

2019-2020 Bible Study

#33

5/19/20

Matthew 27

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Outline for Matthew 27

- **Matthew 27**
- Jesus Brought before Pilate
- Judas Hangs Himself
- Pilate Questions Jesus
- Barabbas or Jesus?
- Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified
- The Soldiers Mock Jesus
- The Crucifixion of Jesus
- The Death of Jesus
- The Burial of Jesus
- The Guard at the Tomb

Matthew 27

- **Matthew 27:1-2** *“When morning came,...and they bound him and led him away and delivered him to Pilate the governor”*
 - Since they decided that they had to kill Jesus, they had to present Him to Pilate
 - The Romans had maintained the right of capital punishment as a part of the *Pax Romana* to themselves
 - If *Caiaphas* or *Annas* had carried out a death sentence, they would have been removed from office or perhaps executed *

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- **Matthew 27:3-10** *“When Judas, his betrayer, saw that he was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders,...as the Lord directed me”*
 - Judas threw the money in front of the high priest within the *Sanhedrin*
 - Since it was blood money, they could not return it to the temple treasury, so they decided to buy a field to bury paupers
 - This was to fulfill what Jeremiah and Zechariah prophesied *

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- **Matthew 27:11-21** *“Now Jesus stood before the governor;...And they said, ‘Barabbas’”*
 - Initially, Jesus refused to answer their accusations
 - Finally, the high priest said, *“I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the son of God” (Matthew 26:63)*
 - Jesus answered the high priest
 - But, when speaking to Pilate, Jesus gave him an answer right away
 - Look at the irony in what followed

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- *Bar* means son and *Abba* means father in Aramaic
- *Barabbas* means “son of the father,” which was most likely a name given to him by his followers
- Pilate asked the Jewish leader, “*What do you want me to do with Jesus who is called the Christ?*”
- Jesus the Christ, the son of God or the one called son of the Father
- This exchange is even more dramatic in John’s gospel where we hear over and over that Jesus is the son of the Father
- The Jews demanded that *Barabbas* be released *

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- **Matthew 27:22-23** *“Pilate said to them, ... ‘Let him be crucified’”*
 - Pilate asked the Jews what should be done to Jesus, and when they said that He should be crucified, Pilate asked them what He had done; then they cried for His crucifixion
 - Father pointed out that it was the Jews who chose the method of execution
 - Even though the Romans carried out this execution, it was the Jews who demanded that Jesus was a criminal threat to Rome
 - According to John’s Gospel, Pilate finally gave up trying to protect Jesus, and agreed to their demands as he hoped to avoid a riot
 - Pilate was a pagan Gentile and really did not care, so he decided to agree to their demands in order to be done with it
- *

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- **Matthew 27:24-26** *“So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing,...delivered him to be crucified”*
 - Father said that sometimes we hear people say that the Jews were responsible for His death, but the Gentiles had nothing to do with it
 - But, that is not true as Pilate was a Gentile who represented *Caesar*, and was tasked to maintain the Roman Law
 - But, according to that Law, the Romans could not condemn an innocent man just to keep the peace
 - Therefore, Pilate had Jesus scourged after finding nothing wrong in what He had done, but then delivered Him to be crucified
 - Father explained that both Matthew and John pointed to the culpability of the Jewish religious authorities and the Romans*

