

# Jerusalem

By Matthew Day

*By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!*

(Psalms 137:1-6 ESV)

What is Jerusalem? Why is it that the nations rage over this one small city? Jerusalem is where our King placed His holy Name (2 Chr. 6:5-6). It is where the waters of life spring forth (Rev. 21:1-2, Eze. 47:1-10, Zech. 14:8). Yeshua stood in Jerusalem when He declared himself the source of Living Waters (John 7:38). It is where the tree of life resides (Rev. 22:2, Eze. 47:12).

A close look at Jerusalem begins to reveal parallels between it and the Garden of Eden. We already mentioned the rivers and the tree of life. When Adam is told to serve and guard the garden, the Hebrew words used there are the same words used to instruct the Levites in Numbers 3:7. The Levites serve in the Temple in Jerusalem—just like Adam served in the garden. The cherubim guarding the way to the tree of life is much like the cherubim guarding the ark of the covenant. Jerusalem is much more than a city. It is the symbol of paradise—the center of the Kingdom.

Jerusalem is where the Torah shall come forth from (Micah 4:2). The very word Jerusalem means instruction (or Torah) of peace. Even the tree of life is a symbol of Torah (Prov. 3:1). Jerusalem is where the Levites—the teachers of Torah—serve. Just as heaven met earth when God gave the Torah on Mt. Sinai, Jerusalem is where heaven meets earth so that God's word may flow forth from there to the ends of the earth.

There are those that would have Jerusalem desecrated. Perhaps you are wondering why this matters—why not just let them have the city? After all, we have the New Jerusalem coming. The old Jerusalem is just a shadow—symbol. How would you feel to see someone burn the American flag? It's nothing more than a symbol. Yet, the meaning of the act is so much more than that. Those that want to desecrate Jerusalem don't want the city—they have declared war on the God of Israel. To them, taking Jerusalem would prove that their god is superior. Will our King stand for this? Our Master overthrew the money changers in the House of God for they had defiled the house. He will do it again.

We are told in Revelation that 144,000 will be marked with the mark of God. Who are these? It is those who "sigh and groan over all the abominations committed" in Jerusalem (Eze. 9:4). Does your heart ache over Jerusalem? Do you pray for her peace continually?

*A Song of Ascents. Of David. I was glad when they said to me, "**Let us go to the house of the LORD!**" Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem--built as a city that is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. There thrones for judgment were set, the*

*thrones of the house of David. **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"** For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!" For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.*

(Psalms 122:1-9 ESV)

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