

Session #29 Why It Is Essential that We Love and Pray for Jerusalem (Pt. 1)

“The friend of the Bridegroom...rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom’s voice.” (Jn. 3:29)

I. JERUSALEM IS THE MOST UNIQUE CITY ON EARTH IN MANY WAYS

1. Jerusalem is the only city in the Bible in which *the Lord declares His zeal for* (Zech. 1:14; 8:2-3).
2. Jerusalem is the only city on the earth that *Jesus called His own city* (Mt. 5:35)
3. Jerusalem is the only city in which *Jesus will live in forever* (Zech. 2:10-13)
4. Jerusalem is the only city in which *the Lord puts His Name* (2 Chr. 6:6).
5. Jerusalem is the only city on earth that is *named after the heavenly Jerusalem* (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10)
6. Jerusalem is the only city that God and the nations will call *“The Throne of God”* (Jer. 3:17).
7. Jerusalem is the only city that *Jesus will build His temple* to rule from when He returns (Zech. 6:12)
8. Jerusalem is the only city that many Rabbis claim was *in proximity to the garden of Eden*.
9. Jerusalem is the only city *Abraham left his home to look for* (Heb 11:9-10).
10. Jerusalem is the only city on earth in which God's declared that *He loves its gates* (Ps. 87:2)
11. Jerusalem is the only city that God's set at the *center of the nasions* (Ezek. 5:5; NAS)
12. Jerusalem is the only city that God commanded *all of His people to pray for* (Ps. 122:6)
13. Jerusalem is the only city that God promised to *raise up intercessors for* (Isa. 62:6-7).
14. Jerusalem is the only city in which God *promised to protect* those who mourned or prayed for it during a season of His judgment using Babylon in 586 BC. (Ezek. 9:1-5)
15. Jerusalem is the only city that God *promised to bless all who pray, rejoice, or mourn for it* (Ps. 122:6; Isa 66:10-11).
16. Jerusalem is the only city in which *all nations will come to learn God's ways* (Isa. 2:3-4).
17. Jerusalem is the only city in which *God commands nations to give money to* (Isa. 60:5-17).
18. Jerusalem is the only city in Scripture in which *God commands kings to help Jews return to* (Isa. 49:22-23; 60:9-14)
19. Jerusalem is the only city which God establishes as *the worship center for the earth* (Zech. 14:17-18)
20. Jerusalem is the first city in which *all will walk in righteousness* (Isa. 60:21; Zech. 14:20-21).
21. Capturing Jerusalem was *David's first recorded act as king* (2 Sam. 5:7)
22. Jerusalem will be the first city to enjoy the *fullness of the promised outpouring of the Spirit* (Joel 2:28-32; Zech. 12:10).
23. Jerusalem is the only city where *Jesus ascended into heaven* (Acts 1:11)

24. Jerusalem is the only city in which *Jesus' priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek* was established and revealed (Gen. 14).
25. Jerusalem is the only city that God promised to *establish the two witnesses* (Rev. 11:3-6). They will be the most powerful prophets ever—doing miracles greater than Moses and Elijah.
26. Jerusalem is the only city (before the Rapture) in which *multitudes will watch two humans ascend physically to heaven* as the apostle saw Jesus ascend (Rev. 11:12).
27. Jerusalem is the only city in which *God and Satan draw all the kings of the earth to* (Ezek. 38:4; 39:2; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Rev. 16:14-16; 17:14; 19:19)/
28. Jerusalem is the only city in the Bible in which *Jesus wept over* because of her judgment (Lk. 19:41)
29. Jerusalem is the only city in which *Jesus experienced physical violence* (Mt 27:26-56; Mk. 15:15-41; Jn. 19:1-3, 17-37)
30. Jerusalem is only city in which the Scripture identifies *its acceptance of Jesus as a condition to His second coming* (Mt. 23:37-39; Acts 3:19-21).
31. Jerusalem is the only city the Bible says *the Antichrist will be defeated in* (Rev. 19:20).

II. WHY IS THERE SO MUCH CONFLICT AROUND JERUSALEM?

1. Jerusalem is the city that Satan's government is focused *on attacking more* than any city. (Rev. 12:7-9)
2. Jerusalem is the only city identified in Scripture that *the Antichrist establishes his palace* (Dan. 11:45)
3. Jerusalem is the only city that *Jesus warns people to flee* in the end times (Mt. 24:15-16)
4. Jerusalem is the only city on earth in which *all nations will attack* (Zech. 12:3; 14:1-3).
5. Jerusalem is the only city in which everyone on earth will be *forced to decide* to stand for or against (Joel 3:14). The context of Joel 3 is the oppression and mistreatment of Jews (3:1-6) .

