



Palestine – The Blessed Land
History and Significance
Part 1

Palestine: Modern Map



Palestine

Palestine is located in the Middle East.

The Middle East is a group of countries including Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



Ancient city of Canaan (Palestine)

- Palestine is an ancient city.
- It used to be called Canaan more than 4000 years ago.
- Many different people and tribes lived in Palestine over thousands of years.
- **Overtime, Jews, Muslims and Christians used to live there peacefully.**



Palestine – 1946 to 2012

In 1880s, a small Jewish nationalist movement began in Europe which believed that Jews should make Palestine their homeland.

In 1914, Palestine was 84% Muslim, 11% Christian, and 6% Jewish. (PSC)

In 1947, under a United Nations Resolution, pushed forward by the United States, Palestine was to be partitioned. It was approved that 45% of the land will be given to the Palestinian Muslims and 55% to the Jews.

The Palestinians were not pleased and objected to the UN that half of the indigenous people would become minority under Israeli rule.



Palestine – 1946 to 2012

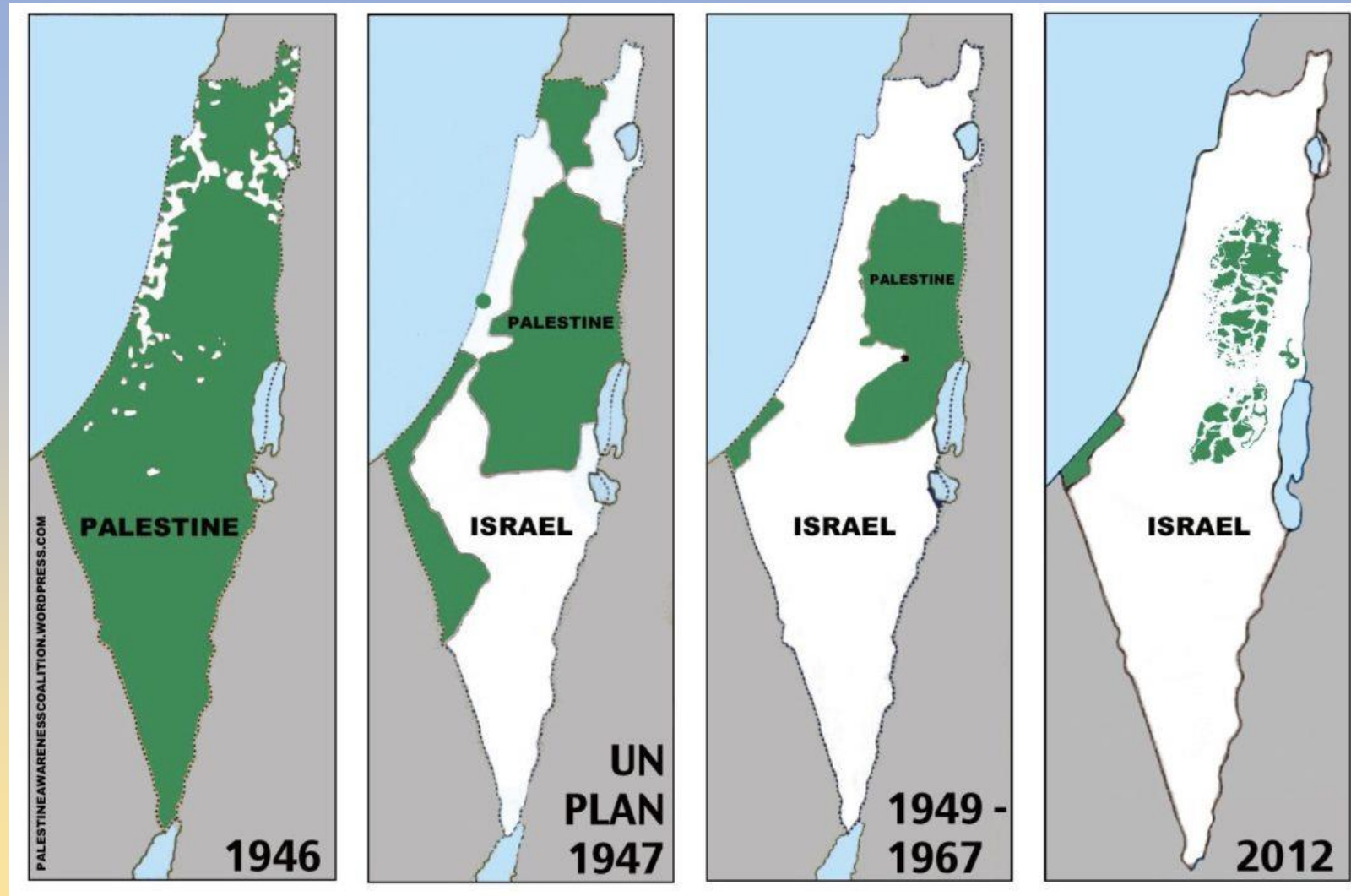
The Palestinians objected to the occupation of their land. When they rose against the occupation, they were defeated by a larger force.

