



Masjidul Aqsa & The Dome of the Rock. 1844



Masjidul Aqsa & Dome of the Rock at Jumu'ah  
early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

# A brief Historical Timeline of Al-Aqsā and it's Surroundings

From Sayyidinaa Adam عليه السلام to the Ottoman Period  
-with some recent history-



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### **Sayyidinaa Adam** *Alaihis Salaam*

Baitullah (Ka'bah) is built in Makkah Mukarramah and 40 years later Masjidul Aqsa is built. (Either by Sayyidinaa Adam AS or Angels) Ibn Hajar RA writes that Allah Ta'ala instructed Adam AS to build Masjidul Aqsa after constructing the Ka'bah and after constructing it he prayed in it. (*Fathul Bari*)

### **Era of Sayyidinaa Nuh A.S**

Due to the deluge Masjidul Aqsa is ruined. His son Saam bin Nuh restores it.  
(*Mujiz Tarikh Baitul Maqdis-Miknaasi d-910 AH*)

### **1805 BC**

Ibrahim A.S travels from Mesopotamia Babylon-Chaldea (modern day Iraq) to Baitul Maqdis (Jerusalem)  
(*Al-Bidaayah wa An-Nihaayah - vol 1*)

### **1794 BC**

Ismail A.S is born within the precincts of the Blessed Land, Baitul Maqdis  
(*Al-Bidaayah wa An-Nihaayah - vol 1*)

### **1780 BC**

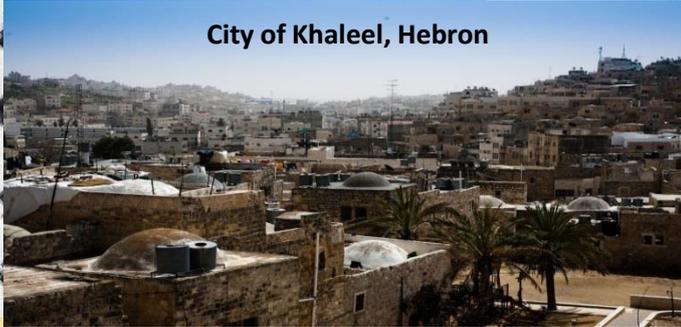
Ishaaq AS is born in the Blessed Land. Allah blessed him with a set of twins, **Isau** and Sayyidinaa **Yaqub A.S**. **Yaqub A.S was called Isra'eel.**

Sayyidina Yaqub A.S came back to Babylon and married his cousins, **Liyyaa** and **Raaheel**. He then returns to Baitul Maqdis (also called Canaan then).

He had 12 children, two were from Raaheel, viz. Sayyidinaa Yusuf AS and Bin-Yaamin.

Sayyidinaa Ishaaq A.S and Sayyidinaa Ibrahim A.S begin the building of Masjidul Aqsa which was completed by Sayyidinaa Yaqub A.S  
(*Qasasun Nabiiyeen, Qasasul Ambiyaa*)  
Sayyidinaa Yaqub AS migrates to Egypt. The Progeny of Sayyidinaa Yaqub A.S. is called **Bani Israeel**, Israelites.

City of Khaleel, Hebron



Khaleel, Hebron Masjid Ibraheem

### **1656 BC**

Later generations of the Israelites which were to follow were subjected to slavery by the Egyptian Pharaohs  
(*Qur'an*)

### **1290 BC**

Sayyidinaa Moosa AS is instructed by Allah to save the Israelites from the slavery of Pharaoh. After the destruction of the Pharaoh (possibly Ramses II), Moosa AS leads the Israelites to Baitul Maqdis (Jerusalem) (*Qur'aan*)

*Sayyidinaa Moosa AS passes away en-route and as explained in a Hadith asks Allah to grant him death at a stone throws distance from Baitul Maqdis. Nabi Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam said "if I could, I would have shown you his grave which is on the side of a pathway near the mound of red sand".*

(*Bukhari*)

Yusha' bin Nun AS eventually leads the Israelites into the Blessed Land

### **1200 BC**

A nation called Philistia migrates from the Island of Crete (Greece) to the land of Canaan and settles in Gaza. They set up 45 cities in Gaza, Ashkelon and Ashdod. This tribe merges and integrates with the Canaanites and it is possible that this gives birth to the name *Philistine* (Ancient Palestine) in reference to the Philistia tribe.

