

The Dome of the Rock

Names (also known as)

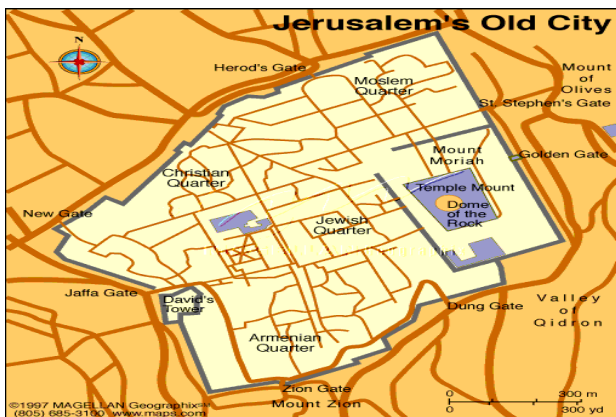
Commonly known today as Qubbat al-Sakhrah (Arabic), Kippat ha-Sela (Hebrew)
Originally known as the Land of Moriah (Gen. 22:2). Abraham called it Yahweh-Yir'eh = “in mountain of Yahweh he shall be seen (see Interlinear Scriptural Analyser for Gen. 22:14).

Etymology

Dome = domus (house), revered house.

Location/Description

The Dome is situated in the centre of the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem.



Scriptural references

Old Testament

Genesis 22:1-18 - Abraham offers Isaac
1 Kings 6; 2 Chron. 3:1 - Solomon's temple
Ps. 48:2 - Future city of Christ as King
Ezekiel 40-48 - Kingdom temple construction
Daniel 9:27;11:31 - Prophecy of AD 70
Zechariah 14:4 - Mt of Olives split

New Testament

Matt. 2:1; Luke 1:5 - Herod the Great
Matt. 24:15 - Prophecy of AD 70

Famous characters

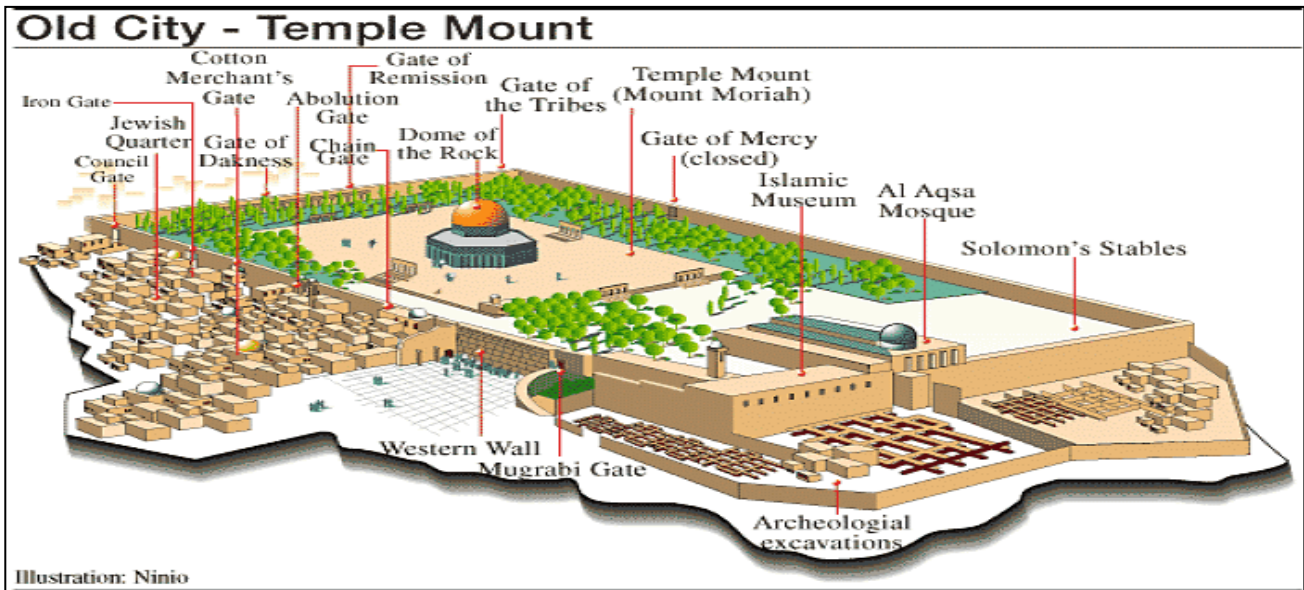
Abraham and Isaac; David and Ornan the Jebusite; King Solomon; King Herod the Great; Prophet Mohammad (founder of Islam).

