

EPISODE 10
DRIVE THRU[®]
HISTORY
TEMPLE, CROSS, and the EMPTY TOMB

Discussion Questions

In this episode of *Drive Thru History*, Dave navigates his Fiat back to the center of the universe: Jerusalem. There he examines the history and intrigue of the Old City, the Temple Mount, and the influence of Jerusalem on the rest of the world.

1. Approximately how many times throughout history has the city of Jerusalem been attacked? How many times has it been destroyed? To what would you attribute its continued existence today on its historical site?
2. The historical account of the place of God's temple is found in 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21. As you read these accounts, what do you learn about the Temple Mount that might influence the way you view it today?
3. In Hebrews 5–6 we see that Jesus is compared to Melchizedek, the mysterious priest we meet in Genesis 14 whom Abraham honored with a tithe. What does this say about the covenant Jesus established versus the one established by Abraham?
4. What exactly is the Western Wall and why is it so significant for today's Jews? Why is this wall also called the Wailing Wall?
5. What structures have occupied the most prominent place on the Temple Mount since the second temple's destruction by the Romans in AD 70? Why did Israel allow those structures to remain after the Six Day War in 1967?
6. What parallels exist between Abraham's offering of Isaac and the death of Jesus? How are these particularly significant on the Temple Mount?
7. According to Hebrews 11:17–19, what did Abraham assume would happen after sacrificing Isaac (had God allowed it) on Mount Moriah? How was this fulfilled in God's sacrifice of his Son?
8. If time permits, read Stephen's speech from Acts 7, particularly verses 51–53. Why did Stephen accuse the Sanhedrin of essentially being unfaithful to the Jewish law? What does this suggest about where (or to whom) the entire Old Covenant points?
9. What does the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7:54–60) show us about the effect of Christ's resurrection on the early disciples?
10. In what ways would you say that Jerusalem's influence in the world today is similar to its influence on the world in the past? In what ways do you think it is different?

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Discussion Questions

Follow Dave Stotts as he explores Jerusalem and discovers numerous physical proofs and tangible evidence confirming the reliability of the Bible.

1. What do we learn from 2 Samuel 5:3–10 about the way that David came to occupy the City of David?
2. Approximately how long after David established Jerusalem as the place of God's presence and Solomon built the temple there did Jerusalem continue as the undisputed capital of Israel?
3. What brought about conflict and division among God's people? What was the eventual consequence of rebellion and conflict among the Hebrews?
4. What effect are ongoing archaeological discoveries outside of Jerusalem having on the presumed reliability of the Bible? Why are discoveries at the City of David so significant?
5. Read 2 Kings 20:20 and 2 Chronicles 32:2–4, 30. What feature located in modern Jerusalem corresponds to these passages? How does this impact your concept of the Bible's historical reliability?
6. What recent discovery in the City of David can be correlated to Isaiah 8:6; 22:9 and John 9:7–11?
7. Read John 5:2–15. What significant event took place at the Pool of Bethesda? What effect did it have on the religious leaders of Jerusalem?
8. Read Ezekiel 47:1–9 and Zechariah 14:3–9. Why do you think Jesus performed miracles of healing at the pools in Jerusalem? What would these miracles have indicated to believing Jews about his identity?
9. How have the sites visited by Dave thus far in this series affected your understanding of the Scriptures? Give specific examples, if possible.
10. How has this study impacted your trust in the Bible's historical reliability?

EPISODE 12
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Discussion Questions

In this final installment of *Drive Thru History: Holy Land*, Dave retraces the events leading up to the trial, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

1. The silver scrolls discovered at Ketef Hinnom in 1979 contained portions of Old Testament texts dating back to 600 BC. How does this discovery impact the claim of some critics that the Hebrew Scriptures were composed very late in history, or have been changed over the millennia?
2. Read the Gethsemane account in Matthew 26:36–46 and Mark 14:32–42. What impresses you most about this extremely significant episode in the life of Messiah?
3. How would you describe the job of the “scribes” at the time of Christ? What pitfalls in their profession might we assume about their role?
4. The Sadducees at the time of Christ were closely allied with the Roman power structure in Jerusalem and held sway over the religious community as well. How might they have differed from true Jewish believers in the Messianic hope?
5. For their part, the Pharisees had more in common with everyday religious Jews—but their position nevertheless afforded them great power and wealth. Why might they have been predisposed to reject the claims of Jesus the Messiah? What two Pharisees became believers in Jesus as Messiah, as recorded in the Bible? (See John 3:1–21; 19:39 and Philippians 3:3–6.)
6. What would be a modern equivalent in our culture of the Sanhedrin in Jesus’ day? What does this reveal about deciding spiritual issues based on majority vote or political processes?
7. How had the office of high priest changed from the time of Moses to the time of Christ? What does Matthew 26:3 subtly reveal about the position and power of Caiaphas?
8. What events in the life and ministry of Jesus do you think would have been offensive to the religious power structure that controlled Jerusalem?
9. State as simply as possible what you think was the chief concern of the religious leaders in their conspiracy against Jesus. What was the motivation of Judas in his betrayal of Jesus? What lessons might this hold for religious leaders and their followers today?
10. What terminology in Matthew 26:63–66 should have been understood by any believing Jew in Israel who was waiting for the Messiah? What effect did it have on the religious leaders? Why?
11. What, in terms of modern archaeology, do Pilate, Caiaphas, and Herod Antipas have in common? What role did each one play in the trials and execution of Jesus?
12. Regardless of its supposed location today, what do you think is the most significant thing about the burial place of Jesus? Why?