



Islam & World Events

10. ISLAM AND ISRAEL PART 2

Abraham's other descendents



Hagar and Ishmael wandering the desert

The modern connection of Islam and Israel stretches back through time to our modern day. The confrontation was foreshadowed 4000-years ago in Genesis chapter 21. In this scene, Sarah, Abraham's wife, finally has the child promised by God, Isaac, his name means, laughter. After the baby is weaned, which is normally about 9-month to 2-years after birth, there is a celebration. During this celebration, Sarah sees Hagar the mother Ishmael scoffing at her and Isaac. Sarah then demands Abraham cast Hagar and Ishmael out, to protect the inheritance of Isaac. Abraham agreed after God promised to look after Hagar and Ishmael, who are then sent away.

5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
6 And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me."
7 She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."
8 So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.
9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.
10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."
11 And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son.
12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of

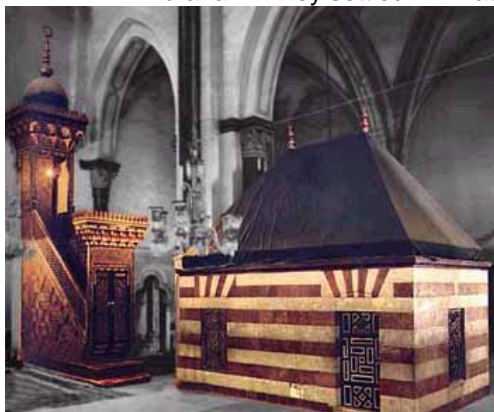
the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

13 "Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed."

14 So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting it on her shoulder, he gave it and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba. Genesis 21:5-14

From that point on, the descendents of Ishmael, who now include many of the people in the Middle East and predominately Muslim, have tried to reclaim the right given to Isaac. The link between Ishmael and the other descendents of Abraham are these.

- The Edomites are descendents of Esau, brother of Jacob, son of Isaac.
- The Ammonites and Moabites are descendents of Lot and his two daughters, nephew to Abraham. They settled in what is now known as Jordan.
- The Midianites, Sheba and Dedan are descendents of Abraham through Keturah, his wife after Sarah's death (Gen. 25:1-4). These settled in the Sinai and Southern Arabia in the area of Yemen, the kingdom of Sheba (Queen of Sheba).



Tomb of Isaac at Hebron, at the Tomb of the Patriarchs

God clearly promised to make Ishmael and his descendents a great nation, but God also reserved the covenant with Isaac and later Jacob (Gen. 32:24-32). The descendents of Ishmael later intermarried with other descendents of Abraham, bonding the nations (Gen. 28;9, 37:27), of Abraham outside of Isaac and Jacob. So today, many people throughout the Arab and Muslim world claim descent from Abraham through Ishmael.

Why is this claim important? What does it have to do with the end-times? First, we know from the prophets, both in the Old and New Testaments, in the last days Israel and Jerusalem would be the focus of nations. (Zechariah 12:1-3).



Many of Abraham's descendents, outside of Jacob, will try to claim the Biblical birthright of Isaac and Jacob. However, God confirmed his agreement in several ways with Isaac and Jacob. One proof is Abraham's tomb, in Hebron. There, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, with their wives Sarah, Rebecca and Leah rest. Ishmael and Esau are not at Abraham's grave, only the line of Biblical covenant is there. Ishmael attended the funeral of Abraham, he came to Hebron when Abraham died, but not buried there, only Isaac was. Now many of these descendents are at odds with Jacob's descendents.

So in many ways, the current conflict between Israel and the Muslim nations, is a continuation of a conflict, which began 4000-years ago, two families competing for the blessing of Abraham. Isaac was the "son of promise" and the "son of faith", while Hagar's son Ishmael was the "son of unbelief" and the "son of human effort". This is an important point, before Ishmael and Hagar, God promised a child to Abraham through Sarah. Sarah was old, therefore Sarah thought she needed to help God's promise along, she therefore gave her husband, her bondswoman Hagar to fulfill God's promise. She did not believe God could accomplish his promise, demonstrating a *lack of faith*. Secondly, she felt she needed to accomplish God's promise for Him, so she tried to fulfill the promise through Hagar, *human effort*.



The Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount

This conflict between these two descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael ultimately will be demonstrated in a building central to Judaism and important to Islam. This building, known the world over as the *Dome of the Rock*, or in Jewish circles, the *Temple Mount* will become the center focus in the end-times.

The Dome of the Rock and the Temple Mount

For the non-religious, the importance of a gold domed building in downtown Jerusalem, as the center of world conflict, seems like a stretch. This is usually the view of those, who lack historical perspective or reject the realm of the super-natural. First, we need to understand, the Dome of the

Rock is a building, constructed more than 1300-years ago, about A.D. 687 on the location of the Temple Mount. In A.D. 637, the armies of Islam defeated Byzantium for control over Palestine, under the leadership of the third Caliphate Omar.

The Byzantines used the Temple Mount as a garbage dump, and according to Muslim tradition, Omar cleared the area and offered prayers on the Temple Mount, he had a Mosque built, which became known as the *Noble Sanctuary*, about 50-years later the gold domed, *Dome of the Rock* would be constructed under the 9th Caliphate. To the Muslims, this building is known as the, *al-Haram al-Sharif* or *Noble Sanctuary*.

This building is the third most holy site to Islam, following Mecca and Medina. Here Muslims believe, Mohammad traveled in a night journey and ascended to the top of Mt. Moriah, to commune with the former prophets and God, who established Islam under Mohammad.

The problem is, though the building is the third most holy building to Islam, it is the *most holy* location to the Jews. This is the location of Solomon's Temple and the rebuilt Temple (First and Second Temples). The link between the Jewish nation and Mt. Moriah, predates Islam by thousands of years. This history can be summarized in the Table below.

Year	Event/Biblical Record
@ 2050 B.C.	Abraham called to Moriah, God promises to give the land Abraham and his seed. Through Abraham, all the nations would be blessed. Genesis 12:1-7
	Abraham takes Isaac to the top of Moriah in a test of faith, to offer him as a sacrifice. God intervenes providing a ram in the place of Isaac. Genesis 22, Hebrew 11:8-9
1000 B.C.	David plans First Temple, he is not permitted to build it. (2 Samuel 7:1-17) David purchases Threshing Floor of Araunah, site of First Temple and erects altar of sacrifice on Mt. Moriah. (2 Samuel 24:1-25 1 Chronicles 21:1-22:5)
960 B.C.	Solomon constructs Temple to the Lord, which God accepts and sanctifies. God warns the

