



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

New Light on Jerusalem from the Byzantine Era to the Middle Ages

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Abstract

Excavations carried out by the author, director of the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology Jerusalem/Amman (GPIA), in Jerusalem between 2015 and 2024 on Mount Zion have uncovered surprising finds relating to the history of the city from the Byzantine and Early Islamic period to the High Middle Ages. Not only the city walls and gates but also the residential buildings and public buildings from the Byzantine period leave no doubt about the city's wealth. Historical events such as the suppression of the rebellion against Emperor Phocas, the massacre of the Sassanid ruler Chosrau II in 614 AD and the takeover of the city by the Umayyads in 638 AD have been described by the archaeological contexts. Important findings from the High Middle Ages should also be highlighted. These include the Ayyubid fortification of the then uninhabited area Mt. Zion against possible Crusader attacks, its destruction by Al-Mu?a??am ??s? as well as the construction of the gigantic Crusader church Hagia Sion on Mount Zion extra muros. In 2025, the question of when the southern walls of the city were retracted to their current position will be clarified.

Keywords

excavation report, Jerusalem, Byzantine Umayyad, Crusader, Mt. Zion

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