KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MINNESOTA

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"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
-Proverbs 27:17

Wilson's & Robinson's Arch

Wilson's Arch and Robinson's Arch are two ancient structures situated on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Historians and archaeologists believe that the builders and observers who constructed these arches had significant astronomical knowledge. Although there is no conclusive evidence to support this theory, the placement and orientation of the arches have generated interest in their potential use as astronomical observatories.

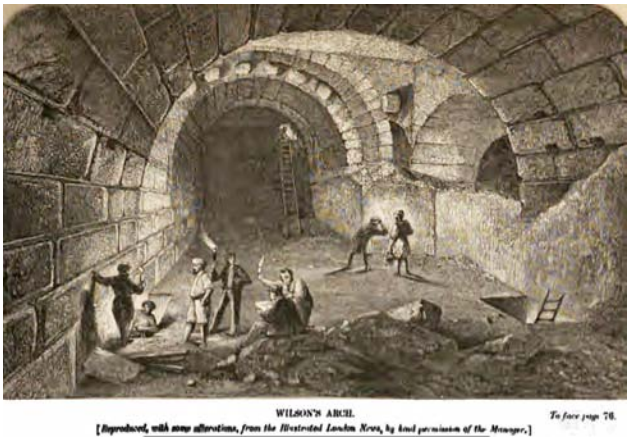
Wilson's Arch was erected during the reign of Herod the Great in the first century BCE. This arch is one of the most prominent and remarkable structures of the ancient world, comprising over 40 feet of precisely cut and fitted stone blocks. The western side location of Wilson's Arch afforded an uninterrupted view of the horizon. If the builders and observers possessed advanced knowledge of astronomy, they could have used the arch to track the Sun's position throughout the year, to observe solstices and equinoxes, and to view the setting of the Sun at particular points on the horizon. The arch's location could also have facilitated the tracking of planets, stars, and the Moon as they ascended and descended the western horizon.

Robinson's Arch was constructed during the second temple period around 2,000 years ago, situated on the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount. It was part of an enormous staircase that led to the Temple Mount from the Lower City. The staircase was destroyed during the siege of Jerusalem in 70 CE, but Robinson's Arch still stands as a remarkable feat of ancient engineering. If the builders and observers had knowledge of astronomy, Robinson's Arch could have been utilized to observe specific stars or planets or to study the phases of the Moon. The arch's position on the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount would have provided an unobstructed view of the southwestern sky, making it an ideal location for astronomical observations.

The alignment of Wilson's Arch with the winter solstice, for example, would have been evidence of an understanding of the Sun's movements throughout the year and the changing seasons. Similarly, observations of specific stars or planets from Robinson's Arch would have indicated knowledge of celestial objects and their relationship to Earth.

It is crucial to note that the hypothesis that these arches served as astronomical observatories is yet to be confirmed, and the alignment of ancient structures with celestial objects does not necessarily indicate their use for observational purposes. Nonetheless, further research and excavation may shed more light on the original purpose of these ancient structures and the astronomical knowledge of the people who built them.

In conclusion, the placement and orientation of Wilson's Arch and Robinson's Arch suggest that the builders and observers who constructed these arches had advanced astronomical knowledge. Although the use of these arches as astronomical observatories is still a hypothesis, the possibility of observing celestial objects, such as the Sun, Moon, planets, and stars, is fascinating and could provide invaluable insights into the astronomical knowledge and beliefs of the ancient world.


WILSON'S ARCH. To face page 76.
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