Brief history

The Dome of the Rock is an Islamic shrine located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the third most important place of Islam. However, the rock is sacred to both Muslims and Jews.



Originally this was the site where Abraham offered up Isaac (traditionally Jews consider this also the place where God created Adam). David purchased this land from Ornan the Jebusite and it later became the location of Solomon's Temple; taking a total of seven years to build it was completed in 959 BC. Solomon's temple was greatly expanded by Herod the Great, who reigned from 37-4 BC. This temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. One of the Roman attackers threw a burning brand through a window of the temple. Titus ordered it put out as he wanted the temple preserved “as an ornament to the Empire”, but the whole building became “wrapped in a blaze and in a short time it was burnt to the ground.” The Romans built a temple to Jupiter here in 135 AD. Constantine had this temple destroyed in 325 AD. Muslims captured Jerusalem in 636 AD and believing the rock to be the location where Muhammad ascended to heaven, constructed the Dome of the Rock, beginning the project in 687 AD and completing it in 691 AD. During the capture of Jerusalem by the Crusaders in 1099 AD, the Dome of the Rock was turned into a church until 1187 AD when it was recaptured and reconsecrated as a Muslim shrine. Throughout the Ottoman Empire (1517-1917 AD) extensive and ornate renovations and restorations took place. The gold dome that we currently see was a restoration project that took place from 1959-1962 replacing the original blackened lead dome with aluminium-bronze plates covered with gold leaf.



Scriptural importance

The site continues to be a source of contention between the three main religious groups, and especially between Jews and Muslims. The Pope, who during the Crusades took the title of ‘the king of Jerusalem’ regards Jerusalem as an international city and has ambitions of possessing the ‘holy sites’ as prophesied in Ezek. 36:2. Hence, “the controversy of Zion” will finally be resolved when Catholicism is destroyed and their claims to Jerusalem shown to be false along with those of the Muslim religion.

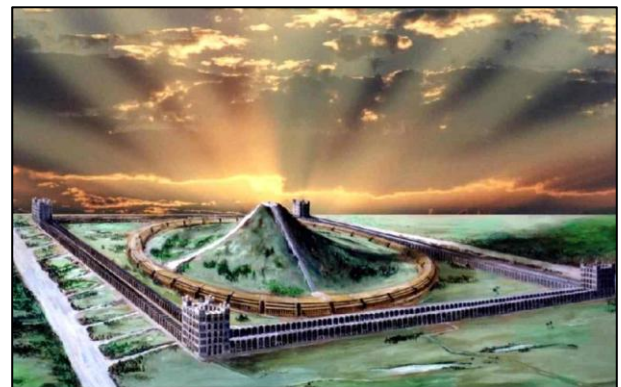
The desolations of Jerusalem

There have been three “abominations of desolation” in the ‘holy city’ since the times of the kingdom of Judah which ended in 587-6 BC. These were:

- The Greek desecration during the time of the Maccabees. The ‘cleansing’ of the ‘sanctuary’ from Greek treading down which began in 334 BC terminated 2,300 years later in 1967 – Dan. 8:14 (when adding one year for the absence of year 0 in the Gregorian calendar).
- The Roman ‘abomination’ of AD 68-70 – Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15.
- The Muslim abomination of desolation of Dan. 12:11 completed in AD 691-692.

The controversy of Zion will be resolved by the earthquake of Zechariah 14:4-5 which will utterly destroy all buildings and so-called ‘holy places’ in Jerusalem and the whole Land. The subsequent building of the Temple of

Ezekiel’s prophecy around an exalted Mt Zion will replace the Dome of the Rock with a House of Prayer for all nations (Isa. 56:7). Then all desolating abominations on the Temple Mount will come to an end.



The Temple of Ezekiel’s Prophecy

Sources

www.wikipedia.org; www.britannica.com; www.bible.ca

The Ways of Providence - John Carter
The Temple of Ezekiel’s Prophecy - H. Sulley

(Compilers - Ian & Judy Macfarlane)