



November 2008



Emblem of Jerusalem

Dear Fellow Lovers of Zion,

All Eyes on Jerusalem

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the United States of America will probably have its new president and vice-president. You can be sure that Jerusalem will be an issue at the top of their list. The Word of God is being fulfilled before our eyes. Jerusalem has already become *"a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples,"* and *"a very heavy stone for all peoples,"* as the Jewish prophet Zechariah said it would in Zechariah 12:2-3. Even as we studied for hours on end the current situation with Jerusalem and the Arab-Israeli conflict, our minds were reeling. This is no simple issue, with no simple solution. Jerusalem is not just "any" city, and Israel is not just "any" country. Of no other city or nation can it be said that *"...the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year"* (Deuteronomy 11:12). Only Jerusalem. Only Israel. Israel is God's country. The Land belongs to Him. (See Leviticus 25:23; Joel 3:2.) God has a "right" to His own Land. As for Jerusalem, the Bible makes it clear that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob chose this city as His own, as His dwelling place: *"For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation: 'This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it'"* (Psalm 132:13-14).

Jerusalem in the Bible

The first mention of Jerusalem in the Holy Scriptures is found in Genesis 14:18-21 where Melchizedek, king of Salem (Jerusalem) and a priest of God Most High, blessed Abraham. The name Salem is also used in referring to Jerusalem in Psalm 76:1-2, *"In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. In Salem also is His tabernacle, and His dwelling place in Zion."*

In Genesis 22 we read about Abraham taking his son Isaac to be sacrificed on Mount Moriah. This is traditionally considered to be the area of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. At present, the Dome of the Rock stands on this site. Inside its golden dome are the words in Arabic, "God has no Son."

In Genesis 28 Isaac's son, Jacob, had a dream of a ladder whose top reached to heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it. Jewish tradition places this encounter in Jerusalem, since Jacob awoke saying, *"...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God [Beth-el], and this is the gate of heaven"* (Genesis 28:17)!

Before the time of King Saul, the first of Israel's Kings, Jerusalem was under the control of the Jebusites. The Lord had mentioned them (Genesis 15:21) when He made a covenant with Abraham promising His descendants the land of Israel, *"...from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates..."*

Immediately following his anointing as king over Israel (1 Chronicles 11:3-9), David went to Jerusalem (Jebus), captured the city, and took the stronghold of Zion: *"Then David dwelt in the*

stronghold; therefore they called it the City of David" (1 Chronicles 11:7). "Then David went on and became great, and the Lord of hosts was with him." (1 Chronicles 11:9) David established Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the Jewish people in 1000 B.C.

David later bought the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite to erect an altar to the Lord (believed to be on Mount Moriah, present day Temple Mount). We read in 1 Chronicles 16:1 that David brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to Jerusalem, the City of David, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it.

David's son, Solomon, built a great Temple for the Lord in Jerusalem around 950 BC on this same site (2 Chronicles 3:1), and reminded the congregation of Israel of God's words to his father, "*Since the day that I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel; but I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there; and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel*" (2 Chronicles 6:5-6). In 1 Kings 11:36, the Lord also said of Jerusalem, "*...the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.*" We have seen a topographical map of Jerusalem in which the letter *shin* ש (which stands for *Shaddai*, or Almighty God) can be seen in the valleys that surround and divide Jerusalem. God did indeed place His name on Jerusalem, His chosen city.

The second great Temple, Herod's Temple, was also built in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount beginning around 19 BC (600 years before Mohammad was born.). Here sacrifices were offered, the God of Israel was worshipped, and all the men of Israel came three times a year to keep an appointment with the Lord: *Pesach* (Passover), *Shavuot* (Pentecost), and *Sukkot* (Tabernacles).

Jerusalem occurs 881 times in the Bible, 667 times in the Old Covenant and 144 times in the New. No other place in Scripture receives more praise, or more promises, or more assurance of God's love.

Jerusalem was the city of the Jewish prophets, the kings of David's line, the place of Messiah Yeshua's death, burial, resurrection and ascension, the site of the birth of the Body of Believers (at *Shavuot* in the Upper Room), and will be the place of Messiah's return to rule and reign on the Davidic throne in Jerusalem.

Names for Jerusalem

There are at least sixty different names for Jerusalem in the Bible, "Zion" being the most frequent. Some of the other names are:

"city of God" (Psalm 87:3)
"the mountain of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:3)
"the house of the God of Jacob" (Isaiah 2:3)
"My city" (Isaiah 45:13)
"My holy mountain" (Isaiah 11:9)
"the city of our God" (Psalm 48:1)
"the city of the great King" (Ps. 48:2; Matt. 5:35)
"the city which I have chosen" (1 Kings 11:36)
"The Throne of the Lord" (Jeremiah 3:17)
"My resting place" (Psalm 132:13-14)
"His holy mountain" (Psalm 48:1-2)
"the joy of the whole earth" (Psalm 48:1-2)
"My holy hill" (Psalm 2:6)
"City of Truth" (Zechariah 8:3)
"His footstool" (Psalm 99:5)
"the city of My joy" (Jeremiah 49:25)

Palestinian Jerusalem?

It is important that we as believers, in any study of Jerusalem, know the truth concerning the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. There has never been a distinct Palestinian civilization, culture or people with ancient ties to the Holy Land. In fact, the term "Palestine" was the name given to Israel by the Romans following their destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D., when most Jewish people were exported and exiled from their land. Before the 1948 establishment of the State of Israel as the national homeland of the Jewish people, both Jews and non-Jews residing in "Palestine" were called "Palestinians." The English language newspaper, **The Palestine Post**, founded by Jews in 1932, changed its name in 1950 to **The Jerusalem Post**.

There was never a serious Arab-Palestinian national movement until 1964. The people who call themselves "Palestinians" today are actually the descendants of the migrant workers from the Muslim countries surrounding Israel who came to work there in the mid-1800's when the Jewish pioneers began to turn malarial swamps into productive land for farming. The suggestion that the "Palestinians" are a sub-group of Arabs with their own unique identity is untrue. Propaganda has engendered great anger and deep frustration on the part of the Palestinians toward Israel which really should have been aimed at the Arab countries with huge land masses surrounding Israel that refused to take back the "Palestinians" (hence, the refugee camps). It is unbelievable that with Arab control of 22 nations and 99.5 percent of the ENTIRE Middle East land mass (Israel occupies only a 1/2 of 1 percent area!), there is no room for the "Palestinians." Does this make sense? Absolutely not, because the issue is spiritual, not national! Does God love the Palestinians? Yes, He does. But so many have been brought up in a culture of hate, vengeance and violence, that Israel has been forced to take measures to protect her citizens from ongoing terrorist attacks.

The PLO, or Palestinian Liberation Organization, is the main umbrella organization of the Palestinian national movement. Its stated goal is the destruction of Israel. A comment by Hal Lindsey in an article entitled, **Who are the Palestinians?** is probably tragically true: "The current efforts of Jordan and Egypt (and all the rest of the Muslim Middle East nations) to give these same people a state is clearly a ploy to get a foothold inside Israel. It is a strategic accommodation to establish a base from which the final assault against Israel can be made." Yaser Arafat, former Chairman of the PLO, made the following comment on May 10, 1994: "You have to understand our main battle is Jerusalem... . You have to come and to fight a jihad to liberate Jerusalem, your precious shrine...what they (the Israelis) are saying is that it is their capital. It is our capital. It is your capital. It is the first shrine of Islam..."

A Spiritual Struggle

The real issue is spiritual, and the father of lies, Satan, is busy at work. There is no such thing as a "Zionist invasion." Israel became a nation in 1312 B.C., 2000 years before the rise of Islam! Over a period of 3250 years, various peoples and empires conquered Jerusalem, including the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Egyptians, Crusaders, Mamelukes, Turks and British. But the Jewish people have always had a presence there. No other people ever made Jerusalem their capital city. The Jewish people were restored to their ancient homeland in 1948 by a United Nations mandate. In 1949 Jerusalem was reinstated as the capital of the Jewish State, and in 1967 it was reunited.

