

**KEVIN CASSIDY  
PHOTO COMPOSITIONS**

**JERUSALEM**

**SELECTIONS FROM THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM  
THE TEMPLE MOUNT  
THE DOME OF THE ROCK AND THE WAILING WALL  
ALONG THE VIA DOLOROSA  
CHAPEL OF THE FLAGELATION**

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# VIEWS OF JERUSALEM FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

**This first series of photo compositions includes views from the Mount of Olives and the silver dome of Al Aqsa Mosque. Along the eastern wall is the Dome of the Rock with its wonderful golden dome. The last photo in this series is of the Eastern Gate, where tradition has it that the Messiah - either Jewish or Christian - will enter at the Second Coming. The Walls date from Ottoman times. In the distance is the modern city of Jerusalem.**













# FROM THE WALLS OF THE THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

I mount the walls of the Old City from the Damascus Gate. Even today I can still feel the excitement. The power of the Old City of Jerusalem in the world imagination was, is now, and will continue to be - spectacular. From on top the walls looking down into the Old City a man in his apartment and, to the other side, views of a bus station. Look closely at the rock outcrop in the background. Two eyes seem to emerge. This is the Protestant Hill of Golgotha, near the Garden Tomb, identified by British General Charles "Chinese" Gordon, and, for many, acts as an alternative Crucifixion site to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The white building with the tower at the end of this series is the Rockefeller Museum where many of the Dead Sea Scrolls were first housed.



למעד שכם  
الحمص  
قبة سليمان



















# VIEWS OF THE OLD CITY FROM THE WALLS

**Looking down the Walls – to the right – is the golden Dome of the Rock and, further down, Al-Asqa Mosque. To the right is a “green space.” Cranes and television antennae in the distance give a vertical thrust to the compositions. The Old City is divided into the Jewish, Christian, Armenian, and Muslim Quarters. As a world history romantic, being on the Walls was very exciting for me as I do not think one can mount the Walls today.**















