

MID-EAST e-NEWS

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Welcome

A Happy New Year! it has been quite a while since we had a quiz, so I hope you are up to it. Answers are posted on the Web Site (click on **e-NEWS**).

It has been exciting for me, this month, to receive various ideas, comments – and even a book! – related to issues in the Middle East. I'm glad to be part of what a lot of you are doing there, and hope that you will help me be accurate in my comments. *Islamic Interface – Religious War?* will return in the next issue.

For updates on the Iraqi/Palestinian babies being given heart treatment in Israeli (and US, Indian) hospitals, check their web site: <http://www.shevet.org/>

Email your responses to pkclark@pmbx.net, & check the web for back issues.

Quiz Time

All answers come from recent issues of e-News.

A - First, some True or False, to get you limbered up. (T or F).

- _____ 1. The common language for all Iraq is Arabic.
- _____ 2. War broke out in the province Kosovo when the people sought independence from Albania.
- _____ 3. Israel's political unity is what has enabled it to survive amongst its enemies.
- _____ 4. The Crown Prince of Jordan was removed from office in 2004.
- _____ 5. Most of the Iraqi population is wanting the elections to go ahead.

B - And some multiple choice, to get you up to speed. (Circle)

Which peoples call themselves "sons of the eagle" **Albanian**

Which city was the target of the Crusades? **Amman**

Jews whose origins are the Germanic countries? **Ashkenazi**

What position was the Palestinian election held for? **Mufti**

Who is the current P.M. of Iraq? ...the President? **Allawi**

Which *other* Arab country is **Baathist**? **Egypt** **Jordan**

Which party recently formed a coalition with Likud? **Labour**

Which of these is NOT an Iraqi group? **Kurd** **Slav**

Which of these countries is NOT Arabic? **Afghanistan**

Chechnyan

Cairo

Hasidic

President

Al Yawer

Kuwait

Meretz

Shiite

Iran

Russian

Constantinople

Mizrahi

Prime Minister

Chalabi

Saudi Arabia

Shas

Sunni

Egypt

Turkish

Jerusalem

Sephardic

Chancellor

Sistani

Syria

Shinui

Turkoman

Turkey

C - One-word answers will suffice here (or maybe two -)

Which pope initiated the First Crusade, and in which year? _____

Which people did King David defeat when he conquered Jerusalem? _____

In which Russian Republic is **Beslan**? _____

Which Islamic province was near the Dec.26th 9.0 earthquake's epicenter? _____

Who was Raynald's main opponent? _____

Which Jewish King built the first Temple? _____

D - And now, some longer, paragraph responses, to check your endurance.

What is origin of the **Shiites**?

What was the **Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem**?

What was **Operation Magic Carpet**?

Where is **Moriah**?

Jerusalem - Nehemiah

When Cyrus' decree **538 BC** allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem they were led by Zerubbabel. Their main achievement – before the arrival of Nehemiah nearly 70 years later – was the reconstruction **517 BC** of the Temple. It wouldn't be until the decree of Artaxerxes (Ez.7:1,11) **457 BC** that further work was done in reconstructing Jerusalem itself, and much of this work would be led by Nehemiah who arrived about 13 years later (Neh.2:1).

Soon after arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah chose to go out with a few men and view Jerusalem's wall (Neh.2:11). On horseback he went out of the city through the Valley Gate (the Central Valley, shown on the map, is often referred to as *the valley*) toward the Jackal Well. At this point it would be a good idea to read the next few verses, beginning with 2:13. "...examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate."

From these verses it seems that Nehemiah reached at least as far as the Fountain Gate. However, since the text actually says "towards" the Fountain Gate, there is a good probability that, because his "mount" could not get through, he then reversed his direction to go (as the text continues to say) "up the valley." Today the Valley is deep below the level of any pavements, but one street, running north-south from Damascus Gate still carries the name "Al Wad," the *Valley* in Arabic.

