts.

The Court of the Gentiles was the area between the soleg and the outer walls of the early square Temple Mount.

The Royal Stoa was a 912-foot-long (278 m) portico, containing four rows of 40 columns. The Sanhedrin met in the central apse after c. A.D. 30. This may have been where Jesus cleansed the temple. The southeast corner overlooking the Kidron Valley created a drop of 140 feet (43 m) to the street below, and 300 feet (91 m) to the valley below. This may be the "pinnacle of the temple" mentioned in Matt. 4:5 and Luke 4:9.

Temple Mount Architectural Plan

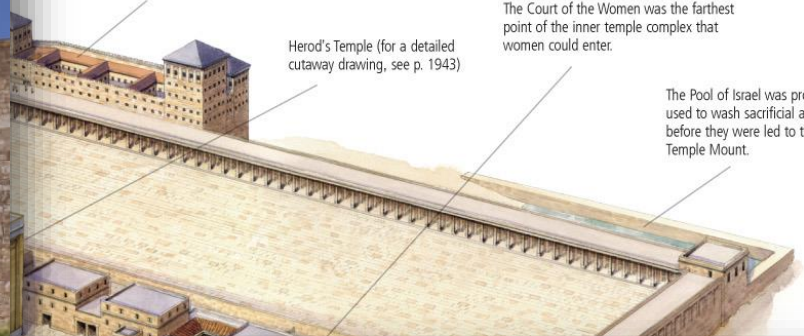


0 250 500 ft
0 50 100 150 m

The Temple Mount in Jesus' Time – Huldah Gates



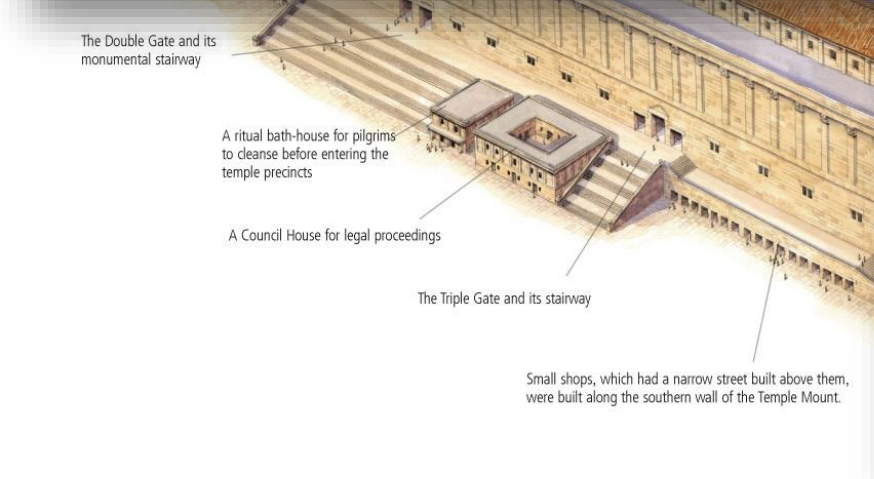
The Antonia Fortress was where Herod (and later the Romans) commanded the garrison in order to protect the temple and to suppress religiously motivated rebellion.



Herod's Temple (for a detailed cutaway drawing, see p. 1943)

The Court of the Women was the farthest point of the inner temple complex that women could enter.

The Pool of Israel was probably used to wash sacrificial animals before they were led to the Temple Mount.



The Double Gate and its monumental stairway

A ritual bath-house for pilgrims to cleanse before entering the temple precincts

A Council House for legal proceedings

The Triple Gate and its stairway

Small shops, which had a narrow street built above them, were built along the southern wall of the Temple Mount.



