

Location:

Masjid Al-Aqsa is located in the Old City of Jerusalem, in the Al-Aqsa compound or Haram al-Sharif.

Foundation:

It was founded after 40 years of Ka'ba.

Abu Dharr (R.A) reported that he asked the Prophet (saw), "O Messenger of Allah, which mosque was first built on the surface of the earth?" He said, "Al- Masjid-ul-Haram (in Mecca)." I said, "Which was built next?" He replied "The mosque of Al-Aqsa (in Jerusalem) " I said, "What was the period of construction between the two?" He said, "Forty years." He added, "Wherever (you may be, and) the prayer time becomes due, perform the prayer there, for the best thing is to do so (i.e. to offer the prayers in time)"

[Sahih Bukhari 3366]

A similar Hadith is also narrated in Sahih Muslim (Ref: 520 a), and in Ibn Majah (Ref: 753).

1. From Adam (A.S) to Hazoor (S.A.W):

1.1 As mentioned it was first built in time of Adam (A.S) but it was rebuilt in the time of Ibrahim (A.S) when He migrated to Jerusalem/Palestine by the order of ALLAH to spread Islam.

1.2. In the era of Yaqub (A.S)

Then the incident in which Yousaf (A.S) was betrayed by His brothers and He was sold in Egypt, raised there. Later His family (His father Yaqub A.S) also joined Him in Egypt. So, there was no one left in Jerusalem to take care of mosque Al Aqsa

1.3 The mosque was handed to the followers of Ibrahim A.S but Bani Israel voluntarily migrated to Egypt for better living but they were enslaved until Musa (A.S) came, freed and took them back towards Jerusalem. However, they got wandered in desert of the desert of Sinai for 40 years. This ended when a new generation was born, containing within Prophet Daoud (as), who led his generation of believers to Palestine.

1.4. Prophet Daud (AS) established his kingdom in Palestine and so His son Suleman (A.S) who rebuilt the mosque with the help of local population. After that this kingdom remained until Babylonians (led by King Nebuchadnezzar). around 586/587BC. They destroyed the mosque

1.5. Persians overthrown Babylonians. Masjid was rebuilt and destroyed by Romans overthrown Persians. After around by 315-325AD, when the Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity. But the Romans and other population including Jews has no regard for mosque and it was even used as land for waste disposals.

2. From Hazoor (S.A.W) to 1917:

2.1. This is how Al Masjid Al Aqsa remained for the next few hundred years until the Prophet (S.A.W) again revived the spiritual value of that place. It was a beloved place for Hazoor (S.A.W) and Muslims due to following reasons:

2.1.1 It was central to lives of many Prophets including, setting this place special for the completion of religion.

2.1.2. It was up till 2nd hijri Muslims offered prayers by facing to Al Aqsa. As narrated in Hadith:

Al-Bara (R.A) narrated that:

"We prayed toward Bait Al-Maqdis (Jerusalem) with the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) for sixteen or seventeen months – Safwan was not sure – then it was changed to the Qiblah."

[An Nasa'i 488]

2.1.3 It was the place from where journey of Prophet (S.A.W) started from Ka'ba to skies (Israa incident) As narrated in Hadith and Quran:

Add Hadith here on Meraj

"Glorified be He [Allah] Who did take His servant for a journey by night from Al Masjid Al Haram to Al Masjid Al Aqsa, whose precincts We did bless, in order that We might show him some of Our Signs. Verily He is the All Hearing, All Seeing" [17:1].

2.1.4 After Prophet (S.A.W) in the era of second Caliph when Muslims demolished Persian and Roman empires. Palestine came under Muslims. Umar (R.A) went there to receive the keys of city from the Christians. Umar's (R.A) and Muslims personality, forgiveness and humbleness impressed people of city very much.

2.1.5. He arrived at the site of Al Aqsa in 637/638 AD and that time it was a barren land. He himself cleaned the area with his own hands and took responsibility to rebuild Al Aqsa. Later. In 691/692AD, Abd' al Malik bin Marwan began constructing what is nowadays known as the Dome of the Rock on top of the rock which some believe was the place where Prophet Muhammad (saw) embarked on his Miraaj to the Heavens. Both Christians and Jews lived peacefully and happily under the rule of Muslims for several years after that under Umayyad and Abbasid's dynasty.

2.1.6. Then in about 1099 AD Muslims lost Masjid Al Aqsa to Crusaders. On arrival Crusader announced they will not take any prisoners so Muslims fled in Masjid Al Aqsa. Later Crusaders entered the mosque and massacred thousands of Muslims. It was then converted to a palace for about 88 years.

2.1.7. After that Muslims regained hold of Mosque and Jerusalem in the command of Salah-ud-din Ayubi in about 1187 AD. Like Umar Ibn Al Khattab, Salahuddin Ayubbi did not allow a massacre of civilians or soldiers, and after reclaiming Al Masjid Al Aqsa he also used his own hands to clean the blessed land, and famously sprinkled rosewater through the Masjid. Salah ud din put a beautiful minbar in mosque.

2.1.8 Later it came under different Muslim dynasties like Abbasi, Fattami, Ayubi, ending at Ottoman caliphate etc.

The Muslims once again had unhindered control of Jerusalem and Al Masjid Al Aqsa for a significant period of time – approximately eight centuries – and their rule was characterized by peace, justice and prosperity, with Al Masjid Al Aqsa becoming a great centre of learning with scholars from all over the world travelling to study and teach within its blessed precincts. Throughout almost this entire period, the Christians and Jews were provided safety and protection, and their rights were respected as People of the Book.

