

Jesus, Hanukkah and Archaeology



George Blumenthal holding **Sigmund Freud's 800 year-old brass Hanukkah** for celebrating Hanukkah, Freud Museum, London

Ha·nuk·kah

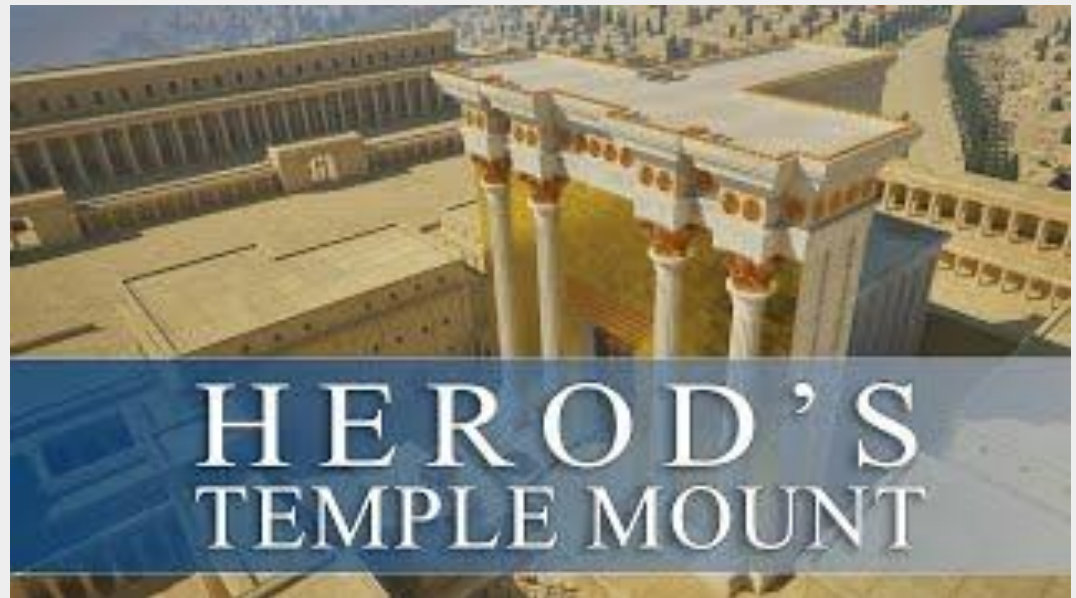
The Hebrew word *Hanukkah* means “**dedication,**” and this holiday commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Hanukkah in the Gospel of John 90 AD

John 10:22-23

Jesus at the Feast of Dedication

*At that time the **Feast of Dedication** (Hanukkah, the celebration of the rededication of the Temple) took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple courts in Solomon's Colonnade.*



3D Model of Herod's Temple
Bible Scenes via YouTube
(click to play video)

Josephus Saw the Temple Before the Roman Destruction in 70 CE

**Josephus, *Antiquities*,
15.11.5**

“...and the wall of the front (of the Temple) was adorned with beams, resting upon pillars, that were interwoven into it: and that front was all of polished stone. Insomuch that its fineness, to such as had not seen it was incredible: and to such as had seen it was greatly amazing.”

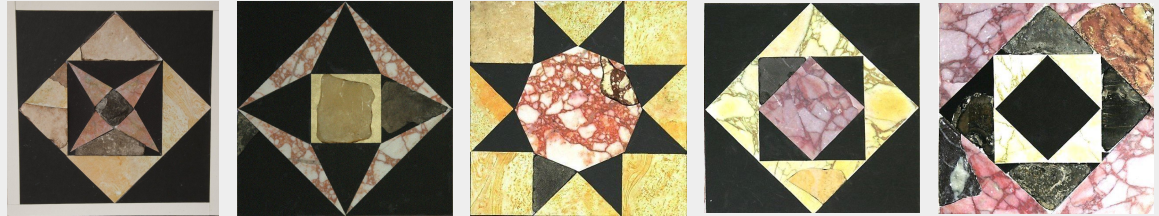


City of David Megalim Institute
(click to play video)

