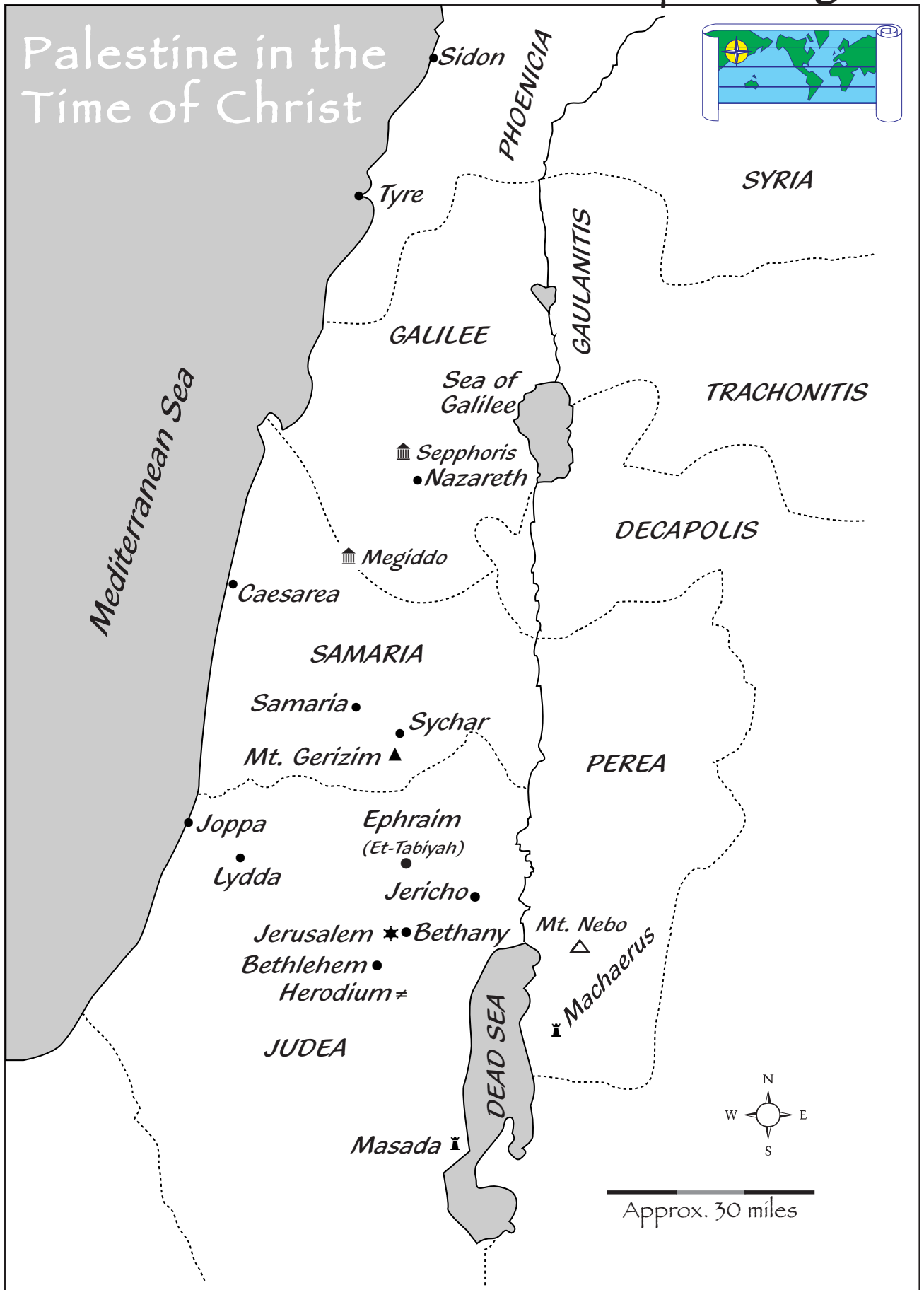


Palestine in the Time of Christ



