

JERUSALEM | CITY OF GOLD

SESSION 4: JERUSALEM IN BATTLES

AN OUTLINE OF OUR JOURNEY

- Session 1: Jerusalem the Eternal Capital
- Session 2: Jerusalem at the time of Jesus
- Session 3: Jerusalem prior to the time of Jesus
- Session 4: Jerusalem in battles of the ages
- Session 5: Jerusalem spiritualized.
- Session 6: The Location of the Temple

JERUSALEM IN BATTLES THROUGH HISTORY

ROMAN ERA BATTLES

- The Destruction of the Temple | 70AD
 - The Jewish Revolt began in Galilee in 66AD, and for 4 ½ years the preparations were being made on both sides for the ultimate battle, in Jericho.
 - Roman Emperor Vespasian had been the general in charge of the Roman effort. Vespasian became Emperor in 69AD and his son, Titus took charge.
 - Josephus says that, as the Vespasian government was being set up, the Jewish revolt in Jerusalem against the Romans increased, and that the Jews were divided under three zealot factions.
 - Zealots had attacked the Romans and any Jew that was not “Jewish enough” by their standards.
 - Josephus, “one should not mistake if he called it a sedition begotten by another sedition, and to be like a wild beast grown mad, which for want of food from abroad, fell now upon eating its own flesh” (Wars of the Jews, 4.1).
 - The fighting between the factions was so great that worshipers were being killed in the Temple. Josephus says, “...insomuch that in any persons who came thither with great zeal from the ends of the earth, to offer sacrifices at this celebrated place, which was esteemed holy by all mankind, fell down before their own sacrifices themselves, and sprinkled that altar which was venerable among all men, both Greeks and Barbarians, with their own blood” (Wars, 5.17). Compare the prophecy of Jesus in Luke 13:1-2.
 - Josephus gives a glimpse into his feelings about Jerusalem and his conviction that the destruction of the city was the judgment of God: “And now, “O most wretched city, what misery so great as this didst thou suffer from the Romans, when they came to purify thee from thy internecine hatred! For thou couldst be no longer a place fit for God, nor couldst thou longer continue in being, after thou hadst been a sepulchre for the bodies of thine own people, and hadst made the holy house itself a burying-place in this civil war of thine! Yet mayest thou again grow better, if perchance thou wilt hereafter appease the anger of that God who is the author of thy destruction.” (20) But I must restrain myself from these passions by the rules of history, since this is not a proper time for domestic lamentations, but for historical narrations; I therefore return to the operations that follow in this sedition.” (Wars, 5:19-20)
 - The fighting among factions was so strong that many in the city began to hope for the Romans to come and start a battle from the outside.
 - In seeming fulfillment of Matthew 10:21, Josephus says, “Nor was any regard paid to those that were still alive, by their relations” (Wars 5:33).
 - The Romans eventually burned the Temple, made sacrifices to their pagan gods, and took so much gold that the price of gold went down by half (Wars 6:317).

- The city was destroyed to such a degree that, “there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited” (Wars 7.3).
- The Bar Kochba Rebellion | 132-136 AD
 - Simon Bar Kochba led a revolt of Jews living in Judea, against Rome.
 - The revolt centered around the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and rebuilding of the new city, *Aelia Capitolina*, and putting a Temple to Zeus at the location of the Jewish Temple.
 - As a result of this rebellion, the Romans closed the province of Judea and created *Syria Palestina*. The region was known as Palestine from 136 to 1948.

CRUSADER ERA BATTLES

- The Battle of Hattin – The Crusader King of Jerusalem met Muslim forces under Saladin at “the Horns of Hattin,” near Tiberius. The Crusaders were cut off from water supply, smoked out by grass fires light by the Muslims, and slaughtered on July 4, 1187.
- The Siege of Jerusalem – From September 20-October 2, 1187, Saladin went against the Kingdom of Jerusalem, bringing it its final end and the beginning of Muslim rule (that lasted until 1917). The movie *Kingdom of Heaven* is about this battle.

MODERN BATTLES

- Battle of Jerusalem | 1917
 - From November 17 to December 30, 1917 the British fought for control of Jerusalem against the Ottoman Empire.
 - On December 11, 1917, General Edmund Allenby walked into Jerusalem on foot, refusing to take a horse or vehicle, in respect to the Holy City.
 - British Prime Minister David Lloyd George declared it a “Christmas gift to the British Empire.”
 - This began the period of the British Mandate, from 1917-1948.
- The Six Day War | 1967
 - Led by Egypt, the Muslim world was preparing an attack on Israel.
 - On June 5, 1967, Israel made a preemptive strike against the Egyptian Air Force, decimating it in a matter of hours.
 - Egypt, under President Nasser, gave indication to Syria and Jordan that it had defeated Israel in the attack, and so Syria and Jordan began to invade Israel from the North (Syria) and the East (Jordan).
 - In retaliatory attacks, Israel fought both the Syrians and the Jordanians, and in the process liberated the Golan Heights and the “West Bank.”
 - On June 7, 1967, Israeli forces took control of the entire city of Jerusalem, unifying East and West Jerusalem and controlling the old city for the first time since 70 AD.