

Jerusalem:

A CITY OF GREAT SPIRITUAL DIVERSITY;

A CITY OF GREAT CONFLICT





Jerusalem, by virtue of the number and diversity of people who have held it sacred, may be considered the most holy city in the world.



**IN FACT, 3 OUT OF THE 5
MAJOR WORLD
RELIGIONS HAVE TIES TO
THIS SMALL CITY.**

They include Judaism, Islam, and Christianity



JUDAISM & *Jerusalem*

To Jewish people, Jerusalem is not just a city, it is *Ir Ha-Kodesh* (the Holy City), the Biblical Zion, the City of David, the site of Solomon's Temple, and the eternal capital of the Israelite nation.





ISLAM & *Jerusalem*

Also regarded with great respect by the Muslims, Jerusalem is where the prophet Muhammad is believed to have ascended to heaven.



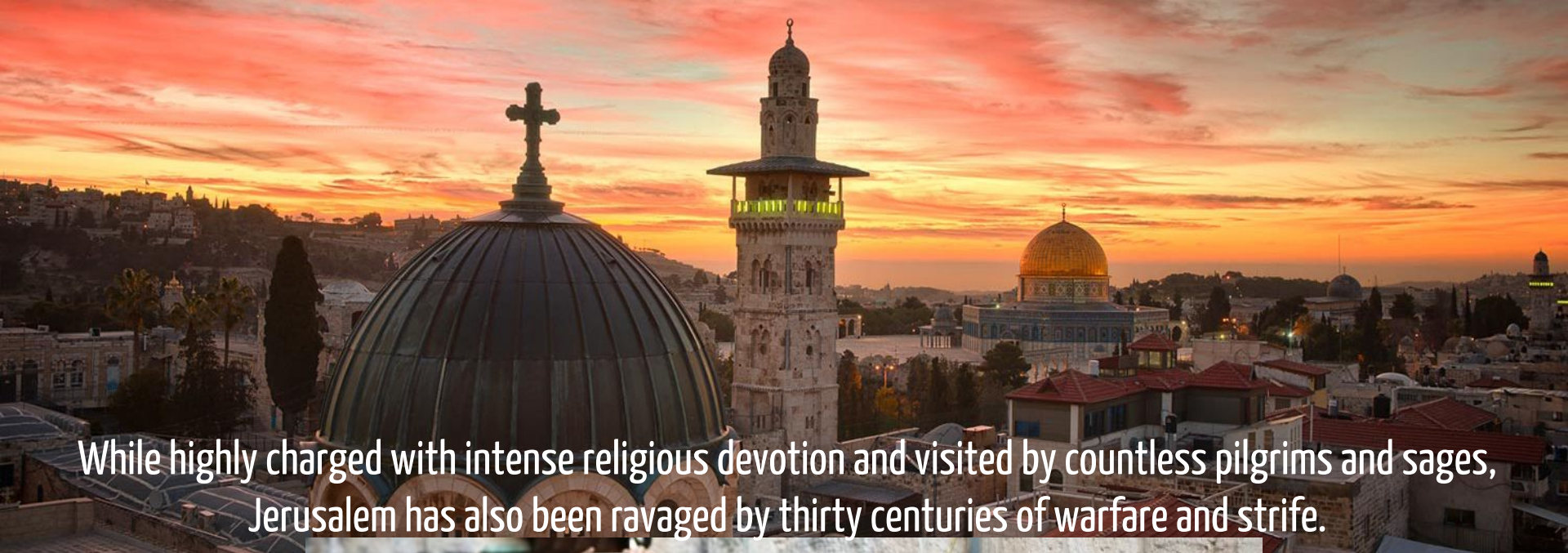
Isra' of Muḥammad, miniature from Neẓāmī's *Khamseh*, 1494-95; in the British Museum



CHRISTIANITY & *Jerusalem*

To Christians, Jerusalem is where the young Jesus impressed the sages at the Jewish Temple, where he spent the last days of his ministry, and where the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection took place.





While highly charged with intense religious devotion and visited by countless pilgrims and sages, Jerusalem has also been ravaged by thirty centuries of warfare and strife.



It is a place of beauty and divinity, mystery and paradox.

