

Jerusalem and the Times of the Gentiles

(Luke 21:24)

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Jerusalem in the history of Islam

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The recent pronouncement on the status of Jerusalem by President Donald Trump, of the United States of America has caused a lot of international condemnation.

This is so because of the sensitivity of that place in relation to the Israeli-Palestine question.

Jerusalem came under Islamic rule during the reign of the second Caliph Umar bin Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) in the year 638 CE.

It was a peaceful conquest. The ruling patriarch of the city offered the keys of the city to the Caliph himself. Upon entering the blessed city, Caliph Umar

it as a Waqf (endowment) for religious purposes. The whole city is virtually Waqf land that is non-salable and nontransferable.

Many Muslim scholars also migrated and settled in the city. The Al-Aqsa Masjid was a great seat of learning. Thousands of pious people and scholars included provisions in their wills to be buried in Jerusalem. There are thousands, perhaps millions of Muslims' graves in the city of Jerusalem.

Muslims also recognised the rights of Christians and Jews who hold the city dear to their hearts and sacred in their faiths.

Under Islamic rule they were given permission to settle there. Due to Muslim tolerance Jews were



Prophetic Significance 1

- In '*Signs of the End of the Age*', Jesus prophesies destruction of Temple and Jerusalem's future:

⁵ "Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶ 'As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.'

¹⁰ Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

²⁰ "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.

²⁴ **Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."**

‘The Times of the Gentiles’

- 1000 BC King David conquered Jerusalem from the Jebusites and established the capital of his kingdom there. 960 BC, David’s son, King Solomon builds the First Temple.
- 597 BC Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon captures and destroys Jerusalem and demolishes First Temple
- 539 BC Persia under King Cyrus overthrows Babylon Empire, including Jerusalem. Cyrus permits Jews in Babylonian exile to return to Jerusalem; Second Temple built
- 445 – 425 BC Nehemiah the Prophet rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem
- **‘Silent Years’** between Malachi (OT) and Matthew (NT) were not quiet. 400 years separate time of Nehemiah with birth of Christ. These were Gentile times, full of ferment and change

‘The Times of the Gentiles’

- 332 BC Greek leader Alexander the Great conquers Judea and Jerusalem
- 63 BC Roman General Pompey captures Jerusalem.
- 37 BC King Herod restructures Second Temple, adds retaining walls
- 4 BC Jesus is born; 30 AD Romans crucify Jesus, resurrects/ascends
- 70 AD Roman forces destroy Jerusalem and demolish Second Temple
- 132 AD after Jewish revolt, Jerusalem rebuilt as Roman city and dedicated to Jupiter as a pagan city – Jews excluded
- 4th Century – becomes Christian city under Emperor Constantine. Many churches and monasteries are built, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (335 AD)

‘The Times of the Gentiles’

- 614 AD Persians capture Jerusalem. 629 AD Byzantine Christians recapture Jerusalem from Persians
- 638 – 1099 First Muslim Period
- 638 AD Caliph Omar enters Jerusalem
- **691 AD – Dome of the Rock built on site of destroyed Jewish Temples**



'The Times of the Gentiles'

- 1099-1187 Crusader Period
- 1187 - Saladin captures Jerusalem from Crusaders
- 1229-1244 CE - Crusaders briefly recapture Jerusalem two times
- 1517 - Ottoman Empire captures Jerusalem
- 1538-1541 - Suleiman the Magnificent rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem
- 1917-48 British Mandate: 1917 - British capture Jerusalem from Ottomans in World War I (**Balfour Declaration**)





‘The Times of the Gentiles’

- 1948 – State of Israel established; Jerusalem divided by armistice lines between Israel & Jordan
- 1967 to date Reunified city: 1967 - Israel Captures Jerusalem's Old City and Eastern half; reunites city
- 6 Dec 2017 Jerusalem recognised
- **Are we towards the End of the Age? Jesus warns that no-one, not even Himself, knows time**