



David Takes Jerusalem

1 Chronicles 11-12

A Scholar's Contention

“The Bible is our only source of information about David. No ancient inscription mentions him. No archaeological discovery can be securely linked to him. The quest for the historical David, therefore, is primarily exegetical.”

• P. Kyle McCarter



Why Are There Not
More Archaeological
Artifacts Bearing the
Name of David?



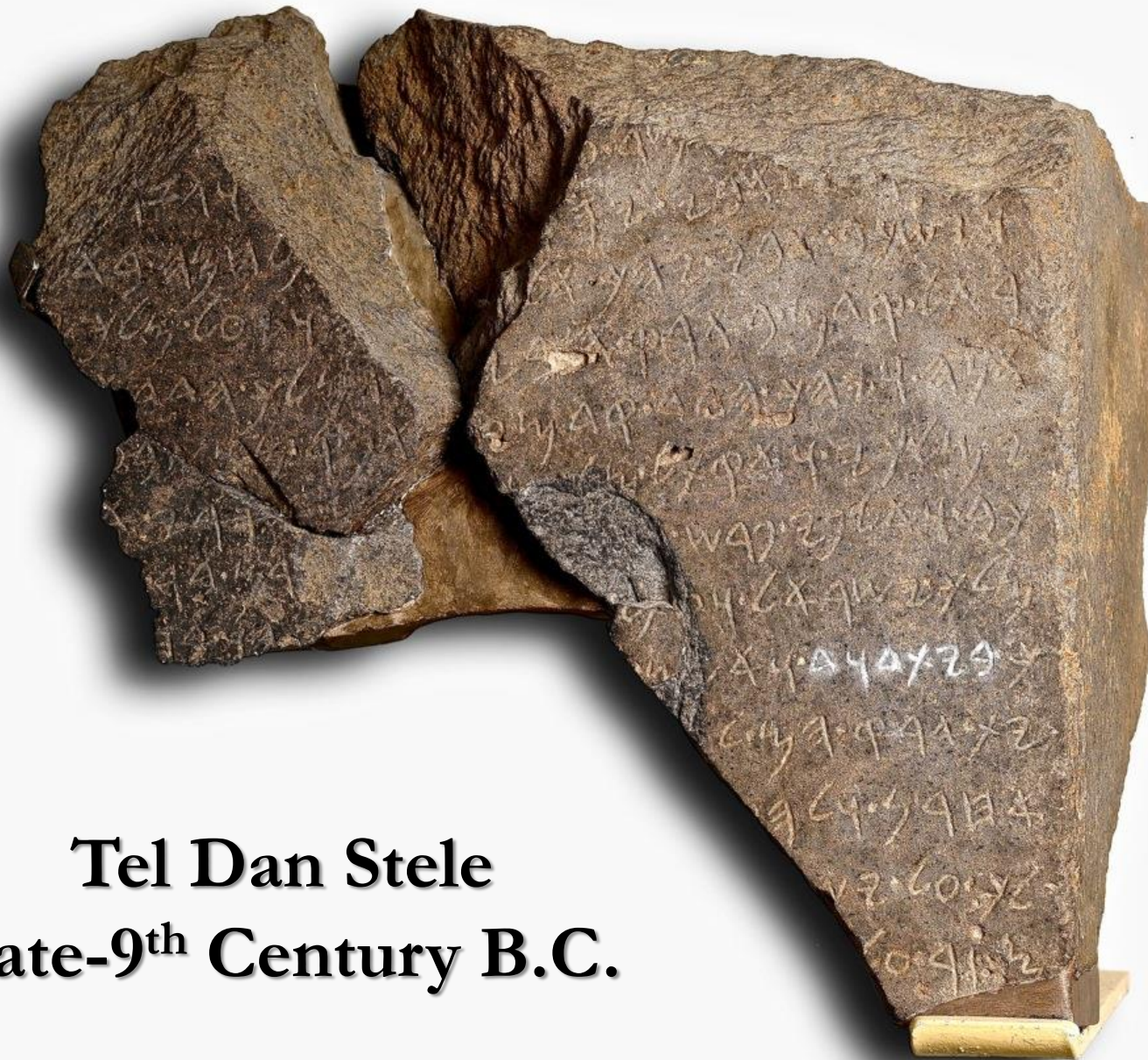
From Sennacherib's Prism (689 B.C.)