Jewish military groups attacked Palestinian villages, forcing thousands to flee.

The situation escalated into a full-blown war in 1948, Israel declared itself an independent state unilaterally.

The result of the war was the permanent displacement of more than half of the Palestinian population.

Nearly, 700,000 Palestinians became refugees.



Palestine – 1946 to 2012

Many Palestinians became refugees which means they became homeless and had to live in camps as their homes had been destroyed or occupied by new Jewish settler colonies.



Palestine is an important place
for the Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Why do some Jews believe that only *they* should have a
homeland in Palestine?

To answer this question, we need
to look at the history of Palestine.

Palestine: Allah made it Holy and Blessed for ALL people

The Arabs used to call Sham as the countries of Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to say, "How blessed is Al Shaam."

So, the companions asked why is that?

The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied, "I see the angels of Allah spread their wings over Al-Sham."

Ibn Abbas added: and the prophets lived in it. There is not a single inch of Al-Quds (Jerusalem) where a Prophet has not prayed or an angel not stood."

The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to make a special dua to Allah, "O Allah bless the land of Shaam and Yemen."





alamy - 2D97YR0

“Masjid Al Aqsa: Whose surroundings we have blessed” (17:1)



Palestine: a holy and blessed city

- What does it mean when something is holy?
- What does it mean when something has baraka?

Holy



Baraka

- Baraka means something keeps growing and increasing
- The land is blessed with fruits, olive oil, bread, vegetables, greenery etc.



Summary of Palestine as Holy Land

- Famous Masjid Al Aqsa
- Masjid Al Aqsa is in Jerusalem
- Allah has blessed it with Baraka
- Allah has made it holy
- Land is holy and blessed for ALL people

QUIZ:

- What was the first qibla or direction that Muslims prayed towards?

Kaaba?

Or Masjid Al Aqsa?

First QIBLA

Did you know?

It was the direction of the Prayer for many centuries even when Islam came.

The early Muslims used to pray in the direction of Masjid Al Aqsa in Jerusalem NOT to Makkah. It was only when the Prophet (pbuh) had moved to Madinah that the Muslims started praying to Kaaba.



Quiz Time

Which Prophet built Masjid Al Aqsa first?

- a) Dawood b) Musa c) Muhammad (pbuh)

Ibrahim (AS)

Used to live in an ancient city called Ur which is now called Iraq.

His people used to worship idols

He taught his people to follow Allah but they rejected and punished him

Allah Almighty commanded him to go to Palestine which is in ancient times called Canaan

He had a son named Ishaq with his wife called Sarah. Together with his son, Ishaq he rebuilt Masjid Al Aqsa together in Jerusalem.

He also had another son named Ismail from his wife Hajar and with his son Ismail he built the Kaaba.

He returned back to Palestine and he died there and he is buried in a place called Hebron.



QUIZ TIME

What famous story surrounds Prophet Yusuf (AS)?

