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اللَّهُمَّ انْفَعْنِي بِمَا عَلَّمْتَنِي وَ عَلَّمْنِي مَا يَنْفَعُنِي وَ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

O Allah, benefit me with what You have taught me, and teach me that which benefits me, and increase me in knowledge.

(At Tirmidhi & Ibn Majah)

WaSalam,

Ozlem

Umm Abu Ubaydah

allamah™

Masjid al Aqsa

A History of the Blessed Land



Contents

1 Ash-Sham

- Blessed Lands
- Glad Tidings
- Oh Faithful Ones

8 Prophets of ash-Sham

- Prophet Ibrahim
- Prophet Lut
- Prophet Ismail
- Prophet Ishaq
- Prophet Ya'qub
- Prophet Yusuf
- Prophet Ayyub
- Prophet Dhul-Kifl
- Prophet Dawud
- Prophet Sulayman
- Prophet Ilyas
- Prophet Al Yasa'
- Prophet Yunus
- Prophet Zakariyya
- Prophet Isa

14 Al Quds: Jerusalem

19 The History of Masjid al Aqsa

- After Prophet Sulayman
- Islamic Period
- Crusades
- Ottoman Rule
- Modern Period

23 Israel and Palestine: A Brief History

25 Allah's Help is Near





Ash-Sham



In Islam, the region known as ash-Sham, also known as Greater Syria or the Levant, is east of the Mediterranean Sea and includes present-day countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and the Israeli Settler Colonial State (Israel). The area is blessed and holds a special place in the hearts of Muslims with its great significance mentioned in Qur'an and hadith. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) emphasised the importance of ash-Sham in several narrations, highlighting virtues associated with this blessed land and the special attention it receives from Allah. Let's have a look at the few places where ash-Sham is mentioned in Qur'an and hadith.

Map outlining the area of ash-Sham (blue) over present-day countries

Blessed Lands ✨

Allah, the Most High, says in the Quran in Surah Al-Isra (17:1):

"Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing."

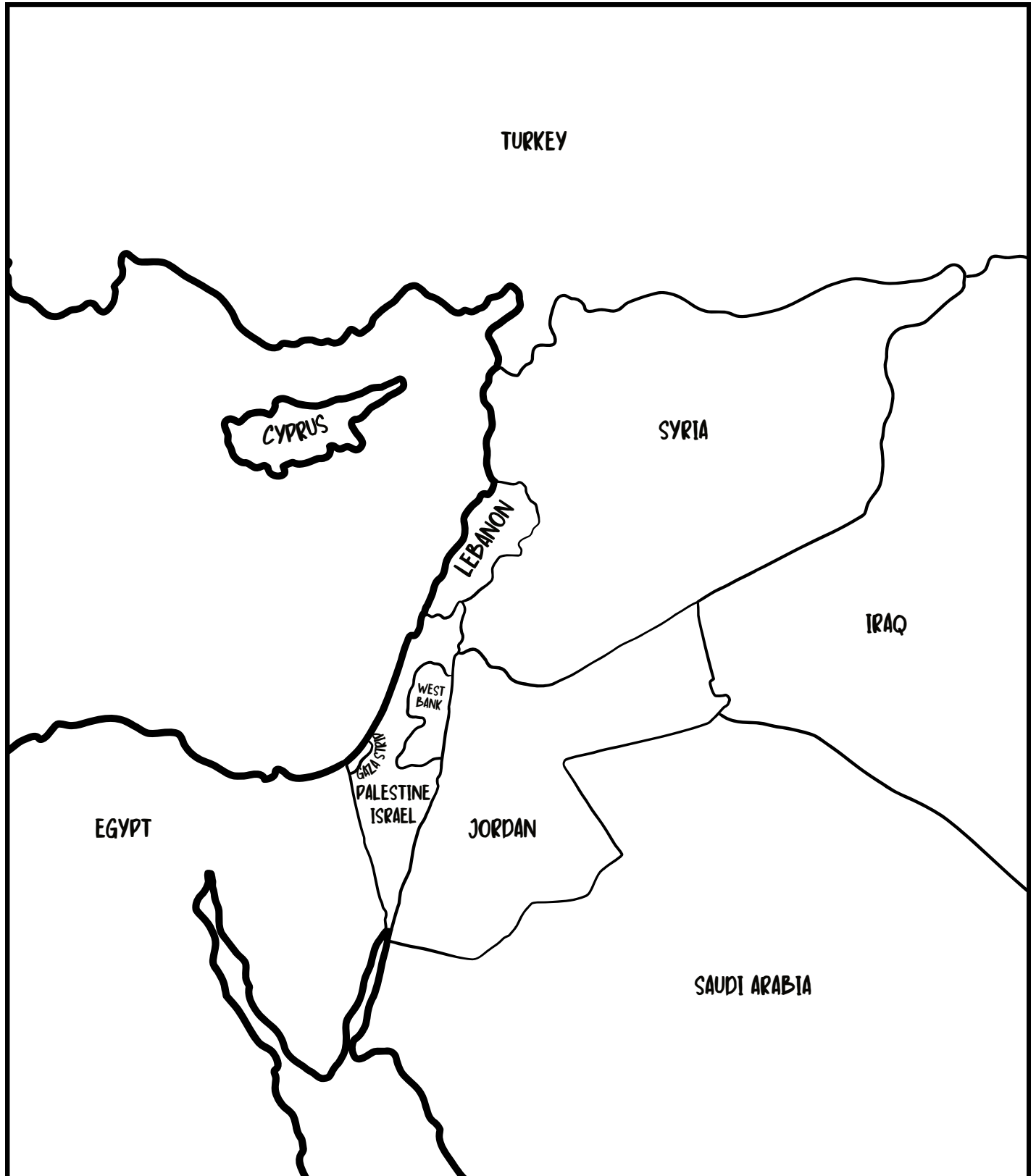
This verse refers to the Prophet's (ﷺ) Night Journey and highlights the blessed surroundings of Masjid al-Aqsa in ash-Sham, showing the special favour and attention Allah has bestowed upon this region.

