

# The Happiness of the Jerusalem Pilgrim, Ps. 122

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

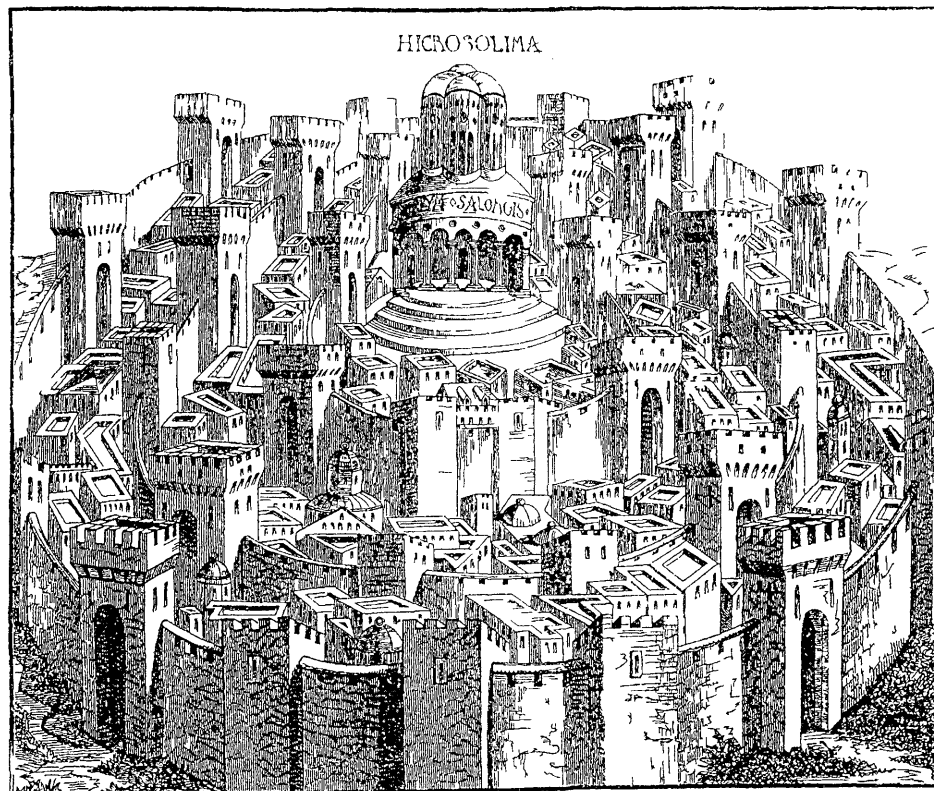
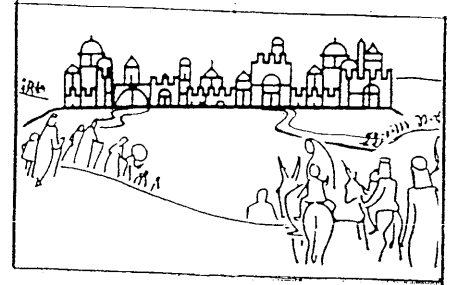


Fig 367 —View and Plan of Jerusalem —Fac-simile of a Woodcut in the "Liber Chronicarum Mundi " large folio, Nuremberg, 1493



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## 1A. Introduction:

### 1b. The designation for the songs of degree:

Psalm 122 is designated as “A Song of Degrees of David.” All captions of the Psalms are part of the inspired Word. Psalms 120-134 are songs of degree. The term “Song of Degree” can better be rendered “Song of Ascent” or “Song of Going-Up.” These psalms received the title because the pilgrim Israelites sang them as they traveled from their homes all over the land and ascended Mt. Zion for the annual feasts.

