THE HISTORY OF JERUSALEM
In its long history Jerusalem has been:

- Destroyed at least twice
- Besieged 23 times
- Attacked 52 times
- Captured and recaptured 44 times
Chalcolithic Period

• The first settlement was established near the Gichon Spring
Middle Bronze Age

The Book of Bereshit 14:18, mentions a city called Salem, which *mefarashim* (commentators) such as the Ramban (d. 1270) identifies as Jerusalem, ruled by King Melchizedek, probably a title, which means "my king is zedek", where Zedek is believed to refer to the word righteous, or perhaps “The Righteous King”. According to one Midrash, Jerusalem was founded by Abraham's forefathers Shem and Eber.

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine; and he was priest of God the Most High.
Middle Bronze Age 2220 -1550 BCE

• c.1700 BCE - the Binding of Isaac takes place on Mount Moriah. *Mefarashim* have often interpreted the location of the mountain to be Jerusalem.

9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built the altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. Genesis 22:9
Middle Bronze Age 2220 - 1550 BCE

• Archaeological evidence suggests that by the 17th century BCE, the Canaanites had built massive walls (4 and 5 ton boulders, 26 feet, 8m high) on the eastern side of Jerusalem to protect their ancient water system.
Late Bronze Age (1550-1200 BCE)

• By c. 1550–1400 BCE, Jerusalem had become a vassal to Egypt

• c. 1545 – Joseph sold into slavery

1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hand of the Ishmaelites, that had brought him down thither. Genesis 39:1
Iron Age I (1200-1000 BCE)

- The power of the Egyptians in the region began to decline in the 12th century BCE, during the Bronze Age collapse. The Battle of Canaan in 1178 BCE, between Ramesses III and the Sea Peoples marked the beginning of this decline.
- The gradual loss of a central power gave rise to independent kingdoms in the region. Jerusalem at this time was known as Jebus and its independent Canaanite inhabitants at this time were known as Jebusites.
Iron Age II (1000-529 BCE)

• c. 1000 BCE - King David conquers Jerusalem; declares the city capital of Jewish Kingdom

6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying: 'Except you take away the blind and the lame, you shall not come in there'; thinking: 'David cannot come in there.' II Samuel 5:6
Iron Age II (1000-529 BCE)

- 960 BCE – King David's Son, King Solomon, builds the first Jewish Temple (Beit Hamikdash)

1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

I Kings 6:1
Iron Age II (1000-529 BCE)

• 721 BCE - Assyrians conquer Samaria; collapse of the Northern Kingdom; refugees flee to Jerusalem and city expands onto Western Hill
• c.700 BCE - Assyrian ruler Sennacherib lays siege to Jerusalem
Iron Age II (1000-529 BCE)

- 586 BCE: Babylonian army destroys Jerusalem and demolishes the First Temple
- Jews taken captive to Babylon
Persian Period (539-322 BCE)

- 539 BCE - Persian Ruler Cyrus the Great conquers Babylonian Empire, including Jerusalem.
- 516 BCE - Cyrus permits Jews in Babylonian exile to return to Jerusalem; The Tanach (Hebrew Bible) records that 42,360 make the journey. Construction starts on the Second Temple.

2 'So says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth has the LORD, the God of heaven, given me; and He has charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3 Whosoever there is among you of all His people--his God be with him--let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD, the God of Israel, He is the God who is in Jerusalem.
Persian Period (539-322 BCE)

- 445-425 BCE - Nehemiah the Prophet oversees the rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem; city confined to tiny area.
Hellenistic Period (332-141 BCE)

- 332 BCE - Greek Leader Alexander the Great conquers Judea and Jerusalem
- 332-141 BCE - After the death of Alexander his generals split up his empire
- Ptolemaic and Seleucid Rule in Jerusalem
- 164 BCE – Judah the Maccabee captures most of Jerusalem, but bitter fighting for next 20 years means it is not yet a Jewish city again.
Hasmonean Period (141-37 BCE)

- 141 BCE - Hasmonean Dynasty begins; Jerusalem again expands its limits to Western Hill
- 63 BCE - Roman General Pompey captures Jerusalem
Herodian Period (37 BCE - 70 CE)

- 37 BCE - King Herod I restructures the Second Temple and adds retaining walls
Roman Period (70 - 324 CE)

- 70 CE - Roman Forces destroy Jerusalem and demolish the Second Temple
- 135 CE - Jerusalem rebuilt as a Roman city called Aeolina Capitolina
- Jewish population expelled
Byzantine Period (324-638 CE)

- 335 CE - Church of the Holy Sepulchre built
- 362 CE – Emperor Julian promises to rebuild the Temple
- 363 CE – Earthquake destroys Temple building materials. Work stops. Separately, Jews were again banned from Jerusalem
- 614 CE - Persians capture Jerusalem from Byzantine Christians
- 629 CE - Byzantine Christians recapture Jerusalem from Persians
First Muslim Period (638-1099 CE)

- 638 CE - Caliph Omar Enters Jerusalem
- 691 CE - Dome of the Rock built on site of destroyed Jewish Temples
- 750-974 CE - Jerusalem ruled under Abassid Dynasty
- 661-750 CE – Jerusalem ruled under Umayyad Dynasty
Crusader Period (1099-1187 CE)

• 1099 CE - First Crusaders capture Jerusalem
• Remaining Jews burned alive in their synagogues
• Kingdom of Heaven (Jerusalem) declared by the Crusaders
• Judah Halevi, the well-known scholar and poet, arriving from Spain in 1141CE, was ridden down and trampled to death by Frankish horseman, according to legend
Ayyubid Period (1187-1259 CE)

• 1187 CE - Saladin Captures Jerusalem from the Crusaders and encourages Jewish return from Ashkelon, Yemen and Morocco

• 1229-1244 CE - Crusaders briefly recapture Jerusalem twice
Mamluk Period (1250-1516)

• 1250 - Muslim Caliph dismantles the walls of Jerusalem; population rapidly declines, with only 200 Jews left in the city
Ottoman Period (1516-1917)

• 1517 - Ottoman Empire captures Jerusalem
• 1538-1541 - Suleiman the Magnificent rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem, but only permits the Jews prayer access to a 3m (9ft) street where the current, enlarged Kotel plaza now is.
British Mandate (1917-1948)

• 1917 - British under General Allenby capture Jerusalem in World War I
• The Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations awards Palestine – including Jerusalem – to the British.
• Sir Herbert Samuel, a Jewish politician, appointed first High Commissioner
• Jews continue to be able to pray at the Western Wall
Divided City (1948-1967)

- 1948 - State of Israel established; Jerusalem divided from 1949 by UN Armistice Lines between Israel & Jordan
- Jews unable to continue praying at the Western Wall.
Jerusalem today (1967-Present)

• 1967 – Jerusalem reunited
• Jews now again able to pray again at the Western Wall of the Second Temple, the focus of Jewish prayer for 2,000 years
• Muslims and Christians have access to their holy sites
• Yom Yerushalyim Sameach!
יום ירושלים שמח!

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