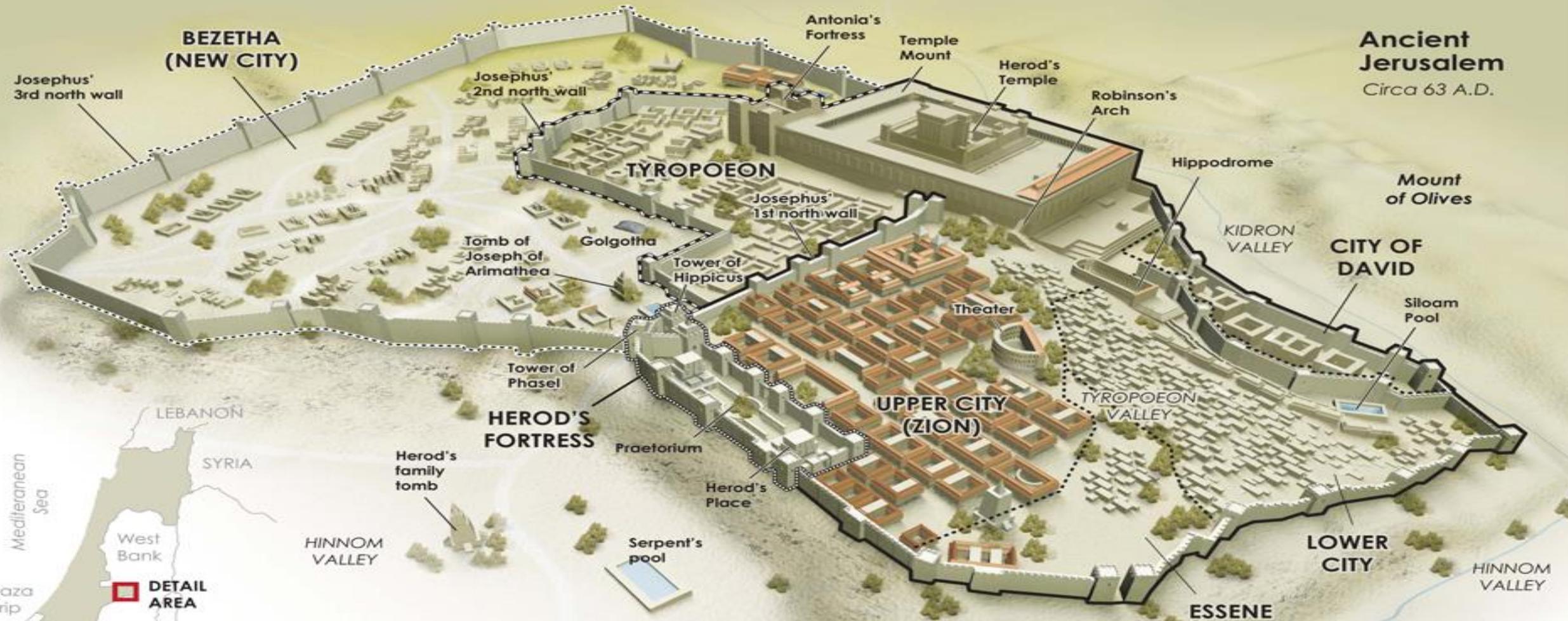


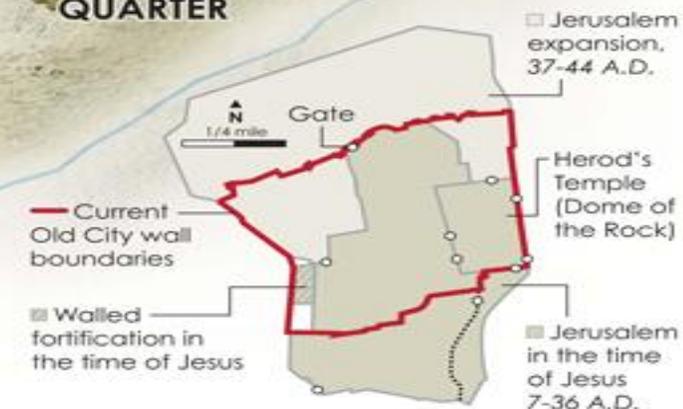
BEZETHA (NEW CITY)

Ancient Jerusalem Circa 63 A.D.



Jerusalem

By 34 B.C., under King Herod's rule, ancient Jerusalem went through major redevelopment, crowned with the rebuilding of the Second Temple and a bigger Temple Mount. In 66 AD, the Great Jewish Revolt challenged Roman rule over Jerusalem, resulting in the destruction of the temple and the fall of Jerusalem by 70 CE.



By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Hebrews 11:9-10

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:16

“Zion, Zion, I long thy
gates to see”

*Look upon Zion, the city of our
appointed feasts;
Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet
home,
A tabernacle that will not be taken
down;
Not one of its stakes will ever be
removed,
Nor will any of its cords be broken.*

Isaiah 33:20



*“Zion, Zion, I long thy
gates to see”*

*Those who trust in the Lord
Are like Mount Zion,
Which cannot be moved, but abides
forever.*

*² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the Lord surrounds His people
From this time forth and forever.*

Ps. 125:1-2



*“Zion, Zion, I long thy
gates to see”*

*For the Lord has chosen Zion;
He has desired it for His dwelling
place:*

*¹⁴ “This is My resting place
forever;
Here I will dwell, for I have
desired it.*

Ps. 132:13-14



“Zion, Zion, I long thy gates to see”

The Hebrew writer spoke of the blessings of Zion the spiritual city

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:22-24

At Ease in Zion

- As a result of being added to the nation of God (Gal. 6:16), in coming to Zion the spiritual city of God we have tremendous blessings.
 - ✓ *Rest- “come to me all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest”*
 - ✓ *Joy- “rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice”*
 - ✓ *Peace- “peace that passes understanding”*
 - ✓ *Comfort- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort”*

At Ease in Zion

Physical Israel was condemned for their attitude: *“Woe to you who are at ease in Zion”* (Amos 6:1)

- Part of the problem is that they had been misled by their parents (2:4)
- God was weighed down by them (2:13)
- The key reason for God’s displeasure was their lack of respect for His word (2:12)

At Ease in Zion

Why were they condemned for being at ease in Zion?

- **Presumption (6:1-2)**

- ✓ Trust in a mountain (6:1)
- ✓ Trust in a man (6:1)
- ✓ Trust in a metropolis (6:2)

At Ease in Zion

Why were they condemned for being at ease in Zion?

- **Procrastination (6:3)**

- ✓ They were not preparing (9:10)

- Later Jerusalem/Zion still had not learned the lesson (Luke 17:26-30; Luke 21:34)

- This is one of Satan's greatest assets (c.f Felix Acts 24:25)

At Ease in Zion

Why were they condemned for being at ease in Zion?

- **Pleasure Seeking (6:4-6a)**

- ✓ They were immersed in enjoyment: couches, ivory beds, abundant food
- ✓ Their “god was their belly” (Phil. 3:19)
- ✓ Jesus said to Peter “you are not mindful of the things of God but the things of men”

At Ease in Zion

Why were they condemned for being at ease in Zion?

- **Passivity/Pride (6:6)**

- ✓ They were not concerned about the spiritual state of their people
- ✓ We must not be passive about sin (Ps. 119:53, :136)
- ✓ What about us? (2 Cor. 5:14)

At Ease in Zion

What did they need to do? What do we?

- **Wake up!** (Rom. 13:11; Eph. 5:14)
- **Assess!** (Pr. 27:1; James 4:13-14)
- **Work!** (Phil. 2:12)
- **Run!** (1 Cor. 9:24-25)