

Islamic Online Madrasah - IOM



Bachelor in Dawah and Islamic Studies

Research Topic:

Why Palestine is Important for Muslims?

Supervisor	Submitted by
Mufti Mujibur Rahman Ustadh , Aqeeda & Fiqh Department Islamic Online Madrasah	Nusrat Jahan Trisha ID: 227020934 Islamic Online Madrasah

Date: 30 November 2024

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This is an ancillary research paper of the Department of Dawah and Islamic studies.

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TESTIMONIAL

This is to certify that the research paper named “**Why Palestine is Important for Muslims?**” has been written with excellence under the supervision of myself by **Nusrat Jahan Trisha, ID: 227020934**, from the Department of Dawah and Islamic Studies, Islamic Online Madrasah.

Supervised by

Mufti Mujibur Rahman

Ustadh,

Aqeeda & Fiqh Department.

Islamic Online Madrasah

External

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I declare that this research paper, “**Why Palestine is Important for Muslims?**” has been written by myself under Ustadh Mujibur Rahman, Department of Dawah and Islamic Studies, Islamic Online Madrasah. Any part of this paper is not meant to be used by any institution for any other degree or diploma.

I also declare that. This research paper is my creation. According to my knowledge, research papers with this title have yet to be submitted.



Nusrat Jahan Trisha

ID: 227020934

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Chapter 01

ABSTRACT

Palestine holds profound significance for Muslims worldwide, rooted in its religious sanctity, historical legacy, and sociopolitical relevance. This study explores why Palestine is central to Islamic theology, focusing on its association with Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first Qibla in Islam, and its role in the Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ Night Journey (Isra Wal Miraj), as referenced in the Quran:

“Glory be to Him Who took His servant by night from Al-Masjid al-Haram to Al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed...” (Surah Al-Isra, 17:1).

Further emphasis on the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque is found in the hadith where the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“Do not undertake a journey to visit any mosque except three: Al-Masjid al-Haram, the Mosque of the Messenger of Allah, and the Mosque of Al-Aqsa.” (Sahih al-Bukhari, 1189).

Historically, Palestine served as a beacon of Islamic governance, cultural advancement, and interfaith coexistence, particularly during the early Islamic caliphates. In contemporary times, Palestine has evolved into a unifying symbol for Muslims, embodying resilience against oppression and a collective commitment to justice and dignity.

This research also examines the challenges faced by the Muslim world in advocating for Palestine amidst geopolitical fragmentation and external pressures. By integrating theological insights, historical analysis, and modern political contexts, the study highlights how Palestine continues to inspire unity and moral responsibility among Muslims. Ultimately, this exploration underscores the multifaceted importance of Palestine as a sacred, historical, and ethical pillar within the Islamic worldview.

Chapter 02

INTRODUCTION

2.1 Context and Relevance:

Palestine, located in the eastern Mediterranean, is a land of unparalleled historical, cultural, and spiritual significance. For Muslims, it holds a unique place in their faith, primarily due to its association with Al-Quds (Jerusalem) and Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam after the Kaaba in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. The region is often referred to in Islamic texts as *ard al-muqaddasah* (the Holy Land) and is described in the Quran as a "blessed land":

"And We delivered him [Prophet Ibrahim] and Lot to the land which We had blessed for all people." (Surah Al-Anbiya, 21:71).

The significance of Palestine extends beyond its religious importance. It is deeply interwoven with the historical trajectory of Islamic civilization, from the early Muslim conquests to its stewardship under various Islamic caliphates. Jerusalem became a focal point for Islamic architectural and cultural development, as seen in landmarks such as the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

2.2 Why This Study Matters:

In modern times, Palestine has become a symbol of struggle, justice, and solidarity for Muslims globally. Its current political realities, including the occupation and displacement of its people, have further elevated its importance in the collective Muslim consciousness. Supporting Palestine is seen as both a spiritual and ethical duty, fulfilling the Quranic command to stand against oppression:

"And why should you not fight in the cause of Allah and for the oppressed among men, women, and children who say, 'Our Lord, take us out of this city of oppressive people and appoint for us from Yourself a protector and appoint for us from Yourself a helper?'" (Surah An-Nisa, 4:75).