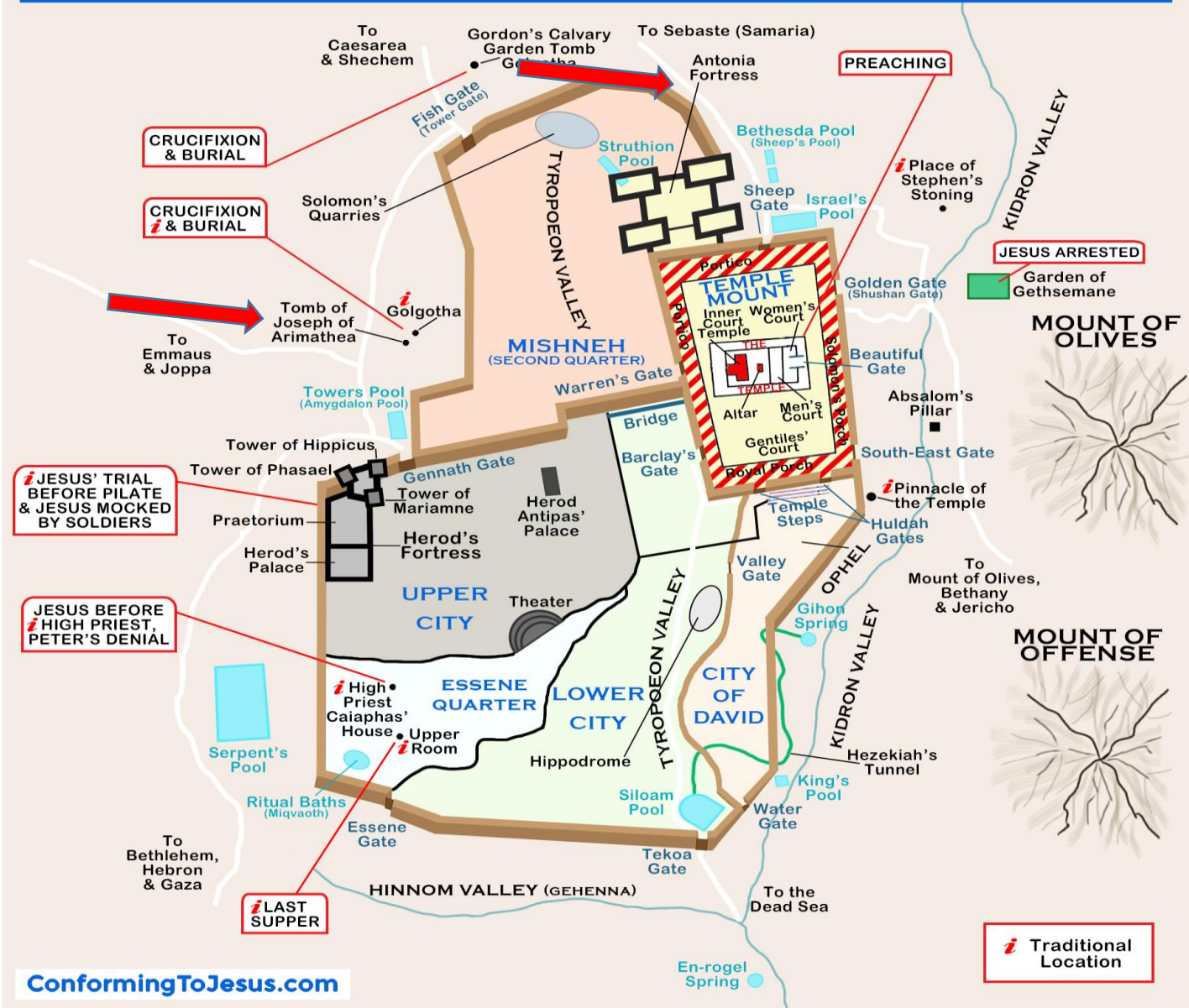
Matthew 27 (Cont)

- **Matthew 27:27-37** *“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium,... ‘This is Jesus the king of the Jews’”*
 - The original place of execution was outside of the 1st Century city walls
 - Since then, the outer wall (built by the Crusaders and later by the Muslims) has been moved further away from the city center
 - Today, *Golgotha* is within the Greek Orthodox *Church of the Holy Sepulcher* (located within the Old City walls)
 - It also contains the place of Jesus’ tomb

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- Many years ago, a Protestant was denied entry to the *Church of the Holy Sepulcher*, and looking from his hotel room observed a garden and cave outside the city walls (which he designated as Christ's tomb)
- This has become a major Protestant pilgrimage site even though archeology has proven that this site was constructed centuries before the birth of Christ*

