

JERUSALEM - CITY OF GOD

A message exploring why Jerusalem is so important – to the Lord

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Introduction

- **Jerusalem in the Scriptures**
 - **The name "Jerusalem" occurs 806 times in the Bible, 660 times in the Old Testament and 146 times in the New Testament; and many additional references to the city occur as synonyms**

- **Jerusalem Day (Iyar 28)**
 - **Tomorrow is Jerusalem Day (Hebrew: *Yom Yerushaláyim*)**
 - Today (until sunset) it is Shabbat, in the Jewish calendar it is Iyar 27 on
 - Tomorrow (commencing after sunset) it is Jerusalem Day (Hebrew: *Yom Yerushaláyim*) – an Israeli national holiday
 - **Jerusalem Reunified**
 - It commemorates both the reunification of Jerusalem and the establishment of Israeli control over the Old City on Iyar 28, during the Six-Day War of 1967
 - It is celebrated annually on 28 Iyar on the Hebrew calendar, and is marked officially throughout Israel with state ceremonies and memorial service
 - The Chief Rabbinate of Israel declared Jerusalem Day to be a minor religious holiday, as it marks the regaining for Jewish people of access to the Western Wall
 - **The Lord's Initiative**
 - On 15 May 1948, the day after Israel declared its independence, Arab Armies entered the formerly Mandatory Palestine territory
 - Jordan seized East Jerusalem and the Old City. Israeli forces made a concerted attempt to dislodge them, but were unable to do so
 - By the end of the 1948 Arab–Israeli War Jerusalem was left divided between Israel and Jordan.
 - This state of affairs changed in 1967 as a result of the Six-Day War
 - Before the start of the war, Israel sent a message to King Hussein of Jordan, saying that Israel would not attack Jerusalem or the West Bank as long as the Jordanian front remained quiet
 - Urged by Egyptian pressure and based on deceptive intelligence reports, Jordan began shelling civilian locations in Israel, to which Israel responded on 6 June by opening the eastern front
 - The following day, 7 June 1967 (28 Iyar 5727), Israel captured the Old City of Jerusalem

- The Lord deceived Israel's enemies and gave them back Jerusalem

'The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.' **Psalm 147: 2**

'Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you.' **Psalm 147: 12-13**

Zion and Jerusalem and Moriah

• Zion is Jerusalem

- The ancient Hebrew word *Tsion* (Zion) is a Canaanite hill fortress in Jerusalem captured by David and called in the Bible 'City of David'
- Zion (geographically) can refer to one of two places: the hill where the most ancient areas of Jerusalem stood; or, the city of Jerusalem itself
- Zion (nationally) can refer to the Jewish people in Israel
- In the Bible, the Land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem are both referred to as Zion
- Zion (spiritually) refers to the dwelling place of God
 - Mount Zion represents "the Kingdom of God" in Revelation 21 and "looks ahead to the New Jerusalem that will descend out of heaven"
 - In his vision of end times, John saw 'Mount Zion

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Revelation 14: 1

• Mount Zion

- Mount Zion is a hill in Jerusalem, located just outside the walls of the Old City
- The term Mount Zion has been used in the Hebrew Bible first for the City of David and later for the Temple Mount, but its meaning has shifted and it is now used as the name of ancient Jerusalem's Western Hill
- The first time the word Zion is mentioned in the Bible is when David fought the Jebusites at Jerusalem

'Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).'

2 Samuel 5: 7

- Upon this hilly range of sacred land, Scripture shows a rich heritage of God's redemptive work even before the name Zion surfaced

• Moriah

- Abraham's was **Called by the Lord to go to Moriah**
- There, Abraham was **instructed to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering**

'Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.'

Genesis 22: 1-2

'Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.'