“Sennacherib, the great king, the mighty king, king of the world, king of Assyria, king of the four quarters, the wise shepherd, favorite of the great gods, guardian of right, lover of justice, who lends support, who comes to the aid of the destitute, who performs pious acts, perfect hero, mighty man, first among all princes, the powerful one who consumes the insubmissive, who strikes the wicked with the thunderbolt...”



Turn to Psalm 24





Tel Dan Stele
Late-9th Century B.C.

Tel Dan Stele Inscription

[]...[] and cut [...]
my father went up [against him when h]e fought at [...]
and my father lay down, he went to his [ancestors (viz. became sick and
died)]. And the king of I[s-]
rael entered previously in my father's land, [and] Hadad made me king,
And Hadad went in front of me, [and] I departed from the seven [...-]
s of my kingdom, and I slew [seve]nty kin[gs], who harnessed
th[ousands of cha-]
riots and thousands of horsemen (or: horses). [I killed Jeho]ram son
[of Ahab]
king of Israel, and [I] killed [Ahaz]iahu son of [Jehoram kin-]
g **of the House of David**, and I set [their towns into ruins
and turned]
their land into [desolation]
other [... and Jehuru-j
led over Is[rael and I laid]
siege upon [][]

2 Kings 20:32-33

32 In those days the Lord began to cut off portions from Israel; and Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel



Mesha Stele
Mid-9th Century B.C.



Mesha Stele Inscription

I have built Beth-Bamot, for it had been destroyed. I have
built Bezer, for it lay
in ruins. And the men of Dibon stood in battle formation,
for all Dibon were in subjection. And I am the king
over the hundreds in the towns which I have added to the
land. And I have built
Beth-Medeba and Beth-Diblaten and Beth-Baal-Meon, and
I brought there . . .

flocks of the the land. And **the House of**
[Da]vid dwelt in Hauranen, . . .

Chemosh said to me, "Go down, fight against Hauranen!"
I went down . . . and Chemosh restored it in my days . . ."

2 Kings 3:4-5

4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and used to pay the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. 5 But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.



The Rise of King David

- The source material for Chapter 11 is 2 Samuel 5:1-10.
- The Chronicler is primarily concerned with developing the story of the legitimate line of Israel's kings as represented by David and his successors.



Theological Purpose

- The Chronicler wants to stress for the people of his own day the significance of David and the Davidic kingdom.
- David's task was to unite “all Israel,” and here is “all Israel” present at Hebron to anoint King David.
- If Israel is united, there is hope for the future.



A More Positive Account

- David is generally portrayed much more favorably here than in 2 Samuel.
- It is not because the Chronicler is trying to hide David's faults; he wants to present the true side of David, that he loved the Lord with all his heart and provided an ideal for future kings to follow.



In That Sense...

- Much of the perspective of the book of Chronicles is messianic.
- It looks forward with anticipation to the coming King who will bring in God's final salvation and blessing.



1 Chronicles 11:1-3

1 Then all Israel gathered to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. **2** In times past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who led out and brought in Israel; and the Lord your God said to you, ‘You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall be prince over My people Israel.’” **3** So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the Lord; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the Lord through Samuel.



David's Kingship Confirmed

- By national recognition, military success, and prophetic announcement.
- Notice this takes place at Hebron, David's first capital.
- He reigned from Hebron for 7 years and 6 months.



THE
GREAT SEA
(Mediterranean Sea)

EPHRAIM

GAD

AJALON R.

JORDAN R.

PHILISTINES

SOREK R.

