

The Masjid Al Haram,  
the Hajj,  
and Safa and Marwa.

Jesus is leading us all from a state of blindness to sight, seeing things more clearly... [Low res. To High Res.]

- Mark 8:22-25 They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. **He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village;** and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?” And the man looked up and said, “**I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.**” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and **he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.**



# This presentation builds on...

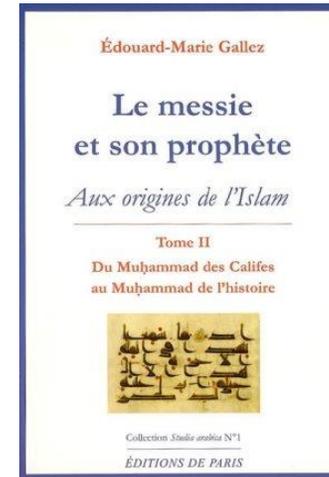


Was this al-Masjid al-Haram? Ft. Paul (Part 1)

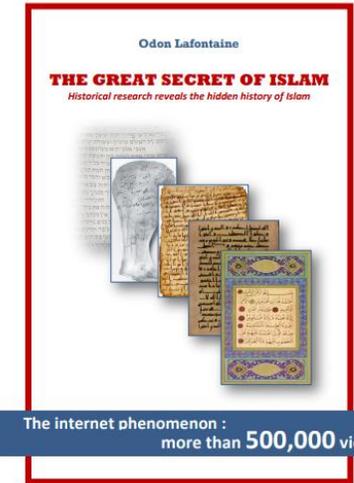
Paul Ellis



Was this al-Masjid al-Haram? (Part 2) Ft Paul



Edouard-Marie Gallez

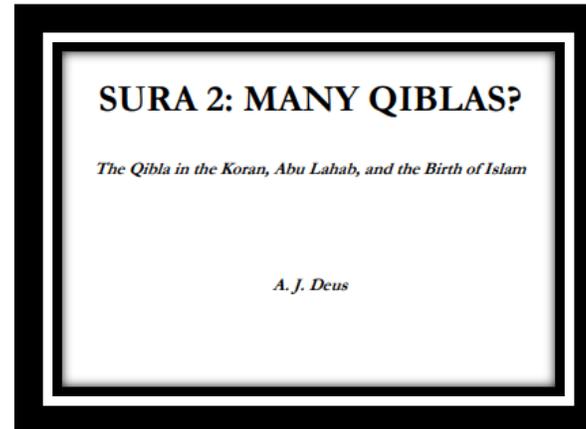


Odon Lafontaine



Abraham and the Kaaba: From Borrowed Stories to...

IC Islam Critiqued

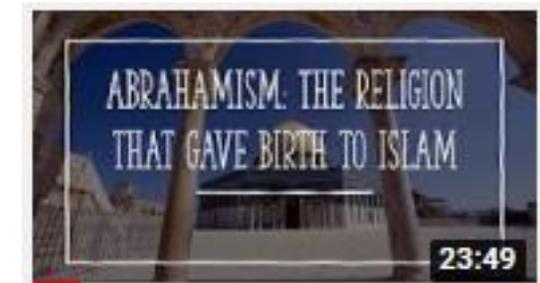


AJ Deus



Historicity of the Quran | Murad

Murad

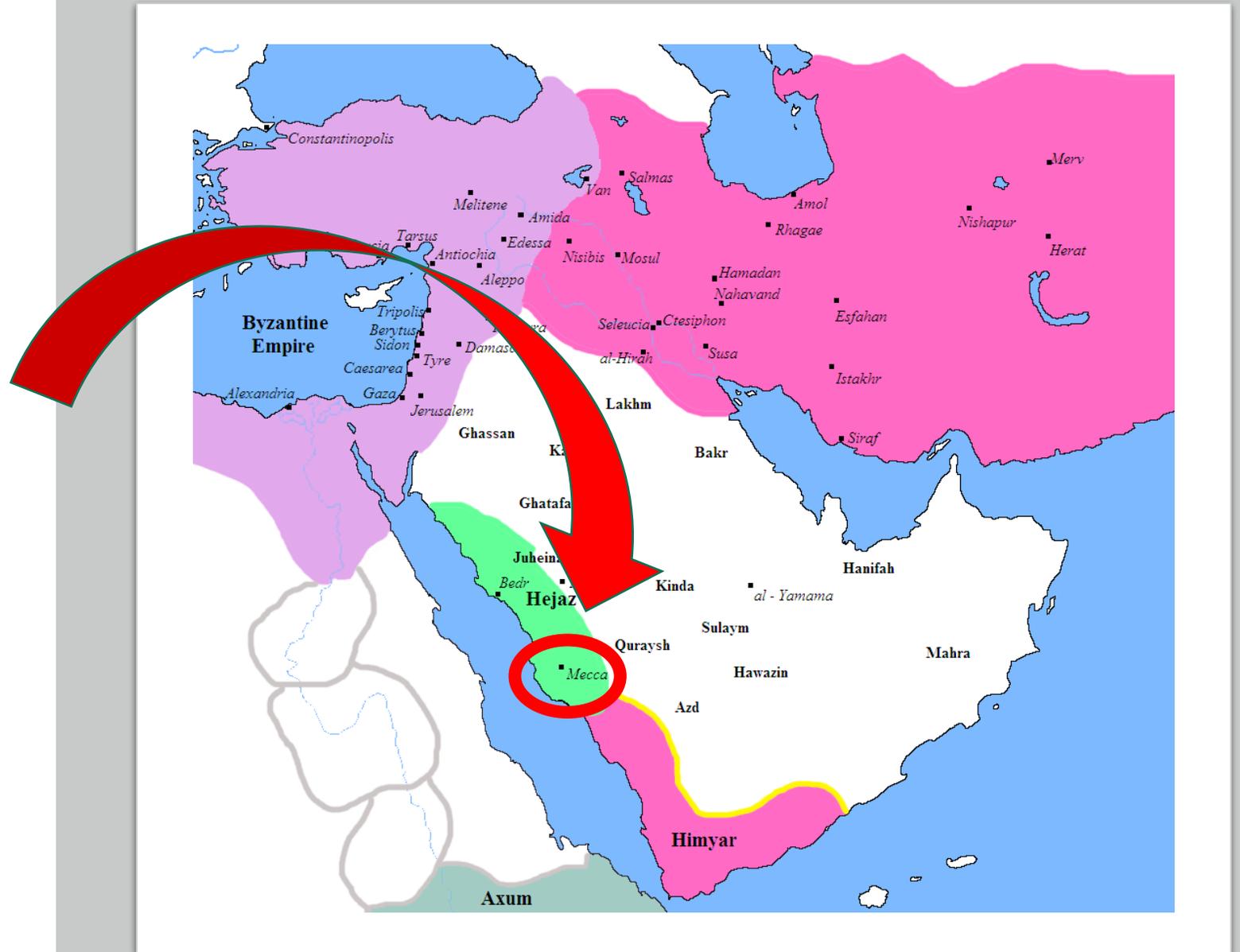


Abrahamism: the religion that gave birth to Islam

Mel

# The Standard Islamic Narrative says...

The Masjid al Haram, the Hajj, Safa and Mecca are in the Hijaz, and were only ever in the Hijaz...



# AJ Deus, paper called “Surah 2: Many Qiblas”

- “The Koran neither commands a **change from Jerusalem**, nor **to Mecca**, but instead to **Al-Haram** in present day **Israel** (as confirmed with orientations from various mosques).” AJ Deus
- The idea that it commands a change from **Jerusalem** does not exist in the quranic text itself. Where did we get that idea from? The SIN proposes it to cover for what was obvious to many in the 8<sup>th</sup> century: there used to be a Hajj to Jerusalem, promoted by **Caliph Abd al Malik**.

# The orientation of prayer rituals is only addressed in Sura 2 of the Koran

- The foolish ones will say, **“What hath turned them from the qibla which they used?”**  
SAY: The East and the West are God's. He guideth whom he will into the right path. Thus have we made you a central people, that ye may be witnesses in regard to mankind, and that the apostle may be a witness in regard to you. **We appointed the qibla which thou formerly hadst, only that we might know him who followeth the apostle,** from him who turneth on his heels: The change is a difficulty, but not to those whom God hath guided. But God will not let your faith be fruitless; for unto man is God Merciful, Gracious.
- We have seen thee **turning thy face towards every part of Heaven;** but we will have thee turn to a qibla which shall please thee. **Turn then thy face towards the sacred Mosque,** and wherever ye be, turn your faces towards that part. They, verily, to whom “the Book” hath been given, know this to be the truth from their Lord: and God is not regardless of what ye do. Even though thou shouldst bring every kind of sign to those who have received the Scriptures, yet thy qibla they will not adopt; nor shalt thou adopt their qibla; nor will one part of them adopt the qibla of the other. And if, after the knowledge which hath come to thee, thou follow their wishes, verily then wilt thou become of the unrighteous.

