

Site: Temple Mount

Scripture References: Genesis 22:2; Ezekiel 11:23, 43:4-5; Zachariah 14:4; 2 Chronicles 2:5-6, 3:1; John 2:19, 4:23; John 10; Mark 13; Acts 21;

Historical Significance:

1. Location of Mount Moriah where Abraham went to sacrifice his son, Isaac.
2. King Solomon built the first temple in 966 BC.
3. King Hezekiah enlarged the Temple Mount to a 750' square.
4. In 586 BC the Temple was torn down by the Babylonians. It was rebuilt 70 years later.
5. Herod the Great expanded the Temple Mount to 35 acres. He began in 20 BC and continued for 83 years. This was the Temple that Jesus knew.
6. Jesus was circumcised here. His parents found him teaching on the terrace located near the southern steps.
7. Satan tempted Jesus by bringing Him to the pinnacle of the Temple.
8. During Passion Week, Jesus left the Temple Mount, ascended the Mount of Olives and predicted the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. In 70 AD, 37 years after Jesus' prediction, Titus destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem.
9. Jesus was crucified 500 yards west of Mt. Moriah. Temple Veil was torn in half from top to bottom. The separation that sin caused was removed by Jesus' death on the cross.
10. Biblical prophecy says that two more temples will be rebuilt on the Temple Mount (Tribulation and the Kingdom of God)
11. The Temple Mount is an icon for the City of Jerusalem itself.

Things to look for:

1. Dome of the Rock was built 688-691 AD. It has stood on the Temple Mount for over 1330 years. It is a shrine to mark where Mohammad took his night ride on a magic horse. It is also where God's Holy of Holies was and where the Ark of the Covenant stood for centuries.
2. Al Aqsa Mosque is the third most important mosque to Muslims. It can hold 4000 people for prayer. Crusader arches
3. Southern steps
4. A large step that is located 750' from the eastern wall marks the NW corner of the Temple Mount during the time of King Hezekiah.
5. Antonio Fortress (barracks for Roman soldiers). Paul gave a speech on these steps
6. Retaining wall from the first temple by the Golden Gate. Golden Gate is bricked closed to keep the Jewish Messiah from entering Jerusalem.

What does this site teach us about God?

1. God's Temple today is our body, the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
2. Our lives now become the altar on which we offer our love to God.
3. God needs nothing, but He seeks our worship.