

# **From Isaiah to Jeremiah : How Jerusalem became so important to the Jewish People**



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תהילים קל"ז

אם-אשכחך ירושלים תשכח ימיני תדבק-לשוני, לחיכי אם לא אזכרכי: אם לא אעלה את ירושלים על ראש שמחתי.

Psalms 137:

If I forget you Jerusalem may my right hand wither; let my tongue stick to my palate if I do not remember you, if I do not remember Jerusalem even at my happiest hour.



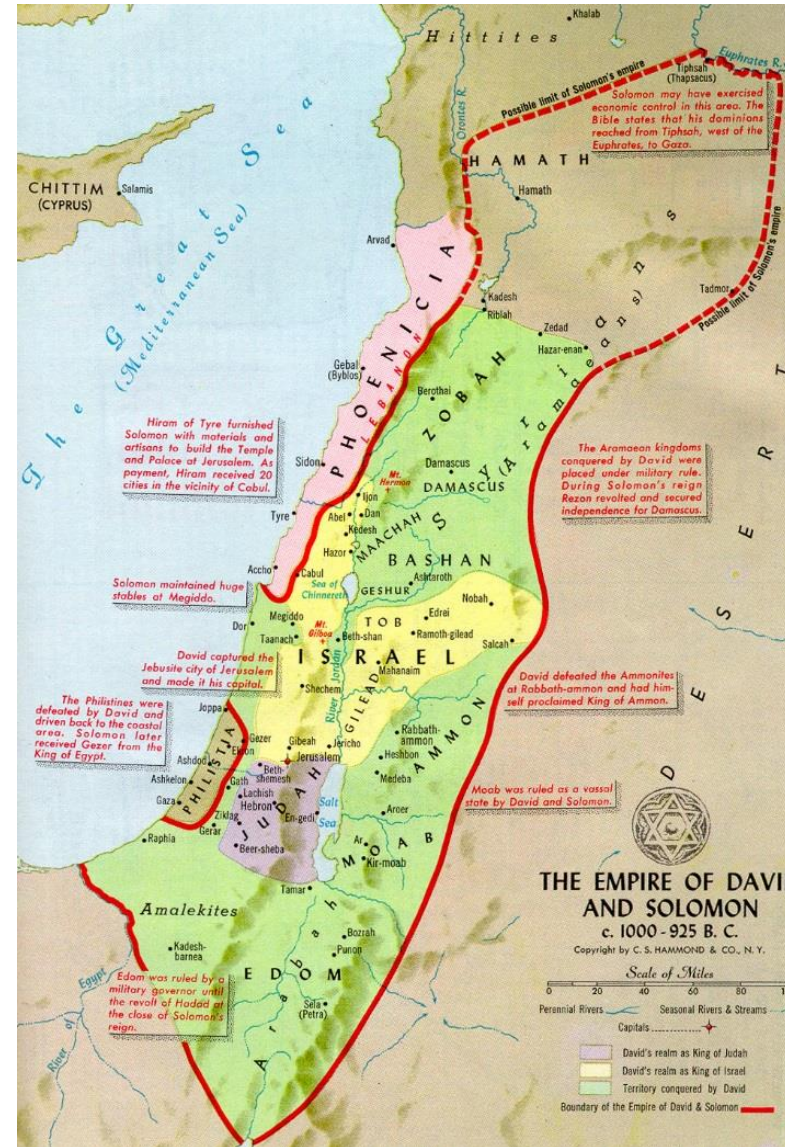
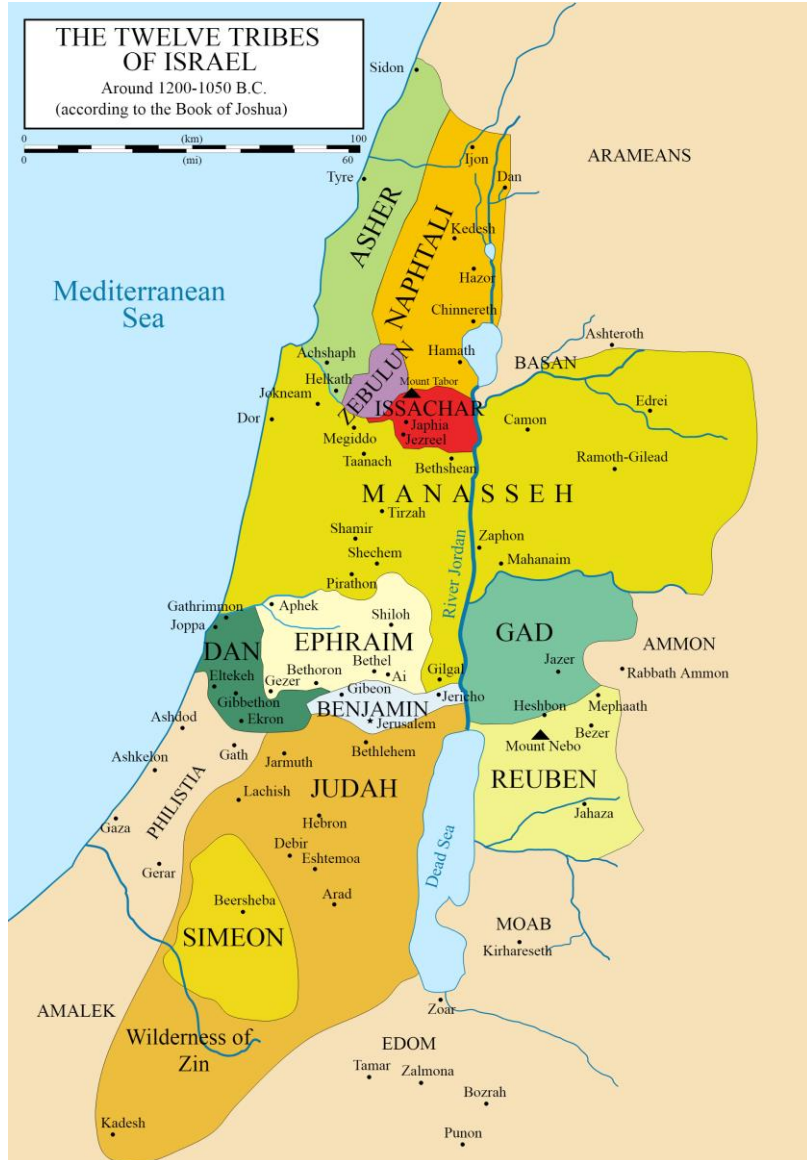
Next Year in Jerusalem - לשנה הבאה בירושלים