# What does the Quran say about al-Masjid al-Harām? (“the forbidden place of prostration”)

Credit: Paul Ellis

“The House” eg 2:144, 2:196

“My House” 17:1, 22:25 [it is interesting that it says “my”, as we shall see it was Umar who originally built the masjid on the Temple Mount]

The correspondence between Emperor Leo III & Umar II

**717-741    717-720**



It was ‘Umar, Abū Turāb and Salmān the Persian who composed that (“your P’ourkan”), even though the rumour has got around among you that God sent it down from the heavens...

Credit:  
Murad

# What does the Quran say about **al-Masjid al-Harām**? (“the forbidden place of prostration”)

Credit: Paul Ellis

- {2:127} “...when **Abraham and Ishmael were raising the foundations of the House.**”
- {14:37} (Abraham:) ‘Lord I have **settled some of my progeny** in a valley without progeny by Thy Sacred House’
- {2:196} A pilgrimage (hajj) destination:
  - “Do you not shave your heads until the offering reaches **the place of sacrifice.**”
  - {2:189} The new moon is a marker for the hajj
  - {2:158} No harm in the rituals of Safa and Marwa

- {22:26} And remember when We assigned for Abraham the place of the House: “Ascribe unto me no partners and purify my House for those who circumambulate it, and those who stand, and those who bow, and prostrate.”

# Problems with Mecca fulfilling these ideas about the **al-Masjid al-Ḥarām**

- No sign of Mecca's existence before the year 700
- Why would Hagar and Ishmael go 600 miles from Canaan to an arid desert 600 miles south, ie Mecca in the Hijaz?
- There is no biblical link between the places of Safa and Marwa and the story of Hagar and Ishmael looking for water in the desert.
- Safa and Marwa in Mecca are not hills!
- Bakka and Makah are completely different words

# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

## Reason 1: Link with Abraham

Genesis

22:2,9

Genesis refers to Abraham building an altar on Mount Moriah to sacrifice Isaac upon:

Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the land of **Moriah**. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a **mountain** I will show you.”

When they reached the place God had told him about, **Abraham built an altar there** and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

# The letter b started as a word for house, perhaps linked to altar too?

- The word al-bayt, the house, is linked to the semitic letter beth (ie the letter b). The letter B started off in Egypt as a hieroglyphic (i) and then became the semitic form (ii). It is thought of as a ground plan for a house. The Arabic letter b is this turned upside down. (Might its shape suggest a link with an altar too?)



Hieroglyphic (i)



Ancient semitic form (ii)



Arabic letter, bā'



An altar at Karnak temple, Egypt

# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

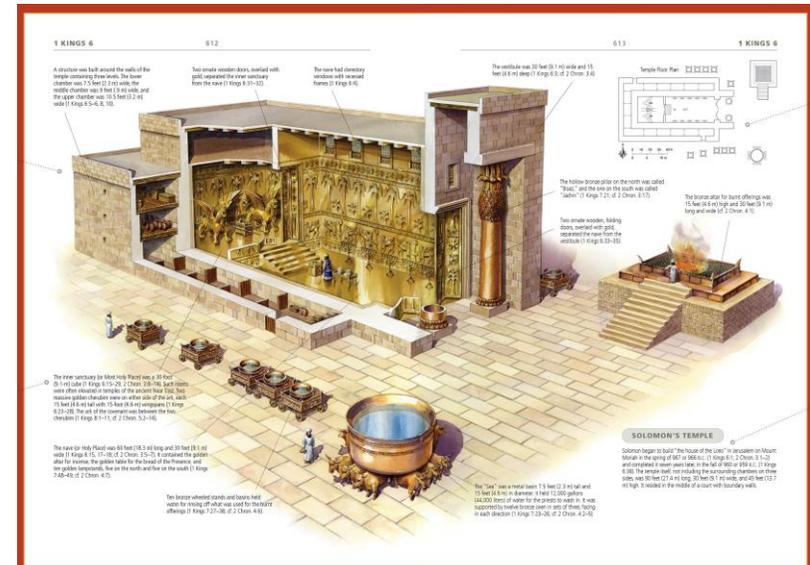
2

Chronicles

3:1

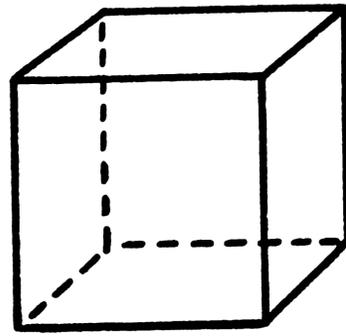
Where Solomon built the first Temple:

Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah**, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.



# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

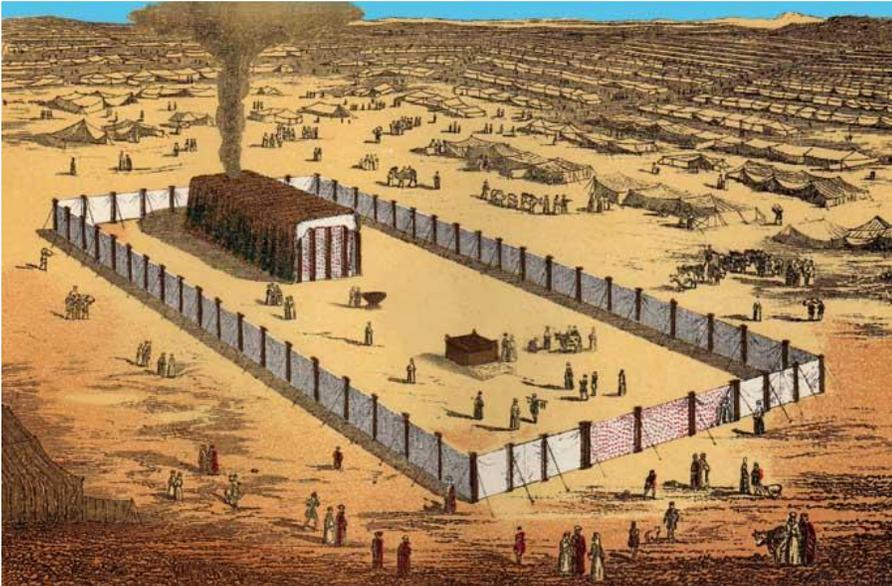
## Reason 2: the Kaaba is a cube?



Exodus  
26

The Tabernacle in the wilderness

The Ark of the Covenant was kept in the holy of holies which was a cubic room. God's presence (the Shekhinah) was believed to be in there.



# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

## Reason 2: the Kaaba is a cube?

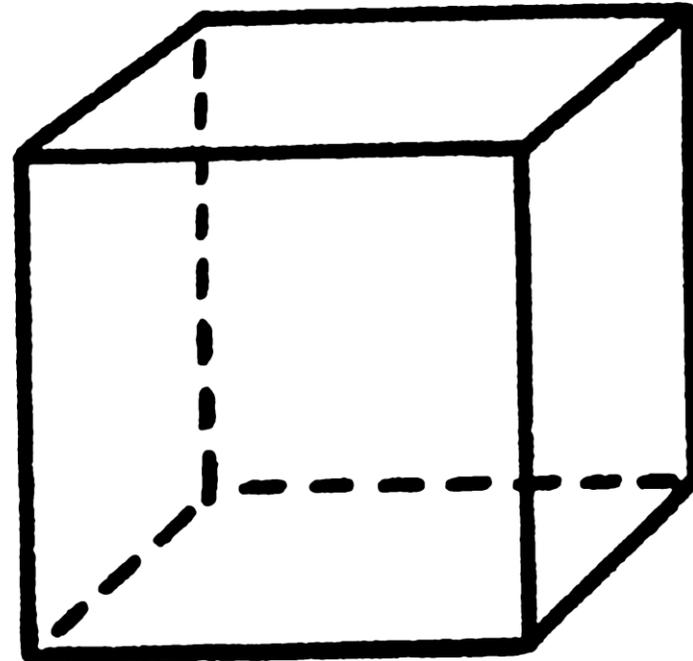
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Where Solomon built the first Temple:

Chronicles

The portico at the front of the temple was **twenty** cubits long across the width of the building and **twenty** cubits high.

