



JERUSALEM

1. The city is known throughout the Old Testament. It first fell into Israelite hands when King David captured it from the local inhabitants, the Jebusites, 2 Samuel 5:6-10.
2. David made Jerusalem his capital, which is why it is sometimes called the city of David. Its other name by which it is known in the Old Testament is *Zion* or *Mount Zion*.
3. King Solomon built the first Hebrew Temple in Jerusalem. He was rich, well established and famous. The Temple and other building projects were probably intended to be a sign of his wealth rather than his devotion to God.
4. The city always retained an important place in the Hebrew understanding of the working of God. Some Old Testament prophets believed that it would never be captured or destroyed.
5. Nevertheless in 597 and 587 Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonians, the temple was destroyed and the people taken into captivity.
6. When the exiles were allowed to return some seventy years later a new Temple was begun. City walls were reconstructed by Nehemiah. The story of this is found in his Old Testament book. The return to Zion always formed a part of Hebrew thinking.
7. For the remainder of the Old Testament period, Jews were allowed to live in Jerusalem but they were ruled over by a succession of foreign nations. At the time of Jesus the Romans ruled Palestine and Jerusalem had a Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate.
8. According to St Luke's Gospel Jesus was taken to Jerusalem when he was a baby and he visited the city as a boy aged twelve or thirteen years. Luke 2:21-38 & Luke 2:41-52.
9. St Matthew and St Mark's gospels only record one visit of Jesus to Jerusalem and that was on the occasion when he was arrested and executed. Matt 21-27, Mark 11-16.
10. St John's gospel records three of visits to the city by Jesus as an adult. Jn 2:13, Jn 5:1, Jn 11:12.
11. The first Christians soon rejected Jerusalem as their centre of operations and the city was destroyed by the Roman armies in AD70.