## Biblical Timeline

1200's/1300s BCE : Tribes of Israel conquer Canaan. Period of the Judges "Tribal leaders". Religious center at Shilo

1037 – 1010: Saul of Benjamin first King of Israel. Attempts to unite the tribes but fails. Killed by the Philistines in battle



**1010- 970: David of Judah King of United Israel. Conquers Jerusalem and makes it Israel's political capital**

**970 – 931: David's son Solomon King of United Israel. Builds Temple in Jerusalem. Spearheads efforts to make Jerusalem the religious capital of Israel**



## The Biblical records the centuries long struggle to centralize worship and sacrifice in the Temple in Jerusalem

**Deuteronomy 12; 5,10 & 11** כִּי אֶם-אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-יִבְחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, מִכָּל-שִׁבְטֵיכֶם, לָשׁוּם אֶת-שְׁמוֹ, שָׁם--לְשִׁכְנוֹ תִּדְרָשׁוּ, וּבָאתָ שָׁמָּה

**But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put His name there**, even unto His habitation shall ye seek, and there you shall come; ...**then it shall come to pass that the place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause His name to dwell there, to there shall ye bring all that I command you**: your burnt-offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which you vow unto the LORD.

The Tabernacle at Shiloh



The First Temple in Jerusalem



## 1 Kings Chapter 8 מְלָכִים א Solomon's Prayer at dedication of the Temple

כט להיות עינך פתוחת אל-הבית הזה, לילה ויום, אל-המקום, אשר אמרת יהיה שמי שם--לשמע, אל-התפלה, אשר יתפלל עבדך, אל-המקום הזה.

29 that Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place whereof Thou hast said: My name shall be there; to hearken unto the prayer which Thy servant shall pray toward this place.

ל ושמעת אל-תחנונת עבדך, ועמך ישראל, אשר יתפללו, אל-המקום הזה; ואתה תשמע אל-מקום שבתך, אל-השמים, ושמעת, וסלחת.

30 And hearken Thou to the supplication of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place; yea, hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling-place; and when Thou hearest, forgive.

לא את אשר יחטא איש לרעהו, ונשא-בו אלה להאלתו; ובא, אלה לפני מזבדך--בבית הזה.

31 If a man sin against his neighbour, and an oath be exacted of him to cause him to swear, and he come and swear before Thine altar in this house;

לג בהנגף עמך ישראל, לפני אויב--אשר יחטאו-לך; ושובו אליך והודו את-שםך, והתפללו והתחנונו אליך בבית הזה.

33 When Thy people Israel are smitten down before the enemy, when they do sin against Thee, if they turn again to Thee, and confess Thy name, and pray and make supplication unto Thee in this house;

לה בהעצר שמים ולא-יהיה מטר, כי יחטאו-לך; והתפללו אל-המקום הזה, והודו את-שםך, ומחטאתם ישובו, כי תענם.

35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, when they do sin against Thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess Thy name, and turn from their sin, when Thou dost afflict them;

לו ואתה תשמע השמים, וסלחת לחטאת עבדיך ועמך ישראל--

36 then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy servants, and of Thy people Israel...

לח כל-תפלה כל-תחנונה, אשר תהיה לך-האדם, לכל, עמך ישראל--אשר ידעו, איש נגע לבבו, ופרש כפיו, אל-הבית הזה.

38 what prayer and supplication soever be made by any man of all Thy people Israel, who shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house;

## 1 Kings Chapter 9 מְלָכִים א Gods' Response to Solomon

א ויהי ככלות שלמה, לבנות את-בית-יהוה ואת-בית המלך, ואת כל-חשק שלמה, אשר חפץ לעשות.

1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's delight which he was pleased to do,

ב ויבא יהוה אל-שלמה, שנית, באשר נראה אליו, בגבעון.

2 that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

ג ויאמר יהוה אליו, שמעתי את-תפלתך ואת-תחנונתך אשר התחנונתה לפני--הקדשתי את-הבית הזה אשר בנתה, לשום-שמי שם עד-עולם; והיו עיני ולבי שם, כל-הימים.

3 And the LORD said unto him: 'I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before Me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put My name there for ever; and Mine eyes and My heart shall be there perpetually.