- a) His brothers threw him in a pit
- b) He was handsome and the women cut their fingers when they saw him
- c) His father's name was Yaqoob
- d) All of the above

Prophet Yusuf (as)

Yusuf came from a long line of prophets, including Ibrahim, Ishaq, Yaqoob.

His father was called Israel and his children were called Bani Israel.

He had 11 brothers and his father Yaqoob all used to live near Jerusalem in Palestine.

When he was young he had a dream that the sun, moon and 11 stars were bowing down to him.

He told the dream to his father who told him to be careful and not to tell anyone.

His brothers took him out and threw him into a well.

Finally, some travellers came and rescued him and took him to Egypt.

He reunited with his family and settled in Egypt. **At that time there was no one to look after the Masjid Al Aqsa and all of Yaqoob's family migrated to Egypt**

Ibrahim



Ishaq



Yaqoob



Yusuf



QUIZ TIME

Who were the people of Musa (AS)?

a) The Christians b) Bani Israel c) both?

Musa (as)

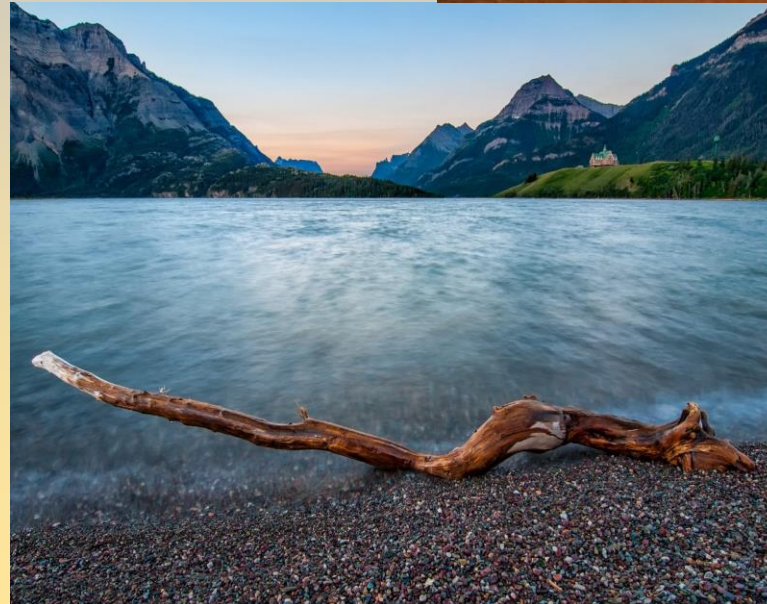
The Bani Israel settled and lived in Egypt for 400 years.

They were treated like slaves by Pharaoh who used to think of himself as God.

When Musa (AS) became a Prophet, Allah commanded him to teach the Pharaoh to believe in One God. The Pharaoh refused.

Finally, Allah commanded Prophet Musa to rescue the Bani Israel from Egypt.

Allah Almighty caused a miracle to happen for the Bani Israel where he split the sea into two and this was Pharaoh's army who was behind them drowned and Allah saved Musa (AS) and his people.



Musa (AS) and Bani Israel wander in the desert

When they left Egypt, Allah Almighty told them to enter the Holy Land (Palestine) but they refused to go because there was a tyrant king.

Instead they asked Musa to enter first. They kept arguing with Musa. Finally Allah punished them and said that they will not be allowed to enter Palestine for 40 years.

They wandered around in the land. Finally Musa (AS) died and he never entered Palestine.



Dawood (as)

A new generation was born from the Israelites who were the followers of Musa (AS).

They entered Palestine with Dawood (as) as their king. He united many of the Jews.

At that point Masjid Al Aqsa was in ruins and Dawood (as) began to rebuild the masjid with his son, Suleiman. However, he died before the Masjid was rebuilt.



QUIZ TIME

Which Prophet had the animals and jinn under his power?

- a) Dawood (AS) b) Suleiman (AS)

Suleiman (AS)

Like his father, he was a prophet too and he was greatly loved by Allah.

He had a big kingdom and animals and the jinn were under his control.

He rebuilt Masjid Al Aqsa and completed it. The Israelites also call it Solomon's temple.

