

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Quarterly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 17, Number 1

Spring 2018

Jerusalem: The Forever Capital of Israel

Dear readers in a little over a month this ministry will be heading back to Israel for the 44th Gospel outreach to the Jewish people. This will be the first outreach to Israel for the year of 2018. We need your payers and financial support so that we can continue this vital end-time ministry. The city of Jerusalem has made big headlines now that the United States government has finally recognized Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. This was long overdue and President Trump deserves all the credit for doing something that should have been done long ago. God has decreed that He has chosen Jerusalem to be the place of His dwelling forever (Psalm 132:13-14), and Scripture foretells that Jesus the Messiah will rule from that city over the whole earth for 1,000 years (Isaiah 2:1-2; Revelation 20:1-6). And speaking of Jerusalem, the last Gospel outreach we completed in September of 2017 was replete with powerful Gospel witnessing encounters in Jerusalem. While ministering in Jerusalem on the last Gospel outreach, the Lord brought our outreach team to an olive oil and cosmetic shop on Ben Yehudah Street.



Tanya & Todd

We had the golden opportunity to share the prophetic promises God has kept with the Jewish people right up to the current regathering of the Chosen People to the land of Israel. This conversation all started when two young Jewish ladies,

Tanyah and Avital, saw one of our team members was wearing a necklace with the emblem of Israel on it. I then pulled out my Star of David and Cross necklace and showed it to them. Tanyah exclaimed that she knew what it meant and that it was a beautiful and profound symbol. The connection here is that the prophets of the Tenach (Old Testament) foretold the Messiah should suffer and die as an atonement for the sins of the world and rise again from the dead—and all those who trust Him will be forgiven by God and have eternal life to those of Israel and the nations of the world (Isaiah 53; Acts 26:22-23). At one point in our discussion, Avital mentioned how Israeli geologists discovered a fault line underneath the Mount of Olives!

I confirmed this truth by further elaborating that this fault line is the Great African Valley Rift and extends below the Mount Olives going all the way down to sub-Saharan Africa. This fault line exists in anticipation of the Second Coming prophecy of Zechariah 14:4

that reveals when Yeshua the Messiah returns to earth, His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives and the mountain will split in two. Both Tanyah and Avital were awed by learning that the Jewish Bible foretold all this about the Messiah and the meticulous and accurate way Yeshua has fulfilled them as Messiah of Israel. Their mutual desire to learn the details of the salvation that is freely offered by Yeshua prompted both ladies to eagerly receive complete Hebrew Bibles and Messianic study materials to better understand what God's Word teaches about the Messiah who has come and is shortly to come again. Folks, it is ministry like this among the Jewish people in Israel that we need your financial help to continue what the Lord is doing in the Promised Land. Funding has been on the decline and we urgently need your support more than ever now. Please consider making a large or small donation to help fund our upcoming Gospel outreach to Israel from March 11th to March 19th! Please give what you can—no amount is too small; and once again God will reward those who participate in this urgently needed ministry of bringing Yeshua back to His people as He regathers Israel for His glorious return. But they don't have to wait until then! They can know Yeshua now and be saved through our evangelistic efforts. Help us in this Holy Spirit ordained enterprise. To donate online, you can go to the following secure link on our ministry web site: <https://www.brit-hadashah.org/wp/donate/>.

You can also donate by mail to:

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Brit Hadashah Ministries is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit ministry, so your donation is tax deductible in the United States. Now is the accepted time, today is the day and year for the Gospel of salvation to be preached in Israel (2Corinthians 6:2) Partner with us in this exciting End-Time effort.

Your servant in Messiah Jesus,

Dr. Todd Baker.

About the Author

Dr. Todd Baker is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries and Pastor of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation in Dallas, Texas. He was a chaplain at Medical City Hospital for 16 years. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England, is a Fellow of the International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism & Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, and is currently a Doctor of Ministry candidate at Liberty University. He is a theological consultant and writer for Zola Levitt Ministries and has appeared on Zola Levitt Presents. With his extensive experience in Jewish evangelism, he has led many Gospel outreaches to Israel. ✞



Special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible. Also, special thanks to Andy Ball of The Bible Society of Israel for supplying us with Hebrew Bibles.

אוה חי (Hua Chi) He Lives

by: Robin(Aviel) Hopper

On our September outreach to Israel team members Robin and Sue Hopper met a very receptive Israeli by the name of Eli who accepted the message of Yeshua the Messiah! The following article is Robin's report of what happened.

