

Israel

16 Feb 2020



Bob Endlich

bendlich@msn.com

19 Jun 2020, Rev 28 Jun 2020



בית הכנסת הגדול בירושלים
THE JERUSALEM GREAT SYNAGOGUE



THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER
FOR THE JEWS OF THE WORLD
IS DEDICATED BY
MR. ISAAC AND LADY WOLF
TO THE MEMORY
OF ALL THOSE WHO DIED
SO THAT WE
THE JEWISH PEOPLE MAY
TO THE SIX MILLION
JEWISH VICTIMS
THE EUROPEAN HOLOCAUST
AND ALL THOSE
JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN
WHO SACRIFICED THEIR
LIVES FOR AND IN DEFENSE
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

A DEDICATION TO THE MEMORY OF
ALLAN ROZNER ז"ל
BELOVED SON-IN-LAW OF
SIMON AND FRANK LAUFER
BY SUZIE ROZNER AND HER CHILDREN
CINDY DANIEL LAUREN DAVID AND FAMILY





Sequence of 16 February 2020 visit to Jerusalem. Follow the sequence of the weather for a good understanding why Jerusalem has been able to shelter her residents for over 3000 years.

Circumnavigation of the Old City

South side of Temple Mount

Sidebar: Gates of Huldah, walled off since the Middle Ages

City of David. Early Jewish Jerusalem, mostly outside and south of the present Old City

Siloam Tunnel also known as Hezekiah's Tunnel

Entrance to Temple Mount via Mughrabi Gate ramp

Temple Mount: Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock

Via Dolorosa—Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Mount of Olives Dinner at the Rail Station



View across the Ben Hinnom Valley



Next graphics continue the circumnavigation of the Old City, ending at the City of David.



This and next views are during our circumnavigation of the Old City







View of the Old City wall from the South. Our destination, the City of David is to the right, but first, around the Old City

Bell Tower of the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition on Mount Zion, just outside the Zion Gate, adjacent to the Church of the Dormition (of the Virgin Mary).





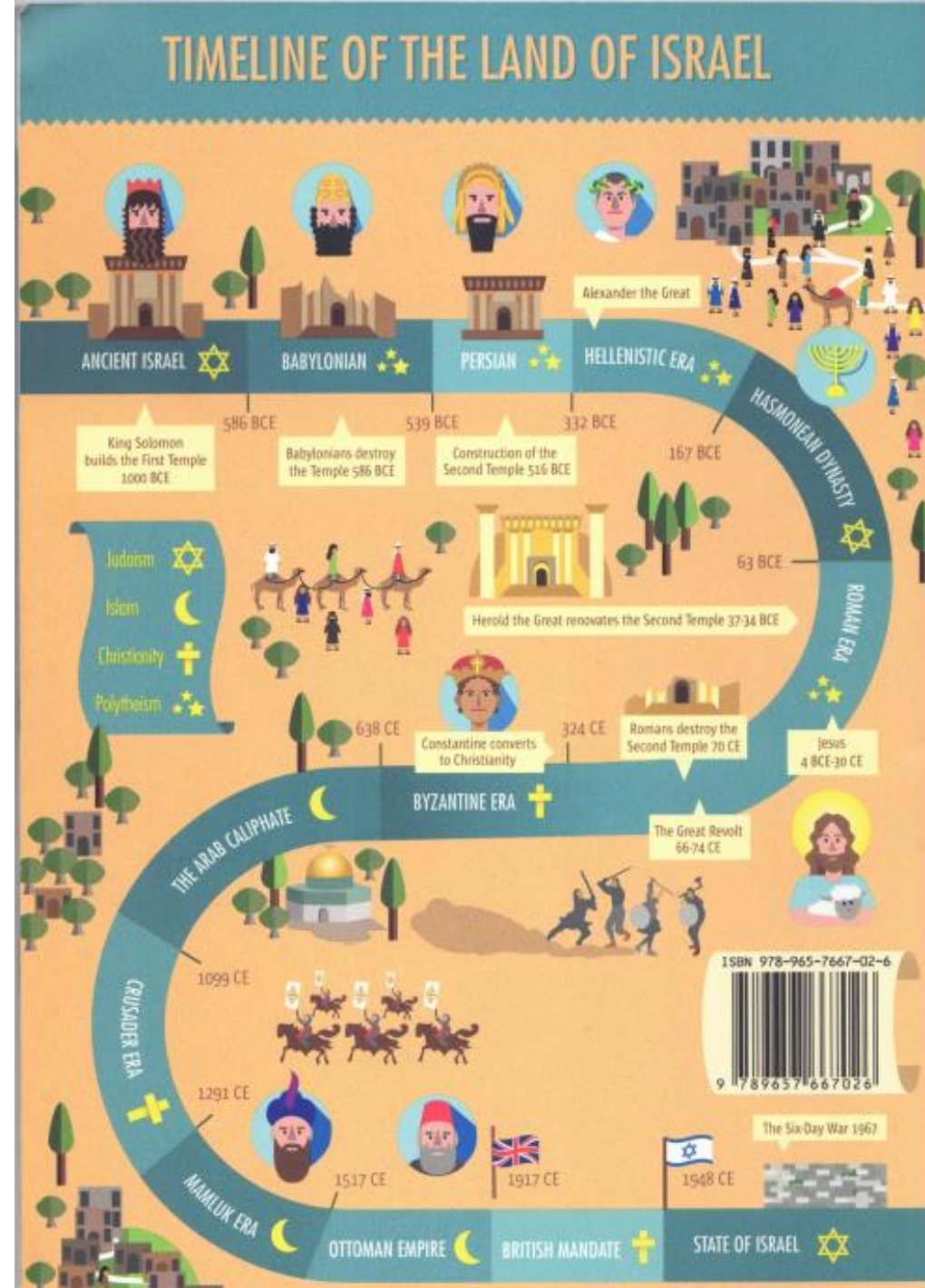






We're rounding northeast section of the old city, East Jerusalem. License plate IL designates registration in Israel.

We visit the City of David, from King David in the time just before the construction of the First Temple by David's son and successor, King Solomon.