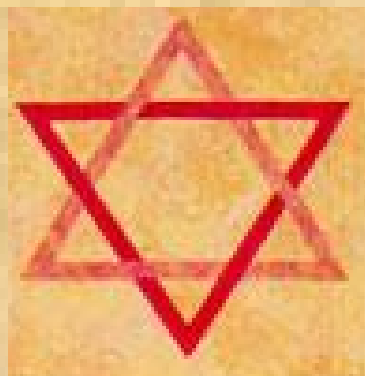
Examine the photo on the next slide.

Can you find any traces of the three religions that hold
this city so sacred?

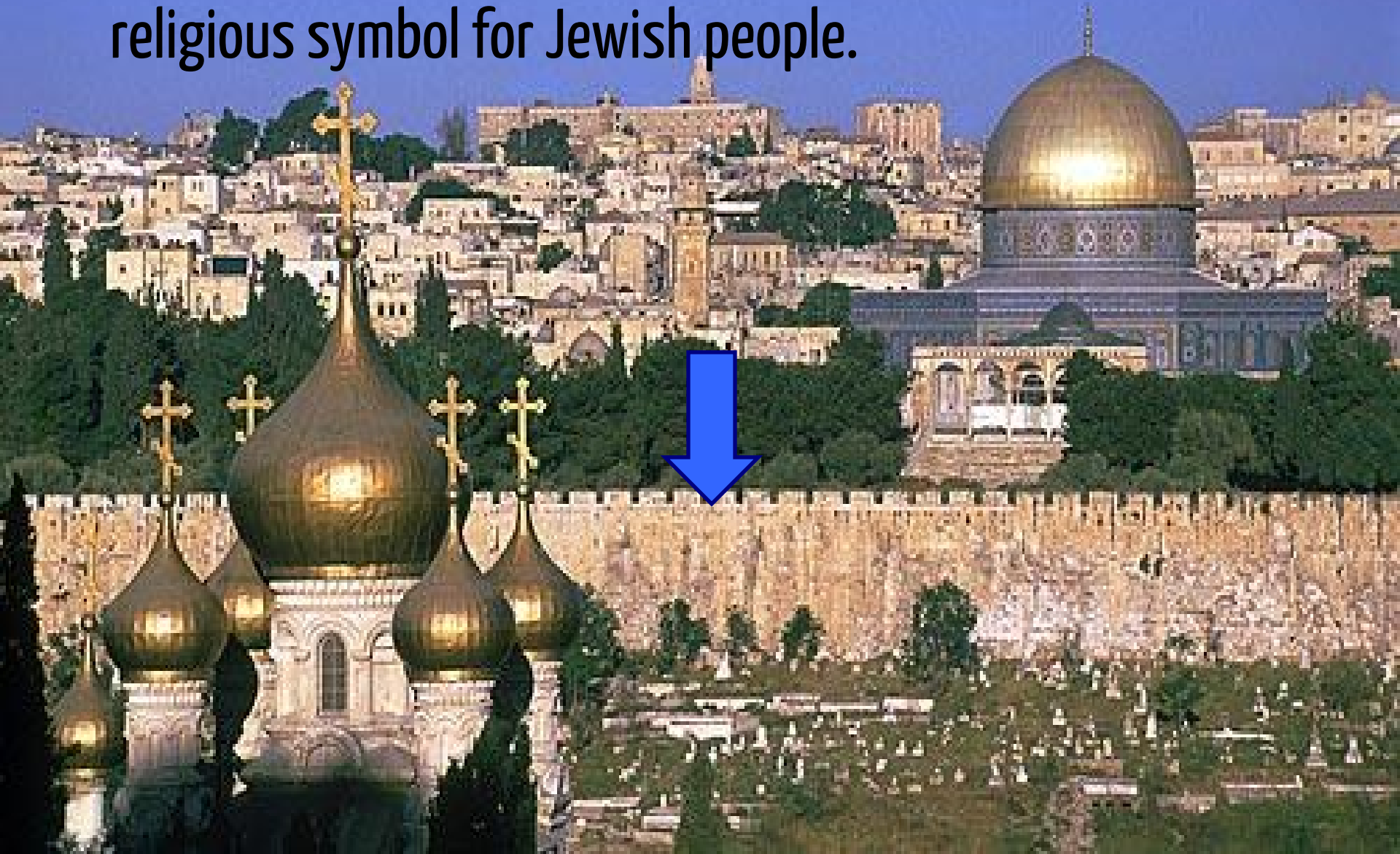




PART ONE



The outer wall, often referred to as the Western or Wailing wall, is an important religious symbol for Jewish people.