2.3 Scope and Objectives:

This study aims to delve into the multifaceted importance of Palestine for Muslims by examining three key dimensions:

1. Theological: Its religious significance as described in the Quran and Hadith, particularly the role of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its connection to major Islamic events like the Isra and Miraj.
2. Historical: The legacy of Palestine under Islamic governance, highlighting its contributions to Islamic culture, architecture, and interfaith coexistence.
3. Sociopolitical: Its modern role as a symbol of unity and resistance, emphasizing the collective responsibility of Muslims to advocate for justice and the preservation of sacred sites.

2.4 Thesis Statement:

Palestine's importance for Muslims lies in its unparalleled spiritual sanctity, its pivotal role in the historical evolution of Islamic civilization, and its enduring relevance as a symbol of unity, resilience, and moral responsibility in contemporary times.

Chapter 03

Palestine in Islamic Theology

3.1 Core Religious Foundations:

Palestine is frequently referred to as a "blessed land" in the Quran and Hadith. This blessing is not only spiritual but also material, signifying its abundance in resources and its sacred status. The Quran highlights Palestine's sanctity in several verses:

- Blessed Land:

“And We delivered him [Prophet Ibrahim] and Lot to the land which We had blessed for all people.” (Surah Al-Anbiya, 21:71)

This verse associates Palestine with the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham), emphasizing its status as a land blessed by Allah for all humanity.

- Surroundings of Al-Aqsa Mosque:

“Glory be to Him Who took His servant by night from Al-Masjid al-Haram to Al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing.” (Surah Al-Isra, 17:1)

This verse directly references Al-Aqsa Mosque and its sacred surroundings, affirming its spiritual centrality in Islam.

The Quran also recognizes Palestine as part of the land promised to the Children of Israel, a significant theme in Islamic theology, highlighting the historical and divine significance of the region.

3.2 The Isra Wal Miraj Connection:

The Isra and Miraj, a pivotal event in Islamic theology, underscores the spiritual connection between Muslims and Palestine. This miraculous journey involved two key stages:

1. Isra (Night Journey): The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was taken by Allah from Al-Masjid al-Haram in Mecca to Al-Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem.

2. Miraj (Ascension to the Heavens): From Al-Aqsa Mosque, he ascended through the heavens, where he met various prophets and received the command for the five daily prayers.

The centrality of Al-Aqsa Mosque in this event highlights its enduring significance in Islamic worship and belief. The Prophet's journey established Palestine, particularly Jerusalem, as a spiritual axis linking the earthly and the divine.

- A Hadith recounts:

“I was brought the Buraq, a white animal, larger than a donkey but smaller than a mule, which would place its hoof a distance equal to the range of vision. I mounted it, and came to Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem).” (Sahih Muslim, 162a).

3.3 Role of Al-Aqsa Mosque:

Al-Aqsa Mosque, also known as Bayt al-Maqdis, holds a special place in Islam:

- First Qibla (Direction of Prayer):
Before the qibla was changed to the Kaaba in Mecca, Muslims prayed facing Al-Aqsa Mosque, signifying its initial role as a focal point of Islamic worship.
- Third Holiest Mosque in Islam:
A Hadith by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) states:

“Do not undertake a journey to visit any mosque except three: Al-Masjid al-Haram, the Mosque of the Messenger of Allah, and the Mosque of Al-Aqsa.” (Sahih al-Bukhari, 1189).

- Special Rewards for Prayers in Al-Aqsa:

“A prayer in Al-Masjid al-Haram is equivalent to one hundred thousand prayers, a prayer in my mosque (in Medina) is equivalent to one thousand prayers, and a prayer in Al-Aqsa Mosque is equivalent to five hundred prayers.” (Musnad Ahmad, 14550).

These traditions emphasize the importance of visiting and praying in Al-Aqsa Mosque as an act of devotion.

3.4 Role in End-Time Prophecies:

Islamic eschatology often places Palestine at the center of significant end-time events:

- **The Return of Prophet Isa (Jesus):**
According to Islamic teachings, Prophet Isa will return to Palestine near the end of time, descending near the white minaret of Damascus and leading believers in the final struggle against falsehood (Dajjal).
- **Final Gatherings of the Believers:**
A Hadith states:

“There will be a migration upon migration. The best of the inhabitants of the earth will reside where Prophet Ibrahim migrated [Palestine].” (Sunan Abu Dawood, 2482).