GETHSEMANE



HEARINGS BEFORE CAIAPHAS & PILATE

Siloam
Pool
Jn 9

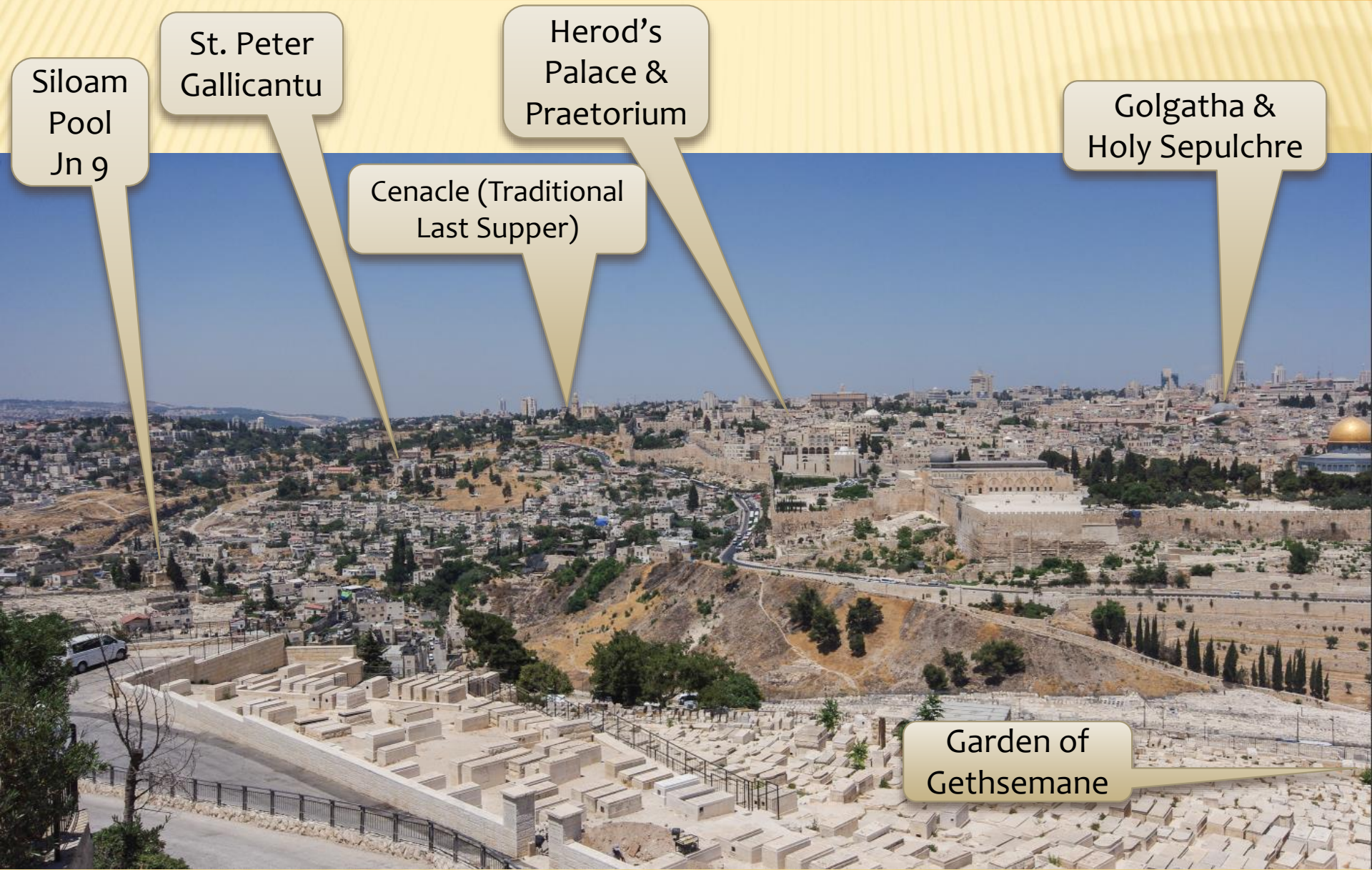
St. Peter
Gallicantu

Cenacle (Traditional
Last Supper)

