



ISRAEL IN JEWISH
SOURCES

ארץ ישראל במקורות
יהודים

Eretz Israel in Jewish sources:

The Land of Israel

- Eretz Israel was promised to Abraham by god in the “Covenant of the Pieces” (Genesis, Chapter 15).
- Throughout all the generations, Eretz Israel was never abandoned by its Jewish citizens, although in different times it was inhabited by very few Jewish people.
- It is a special Mitzvah to live in Eretz Israel; there are special commandments (mitzvot) which can be fulfilled only in Eretz Israel, such as the year of Shmita/
- Shmita – (the year is a Shmita year) – once, every seven years, the land in Israel must lie fallow. (Crop-free).

Jerusalem in Jewish Sources

- Jerusalem was granted a special status following its being chosen as a holy place; King David conquered the city, and King Solomon, his son, built in Jerusalem the Temple.
- Since the destruction of the Temple, the Jewish people never stopped yearning to return to Jerusalem. Since the destruction of the Temple, throughout the generations, Jerusalem became the symbol and center for yearning to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is mentioned in many prayers (i.e. the Grace after Meals; the Amidah prayer, etc.); when the essence of the prayer is the gathering of all Jews in all the remote places in the world back to the Land of Israel, political independence and peace.
- Jews throughout the world and in Israel, when they pray, face east – the direction towards Jerusalem.
- In a wedding ceremony a glass cup is broken as a symbol for all Jews to remember the destruction of Jerusalem and say “if I forget Jerusalem – I will forget my right hand”.