FACTS ABOUT **JERUSALEM**

JERUSALEM SITS ON A HILL WITH A VALLEY CALLED THE KIDRON VALLEY TO THE EAST, ANOTHER VALLEY CALLED THE "HAGAI" VALLEY TO THE WEST, AND A LOWLAND WHERE THE TWO VALLEYS MEET IN THE SOUTH.

JERUSALEM WASN'T NATURALLY PROTECTED TO THE NORTH, SO IT HAS OFTEN BEEN ATTACKED FROM THAT DIRECTION.

THE GIHON SPRING WAS THE ONLY PERMANENT WATER SOURCE IN ANCIENT JERUSALEM. IT DID NOT FLOW ALL OF THE TIME, BUT WAS LIKE A GEYSER. ("GIHA" IN HEBREW MEANS "ERUPTION.")

THE CITY IS LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF MANY ANCIENT COMMERCIAL TRADE ROUTES RUNNING FROM EAST TO WEST.

THE COURT OF THE GENTILES AT THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM WAS OPEN TO EVERYONE, BUT ONLY JEWS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE "INNER COURTS." A WARNING NOTICE WAS POSTED IN BOTH GREEK AND LATIN, WHICH READ: "WARNING TO NON-JEWS: NO ADMITTANCE ON PAIN OF DEATH."

TWO WALLS BLOCKED THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CITY. ONE PROTECTED THE AREA NEAR THE TEMPLE, AND THE OTHER, FARTHER NORTH, WAS CONNECTED TO THE FORTRESS OF ANTONIA.

SOUTH-WEST OF THE CITY, FIRES BURN ALL OF THE TIME—CONSUMING TRASH AND OTHER REFUSE IN THE VALLEY OF THE SONS OF HINNOM.

TO THE EAST OF THE DEAD SEA ROSE THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.

THE KING'S PALACE JOINED WITH THE WESTERN WALL.

JERUSALEM WAS NOT NEAR A RIVER, BUT IT HAD A GREAT WATER SUPPLY. TOWERS ON THE WALLS HELD LARGE CISTERNS (BASINS THAT STORED WATER).

OUTSIDE THE EAST WALL, A TUNNEL CARRIED WATER INTO A ROCK-BASIN CALLED THE POOL OF SILOAM.

SOURCES:

- Bruce, F.F. "Biblical Jerusalem." University of Leeds Review 5 (1957): 290–99.
- Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2011. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Archaeology/canaan.html>

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