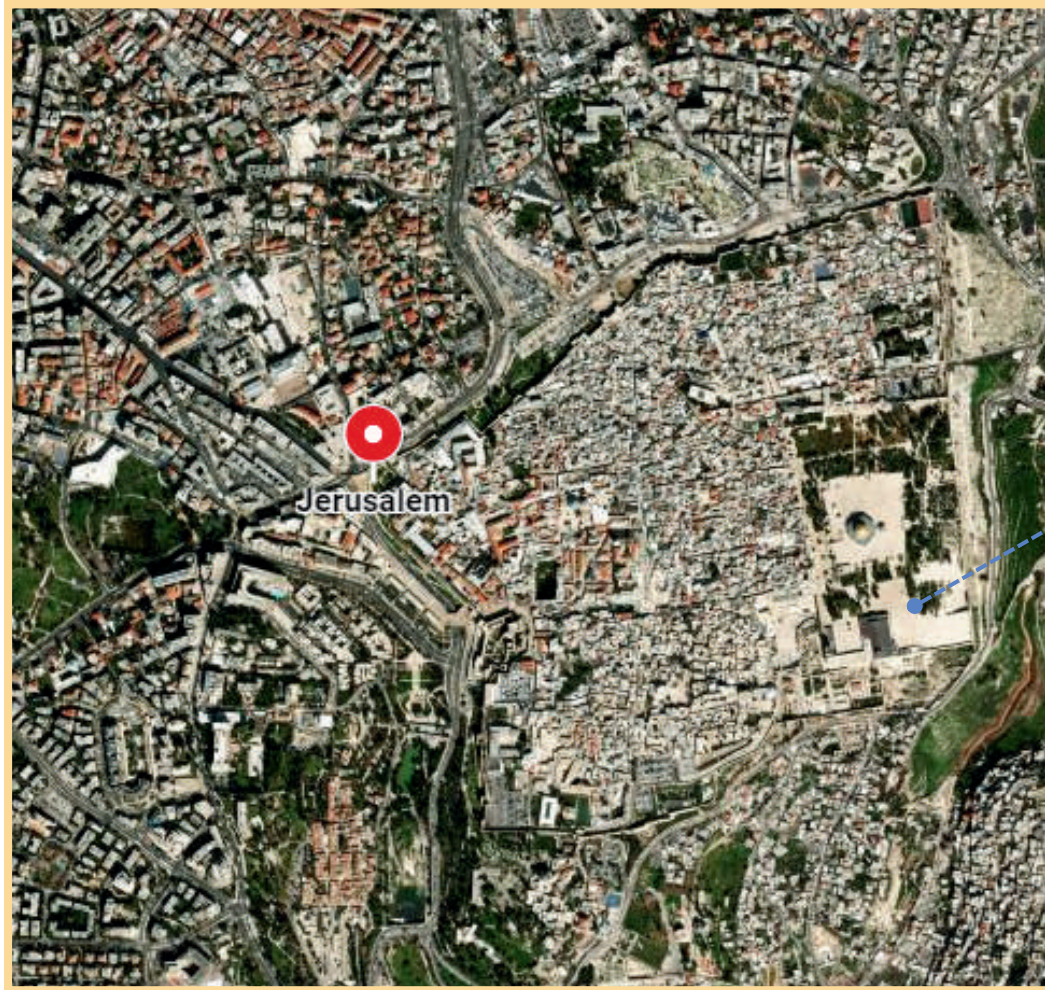
Imam at-Tabari advised that by "blessed" Allah is saying that the surrounding area is blessed for its inhabitants in their livelihoods, food, tilling (preparing land for crops) and planting. - at-Tabari (14/448).



Colour in the following countries the same colour to mark out the area of ash-Sham: Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine (including Palestinian territories Gaza Strip and West Bank as well as the Israel settler-colonial state).

Colour all other countries a different colour.





Masjid al Aqsa.

Blessed Lands

Aerial view of the city of Jerusalem

ACTIVITY

Trace the Arabic and colour in the English of the following ayat.

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

"Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing."

[Surah Al-Isra (17:1):]



Glad Tidings

Zaid ibn Thabit, who was with the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) whilst collecting the Qur'an on pieces of cloth - he tells us that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: **"Tuba [a prayer for glad tidings] is for ash-Sham."** When asked why, he replied: **"Because the angels of Ar-Rahman spread their wings over it."** (Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3954)

This hadith emphasises the divine protection and blessings that ash-Sham enjoys through the angels' presence.

Oh Faithful Ones

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: **"Whilst I was sleeping, I saw the pillar of the Book being taken from beneath my head, and I thought that it was being taken away, so I followed it with my gaze, and it was taken to ash-Shaam. Verily faith, when tribulations come, will be in ash-Shaam."**

(al Musnad (36/62) - graded saheeh)

Ibn Taymiyyah was of the opinion that the meaning of "the pillar of the Book" refers to the people who are committed to learning, understanding and following the guidance of the Qur'an in their lives.

This hadith highlights two things for us:



Firstly, it emphasises the importance of learning and understanding the Qur'an - and those people being the "pillar of the Book".



Secondly, it assures that even in challenging times, there are places and people, particularly in ash-Sham, who will safeguard and protect their faith, providing a source of inspiration and resilience to us all.



"The heartland of the believers is ash-Sham."

(Musnad Ahmad - graded sahih)

Throughout the past, the people of ash-Sham have been like a strong fortress, protecting Islam. The goodness of ash-Sham will endure until the end of time, contributing to the triumph of the believers and preventing harmful forces. Even when faced with challenges, this region is home to people of knowledge who act upon it and teach others about their religion.

The Prophet (ﷺ) highlighted the distinct character of the people of ash-Sham, noting that they will continue to comply with the commands of Allah until the end of time, and that the victorious group will remain among them until the end of time.



This enduring goodness is a testament to the strength and faith of the people of ash-Sham, and it will play a crucial role in the future of the entire ummah.





Find-a-Word



Throughout the past, the people of ash-Sham have been like a strong fortress, protecting Islam. The goodness of ash-Sham will endure until the end of time, contributing to the triumph of the believers and preventing harmful forces. Even when faced with challenges, this region is home to people of knowledge who act upon it and teach others about their religion.

H	T	A	B	B	E	G	D	E	L	W	O	N	K	R	P
C	K	R	R	S	M	A	D	A	N	M	I	L	S	A	G
A	A	C	H	H	A	V	W	N	U	B	N	I	R	U	O
E	A	R	H	A	E	M	E	Y	F	E	D	I	L	N	O
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A	R	E	L	I	G	I	O	N	I	E	U	D	O	D	S
R	X	N	S	U	R	L	N	K	N	R	A	F	N	E	A
M	C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	S	H	S	Z	N	N
H	W	Y	O	K	I	X	F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S	N
G	Y	E	W	B	A	J	A	R	E	A	G	T	H	A	E
T	H	A	R	M	F	U	L	I	H	A	W	L	S	H	F



Vocabulary Building

The following words have been mentioned in the paragraphs that we have read so far. Match them to their meanings. If you are unsure, check with a dictionary. Write the word next to its meaning.