After his death, his two sons divided Palestine between north and south. However, after they died no one took control over Palestine.

The Israelites had no more rules in Palestine and it was conquered by Romans, Greeks and Persians.



QUIZ TIME

- Who was the mother of Prophet Isa (AS)?
- Where did Prophet Isa (AS) live most of his life?

Isa (AS)

When Maryam (AS) was born, her mother whose name was Hana, promised to give her daughter to serve Allah and worship Him.

Her Uncle Zakariyya (AS) looked after her.

She had a small place right next to Masjid Al Aqsa where she used to pray and Allah would provide food for her in her home so she wouldn't have to leave.

She was a very pious woman and one of the four women chosen by Allah with glad tidings of Paradise. Her father Imran (AS) was the Imam of Masjid Al Aqsa.

Maryam entered Jerusalem with baby Isa (AS). where He was sent as a prophet to the Bani Israel.

Prophet Isa (AS) spent most of his time in Nazareth and Galilee, in Palestine teaching the message of Allah.

When the Jews wanted to have him killed, he was brought to Jerusalem and they tried to have him killed but Allah Almighty raised him to heaven.



QUIZ TIME

- Why is Palestine so holy for Muslims?

Muhammad (pbuh)

Isra wal Miraj

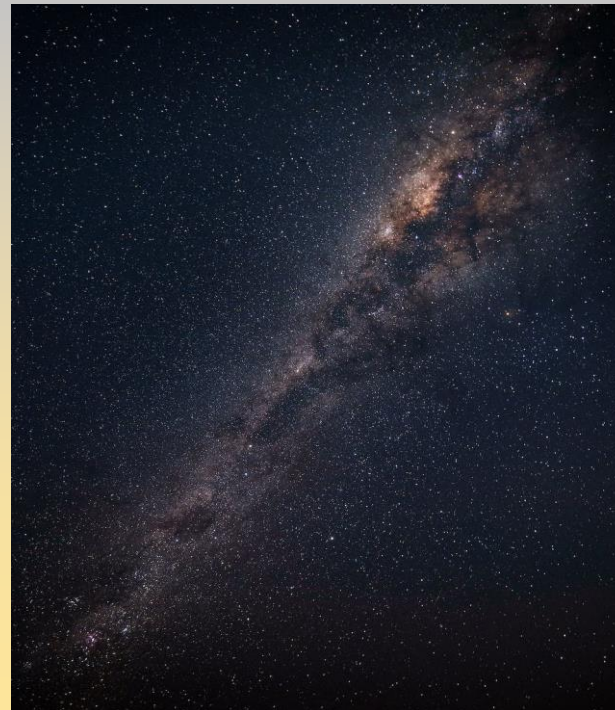
The Masjid Al Aqsa is very holy and blessed for the Muslims.

How many of you are familiar with Isra was Miraj?

This is a miraculous journey when the Prophet went on an animal that was smaller than a horse and by speed of light or less it took the Prophet (peace be upon him) to Masjid Al Aqsa.

There he prayed as an Imam and led all the prophets who had lived from Adam to Isa in congregational prayer.

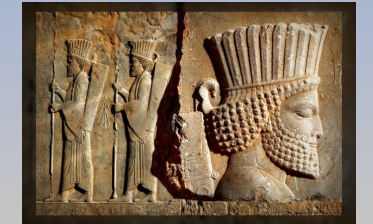
Afterwards he made his journey on Buraq up to heaven where he spoke to Allah Almighty and he received the gift of Salah for all of us.