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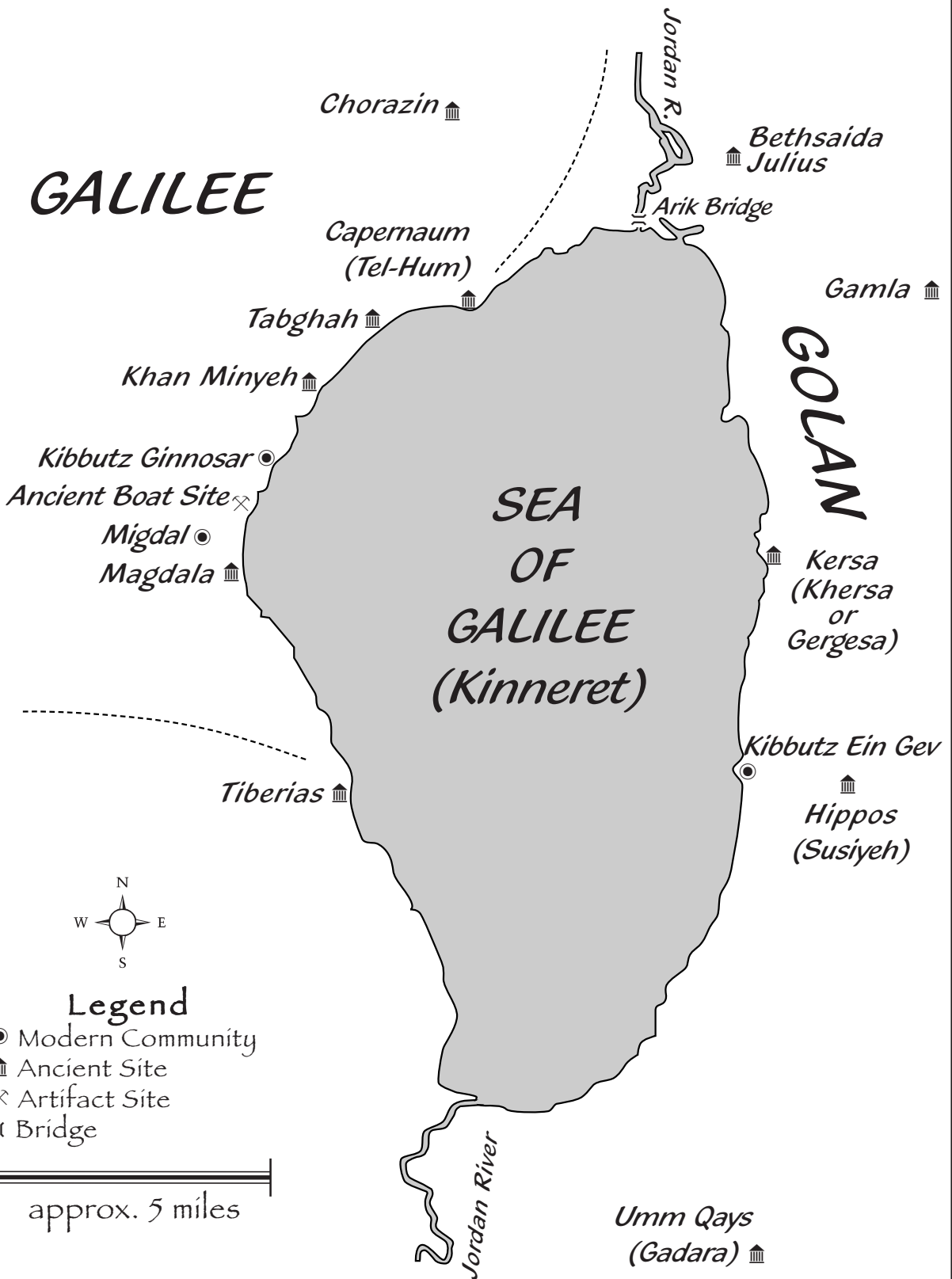


