

Praying Toward Yerushalayim

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Question

We are acquiring the building of a non-orthodox synagogue whose sanctuary is facing the opposite direction of Jerusalem. I have heard from others that *bedieved* this would be acceptable, but in light of the fact that we will be making very costly renovations to the entire building anyway, how important is it to restructure the entire sanctuary to face Yerushalayim?

Response

Direction When Praying

The Talmud records three opinions regarding the proper direction one should face while praying:

1. An individual praying outside of Eretz Yisrael should turn toward Eretz Yisrael; one praying in Eretz Yisrael should face Jerusalem; in Jerusalem, one should pray toward the *Beis Hamikdash*; in the *Beis Hamikdash*, one should turn toward the

