



The Kingdom of God and Jerusalem.

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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.

The Kingdom of God and Jerusalem.

Topics.

- Jerusalem a unique city amongst the nations.
- Jerusalem in the book of Zechariah.
- Jerusalem a cup of staggering.
- When they look on him whom they have pierced.
- King of kings and Lord of lords.
- The New Jerusalem the holy city of God.
- Jerusalem prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

JERUSALEM A UNIQUE CITY AMONGST THE NATIONS

Jerusalem has always been a unique city in the eyes of God and has always had a unique purpose in God's Kingdom and His eternal plan of salvation for mankind. The following are just a few of the many Scriptures that show Jerusalem is a unique city in that it is the only city throughout history and in the entire world that God has spoken of in the following, beautiful, majestic and royal manner:

- Jerusalem the city that I the LORD have chosen to put my name on forever. (1 Kings 11:36) (2 Kings 21:7).
- Blessed be the LORD from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem! (Psalm 135:21).
- Those who are left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem (Isaiah 4:3).
- The moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem (Isaiah 24:23).
- A people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem you shall weep no more (Isaiah 30:19).
- Be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness (Isaiah 65:18).
- Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17).
- Thus says the LORD GOD: This is Jerusalem. I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her (Ezekiel 5:5).
- The LORD roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem and the heavens and the earth quake. But the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel. "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain. And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass through it (Joel 3:16-17).
- The earth, is God's footstool and Jerusalem the city of the great King (Matt. 5:35).
- You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem and to innumerable angels in festal gathering (Heb. 12:22).
- The one who conquers, I (the Lord) will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name (Rev. 3:12).

- I (John) saw the holy city, New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2).
- He carried me (John) away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God (Rev. 21:10).

These are only a very small selection of hundreds of Scriptures that speak of Jerusalem, but they are enough to show that Jerusalem is a unique city in the eyes of God and has always had a unique purpose in God's Kingdom and His eternal plan of salvation for mankind.

JERUSALEM IN THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH

For those who were rebuilding the temporal temple of God during the era of Zechariah there is a beautiful message of comfort and encouragement for the people of Israel throughout the book of Zechariah, but as the visions progress through the chapters the focus slowly shifts from the era of Zechariah and transcends time to a future age where God is building an eternal temple in the Lord Jesus Christ. The visions then progress to Jesus second return and climax's in the final chapter with Christ reigning from Jerusalem as King over the entire earth. The following prophetic verses of Zechariah show that the LORD has an appointed day set for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

JERUSALEM A CUP OF STAGGERING

- **Zechariah 12:2-5:** "Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering (trembling in KJV) to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. on that day, I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. ⁴*On that day*, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. ⁵Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.

2

Siege: refers to a military effort or operation in which troops surround an enemy's fortifications and cut off all outside access to force surrender over a prolonged and tedious period of time.

Trembling: (trembling in KJV) means to be anxious and shake terribly with uncontrollable fear or anger. The LORD is about to make Jerusalem a city the surrounding nations will fear.

The common expression in this chapter is, "On that Day" when day is used figuratively it can be referring to:

- A period of time embracing a series of events.
- Generations.
- Many days.

The Day of the LORD sometimes encompass an entire series of events over a unspecified period of time and at other times the Day of the LORD only refers to that particular day of Christ's return or God's judgment. It is the context the term is used in, that determines if it is referring to one day or a period of time or a series of events.

NOTE: in chapter nine Zechariah prophesied that the LORD would make Judah His bow and Israel its arrow when Greece comes against them and that the Lord would not only appear over Israel and protect and save them, but also tread down the armies of Greece, then Israel will shine like the jewels of a crown in their own land (Zech. 9:12-17), though this

applied for Israel at that time, the prophecy also majestically carries within its prophetic message an echo of a future day in which the LORD will save and protect Jerusalem on a day when all the nations of the earth gather against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:3) (Zech. 12:10).

- **Zechariah 12:6-9:** *On that day* I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.⁷ And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. ⁸*On that day* the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them *on that day* shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them. ⁹And *on that day* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

God says a day is coming when the nations of the world will be gathered against the land of Judah and the city of Jerusalem (God's Holy City) to destroy its inhabitants. When this day comes all nations (especially the surrounding nations and those who have come against Jerusalem) will be struck with great fear because God by His power will defend Israel and destroy those that have come against them and Israel will be victorious.

NOTE: all the nations of the earth at the time of Zechariah refers to the surrounding nations in the Middle East that gathered against Jerusalem, but the following verses shows that this chapter is also echoing a future age in which this prophecy will be fulfilled on a much grander scale than it was in the generations of Zechariah.

