

Jerusalem: Crossroads of the World #1

The world is like a human eye. The white is like the ocean which surrounds the earth. The pupil is like the earth. The opening in the pupil is like Jerusalem. The reflection in the opening is like the Temple. . . (**Derech Eretz Zuta 9**)

How Many Names for One City?

Yevus יבוס

Ir Shalem עיר שלם

Adonai Yireh ה' יראה

Ir David עיר דוד

Zion ציון

Moriah מוריה

Ariel אריאל

Aelia Capitolina

Hierosolyma

Bayt al Maqdis

Al Quds

Kidron: Say Goodbye to Jerusalem

Samuel II 15:23 The whole countryside wept aloud as the troops marched by. The king crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the troops crossed by the road to the wilderness.

Kings I 2:36-37 Then the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and stay there—do not ever go out from there anywhere else. On the very day that you go out and cross the Wadi Kidron, you can be sure that you will die; your blood shall be on your own head."

Hinnom, Valley of Horrors?

Jeremiah 19 For they and their fathers and the kings of Judah have forsaken Me, and have made this place alien [to Me]; they have sacrificed in it to other gods

whom they have not experienced, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. They have built shrines to Baal, to put their children to the fire as burnt offerings to Baal—which I never commanded, never decreed, and which never came to My mind. **Assuredly, a time is coming—declares the LORD—when this place shall no longer be called Topheth or Valley of Ben-hinnom, but Valley of Slaughter.**

Jerusalem and Judaism

3150 – 1200 BCE Canaanite Period

Circa 1800 tunnel and spring house water system

1200 – 1000 Jebusite Period

1000 King David conquers Jerusalem and makes it his capital

960 King Solomon builds the First Temple

725 King Hezekiah digs Hezekiah's tunnel to prepare for the Assyrian attack

597 Babylonians exile King Jehoiachin and the elite of the land

586 Babylonians destroy the Temple and send a second group into exile

539 Cyrus the Great of Persia allows rebuilding of ancient temples, beginning of the return to Zion

Second Temple period (516 BCE – 70 CE) Jerusalem expands but City of David remains important, Shiloach Pool expanded and Pilgrim's Road built

70 CE Destruction of Second Temple

King David Chooses a New Capital

Samuel I:5 All the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them in Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. The king and his men set out for Jerusalem against the Jebusites who inhabited the region. David was told, "You will never get in here! Even the blind and the lame will turn you back." (They meant: David will never enter here.) But David captured the stronghold of Zion; it is now the City of David. On that occasion David said, "Those who attack the Jebusites shall reach the water channel and [strike down] the lame and the blind, who are hateful to David." That is why they say: "No one who is blind

or lame may enter the House.”-David occupied the stronghold and renamed it the City of David; David also fortified the surrounding area, from the Millo inward.

And Brings the Ark There

Samuel I 6: The Ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and his whole household. It was reported to King David: “The LORD has blessed Obed-edom’s house and all that belongs to him because of the Ark of God Thereupon David went and brought up the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David, amid rejoicing. When the bearers of the Ark of the LORD had moved forward six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David whirled with all his might before the LORD; David was girt with a linen ephod. Thus David and all the House of Israel brought up the Ark of the LORD with shouts and with blasts of the horn.

Always Remember Jerusalem

Psalms 137: By the rivers of Babylon,
there we sat,
sat and wept,
as we thought of Zion.

There on the poplars
we hung up our lyres,

for our captors asked us there for songs,
our tormentors for amusement:
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”

How can we sing a song of the LORD
on alien soil?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither

let my tongue stick to my palate
if I cease to think of you,
if I do not keep Jerusalem in memory
even at my happiest hour.

Jerusalem and Christianity

70 CE Romans destroy Second Temple

73 Fall of Masada

132-135 Bar Kokhba Revolt against Rome

Aelia Capitolina

135 Fall of Betar, establishment of Aelia Capitolina

200 Redaction of the Mishnah by Rabbi Judah the Prince

306 Constantine I makes the Roman Empire officially Christian

Hieroloslyma

326 - 638 Byzantines rule Jerusalem

335 Helena builds the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

450 Empress Eudocia rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem

1099 Crusaders conquer Jerusalem

Kingdom of Jerusalem

1099-1187 Crusaders rule Jerusalem

Jesus and the Temple

Luke 2:⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

Mark 11:¹⁵ Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves, ¹⁶ and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷ He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?

But you have made it a den of robbers."

¹⁸ And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him, for they were afraid of him because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. ¹⁹ And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples^[a] went out of the city.

The Last Seder

Luke 22:⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus^[a] sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.” ⁹ They asked him, “Where do you want us to make preparations for it?” ¹⁰ “Listen,” he said to them, “when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, ‘The teacher asks you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.” ¹³ So they went and found everything as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal. ¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, ¹⁶ for I tell you, I will not eat it^[b] until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Final Journey

John 19:¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Jerusalem and Islam

620 Mohammed founds Islam

638 Caliph Omar conquers Jerusalem, Jews allowed to settle in city

Bet HaMaqdis, Al-Quds

638-1099 Muslims (Umayyad, Abbasid, Fatimid dynasties) rule Jerusalem

661 Mu'awiyya, founder of the Umayyad dynasty, builds the Al Aqsa Mosque

691 Abd el Malik builds the Dome of the Rock

circa 850 Karaites settle in Jerusalem

921-922 calendar dispute between rabbis of Eretz Yisrael and rabbis of Babylonia

1096 First Crusade preached by Pope Urban II

1099 Crusaders conquer Jerusalem

Al-Quds

1187-1250 Ayyubids rule Jerusalem

1250-1517 Mamelukes rule Jerusalem

1492 Expulsion of Jews from Spain

1517-1917 Ottomans rule Jerusalem

1541 Suleiman the Magnificent rebuilds wall around Jerusalem

Muhammed's Night Journey: Isra' and Mi'raj

Koran Sura 17:1 Glory to Him who made His servant travel by night from the sacred place of worship to the furthest place of worship, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him some of Our signs. He alone is the All Hearing, the All Seeing.

Jews Allowed to Return With the Muslim Conquest

All of the Muslims in the city and surrounding came, together with a group of Jews. Then they were ordered to sweep the site of the Temple and clean it. . . whenever they uncovered another layer, Omar would ask the Elders of the Jews if this was the stone known as the Foundation Stone . . . They [the Jews] gathered before Omar and said to him "How many of the Community of Jews will the Emir of the believers command to come to this city?". . . Omar decreed that seventy households should come. . . So seventy households including women and children moved from Tiberias and established settlements in buildings whose foundations had stood many generations. **(Letter found in the Cairo Genizah, unknown date)**

The Future

Isaiah 2:2-3 In the days to come,
The Mount of the LORD's House
Shall stand firm above the mountains
And tower above the hills;
And all the nations
Shall gaze on it with joy.

And the many peoples shall go and say:
"Come,
Let us go up to the Mount of the LORD,
To the House of the God of Jacob;
That He may instruct us in His ways,
And that we may walk in His paths."
For instruction shall come forth from Zion,
The word of the LORD from Jerusalem.