JUDAISM & *Jerusalem*

Jewish people were the first to claim Jerusalem as a holy place.

David, who ruled Israel wanted to have a temple built. This temple was to be built at the place where he had experienced a vision of angels ascending a ladder to heaven.

King David was unable to have this temple built during his reign. However his son, Solomon, had the temple built when he became the next King.

The Temple's construction took seven years (whoa).



**A MODEL OF THE
JEWISH TEMPLE**



JUDAISM *& Jerusalem*

Soon after the Temple's construction, the Babylonians forced the Jews into exile and their temple was destroyed.

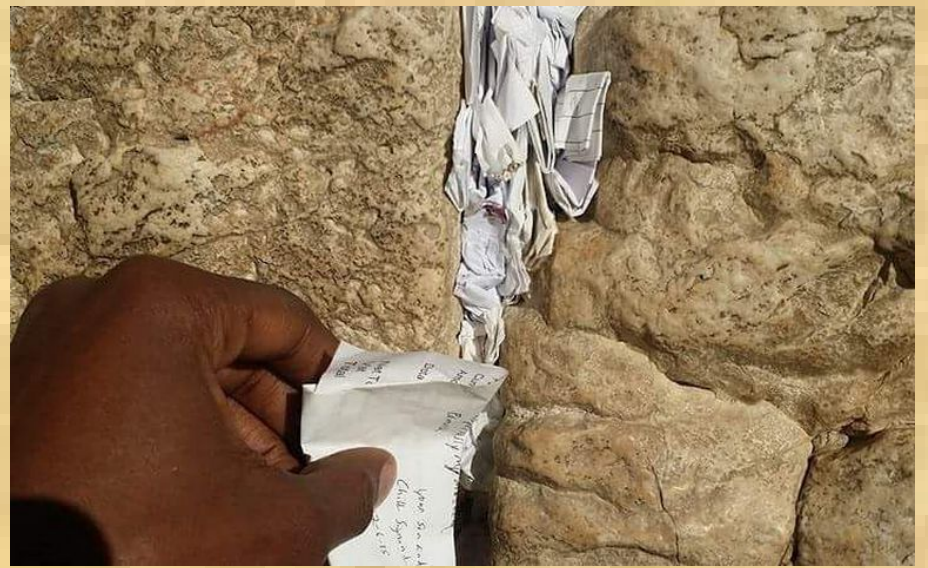
But, in 539 BC, the Persians conquered the Babylonians and allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem.

Reconstruction began and the Second Temple was completed by 515 BC.

A man with a long black beard and a black hat is shown in profile, facing right. He is wearing a black suit jacket over a white shirt and a blue tie. He is holding an open book with both hands, looking down at it. The background is a large, light-colored stone wall with visible mortar lines. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor setting.