Temple Mount and portions
of the Old City

Exit and souk

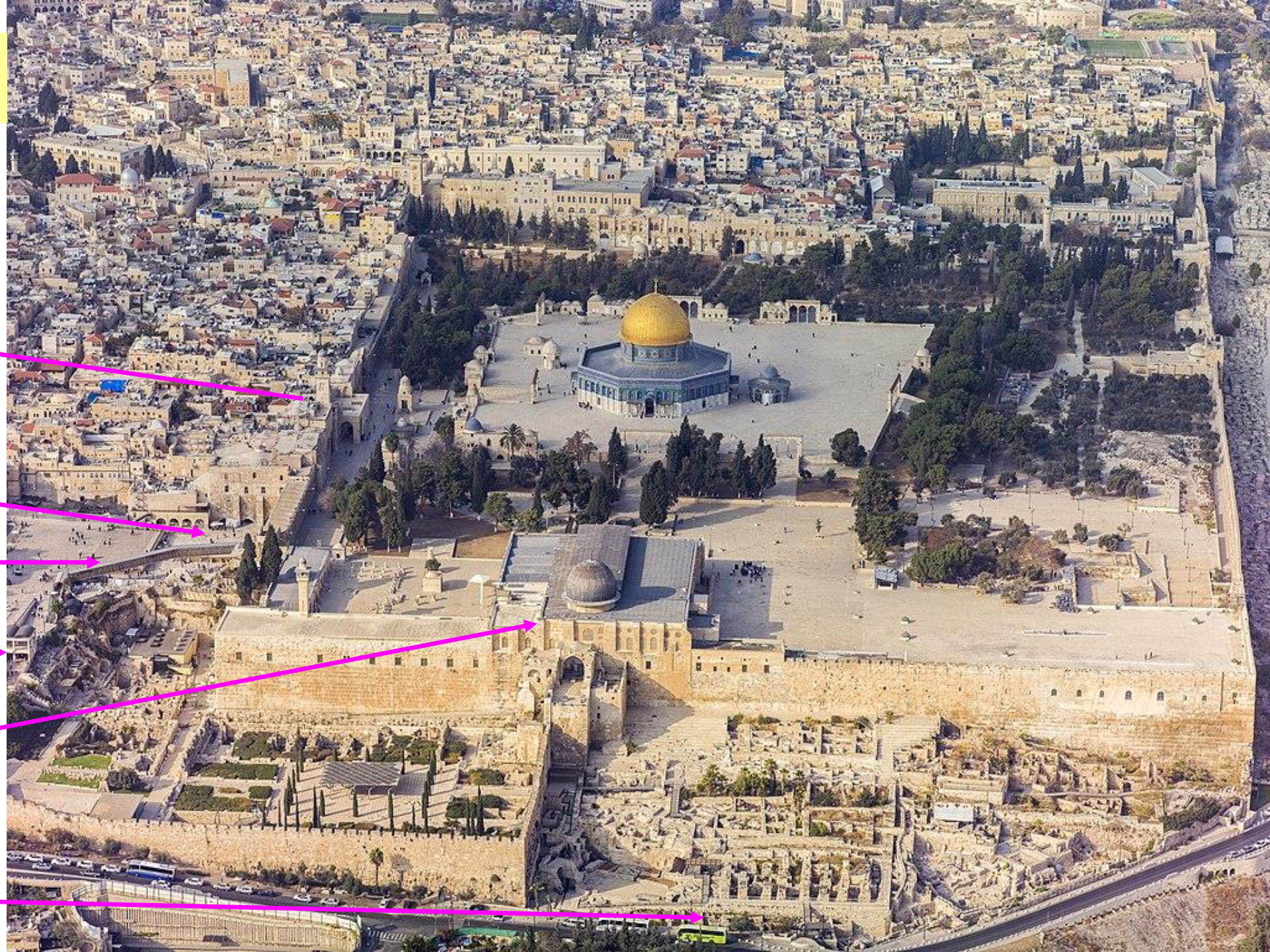
Western Wall Plaza

Elevated Sidewalk

Security Checkpoint

Al Aqsa Mosque

City of David, both sides
of road near chartreuse bus





Southern section of the wall around the Old City. Ruins of City of David ahead and left.



Southeast corner of the wall around the Old City; City of David is to the left.



Ruins of the City of David, outside the south wall around the Old City





View of Zechariah's Tomb, the Jewish Cemeteries, and the Mount of Olives from outside the City of David.





The City of David, called in Arabic, Wadi Hilweh, a neighborhood of Silwan, is a Palestinian Arab village intertwined with an Israeli settlement, and the archaeological site which is speculated to constitute the original settlement core of Bronze and Iron Age Jerusalem.



Some of the City of David ruins on the north side of the ring road around the Old City, yet outside the City Wall.



Signage and mural celebrating the City of David across from the entrance in East Jerusalem.

Sidebar: Huldah Gates on south wall of Temple Mount.



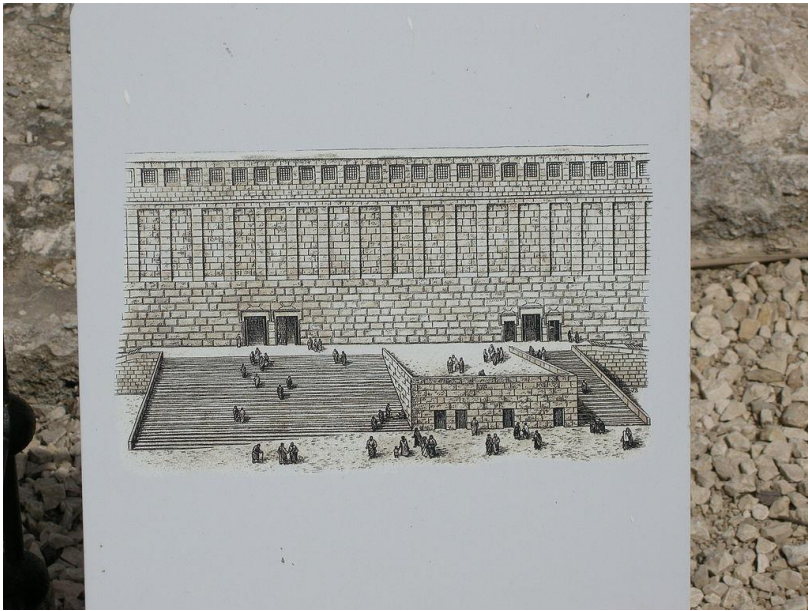
The eastern set of Huldah triple gates as it stands today



