VOICES OF JERUSALEM

An exhibition featuring Families of Abraham and Cultural Artifacts from the Holy Land

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Sponsored by:

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With additional support from:

Joy and Jimmy Grodnick
Arlene Mitchell

Artifacts on loan from the
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Exhibit Guide
Case 1 - Objects of Devotion

Tefillin
Tefillin are small black leather boxes which contain a parchment scroll inscribed with four important passages from the Torah. These verses contain exactly 3,188 letters and usually require ten to fifteen hours to write. They are worn as a sign to remind the individual of the Exodus from Egypt.

Jewish Prayer Book in Metal Case

Reliquary Crucifix
This reliquary was created by nuns to be worn by a priest as a sign of faith and devotion. The crucifix opens to reveal relics from fourteen Catholic saints. Reliquary is the general term used for a container of relics. A relic is a material object with some memorial connection to a saint, such as a bit of cloth, bone, or hair.

Kiddush cup
Kiddush cups are an important part of remembering the Sabbath. At the beginning of the Friday night meal, a cup of wine or grape juice is blessed and praise is offered for the Exodus from Egypt.

Latin Psalter leaves
This page from the Book of Psalms is from an illuminated psalter manuscript and would have served the purpose of a hymnal. The blue capital “I” in the center column decorated with a small animal at its base and the red capital letters that mark the beginning of new lines are indicative of highly illuminated pages so common in psalters of this time period.

Miniature Koran in Metal Case
This miniature Koran has a green leather cover embossed with gold decoration. This book was published by David Bryce in Glasgow, Scotland around the turn of the century. It is the most famous miniature Koran of its
day. The decorative case with small magnifying glass was meant to protect the book on travel and to aid in reading the tiny print.

**Bone and Iron Rosary**
This rosary is constructed of bone and iron. The Catholic rosary originates with the teachings of St. Dominic in 1214 CE and helps lay people recite the Lord’s Prayer exactly 150 times. Rosary comes from the Latin word rosarium for a rose garden, which in common speech came to be used for a group of similar things.

**Wooden and Bovine Bone Dreidel**
These two dreidels are traditional spinning top toys used during Hanukkah. The letters present on each of the four sides stand for the phrase “a great miracle happened there.” A common variation for dreidels in Israel changes the phrase to “a great miracle happened here.”

**Koran page**
This page from a 15th century Koran features beautiful calligraphy and gold and red embellishment details throughout the surface of the page. It is representative of the general style of Korans and bears many similarities to illuminated Christian texts.

**Bronze Crusaders Cross**
This small bronze cross comes from the late Byzantine or early Crusades period. It would have been worn as a symbol of faith, perhaps as one rode into battle.

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**Case 2 - Objects of Pilgrimage**
**Wicker Basket with Souvenirs**
This small wicker basket contains artifacts and souvenirs from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It contains small items that tell the story of a person’s travels through the area: small shells from the River Jordan, pressed flowers, jewelry made to adorn the heads of donkeys and other objects to remember an important and personal journey.
3 - Torah Scrolls (installed on wall)
These parchment Torah scroll pages were purchased in Jerusalem in the 1950’s.

I. Torah Scroll of Genesis chapters 21 to 23
As can be seen, the scroll was damaged in a fire. The size of the scroll indicates that this was a public reading scroll, possibly from a synagogue setting. A thread from the scroll’s stitching can be seen on the left side. It dates to the 19th century.

II. Torah Scroll of Leviticus chapters 17 to 19
This scroll dates to 19th century as well. The guide marks for the scribe can still be seen on the sides of the page near the writing. These insures that the scribe would keep the text well organized. The size of the scroll indicates that it was also probably used in a synagogue setting.

III. Torah Scroll of Numbers 3 to 5
This page has suffered some water damage on the right side. As the others, it was used in a synagogue setting and dates to the 19th century.

Case 4 - Oil Lamps

Iron Age Oil Lamps
This collection of oil lamps are examples of lamps used in the time of King David. They were made by creating a simple bowl form and pinching one side with fingers before firing the clay.