DAN

BENJAMIN

Zorah

Jerusalem

Timnah

Ashdod

JUDAH

SALT SEA
(DEAD SEA)

Hebron

Gaza

ZORAH

0 25 Miles



Attendance Figures (1 Chron. 12:23-37)

- Judah: 6,800
- Simeon: 7,100
- Levi: 4,600
- Benjamin: 3,000
- Ephraim: 20,800
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Manasseh: 18,000
- Issachar: 200
- Zebulun: 50,000
- Naphtali: 38,000
- Dan: 28,600
- Asher: 40,000
- Reuben, Gad, and $\frac{1}{2}$ Manasseh: 120,000

Total: 337,100

Bookend in 1 Chronicles 12:38-40

38 All these, being men of war who could draw up in battle formation, came to Hebron with a perfect heart to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one mind to make David king. **39** They were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their kinsmen had prepared for them. **40** Moreover those who were near to them, even as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought food on donkeys, camels, mules and on oxen, great quantities of flour cakes, fig cakes and bunches of raisins, wine, oil, oxen and sheep. There was joy indeed in Israel.

The Lord said:

“You shall **shepherd** My
people Israel, and you shall be
prince over My people Israel”

God's purposes are fulfilled in
David.



“Shepherd” and “Prince”

- The shepherd’s task was to care for and protect the sheep.
- The prince was a military designation and pointed to the task of national defense and kingdom building.
- Both terms may have been used to indicate that the Davidic king was to be a servant answerable to the Owner of the flock, the true King, Yahweh.



“All Israel” Recognizes David

1. They recognized their oneness with David.
 - “we are your bone and your flesh”
2. They acknowledged that by his achievements he had proven himself able to lead Israel.
 - “even when Saul was king, you were the one who led out and brought in Israel”
3. They accepted him as king by anointing him.
 - “they anointed David king over Israel”
4. They confessed that all had been by the will and word of God.
 - “according to the word of the Lord through Samuel”

Why Not Hebron?

1. It was far to the south and almost totally inaccessible to the Galilean and Transjordan districts.
2. It was a city so important in the history of Judah that it almost epitomized the tribe.
3. Hebron was a Levitical city.



At the Same Time

- David realized that he could not locate the capital at some northern site such as Schechem or Shiloh because that would be interpreted by his Judahite kin as a betrayal of them.
- And he certainly could not take over Saul's capital at Gibeah because that city represented everything abhorrent to Judah.

