

King Hezekiah



Hezekiah was the thirteenth king of Judah, reigning for 29 years (approximately 715–686 BC) and is described as one of the most righteous kings in biblical history. Unlike his wicked father Ahaz, Hezekiah initiated major religious reforms by destroying idols and high places, including the bronze serpent that had become an object of idolatry, and reopened the Temple in Jerusalem

Anticipating Assyrian King Sennacherib to besiege Jerusalem in 701 BC, He fortified the city walls, bolstered armories and stopped up the source of the waters of the upper Gihon spring, and divert it straight down to the west of the city.

The tunnel spans 533 meters (1,750 feet), connecting the Gihon Spring to the Pool of Siloam.

Then in 1838, American researcher Edward Robinson discovered the tunnel. The work of researchers over the years has revealed that this accomplishment was even more astonishing and breathtaking than anyone could have imagined. It turned out that the full length of the water tunnel is approximately 534 meters (1,752 feet) —over a third of a mile—through solid rock!

One of the most amazing discoveries was that the tunnel had been cut by two groups of workers approaching each other from opposite ends. How could they have been able to meet up at the exact same spot without sophisticated, modern equipment? To this day, no one has been able to provide an adequate explanation for how they could have navigated through the rock with such precision.

2 Chronicle 32

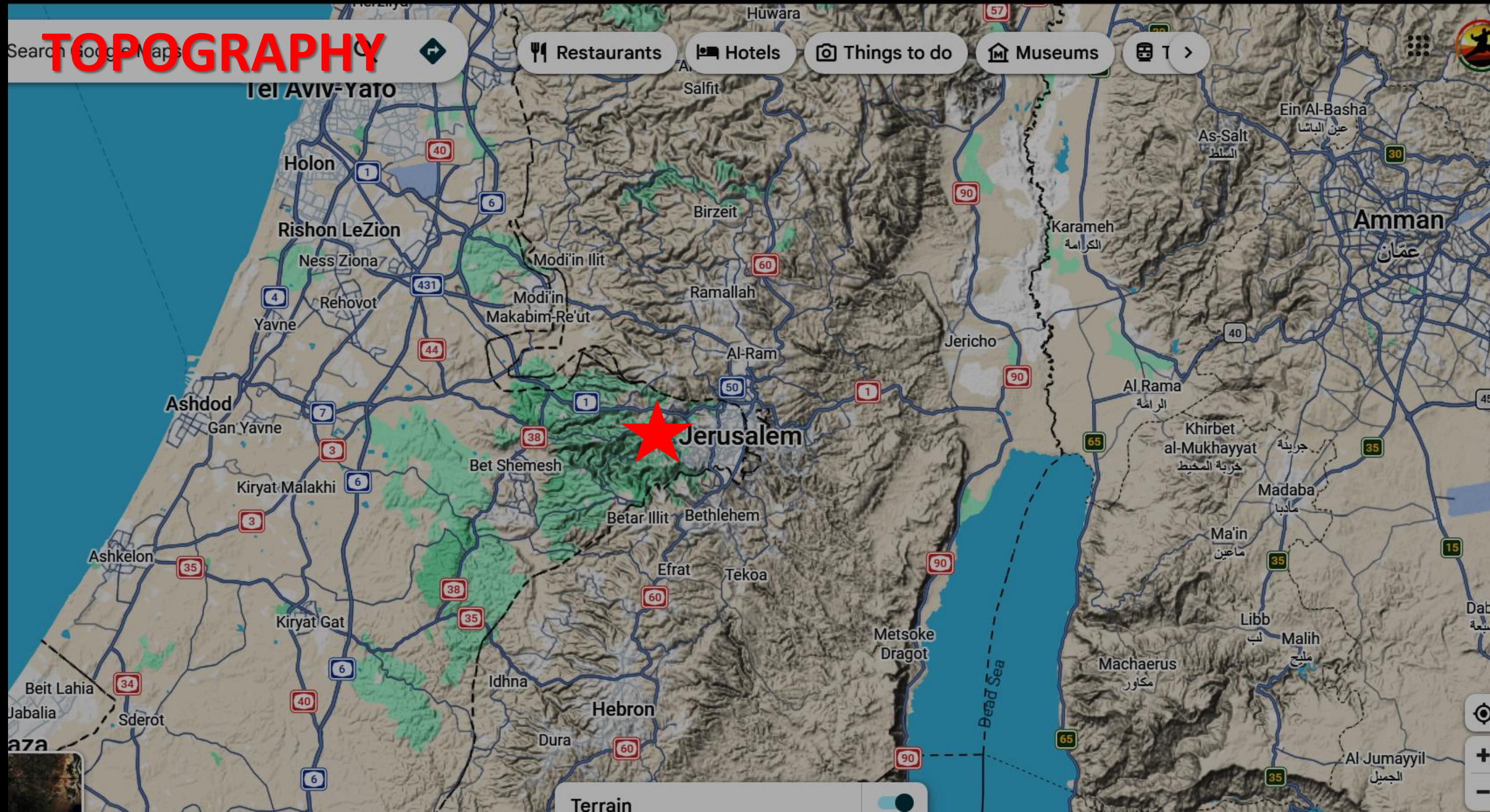
After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself. ² When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to wage war against Jerusalem, ³ he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they helped him. ⁴ They gathered a large group of people who blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. “Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?” they said. ⁵ Then he worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields.



