

Timeline: How Modern Israel Came to Be

This document summarizes the major historical events that led to the modern State of Israel, the status of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, and Moshe Dayan's role.

Date	Event
c. 2000 BC	God calls Abraham (Genesis 12), promising descendants, land, and blessing.
c. 1400 BC	Israel enters the Promised Land under Joshua.
c. 1000 BC	King David captures Jerusalem and makes it Israel's capital.
c. 960 BC	Solomon builds the First Temple.
586 BC	Babylon destroys Jerusalem and the First Temple; many Jews exiled.
538 BC	Persians allow Jews to return and rebuild.
516 BC	Second Temple completed.
70 AD	Romans destroy the Second Temple.
132–135 AD	Bar Kokhba revolt; many Jews dispersed.
638 AD	Muslim armies conquer Jerusalem from the Byzantine Empire.
691–692 AD	Dome of the Rock constructed.
705 AD (approx.)	Al-Aqsa Mosque completed/expanded.
1099–1187	Crusaders control Jerusalem.
1187	Saladin recaptures Jerusalem for Muslim rule.
1517–1917	Ottoman Empire rules the region.
1917	Balfour Declaration supports a Jewish national home.
1920–1948	British Mandate for Palestine.
1947	UN recommends partition into Jewish and Arab states.
May 14, 1948	David Ben-Gurion declares the State of Israel.
Minutes later	President Harry S. Truman recognizes Israel.
1948–1949	War of Independence; Israel survives.
1949–1967	Jordan controls East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount; Jews barred from Western Wall.
June 1967	Six-Day War: Israel captures East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount.
1967	Defense Minister Moshe Dayan establishes the Temple Mount 'status quo'.
Present	Israel maintains overall security; the Jordanian Islamic Waqf administers the

	Temple Mount.
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Moshe Dayan's Role

Moshe Dayan was one of Israel's most famous military leaders.

Key facts:

- Born: 1915
- Died: 1981
- Best known for his black eyepatch, which he wore after losing his left eye in combat in 1941.
- Served as Israel's Minister of Defense during the Six-Day War in 1967.

After Israel captured East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount in June 1967, many expected Israel to take complete control of the site.

Instead, Moshe Dayan made a strategic decision:

- Israel would keep overall security control.
- The Jordanian Islamic Waqf would continue administering the Temple Mount and the Islamic holy sites.
- Jewish worship would remain centered at the Western Wall rather than on the Temple Mount.

Dayan believed this arrangement would reduce religious conflict and avoid turning the war into a broader conflict with the Muslim world.

That decision remains one of the most consequential—and controversial—in modern Middle Eastern history. Some Israelis believe it helped prevent immediate escalation, while others believe it surrendered control of Judaism's holiest site. It continues to shape the status of the Temple Mount today.

Why This Matters

Understanding this timeline helps explain why Jerusalem and the Temple Mount remain central to modern politics, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. For many Christians studying biblical prophecy, these events also provide important historical context for discussions surrounding Israel and future prophetic expectations.