Genesis 22: 4

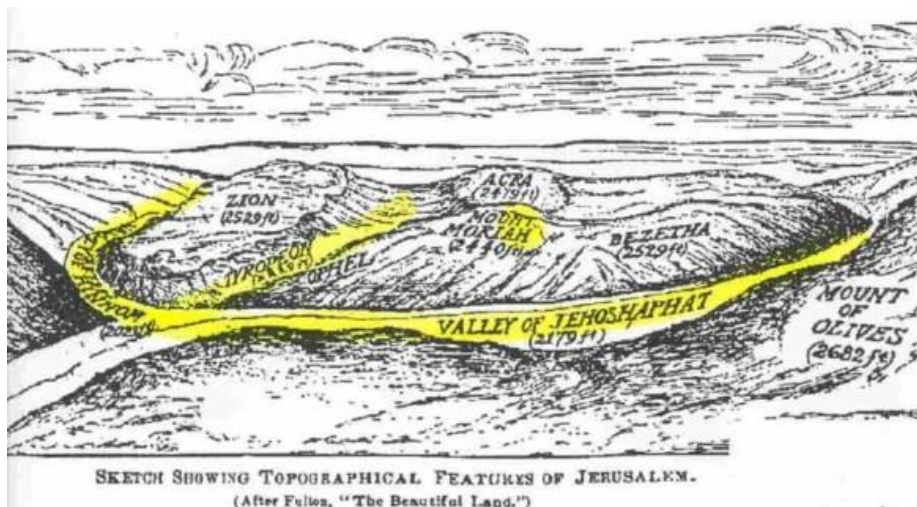
- **Abraham's faith was evident in his words – and proved by his actions**

‘And Abraham said, “My son, God **will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.**” So the two of them went together.’ **Genesis 22: 8**

- **Abraham named the place prophetically**

‘And **Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide;** as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”’ **Genesis 22: 14**

- **The-LORD-Will-Provide** (Jehovah-Jireh) is one of the seven compound names for God in the OT.
- **Two Thousand Years Later**
 - **Abraham’s journey with his son to Mount Moriah was prophetic**
 - **Some 2,000 years later the supreme act of God the Father’s love was seen at Calvary – it was that same Mount Moriah to which Abraham journeyed**
- **Other Historical References**
 - **David Purchased the Threshing Floor of Ornan the Jebusite**
 - There he sacrificed oxen to atone for his sin (see *1 Chronicles 21: 14-18*) – this was the on the top of Mount Moriah
 - In that place Solomon built the magnificent temple of the Lord – the site of Mount Moriah known today as the Temple Mount (see *2 Chronicles 3: 1*)
 - After the first temple was built on Mount Moriah, it became known as Mount Zion
 - Today the location of Mount Zion refers to a hill on the south side of Jerusalem’s Armenian Quarter - but the ancient Jebusite Mount Zion encompassed all of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount





The Lord and Zion

- **Chosen and Desired by Him**

*‘For **the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place:** “This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.”’* **Psalm 132: 13-14**

- **This from one of the Songs of Ascent**

- Psalms 120-134 – sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem for one of the three pilgrimage festivals (Pesach/Unleavened Bread, Shavuot and Sukkot)

- **Zion here refers to Earthly Jerusalem**

- The Chosen and Desired Resting Place looks forward prophetically to the day when Jesus Christ, the son of David and the son of Abraham (*Matthew 1: 1*), will be installed by God on the throne of David in the city of God, to rule and bring peace on earth, especially in Israel

*‘The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: “**I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.**”’* **Psalm 132: 11**

- **Founded by Him**

- **The Lord directed Abraham and David to Jerusalem (Moriah)**
- **It is the Lord who Founded it as His Holy Dwelling Place**

*‘**What will they answer the messengers of the nation? That the Lord has founded Zion, and the poor of His people shall take refuge in it.**’* **Isaiah 14: 32**

- In a Chapter which speaks prophetically of end-times; the fall of Lucifer, Babylon, Assyria and Philistia – the Lord says to the nations ‘I founded Jerusalem!’
- In the end-times the nations will come against Israel and Jerusalem and against the Lord – and they will find He is the one who founded it and will defend it – see *Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 19: 17-21*

