



# Al-Aqsa – Our Role and Responsibility

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# INTRODUCTION – TOPIC AREAS COVERED IN THIS WEBINAR



**What is  
Masjid al-  
Aqsa?**



**Theological, Spiritual  
and Historical  
connection with  
Masjid al-Aqsa**



**The Rise and  
Decline of Previous  
Empires**



**Our Duty Towards  
Masjid al-Aqsa**

# 1. WHY SHOULD AL-AQSA MATTER TO US?

Religious and  
historical  
connection

The land of the  
Prophets and pious  
saints

Masjid al-Aqsa  
belongs to the  
Muslims globally

The centre of  
blessings

A land that has  
suffered  
oppression as well  
as tranquillity

## 2. RELIGIOUS AND THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFIANCE

- ▶ First Qibla in Islam
- ▶ The second Masjid built on Earth
- ▶ The Third holiest site in Islām
- ▶ Masjid Al-Aqsa is the name of the entire compound area, not the name of the two monuments.
- ▶ It is the place of gathering on the Day of judgement
- ▶ The entire land of Sham – Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine – is blessed. Masjid is the epicentre of its surrounding blessings.
- ▶ It is the only place on Earth where all of the Prophets prayed simultaneously
- ▶ There isn't a handspan area inside its compound except that a Prophet or an angel prostrated therein.
- ▶ The station point during Isra wal-Miraj



# Masjid al-Aqsa

Masjid al-Aqsa, in Jerusalem, is not only the Qibly mosque (with the silver/black dome) or the Dome of the Rock but the whole region shown here. The name 'Masjid al-Aqsa' translates as 'the farthest mosque' and is the third most holy place in Islam. It was here that in around 621 CE the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) came on the night journey (Isra') from Makkah riding on the Buraq. He led all of the Prophets here in salah and then ascended to the heavens (Mi'raj) where he was taken in the presence of Allah and given the command of five times daily salah.

## The Buraq Wall

Also known as the 'Wailing Wall' or the 'Western Wall', it is the most sacred place for Jews. For Muslims it is known as the Buraq Wall as it is on this wall the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) tied the Buraq, the riding animal which he rode on when he came from Makkah to Jerusalem.

## Masjid al-Buraq

This small structure, in the south-west corner, is believed to be the actual place where the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) tied the Buraq.

## The Moroccan Gate

This is the area from where it is said the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) entered from during the night of Isra'. The second Caliph Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) is also said to have entered from here when he came to Masjid al-Aqsa. Today, the Moroccan Gate is the only access point for non-Muslims to enter the sanctuary.

## Masjid al-Qibly

This structure is known as Masjid al-Qibly as it is located nearest to the 'Qiblah', the direction of prayer. The masjid was originally a prayer room built by Caliph Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) and was situated in the south-east corner. Masjid al-Qibly was modified several times with the present structure built in 1034 CE. The front is aligned directly towards the Ka'bah in Makkah.

## Dome of the Rock

Also known as 'Qubbatus Saqqara'. This structure was built by Caliph Abd al-Malik from 688 to 691 CE and houses the sacred rock from which it is said the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) ascended to heaven with the angel Jibreel (upon him be peace)

## Dome of the Chain

This miniature version of the Dome of the Rock was also built by Caliph Abd al-Malik. It marks the exact centre point of Masjid al-Aqsa.

## Throne of Sulaiman (upon him be peace)

This building is located where it is believed Prophet Sulaiman (upon him be peace) passed away. It currently functions as a girls school.

## The Golden Gate

This is where Christians believe Isa (upon him be peace) will enter from in his second coming. Imam Ghazali is said to have written part of 'Ihya Ulum ad-Din' while residing above this gate. The gate was sealed in the 7th century.