But for centuries the people of Israel had been offering sacrifices and prayers at the High Places- בָּמוֹת - in each village, town and city. Even after the Temple is built in Jerusalem, the people resist giving up their local places of worship.



1 Samuel 9:12 They answered them and said, “He is; see, he is ahead of you. Hurry now, for he has come into the city today, **for the people have a sacrifice on the high place today.**

1 Samuel 9:13-14 As soon as you enter the city you will find him **before he goes up to the high place to eat**, for the people will not eat until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now therefore, go up for you will find him at once.” So they went up to the city. As they came into the city, behold, **Samuel was coming out toward them to go up to the high place.**

1 Kings 3:2-3 **The people were still sacrificing on the high places**, because there was no house built for the name of the Lord until those days. **Now Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.**

1 Kings 15:14 **But the high places were not taken away**; nevertheless the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the Lord all his days.

1 Kings 22:43 He (Jehosaphat) walked in all the way of Asa his father; he did not turn aside from it, doing right in the sight of the Lord. **However, the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burnt incense on the high places.**

2 Kings 12:2-3 Jehoash did right in the sight of the Lord all his days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him. **Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.**

2 Kings 14:3-4 He (Amatziah) did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like David his father; he did according to all that Joash his father had done. **Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.**

2 Kings 15:3-4 He (Azariah) did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amatziah had done. **Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.**

2 Kings 23:5 He (Josiah) did away with the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense in **the high places in the cities of Judah** and in the surrounding area of Jerusalem, also those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations and to all the host of heaven.

2 Kings 23:8 Then he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled **the high places where the priests had burned incense**, from Geba to Beersheba; and **he broke down the high places of the gates** which were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the city gate.

931 BCE: Solomon dies

### Split of United Kingdom of Israel

Northern Kingdom of Israel based in Samaria , Southern Kingdom of Judah based in Jerusalem

931 – 721: Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Prominent biblical personalities include King Ahab and Elijah the Prophet

931 – 586: **Kingdom of Judah. Ruled from Jerusalem by the Kings of the House of David.**

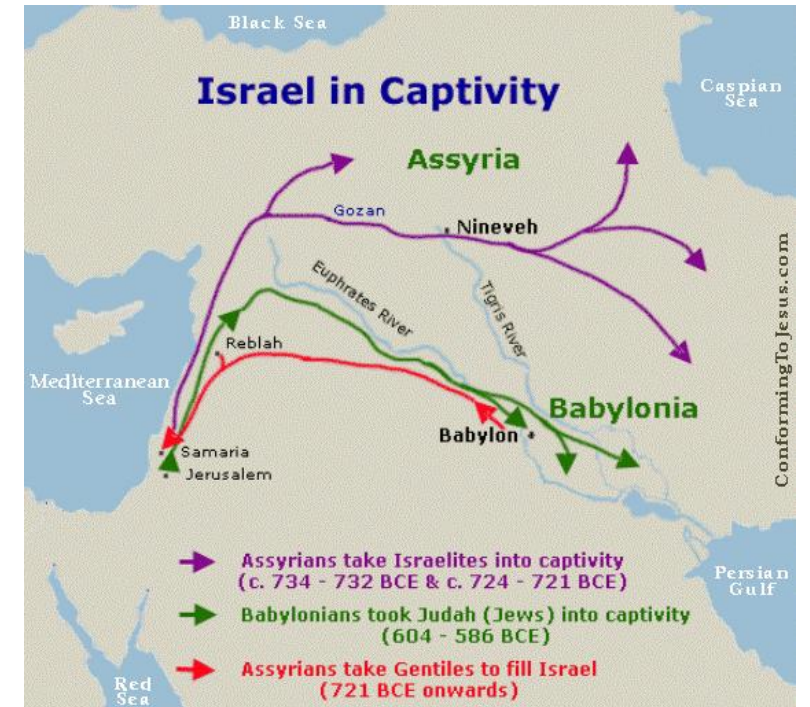
Prominent Biblical personalities include Kings Josiah, Hezekiah and Zedekiah and **Prophets Isaiah (700's) and Jeremiah (6-500s)**

721: Northern Kingdom conquered by Assyria. Exile of the 10 tribes of Israel.  
Only Judah remains