### **1100 BC**

Taalut (Saul) establishes a Jewish kingdom in the mid and south of Philistine and the east of the River Jordan. This is when Sayyidinaa Dawood AS defeats Jaalut (Goliath). Reference to this river (River Jordan) is mentioned in the Qur'aan (*V:249*)

### **1000 BC**

Sayyidinaa Dawood AS establishes a kingdom after conquering Jerusalem and moves the capital city from Hebron to Al-Quds (Jerusalem). This kingdom extends from the north of Jaffa to the south of Gaza.

### **969 BC**

Sayyidinaa Sulaymaan AS assumes the reigns of this kingdom after his father Sayyidinaa Dawood AS. He then renovates Masjidul Aqsa as advised by his father. (*Tafseer Qurtubi*)

After the demise of Sayyidinaa Sulaiman A.S, the kingdom was divided into two parts due to a dispute amongst his descendants. The kingdom of Israel was established in the north by Rehoboam son of Sayyidinaa Sulaiman A.S and its capital was Samaria (modern day West Bank). In the south, the kingdom of Juddah was established with Jerusalem as the capital by his two descendants Yahudah and Bin-Yaamin.

### **605 -562 BC**

Due to a few rebellions of the Israelites the king of Babylon & Chaldea, Nebuchadnezzar II invades the kingdom of Juddah and kills and imprisons tens of thousands of the Israelites. Thousands are taken as prisoners to Babylon.

### **586 BC**

The Jews led by Zedekiah again try to rebel against the king Nebuchadnezzar II who repulses them again and sacks Jerusalem. He also demolishes Masjidul Aqsa. Sayyidinaa Daniyaal A.S is imprisoned, however, later he manages to win over the king's favour and many of the Bani Israel are set free. (*Gosta W. Ahlstrom, The History of Ancient Palestine, p. 760, Sheffield Academic Press, 1993*)

### 539 BC

Cyrus [Persian] overthrows the Babylonian Kingdom and restores peace in the region. Some of the Jews return to the Blessed Land  
*(Philip K. Hitti, History of Syria, p. 217-218, Macmillan & Co. LTD., 1951)*

### 332 BC

Alexander conquers the Holy Land.  
 90 BC  
 Arabs conquer the Holy Land  
*(A History of Israel and the Holy Land)*

### Masjid Umari, Gaza



# C.E.

### 70 CE

Titus continues his persecution and destruction of Jerusalem. The Judean capital was razed and thousands of its inhabitants were slaughtered."  
*(Philip K. Hitti, The Near East in History, p 149)*

### 135 CE

The revolt of Bar-Kokhba took place after which the Romans, like the Babylonians before them, sent a large part of the Jewish population into captivity and exile. The names Judea and Samaria were abolished, and the country renamed Philistine, after the long-forgotten Philistines."  
*(Bernard Lewis, The Middle East, p. 31, Scribner),*

### 330-640 CE

Byzantine Rule. Jerusalem and Palestine becomes increasingly Christianised.

### 620/1 CE

Our Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is taken on the miraculous journey to the heavens. He is first taken to Al-Quds, this becomes the only place in the world where all the Ambiyaa AS performed Salaah collectively. This Blessed Land was the centre of all the Ambiyaa of the Bani Israeel. Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) has said " Praying in Masjidul Aqsa is 500 times more virtuous than praying in any other Masjid other than the Haramain"  
*(Musnad Bazzaar)*  
 It is also the first Qiblah of the Muslims. For the first 17 months in Madeenah Munawwarah, Nabi Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam faces towards Masjidul Aqsa in prayer.

### C.E

The miraculous birth of Sayyidinaa Isa A.S takes place near the eastern side of Masjidul Aqsa in a place known as Baitul Lahm or Bethlehem .

**Constantine's policy towards the Jews:** They were not allowed to live in Jerusalem, but they made pilgrimage to the western wall of the Temple, and once a year on 'The ninth of Ab or Av' they were allowed into the Temple site to lament its destruction. The adoption of Christianity as the dominant religion of the empire changed the status of Palestine radically, no longer just a tiny province, it became the Holy Land, on which emperors and believers lavished untold wealth; the former claimants to it, the Jews, were powerless to establish their right and were quickly relegated to second-class citizenship.

*(A History of Israel and the Holy Land, p. 179-180, The Continuum Publishing Group Inc., 2001)*

### 633 /4 CE

The reign of Sayyidinaa Abu Bakr R.A An army is sent to Palestine under the command of Amr ibn Aas R.A. He defeated the Byzantines in several battles, the most important of which was Ajnadiyn in 634 AD, and took control of the southern part of the country.