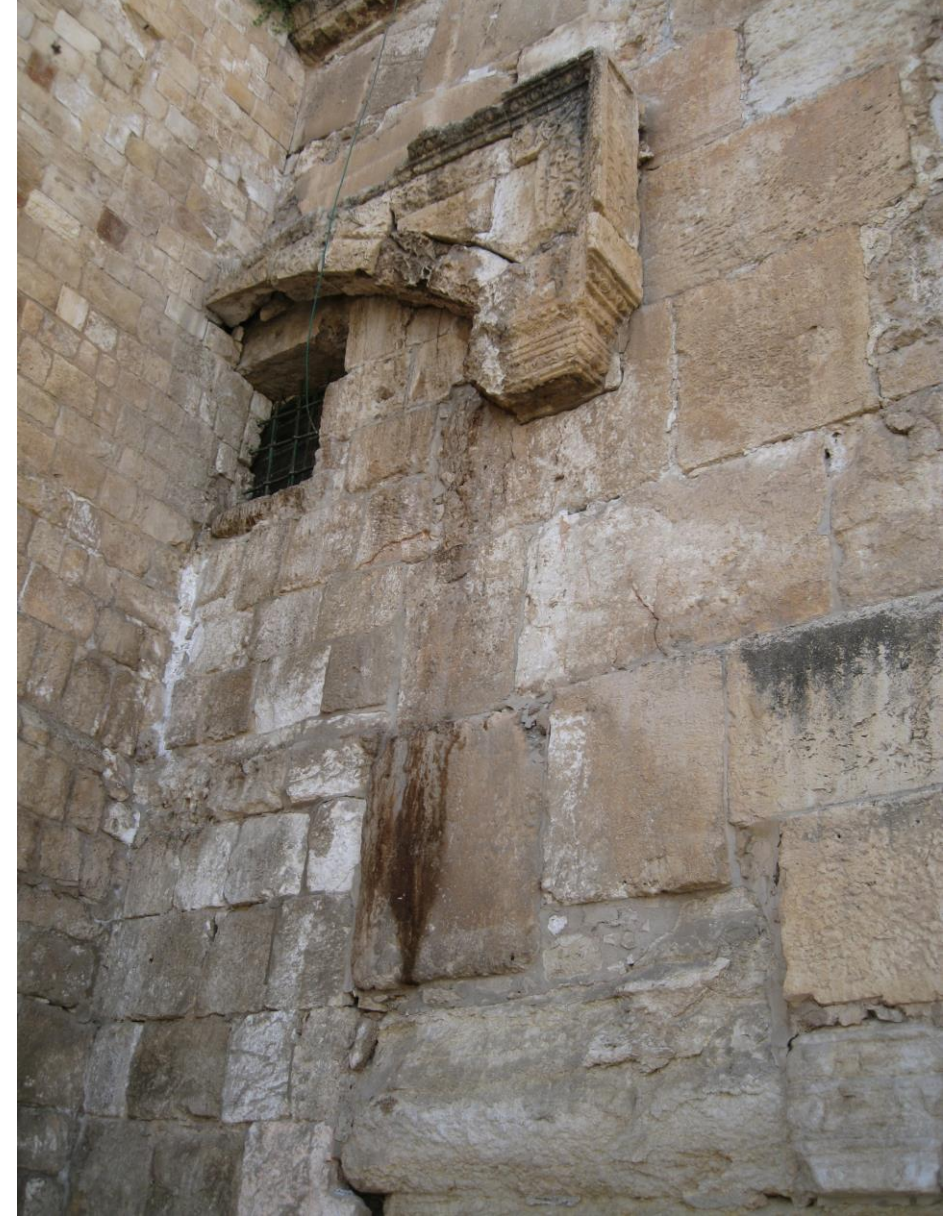
Triple Gate part of the Huldah Gates, built as part of the much-extended Herodian Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City, set into the Southern Wall of the Temple compound. They gave access to the Temple Mount esplanade by means of underground vaulted ramps. The Huldah Gates have been walled up since the Middle Ages.



The western pair of the Huldah Gates was disrupted when the Al Aqsa Mosque was built; only part of the eastern gate is visible today. See next image.



Reconstruction of Herodian Huldah Gates
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huldah_Gates



Visible part of the Double Gate
(a medieval tower is hiding the left, western part)





This is the part of the City of David north of the Old City ring road; next part of the City of David is south of the ring road; it is the main part, dating from ~1000 BC.



This is what much of the ruins excavation and display of the City of David looks like.





The City of David is located between the Old City of Jerusalem and East Jerusalem's Silwan neighborhood. Jewish Cemeteries, Left.

The foreground shows that some walls from the City of David remain intact from when they were built 3000 years ago, about 1000 BC.





THE BURNT ROOM AND THE HOUSE OF THE BULLAE

החדר השרוף ובית הבולות

Destruction and Ruin

"He burned the House of the Lord, the king's palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem; he burned down the house of every notable person" (II Kings 25:9).

This residential quarter went up in flames with the rest of the city during the Babylonian destruction of 586 BCE.

The floors of the houses were covered by a thick layer of ash. Beneath the heap of rubble in one room, Yigal Shiloh uncovered Babylonian and Israelite arrowheads and remnants of a charred piece of wooden furniture bearing a palmette design. The wood was imported from Syria, attesting to the high status of the residents of these houses.

At the lower end of the excavation site, archaeologists found remains of an archive known as the **House of the Bullae**. The fire consumed all the scrolls and documents, but hardened and preserved the bullae – imprinted pieces of clay with which parchment or papyrus documents were sealed. Some of the bullae bear names known to us from the Bible, such as Gemaryahu son of Shaphan, who was a high-ranking official in the court of King Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 36: 9–12).

Illustration: Bulla of Gemaryahu the son of Shaphan

הרס וחורבן

וַיִּשְׂרֹף אֶת-בֵּית-ה', וְאֶת-בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ; וְאֶת כָּל-בְּתֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם וְאֶת-כָּל-בֵּית גָּדוֹל, שָׂרַף בָּאֵשׁ. (מלכים ב' כה, ט)

אש החורבן שכילתה את בתי ירושלים בשנת 586 לפנה"ס לא פסחה על רובע מגורים זה.

בין החורבות גילה יגאל שילה חדר שרוף ששכבת אפר עבה מכסה את רצפתו. תחת ע"י המפולת נחשפו ראשי חצים ושרידי רהיט עץ מפותח שנוטר בדגם חימורה. מקור העץ מסוריה, והוא משמש עדות נוספת למעמדם הרם של תושבי הבתים.

בתחתית השטח התגלו שרידיו של ארכיון המכונה "בית הבולות". האש ששרפה את הכתבים והתעודות הקשיחה ושימרה את ה"בולות" – פיסות סין שנסבעו כחותם ושבאמצעותן נחתמו תעודות קלף או פפירוס. בסביעות החותם שהתגלו כאן אפשר לפגוש שמות המוכרים מהמקרא כגמריהו בן שפן, שהיה פקיד גבוה בחצר המלך יהויקים וירמיהו לו, ס-יב.



