

## **Jerusalem, or New Jerusalem?**

by Steve Barwick

*Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

Jerusalem is and always has been the barometer of the Middle East. So we look to the events transpiring in Jerusalem to gauge where we're at in terms of the Biblical prophecies that must come to pass as we move into the final days of this flesh earth age.

Jerusalem holds a very special place in the hearts of Christians, for most Christians know that this geographical location is the heavenly Father's favorite spot on the face of the earth, and in the universe as well.

But the time is soon upon us when Christians are going to have to make a very important choice: A choice between what their heavenly Father's Word has to say about Jerusalem, and what the traditions of man being taught in the churches have to say about the city.

Many Christians today have unwittingly yoked themselves to the earthly city of Jerusalem and its inhabitants, believing earthly Jerusalem to be the city of God, and its inhabitants to be the chosen people of God.

Unfortunately, this ill-conceived attachment to earthly Jerusalem and its inhabitants is based almost solely upon empty religious traditions of man, and not on an accurate understanding of the Holy Scriptures.

Indeed, as we'll see in this study, the destruction of earthly Jerusalem by our heavenly Father Himself is part and parcel of His wrath upon this earth. And after completely destroying earthly Jerusalem, and ushering in the Millennium teaching period, He will then replace the sinful city with heavenly Jerusalem, also known in the Scriptures as the "New Jerusalem."

And therefore Christians who unwittingly have their heartstrings attached to the earthly city, not understanding God's overall plan, and particularly not understanding His intentions for that geographic region of the world, place their very souls at grave risk by attaching themselves spiritually to that which is soon to be done away with in great wrath.

### **Rightly Dividing the Word of God**

Christians are admonished in II Timothy 2:15 to "rightly divide" the Word of Truth.

**2Ti 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

This means you have to understand God's Word in terms of the dispensations of time discussed therein. Otherwise, at Christ's second advent you could end up "naked and ashamed," spiritually

speaking, because your misunderstanding of the Scriptures caused you to make the wrong decision at the wrong time, even leading you to worship the antichrist when he arrives to Jerusalem pretending to be “God,” instead of waiting on the arrival of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who comes afterwards.

As an example of rightly dividing the Word of God: The Old Testament clearly commands animal sacrifice in response to sin. Yet as Christians, we no longer sacrifice animals and offer them up for our sins, because we know that Christ Jesus, the Passover Lamb of God (John 1:29; John 1:36; 1 Corinthians 5:7), sacrificed His very life in payment for our sins.

And we know that His sacrifice, as the Lamb of God, was the *once and for all times* sacrifice for sins. As it is written in the great book of Hebrews, no other sacrifice for sins is necessary:

**Heb 10:10** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

His great atoning sacrifice covered it all. There is no need for any other.

**Heb 10:11** And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Animal sacrifice was merely a type of the great atoning sacrifice that would come through the Passover Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Properly understood, these repeated sacrifices pointed toward Christ. They taught the sinner that his sins were serious, and that blood was required to pay for them. But they could not make the sinner clean. Only Christ’s shed blood could.

**Heb 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ offered His life on that cross, and then defeated death, rising from the dead and taking his rightful place at the right hand of God, meaning He is the very power and authority of God.

**Heb 10:13** From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

Did you realize your Lord and Savior has enemies? You’d better. Many of them dwell in Jerusalem to this very day. And their forefathers crucified Him there, some two thousand years ago.

**Heb 10:14** For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

He paid the price for our sins with His own shed blood. It was a one-time-only sacrifice. Again, no other sacrifice is needed. Ever.

So Christians today wouldn't think of participating in animal sacrifice, because they know the sacrifice of Christ completely fulfilled the Old Testament laws having to do with blood ordinances, and that Christ *became our Passover*. As it is written:

**1Co 5:7** Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

The Old Testament blood ordinances no longer pertain to us. We are new creations in Christ. And that's because Christ became our Passover when He gave His very life for us on that cross.

### **The Jerusalem of Today**

Unfortunately, when it comes to the subject of the earthly city of Jerusalem, Christians are rarely able to "rightly divide the word of truth" in this same manner.

They fail miserably to understand that in this dispensation of time after the crucifixion of Christ, Jerusalem is no longer considered by our heavenly Father to be the holy city it once was. Instead, it is considered to be an ungodly *spiritual wasteland*.