3:3

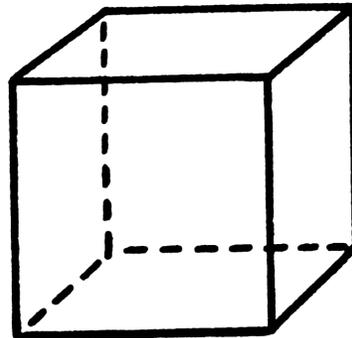


# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

## Reason 2. the Kaaba is a cube?

1 Kings  
6:19-20

He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. The inner sanctuary was **twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high**. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar.



# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

## Reason 3. Hajj - Pilgrimage

Deuteronomy  
16

Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the **Festival of Unleavened Bread**, the **Festival of Weeks** and the **Festival of Tabernacles**. No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed: Each of **you must bring a gift** in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

*Hag Hakatzir*: Festival of Unleavened Bread

Hag HaShavuot: The Feast of Weeks

Hag HaSuccot: Festival of Tabernacles

Exodus 12:24-27

**Sacrifice** of a goat

Eid al Adha

**Hajj** is a clear Arabic borrowing from the Hebrew Hag. The g in Hebrew turned into a J in Arabic. (no logical connection to the Arabic etymology HJJ – "to argue" – Odon Lafontaine). A person who makes the pilgrimage is called a "**haggag**".

Note: all three hag/hajj were made by Jews to the Temple Mount



# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

## Reason 3: Hajj - Pilgrimage

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*Hag Hakatzir*: Festival of Unleavened Bread

Hag HaShavuot: The Feast of Weeks

Hag HaSuccot: Festival of Tabernacles

Mishna Sukkah 4:5  
Prescribes circling the  
Temple seven times  
on the 7<sup>th</sup> day

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Note: all three hag/hajj were made by Jews to the Temple Mount

# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

## Reason 4: The House of God

The Bible refers to the Temple frequently as the “House of God”.

Ezra 1:5

“Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.”

Luke 19:46

“It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

Also, Genesis 28:22, Exodus 34:26, 1 Kings 8:10-13, and many more.

# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount Reason 5: Bakka?

The Quran: “The first house created for mankind at Bakka” 3.96

## Psalm 84

All those  
references in  
bold relate to  
the Temple  
too!

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
LORD Almighty!

<sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints,  
for the **courts** of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh cry out  
for the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may have her young—  
a place near **your altar**,  
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in **your house**;  
they are ever praising you.

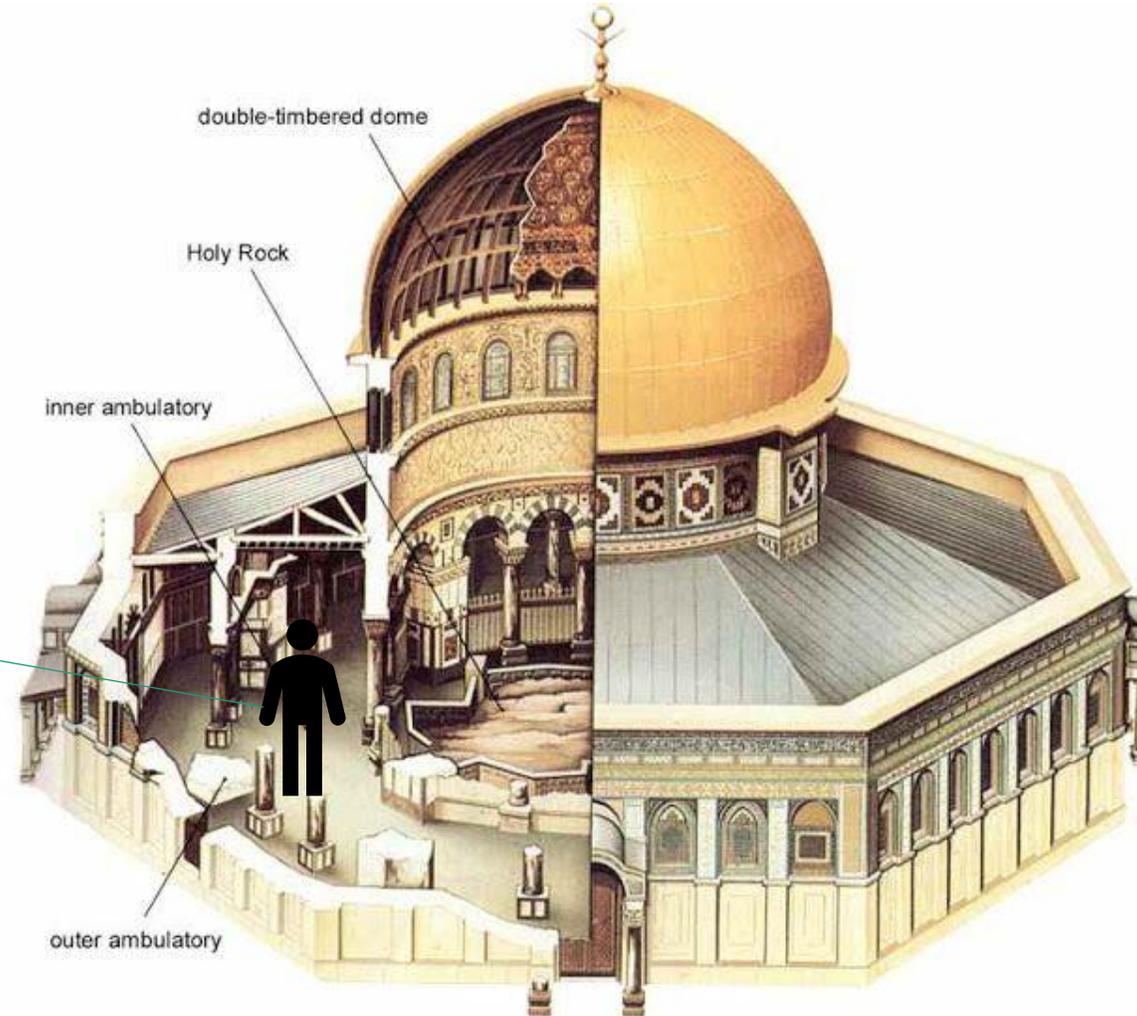
• <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on **pilgrimage**.

<sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baka,  
they make it a place of springs;

# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

## Reason 6: Circumambulation?

The Dome of the Rock was designed to be circumambulated

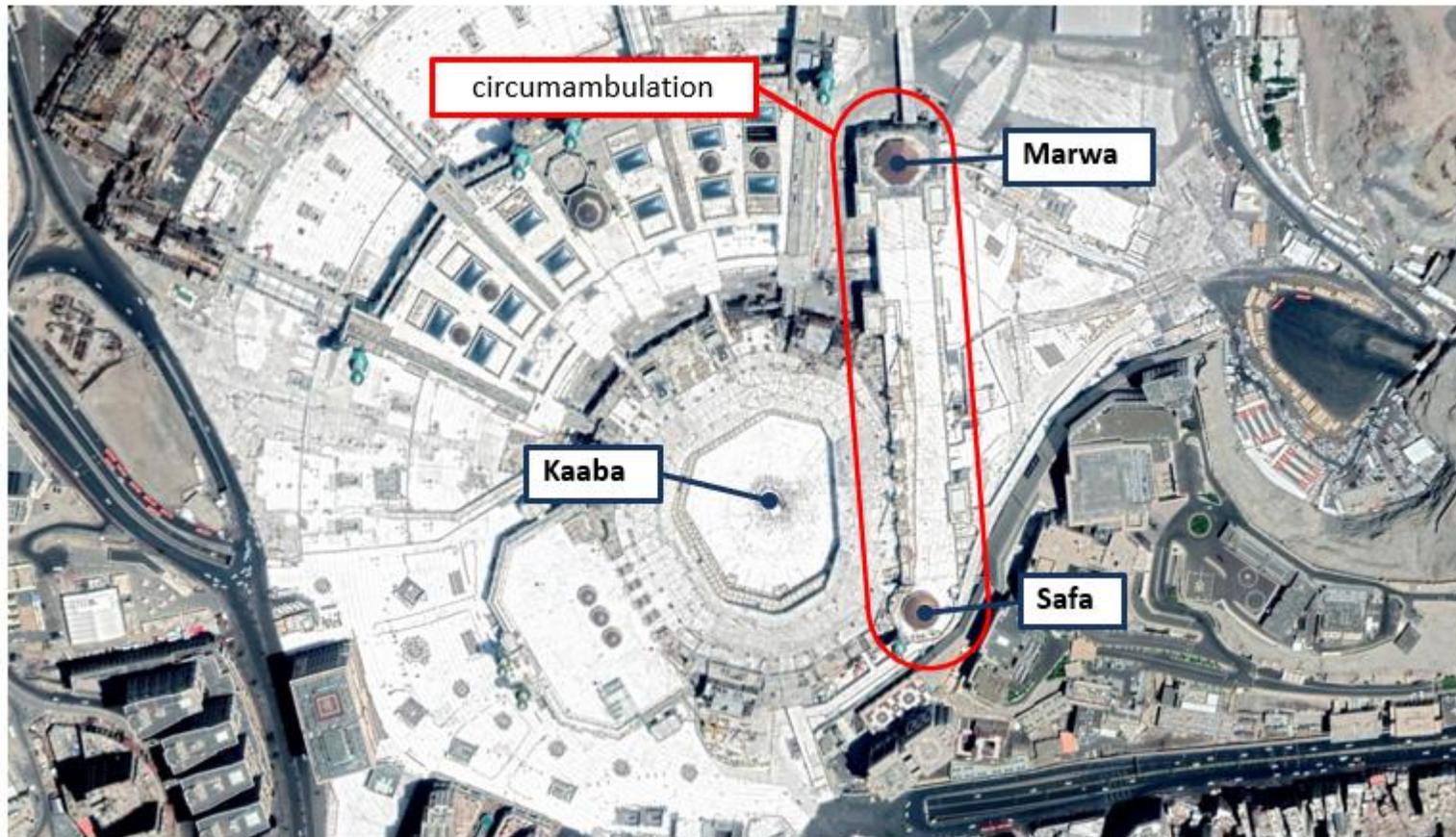


# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

## Reason 7: What about the Safa and Marwa?

Credit: Odon Lafontaine

### Safa and Marwa in Mecca



Safa and Marwa in Mecca have no history prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and no biblical support for their location there.

# al-Masjid al-Ḥarām is the masjid on the Temple Mount

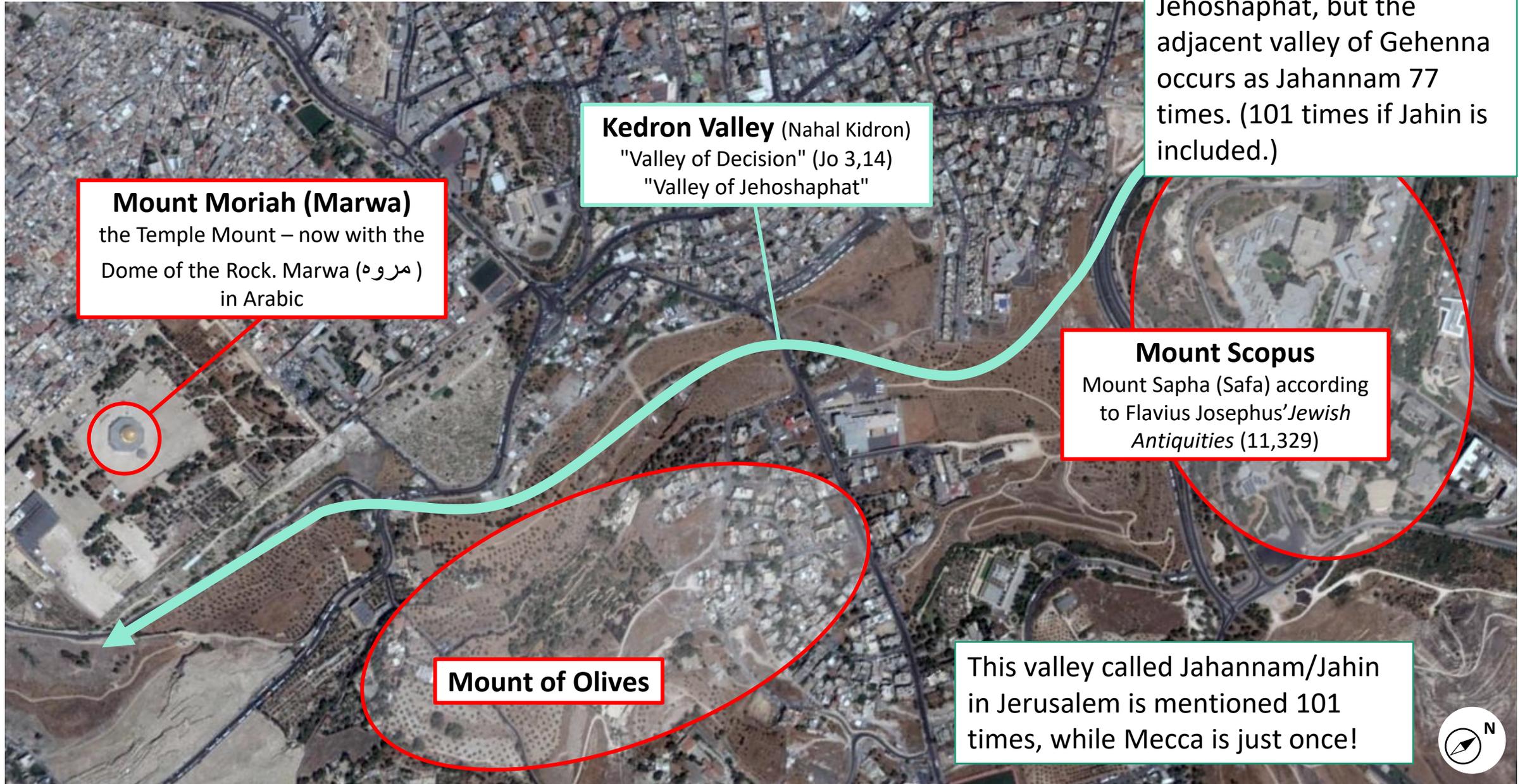
## Reason 7: What about the Safa and Marwa?

We can see despite being hidden under a building that they are not hills, these places in Mecca are just rocky outcrops or boulders.

Safa and Marwa in Mecca



# Mount Scopus and Mount Moriah in Jerusalem



Note from Paul Ellis: The Qur'an doesn't mention Jehoshaphat, but the adjacent valley of Gehenna occurs as Jahannam 77 times. (101 times if Jahin is included.)

