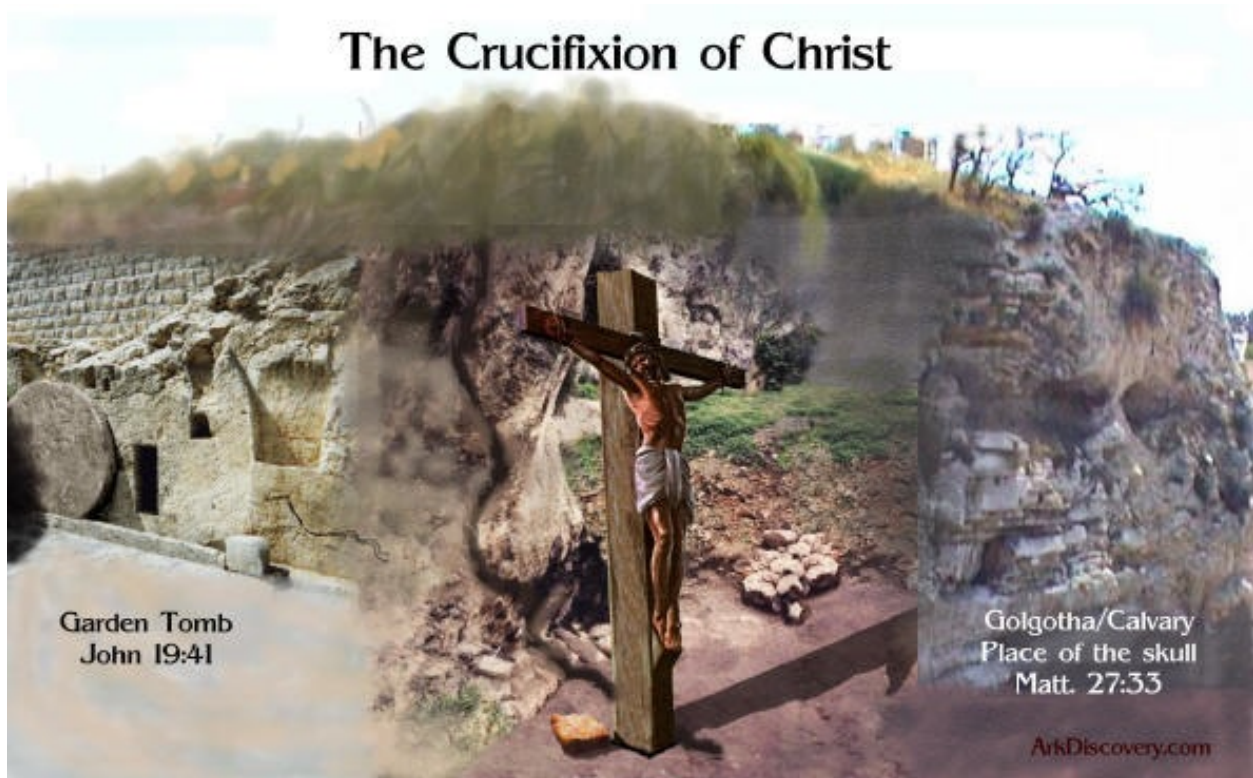


The Ark of the Covenant

including THE CRUCIFIXION SITE AND TOMB OF CHRIST



The crucifixion site of Christ is located between the Garden Tomb and Golgotha.

Ron Wyatt was in Jerusalem in 1978, after having been diving at the Red Sea inspecting a possible site of the crossing by Moses at the Gulf of Aqaba, and was preparing to return to the states, when he was approached by a member of the Israeli Antiquities Authority who invited him to take a walk in the **Garden Tomb** grounds. While walking through this area, his arm pointed to a pile of trash next to an escarpment and these words came out of his mouth, "*There is Jeremiah's Grotto and the Ark of the Covenant is in there.*" He hadn't even thought of those

words, but they came out through God's direction. The official with Mr. Wyatt said that was wonderful to hear, and he would give Ron a place to stay, and food to eat while working on the site. This was puzzling to Ron because he had not even thought about the Ark, and yet God spoke through him with those words. First, Ron had to return to the states and begin research on the idea of the Ark even being in that location. Over the next three and a half years he worked at the site, and on January 6, 1982, Ron entered the chamber that contained the Ark of the Covenant.

