

## ~DAVID, CITY OF (278)

### .. From Solomon's Reign Onward

- The name given to the stronghold of Zion after its capture from the Jebusites.
- Consequently the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites inhabiting the land, and they began to say to **David**: You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame ones will certainly turn you away, they thinking; **David** will not come in here. (2 Samuel 5:6)
- Just the same, **David** proceeded to capture the **stronghold of Zion**, that is, the **City of David**. (2 Samuel 5:7)
- So **David** said on that day; Anyone striking the Jebusites, let him, by means of the water tunnel, make contact with both the lame and the blind, hateful to the soul of **David**! That is why they say; The blind one and the lame one will not come into the house. (2 Samuel 5:8)
- And **David** took up dwelling in the stronghold, and it came to be called the **City of David**, and **David** began to build all around from the Mound and inward. (2 Samuel 5:9)
- This section is understood to be the spur or ridge that runs South from Mount Moriah. It thus lay South of the site of the temple later built by Solomon. Today it is a narrow southern plateau considerably lower than Mount Moriah.
- Extensive quarrying was carried out in this area, especially during the reign of Emperor Hadrian and the construction of the Roman city Aelia Capitolina around 135 C.E. So, evidently in ancient times its height was more comparable to Mount Moriah, though still beneath the elevation of the temple site.
- This site was very suitable for a stronghold, since it was protected by deep valleys on three sides, on the West the Tyropoeon Valley, and on the East the Kidron Valley, which joins the Valley of Hinnom at the southern end of the spur.
- And **David** took up dwelling in the place difficult to approach.

That is why they **called it the City of David**. (1 Chronicles 11:7)

- The city required major protection only from the North, and here the ridge became even narrower, making an attack extremely difficult. The northern boundary of this **City of David** has not yet been definitely established, though some scholars recommend as likely the above-mentioned narrow place.
- Over the centuries, debris has filled in the valleys to a great extent, making the strategic location and strength of this site less notable. The total area of the ancient **City of David** is estimated to have been 4 to 6 ha (10 to 15 acres)
- In the Kidron Valley near the foot of the eastern flank of the spur on which the stronghold sat, there is a spring called Gihon.
- And the king went on to say to them; Take with you the servants of your lord, and you must make Solomon my son ride upon the she-mule that belongs to me and lead him down to Gihon. (1 Kings 1:33)
- Archaeological excavations indicate that in ancient times a tunnel or shaft was cut through the rock, making access to the spring possible without leaving the city walls. It has been suggested that it was by climbing up this shaft that Joab and his men were able to penetrate the stronghold and take it.
- So **David** said on that day; Anyone striking the Jebusites, let him, by means of the water tunnel, make contact with both the lame and the blind, hateful to the soul of David! That is why they say; The blind one and the lame one will not come into the house. (2 Samuel 5:8)
- And the inhabitants of Jebus began to say to **David**; You will not come in here. Just the same, **David** proceeded to capture the stronghold of Zion, that is to say, the **City of David**. (1 Chronicles 11:5)
- So **David** said; Anyone striking the Jebusites first, he will become head and prince. And Joab the son of Zeruiah got to go up first, and he came to be head. (1 Chronicles 11:6)
- The name **City of David** resulted from **David's** making his royal residence there, after ruling for seven and a half years in Hebron.

Here, with contributions from Hiram of Tyre, **David's** house of cedars was built.

- In Hebron he ruled as king over Judah for seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he ruled as king for thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. (2 Samuel 5:5)
- And **David** took up dwelling in the stronghold, and it came to be called the City of **David**, and **David** began to build all around from the Mound and inward. (2 Samuel 5:9)
- And Hiram the king of Tyre proceeded to send messengers to **David**, and also cedar trees and workers in wood and workers in stone for walls, and they began to build a house for **David**. (2 Samuel 5:11)
- Then the king said to Nathan the prophet; See, now, I am dwelling in a house of cedars while the ark of the true God is dwelling in the middle of tent cloths. (2 Samuel 7:2)
- **David** had the ark of the covenant brought from the house of Obed-edom up to the **City of David**, his wife, Michal, being able to see the procession approach from a window of **David's** house.
- And **David** was not willing to remove the ark of Yehowah to him at the City of **David**. So **David** had it carried aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. (2 Samuel 6:10)
- And the ark of Yehowah kept dwelling at the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and Yehowah kept blessing Obed-edom and all his household. (2 Samuel 6:11)
- Finally the report was made to King **David**, saying; Yehowah has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that is his on account of the ark of the true God. At that **David** proceeded to go and bring the ark of the true God out of the house of Obed-edom up to the **City of David** with rejoicing. (2 Samuel 6:12)
- And it came about that when the carriers of the ark of Yehowah had marched six steps, he immediately sacrificed a bull and a fatling. (2 Samuel 6:13)
- And **David** was dancing around before Yehowah with all his power, all the while **David** being girded with an ephod of linen. (2