**Mount Moriah (Marwa)**  
the Temple Mount – now with the Dome of the Rock. Marwa (مروه) in Arabic

**Kedron Valley** (Nahal Kidron)  
"Valley of Decision" (Jo 3,14)  
"Valley of Jehoshaphat"

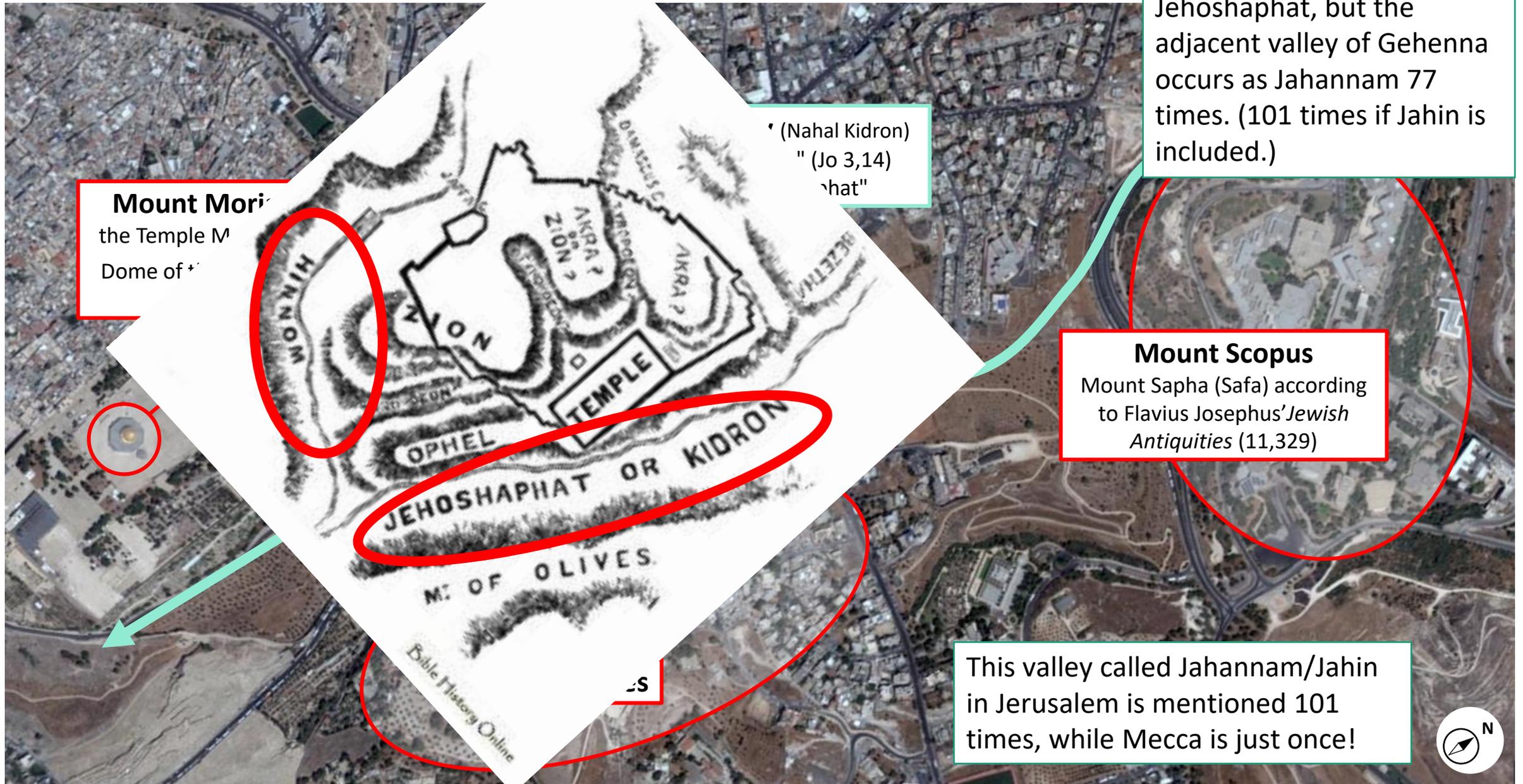
**Mount Scopus**  
Mount Sapha (Safa) according to Flavius Josephus' *Jewish Antiquities* (11,329)

**Mount of Olives**

This valley called Jahannam/Jahin in Jerusalem is mentioned 101 times, while Mecca is just once!



# Mount Scopus and Mount Moriah in Jerusalem



Note from Paul Ellis: The Qur'an doesn't mention Jehoshaphat, but the adjacent valley of Gehenna occurs as Jahannam 77 times. (101 times if Jahin is included.)

**Mount Moriah**  
the Temple Mount  
Dome of the Rock

(Nahal Kidron)  
" (Jo 3,14)  
"Jehoshaphat"

**Mount Scopus**  
Mount Sapha (Safa) according to Flavius Josephus' *Jewish Antiquities* (11,329)

This valley called Jahannam/Jahin in Jerusalem is mentioned 101 times, while Mecca is just once!



# This was a hajj that centred on the Apocalypse!

- **Ibn al-Murajjā, *Faḍā'il Bayt al-Maqdis wa-al-Khalīl wa-Faḍā'il al-Shām***

- **105.** "The rock of Jerusalem is one of the rocks of paradise"

- **113.** "We find in the Torah that [God] said to the Rock of Jerusalem: '*You are my lowest throne, and from you I ascended into heaven, and below you the earth is extended, and all the water that flows from the tops of the mountains comes from below you*'".

- **117.** "The fresh water and the winds that bring rain come from a source [located] below the rock of Jerusalem."

- **Ibn al-Faqīh (10<sup>th</sup> cent.), *Kitāb al-Buldān***

- "Jerusalem is the land which Allah has chosen from among the other lands"

- "Whoever chooses to die in Jerusalem dies as if he died in heaven"

- "All fresh waters have their origin under the rock (of Jerusalem)"

- "The rock is the navel of the world". "God will destroy Gog and Magog in Jerusalem"

- "The gathering and resurrection of the dead will take place in Jerusalem"

# How is it looking so far?

Forbidden Place of Prostration ✓

God's House ✓

The Cube ✓

First House at Bakka ✓

Foundations raised by Abraham and

Ishmael ✓

Abraham settled his progeny nearby ✓

Hajj pilgrimage destination ✓

Animal sacrifice ✓

Circumambulation ✓

Marwa and Safa ✓

Inner sanctuary forbidden to gentiles, Arabs blocked by Jews in 614

Temple often called God's House

Holy of Holies was cubic

Bakka, symbolic of pilgrimage route to Jerusalem, psalm 84

Temple built on Mount Moriah where Abraham built an altar to sacrifice Isaac

Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish nation

The three hag/hajj feasts celebrated at the Temple

Animal sacrifice at Passover, modern hajj finishes with Eid al-Adha

Circumambulation

Marwa and Safa are located in Jerusalem!

Umar's entry into Jerusalem  
in 636/637 AD

# What is this building on the Temple Mount?

Prior to the Dome of the Rock being built in the 690s, the Saracens had built another structure...

# John Moschus, the Pratum spiritual (the spiritual meadow), 7<sup>th</sup> century

Narratives 18 and 19 of this appendix concern Sophronius in his position of patriarch of Jerusalem and are recounted on the authority of a contemporary of his, the archdeacon Theodore. Number 19 tells how:

”the godless Saracens entered the holy city of Christ our Lord, Jerusalem, with the permission of God and in punishment for our negligence, which is considerable, and immediately proceeded in haste to the place which is called the Capitol. They took with them men, some by force, others by their own will, in order **to clean that place and to build that cursed thing, intended for their prayer and which they call a masjid ( midzgitha).**”

Sophronius excommunicated an archdeacon called John, a skilled marble-worker, who did work on this building for pay. (Likely occurred in **636/637 AD**)

The monk Anastasius of Sinai informs us that **he had witnessed clearing work ( ekchoismos) being undertaken on the Temple Mount ca. 660**. Now on Friday, 7 June 659, "there was a violent earthquake in Palestine and many places there collapsed." Very likely the mosque of 'Umar was one of the edifices affected and it was, therefore, incumbent upon **Mu'awiya to have the structure rebuilt**. That both 'Umar and Mu'awiya undertook building projects on the Temple Mount is confirmed by certain of our sources.

Robert Hoyland, Seeing Islam as others Saw it, p 65

# A pilgrim visit in 670...



A French bishop called Arculf who had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem got shipwrecked off the coast of Britain and his account was recorded in Adomnan's writings, who was an Irish monk, in 700 AD at Iona:

- “In that famous place where once stood the magnificently constructed Temple, near the eastern wall, the Saracens now frequent a **rectangular house of prayer** which they have built in a crude manner, constructing it from raised planks and large beams over **some remains of ruins**. This house can, as it is said, accommodate at least 3000 people.”

An area the size of an American football field would accommodate 3000 people approximately.



Next: a mixture of direct evidence and circumstantial evidence for Jerusalem being the focus of an Abd al Malik-sponsored hajj

1



Milestones from all directions to Jerusalem is consistent with it being a centre for hajj

- Abd al Malik repaired the roads connecting his capital Damascus to Jerusalem and linking Jerusalem to its eastern and western hinterlands. The roadworks are evidenced by seven milestones found throughout the region, the oldest of which dates to **May 692** and the latest to **September 704**. The milestones, all containing inscriptions crediting Abd al-Malik, were found, from north to south, in or near Fiq, Samakh, St. George's Monastery of Wadi Qelt, **Khan al-Hathrura**, Bab al-Wad and Abu Ghosh.