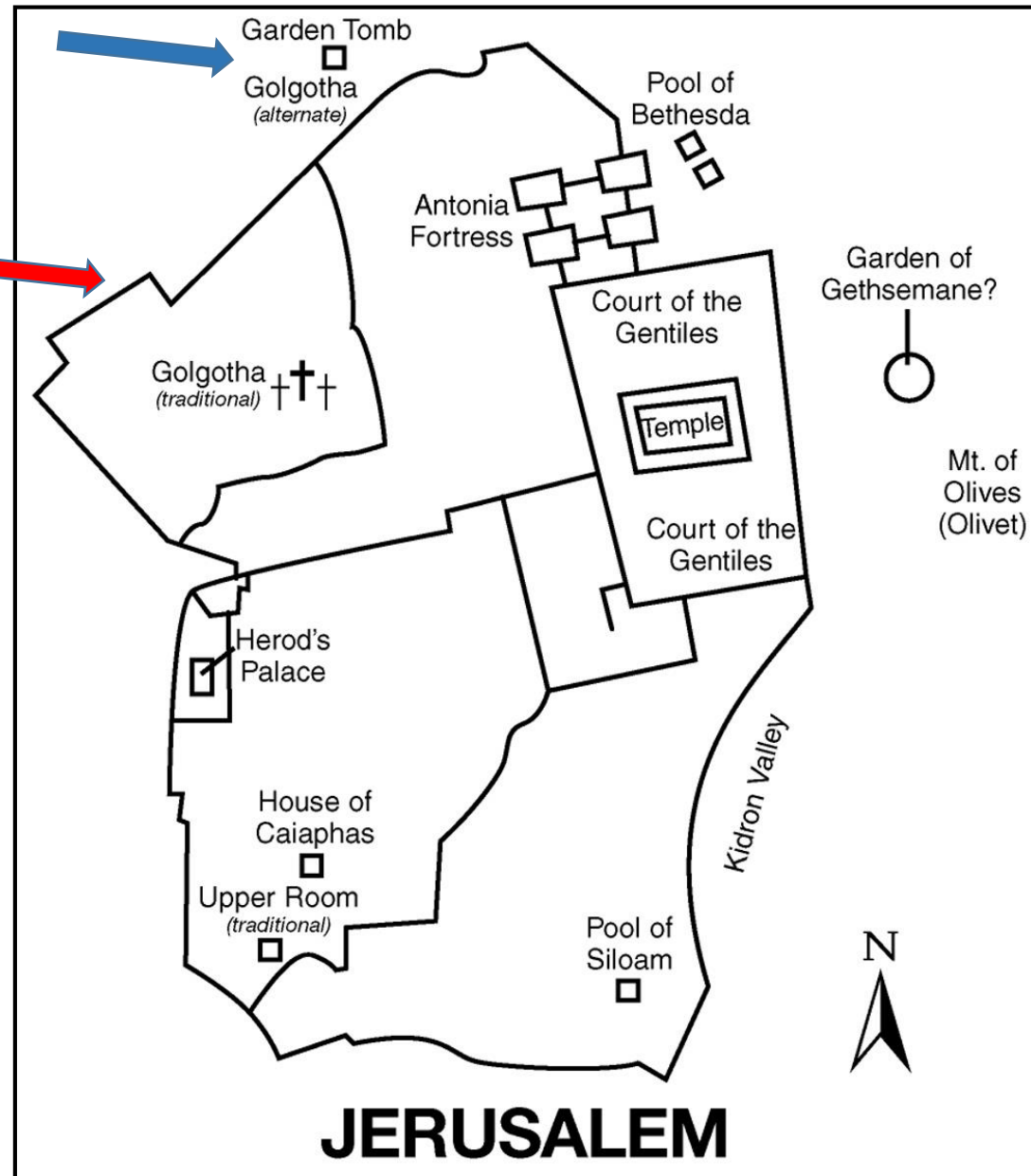
JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS

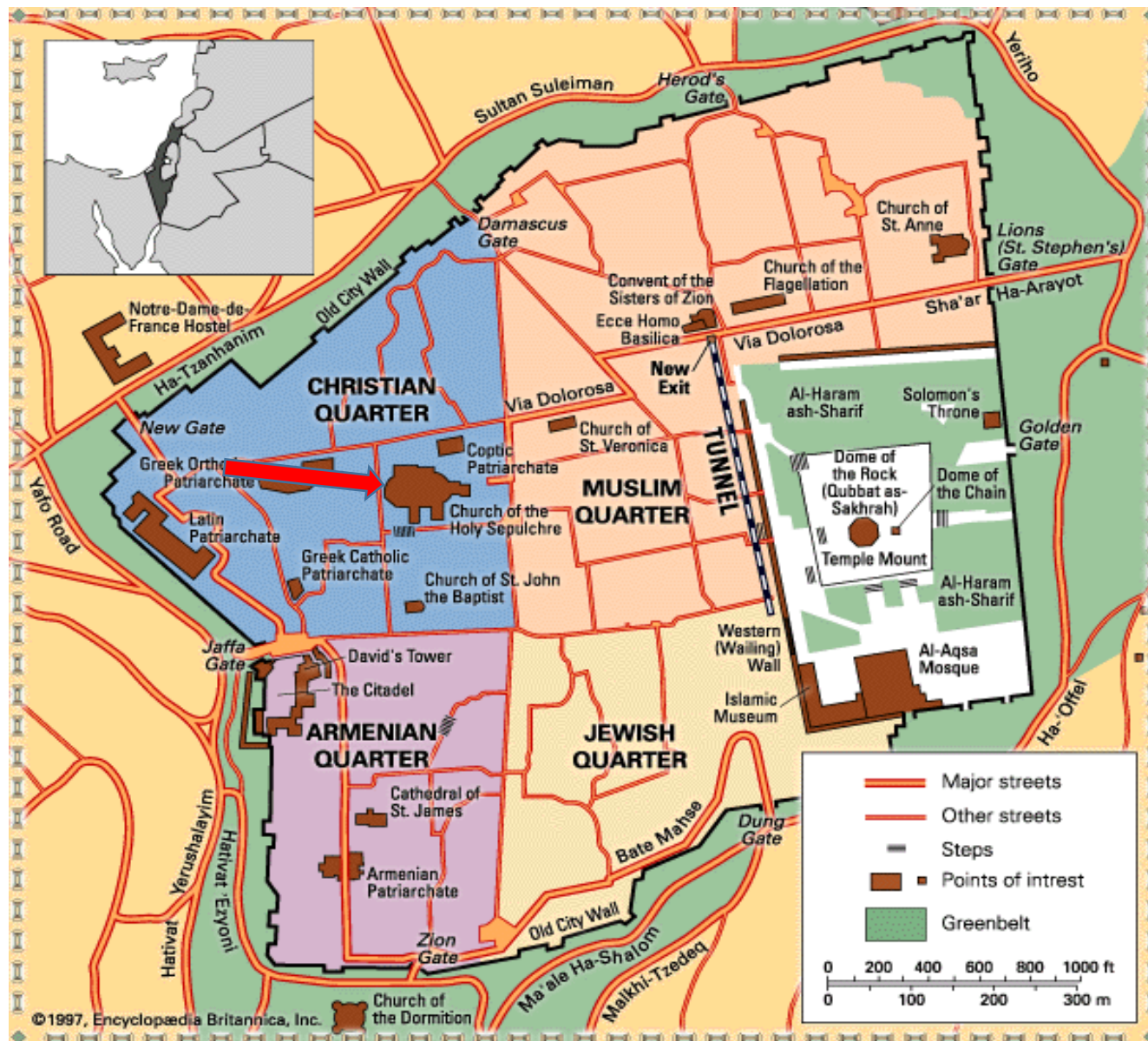


Holy Land

New Testament

Jerusalem





Matthew 27 (Cont)

- **Matthew 27:38-44** *“Then two robbers were crucified with him,...also reviled him in the same way”*
 - Two robbers were crucified with Jesus, and we hear from Matthew that one of them mocked him while the other asked for forgiveness
 - The words of this mockery can be found in **Psalm 22** and **Wisdom 2**
 - One robber became the man of faith in **Psalm 22, Wisdom 2, and 3**, where we hear of the resurrection of the righteous man, and he will judge the nations
 - **Psalm 22** is about a man who was saved from death, while **Wisdom** contains a story of a man who dies, but will rise from the dead
 - By combining these, Matthew is showing what will happen to Jesus *

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- **Matthew 27:45-50** *“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all of the land until the ninth hour...and yielded up his spirit”*
 - Once again, Father reminded us that this was in *Aramaic*, not *Hebrew*
 - The first century Jews did not speak *Hebrew* as it had been a dead language for centuries
 - When the first century Jew did not speak *Aramaic*, he spoke *Greek*

Matthew 27 (C0nt)

- Jesus also spoke *Aramaic*
- Matthew quoted from **Psalms 22** which was about the man of faith who went into battle and was surrounded by his enemies (the swords of the Philistines were surrounding him like dogs, lions, and oxen)
- His hands and feet were pierced while trying to fend them off
- He realized that he was about to die and his enemies began to mock him, and even cast lots for his garments
- This man then says that he will return to the temple in Jerusalem and praise God

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- All of the literature from this period was either in *Aramaic* or *Greek*
- Father pointed out that this was fulfilled by Jesus, who fought the ultimate battle, and who did go from death to life, and then enter the heavenly temple of God*

The Seven Last Phrases (Words) of Jesus

- Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.
- Today you will be with me in paradise.
- Woman, behold, thy son! Behold, thy mother!
- My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
- I thirst.
- It is finished.
- Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- **Matthew 27:51-66** *“And behold,...So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard”*
 - Father said that we do not know what happened to those who were raised from the dead
 - They could have been *Jeremiah, Isaiah, or Judas Maccabeus* who were among the many examples of bodily assumption in the Bible
 - Matthew assumes that we know who he was talking about

Matthew 27 (Cont)

- John gave us a bit more information about *Joseph of Arimathea* who helped take Jesus' body down from the cross and place it in the new tomb
- This section concludes with a statement about Jesus' burial
- Father said, at this point everyone knew who Jesus was
- Next week we will conclude with **Matthew 28** and a review of the Gospel of Matthew