- **Loved by Him**

- **Chosen and Loved**

- Not only has the Lord chosen Zion (Jerusalem) but He has loved her from the beginning

*Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph, and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but **chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.** And He built His sanctuary like the heights, like the earth which He has established forever.’* **Psalm 78: 67-69**

- The Lord likens His sanctuary (Jerusalem and Mt Zion) to the earth – both are established forever
- **Founded and Loved**
 - Jerusalem is the Lord’s foundation – and he loves her gates

*‘His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. **Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!** Selah’* **Psalm 87: 1-3**

- Jerusalem is spoken of here as ‘The City of God’ – there is no other

- **The Lord Dwells in Zion**

- **The Lord Designates Jerusalem as His Dwelling Place**

*‘In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. **In Salem also is His tabernacle, and His dwelling place in Zion.**’* **Psalm 76: 1-2**

- **Salem here is Jerusalem** (Hebrew: shâlêm, meaning peaceful...from the same root as ‘shalom’)
 - *Shalem* means: complete, especially friendly, full, just, made ready, peaceable, perfect(ed), quiet and whole
 - The root of *Shalem* means: to be safe (in mind, body or estate), to be (or make) complete, to make amends, to (make an) end, furnish, full, give again, make good, (re)pay, to make (to be at) peace, peaceable, (that is) perfect, make prosperous, recompense, render, make restitution, restore, and surely reward
- **Jerusalem is a combination of *Yara* (pronounced as *yahr-ah*) and *shalem***
 - *Yara* means: dual, as related to the two principal hills on which Jerusalem sits
 - *Yara* also means: founded peacefully, to flow as water (i.e. rain), to shoot as an arrow, to point out (as if by aiming a finger), to teach...and also to cast, direct, inform, instruct, show, teacher, teaching
- **The Lord Dwells in Jerusalem**

*‘Blessed be the Lord out of Zion, **who dwells in Jerusalem!** Praise the Lord!’* **Psalm 135: 21**

- This is a shout of praise we should be saying and doing now.
- **Jerusalem is ‘The City of the Lord’**

*“The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, to beautify **the place of My sanctuary;** and **I will make the place of My feet glorious.** Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; and **they shall call you The City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**”* **Isaiah 60: 13-14**

- In a chapter which speaks of Restoration in Zion – the Lord declares Zion to be His sanctuary and He will make it glorious
- Those who afflict Jerusalem will acknowledge it to be the ‘City of the Lord’
- **The Place of His Footstool**

*‘Thus says the Lord: “**Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?**”* **Isaiah 66: 1**

- The Lord says His throne is in Heaven and the Earth is His footstool – if any place on earth could be said to be where his feet are, that place...is Jerusalem
- He asks rhetorical questions ‘Where is my house?’ and ‘Where is My Resting Place’ – to which the answer is clearly Jerusalem

- **The Lord Will Reign from Zion**

- **The Father sets Yeshua as King in Jerusalem**

“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” **Psalm 2: 6**

- God’s response to the nations rage and rebellion against Him and His Anointed (Yeshua) is to laugh at their puny acts and threats, to distress them in His displeasure, and to set Yeshua as king in Jerusalem

- **The Lord of Hosts Will Reign on Zion and in Jerusalem**

- The Father sets Yeshua as King in Jerusalem

*“Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for **the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem** and before His elders, gloriously.”* **Isaiah 24: 23**

- In a chapter about the coming ‘Day of the Lord’ and His Judgement, scripture declares that it will be from Zion and Jerusalem that Yeshua (the Lord of Armies) will reign – for 1000 years
- The wonderful passage in Isaiah 52: 7-10 proclaims to Zion ‘Your God reigns’ – we have that privilege now to proclaim it to Zion and the Jewish people...*have you got beautiful feet?*

*‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, **who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*** **Isaiah 52: 7**

- **This passage links the Lord reigning from Zion with the redemption of Israel and Jerusalem**

- It begins with the exhortation ‘Awake, Awake, O Zion!’ ... and for Jerusalem – the holy city – to put on her beautiful garments (of righteousness and praise)

The Lord Defends Jerusalem

- **The Lord Builds Up Zion**

- **He strengthens and encourages, He gathers together and blesses with peace and prosperity**

- We have already seen these verses:

‘The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.’

