

3.3 Jerusalem: First & Second Temples :: 7.1 Rise of Islam and the Dome of the Rock

- 1) **Jews establish Jerusalem**
 - Judaism is **monotheistic**
 - Stories told in the sacred **Torah**
 - God *Yahweh* not represented
- 2) King **David** (and his son **Solomon**) become the dominant power in area **1000 BCE**
 - Jews had been enslaved by *Ramesses II* circa 1300 BCE in Egypt
 - They then move back to Canaan in 1200 BCE - the area between the Mediterranean and the River Jordan
 - **Holiest of Holies** is their mobile sanctuary called the **Arc of the Covenant** - a repository for the **Ten Commandments** carved in stone
 - Jerusalem then settled about 1000 BCE on top of a oval-shaped hill, which is fortified like a Mycenaean city (of similar timeframe)
 - **First Temple** construction begins under *Solomon* in **961 BCE** on Mount Moriah
 - **First Temple** contains the **holiest of the holies** sanctuary to hold the *Arc of the Covenant*.
 - **Jewish diaspora** begins c. 720 BCE and goes for hundreds of years. Sargon attacks and hauls off Jews into slavery at *Dur-Sharrukin* in 720 BCE. Nebuchadnezzar attacks and destroys the First Temple in 586 BCE and takes away another 20,000 Jewish slaves to *New Babylon*. **Arc of the Covenant** disappears.
- 3) **Second Temple** - built after Nebuchadnezzar destroys **First Temple** in about 586 BCE
 - Very quickly the Second Temple is built (rebuilt)
 - **King Herod did a major rebuild of the Second Temple** (v2.0) in 20 BCE
 - To squash Jewish revolts, the *Roman Emperor Titus* **destroys Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 CE**
 - What remained is the Herodian limestone **Western Wall** on the southwest corner (aka Wailing Wall). This remains the **most sacred location for Jews in Jerusalem**.
 - Romans built two temples on the site over the next 600 years, but all that was in ruin when the Islamic ruler Abd al-Malik built the pilgrimage mosque **Dome of the Rock** in **690 CE**
- 4) **Islamic Architecture** - Rise & Spread of Islam beginning about 610 CE
 - Islam spreads as *urban phenomenon based on military and political power*
 - *Islam* literally translates as *submission to God*
 - Islamic holy man called **imam**
 - Within 100 years of the death of Mohammed, Islam controlled most of the area of the lower portion of the Roman Empire, plus Persia, plus Spain (see map)
 - Political pressure expressed as *a higher taxation rate for Jews and Christians*, thus trying to force them to convert to Islam (these areas majority Christian at this time).
- 5) **Mecca and the architecture of Islam**
 - Mecca the birthplace of Mohammed
 - Holiest place in Islam is the *Sacred Mosque of Mecca* within the courtyard is the **kaaba**, a freestanding black cubic building (36' x 42' x 43' h) which is the holiest of holy sites.
 - Thus, all praying henceforth is bowed toward the direction of Mecca. This direction is called the **qibla**.
 - A pilgrimage to Mecca is called a **hajj**
 - Prayer halls are **mosques**. *They all are oriented toward Mecca.*
 - The Arab neighborhood is called the **herat**
 - The tall tower is called the **minaret**. Usually at the front of the mosque, and used for the *call to prayer*.
 - The stopping place along the road for caravans is called the **caravanserai** (Motel-6)
- 6) Mosque and more elements surrounding the mosque
 - Islamic architecture more simple than Christian church for example

- Can have the form of: **basilica, transverse basilica, hypostyle hall**
 - Mosque in an open court called a **sahn**
 - The Islamic city *market square* called the **maydan**
 - See the diagram from book of city of Kufah (Iraq) 638 CE
- 7) **Umayyad Caliphate** established about **661 CE** (caliphate is an Islamic dynasty or empire)
- Damascus the capital city
 - **Islam is transformed into a dynastic, hereditary, militaristic empire**
 - *First leader is Abd al-Malik*
 - *al-Malik builds the pilgrimage mosque called **Dome of the Rock** on Jerusalem's **Temple Mount** (690 CE)*
 - *al-Malik's son al-Walid built the second mosque on the *Temple Mount**
 - The *architectural element* that is introduced by al-Walid is the **mihrab** which is an architectural niche oriented in the direction of the **qibla**. The **qibla** is the direction; the **mihrab** is the architectural element that tells us the direction
 - Umayyad Caliphate builds the **Great Mosque of Damascus (714 CE)**
 - > **horseshoe arches**
 - > **tripartite arrangement** of arches at entry inside of a larger arch with Byzantine gold
 - > **Corinthian columns** taken from Roman ruins
 - > **minaret** outside courtyard
 - > **ogive arches** (pointed arches) on second level
 - > **ablaq** masonry is striated, layered, multicolored Arabic masonry
 - > **ivan arch** is a very deep arch at entrance to mosque
- 8) **Umayyads** succeeded by **Abbassids**, who *killed all the Umayyads about 750 CE*
- Abbassids founded **Baghdad** in **762 CE**
 - **The Round City** - oriented toward Mecca
 - Mosque and palace started out in center of city
- 9) Autonomous caliphates or dynasties:
- **Aghlabid Caliphate** in Tunisia builds a mosque resembling the *Lighthouse of Alexandria about 836 CE*
 - Independent Abbassid caliphate in Cairo builds **Mosque of Ibn Tulun** 880 CE