



Jerusalem as Jesus saw it in the days before His crucifixion was still the city created by Herod the Great, although the hated ruler had been dead for three decades. Herod had admired Greek culture and Roman power, and wanted to make his kingdom a notable cultural and political province of the Roman Empire. He had sought too, the allegiance of his Jewish subjects, and he considered the temple (A) at Jerusalem his finest achievement. Jesus preached in the Court of the Gentiles (B) which Herod's builders had doubled in size and surrounded with an elaborate Hellenistic portico. Herod's palace fortress, named the Antonia (C) for his benefactor Mark Anthony, was the place where Jesus may have been tried before Pontius Pilate. The sports hippodrome (D), theater (E) and viaduct (F) linking the temple with Herod's grand fortified palace (G) were similar to ones built by Herod in other cities. The Mount of Olives (H) where Jesus prayed was outside the city, opposite the eastern wall of the temple. The appearance of Jerusalem then can only be speculated since building enterprises could go on for years. The temple complex was actually completed only a few years before the Romans destroyed it in 70 A.D. The contours of Jerusalem today (right) are much the same as they were in Jesus' time.

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