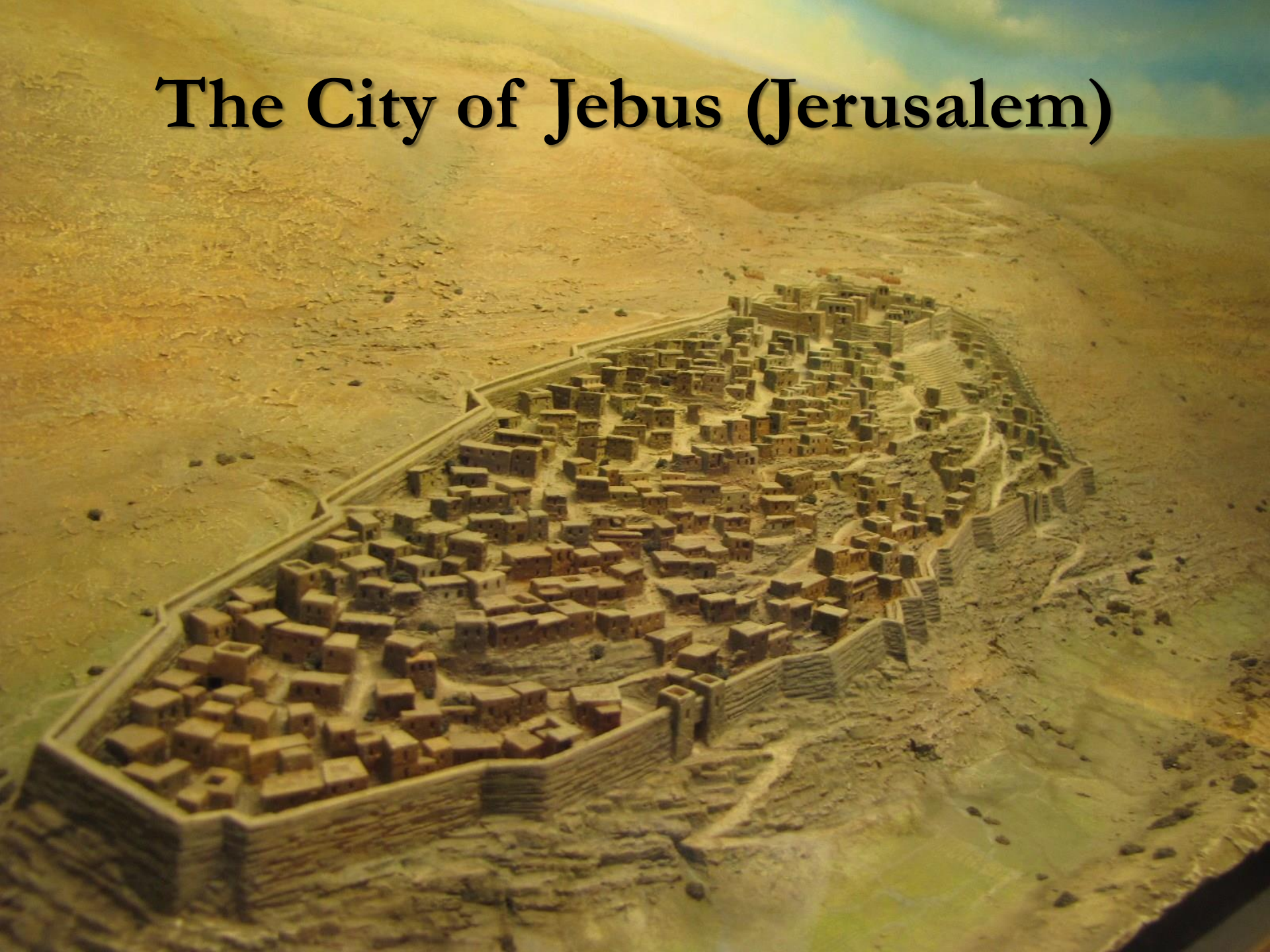


A United Israel

By fortifying Jerusalem David established a secure base of operations at a politically neutral site between Israel and Judah.



The City of Jebus (Jerusalem)



Furthermore...

In What Tribal
Allotment is
Jerusalem
Located?



Obviously...

The religious significance of
Jerusalem is developed later,
but...

When do we first come across
this city in Scripture?



Genesis 14:18-20

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. **19** He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; **20** And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” He gave him a tenth of all.



Joshua 10:1-2, 5

1 Now it came about when Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai, and had utterly destroyed it... **2** that he feared greatly... **5** So the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they with all their armies, and camped by Gibeon and fought against it.



Judges 1:8, 21

8 Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire... **21** But the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; so the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.



Deuteronomy 7:1

1 “When the Lord your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and **the Jebusites**, seven nations greater and stronger than you



1 Chronicles 11:4-5

4 Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus); and the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, were there. **5** The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You shall not enter here.” Nevertheless David captured the stronghold of Zion (that is, the city of David).