The Western or Wailing Wall

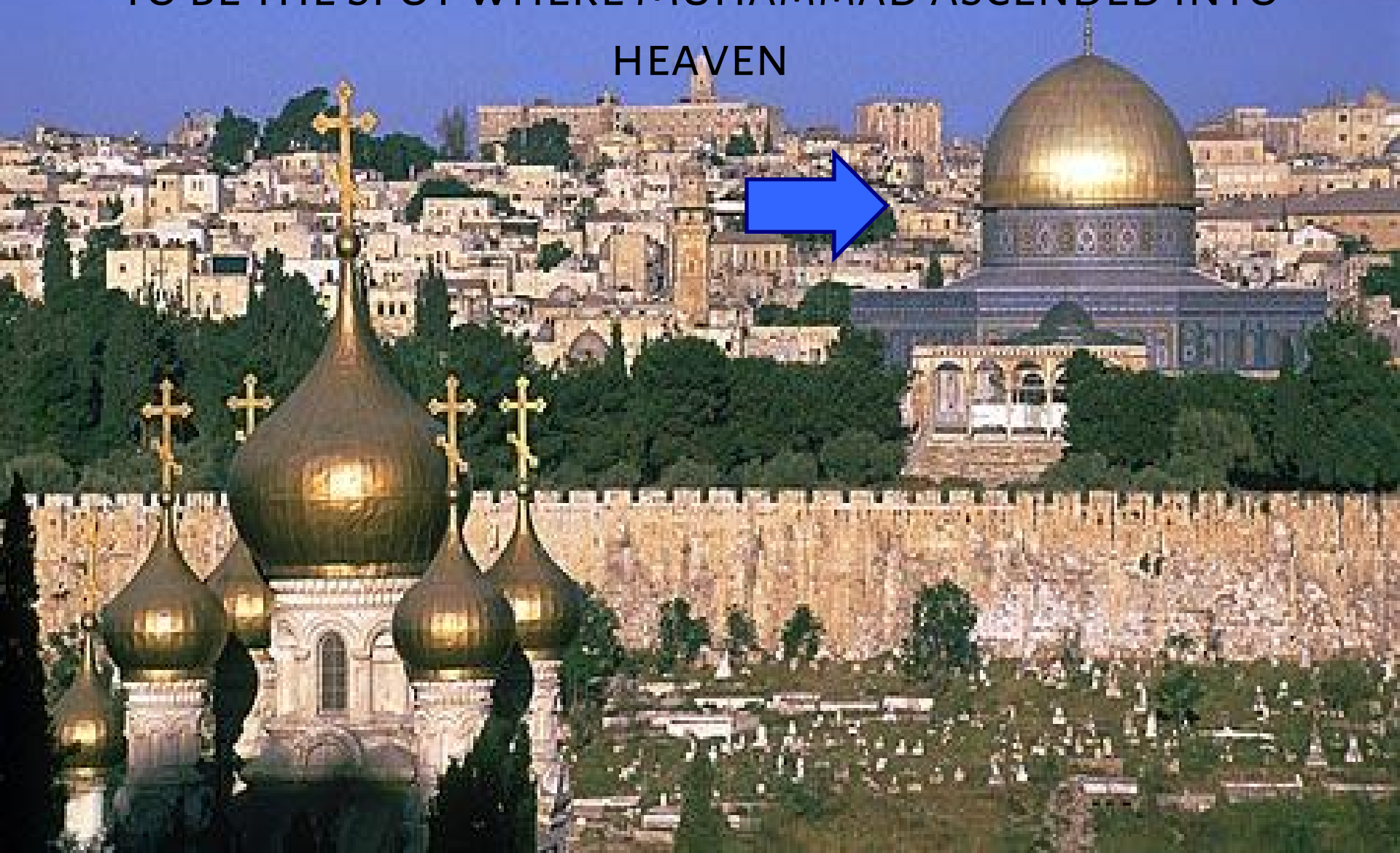
Because this wall is all that is left of the original Jewish Temples, many Orthodox Jews (as seen here) visit the wall to say prayers.



PART TWO



THE DOME ON THE ROCK WAS BUILT ON TOP OF THE DESTROYED RUINS OF THE JEWISH TEMPLE. IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE SPOT WHERE *MUHAMMAD* ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN





ISLAM & *Jerusalem*

Six years after the death of Muhammad, Jerusalem was captured in 638 by the Muslim leader Caliph Umar.

Soon after his occupation of the city, Umar destroyed the Jewish Temple, built a small mosque and dedicated the site to Muslim worship.

The Arab conquerors undertook to build a more spectacular edifice, the Dome of the Rock.