## Bab-ur-Rahmah cemetery

This is a Muslim cemetery outside the eastern wall. It contains the graves of two sahabah, Ubadah bin Samit and Shaddad bin Aus (may Allah be pleased with them)

## Musallah Marwani

This vast underground area, below the paved courtyard, was constructed by the Umayyads in the 8th century and has recently been renovated. The Prophet Isa (upon him be peace) is said to have been brought up here in his infancy by his mother Maryam (upon her be peace)

### 3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MASJID AL-AQSA

The Second house built on Earth

Abu Dharr (ra) reported that he asked the Prophet (saw), “O Messenger of Allah, which masjid was built first on earth?” The Prophet (saw) replied, “The Sacred Masjid of Makkah.” Abu Dharr again asked, “Which was next?” The Prophet said, “The Masjid al-Aqsa.” Abu Dharr (ra) further asked, “How long was the period between the building of the two masajid?” The Prophet (saw) said, “Forty years.” Apart from these, offer your prayers anywhere when it is time to pray, as excellence lies in it.” (Al-Bukhari)



## 4. WHO FIRST CONSTRUCTED MASJID AL-AQSA?

Scholars are divided on the various opinions;

1. Angels
2. Prophet Adam (as)
3. Prophet Ibrahim (as) with his son, Prophet Ishaq (as).
4. Prophet Yaqub (as).

**Note: All are in agreement that Prophet Sulaiman (as) was not the first to build Masjid al-Aqsa. Here merely extended its boundaries.**

## 5. SPIRITUAL CONNECTION – VIRTUES OF JERUSALEM AND MASJID AL-AQSA

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

Glory to Allah Who did take His servant on a journey by night from the Sacred Mosque (in Makkah) to the **Mosque of Al-Aqsa whose precincts We have blessed so that We may show him some of Our signs.** Indeed He alone is All-Hearing, All-Seeing. (Al-Isra', 17:1)



Jerusalem is referred to as the holy land

يَا قَوْمِ ادْخُلُوا الْأَرْضَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الَّتِي كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَلَا تَرْتَدُّوا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِكُمْ  
فَتَكُونُوا خَاسِرِينَ

(Musa [as] said) O' My people! Enter the **Holy Land that Allāh has written for you** and do not turn on your backs lest that you return as losers.

(Al-Maidah, 5:21)

## Importance of journeying to Masjid al-Aqsa

Abu Hurayrah (ra) relates that the Prophet (saw) said, “**You should not undertake a special journey to visit any place other than the following three masajid (with the expectation of receiving greater reward); the Sacred Masjid of Makkah (Ka’bah), this masjid of mine (the Prophet’s Masjid in Madinah), and Masjid al-Aqsa (in Jerusalem).**” (Muslim)

## Virtues of Praying Salāh in Masjid Al-Aqsa

Abu Darda' (ra) relates that the Prophet (saw) said, "The reward of a prayer in al-Masjid al-Haram (Makkah) over other masajid is equivalent to 100,000 Salah (in reward), a prayer in my masjid (Madinah) is equivalent to 1,000 Salah and **a Salah in Bayt al-Maqdis (al-Aqsa Sanctuary) is equivalent to 500 Salah.**" (Al-Bayhaqi)