701 BCE :Judah invaded and mostly conquered by Assyria.  
Only Jerusalem remains.

### Jerusalem is besieged by the Assyrians

Zedekiah is the King and Isaiah is the major prophet



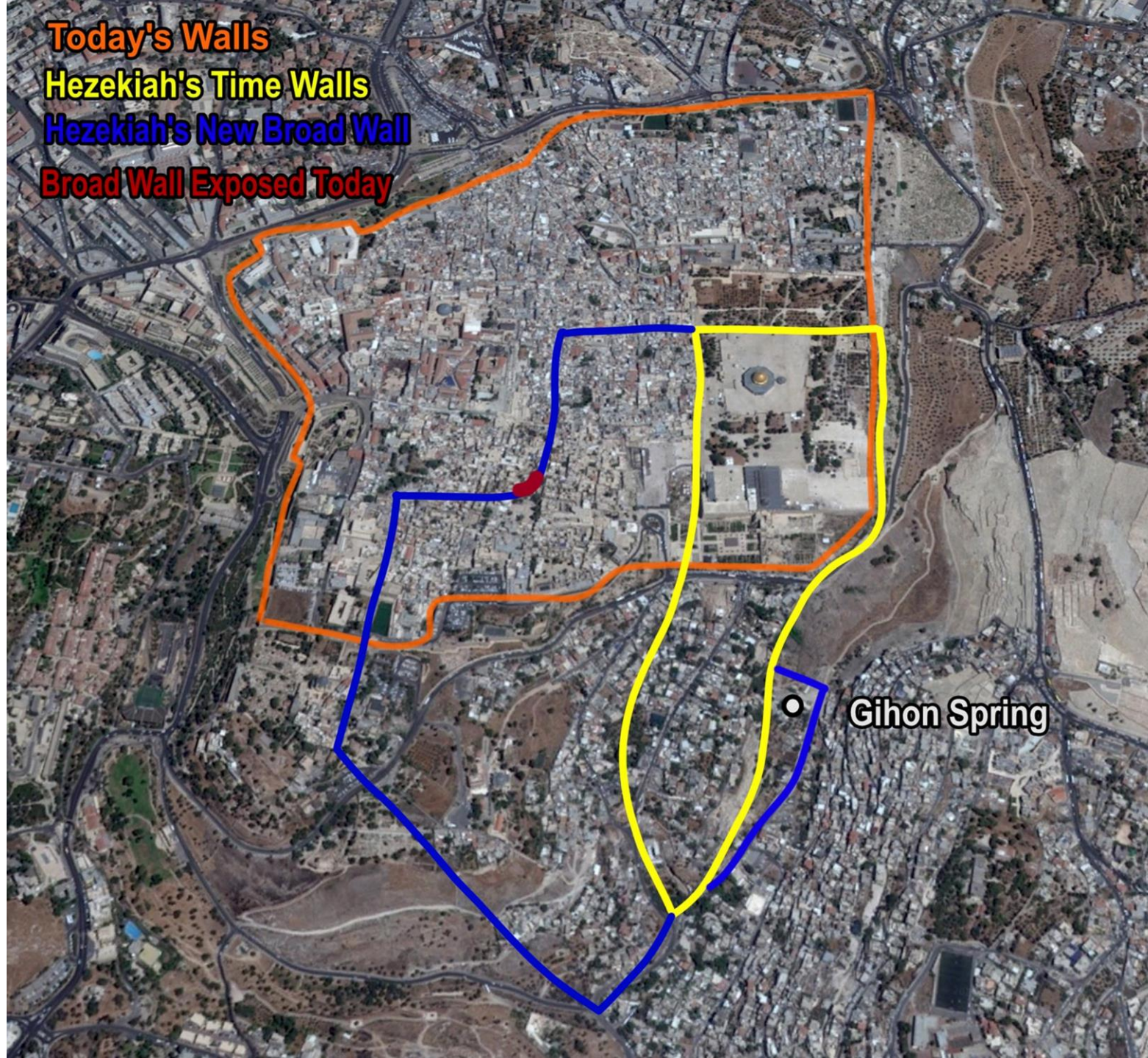


**Today's Walls**

**Hezekiah's Time Walls**

**Hezekiah's New Broad Wall**

**Broad Wall Exposed Today**



**Gihon Spring**



## 701 BCE – The Assyrians are besieging Jerusalem. Hezekiah is the King, Isaiah is the major Prophet

### Isaiah Chapter 37      *(Prophesied from the 740s – 690s' BCE?)*

- לג לכן, כה-אמר יהוה אל-מלך אשור, לא יבוא אל-העיר הזאת, ולא-יורה שם חץ; ולא-יקדמנה מגן, ולא-ישפך עליה סללה. **33** Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come unto this city, nor shoot an arrow there, neither shall he come before it with shield, nor cast a mound against it.
- לד בדרך אשר-בא, בה ישוב; ואל-העיר הזאת לא יבוא, נאם-יהוה. **34** By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and he shall not come unto this city, saith the LORD.
- לה וגנותי על-העיר הזאת, להושיעה--למעני, ולמען דוד עבדי. **35** For I will defend this city to save it, for Mine own sake, and for My servant David's sake.'
- לו ויצא מלאך יהוה, ויכה במחנה אשור, מאה ושמנים וחמשה, אף; וישכימו בבקר, והנה כלם פגרים מתים. **36** And the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.
- לז ויסע וילך, וישב סנחריב מלך-אשור; וישב, בנינוה. **37** So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went, and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

### Psalm 87

- 1.Of the Korahites. A psalm. A song.
- 2.The LORD loves the gates of Zion, His foundation on the holy mountains, more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
3. Glorious things are spoken of you, **O city of God**. Selah.