### 638 CE

Khilaafat of Sayyidinaa Umar bin Khataab R.A  
 In 636 the Sahabah R.A gain victory over the Romans in the battle of Yarmuk and they complete the conquest of Palestine and the rest of Greater Syria and then march onto Jerusalem and lay siege. The Christians find it hard to withhold and decide to surrender.

### 33 C.E (approx.)

The ascension of Sayyidinaa Isa A.S to the heavens from a mountain called Jabal Zayta near Masjidul Aqsa.  
*(Tafseer Fathul Azeez)*

**According to many historians this land was either the birth place or resting place of many Ambiyaa. Amongst them : Sayyidinaa Ishaq A.S, Ismail A.S, Lut A.S, Yaqub A.S, Yusuf A.S, Dawood AS, Sulayman A.S, Zakariyyah A.S, Yahya A.S and Eesa A.S.**

**Our Nabi Sallallahu alaihi wasallam's great grandfather Hashim travels to Gaza, Palestine, and passes away there. He is buried in Gaza. Nabi Sallallahu alaihi wasallam's father Abdullah also travels and stays in Gaza for some time prior to falling ill. Subsequently He passes away in Madinah**

### **Munawwarah.**

*(Mu'jamul Buldan- Al-Bidayah wan -Nihayah)*

However, their Patriach, Sophronius says "We will surrender Al-Quds to you provided Your ruler, Umar himself comes to collect the keys of Al-Quds". Sayyidinaa Umar R.A undertakes the journey and when he reaches a place called Jabiyah, present day Amman, a Christian delegation approach him and after discussions the keys of the city are handed over to Him. The "Ahdul Umariyah" known as the 'Pact/Covenant of Umar' is also signed. It is a Pact which among other agreements, secures religious protective rights for the 'People of the Book'.

Due to Masjid-ul-Aqsa being dilapidated, Sayyidinaa Umar R.A. himself participates in cleaning up the rubble.

*(Taarihul Uman p 449, Tabari)*

### 660 CE

Sayyidinaa Tameem Daari R.A passes away in Bayt Jibreen near Hebron in Palestine.

Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wasallam once prophesied that the Blessed land would come under Muslim rule. Sayyidinaa Tameem R.A requested that a portion of Bethlehem (or Hebron) be allotted to him. This request was granted and ratified by Sayyidinaa Abu Bakr R.A and Umar R.A. (Taareekh Ibn Asaakir Vol.11 Pg.64)

### 685 CE

Abdul Malik bin Marwan the Umayyad Khalifah builds the dome of the rock. It is a magnificent building within the boundary of Masjidul Aqsa.

The Dome of the Rock is built on a rock which is venerated by Jews. Ka'ab Ahbar was of the opinion that this rock signified the position of the Qiblah of Baitul Maqdis toward which Sayyidinaa Moosa A.S. prayed. Sayyidinaa Umar R.A. did not entirely agree with this opinion. The artisans who supervised the construction, do not take any payment for their work. It was later renovated in 1545 by Sultan Sulaiman the Magnificent and then restored (the outer tiles) in 1956-62. The golden dome that crowns the Dome of the Rock was originally made of gold(era of Abdul Malik), but was replaced with copper and then aluminium. The aluminium is now covered with gold leaf, a donation from the late King Hussein of Jordan.

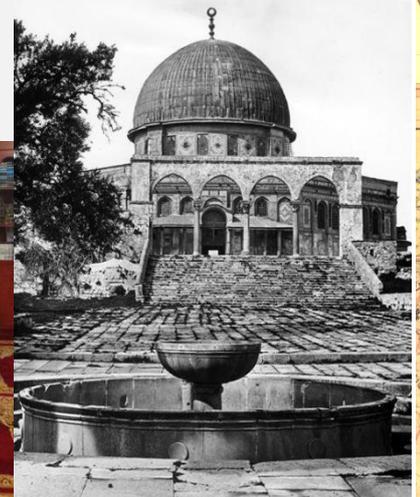
*Maymoonah bint Sa'd RA asked Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) regarding Masjidul Aqsa. Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) replied "It is the land of gathering and resurrection. Go there and offer your prayers. Your prayers will carry a reward as much as 1000 prayers in any other place" She asked "What if we don't have the means to go there?" Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said "you should send some oil as a gift for its lanterns, for whoever offers a gift to Masjidul Aqsa will receive the reward of praying in Masjidul Aqsa"*

(Tabarani, Abu Dawood)

Masjid-ul- Aqsa



Mihrab of Masjid Umar, Jerusalem where Umar RA prayed after the conquest of Jerusalem, after receiving the keys of the city