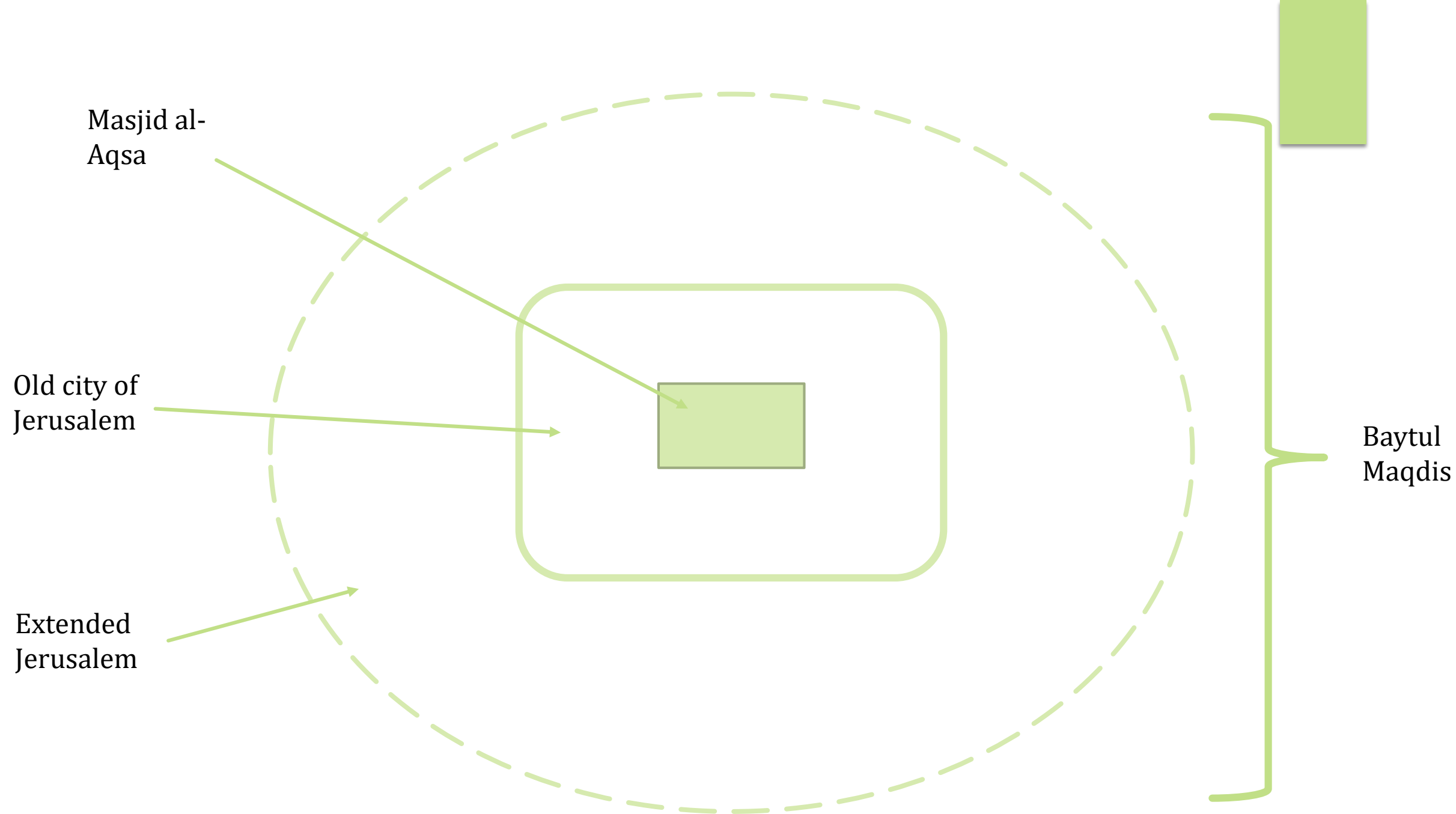
‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr (ra) relates that the Prophet (saw) said, “When Sulayman ibn Dawud (as) constructed Bayt al-Maqdis, he asked Allah three things. He asked Allah adjudication in line with his ruling, which he was given. He asked Allah for an empire which cannot be attained by anybody after him, which he was given, and he asked Allah, **when he completed the construction of Masjid al-Aqsa, that whoever comes solely to perform Salah in this masjid He forgives his sins, leaving him like the day his mother gave birth to him.**” (Al-Nasa’i)



## Donating Towards Masjid Al-Aqsa

Sayyidah Maymunah (ra) relates that she said, “O Messenger of Allah, inform us about (visiting) Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem)”. He said, **“It is the land of gathering (al-mahshar) and resurrection (al-manshar), visit it and pray there, as one Salah performed there is equivalent to a thousand Salahs performed elsewhere.”** She further asked, “What about the one who doesn’t have the capacity to travel to Jerusalem?” He replied, **“Then send some oil to be used in its lamps, as the one who sent oil to be used in its lamps will be like the one who performed Salah there.”** (Ibn Majah)





## 6. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW–

### A. Rise and Fall of the Children of Israel – 1250 BC

- ▶ Migration of Prophet Yaqub (as) from Kan'an to Egypt to live with Prophet Yusuf (as).
- ▶ The rise of Pharoah and the enslavement of the Bani Israel (children of Israel)
- ▶ Prophet Musa (as) was sent to Pharoah as a Messenger to deliver the divine message from Allāh and liberate the Bani Israel
- ▶ After the death of Pharoah, Prophet Musa (as) was instructed to lead the famous exodus – leading the Bani Israel back to the Holy Land. Due to their disobedience, they were banished from entering the Holy Land and to wander aimlessly in the wilderness for forty years. (Al-Maidah, 5:21-23)
- ▶ After Prophet Musa's (as) death, Prophet Yusha (as) led the next generation to the Holy land.