Herodian Lamps and Lead Dipper
These objects are examples of objects used for daily life in the time of King Herod.

Persian Oil Lamp
This glazed lamp, used for household lighting, shows the transition from older glaze processes like Faience and Fritware to newer methods employing the use of other chemicals like manganese dioxide.

7 Nozzle Oil Lamp
This clay oil lamp references the Jewish menorah and would have served that purpose in a humble or rural setting.
Case 5 - Objects of Luxury

**Roman Glass Vessels**
This collection of glass containers from the Roman Period were expensive luxury items used by the upper classes to hold valuable oils and perfumes. Roman glass was widely exported during this time period and remains a fine example of delicate glass blowing. The oxidization of the glass surface over time gives it an opalescent quality.

**Persian Faience Bowl**
This bowl is a fine example of Islamic functional pottery. The decorative glazed surface was achieved by applying a mixture of powdered quartz and glass to the white clay before firing. Faience was appropriated by Persian artisans from Egypt.
Case 6 - Objects of the Bronze Age

Bronze Age Clay Tablets
The large grey tablet is a Sumerian pictograph while the other tablets in the collection would have been used for anything from cultic writings to receipts to basic communication. The open tablet is a contractual document from the time of Abraham. It contains an original copy of the contract, sealed and preserved inside, to be referred to later in cases of supposed altering of the document.

Cultic Figurines
This collection of figurines were once used in cultic rituals. The animal shaped vessels were made to contain cultic libations.

Case 7 - Fine Pottery

Chalcolithic Cups
This collection of cups come from one of the early periods in Palestinian archeology. More than a millennium older than Abraham, these vessels reveal a refined level of skill in clay working during the transitional period between the Neolithic and Bronze ages.
Late Bronze Age Cypriot Milk Bowl
A beautiful example of pottery imported into Jerusalem from the island of Cyprus. Cypriot pottery was considered to be amongst the finest in the world at the time.

Case 8 - Iron Age Jugs

Iron Age Jug and Dipper
This large jug was created with a place to hold a dipper. The jug stored liquid, and the dipper provided an easy method of removing the jug’s contents. This pair displays modification of traditional designs to improve functionality.

Early Iron Age Juglets
This collection of juglets dates from approximately the time of King David. These common everyday objects would have been used to hold small amounts of oil, perfumes, and other liquids. Their primary use would have been in a local setting rather than long-distance transportation.
Case 9 - The Geneva Bible
This edition of the Geneva Bible is the earliest English Bible printed in Roman Type with verse divisions. The Geneva Bible received its name from the city of Geneva where it was produced by English Protestant exiles who fled England during the rule of Queen Mary. The intention of this bible was to produce a book that was affordable and helped to introduce the readers to Reformation theology.

Case 10 - King James Bible 3rd Edition
The King James Bible was produced as an attempt to provide a bible in the English language that would be acceptable to the church and state while still serving the general public. Although the Geneva Bible gained wide circulation, King James of England found the notes objectionable and he commissioned a new translation to be undertaken by 54 scholars. Work began in 1607 and was completed in 1611.
Case 11 - Codex Vaticanus (facsimile)
The Codex Vaticanus is one of the most important Greek manuscripts of the Hebrew Scriptures, containing nearly the entire Old Testament with the Apocrypha and the New Testament except for the Epistle to the Hebrews, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Revelation. (The remaining parts of Hebrews and Revelation were later replaced in the 15th century.) This hand-bound facsimile was commissioned by the Vatican in celebration of the year 2,000 and the pages are exact replicas of the original in every detail of size and color, even including holes and smudges on the original pages.

Case 12- Arabic Tools
Calibrated Iron and Bronze Scale
This ornate scale would have been used in a public setting to weigh dry goods for commerce. Tools from the Muslim world are beautifully designed with great thought given to function and aesthetics.

Ornate Triangular Bronze Levels and Bronze Plumb Bobs
This collection of plumb bobs and levels from the Ottoman Empire are made of bronze and were used during building to check for level. They, much like the Calibrated Iron and Bronze Scale, demonstrate a high level of decorative design in basic construction tools.