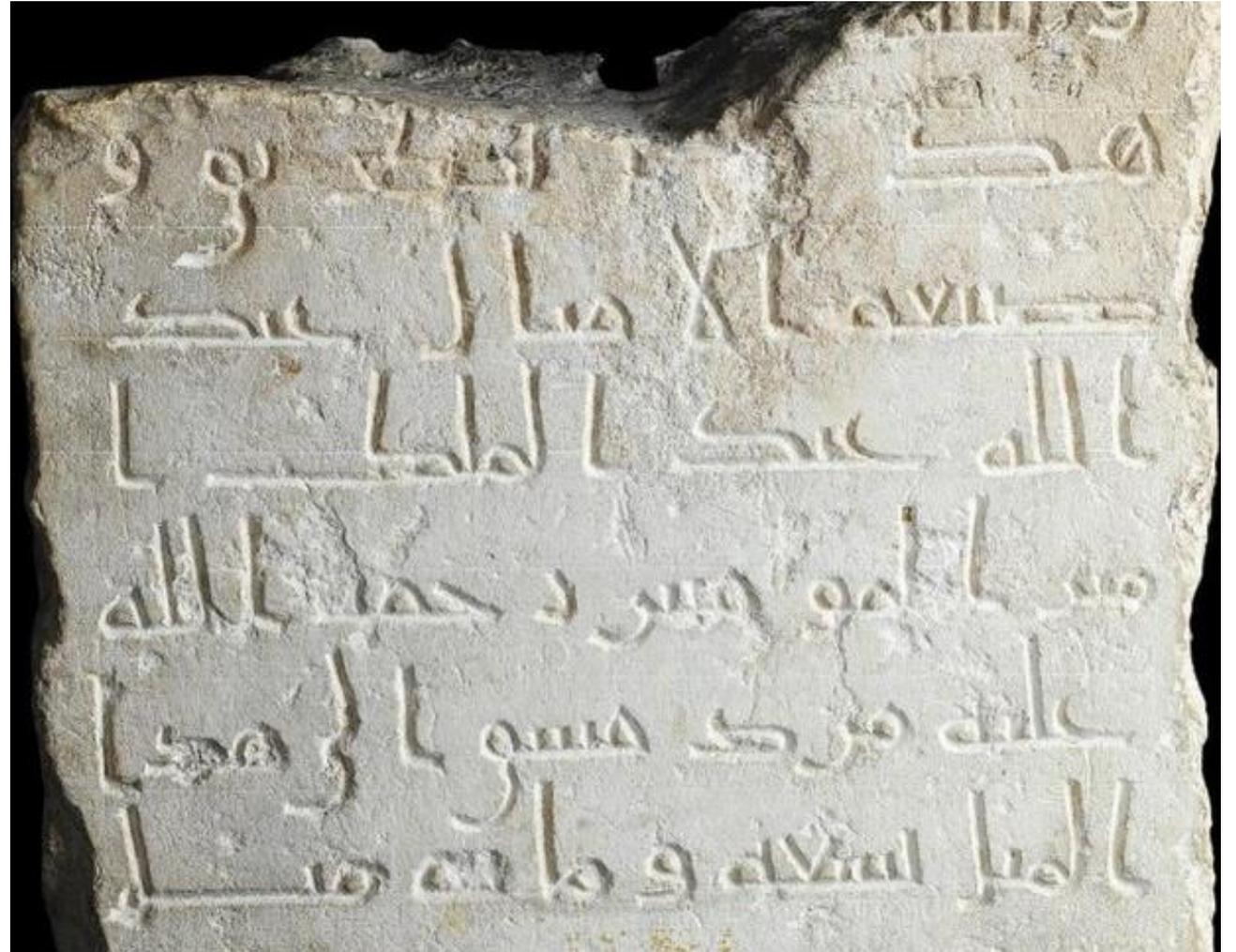
Circumstantial

1

## Location: Khan al-Hathrura, west of Jericho

"Basmalah. There is no god but Allah alone; He has no companion. Muhammad is the messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and give him peace. Has ordered the repair of this road, and the construction of the milestones the servant of Allah, Abd al-Malik, the Commander of the Faithful. May Allah's mercy be upon him. **From Damascus to this milestone [there are] one hundred and nine miles.**"

Circumstantial



# 1

- Another milestone near Tiberius includes this: “The servant of God Abd al-Malik, Commander of the faithful ordered the straightening of this mountain road.”
- Dated either 693 or 702 AD

Circumstantial

- The link between the Hajj and Abd Al Malik's Safa and Marwa is further strengthened by the following Papyrus, written by none other than his nephew, Sahl bin 'Abd al-Azīz, in Egypt to a governor who he is encouraging to take part in it, dated between 707 and 717AD!



Direct evidence

I have mentioned the pilgrimage (Ḥajj). The commander of the believers has **proclaimed** it to the people and he has **exhorted** (them) to it.

- He writes: "In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful, from Sahl bin 'Abd al-Azīz to 'U]qba bin Muslim. Peace be upon you and I thank for your sake God besides Whom there is no] god but He. Now then, **I have mentioned the pilgrimage (Ḥajj). The commander of the believers has proclaimed it to the people and he has exhorted (them) to it.** So if you are able to go out with me, then do so, for, [i]f you want to do [.....] this, God willing. Go out to me with my riding camels and do not oblige yourself to anything besides the rental costs of a camel. Peace be upon you and the mercy of God."
- We can see that Sahl is trying to promote his uncle's hajj. The commander of the believers was likely Walid when this was written but I think seeing as the Hajj was already going in 701/702, possibly earlier, it had to be the former commander of the believers, *amīr al-mu'minīn*, Abd Al Malik, that was being referred to.

Direct evidence

3

## Circumstantial

The Masjid Al  
Harim  
inscription  
(697/698AD),  
Huma al-  
Numoor, NW  
of Ta'if



Al-Rayyān b. ‘Abdullāh testifies that there is no god but God and he testifies that Muḥammad is the Messenger of God. then reiterates to those to come to testify to that, God have mercy on al-Rayyān.

May He forgive him and cause him to be guided to the path of Paradise and I ask him for martyrdom in his path. Amen.

This was written **in the year the Masjid al-Ḥarām was built** in the seventy eighth year. **[697/698]**

Circumstantial

# The Dome of the Rock includes this inscription

- “[] Hath built this dome, the servant of Allah Abd al-Malik, Commander of the Faithful in the year **two and seventy** ...”
- 72 or 78?
- Possible solution for this anomaly: do we count the foundation or the completion date as the year it was built?

The Sagrada Familia in Barcelona: the start of the build was 1882, it's still not complete. When will we say it was built?



# The monikers are a clue too...

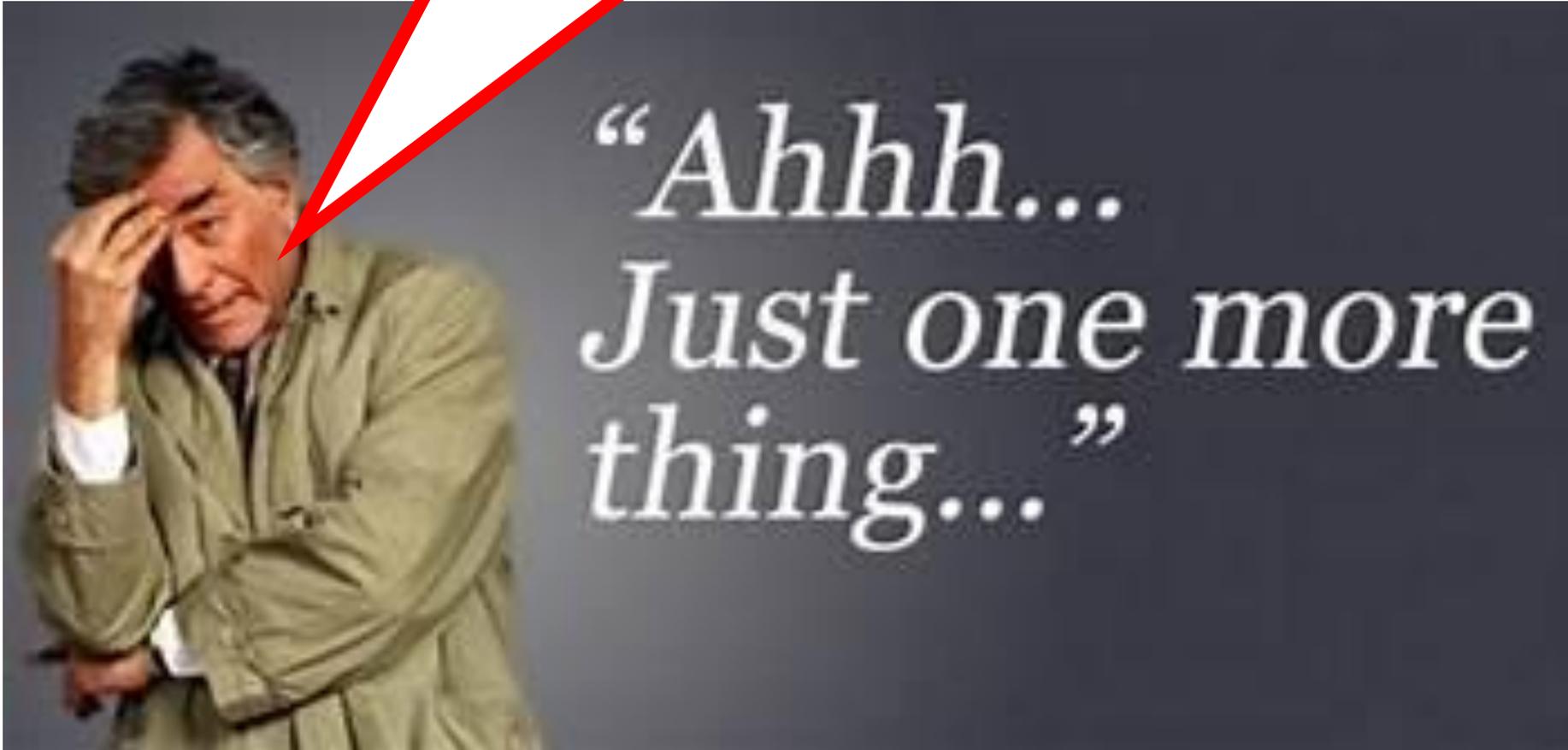
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- Abd al Malik's name includes "Ibn Marwan". Was Marwan really his father's name or was it another moniker which suggests a link to the **Marwa** on which he built the **Dome of the Rock**?
- His right hand man also has an interesting moniker "Al **hajjaj**" – a man who organised this hajj and known for his pilgrimages to Jerusalem?