איור: בולה של גמריהו בן שפן

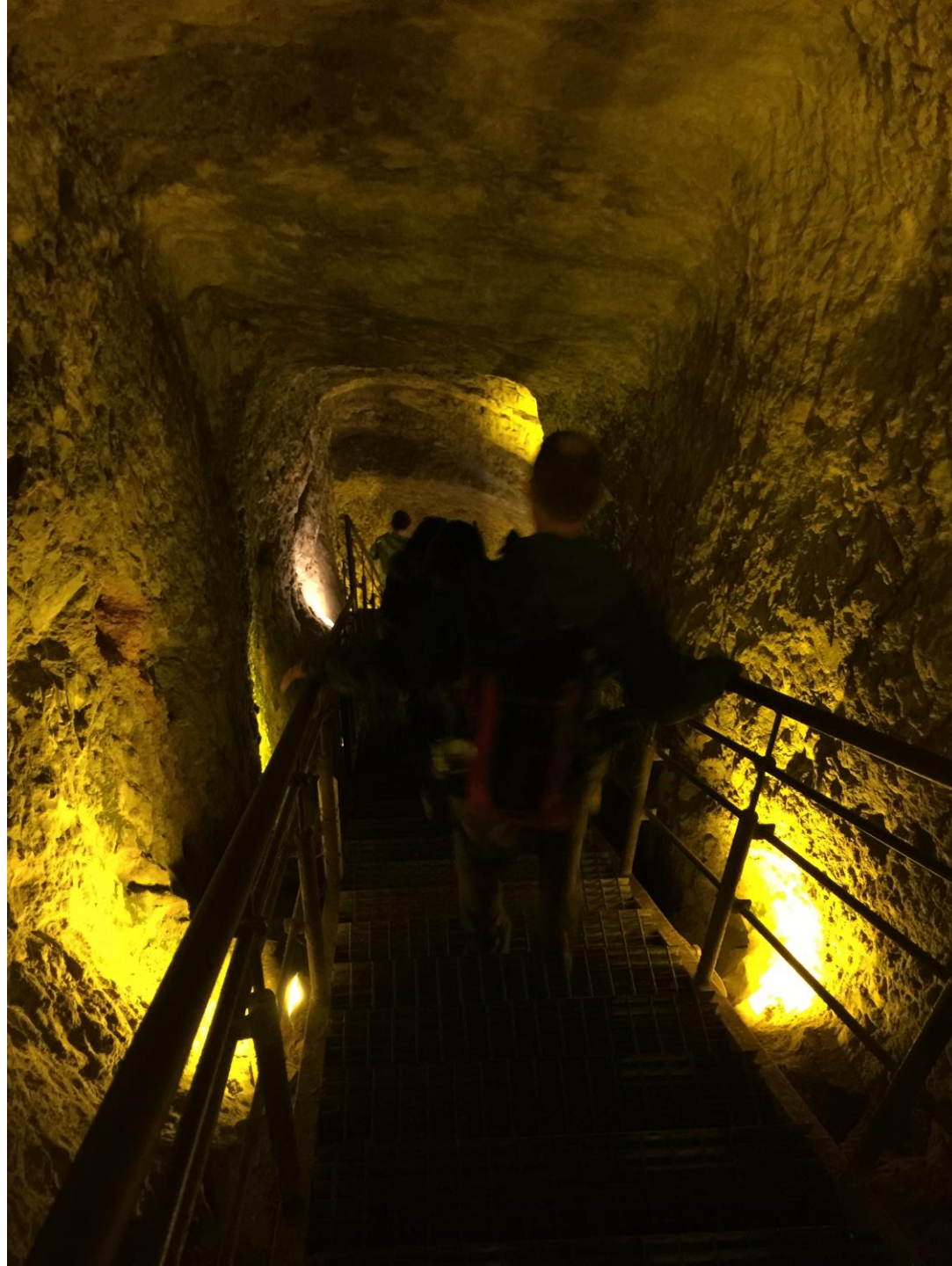




Foreground Left, walls from City of David, 1000 BC, Middle Distance, stairs and museum infrastructure. Right center. The southeast wall of the Old City of Jerusalem we saw close-up earlier.



The Siloam Tunnel, also known as Hezekiah's Tunnel, is a water channel that was carved beneath the City of David, located in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan in eastern Jerusalem, in ancient times.





Exit of Siloam Tunnel walkway in City of David ends up in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan.