Region	To withstand or persist through difficult situations.	_____
Settler-Colonial State	The ability to bounce back or recover quickly from difficulties or challenges.	_____
Livelihood	A strong and heavily protected building or place used for defense.	_____
Emphasise	A great victory or achievement, often after a challenging struggle.	_____
Safeguard	To give special importance or attention to something, to highlight or stress it.	_____
Resilience	A statement or evidence that serves as a proof to something.	_____
Fortress	The means of supporting one's life, often through work or occupation.	_____
Endure	A specific area or place, like a neighborhood, town, or country.	_____
Triumph	To protect or keep something safe from harm or danger.	_____
Testament	Where people invade and occupy a country to permanently replace the existing people with the society of the colonisers (those who invaded and took control).	_____



prophets

The following are Prophets that were mentioned in the Qur'an had ties to these blessed lands.

Prophet Ibrahim



Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) was born in Iraq and settled in the city of Ur. The people of Ur worshipped many gods whilst Ibrahim spent his days thinking about the Creator and how to be a good person. He questioned the idols that the people around him worshipped, for he knew there must be something greater. He called his people to worship Allah alone, but they were too attached to their idols and tried to kill him. Following their failed attempt at his life, he, along with his wife Sarah and nephew Prophet Lut, travelled to the lands of ash-Sham. There, he married his second wife Hajar and they settled in Jerusalem.

Prophet Lut

Prophet Lut (peace be upon him), after having spent some time with his uncle, Prophet Ibrahim, settled in the city of Sodom in the Jordan Valley. The people of Sodom were a wicked and evil people who committed many sins. Prophet Lut, called them to leave their evil ways and return to the worship of Allah alone. Just like Prophet Ibrahim's people in Iraq, the people of Sodom were not happy with this and banished Prophet Lut and his family from the area. The evil doers who were left, experienced Allah's great punishment.

"So the shriek seized them at sunrise. And We turned them upside down and rained down on them stones of baked clay. Surely! In this are signs, for those who see (the Signs of Allah)."

(Surah Al-Hijr 15: 73-75)

Although the exact location of the city of Sodom is not known, it is believed to be on the southern end of the Dead Sea.



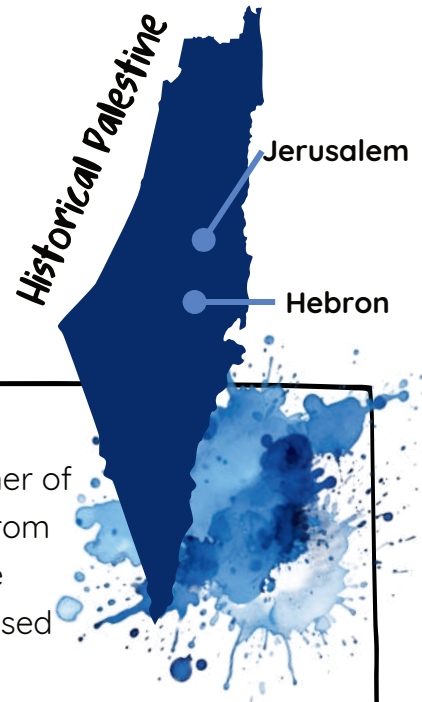


Prophet Ismail

Prophet Ismail, the son of Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon them both) was born in Palestine. Shortly after, he and his mother Hajar, migrated to Makkah where he carried out his mission.

Prophet Ishaq

Prophet Ishaq, the son of Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon them) and his wife Sarah, was born and died in Palestine in the city of Hebron. He is the father of Prophet Ya'qub.



Prophet Ya'qub

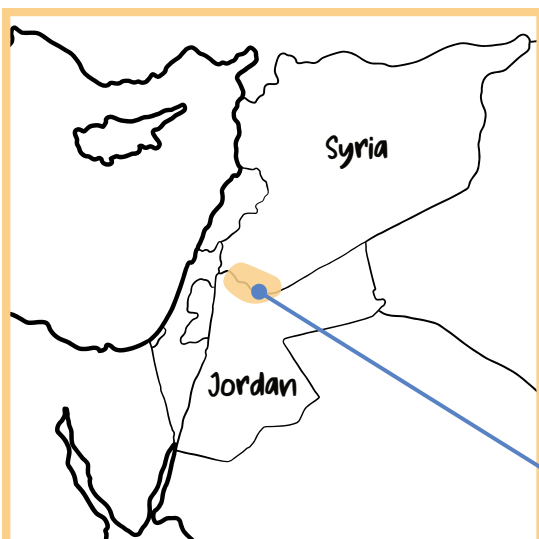
Prophet Ya'qub was born and lived in Palestine. He was the father of 12 sons, including Prophet Yusuf (peace be upon them both). From these sons stems the children of Isra'eel, often referred to in the Qur'an as Bani Isra'eel. You may also hear the term 'Israelites' used to describe Prophet Ya'qub's descendants.

Prophet Yusuf

Although the majority of the events in the life of Prophet Yusuf (peace be upon him) occurred in Egypt, his story is often associated with the broader region of ash-Sham due to the connection with his family.

Prophet Ayyub

The Qur'an mentions the patience and endurance of Prophet Ayyub (peace be upon him), who lived in Batheniyyah, which is in the region of Hauran which encompasses Southern Syria and a part of Northern Jordan in ash-sham. Prophet Ayyub suffered many losses and was tested with his health, wealth and children.