### 2b. The development of Psalm 120, 121, 122:

	<b>The Situation</b>	<b>Motivation</b>	<b>Emotion</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>The Journey</b>
<b>Ps. 120</b>	Lamenting the dreadful condition	Endurance	Humiliation	Adversity	Contemplated
<b>Ps. 121</b>	Longing for divine consolation	Expectation	Help	Advance	Continued
<b>Ps. 122</b>	Looking for the delightful city	Exultation	Happiness	Arrival	Completed

### 3b. The distinctiveness of Ps. 122.

#### 1c. The nature of the psalm:

The psalm is known as an **envelope psalm**. It ends as it begins, in the house of the Lord. In Ps. 121 the pilgrim sighted from a distance the hills surrounding Jerusalem. In Ps. 122 the pilgrim stood at the gates of Jerusalem. There is a stark contrast here: The Jerusalem was **sacred** in the past; now it is a **sad** place.

#### 2c. The focus of the psalm:

The psalm is in three parts, focusing on **Jerusalem**:

- The city is the home of worship
- The city is the center of life
- The city is the subject of prayer

## 2A. A Passion for the Place of God, 1-5.

### 1b. The joyful pilgrimage, 1-2

#### 1c. The joy of the pilgrim:

“I was glad” expresses the joy of the pilgrim. Worship to him is not a duty but a delight. May it be to us as well as we come to church, where God’s people gather!

The temple was the place where God promised to meet His people.  
The shekinah glory cloud confirmed that this was so.

#### 2c. The joy of David:

When David ruled from Jerusalem, he placed the tabernacle on Mt. Moriah where his son Solomon later built the temple. To reach the place of worship, David had to walk only a few hundred yards, and yet he testifies of his delight in ascending to the place of worship.