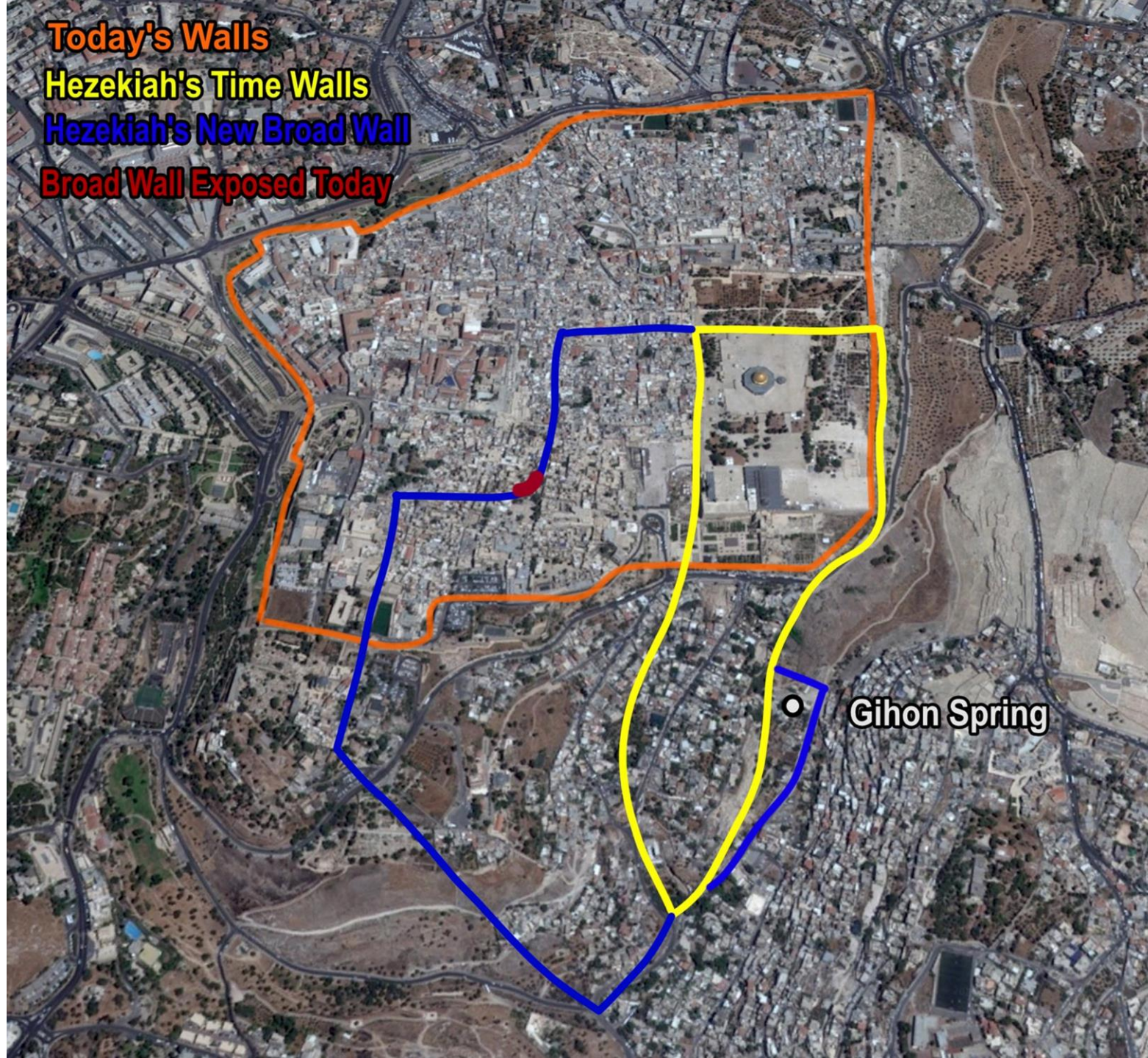


**Today's Walls**

**Hezekiah's Time Walls**

**Hezekiah's New Broad Wall**

**Broad Wall Exposed Today**





## 589 - 586 BCE: The Babylonians besiege Jerusalem. **Zedekiah is the King and Jeremiah is the major prophet**

### Jeremiah Chapter 21 (*Prophesied from the 620's – 570s BCE?*)

3 Then said Jeremiah unto them: Thus shall ye say to Zedekiah: {S} וַיֹּאמֶר יֵרֵמְיָהוּ, אֲלֵיהֶם: כֹּה תֹאמְרוּ, אֶל-צִדְקִיָּהוּ. {ס}

4 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands, wherewith ye fight against the king of Babylon, and against the Chaldeans, that besiege you without the walls, and I will gather them into the midst of this city. כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הִנְנִי מָסַב אֶת-כָּלִי הַמִּלְחָמָה אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדְכֶם, אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם נִלְחָמִים בָּם אֶת-מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל וְאֶת-הַכַּשְׂדִּים, הַצָּרִים עֲלֵיכֶם מִחוּץ לַחוֹמָה; וְאֶסְפָּתִי אוֹתָם, אֶל-תוֹךְ הָעִיר הַזֹּאת.

5 And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath. ה וְנִלְחַמְתִּי אֲנִי אִתְּכֶם, בְּיָד נְטוּיָה וּבְזְרוּעַ חֲזָקָה, וּבְאֵף וּבְחֵמָה, וּבְקָצֶף גָּדוֹל.

6 And I will smite the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast; they shall die of a great pestilence. ו יְהַכִּיתִי, אֶת-יוֹשְׁבֵי הָעִיר הַזֹּאת, וְאֶת-הָאָדָם, וְאֶת-הַבְּהֵמָה: בַּדָּבָר גָּדוֹל, יָמָתוּ.

