

Jaffa Gate

Names (also known as)

Hebrew: Sha'ar Yafo (beauty, beautiful).
Arabic: Bab al-Khalil –“gate of the friend” – referring to Abraham, hence = (Hebron Gate).

Etymology

Also called “Gate of David’s Chamber” in medieval times. Both the Jaffa Gate and the Jaffa Road are named after the port of Jaffa (from which Jonah departed on his journey).

Location/Description

The road from the Jaffa Gate leads to the city of Jaffa. Jaffa or Yafa the city lies on the border between the tribes of Ephraim and Dan.



It is one of seven main open gates in the City of Jerusalem. The present historical gate relates to the Ottoman gate from 1538 (Suleiman the Magnificent had this gate rebuilt). Principal access to the city is through this western gate.

The entry way stands about 20 feet (6 meters) high and the wall rises another 20 feet above that.



Famous characters

Lord Jesus Christ; Herod; Pilate.

Scriptural references

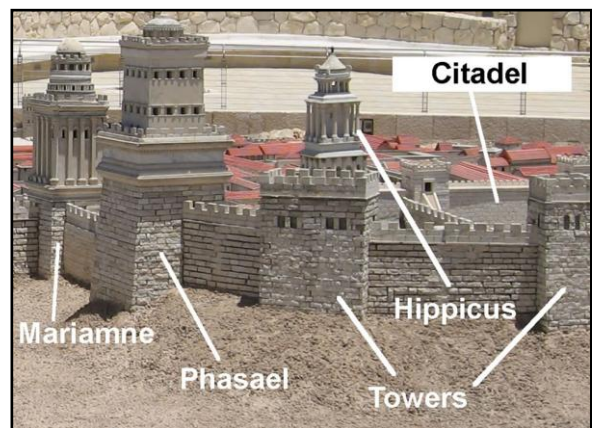
New Testament

Mark 15:14 -16 - “praetorium”

John 18: 28 -33 - “judgement hall”

Brief history

In 37-34 BC Herod the Great built three towers to protect his Palace at this site - Mariamme (named after his wife); Phasael (named after his brother) and Hippicus (named after his friend who died in battle) – these three buildings were known as the Praetorium.



The current breach in the wall by the Jaffa gate was created by the Ottoman’s in 1898 to allow German emperor Wilhelm II to enter. He insisted on entering riding his carriage or on a white horse. So as to only allow the King to enter the City on a white horse, a breach in the wall was made so

that he could not fill the description of a King.

In 1917 British general Edmund Allenby entered the Old City through the Jaffa Gate on foot to avoid comparison with the Kaiser.

Israel only gained control of the gate in the Six Day war of 1967.



The Jaffa Gate as it is today

Scriptural importance

After the fall of the Herodian Dynasty, Herod's Palace located in this area by the Jaffa Gate became home to Pontius Pilate.

The Praetorium or Judgement Hall was very close to this area in which our Lord was tried by Pilate.

Sources:

Wikipedia

Jerusalem in the year 30 AD pgs. 9, 33 – L & K Ritmeyer

Harper –Atlas of the Bible

EliYah.com

(Compilers – Ian and Judy Macfarlane)