## B. Corruption of the Children of Israel (1186 BC-938 BC)

- ▶ Most of the Bani Israel settled in *Jericho* after the demise of Prophet Yusha (as). They become corrupt and were oppressed by the Canaanite giants. Allāh defeated them under the leadership of Talut (Saul) and Prophet Dawud (as).
- ▶ After the death of Talut, Prophet Dawud (as) became king and extended the kingdom of Israel over and beyond Jerusalem. He ruled for forty years and after his death, Prophet Sulaiman (as) succeeded his father and expanded his kingdom. He ruled for another forty years until his demise.
- ▶ Prophet Sulaiman (as) used the Jinns to extend the boundaries of Masjid al-Aqsa and Baytul Maqdis.

## C. Destruction of the Kingdom of Israel (922 BC-586 BC)

- ▶ Rivalry and corruption ensued amongst the Bani Israel, causing Prophet Sulaiman's (as) kingdom to split into two; Israel or known as Samaria in the north and Judea in the south with Jerusalem as its capital.
  - 722 BC – Assyrians (modern day Syria) annexed and decimated Israel in the north.
  - 586 BC – Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, invaded Judea **and destroyed the temple (Masjid)**. Many of the Bani Israel were either evicted or imprisoned and taken to Babylon.

## D. Dominance of other Empires over Palestine

1. 550 BC – The Persian Empire under their leader Shah Cyrus ousted the Babylonians and occupied Palestine including Jerusalem. He allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and reconstruct their temple but only a few returned whilst the majority remained in Babylon.
2. 330 BC – Alexander the Great attacked the Persians and occupied Jerusalem. This ushered Greek culture, language and Hellenisms in Palestine.
3. 164 BC – Seleucids revolted and dominated Jerusalem and subjugated the Jewish citizens
4. 63 BC – The Roman Empire annexed Palestine and occupied Jerusalem. They appointed King Herod – Jewish convert – to govern over Jerusalem. He extended and renovated the temple.

# IMPORTANT FACTS!

1. The United Israel lasted for 96 years between 1018 BC – to 922 BC
  - Israel the north – 922 BC – 722 BC (200 years)
  - Judea the south – 922 BC – 586 BC (336 years)
2. The Bani Israel's dominion over Palestine officially ended in 586 BC, after which other empires conquered and ruled over Palestine.
3. The Jews began to compile their Torah after being exiled to Babylon. Several contributions were made to its compilation by Jewish Rabies who mixed other scriptures with it, included their own interpretations, alterations and speculations.
4. Most Jews resided outside of Jerusalem since the Babylonian exile.
5. The Romans ruled over al-Quds until the reign of Umar (ra). The Roman Emperor, Constantine converted to Christianity around 320 CE and made it its official religion.



6. The temple (Masjid al-Aqsa) was destroyed twice
  - The first time in 586 BC by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. Nothing of its original structure remained thereafter.
  - The temple was reconstructed under the Persian rule in 538 BC and then destroyed for the second time by the Romans under General Titus around 70 AD who was despatched to quash a major revolt against the Romans.
7. What remained of the original temple as its remnants predates to King Herod's extension.
8. What the Jews refer to as the temple was actually Masjid Al-Aqsa in the Muslim tradition.
9. Both the Quran and the Torah prophesied of the destruction of the Masjid and their corruption. The Jews were banished from entering the Holy land and lived in exile known as 'Diaspora'.

وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ فِي الْكِتَابِ لَتُفْسِدُنَّ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَّتَيْنِ وَلَتَعْلُنَّ عُلُوقًا كَبِيرًا (4) فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ أُولَاهُمَا بَعَثْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ عِبَادًا لَنَا أُولِي بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ فَجَاسُوا خِلَالَ الدِّيَارِ وَكَانَ وَعْدًا مَفْعُولًا (5) ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْكَرَّةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَمْدَدْنَاكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ أَكْثَرَ نَفِيرًا (6) إِنَّ أَحْسَنَكُمْ أَحْسَنْتُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَإِنْ أَسَأْتُمْ فَلَهَا فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ لِيَسُوءُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَلِيُتَبِّرُوا مَا عَلَوْا تَتْبِيرًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يَرْحَمَكُم وَإِنْ عُدتُمْ عُدْنَا وَجَعَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا

And We decreed to the Children of Israel in the Book (Torah), “You will certainly cause corruption in the land twice, and you will become extremely arrogant. When the first of the two promise comes, We would send against you slaves of ours of great military might, they will ravage your homes. This was a fulfilled promise. Then (after your repentance) We restored your authority over them and aid you with wealth and children and made you (into) abundant groups. If you do good then it is for your own good, but if you do wrong then it is to your own loss. And when the second promise will come, so they (your enemies) distort your faces (humiliate) and enter the Masjid as they entered it the first time (to destroy it), and utterly destroy whatever would fall into their hands. Perhaps your Lord will have mercy on you (if you repent), but if you return (to sin), We will return (with our punishment). And We have made Hell a (permanent) confinement for the disbelievers.” [Surah al-Isra 17:1-8]

## 7. ISLAMIC CONQUEST OF AL-QUDS (JERUSALEM)

1. 636 CE (15 AH) – After the conquest of Yarmuk against the Romans, the Muslims converged on al-Quds. After besieging the city for 4 months, Sayyiduna Umar (ra) travelled towards Jerusalem and liberated the city peacefully.
2. 1187 CE (583 AH) - Salāh al-Din (b. 1138) and his army defeated the Crusaders at Hittin (near the lake of Tiberius north of Palestine) which paved the way for the liberation of al-Quds after 90 years of crusade rule. Jerusalem was liberated in October 1187.
3. 1516 – 1917 ( 923- 1335 AH) – The Ottomans ruled over the land of Palestine after Sultan Salem I defeated the Mamelukes and the Safavids.

## 8. THE BRITISH MANDATE 1918-1948

1. 1914 - World War 1 (WW1) broke out between Britain and its allies the Ottomans and the Germans. The aim was to defeat the Ottomans and fragment their territories.
2. The Sykes Pico agreement plan was to colonise and divide greater Syria into four separate countries; Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.
3. The Arabs of Hijaz (modern day Saudi Arabia) revolted against the Ottomans and allied with the British.
4. In November 1917, the Balfour declaration allowed illegal immigration of the Jews into Palestine.
5. 1918 – the British established their mandate over Palestine until 1948 to allow Jews to illegally settle in Palestine.



## 9. THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS DECLARED - 1948

1. The state of Israel was declared in May 1948. By then the British had left Palestine.
2. The total number of Jewish immigrants rose to 61,000.
3. The Palestinians mark this day as the 'Naqbah' – Catastrophe.
4. Arab countries sent forces against Israel to reclaim Palestine but eventually failed.
5. The newly established Jordan took control over Al-Aqsa Masjid until 1967. The Jordanian king, king Abdullah wanted to represent the Muslim world.
6. Not all of the worlds Jews approved of the state of Israel. Until today, many orthodox Jews reject the state of Israel. **ANTI-ZIONISM IS NOT ANTI-SEMITISM**

## Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present



## 10. ATTACKS AGAINST AL-AQSA MASJID

1. 1967– The Zionists occupied East Jerusalem and attacked Masjid al-Aqsa
2. 1969- A Zionist mob carried out an arson attack inside Masjid al-Aqsa burning Nur al-Din's pulpit installed by Salāh al-Din in 1187.
3. 1970 – Members of the 'Temple Mount Faithful' forcibly entered al-Aqsa Masjid with the aim of demolishing it.
4. 1981 – Underground tunnels were discovered that followed World wide condemnation.
5. 1988 – Israeli troops stormed Masjid al-Aqsa firing tear gas at the groups of worshipers.
6. Al-Aqsa is continuously attacked since then until today. **The Ultimate goal is to destroy Masjid al-Aqsa to rebuild the third temple of Solomon.**