In the fall of 2017 after the Zola Tour left Sue and I changed our living environment. Sue's sister and her son stayed at the "Messiah Guest House" ... it was a promised trip to Israel upon graduation from University for our nephew by his father. Sadly, his father passed into the arms of Yeshua before that could come to fruition, so Sue's sister kept the promise and made it happen. Anyway, she found the "Messiah Guest House" and gave us a report on the facility. Before we left the States, Sue had made arrangements for us to stay there so on the last day at the Dan Jerusalem we checked out and headed across town to the "Messiah Guest House". We met the owner of the guest house, he is a Jewish believer that made Aliya about 30 years ago. His name is Joseph and he stated he loves evangelist's and will give a cap to any evangelist who has the guts to where it. The cap has inscribed on it in Hebrew אוה חי (Hua Ch) He Lives. I took Joseph up on his challenge and told him I would wear the cap to open my people's hearts to the TRUTH. That afternoon Sue and I wanted to go down to Ben Yehuda Street and while we were walking down Yaffa Street we decided we would stop and visit our friend Natan the owner of the Kaplan Hotel... We found out that Natan was not going to be there until that weekend. But we made a new friend Eli, and we are looking forward to building a relationship with him. Eli is Natan's Business Partner and they take turns minding the store as it were. We visited with Eli for 30 or 40

minutes visiting with him before we left. I was wearing the cap that Joseph gave me and Eli kept looking at the cap on my head, all of a sudden Eli asked who is alive? I said Yeshua is alive he is the only one who has defeated death. Eli asked how can I know that? Sue and I offered him a complete Hebrew Bible. Eli became very excited when we handed him the Bible. As we were leaving Eli kept saying "Come back soon, I may have questions so "Please come back soon". That simple cap opened a door for us that opened the heart of one of my people to at least look at the TRUTH. You never know when you will meet that one person that only you can touch and help to open their eyes to the TRUTH. You never know what will catch their eye, a Magen David with a Cross together, a Messianic Seal, a cap with אוה חי emblazoned on it, you never know. You have to be prepared in season and out of season. I do know the next time I go to Israel I will be wearing a white cap with blue letters saying אוה חי (Hua Chi) He Lives, so I can answer Yeshua, Yeshua Lives.



Robin and Eli



Jerusalem is The Capital of Israel

THE PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM

December 10, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Recently on December 6, 2017 President Donald Trump of the United States of America recognized the city of Jerusalem as the capital of the nation of Israel. The significance of this cannot be underestimated. Jerusalem is mentioned more than any other city in Scripture: more than 800 times. It is named in 660 verses in the Old Testament, and in 142 verses in the New Testament. Jerusalem appears in some two-thirds of the books of the Old Testament, and almost one-half of the books of the New Testament. While Jerusalem is its most common title, it also occurs under other names such as Zion, Salem, The City of David, and Ariel. It is symbolically named in allegory as "Hagar and Mount Sinai in Arabia" (Galatians 4:25) and in prophecy as "Sodom and Egypt" (Revelation 11:8). Of the over 800 biblical references,

465 in the Old Testament and 24 in the New Testament refer to prophecies of Jerusalem yet future to the time they were stated.

FIRST MENTION OF JERUSALEM IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 14:18-20

¹⁸And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was priest of God Most High. ¹⁹And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth: ²⁰and blessed be God Most High, who hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him a tenth of all (ASV, 1901).

Jerusalem, formerly known as “Salem” first appears in the book of Genesis in the Bible where “Melchizedek, the king of Salem” blessed Abraham, the first Hebrew. “Melchizedek” is one of the most interesting characters in the Bible. Here he is said to be “priest of the God Most High”, and this is the first mention of a “priest” in the Bible. The title “God Most High” in Hebrew is El Elyon. This Hebrew title of God is found three times these verses. It is only found elsewhere in Psalm 78:35. Frequently we find the phrase “Most High” in other Bible passages, but only here and in Psalm 78 do we see the phrase “God Most High.” This designation has special significance, and verse 19 specifically states that God is the “possessor of heaven and earth”. It also means that Jehovah God had a relationship with “Melchizedek”, for “Melchizedek” was a follower and minister of the Lord of Heaven and Earth. Here “Melchizedek” is said to be both a priest and a king. Abram acknowledged Melchizedek as his superior, and seemed to recognize that God had revealed Himself to this man. In the New Testament and Psalm 110, “Melchizedek” is treated as a type of Jesus. A type in the Bible is a model or something similar that can be seen as like the second reference. He is never seen as the Lord Jesus. The book of Hebrews says he was like the Son of God (Hebrews 5,6,7). What is important to realize is that Melchizedek is a representative of God as the text says “priest of the God Most High.” Abraham recognized this and gives Melchizedek a tithe of one-tenth of all he owned.