### 767 CE

Imam Shafe'e R.A is born in Gaza or Asqalaan. He reminisces about his birth place in the following couplet. "May Allah keep the soil of Gaza fresh, so that if ever I manage to visit it, I would apply its soil as antimony 'Surmah' to my eyes"

### 1096 CE

Imam Ghazali R.A. writes part of his Magnum Opus, the *Ihya-ul Uloom Deen* in Baitul Maqdis

### 1099 CE

**The crusaders take over Baitul Maqdis and a massacre follows**  
*"So terrible, it is said, was the carnage which followed that the horses of the crusaders who rode up to the mosque of Omar were knee-deep in the stream of blood. Infants were seized by their feet and dashed against the walls or whirled over the battlements, while the Jews were all burnt alive in the synagogue." 70,000 people were massacred by the Crusaders.*

**For 85-90 years no Salaah is performed in Masjidul Aqsa.**

(Stanley Lane-Poole, Saviours of Islamic Spirit)

### 1168 CE

Despite Masjidul Aqsa being in the hands of Crusaders, Nur-ud-Deen Zangi R.A. a Seljuk commissions the construction of a *Mimbar* (Pulpit) of Ebony and Cedar wood with a vision that the Holy Land would soon be retaken by Muslims and the *Mimbar* would be placed in Masjidul Aqsa. He doesn't live long enough to see this day.

### 1187 CE

Jerusalem is conquered by Salahuddin Ayyubi. He then installed the *mimbar* of Nuruddin Zangi RA and the first Jummuah salaah in Masjidul Aqsa was performed after approximately 90 years. Tragically this *Mimbar* was burnt in 1969 by an Australian Zionist, Michael Denis Rohan.

### 1326 CE

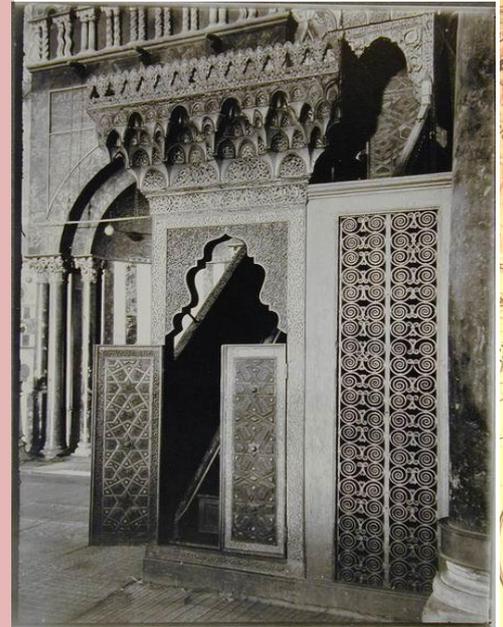
Ibn Battutah en-route to Hajj visits Palestine. He enters -from Egypt-through Gaza. He praised the city's stylish architecture and fine markets. He describes the city's many Masjids, praising in particular, the main one, which was "elegantly built, containing a pulpit made of marble" (p. 131) Regarding Jerusalem he states: "May Allah ennoble Jerusalem, third in excellence after the two sacred Mosques [of Makkah and Madinah] and the place of ascension of the Prophet of Allah, Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam" Ibn Battutah discovers a tomb in Gaza which he says is the resting place of the great granddaughter of Rasulallah sallallahu alaihi wasallam, Fatimah bint Husain bin Ali R.A.

For the next two centuries, Baitul Maqdis goes through many hands within the Muslim dynasties until the reign of the Ottoman Empire in 1516 CE.

### 1516 – 1917 CE

Sultan Salim the Ottoman Khalifah, takes over Jerusalem. The Christian priests shows him the "Ahdul Umari" [The covenant signed and agreed by Umar R.A which accorded religious rights to all People of the Book] which the Sultan kisses and duly honours.