False Sense of Security

- 2 Samuel 5:6 –

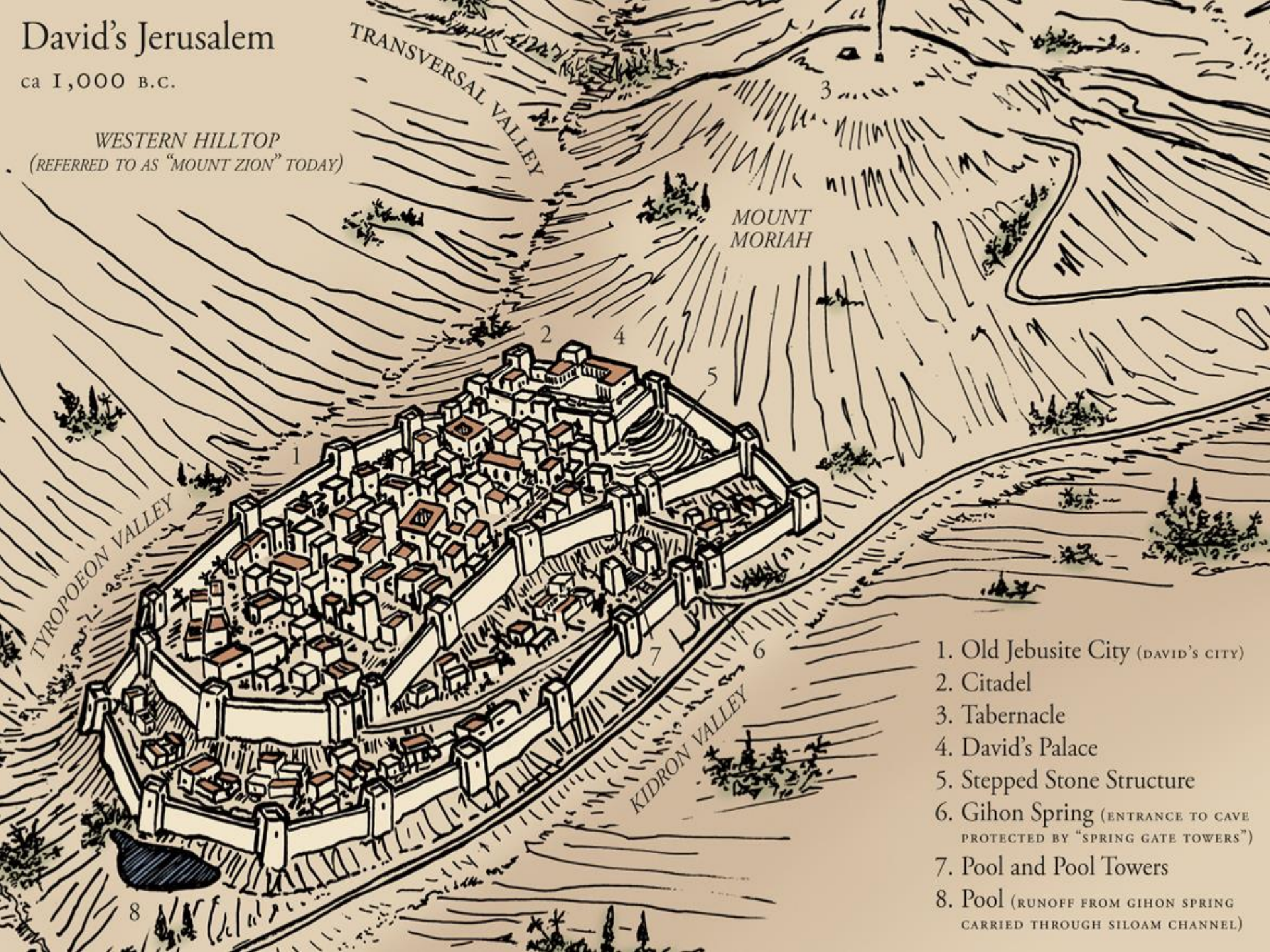
“Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, and they said to David, “You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away”; thinking, “David cannot enter here.”



David's Jerusalem

ca 1,000 B.C.

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 SILOAM CHANNEL)

1 Chronicles 11:6

6 Now David had said,
“Whoever strikes down a
Jebusite first shall be chief and
commander.” Joab the son of
Zeruiah went up first, so he
became chief.



2 Samuel 5:8

8 David said on that day, “Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him reach the lame and the blind, who are hated by David’s soul, **through the water tunnel.**” Therefore they say, “The blind or the lame shall not come into the house.”



1 Chronicles 11:7-8

7 Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore it was called the city of David. **8** He built the city all around, from the Millo even to the surrounding area; and Joab repaired the rest of the city.







