

Discover the great significance of these locations in Israel that point to the second coming of Jesus!

The Bible is abundant in texts that point us to the end times, from the significance behind prophetic narrative and imagery, to literal places and figures we can point to as we prepare for the second coming of Jesus, our Messiah. Through this map, you'll learn about the significant locations in Israel that Scripture highlights as we look to the end times.

These biblical locations hold promises of our returning King. Much like the first coming of Jesus, these places of Israel will behold a new fulfillment of all God has promised us!



Jerusalem temple



Mount of Olives, Modern Israel

Mount of Olives

The Mount of Olives features in both the Old and New Testaments, though it is mentioned more often in the life of Jesus. It was where Jesus often went (in Luke 22:39, for prayer) and where the disciples went after singing the Hallel psalms at Jesus' final Passover, the Last Supper (Mark 14:26).

New Mount of Olives

Zech 14:4 envisions a chilling end-times scene where the nations gather against Jerusalem, and God's "feet" stand on the Mount of Olives, splitting the entire mountain in two. Some believe this will happen literally at Jesus' return; others take it figuratively of God's coming in power to deliver His people.

Megiddo

Mount of Olives

Jerusalem
Site of Future Temple

Gehenna



Modern city of Jerusalem

Jerusalem

The capital of Judea, under the control of Rome in the first century. At the end of the first Jewish revolt against Rome (66-70 AD), the city was largely destroyed. The hope always remained for the restoration of Jerusalem. Jesus wept over the city in Matt 23:37 and Luke 13:34.

New Jerusalem

Hinted at in Isaiah 65:18, the New Jerusalem is mentioned in Revelation 3:12 and 21:2. Unlike the Jerusalem of the Old Testament or the modern-day city, this Jerusalem and its inhabitants will be pure, holy, without pain or suffering, and with God present among His people forever (Rev 21:3).



The Western Wall, Jerusalem



Potential site of the future temple

The Jerusalem Temple

The first Temple, Solomon's Temple, was destroyed by the Babylonian armies in the 6th c BC. When the exiles returned from Babylon 70 years later, they rebuilt the Temple, but it was a shadow of its former glory and no longer contained the Ark of the Covenant. In the first century AD, King Herod expanded the Temple into a magnificent structure. In 70 AD, the Romans destroyed the Temple, as prophesied by Jesus (Matt 24:2), ending the priesthood and the sacrifices. Judaism thereafter remade itself into a faith without a physical Temple.

Future Temple

Ezekiel chapters 40-48 picture a new Temple. Some take that passage, along with verses such as 2 Thess 2:4, to indicate a literal temple to be rebuilt. Others understand it figuratively, since in the New Testament, God's people are a temple (2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21) and the New Jerusalem will have no temple (Rev 21:22). The key takeaway is that God's glory will return to His people (Ezek 43:2) and God's presence will be there (Ezek 48:35).

Megiddo

A city frequently mentioned in the Old Testament, Megiddo was in a strategic location as a place to pass through from Egypt to Mesopotamia and vice versa. Because of this, its area was the site of several historical battles, including the 1918 "Battle of Megiddo" during World War I. By the first century, though, Megiddo had been abandoned and was of little note.

Armageddon

The name is from "Har Megiddo," meaning the mountain of Megiddo. It is mentioned in Revelation 16:16 as the site of a climactic world battle. It is almost impossible to know what such a war would actually look like. The picture is of an ultimate conflict between good and evil, with God's final victory ensured over all who oppose His reign.

The Valley of Hinnom

In biblical times, it was a site for idolatrous Molech worship (2 Chr 33:6, concerning Manasseh). Jeremiah 7:32 prophesied that it would one day be renamed the "Valley of Slaughter" where it would become a mass grave for those slain in battle. Later it may have actually become a place for burning corpses; by the first century it had become a garbage dump, a fiery incinerator. As a result of all this, it had quite negative associations.

Gehenna

In Hebrew, "Ge Hinnom," or the Valley of Hinnom, near Jerusalem, later became known as Gehenna. Eventually, due to its associations with fire and corpses, not to mention its overall undesirability, Gehenna became synonymous with hell, the final end-time place of evil and unrepentant people. "Hell" in English is in the Greek New Testament as "geenna" or Gehenna (for example, Matt 10:28, James 3:6).

Old Babylon

In the Old Testament, Babylon was one of a succession of mighty world empires; others included Assyria, Persia, and Rome. It is most famous—or infamous—for its destruction of the Jerusalem Temple and Babylonian Captivity into which the inhabitants of Judah were taken. By the first century, Rome had long replaced Babylon as the overlord and oppressor of the Jewish people.

New Babylon

In the New Testament, Babylon becomes a symbol for Rome itself as well as for whatever evil end-time empire will aspire to dominate and to oppose God. Babylon is mentioned in, among other places, Revelation 18:2 and 10. Verses 21-24 give the stunning picture of the destruction of Babylon, in which all civilization is silenced. Nothing can any longer be heard—except for the Word of God, which in chapter 19 cries out in judgment and victory over evil.