

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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History of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa and the ideological struggle over them

Part of the justice of Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) is that He gives dominance and leadership – in truth- to those who deserve it; those who submit to His *Deen* and establish His *Shari'ah* regardless of their ethnic background, colour or language. Those are the people of truth, and the people of truth will be victorious even after some time.

*Banu Israel*, or the Children of Israel, were a nation which Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) had preferred over the nations before them by giving them the book, wisdom (the understanding of the book) and prophet hood as He says (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) in *Surah al-Jathiyah*: “And indeed We gave the Children of Israel the book, and the wisdom and the Prophet-hood; and provided them with good things, and preferred them above *al-a'alameen*” (mankind and jinn of their time.)

Israel is another name of Yaqoub son of Ishaq, son of Ibrahim, peace be upon them. Allah chose the prophets of *Bani Israel* from his descendants. He lived in *Al-Quds* until his son Yusuf was taken to Egypt, tested there and ultimately rose to a position of eminence and importance. Yaqoub and his children migrated from *Bait Al-Maqdis* to Egypt- as mentioned in *Surah Yusuf*. There is Egypt they lived for more than four centuries.

*Al-Quds* was ruled at the time by the pagan Canaanites. They were also called the giants. When Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) sent Musa, peace be upon him, revealed the *Torah* to him and made *Jihad* upon *Bani Israel* an obligation – H commanded Musa to lead the Children of Israel in fight to purify *Bait Al-Maqdis* from the Canaanites paganism. *Banu Israel*- refused to carry out the command of Allah as the Qur'an says: “They said: "O Musa! In it (the holy land) are a people of great strength, and we shall never enter it, till they leave it; when they leave, then we will enter."

Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) punished them for their disobedience and made them wander in the wasteland (desert) for forty year – during which both Haroun and Musa died.

After Musa and Haroun a new generation of *Bani Israel* who were stronger in faith and determination emerged. Yusha Ibn Noon led them towards *Bait Al-Maqdis* where they fought against the Canaanites. They conquered *Bait al-Maqdis* and purified it from the polytheism of the Canaanites. The followers of Musa, *alaihis-Salam*, filled it (*al-Quds*) with *Ibadah* and *Tawheed* but after some time they fell into *Shirk* and disobedience. When disobedience became widespread among them, Allah gave the Canaanites power over them. They occupied *Al-Quds* and persecuted *Bani Israel* and dispersed them.

After some time, they - *Banu Israel*- asked one of their prophets to appoint a king over them to rule and lead them to fight and recapture the kingdom of *Al-Quds*. The prophet appointed *Talut* and they fought a big battle as mentioned in *Surah al-Baqara*. *Bani Israel* won the battle. Dawud, *alaihis-Salam* played an important role in the fight and killed *Jalut* (Goliath.)

He later became the king after Talut and Allah gave him prophet-hood in addition to kingship.

Dawud resolved to build a *Masjid*, the Jews called it the House of the Lord or temple. However, he died before building it. He was succeeded by his son Suleiman, *alaih-Salam*, whom Allah gave kingship and prophet-hood. Suleiman built a huge *Masjid* that befitted his kingship and that of his father, peace be upon them.

The Children of Israel continued to worship Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) in the *Masjid* or temple in accordance with the *Shari'ah* of Musa, *alaih-Salam*, and the prophets after him. With the passage of time they started to abandon the *Shari'ah* of their prophets bit by bit. Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) would send prophets to them who would call them to *Tawheed* and to establish their *Deen*. They would annoy, insult and even kill the prophets. Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) would subsequently give the upper hand to their enemies over them and so they punish them – as He gave mastery to the Babylonians over them. They destroyed the city of *Al-Quds* and the temple.

After many wars in and around *Al-Quds* it fell under the control of the Romans. When Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) sent 'Isa ibn Maryam to *Bani Israel*, they became two groups; the weak minority who believed in 'Isa, *alaih-Salam*, and the Jews – who were the majority – who disbelieved. 'Isa, *alaih-Salam*, admonished and reminded them. Many people were influenced by the *Da'wah* of 'Isa, *alaih-Salam*. The Jews feared for their power and position and suggested to the Roman Governor to kill him. Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) saved him from them and raised him.

Some years later the Jews tried to rebel against the Roman Governor. He turned against them killing them, burning the city and destroying the temple for the second time. Those who survived were dispersed throughout the world and the right in the holy city moved from the Jews to the Christians – who followed the true religion of 'Isa, peace be upon him.

However, not long after 'Isa was raised; the Christians started to depart from the monotheism which 'Isa, *alaih-Slam*, taught. Three centuries after 'Isa, the Roman Emperor Constantine imposed the doctrine of trinity over the Christians and distorted religion of 'Isa, peace be upon him.

When Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) sent Muhammad (*Salla Allahu alaihi wasallam*) and took him to *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa* during the *Al-Isra* journey and he led the prophets in prayer, that was an indication and declaration that the right in the holy city has shifted from the Christians to the Muslims. That effectively happened during the conquest of *Sham* during the time of Umar ibn Al-Khattab, *radhia Allahu 'anhu*, who travelled from Al-Madina to *Bait Al-Maqdis* to receive the keys of the city from the leaders of the Christian faith in the city. The city and its *Masjid*, the *Masjid* of Dawud, *alaih-Salam*, became part of the Muslim heritage.

The evidence of the history shows that the religious right in the city is for those who establish the true religion of Allah. There is no true religion after the mission of Muhammad (*Salla Allahu alaihi wassalam*) except *Deen Al-Islam*.

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*Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa* has always been - throughout history- a *Masjid* for Muslims before the Jews were there and after. Ibrahim, *alaihis-Salam*, was the first to take that place as a *Masjid*. Allah (*Subhanahu wa ta'ala*) says: "Ibrahim was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a true Muslim."

Neither *Bani Israel* nor the Christians had a relationship with *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa* except during the periods when they submitted to Allah with their prophets. When they disbelieved in Allah, insulted Him and killed their prophets, their relationship with *Al-Aqsa* was cut off and moved to the Muslims who believed in all the Prophets, peace be upon them.

However, the Jews and Christians of this time do not accept this. The Jews think that the building of a third temple will bring about a king who is a descendant of Dawud, *alaihis-Salam*, and they will rule the world through him. The Christians believe that the coming of Jesus will be in the holy land after the building of the temple.

So, the conflict and struggle over *Bait Al-Maqdis* is an ideological and religious one. The Zionists from both the Jewish and Christian people believe that they will not be able to dominate and rule the world until after they build the temple; therefore, they will never abandon this idea.

The holy land is the land of Allah. Its *Masjid* was established for *Tawheed* and *Ibadah* of Allah. It is a trust with Muslims. No one has any right to surrender any part of it to the enemies. It will only be liberated from the Jews when Muslims adhere to the *Deen* of Allah, and repent from their sins which are the cause of their defeat and humiliation.