The Garden Tomb Grounds



Turn left up this alley to the Garden Tomb grounds. In the distance you can see the old city walls of Jerusalem at the Damascus Gate.



Before we begin studying about the discovery of the Ark, let's take a look at the beautiful area which is the backdrop of the discovery. The Garden Tomb area is along an escarpment north of the city wall of Jerusalem, and is a tourist spot frequented by thousands of people each year. It is owned and maintained by the Garden Tomb Association in London and was acquired by them in 1894. It had been speculated, and then confirmed in Ron Wyatt's excavations, that this is the authentic burial site of Christ. Along this rock escarpment is the formation Golgotha "*the place of the skull*" as mentioned in the New Testament. In

a location near both of these sites is the actual crucifixion site of Christ, and the Ark of the Covenant is in a cave below that spot!

The location of the Garden Tomb is north of the old city of Jerusalem. The sacrifice was to take place north of the tabernacle as required in Levitical law. Also, in the New Testament it states, "*The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city.*" John 19:20. Golgotha or Calvary is in close proximity to the Damascus gate on the north side of Jerusalem near the Garden Tomb.

John 19:41,42 "*Now in the place where He was **crucified** there was a **garden**, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the **tomb was nearby.***" There are several elements in this area which give credibility to this site matching the verse above. First, the tomb itself, second, an ancient underground water cistern that facilitated a garden area, third, a large winepress, and fourth, the place of the skull.

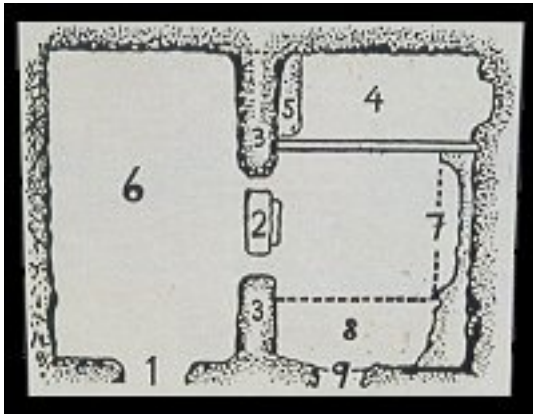
The Tomb





Matt. 27:59, 60 "*And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.*" Notice in the photo above, the arched radius to the left of the entrance. This follows the contour of the 13 foot tall rolling stone ("*...it was very large.*" Mark 16:4) that sealed the tomb. It was probably cut out of the face of the tomb. When the stone was in place to seal the tomb, it covered a small window to the right of the entrance. When the stone is rolled back, this opened the window allowing light to enter the tomb. To the right of the door is a large block that was used to stop the stone from rolling further to the right, and is in a downhill direction. Luke 23:53 also says the tomb was hewn from stone, just like this one.

Diagram of the Tomb



1. Tomb entrance
2. Low threshold to the graves chamber
3. Low walls separating the chambers
4. Burial place of Christ
5. Headrest cut in rock
6. Weeping chamber
7. Rough ledge
8. Unfinished shelf where bones would have been kept, but never were here.
9. Small window