For example, every Christian knows that Christ was crucified in Jerusalem. But how many realize that just before His crucifixion, Christ pronounced the city "desolate" in anticipation of its rejection of Himself as the Lord and Savior, and said the city would remain spiritually desolate all of the way to the time of His second coming? As it is written:

**Mat 23:37** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

**Mat 23:38** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

**Mat 23:39** For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

During the course of His ministry, Christ wanted to gather Jerusalem and its inhabitants together unto Himself. But they refused, just as that city had refused every prophet of God ever sent to it throughout history.

And after refusing the Prophet of all prophets, Jesus Christ, the inhabitants of that city then crucified Him. As a result, the city is now considered by our heavenly Father to be spiritually desolate, meaning a spiritual wasteland. After all, the city, as the Bride of Christ, has rejected the Bridegroom, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and killed Him.

Wherever Jesus Christ is rejected, there is no spiritual life. This does not by any means imply that everyone living in Jerusalem is spiritually desolate. There are many good Christians in Jerusalem who love Christ, just as there were in Christ's time and directly afterwards when the apostles preached the Gospel there.

But overall, even to this day our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is rejected by the vast majority of the inhabitants of that city, just as He was before His crucifixion. And therefore the city itself is deemed to be desolate.

As a result, judgment from our heavenly Father has gone forth against that city, and a sentence has been passed, long ago. We will carefully examine that judgment, and that sentence, and discover the prophetic events that will lead up to the execution of that sentence, throughout the remainder of this study.

## **The Desecration of Jerusalem**

It's important to first reiterate that the geographical location of Jerusalem is our heavenly Father's favorite spot on the face of this earth. And it always *will* be.

But while the geographical location is precious to our heavenly Father, the earthly city that sits there today is anathema, as you'll see.

In Ezekiel chapter 16 verses 1-14, which we'll look at in just a few moments, we learn that our heavenly Father took that geographical location to wife, so to speak. In other words, He made an eternal marriage covenant with that land, promising that it would be His forever, just as a man and his wife are meant to be married "til death do us part."

However, that covenant was rejected by the inhabitants of Jerusalem when they slew the Bridegroom – Jesus Christ -- sent to them by our heavenly Father. And therefore that marriage covenant is in abeyance until the land is occupied by a people worthy of Christ. This can only take place *after* Christ's second advent, and not before.

Indeed, before Christ's second advent can take place, the desecration of Jerusalem by Satan himself, in his role as the antichrist, or false Christ, must take place. As we'll see in this study, that event is the *final insult* to our heavenly Father from the city He loves so much, before He destroys it altogether at Christ's second advent, in order to cleanse it of the stench of Satanic doctrine that so permeates it even now.

For as it is written in II Thessalonians 2:1-4, Satan, the son of perdition, in his role as the antichrist, must *first* seat himself in the temple in Jerusalem, and proclaim himself to be "God," *before* our Lord and Savior's second advent can take place. As it is written:

**2Th 2:1** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

The subject matter of these verses is Christ's second advent and our gathering together unto Him. St. Paul is going to explain the precise order of events to expect.

**2Th 2:2** That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

St. Paul says we should not let *anyone* shake us up or trouble us with messages of Christ's imminent arrival. He even warns that we should not interpret his first letter to the Thessalonians to mean that Christ's arrival is at hand, as so many Christians do today. The "day of Christ" is *not* at hand until the prophetic events St. Paul reveals below have taken place.

This pretty much shoots the heck out of the "Jesus can come at any moment now" teaching that pervades so much of the Christian church. In the verses below, the beloved St. Paul is going to tell us exactly *why* Jesus cannot come at any moment now, and what the events are that *must* transpire first before His second advent.

**2Th 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

St. Paul warns that before the day of Christ Jesus' arrival can take place there will be a "falling away," and the antichrist himself – that "man of sin" the "son of perdition" -- will be revealed.

What's more, St. Paul emphasizes in no uncertain terms that we are not to allow this event to deceive us. Why? Because many Christians in Paul's time, and most Christians today, are being taught in the churches that "Jesus can come at any moment now."

So when the first supernatural being from heaven sets foot in that temple in Jerusalem, calling himself "God," all too many Christians are going to believe him, and fall for his deception. St. Paul did not want Christians to be deceived by this event, and to thereby unwittingly fall away to the antichrist thinking him to be the Savior.

In the Greek, the term "falling away" in verse 3 above is translated from the Greek word *apostasia* (Strong's G-646), which means "a defection from the truth."

