

“Great is the Lord in Zion, he is exalted over all the nations”

In the last quarterly newsletter we talked about the joys and rewards of reading the scripture on a regular basis. We talked about how it brought comfort and peace to a troubled soul, how it established and maintained a moral compass and how it revealed a very special plan and purpose God has with this planet earth. This eternal plan would be meaningful to us only if God revealed how each of us, as fellow inhabitants of this same planet traveling through space could become a part of this divine design.

Actually, God in his great love and mercy for his creation has told us that very thing. His book, the Holy Bible, not only gives us the blueprint for this wonderful age to come but he has revealed to us how we might have a part in this kingdom and be given the gift of an eternal and everlasting inheritance helping God and the Lord Jesus Christ fulfill this vision for the earth.

I wish we could tell you to read a particular chapter or even a particular book and then you will see all you need to know to understand and become a part of God's future kingdom on earth. But it doesn't quite work that way.

This rather thick book, written over a span of thousands of years by numerous inspired authors from numerous and varied walks in life gives us the whole story when put together but along the way we get a promise here, a prophecy there, a fulfillment of one prophecy and the presentation of another, an account of a very important part of the plan working its way out, and a number of letters directed to each of us exhorting and encouraging us to rejoice in the working out in our lives of this wonderful plan the Lord Jesus has for each of us

in this kingdom to come.

On May 14th of this year, seventy years from the founding of the nation of Israel, the United States opened its embassy in Jerusalem and in doing so proclaimed to the world that Jerusalem was the capital of the nation of Israel. Among the speeches and prayers that day, one stood out and that was the benediction given by Pastor John Hagee from the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas.

There are a few lines of this dedicatory prayer that especially resonate with a student of the Bible and that includes each of you that are part of the DailyBibleReader family. Listen to the echoes of themes clearly expressed in the pages of our Bible.

“We thank you for the state of Israel...who lives and prospers because of your everlasting love for the Jewish people.

It was you, O Lord, who gathered the exiles from the nations and brought them home again.

Jerusalem is the city of God, Jerusalem is the heartbeat of Israel...

Jerusalem is where Messiah will come and establish a kingdom that will never end.

As King David prayed 3000 years ago we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and all its inhabitants.

Let the name of the Lord be glorified today for the defender of Israel today, tomorrow and forever is here.”

Each of these themes is written about over and over again and when woven together tells us of the glorious age to come, right here on this earth which will be cleansed of the evil that destroys and where the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will establish his

throne, in Jerusalem where his reign will extend to the entire earth.

Because of the importance of the city of Jerusalem, we have decided to dedicate the following three articles to this city: its history, its significance and its future. In the first article, *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*, we look at the numerous places where the focus of the readings for the fourth quarter takes place in or around this city. We read of captivities and returns, destruction and rebuilding, life in captivity and redemption. There is a lot of material in the readings and perhaps this synopsis will help you sort it out.

In the second article, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem*, we look at the city from the standpoint of the huge span of time covered and the significant events that took place in that city. In reading through the turbulent history of this city, we come to a greater realization that there is something very special about Israel and its capital city, Jerusalem. It is truly “the city of God...and the heartbeat of Israel.”

In the third article, *Jerusalem – City of the Great King* we look to the future when Christ returns and claims his rightful sovereignty over the nations of this earth and begins a righteous reign of peace and prosperity throughout. It's a time that we will all want to be a part of but it will not come without some tribulation. Lest we minimize this the scripture warnings are there and we have referenced them so we might take heed and not be found wanting in the day of judgment. Let us be steadfast in prayer focusing our eyes on what is to take place soon in the City of the Great King.

* * *

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

When Israel was in the wilderness, just before they entered the Promised Land, they were told by God through Moses his prophet that only if they continued to serve the LORD would they be able to stay in the Land that God was giving them. As we followed the history of Israel throughout the year, Joshua and the Judges were leaders in conquering and subduing this blessing of land from God. After the period of the Judges, God gave the Israelites kings to rule them: Saul, David, Solomon and those who followed.

