

Sacred Sites of Jerusalem: Notes (teacher)

Temple Mount / Haram al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary)

- *Elevated plateau in Jerusalem, covers approx 35 acres*
- *Sacred to:*
 - *Jews: sites of Temples (and Holy of Holies)*
 - *Christians: a place where Jesus would have visited*
 - *Muslims: the site of Muhammad's journey to heaven*
- *Currently under Muslim control*
- *Non-Muslims visitors may enter Temple Mount complex during non-prayer times. Only Muslims allowed to visibly pray. Sacred Jewish prayer items may not be visible.*

Dome of the Rock

- *Muslim shrine (not a mosque)*
- *Oldest Islamic monument in the world; built 688-691 CE*
- *Built over a sacred stone, the place from which Muslims believe the prophet Muhammad took his journey to heaven. (You can see the stone inside the shrine.) Jews & Christians believe the sacred rock is where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac.*
- *Not open to non-Muslim visitors*

Western Wall

- *Holiest Jewish site in the world--a remnant of a Second Temple retaining wall*
- *Large area in front of wall is an open-air synagogue*
- *Anyone may approach and pray*
- *Men & women have separate prayer areas*
- *Prayers on scraps of paper are stuffed into the cracks of the wall*

Al-Aqsa Mosque (*"the furthest mosque"*)

- *3rd holiest site in Islam (after Mecca and Medina, both in Saudi Arabia)*
- *Mosque has been rebuilt at least 5 times, most recently in 1035 CE*
- *4000-5000 can prayer there (number depends on source)*
- *Al-Aqsa was used as the royal palace of Crusader kings during the time European Christians controlled Jerusalem (1099-1187 CE). During this same period, Crusaders used Dome of the Rock as a church.*

Church of the Holy Sepulchre*

- *Stands on a sites that includes both Golgotha, or Calvary, where Jesus was crucified and the tomb (sepulchre) where he was buried*
- *The holiest Christian site in the world*
- *Constantine was the first to build a church on this site (330 CE)*
- *According to legend, Constantine's mother Helena is said to have found the true cross near the tomb*

Via Dolorosa* (Latin for "Way of Suffering" or "Way of Grief")

- *The route that Jesus took after being condemned by Pontius Pilate to crucifixion and eventual burial*
- *Via Dolorosa pilgrimage has been followed since early Christianity, beginning as soon as it became same to do so*
- *The route covers the 14 Stations of the Cross and ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. (The last 5 steps are inside Holy Sepulchre.)*

* Outside of Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif