THE CITY DURING THE FINAL VISIT OF JESUS

Jerusalem at Passover

A spatial reconstruction of Jerusalem in the early first century CE.



PLATE 01 / CITY OVERVIEW

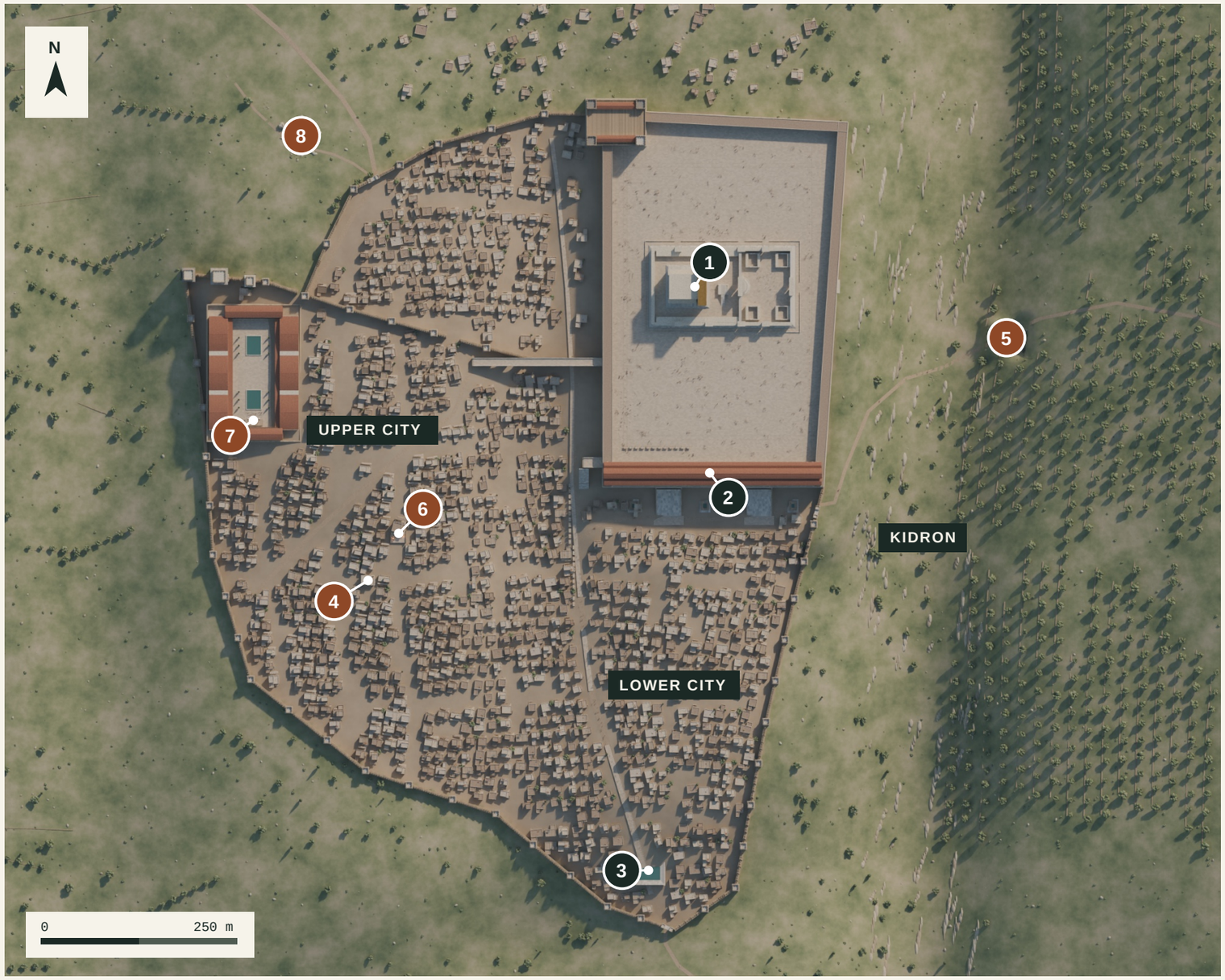
From Siloam to the Temple Mount

The southern ridge rises from the stepped pool at left to the great Temple enclosure at right. The palace stands on the western hill.

ORIENTATION / NORTH-UP PLAN

Reading the city

The numbered sites locate the model’s principal settings. Only the model scale is measured.