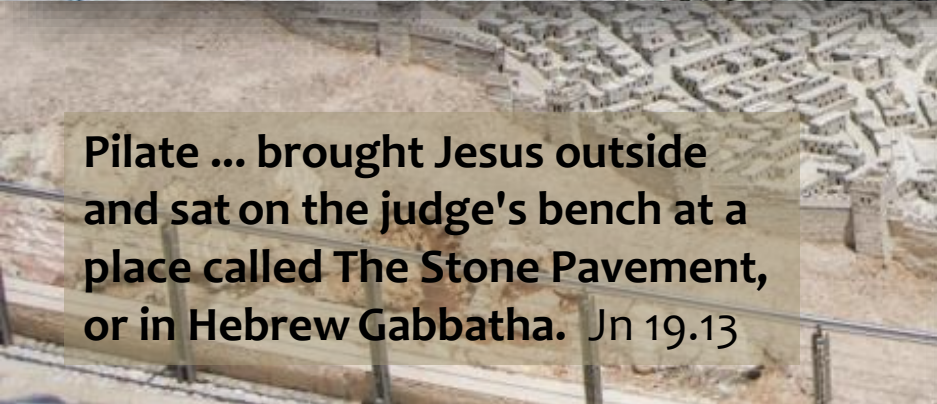
Herod's
Palace &
Praetorium

Golgotha &
Holy Sepulchre

Garden of
Gethsemane



JESUS BEFORE PILATE



Pilate ... brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Jn 19.13



GOLGOTHA

<https://www.google.com/maps/@31.7770785,35.2171059,1630a,20y,90h,41.2t/data=!3m1!1e3>

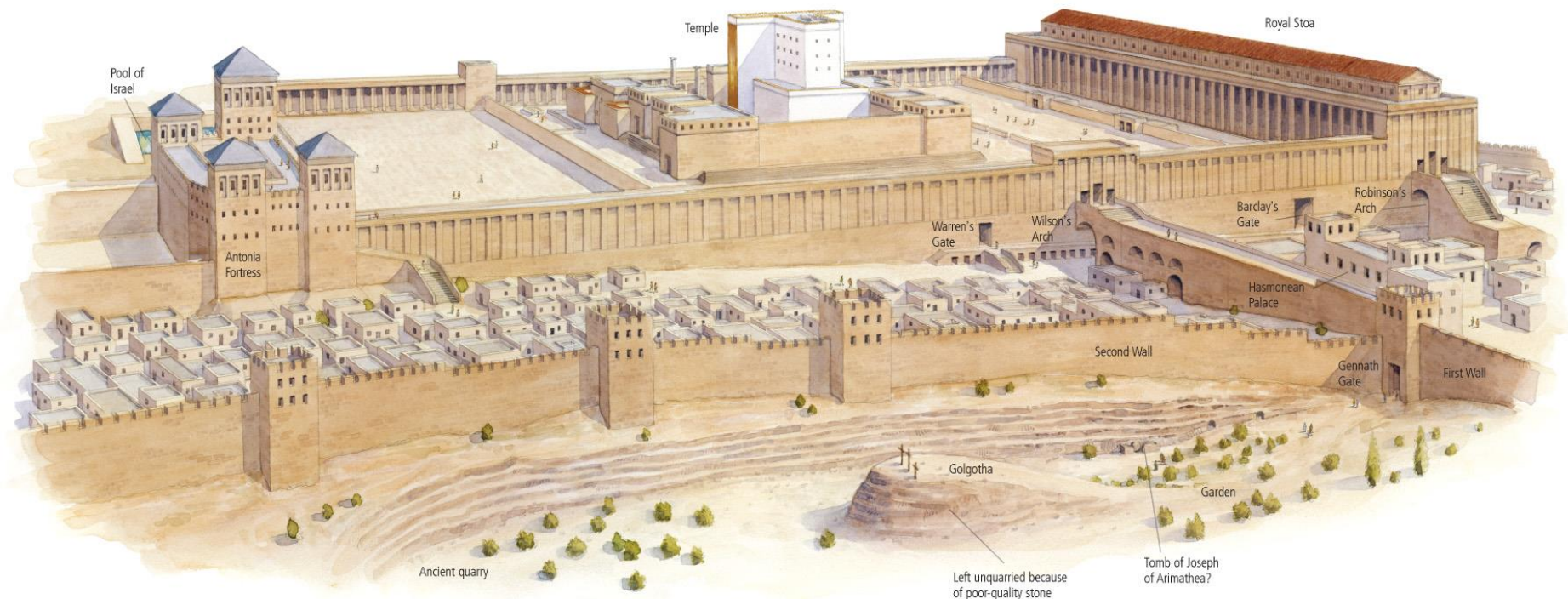
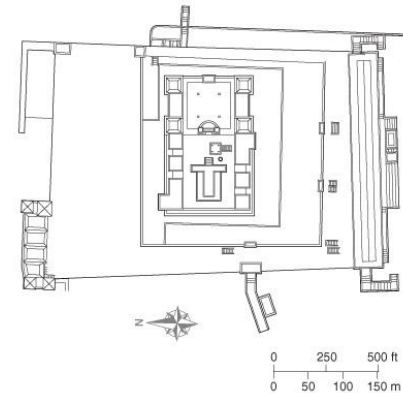
GOLGOTHA AND THE TEMPLE MOUNT