3.5 Palestine as a Sanctified and Blessed Land:

The blessings of Palestine are both spiritual and worldly:

- **Spiritual Sanctity:** The land is home to numerous prophets, including Ibrahim (Abraham), Dawud (David), Sulayman (Solomon), and Isa (Jesus). It is where many revelations were received and where significant events of Islamic history occurred.
- **Worldly Blessings:** The fertility and abundance of the land are highlighted in Islamic tradition, making it a place of physical and spiritual sustenance.

Chapter 04

Historical Legacy in the Islamic World

Palestine's historical significance in Islam is profound, reflecting its role as a spiritual and administrative center under Islamic governance. From its early incorporation into the Islamic Caliphate to its development as a symbol of coexistence and culture, Palestine has consistently occupied a central place in Muslim history.

4.1 The Early Muslim Conquests

Under the Rashidun Caliphate, Jerusalem (Al-Quds) came under Islamic rule in 637 CE, during the caliphate of Umar ibn al-Khattab. This was a pivotal moment for Palestine's history in Islam.

1. The Peaceful Conquest of Jerusalem:

The entry of Muslims into Jerusalem was marked by peace and tolerance, distinguishing it from previous conquests by other empires. When the Byzantine Patriarch Sophronius requested a treaty, Caliph Umar personally traveled to Jerusalem to ensure the peaceful transfer of power.

○ Covenant of Umar:

Umar's treaty guaranteed the safety of Christians and Jews, their places of worship, and their rights to religious practice. This treaty is a key example of Islamic governance promoting coexistence.

"This is the assurance of safety which the servant of Allah, the Commander of the Faithful, grants to the people of Jerusalem. He gives them an assurance of safety for their lives, their possessions, their churches, their crosses... Their churches shall not be inhabited nor destroyed..." (Covenant of Umar).

2. Religious Recognition:

Caliph Umar's visit to Al-Aqsa included a moment of profound humility and respect. When offered to pray inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, he declined, fearing Muslims might later convert it

into a mosque. This act exemplified Islam's emphasis on protecting the rights of other faiths.

4.2 Symbol of Peaceful Coexistence

Under Islamic rule, Palestine became a unique center of interfaith coexistence:

- **Respect for People of the Book:**

Muslims are commanded to respect Jews and Christians, referred to as "People of the Book" (*Ahl al-Kitab*), and this principle was upheld in Palestine.

"Do not argue with the People of the Book except in a way that is best, except for those who commit injustice among them." (**Surah Al-Ankabut, 29:46**).

- **Jewish Return to Jerusalem:**

After centuries of exclusion under the Byzantines, Muslims allowed Jews to return to Jerusalem, reinforcing the Islamic principle of fairness and justice.

4.3 Islamic Contributions to the Region

During the Umayyad Caliphate, Palestine witnessed significant development as an Islamic hub:

1. **The Dome of the Rock:**

Built by Caliph Abd al-Malik in 691 CE, the Dome of the Rock is one of Islam's most iconic structures. It was erected on the site where Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is believed to have ascended to the heavens during the Miraj.

- **Quranic Inscription:**

The Dome is adorned with Quranic verses, including:

"Say, [O Muhammad], He is Allah, [who is] One..." (**Surah Al-Ikhlās, 112:1-4**).

These inscriptions affirm the oneness of Allah, emphasizing the spiritual purpose of the site.

2. **Al-Aqsa Mosque Renovations:**

Throughout Islamic history, Al-Aqsa Mosque has been preserved and expanded, reflecting its importance.

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

“One prayer in Al-Aqsa Mosque is worth 500 prayers elsewhere, except for Al-Masjid al-Haram and the Prophet’s Mosque.” (Musnad Ahmad, 14550).

3. **Cultural and Educational Flourishing:**

Palestine became a center for Islamic learning, attracting scholars and fostering intellectual pursuits.

- Many Islamic scholars, including Al-Qadi Al-Fadil and Al-Imam Al-Ghazali, visited or lived in Jerusalem, contributing to its spiritual and intellectual prestige.

