

History of Control on the Temple Mount

Judaism and Islam both have religious claims to the Temple Mount; however the Muslim world continues to deny Judaism's claims to the area. In reality, over the past few thousands of years, there have been several different sovereigns that have ruled over Israel and controlled the Temple Mount compound, but Judaism has the longest and most substantive ties to the region.

Judaism's historical ties to the Temple Mount began more than 2,000 years before Islam claimed ties to the area.

- Within **Judaism**, the Foundation Stone is located on the Temple Mount. This is thought to be where God created the Earth and where the binding of Isaac occurred.¹²
- The First and Second Temples were built on the Foundation Stone, which contained the Holy of Holies, where God's divine presence dwelled³, and the Ark of the Covenant, which housed the 10 Commandments.⁴
- Within **Islam**, the Temple Mount became important under Caliph Abd al-Malik in 691 C.E. He built the Dome of the Rock where the First and Second Temples stood.⁵
- In 715 C.E., the Umayyads built another mosque on the Temple Mount, naming it the *Masjid al Asqa*, the "furthest mosque," which is alluded to in the Quran. This is then believed to be where Mohammed ascended to heaven after a night journey from Mecca.
 - Jerusalem and the Temple Mount are never mentioned in the Quran.⁶

Control over the Temple Mount has changed multiple times throughout the centuries, maintaining an important status during each sovereign's rule.

- King Solomon built the first Jewish Temple about 3,000 years ago, when Jews had complete control of the Temple Mount.⁷
 - The Temple was extremely elaborate and expensive;⁸ the most important room was the Holy of Holies.⁹
- In 516 C. E., Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Israel and rebuild the Temple after the first one was destroyed by the Babylonians.¹⁰
 - Part of the plaza that was built around the Temple remains today as the Kotel.¹¹
- Once the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 C.E. by the Romans,¹² the Jews were exiled and banned from visiting Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount.¹³

¹"The Temple Mount in Jerusalem." The Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Accessed August 10, 2017

² Hollander, Ricki. "Updated: The Battle Over Jerusalem and the Temple Mount." CAMERA: Updated: The Battle Over Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. July 24, 2017. Accessed August 10, 2017

³"The Holy of Holies and the Veil." The Tabernacle Place. Accessed August 10, 2017.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷"Sites & Places in Jerusalem." The Temple Mount. Accessed August 10, 2017

⁸"The Jewish Temples." The First Temple - Solomon's Temple. Accessed August 10, 2017.

⁹"The Jewish Temples." The First Temple - Solomon's Temple. Accessed August 10, 2017.

¹⁰"Sites & Places in Jerusalem." The Temple Mount. Accessed August 10, 2017.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹²"Sites & Places in Jerusalem." The Temple Mount. Accessed August 10, 2017.

¹³Gilad, Elon. "The history of the Temple Mount: Where gods collide." Haaretz.com. November 19, 2014. Accessed August 10, 2017.

- A sanctuary to Jupiter was built on the Temple Mount and the area was walled.¹⁴
- In 637 C.E., the Caliph Umar conquered Jerusalem, intending to make it an important Muslim city.¹⁵
 - He ordered a mosque built on the southern end of the Temple Mount area.¹⁶
 - In 691 C.E., Caliph Abd-al Malik built a shrine over the Foundation Stone, creating the Dome of the Rock.¹⁷
- In 1099 C.E., the Crusaders conquered Israel, taking control of the Temple Mount.¹⁸
 - The Dome of the Rock and the al Aqsa Mosque were converted into churches.¹⁹
 - The Crusaders traditionally believed that biblical stories of Jacob and Jesus occurred on the Temple Mount.²⁰
- In 1187 C.E., Saladin of the Ayyubid dynasty²¹ conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the churches on the Temple Mount, and restored it to its former Islamic structure.^{22,23}
 - He also founded the Jordanian Islamic Waqf, which has religious authority on the Temple Mount until this day.²⁴
- When the Ottomans conquered the region in 1516 CE, they continued to fund the Waqf.
- At the end of WWI, the mandate of Palestine was given to Britain, including the Temple Mount, but left the Waqf in charge of the site.²⁵
- After the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, Jordan occupied east Jerusalem from 1948-1967.
 - King Hussein of Jordan then ordered a renovation of the Temple Mount in 1955.²⁶
- In 1967, Israel captured east Jerusalem during the Six-Day War, but decided to allow the Jordanian Waqf to maintain religious control over the Temple Mount²⁷ in order to prevent further religious conflict.²⁸
 - Jews are are banned from praying on the Temple Mount to not offend Muslims.
- Following the Oslo II Agreement, Yasser Arafat, former Palestinian Authority (PA) president, tried to insert Palestinian Arab influence over the Waqf.²⁹
 - After the Jordanian Mufti died in 1994, Arafat appointed his own Mufti.³⁰

¹⁴"Aelia Capitolina." Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed August 10, 2017.

¹⁵Alkhateeb, Firas. "Jerusalem and Umar ibn al-Khattab." Lost Islamic History. May 18, 2017. Accessed August 10, 2017.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷Gilad, Elon. "The history of the Temple Mount: Where gods collide." Haaretz.com. November 19, 2014. Accessed August 10, 2017.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹"Sites & Places in Jerusalem." The Temple Mount. Accessed August 10, 2017.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹Walker, Paul E. . "Saladin." Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed August 10, 2017.

²²Gilad, Elon. "The history of the Temple Mount: Where gods collide." Haaretz.com. November 19, 2014. Accessed August 10, 2017.

²³"Temple Mount." See The Holy Land. March 21, 2017. Accessed August 10, 2017.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵Gilad, Elon. "The history of the Temple Mount: Where gods collide." Haaretz.com. November 19, 2014. Accessed August 10, 2017.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Halevi, Yossi Klein. "The Astonishing Israeli Concession of 1967." The Atlantic. June 07, 2017. Accessed August 03, 2017.

²⁹Hollander, Ricki. "Updated: The Battle Over Jerusalem and the Temple Mount." CAMERA: Updated: The Battle Over Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. July 24, 2017. Accessed August 10, 2017

³⁰Hollander, Ricki. "Updated: The Battle Over Jerusalem and the Temple Mount." CAMERA: Updated: The Battle Over Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. July 24, 2017. Accessed August 10, 2017

- There has been a continuous struggle between the PA and Jordan for control of the Temple Mount; yet, the PA and Jordan signed an agreement reaffirming that Jordan is the official guardian of Temple Mount in 2013.³¹

³¹Ibid.