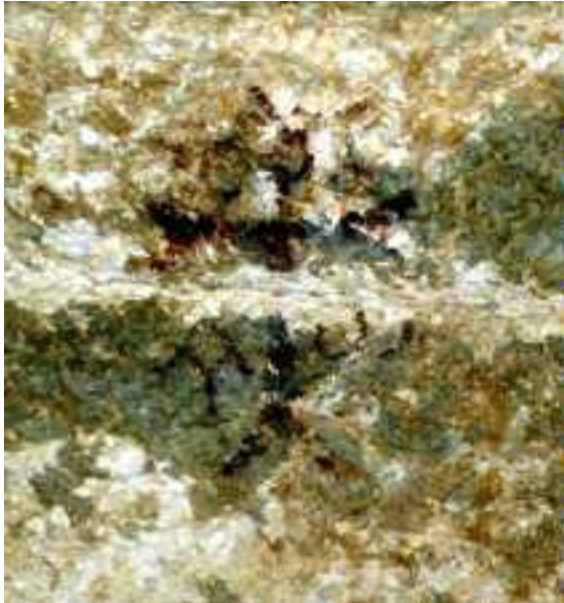


(Above) Looking from weeping chamber into tomb area, we see the probable burial place of Christ on our far left.



(Above) This is the burial place of Christ and you will notice the foot area at right that was enlarged to accommodate Christ's feet, as he must have been taller than Joseph of Arimathea who had the tomb constructed for himself and was apparently 5' 8" tall. The cutting of the stone was

hastily completed in order to accomplish the task of burial before the Sabbath hours, Friday at sunset. Mark 16:5 says Mary saw a young man or angel sitting on right side of tomb the first day of the week. He may have been in the right hand portion of this photo.



Ancient red cross on wall inside tomb with Greek alpha and omega letters



White cross outside the tomb. Crossbar near top.



Above: large cross carved in rock face to the right of the tomb. Apparently defaced at some point.

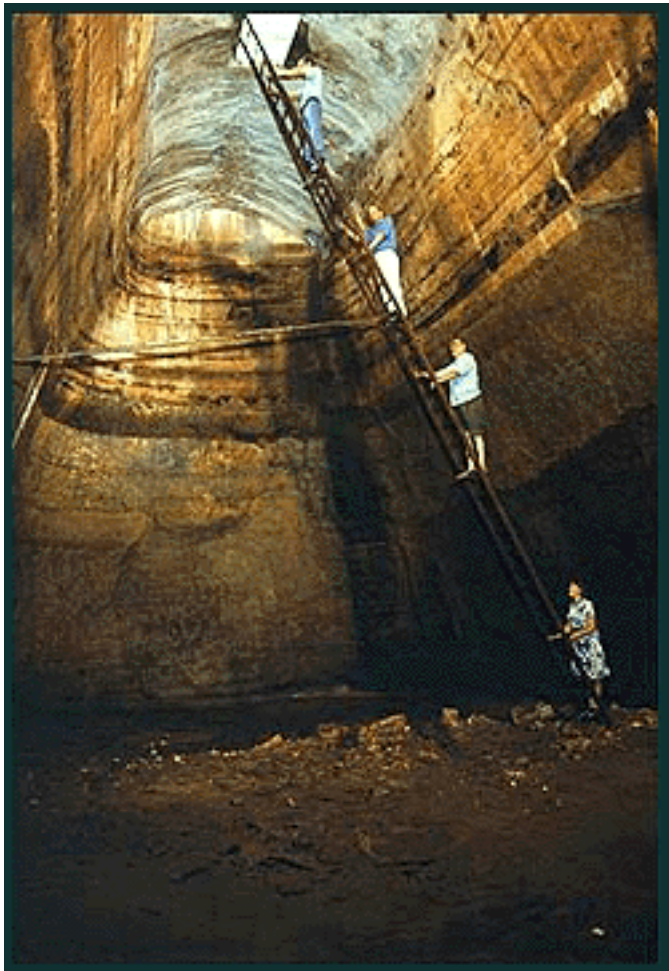


"Make it as secure as you know how. So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard." Matt. 27:65,66 Close-up photo at left is of an iron shaft driven into the rock to seal the stone from being rolled back and opening the tomb. It is about 5.5 feet to the left of the door opening. This would have prevented the stone from being rolled backward. The distance from the iron shaft to the stopping point at right is 13 ft. 2 inches, per our measurements.