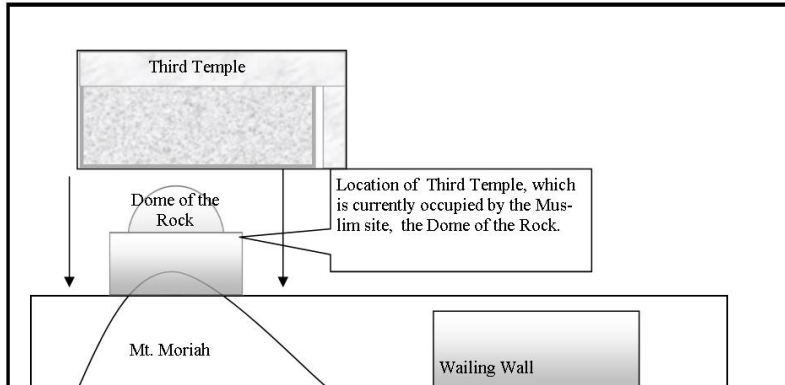
	building would come to ruin and the people expelled from the land if they turn away. 2 Chronicles 7:19-20, I Kings 8
605 B.C.	Nebuchadnezzar conquers Jerusalem, taking hostages and Temple treasures to Babylon. Daniel 1:2
September 592 B.C.	Ezekiel taken to the Temple and shown the secret idol worship and apostasy, God warns He is about to destroy the Temple. Ezekiel 8-9
Summer 587 B.C.	Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon destroys the city of Jerusalem and the Temple 2 Kings 25
April 573 B.C.	Ezekiel proclaims the Temple of the Glory of the Lord on Mt. Moriah. Ezekiel 40-43
539 B.C.	Cyrus the Great defeats Babylon, allows the Jews to return to land of Israel and begin rebuild the Temple, Second Temple period begins. Ezra 1-3
516 B.C.	Second Temple is completed Zechariah 4:9, Haggai 2:9, Malachi 3:1,
331	Alexander the Great spares Jerusalem and the Temple the he sees the High Priest, confirming his dream. Josephus, Zechariah 9:8
December 15, 167 B.C.	Antiochus Epiphanies desecrates Temple proclaiming himself god, and sacrificing a pig at the Holy of Holies. Daniel 8:9, Daniel 11:21-35
162 B.C.	Godly Jews under Matthias begin revolt culminating in repossession of Jerusalem. (1 Maccabees) Hanukah. Daniel 11:32
63 B.C.	Romans conquer Jerusalem, General Pompey enters the Temple, Holy of Holies. Roman period begins.
40 B.C.	Herod the Edomite, made King of Judah by the Romans, expands Temple area. Herod later kills the children of Bethlehem
A.D.12-16	Jesus found in the Temple as a child, after being separated from Mary and Joseph
A.D. 33	Jesus proclaims the coming destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70.
A.D. 70	Armies of Rome led by Titus, destroy the city of Jerusalem and the Temple as foretold by Jesus and Daniel, after the death of Messiah. Over 1-million Jews are killed by Romans. Daniel 9:26, Matthew 23:38-39, 24:1-2
A.D. 135	Hadrian installs Temple to Jupiter on the Temple Mount, causing Jews to revolt, in the Bar Kochba rebellion. Rabbi Akiva proclaims Bar Kochba the Messiah, Hadrian crushes rebellion, 580,000 Jews die. Jerusalem leveled and rebuilt a Roman city named <i>Aelia Capitolina</i> , Jew are forbidden to enter.
A.D. 312	Rome becomes Christian under Constantine, Temple Mount used as a garbage dump.
A.D. 362	Julian the Apostate, allows Jews to rebuild the Temple, foundation explodes causing construction to stop. Julian later dies in battle, causing construction to stop.
A.D. 637	Islam conquers Jerusalem and Temple Mount from the Byzantine Kingdom, under the 3 rd Caliphate, Omar. Noble Sanctuary built on Temple Mount.
A.D. 687-690	Dome of the Rock built to proclaim the faith of Islam, and Mohammad's ascension into Heaven on his "Night vision".
1099-1187	Crusaders Conquer Jerusalem and Temple from the Muslim establish Crusader era. Ending with the re-conquest of Islam over Jerusalem and the Temple Mount.
1917	British capture Jerusalem from Muslim Turks, during World War I
May 1948	Jerusalem proclaimed capital of Jewish State after Jews defeat Arab armies.
1967	Jews take control of the Temple Mount after 6-day war. The first time in over 2100-years, a Jewish nation has control of the Temple Mount.
Spring 1982	Union of Third Temple Groups, "To the Mountain of the Lord," "The Faithful of the Temple Mount," and the "Jerusalem Temple Foundation." Planning for the Third Temple.

Though Islam is not mentioned specifically in the Bible, Islam involvement with the Temple Mount, and the link of Islamic peoples with Israel, demonstrates Islam plays a major role in the End-times. For one, we know from the book of Daniel, the *Dome of the Rock* is removed before the *Third Temple* is completed. Secondly, the Third Temple is the focus of a peace agreement, which is broken after 3.5 years.

