

THE CITY OF DAVID TODAY

I have travelled to Jerusalem twice. The first time was in 1999 and the second time was in 2008. I learned about Ernest Martin's research in the years between the two trips so I was very keen to personally check the sites out that Ernest Martin spoke about in his research when I went on my second trip in 2008.

The one thing that surprised me most when I went back was the greatly increased Jewish interest in the City of David. Some time after my first trip they opened up a tourist archaeological park in the City of David.

The highlight of the tourist park is the walk through Hezekiah's tunnel which attracts hordes of tourists, mostly Jewish. There are beautiful gardens near Warren's Shaft and low on the south-east slope south of the Gihon Spring. There is a stone walkway all the way up the eastern side of the City of David from the Pool of Siloam right back up to the main tourist entrance at the top. Near the main entrance at the top there is a wonderful lookout of the whole of the City of David and the Kidron Valley.

The Jews are increasingly interested in the City of David from an archaeological viewpoint and with the great popularity of the site with the Jewish tourists it is quite conceivable that they would try to extend the park and buy up some of the Arab residences to the south.

From a Jewish point of view the land those properties are on are worth their weight in gold from a historical perspective and they would probably be more than willing to offer the local Arab residents 10 times the value those Arab residents could get for those properties on the open market. It is quite conceivable over the next decade that the Jews could acquire the property that Ernest Martin has advocated that the original Temples of God stood.

If they do gain that land in the future in the City of David they would probably become more receptive to the belief that the Temples were located in the City of David at the site advocated by Ernest Martin than they currently are. They would probably see it as a golden opportunity to realise a dream they have held for the past 2000 years – to rebuild the Temple of God.

Below are a series of photos of the City of David that I took on my 2008 trip to give the reader a better feel of this fascinating historical place.

This first photo shows the tourist entrance to the archaeological park from the nearby City of David lookout.



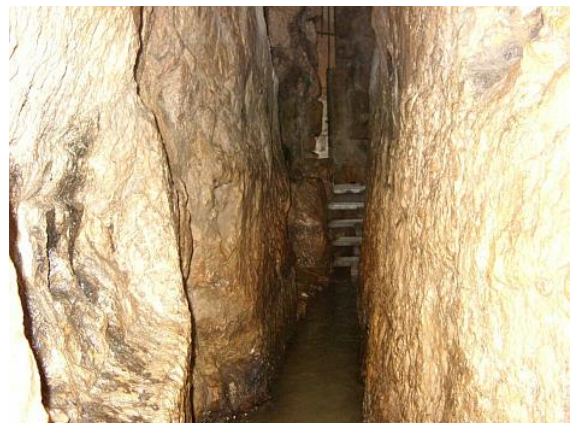
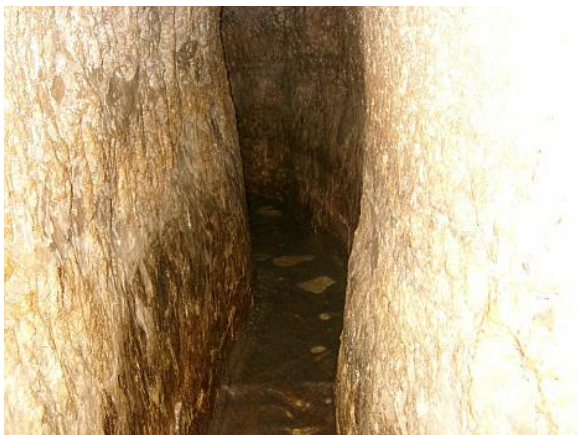
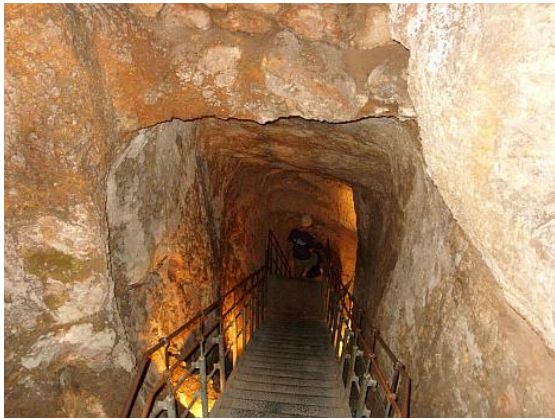
The next two photos are the entrance to the tourist park.



The following couple of photos show the view from the lookout at the top of the City of David looking north and looking south. The height from the top to the bottom of the Kidron Valley below is about the equivalent to about a 20 story building and is quite impressive.



The following few photos show the descent down Warren's Shaft and then the descent to the Gihon Spring and into Hezekiah's tunnel.



The next three photos show the Pool of Siloam at the end of Hezekiah's tunnel near the bottom of the City of David. You can see the natural defensive cliffs surrounding the bottom of the City of David.



The next three photos show the stone walkway around the eastern slope of the City of David.



This photo shows the view looking north from the bottom of the Kidron Valley.



The next two photos show the gardens on the eastern slope of the City of David.



The next photo shows the residences near where the Holy of Holies would have been located according to Ernest Martin.



The next photo shows the view down to the bottom of the Kidron Valley from where the Temple stood according to Ernest Martin.



On this last photo I have illustrated a rough outline of where the Temple stood according to Ernest Martin's research.