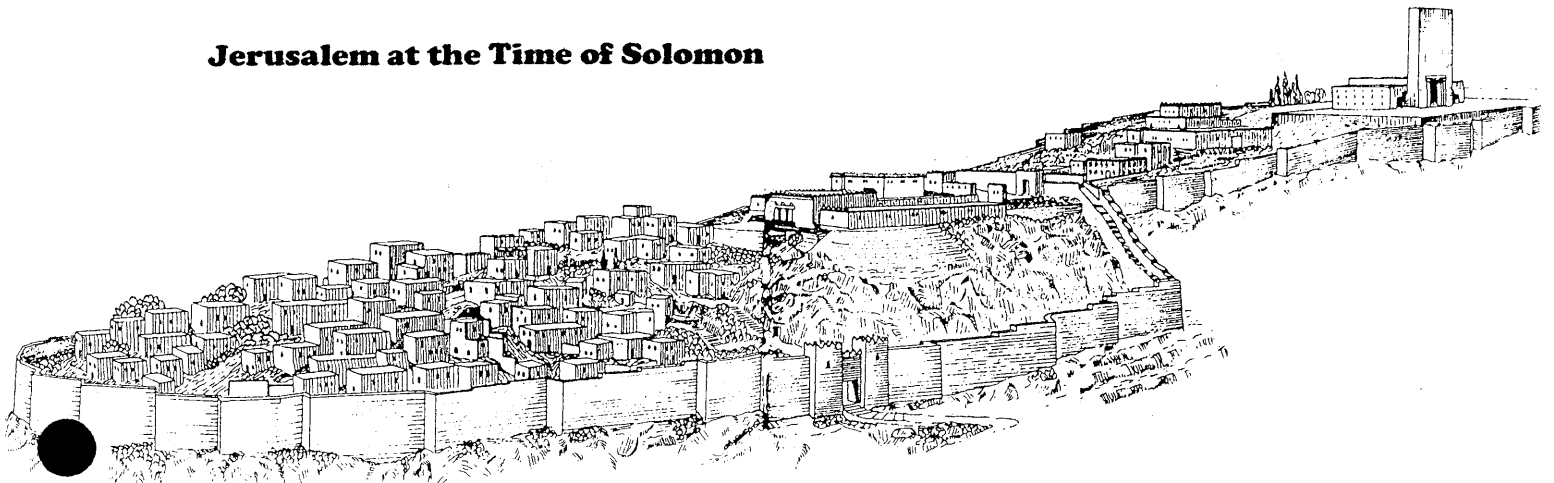
### 2b. The city’s prominence, 3-5

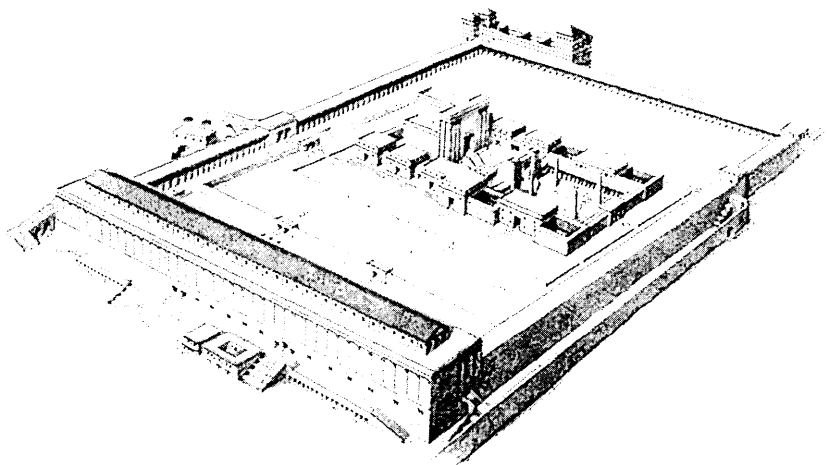
#### 1c. Architecturally:

The psalmist lauds Jerusalem as a city that is closely knit for beauty, utility and safety. It was a beautiful city in David’s day and is was even more spectacular ten centuries later when the disciples marveled at the magnificent stones of the temple (Mk. 13:1).

Even today the pilgrim, as he catches the first glimpse of the city, is overawed by the city’s loveliness, harmony and prominence. Invariably Christian tourists break out in songs of joy as they revel in the breath-taking view of the holy city from the Mt. of Olives.

### Jerusalem at the Time of Solomon





2c. Spiritually:

1d. The Old Testament requirement:

Male Jews were instructed to go up to Jerusalem for the annual feasts three times a year: **Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles** (Ex. 23:17; 34:23; Deut. 16:16).

2d. The New Testament counterpart:

The N.T. counterpart is Hebrews 10:25, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another . . .” The place of corporate worship, neglected by many, is an essential part of the Christian life.

3c. Civically: David and his co-regents exercised their civic authority from the city.

In the Millennium Christ will be seated here on the throne of David, the resurrected David will rule over the tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles will be there to exercise authority (Mat. 19:28).

### 3A. A Prayer for the Peace of God, 6-7

Verse 6 is one of the most crucial verses for believers then and now.

1b. The precept:

The admonition is given for no other city on earth, to “*pray for the peace of Jerusalem.*” History records 3 dozen sieges of Jerusalem and 22 total destructions. Someday, however, Jerusalem will live up to its name as the city of peace, as it basks in the millennial magnificence of the Messianic Monarch:

*“Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice with joy for her, all ye that mourn for her. . . For thus saith the Lord, Behold I will extent peace to her like a river and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream”* (Is. 66: 10, 12).

2b. The promise:

Coupled with the precept is the promise, “*They shall prosper that love thee.*” This verse contains an interesting literary device called *paranomisia*—a repletion of words similar in sound:

“*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem . . . they shall prosper,*” can be transliterated, loosely, as

*sha’alu shalom Yerushalaim . . .lishyalu*

#### 4A. Prosperity for the People of God, 8-9

1b. The extent of prosperity:

The nation of Israel who are the Lord’s special people by sovereign election:

*“For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth”* (Deut. 7:6, cf. vv. 7-9).