## 11. MAKING SENSE OF THE CRISES

1. LEARNING FROM THE SUNNAH - Sulhu Hudaybiyyah incident enraged the believers initially because of the unilateral agreement favouring the Qureish. The persecution of the believers during the Makkah period.
2. Learn from history – the crusade invasion on Palestine
3. Know that Allāh's victory is with the oppressed and his wrath on the oppressors
4. A test of our faith – to distinguish between true believers and traitors of our time
5. Elevating the status of those sacrificing for Allāh's cause.
6. **SURELY THE HELP OF ALLAH IS NEAR**

## 12. OUR MORAL DUTIES TOWARDS AL-AQSA

1. Support the oppressed Palestinians – Muslims or Non-Muslims
2. Partake in peaceful protests to show solidarity.
3. Visit al-Quds and encourage others to visit it.
4. Donate in charity to help the oppressed.
5. Sign petitions to stop the injustices committed against the Palestinians.
6. Creating awareness of the situation.
7. Study the history of Al-Aqsa and its attachment with Islamic tradition.
8. Continuously pray for the oppressed Palestinians.



# ALLAH'S WARNING AGAINST THE OPPRESSORS

وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ اللَّهَ غَافِلًا عَمَّا يَعْمَلُ الظَّالِمُونَ إِنَّمَا يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ لِيَوْمٍ تَشْخَصُ فِيهِ الْأَبْصَارُ مُهْطِعِينَ مُقْنَعِي رُءُوسِهِمْ لَا يَرْتَدُّ إِلَيْهِمْ طَرْفُهُمْ وَأَفْنَدْتُهُمْ هَوَاءً (43) وَأَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ يَوْمَ يَأْتِيهِمُ الْعَذَابُ فَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا رَبَّنَا أَخِّرْنَا إِلَى أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ نَجِبْ دَعْوَتَكَ وَنَتَّبِعِ الرَّسُولَ أَوَلَمْ تَكُونُوا أَقْسَمْتُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ زَوَالٍ (44) وَسَكَنْتُمْ فِي مَسَاكِنِ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمْ كَيْفَ فَعَلْنَا بِهِمْ وَضَرَبْنَا لَكُمْ الْأَمْثَالَ (45) وَقَدْ مَكَرُوا مَكْرَهُمْ وَعِنْدَ اللَّهِ مَكْرُهُمْ وَإِنْ كَانَ مَكْرُهُمْ لِتَزُولَ مِنْهُ الْجِبَالُ (46) فَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ اللَّهَ مُخْلِفَ وَعْدِهِ رُسُلَهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ ذُو انتِقَامٍ

And never think that Allah is unaware of what the oppressors are doing. He only delaying them [i.e., their account] until a Day when eyes will stare [in horror]. Racing ahead with their heads raised up, their gazes not returning to them and their hearts empty. And, [O Muḥammad], warn the people of a Day when the punishment will come to them then those who did wrong will say, "Our Lord, grant us respite for a short term so we will answer Your call and follow the Messengers." [But it will be said], "Did you not swear before, that for you there is no decline? And you lived among the dwellings of those who wronged themselves, and it had become clear to you how We dealt with them and We presented for you [many] examples." And they plotted their plots but with Allah is [recorded] their plot even if their plots can move the mountains by it. So never think that Allah will fail in His promise to His Messengers. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Owner of Retribution. [Surah Ibrahim 14:43-47]



# Recommended Readings tp begin with

Professor Tariq Suwaidan, Palestine, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Ralph Schoenman, *Hidden History of Zionism*

Ismail Adam Patel, *Virtues of Jerusalem- An Islamic Perspective.*

- *Palestine: A Beginner's Guide.*

- *Medinah to Jerusalem*

YouTube Lecture

Mufti Abdul Waheed,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QJegjMjbnQ&list=PLUccg2eCDoi-TI0W1ZSSdb-SihWsaSGPL>