

Site: Pool of Siloam

Scripture References: 2 Kings 20:20; Isaiah 12; Matthew 17:4; John 7:37-38; John 9:1-7

Historical Significance:

1. In 701 BC King Hezekiah rerouted the waters of the Gihon Spring inside the city because of the potential invasion of the Assyrians. (Hezekiah's Tunnel)
2. The upper pool located at the exit of Hezekiah's tunnel was discovered near the turn of the 20th century. For many years it was believed to be the Pool of Siloam from Jesus' day. In 2004, while digging a sewer, the stones from the actual Pool of Siloam were discovered.
3. It is believed that the priests would take water from the pool to pour on the altar during the Feast of Succoth (Feast of Tabernacles). The feast was a reminder of how God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt and provided for them in the wilderness.
4. Hebrews believed that this feast pointed ahead to when all nations would celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem when the Messiah comes.
5. These tunnels were also used by Israelites as they tried to escape during the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.
6. It was here that Jesus taught that sin was not the cause of tragedy. Death or disaster is not necessarily an indicator of one sin being worse than another. Jesus challenged everyone to repent and bear fruit for God.

Things to look for:

1. Visitors' Center has a mural depicting the miracle of Jesus healing the blind man at the Pool of Siloam.
2. The 225' long north side wall of the lower pool has been excavated. The remainder of the pool lies under piles of dirt on privately owned land.
3. Original stones from 2nd century street and during time of Jesus.

What does this site teach us about God?

1. During the Feast of the Tabernacles the Israelites would give sacrifices for sin and burnt offerings. Jesus is the fulfillment of the tradition at Succoth, the forgiveness of sin.