

## Palm Sunday Route comparisons

A week before he was killed, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. Though the exact path cannot be known, we traveled a likely path in both 1970 and 2016. So the photos will be compared.



1970 Gail on a donkey, our dwelling in the rear



2016 The wall positions and road are the same.

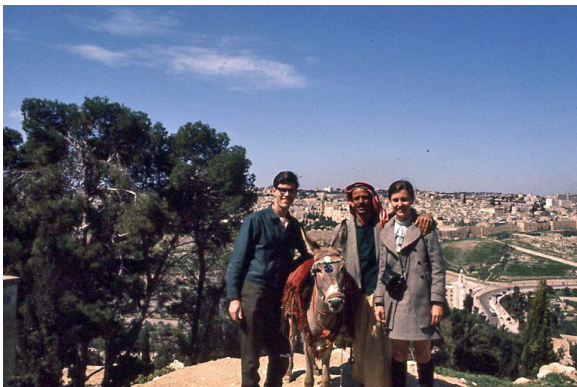
There are more trees in 2016 and taller buildings on the horizon. The building in which we stayed in 1970 is still there but covered by trees.



1970 route into Kidron valley



2016 same route down



1970 part way down. Ed and Gail with donkey



1970 near valley bottom, Garden of Gethsemane



1970 Orthodox Garden of Gethsemane

2016 same garden with old olive trees

When descending on this route, Jesus was cheered by the crowd as a coming king. Hundreds of years earlier, the prophet Zechariah predicted (9:9) “See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” Yet Jesus knew the future, as expressed in the old prophecies of Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, about the coming crucifixion in which he would die a horrible death. Zechariah also wrote (12:10), as God speaking: “They will look on me [God], the one they have pierced, and mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”

Jesus also knew about the future destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman soldiers in the year 70. So in contrast to the celebration of the crowd as he descended this route on a donkey, Jesus was very sad. Luke 19:41-44 records it: As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

The Christian faith proclaims that Jesus was in fact God, living a righteous life before being sacrificed (killed) as a perfect offering, later coming back to life again to proclaim total payment for all of our unrighteousness, and offering us the free gift of eternal life with God in heaven.

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