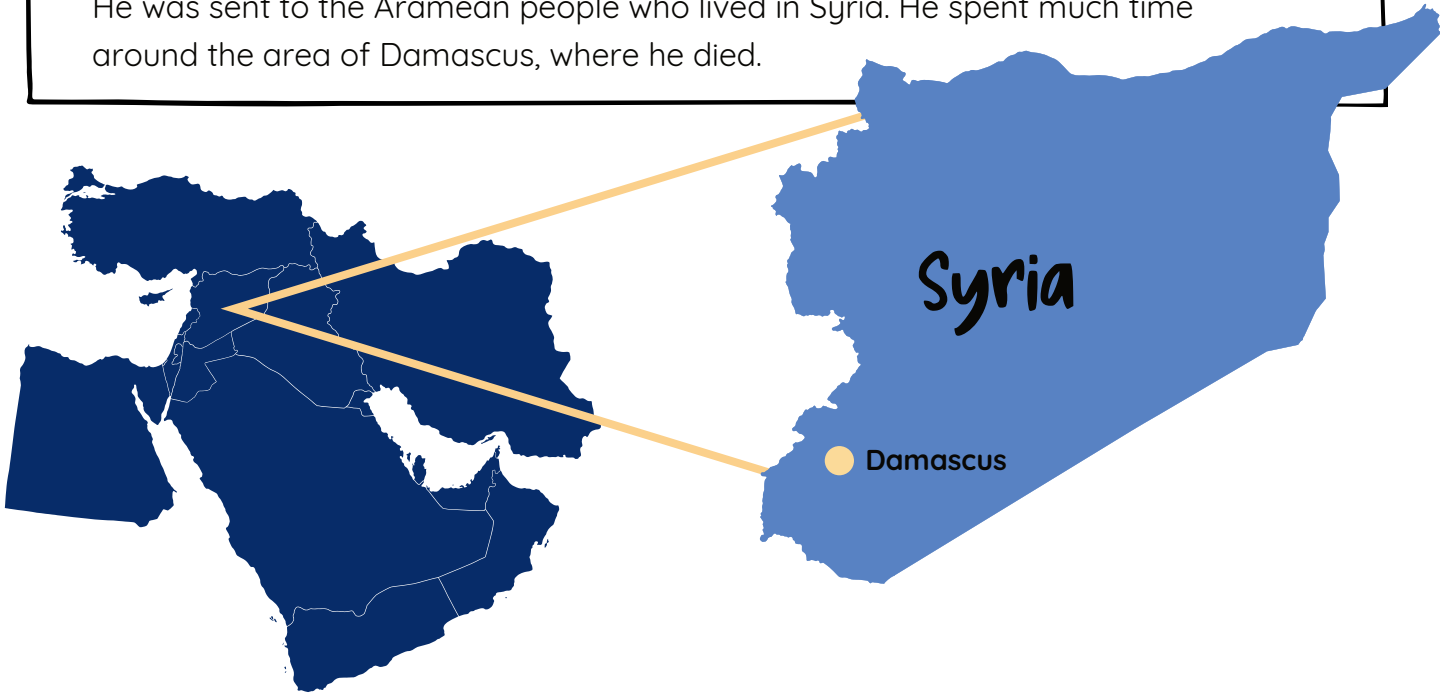


Hauran region



Prophet Dhul-Kifl

He was sent to the Aramean people who lived in Syria. He spent much time around the area of Damascus, where he died.



Prophet Dawud

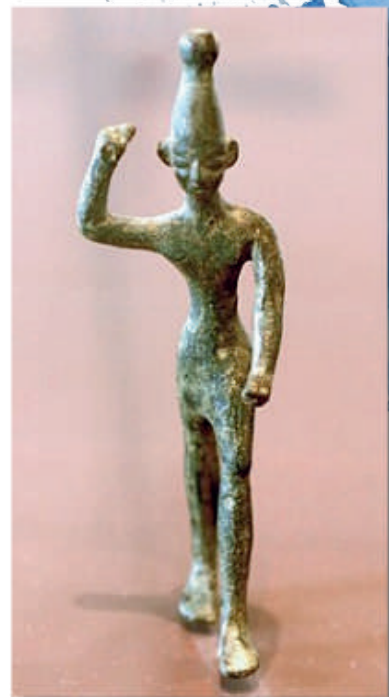
Prophet Dawud (peace be upon him) was both a king and a Prophet and he was sent to the Children of Isra'eel with his mission taking place in Palestine. He died at the age of 100 in Bait ul Maqdis.

Prophet Sulayman

The son of Prophet Dawud, Sulayman (peace be upon him) was both a prophet and inherited kingship from his father. He died in Bait ul Maqdis (Jerusalem).

Prophet Ilyas

Prophet Ilyas (peace be upon him) was sent to the people of Baalbek in modern day Lebanon. The people there worshipped Baal and Prophet Ilyas was sent to call them back to tawheed.



A bronze statue depicting Baal. Louvre Museum



Prophet Al Yasa'

Prophet al Yasa' (peace be upon him) lived in the time of Prophet Ilyas and is said to be his cousin. He continued calling the people around Damascus to tawheed. He died in Palestine.

Prophet Yunus

Prophet Yunus (peace be upon him) was sent to the disbelieving people of Nineveh in Iraq. This city is not in ash-Sham. The memorable journey of Prophet Yunus being thrown overboard a ship and swallowed by a whale began at the port of Jaffa in Historical Palestine or present-day Israel Colonial Settler State (Israel).



Prophet Zakariyya

Prophet Zakariyya (peace be upon him) carried out his mission in Palestine. He later died in the city of Aleppo in Syria

Prophet Isa

Prophet Isa (peace be upon him) was born in Palestine, at a time when the area of ash-Sham was ruled by the Roman Empire. The Jews at the time, held some power in the area and felt threatened by Prophet Isa and set out to kill him. But Allah diverted their plans and made one of them to look like Prophet Isa. It was he who was captured and killed, and Allah saved Prophet Isa and took him up to the heavens. Prophet Isa will descend again before the end of time and rule the earth.

In an authentic hadith from Ibn Majah (4075), we are given more information about where Prophet Isa will descend when he comes back down to earth.

“Allah will send Isa bin Maryam, who will come down at the white minaret in the east of Damascus, wearing two Mahrud (garment dyed with Saffron), resting his hands on the wings of two angels. When he lowers his head, beads of perspiration will fall from it. Every disbeliever who smells the fragrance of his breath will die, and his breath will reach as far as his eye can see. Then he will set out and catch up with him (the Dajjal) at the gate of Ludd, and will kill him.”

It is believed that Prophet Isa, peace be upon him, will descend on the Minarat of Isa in the Umayyad mosque in Damascus, and Allah knows best.



Locate and mark the following cities and their corresponding countries on the map below. You will need to use an atlas for this activity. .

