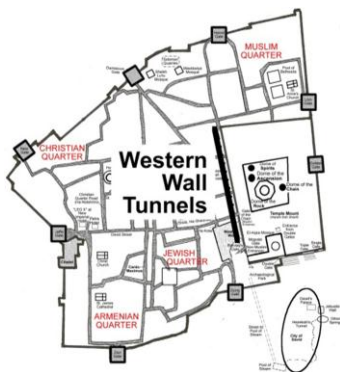


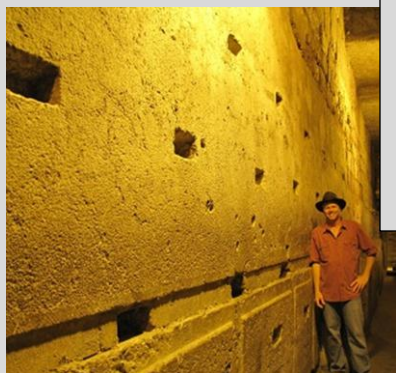
Western Wall Tunnels

When Herod doubled the size of the Old Testament Temple Mount he expanded to the north, to the south and to the west. The walls along the west side were set on the bedrock. The west wall of the Temple Mount's retaining wall is 1,591 feet long, making it the longest of the four Temple Mount walls. In 70 AD the Romans completely destroyed the Temple, the Temple Mount buildings, and most of the Temple Mount wall except for the lower portions that were



Buried in the rubble from the debris of the dismantled Temple precincts and walls above. From the Western Wall Prayer Plaza beside Wilson's Arch a tunnel can be entered that runs along the northern portion of the west wall up to its northwest corner.

The Master Course Stone: 44 ft long, 11.5 ft high, 15 ft wide; weighs 570-630 tons. It was used to stabilize smaller stones under it. It sits 20 feet above the Herodian street. The Romans chipped away at it in 70 AD when they tried to destroy the Western Wall, but they stopped when they reached the level of this Master Course Stone due to its size



The Master Course Stone

The tunnel continues further and further to the north along the Western Wall. The perfect cut and fit Herodian ashlar are seen to the right in this photo below.