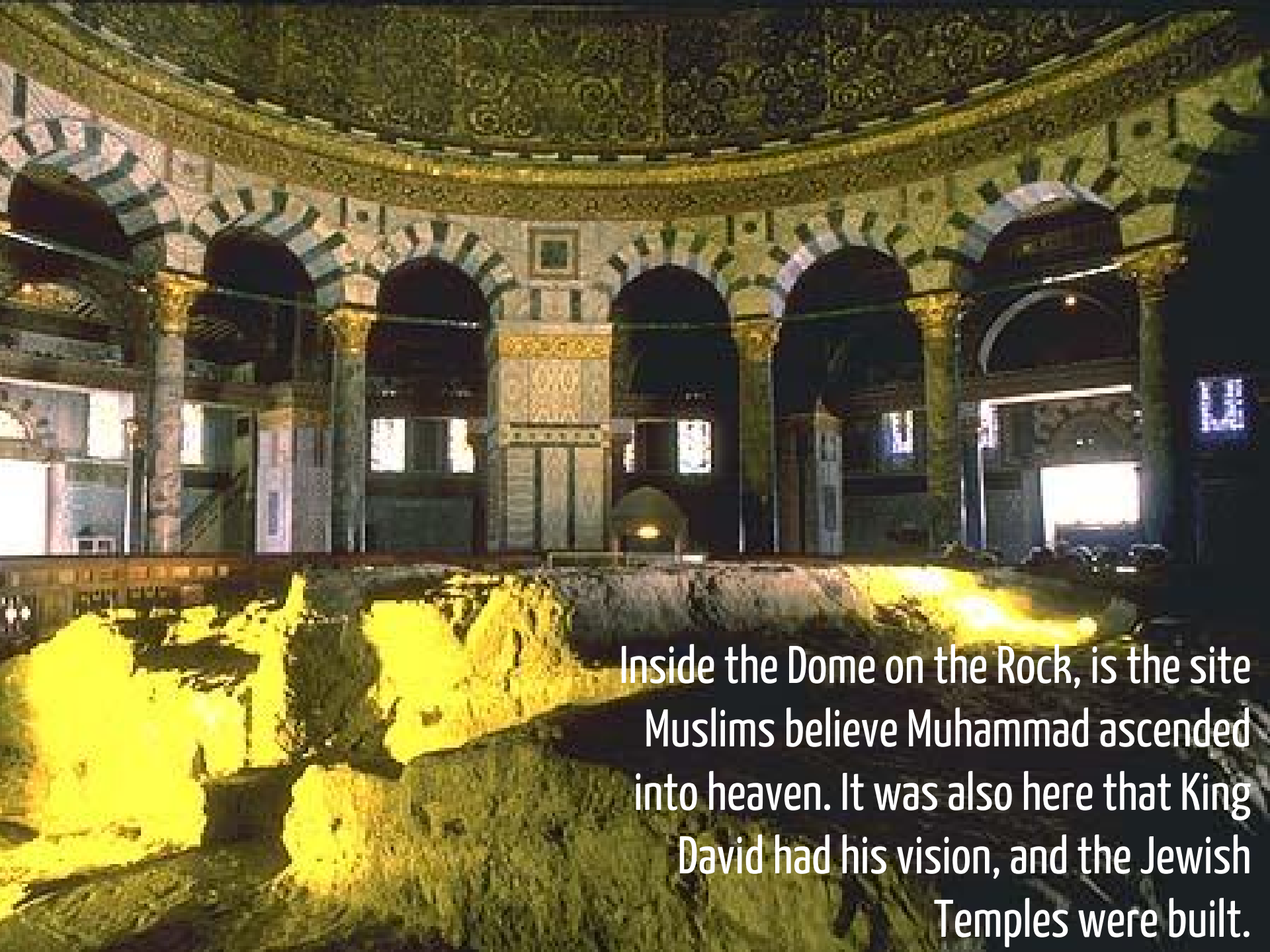
Islam & Jerusalem

The site chosen was the very same rock where previously had stood the two temples of the Jews.

It is the spot the Muslims believe that Muhammad ascended into heaven.







Inside the Dome on the Rock, is the site Muslims believe Muhammad ascended into heaven. It was also here that King David had his vision, and the Jewish Temples were built.



JUDAISM & *Jerusalem*

Although the Muslim conquerors did in fact destroy the Jewish temple, and even built their own holy Mosque on top of the ruins, they did not destroy the outer wall that the Jews had built to protect their Temple.



CHRISTIANITY & *Jerusalem*

Close to 400 years prior to Mohammad, Jesus Christ walked the earth. He was Jewish, and it was in Jerusalem that he taught, performed miracles, had his last supper, and was willingly crucified. Christians believe he was also resurrected in Jerusalem for the sins of the world.

While Christians have always held Jerusalem as a sacred and holy place, it wasn't until one-thousand years after Jesus Christ died that the Christians took control.