### Mimbar of Nurud Deen R.A. Before the arson attack



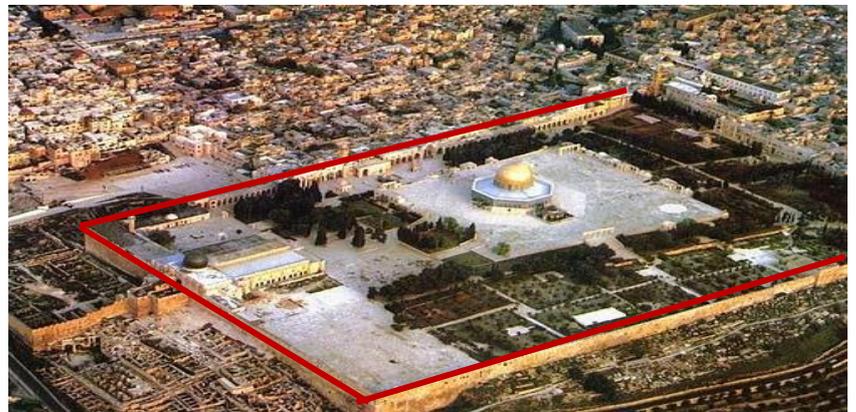
## Interesting Facts

According to the Halakhah, (a collective body of Jewish religious laws) to be Jewish, one must be born of a Jewish mother, whereas Sayyidinaa Sulaymaan AS's mother who was known as Bath-Sheba was a Hittite, whose origin was from Anatolia. Hence, according to the Bible they are not even of Semitic origin so not Jewish.

**Did you know that the Quran refers to this land (Baitul Maqdis and its surroundings) in NO less than 70 places!**

Did you know that Ghazza (Gaza) means "the specially chosen one" and this is one of the reasons it is called Gaza (Ghazza) since it was the fourth most blessed place chosen on this earth. Also because it was specially chosen by Rasulallah's Sallallahu alaihi wasallam great grand father, Hashim. It is here where he passed away too.  
(Mu'jamul Buldan)

The Dome of the Rock is built within the Masjidul Aqsa boundary. Hence it is not Masjidul Aqsa and neither is it separate from it. Instead it is part of the Haram of Al-Quds.



"There will always be a group from my Ummah who will be dominant on their adversaries, they will not be harmed by those who oppose them except that they will face hardship and remain steadfast until the help of Allah arrives. The Companions R.A inquired "Where will these people reside?" Rasulallah Sallallahu alaihi wasallam replied " In Baitul Maqdis and it's surroundings" [Musnad Imam Ahmad]

## Recent History

**1878** - the establishment of the first Zionist agricultural settlement.

**1882-1903** - the first wave of Zionist immigrants from Eastern Europe were allowed to enter Palestine. During this period Baron Edmund of Paris begins a financial campaign in support of the Jews in Palestine.

**1904-1914** - the second wave of Zionist Jews numbering forty thousand entered Palestine. At this point, they make up 6% of the total population of Palestine. The famous slogan is coined "*a land without people for a people without land*"

**1914 CE**- This year saw the commencement of World War 1

**1916 CE** - The Arab revolt against the Ottomans encouraged by the British. The revolt was led by Faysal, son of Husayn (Shareef of Hijaz) and T.E Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia") This era also witnessed the infamous Mc Mohan-Husayn correspondence.

**The Sykes-Picot**, a secret treaty between Britain, France and Russia to divide and carve out the Arab lands of the Ottoman Empire. Britain was allocated control of areas roughly comprising of the coastal strip between the sea and River Jordan, Jordan, southern Iraq, and a small area including the ports of Haifa and Acre, to allow access to the Mediterranean. France was allocated control of south-eastern Turkey, northern Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. Russia was to get Istanbul, the Turkish Straits and the Ottoman Armenian *vilayets*. The controlling powers were left free to decide on state boundaries within these areas.

**1917 CE**- The Balfour Declaration "His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

**1918 CE** - British took over Jerusalem at the hands of General Allenby. Upon his entry into the Blessed Land, he remarked "What the crusaders started then, I am finishing now" (Walsh, Pat. "Ireland and the Last Crusade")

**1919-1923 CE** - The third wave of Zionist immigrants to Palestine took place which included more than 35000 Jews. This brought the total Jewish population to 12%.

**1920 CE** - The San Remo conference. British mandate for Palestine was constructed which was a rejoicing moment for the Zionist.

**1921 CE** - The British divided the region which consisted of present day Israel, West bank, Gaza and Jordan in two: East of the Jordan River became the Emirate of Transjordan, to be ruled by Faysal's brother Abdullah, and west of the Jordan River became the Palestine Mandate.

The formation of the secret and illegal Zionist military organisation called the *Haganah* which instilled terror within the Palestinians. However, the British mandate turned a blind eye on their activities and at the same time, strict laws were imposed on the Palestinians from acquiring any kind of weapons including pocket knives.

**1922 CE** - The first British Census of Palestine published in October 1922, Muslims 78% Arab Christians 11% Jews 9.6%

**1929 CE** - A war broke out between Jews and Palestinians in which the British intervened and killed 116 Palestinians and wounded 232.