4.4 Crusades and Islamic Resilience

During the Crusades, Palestine became a battleground, highlighting its importance to Muslims.

1. The First Crusade (1099):

Jerusalem was captured by the Crusaders, and Muslims, Jews, and even local Christians faced mass slaughter.

2. The Liberation by Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi (Saladin):

In 1187, Salah al-Din retook Jerusalem, symbolizing the restoration of Islamic stewardship over the city. His rule was marked by mercy and tolerance:

- **Salah al-Din’s Treaty:**
Unlike the Crusaders, Salah al-Din allowed Christian pilgrims to visit their holy sites while ensuring the safety of Muslim residents.
- His actions reflected the Quranic command:

“And if you punish [an enemy], punish with an equivalent of that with which you were harmed. But if you are patient—it is better for those who are patient.” (Surah An-Nahl, 16:126).

4.5 Palestine as a Beacon of Islamic Governance

Under successive Islamic dynasties—Umayyads, Abbasids, Ayyubids, and Mamluks—Palestine flourished as a cultural and spiritual center:

- **Architectural Masterpieces:**
Islamic rulers constructed and preserved landmarks such as the Dome of the Rock, Al-Aqsa Mosque, and various madrasas (educational institutions).
- **Trade and Prosperity:**
Palestine’s location as a crossroads of trade routes brought wealth and connected it to the wider Islamic world.
- **Sufi Influence:**
Sufi orders established institutions in Palestine, emphasizing spiritual purification and promoting peace.

4.6 Palestine in Islamic Consciousness

Palestine's centrality in the Muslim world is not merely historical but also deeply spiritual:

- **Hadith on Palestine’s Future:**

“A group of my ummah will continue to fight in defense of the truth and remain triumphant until the Day of Judgment. They will be in and around Jerusalem.” (Sunan Abu Dawood, 2482).

This Hadith underscores the enduring significance of Palestine as a symbol of resilience and justice in Islam.

From its peaceful integration into the Islamic empire to its role as a cultural and spiritual hub, Palestine’s historical legacy exemplifies Islamic principles of governance, coexistence, and justice. The Quran and Hadith consistently affirm its sanctity, making it a cornerstone of Islamic history and identity.

Chapter 05

Palestine as a Symbol of Modern Struggle and Unity in the Muslim World

In contemporary times, Palestine has become a powerful symbol of resistance, justice, and unity among Muslims worldwide. Its ongoing struggle for freedom and the protection of its sacred sites resonate deeply with Islamic values. The connection between Palestine's plight and the collective duty of the Muslim ummah (community) is deeply rooted in Quranic verses, Hadith, and the Islamic worldview of justice and resistance against oppression.

5.1 Palestine and the Duty to Stand Against Oppression

The Quran mandates Muslims to stand for justice and support those who are oppressed:

1. Command to Fight for the Oppressed:

“And why should you not fight in the cause of Allah and for the oppressed among men, women, and children who say, ‘Our Lord, take us out of this city of oppressive people and appoint for us from Yourself a protector and appoint for us from Yourself a helper?’” (Surah An-Nisa, 4:75).

This verse highlights the moral duty of Muslims to support oppressed people, particularly in Palestine, where displacement, occupation, and aggression are ongoing.

2. Prohibition of Injustice:

Islam categorically condemns injustice and commands Muslims to oppose it:

“Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice.” (Surah An-Nisa, 4:58).

The injustice faced by Palestinians—displacement from their homes, violation of human rights, and desecration of sacred sites—places a

collective responsibility on the global Muslim community to advocate for their cause.

5.2 The Sacred Duty to Protect Al-Aqsa Mosque

The defense of Al-Aqsa Mosque is central to the modern struggle for Palestine. As the third holiest site in Islam, its protection is viewed as a spiritual obligation.

1. Blessed Surroundings:

“Glory be to Him Who took His servant by night from Al-Masjid al-Haram to Al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed...” (Surah Al-Isra, 17:1).

The Quran explicitly emphasizes the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings. Any threat to its sanctity is seen as a direct attack on the spiritual heritage of Islam.

2. The Prophet’s Prediction:

“A group of my ummah will continue to fight for the truth, triumphant over those who oppose them, until the Day of Judgment. They will be in and around Jerusalem.” (Sunan Abu Dawood, 2482).