3. From 1917 to present day:

3.1. For numerous centuries during the Ottoman caliphate, the city of Jerusalem and Al Masjid Al Aqsa were preserved with honour and dignity, with Muslims being in charge of the administration of the city, but in line with Islamic law and the Ottoman millet system, they provided religious freedom and security for the Jewish and Christian minorities. However, a Zionist movement started to build a separate homeland for Jews at the Muslims Palestine. It was supported fully by British and it got heated up in world war 1 (1914-1918).

3.2. In world war 1 Ottoman empire fought against British but lost badly. In consequence of the control of empire and then the Ottoman empire itself was vanished. A separate state (Turkey) was established in place of Ottoman Empire and the areas under the Caliphate were distributed among supporters of British and to the people whom they wanted. In 1924 Trans-Jordan took over custodianship of Al Masjid Al Aqsa.

3.3. Eventually Jerusalem came under British. Later due to war destructions mosque was reconstructed and the British gave control of mosque to Muslims.

3.4. In 1947, Jews were only 6% of total population of Palestine. So, when UN-General Assembly gave proposal of a Jewish land on 54% of Palestine land it was rejected by native people.

3.5. In 1948 Zionist started a war followed by, the Jews established "Israel" on 78% of Palestinian land, and captured approximately 85% of Jerusalem. The Jordanian Arab Legion took control of the West Bank – including 11% of the eastern parts of Jerusalem which encompassed the Old City and Al Masjid Al Aqsa.

3.6 In 1967 following a further war, Israel illegally occupied East Jerusalem and claimed to unify Jerusalem as part of Israel. This move was, and is still, opposed and unrecognised by the international community. Following its capture of Jerusalem and the protests that followed, the Jewish authorities swiftly handed Al Masjid Al Aqsa back to Muslim control.

3.7. After 1967 Jewish tried their best to allow Jewish prayer at mosque but due to extreme pressure by Muslims it couldn't happen. Also, it was decided that Jewish and tourist can only enter mosque via Meghrebi door.

4. Israel genocide and goonism:

4.1 After 1967 war , Israel had much control over Palenstine so they did what they wanted to do. In 1969, a fire started by a Zionsit caused the minbar of Salahuddin burnt. The mimbar was considered one of the most beautiful in the world and was constructed with over 10,000 interlocking pieces of Cedar and other wood, Ivory and Mother of Pearl affixed without a drop of glue or a single nail.

4.2. In 1987 four Palestinian men were killed queuing at a checkpoint in Gaza, sparking the first intifada. Intifada literally means "shaking off" and is used to convey the meaning of setting Palestine and Al Masjid Al Aqsa free from Israeli oppression.

4.3 In 2000 Ariel Sharon (Israel PM) visited mosque with hundreds of guards. This caused out rage in Muslims. Following this visit, restrictions were made on Muslims to pray in mosque.

After 2005 a military group Hamas has controlled areas around Gaza. This group protects and fights against Israelis. Although this group has declared a s a terrorist organization by many countries like UK,US etc but China , Pak and Muslims countries don't consider like that.

4.4. In March 2013, Jordan's King AbdULLAH 2 signed an agreement with the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas which maintained and reiterated the status quo that the King of Jordan is the official custodian of the holy sites in Jerusalem and that he has the right to exert all legal efforts to preserve them, especially Al Masjid Al Aqsa.

4.5..In Novemeber 2013 Israel passed a law allowing Jews to pray in masjid al Aqsa.

4.6. In October 2014 Israeli authorities closed Al Masjid Al Aqsa for the first time since 1967. This resulted in mass protests across Palestine and the Muslim world, and was swiftly followed by Al Masjid Al Aqsa being reopened.

4.7. Both political and combat efforts are made via Palentine people and groups for the freedom of mosque and Palestine, which got intense after 2017. In 2021, exchange of rockets were made between Hamas and Israel when Israeli army raid Masjid AlAqsa and dragged Muslims in the holy month of Ramadan.This erupted a hightension situation and resulted in protests all across the Mulsim world.

4.8 In 2023, Israel has declared war against Palestine due to rocket attacks of Hamas.Hamas clamied that they are taking revenge of 2021 Israel's raid on mosque and Muslims.

Conditions are very tough now adays as both Israel and Hamas are not giving up. Both are arresting people of counter parts and attacking on civil areas so far. As per media, Israel has even done several air strikes on residential buildings of Gaza.

Conclusion:

Israel systematically denies access to Al Masjid Al Aqsa to most Palestinians, has permitted excavation works to be carried out under Al Masjid Al Aqsa damaging the foundations of Al Masjid Al Aqsa, and has permitted Jews to enter Al Masjid Al Aqsa during certain times on most days (despite this being contrary to traditional Rabbinical law for fear of disrespecting such sacred land). In addition to this, Israel maintains a security force on Al Masjid Al Aqsa permanently despite numerous appeals by the Supreme Muslim Council – and yet still fails to prevent Zionist extremists causing damage to Al Masjid Al Aqsa.

Interestingly, the UN Security Council has passed more than 20 resolutions condemning Israel's annexation of Old Jerusalem, and Israel has been the most frequently condemned state by the UN in its history.

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