**1935 CE** - Martyrdom of Shaikh Izzudin Al-Qassam who fought against the British occupation in Palestine

**1938 CE** - The terror war begins against the Palestinians, burning of entire families and villages

**1947 CE** - The UN General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into two states, one Jewish and the other Arab. 60% of Palestinian land was given to the Jewish Zionist. Greece, France, Liberia and Philippines as well as several Latin American countries were blackmailed or bribed into supporting this U.N vote. (*Jerusalem Post, and America And The Founding Of Israel p. 141-143*)

**1948 - April** - Deir Yassin Massacre 107 Palestinian civilians are massacred. All Palestinian quarters in West Jerusalem are occupied by *Haganah* and the residents are driven out.

**1 May** - The Zionists forces occupied and massacred more than 70 civilians from 'Ayn al-Zaytun.

**3 May** - 175-200,000 Palestinian refugees reported to have fled from areas taken by Zionists.

**15 May** - the British evacuated Palestine, and Zionist leaders proclaimed the State of Israel a day before on the 14th.

**May - Arab-Israeli War**

**1948 CE** - Al-Nakba (the Catastrophe) marks the day of the mass expulsion and the dispossession of the Palestinian people during the war which had broken out in Palestine. A newly-created Israel forcibly seized around 675 villages and towns in historic Palestine. Of these, 476 villages were totally destroyed and ethnically cleansed of their Palestinian inhabitants. A Palestinian population of almost 1.5 million people – the majority in their country – was effectively reduced by an estimated 85 percent to make way for Jewish immigrants from mainly Eastern Europe.

**By 1949 CE**-, some 750,000 Palestinians had become refugees and several tens of thousands had become internally displaced in their own homeland. Only some 150,000 of them had remained behind only to be subject to Israeli rule.



Deir Yassin Massacre  
1948

**1967 CE-** This is a hugely important part of the conflict today. Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza began in 1967. Up to that point, Gaza had been (more or less) controlled by Egypt and the West Bank by Jordan. But in 1967 there was another war between Israel and its Arab neighbours, during which Israel occupied the two Palestinian territories. (Israel also took control of Syria's Golan Heights, which it annexed in 1981, and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, which it returned to Egypt in 1982.) Israeli forces have occupied and controlled the West Bank ever since. It withdrew its occupying troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005, but maintains a full blockade of the territory, which has turned Gaza into what human rights organizations sometimes call an "open-air prison" and has pushed the unemployment rate up to 40 percent.

Israel says the occupation is necessary for security given its tiny size: to protect Israelis from Palestinian attacks and to provide a buffer from foreign invasions. But that does not explain the settlers.

Settlers are Israelis who move into the West Bank. They are widely considered to violate international law, which forbids an occupying force from moving its citizens into occupied territory. Many of the 500,000 settlers are just looking for cheap housing; most live within a few miles of the Israeli border, often in the around surrounding Jerusalem. Others move deep into the West Bank to claim land for Jews, out of religious fervour and/or a desire to see more or all of the West Bank absorbed into Israel.

**1964 CE-**The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is established and Mr. Ahmad Al-Shukairi is elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

**1965 CE-**On 1 January, the Al-'Asifa military wing of the Fateh movement starts armed struggle against Israel. The Fateh movement had been organized underground in the mid-1950s as a Palestinian national movement.

**1967 CE-**War breaks out.

Israel occupies East Jerusalem. Immediately after occupying East Jerusalem Israel destroys the entire Magharbi quarter in the walled Old City and in its place builds a large plaza for Jewish worshippers.

Soon after its occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, Israel begins to confiscate Palestinian land and to establish Jewish settlements (housing and other infrastructure in specific locations) in all of the occupied territories, as well as to transfer parts of its population into these settlements.

**1969 CE-**On 9 December, the U.N. General Assembly adopts resolution 2535 (XXIV) reaffirming the *inalienable* rights of the people of Palestine.

**1980 CE-** The European Economic Community Summit adopts the Venice Declaration on 13 June. The Declaration states that "a just solution must finally be found to the Palestinian problem, which is not simply one of refugees. The Palestinian people . . . must be placed in a position . . . to exercise fully their right to self-determination." The Declaration also states that any unilateral initiative designed to change the status of Jerusalem is unacceptable and "that Israeli settlements are illegal under international law."

