

# Tensions rise at disputed Jerusalem holy site

Tensions in Jerusalem are escalating, with Palestinians accusing Israel of trying to change the status quo of the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, known to Muslims as Al-Haram al-Sharif, and Jews as the Temple Mount

**Western Wall or Wailing Wall:** Jews gather to hold religious services on retaining wall of mount on which ancient Temple once stood

**Temple Mount/  
Al-Haram al-Sharif**

**Dome of the Rock**

**Al-Aqsa mosque**

## Temple Mount (Har ha-Bayit)

■ Holiest site in Judaism, housed two biblical Jewish temples destroyed in ancient times

■ According to Jewish tradition, **King Solomon** built first Jewish temple on mount in 957 BCE, including Holy of Holies – room that housed **Ark of the Covenant**, which contained the **Ten Commandments**

■ Jews believe that this was site of foundation stone from which world was created, and where **Abraham** nearly sacrificed his son **Isaac**

■ In recent years there have been calls to disregard rabbinical restrictions and to reclaim Temple Mount for Jewish worship

## Al-Haram al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary)

■ Compound houses **Al-Aqsa mosque** – third holiest site in Islam after **Al-Masjid al-Haram** mosque in Mecca and **Al-Masjid An-Nabawi** in Medina, both in Saudi Arabia

■ Muslims believe Prophet Muhammad travelled to **Al-Aqsa** from Mecca during his night journey and led prayer with all prophets

■ **Dome of the Rock** shelters stone from where Muslims believe Muhammad ascended to heaven

■ **Jordan** warns that any unilateral Israeli move on sanctuary could imperil 1994 peace treaty, which recognises **King Abdullah II** as custodian of Haram al-Sharif