III. JERUSALEM IS THE MOST UNIQUE CITY ON EARTH IN MANY WAYS

- A. Jerusalem is the only city in the Bible in which the Lord declares His zeal for (Zech. 1:14; 8:2-3). An angel commanded Zechariah “to proclaim God's zeal for Jerusalem” (Zech. 1:14; 8:2). The Lord feels zeal and affection for Zion or Jerusalem. We love Jerusalem because Jesus does therefore, we ask the Holy Spirit to teach us what Jesus sees and feels about Jerusalem.

¹⁴*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.” (Zech. 1:14)*

²... *“I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her.” (Zech. 8:2)*

- B. Jerusalem is the only city on the earth that Jesus called His own city (Mt. 5:35)

³⁵*[Jesus said] “...Jerusalem...is the city of the great King.” (Mt. 5:35)*

- C. Jerusalem is the only city in which Jesus will live in forever (Zech. 2:10-13). . He determined this before Genesis 1.
- ¹⁰“...I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the LORD. ¹¹Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day...I will dwell in your midst...¹²The LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance...¹³Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, He is aroused from His holy habitation!” (Zech. 2:10-13)***
- ³I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain.’ (Zech. 8:3)***
- ¹³For the LORD has chosen Zion [Jerusalem]; He has desired it for His [eternal] dwelling place:
¹⁴“This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.” (Ps. 132:13-14)***
- D. Jerusalem is the only city in which the Lord puts His Name (2 Chr. 6:6).
- ⁶I have chosen Jerusalem that My name may be there... (2 Chr. 6:6)***
- E. Jerusalem is the only city on earth that is named after the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10)
- ²I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem...prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...
¹⁰And he [an angel]...showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone...clear as crystal. (Rev. 21:2, 10-11)***
- F. Jerusalem is the only city that God and the nations will call “The Throne of God” (Jer. 3:17). Jerusalem will be the capital of Jesus’ worldwide government and all nations will be gathered to it.
- ¹⁷At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)***
- ³¹When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the throne of His glory ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... (Mt. 25:31-32)***
- G. Jerusalem is the only city that Jesus will build His temple to rule from when He returns (Zech. 6:12)
- ¹²“...and He shall build the temple of the LORD; ¹³Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall...rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne...” (Zech. 6:12-13)***
- ⁶I heard Him [Jesus] speaking to me from the temple...⁷And He said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of My throne and...where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.” (Ezek. 43:6-7)***
- H. Jerusalem is the only city that many rabbis claim was in proximity to the garden of Eden. Mount Moriah is the place where Abraham was instructed by God to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:2). Mount Moriah is the location of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and some rabbis see a connection between this biblical story and the idea that Eden may have been nearby. Over many centuries, Jewish rabbinic tradition has associated Jerusalem with the creation of Adam and Eve.

- I. Jerusalem is the only city Abraham left his home to look for— Jerusalem is the city whose builder was God (Heb 11:9-10).

⁹By faith he [Abraham]...¹⁰he waited for the city [Jerusalem] which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Heb. 11:9-10)

1. Abraham was from Ur of the Chaldeans (Gen 11:28). He initially left there with his father Terah and family to go to Canaan (Gen. 11:31). However, they settled in the city of Haran along the way.. The city of Ur of the Chaldeans was located in Mesopotamia (present-day southern Iraq).

¹The LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country...and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you...⁴Abram was 75 years old when he departed from Haran. (Gen. 12:1-4)

³¹And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and...Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they went out...from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. (Gen. 11:31)

2. God showed Moses that the place had already been chosen (Deut. 12:5). God picked Jerusalem (before Gen. 1), as His worldwide governmental worship teaching center.

⁵“You shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. ⁶There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes... ⁷There you shall eat before the LORD...” (Deut. 12:5-7)

3. An angel directed David to the place that the temple would be build. An angel commanded the prophet Gad to tell David where to erect an altar to God to make an offering to God to stop a plague sent as God's judgment for David’s sin in numbering Israel. It was on this site that Solomon built the Temple— also known as Mount Moriah and the Temple Mount,

¹⁸Therefore, the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.” (1 Chr. 21:18)

- J. Jerusalem is the only city on earth in which the Lord declared that He loves its gates. He loved the gates of the temple more than the other cities in Israel.

²The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. (Ps. 87:2)

⁶⁷He...did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, ⁶⁸but chose...Mount Zion which He loved. (Ps. 78:67-69)

- K. Jerusalem is the only city that God's set at the center of the nasions and thus has a significant role in many of biblical end-time prophecies (Ezek. 5:5; NAS). Jerusalem is the only city that has a significant role in many of biblical end-time prophecies. Thus, end-time prophecy is “Jerusalem centric” (Isa. 1-4; 9-14; 24-28; 30-35; 40-45; 49-66; Jer. 30-33; Ezek. 33-48; Dan. 7-12; Hos. 1-3; 14; Joel 2-3; Mic. 4-5; 7; Zech. 1-14; Mal. 3-4, etc.). Jerusalem is the center of God’s purposes— spiritually, geographically, and eschatologically.

⁵This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations... (Ezek. 5:5; NAS)