This Hadith links the defense of Jerusalem to the enduring mission of Muslims, portraying it as a duty that spans generations.

5.3 Palestine as a Unifying Cause for the Muslim Ummah

Despite the political fragmentation of the Muslim world, Palestine remains a unifying cause:

1. Quranic Principle of Brotherhood:

“The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers. And fear Allah that you may receive mercy.” (Surah Al-Hujurat, 49:10).

This verse emphasizes the concept of unity among Muslims, urging them to support one another in times of need. The plight of Palestine serves as a rallying point for Muslims across diverse cultures and regions.

2. Altruism in Islam:

“None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.” (Sahih al-Bukhari, 13).

This Hadith underscores the importance of solidarity, pushing Muslims to advocate for Palestinian rights as an extension of their faith.

5.4 Palestine in the Context of Jihad and Resistance

The struggle for Palestine is often viewed through the lens of *jihad* (struggle), which encompasses not only armed resistance but also efforts to promote justice and truth.

1. Jihad Against Oppression:

“And prepare against them whatever you are able of power and of steeds of war by which you may terrify the enemy of Allah and your enemy...” (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:60).

While this verse addresses preparation for defense, it is also interpreted as a call for Muslims to utilize all legitimate means—spiritual, economic, and social—to resist oppression and injustice.

2. The Reward of Protecting Sacred Land:

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

“A time will come when a group among my ummah will remain steadfast in fighting for truth and justice. They will prevail over their enemies and will not be harmed by those who oppose them. They will remain in this state until the command of Allah comes while they are upon this [truth].” (Sahih Muslim, 1924).

3. This Hadith is often linked to the Palestinian struggle, symbolizing the perseverance and faith required to protect what is sacred.

5.5 Modern-Day Implications of Palestine's Struggle

1. **Advocacy for Human Rights:**

Muslims are guided by the Quranic principle of *amr bil ma'ruf wa nahi anil munkar* (enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong):

"You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah." (Surah Aal-e-Imran, 3:110).

Supporting Palestine is seen as a manifestation of this principle, advocating for the restoration of rights and the prevention of further injustice.

2. **Economic and Diplomatic Support:**

The concept of *zakat* (charitable giving) and other forms of assistance can be extended to support Palestinians in their struggle, reflecting the spirit of collective responsibility:

"Indeed, those who give charity... they will have their reward with their Lord, and there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve." (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:274).

3. **The Boycott Movement:**

Many Muslims support economic boycotts of entities contributing to the occupation of Palestine, inspired by the Prophet's example of peaceful resistance against oppression.

5.6 Palestine as a Moral and Ethical Stand

For Muslims, the Palestinian cause transcends politics; it embodies the principles of justice, resilience, and faith:

1. **Steadfastness in Faith:**

"And be patient, for indeed, Allah does not allow to be lost the reward of those who do good." (Surah Hud, 11:115).

The resilience of Palestinians in protecting their land and identity serves as an inspiration for Muslims to uphold their own faith and principles.

2. A Global Obligation:

“And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression.” (Surah Al-Ma’idah, 5:2).

The Quran calls for collective efforts to uphold righteousness, which translates to global solidarity with Palestine.

5.7 Ongoing Struggles and Significance of Current Events in Palestine

Since October 7, 2023, a renewed and intense escalation in the conflict between Israel and Gaza has resulted in a devastating humanitarian crisis. This followed an unprecedented attack by Hamas, involving rocket fire and breaches of Israel's border. In retaliation, Israel initiated a full-scale military response, including airstrikes and a blockade of Gaza, cutting off essential supplies such as food, water, fuel, and electricity. The conflict rapidly escalated, causing massive casualties and displacement among civilians on both sides.