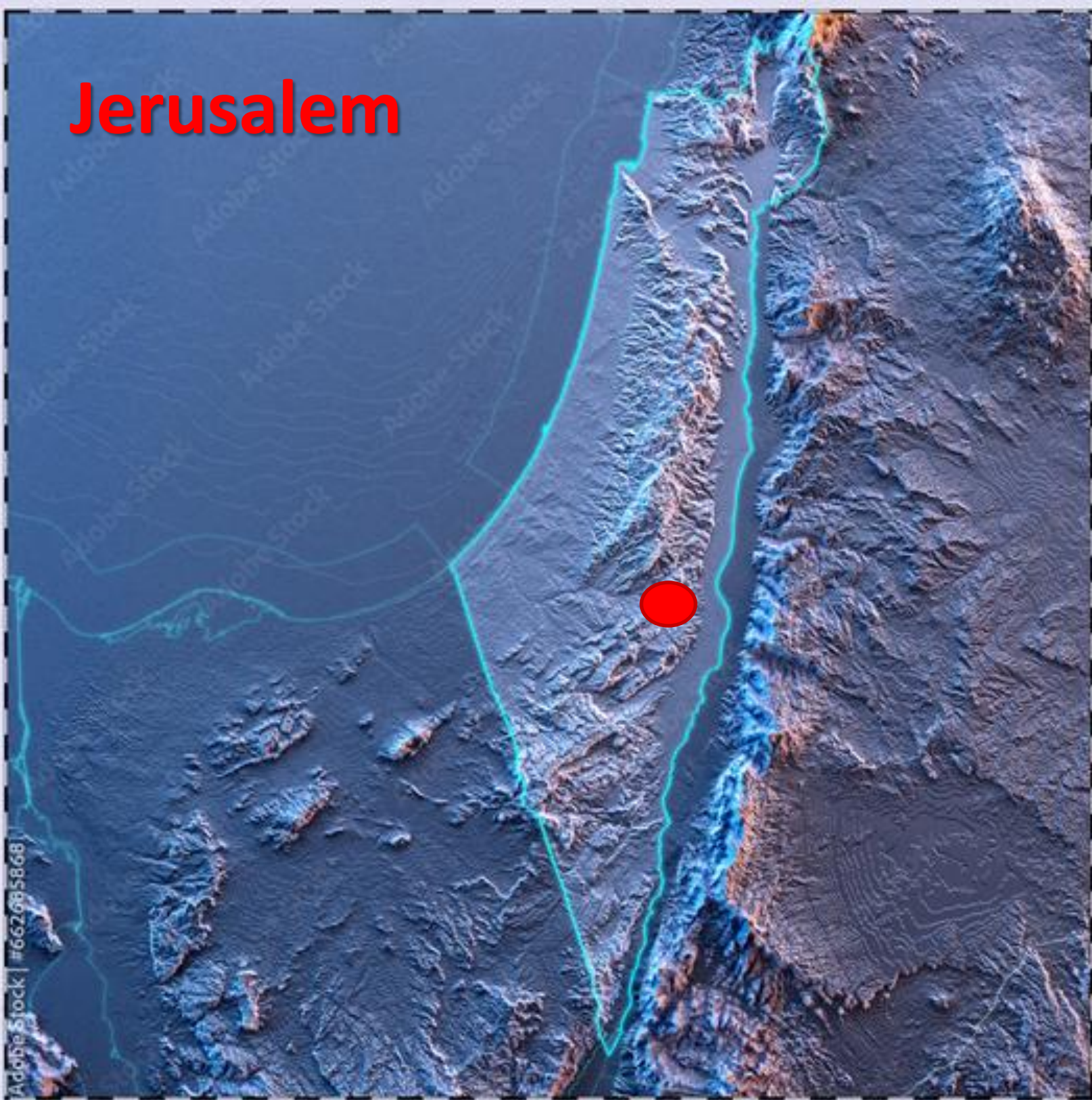
Jerusalem, Israel



TOPOGRAPHY



Jerusalem



Elevation : 2,428 feet above sea level

The city sits on a plateau with deep valleys like the **Kidron** running through it.

The **Gihon Spring** is the only reliable source of fresh water in ancient Jerusalem, located in the **Kidron** Valley just outside the Old City walls within the fortified wall built by Hezekiah. Today, the spring still flows intermittently running through tunnel dug out by Hezekiah 535 meters north to the Pool of Siloam where Jesus healed a man born blind.



