

A Brief Temple Timeline

Commentary for May 1, 2018 — Milestones to Remember about the Gihon Temple

This month's article is titled "A Short History of God's Temples." Read first the "[May 2018 Newsletter](#)." I created the timeline below to list important Temple events. This timeline will be a work in progress with adjustments made when new information is brought to light.

The information is from Dr. Martin's books [The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot](#) and [Secrets of Golgotha](#), as well as from articles on the "[Temple Update Articles Index](#)." If you do not know who some of the people are, type the info in the "ASK search" on the ASK homepage.

Year	Event
953 BC	(approx) Solomon begins construction of Temple for YHWH
700	(approx) Hezekiah constructs Hezekiah's tunnel
586/524	(approx) Destruction of the Solomonic Temple (traditional date/Dr. Martin's date)
2nd cent	Antiochus Epiphanes builds Akra fortress, LXX translated
185	(approx) Aristeas visits Jerusalem; describes a spring and extensive water system
167	Antiochus Epiphanes desecrates the Temple
164	Judas Maccabeus has first Hanukkah after Temple purified
142	Simon the Hasmonean's sole reign, second Hanukkah celebrated after purification; sometime after he begins construction on an expanded Temple
134	Simon dies
124	John Hyrcanus dedicates Simon's Temple reconstruction, 3rd Hanukkah takes place after purification
63	Pompey conquers Jerusalem and desecrates the Temple
55	Licinius Crassus takes gold objects and money from Temple treasury, defiling the Temple
22	King Herod begins Temple expansion doubling the size
3	Jesus is born, September 11 (our calendar)
1	King Herod dies, January 28
BC/AD	No year "0"
6	Romans appropriate Herod's property in Jerusalem, including Antonia
Early	Early 1 st century author Alexander Polyhistor (quoted by Eusebius) says that Jerusalem was well watered
19	Re-built Temple dedicated
65	Paul, Peter, John and Jewish historian Josephus are alive and contemporaries
66	Jewish War begins, voices heard in the Temple saying "We are departing"

70	Destruction of Jerusalem, 9 th of Ab
73	Roman General Silva and 10 th Legion take Masada. Jewish War ends
75	Josephus writes <i>Wars of the Jews</i>
85	Barnabas visits Jerusalem, tells of Temple ruins
94	Josephus writes <i>Antiquities of the Jews</i> , which includes Temple information
95	Roman historian Tacitus writes about the Jewish Temple
99	End of 1st century, Roman geographer Strabo says Jerusalem was rocky but well supplied by water
130	Hadrian arrives at Jerusalem (2nd year of reign)
132-135	Bar Kochba War, Hadrian begins construction of Aelia, turns Temple site into city dump
180	Greek geographer Pausanius says Jerusalem was destroyed to its foundations
200	(approx) Mishnah completed
220	(approx) Clement says destruction of Jerusalem still visible, as Jesus predicted
225	Hippolytus says Temple in ruins, walls of the city still cast down
289	10 th Legion leaves Jerusalem base for Ailat on the Red Sea
302	(approx) Eusebius writes that Temple and city walls still down
303	Diocletian rampage against Christians and their churches in Palestine. Eusebius records there is farming done over the area of the Temple
313	Edict of Milan, allowing restoration of holy dwellings
324	Constantine sole ruler, calls for restoration of the Temple
325-326	Jews forbidden to continue construction, Constantine cuts off the ears of priests doing construction
333	Bordeaux pilgrim visits Jerusalem. He mentions the walls of the Haram al-Sharif (the false "Temple Mount")
330s	Jerome says the Praetorium was rebuilt
350	Cyril, archbishop of Jerusalem says the Praetorium was in ruins
361	Julian allows Jews to reconstruct the Temple, fire ensues
362	Temple reconstruction begins
363	Julian dies in Parthia, Temple reconstruction ceases
416	Theodoret, Bishop of Cyrrhus in Syria, tells of desolation of Jerusalem; Jesus' prophecy still fulfilled in his time
420	(approx) Jerome says the Jews of his day gather to mourn the Temple destruction
527-565	Justinian becomes Emperor
537	Santa Sophia dedicated in Constantinople
540	(approx) Document "Breviarius" says that the Temple is south of the Church of the Holy Wisdom

