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Jerusalem

personified as a

Mother with Children

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Jerusalem Personified as a Mother with Children.

- God divorced Israel.
 - Israel's connection to the land and marriage.
 - Jerusalem, personified as a mother with children.
 - Inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah likened to a woman in labour.
 - Jerusalem personified as a bride.
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GOD DIVORCED ISRAEL

The following verses show that the LORD divorced Israel.

- **Isaiah 50:1:** Thus says the LORD: "Where is your (Judah's) mother's (i.e., Israel) certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

The words, "Thus says the LORD," is directed to the people of Judah in captivity to Babylon who felt that the LORD had unjustly dealt with them with as much cruelty and carelessness as a man did with his wife when he gave her a writing of divorce and put her away without any just reason.

The words, "Where is your mother's certificate of divorce," refers to the ten tribes of Israel (personified as their parents), who were so corrupt that God gave them a certificate of divorce. Israel's children (Judah), followed their mothers' corrupt ways, which is the reason they are now being raised in captivity in Babylon.

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In this chapter the LORD is vindicating His justice in allowing Babylon to take Judah captive, by showing that their hardness of heart, wickedness, and worship of pagan gods was the cause of their captivity and afflictions, and that by their own wickedness, they brought their afflictions upon themselves.

- **Jeremiah 3:8:** She (Judah) saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her (Israel) away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. (Jer. 3:6-8).

The LORD had hoped the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria would return to Him after they had played the whore by worshipping other gods, but sadly they did not return, so the LORD sent them away with a certificate of divorce into captivity to Assyria.

ISRAEL'S CONNECTION TO THE LAND AND MARRIAGE

The following verses not only show that the people of Israel are referred to as God's wife, but also picture Zion and Jerusalem and the people of Israel all being married to their land, with God as the Husband rejoicing over Zion, Jerusalem, the land, and the people. The idea is that the people of Israel cannot be separated from their land and their land cannot be separated from them.

- **Isaiah 54:4-7:** Fear not, for you (Israel) will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. ⁵For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. ⁶For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. ⁷For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you.
- **Isaiah 62:4-5:** You (Zion and Jerusalem) (v1) shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.
- **Jeremiah 3:14:** Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; (for I am married unto you in KJV): I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

It would not be wrong to liken the heartfelt bond that the Jews have toward the land that God promised their fathers to the marriage bond a man has toward his wife. It is very likely that they are figuratively likened to being married to their land, because God originally designed that a married man and woman would remain together, and not separate, which has always been God's plan and purpose for Israel and their land.

JERUSALEM PERSONIFIED AS A MOTHER WITH CHILDREN

- **Lamentations 2:15:** All who pass along the way clap their hands at you (Jerusalem); they hiss and wag their heads at the daughter of Jerusalem; "Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth?" (Lam. 2:15).

The daughters are the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Throughout Scripture Jerusalem is often personified as a mother with children. Her children are all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, prophets, husbands, wives, and their children. When they are spoken of as virgin daughters it carries the idea of them having only one husband (God) in contrast to the surrounding nations having many gods.

INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM AND JUDAH LIKENED TO A WOMAN IN LABOUR

- **Revelation 4:31:** For I heard a cry as of a woman in labour, anguish as of one giving birth to her first child, the cry of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands, "Woe is me! I am fainting before murderers." (Jer. 4:31).

The daughter of Zion refers to the people of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They are likened to a woman in labour and great anguish giving birth to her first child, because of the great pain a woman feels when giving birth, because Isaiah in this prophetic vision is seeing their land and cities being invaded by fierce armies and their city being plundered by a powerful enemy.

JERUSALEM, PERSONIFIED AS A BRIDE

- **Revelation 21:1-2:** Then I (John) saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- Jerusalem is personified as a bride, signifying the redeemed in Christ.
 - Jerusalem husband, signifies Christ.
 - Jerusalem mother, signifies Israel.
 - Jerusalem daughters, signifies Judah.
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As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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