With a permanent Jewish presence in Jerusalem comes the presence of a Jewish God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is an affront to Islam and its god, Allah. All Jews (and Christians) are considered infidels. Although Mohammad never came to Jerusalem, and although Jerusalem is never even mentioned in the Koran, it is said to be Islam's third holiest site. However, during the Jordanian occupation of Jerusalem from 1948–1967, there was never an attempt to make Jerusalem the capital of all Arab–Palestinian people. Arab leaders rarely visited the city. When a Moslem prays

today, even while IN Jerusalem, he faces Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Certainly Jerusalem does not mean to the Moslems what it means to Jews, who since the time of Solomon's Temple have prayed at least twice a day facing Jerusalem (as commanded in Scriptures such as 2 Chronicles 6:21, 24-25, 32-35). Jewish people remember Jerusalem at every traditional wedding—the breaking of the glass? At the moment of life's greatest joy, Jerusalem's destruction is still to be remembered since Psalm 137:6 exhorts God's people to exalt Jerusalem above one's chief joy.

Traditional Jews pray facing east, toward Jerusalem. Their synagogues face east, toward Jerusalem. Mourners say to one another, "May the Lord comfort you among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem." Following meals, traditional Jewish people say, "Blessed are You, O Lord, who will build up Jerusalem in mercy." And, of course, every Passover Seder, the world over for the past 2,000 years, ends with, "*L'Shanah haba'ah b'Yerushalayim*—Next year in Jerusalem."

Jerusalem is the heart and soul of the Jewish people.

The "Two-State" Solution

After fifteen years (since Oslo) of an unsettled "Palestinian issue," the general consensus in Israel and the U.S. as well, is that a solution **must** be arrived at soon—possibly by the end of 2008! This is a very grave issue! Until recently, we did not really understand the full implication of the "Two-State" solution. In a September 22, 2008 article by Johann Hari, *A last chance for peace in Israel?* Mr. Hari suggests what others are suggesting right now, "Unless there is a swift shift, the two-state vision will be supplanted—by a vision of a 'bi-national' one-state solution." Here are the two options, both potentially disastrous for Israel and Jerusalem:

1. Two-states: The Jewish state would return to its pre-'67 borders (with minor modifications)—a reversal of the fulfillment of Luke 21:24?? Both candidates for the presidency of the U.S. are in favor of this solution—a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital living alongside the State of Israel with West Jerusalem as its capital. Pre-'67 Israel did not include the biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria (called the "West Bank") the Gaza Strip or East Jerusalem. East Jerusalem includes Jerusalem's Old City and some of the holiest sites of Judaism and Christianity such as the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, the Mount of Olives and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

This would certainly overturn the 1980 "Jerusalem Law" passed by the Israeli Knesset which declared that "Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel."

2. One-state, a bi-national state: The Palestinians would give up the two-state idea and would ask to become Israeli citizens with the right to vote in Israel (like the Israeli Arabs). If Israel agreed, there would be more Arabs than Jews voting which would threaten the existence of the Jewish State. Some believe that if this option is chosen, the Middle East conflict would escalate into civil war.

"The Controversy of Zion"

This phrase is used in Isaiah 34:8 in the King James Version of the Bible. There certainly is a controversy over Zion in our day. While it is crystal clear in the Holy Scriptures that God has given the entire land of Israel to only one people as an eternal inheritance—the children of Abraham through Isaac (Genesis 17:7-8; Ezekiel 37:1-28), the presence of the Palestinians is a reality that must be dealt with. They are not just simply going to disappear!

With either currently proposed solution, a two-state, or bi-national state, Israel's security is in grave danger. With the two-state solution, the danger is from without. With the one-state solution, the danger is from within.

One other option has been suggested which would keep the Promised Land in the hands of those it was promised to, but there's a slim chance of it being agreed upon. Rabbi Binyamin "Benny"

Elon, an Israeli politician and Member of the Knesset, has proposed "The Right Road to Peace." This would entail motivating the emigration of Palestinians to Jordan. According to Rabbi Elon, Jordan is the state for Palestinian Arabs, not Israel. A second Jordanian option is that of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs which advocates a Palestinian–Jordanian federation which would allow the Palestinians to continue living on the West Bank.

What can Israel do? Cry out to God! He is their only Hope and their only Defense! It seems as if the BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM has begun!

PRAY...for the peace of Jerusalem!