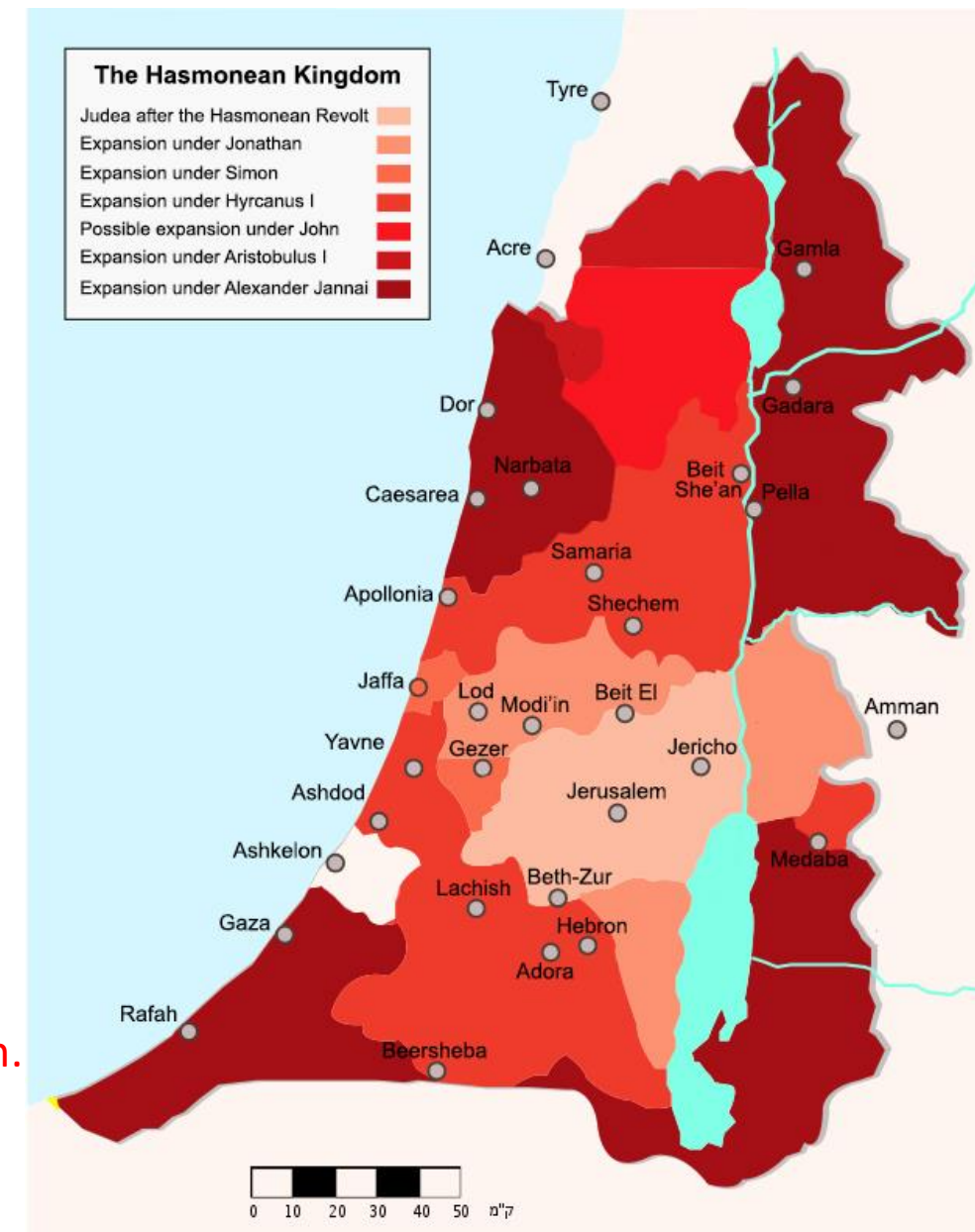
7 And afterward, saith the LORD, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life; and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have compassion. ז וְאַחֲרֵי-כֵן נֹאֲם-יְהוָה אֶתֹן אֶת-צִדְקִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה וְאֶת-עַבְדָּיו וְאֶת-הָעָם וְאֶת-הַנִּשְׁאָרִים בָּעִיר הַזֹּאת מִן-הַדָּבָר מִן-הַחֶרֶב וּמִן-הָרָעָב, בְּיַד נְבוּכַדְרֶאצַּר מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל, וּבְיַד אִיְבֵיהֶם, וּבְיַד מִבְקְשֵׁי נַפְשָׁם; וְהָכֶם לְפִי-חֶרֶב--לֹא-יָחוּס עֲלֵיהֶם, וְלֹא יַחְמֹל וְלֹא יִרְחַם.

10 For I have set My face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the LORD; it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire. י כִּי שָׂמַתִּי פָנַי בָּעִיר הַזֹּאת לְרָעָה, וְלֹא לְטוֹבָה--נֹאֲם-יְהוָה; בְּיַד-מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל תִּנָּתֵן, וּשְׂרָפָהּ בָּאֵשׁ.