5.15 Gram Byzantine Weight
This object from Judea is the earliest representation of a weight in this small collection. They were used by merchants and vendors in public market places to ensure proper payment in exchange for goods. Weights from the ancient world were initially mistaken for coins as they bare many formal similarities.

Koran Cradle Fragment

Case 13 - Coins and Metalwork

Persian Kashkuls
This ornamental Kashkul, or “beggar’s bowl” was a sign of religious poverty assumed by Islamic mystics. This function is reflected in the inscriptions of verses from the Koran and Persian poetry which praise the kashkul in mystical terms. Many kashkuls have a “prow” that functions like a spout turning the bowl into a drinking vessel.

Coins

Ornate Brass Plate
Case 14 - Objects of The Home

**Iron Age Storage Jar**
The design of this jar allowed for the object to be buried into the ground to create a simple refrigeration system for the storage of perishable foods.

**Anthropomorphic Cultic Figure**

**Tallisman Nails**
These square nails are decorated with calligraphy on each of the four sides. When nailed to a door entering a house, they bring blessings of safety and happiness to the home. These nails have a similar function to the Jewish tradition of the mezuzah in which a scroll with passages from the Torah are contained in a box and affixed to a door post. Both items bring favor to the people who live within.

**Iron Age Cooking Pot**
This pot represents common cookware of the united and divided kingdoms. Their simple design suggests they were created for ordinary people of the lower classes.

**Perfume Bottle**
This perfume bottle is a beautiful example of bronze containers found throughout the Middle East.

**Iron Age Kraters**
These vessels date from the divided kingdom and were used for storing wheat and other grains.

**Beer Stine**

**Hanukkah Menorah Lamp**
A menorah is a many-branched lamp widely recognized as a symbol of Judaism. Menorah is the Hebrew word for lamp. A temple menorah has seven branches while a Hanukkah has nine. The nine-branched menorah is lit during the eight days and nights of Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights. A servant or helper candle is used to light the other candles. In order to be kosher, the “shamash” must be on a plane above or below the other candles.
Case 15 - Objects of Writing

Jewish inkwell, quill, and parchment

Persian Brass Scroll Holder
A highly decorative example of an object used to hold and transport important documents. The metal construction and fine tooling on the surface of this scroll holder indicates that it was made for a person of the upper class.

Bronze Age Clay Tablets
The large grey tablet is a Sumerian pictograph while the other tablets in the collection would have been used for anything from cultic writings to receipts to basic communication. The open tablet is a contractual document from the time of Abraham. It contains an original copy of the contract, sealed and preserved inside, to be referred to later in cases of supposed altering of the document.

Biblia Latina (an original page from the Gutenberg Bible)
Johann Gutenberg is recognized as the first printer of the Bible. The Gutenberg Bible was hand-bound in two volumes. Gutenberg is believed to have produced 200 copies: twenty on vellum and the remainder on paper. An illuminator completed the production by handwriting the first letter of each chapter and the headings.

Arabic Wood Blocks
These were used much like modern stamps, for printing Arabic phrases onto paper or cloth.