NORTH

Elevation of Gihon spring is 7 feet above Pool of Siloam over its entire 1,750-foot length

Gihon Spring

Fortified wall

Pool of Siloam
Inside the wall

SOUTH



NORTH

Estimated population inside the wall 25k -35 k

King Sennacherib brought in 185K soldiers to besiege Jerusalem

2 kings 19:36

Gihon Spring

Fortified wall

Pool of Siloam Inside the wall

SOUTH

Old Jerusalem 2428 feet

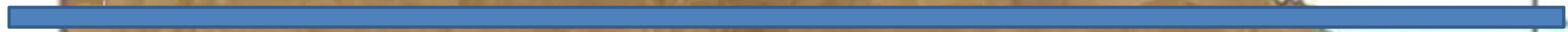
***Feet – above sea level**

Gihon Spring 2087 feet

**Pool of
Siloam
2075
feet**

**Kidron Valley
2050 feet**

Sea level



1,500 ft

Tala'at ed-Damm and Khan Hatnura 930 ft

Wadi Abu en-Nujm

Wadi es-Sidr (Nahal 'Og)

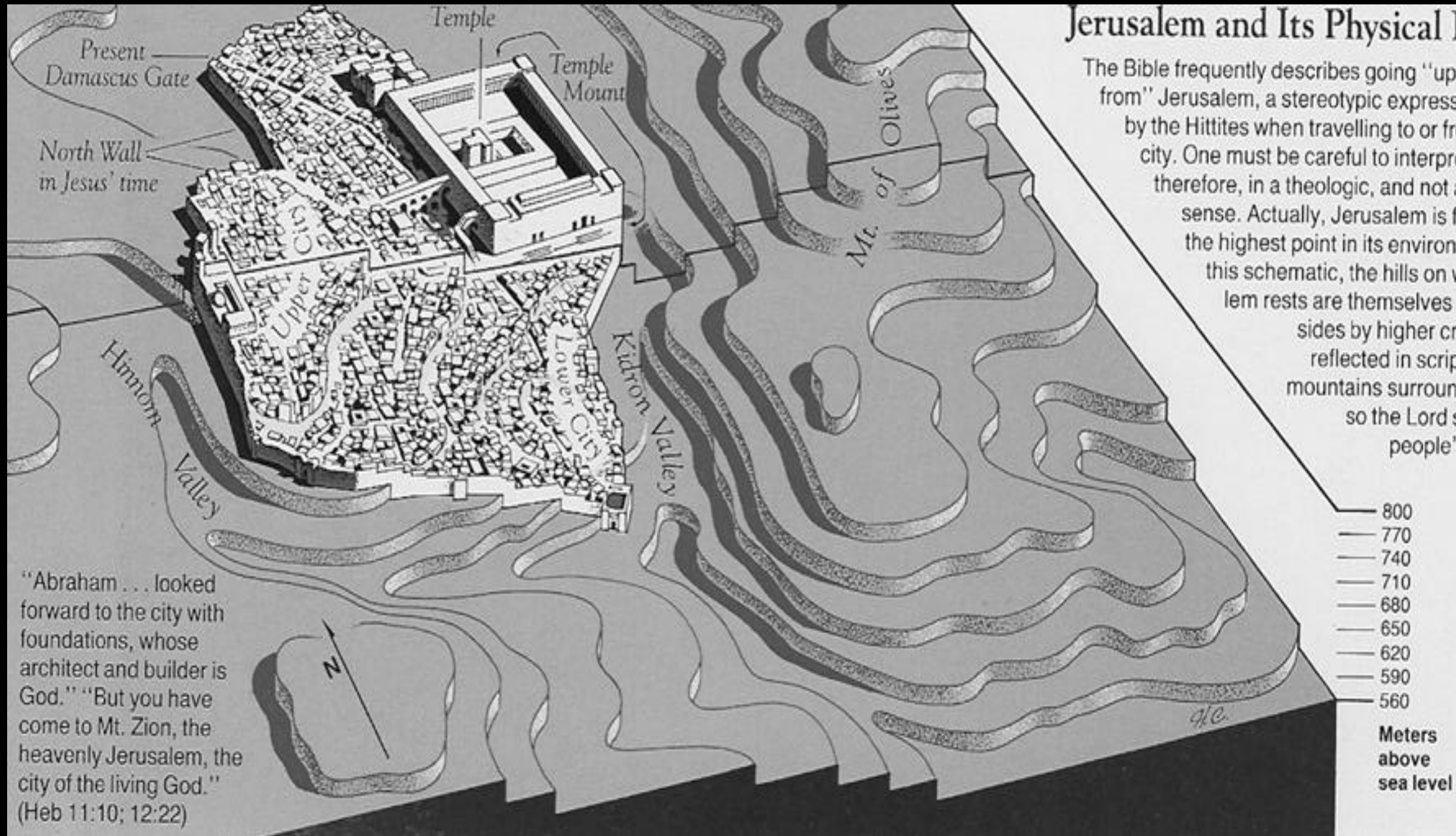
Khan Saliba 450 ft

Jericho -720 ft.