**586 BCE – (115 years after Assyrian siege) Judah is conquered by Babylonians. Jerusalem and Temple destroyed. Exile to Babylon.**



## Second Temple Period 539 BCE – 70 CE



539 BCE Persians conquer Babylon. **King Cyrus allows Jewish return to Judah.**

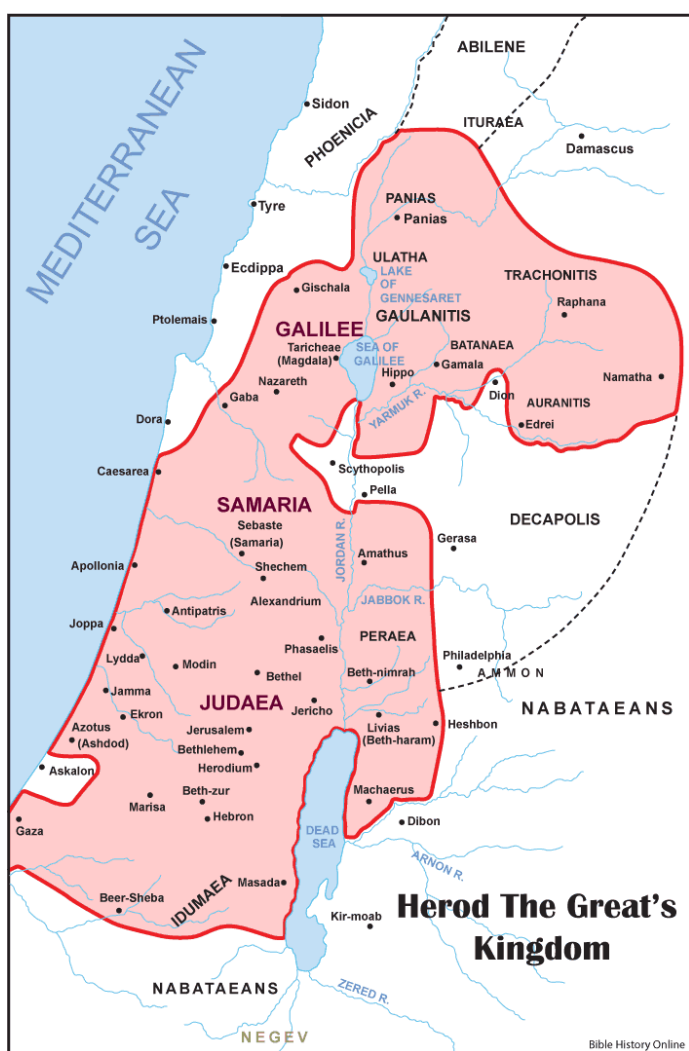
516 BCE Dedication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

539 – 332 BCE - Province of Yehud under Persian Empire

332 BCE - Greeks Conquer Judah

**160s BCE - Maccabean Revolt against the Greeks and Hasmonean Kingdom** (*Commemorated by Hanukah holiday*)





37 – 4 BCE Herod King of Judea

under Roman sponsorship

30s CE – Jesus the Jew crucified by the Romans

66 – 73 CE : Jewish revolt against Rome

70 CE – Jerusalem & Temple destroyed  
by the Romans

130s CE – Bar Kochba Revolt. Jerusalem transformed  
into pagan Roman Aelia Capitolina.

Jews banned from Jerusalem and Judea. Romans  
erase “Judea” from the map and replace it with  
Greek geographic term “**Palestina**”

300s CE – Christianity becomes the religion of the  
Roman Empire. “Byzantine Christianity”. Jerusalem  
a Christian city until 637. Jews continued to be  
banned from Jerusalem

637 – 1099 CE – First Muslim conquest of Jerusalem.

