**Timeline: 4600 years in Jerusalem**

**2600 BCE** The site of Jerusalem is first settled (early Bronze Age)

**1800s BCE** Jerusalem first documented - on a list of Egypt's enemies that was broken as a curse

**1350 BCE** The Amarna letters from the Canaanite king to Pharaoh Akhenaton of Egypt ask for help against the "Habiru" besieging their city

**1200 BCE** Israelite invasion of Jerusalem under Joshua

**1000 BCE** Jerusalem taken by King David, who makes it his capital (the City of David is south of today's Old City)

**960 BCE** David's son Solomon extends Jerusalem's city limits and builds the First Temple on Mount Moriah

**701 BCE** Assyrian emperor Sennacherib besieges Jerusalem; he is unsuccessful thanks to King Hezekiah's tunnel that supplies the city with water from Gihon Spring. By this time, the city has expanded north to cover Mount Zion and today's Armenian and Jewish Quarters.

**612 BCE** Babylonians conquer Assyrian empire; Judah's king Joash makes an alliance with Egypt against the Babylonians.

**597 BCE** Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar defeats Judah and installs the puppet king Zedekiah on the throne in Jerusalem

**586 BCE** After Judah again joins with Egypt against Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonians invade Jerusalem, destroy the Temple, and drive the population into exile in Babylon

**586-39 BCE** Jerusalem lies virtually abandoned

**539 BCE** Persian king Cyrus the Great defeats the Babylonians and allows the Judeans (now also known as Jews) to return from exile. About 50,000 Jews return to Jerusalem, led by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

**515 BCE** A smaller and less elaborate Second Temple is rebuilt on the site of Solomon's original

**400s BCE** In the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, more Jews return from Babylon

**322 BCE** Jerusalem captured by Alexander the Great

**198 BCE** The Seleucids gain Jerusalem from the Ptolemies and later Hellenize the Temple and dedicate it to Zeus.

**164 BCE** The Maccabees, fervent opponents of Hellenization, lead a revolt. They conquer Jerusalem and rededicate the Temple to the Jewish God (the event commemorated at Hanukkah). The Hasmoneans rule Jerusalem for the next century.

**63 BCE** Strife among the Hasmoneans leads to the Roman general Pompey taking Jerusalem and installing the Hasmonean king Hyrcanus on the throne

**37 BCE** The Romans depose the Hasmonean ruler and install Herod the Great on the throne of Jerusalem

**37-4 BCE** Rule of Herod the Great, during which he extensively refurbished Jerusalem and restored and enlarged the Second Temple

**4 BCE** Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem

**30 AD** Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph (celebrated on Palm Sunday) and is crucified and resurrected a week later (celebrated on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, respectively). The sites of Jesus' death and burial are likely enclosed in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

**66**  First Revolt (or Jewish War) is fought against the Romans

**70** Destruction of the Temple by Titus, son of Roman Emperor Vespasian (commemorated on the Arch of Titus in Rome)

**132** Second Revolt under Simon Bar Kokhba

**135** The Jewish revolt is defeated by Hadrian, who razes Jerusalem to the ground and builds a Roman city, Aelia Capitolina, on top of it. Jews are expelled and prohibited from even entering the city. Hadrian's city is roughly the shape of the Old City seen today, including the basic layout of the streets.

**313** Emperor Constantine the Great legalizes Christianity in the Roman Empire and soon builds several churches in the Holy Land (including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Church of the Pater Noster, and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem).

**330** Constantine moves the Roman capital to Constantinople (Istanbul), beginning the Byzantine period. In the Byzantine era, Jerusalem and the Cardo are expanded southward and several more churches are built.

**333** The "Bordeux pilgrim" visits Jerusalem

**384** The Spanish pilgrim Egeria visits Jerusalem

**614** Jerusalem attacked and heavily damaged by the Persians

**571-632** Life of the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia

**620** Muhammad's "Night Journey" from Mecca to Jerusalem and then into heaven (Qur'an 17)

**638** Arab Muslims take Jerusalem in a bloodless surrender accepted in person by Caliph Omar Ibn al-Khattab. Omar famously refuses to pray in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which allows it to remain a Christian site. (This is commemorated by the Omar Mosque.)

**660-750** Jerusalem flourishes under the rule of the Ummayad caliphs, who rule from Damascus. Jerusalem becomes the capital of a province covering most of Palestine and the al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock are built early in the period.

**750-969** The Abbasid dynasty rules from Baghdad. During this period Jerusalem is home to several prominent Sufi scholars and receives many Jewish and Christian pilgrims

**969** Jerusalem taken by the Fatimids, a dynasty of Shi'ites ruling from Egypt

**1071** Jerusalem taken by the Seljuk Turks, who began to threaten the Byzantine Empire as well. The Byzantine emperor appeals to the West for help.

**1099** Pope Urban II calls the First Crusade.

**1099** The Crusaders or "Franks" (they are mostly French) conquer Jerusalem and massacre its Jews and most of its Muslims. The Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem is established, led by Godfrey de Bouillon.

**1171** Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi (Saladin) defeats the weak Fatimids in Egypt.

**July 1187** Saladin defeats the Crusaders at the battle of the Horns of Hattin

**Oct 1187** Saladin captures Jerusalem from the Crusaders. He allows Christians to remain in the city and the Jews to return; members of all faiths lived alongside each other throughout Jerusalem.

**1229** Emperor Frederick II negotiates a deal with Saladin's dynasty and Jerusalem except for Temple Mount.

**1254** Jerusalem taken by the Khwarizmian Turks, who slaughter most of the city's Christian population

**1260** Jerusalem taken by the Mamluks (Mamelukes). Mamluk sultan Baybars the Great ousts the Crusaders from Palestine for good.

**1260-1516** Mamluk Jerusalem: many Muslim buildings constructed, including much of the Muslim Quarter, and Jerusalem becomes a center of Muslim pilgrimage and scholarship.

**1516** Jerusalem taken by the Ottoman Turks.

**1537-41** Rule of Suleiman the Magnificent, who rebuilds Jerusalem's walls and much of the city.

**1516-1917** Ottoman Jerusalem: a relatively peaceful period during which Jerusalem was a rather dilapidated provincial outpost of the empire.

**Dec 1917** British troops marched into Jerusalem through the Jaffa Gate (on foot, out of respect for the Holy City)

**1918** At the end of World War I, Jerusalem becomes the capital of the British Mandate in Palestine.

**1929** Nationwide race riots start in Jerusalem

**1936** Arabs revolt against the British but are defeated

**1947** United Nations Partition Plan proposes to divide Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state, with Jerusalem shared by both.

**1948** British pull out of Palestine; the 1948 war between Arabs and Jews over Jerusalem ensues. Arabs force Jews out of the Old City and the Jewish Quarter is mostly destroyed.

**June 1967** The Six Day War ends with Israelis occupying Jerusalem, including East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Jewish Quarter is rebuilt and the Western Wall Plaza cleared.