

Washington D.C. Event

Commentary for February 1, 2016 — ... and this month's article

First, let me introduce this month's article. It is titled "Sudden Mass Murder" and it tells about a horrific devastating massacre of Romans in 88 BC. It occurred in a few days' time over a large territory. Poor and rich murdered their Roman neighbors. It is my opinion that the king who ordered this mass murder learned about this stratagem from a biblical event where a similar massacre was ordered, but was averted. The "[February 2016 Newsletter](#)" introduces this disturbing but important article, because modern groups desire to commit similar heinous acts.

The Washington D.C. Event

A few days ago, January 28–29, six speakers were brought together for an invitation-only meeting in Washington D.C. The topic was the location of the Temples in Jerusalem. This public event was changed to a private meeting for various reasons. Then the severe snowfall was predicted (and hit!) the Washington D.C. area, twice causing the date of the event to change and travel arrangements to be altered. The speakers could not arrive until January 28th. (The organizers of this event wish to remain private at present.)

The first speaker was archaeologist **Eli Shukron** who came from Jerusalem. He presented details about significant findings he uncovered over decades of excavation work at the Gihon Spring. Although now a major tourist site for many tens of thousands of visitors each year, important archaeological work continues to be done at the City of David/Gihon Spring location. Shukron dug at the Gihon area for over 20 years. Now retired from the Israeli Antiquities Authority, he is much in demand as a professional tour guide. Last November Shukron took me and two others to view his discoveries of a cult sacrificial site in three rooms cut out of the limestone bedrock that later were intentionally buried. He dates the cult activity to the time of Melchizedek and Abraham. He does not believe the Gihon was the site of any Israelite Temples. He did note, however, that the deposition of garbage and refuse was particularly deep at the top of the City of David above the Gihon Spring.

Dr. Ward Sanford presented next. Dr. Sanford is a United States Geological Survey hydrologist who has studied karst siphon springs, a unique type (he knows of only five in the world) of water system that could have propelled water to the top of the City of David. This was exactly what the biblical and eyewitness accounts say was the case with a fountain in the various Temples at the Gihon Spring for a period of almost 2000 years (less the 70 years of exile). Dr. Sanford was able to attend the meeting only by telephone. To the small group, I played Dr. Sanford's very precise explanation in his interview from Ken Klein's DVD documentary, [Jerusalem and the Lost Temple of the Jews](#). The graphics accompanying his DVD interview visually demonstrated Dr. Sanford's words. He gave additional information and powerfully answered questions over the phone.

Prof. George Wesley Buchanan (now age 94) presented next and read his prepared paper. He mentioned his long academic relationship with Dr. Ernest Martin and how he followed his own "evidence trail" convincing him that the Israelite Temples were above the Gihon Spring. Evidence in the Book of Ezekiel convinced him that Ezekiel's prophecies not only predicted the future, but also described a situation in Ezekiel's day of waters draining from the Temple (on the top of the City of David) into the Kidron Valley which then flowed to the Dead Sea. When challenged, "George" (as he insists on being called), firmly answered comments and questions from the Hebrew Scriptures and even his own observations by the Dead Sea.¹

I spoke next, giving a shortened PowerPoint presentation of Dr. Martin's Temple evidence. It was well received and I believe all questions were adequately addressed pro and con except one: setting aside Jesus' prophecy of no stone upon another, shouldn't there be some archaeological evidence that the Temples were at that location? I gave the only answer I could give, what evidence could there be if no stone was upon another and, as Josephus says, the very foundations of the holy Temple were dug up?

The next speaker was **Marilyn Sams**, author of the excellent e-book [200 Ancient Descriptions Defy the Jerusalem Temple Mount Myth](#). She presented a comprehensive and detailed list of eyewitness accounts from Christian authors, travelers, and pilgrims of the Byzantine era and the Middle Ages. They wrote about a Roman "Praetorium" where Jesus was condemned by Pilate, referring to the raised platform of the Haram esh-Sharif (Fort Antonia). This was north of the destroyed Temple, a garbage dump in the days of these Christian authors. Ms. Sams' information powerfully supports a Gihon location for the Israelite Temples.

Bob Cornuke completed the list of speakers. He presented his information about "open tombs" in the city of Silwan, east across the Kidron Valley from the Gihon Spring. The significance of this discovery (which no one noticed previously) could be profound. These "open tombs" are directly east of the Gihon Temple site and could have been caused by two earthquakes, one at Jesus' crucifixion and a second at His resurrection. This new information seems to fit this description of Scripture:

"... the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent [split]; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him [at the crucifixion site], watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God.'"

• **Matthew 27:51-54**

One more thing. I was incisively interviewed about the Temple evidence by the primary organizer of the event, who has quickly become knowledgeable about the chief issues. I shall put it on the ASK website as soon as I obtain a copy.

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¹ Three of George's academic papers are at the "[Temples Index Update](#)" page; search for "Buchanan."