Ibn Marwan: Son of Moriah/son of the Temple Mount  
Hajjaj/Haggag: the Pilgrim to Jerusalem



What about the  
Zamzam well?



# What about the Zamzam well?

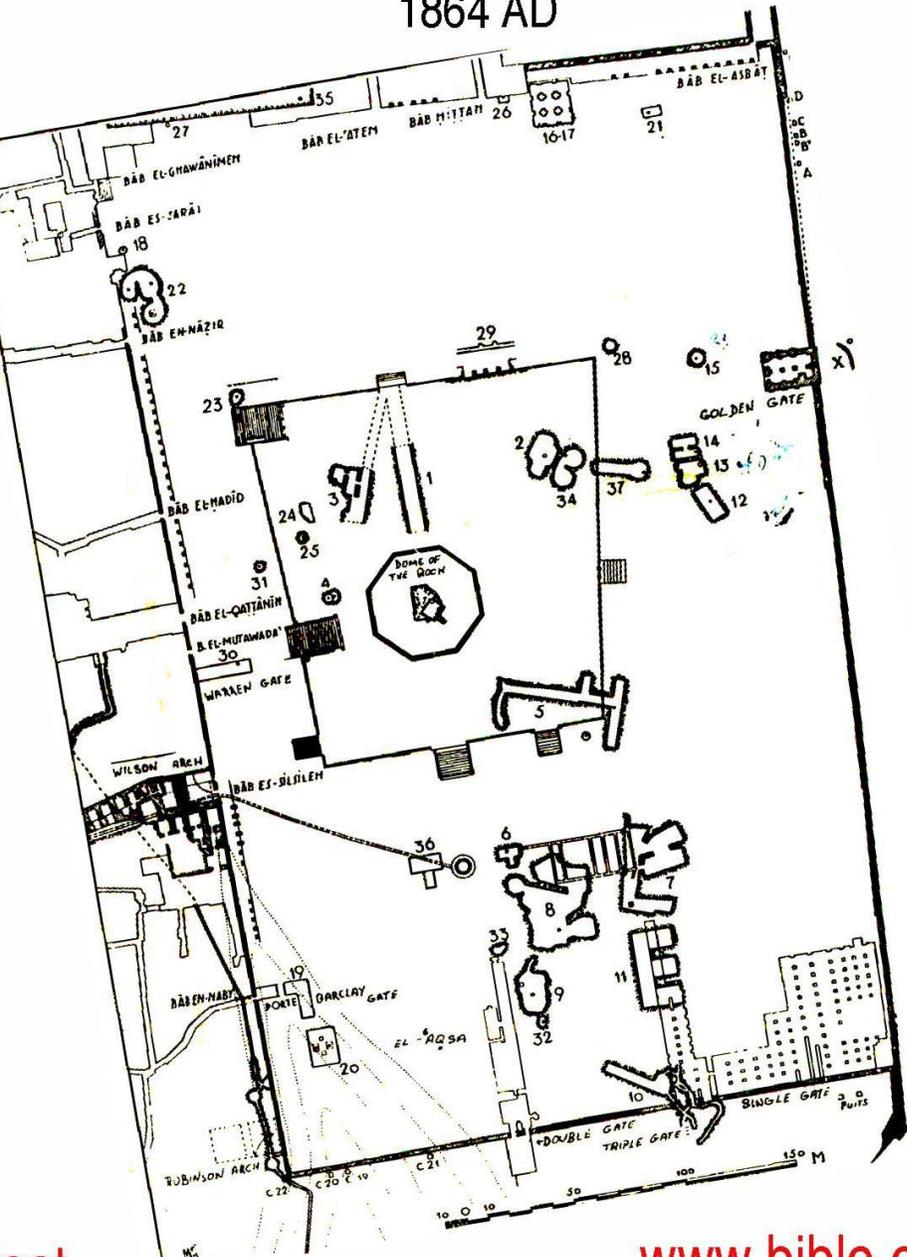
- The word Zimzum in Hebrew relates to the sound the water makes, ie the gurgling of water. [Leon Peretz]
- So the Zamzam well is a well that makes a noise.
  
- We have a 570 AD source that might solve this: a man from Piacenza (in northern Italy) made a pilgrimage to the holy land and left a written account in Latin.

# From an account of the Piacenza pilgrim to Jerusalem, dated 570AD

19. To the side there is the altar where Abraham was going to offer up Isaac (Gen 22), and where Melchizedek made his sacrifice (Gen 14:18). **On that altar is a crack: when you put your ear on it you hear the sound of running water.** If you toss an apple onto it, or anything which will float, and you go to the **spring of Siloam** you will see it there. Between Siloam and Golgotha I think there is about a mile. Jerusalem has no water source apart from the **Siloam spring**.



# Temple Mount Charles Wilson and Charles Warren 1864 AD



I have tried to find corroborating information on this...

- Charles Wilson and Charles Warren did a survey of Jerusalem in 1864AD

Source: <https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-jerusalem-temple-mount-charles-wilson-charles-warren.htm>

**The Mosque of Omar**, or Dome of the Rock, stands on a platform a little to the west of the centre of the enclosure. The Dome of the Chain, or Tribunal of the Prophet David, is as near as possible in the centre of the enclosure.

The Dome of the Rock is a magnificent building, erected over and around the **Sakhra**. The Sakhra is a portion of the natural rock, the summit of Mount Moriah; its highest point stands 4 feet 9.5 inches above the marble floor of the Mosque, and is 2,440 feet above the level of the sea.

Beneath the Sakhra there is a cave, which is entered by descending some steps on the south-east side. The cave itself is about 9 feet high in the highest part, and 22 feet 6 inches square; a **hole** has been cut through from the upper surface of the rock into the chamber beneath, and there is a corresponding **hole** immediately under it, which leads to a drain down to the valley of the Kedron. **This hole is supposed to have been made for the purpose of carrying off the blood of the animals sacrificed on the rock when it was the altar of burnt offerings to the Temple.**

