

The *Jerusalem Cross* has become a central symbol in Christianity for it represents the connection of Jesus to the Holy Land and Jerusalem. Jerusalem Crosses are collected as souvenirs, while at the same time marking ancient churches and holy sites in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Cross is often worn as jewelry or hung on the walls of houses. It has also become part of the coat-of arms and symbol of the Franciscan Custodia Terra Sancta - the pope appointed guardians or custodians of the Christian Holy Land sites. It can be bought in stores worldwide as well as online. So what is the Jerusalem Cross?

Jerusalem Cross - What it looks like?

The Jerusalem Cross is a regular or symmetrically even cross which ends with a "T" shape, known as Tau Crosses - representing the Old Testament and surrounded by 4 equal smaller Greek Crosses, symbolic of the New Testament.

The Jerusalem Cross is mostly linked to Jesus Christ and bequest to spread the gospel to the 4 corners of world. Some believe the four small crosses can be interpreted as the four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Others believe the small crosses, symbolize the wounds of Christ's hands and feet, while the larger cross represents the wound to his side inflicted by the Roman guards.

Jerusalem Cross – The Symbol

The Jerusalem Cross symbolizes centuries of faith. Its origin is believed to be rooted in the time of the Crusaders, during the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem ruled the holy city, from 1099 to 1187 AD. This period was one of the richest periods in Christian history, which is why the Jerusalem cross is often jeweled and revered.

According to some historical evidence, Godfrey de Bouillon was the first to use the Jerusalem Cross as a distinct symbol. A leader within the Crusader orders, De Bouillon believed that the cross is the symbol of Jesus Christ and the city of Jerusalem, which stands in the center of Christianity.

Jerusalem Cross – A Universal Symbol

Religious symbols such as crosses have been used for adornment and jewelry since early Christianity. The cross and Jesus on the Cross is widely used in jewelry items like earrings, rings, and necklaces.

However, the Jerusalem Cross pendant is more of a "Pilgrim's Cross"; used by people from all over the world, including some non-Christians. The Jerusalem Cross, therefore, is a very popular cross among those who have visited Jerusalem and the Holy Land, as well as those who wish to keep Jerusalem and the Holy Land close to their hearts.

Historically and religiously, the Jerusalem Cross has and continues to remain a powerful symbol of the strong faith, biblical texts, and foundational roots between Jesus Christ and Jerusalem.