GOD SAYS JERUSALEM IS HIS DWELLING PLACE.

Here the psalmist declares that Jerusalem is God’s earthly dwelling place:

Psalm 76:1-3

¹In Judah is God known: His name is great in Israel. ²In Salem also is his tabernacle, And his dwelling-place in Zion. ³There he brake the arrows of the bow; The shield, and the sword, and the battle, Selah (ASV, 1901).

Jerusalem is a very special place in God’s plan for this earth, and He can do with it as He pleases:

Psalm 87:2

²Jehovah loveth the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob. ³Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God (ASV, 1901).

Moreover, it is this city alone to which God took up His residence in the Tabernacle, resided in the Temple, and sacrificed Himself in the Lord Jesus. The Psalmist again states:

Psalm 132:13-14

¹³For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. ¹⁴This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it” (ASV, 1901).

As a result, Jerusalem is both the Holy City, and the city at the center of the world (Ezekiel 5:5).

GOD GAVE THE LAND OF ISRAEL TO THE JEWS

Joshua 1:2-4

²“Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. ³Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, to you have I given it, as I spake unto Moses. ⁴From the wilderness, and this Lebanon, even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border” (ASV, 1901).

After the death of Moses, God made Joshua the key figure to fulfill His program. His instructions were very explicit. Joshua was to lead the people across the Jordan River into the land that God was about to give to them. It is entirely God’s right to give Canaan to the Israelites for He owns all the earth. The psalmist affirmed this:

Psalm 24:1

¹“The earth is Jehovah’s, and the fulness thereof; The world, and they that dwell therein,” (ASV, 1901).

GOD GIVES JERUSALEM TO THE NATION ISRAEL

II Samuel 5:6-10

⁶“And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither; thinking, David cannot come in hither. ⁷Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion; the same is the city of David. ⁸And David said on that day, Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites, let him get up to the watercourse, and smite the lame and the blind, that are hated of David’s soul. Wherefore they say, There are the blind and the lame; he cannot come into the house. ⁹And David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. ¹⁰And David waxed greater and greater; for Jehovah, the God of hosts, was with him” (ASV, 1901).

The Jews were now given the city of Jerusalem for their capital because God was with King David, and caused him to grow ever more powerful in terms of enlarging his dominions for Israel. The Jews were subject to the conditional Mosaic Covenant, and they were apt to lose their occupation of the land if they were disobedience to God’s Law. But they would never the title to it (Leviticus 26:3-45). Furthermore, He promised to always love

them regardless of whether they sinned or not. Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Babylonians because of their disobedience. Jeremiah 31:38 tells us the city will be rebuilt later, and God described two characteristics of this new city of Jerusalem. First, it will be “holy to the Lord” (Zechariah 14:20–21). The city and its inhabitants will be set apart to God, who will dwell in her midst (Ezekiel 48:35). Second, the city will no more be uprooted or demolished. The ravages of war will not be experienced in this new city. However, these verses were not fulfilled after the Babylonian Captivity ended because the Jews did not cease from sin, or recognize God when He appeared in the Lord Jesus. As a result, the city that was rebuilt by Ezra and the returning Jews from Babylon, and was expanded upon until the time of Jesus was destroyed again in A.D. 70 by the Romans. The new city of Jerusalem spoken of by the prophets Jeremiah, Zechariah and Ezekiel will be fully restored as Bible says, but not until the Messianic Kingdom (Ezekiel 40–48). From the time after the Roman destruction until the Zionist movement of the late 1800’s the land was not again occupied by the Jews. God told the Jews through the prophet Ezekiel that He would lead them back to the land in stages starting with the Zionist movement (Ezekiel 37:1–14). Those stages are:

- The Zionist Movement
- The end of World War I and the establishment of the Mandate
- End of World War II and the creation of the sovereign State of Israel
- The National Regeneration of Israel and beginning of the Messianic Kingdom

In the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:1–14 the valley is covered with bones. Ezekiel also makes the observation that there was a large volume of the bones, and they “were very dry”. These bones were scattered about and not in piles. This is an indication that they were not produced in a single event, but over a great length of time, and no vivid life had been in them for an extended period. For example, from the time of the last invasion of Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. to the rebirth of the nation Israel in 1948, Israel had been without life for 2,534 years. This is quite in keeping with the Lord statement of “the Times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

