

Ancient 'Mount of Olives' lamp with Jewish Temple symbols discovered in Jerusalem

A rare 1,700-year-old lamp with Jewish Temple symbols has been uncovered in Jerusalem, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced on Thursday.

Excavation Director Michael Chernin explained the importance of the ancient artifact he referred to as the Mount of Olives lamp.

"After the Roman Emperor Hadrian suppressed the Bar Kockba rebellion in 135 C.E., Jews were expelled from the city. The Mount of Olives lamp is one of the few material traces of a Jewish presence around Jerusalem in the 3rd-5th centuries C.E.," Chernin said.

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"The exquisite artistic workmanship of the lamp, which was found complete, makes it outstanding and extremely rare," he continued.

Chernin said the discovery of the ancient artifact is "particularly surprising," acknowledging that there is "very little evidence of the existence of a Jewish settlement in and around Jerusalem from this period."