



Chapter 28

**WHAT  
DIFFERENCE  
DOES IT  
MAKE?**

What difference does it make *where* Jesus was judged by the Sanhedrin and *where* he was crucified? It is sometimes thought (even by people who love the biblical revelation) that as long as Jesus was in fact judged, crucified and resurrected from the dead then it is non-essential to determine *where* those events took place. A superficial knowledge of such events seems adequate and sufficient to many. But for all of you who have read this book up to this chapter, I would hope that you can now realize that it makes all the difference in the world. One of the most important subjects in biblical study is to know the exact geographical areas where Jesus' passion occurred. Once these true sites are recognized, then whole sections of doctrinal material in the Old and New Testaments (hitherto unrealized) as well as historical accounts of early Christendom (which have not been referred to by most historians) become much more understandable. By solving these "Secrets of Golgotha," we find that many mysteries of the biblical revelation become plain.

***The Futile Actions of Mankind in the Past***

It makes a great deal of difference to know the true geographi-

cal sites associated with Jesus' trial and crucifixion. For one thing it shows that the many wars over the centuries that have been fought between Christians and Christians, between Christians and Muslims and squabbles between Muslims and Jews over many of the holy sites in Jerusalem were fought for *the wrong places*. Even to this very hour we find open hostility among the above groups, and still for the most part they are fighting for *the wrong places*. It would seem to be an effort in vanity to fight and kill in order to keep or to secure *the wrong places* in the hands of certain religious or ethnic groups. Perhaps, if nothing more, the information in this book might cause people today to sit back and survey the futility of those wars of the past and the fighting that is presently going on for control of the religious sites in the city of Jerusalem. The truth is, many of them are *the wrong places* to begin with.

As far as Christians are concerned, there is a great advantage that the information in this book can afford. If this historical and biblical evidence is taken seriously, then the present arguments and fights over who controls various parts of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre could be accounted as futile attempts to continue obvious errors within Christendom, and common sense would suggest that such fightings to promote such errors should cease. The fact is, the whole site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is clearly *the wrong place*. Without doubt, the best credentials for the site of Jesus' burial and resurrection is the cave/tomb under the ruins of the Eleona Church of which the Carmelite Convent at the Pater Noster Church is the custodian. This fact has some interesting ramifications associated with it. It signifies that the Roman Catholic Church is presently exercising a caretaker role over what most Christians would reckon to be the holiest spot in all Christendom, if Christians recognize the truth. Legally, however, I am told that the property was actually donated to the French nation in the last century and its actual owners are the citizens of France. The legal title holder is the French consulate in Israel who in turn holds it in trust as a possession of all French citizens. With this information, it

could be interpreted that God has placed in the hands of the French nation the care of Jesus' tomb. Could there be a special reason why the French nation should be in charge?

At the present, it is remarkable that it is the Carmelite Order that is allowed to have the privilege of being the caretakers of the property. That Order traditionally has its origin with Elijah the prophet and such eminent personalities as Elisha and John the Baptist (so the Carmelites believe) have been members of that Order. It may be looked on as significant in some circles that the "Elijahan Order" of the Roman Church has been given custodianship by the French consulate of the holiest of Christian shrines (though most people are not yet aware that it is the "holiest of Christian shrines"). It is interesting that there are prophecies in the Bible that Elijah, or a person permeated with the spirit of Elijah, would be functioning as a prophet just prior to the Second Advent of Jesus to restore all things (Matthew 17:10,11). Jesus said that John the Baptist was a similar precursor for Jesus' first advent (verse 12). The apostle Peter made the definitive prophecy that such a restoration of essential knowledge, no doubt by *this* Elijah, would occur before Jesus' return from heaven (Acts 3:19-21). Also, the prophecy of Malachi in the Old Testament stated the same thing (Malachi 4:4-6).

Whatever the case, it is interesting that the Carmelite Order of the Roman Catholic Church has the custodianship of the real Tomb of Jesus while the legal owners are the French nation. And who better to have custodianship of this significant site (as Catholics would no doubt view it) than the very Order which traditionally has its origin with Elijah himself and having as one of its members a person of no less distinction than John the Baptist?

### ***Are these Present Circumstances Important?***

It could well be that some ecclesiastical leaders may account more importance to these matters than I do. As for me, my profession is that of a historian and I have no religious interest in holy

places on earth. Such things are only of archaeological and historical relevance to me. Though I take pleasure in visiting them (and even honoring them because others do), they are only of academic interest to me. Still, the true sites contain a great deal of spiritual symbolism associated with them. In my view, it is important to determine the actual locations of these geographical spots since such symbolism can provide us of modern times a better comprehension of the messages in the Gospel. For that reason I am happy to present this historical research to the general public.

### ***What about the Value of the Erroneous Sites?***

Now that history shows that the present Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden Tomb area are *NOT* authentic as the “Golgotha” of Jesus, what should one do in regard to these sites? They are revered by millions upon millions of people. All I can suggest, for what it’s worth, is to give my personal opinion. From my point of view, I see no reason why these two sites cannot be honored and respected as memorials for Jesus’ burial and resurrection. There may be biblical evidence to allow this. In the time of Jesus even the Tomb of Rachel was located just outside Bethlehem (where it is still situated to this day), but the Old Testament makes it clear that her actual tomb was at least ten miles north of Bethlehem. I have explained this in detail in a research paper titled “The Tomb of Rachel.” The present tomb of Rachel is thus a cenotaph (a memorial to a dead person buried elsewhere) and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or the Garden Tomb sites could be equally honored. It would only be right, however, that those who might continue to honor those places should tell Christians that they are only cenotaphs and that Jesus was actually buried and resurrected from the dead at the cave/tomb underneath the ruins of the Eleona Church on the Mount of Olives.

### ***Should the Real Holy Sepulchre be made a Shrine?***

What about the *real* Holy Sepulchre on Olivet? As far as

Christians are concerned, will it be preserved by God for all time as a memorial of the true site of the holiest occurrence ever to happen on earth? The truth is, even that place itself will be utterly destroyed into insignificance when Jesus returns from heaven according to the Holy Scriptures. “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south” (Zechariah 14:4). It seems that God himself is not interested in the preservation of “holy places” on earth — even though they be the holiest. In the final analysis, physical things on earth appear to be of relative unimportance in the eyes of God when compared to spiritual matters dealing with the heart.

As a final point, I wish to state my opinion that finding the true locations for the trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus *makes all the difference in the world* in recognizing what the real teaching of the Gospel of Jesus is all about. And when the “Secrets of Golgotha” are revealed to everyone’s knowledge a new dimension in New Testament understanding will emerge on the scene. Be that as it may, I also want to state that the research in this book is not intended to change the religious thinking of people. I am simply endeavoring to show the historical and biblical evidences that identify the exact spot of Golgotha [Latin: Calvary] (which was located at the site of the Imbomon at the southern summit of Olivet and now under control of the Muslim authorities). I am also providing historical and biblical evidence which shows the actual place of Jesus’ burial and resurrection to be at the cave/tomb at the Eleona church on the Mount of Olives (which the French Nation now owns). What people do with these historical and geographical matters in regard to their personal religious lives is their business, not mine or anyone else’s. I do feel, however, that a reasonable case has been made that Jesus’ passion took place near the southern summit

of the Mount of Olives. And I have not the slightest doubt that this is correct. But if readers of this book can show me where I am wrong, I will honor their criticisms and thank them for their help.