"And they made His grave with the wicked-- but with the rich at His death" Isaiah 53:9. This text describes the other tombs to the left of this one where wealthy and wicked men were buried.

The Cistern

Near the tomb itself is an underground, 250,000 gallon, ancient rain water cistern hewn out of rock. It is the third largest in Jerusalem, measuring 29' wide x 65' long x 30' tall. A cistern this size would be designed to supply water for a large garden, matching the biblical record of a garden area.



The evidence shows this cistern was built prior to the time of Christ, but it does contain two crusader style crosses that were added at a later date when repairs were made. There probably was a large olive tree grove and a vineyard in the garden which benefited from this cistern.

The Winepress



Near the tomb is an ancient wine press (above) which was excavated in 1924, is one of the largest in Israel. It is thought to be of pre-Christian origin. A very large vineyard must have been in the area for a press this size to have been in use.

Golgotha - The Place of the Skull



Two eye sockets and nose are seen in the center of the photo



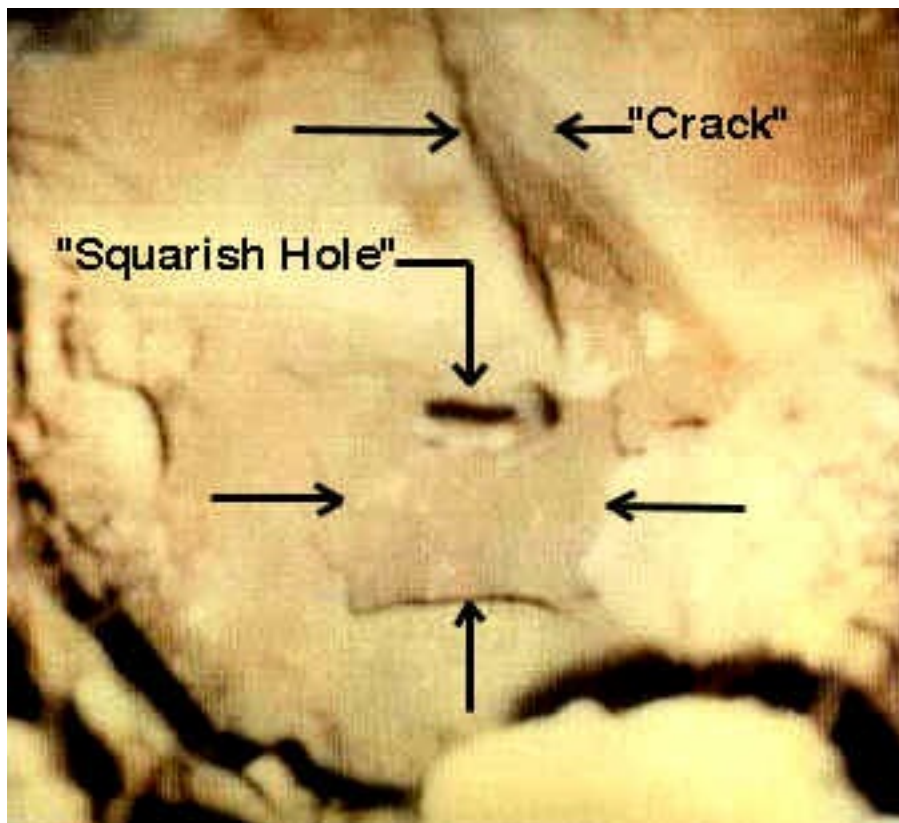
View from left side of skull shows a definite nose profile and eye sockets

200 yards east of the Garden Tomb is Skull Hill, or Golgotha - Place of the Skull, or the Latin equivalent - Calvary. "*And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him.*" John 19:17,18. It was below this area that victims were stoned to death, including perhaps Stephen, and approximately 100 yards to our left is the area where the crucifixion took place. Today there is an Arab bus station in front of Golgotha.