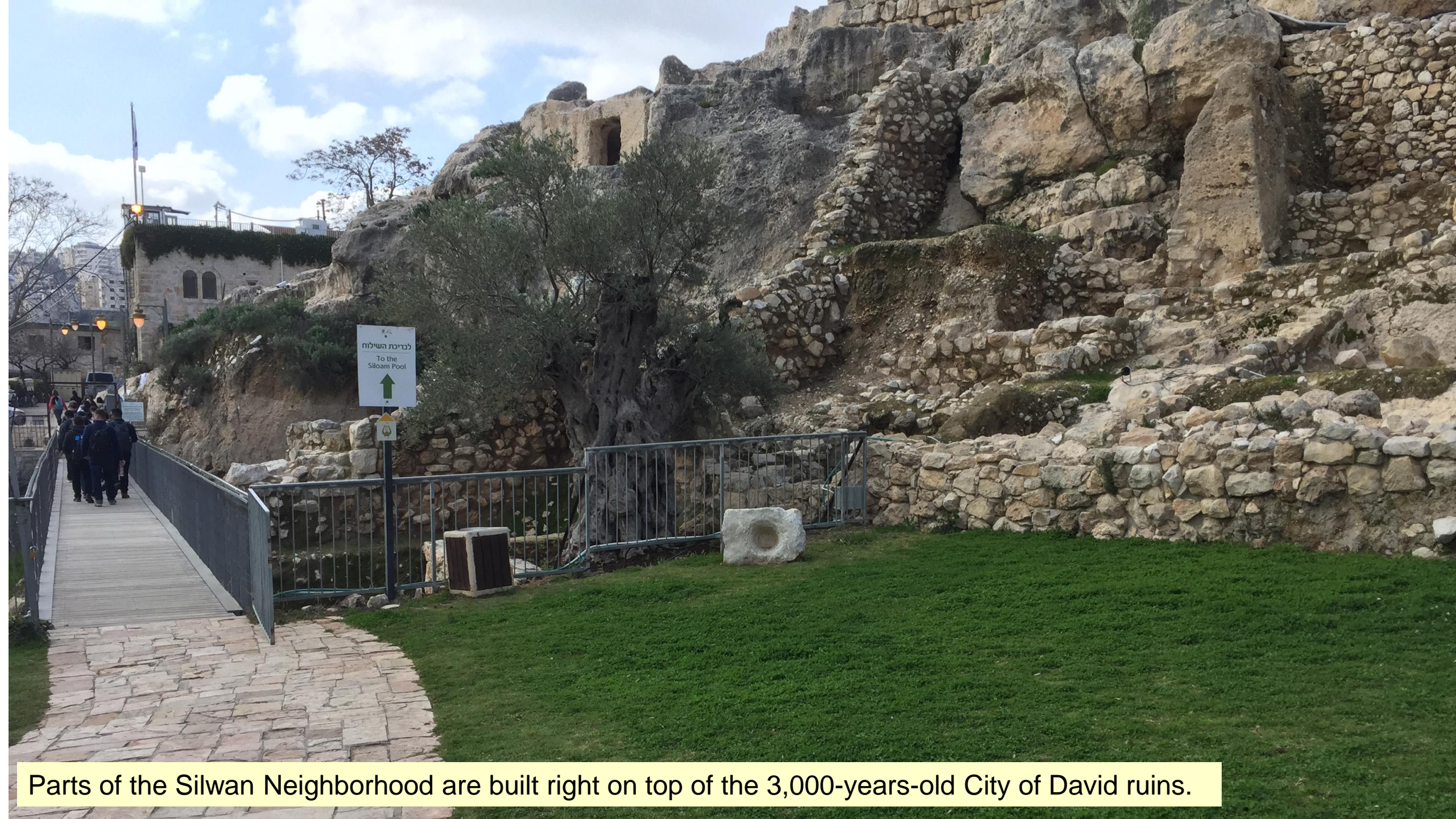


Exit of Siloam Tunnel walkway in City of David ends up in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan

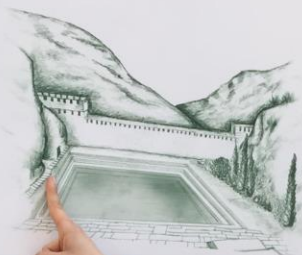


Ancient Olive Tree in City of David.





Parts of the Silwan Neighborhood are built right on top of the 3,000-years-old City of David ruins.



14

THE POOL OF SHILOAH (SILOAM)

Second Temple Splendor

"The other events of Hezekiah's reign, and all his exploits, and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought the water into the city, are recorded in the Annals of the Kings of Judah" (II Kings 20:20)

Remains from the pool that King Hezekiah built in the First Temple period have yet to be found. However, in the summer of 2004 remains of a very large pool (covering an area of three dunams, or three-quarters of an acre) from the Second Temple period was revealed. Nearby, archaeologists uncovered the remains of a stepped street, the path taken by pilgrims ascending from the pool to the Temple Mount. Beneath the paving stones of the street they found a drainage channel that apparently served as a hiding place for the last Jewish rebels against the Romans in the year 70 CE.

The pool ceased to function after the destruction of Jerusalem, and over time filled with earth and disappeared from sight.

בריכת השילוח

פאר הבית השני

המלך חזקיהו בנה את בריכת השילוח ואת המעבר המוביל למקדש, כפי שמתואר בספר מלכים (מלכים ב' כ' כ').

הבריכה נבנתה בתקופת המלך חזקיהו, כפי שמתואר בספר מלכים (מלכים ב' כ' כ').

הבריכה נבנתה בתקופת המלך חזקיהו, כפי שמתואר בספר מלכים (מלכים ב' כ' כ').



The **Pool of Siloam** was a [rock-cut](#) pool on the southern slope of the [City of David](#), the original site of [Jerusalem](#), located outside the walls of the [Old City](#) to the southeast. The pool was fed by the waters of the [Gihon Spring](#), carried there by two [aqueducts](#).



3000-year old pottery and shards regularly are washed from this sediment after winter rain runoff.



Now we are inside the walls of the Old City, waiting for the checkpoint to the Temple Mount to open for visitors.



Line awaiting opening
of checkpoint to
Temple Mount.

It is 16 Feb 2020,
during the “winter wet”
season.





Temple Mount, just inside the inner wall in the Old City, right.

These retaining walls were built by King Herod to buttress the Second Temple then located atop the Temple Mount.

The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans 70 AD.

Present entrance, via elevated stairway, grey, ahead; it's the Mughrabi Gate ramp.

Now, Muslim Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock are atop Temple Mount.



Al Aqsa Mosque,
built on and into the
south edge of Temple
Mount.



Southern part of
Western Wall.

Bab al Silsila Minaret near
Al Aqsa Mosque on Temple
Mount, above.

Robinson's Arch, center,
"once supported a staircase
that led to Temple Mount."

Rubble at the foot of the
wall contains fragments
of the destroyed (in 70 AD)
Second Temple; according
to some studies, perhaps
even fragments from
the First Temple.

Muslim authorities actively
thwart study of in-situ
materials from these
sites.



Archaeology news: Shock underground complex discovered next to Jerusalem's Second Temple

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Israel were stunned when they discovered ancient rooms which had not been used for millennia beneath Jerusalem's Western Wall. By Sean Martin UPDATED: 15:11, Fri, May 22, 2020



The rooms were carved into the bedrock, and the archaeologists at first were unaware they had discovered new structures (Image: Yaniv Berman/Israel Antiquities Authority)

Barak Monnickendam-Givon, co-director of the excavation for the Israel Antiquities Authority, said: "At first we were very disappointed because we found we hit the bedrock, meaning that the material culture, the human activity here in Jerusalem ended.

"What we found here was a rock-cut system -- three rooms, all hewn in the bedrock of ancient Jerusalem."

The discovery is "about 30 metres from the Temple Mount", where the Second Jewish Temple stood, but the rooms "don't have any firm link to the temple itself."

The archaeologists will investigate further to discover the purpose of the underground complex, but the suggestion is it could have been a series of pantries.

Past the checkpoint, on the elevated walkway to the Temple Mount...

New Mughrabi Gate ramp replaces earlier earthen Mughrabi Gate access, severely damaged by earthquake.

This is very close to the excavation area described by the Express.co article... "30 metres from the Temple Mount."



Western Wall, holiest site in Judaism, now an open-air synagogue.

Men gather to the left, women to the right.

Prior to the 1967 War, this part of divided Jerusalem was fenced off with barbed wire.

Present floor was a warren of buildings from the Moroccan (Mughrabi) Quarter. Three days after the 1967 war, the area was cleared to its present configuration by Israelis.

Since then anyone may visit anywhere in Jerusalem under Israeli control, but Muslims control the Temple Mount

Since 1757 a status quo has been applied for the ruling of the Holy places in Jerusalem:

“No regulation nor law shall be made prohibiting or interfering with the free exercise of religion; (...)

“Islamic Holy Places shall be under Islamic control.”