Miniature Scroll

Brass Scribes Box
This highly ornate cast brass scribe’s box is decorated with flowers, foliage, and birds. This object would have stored pens and styluses when not in use as well as ink for writing.
The Scroll of Esther tells the story of the salvation of the Jews of the Persian Empire. It falls under the category of Ketuvim, one of three parts of the Jewish canon. According to some sources, it is a historical novella, written to explain the origin of the Jewish holiday of Purim. Esther is the only book of the Tanakh that is not represented among the Dead Sea scrolls. Traditionally, unlike other Tanakh scrolls, a scroll of Esther is given only one roller, fixed to its left-hand side, rather than the customary two rollers (one fixed to the right-hand side as well as the one fixed to the left-hand side).
# Jerusalem Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year BCE</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4300 - 3300</td>
<td>Chalcolithic Cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3500</td>
<td>Jerusalem first settled by the Jebusites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3300</td>
<td>Earliest known writing or pictographs occur in Sumeria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3300 - 1500</td>
<td>Bronze Age Clay Tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td>Glass first produced in the Middle East and standard weights are used in Egypt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500</td>
<td>Schools first established in Sumeria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2200 - 1500</td>
<td>Middle Bronze Age Carinated Bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Medical prescriptions recorded on stone tablets in Sumeria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The Hyksos Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year BCE</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Jerusalem listed in the Egyptian Exeuction Texts as Rusalimum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Use of iron in modern day Turkey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700</td>
<td>Formalized study and practice of medicine in Babylonia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1550 - 1200</td>
<td>Late Bronze Age Cypriot Milk Bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>The name Jerusalem appears in diplomatic correspondence as Urusalim in the Amarna Letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 - 900</td>
<td>Early Iron Age Juglets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 - 586</td>
<td>Iron Age Cooking Pots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 - 586</td>
<td>Iron Age Jug and Dipper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 - 586</td>
<td>Iron Age Bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 - 586</td>
<td>Iron Age Oil Lamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010 - 970</td>
<td>The reign of King David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>First dictionary created in China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 - 586</td>
<td>Cultic Figurines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>970 - 931</td>
<td>The reign of King Solomon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>950</td>
<td>King Solomon begins construction of the First Temple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>918 - 586</td>
<td>Iron Age Kraters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>837-800</td>
<td>Tunnels conduit from Gihon Spring to the Siloam Pool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>Iron Age Storage Jar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>Aqueducts built in Mesopotamia and the Middle East.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>586</td>
<td>Jerusalem and the First Temple are destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Ice cream invented in Persia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>323</td>
<td>First Museums in Alexandria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320 - 198</td>
<td>Egyptian Ptolemaic rule of Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>198 - 167</td>
<td>Syrian Seleucid Rule of Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>Earliest known bound papyrus book in Greece.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169</td>
<td>Antiochus IV, Seleucid king, outlaws Judaism and profanes the Temple.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The Hasmonean Period

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>167 - 141</td>
<td>Maccabean War of Liberation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164</td>
<td>The Temple restored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Essene community founded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Roman Period

100 BCE  Hollow glass vessels and glass blowing in Syria and parchment in modern day Turkey.
63 BCE  General Pompey captures Jerusalem for Rome.
63 BCE - 70 CE  Herodian Lamps and Lead Dipper
63 BCE - 70 CE  Roman Glass Vessels
40 BCE - 4CE  Reign King Herod.
18 BCE  King Herod begins rebuilding of the Temple.
26 - 36 CE  Pontius Pilate, Roman procurator of Judea.
41 - 44 CE  Agrippa, King of Judea, builds a new city wall.
63 CE  Completion of the Second Temple.
70 CE  Fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the Second Temple by Titus.
73 CE  The fall of Masada.
105 CE  Paper from mulberry bark in China.
135 CE  Total destruction of Jerusalem by Emperor Hadrian. New walls constructed and city renamed Aelia Capitolina.
150 CE  Modern numbers and zero formalized in India.

The Byzantine Period

300 CE  Streets illuminated by oil lambs in modern day Turkey.
300 - 500 CE  5.15 Gram Byzantine Weight.
300 - 400 CE  Codex Vaticanus (facsimile)
324 - 640 CE  Byzantine Cooking Pot
326 CE  Emperor Constantine’s mother, Queen Helena visits Jerusalem and determines the locations of important religious events and commissions the construction of churches.
335 CE  The Church of the Holy Sepulchre constructed.
400-600 CE  7 Nozzle Oil Lamp
500 CE  Suspension bridge using iron chains constructed in China.
500 - 600 CE  Codex Purpureus (Facsimile)
600 CE  Metal sheets and braces are used to create earthquake proof buildings in Byzantium.
629 CE  Jerusalem captured by the Byzantines.
638 CE  The Caliph Omar enters Jerusalem and Jews are readmitted to the city.
691 CE  Dome of the Rock completed by Caliph Abd al-Malik.
701 CE  Construction completed on the al-Aqsa mosque by Caliph al-Walid.
765 CE  Illustrated books printed in Japan.
930 CE  Aleppo Codex (facsimile)
970 CE  Hospitals with doctors, nurses, and pharmacists open in Baghdad.