CHRISTIANITY & *Jerusalem*

European armies claimed they wanted to take back Jerusalem in God's name. Although many men fought and died for this spiritual cause; many men were not as honest. Many kings and nobles hoped to acquire new fortunes and lands based on their conquest.

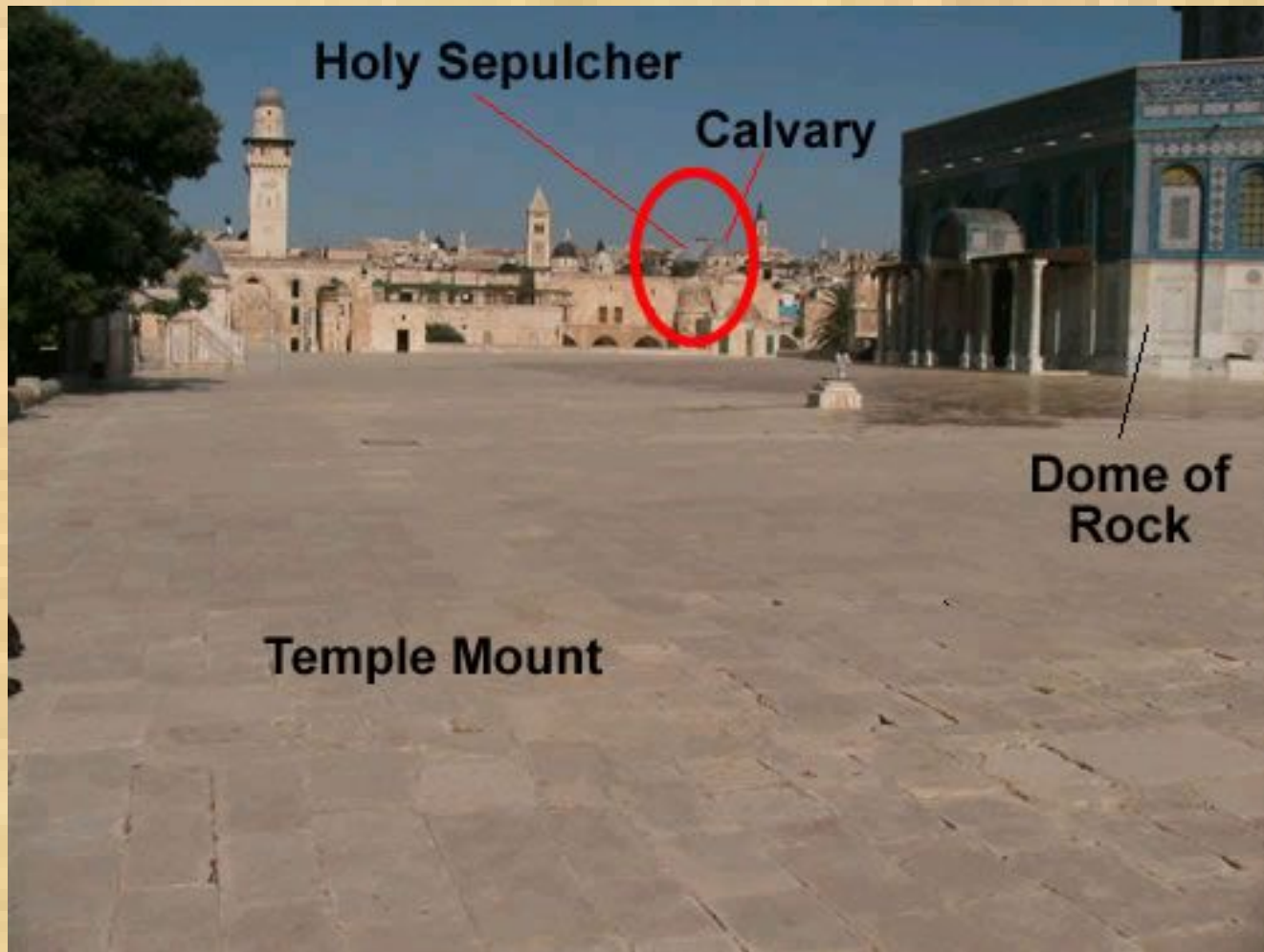
The Christian Kingdom lasted almost 90 years, during which time the Dome of the Rock was converted to a Christian shrine and named *Templum Domini* (meaning Temple of the Lord), the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was rebuilt, and hospices and monasteries were founded.