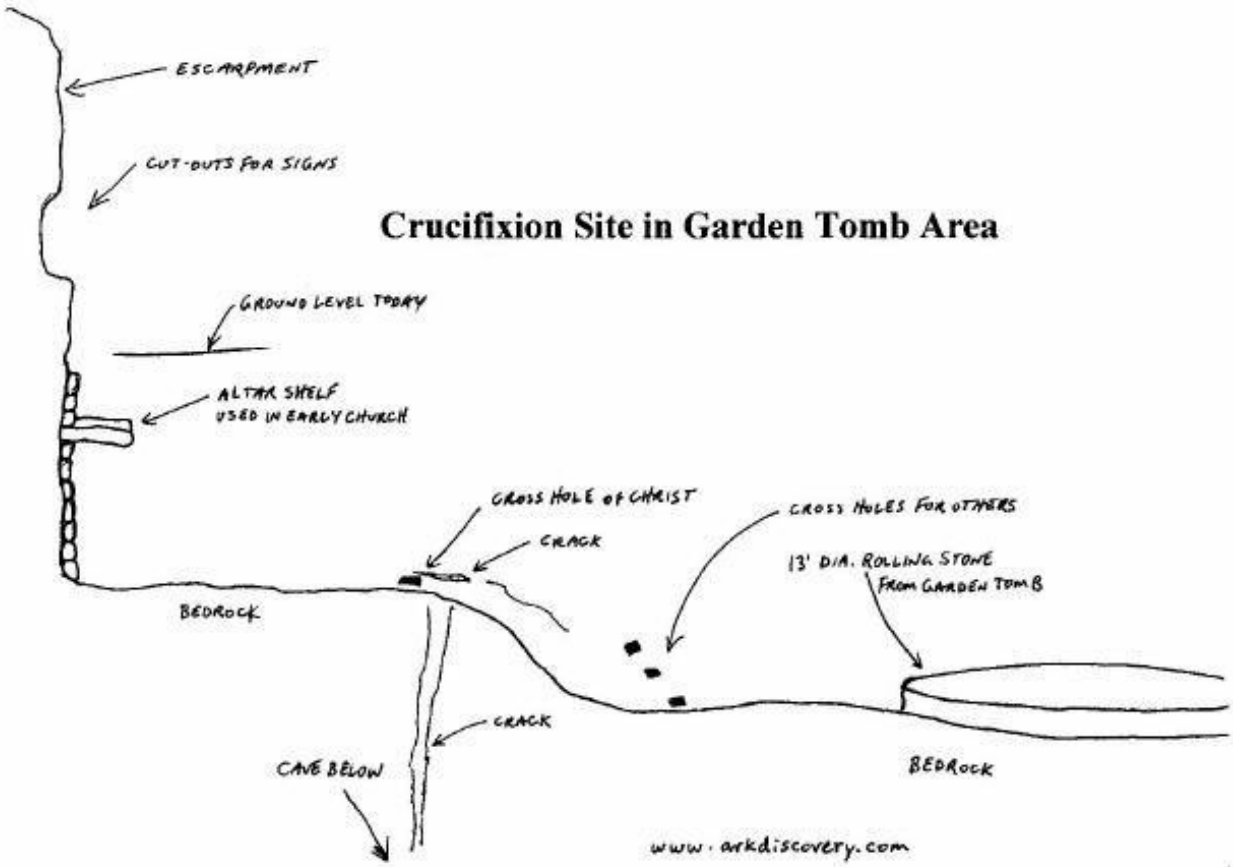
Ron Wyatt Begins His Work

Ron Wyatt completed extensive excavations in the Garden Tomb area over a period of approximately 10 years, beginning January 1979. Ron began digging near the location where he mysteriously spoke the words,

"There is Jeremiah's Grotto, and the Ark of the Covenant is in there" while walking through the area with the head of the Israel Antiquities Authority for the Jerusalem area. God placed those words in his mouth. The gentleman with him then said they would furnish his room and board to work on the project. This area was along an escarpment in the Garden Tomb grounds. While digging 30 feet down through the soil along the escarpment, Ron uncovered four crucifixion holes in solid rock, and one on a higher level and about ten feet out from the escarpment measuring 12x13x23 inches deep, and three more on a lower level four feet below and further out. The single, higher cross hole was designed to be used on the special featured victim.



