

Truth Bombs

A series of concise papers which seek to explain lies, errors, misunderstandings or misrepresented facts.

Jerusalem does not belong to modern Jews

Many, such as Benyamin Netanyahu, affirm that Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel for 3,000 years. This is an utter lie.

Israel was only a unified kingdom of all the tribes of Jacob (Israel) for a short time. This was under the reigns of Saul [1050-1010], [Ish-bosheth],¹ David [1010-970] and Solomon [970-931]. Prior to Saul, Israel was a tribal province with tribes often at odds, or even at war, with each other. During this period of the Judges, the land was also under the sovereignty of various heathen kings and only for short periods under the rule of a judge. In the reigns of Saul and the early part of David, the capital of Israel was Hebron.

Jerusalem was the capital of a united Israel for around 72 years from the capture of the city by David (c.1003)² to the end of the reign of Solomon [931]. After this the nation was permanently in schism. The Northern Kingdom was known as Israel, Ephraim or Samaria. The Southern Kingdom (comprising of only Judah and Benjamin, which was later absorbed into Judah) was called Judah. The Northern Kingdom was sold into slavery and deported by the Assyrians then lost in history in 721. The only remnants of the ten tribes were those who had fled to Judah. The term 'Jews' only applies to those who were from Judah. Israelites were known by that term or as 'Hebrews'.

Jerusalem was the capital of Judah (not Israel) from the divided monarchy (930/1)³ to 586, (345 years). This cannot formally be considered as Israel as it only comprised two tribes.

Jerusalem has been under the control of Jebusites (Canaanites), Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, various Muslim clans and the Ottomans and Britain for far longer than Israel. When Jews, a small part of original Israel, were under foreign yoke, they were not allowed to have a nation state. Jerusalem was thus part of the empire in control, not Israel. Few cities have had more masters than Jerusalem.

It is not historically accurate to affirm that Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel for 3,000 years. Neither is it correct to say that it is the formal capital of the Jews. For many years the capital for Jews was Hebron. After 586 the city belonged to heathens. For 70-100 years the Jews were captive in Babylonia and were not even in the Levant.

Scripture quotations are from The New King James Version
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¹ Ish-bosheth reigned two years at Mahanaim (2 Sam 2:10) while David was king.

² 2 Sam 5:4-5.

³ Scholars differ.