

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'alaa 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).

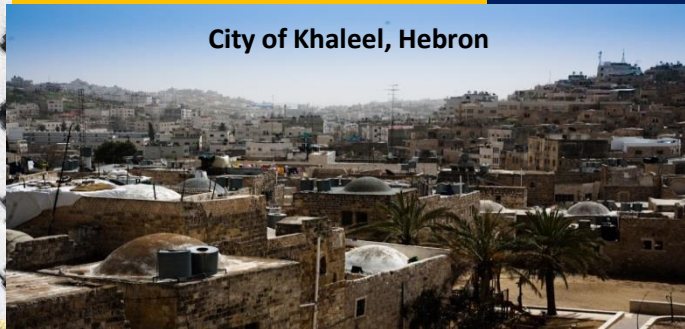
He had 12 children, two were from Raaheel, viz. Sayyidinaa Yusuf AS and Bin-Yaamin.

Sayyidinaa Ishaaq A.S and Sayyidinaa Ibrahim A.S begin the building of Masjidul Aqsa which was completed by Sayyidinaa Yaqub A.S

(*Qasasun Nabiyyeen, 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 kings 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 Philistines."

(Bernard Lewis, *The Middle East*, p. 31, Scribner),

330-640 CE

Byzantine Rule. Jerusalem and Palestine becomes increasingly Christianised.

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 .

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*)

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)

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)

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.

633 /4 CE

The reign of Sayyidinaa Abu Bakr R.A An army is sent to Palestine was 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.

However, their Patriarch, 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.

(*Taarikhul Umam* 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.

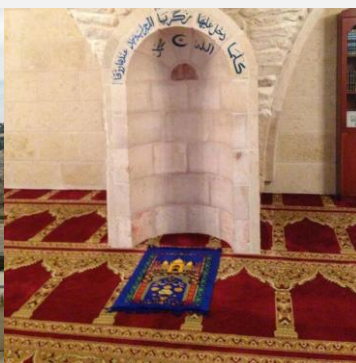
Maymoonah bint Sa'd RA asked Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) regarding Masjidul Aqsa. Nabi (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) replied "It is the land of gathering and resurrection. Go there and offer your prayers. Your prayers will carry a reward as much as 1000 prayers in any other place" She asked "What 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- Aqsaa



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*"

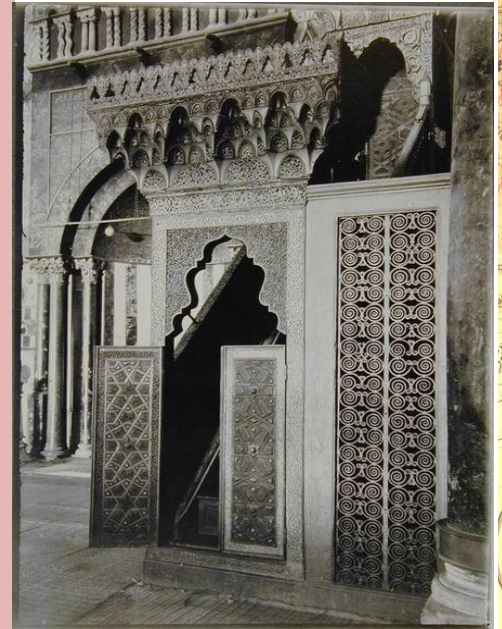
Ibn Battutah discovers a tomb in Gaza which he says is the resting place of the great granddaughter of Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wasallam, Fatimah bint Husain bin Ali R.A.

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



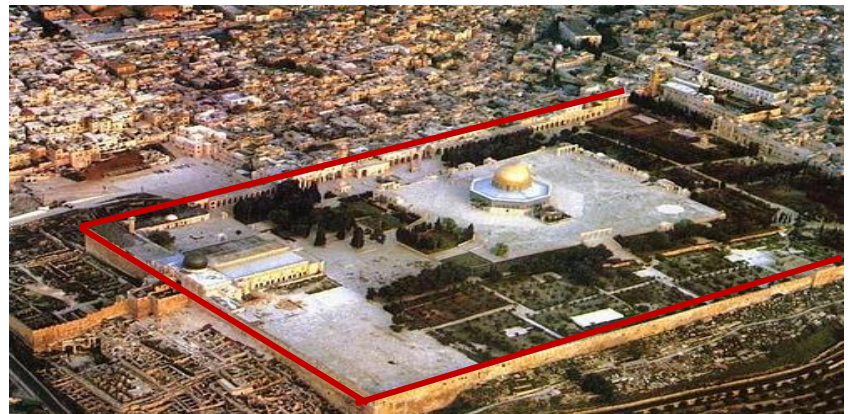
Interesting Facts

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 Rasulullah'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?" Rasullullah Sallallahu alaihi wasallam replied " In Baitul Maqdis and it's surroundings" [Musnad Imam Ahmad]