What we learned from the history of Israel is that they did not continue to serve the LORD but worshipped and served many of the idols of the nations around them. God sent them messengers and prophets to call them back but they did not listen. In the readings for this quarter the history of the final kings of Israel and Judah is recorded in the second book of Chronicles. In the last chapter of Chronicles, God's punishment for rebellion is recorded. Judah and Jerusalem were conquered by the Babylonians. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed and the people taken into captivity. The year was 586 BC.

The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary,

and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. - 2 Chronicles 36:15-17

The Old Testament readings for the last quarter of the year revolve around this history of the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem and the promises of rebuilding and restoration. Partial fulfillment of these promises began in 538 BC but complete fulfillment is still in the future.

Jeremiah was one of the prophets that God sent to his people to warn them of destruction to come if they did not repent and turn. When Jerusalem was destroyed, Jeremiah was left in Judah with a remnant of people and prophesied to them of the restoration of Jerusalem after 70 years. The writings of **Lamentations** were written by Jeremiah upon the destruction of Jerusalem.

I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the LORD's wrath. He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; ... I became the laughingstock of all my people; they mock me in song all day long. ... I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. ... Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the

one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. - Lamentations 3:1-2, 14, 19, 21-26 NIV

Ezekiel was one of the young Jewish men who was taken captive to Babylon. He became a prophet to those in exile to encourage their obedience to God. He was given many prophecies of a final restoration for Jerusalem.

Daniel, also, as a young man was one of those who was taken captive from Jerusalem to Babylon. He became the prophet of God to the Babylonian kings and to the Persian kings who then conquered Babylon. Finally, in his old age he prayed to God for the fulfillment of the promise of restoration.

In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom -- in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. - Daniel 9:1-3 NIV

Ezra and Nehemiah tell the history of the return and rebuilding of Judah and Jerusalem and the Temple starting in 538 BC.

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a

(Continued on page 3)

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

(Continued from page 2)

proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: " 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. - Ezra 1:1-3 NIV

Habakkuk was a contemporary of Jeremiah and prophesied concerning the coming Babylonian invasion. **Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi** were all prophets during and after the restoration of Jerusalem and were contemporaries

of Ezra and Nehemiah. They exhorted and encouraged the people to continue to rebuild.

In God's mercy and his timing, Jerusalem and the Temple were rebuilt. Many, but not all, of the Jewish people returned. However, the restoration was only temporary. Jesus prophesied that Jerusalem would again be destroyed and in 70 AD it was. However, prophecies in both the Old and New Testament tell us that a day will come when Jerusalem will be restored and become God's dwelling place forever. The restoration that was accomplished during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah is only a precursor of the final restoration of God's city.

"In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ... The LORD will roar from

Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. "Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. ... Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations. - Joel 3:1, 16-17, 20

Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. - Micah 4:2 NIV

O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM

Almost 3000 years ago, Israel's king David conquered the city of the Jebusites that was named Jerusalem and made it his capital city. There he built a palace in a section called "The City of David" and there his son Solomon built a magnificent temple for the God of Israel, Yahweh. Jerusalem was the center of worship and the capital city of the ruling family of David for hundreds of years. But Jerusalem is more than an ancient city that was the capital of the Judean kingdom. In the Bible Jerusalem is the city that belongs to God and is at the center of God's plan to bring salvation to his people.

Jerusalem:

Beginning 1000 BC, Jerusalem was the capital city of Israel and then Judea where David and his descendants ruled.

In Jerusalem Solomon built

the most magnificent Temple for God. God's presence and glory was in this Temple for many centuries.

The city and the Temple were destroyed in 586 BC by the Babylonian armies.

Both were rebuilt by the Jewish people when allowed to return under Cyrus the Persian starting in 538 BC and the Temple was completed in 516 BC.

The city came under Macedonian rule under Alexander the Great and then under Roman rule when the Roman Empire was extended into Israel in 63 BC.

Just before the birth of Jesus, Herod the Great, an Edomite, was appointed king of Judea by the Romans. He rebuilt the Temple into a great edi-

fice.

2000 years ago Jesus, the Son of God, brought God's message of healing and repentance to the Jewish people teaching in Jerusalem and in the Temple.

In Jerusalem Jesus was arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to death.