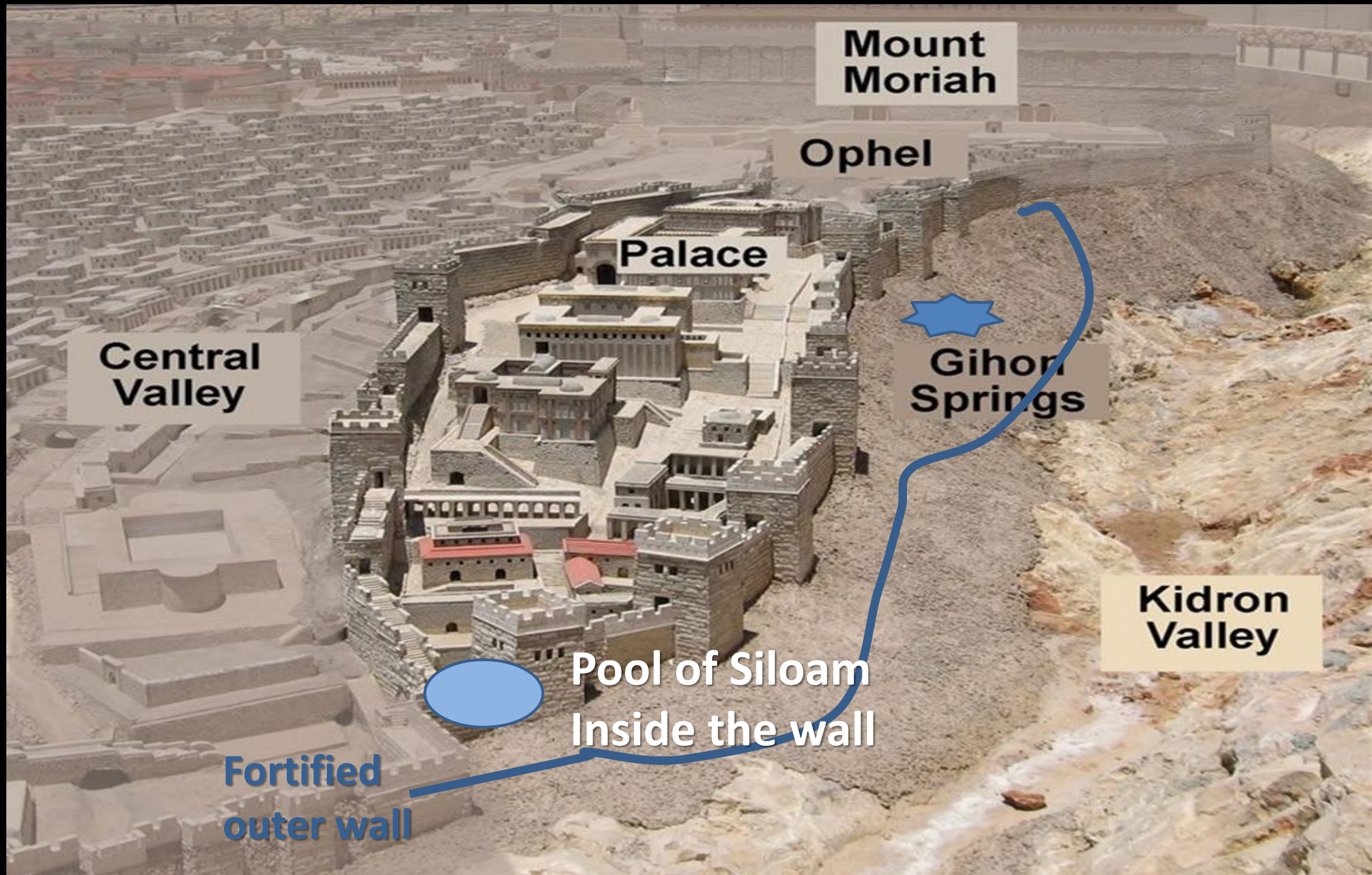
sea level

Jerusalem and Its Physical Environs

The Bible frequently describes going "up to" or "down from" Jerusalem, a stereotypic expression also used by the Hittites when travelling to or from their royal city. One must be careful to interpret the phrase, therefore, in a theologic, and not a topographic sense. Actually, Jerusalem is far from being the highest point in its environs. As seen on this schematic, the hills on which Jerusalem rests are themselves flanked on all sides by higher crests, a reality reflected in scripture ("As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people"—Ps 125:2).



