

Where Do We Go from Here?, Lesson 8

- ✚ Jerusalem; Why should there be such a deep emotion about a medium sized city, with no seaport, airport, natural resources, not strategic, not particularly beautiful or majestic?
 - ✚ So much love and so much hatred come together in one place!
 - ✚ One of the reasons is that there are so many predictions from multiple religions about this place, almost all of which conflict.
 - ✚ Jerusalem despite all its opposition has become elevated higher and higher over the 70 years that Israel has been a nation.
 - ✚ This city is destined to become God's stage for the final drama to end the current world order and bring in the Kingdom of His one and only Son.
 - ✚ **This city is controversial on many levels.**
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1) It is a sacred city.

It is a sacred city to Christianity (it is *the* city for us). Our Savior was crucified there, resurrected there and will rule the world from there.

It is a sacred city to Jews (it is their city as well), the Line of David ruled there, their only Temple was built there, Abraham attempted to sacrifice his son there and because of that God's covenant with Israel was established there.

It is a sacred city of the Muslims; of course, Mecca is their most sacred city, but because they see themselves as God's final chosen people, their control of and ownership of Jerusalem is critical to their theology.

- ✓ The "messiah" of the Muslims, the Mahdi, will rule the world from Jerusalem after their version of Jesus converts the world by word or by sword to Islam and turns the kingdom over to this super-human, miracle working Mahdi, according to their beliefs.
 - ✓ Jerusalem is mentioned in the Bible 811 times, by the time we get to the book of Revelation, it is simply referred to as "**the city**" because that is what it is, essentially, in the mind of God.
 - ✓ All other cities are slated for demolition, but this one is headed toward preeminence.
 - ✓ Almost everywhere we turn today, there is something being said about this city.
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- ✓ It is God's city!
 - ✓ The Bible tells us that there is special blessing that is upon anyone who was ever born in Jerusalem: **Psalms 87.**
 - ✓ A blessing for all those who pray for Jerusalem: **Psalms 122:6-9.**
 - ✓ Jesus loves Jerusalem; on one occasion He stood overlooking the city and said: **Matthew 23:37-39.** Jesus wept over this city.
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- 2) It is a Central city. No city has captured the world's attention like the city of Jerusalem.
- ✓ "The navel of the world," **Ezekiel 5:5**. The navel is where our umbilical cord was attached; likewise, it is where the world attaches to Life Himself; it is where God defeated death and brought life to the world.
 - ✓ It is the center of man's hopes (albeit some are misplaced), and God's purposes.
 - ✓ As much as God's loves this city, Satan hates this place, it is a city that has been besieged and conquered numerous times.
 - ✓ The destiny of the world is tied to this city.
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- 3) It is a Chosen city. God chose this city to be the place of all of His major work.
- ✓ Jesus died there, resurrected there, the Holy Spirit descended there, the church was born there, the mission of church started there, Jesus will return there.
 - ✓ 1st Kings 8:44, Deuteronomy 12 tells us five times that God chose Jerusalem for His name.
 - ✓ 2nd Chronicles 6:5-6.
 - ✓ Always a since of tension there because it is the powder keg of the earth.
 - ✓ Nevertheless, such a strange name: Jerusalem= "In it there is peace."
 - ✓ When you go there, you are walking in God's city! All other cities are slated for destruction but this one for exaltation.
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- 4) Jerusalem is a capital city – It became the capital of Israel by decree of King David over 3000 years ago and has remained that ever since.
- ✓ Other nations have conquered and settled there but they have come and gone, but a Jewish community has resided in Jerusalem from David until today.
 - ✓ 2017 with a resolution vote of 90 to 0, the US Senate moved to honor a 1995 congressional decision to move the US embassy there, and asked President Donald Trump to make it happen, which was carried out 6 months later.
 - ✓ This event has turned a critical key in the grand lock of biblical prophecy.
 - ✓ **What does this mean?** The Second coming Jesus cannot happen without Jerusalem—almost all the Christ-centered events of the future will take place in Jerusalem
 - ✓ The earthly Jerusalem is a prelude to another Jerusalem that is built entirely by God and is waiting in heaven to descend after God creates a new Heaven and a New Earth.
 - ✓ **Revelation 21:1-3** This will be a physical, "real" city where "real" physical people will dwell, resurrected never to die again.
 - ✓ **Revelation 21:4-5** This new Jerusalem will be so overwhelming beautiful, so different than the Jerusalem of today.
 - ✓ It will be a holy city. No lie ever will be uttered there, no death will occur there, no evil word or thought will come about there, no shady deal ever discussed there, no corruption of any kind or on any level will be there ever!
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- ✓ John lists 8 kinds of people who dominate our world today but who will never step foot in the new Jerusalem, **Revelation 21:8**.
 - ✓ It will be the Savior's city, designed and occupied by the One who loved us and gave Himself up for us.
 - ✓ Created by Jesus uniquely for those of us who have trusted Him to save them, **John 14:1-3**.
 - ✓ The most important part of the New Jerusalem will be the love and fellowship we have with the Father and the Son.
 - ✓ The facts of the majesty of the New Jerusalem will be small in comparison to Who will be there and experience we will have with Him!
 - ✓ **Revelation 22:4**
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Where do we go from Here?

- 1) Stay fervent in prayer for Israel, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" **Psalms 122:6-9**.
 - ✓ This is city full of animosity, differing views, passionate beliefs, Millenia old prejudices, religious differences.
 - ✓ Only Jesus, the prince of Peace, can bring peace to "the city of peace."
 - ✓ Modern Israel and Jerusalem is in a constant state of war, someone has described it as "living in a very nice house in a very bad neighborhood."
 - ✓ Animosity is growing in our own nation towards Israel and will continue to increase until Israel is completely isolated.
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Statistics from the United Nations: Israel has been the single most discriminated against state by the UN.

- ✓ From 2012 to 2019, the UN has made 202 resolutions criticizing other countries and Israel was the subject of 163 of those resolutions.
 - ✓ Israel was responsible for 81% of the hostility in the world?
 - ✓ All the crimes being committed by the likes of Russia, China, Venezuela, Iran, Libya, Syria, etc. and during that time and Israel is the bad guy?
 - ✓ This is very much in line with what the Scriptures predict: **Revelation 12:1-6; 17**.
 - ✓ The hatred is truly diabolical.
- 2) Stay faithful in your service and ministry, **2nd Peter 3:11**. Since God is going to renovate earth, we need a greater sense of holiness and godliness than ever before.
 - ✓ Sanctification is being in practice what you already are in position, since you are a child of God and heir of the kingdom, live like you are.
 - ✓ It has never been more important that we refuse to live our lives in a lie but live our lives in the truth of who we are in Jesus.
 - 3) Stay focused on Israel and Jerusalem –
 - ✓ The Jews were 2000 years out of their homeland, 600 years prior they lost their sovereignty as a nation. Now since 1948 they are back in the land!
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This is the real news:

- ✓ Israel has reinvented itself, its language, its people and controls the land, city and Temple mount of its fathers after a 2600 year hiatus
 - ✓ Israel ranks as the 7th most mentioned country in the New York Times, just behind Russia, England and Germany!
 - ✓ Literally the entire world is becoming salient over Israel and Jerusalem just as God said they would:
Zechariah 12:1-3.
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