Jerusalem occupies a strategic position with respect to two major prophetic periods: “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24) and the Allied Invasion led by the Russians (Ezekiel 38–39). “The times of the Gentiles” are that long period of time from the Babylonian captivity (586 B.C.) until the Second Coming of Jesus. In “the times of the Gentiles” the Lord Jesus said that Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles until that time period ended, and during this time the Gentiles have control over the city of Jerusalem. There have been times of temporary Jewish control over the city. For example:

- Maccabean Period (164–63 B.C.)
- First Jewish Revolt against Rome (A.D. 66–70)

- The second Jewish Revolt (the Bar-Kochba Revolt) against Rome (A.D. 132–135)
- As part of the end of 1967 Six-Day War

Any Jewish takeover of the city before the Second Coming is temporary, because Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles for at least another 3 ½ years during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 11:1–2). Thus, the current situation of Jerusalem as of 2017 does not mean that “the times of the Gentiles” have ended. “The times of the Gentiles” can only end when Gentiles cannot “tread down” Jerusalem any more.

“The times of the Gentiles” is also the period of time when Gentile empires will follow one another in sequence, with the Fourth Empire of imperialism going through several different stages. But eventually this will give way to God’s setting up His Own Kingdom. So even though the Jews won through battle in 1967 for the control of Jerusalem, their presence there has been disputed by the eastern block of nations, including Russia and the Islamic nations. The affirmation of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital city by the United States is one link in the sequence of events in “the times of the Gentiles”. It is important to realize that the United States, through President Harry Truman, was the first nation to recognize the modern state of Israel in 1948 after they declared their independence. Now President Donald Trump is officially recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capitol. These affirmations of Israel, and Jerusalem’s sovereignty, are much in keeping with the blessings promised in the Abrahamic Covenant.

The Abrahamic Covenant is the first unconditional covenant that God made with Israel. The Abrahamic Covenant promised a seed, land, and blessings. As such, these three major promises of this Covenant were personal promises to Abraham, national promises to Israel, and universal promises to all the people of the earth. God promised that He would bless Abraham and make him a blessing to others, to make his name great, to give him many descendants, to make him the father of a multitude of nations, to give him the land of Canaan for always and to “bless them that blessed Abraham and to curse them that cursed him” (Genesis 12; 13; 15 & 17). God also made national promises concerning Israel. They are to make a great nation of his descendants, to give land from the eastern most branch of the Nile delta (called the river of Egypt) to the Euphrates to his descendants forever, and to give the Abrahamic covenant to his descendants forever (Genesis 17:19; 21; 26:2–4; Genesis 28:12–15). As a result of these promises, we can see the period after the Second World War as having unprecedented prosperity to the United States of America, thus fulfilling God’s promise to bless those who bless Israel. We can look forward to addition prosperity following President Trump’s affirmation of Israel’s capitol as Jerusalem.

B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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Having been to the Holy Land over 30 times, I can assure you that Israelis deeply hunger and thirst for the Word of God and appreciate the believers in America who support ministries devoted to bringing the Word of God to the Jews. We need your support to help us continue to take the Gospel to the land from whence it came.

In light of the Last Days' realities, we appeal to you. We ask for and appreciate any support you can give us during this critical time of need. We need your thoughts,

your prayers, your words and your financial support as the Lord leads your heart.

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Thank you for supporting this Gospel ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ to His Chosen People in the land of Israel. May He come quickly! Until then, we continue to labor for Him.

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Daniel E. Woodhead Ph.D., President



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The \$250 donation fee to the BHM non-denomination Ministries is tax deductible. Dr. Baker is an ordained minister in the Baptist Church, Dallas TX, a biblical scholar and professor. Call today at 214/356-2583 or 214 384-1892 (please leave message if not there). We will send complete information on all the services included. The calendar is filling up!

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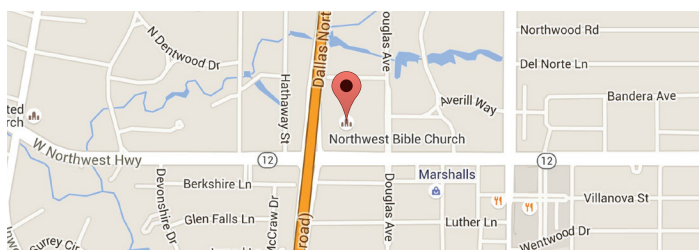
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