# THE DOME OF THE ROCK AND THE DOME OF THE CHAIN

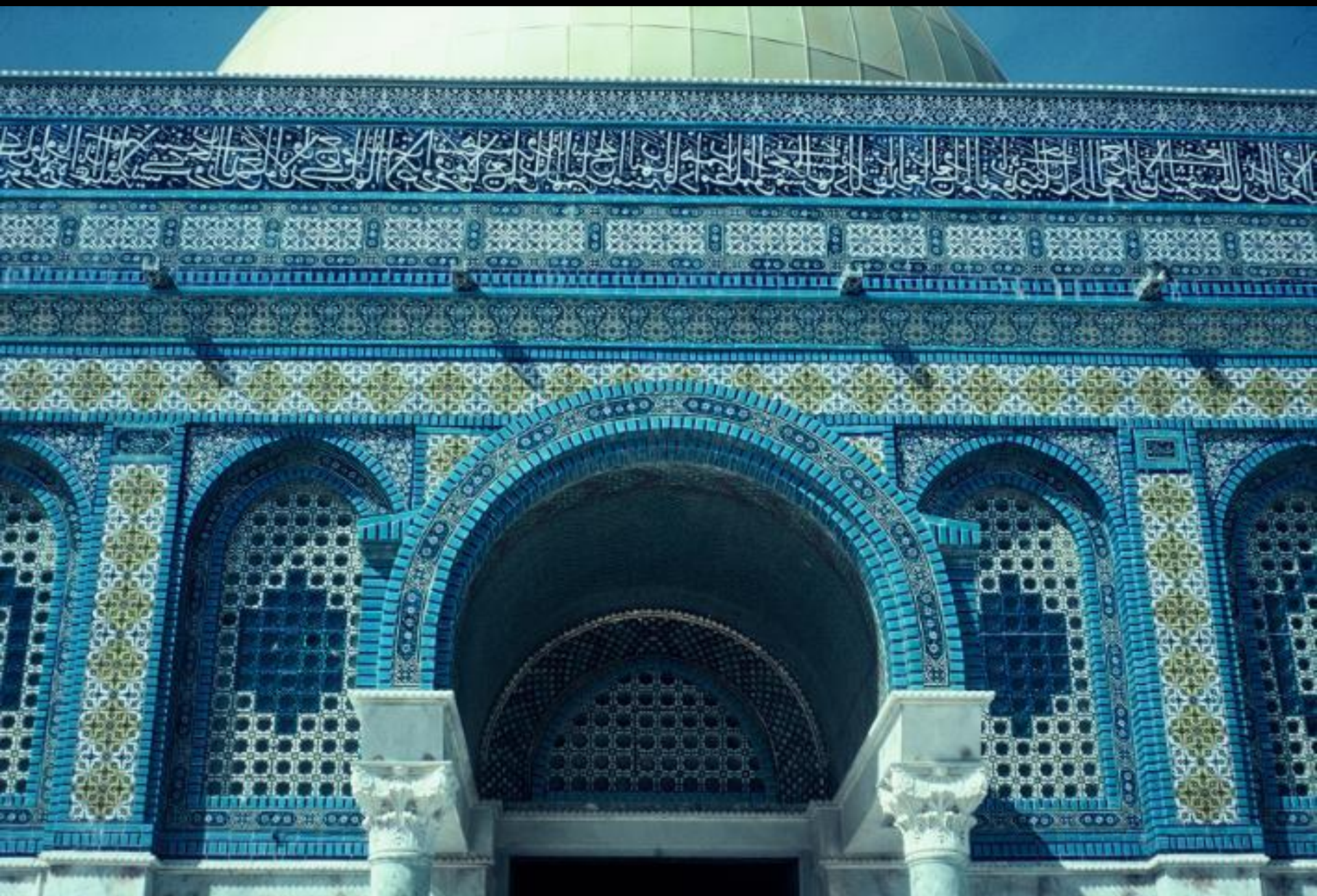
**This next series of photo compositions is of the Dome of the Rock and the Dome of the Chain. The Dome of the Rock, located in the center of the Temple Mount, was constructed over the site of the Second Jewish Temple which was destroyed by Titus in the Siege of Jerusalem in 70 CE. Octagonal in plan, the Dome was constructed by the Umayyad Caliph Abd al-Malik between 685-691 CE, thus making it the oldest existing Islamic building in the world. The Crusader Knights Templar believed it to be the site of Solomon's Temple. We see the outer side walls made of porcelain and engraved with wonderful Islamic calligraphy from the Koran. Some scholars suggest that the Dome of the Chain was used as a model for the Dome of the Rock. In Jewish tradition, this is where the chain that Solomon used to link heaven and earth. In Islamic tradition, this is the spot where Judgment Day will occur.**

























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# INSIDE AL ASQA MOSQUE

**Only one photo of Al-Asqa Mosque, also known as the Farthest Mosque (from Mecca).**

**Along with the Dome of the Rock Al-Asqa Mosque. The entire temple area southern end of the Temple Mount, is known as *al-Haram ash Sharif* (The Sacred Noble Sanctuary).**

**Islamic tradition holds that Muhammad was translated, on his horse Buraq, from Mecca to this Mosque in his epic “Night Journey”.**

**Inside we see an interior view of the Mosque with central nave and columns.**







# THE WESTERN OR WAILING WALL

**This next series show the Western or “Wailing” Wall located on the western flank or side of the Temple Mount. First we see the Western Wall Plaza, and to the right, the area where women pray. We see a rabbi and an Israeli soldier in prayer. This is the closest spot that Jews can get to the holiest site in Judaism, the Foundation Stone, which many consider is housed in or beneath the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. This was the rock on which the Ark of the Covenant rested in the Temple of Solomon. The large black smudges on the wall are actually plant outgrowth between the seams in the stones.**



















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# THE CHAPEL OF THE FLAGELLATION AND THE VIA DOLOROSA

**The first pictures are of the unassuming courtyard of the Umanya Elementary School, near the location of the Antonia Fortress. This is just inside the Lions Gate and is the traditional starting place of the Stations of the Cross. The next series shows the Chapel or Church of Flagellation. Look closely at the entrance. A motif of thorns weaves it's way over the door. At the center, we see stained glass of Jesus being flogged and receiving the crown of thorns. The Via Dolorosa is, for Christian of many denominations, the traditional way that Jesus walked carrying His cross on His way to Glory.**

























# FIN

**Enjoyed sharing with you these selections from my photo archives of the Old City of Jerusalem. The City is at ground zero in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Both sides claim the Old City as their capital. No resolution is in sight.**

**Comments can be addressed to:**

**Kevin Cassidy**

**[kvncassidy@gmail.com](mailto:kvncassidy@gmail.com)**