Outside the city walls of Jerusalem, Jesus was crucified and buried.

Outside those same walls Jesus was resurrected to life again.

Just outside Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, Jesus, in plain view of his disciples, ascended to his Father in heaven.

In Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached the good news of Jesus' resurrection and the hope

(Continued on page 4)

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem

(Continued from page 3)

for life. Jerusalem became the home of the first Christian church.

About 40 years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, in 70 AD, the Jewish people tried to rebel against the Romans. The Romans surrounded and destroyed both Jerusalem and the Temple.

So much of the history of God's people is centered in Jerusalem. But what about the future? Much of the prophecy in the Bible, both

Old and New Testaments, is also centered around Jerusalem. Jesus prophesied concerning the fall of Jerusalem that took place in 70 AD. He also prophesied that Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. - Luke 21:24 NIV

This prophecy is being fulfilled. Jerusalem has been ruled by the

enemies of the Jewish people for almost 2000 years. In 1967, the Israeli army prevailed and the modern government of Israel became the "rulers" of Jerusalem. However, the Gentiles, in the form of the Islamic temple that still sits on the place where the Jewish Temple had been located, still "trample" Jerusalem. When will the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled that Jesus spoke of? What prophecies concerning Jerusalem still await fulfillment? These questions will be considered in the next section "Jerusalem—City of the Great King."

Jerusalem—City of the Great King

"And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty."

This verse is quoted from one of the many prophecies concerning Jerusalem and is found in Zechariah 8:

This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain." ... I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God." ... And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty and to entreat him." - Zechariah 8:3, 8, 22 NIV

Jerusalem, the city of "peace", has been anything but peaceful over the centuries and millennium of its history. According to Wikipedia it has been destroyed

twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times. It has been ruled by at least 34 different powers over the ages. Even now, especially now, Jerusalem is many times the subject of conflict and confrontation. Just the simple declaration by the United States that it recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel caused a worldwide flurry of judgment and condemnation. This is the city that Jesus declared would be trampled down by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles was fulfilled. Going back before Jesus, the prophet Zechariah declared that Jerusalem would be a cup of trembling and a burdensome stone for the nations.

The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. - Zechariah 12:1-3 KJV

Yes, the troubles of Jerusalem are far from over. Zechariah prophesied in chapters 12 through 14 that all nations will be gathered together to fight against Jerusalem.

A day of the LORD is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it...Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. - Zechariah 14:1-3 NIV

Yes, the LORD will fight against those nations that come against his city. Read the rest of Zechariah 14. You will find that Jerusalem will be the place that nations

(Continued on page 5)

Jerusalem—City of the Great King

(Continued from page 4)

must go to worship the LORD God. There are many other prophecies that speak of the time when Jerusalem will be God's dwelling place. The time will come when the "LORD will be king over the whole earth". This is the time that Jesus told us to pray for when the Father's will will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And when this happens, Jerusalem will be the center, the capital of the world. God's Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things will rule in righteousness and justice.

Isaiah 52:9 Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Isaiah 62:6-7 I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

Isaiah 65:18-19 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I

will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

Joel 3:1, 16-17, 20 "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ... The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. "Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. ...

Micah 4:2 Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Revelation 3:12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from

my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

Revelation 21:2, 10 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ... And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

Keep your eye on Jerusalem. As Isaiah said, give the LORD no rest in your prayers until He makes Jerusalem a place of praise on the earth. As the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 122, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" for this is the time the Gentiles will no longer trample Jerusalem. This is the time when the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled. This is the time that Jesus prophesied of his triumphal return.

People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." - Luke 21:26-28 NIV

When Will Jesus Return to the Earth?

2,000 years ago Jesus Christ promised "I will come again" John 14:3
But, He has not yet returned. **Is the promise still valid?**

We would like to introduce this new and timely booklet that presents an answer to any questions you may have concerning the promised return of the Messiah to this earth. Please avail yourself of this opportunity to review the Biblical answers to the questions, "is the promise still valid?" and "are we near the time of the Lord's second coming?"

To receive a free copy of this book send your name and address to DailyBibleReader, P.O. Box 143, Villas, NJ 08251 or e-mail info@dailybiblereader.com.



