

Bible Geography

The City of Jerusalem

- I. The History of Jerusalem
 - A. The city of Jerusalem is first mentioned by that name in Joshua 10:1.
 - B. However, the history of this location begins much earlier...
 - C. During the time of Abraham, Melchizedek was known as the King of Salem (Gen. 14:17-20).
 - 1. This is often supposed to be a reference to the location that would become known as Jerusalem.
 - 2. The valley of Shaveh simply refers to a valley of a plain (cf. 14:5).
 - 3. The “king’s dale” is mentioned in 2 Samuel 18:18.
 - 4. This seems to have been located south of Jerusalem on a plain where the Kidron and Hinnom valleys meet.
 - 5. The Psalmist referred to Jerusalem as Salem (Psalm 76:1-2).
 - D. Later, Abraham would travel back to this area when he was commanded to offer Isaac as a sacrifice (Gen. 22:1-2).
 - 1. The name Moriah is found only twice in the Bible.
 - 2. In 2 Chronicles 3:1, Mount Moriah is described as the location of Jerusalem.
 - 3. Moses refers to it as “the mount of the LORD” (Gen. 22:14).
 - 4. Abraham’s meeting with Melchizedek took place at the south of these mountains while Mount Moriah was located in the north.
 - E. This area was occupied by Canaanites until Israel’s taking of the land following the Exodus.
 - F. The Jebusites settled around Jerusalem and called the city Jebus (Jud. 19:10-11).
 - 1. The king of Jerusalem was called Adoni-zedek, a possible connection to Melchizedek (Josh. 10:1).
 - 2. He decided to go to battle against Israel and her allies (Josh. 10:3-4).
 - 3. In this fight, God gave victory to Israel by raining hailstones upon their enemies and causing the sun and moon to stand still (Josh. 10:11-14).
 - 4. In spite of this triumph, the children of Israel did not drive the Jebusites out of the land (Josh. 15:63).
 - G. After the death of Joshua, the inhabitants of Jerusalem were defeated and the city was burned (Judges 1:8).
 - H. However, they did not drive them out of the land, and they soon retook the city of Jerusalem (Judges 1:21).
 - I. By the time David became King of Israel, the Jebusites had greatly fortified the city.
 - 1. In spite of the arrogance of the Jebusites, David conquered the city and claimed Jerusalem for Israel (2 Sam. 5:5-7).
 - 2. David’s men used the “gutter” or water conduit to enter the city secretly (2 Sam. 5:8).
 - 3. The stronghold fort of Zion became the location of David’s dwelling – “the city of David” (2 Sam. 5:9-10).
 - J. North of the city of David was Mount Moriah, used by the Jebusites as a threshing floor, but chosen as a location for an altar to the Lord (2 Sam. 24:16-19).

Lesson 07

- K. David purchased this piece of land, and it would become the location of God's Temple (2 Sam. 24:24-25).
- L. Solomon, the son of David, built the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 3:1).
- M. Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians and the people of Judah were taken as captives (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel).
- N. After 70 years, King Cyrus issued a decree that allowed them to return to their homeland where the Temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem (Ezra).

II. Spiritual Jerusalem

- A. The city of Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.
- B. Today, the Jerusalem of God is a spiritual city – a spiritual kingdom.
- C. The church is "heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-24).
- D. Spiritual Jerusalem is governed by the New Testament (Galatians 4:21-31).
- E. New Jerusalem is the home of the faithful in Heaven (Rev. 3:12; 21:1-2).

