

The History of Jerusalem

The table below charts in superficial form the history of the city of Jerusalem. That history is reflective of the history of the land of Israel as a whole.

Title of the Period	Dates	Historical Overview
Jebusite Period	Until ca 1000 BC	City settled from ancient times because of ready defenses and plentiful water supply (Gihon spring); in days of the Conquest under Joshua, tribe known as Jebusites controlled the city; fortified only approximately 14 acres of lower city
David's Jerusalem	1010-970 BC	David (through Joab) captures the city from the Jebusites because of neutral & central location makes it his capital when he becomes king over 12 tribes; purchases threshing floor from Auranah, brings Ark of the Covenant there; denied request to build Temple for Yahweh, but makes all arrangements for that construction; extends only to lower city (City of David)
Solomon's Jerusalem	970-930 BC	Solomon constructs temple on Mt Moriah [<i>First Temple Period</i> begins], fortifies that section of city with walls; builds palace on northern reaches of City of David
Division & Difficulty; From the Death of Solomon to the destruction by Babylon	930-586 BC	At the division of the kingdom, 10 northern tribes rebel against the Davidic kings, reject worship at Jerusalem; under King Hezekiah city walls are extended to the Western Hill; Hezekiah also constructs tunnel to bring water from the Gihon inside city walls at the Pool of Siloam
Exile & Restoration; From the Exile in Babylon through days of Nehemiah	586-400 BC	City leveled by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 BC [<i>First Temple Period</i> ends]; Samaritans control area; Persian overlords allow Jews to return under Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple (536-516 BC) [<i>Second Temple Period</i> begins], then to rebuild & reinhabit the city under Nehemiah (440 BC) Persians continue to control.
Hellenizing Period; Between the Testaments	400 BC - AD 70	Persia is replaced by the Greeks (Alexander); Maccabeans revolt against the Seleucids (Greek family ruling Syria/Palestine), win autonomy until Rome controls; Herod renovates Second Temple, beautifies city in many ways, strengthens defenses of city to the north; Jews revolt against Rom (AD 66-73), third wall goes up on north; city finally destroyed by Titus Vespasian in AD 70 [<i>Second Temple Period</i> ends]
Roman Period	AD 70-330	Because of Bar Kochba Revolt (AD 132-135), Jews and Christians prohibited from entering city; Hadrian has city rebuilt as Roman capital of region, renamed <i>Aelia Capitolina</i> ; Roman temples/idols erected atop all known Jewish/Christian holy places
Byzantine Period	AD 330-638	Emperor Constantine moves capital of Roman Empire to Byzantium (Constantinople); Constantine converted to Christianity; Helena (mother of Constantine) travels to Jerusalem attempts to restore holy sites; with occasional brief interruptions, Christians enjoy ready access to Jerusalem; Jews often persecuted, prohibited from entering city
First Moslem Period	AD 638-1099	Turkish followers of Muhammad capture Jerusalem; Jews welcome Muslim invaders as deliverers from "Christian" (Byzantine) persecutors; Jerusalem in hands of Muslims until Crusades; Islam becomes increasingly anti-Christian
Crusader Period	AD 1099-1187	Pope calls upon European Christians to free Holy City from "infidel" Muslim captors; knights lead march to Jerusalem; many abuses; Jerusalem temporarily captured by Crusaders, who restrict Moslems and Jews from entering city; by 1187 Arab general Salahadin had retaken Jerusalem, Crusaders had fled

Second Moslem Period	AD 1187-1917	Various Turkish families control; Ayubid and Mamluk families (1187-1517), during which time some Jewish settlement allowed in the city of Jerusalem, but great poverty and squalor developed; followed by the Ottomans, the first of whom was Suleiman I (who built the walls that stand today); many Jews emigrate to Israel, but were regarded as second class citizens by Muslim overlords; great numbers of Jews began to arrive in 1800's, and the Zionist movement excited desire for a national homeland for the Jews on the banks of the Jordan River
British Mandate	AD 1917-1948	In the First World War Britain defeats the Turks, recaptures the area of Palestine; Balfour Declaration commits United Kingdom to provide homeland for the Jews; area of British Mandate divided between Emir Abdullah [Transjordan, which was immediately closed to Jewish settlement] and the region of the Jewish National Home; these boundaries were replaced by the UN Partition Plan in 1947; struggles/violence continue in region, British grow more and more frustrated
The State of Israel	AD 1948 - Present	After WWII, Britain departs; on May 14, 1948 (one day before British forces depart the area) David Ben-Gurion announces establishment of the State of Israel; Arab nations attack, but truce is established on Jan 2, 1949; Jordan is granted the West Bank, Jerusalem is a divided city
	1967	Six Day War; Israel gains control of West Bank, Sinai, Golan Heights; East Jerusalem is immediately annexed as part of the State of Israel
	1973	Yom Kippur War; Oct 6--Egypt attacks Israel across the Suez, Syria attacks the Golan Heights; by Oct 14, Jewish forces within 35 miles of Damascus, have crossed the Suez and are marching toward Cairo; on Oct 22, a cease-fire is effected
	1979	Camp David accords; Egypt acknowledges Israel's right to exist, ceases hostilities; the only Arab nation heretofore to have done so officially.

The map at right shows the position of the State of Israel in the modern Middle Eastern world.

