

YOM YERUSHALAYIM

...in a nutshell

WHAT: The newest addition to the Hebrew Calendar, It commemorates the incredible miracle that was the reunification of Jerusalem under Jewish Sovereignty.

WHEN: The 28th Day of the hebrew month Iyar. The english date this year will be Friday, May 22, 2020.

WHY IS THIS A BIG DEAL: This day in 1967 was the first time In thousands of years that Jerusalem was under Jewish Sovereignty. In 1000 BCE Jerusalem was conquered by King David and he made It the home of the Monarchy. It was conquered twice; once In 586 BCE by the Babylonians and once In 70 BCE by the Romans. Since the destruction of Jerusalem, the Jews have been mourning its destruction. We know how happy we are when we're finally able to get home after being away for an extended period of time, so we can imagine and feel the joy of being reunited with our eternal home after thousands of year being kept away from It. It's not just a longing, but there is much of Judaism that Is focused on Jerusalem, such as many prayers referencing Jerusalem, and our longing for It to be rebuilt, as well as fast days commemorating when It was sieged, and the fast day of Tisha B'Av, when It was destroyed.

After the War of Independence In 1948, Jerusalem was divided Into two; the older Eastern side was under Jordanian rule, and the more developed western side being under Israeli control.

On the 3rd day of the Six Day War, on June 1967, the Israelis captured the more ancient, Eastern part of the city, and It was the first time in thousands of years that the entirety of Jerusalem was under Jewish rule. This was so important because Jews, for the first time in thousands of years had access to the holy cites, such as the Westearn Wall.

HOW WE CELEBRATE: due to the joyous and miraculous nature of the day, there are many shuls throughout the world that say Hallel, a prayer of praise said on holidays. Customs vary on if it said with or without a bracha. MJE says Hallel with out a bracha/

For those who are observing mourning customs of the omer after Lag Ba'Omer, these customs are suspended on Yom Yerushalayim. For those In Israel In Jerusalem, the day is very exciting, with people filling the streets of the Jerusalem, singing and dancing, (I had friends who were dancing on the top of a bus stop). Specifically people can be found celebrating in the Old City and at the Kotel, which from the years 1948-196, were off limits to Jews.

Photo taken on June 7, 1967, by David Rubinger. The photograph depicts three Israeli paratroopers framed against the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, shortly after its recapture by Israeli forces in the Six-Day War