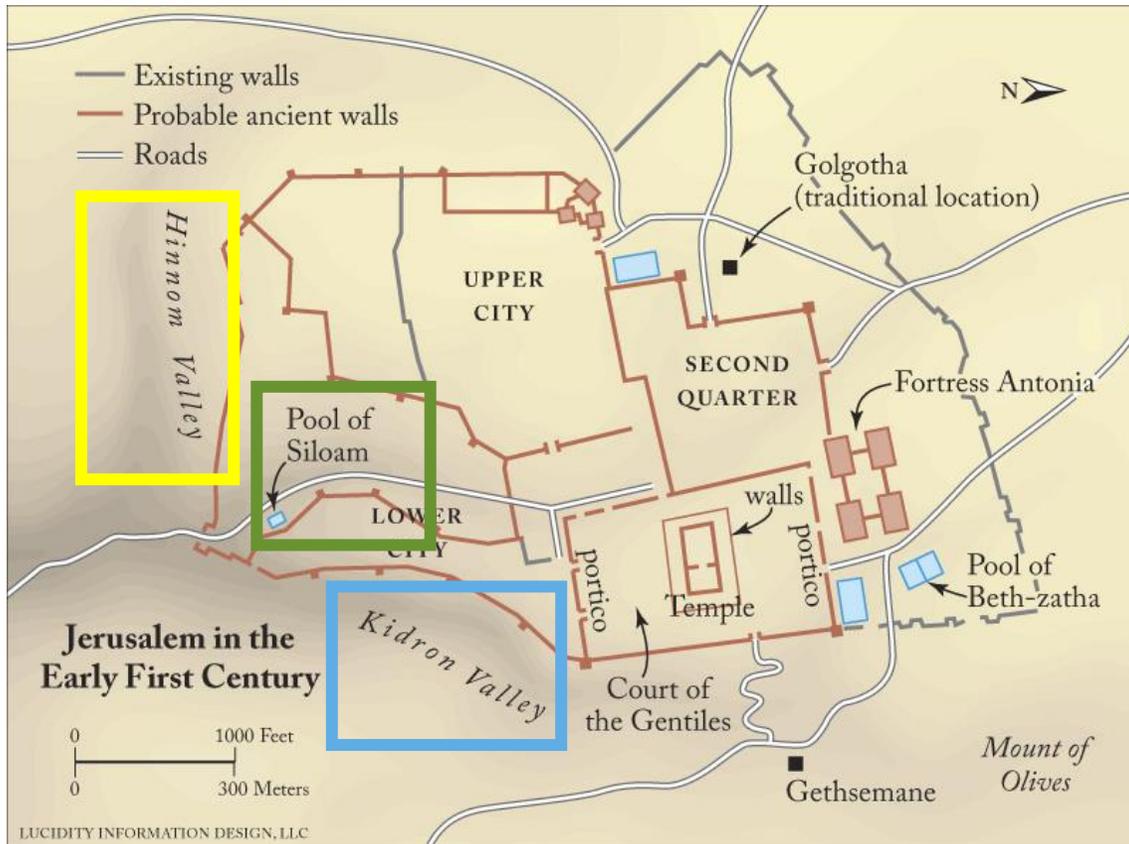
**The Mahometans venerate this rock as the spot from which, according to their belief, their prophet ascended to heaven.**

# The pool of Siloam may be the original Zamzam well.

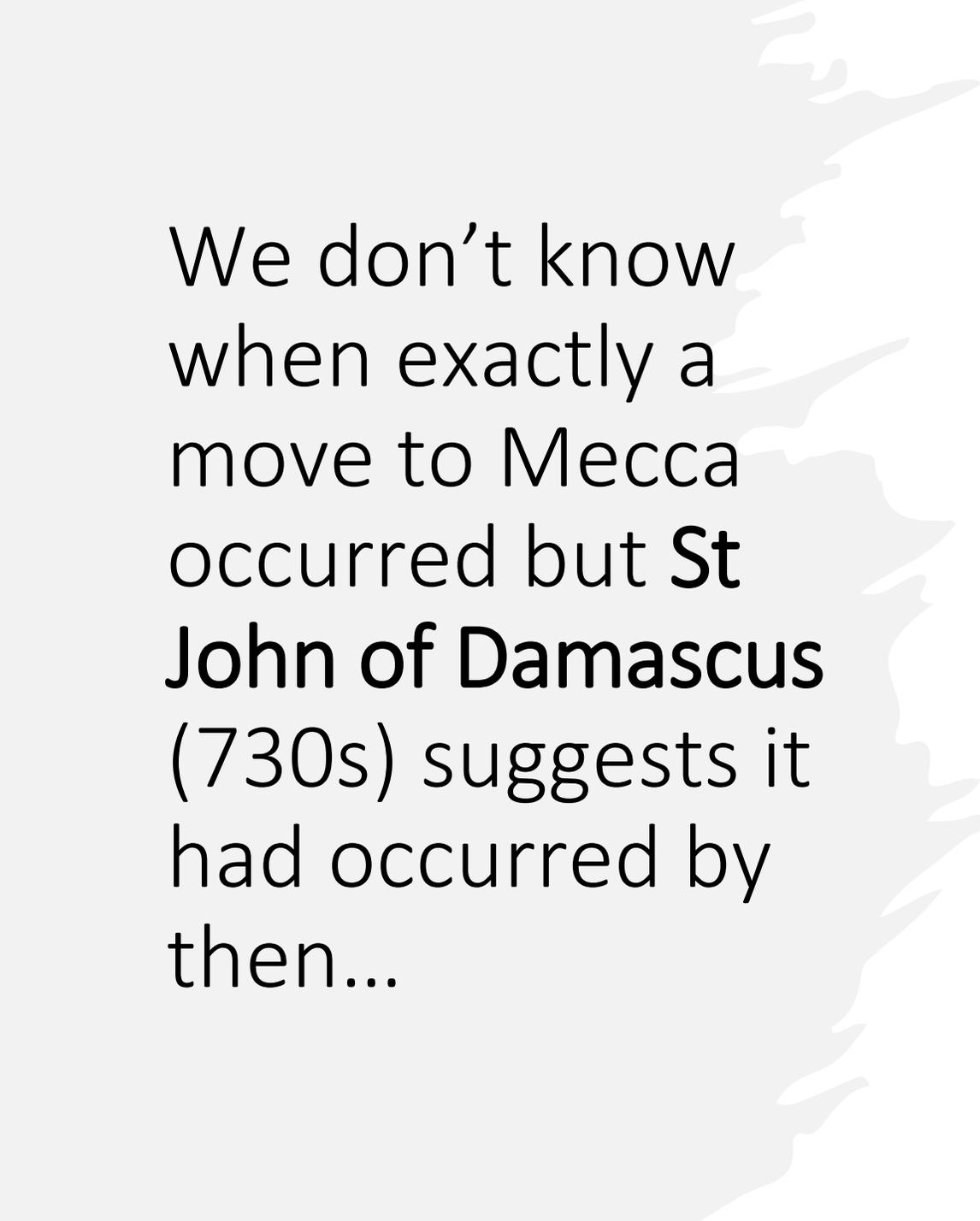
During the festival of Tabernacles, the Hag HaSuccot, the ceremony of the Drawing of the Water occurred from the pool of Siloam. During the singing of the designated Psalms, the Jews joined in with responses, offering their Hallelujahs, their Hosannas, and the Messianic greeting, "**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!**" ([Ps.118:26](#)) At this ceremony, Jesus had said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ([John 7:37,38](#)) The pouring out of the water in the ceremony was looking forward to the time when God would pour out the Holy Spirit upon the nation.



The Pool of Siloam was where Jesus healed another blind man.



- According to the Jerusalem Talmud, the Pool of Siloam was **the starting point for pilgrims** who made the annual pilgrimage to **Jerusalem**, and where they ascended by foot to the inner court of the **Temple Mount** to bring their sacrificial offerings.
- Source: [Moses Margolies' commentary Pnei Moshe on Jerusalem Talmud \(Hagigah 1:1 3a-b\)](#)
- We can now see how Marwa and Safa somehow became linked to Hagar's search for water: this Jerusalem hajj started at the pool of Siloam, went up to Moriah/Marwa and onto Scopus/Safa, and then around again. The tradition was set.



We don't know when exactly a move to Mecca occurred but **St John of Damascus** (730s) suggests it had occurred by then...

They furthermore accuse us of being idolaters, because we venerate the cross, which they abominate. And we answer them: 'How is it, then, that you rub yourselves against a stone in your Ka'ba and kiss and embrace it?' And some of them say Abraham had relations with Hagar upon it, and others that he tied up the camel around it when about to sacrifice Isaac. And we respond to them, "The Scripture says that there was a mountain like a **grove, and wood from which also Abraham cut for the whole burnt offering on which he laid Isaac, and that he left the donkeys with the servants.** Therefore, from what source is your foolish saying? For **there is no wood of a forest lying in that place, nor travelling by donkeys.**"



Late 18th century, Aga Khan museum

## Under Caliph Mansur in 754, signs of work on Mecca

Work was put into enlarging and decorating Mecca in the Hijaz in the 750s during his reign. Source: *Kitab akhbar Makka, Book of Reports about Mecca*, author Al-Azraqi, dated before 865. "Two pious mosaic inscriptions commemorating al-Mansur, founder of Baghdad, who enlarged and decorated the area, executed in black on a gold ground. 'The first house appointed to Me was the one at Bakka', *Koran*, 3.96 is one of two inscriptions."



# Under Caliph Mansur...

Mansur founded a new city in 762, Madinat al-Salam (City of Peace), remarkably similar in meaning to Jerusalem (Town of Peace).



Thanks for watching!