Dead Sea Region

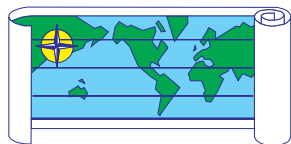


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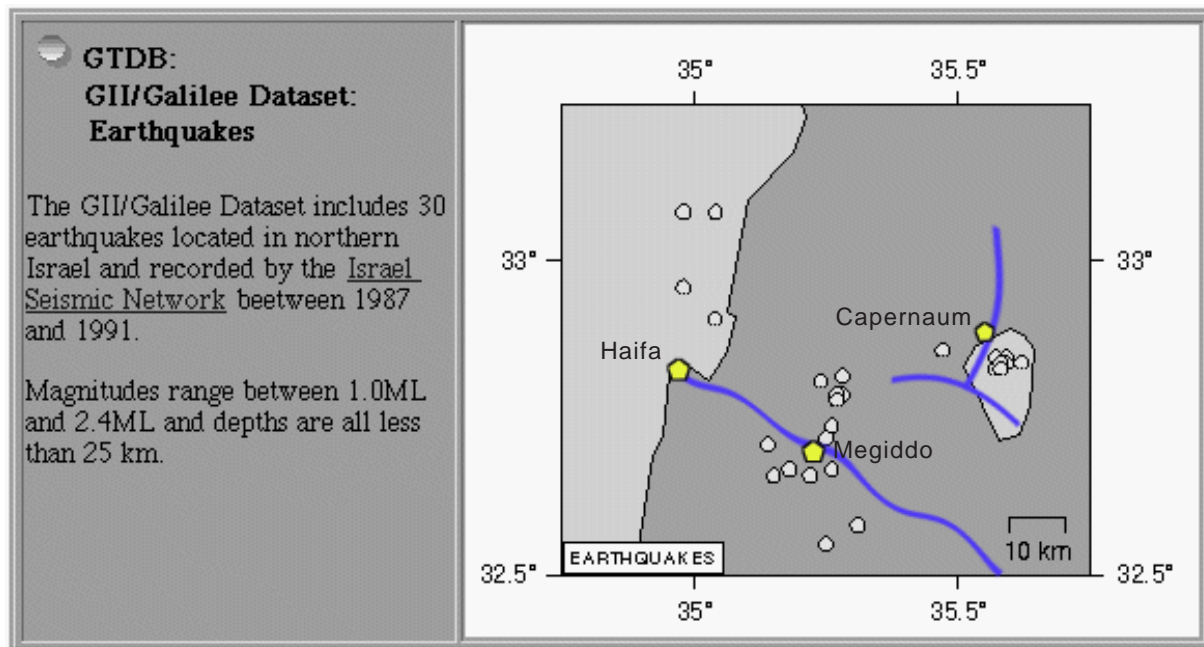
Kinneret Region



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Seismic Israel



The southern border of first-century Galilee was largely defined by the Carmel-Gilboa mountain range that stretches obliquely across Israel from Haifa toward the lower Jordan valley. This mountain range was lifted by activity of the Carmel fault along which it lies. A gap in the mountain range, the Nahal Iron Pass of the Via Maris, gave strategic importance to the city that controlled it in antiquity, namely Megiddo. Unfortunately, for Megiddo to control the pass meant building on the Carmel fault line and risking seismic activity. Archaeologists now believe that Megiddo was destroyed at least three times by earthquakes.

With regard to future seismic activity, Revelation 16.16-19 predicts an earthquake of unprecedented destruction as the armies of Antichrist gather at Armageddon, i.e., the mountain of Megiddo. Remember, however, that earthquake magnitude depends upon the length of the fault line along which the movement occurs. The relatively short length of the Carmel fault limits the potential magnitude of its earthquakes to M6 or M6.5 on the Richter scale. If the apocalyptic earthquake is a *natural* event, it will probably involve the longer fault system of the Dead Sea rift that stretches for more than 1,100 kilometers from southern Turkey to the Gulf of Aqaba. By way of comparison, the San Andreas fault in California is about 1,200 kilometers (800 miles) long, and the longest rift in the world, the Chile Trench, stretches for 5,900 kilometers. It was along the Chile Trench that the M9.5 earthquake occurred in 1960, the earthquake of greatest magnitude ever recorded. The earthquake of the apocalypse may not reach that magnitude, but the destructiveness of a quake also depends upon its proximity to population centers.



Risk Management Solutions, Inc. of Newark, CA, has assessed the earthquake risk in Israel and reports in its 2003 summary:

Though generally considered to have moderate seismicity, a large event in the northern half of Israel could create damaging ground motions in every major population center, all located within 70 km (44 miles) of the [Dead Sea] rift....the Jordan Valley fault in the north...has a high probability of generating a major earthquake....

Research suggests that the Jordan Valley Fault generates magnitude 7 or larger earthquakes approximately every 1,000 years. The last major event on this segment occurred in 1033, increasing the current probability of a major earthquake. Jerusalem is the most populated city in Israel and is located less than 40 km (25 miles) from the fault. Other major cities in central and northern Israel would also be impacted by a large event on this fault. The RMS model estimates that a worst-case scenario in the region would be a magnitude 7.5* earthquake on the Jordan Valley Fault, causing over \$30 billion in economic losses.

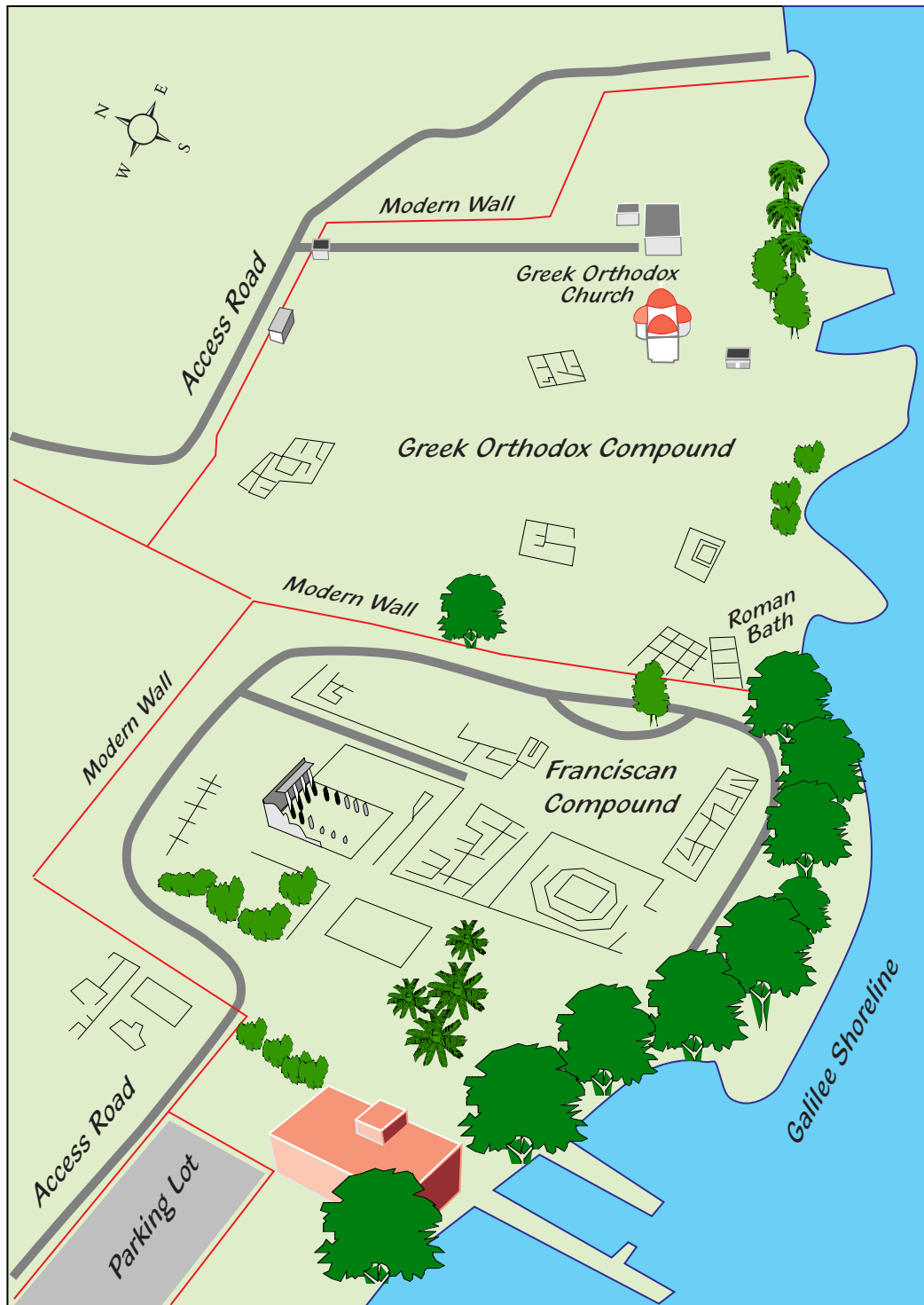
We see that current natural science agrees with the Revelation that a powerfully destructive earthquake could soon impact Jerusalem and its region. On the other hand, the apocalyptic earthquake may have *supernatural power* behind it, or may result from an unforeseen combination of cosmic disturbances. The apostle John who saw the event in a vision said that “Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.” John insisted that “no earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.” Jerusalem will “split into three parts, and the cities of the [surrounding] nations [will collapse].” This will be THE BIG ONE, the island sinker, mountain leveler and city demolisher.

Trip to Israel, anyone?

*Remember that the magnitude numbers of the Richter scale increase logarithmically, so an earthquake of M7.5 is close to ten times greater than a M6.5 quake. (See Queries and Comments in *Biblical Archaeology Review*, November/December 1997.)



Capernaum in Ruins

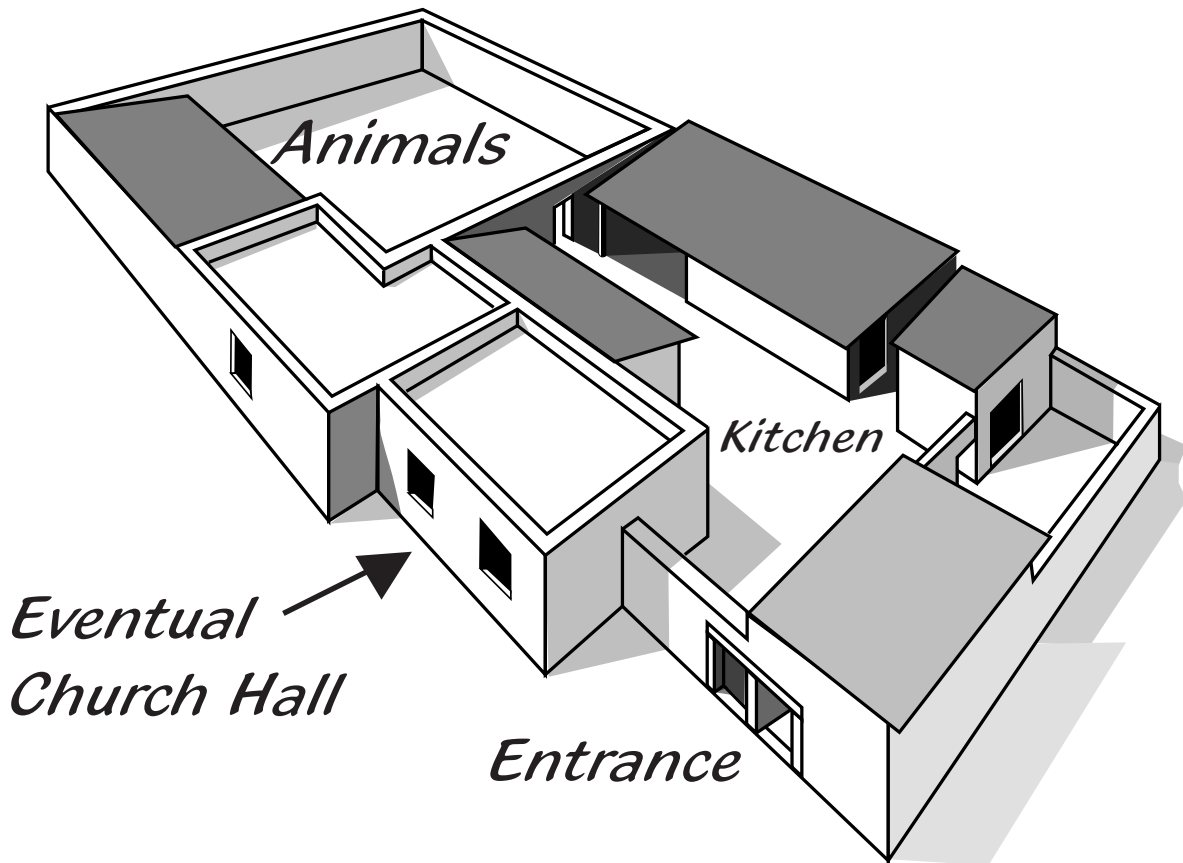
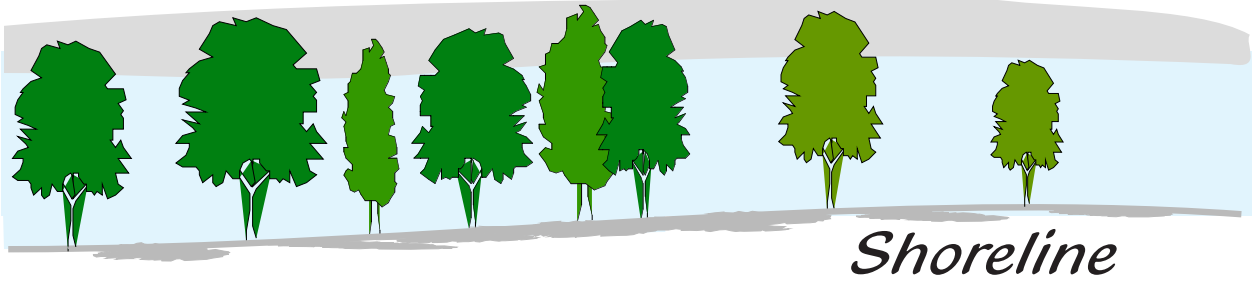


Drawing by Rod A. Graciano, based on photo by Richard Nowitz (Source: BAR 9309)

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St. Peter's House

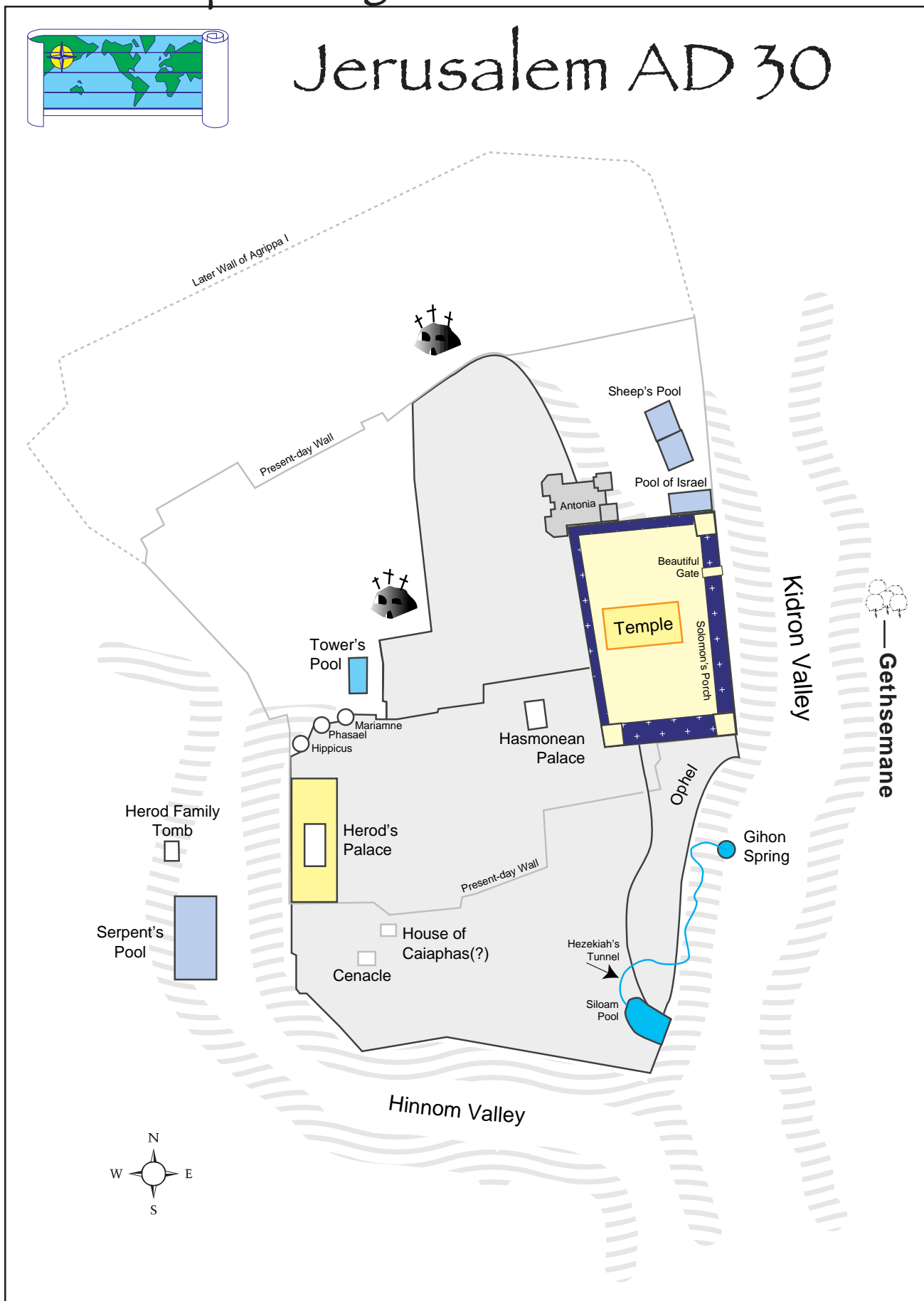
Based on drawing by Graydon F. Snyder