This is the scene shortly after you enter the Temple Mount, approaching Al Aqsa Mosque.



Scene on Temple Mount, approaching the Al Aqsa Mosque, on the right.







Entrance to Al Aqsa Mosque, Sunday, 16 Feb 2020





Approaching the Dome of the Rock.







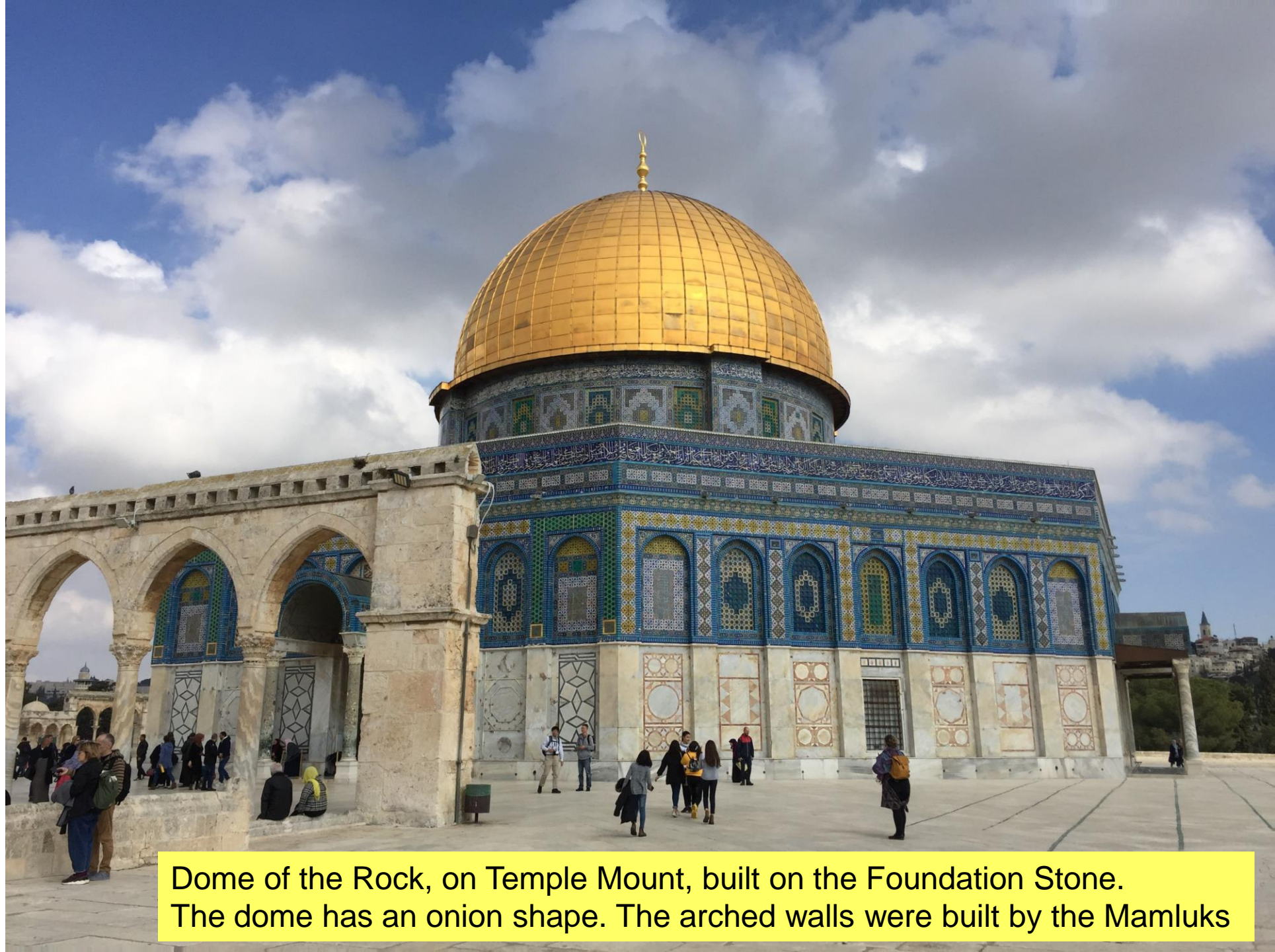




Study in contrast:

Columns of St Mark's Venice in 2010, below
compared with columns of Dome of the Rock, 2020, right.





Dome of the Rock, on Temple Mount, built on the Foundation Stone.
The dome has an onion shape. The arched walls were built by the Mamluks









View to the east from Temple Mount; Ste Mary Magdalene Church, Russian golden onion domes, middle distance. Mount of Olives on the ridge line.

Sidebar on the Religion of Peace, and some infrastructure



Laura observed this boy being given this toy rifle, presumably by his mother, during our visit.

On peace, (Golda Maier) said in 1957, before the National Press Club in Washington:
“Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us.”

