

Jerusalem, the Most Important City in the Bible and HIS-Story

The name Jerusalem says it all to a biblically literate Jew or Christian. It is ground zero for 90% of critical biblical fulfillment for the Jews and Christians. It has been the capital of the Jewish people for over 3000 years. It is mentioned by name over 800 times in the complete bible and over a 1000 times if you include the catch all name of Zion.

Notice I did not mention Islam as it was not mentioned even once in the Koran. It only truly became important to them when the Jewish people became a Nation again in 1948. I will not take the time to refute the Muslim claims now.

Religious Jews believe the Messiah (Christ) is coming the first only time to Jerusalem. It is the place that Jesus of Nazareth, the Christians' Christ was crucified, rose from the dead, was resurrected, and promised to return to physically in the future.

Religious Jews say the umbilical cord of the Creator God was/is attached to Jerusalem. Some even believe that Creation was started on Mount Moriah, primarily known today as the so-called Temple Mount, the most famous and controversial real estate in the world.

Mount Moriah is actually the original name of the actual Temple area. How significant is the place? Well, it's the place that Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac (not Ishmael as Muslims claim) 4000 years ago.

In **Genesis 22**; Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." ⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." ¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The Lord Will Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

This is the ultimate story that foreshadows God sacrificing His Son 2000 years later in the same general area about 300 yards from the summit of Mount Moriah on northern ridge of the same area called Golgotha, the place of the skull in Hebrew and adopted in the English Latinized version as Calvary.

About 1000 years later, King David was purchasing the place which would soon become the place of King Solomon's Temple. David asked the Jebbusite farmer Araunah in 2nd Samuel 24:24-25 "However, the king David said to Araunah, No, but I will buy it from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing." David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.²⁵ David built there an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. Thus the Lord was moved by prayer for the land, and the plague was held back from judging Israel.

We already read that the Great and Glorious Temple of King Solomon would be built on the same spot on Mount Moriah.

We now get to the most significant event in human history, or as I like to say HIS-story, and that is of course the death, burial, and resurrection of the incarnate God man, Jesus of Nazareth and as the Governor Pilate wrote above the Lord's head on a placard "Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews" in three languages mentioned in John 19:19. The Western World even tells time by the birth of this carpenter from Nazareth.

Another reason Jerusalem is so significant is that the 3rd Temple in the Book of Revelation is going to be built there. The Anti-Christ is going to declare himself God from this structure.

Lastly, the Messiah, the Christ will be coming to Jerusalem in Zechariah 14:3 "Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle."⁴ In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.⁵ You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah King of Judah. Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the Holy Ones with Him!

Hopefully you have been inspired to get more into your Bible, the book of Basic Instructions Before, Leaving Earth. You will get greater confidence in sharing your God given faith and leading family and friends to their potential Eternal dwelling place.

Keep Seeking His Truth ... Pastor Chris Heeb