550	Piacenza Pilgrim visits Jerusalem and sees the ruins of the Praetorium
614	Jerusalem conquered by Persians and Jews, Church of the Holy Wisdom destroyed
638	Caliph Omar, the second Caliph conquers Jerusalem, Jewish scholars meet him & request permission to live near Temple adjacent to Siloam water system
661-681	Mu'awiya, becomes Caliph
680	(approx) European pilgrim Arculf views the wooden Al Aqsa Mosque, notes that Caliph Mu'awiya is friendly to Jews, allows them to settle south of the Haram
689-692	Begin rule of Ab al-Malik, builder of the Dome of the Rock
692	Dome of the Rock completed
750	Muslims begin to believe the "Rock" had Muhammad's footprint
876	Eutychus writes account of Omar and archbishop Sephronius (538–640)
9 th cent	Folklore accounts begin that the Temple was on the Haram
1033	December 5, a great earthquake struck Jerusalem and demolished the true western wall
1067	Major earthquake strikes Jerusalem, 25,000 die, only 2 houses left standing, Gihon turns bitter
1070	Jewish poet Solomon Ibn Gabirol of Spain wrote Temple still devastated and stones and clods of desolation abound at its site
1071	Seljuk Turks conquer Jerusalem from Crusaders
1077	Jews move northeast of the Haram (due to bitter Gihon waters). Jewish academy moves to Tyre
1099	First Crusade conquers Jerusalem
1102	Christian pilgrim Saewulf writes that footprints first can be seen in the Rock under the Dome
1129	Spanish Rabbi Abraham Hiyya said no Jews could be found in Jerusalem
1134	Maimonides born (d 1205)
1152	Jews allowed to live near Jaffa Gate Tower
1154	Story told to Benjamin of Tudela of royal tombs underneath a church on southwest hill of Jerusalem, THEN it begins to be called Mt. Zion
1169	Christian traveler Theodoric says Jews in his day thought Gihon water came from nearby. Another Jew thought Gihon water came from Bethlehem.
1169	Benjamin of Tudela says Jews began to believe Temple was north by the Haram
1180	Maimonides wrote that the temple was in desolation and in ruins, and told of deep and winding tunnels of the true western wall
1187	Saladin closes and blocks the Gihon
1210	Rabbi Samuel Ben Samson, said only the foundations of the Temple remains, near the spring of Etham; says bathing place of the spring of Etham; says bathing place of the priests (the Gihon Spring), was closed by Saladin in 1187

- 1235 Rabbi David Kimchi said Temple was in ruins; no Gentile ever built at the site
- 1238-44 Rabbi Jacob says the site of the Red Heifer is on the Mount of Olives. Recognizes (wrongly) that the Temple site is at the site of Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock
- 1328 Islamic writer Ibn Taymiyya wrote about the footsteps of Muhammad under the Dome of the Rock
- 1334 Isaac Chelo recognizes (wrongly) that the western wall is in front of Omar's "Temple"
- 1334 Unnamed Jewish visitor to Jerusalem says Omar "rebuilt" the Temple (al-Aqsa Mosque) from stones of the Temple
- 1470 Arabic historian Shams ad Din Suyuti said Omar placed the al-Aqsa Mosque where the Justinian-built Nea Church was located
- 1516 Rabbi Obadiah Da Bertinoro said part of the western wall at the [true] Temple site was still standing
- 1517 (approx) Ottomans capture Jerusalem
- 1534 Rabbi Isaac Luria born
- 1537-39 Suleiman the Magnificent repairs walls of Jerusalem
- 1570 Jews recognize (wrongly) that the Wailing Wall as the wall of the Temple site. Isaac Luria saw a vision that the Temple was on the Haram
- 1572 Isaac Luria dies
- 1577 Azariah de' Rossi says the site of the Temple has **"never been transformed into a house of prayer for any other people. ... No Arab would pitch his tent there."**
- 1730 Moses Hagiz, Jerusalem resident, first writes about Wailing Wall near the Haram
- 1875-85 Prof W.F. Birch identifies and defends the true Mt. Zion
- 1880 Hezekiah's tunnel discovered
- 1969-73 Excavations at southwest corner of the Haram by Prof Benjamin Mazar; Dr Martin supervises Ambassador College students and guided VIPs for five seasons
- 1977 Scholars begin to reject Arabic records that the Nea Church was where Omar built al-Aqsa Mosque
- 1999 Israeli Prime Minister Sharon's trip to the Haram
- 2000 Dr Martin's book [*The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot*](#) published
- 2005 Haram/"Temple Mount" sifting project begins; little relevant material found
- 2011 Four coins (dated 17–18 AD) were found under southwest cornerstone of the Haram/Fort Antonia, dated after Herod died. See "[New Finds in Jerusalem](#)." The southern portion of the Haram (or at least the southwest corner w/Robinson's Arch) built after the rest of the structure. This fits Dr Martin's evidence of the Haram being Fort Antonia and not the site of the Temple