



## “THE JEWEL OF JERUSALEM”

### Psalm 135:21

\*The announcement by President Donald Trump on December 6, 2017 to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has major religious, political, and historical significance.

\*Jerusalem is a sacred and special city to Almighty God.

“For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.” **Psalm 132:13**

\*Jerusalem is known by several names and titles in the Bible.

1. **“Salem”** – Psalm 76:2. The name, “Salem,” means “peace.” Salem is a form of “Shalom.”

\*Melchizedek was known as the King of Salem and priest of God (Genesis 14:18). He blessed Abraham and Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:19, 20).

2. **“Zion”** – Psalm 76:1, 2

3. **“City of God”** – Psalm 48:1, 2; Psalm 87:2, 3

4. **“Holy City”** – Isaiah 52:1

## I. GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

\*Jerusalem is a very scenic city.

“As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.” **Psalm 125:2**

A. Built on three principal hills.

B. There are several major ravines/valleys surrounding and running throughout the city (Kidron, Hinnom, and Tyropoeon).

C. Jerusalem is strategically located in the Middle East and in the world.

D. Devote Jews always face the city of Jerusalem when they pray (Daniel 6:10).

## II. HISTORICAL CONSIDERATIONS

\*Jerusalem has an ancient history. Just some of the major historical events are as follows:

A. David conquered the Jebusites and designated Jerusalem as the capital of Israel during his reign (1010-970 B. C.) – 2 Samuel 5:6-10.

B. King Solomon built The Temple in Jerusalem around 960 B. C. – 1 Kings 6:38.

C. The Temple was destroyed by King Nebucadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B. C. – Jeremiah 52:12-23, Ezra 5:12.

D. Zerubbabel led in the construction of a second Temple in Jerusalem that was completed in 516 B. C. – Ezra 3:1-13, 6:16.

E. Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in 445 B. C. – Nehemiah 2:17, 18.

F. King Herod the Great built the Temple (third Temple) that stood in the time of Jesus. Construction began on this structure in 20 B. C. – Mark 13:1, 3.

G. The city of Jerusalem and King Herod’s Temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70 A. D. just as Jesus had predicted (Mark 13:1-2).

H. Jerusalem surrendered to Muslim conquest in 638 A. D.

I. The Dome of the Rock was built between 688-691.

J. The Al -Aqsa Mosque was built between 705-714 A. D.

K. During 1917-1948 British Rule (British Mandate) took place in Palestine

L. In 1948 Israel was attacked by the Arabs and Israel won independence as a sovereign nation, gained control of West Jerusalem, and declared Jerusalem as their capital. At that time, the city was divided in two parts: West Jerusalem controlled by the Israelis and East Jerusalem controlled by the Jordanians. A boundary line divided the two known as the Green Line.

M. In 1967, during the Six Day War, Israel gained control of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem from Jordan. The Jews liberated East Jerusalem and united all of Jerusalem as its capital.

## III. SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

\*The city of Jerusalem played a major role in the ministry of Jesus and the early church.

A. Jesus was dedicated and presented to God in the Temple at Jerusalem as an infant (Luke 2:21-38) and reasoned with the scholars in the Temple when He was twelve (Luke 2:39-52).

B. Jesus healed a cripple man at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem (John 5:1-9).

C. Jesus instructed a healed blind man to wash his eyes in the Pool of Siloam (John 9:1-12)

- D. Jesus made His triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-40).
- E. Jesus wept for the city of Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44, Matthew 23:37).
- F. Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples in Jerusalem (Luke 22:1-23).
- G. Jesus was crucified (John 19:17, 18) and arose from the dead in Jerusalem (John 19:41-20:31).
- H. The Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-17).
- I. The first great Church Council was held in Jerusalem (Acts 15).

#### IV. POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS

- \*Jerusalem is such a sensitive place because of the political and religious implications.
- \*The issues of politics and religion are intertwined.
- \*The Jews claim right to Jerusalem because of David's conquest of the Jebusites and the establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel during his reign.
- \*The Dome of the Rock, Islam's third holiest site, is located in Jerusalem (Mecca is first and Medina is second).
- \*Mohammed claimed to have a Night Journey from Mecca to Jerusalem on a winged horse (mystical creature) accompanied by the angel Gabriel. During the journey he left his foot impression in the rock at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount. From Jerusalem he ascended to heaven where he was given instructions from Allah concerning the practice of the five daily prayers of a Muslim. This location is revered by Muslims.
- \*The tension between Jews and Muslims is primarily over control. Who will control Jerusalem? The Muslims, for example, control the Temple Mount whereas the Jews are guardians of the Western Wall (Wailing Wall).
- \*The Jews and Palestinians are struggling to see who will have the authority and right of controlling Jerusalem. The International community wants a two-state solution: Israeli State and a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem being the capital of Palestine.
- \*The struggle and tension between Jews and Arabs goes all the way back to Isaac and Ishmael. Isaac is the father of the Jewish nation, God's chosen people (Genesis 12:1-3, Zechariah 2:8). Ishmael is the father of the Arabs (Genesis 16:9-12, 17:20).

#### V. PROPHECTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (Read Micah 4:1-7)

- \*Jesus will reign from Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom – Revelation 20:1-6
- “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” **Psalm 2:6**
- “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” **Isaiah 2:2, 3**
- “At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.” **Jeremiah 3:17**
- “The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.” **Joel 3:16, 17**
- “On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one.” **Zechariah 14:4, 9 ESV**

#### CONCLUSION

- \*What is the most important thing that can be done for Jerusalem, Israel, and the Palestinian people?

##### 1. PRAY

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.” **Psalm 122:6**

**A. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and Israel**

**B. Pray for the Protection of Jerusalem and Israel**

**C. Pray for the Prosperity of Jerusalem and Israel**

##### 2. EVANGELIZE (Matthew 28:18-20)

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.” **Romans 10:1**

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