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B0827 – August 3, 2008 – Holy Land Tour - Part 6 – Masada

MASADA (Desert fortress/King's stronghold/Zealots refuge)

- I. Josephus Flavius (Greek) (Joseph Ben Mattathias (Hebrew))
 - A. Descendant of priestly family (male^{above}) /related to royal family of Hasmoneans (female)
 - B. Wandered in desert at age 16 for 3 years with Banus (an ascetic)
 - C. To Rome at 26 to plead for lives of Jewish priests
 - D. Played some role in military in Galilee against Vespasian
 - E. Holds out at Jotapata for 6 weeks, then hides in cave with 40 others (suicide)
 - F. Captured by Romans where he serves as aide/interpreter
 - G. Returns to Rome with Titus, Vespasian's son
 - H. Vespasian
 - 1. Offers him place in his home
 - 2. Roman citizenship
 - 3. Imperial pension
 - 4. Commission to write
 - I. Wars of the Jews (81AD)
 - J. Antiquities of the Jews (94AD)
- II. Masada History
 - A. Alexander Yannai, Hasmonean high priest Jonathan fortify Masada
 - 1. There were 8 Hasmonean fortresses

2. For purpose of sustaining a rebellion
3. All were: rocky, elaborate water systems, walls enclosing mountaintops, large storehouses, weapons, palaces
4. Used as: prisons, execution sites, store treasures

B. Defeat of Hasmoneans at Masada and Rise of Herod

1. Herod retreats with family and 800 soldiers from Antigonus II
2. Herod flees to Petra/Nabatean kingdom (family stays at Masada)
3. Herod goes to Rome
4. Herod returns to Acre with forces
5. Marches on Masada
6. Eventually disposes of Antigonus
- Phase 1 {
 7. Expands Western Palace
 8. Builds 3 more palaces
- Phase 2 {
 9. Magnificent palace on north
 10. Storage facility
 11. Bathhouse
 12. Administrative structure
 13. Giant water cistern beneath palace
- Phase 3 {
 14. Casemate wall
 15. Storerooms stockpiled with food, weapons, war equipment
 16. Produce from vegetable gardens

C. Herod dies 4BC and Archelaus takes over Masada

D. Rome takes over and puts Roman garrison at Masada for 60 years

III. Zealots emerge in 6AD in revolt against Roman census for taxation

A. 2 founders

1. Judah of Gamla on the Golan (i.e., Judah of Galilee in Acts 5) - The Galileans - Sicarii
 2. Zadok the Pharisee from Jerusalem - the Jerusalemites
- B. Extreme Pharisees - liberty
1. God alone was their king
 2. Willing to die before acknowledging Caesar
 3. A sacrilege to submit to Rome
- C. The Galileans - Sicarii (people of the little daggers)
1. Would stab opponents in crowds (assassins) - ostentatious lamentation after
 2. Opponents were Romans or those sympathetic
 3. In 66AD leader was Menahem Ben Judah
- D. The Jerusalemites leaders was Eleazar, son of Hananiah the High Priest

IV. The War of 66-74AD

- A. War breaks out at Caesarea by the Sea
- B. Menahem storms Masada
1. Takes arms
 2. Captures Jerusalem
 3. Apprehends and executes Eleazar and brother
 4. Menahem considers himself "King of Jerusalem"
 5. Jerusalem Zealots kill Menahem and most of his men
 6. A small band of Sicarii escapes to Masada under Eleazar Ben Yair (Menahem's cousin)
- C. Sicarii remain at Masada from fall of 66 - 74AD
1. They raid villages (Hebron, En Gedi)
- D. Rome continues under Bassus
1. Takes Herodium
 2. Takes Machaerus (Jordanian side)