‘Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you. He makes peace in your borders, and fills you with the finest wheat.’ **Psalm 147: 2, 12-14**

➤ See also *Psalm 102: 13-17*

- **The Lord Defends Zion**

- **Covenant Commitment**

- The Lord is committed to His covenant with David (see *2 Samuel 7: 4-16*)

*“And **your house and your kingdom shall be established forever** before you. **Your throne shall be established forever.**”* **2 Samuel 7: 16**

- Therefore the Lord is committed to David's house – both to Jerusalem and David's lineage – the Lord will maintain and defend these
- **The Lord Will Defend the City of Jerusalem**
 - As the Lord told Hezekiah when the Assyrians attacked

*“For **I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.**”*
Isaiah 37: 35

- The Lord defends Jerusalem not simply because of His covenant with David...but for His own names sake...for the Lord has chosen Jerusalem and it is His dwelling place

- **The Lord Will Fight for Zion and Defend Jerusalem**

- **Trust in the Lord**

- Isaiah prophetically tells Israel to trust in the Lord for deliverance when attacked...and not to rely on alliances with any nation
- This is a lesson Israel would do well to heed today

*“For thus the Lord has spoken to me: “As a lion roars, and a young lion over his prey (when a multitude of shepherds is summoned against him, he will not be afraid of their voice nor be disturbed by their noise), **so the Lord of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion and for its hill. Like birds flying about, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it; passing over, He will preserve it.**”*
Isaiah 31:4-5

- **The Lord Surrounds His People and His City**

- The Lord will not abandon His people or His city...ever!

*“Those who trust in the Lord are like **Mount Zion**, which **cannot be moved**, but abides forever. **As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.**”*
Psalms 125: 1-2

- The next verse tells us the Lord's reason for His defence of His people and His city – it is to do with righteousness!

*“For **the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.**”*
Psalms 125: 3

The Lord Judges Nations for their Treatment of Jerusalem

- **The Lord Remains Committed To His City**

- **Zechariah was given a prophetic word about the end of Judah's 70 years of captivity**

*“So the angel who spoke with me said to me, “Proclaim, saying, **Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal. I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; for I was a little angry, and they helped—but with evil intent.**””*
Zechariah 1: 14-15

- Captivity was the Lord's judgement for Judah's iniquity
- But there was an end point...the Lord would restore them...He had not, nor will not, abandon them

*“Therefore thus says the Lord: **“I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it,”** says the Lord of hosts, “And a surveyor's line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.”’ “Again proclaim, saying, **Thus says the Lord of hosts: “My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; the Lord will again comfort Zion, and will again choose Jerusalem.**”’”*
Zechariah 1: 16-17

- **What was True Then...Is True Today – The Lord Remains Committed To His City**
 - **Today the Jewish people have returned to their Land – but most remain in Ignorance of Him – see Ezekiel chapters 36 & 37**
 - **Still Today many Jewish people are Scattered across the Globe**
 - Dispersion was God’s Judgement because of their rejection of Yeshua their Messiah
 - It was also part of God’s redemptive plan to spread the gospel to the nations
 - **As in Zechariah’s day – there will be an end point – the ‘times of the gentiles’ will come to an end...that day is coming soon!**

*“And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And **Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**”* **Luke 21: 24**