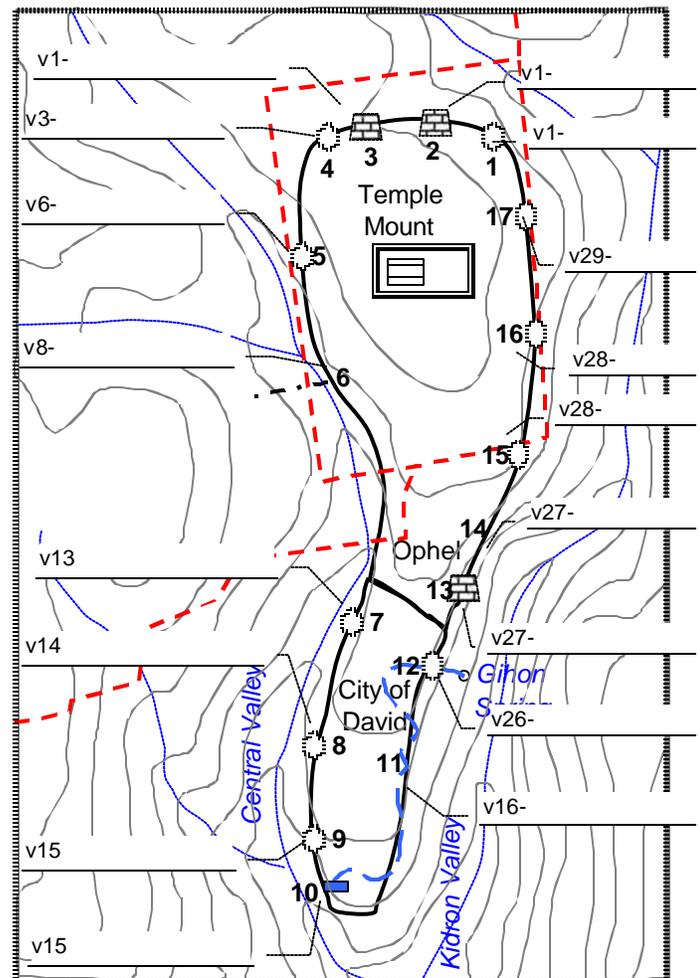
The passage in Nehemiah 2 is the first of three descriptive passages in the book that can help us identify the geographical location of the various gates of Jerusalem. On the map (right) the Valley Gate (7), Dung Gate (8 -possible) and Fountain Gate¹ (9) are labeled.

Nehemiah 3:1-32 lists the different families and groups that help rebuild the wall, given a definite sequence for the portions of the wall and helping us to locate the gates as they were named at the time. Perhaps if we begin with three of the less disputable locations we can complete the diagram together! In the box next

to each number you can write the gates, beginning with (3) Tower of Hananel, (7) Valley Gate and (16) East Gate.

If we note v32, where the Sheep Gate is close to the "room above the corner" we can

begin our **construction** with: (1) Sheep Gate, (2) Tower of Hundred, Tower of Hana nel, (4) Fish Gate, (5) Jeshanah Gate, (6) Broad Wall², Valley Gate, Dung Gate, Fountain Gate, (10) Pool of Siloam³, (11) Tombs of David, Water Gate⁴, (13) Projecting Tower, (14) Wall of Ophel, (15) Horse Gate (remember the stables!), East Gate, (17) Inspection Gate. Some of these locations are not precise, much of this has been destroyed since, but archaeologists are fairly sure about most of the features (and the Pool and Spring are still to be seen).



Recently-discovered tombs, damaged by Roman quarrying, are thought to be the Tombs of the Kings from the City of David.

Notes: ¹ Some illustrations indicate the Fountain Gate on the south-east of the city, but Nehemiah 3 lists it in sequence **before** the Pool of Siloam.

² Hezekiah's wall (e-News 30) is often referred to as the "Broad Wall". ³ 'Pool' and 'Fountain' are related words in the local languages, and it would be natural to have a Fountain Gate near the pool. ⁴ This gate would provide access to the Gihon Spring.