- On 30 July, in flagrant disregard of international opposition and international law, the Israeli Knesset adopts the *Basic Law of Jerusalem*, reaffirming the de facto annexation of pre-1967 Palestinian East Jerusalem, and declaring that "Jerusalem, whole and united, is the capital of Israel."

In response, the U.N. Security Council adopts resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August in which it "censures in the strongest terms the enactment by Israel of the 'basic law' on Jerusalem" and affirms that it "constitutes a violation of international law and does not affect the continued application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since June 1967, including Jerusalem." The resolution also "determines that all administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular, the recent 'basic law' on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith." It also calls upon member states with diplomatic Missions in Jerusalem to "withdraw such Missions from the Holy City."

**1981-** On 7 June, Israeli military planes destroy the Iraqi nuclear plant.

On 17 July, Israeli jets bomb PLO structures in Beirut, killing 300 people.

**1985-** On 3 January, Israel discloses its Falasha Transfer Operation, which it had been conducting for the past 5 years, bringing Jews from Ethiopia to Israel.

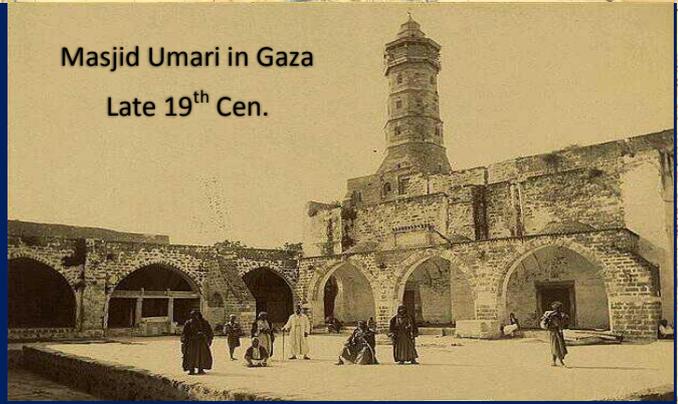
**1987-** The Palestinian *Intifada* (Uprising) against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza begins on 8 December.

**1988-** On 16 January, Israel announces that the Intifada will be met with an "Iron Fist Policy" which involves severe beatings (termed the "breaking of bones"), mass arrests and detentions, deportations, home demolitions, destruction of private property, and the use of live ammunition and rubber bullets.

- On 16 February, 2 Israelis soldiers are accused of burying alive 4 Palestinians.

Masjid Umari in Gaza

Late 19<sup>th</sup> Cen.



- On 16 April, Israel assassinates PLO leader Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) at his home in Tunis, Tunisia.
- On 11 May, the Unified Leadership of the Intifada declares civil disobedience.

**1990-** On 20 May, an Israeli opens fire at Palestinian workers in the Israeli town of Herzelyia, near Tel Aviv, killing 8. On 8 October The Israeli army kills 8 Palestinians and injures more than 150 at Al-Aqsa Mosque inside Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem.

In the month of December, Jewish immigration to Israel from the Soviet Union, at 187,000, reaches its highest number for one year since the establishment of Israel.

**1991-** On 16 December, the General Assembly adopts resolution 48/86, revoking the determination made by General Assembly. resolution 339 of November 1979 determining Zionism to be a form of racism and discrimination.

**1993-** Oslo Agreement is signed . PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin exchange letters of mutual recognition. In his letter to Rabin, Arafat recognizes “the right of the state of Israel to exist in peace and security” and renounces “the use of terrorism and other acts of violence.” In his letter, Rabin recognizes the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. The famous handshake between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin takes place.

**1994-** An Israeli settler massacres about 30 Palestinian worshippers at Al Haram al-Ibrahimi in Al-Khalil (Hebron), on 25 February, during the holy month of Ramadan.

**1995-** The PLO and Israel sign the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in Washington, D.C. on 28 September. This agreement supersedes previous implementation agreements.