The role of the Temple Mount and the rebuilding of the Third Temple is central to the end-time events in the Bible. Both the Old and New Testaments refer to seminal event known as the *Abomination*

of *Desolation*, as a key milestone in the end of the times. The Abomination of Desolation requires a Temple on the Temple Mount. In that case, the Dome of the Rock, at some point prior to the Temple, is removed. Muslims have signaled such an event will lead to a *World War* of Islam against Israel.

What exactly is the Temple Mount? The Temple Mount is a platform, built around Mt. Moriah, allowing the Temple to be over Mt. Moriah, a small elevated hill. During the time of Herod, this Temple Mount platform was expanded, to its current status..



What is the Abomination of Desolation?

The term refers to a future event on the Temple Mount, at the Third Temple. Jesus specifically refers to this event in Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14, quoting from Daniel (Also see Luke 21:43). Jesus also links this event to the tribulation and the end of days. Jesus said,

14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.



Dome of the Rock with Wailing Wall

27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

28 "For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:14-16, 21-22,27-30

In verse 14, Jesus refers to the end, and then starts verse 15, with, "therefore" meaning "the end" is linked with what follows regarding the "Abomination of desolation". To amplify this point that the Abomination of Desolation refers to the end, Jesus goes on to define this time period, with specific qualifiers. These qualifiers are,

- Great tribulation, unequalled in the history of the world
- No flesh would be saved unless the time was cut short
- The coming of the Son of Man
- Immediately after the tribulation
- The earth will mourn the appearance of the Son of Man

When Jesus refers to the Abomination of Desolation, he is referring to a future event, written about in the book of Daniel. Therefore, what does Daniel mean, when he refers to the *Abomination of Desolation*? For one it involves the Temple, because he refers to the Holy Place, which is clearly a reference to the Temple, since there is only one "Holy Place". Also, the Hebrew words in Daniel indicate refer to this event 3-times.

31 "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. Daniel 11:31

11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. Daniel 12:11

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate. Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." Daniel 9:27

Daniel actually refers to the act of abomination four times, three times directly and one time in inference in chapter 8. He describes the Abomination against the Temple of God, where a specific act of sacrilege which takes place, causing the Temple to become desolate. In all four times, Daniel connects the act to the Temple. The Hebrew words used are שִׁקְוִוִּט *Shiquwts*, meaning detestable thing, or idol (Abomination). The other word is שָׁמֵם *Shamem*, meaning to lay waste, to be astonished, to devastate. The meaning here is clear, and is borne out by history and prophecy. Daniel was referring to a future event, when the Temple was be "Desolated" by an Abomination or Idol set up on the *Holy of Holies*.

Daniel prophesied about the act of *Antiochus Epiphanies*¹, who would do precisely that by setting up an image of Zeus in the Temple, and offering a pig as a sacrifice. This setting up an "Abomination", an idol, caused the Temple to be "Desolated". This is precisely what the First book of Maccabees calls it, the Abomination of Desolation.



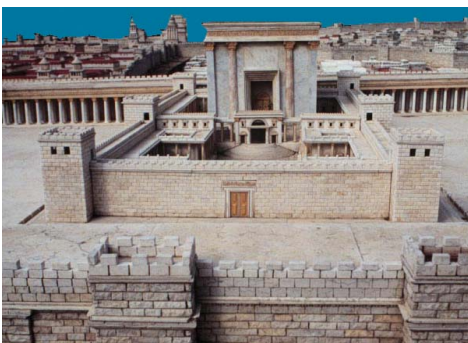
Statue of Zeus at Olympus, a similar looking one was probably installed in the Temple

{1:54} Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side; I Maccabees 1:54

Daniel referred to this event in Daniel chapter 8, which would be fulfilled in the near term 400-years after it was spoken, since Daniel wrote chapter 8 about 551 B.C., and it was fulfilled in about 167 B.C. In this action, Antiochus stopped the Temple sacrifice, and set up an image in the Temple.