PART THREE





the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Holy Sepulcher

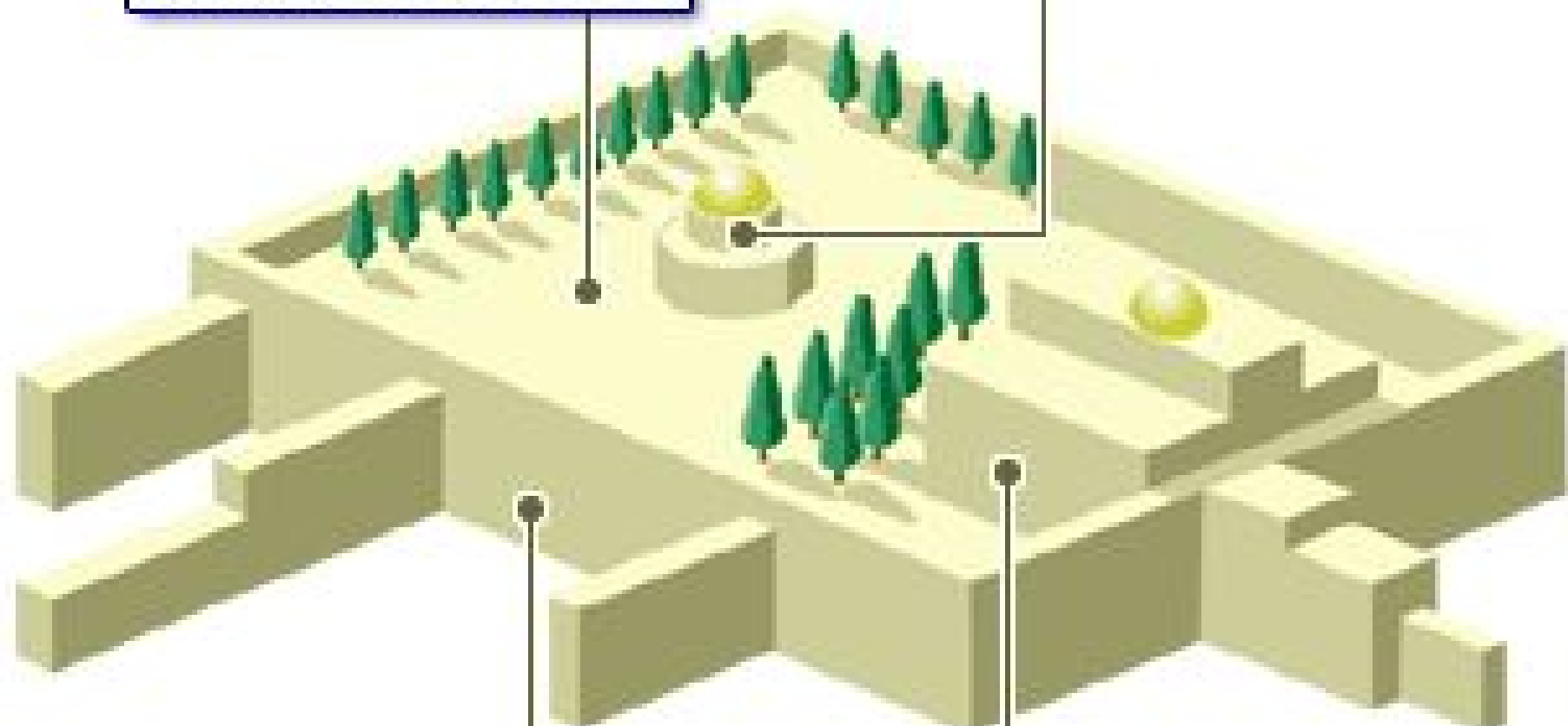
Calvary

Dome of
Rock

Temple Mount

**TEMPLE MOUNT/
HARAM AL SHARIF**

DOME OF THE ROCK



**WESTERN OR
WAILING WALL**

AL AQSA MOSQUE

The Control of Jerusalem

Over the centuries, control of Jerusalem has been on again, off again in the hands of Jews, Christians, and Muslims.