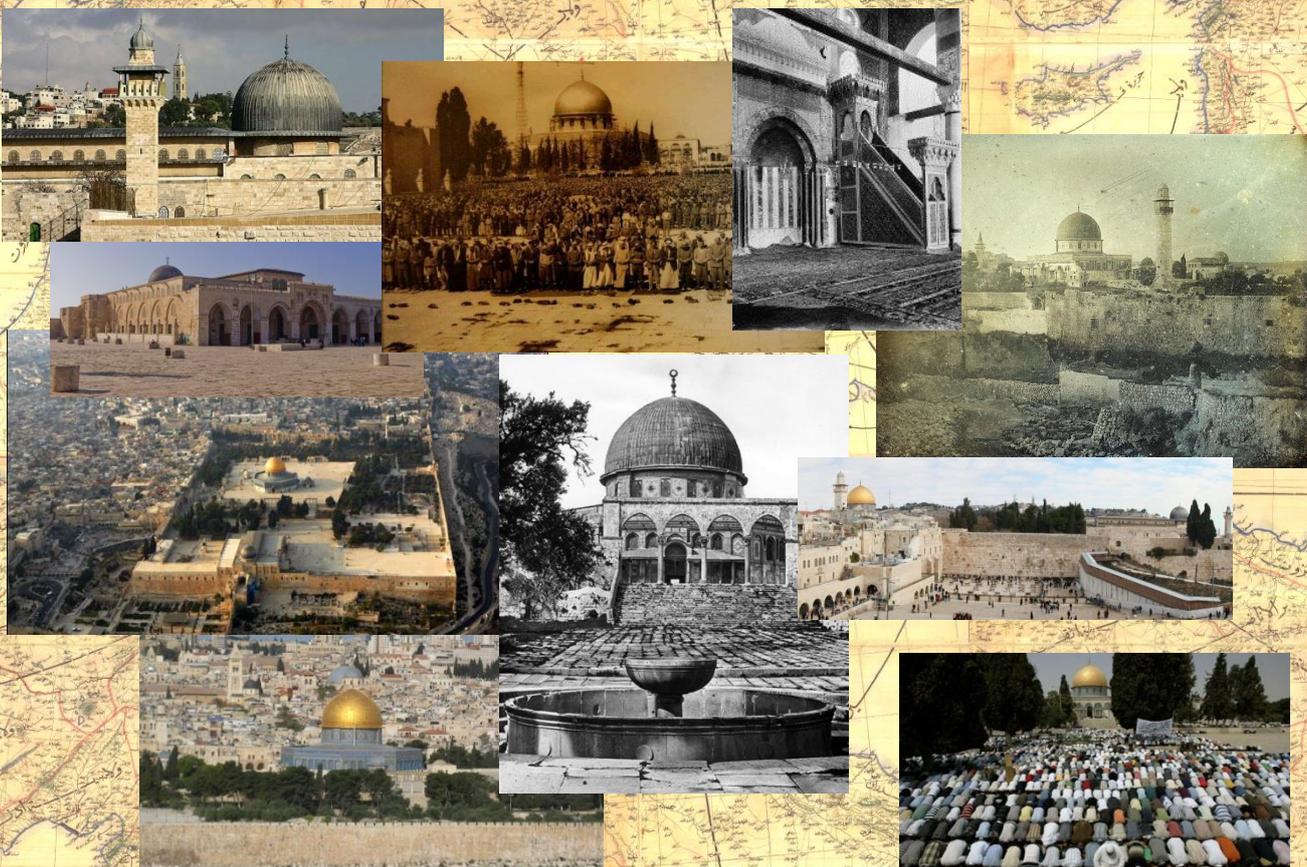
- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated on 4 November in Tel Aviv by an Israeli extremist.

**1996-** On 30 May, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu defeats Shimon Peres by a slim margin in the Israeli elections.

The Israeli government opens a tunnel near Al Haram Al-Sharif in the Old City in East Jerusalem on 24 September. Palestinians demonstrate against the Israeli action throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and in the ensuing days demonstrations continue and clashes take place between the Palestinian police and the Israeli soldiers, resulting in casualties on both sides. The Israeli army uses tanks and gun helicopters against both Palestinian police and civilians. The events result in the killing of 69 Palestinians, 15 Israeli soldiers and one Egyptian.

**1997-** The U.S. vetoes a Security Council draft resolution on Jerusalem, presented by the four European members of the Council, on 7 March. The resolution calls upon Israel to abandon its impending construction of a new settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim, to the south of East Jerusalem. On 21 March, the U.S. again vetoes a Security Council resolution calling upon Israel to halt the construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim.

On 7 May, the U.N. Committee against Torture in Geneva summons Israel for a hearing to face charges that it violates the International Convention against Torture. The committee criticizes Israel for being the sole nation to have codified and legalized the use of torture in interrogation.



*Clockwise Right to Left: Masjidul Aqsa 1844; Mimbar of Nur-ud-Deen Zangi; Al-Aqsa late 19<sup>th</sup> C.; Al-Aqsa Dome & Minaret; Aqsa Masjid Front; The Haram Shareef of Aqsa; Dome of the Rock; Old Dome of the Rock (middle); Jummah with Dome of the Rock background; Buraq wall.*