11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place

of His sanctuary was cast down.



Model of the Temple at the time of Herod

12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.

13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled under foot?" Daniel 8:11-13

This short-term fulfillment pointed the way toward an end-time fulfillment, when another Abomination of Desolation would occur. This is what Jesus is referring to, since Jesus is talking about a future event, not the one, which occurred 200-years earlier.

19 And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.

23 "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.

¹ A Greek ruler and a descendent of Alexander the Great's general Selucious who succeeded Alexander in the area after his death.

24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people Daniel 8:19-24

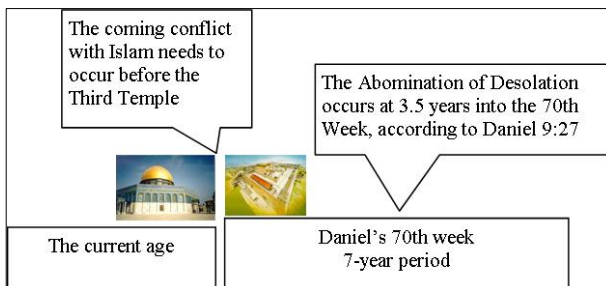
The angel Gabriel describes this event occurring in the Daniel chapter 8, as being in the latter time, and involving a period, when a future leader (the Antichrist) would persecute the Jewish people. Jesus also refers to this end-time persecution of the Jewish people in Matthew 24:16. All this will lead to the Second Coming (Matthew 24:19-20). This event is also referred to in Revelation 13:14, 14:9, when an image is set up in the Temple. Paul also refers to this event, which requires a Third Temple, to be built on the Temple Mount.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,
4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.
2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

The Antichrist, in the end, will sit in the Temple, built on the Dome of the Rock site, and proclaim himself god, demanding the whole world worship him. This event happens in the middle of the 7-year tribulation period (See the *70 Weeks of Daniel*)². The point here is this, in order for the Abomination of Desolation to occur, there needs to be a Jewish Temple, which requires the Dome of the Rock's removal. Therefore, there is coming a conflict with Islam and Israel, which will be greater than any conflict yet to occur. The Bible refers to this coming conflict, in Ezekiel 38 and 39, as the battle of *Gog and Magog*.

The Third Temple and Islam

Islamic nations are aware of the threat to the Dome of the Rock, by building a Jewish Temple. In 1967, when Israel captured the Dome of the Rock, then Rabbi Shlomo Goren asked the commanding officer, General Uzi Narkiss, to allow him to destroy the Dome of the Rock and begin construction of a Third Temple. Only since the death of Uzi Narkiss has this conversation come to light, this event was reported in the Jewish Newspaper Haaretz, and was recorded here by Middleeast.org.



The landmark mosque is atop the Temple Mount - last remnant of the ancient Jewish temples and a flash point for conflicts between Jews and Muslims. Arabs have long been suspicious that Jews want to destroy the mosque, a move that would inflame the Muslim world.

Rabbi Shlomo Goren's remarks were quoted in an interview that retired Maj. Gen. Uzi Narkiss gave to the Haaretz newspaper in May. Narkiss stipulated that nothing be published until everyone involved in the discussion had

died, Haaretz said. Narkiss, who led Israel's capture of Jerusalem's Old City, died Dec. 17. Goren died in 1994. According to Haaretz, Goren made his remarks a few hours after the Temple Mount - known to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or "Noble Sanctuary," fell into Israel's hands on June 7, 1967.

