

Jewish Communities (7th - 11th Centuries)

After Emperor Julian II's death in 363 CE, Jewish settlements in the southern Land of Israel declined due to imperial policies, wars, and economic hardships. Yet Jewish life endured, especially in Galilee and major cities like Tiberias, Sephoris, and Caesarea. Tiberias became a center of Jewish scholarship, where the Masoretic Text, the foundation of the Hebrew Bible, was developed. Galilean synagogues showcased mosaics featuring Jewish symbols, serving as both places of worship and community hubs.



The Byzantine era brought fluctuating levels of tolerance, with periods of oppression interspersed with relative autonomy.

The Muslim conquest in the 7th century brought changes, as Jews, as *dhimmi*s, were granted a limited but protected status, allowing them to practice their religion in exchange for a tax.

This shift reinvigorated economic activity, with Jewish communities engaging in trade, agriculture, and crafts.

Jerusalem retained a small but influential Jewish population. Under Muslim rule, Jews were allowed access to the Temple Mount, a privilege denied under Byzantine governance.