

# **The Case for Golgotha and the Garden Tomb**

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**The purpose of this documentation is to provide public awareness to help with the preservation of these significant Holy Sites, so that: “every eye shall see Him.” [Rev.1:7] Prepare for the coming of the Messiah.**



**The site of “Skull Hill” on Nablus Road near the Damascus Gate was originally discovered in 1842 by Otto Thenius. In 1882 “Golgotha” was promoted as the Crucifixion Site by British Major General Charles Gordon. The photograph above taken in 1897 shows Golgotha as it appeared to General Gordon. “This hill, in certain lights, appears to present a striking resemblance to a human skull.” (Source: [Jerusalem, Bethany, and Bethlehem](#))**

## **The Crucifixion at Calvary**

**John’s Gospel [19:17] says, “And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the Place of the Skull, which is called in the Hebrew, “Golgotha” (or “Calvary” in Latin). The probable Site of this World changing event must be protected.**

**In Circa 33 AD with the Crucifixion of “Yeshua Ha Mashiach”, Jesus the Messiah made the supreme sacrifice for all mankind. The Jewish Historian Josephus confirms that over 2000 Jews were crucified during the revolts leading up to the Roman Siege and destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.**

**There are two major sites proposed for the Crucifixion and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre must be considered. We often hear the truism that the Place is not as important as the Person (of our Lord). Nevertheless, the truth about the actual places of The Crucifixion and Resurrection are an aide to our faith. Locating the Site of “The Crucifixion” after 2,000 years is a challenge for every believer. Holy Land Pilgrims deserve to be able to weigh the facts, so that they may attend the Holy Site of their choice.**

**This writer has an admitted bias toward Golgotha and the Garden Tomb, however, there is room for both. Each of these Holy Sites have been assessed for their attributes including Pros and Cons. You be the judge.**



**1961 photo of Golgotha before it is spoiled by buses and construction.**

## **“Golgotha” Attributes**

- **Site known for public executions, outside the City Walls.**
- **Close proximity to the Garden Tomb**
- **Access inside the Old City walls at Damascus Gate and the Antonia Fortress beyond.**
- **Palestinian Tourist Guides refer to Skull Hill as “Golgotha”.**
- **According to Biblical accounts Golgotha’s site location was well known to First Century Jews.**
- **Islamic construction is aiming to conquer enemy religious sites**

**Jewish tradition points to this hill as “Beth-has-sekilah, house of stoning;” where early Christian tradition fixes it as the scene of the martyrdom of the Apostle Stephen. According to Dr. Chaplin’s reference in a book entitled [Jerusalem, Bethany, and Bethlehem](#) the Jews to this day designate the knoll as the “place of stoning.”**

## **The Resurrection Tomb**

**The Garden Tomb, was discovered in 1867 and published as the place of the Resurrection by German Missionary Conrad Schick. In 1894 the Tomb was purchased by the Garden Tomb Assoc. which guides 250,000 pilgrims each yr.**



**According to Captain Condor’s “Tent Work in Palestine”, “a single Jewish sepulchre, thus found is indeed the Tomb in the Garden, nigh unto the place called Golgotha”.**

## **“Garden Tomb” Attributes**

- **Located in a garden close to Calvary**
- **A rich man’s tomb which may have been owned by Joseph of Arimathea**
- **The site includes a huge cistern and a wine press which may have been the Source of the owner’s wealth.**
- **1st Century Herodian Tomb with a rolling wheel stone and trough entry**
- **Wheel was secured with an iron pin. Laboratory tested for iron and lead composition of the period.**
- **Findings from Wyatt Archaeological Research, excavations began 1979.**



**The View inside the Garden Tomb**

## **“Holy Sepulchre” History**

**AD-135 Site of the Temple of Venus. AD-335 With the conversion of Emperor Constantine, Christianity became the state religion of Rome. His mother Queen Helena had a dream which led her to build the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. “According to one**

**tradition, devout Helena supervised excavations in which she found three crosses, the crown of thorns, the nails used for pinning Jesus to the cross and the inscription (sign) above Jesus' head." According to John Keyser of Hope of Israel Ministries, "Nobody seems to question the fact that these items were in an excellent state of preservation after being buried in the ground for some 295 years."**



**The Church of the Holy Sepulchre should be re-examined to verify any claims that it is the Crucifixion and Resurrection site. We are not interested in exposing any fraud which may, or may not have occurred almost 1700 years ago, however, the case for Golgotha must be made to justify preservation and restoration efforts.**

### **"Holy Sepulchre" Attributes**

- It was expedient to destroy the pagan Temple of Venus and re-use the stone to build the new church.**
- Under the foundations of the new Church, A tomb among many tombs was chosen to be "The Tomb". This tomb is not visible, as it is obscured by a huge rose marble Mausoleum.**
- A large slab of stone was excavated and installed to represent Golgotha.**

**Would witnesses to the Crucifixion recognize this landmark?**

- AD 365, the Church is completed, however, it was damaged: by wars, fire and earthquakes, numerous times until the present.**
- It cannot be proven that the Church was built outside the City walls. According to Josephus there were 3 walls on the north side of the City, during the Roman Siege of 70 AD.**

### **Recent Islamic Construction**

**2009 - View before New Construction. For over 50 years Public access to "Golgotha" has been hindered by a Bus Station, complete with associated: sounds, smells and filthy appearance.**



**2010 - View below, shows construction of a Mosque, 2 Minarets and expansion of large Islamic WAQF Cemetery.**



**The real threat to these Christian Holy Sites is from the Islamic WAQF, which is seemingly determined to conquer rival Holy Sites with new construction.**



**2011 - View of East side of the construction including a concrete and steel pile shear wall, which obliterated the cave entrance to "Jeremiah's Grotto", once home to the Prophet.**



**2012 - View of completed construction with 2 signs and continuous stone walls covering the brow of Golgotha.**



**The right sign says "No God but Allah and Muhammad is his Messenger". The left sign says "Islamic Cemetery for The Mujahedeen (Freedom Fighters)".**

**This desecration of Golgotha is a slap in the face to Christians and to Israel.**

## **Pray to Save "Golgotha"**

**Although it cannot be proven that Golgotha is The true location of "The Crucifixion", it is likely that evidence such as cross holes can be found to prove that this is a Site of Ancient Roman Crucifixions. Archaeologists' believe that the crosses were actually located at the street level of Nablis Rd which is typical of Roman executions.**



**2011 - View of vehicular entry to East Jerusalem Bus Station with a view of Golgotha beyond.**

## **Golgotha Foundation**

**Samuel Cravotta, Executive Director  
2578 Blue Dog Court, Creedmoor, NC  
27522, USA Code + (919) 529-1227**

[GolgothaFoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:GolgothaFoundation@yahoo.com)

[www.ElishaVision.wordpress.com/golgotha](http://www.ElishaVision.wordpress.com/golgotha)

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