- **The Lord’s Controversy with the Nations**
 - **Jeremiah tells of the Lord’s Controversy with The Nations**
 - His prophetic word concerning Judah’s captivity in Babylon is true today
 - In Hebraic thinking, prophecy is Pattern (not simply prediction and fulfilment)

*“Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: **‘The Lord will roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise will come to the ends of the earth—for the Lord has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh.’** He will give those who are wicked to the sword,’ says the Lord.’”* **Jeremiah 25: 30-31**

- **Joel Outlines the Lord’s Reasons for Controversy & Judgement**
 - Judgement comes after the Lord brings back the Captives – this is true in our day...since the rebirth of Israel in 1947
 - Judgement because – of the Nations’ Treatment of His People
 - Judgement because – of the Nations’ Scattering of His People (including denying them ability to return to Israel)
 - Judgement because – of the Nations’ Division of the Land (Israel and Jerusalem)

*“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and **I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. They have cast lots for My people, have given a boy as payment for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.**”* **Joel 3: 1-3**

- **Judgement will flow from Jerusalem**
 - The Lord will roar from Zion and an utter His voice from Jerusalem

*“**The Lord also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the Lord will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.**”* **Joel 3: 16**

- The Lord proclaims His Dwelling Place in Zion (Jerusalem) – a Holy City

*“So you shall know that **I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again.**”* **Joel 3: 17**

- **Zechariah speaks of Jerusalem’s Centrality in the Lord’s Judgements**
 - Jerusalem will be a ‘Cup of Drunkenness’ and a ‘Burdensome Stone’ to those who come against Him, against His people and against His City

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Zechariah 12: 2-3

- These are serious warnings for nations in our day – those that deny Israel’s right to the land or her right to Jerusalem, or even her right to exist
 - The UK should fear the Lord’s judgement – because of how we divided the land in the Mandate period and failed to provide a Jewish homeland, and how we prevented (instead of encouraging) the return of the Jewish people
 - In 1947 the British disarmed the Jews and armed the Arabs as the mandate period drew to a close
 - On 29 November 1947, when a 2000-year-old dream became reality – a Jewish State was born anew in its ancient homeland - that day the UN General Assembly voted on Resolution 181, adopting a plan to partition the British Mandate into two states, one Jewish, one Arab – Britain abstained!
 - In 1948 the Arab Legion that attacked Israel was led by a British officer (Lieutenant-General John Bagot Glubb) and staffed by many British officers
- Nations that seek to dictate matters concerning Jerusalem will find themselves reeling as a drunkard – how true that is today
- When the Lord Returns as King, in Judgement – He will destroy those Nations that come against Jerusalem (this at the end of the Tribulation)

“In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”

Zechariah 12: 8-9

- **The Lord’s Action is for His Holy Names Sake**
 - That Jerusalem be cleansed to be His Holy City
 - That the Jewish People be cleansed to be His Holy People

The Lord will Save Zion

- **Salvation for the Jewish People is Central to God’s Purposes**
 - **Their Restoration Spiritually – in holiness**
 - **Their Restoration Physically – in the land in peace and fruitfulness**

For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah, that they may dwell there and possess it. Also, the descendants of His servants shall inherit it, and those who love His name shall dwell in it.’

Psalms 69: 35-36

- For God’s Agenda for His Jewish People (the 70 Weeks) – see *Daniel 9: 24*
- **Isaiah speaks of God’s Redemption of Israel and Jerusalem (*Isaiah 52: 1-12*)**
 - **We see in this passage the Lord’s concern not simply for His Jewish People – but for His Holy City too!**
 - It is His determination to bring redemption and holiness
 - He calls for Watchmen to raise their voices
 - He desires that His salvation (His plan of redemption and restoration from the foundation of the world) will be seen by all peoples

- **The Lord calls Zion (the Jewish People & Jerusalem) to Awake!**

‘Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean shall no longer come to you.’
Isaiah 52: 1

- The call of the Lord is for them to awake – as if from slumber; to awake spiritually to what they are meant to be in the Lord...strong and clothed in the beauty of righteousness