For many centuries, Christians have worshiped at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the belief that this was the place where Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead. This view was challenged in 1883 by General Charles Gordon, who argued that the Garden Tomb, a site just north of the Old City of Jerusalem, was the true site of Calvary. According to the biblical writers, the requirements of the site were that it was outside the walls of Jerusalem at the time (Heb. 13:12), in a garden (John 19:41), near the city (John 19:20), and called Golgotha, meaning "place of a skull" (Matt. 27:33). In the 1960s, excavations were carried out below the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, showing that it was built on an isolated mass of rock in the middle of an extensive quarry (which was in use from the eighth until the first century B.C.). This spur of rock was left unquarried in ancient times, because of the poor quality of the limestone. In the sides

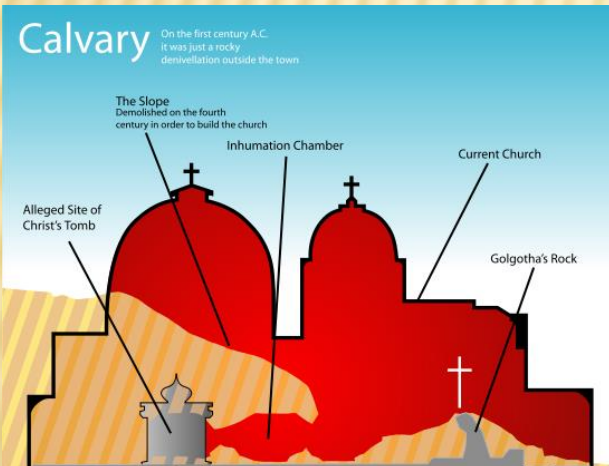
of the quarry and of this rock, a series of rock-cut tombs of the style of the first century A.D. were found. This would indicate that the area was not then included within the city walls, as the dead were always buried outside the city. In support of the second and third points, some fortified remains found in the northern part of the nearby Jewish Quarter excavations have been identified as the Gennath (Garden) Gate mentioned by Josephus in his description of the Second Wall (*Jewish War* 5.146). It is assumed that this gate derived its name from a garden which lay just to the north outside the gate. Indeed, a layer of arable soil was found above the quarry fill. The claim that the site could have been known as "the place of the skull" is said to be based on an ancient Jewish tradition reported by early Christian writers, such as Origen and Epiphanius, that the skull of Adam is preserved in this hill.

General Gordon's identification of the Garden Tomb with that of Christ was based on his discernment of the shape of a skull in the contours of the hill on the western escarpment of which the Garden Tomb is located. It has since been proven that this tomb was, in fact, a typical tomb of the First Temple period and could never have been called a "new tomb" in the time of Christ. Because of its tranquility, however, and its contrast to the bustle of the Holy Sepulcher, the site is today still regarded by many as the tomb of Christ. The reconstruction drawing shows the traditional site of the crucifixion (i.e., the Holy Sepulcher). Three crosses are shown on the Hill of Golgotha. The Second Wall of Jerusalem was built above the quarry face. The Temple Mount forms the backdrop to this view, with the Antonia Fortress on the left, the temple in the center, and the Royal Stoa on the far right.

Architectural Plan of the Temple Mount



GOLGOTHA



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE



JESUS' POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

- Jerusalem appearances: Mary, Peter, closed room with 10 (+ Thomas)
- Emmaus (Lk)
- Mountain in Galilee (Mt)
- Appearance at Sea of Galilee (Jn 21)
- Ascension at Bethany (Lk 24.50f) / Mount of Olives (Acts 1.6ff)