In Gaza, Israeli strikes have targeted densely populated areas, leading to significant destruction of infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and residential buildings. By mid-October, the death toll in Gaza exceeded thousands, including many women and children. In the West Bank, clashes between Israeli forces, settlers, and Palestinians also intensified, resulting in additional deaths and injuries. The international community has expressed deep concern over the worsening humanitarian crisis, with calls for ceasefires and humanitarian corridors largely going unheeded

[[Wikipedia](#) [OCHA](#)]

This conflict has profound religious and cultural resonance for Muslims worldwide. Al-Quds (Jerusalem), specifically the Al-Aqsa Mosque, remains a symbol of steadfastness and faith. The destruction and suffering in Palestine deeply affect the global Muslim community, as these sites are not just physical locations but hold a sacred place in Islamic belief. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the importance of supporting fellow Muslims, saying:

"The example of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is like that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever." **(Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)**

The Quran also stresses unity and standing against oppression, as seen in the verse:

"And why should you not fight in the cause of Allah and of the oppressed among men, women, and children who cry out, 'Our Lord, rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors and appoint for us from Yourself a protector and appoint for us from Yourself a helper?'" **(Surah An-Nisa, 4:75).**

For Muslims, standing in solidarity with Palestinians is not just a humanitarian duty but a religious obligation tied to the defense of sacred lands and the protection of the oppressed. The events since October 2023 have underscored the need for a collective effort, combining humanitarian aid, political advocacy, and prayers to alleviate the suffering and seek justice for the people of Palestine

[[Wikipedia](#) [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)]

Palestine's modern struggle is deeply tied to Islamic teachings on justice, resistance to oppression, and the protection of sacred sites. The Quran and Hadith emphasize the collective duty of Muslims to stand with Palestine, not just as a political cause, but as a spiritual and moral imperative. This enduring bond unites the Muslim ummah, making Palestine a symbol of resilience, unity, and hope in the face of adversity.

Chapter 06

Palestine in the Context of Eschatological Significance in Islam

Palestine, particularly Jerusalem, is central to Islamic eschatology and is deeply tied to events preceding the Day of Judgment (*Yawm al-Qiyamah*). The Quran, Hadith, and Islamic traditions highlight the spiritual and prophetic significance of this land in the broader narrative of the end times. The eschatological elements make Palestine not only a historical and religious symbol but also a focal point of divine will and prophecy in the Islamic Worldview.

6.1 Palestine as a Central Stage in Eschatological Events

1. The Gathering of Believers and Resurrection

Islamic eschatology often references the region surrounding Jerusalem as a place of gathering and judgment. This is derived from Quranic verses and prophetic traditions:

“And listen on the Day when the Caller will call out from a place that is near.” (Surah Qaf, 50:41)

Many Islamic scholars interpret this verse to refer to Jerusalem as the location of the final gathering of humanity before resurrection.

2. The Descent of Prophet Isa (Jesus, PBUH)

According to authentic Hadith, the second coming of Prophet Isa (Jesus, PBUH) will occur in the vicinity of Palestine. He will descend at the White Minaret in Damascus, Syria, and then travel to Jerusalem, playing a critical role in defeating the Antichrist (*Dajjal*) and establishing peace:

“By Him in Whose Hand is my life, the son of Mary (Isa) will soon descend among you as a just ruler...” (Sahih al-Bukhari, 3448; Sahih Muslim, 155)

The connection to Palestine lies in Isa’s eventual presence in Jerusalem, where he will lead the believers and restore justice.

3. The Role of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the End Times

Al-Aqsa Mosque is frequently linked to the events of the end times.

In Islamic tradition, Al-Aqsa is not only a place of worship but also a spiritual fortress during eschatological events:

“A group of my Ummah will remain steadfast, defending the truth and fighting their enemies until the last day. They will be stationed in Jerusalem and its surroundings.” (Sunan Abu Dawood, 2482)

This Hadith emphasizes that Jerusalem will be central to the Muslim resistance against oppression and disbelief until the Day of Judgment.

6.2 The Antichrist (*Dajjal*) and the Final Struggle

1. *Dajjal*'s Role in Palestine

One of the most significant eschatological events is the emergence of the Antichrist (*Dajjal*). He is said to appear and create chaos, falsely claiming divinity. The ultimate confrontation with *Dajjal* is foretold to occur in the region of Palestine, specifically near Lydda (modern-day Lod):

“The Dajjal will be pursued, and he will be caught at the gate of Lydda (Lod), and Allah will kill him there.” (Sahih Muslim, 2937)

2. Jerusalem as a Symbol of Truth vs. Falsehood

The confrontation with *Dajjal* symbolizes the triumph of truth over falsehood. This struggle will center around Jerusalem, further emphasizing its eschatological importance.