Above is a Polaroid photo Ron took of a square cross hole near the escarpment. The handle of a crow-bar is seen in the hole, as the bar is standing vertically. This bedrock is now covered by many feet of soil. photo courtesy anchorstone.com

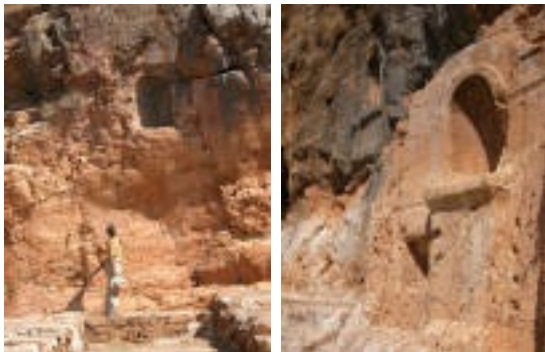


Above: Diagram of what was discovered underground, along the rock escarpment

Crucifixion site at Garden Tomb today....



Standing next to the cut-outs where signs reading "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" were placed at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. Bedrock is 18 feet down. Jesus' crucifixion took place near this spot.



Above are other examples of cut-outs in northern Israel at the Roman Temple of Pan at Cesaerea Phillippi that we found, similar to what we see at Jesus' crucifixion site.



"The rocks were rent...."Matt. 27:51

Above the cut-outs near the Garden Tomb is a large crack in escarpment extends up the face, behind the point where Christ was crucified. Lower portion of crack has been filled-in to prevent erosion.



Above: At the top of the escarpment we can see how large the crack really is, but most of the crack has been filled in down near ground level.

Finding the Ark

by Kevin Fisher



Ron Wyatt crawling through the tunnel system which leads to the cave where the Ark of the Covenant is located today. c. 1981



At left, Ron Wyatt in the Garden Tomb grounds standing in the entrance to the tunnel leading to the Ark of the Covenant. (photo courtesy anchorstone.com)



Above: Group assembled for work at the Ark of the Covenant excavation. Tunnel to the left. Perhaps over a hundred people over the years helped Ron at the site.



Left, inside tunnel system.

There were three large cut-outs in the escarpment wall behind the place where the featured victim, in this case Jesus, was crucified. On January 6, 1982, after years of hard labor and excavation permits issued by the

Israeli Department of Antiquities, Ron Wyatt crawled into the cave where the Ark was located. In this cave he also found the Table of Shewbread, the 7-branch lamp stand, the Golden Altar of Incense, and the Golden Censer which all still remain there today. He brought out a very large sword, numerous oil lamps, a brass shekel weight, a brass ring, and an ephod.



Any item Ron would find in the excavation he would turn over to the Israel Antiquities Authority, which he did. Today in the Israel Museum Jerusalem, you can see the ivory pomegranate Ron turned over to the IAA after bringing it out of the tunnel system that led to the cave that houses the Ark of the Covenant. It is said to be the only item ever found from Solomon's temple, in the first temple period. It is a thumb-sized pomegranate believed to be used by the Temple priests during one of their ceremonies. Around the shoulder of the pomegranate is a carefully incised inscription in early Hebrew characters, part of which is broken off, and reads: "qodes kohanim I-beyt [yahwe]h" or "Sacred donation