Charts, Maps & Diagrams

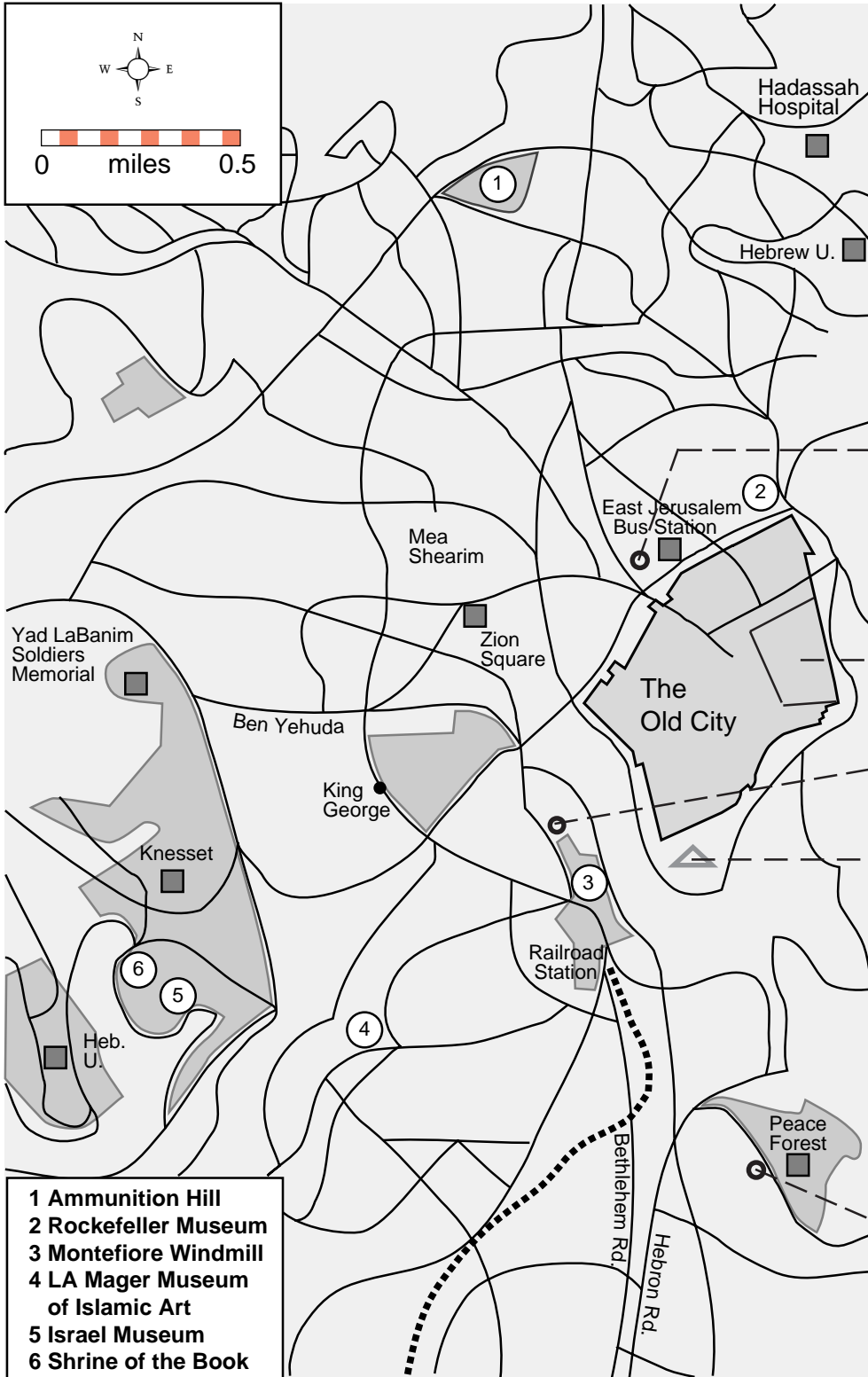
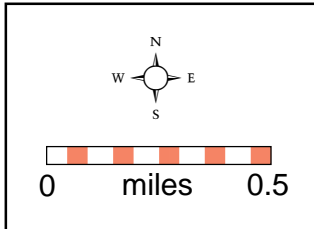


Jerusalem AD 30



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Modern Jerusalem



Garden Tomb

Temple Mt.