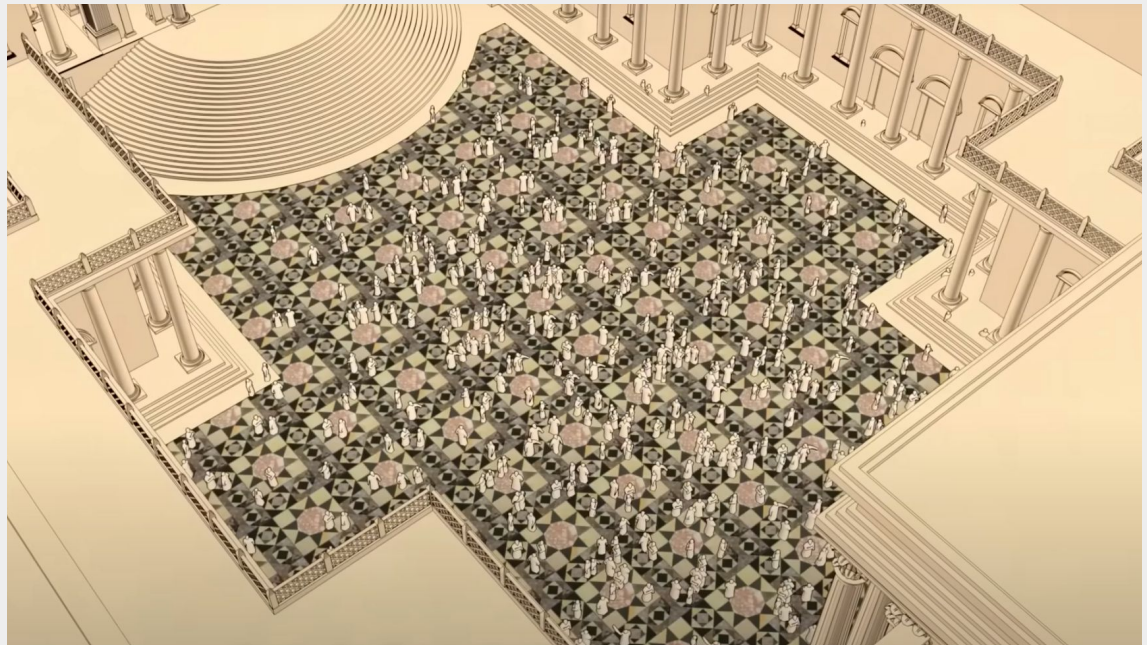
The Floor of the Temple

In the 1990s, the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf constructed a new mosque on Temple Mount, bulldozing and dumping earth without any archaeological supervision, in violation of the Antiquities Law of the State of Israel. **The Temple Mount Sifting Project** began in 2004 to recover archaeological artifacts from the 9,000 tons dumped debris.

To date, the Temple Mount Sifting Project has discovered approximately **600 geometrically cut and polished stone paving tiles** from the time of the Herodian Temple, leading experts to be able to reconstruct what the floor of the Temple looked like.



Temple Mount Sifting Project



City of David Megalim Institute

Josephus Writes about Hanukkah

94 AD

Josephus, Antiquities 12.7.7

“And so Judah and his fellow citizens celebrated the festival of the restoration of the sacrifices of the Temple for eight days, ...they made it a law for their posterity, that they should keep a festival on account of the restoration of their Temple worship for eight days. And from that time to this we celebrate this festival, and call it Lights.”



Model of the Temple, Tower of David Museum
Photo by Ardon Bar-Hama

The Temple Menorah, 1st Century AD



Inscribed on the wall of the “Mansion House” overlooking the Temple Mount is an accurate representation of the Temple Menorah as described in the Torah.

Exodus 25:31-39

*You shall make a **lampstand of pure gold**...its base and its shaft, its cups, calyxes, and petals shall be of one piece.*

***Six branches shall issue from its sides**; three branches from one side of the lampstand and three branches from the other side of the lampstand.*

*On one branch there shall be three **cups shaped like almond-blossoms, each with calyx and petals**...so for all six branches issuing from the lampstand.*

*Make its **seven lamps**—the lamps shall be so mounted as to give the light on its front side...*

In 71 AD, Emperor Vespasian Paraded the Temple Menorah Through the Streets of Rome

Josephus, Wars, 7.5.5,

*“Now it is impossible to describe the multitude of the [spoils] as they deserve... After which **Vespasian** marched in the first place: and **Titus** followed him.*

*And for the other spoils they were carried in great plenty. **But for those that were taken in the Temple of Jerusalem, they made the greatest figure of them all. That is the golden table, of the weight of many talents.***

*The **candlestick also, that was made of gold; though its construction were now changed from that which we made use of.** For its middle shaft was fixed upon a basis, and the small branches were produced out of it to a great length: having the likeness of a trident in their position, and had every one a socket made of brass for a lamp at the tops of them. These lamps were in number seven; and represented the dignity of the number seven among the Jews. **And the last of all the spoils was carried the law of the Jews....”***



The Arch of Titus, Rome
Photo by Ardon Bar-Hama

In 81 AD, the Arch of Titus Was Constructed to Commemorate the Roman Victory



The Arch of Titus, Rome
Photo by Ardon Bar-Hama

Color Reconstruction of the Arch of Titus



VIZIN The Institute for the Visualization of History and Professor Steve Fine, the Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies, New York

HAPPY HANUKKAH



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