A synthetic landform follows the Kidron, Hinnom and Tyropoeon valleys.

SITE INDEX

01 **Temple sanctuary**
Gilded east front and raised inner courts.

02 **Royal Stoa**
Basilical hall along the southern enclosure.

03 **Pool of Siloam**
Stepped pool below the pilgrimage street.

04 **Upper room**
Illustrative Upper City dining space.

05 **Gethsemane**
Olive grove east of the Kidron.

06 **Priestly residence**
A courtyard setting for the questioning.

07 **Western palace**
One candidate for Pilate’s praetorium.

08 **Golgotha and garden tomb**
Quarry area beyond the Second Wall.

- Architectural anchor
- Narrative setting, placement interpretive

THE PUBLIC CITY / MARK 11–12

Up to the Temple

Pilgrims approached a walled platform above the eastern hill and climbed through a sequence of increasingly restricted courts.



FRAME 021 / INNER COURTS

The east-facing sanctuary

Beyond the semicircular stair and the bronze-clad gate, the altar stood before the sacred house. Gold accents marked the white stone façade.



FRAME 041 / STREET LEVEL

The southern approach

This ascent linked Siloam with the precinct. Coins beneath the paving date some work to 30–31 CE or later. Sections remain unpaved here.

Architectural evidence Josephus, Jewish War 5.5 and Antiquities 15.11 · Mishnah Middot 2–5 · excavated southern approaches

PASSION NARRATIVE / MARK 14

A meal and an arrest

An upstairs room in the city and a place called Gethsemane anchor two episodes in Mark’s account.



FRAME 061 / UPPER CITY

A furnished upper room

Three couches surround a low table with bread, pottery and oil lamps. The room gives scale to the meal. Its address is unknown.



FRAME 081 / EAST OF THE KIDRON

Among the olive trees

Torches enter a cultivated plot at the foot of the Mount of Olives. The traditional area guides the placement of this garden.

The scenes represent separate moments during the week.

PASSION NARRATIVE / MARK 14–15

Before the authorities

The accounts distinguish the priestly questioning from the governor’s hearing. The model gives each a different architectural setting.



FRAME 091 / PRIESTLY RESIDENCE

A domestic courtyard

Bystanders gather by a fire beside a portico. This Upper City house illustrates the setting described in Mark’s account.



FRAME 101 / WESTERN PALACE

The Roman hearing

A raised seat overlooks the audience court. Philo places Pilate’s shields at Herod’s palace, making the complex a plausible venue.

The palace and its towers have textual support. The tribunal’s location within the palace is conjectural.

PASSION NARRATIVE / MARK 15 AND JOHN 19

Beyond the wall

A northern quarry stands outside the reconstructed Second Wall. A hewn chamber occupies a nearby rock face.



FRAME 121 / GOLGOTHA

The place of execution

Three crosses stand beside a road within sight of the city wall. The model uses the general vicinity of the later Holy Sepulchre.



FRAME 141 / GARDEN TOMB

A rock-cut chamber

A low doorway and a movable blocking stone illustrate a burial place. John describes a garden with a new tomb nearby.

Excavations confirm quarrying beneath the later church. The individual execution and burial sites are interpretive.

FIELD NOTES / EVIDENCE AND INTERPRETATION

Exploring the reconstruction



IN BLENDER

Eleven viewpoints

Open Jerusalem.blend and choose a frame from the plates. Press Numpad 0 for the active camera. Frame 1 gives the city overview, 161 the plan, and 181 the eastern ridge shown above. Use Walk Navigation or orbit to explore between stations.

RECONSTRUCTION

The Temple platform, southern approaches and valley system anchor the model. Roofs, houses, crowd arrangements and site elevations are interpreted. The northern suburbs lie outside the walls because Agrippa I’s Third Wall belongs to a later period.

SELECTED SOURCES

Texts and excavated remains

Josephus, Jewish War 5.4–5.5
City walls, palace towers, Antonia and sanctuary.

Mishnah Middot 2–5
Later descriptions of courts, entrances and dimensions.

Israel Nature and Parks Authority
Siloam, the stepped street and the southern approaches.

Mark 11, 14–15 and John 18–19
Narrative settings and sequence of events.

The Trial and Death of Jesus, St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology
Pilate in Jerusalem and the western palace hypothesis.

The embedded Blender text “READ ME • Field notes” includes the complete station list and further references.