



The Half Shekel Journal by Ed Rice
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A very unique Bible bookstore was only a block out of our way. 'Shorashim the Biblical Shop', owned by Moshe and Dav Kempinski boasted a unique collection of "New, Views and Torah." (www.shorashim.com) Ronnie showed us into the shop with his anticipatory smile and the instruction to "Just listen to what they have to say." I recalled that same smile and instruction when we entered the Druz village for our free luncheon on our second day here. I suspected that Ron enjoyed these 10 days immensely. Although he did not get paid for doing a pastor familiarization tour he got some gratuities and the satisfaction of watching 12 pastors see things for the first time. He especially seemed to enjoy taking us to places where the evangelical talents of 12 preachers of the gospel would be the most thwarted. I could have only imagined this as so, but it was true for the Druz, and now for the Kimpenski brothers.



Shorashim had a play book from the World Council of Churches (WCC) Faith and Order Commission which repeated Samir Selmanovic's inter faith vision which will "seek to bring progressive Jews, Christians, Muslims and spiritual seekers of no faith to become an interfaith community for the good of the world. We have one world and one god." (they normally capitalize that last word but i refuse.) Their tact in presenting such a concept to a dozen Baptist Preachers who knew better was as subtle and innovative as it was ineffective. Their most developed talking point was the deceitful approach that Christianity is just a marketing twist off of Judaism that was developed and expertly marketed by Paul who called himself an apostle of Jesus. Thus, in their misleading approach we were not followers of Christ but marketers of Judaism trained by Paul and "We have one world and one god, and for the good of the world we should all be part of the world interfaith community." At the close of the Kimpenski lecture I had two thoughts and multiple bite marks on my tongue. First, I wondered what kind of speech the Kimpenskis made to the Muslims when they herded them in and closed the doors for a private intimate talk like this; that had to be a doozer. Second, I wondered if I could return some of the novel things I had found in their unique shop because I have avowed that not a dime of my money would ever go th the WCC and here I was standing in one of their endorsed marketing camps. I felt dirtier than an American Baptist who just found out their counsel wholly supports the WCC. (They really should do us all a favor and drop 'Baptist' from their Church signs while they support such a diabolical venture.) We left the unique shop a little stunned that any one with even a couple brain cells close together could believe the tripe we just heard. But the wide gate & broad path that lead in and out of this shop ensured us that a majority do. I longed for a map of the city with a little 'x' that said your are here. We made our way, somehow, to the glass enclosed menorah that overlooked the western wall and from there to the bus. I am not sure if we were purposefully sheltered from what we would see next or if I was floundering in so much overwhelming detail that I missed the introduction of our guide, but when we stepped into the Davidson Museum and saw the stupendous model of the whole city of Jerusalem taking up a city block of real estate, and intricately

depicting the layout of the city and temple in the time of the Lord Jesus Christ, I was the more overwhelmed

Concrete models of the buildings crammed into the City of David where we had just previously stood, opened to both a water way draining from the temple mount and the miqveh paths that led up to the southern steps. The retaining wall that Herod had built and filled showed the south east pinnacle of the temple referenced in the Bible accountings of the temptation of Christ. (Matt 4, Mark 1, Luke 4) The gates around the temple wall detailed constructions that we had to imagine when looking at the excavations found there today. The Eastern Gate and the position of the Temple's Holy of Holies captured our awe as we saw physically that the Muslim Dome of the Rock was actually situate over the court of the Gentiles. Cameras were clicking and every angle and elevation was available for exploration. The detail of each street was intimidating as I expected any door to open and people to be seen walking about near their homes. But it was the depiction of the temple mount and its immediate surrounding that transfixed us to this model. The pretorium where Christ was tried was captivating. I imagined the ability of rolling a miniature camera down those replica streets and capturing Pilot surrounded by Roman soldiers all headed into the administration building on any given passover week that required his attendance in Jerusalem. I saw the gates on the Western Wall exposed to view and not buried under 2000 years of reconstruction and rubble. The Eastern Gate, so revered in Judaism because of their misrepresentation of Ezekiel 40-42, and 43-44¹.

Our second lap around the 1st century Jerusalem model whet our appetite for what could be gleaned here if there was time afforded to revisit several archaeological digs and Jerusalem streets before circling it a 3rd and 4th time. Oh if I had two weeks to walk from a site back to this model, then up to the southern steps and back to the model, then down through the tunnels



and back ... include here the City of David, the Pool of Siloam, the Pool of Bethesda, the Antonia Tower, the city gates, the temple gates, Gabbatha, etc. But, alas, in the hour we had here I absorbed all I could hold knowing we were next going to the Jerusalem Archeology Park also endowed by William Davidson.

Our drive past the multiple tombs on the Mount of Olives was now almost familiar on our first full day in Jerusalem. I could not erase the maze of caskets and see the garden park that Christ saw there. When we passed the Eastern Gate of the temple mount, however, the bus leaned to the right as the dozen preachers and wives moved to the windows to compare it to the model we just saw. So many times I had gazed at plate 9 of my Scofield Reference Bible and tried to envision the Tyropoeon valley spreading to the south from the temple mount and the seven gates into the temple. They were now modeled in 3 dimensions in the back recesses of my mind and camera.

¹ Careful study of eschatology shows that a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ from Jerusalem will entail a new temple so large that it will not fit on Mt Zion as it is. The Eastern gate of this new temple is what is revered in Ezekiel 43, and not that of Herod's 'tiny' temple we now envision.