Daily Bible Readings for October, November, December
Read the Entire Bible in One Year

Day	October		November		December	
	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa
1	Hosea 11,12	Titus 1	Jerm 19-21	James 3	Eze 12-14	Psalm 139
2	Hosea 13,14	Titus 2	Jerm 22,23	James 4	Eze 15, 16	Rev 1
3	II Chron 1,2	Titus 3	Jerm 24-26	James 5	Eze 17, 18	Rev 2
4	II Chron 3,4	Philemon	Jerm 27-29	I Peter 1	Eze 19,20	Rev 3
5	II Chron 5,6	Psalm 110, 111	Jerm 30, 31	I Peter 2	Eze 21, 22	Rev 4
6	II Chron 7, 8	Psalm 112, 113	Jerm 32, 33	I Peter 3	Eze 23, 24	Rev 5
7	II Chron 9,10	Hebrews 1	Jerm 34-36	I Peter 4	Eze 25, 26	Psalm 140
8	II Chron 11,12	Hebrews 2	Jerm 37,38	I Peter 5	Eze 27, 28	Psalm 141
9	II Chron 13,14	Hebrews 3	Jerm 39-41	Psalm 120, 121	Eze 29-31	Rev 6
10	II Chron 15,16	Psalm 114, 115	Jerm 42,43	Psalm 122, 123	Eze 32, 33	Psalm 142- 143
11	II Chron 17,18	Hebrews 4	Jerm 44-46	Psalm 124, 125	Eze 34, 35	Rev 7
12	II Chron 19,20	Hebrews 5	Jerm 47,48	II Peter 1	Eze 36, 37	Rev 8
13	II Chron 21,22	Psalm 116, 117	Jerm 49,50	II Peter 2	Eze 38, 39	Rev 9
14	II Chron 23,24	Hebrews 6	Jerm 51,52	II Peter 3	Eze 40, 41	Psalm 144
15	II Chron 25,26	Hebrews 7	Ezr 1, 2, 3	Psalm 126, 127	Eze 42-44	Rev 10
16	II Chron 27,28	Hebrews 8	Ezr 4, 5, 6	Psalm 128, 129	Eze 45, 46	Rev 11
17	II Chron 29,30	Psalm 118	Ezr 7, 8, 9	I John 1	Eze 47, 48	Psalm 145
18	II Chron 31,32	Hebrews 9	Ezr 10 Neh 1	I John 2	Dan 1,2	Rev 12
19	II Chron 33,34	Hebrews 10	Neh 2,3,4	I John 3	Dan 3,4,5	Rev 13
20	II Chron 35,36	Psa 119: 1-24	Neh 5,6, 7	I John 4	Dan 6,7,8	Rev 14
21	Lam 1,2	Hebrews 11	Neh 8,9	I John 5	Dan 9,10	Psalm 146
22	Lam 3,4,5	Hebrews 12	Neh 10,11	Psalm 130, 131	Dan 11,12	Rev 15
23	Jerm 1,2	Hebrews 13	Neh 12,13	Psalm 132, 133	Habakkuk 1-3	Rev 16
24	Jerm 3,4	Psa 119: 25-48	Esth 1,2,3	Psalm 134, 135	Zephaniah 1-3	Psalm 147
25	Jerm 5,6	Psa 119: 49-74	Esth 4, 5, 6	II John	Haggai 1, 2	Rev 17
26	Jerm 7,8	Psa 119: 75-96	Esth 7-10	III John	Zechariah 1-3	Rev 18
27	Jerm 9,10	Ps 119: 97- 120	Eze 1, 2, 3	Psalm 136	Zechariah 4-6	Rev 19
28	Jerm 11, 12	Ps 119: 121-144	Eze 4, 5, 6	Psalm 137	Zechariah 7-9	Psalm 148
29	Jerm 13, 14	Ps 119: 145-176	Eze 7,8,9	Psalm 138	Zechar 10-12	Psalm 149, 150
30	Jerm 15, 16	James 1	Eze 10,11	Jude	Zechar 13,14	Rev 20, 21
31	Jerm 17, 18	James 2			Malachi 1-4	Rev 22