"Abraham . . . looked forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." "But you have come to Mt. Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God." (Heb 11:10; 12:22)



Mount Moriah

Ophel

Palace

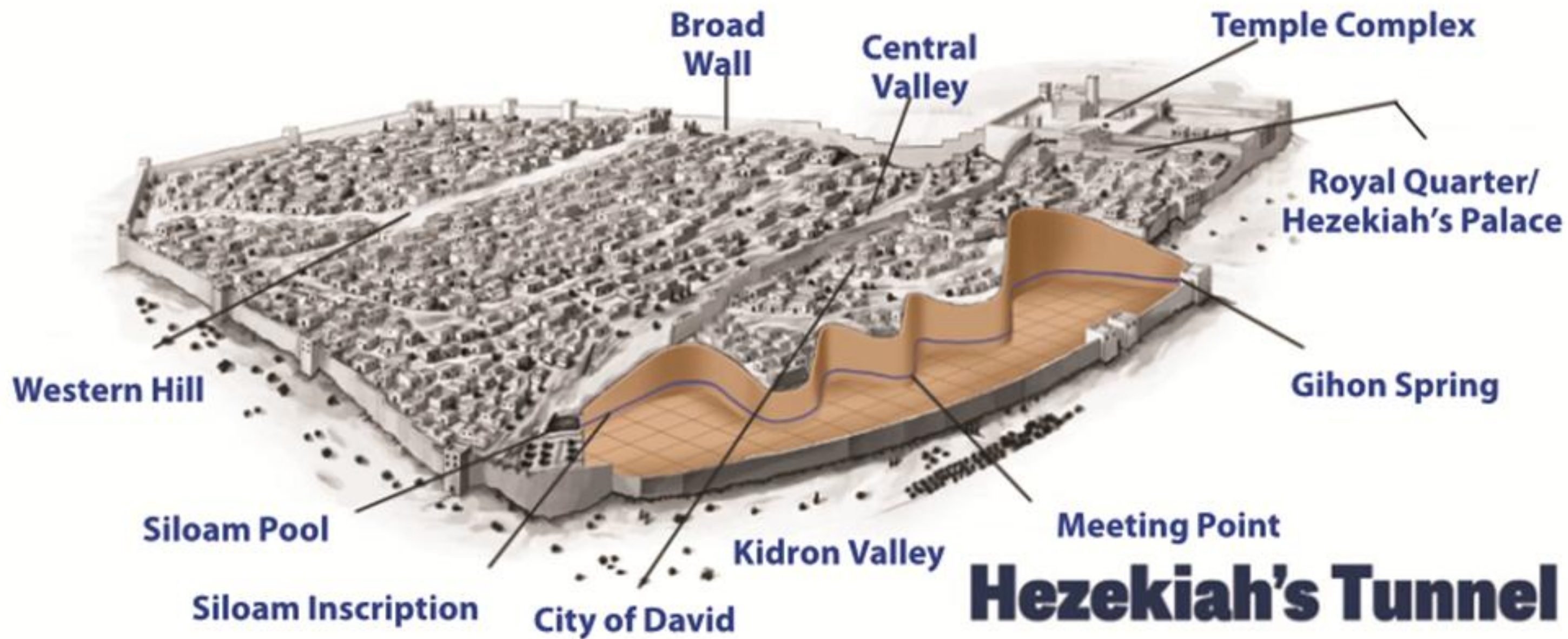