2b. The explanation of prosperity:

Israel is God’s covenant people and even in unbelief they are precious to God. He calls them the “*apple of his eye*” (Deut. 32:10; Zech. 2:8). Israel is special because God made it special. The city of Jerusalem is His city, where His temple stood and will stand again. God is pleased with those who bless Israel (Gen. 12:3).

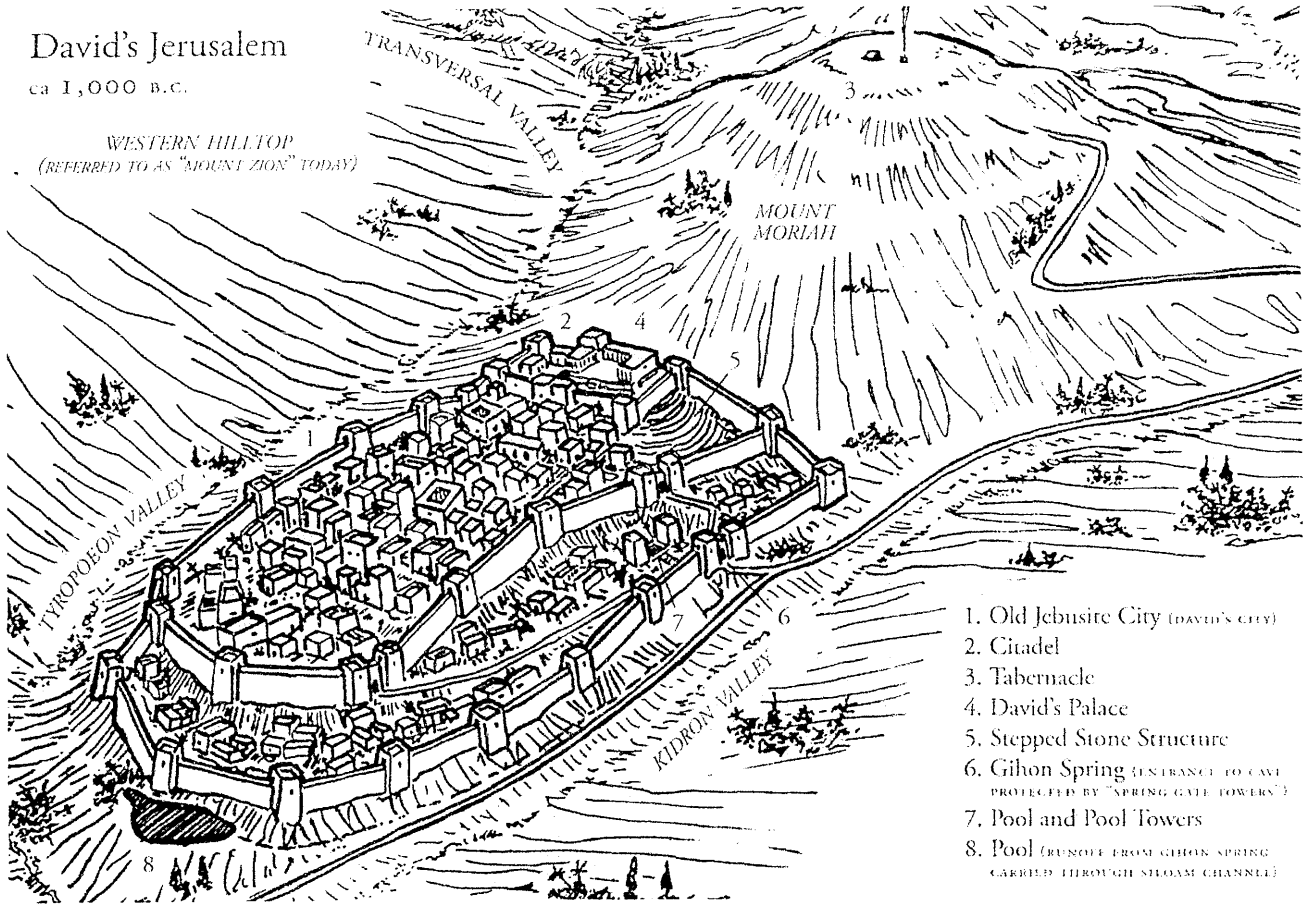
As we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, both for political and spiritual peace, we may be assured that the Lord is well pleased and promises to prosper us.