for the priests of (in) the House of [Yahwe]h." "House of Yahweh" most probably refers to the Temple in Jerusalem. It has a hollow cavity in the base for mounting on a rod or shaft. The shaft is now resting in the cave with the ark, placed there by Ron. The pomegranate was a favorite motif in the Temple of Solomon. After Ron gave this to the IAA in 1979 or 1980, the department was subsequently plundered and many items stolen, including this wonderful find. In 1981 it appeared in a French magazine. Then in 1988, an antiquities dealer in France sold it to the IAA for \$550,000.00, according to the Biblical Archaeology Review. This ivory pomegranate has been featured in many articles, first in 1984, in the Biblical Archaeology Review while in the hands of the French, but no one has ever said where it was found. That is a mystery to most, but we know it was found in the tunnel system during the Ark of the Covenant dig. There is not an official, public dig associated with this find. Ron Wyatt left two parts of the pomegranate in the cave with the Ark of the Covenant. The shaft or rod of the pomegranate was left in the cave as evidence of where it came from, and also one of the leaves, to show folks later that the temple furnishing are associated with the ivory pomegranate.



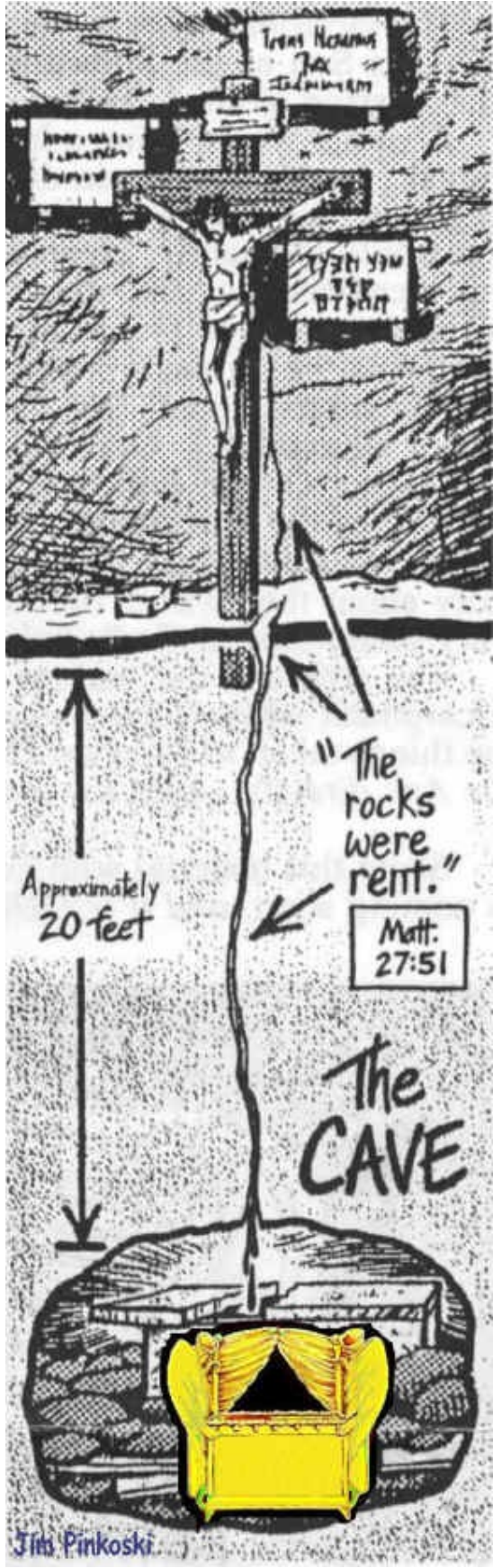
Above: Israel Museum October 2005, displaying the ivory pomegranate (No photos allowed in the museum.)



Above: Ron Wyatt with Dan Bahat

When Ron first entered the cave, he noticed a dark substance that had dripped out of a crack in the ceiling directly above the Ark, onto the top of a stone sarcophagus, and down inside of it. The Ark was in a large stone sarcophagus and the top or lid of the stone case had been broken and moved aside, allowing the dark substance inside. The dark substance that was on the ceiling had dripped onto the top of the stone case and down inside onto the golden lid or Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant.