Postscript: Archaeologists have recently confirmed that a recently-discovered pool (late 2004) is the Biblical-era pool. A nearby pool that has been until now labeled as the Pool of Siloam is actually from the Byzantine period.

The Third Crusade

Saladin's 1187 (July 4th) defeat of the Crusaders at the **Horns of Hattin**, led quickly to the fall of all the Crusader cities – Sidon, Acre, Nablus, Jaffa – except Tyre. Antioch was in the hands of the Byzantines, and could perhaps be counted on as a haven. With them into the battle at Hattin, the Crusaders had carried the **True Cross**, discovered by Queen Helena in the 4th Century, and this too was captured by Saladin. Jerusalem was taken on October 2nd of that year, and its loss marked the end of the Latin Kingdom. Tyre held out, defended by Conrad of Montferrat, and until the Third Crusade was the sole remnant of the attempt to regain the Holy Land for Christendom.

As with the first two Crusades, the loss of Jerusalem caused the Pope – now Gregory VIII – to call for a campaign to regain the Holy Land. At Gregory's urging the kings of England and France, Henry II and Philip II, rapidly made peace (which would just as rapidly be broken), and Frederick Barbarossa of the Holy Roman Empire made his peace with the Pope. Barbarossa, with his larger army, was the first to reach and capture the Seljuk capital of Iconium (in the *Armenian*) principality on May 18, 1189, but he drowned in a river crossing soon after, leaving his men without a strong leader.



The sea walls of the Crusader fortress at Acre, near Haifa, Israel.

By 1190 England had a new king; Henry II had died on July 6th, 1189, and was succeeded by Richard I, soon to be called Lionheart. Richard raised taxes, sold crown property and official positions, even ransoming a Scottish King for 10,000 marks, to be able to raise an enormous army of English and Norman soldiers. Sailing directly to Cyprus in 1191, he quarreled with the Greek Orthodox ruler, rapidly conquered the island and promptly sold it to Guy of Lusignan (the ex-king of Jerusalem).

After the fall of the Latin Kingdom provinces the Seljuks had taken control of Acre. Having been refused access to Tyre by Conrad, Guy led a remnant of his men in a siege of Acre from a strong landward position. Even Saladin had been unable to dislodge him, though Guy's force was too weak to assault the city directly. Acre's fortress, even today, has an air of impregnability. Philip and Richard arrived at Tyre and joined with Conrad in a joint assault on Acre. The siege began in April, and the city was taken on July 12th of 1191. Saladin had attempted to prevent the capture, but he had been turned away by the strong force of Crusaders. Richard had taken 3,000 prisoners in the capture of Acre, but had them all executed on August 20th, accusing Saladin of breaking the terms of the surrender.

Richard recognized that to conquer Jerusalem he would have to capture and hold Jaffa, which he succeeded in doing before the end of the year. In the meantime he was attacked by Saladin at the Battle of Arsuf, but soundly defeated the Muslim ruler. Whilst he was consolidating his hold on Jaffa, Saladin had been strengthening Jerusalem and its defenses. In January of 1192 Richard led his troops out of Jaffa, coming within sight of Jerusalem, but being faced by Saladin's larger army. Richard retreated each time to Jaffa, realizing that without the aid of Philip, whom he had offended, Jerusalem could be taken, but not held.

An attempt by Saladin to take Jaffa was beaten back by Richard's smaller force, and in September the two leaders met to agree on a peace treaty. This treaty would recognize Saladin's authority over Jerusalem, leave some of the coastal cities in the hands of the Crusaders, and allow Christian pilgrims access to the holy sites. In particular, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which had been rebuilt by the Crusaders during their sojourn there, was highly venerated. Since the date of Richard's treaty with Saladin, to this day, the key to the church has been held by two Muslim families, the Nusseibeh's and Joudeh's of Jerusalem. (see *First Crusade* for a picture of the Holy Sepulchre).



Statue of Richard the Lionheart outside the Houses of Parliament in London, England.