6.3 Spiritual Preparation and the Role of Palestine

1. Faith and Trials

Muslims are reminded to strengthen their faith and prepare for the trials associated with the end times. Palestine, as a center of eschatological events, serves as a reminder of the transient nature of worldly power and the eternal nature of divine justice:

“Do you think that you will enter Paradise while such [trial] has not yet come to you as came to those who passed on before you?” (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:214)

This verse encourages believers to stay steadfast and spiritually ready, drawing a parallel with the challenges faced by the people of Palestine.

2. Altruism and Support for the Oppressed

Supporting Palestine aligns with the prophetic call to aid the oppressed and uphold justice, as described in the Hadith:

“Whoever relieves a believer's distress of the distressful aspects of this world, Allah will rescue him from a difficulty of the difficulties of the Hereafter.” (Sahih Muslim, 2699)

6.4 Modern Reflections of Eschatological Themes

1. The Struggle Against Injustice

The ongoing conflict in Palestine is viewed by many as a reflection of the broader spiritual and moral struggle between truth and oppression. The Quran urges believers to align with justice:

“Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice...” (Surah An-Nisa, 4:58)

2. Hope and Patience Amid Trials

The trials faced by Palestinians echo the Quranic principle of enduring adversity with faith:

“And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient.” (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:155)

Palestine's eschatological significance extends beyond its historical and religious importance. It serves as a focal point for prophetic events, a symbol of faith and resilience, and a reminder of the ultimate triumph of divine justice. The teachings of the Quran and Hadith inspire Muslims to support Palestine not just politically but spiritually, preparing for the trials foretold in Islamic eschatology.

Chapter 07

Palestine as a Source of Unity and Global Responsibility

Palestine holds a unique place in the collective identity of Muslims, serving as a rallying point for unity and a reminder of the shared responsibility toward justice and human dignity. This is emphasized through Quranic teachings and prophetic traditions, which urge believers to act against oppression, foster solidarity, and care for one another.

7.1 Unity Through Shared Reverence for Al-Quds

1. Spiritual Significance in Fostering Unity

Al-Aqsa Mosque, located in Jerusalem, is revered by all Muslims as the first *Qibla* and a symbol of divine connection. Its sanctity transcends geographical borders, uniting Muslims worldwide in their devotion and duty to protect it:

“Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from Al-Masjid Al-Haram to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed...” (Surah Al-Isra, 17:1)

This verse highlights not only the religious significance of Al-Aqsa but also the shared responsibility of the global Muslim community to preserve its sanctity.

2. Prophetic Encouragement for Collective Action

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the virtues of supporting Al-Aqsa through acts of worship and care:

“Do not set out on a journey except to three Mosques: this Mosque of mine, the Mosque of Al-Haram, and the Mosque of Al-Aqsa.” (Sahih al-Bukhari, 1197; Sahih Muslim, 827)

This Hadith underscores the special status of Al-Aqsa in uniting Muslims in faith and action.

7.2 The Obligation to Stand Against Oppression

1. Command for Justice and Advocacy

The Quran explicitly commands believers to uphold justice and support the oppressed, a principle that directly applies to the plight of Palestinians:

“O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives...” (Surah An-Nisa, 4:135)

This verse highlights the collective duty of Muslims to champion the rights of those who suffer, regardless of external pressures.

2. Hadith on the Responsibility of Advocacy

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) warned against inaction in the face of injustice:

“Whoever among you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; if he is unable, then with his tongue; and if he is unable, then with his heart – and that is the weakest of faith.” (Sahih Muslim, 49)

The condition in Palestine calls for Muslims to act within their capacities—through advocacy, humanitarian aid, or prayer.

7.3 Global Responsibility in Sharing Resources

1. Financial and Humanitarian Aid

The Quran emphasizes helping those in need, especially those who face displacement and hardship, as seen in Palestine:

“They ask you, [O Muhammad], what they should spend. Say, ‘Whatever you spend of good is [to be] for parents and relatives, orphans, the needy, and the traveler. And whatever you do of good – indeed, Allah is Knowing of it.’” (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:215)

Muslims are encouraged to provide material support to alleviate suffering in Palestine.

