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- 40) The Muslim Arabs build a shrine, “Dome of the Rock” on the site of the first and second Temples in Jerusalem. **Date: A.D. 691**

The Dome of the Rock is the oldest Muslim shrine in existence. It sits on the site where Solomon built the Temple. The Muslims claim that the rock on which the shrine sits is the place where Muhammad ascended into heaven. He supposedly rode a miraculous horse from Mecca to Jerusalem and to heaven one night in A.D. 610. The Dome is built on the supposed site where his horse landed.

An inscription date on the Dome (A.D. 691-692) shows the structure was built some 55 years after the Muslims captured Jerusalem. The Dome is 65 feet in diameter and 36 feet high. Actually during the Crusades, the Dome was used as a church until they took it back in 1187. The Dome of the Rock is the promotion of an idolatrous false religion in the very spot where God’s Temple is to be.

- 41) The Muslim Turks take control of Jerusalem and forbid Christians to enter it.
Date: A.D. 1071

- 42) Christian Crusaders from Europe embark on a crusade to take control of Jerusalem.
Date: A.D. 1099-1291

In approximately a 200 year span, there will be about eight crusades organized by Roman popes with the goal of taking back Jerusalem and the Holy Land from the Muslims.

European Christians had seen enough of the Muslim religion and they decided to wage a series of “holy wars” against the Muslims. **They were able to reclaim Jerusalem in A.D. 1099**, after the Muslims had controlled it for nearly 450 years. In the course of the retaking of the city, both Muslims and Jews were killed. Inhabitants of the city who lived left and there were many houses that were abandoned. Christians were encouraged to settle in Jerusalem. Christians recognized the city to be a “holy place” and tourism was encouraged. Roads were rebuilt, hospitals were established and business prospered. However, Jerusalem was Christian controlled and not controlled by Israel.

- 43) Saladin, an Egyptian Sultan, captured Jerusalem from the crusaders and permits Jews to enter the city. **Date: A.D. 1187**

On September 17, 1187, Muslim troops led by Saladin, besieged Jerusalem, which contained about 30,000 residents and another 30,000 refugees from Christian Holy land and took charge of Jerusalem. The Christians realized they could not defeat Saladin, so they negotiated a conditional surrender and on October 2, 1187, Jerusalem was given to Saladin. The Christians threatened to destroy the Islamic sites on the Temple Mount, such as the Dome of the Rock so Saladin negotiated the deal. This made Saladin a legendary hero among the Muslim world. Saladin died in A.D. 1193 and the Christians tried to restore Christian control of Jerusalem in A.D. 1219-1220, but were unsuccessful.

44) The Christian Crusaders recapture Jerusalem twice in their sixth Crusade.

Date: A.D. 1229-1244

45) The Muslim rulers dismantle the walls of Jerusalem and the population declines.

Date: A.D. 1250

46) The Egyptian Mamluks captured Jerusalem and rule Israel's land. **Date: A.D. 1291-1516**

The word “mamluk” in Arabic means slave. The Mamluks were a class of warrior slaves who were mostly Turkish and Caucasian. They were the fighting elite, especially from the Syrian and Egyptian Muslim world. In the year A.D. 1240, the Mamluk slaves fought and overtook their masters in Egypt and they decided to take control of Palestine.

From 1293 to 1301, they led a persecution in the land against Christians and Jews. They demanded that everyone accept the Islamic religion. Churches and synagogues were closed. Christians and Jews were attacked and killed. The Mamluks ruled the city of Jerusalem and land of Palestine.

47) The Egyptian Ottomans conquer the Mamluks and take control of Israel.

This Ottoman Empire will control Israel for 400 years.

Date: A.D 1517-1917

The Ottoman Empire was one of the largest Turkish Islamic Empire in history. It replaced the Roman Byzantine Empire and even took charge of its capital city Constantinople and renamed it Istanbul, which means city of Islam. At one time this Ottoman Empire controlled Turkey, Egypt, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Hungary, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, parts of Arabia and North Africa. The key political and military leader of this Empire was Suleiman, who led during its “golden age.”

Suleiman was the leader, who undertook bold military assignments. Jerusalem was controlled by the Mamluks and Suleiman took it from them. Suleiman was given the name the Magnificent or lawgiver (A.D. 1520-1566). One of his greatest accomplishments was he rebuilt much of Jerusalem.

The first neighborhood was built outside the walls of Jerusalem's old city (A.D. 1860). **The first large scale immigration of Jews, mainly from Russia, occurred during the Ottoman control (A.D. 1882-1903). The Hebrew word used for Israel's migration to the land of Israel is “Aliyah.” It is estimated that 25,000 to 35,000 Jews moved to Palestine at that time.**

By the 1700's, the Ottoman Empire was on the decline. European powers wanted to expand and there were economic problems because of competition of trade from the Americans. Because of a decline and corruption among the Sultans and Sheiks, the Ottoman Empire was being abolished.