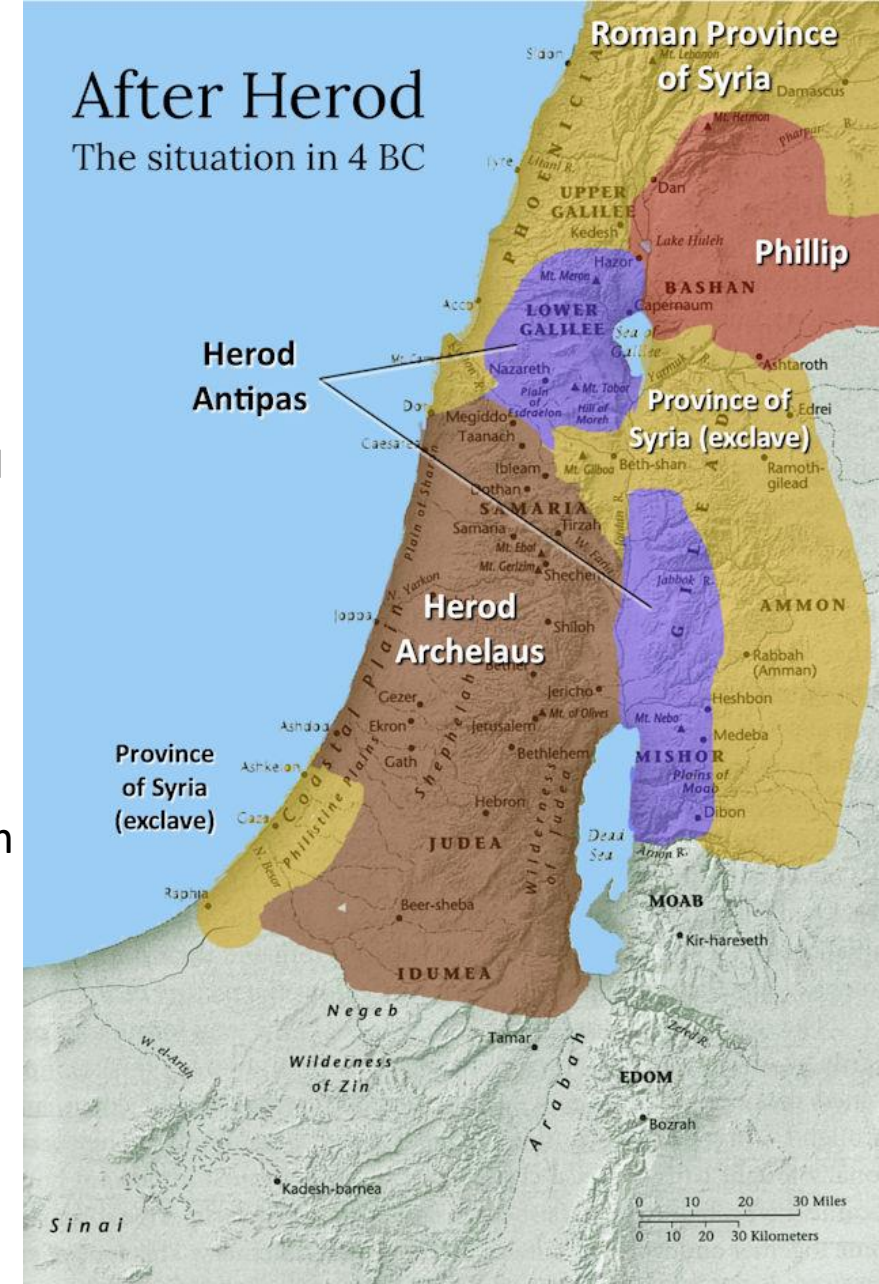
Jews allowed to live in Jerusalem again

1099 – 1260 Christian Crusaders Jerusalem. Jews & Muslims massacred

1260 – 1917 Second Muslim Conquest of Jerusalem.

Jews allowed to live in Jerusalem again but with second class “dhimmi” status

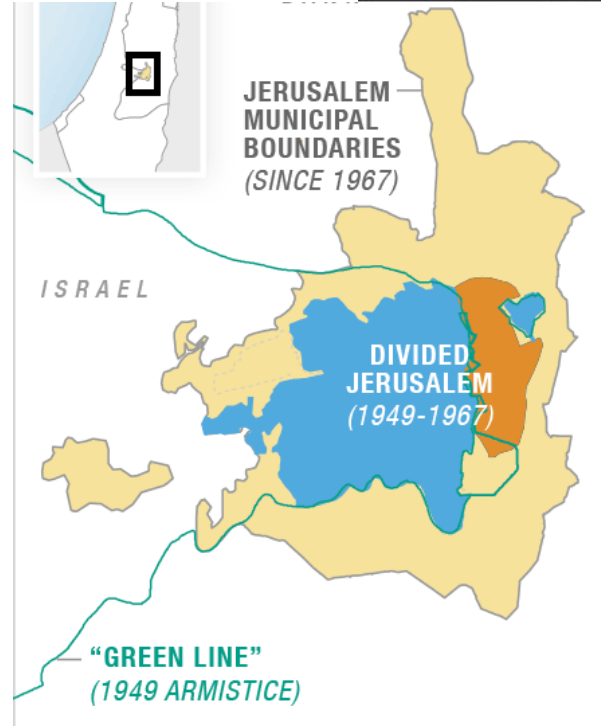
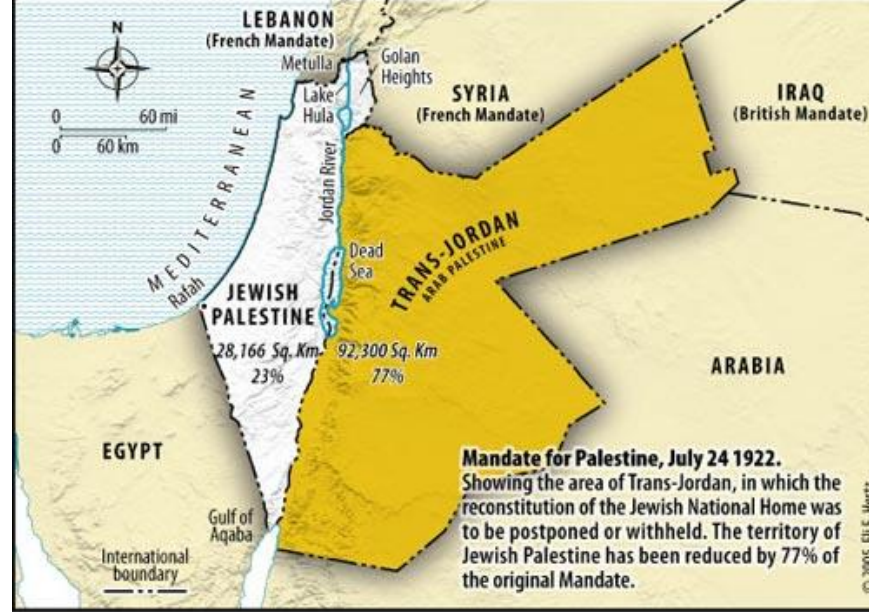
By 1850s Jews are the largest population in Jerusalem again



1917 – 1948 British Mandate to create a Jewish National Home in Palestine

1922 – British lop off 77% of Mandatory Palestine and create the Hashemite Arab Kingdom of Transjordan

1948 - Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan invades new born Jewish State. Conquers and occupies parts of Jerusalem and Israel for 19 years



1948 – 1967 Jerusalem divided

1967 – Six Day War.  
Jerusalem reunited under Israeli rule