Jerusalem, Palestine (West Bank)

Aleppo, Syria

Damascus, Syria

Jaffa, Israel settler-colonial state

Baalbek, Lebanon

Hebron, Palestine (West Bank)

Jordon Valley, Jordan/Palestine (West Bank)





Al-Quds

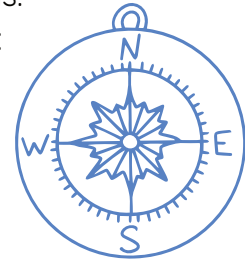
The city of Jerusalem, known as **Al Quds** in Arabic, is the Capital of Palestine. It is an old city that holds significance for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Here are some facts about the city of Jerusalem:

- It covers an area of 125 square kilometres
- It has a population of 970,000 people.
- It is situated between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas.
- Jerusalem is surrounded by hills and valleys. The Central Valley, also known as the Valley of Hinnom, separates the Old City from the rest of Jerusalem. The city is surrounded by various mountains, including the Mount of Olives to the east.
- Jerusalem has a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Snowfall is rare but can occur during the winter months.
- The city of Jerusalem is primarily separated into 3 main areas:

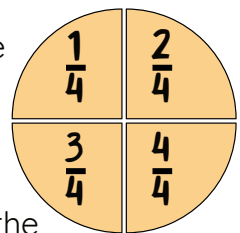
East Jerusalem: Containing mostly Palestinians

West Jerusalem: Containing mostly Jews.

Old City: The Old City of Jerusalem is the historical heart of the city and is divided into four quarters:



1. **Muslim Quarter:** Contains the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, among other sites.
2. **Jewish Quarter:** Houses important religious sites for Judaism, including the Western Wailing Wall.
3. **Armenian Quarter:** Home to the Armenian Patriarchate and St. James's Cathedral.
4. **Christian Quarter:** Houses significant Christian sites such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Jerusalem's Old City is surrounded by fortified walls. These were built mostly during the reign of the Ottoman Empire, to protect it.





The city of Jerusalem is especially important to Muslims for many reasons:

Some of these include:

It was the first qiblah

Al-Bara' said: "We prayed toward Bait Al-Maqdis (Jerusalem) with the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) for sixteen or seventeen months, then it was changed to the Qiblah."

(Sunan an-Nasa'i 488 - Sahih)

Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) used to pray towards the Sacred House in Jerusalem, then it was revealed to him, **"We have certainly seen you turning your face to the heaven. We will surely turn you to a direction of prayer that will please you. Turn your face toward the Sacred Mosque,"** (2:144). A man from the tribe of Salimah passed those who were bowing in dawn prayer, having finished one cycle. The man announced, **"Indeed, the direction of prayer has been has been changed!"** They moved their direction while in that state.

(Sahih Muslim, 527)

The Miraculous Night Journey

The Prophet (ﷺ) travelled to Masjid al Aqsa during the miraculous Night Journey, a place he had never been before. When he was questioned about it upon his return, he was worried he wouldn't remember it all but Allah made it easy for him by showing it to him.

Narrated Jabir bin `Abdullah: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, **"When the Quraish disbelieved me (concerning my night journey), I stood up in Al- Hijr (the unroofed portion of the Ka`ba) and Allah displayed Bait-ul-Maqdis before me, and I started to inform them (Quraish) about its signs while looking at it."**

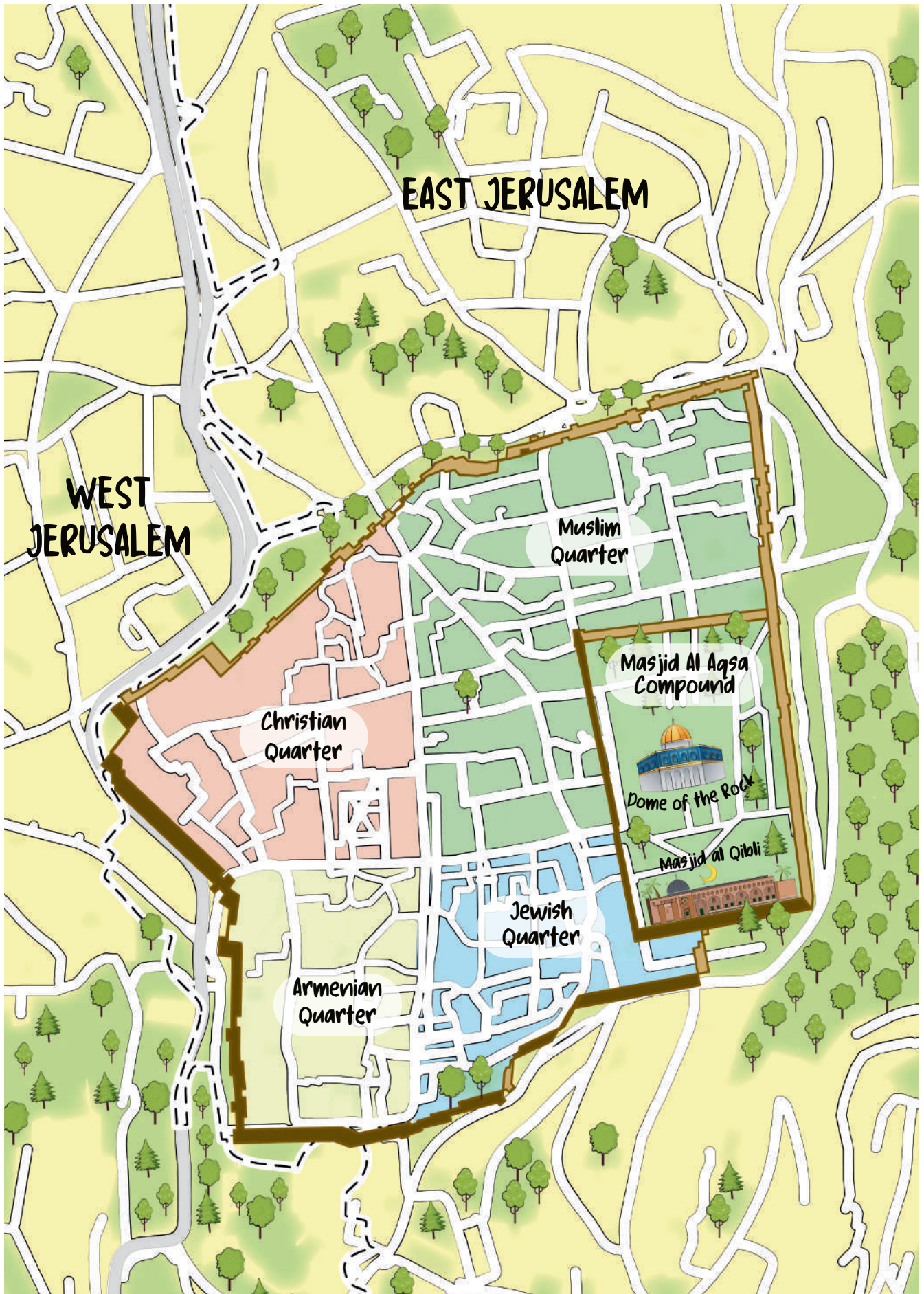
(Sahih al-Bukhari, 4710)