Herodian Family Tomb

Mt. Zion

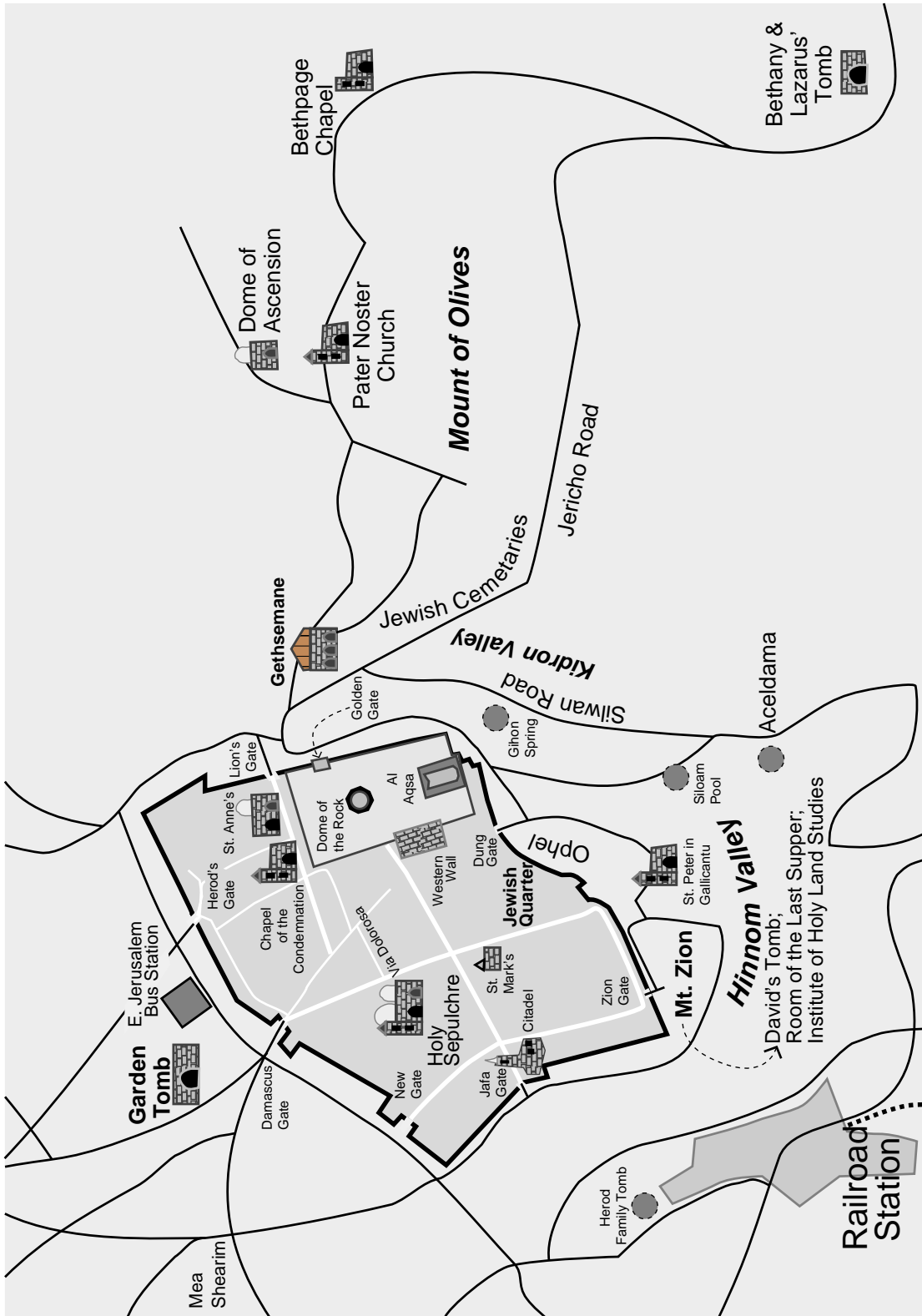
Caiaphas Family Tomb

- 1 Ammunition Hill
- 2 Rockefeller Museum
- 3 Montefiore Windmill
- 4 LA Mager Museum of Islamic Art
- 5 Israel Museum
- 6 Shrine of the Book

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Old City Jerusalem



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