BETHANY / MT OF OLIVES



Mosque of the Ascension ^
< Pater Noster Church

TABGHA: CHURCH OF THE PRIMACY OF ST. PETER



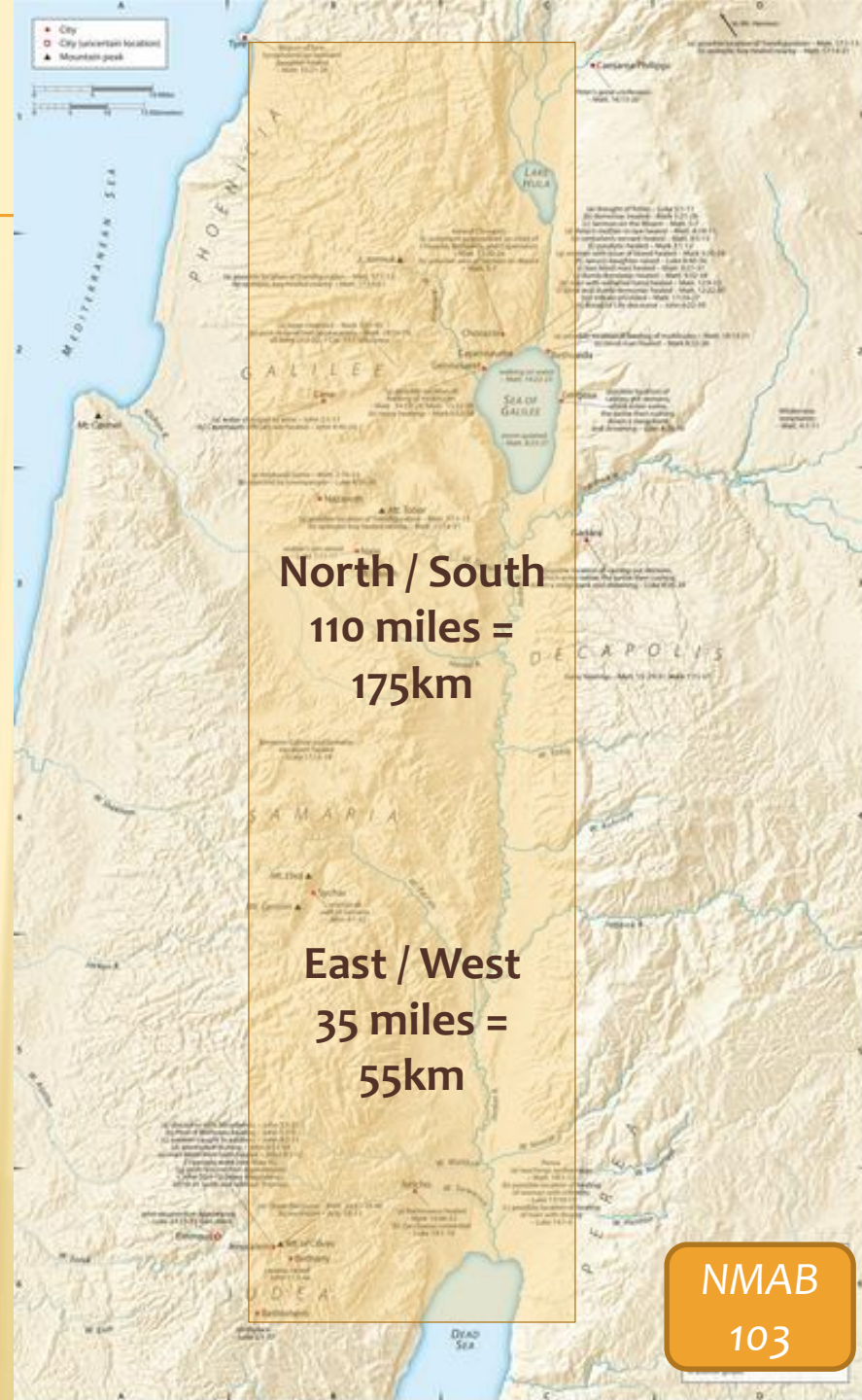
EXTENT OF JESUS' ACTIVITY

Where did Jesus go?

- Bethlehem (Egypt)
- Regions of Tyre, Sidon and Casearea Philippi
- Northern side of Sea of Galilee: Gennesaret, Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida
- Eastern side: Gergesa / Gadara
- Nazareth to Sea of Galilee
- Samaria: Shechem / Sychar
- Jordan valley south to Jericho and wilderness
- Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, Bethany, Emmaus

Notable sites *not* mentioned:

- Sepphoris
- Tiberias
- Caesarea Maritima
- Scythopolis (Beth Shean)
- Samaria Sebaste



JESUS AND GEOGRAPHY

- ✘ In the big picture of things, what do you make of Jesus' limited geographical scope and contacts? How was his 'parochialism' both helpful and limiting?
- ✘ To what extent is your congregation parochial, in bad or good ways?
- ✘ Mix and match! What is the best way for a congregation to function?