3. Jardes Forest (Bassus killed)

E. Flavius Silva

1. Takes all his forces to Masada

2. Surrounds it

3. Builds a wall all the way around (2m thick, 4km long)

4. Establishes supply routes

5. Constructs 100m tall ramp (Jewish slaves)

6. Adds 25m platform

7. Adds 30m iron tower

8. Battering ram

F. Battering ram fails

G. Set wall on fire

H. Read Eleazar's speech page 8

I. 960 suicide ocraca

J. 2 women (relatives of Eleazar) and 5 children hid in water

conduit

V. Mount Masada

A. 100m from desert floor (west)

B. 350m from desert floor (east)

C. Snake Path (east)

D. Casemate walls

1. 6.5m wide

2. 1,290m long

3. Housed Zealots

E. Synagogue

1. Dt. 33-34

2. Ezek 37:1-14

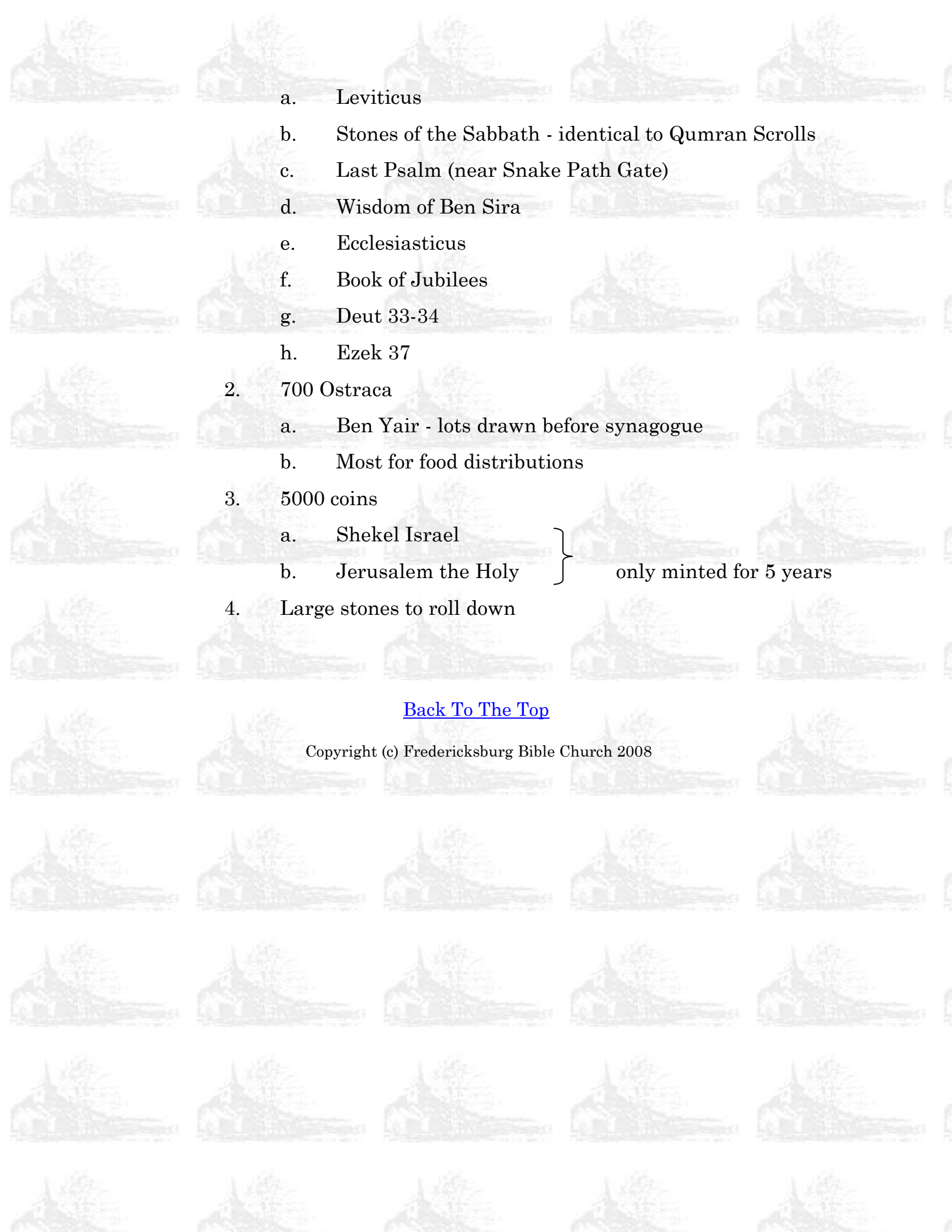
a. Amplification of 36:22-38

b. Vision (37:1-10)

1. 37:1-2 Valley of Dry/Scattered Bones
 2. 37:3-6 Physical restoration prophesied
 3. 37:7-8 Physical restoration
 4. 37:9- Spiritual restoration prophesied
 5. 37:10 Spiritual restoration
- c. Vision explained (37:11-14)
1. 37:11 Israel's hopelessness
 2. Israel's new covenant fulfilled, follows order of

Gen 2:7

- F. Northern Palace (3-tiered)
- G. 23 Storerooms
- H. Cisterns
 1. Upper tier (8) (80m from summit)
 2. Lower tier (4) (130m from summit)
 3. Mules/donkeys transported to summit
 4. 40,000 M³ capacity
 5. <50mm of rain annual (~2 inches)
 6. Mikvehs
 7. Swimming pools
 8. Gardening
- I. Bathhouse (Large)
 1. Dressing room
 2. Tepid room (*mikveh*) frigidarium
 3. Sauna (caldarium)
 - a. Oven
 - b. Double floor
 - c. Hot water
- J. Archaeological Discoveries
 1. Scroll fragments

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- a. Leviticus
 - b. Stones of the Sabbath - identical to Qumran Scrolls
 - c. Last Psalm (near Snake Path Gate)
 - d. Wisdom of Ben Sira
 - e. Ecclesiasticus
 - f. Book of Jubilees
 - g. Deut 33-34
 - h. Ezek 37
2. 700 Ostraca
 - a. Ben Yair - lots drawn before synagogue
 - b. Most for food distributions
 3. 5000 coins
 - a. Shekel Israel
 - b. Jerusalem the Holy } only minted for 5 years
 4. Large stones to roll down

[Back To The Top](#)

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