2. Brotherhood and Mutual Care

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) described the Muslim community as a single body:

“The believers are like one body in their mutual love and compassion: if one limb suffers, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever.” (Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim)

This analogy underscores the necessity of collective action to address the suffering of Palestinians as an extension of shared faith.

7.4 Current Relevance: A Test of Global Muslim Unity

1. Palestine as a Litmus Test for Unity

The ongoing struggles in Palestine serve as a reminder of the Quranic principle:

“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided...” (Surah Aal-E-Imran, 3:103)

The plight of Palestinians has galvanized global Muslims to come together in support of justice, transcending sectarian and political differences.

2. The Trial of Accountability

The Quran warns against neglecting the rights of others and failing to act against oppression:

“And fear a trial which will not strike those who have wronged among you exclusively, and know that Allah is severe in penalty.” (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:25)

Muslims are reminded that their collective inaction could lead to accountability before Allah.

Palestine remains a unifying cause for Muslims, tied to their duty to uphold justice, solidarity, and compassion as outlined in the Quran and Hadith. The ongoing conflict challenges Muslims worldwide to fulfill their religious obligations by advocating for peace, aiding the oppressed, and preserving the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque. This shared mission fosters global unity and reaffirms the enduring bond between faith, justice, and responsibility.

Chapter 08

Conclusion

Palestine holds immense significance for Muslims, encompassing religious, historical, spiritual, and eschatological dimensions. Through this thesis, we have explored the multifaceted importance of this sacred land, underlining its role in Islamic identity and the collective responsibilities of the *Ummah*. Below is a summary of the key points discussed:

1. Religious Importance:

Palestine, home to Al-Aqsa Mosque, is Islam's first *Qibla* and the site of the miraculous Night Journey (*Isra wal Mi'raj*). The Quran and Hadith emphasize its sanctity, linking it to divine blessings and guidance.

2. Historical Legacy:

Palestine has witnessed the lives of numerous prophets, including Ibrahim (AS), Musa (AS), and Isa (AS). It has been a cradle of monotheism, intertwining its identity with Islam's prophetic lineage.

3. Spiritual and Eschatological Significance:

Palestine plays a pivotal role in Islamic eschatology, with events like the descent of Isa (AS) and the final confrontation with the Antichrist (*Dajjal*) centered around its land. Al-Aqsa Mosque is described as a site of enduring faith and resistance in the end times.

4. Humanitarian Struggles and Modern Realities:

The plight of Palestinians, particularly in the context of recent events since October 7, 2023, calls for a collective global response. The Quran and Hadith mandate the protection of the oppressed and the defense of sacred lands, making this struggle a religious and moral duty for Muslims worldwide.

5. Unity and Global Responsibility:

Palestine serves as a symbol of Muslim unity and the shared obligation to uphold justice, defend the oppressed, and preserve the

sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The collective efforts for Palestine reflect the *Ummah's* commitment to its foundational values.

6. Reminder of Islamic Values:

The ongoing challenges in Palestine highlight key Islamic principles, including patience (*sabr*), justice, compassion, and moral accountability. These values, deeply rooted in Quranic teachings and prophetic traditions, are exemplified in the Palestinian cause.

8.1 Synthesis of the Discussion

The significance of Palestine is multifaceted and transcends its geographical and political realities. It is a land blessed by Allah, deeply embedded in Islamic faith and practice. Its history, spiritual legacy, and eschatological role make it a cornerstone of Muslim identity. The current humanitarian crisis underscores the urgency of the *Ummah's* role in supporting justice, standing against oppression, and preserving its sacred sites.

From the Quran's call to protect the oppressed (Surah An-Nisa, 4:75) to the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) encouragement to prioritize Al-Aqsa (Sahih al-Bukhari, 1197), Islamic texts provide a clear mandate for action.

Palestine's narrative is not just a regional issue but a profound reminder of the global Muslim community's collective mission.

8.2 Concluding Reflections

In essence, Palestine represents the intersection of faith, history, and global responsibility. Its importance lies not only in its religious sanctity but also in its ability to inspire unity, resilience, and moral commitment among Muslims. As the global Muslim community reflects on its shared heritage and responsibilities, Palestine remains a rallying point—a testament to enduring faith and the pursuit of justice in the face of adversity.

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