

# The Jewish Historical Connection to Jerusalem



The Menorah is the candelabrum that stood in the ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and it serves as the emblem of the State of Israel. At left is an engraving of the Menorah from 66 CE discovered in Jerusalem, while at right is a Menorah sculpted in 1956, standing today in Jerusalem.



State of Israel  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Cover images:

The traditional Menorah candelabrum stood in the ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem until its destruction in the year 70 CE. It has served as a symbol of Judaism for more than two thousand years, representing enlightenment and spirituality. The Menorah on the left is a stone etching from 66 CE, discovered in 2011 beneath the remains of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Menorah on the right, designed by the sculptor Benno Elkan, was erected in 1956 in Jerusalem, facing the Knesset, Israel's parliament. The Menorah, together with two olive branches, is the State of Israel's national emblem.

Jewish attachment to Jerusalem has been constant from ancient times through modernity. For more than 3,000 years, it has played a central and sustaining role in the history of the Jewish people – politically, spiritually and culturally.

Jerusalem has also deeply influenced the development of Western civilization and continues to serve as an inspiration in the lives of millions.

Recent attempts, however, move to deny this bond and to delegitimize the story that has bound the Jewish people over space and time. Among these attempts are UNESCO resolutions that ignore the historical connection between the Jewish people and their ancient capital, and equally, fail to acknowledge Christianity's ties to Jerusalem.

This brochure provides but a few examples of archeological findings that illustrate this link, each accompanied by a biblical reference. They are:

- An inscription from the 9th century BCE referring to the House of David
- A royal seal bearing the inscription of King Hezekiah (8th century BCE)
- Clay seal impressions of officials of King Zedekiah (6th century BCE)

- The Arch of Titus in Rome (built 82 CE), depicting vessels from the Second Temple being carried into Rome

Today, with historical heritage sites in this region being systematically destroyed by jihadist forces, such as the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, it is Israel that defends religious freedom for the three monotheistic faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – against the tide of intolerance sweeping the Middle East.

The findings shown here discredit those who deny the ancient Jewish presence in Jerusalem. They present irrefutable evidence of historical truth.



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| Discovery:    | House of David Inscription                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Time Period:  | 9th Century BCE                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Excavation:   | Tel Dan, Israel                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Significance: | The inscription relates the victory of King Hazael of Aram over a king from the “House of David.” The discovery represents the first extra-Biblical proof to the existence of the Biblical King David and the Davidic Dynasty. |
| Discovered:   | 1994                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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*“David had reigned over Israel for forty years, seven of them in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.” (1 Kings 2:11)*





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| Discovery:    | Royal Seal Impression (bullae) of the Biblical King Hezekiah                                                                                                                               |
| Time Period:  | 8th Century BCE                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Excavation:   | Ophel Excavation - adjacent to the Temple Mount, Jerusalem                                                                                                                                 |
| Significance: | Seal impression, bearing name “Hezekiah son of Ahaz, King of Judah,” affirms existence of the Biblical King Hezekiah, who ruled from Jerusalem, and was a direct descendant of King David. |
| Discovered:   | 2016 (Announced)                                                                                                                                                                           |

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*“In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, **Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah** began to reign.”*

*(2 Kings 18:1)*



**Discovery:** Clay seal impressions (bullae) of royal officials of King Zedekiah, last King of Judah

**Time Period:** 6th Century BCE

**Excavation:** “Large Stone Structure” - City of David, Jerusalem

**Significance:** The seal impressions bear the Hebrew names of government officials from the First Temple period, under the reign of King Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. “Jucal the son of Shelemiah” and “Gedaliah son of Pashhur” were among those who unsuccessfully plotted to kill the prophet Jeremiah. The seal impressions were discovered in an excavation in ancient Jerusalem that many archeologists associate with the location of the royal government center of the Davidic dynasty.

**Discovered:** 2007; 2008

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*“Then Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and **Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah** , and Pashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying,” (Jeremiah 38:1)*





**Discovery:** The Arch of Titus

**Time Period:** 1st Century CE

**Excavation:** Located on the Via Sacra, Rome, just southeast of the Roman Forum.

**Significance:** The honorific arch was constructed by the Emperor Domitian shortly after the death of his older brother Titus to commemorate Titus' victories, most notably the Siege of Jerusalem (70 CE). Depicted within the arch are the treasures from the Temple in Jerusalem, including the Menorah – among others, being carried triumphantly into Rome.

**Discovered:** 82 CE (Built)