Prophetically, David envisions the millennial temple in Jerusalem (Is. 2:2-3; Ez. 40:5-47:12). At that time the tribes of Israel and the redeemed nations will ascend to Jerusalem, elevated high above the surrounding countryside.

# David's Jerusalem

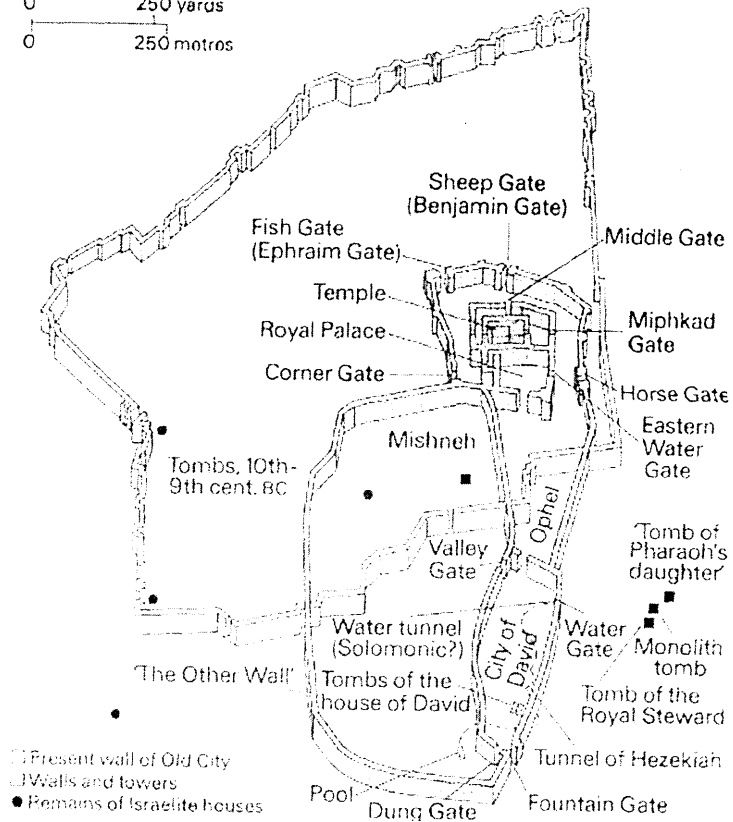
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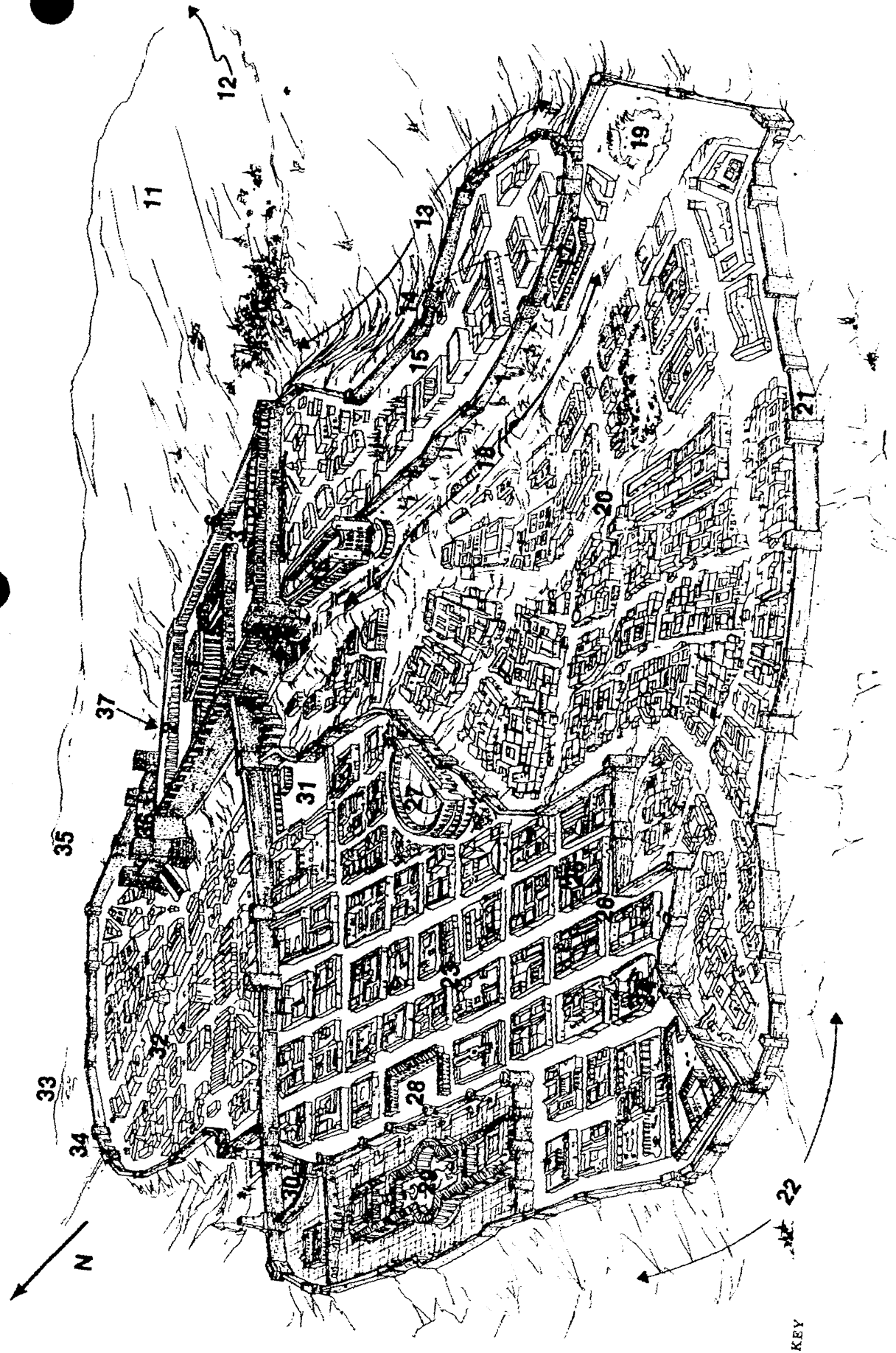
WESTERN HILLTOP  
(REFERRED TO AS "MOUNT ZION" TODAY)