Gihon Springs

Kidron Valley

Central Valley

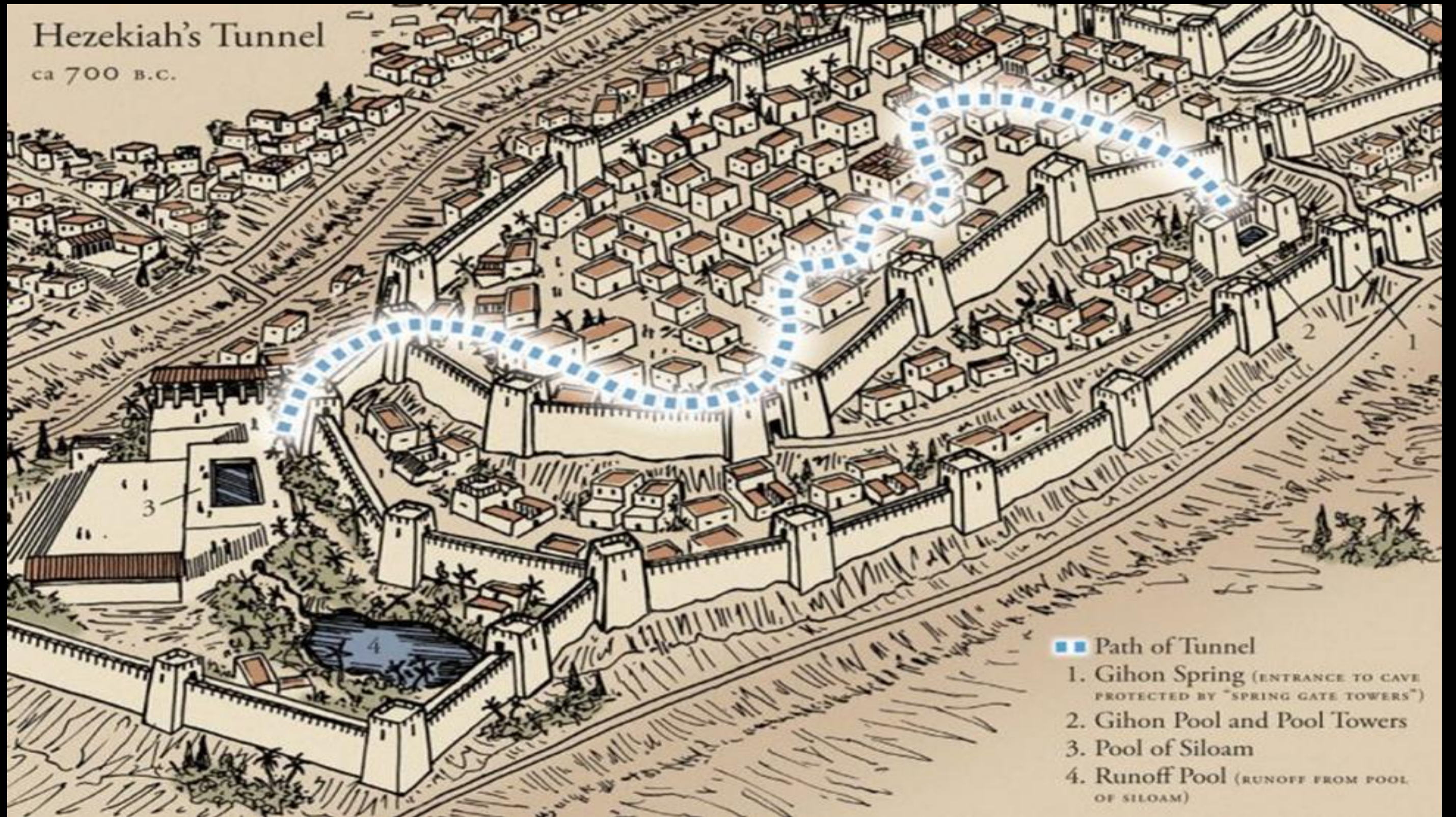
Pool of Siloam
Inside the wall

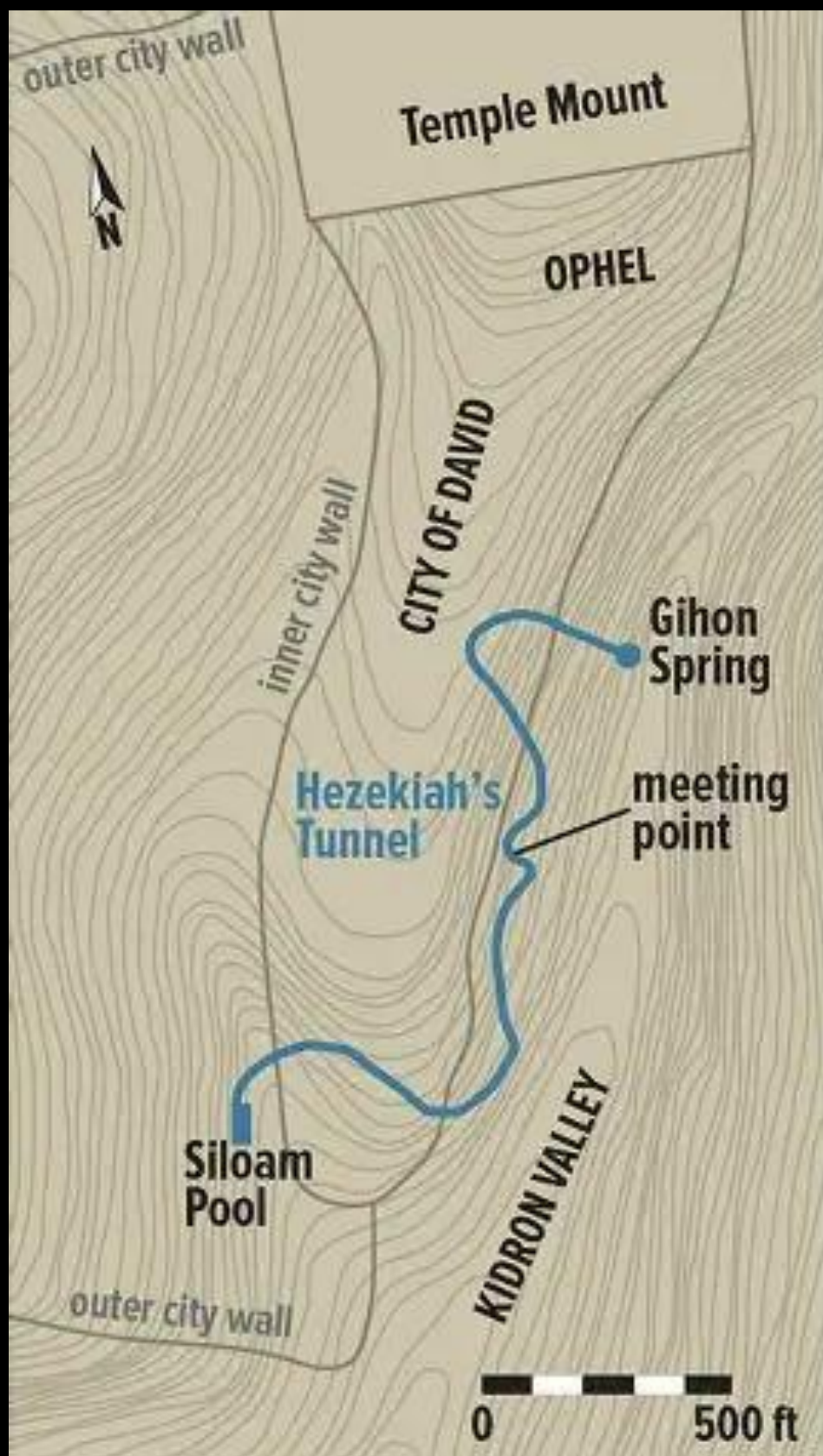
Fortified
outer wall



Hezekiah's Tunnel

ca 700 B.C.