Blessed Lands

We have already mentioned that Allah has blessed the lands surrounding Masjid al Aqsa as He has informed us in Surah al Isra 17:1 **"Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing."**

The Dajjaal will be killed close to al-Quds: He will be killed by Isa ibn Maryam (peace be upon him), as was stated in the hadeeth: **"The son of Maryam will kill the Dajjaal at the gates of Ludd."** Ludd (Lod) is a place near Bayt al-Maqdis.

(Narrated by Muslim, 2937, from the hadeeth of al-Nawwaas ibn Sam'aan).





ACTIVITY

Colour this map of the Old City of Jerusalem and fill in the names of the 4 different quarters as well as the Masjid Al Aqsa Compound. Also mark East and West Jerusalem on the map.





JERUSALEM

- FACT FILE -

Area covered: _____

Population: _____

Situated between which two seas?

1. _____

2. _____

Jerusalem is separated into which 3 parts?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Old City is separated into these 4 quarters:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



Complete the following ayat that mentions the blessed lands surrounding Masjid al Aqsa:

"Exalted is He who took His servant



The History of Masjid Al Aqsa

Al Masjid Al Aqsa is a very important place of worship for Muslims. According to hadith, it was built 40 years after Al Masjid Al Haram in Makkah and was the first qibla in Islam.

Al Masjid Al Aqsa is located in Jerusalem's Old City. It is third most rewarding masjid to pray in after al-Masjid al-Haram (The Sacred Mosque in Makkah) and then al-Masjid al-Nabawi (the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah). **One prayer in Masjid al Aqsa is equivalent in reward to 250 prayers offered elsewhere.**

Note: "One prayer in my mosque is better than four prayers offered there (in Bayt al-Maqdis)." (al-Haakim, 4/509 - graded sahih) One prayer in Masjid an Nabawi is equivalent to 1000 prayers.

There is a difference of opinion amongst scholars as to who exactly built Al Masjid Al Aqsa. Some are of the view that Al Masjid Al Aqsa was built by Prophet Adam, and others believe that it was built by Prophet Ibrahim. It was a well-known place of worship at the time of Prophet Ibrahim and for his son Prophet Ishaq and grandson Prophet Yaqub, peace be upon them all. Nevertheless, **Masjid al Aqsa has been an important place of worship for many Prophets.**

The mosque and the reward of prayer encompasses the whole plateau (**al-Haram al-Sharif**) that contains Masjid al Qibli and the Dome of the Rock. The name Masjid al Aqsa was historically and is Islamically applied to the whole plateau.

The Dome of the Rock is thought to be the place where the Prophet (ﷺ) ascended to heaven on the Night Journey. Allah knows best.

Masjid al Qibli



Masjid al Qibli



Dome of the Rock



Let's take a brief look through the rest of the history of Masjid al Aqsa.

AFTER PROPHET SULAYMAN

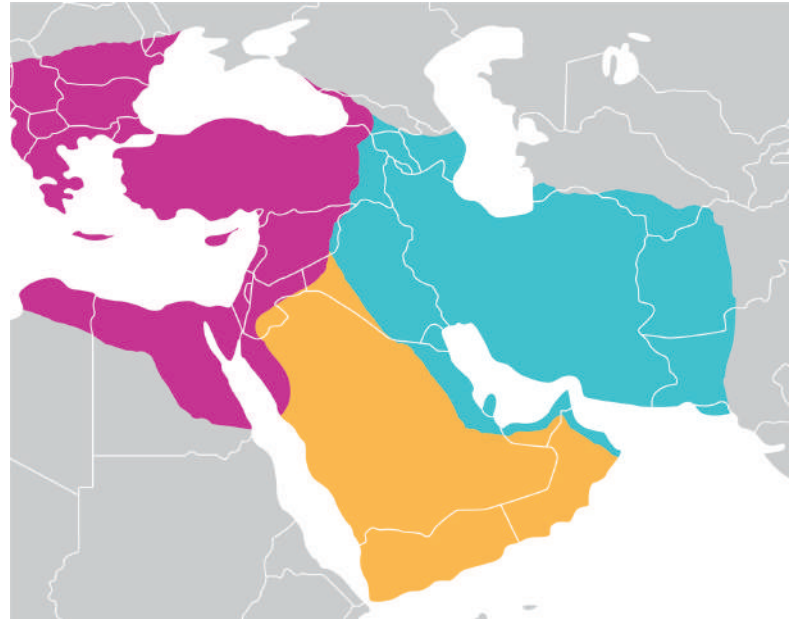
After the death of Prophet Sulayman (peace be upon him), his two sons divided his kingdom (much of Palestine) amongst themselves, with each having its own capital. These kingdoms existed for 200 years.

The **Babylonians**, who worshipped many gods, then took over control of Jerusalem for a short period. Masjid al Aqsa was destroyed.

The **Persians** overthrew the Babylonians and renewed efforts to rebuild the area of Masjid al Aqsa as a place of worship.

The **Romans** then conquered Jerusalem and it was in this time that Prophet Isa (peace be upon him) was sent to the Children of Isra'eel.

During the time of Roman rule, Masjid al Aqsa was not treated as a place of worship, but rather a rubbish dump, a place to dispose of the city's trash!



The different empires and their reach at the time of the Prophet (ﷺ).