1. Old Jebusite City (DAVID'S CITY)
2. Citadel
3. Tabernacle
4. David's Palace
5. Stepped Stone Structure
6. Gihon Spring (ENTRANCE TO CAVE PROTECTED BY "SPRING GATE TOWERS")
7. Pool and Pool Towers
8. Pool (RUNOFF FROM GIHON SPRING CARRIED THROUGH SLOAM CHANNEL)

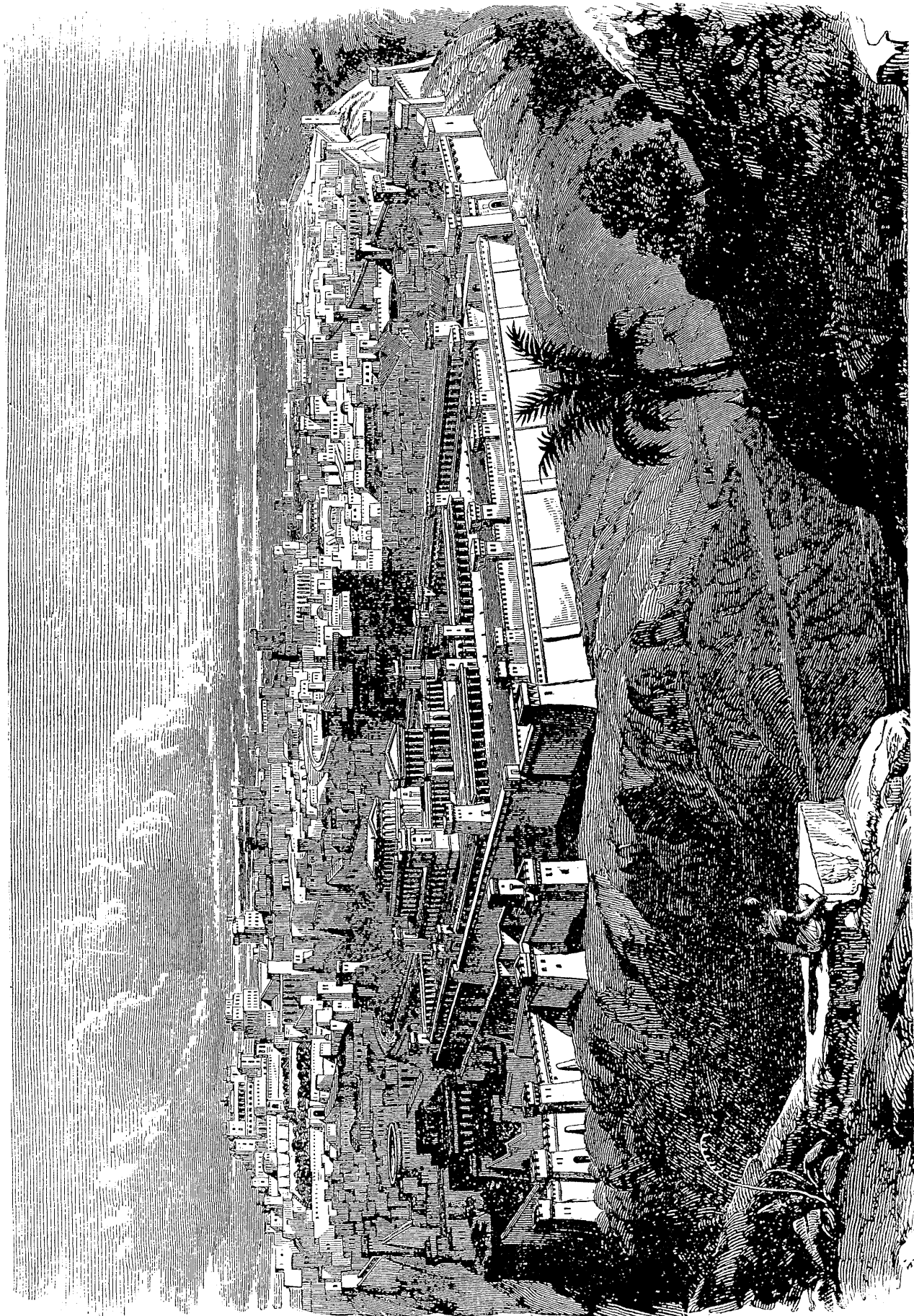
0 250 yards  
0 250 metros





*Jerusalem at the Time of Christ*

KEY



ANCIENT JERUSALEM.



## Jerusalem's Turbulent Future

1. The Russians will \_\_\_\_\_ upon it: Ez. 38-39
2. Antichrist will \_\_\_\_\_ it: 2. Thess. 2:4
3. The nations at Armageddon will \_\_\_\_\_ it: Zech. 14:2
4. An earthquake will \_\_\_\_\_ 1/10 part of it: Rev. 11:13
5. At the end of the Millennium, Satan and an immense army will \_\_\_\_\_ : Rev. 20:8-9