### **Samuel 6:14)**

- And **David** and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of Yehowah with joyful shouting and sound of horn. (**2 Samuel 6:15**)
- And it occurred that when the ark of Yehowah came into the City of **David**, Michal, Saul's daughter, herself looked down through the window and got to see King **David** leaping and dancing around before Yehowah, and she began to despise him in her heart. (**2 Samuel 6:16**)
- And he continued building houses for himself in the **City of David**, and he went on to prepare a place for the ark of the true God and pitch a tent for it. (**1 Chronicles 15:1**)
- And it came about that, when the ark of the covenant of Yehowah came as far as the **City of David**, Michal, Saul's daughter, herself looked down through the window and got to see King **David** skipping about and celebrating, and she began to despise him in her heart. (**1 Chronicles 15:29**)
- Upon his death, the king was buried in the city, a custom followed with many other monarchs of the **Davidic** line.
- Then **David** lay down with his forefathers and was buried in the **City of David**. (**1 Kings 2:10**)

### **.. From Solomon's Reign Onward**

- Solomon transferred the Ark to the newly constructed temple on the more spacious plateau to the North of the **City of David**. The expression that they brought up the ark out of the **City of David** shows that the temple area lay on higher ground, Mount Moriah being higher than the southern spur.
- At that time Solomon proceeded to congregate the older men of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the fathers, of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yehowah out of the **City of David**, that is to say, Zion. (**1 Kings 8:1**)
- After his marriage to Pharaoh's daughter, Solomon had placed her in the **City of David**.

- And Solomon proceeded to form a marriage alliance with Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to take Pharaoh's daughter and bring her to the **City of David**, until he finished building his own house and the house of Yehowah and Jerusalem's wall all around. (**1 Kings 3:1**)
- But, upon the completion of a new residence closer to the temple area, he removed her from the **City of David** because it was viewed as holy, the Ark having been stationed there.
- However, Pharaoh's daughter herself came up out of the **City of David** to her own house that he had built for her. It was then that he built the Mound. (**1 Kings 9:24**)
- And Pharaoh's daughter Solomon brought up out of the **City of David** to the house that he had built for her, for he said; Although a wife of mine, she should not dwell in the house of **David** the king of Israel, for the places to which the ark of Yehowah has come are something holy. (**2 Chronicles 8:11**)
- Solomon did further building work in the **City of David**, and Hezekiah did repair work there in preparation for Assyrian Sennacherib's attack.
- And this is the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon himself had built the Mound. He had closed up the gap of the **City of David** his father. (**1 Kings 11:27**)
- Furthermore, he took courage and built up all the broken-down wall and raised towers upon it, and on the outside another wall, and repaired the **Mound of the City of David**, and made missiles in abundance and shields. (**2 Chronicles 32:5**)
- Hezekiah also diverted the waters of the Gihon spring, bringing them over to the West side of the **City of David**, evidently by means of the rock-cut tunnel that has been discovered connecting that spring with the Pool of Siloam on the Southwest slope of the spur.
- And Hezekiah was the one that stopped up the upper source of the waters of Gihon and kept them directed straight along down to the west to the **City of David**, and Hezekiah continued to prove successful in every work of his. (**2 Chronicles 32:30**)

- His son and successor, Manasseh, built an outer wall along the eastern slope facing the Kidron Valley.
- And after this he built an outer wall for the **City of David** to the west of Gihon in the torrent valley and as far as the Fish Gate, and he ran it around to Ophel and proceeded to make it very high. Further, he put chiefs of the military force in all the fortified cities in Judah. (**2 Chronicles 33:14**)
- From the above texts it is evident that, although Jerusalem's area expanded in course of time, the **City of David** remained a distinct sector. This held true even after the return from Babylonian exile, certain features of the city being mentioned in connection with the work crews repairing the city walls.
- And the Fountain Gate was what Shallun the son of Colhozeh, a prince of the district of Mizpah, repaired, he himself proceeded to build it and to roof it over and to set up its doors, its bolts and its bars, and also the wall of the Pool of the Canal to the Kings Garden and as far as the Stairway that goes down from the **City of David**. (**Nehemiah 3:15**)
- After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, a prince of half the district of Beth-zur, did repair work as far as in front of the **Burial Places of David** and as far as the pool that had been made and as far as the House of the Mighty Ones. (**Nehemiah 3:16**)
- The Stairway of the **City of David** apparently led down from the southern extremity of the city.
- And at the Fountain Gate and straight ahead of them they went up on the Stairway of the **City of David** by the ascent of the wall above the **House of David** and clear to the Water Gate to the east. (**Nehemiah 12:37**)
- Excavations here have revealed portions of such a stairway, and a flight of steps roughly cut in the rock still leads down from the hill at this point.
- In the **Christian Greek Scriptures**, the term, **David's city**, is applied to Bethlehem, the birthplace of **David** and of Jesus.
- Of course, Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to **David's city**, which is called **Bethlehem**,

because of his being a member of the house and family of David.  
([Luke 2:4](#))

- Because there was born to you today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in **David's city**. ([Luke 2:11](#))
- Has not the Scripture said that the Christ is coming from the offspring of **David**, and from **Bethlehem** the village where David used to be? ([John 7:42](#))

**See Also JERUSALEM**