"The paratroopers wandered around the plaza as if in a dream," Narkiss was quoted as saying. "Rabbi Shlomo Goren was among them. I was alone for a moment, lost in thought, when Rabbi Goren approached me. 'Uzi,' Rabbi Goren said to me. 'Now is the time to put 100 kilograms of explosives into the Mosque of Omar so that we may rid ourselves of it once and for all.'" I said to him, 'Rabbi, enough.'

"He said, 'Uzi, you will go down in history if you do this.'

"I answered, 'My name will already be written in the history books of Jerusalem.'

"But Goren persisted. 'You don't grasp what tremendous significance this would have. This is an opportunity that can be taken advantage of now, at this moment. Tomorrow it will be too late.'

"I said 'Rabbi, if you don't stop, I'll take you to jail.'

² The Seventy Weeks of Daniel is a 490-year period determined on Israel and Jerusalem, 483-years had passed until the time of Messiah's death (Daniel 9:26). Following Messiah death the Temple and Jerusalem were destroyed. There still remains one seven-year period, which begins when the Third Temple is built.

"Thus the discussion, which only lasted a few minutes, came to an end. Rabbi Goren turned and walked away in silence."³

Over the years, Jewish movement to build a Third Temple has intensified, currently there exists parties in the Israeli government, who would begin construction of the Third Temple by first removing the Dome of the Rock. Within in the Likud party, Moshe Feiglin who heads a faction known as the Jewish Leadership, *Manhigut Yehudit*, has openly called for the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple. There are others also, including National Union-National Religious Party MK, Uri Ariel's who in October 2006, called for building a synagogue on the Temple Mount, an act which would inflame the Muslim world.

Jewish and Muslim groups understand what a Third Temple means it means a confrontation between Islam and Israel. One that could eventually pull in many nations, even those not involved in the struggle.

This is precisely what the Bible says will happen, Jerusalem and Israel in the end of days, will become the center of world focus. Zechariah wrote 2500-years ago,

3 "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against Zechariah 12:3

The New Testament book of Revelation, tells us the end-time battle will take place in Israel, in the hills of Meggido, better known as Armageddon.

14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Revelation 16:14-16

So in the very end, Israel is the point of focus, this however is preceded by the events on the Temple Mount site, and conflict with Islam, setting the stage for the end-times in the book of Revelation.

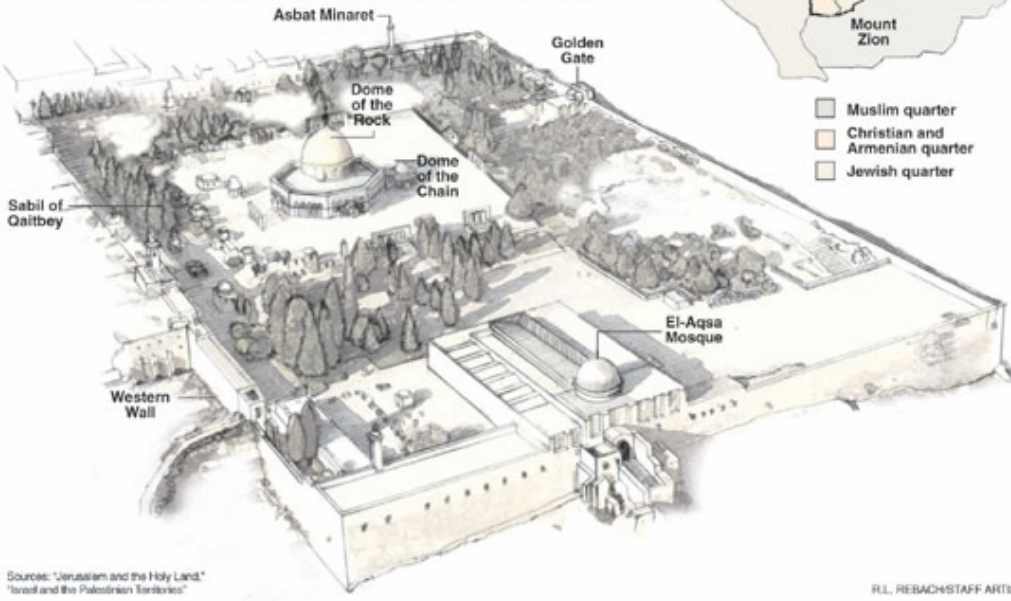
³ http://www.middleeast.org/archives/1999_01_05.htm