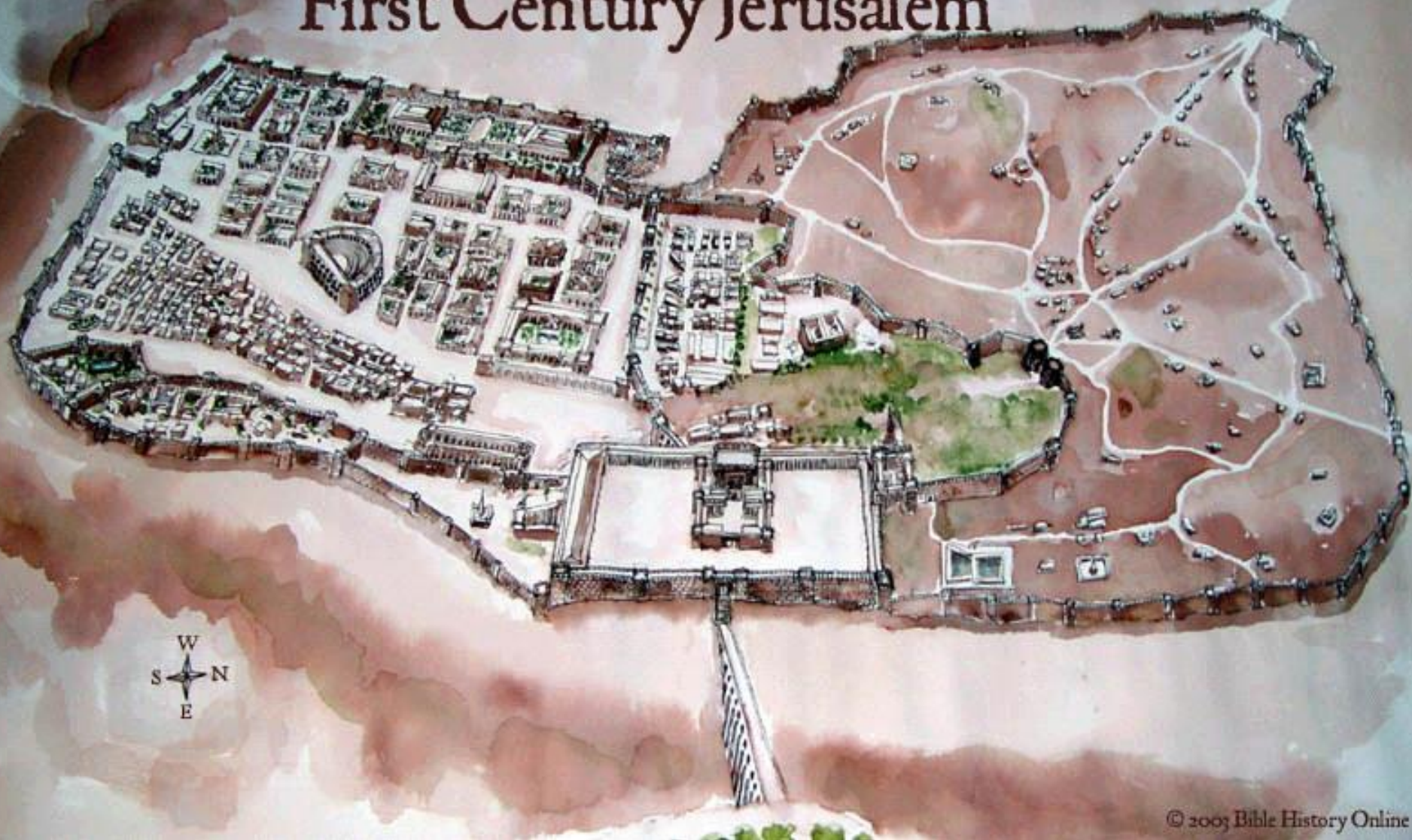
Temple Mount

Large Stone Structure →

← The Millo



First Century Jerusalem





Western Wall

Temple Mount

**Excavations
(Givati Parking Lot)**

David's palace?

**Kidron
Valley**

Central Valley

**Probable borders of Jerusalem
in time of David**

Hinnom Valley

1 Chronicles 11:9

9 David became greater and greater, for the Lord of hosts was with him.

In short, David's successes are due not to him but to God's favor and presence in his life.



Next Week: David and the Ark