WHEN THEY LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY HAVE PIERCED

- **Zechariah 12:10:** I (the LORD) will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on *him whom they have pierced* they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

3

This verse shows us that not only does this chapter contain a message for the people of Israel in the time of Zechariah, but it also has contained within its local message a prophetic message for a future day when Israel with great sorrow will weep when they see the ONE they crucified showing that as this prophetic message of Zechariah approaches its glorious end, it leaves the local era of Zechariah and transcends through history and time climaxing to the final outcome of God's eternal plan of salvation and the future glory of Jerusalem (God's Holy city) to be established on earth.

NOTICE: the people of Israel are weeping for Christ, not for themselves, their morning is for the suffering and pain they caused him, they are broken and devastated at the way they treated him and cry for mercy and grace (Zech. 12:10). This is a great contrast to the fasting and weeping Israel did in the name of the LORD when their sorrow and weeping was not for God, but for their own suffering and loss.

THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

This chapter is majestically echoing a future age when Christ returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God

will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

ON THAT DAY JERUSALEM WILL BE CLEANSED

Now in chapter thirteen Zechariah's prophetic message transcends his era and travels through time and history until it climaxes in chapter fourteen at the future glory of Jerusalem and God's eternal plan of salvation to be established on earth.

- **Zechariah 13:1-3:** "*On that day* there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness. ²"And *On that day*, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness. ³And if anyone again prophesies, his father and mother who bore him will say to him, 'You shall not live, for you speak lies in the name of the LORD.' And his father and mother who bore him shall pierce him through when he prophesies.

On that day refers to the day Israel, "Look on him who they pierced" and there is great weeping and mourning in Jerusalem (Zech. 12:10-14). From this day onward there will not only be only one God (the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) throughout all Israel's land, but also throughout all nations in contrast to Israel's past history and the nations of the world worshipping many gods, idols and goddesses. Added to this there will be no need of a prophet, simply because Christ himself will be ruling and reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords. The book of Zechariah ends with the promise that the Lord would establish his rule over all the earth (Zech. 14:9). For greater detail of the amazing prophecies of Zechariah see:

- Zechariah in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Old Testament says, Jesus the messenger of the covenant will suddenly come to Jerusalem, but who will endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and will purify the sons of Levi (the priests and religious leaders) and refine them like gold and silver and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD (Malachi 3:1-4) (Christ did not achieve this in his first coming rather than offer the Lord righteousness they plotted his murder). Jerusalem God's Holy City will be inhabited, on that day that the LORD gives salvation to Jerusalem. God will protect the feeblest of its inhabitants and destroy all the nations that come against it. The LORD will pour out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on Jesus, whom they have pierced, they will mourn with great mourning and weep for him, as one mourns for an only child (Zech. 12:5-11).

The New Jerusalem the Holy City of God: there will be a New Jerusalem a Holy City built by God and established on earth. The glory of the LORD and of the Lamb will be its light and by its light the nations will walk and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Jesus will end all forms of war and speak peace to the nations; he will rule from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth (Matt. 5:34-35) (Rev. 21:10) (Rev. 21:24) (Zech. 9:9-10).

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ: when the Lord Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords he will rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

Jerusalem Prepared as a Bride Adorned for her Husband: the following is a glorious vision of the future Holy City New Jerusalem that God gave to a godly elderly man name John on the isle of Patmos:

- 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 (Revelation 21:1-2).

If you have ever been to a wedding you will understand the Beauty and glory of John's vision. I attended a wedding that was held at a magnificent dam surrounded by vividly coloured trees. The brilliant shade of green grass and the sparking water of the dam acted as a magnificent backdrop while the Groom and guests all waited in excited anticipation for the Bride to appear. Eventually the chatter of the invited guest was broken as the wedding music began and there she was, the Bride radiant, pure, innocent her white dress with its lacy train caressed the fresh green grass as she came closer to her first real love. I turned and glanced at the Groom and noticed the struggle he had to hold back his joyful tears from filling his eyes like a river overflowing its banks as he saw the beauty and radiance of his Bride approaching him with her smile of grace, and charity and her obvious affection and tender compassion she had for the man she loved at first sight.

Just as I was touched by the splendour and glory of the appearance of my friends' Bride, John is no-doubt touched in his vision by the same overwhelming wonder as he sees the glorious beauty of the earthy city Jerusalem restored as a Bride adorned for her husband (a symbol of all those who belong to Christ). We often think of how much we love the Lord and how great our rejoicing will be on that day when we see him face to face, but just as the Groom at this wedding was overwhelmed with inexpressible joy when he saw the woman who had so faithfully committed her life to him, likewise Jesus our Groom will also be joyfully excited and thrilled when he sees the radiance and beauty of his Bride as she approaches toward him, knowing she has patiently endured life's many trials and testings' to be with him in everlasting glory.

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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