Temple Mount

Jews and Muslims lay claim to Temple Mount. Known to Muslims as Haram al Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, the complex is identified with Mount Moriah of the Old Testament. Judaism and Islam, along with Christianity, believe this is where Abraham offered his son Isaac in sacrifice to God.

To Jews and Christians, Temple Mount is the site of Solomon's temple, which held the Ark of the Covenant and the Ten Commandments. The Babylonians destroyed that temple, but a Second Temple was built on the same site. The Romans destroyed this temple in 70 A.D. Part of the foundation — the Western Wall — remains and is revered by Jews. Other portions have been uncovered in tunnels under the mount.

For Muslims, the site is associated with Muhammad's Night Journey, in which he ascended to heaven into God's presence and returned to Mecca the next morning.



Sources: "Jerusalem and the Holy Land," "Israel and the Palestinian Territories"

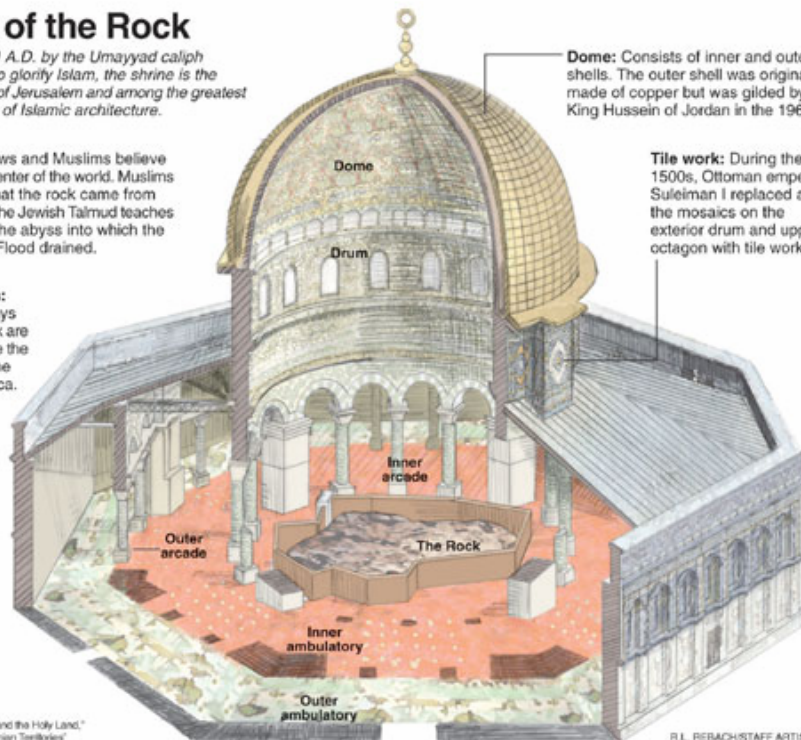
R.L. REBACH-STAFF ARTIST

Dome of the Rock

Built in 688-91 A.D. by the Umayyad caliph Abd el-Malik to glorify Islam, the shrine is the Islamic center of Jerusalem and among the greatest achievements of Islamic architecture.

The Rock: Jews and Muslims believe this to be the center of the world. Muslims also believe that the rock came from paradise, and the Jewish Talmud teaches that it covers the abyss into which the waters of the Flood drained.

Ambulatories: These walkways around the rock are meant to evoke the path around the Kaaba in Mecca.



Sources: "Jerusalem and the Holy Land," "Israel and the Palestinian Territories"

R.L. REBACH-STAFF ARTIST