The Crusades

1000 - 1200 CE  Bronze Crusaders Cross
1000 CE  Horse drawn ambulances used by Crusaders in the Middle East.
1099 CE  Crusaders capture Jerusalem at Pope Urban’s behest. Baldwin I declared King of Jerusalem.
1100 - 1200 CE  Persian Faience Bowl
1100 CE  Paper money using multicolor printing in China and seven color printing established in the Middle East.
1175 CE  Latin Psalter
1187 CE  Saladin captures Jerusalem from the Crusaders, Jews and Muslims allowed to return and settle in the city.

1192 CE  King Richard the Lion Hearted fails in his attempt to recapture Jerusalem but a Treaty with Saladin permits Christians to worship at their Holy sites.

1244 CE  The Turks capture Jerusalem ending the Crusades.

**The Mameluk Period**

1244 CE  Mameluk Sultans defeat the Ayyubids and control Jerusalem.
1250 CE  Quills first used for writing in Europe.
1260 CE  The Mameluks of Egypt capture Jerusalem.
1275 CE  Marco Polo stops in Jerusalem on his way to China.
1300 - 1400 CE  Persian Brass Scroll Holder
1348 CE  The Black Plague hits Jerusalem.
1396 CE  Moveable metal type made from bronze in Korea.
1400 - 1500 CE  Persian Oil Lamp
1400 - 1500 CE  Lectionary Leaf
1454 - 1455 CE  Biblia Latina (an original page from the Gutenberg Bible)

**Ottoman Turkish Period**

1517 CE  Ottomans peacefully take over Jerusalem.
1537 - 1541 CE  Sultan Suleiman rebuilds the city walls for the first time since 1219, along with the seven present day gates.
1542 CE  The Damascus gate constructed.
1562 CE  The Geneva Bible
1564 CE  Lead pencils introduced in England.
1600 CE  Page from Koran
1609 CE  First newspaper printed in Germany.
1617 CE  King James Bible 3rd Edition
1700 CE  Rabbi Yehuda He-Hassid begins building the Hurva Synagogue.
1700 - 1800 CE  Rosary
1700 - 1800 CE  Ornate Triangular and Standard Plumb Bob Levels
1798 CE  Lithography invented by Aloys Senefelder.
1800 - 1900 CE  Persian Kashkuls
1800 - 1900 CE  Islamic Calibrated Iron and Bronze Scale
1800 – 1940  Perfume Bottle
1850 - 1900 CE  Scribe’s Box
1838 CE  The first consulate opened in Jerusalem by the British.
1860 CE  First Jewish settlement outside the walls of the city.
1899 CE  Wicker Basket with Souvenirs

**British Mandate Period**

1900 - 1920 CE  Tefillin
1900 - 1910 CE  Miniature Koran in Metal Case
1900 - 2000 CE  Islamic Talisman Nails
1919 - 1940 CE  Reliquary Crucifix
1917 CE  British conquest and General Allenby enters Jerusalem.
1920 CE  Sir Herbert Samuel appointed first British High Commissioner and Government House established in Jerusalem.
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<tr>
<td>1925 CE</td>
<td>Hebrew University buildings inaugurated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930 - 1950 CE</td>
<td>Hanukkah Menorah Lamp</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947 CE</td>
<td>United Nations Resolution recommending the partition of Israel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Israeli Period</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948 CE</td>
<td>British Mandate ends and State of Israel Proclaimed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948 - 1949 CE</td>
<td>Israel War of Liberation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950 - 1960 CE</td>
<td>Kiddush Cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950 - 1960 CE</td>
<td>Wooden and Bovine Bone Dreidel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967 CE</td>
<td>Muslims, Christians, and Jews granted access to the Holy Places.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>