

## Holy Temple

Synagogues have not always existed. A long time ago – roughly 3000 years – King Solomon built a Holy Temple in Jerusalem. In those days, it was the place where Jews gathered. The Holy Temple was destroyed twice by enemies of the Jewish people, and it was never rebuilt after the second destruction in the year 70 CE. The only part that remains is the western wall, also called the Wailing Wall.

After the Holy Temple was destroyed the first time, in 586 BCE, the Jews were driven from their own land. Although some returned after awhile, many continued to live outside of Israel. This is called the Diaspora, or scattering.

After the destruction of the Second Temple, the synagogue became the most important place for Jews to congregate, both in Israel and elsewhere.



My notes: