

The End-Times Relevance of Israel

Part 3: The Capital

Jerusalem's Significance to God

- 1 Ki 11:36, "I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name."
- 2 Ki 21:4, "He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, 'In Jerusalem I will put my Name.'"
- 2 Ki 21:7, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever."
- 2 Chr 6:6, "But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel."
- What's the significance of God choosing to put his name on Jerusalem and what does that tell you about his attitude toward the city?
- Isa 45:13, "I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty."

Jerusalem, a Key to End Times

- Zech 12:2-3, ² "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. . . . ³ On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves."
 - Who are these people?
 - What characteristic do those nations have in common?
 - "reeling" (Heb, *raal*): reeling, staggering, tottering, wobbling; i.e., the stumbling, half-falling motion of a drunken person trying to walk
 - What does this image imply about "the surrounding peoples"?
 - Considering that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, how is this scenario developing now?
- Rev 11:1-3, ¹ "I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, 'Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. ² But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. ³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."
 - "trample" (Gk, *pateo*): (1) press grapes by squishing with feet; (2) by analogy: harm by subjugation; (3) conquer, subdue by force

- Zech 12:9-10, ⁹ “On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem. ¹⁰ And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”
 - “day” (Heb, *yom*): a period of time, whether specified or unspecified length
 - spirit of “grace” (Heb, *chen*): grace, favor
 - spirit of “supplication” (Heb, *tachanun*): plea or petition for mercy
 - What does all this suggest?
 - Mt 24:30, “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”
- Zech 14:2, “I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.”
 - This event probably is the “battle of Armageddon” (Rev 16:16)
- Zech 14:4, “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.”
 - Where does he return?
- Isa 60:10-14, 19
 - ¹⁰ Foreigners will rebuild your walls,
and their kings will serve you.
Though in anger I struck you,
in favor I will show you compassion.
 - ¹¹ Your gates will always stand open,
they will never be shut, day or night,
so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations —
their kings led in triumphal procession.
 - ¹² For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish;
it will be utterly ruined.
 - ¹³ The glory of Lebanon will come to you,
the pine, the fir and the cypress together,
to adorn the place of my sanctuary;
and I will glorify the place of my feet.
 - ¹⁴ The sons of your oppressors will come bowing before you;
all who despise you will bow down at your feet
and will call you the City of the Lord,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel....

¹⁹ The sun will no more be your light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

- Zech 14:16-17, ¹⁶ “Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.
¹⁷ If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain.”
 - What impact would a one-year drought have on a nation?
 - Why would the nations celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles?
 - Isa 60:19: Why will the sun and moon stop shining on Jerusalem?
- The current city of Jerusalem is a focus of God’s attention, also the site of major end-times events:
 - international attention & opposition
 - military invasions, including “battle of Armageddon”
 - Jesus’ return to earth

Heavenly, New Jerusalem

- Gal 4:25-26, ²⁵ “Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.”
 - What is “the Jerusalem that is above”?
- Heb 11:8-10, ⁸ “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”
 - Rev 21:14, “The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”
- Heb 11:16, “Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”
 - What does the grammar of “he has prepared a city” tell us?
- Heb 12:22, “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.”
 - What does this suggest about God’s location in heaven?
 - How might this explain why God put his name on earthly Jerusalem?

- Rev 3:12, “Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.”
- Rev 21:1-2, ¹ “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”
- Rev 21:9-10, ⁹ “One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”
 - I believe the new Jerusalem is a literal city that currently exists in heaven.
- Rev 21:23-27, ²³ “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”
 - Isa 60:19, “The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light.”
- Rev 22:3, “The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.”

Blessing

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May those who love you be secure.

May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.”

For the sake of my brothers and friends,

I will say, “Peace be within you.”

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your prosperity.

— Ps 122:6-9