In other words, a massive defection from the truth of God's Word will take place as Satan, that "man of sin...the son of perdition" unveils himself to the world, and proclaims himself to be "God." As St. Paul further explains:

**2Th 2:4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

That's right. Satan in his role as the antichrist will go right to the temple in Jerusalem and proclaim himself to be "God." After all, in his conceit and pride, He has always wanted the throne of God for himself. And as St. Paul so clearly tells us, these momentous events *must* take place *before* the day of Christ can take place.

Indeed, these events in Jerusalem represent "the abomination of desolation" warned of by Christ Jesus in Matthew 24:15 and again in Mark 13:14.

As it is written in Mark 13:14, “*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains.*”

Of course, the holy place is Mt. Zion at Jerusalem. And Jerusalem is the capital of the land of Judea. Why would those who dwell in the land of Judea at that time need to flee to the mountains? Because, as we’ll see in this study, our heavenly Father has pledged to *completely destroy* that very geographical location and every building in it, after Satan in his role as the antichrist sets up shop in Jerusalem and proclaims himself to be “God.”

Unfortunately, the whole world – with the exception of God’s faithful overcomers -- will fall for this deception. They will ignore the Scriptures above, and cling to the false doctrine coming out of the mouth of the antichrist, instead.

Indeed, as it is written in Revelation chapter 12:7-9, when Satan is kicked out of heaven by Michael and his angels in the final days of this flesh earth age, the whole world will be deceived when he arrives:

*“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, (7) And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. (8) And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”*

But God’s faithful overcomers know His Word. By rightly dividing the Word of God, they know *in advance* to expect this great deception and the resulting defection from the truth.

Indeed, it is they who will testify against Satan and his angels at that time (Rev. 12: 11) when they are delivered up to the trials of Mark 13:9-13, and our heavenly Father speaks through them, delivering a devastating indictment against Satan and his followers “which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist” (Luke 21:15).

This is why our heavenly Father plans to cleanse the earthly Jerusalem at the time of Christ’s arrival. He will rid that city of the stench of Satanic deception, before setting up His eternal kingdom – heavenly Jerusalem -- on that very same geographical spot, on the first day of the eternity (Rev. 21:1-2) after the Millennium teaching period has ended and the Great White Throne Judgment has taken place.

### **Jerusalem: the Beginning and the End**

Just as Jesus laid out the charges against Jerusalem, in brief, in Matthew 23:37-39, pronouncing the city “desolate,” so our heavenly Father, through the prophet Ezekiel, prophetically laid out His charges against Jerusalem, but in far more depth. And He pronounced a very stiff sentence upon her, as well, as we shall see.

So let's take a look what our heavenly Father had to say about the fate of earthly Jerusalem, in Ezekiel chapter 16, verses 15-63. As it is written:

**Eze 16:1** Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Note carefully that what you're about to read is the Word of God, and not the words of mere man.

**Eze 16:2** Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,

Father told the prophet Ezekiel to explain to Jerusalem the legal charges He is laying against her, and why.

The word "abominations" in the verse above is translated from the Hebrew phrase *to 'ebah* (Strong's H-8441), which means "something morally disgusting" and which usually refers to a particularly egregious form of idol worship in which the male phallus is worshipped as "God."

As we study the remaining verses in this chapter, you'll see clearly why our heavenly Father chose that word. He will ultimately liken Jerusalem's idolatrous sins to the most gross forms of sexual immorality a woman can commit against her Husband.

**Eze 16:3** And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

The heathen Amorites and the Hittites originally founded the city now called Jerusalem, back when it was known as Jebus.

Here our heavenly Father relates the city of Jerusalem to a newborn child. He will follow through with this metaphor throughout this chapter, allowing us to watch this "child" as she grows up into a beautiful woman. This metaphor is used as a means of helping us better understand His true feelings toward the city .

**Eze 16:4** And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

The founding of the city of Jerusalem is related, metaphorically, to an unclean birth. In other words, the city was not founded in accord with God's law, because the founders of the city were not followers of our heavenly Father. They were heathen, and their religious practices were heathen.

**Eze 16:5** None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.

Our heavenly Father describes Jerusalem as an unwanted newborn baby, cast out into an open field and left to die.

**Eze 16:6** And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.

The word “polluted” in the above verse is translated from the Hebrew word *bus* (Strong’s H-947), and should be translated “trampled.”

The newborn baby had been trampled in its own blood and left for dead. Metaphorically, the city had been used for child sacrifice by its heathen inhabitants who worshipped the fire god Moloch, and thus it was essentially dead to the Lord.

Father took pity on this unwanted child that was left to die – this city Jerusalem. He pronounced LIFE upon it, looking forward prophetically to that time when He would bring the Savior of the world to this very city – that One who would pay the price for the sins of all mankind so anyone who would embrace Him in faith and repentance could LIVE eternally.