- Roman Empire
- Islamic Empire
- Persian/Sassanid Empire

ISLAMIC PERIOD

The Night Journey occurred in the 12th year of Prophet's (ﷺ) mission (620 CE, 2 years before hijrah) and commenced with Angel Jibril coming to the Prophet (ﷺ) in Makkah. The Prophet (ﷺ) was taken from the Kaaba in Makkah to Masjid al Aqsa in Jerusalem in a single night. There, in Masjid al Aqsa, the Prophet (ﷺ) told us that **“the Prophets, peace be upon them, were assembled for me, and Jibril brought me forward to lead them in prayer.”** (Sunan an-Nasa'i 450, graded hasan)

From there, he was taken up to the heavens when the 5 daily prayers were prescribed.

Umar Ibn Al Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) liberated Jerusalem in 638 CE (17 AH) and found the site of Masjid al Aqsa being used as a rubbish tip by the Romans. He took the responsibility to remove the waste with his own hands and rebuilt Masjid al Aqsa.



Umayyad Caliph Abd' al Malik bin Marwan began constructing the Dome of the Rock on the site in 691/692 CE as well as construction of Masjid al Qibli as we see it today.



The Dome of the Rock or "Qubbat al-Sakhrah"

CRUSADES

The Crusaders were a group of European Christians who went on military expeditions to the Holy Land, including Jerusalem, during the Middle Ages. Their mission was to capture Jerusalem and other holy sites from the Muslims and establish Christian control over the region. The Muslims lost Masjid al Aqsa to the Crusaders in 1099 AD, but it was reclaimed in 1187 under the leadership of Salahuddin Ayyubi.



Crusaders often adorned their clothing and armour with symbols such as crosses, which reflected their religious identity and the purpose of the Crusades.

OTTOMAN RULE

During the Ottoman rule, Jerusalem and Masjid al Aqsa were preserved with honour and dignity, with Muslims being in charge of the administration of the city, in line with Islamic law and, they provided religious freedom and security for the Jewish and Christian minorities.

MODERN PERIOD

The British captured Jerusalem in 1917 as part of World War I, ending eight centuries of peaceful Muslim rule under the Ottoman Empire.

Zionism, a political movement which came about in the 19th Century (1800's), had the aim of establishing a Jewish state on Palestinian land which had the support of the British.

The British rule over Palestine and Jerusalem had a significant impact on the area, leading to various developments and wars, including the establishment of the Settler-Colonial State of Israel (Israel) in 1948.

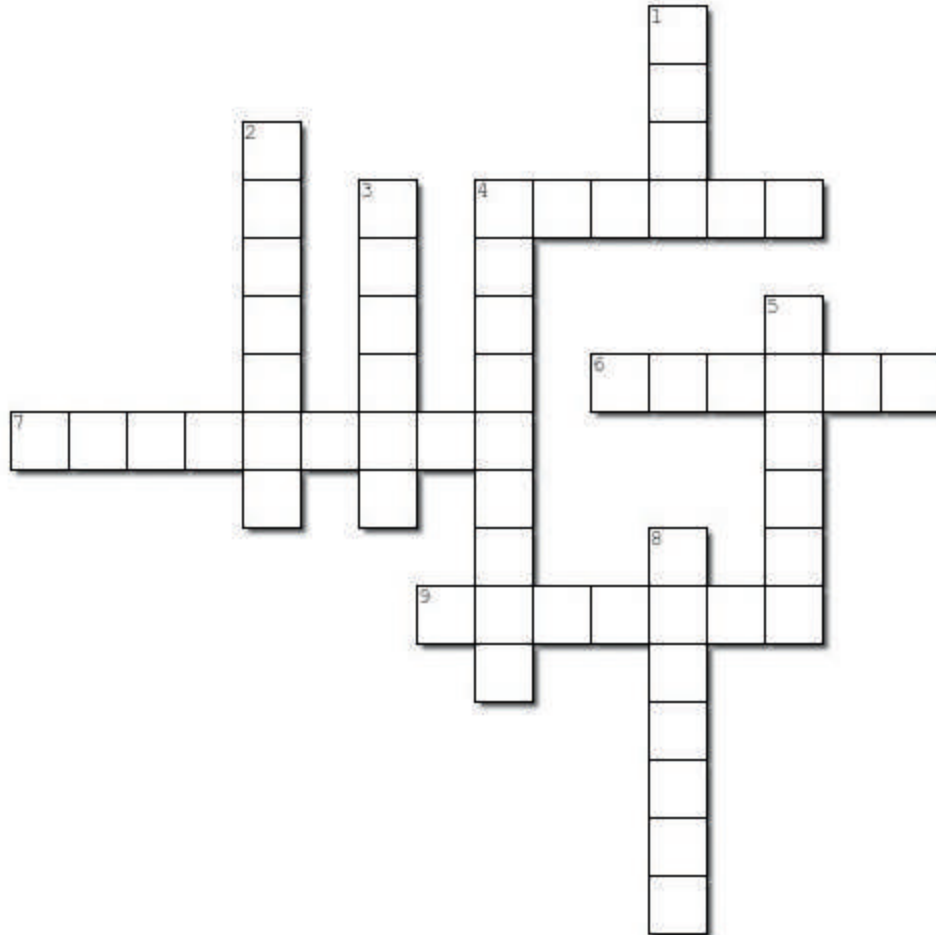
Palestinians have been killed and driven out of their homes and lands ever since, having to live under the control of Israeli occupation with many restrictions placed upon them, including limited access to Masjid al Aqsa and basic necessities such as food, water and electricity - only to name a few.

Israeli military storming the Masjid al Aqsa compound.





Crossword Puzzle



Across

4. Complete this hadith with the missing word: "the Prophets (peace be upon them) were assembled for me, and _____ brought me forward to lead them in prayer."
6. During their rule, Masjid al Aqsa was treated as a rubbish dump.
7. A group of European Christians whose mission it was to capture Jerusalem from the Muslims.
9. This empire overthrew the Babylonians to take control of Jerusalem.

Down

1. This sahabah liberated Jerusalem from the Romans. ____ ibn al Khattab.
2. The Muslim empire that ruled ash-Sham for 1400 years.
3. The common name for the country that has occupied much of Palestine since 1948.
4. The city in which Masjid al Aqsa is located.
5. The name of the Caliph who built the Dome of the Rock structure, Abd al Malik bin _____.
8. A political movement which aims to establish a Jewish state in Palestine.



Israel and Palestine: A Brief History

1917

Britain conquer Palestine, ending Islamic Ottoman rule of 1400 years. Jews = 6% of population

1918-1947

Influx of Jewish migrants from Europe to Palestine. Jews = 33% of population

1973

Yom Kippur War. Egypt and Syria attempted to take back the Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights. They were unable to do so.

