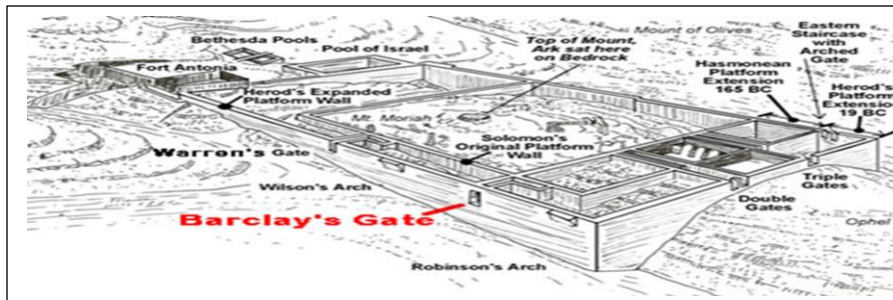
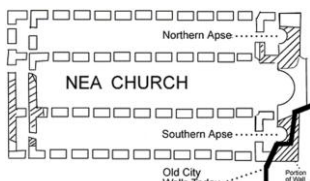
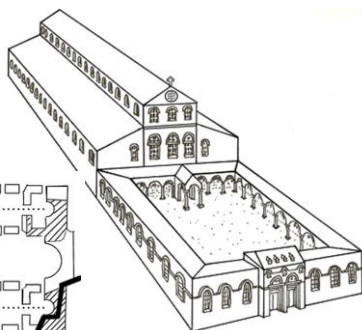
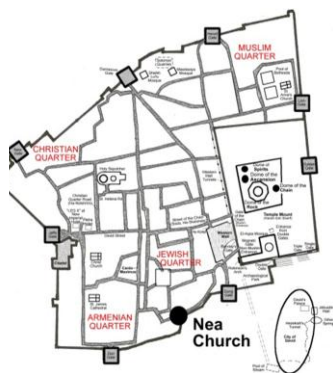


# Nea Church

Emperor Justinian (527-565) built Nea Church ("nea" is Greek for "new") the east side of the Cardo Street in the south part of Jerusalem. It can be clearly seen on the Madaba Map. This 375 by 185 foot basilica, the largest church in Israel, was dedicated in 543. Justinian's Roman court historian, Procopius, notes that this massive church was not built over a traditional holy site, so it was meant to serve some other purpose. It included a library, a monastery, a hospital and a hospice. Procopius says the structure was built with enormous cut stones on a huge platform, which was supported by large underground vaults. It appears Justinian was building a new Temple to hold the Temple treasures taken from Herod's Temple to Rome in 70 AD and then to Constantinople in Justinian's day.



The large stones of the southeast corner of the Nea Church are seen setting under the city's southern wall.



This is inside the Nea Church's southern apse that would have been in the sanctuary of the church.