It was at this moment that Ron realized the cross hole above communicated down to this cave below via a fissure in the bedrock, and had allowed a dark substance to fall on the Ark. Ron passed out, as he realized that dark substance was the actual blood of Jesus! Ron was unconscious for 45 minutes, exhausted from double pneumonia and hard work. Inside the cave were the other furnishings of the Mosaic tabernacle, including the golden candlestick, the table of showbread, the altar of incense, plus a large sword that may have belonged to Goliath, and other items. Stacked on top of everything were animal skins then boards, then stones.



The cut-outs in the escarpment behind the cross were apparently designed to hold signs relating to the person being executed. In this case they would have said, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews," in Greek, Hebrew and Latin, and would have been on the cross also, but smaller in size. Surrounding the crucifixion site is the foundation of a first century church, and within this is the 13 ft. diameter rolling stone used to seal the Garden Tomb. The cross hole that was used to crucify Christ has a large crack in the bedrock next to it which extends all the way down under the cross hole to a cave below.

The Ark of the Covenant had been secreted into this cave in 586 BC when the Babylonians had Jerusalem under siege (II Kings 25). Jeremiah and his assistants wished to hide the furnishings of the tabernacle from the pagan invaders. But in reality this was part of God's plan. If the Jews had accepted Christ as the Messiah, the Jews would have had possession of the Ark at the time of Christ and would have offered Jesus' blood as the final sacrifice and would have placed His blood on the vacant western side of the Mercy Seat of the Ark. But God knew they would not accept His Son, so He had His own plan arranged to place the blood of His Son on the Most Holy, the Ark of the Covenant. When Christ died, "the rocks were rent," creating the crack in the bedrock leading down into the cave below. A Roman soldier speared Christ's left side, causing *blood* and *water* to flow through the crack into the cave below. The lid of the stone case containing the Ark of the Covenant, was broken and moved aside allowing Christ's blood to flow directly onto the Mercy Seat of the Ark. At this moment type met antitype. Both the old and new covenants were ratified by the blood of Jesus. The ceremonial system which looked forward to Christ's sacrifice, came to an end. At that moment the large, thick veil in the temple was torn by God from top to bottom and the sacrificial Passover lamb escaped, because Jesus was the final sacrifice.

Mr. Wyatt removed a sample of Christ's blood from the Mercy Seat of the Ark in the cave and paid a lab in Israel to do an analysis of the blood. They put the dark dried-out substance in saline solution for 72 hours, then added a growth medium to the blood for 48 hours. Mr. Wyatt asked them to do a chromosome test, but they informed him that he was wasting his money since you can't do a chromosome test on dead white blood cells. They proceeded with the analysis and said, "It's your money." As they began viewing the cells under the microscope, they saw cells dividing before their eyes! They could tell it was human blood, but "This blood is *alive!*" They couldn't believe what they were seeing! They continued with their tests and found the blood to be *unique* from any other human blood! Each cell contained only 24 chromosomes compared to the normal count of 46 that you and I have. Christ received 23 chromosomes from Mary, and one "y" chromosome from His heavenly Father to designate a male child. Others in the lab were asked to come see for themselves. With tears in their eyes they asked, "Whose blood is this?" Mr. Wyatt replied, "It is the blood of your Messiah." Then they asked who the Messiah was, and they began wailing and shouting. No other male human being has ever had this same chromosome count! Christ's blood is *alive*.

The Ark and the various other items from the first temple were hidden in this cave below the Calvary Escarpment when Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem and destroyed the temple in 586 B.C. There is a list of the things taken to Babylon (2 *Kings* 25), but the Ark was not included! Temple priests were led by God to hide the Ark directly under the place where His Son would die approximately 600 years later!

In-depth story of Mr. Wyatt and the dig for the Ark

[The Four Angels And The Ark Of The Covenant](#)

[Transcript Of A Talk By Ron Wyatt April 6, 1996](#)

[Transcript Of A Ron Wyatt Talk 1-9-99](#)

[An Analysis From a Geneticist of Mr. Wyatt's Description of Christ's Blood](#)