Summary

Palestine – Occupation and Freedom

- Occupied by
 - 586 BCE to 637 AD– Babylonians, Romans, Persians
- Freed by
 - 638 AD – Muslims: Umar bin Khattab
 - (Jews, Muslims and Christians lived peacefully)
- Freed:
 - 1187, Salauddin Ayyubi
 - 1400 to 1918: Ottoman Empire
- Re-occupied
 - 1099 AD – Crusaders
 - Re-occupied
 - 1919: British, 1948 to now: Israeli government



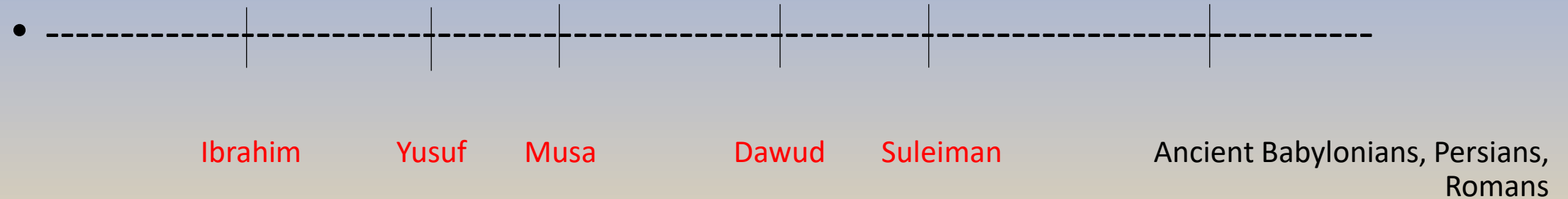
Source: Brief History of Palestine by Ismail Patel,
Al Jazeera

PALESTINE TIMELINE – People and Prophets

BCE

*Approximate

*586BCE to 44BCE



5 *BCE

70 AD

627 AD

638 AD

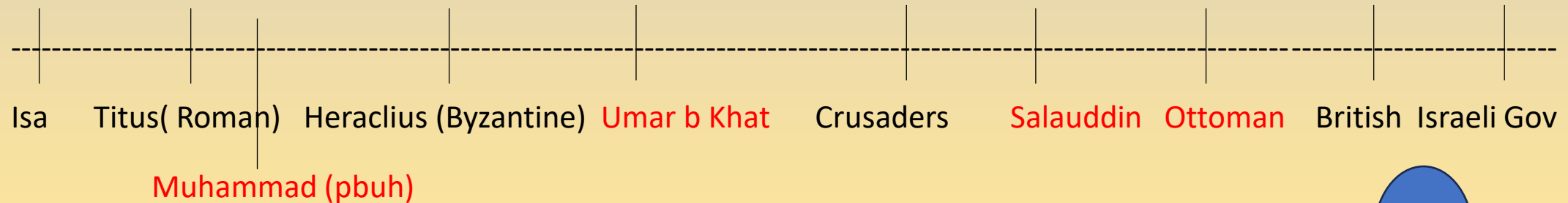
1099

1187

1400-1918

1919

1948

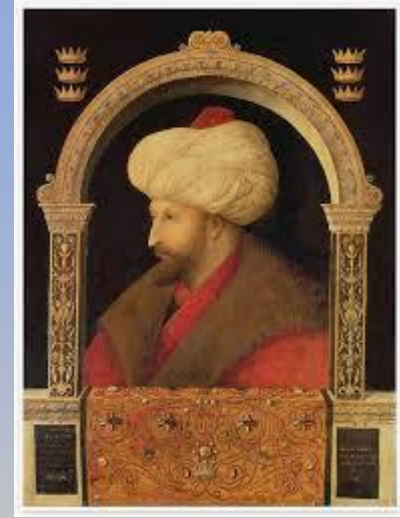


AD



QUIZ TIME

- Name 5 civilizations that ruled in Jerusalem?



Summary

- Palestine and especially Jerusalem is a holy and blessed land for all people, Jews, Christians and Muslims to live peacefully
- Its land is blessed by Allah for prophets and all people. At least 8 prophets plus many other pious people have lived, passed by, worked or are buried in Palestine.
- Jews were commanded to enter it when Allah saved them from the Pharaoh, but they refused and the disobedient of them were punished. They were not allowed to enter it for 40 years. A lot of the Bani Israel from that generation died.
- Allah always commanded His prophets and their people to believe in Allah, to do justice, tell the truth, and always be kind and be good to one another.
- Allah did not command us to kill any innocent life, even in war and to especially protect trees, women, children.