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OVER 3,000 YEARS OF JEWISH HISTORY

- 1300–1200 BCE:** Israelite communities grow in the hills of Canaan.
- 1000 BCE:** King David makes Jerusalem the capital of the Israelite kingdom.
- 960 BCE:** King Solomon builds the First Temple in Jerusalem.
- 586 BCE:** The First Temple is destroyed by the Babylonian empire.
- 538 BCE:** Jews return and begin to rebuild the temple (Second Temple).
- 20 CE:** The city of Tiberius is founded and becomes the center of Jewish life for 1,300 years.
- 70 CE:** The Roman Empire, led by Titus, destroys the Second Temple. Most Jews scatter across Europe and the Middle East.
- 81 CE:** The Arch of Titus in Rome commemorates the Jews' defeat and the sacking of the temple.
- 1211:** A wave of Jews, led by 300 European rabbis, returns to the land of Israel.
- 1481–1492:** Many Jews flee Spain to the land of Israel during the Spanish Inquisition.
- 1500:** Safed becomes a thriving center of Jewish life and mysticism.
- 1558:** Jews begin to rebuild Tiberius with the Ottoman sultan's approval.
- 1860–1864:** Jews become the majority again in Jerusalem.

& CONNECTION TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

- 1882–1903:** Waves of Jews return to Israel in the "first aliyah." Hebrew is revived as the Jews' spoken language.
- 1897:** Theodor Herzl organizes the first Zionist Congress.
- 1909:** The city of Tel Aviv is founded.
- 1917:** The Balfour Declaration supports restoration of the Jewish home in Palestine and includes modern-day Jordan.
- 1920:** The League of Nations establishes the Palestine Mandate (including modern-day Jordan), recognizing it as the Jewish homeland under international law.
- 1920–1936:** Palestinian Arab leader Haj Amin al-Husseini initiates Arab riots against Jews and conspires with Adolf Hitler.
- 1937:** Arab leaders reject British proposal to divide land into a small Jewish state and a much larger Arab state.
- 1939–1945:** The Nazis exterminate 6 million European Jews—almost 40 percent of world Jewry—in the Holocaust.
- 1947:** Arab leaders reject UN proposal to divide land into a Jewish state and an Arab state.
- 1948:** Jewish state of Israel declares independence after 1900 years of dispossession and oppression. Five Arab armies attack.
- 1949:** Israel joins the UN and forms the Knesset with Israeli Arab representatives.