1967

The Six Day War. Israel took over control of the West Bank from Jordan, the Gaza Strip from Egypt and the Golan Heights from Syria. Now having control of the entire country.

1948

The birth of the State of Israel. Known as the Nakba or 'catastrophe' for the Palestinians. 750,000 Palestinians removed from their homes by Israel.

1947

United Nations Partition Plan to have separate Jewish and Arab states within Palestine. 55% of land given to Jews, 45% of land given to Arabs. Jerusalem declared a separate international territory.

1982

Israel withdraws from Sinai Peninsula after an agreement is reached with Egypt.

1987-1993

The first Intifada. An uprising from the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation and aggression. Sparked when four Palestinian men were killed.

2000-2005

The Second Intifada. Sparked when an Israeli politician entered Al Aqsa mosque with 1000 security guards.

2007

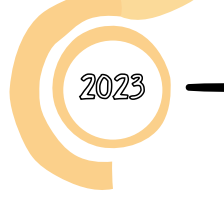
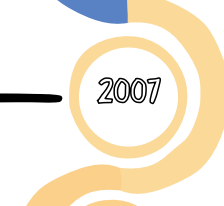
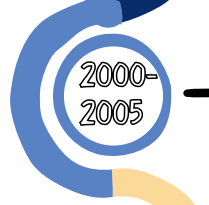
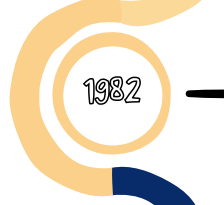
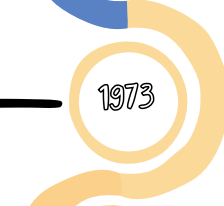
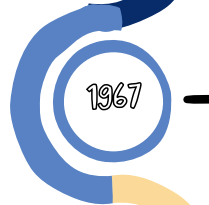
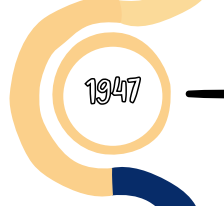
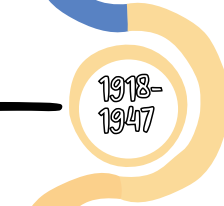
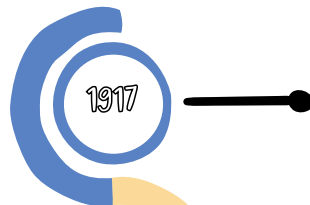
Israel imposes a partial blockade of the Gaza Strip. This restricted the movement of people and goods.

2023

Israel imposes a complete blockade of the Gaza Strip on 7 October and carries out a relative genocide. The Gaza Strip is home to 2.3 million Palestinians. Israel essentially cut off all food, electricity, water and fuel into the area. >15,000 Palestinians killed, 10,000 of those being women and children. Over half of Gaza's homes have been damaged. This has been one of the greatest losses of human life to date since the establishment of the State of Israel.



Refer to the previous timeline of the history of Israel and Palestine and construct your own timeline by inserting the appropriate information (in bold) beneath each relevant date.





Allah's Help is Near

There are several ayat and hadith that address the future encounters between Muslims and Jews. One notable hadith, found in both Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim, is narrated by Abu Hurayrah. It describes a time when Muslims will face a conflict with Jews, leading to their defeat. The hadith vividly portrays a scenario where even the elements, such as rocks and trees, will expose the hiding places of Jews to Muslims.

“The Hour will not begin until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them, until a Jew will be hiding behind a rock or a tree, and the rock or tree will say, ‘O Muslim, O slave of Allah, here is a Jew behind me, come and kill him!’ except for the box-thorn (al-gharqad), for it is one of the trees of the Jews.”

(Bukhari (2926) and Muslim (2922))

The Qur'an also speaks about the respite given to wrongdoers, including the Jews, until the moment when divine retribution seizes them. The Seizure of the Lord is described as painful and severe, as highlighted in Surah Hud (11:102).

“Such is the Seizure of your Lord when He seizes the (population of) towns while they are doing wrong. Verily, His Seizure is painful (and) severe”

Despite the current state of weakness among Muslims and their inability to take back stolen lands or establish Islamic rule in Palestine, Allah and His Rasul (ﷺ) provide hope for the future. The Prophet (ﷺ) foretold a time when Muslims would confront and prevail over the Jews. (**You will fight the Jews and will prevail over them**)

The strength of one's faith and unwavering certainty in Allah's promises allow believers to recognise that Allah's help is near. Allah, in the Quran, mentions the trials faced by those who came before, their patience through severe poverty and ailments, and the eventual triumph that followed. The believers are reminded that similar trials pave the way to Paradise, and the Help of Allah is indeed near.



“Or think you that you will enter Paradise without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They were afflicted with severe poverty and ailments and were so shaken that even the Messenger and those who believed along with him said, ‘When (will come) the Help of Allah?’ Yes! Certainly, the Help of Allah is near!”

[al-Baqarah 2:214].

The patience shown during times of calamity is highlighted as a means to attain the ultimate reward. This knowledge and understanding encourages believers to endure difficulties for the sake of Allah, as their steadfastness will ultimately lead to triumph and entry into Paradise. These teachings emphasise the importance of maintaining faith, patience, and certainty, trusting in Allah's promises and the nearness of His help.



Here are some hadith and ayat that speak of the importance of patience and the great reward it carries:

Say O Prophet, that Allah says, “O My servants who believe! Be mindful of your Lord. Those who do good in this world will have a good reward. And Allah’s earth is spacious. Only those who endure patiently will be given their reward without limit.”

(Surah Az-Zumar 39:10)

O my son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you. Verily, these are some of the important commandments (ordered by Allah with no exemption).

(Surah Al-Luqman 31:17)

And why should we not rely upon Allah while He has guided us to our good ways. And we will surely be patient against whatever harm you should cause us. And upon Allah let those who would rely indeed rely.

(Surah Ibrahim 14:12)

So, surely with hardship comes ease. So, surely with hardship comes ease. So once you have fulfilled your duty, strive in devotion, turning to your Lord alone with hope.

(Surah Ash-Sharh 94:5-8)



Choose your favourite
ayat about patience
from the previous page
and write it below.

Patience

A large rectangular area with a decorative scalloped border. Inside, there are several sets of horizontal lines for handwriting practice, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.