



# MATTHEW

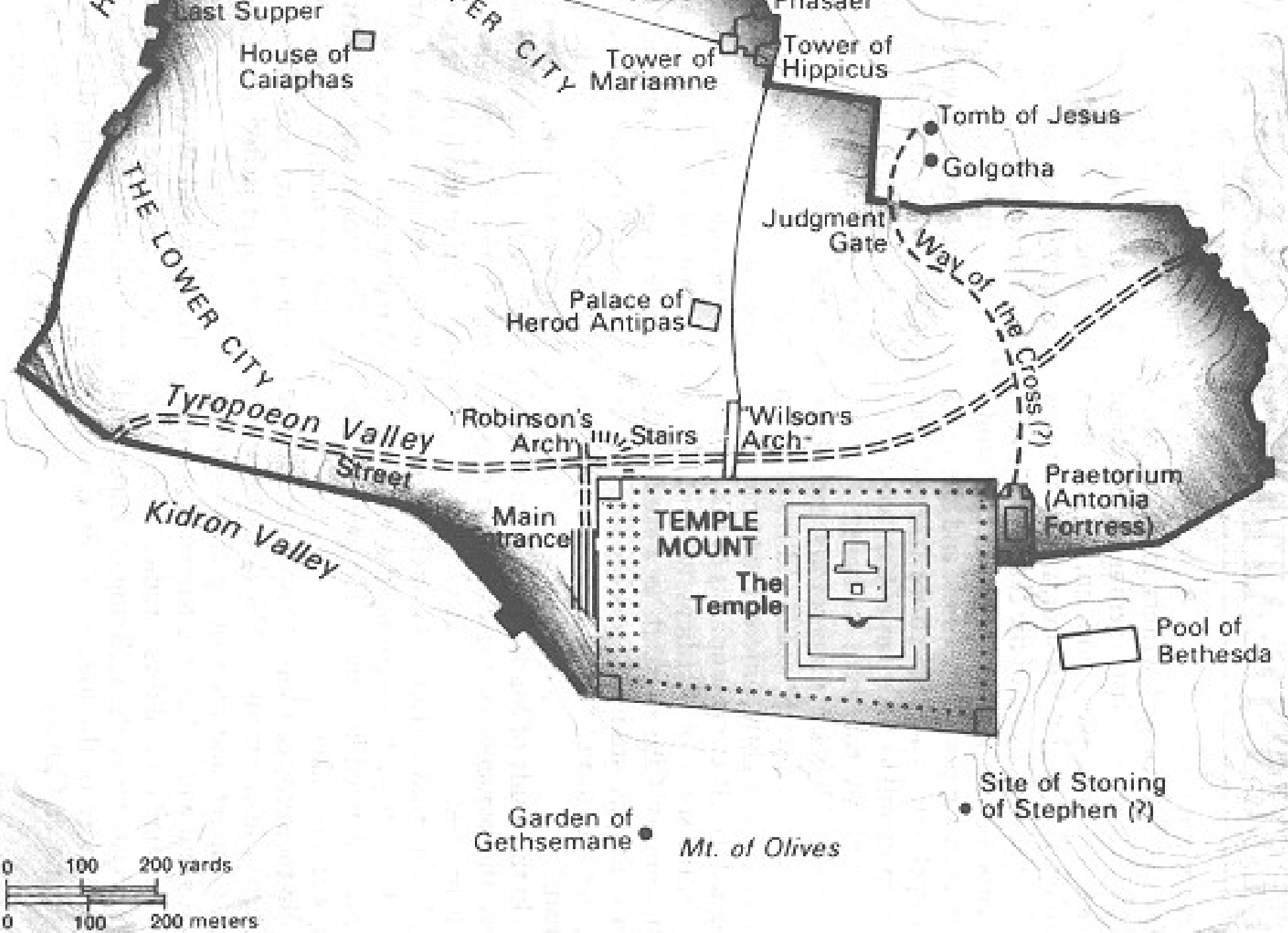
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*The Prophecy Fulfilled*

# It is finished...



- Temple veil torn; Earthquake; rocks split; Tombs open; A centurion's testimony – “the Son of God”
  - The events around Jesus' s death...
  - No one left untouched!
- Women watching (vs 55)
  - Named and noted for their part
  - Followed Him; Ministering – *diakoneo*
  - 3 named



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# The burial



- “evening” – after 3, before sunset
  - Jews seek early end of the matter (John 19:31-37)
  - No bone of Jesus is broken – witnessed by John
- Joseph of Arimathea – disciple of Jesus
  - Mk 15:43; Lk 23:51; Jn 19:38
  - Gains permission from Pilate to bury Him (58)
  - No “unmarked mass grave”, the resurrection was coming!



# The tomb



- His own new tomb – unused (Isa 53:9)
  - Laid on a burial cloth
  - Nicodemus brings spices (Jn 19:39ff)
  - “large stone”
- Note vs 61 – those who had watched and followed
  - These will be the same ones on Sunday!
  - The **KNOW** where He is buried!

# Sealing the tomb



- Day started at sundown so Friday night
  - They would not have left the tomb unguarded...
  - They remembered His words “3 days”
  - That “deceiver” ~ still trying to malign Him...
  - Until the 3<sup>rd</sup> day...
- 65 ~ you have a guard ~ tower of Antonia, still on duty from the crucifixion ~ they would have stayed.
- go make it as secure as you can!





# God's ways



- In securing the tomb, they validate the resurrection!
  - Jesus cannot be disturbed, an honor guard!
  - Tomb would have been inspected prior to the sealing
  - Not only protected, but “sealed”
  - Roman imperial seal..
  - To break it = Wrath of the emperor!



# Terrifying warning



“The consequences of breaking the seal were extremely severe. The FBI and CIA of the Roman Empire were called into action to find the man or men who were responsible. If they were apprehended, it meant automatic execution by crucifixion upside down. People feared the breaking of the seal. Jesus' disciples displayed signs of cowardice when they hid themselves.”

<http://www.bible.ca/d-resurrection-evidence-Josh-McDowell.htm>

# Roman Guard



The Roman guards fled. They left their place of responsibility. How can their attrition be explained, when Roman military discipline was so exceptional? Justin, in Digest #49, mentions all the offenses that required the death penalty. The fear of their superiors' wrath and the possibility of death meant that they paid close attention to the minutest details of their jobs. One way a guard was put to death was by being stripped of his clothes and then burned alive in a fire started with his garments. If it was

# Roman Guard



not apparent which soldier had failed in his duty, then lots were drawn to see which one would be punished with death for the guard unit's failure. Certainly the entire unit would not have fallen asleep with that kind of threat over their heads. Dr. George Currie, a student of Roman military discipline, wrote that fear of punishment "produced flawless attention to duty, especially in the night watches."

# Truth of the sealed Tomb



- God watched over Jesus in this period of time
- Jesus was not “resting”
  - Preached to those in the grave ~ 1 Peter 3:19; 4:6
  - Proclaimed Good News, led captivity captive! Eph 4:8
  - Prepared for the day of Triumph
  - What does the empty tomb mean to you?