

יום ירושלים *Yom Ye-roo-sha-li-eem* Jerusalem Day



Jerusalem Day -- *Yom Yerushalayim*, is an annual Israeli national holiday celebrated on Iyar 28. According to the 1947 UN Partition Plan, Jerusalem was supposed to be an international city, not part of either the proposed Jewish or Arab state. However, the Jordanians defied the UN and the city was divided between Israeli and Jordanian control during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Nineteen years later, on June 6, 1967, East Jerusalem was captured by Israel during the Six Day War.

Following that victory, on June 27, 1967, the government presented the Knesset with three law proposals. These proposals dealt with the annexation of Jerusalem and sanctioned the application of Israeli law in the entire area of the city. The municipal boundaries of the city were altered and its area was increased threefold: from 38,100 dunams to 110,000 dunams. At the same time a law was adopted that enabled free access to the holy places by the members of every religion.

On May 12, 1968 the government decided to make the 28th of Iyar the symbolic holiday, "Jerusalem Day," designed to "symbolize the continued historical connection of the Jewish People to Jerusalem." In 1980, this holiday became anchored in law when the Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel was adopted. This law determined that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel and the seat of all government ministries and national agencies. Due to the unresolved status of the city in the Arab-Israeli peace process (see Oslo Accords), and international non-recognition of the annexation, most governments maintain their embassies in Tel Aviv, including the US Embassy.

On March 23, 1998 the Knesset passed the second and third readings of the "Jerusalem Day Law", which reiterated that the date that Jerusalem was "liberated" during the Six Day War was now a national holiday.

The status of *Yom Yerushalayim* in Jewish religious life seems more ambiguous than the religious status of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day). Following the model of *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, the Chief Rabbinate of Israel has decided that this day

should also be marked with the recital of *Hallel* (psalms of praise), and with the lengthier version of *Psukei d'Zimra* (the psalms in the earlier part of the morning service). It is quite clear that ultra-Orthodox Jews, in Israel and abroad, have not accepted *Yom Yerushalayim*, but it is not clear how many Orthodox Jews chant the *Hallel* psalms on this day.

A common citation in *Yom Yerushalayim* celebrations in Israel is the quote (Psalm 122:4) *Ir shehubrah lah yahdaiv*-- "a city that is compact together" or "a city uniting all."

Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Day,
http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Modern_Holidays/Yom_Yerushalayim.htm