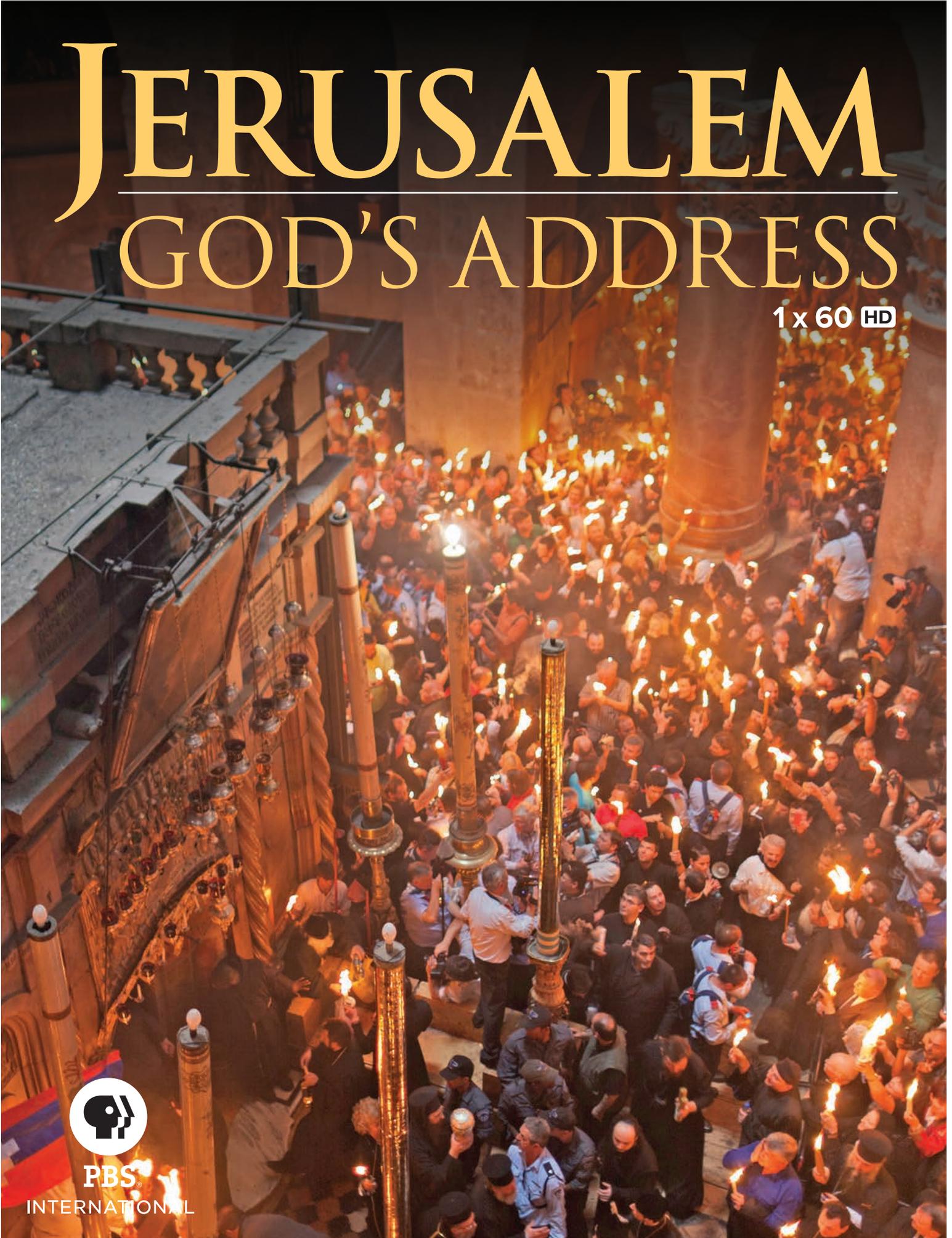


# JERUSALEM

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# GOD'S ADDRESS

1 x 60 HD



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1 x 60 **HD**

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Jerusalem is a city that contains one God interpreted by the three monotheistic faiths—situated at the crossroad between heaven and Earth, the center of global history and home to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. *Jerusalem: God's Address* is a documentary that journeys through the eye of the storm to the Haram al Sharif/Temple Mount, examining the ways in which religious and political perspectives manifest upon contemporary life.

Three story-lines combine to tell the story of an eternal city haunted by its past. The central axis of the film tells the story of Jerusalem, from the birth of monotheism and the foundation of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, through the 'status quo' between the three religions, until the summer of 2017 when a series of outbursts threatened to break this delicate balance.

Three professors, renowned in the fields of Biblical archaeology, the Hebrew Bible and contemporary political history, take us on a journey from the beginning of monotheism to the daily realities of Jerusalem in 2017. These scientists shed light on universal religious events in the Holy Land, offering transformational paradigms which re-contextualize the birth of the three monotheistic faiths and their connection to contemporary politics in Jerusalem.

Two women—an Islamic and Jewish fundamentalist both living in East Jerusalem—are an exemplar of the explosive contribution which religious zealots bear upon rising tensions in the city. Each represents the opposite side of the same coin: claiming their birth-right on the most sensitive religious monument in Jerusalem, The Temple Mt./Haram Al Sharif, the eye of the storm. The documentary follows these two women in their quest to promote their respective agendas, while they criss-cross each-others paths. Their faith is an explosive time-bomb constantly manipulated by politicians from both sides.

As a lingering problem with no solution, Jerusalem is like a 'tinderbox' which could blow up at any moment. The film focuses on a particularly sensitive moment known as the 'metal detector crisis' in the summer of 2017, where following the murder of two Israeli policemen on the compound, Israeli authorities attempted to install metal detectors and surveillance equipment, potentially spurring a political conflict which would extend far beyond the square kilometer of Jerusalem's old city.

The film's third axis—beyond the scientific rationalism of the professor's, and the fundamentalist claims of the two female characters—presents letters addressed to God, spiritual prayers and requests literally posted or emailed to the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

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## CREDITS

*Writer, Director:* Geert van Kesteren & Noa Ben-Shalom

*Image:* © Geert van Kesteren2018

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