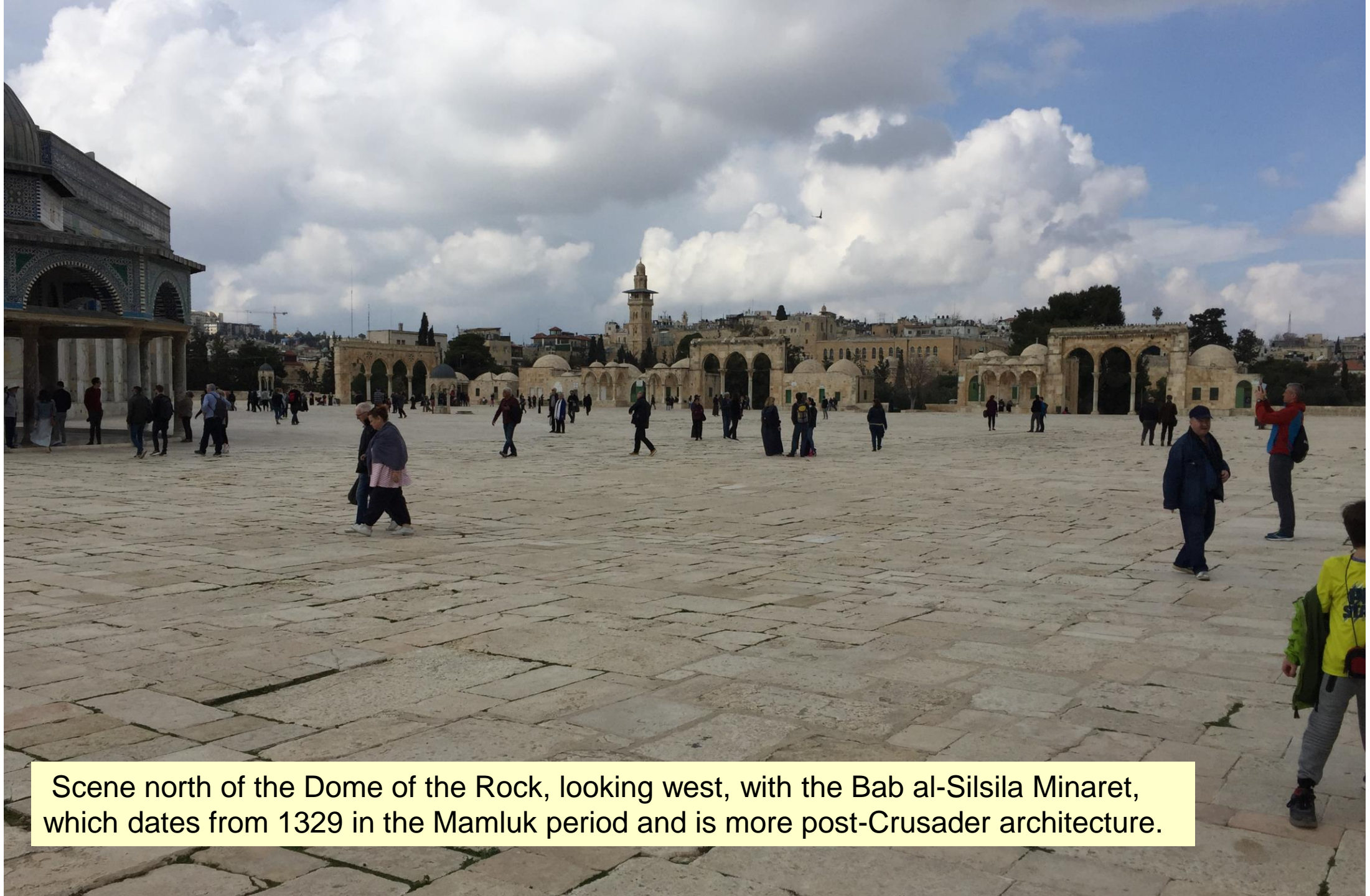
<https://www.msudenver.edu/golda/goldameir/goldaquotes/>



Plumbing to allow washing of feet for Muslim visitors.

Toilet plumbing, Temple Mount.





Scene north of the Dome of the Rock, looking west, with the Bab al-Silsila Minaret, which dates from 1329 in the Mamluk period and is more post-Crusader architecture.



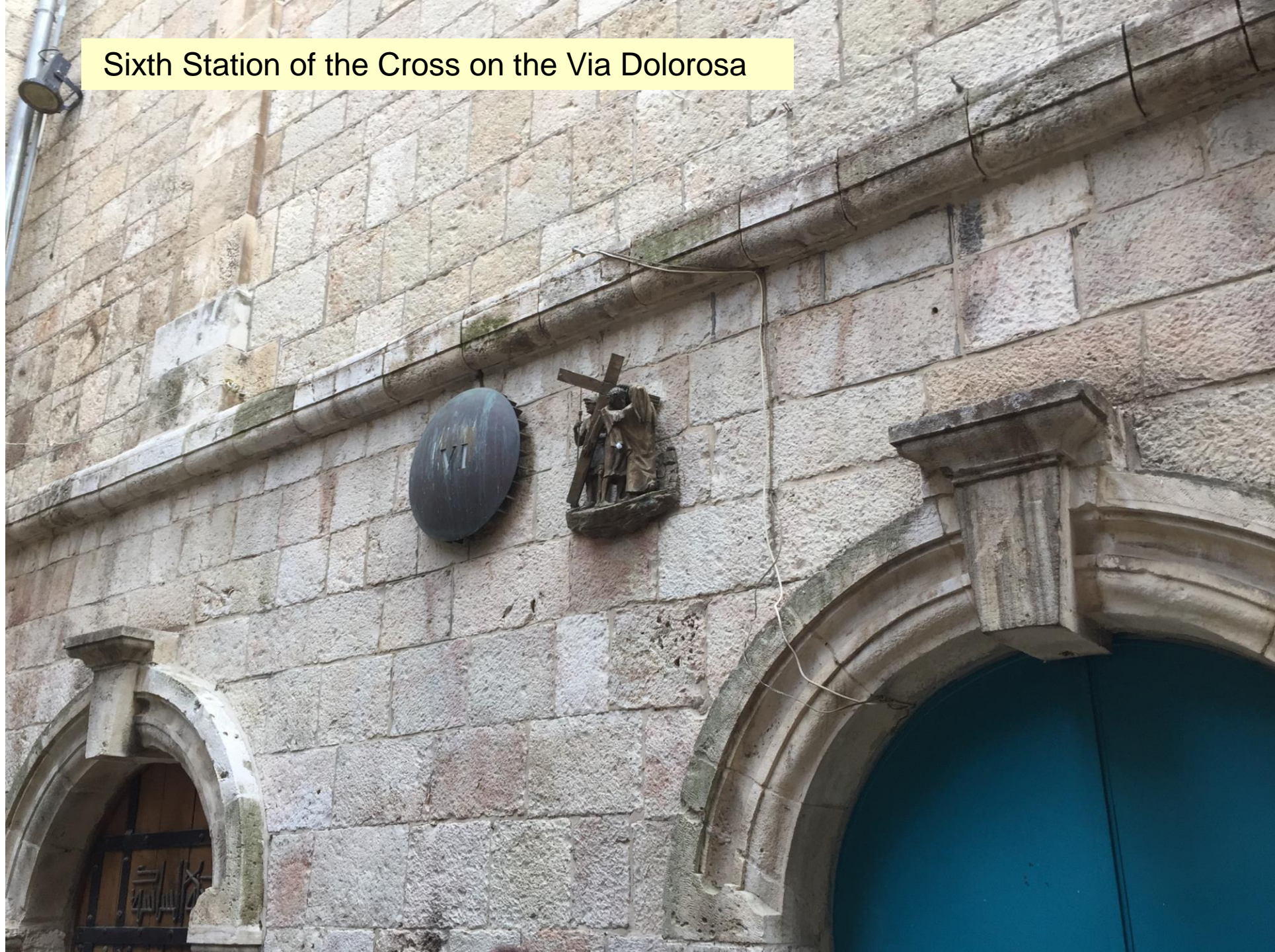
Lunch at a restaurant at the souk on the Temple Mount.





