

Sanhedrin Regarding Boundaries of Temple and Yerushalayim

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Bet Bechirah, Chapter 6*

The *Sanhedrin* had the power to extend the area of the *Azarah* and *Yerushalayim*. This must be with the consent of the King, a prophet and the *Urim* and *Tumim*.

To extend the city, 2 Thanksgiving Offerings were sacrificed and the breads were carried and eaten at the new boundary. (One loaf was eaten and 1 burnt.)

With the extension of the *Azarah*, here the consecration was with the remaining portion of the Meal offering.

Even though the Temple is now destroyed, the sanctity of the Temple Mount and *Yerushalayim* are retained forever, because the *Shechinah* (Divine Presence) was revealed here and caused the consecration i.e. since the time of *Shlomo Hamelech* when he consecrated the First Temple.

This is different to the way the rest of *Eretz Yisrael* is consecrated regarding agricultural laws. (There were two consecrations. One on entering land from Egypt, and one through Ezra after the Babylonian exile, when we again returned to *Eretz Yisrael* at the time of the Second Temple.)

- The first was consecration through conquest and this can be nullified.
- The second is consecration through acquirement, and this has not been nullified. That is why we still need to keep laws of *shmitah* etc today.

Reminder:

Definition of Land of Eretz Yisrael. Ref: *Sefer Zeraim, Hilchot Trumot, Chapter 1.*

Pack on *Eretz Yisrael*

Pack on *Tzedakah*

Pack on Consecration