Until about 20 years ago, the Gihon was a rhythmic spring, whose waters would spring up (megichim) powerfully from the ground every few hours, and then gradually weaken. Hence the name of the spring – Gihon.

The volume of water coming from the spring was about 75,000 liters per hour – about 50,000 1.5 liter bottles. The quantity of water coming from the spring in a full year was about 650,000 cubic meters.

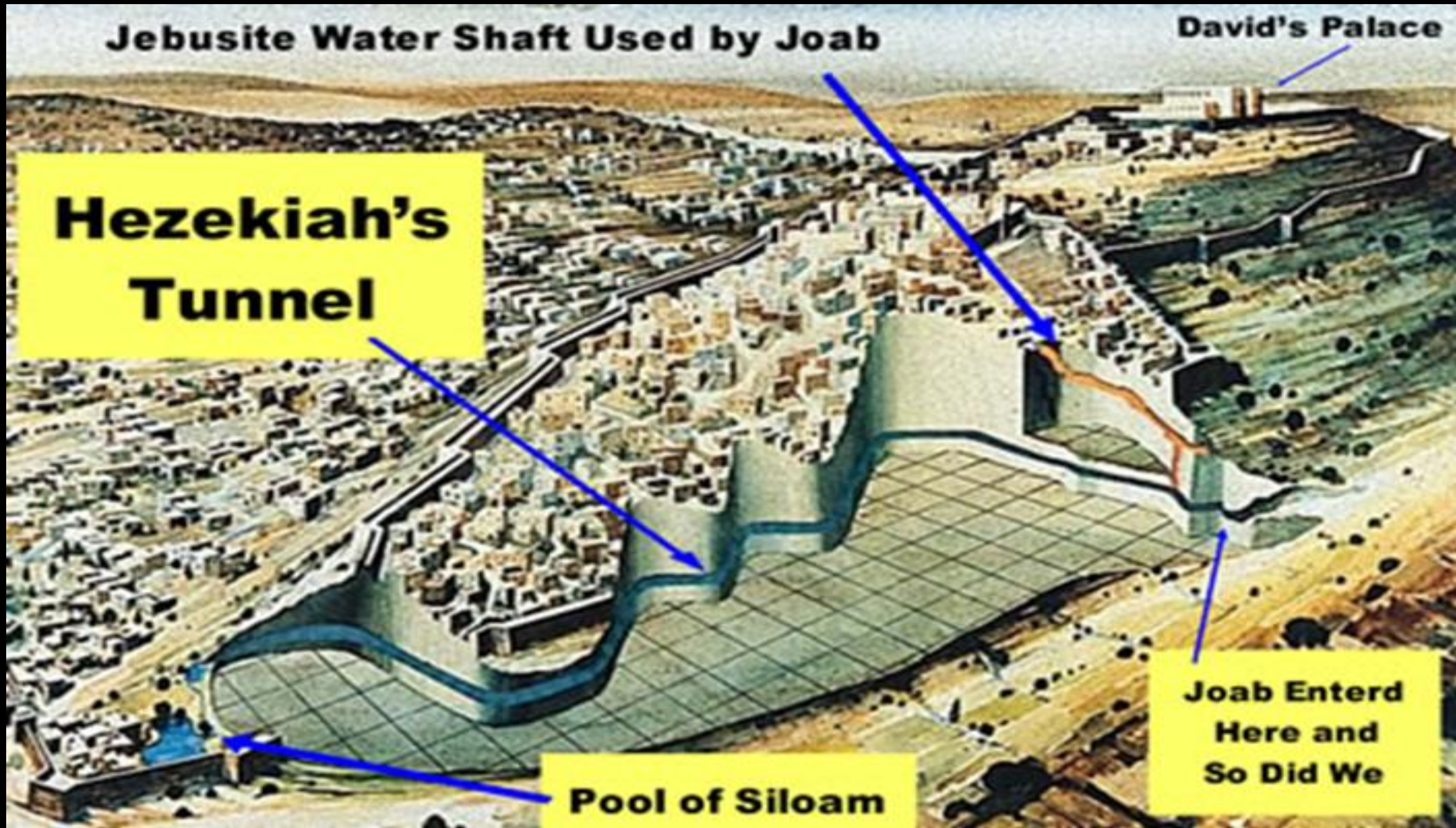
Jebusite Water Shaft Used by Joab

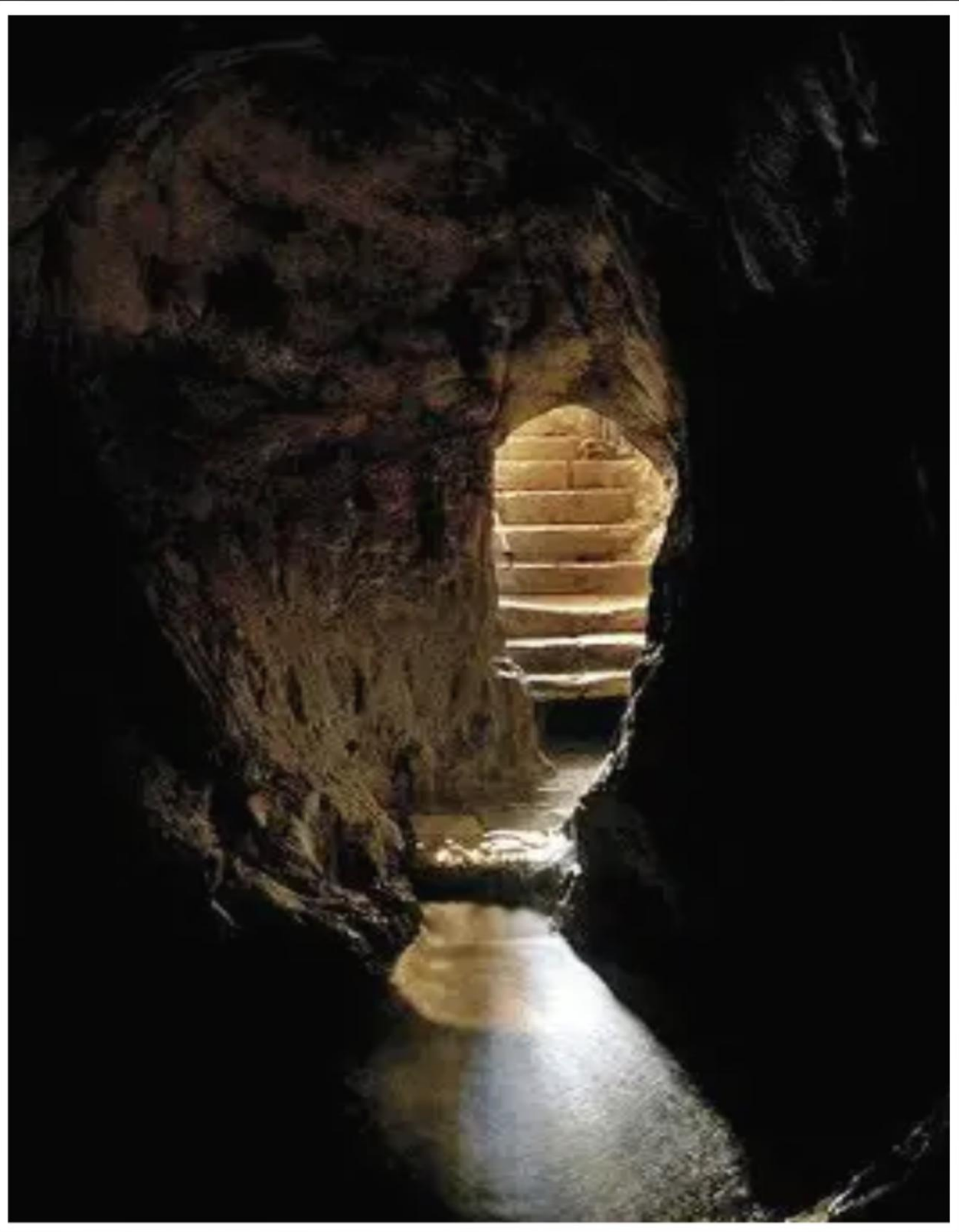
David's Palace

Hezekiah's Tunnel

Joab Entered Here and So Did We

Pool of Siloam









MadainProject
<https://madainproject.com>

Pool of Siloam today



Kidron Valley today



2 Chronicle 32

³² After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself



2 King 18

***19 The field commander said to them, “Tell Hezekiah: ...
28 Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew,
“Hear the word of the great king, the king of
Assyria! 29 This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah
deceive you. He cannot deliver you from my hand. 30 Do
not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD when
he says, ‘The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not
be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’***



During the siege, When the Assyrian king Sennacherib threatened Jerusalem, Hezekiah spread the threatening letter before the LORD and **prayed for deliverance..**



2 Chronicle 32

²⁰ King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this. ²¹ And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the commanders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons, his own flesh and blood, cut him down with the sword.

DELIVERANCE

Lesson

2 Chronicle 29 -32

2 Kings 18-20

Isaiah 36-39

- Life style of obedience.
- Practical preparation during crisis.
- Absolute reliance on God –through prayer.
- See the deliverance of God
- Glorifying God