Now we are outside the Temple Mount, but still inside the Old City of Jerusalem, on the Via Dolorosa

Sixth Station of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa



כנסיית הקבר
كنيسة القيامة
Church of the Holy Sepulchre



מדינת ישראל - משרד הפנים
دولة إسرائيل - وزارة الداخلية
State of Israel - Ministry of the Interior

התחלקה לעדות הנוצריות
قسم الطوائف المسيحية
Department of Christian Communities

האגף לעדות דתיות
قسم الطوائف الدينية
Division of Religious Communities

נא לשמור על קדושת המקום
لرجى الحفاظ على قدسية المكان
Please respect the sanctity of this place

העישון בכנסייה ובמרחבה מסור בהחלט
التدخين في الكنيسة وفي باحتها ممنوع مطلقاً
Smoking in the church and the square is absolutely forbidden

נא להקפיד על לבוש הולם וצנוע בתוך הכנסייה ובמרחבה
يرجى ألا ترتاح باللباس ثياب لائقة وقدراسة
Visitors to the church and the square must be dressed appropriately and modestly

נא לא להפריע קידום הטקסים הדתיים בכנסייה ובמרחבה
يرجى عدم الإزعاج خلال المراسم الدينية في الكنيسة وباحتها
Please do not disturb the religious ceremonies in the church and the square

הכנסת בעלי חיים אסורה בחלט
استصحاب الحيوانات ممنوع مطلقاً
No animals are permitted

הכנסת אוכל ושתיה לתחום הכנסייה מסור בהחלט
إدخال الطعام والشراب إلى داخل الكنيسة ممنوع إطلاقاً
Bringing food and drink into the area of the church is forbidden

השימוש בטלפון סלולרי בתוך הכנסייה מסור
استخدام الهاتف الخليوي في الكنيسة ممنوع
Using a cellular phone in the church is forbidden

הז-איסור מוחלט להיכנס עם נשק לכנסייה
ممنوع إطلاقاً الدخول مع سلاح إلى الكنيسة
It is forbidden to enter this site with weapons

Afternoon of Sunday,
16 Feb 2020; it's raining.

We are outside the Church
of the Holy Sepulcher.



Outside entrance to Church of the Holy Sepulchre,
afternoon of Sunday, 16 Feb 2020.

Almost all holy sites in Jerusalem now have a church,
synagogue, or mosque erected on that site.

Many sites, such as this, were erected in the Middle Ages
during the Crusades and the Crusader Era, 1099-1293 AD.

Some sites have seen the Temples, then churches, destroyed,
then rebuilt.

Jerusalem has been held by ancient Israelis, Babylonians,
Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Muslims, Crusaders,
Mamluk Muslims, Ottomans, a British mandate, now Israel.

Pilgrims from around the world are constantly crowding
into the holy sites; some are seen at this entrance,
hundreds more are inside.





Women kissing the anointing stone in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where tradition holds that the body of Jesus was anointed here, with oil after his crucifixion.

Scene inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, a Crusader Church erected in the Middle Ages. Sunday, 16 Feb 2020.

Lighting is poor in most Crusader Churches

Cavalry Hill immediately to the right, burial cave immediately to the left.

Procession of the Faithful in progress just ahead.













The vertical slits in the exterior wall of the Old City are arrow slits for defensive archers.

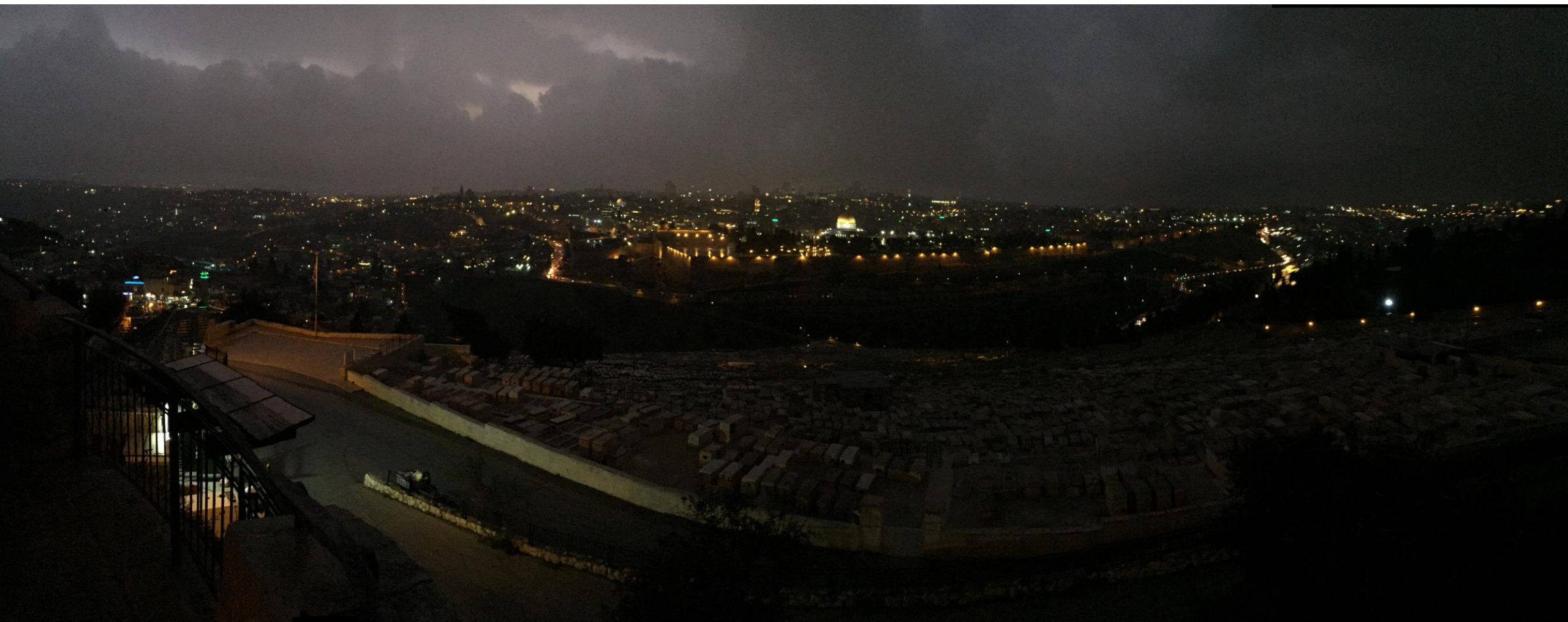


Exterior wall of the Old City with another arrow slit visible.

Rainy evening on the Mount of Olives, looking west. Israeli graves in the foreground.

Across the Kidron Valley is the Temple Mount, Old City, and West Jerusalem on the horizon.





Panorama view from the Mount of Olives facing west to the Temple Mount, and West Jerusalem on the horizon.