We are admonished in Psalm 122:6 to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, for the sake of God's people, and because it is the location of "the house of the Lord our God." Throughout the ages, Jerusalem has been a city of conflict with very little peace, precisely because it is God's chosen city, central to His eternal redemptive plan, and the spiritual center of the Jewish world. The battle over Jerusalem is a spiritual battle, and as the Scriptures tell us, our weapons of warfare as believers are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4). The powers of darkness are assembling all their strength in a last major attempt to prevent Jerusalem from being made ready for the return of the Messiah. We are to be "watchmen on the walls" of Jerusalem through intercession, watching and praying with perseverance in obedience to God's word outlined in verses such as Isaiah 62:1, *"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."*

In one sense, righteousness and salvation have gone forth to the ends of the earth from Jerusalem. Yeshua, God's Son, Israel's Messiah, was crucified and rose from the dead in Jerusalem, purchasing salvation for the world in that city. But Jerusalem as a city, **at this moment**, is in need of salvation as the world cries out, "Divide. Divide now. Divide Jerusalem."

Will God allow the "baby" to be cut in two? What about the covenantal, historical, God-given right of Jewish people to an undivided Jerusalem? Will the Jewish Messiah return to rule from a city devoted to Allah? Not according to Matthew 23:39.

Pray. Pray. Pray. Only God knows how His prophetic plans for Jerusalem will come to pass. According to the Word of God, Jerusalem has a glorious future:

- In the "last days" all nations will flow into the Lord's house in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2).
- The word of the Lord will go forth from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3).
- The Lord of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion (Isaiah 25:23).
- The Lord of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion (Isaiah 31:4).
- As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem (Isaiah 31:5).
- *"At 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; they shall walk no more after the stubbornness of their evil heart."* (Jeremiah 3:17)
- The Lord will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in His people (Isaiah 65:19).
- Jerusalem will be a praise in the earth (Isaiah 62:7).

Pray for the U.S.A, that our leaders will align themselves with God's purposes for Jerusalem and Israel. Nations will be judged accordingly, *"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 Jehosphaphat; 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"* (Joel 3:1-2). May we not be one of the nations that turns against Israel, and against the Word of God concerning her God-given inheritance. Remind our leaders of Genesis 12:3. May the fear of God

come upon them. May they be strengthened to do what is right in His eyes, remembering that he who touches Jerusalem touches the apple of God's eye (Zechariah 2:8).

Jerusalem: May 31–June 11, 2009

From anywhere in the world, to go to Jerusalem one must GO UP, literally "*aliyah*" (up to God).

If the Lord is calling you to go up to Zion with us next June, we encourage you to follow the leading of His Spirit, and not be ruled by fear. Jerusalem is the destiny of us all. Now is the set time to favor and comfort her. As the prophet Isaiah said: "*Comfort, yes, comfort My people!*" says your God. *'Speak comfort to Jerusalem...'*" (Isaiah 40:1-2). Again in chapter 51:11-12, the prophet proclaims, "*So the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away. 'I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you should be afraid...'*"

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We are thankful for you.

Love in Him,

Neil & Jamie

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out this
month's
offers!



Jerusalem (DVD)- Go to Jerusalem with Neil and Jamie Lash and learn about its importance to Judaism and end-time prophecy. 30 min.

Israel's Anointing (Book)- by Sandra Teplinski; Learn about your inheritance and end-time destiny through Israel. 190 pgs.

Sh'ma Yisrael (CD)- by Barry and Batya Segal; Listen to the beautiful music by this Israeli couple and hear the magnificent taping of the reclamation of Jerusalem in 1967.

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STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:	AIRTIME:
AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4	TUE 6:00 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV 22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WTGL TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30 AM
FL	Tallahassee	WVUP TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
GA	Columbus	WYBU TV 16	SUN 2:30 PM
IA	Dubuque	KFXB TV 40	SUN 1:30 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITH ALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 PM
MO	New Bloomfield	KNLJ TV 25	SUN 1:30 PM
NJ/NY	NJ/New York	WMBC TV 63	SUN 4:00 PM
OH	Columbus	GTN TV 23	SUN 3:30 PM
OR	Portland	K26GJ TV 26	SUN 12:00 PM
OR	Salem	K21GX TV 21	SUN 12:00 PM
SC	Greenville	WGGS TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

SATELLITE NETWORKS

DirecTV

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 367]
Christian Television Network (CTN) - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 376]

God TV - The GOD Channel

WED 4:30 AM (GMT) & 6:30 AM (Jerusalem)

Insight Digital Cable: GTN

SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 283]

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World Harvest TV (WHT) - C-Band - Galaxy 16 -
Transponder 15 - 99° W - SUN 3:00 PM (EST)

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