- **The Lord calls for Watchmen to Pray & Sing**

‘Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord brings back Zion.’
Isaiah 52: 8

- Watchmen are those who are on the lookout – they forewarn and they speak of coming events
- The Watchmen for the Jewish People and Jerusalem are believing saints – Us...you and I – the calls us to be watchmen
- We sing today because we are indeed seeing the Lord bringing back Zion – both the people (returning to the land) and the city of Jerusalem (reunited under Jewish control)

- **The Watchmen & Israel to Pray & Sing of the Lord’s Redemption**

‘Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.’
Isaiah 52: 9

- Isaiah prophetically sees that the Lord will comfort His people
- He sees that the Lord has not...nor will not...abandon the Jewish People or His Holy City
- He proclaims the Lords redemption
- OH ISRAEL---WAKE UP!

- **The Lord Demonstrates His Power and Salvation to the World**

‘The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.’
Isaiah 52: 10

- Like a champion proclaiming his victory – the Lord, through restoring the Jewish People and His Holy City, will proclaim His Saving Power and Righteousness

- **This passage is followed by the prophecy of the Suffering Sin-Bearing Servant**

- See *Isaiah 52: 13 – 53: 12*

- **Isaiah speaks of Zion’s Salvation (*Isaiah 62*)**

- **The Lord Will Not Rest Until Jerusalem’s Holiness Shines Out**

‘For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns.’
Isaiah 62: 1

- Yet again scripture declares that the Lord has not abandoned His chosen people, nor His chosen city
- The Lord’s focus on Jerusalem is clear – His desire is for her to be seen as righteous and redeemed – shining like a beacon of light
- How different this is to how the world sees Jerusalem today!

- **The Lord Has Appointed Watchmen**
 - This theme from chapter 52 is repeated in chapter 62

'I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.'

Isaiah 62: 6-7

- The Watchmen for the Jewish People and Jerusalem are believing saints – Us...you and I – He calls us to be watchmen
- As the Lord will not rest until His purposes are accomplished...so the watchmen are not to rest...but to pray and proclaim ceaselessly
- Jerusalem and her righteousness and holiness are to be always in our prayers – for the city is the 'city of God', it is His Holy City
- We are to desire it's praise and glory as He does

- **The Lord Calls for Action**

'Go through, Go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples!'

Isaiah 62: 10

- **This verse is an agenda for action (not just prayer)** – by His believing saints
- They are to prepare the way for the Lord's redemption and restoration of His people and of Jerusalem
 - Open the Gateways
 - Prepare the Way...for aliyah and for redemption
 - Build Up the Highway – make the way to/for Israel a clear road
 - Remove the Obstacles
 - Raise a Clear Signal – a banner to call people and to show the way
- This verse has been an agenda for Ebenezer Operation Exodus since its foundation

- **The Lord's Commitment to His People and His City will be Demonstrated**

'And they shall call them The Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out, a City Not Forsaken.'

Isaiah 62: 12

- **Yet again the scriptures declare that the Lord has not...and will not...abandon His chosen Jewish People nor His Chosen Holy City**
- **How precious are His Chosen People to Him**
- **How the Lord loves and desires His Holy City, Jerusalem**

- **Throughout Scripture God's Redemptive Purposes for His People are Proclaimed**

"But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."

Obadiah 1: 17

'Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall see disaster no more.

In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Zephaniah 3: 14-17

'I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is

riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!’

Romans 11: 11-12

*‘For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “**The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.**”*

Romans 11: 25-27

Through Israel’s Salvation the Lord will Bless the Nations ‘out of Zion’

- **Zion the Joy of the Whole Earth**

- **The Scriptures speak of Mount Zion as being ‘the joy of the whole earth’ not just the delight of the Lord or the capital of the Jewish state**

*‘Great is the Lord, and **greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain.** Beautiful in elevation, **the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion** on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge.’*

Psalm 48: 1-3

- Zion will be a place of praise to God for all nations – this is so especially in the millennial rule of Yeshua from Jerusalem

*‘And it shall come to pass that **everyone who is left of all the nations** which came against Jerusalem shall **go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.**’*

Zechariah 14: 16

- **God Shines Forth Out of Zion**

- **Zion’s beauty and perfection reflects the character of Elohim**

*‘**Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth.**’*

Psalm 50: 2

- Zion reveals God’s character and glory to the whole world
- To the Lord Zion is beautiful (even if she does not seem it to us now)
- **He will beautify Jerusalem with His presence when He comes to rule – and all the awesomeness, fullness and brightness of His character will shine from the city**
 - The whole earth will know it - from the rising of the sun to its going down (v.1)
 - In Zion He will be Judge of His people and the earth (vs. 4-6)

- **Salvation for Israel will come ‘out of Zion’**

- **Israel’s Physical Restoration will be followed by Her Spiritual Restoration**
 - David prophetically expresses the longing for such salvation

*‘**Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When God brings back the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.**’*

Psalm 53: 6

- Ezekiel prophesies of this Salvation

*‘**For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.**’*

Ezekiel 36: 24-27

- **The Lord's Return (Second Coming) will bring Salvation for Israel**

- Paul speaks of Salvation (deliverance) for Israel coming 'out of Zion'

And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." **Romans 11: 26-27**

- The Lord will return to save Israel both physically (from attacking nations under Satan's leadership) and spiritually (through cleansing and renewal) - and all this will be focussed on Jerusalem

"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness." **Zechariah 13: 1**

- The Jewish people will see Him whom they pierced and mourn

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." **Zechariah 12: 10**

- All this is the Lord's doing...for His Holy Name's Sake

And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord," says the Lord God, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes." **Ezekiel 36: 23**

- **The Lord will Rule from Zion**

'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!' **Psalms 110: 1-2**

- These verses echo words about Messiah's rule in Psalm 2 (vs. 6-9)
- The Lord's Return is seen by John in Revelation (see Revelation 19: 11-16)

'Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.' **Revelation 19: 15-16**

- The Lord returns to an earth which has been in rebellion against Him and which has seen great devastation because of God's wrath in judgement
- **There will be a need to subdue both men and the earth to bring in the Lord's righteous rule – and this will happen from Jerusalem**

- **The Lord will Bless 'out of Zion'**

'The Lord bless you out of Zion, and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!' **Psalms 128: 5-6**

- Fear (reverence) of the Lord and walking in His ways will bring blessing (v.1)
- **These blessings flow out of Zion to all who honour the Lord – they will in the Millennium...but they do Today**
- **For... Jerusalem is the City of God... it is His Holy City ...it is His Chosen, Desired and Beloved Dwelling Place**
- **Wake Up! – To Blessing and Salvation**
 - **The Nations need to Wake Up to the truth about Jerusalem**

- Then they would cease from attacking her and seeking to divide and destroy her
- Then salvation would flow from Jerusalem to the nations
- **The Sleeping Church needs to Wake Up to the truth about Jerusalem**
 - Then they would cease from their false Replacement Theology
 - Then they would see blessing and new spiritual life flow from Jerusalem
- **The Believing Church too needs to Wake Up** to its God-given responsibilities towards the Jewish people and Jerusalem
 - Then they would cry out to the Jewish people themselves and to Jerusalem calling for them to **Awake. Awake!!... to the truth about Yeshua; to the truth about His love for His chosen people; and to the truth about His love for Jerusalem, His Holy City...**

‘Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean shall no longer come to you. Shake yourself from the dust, arise; sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!’ **Isaiah 52: 1-2**

- Then they would **pray for righteousness and salvation to come to the Jewish people themselves and to Jerusalem**

‘For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns.’ **Isaiah 62: 1**