**Eze 16:7** I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare.

After our heavenly Father took pity on Jerusalem, He blessed her, and the city grew up and became great and populous. It was a stunning city, likened here by our heavenly Father to a beautiful young woman coming into adulthood.

Clearly, our Father is using the emotions of young love to make a point: i.e., that Jerusalem is his favorite spot on the face of the earth. In these verses, she is likened to a young virgin bride, and He a man in love, metaphorically speaking.

**Eze 16:8** Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

Again, this is a metaphor, meaning that just as a man looks for a wife among the young virgin women who have come of age, and once found, then marries his chosen bride. The phrase “covered thy nakedness” is a Hebrew euphemism meaning to consummate the marriage. And so it is that our heavenly Father entered into a “marriage” covenant with Jerusalem, pledging to be the city’s “husband” forever.

**Eze 16:9** Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.

Our heavenly Father cleansed the city of her blood and anointed her with oil. He is turning the city into a royal city, just as a king marrying a young bride makes her His Queen.

**Eze 16:10** I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk.

Father gave Jerusalem the very best of everything, like a king showering gifts on His new bride. Embroidered clothing, fur coats, fine linen garments, you name it. Ultimately, it became the most blessed city on the face of the earth.

**Eze 16:11** I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck.

The city was all decked out in royal ornaments, and fit for a king.

**Eze 16:12** And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.

As a king puts a crown of jewels upon his wife's forehead to make her Queen, so the city became God's royal wife, in His eyes.

**Eze 16:13** Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.

Indeed, the city of Jerusalem became the royal city of the nation of Israel – the Holy City of God.

**Eze 16:14** And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.

God Himself decked out the city of Jerusalem, until she was the envy of the rest of the world. Man cannot take credit for the abundance and greatness possessed by that city. It was given to her, by her Husband.

Our heavenly Father has now finished explaining, in metaphorical form, how he saved Jerusalem after her unclean birth, took her to wife, decked her out in finery, and turned her into His own royal city.

### **The Charges Laid Against Her**

Next, our heavenly Father explains what happened afterwards when Jerusalem turned her back on Him and began to commit idolatry with false gods.

He reveals how it made him feel, using metaphorical terms of a man who is being openly cheated on by his wife. And He reveals the just sentence He has pronounced upon her.

**Eze 16:15** But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was.

The word “fornication” in the above verse is translated from the Hebrew word *taznuth* (Strong’s H-8457), and it means “harlotry” or “whoredom,” and it is put figuratively for *idolatry*.

In other words, *sexual* immorality (i.e., adultery) is being likened by our heavenly Father to the *spiritual* immorality (i.e., idolatry) being committed in this city.

Father is saying that rather than worshipping the spiritual Husband who rescued her and who set her up on high and blessed her with royalty, the royal city instead began to welcome every conceivable form of religious worship...every false god and abominable religious practice imaginable.

What’s more, Jerusalem began to trust in her own beauty to obtain her wants and needs. This self-pride is a Satanic attribute. She put big churches on every corner. And all conceivable doctrines were welcome, except of course for the truth of God’s Word.

This is why Jesus would say, in Mathew 23:37 that Jerusalem had killed all of the prophets of God, and stoned those that were sent unto her. Yet it was the most religious city in the world. The only problem being that God’s Word was utterly rejected there, in favor of the vain religious traditions of man.

Historically, the city also formed alliances with the heathen nations round about her, forgetting her unclean birth and the fact that she’d been left abandoned to die in the field by the very types of ungodly heathen she now courted as allies.

**Eze 16:16** And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so.

Again, God likens idol worship to harlotry. Jerusalem played the harlot by allowing the worship of just about any kind of “god” imaginable on the high places of the city where numerous altars were set up for that purpose.

According to Dr. Bullinger, writing in side notes of the *Companion Bible*, the final sentence of the above verse should read: “thereby saying the curses come not, and the threatened judgment shall not be.”

In other words, the city arrogantly claimed that the curses spelled out in Deuteronomy 28:15-68 against those who commit idolatry would never take place. Yes, the city insulted and snubbed the Lord God, even to the point of claiming He was *powerless to follow through on His Word in regards to His punishment of idolaters*.

Historically speaking, and as we shall see in the ensuing verses, this was the beginning of grove worship among the people of Israel, in which abominations such as phallic symbols – images of the male body part -- were erected in groves on the hillsides, and worshiped as “god” by the people.

This is the raw arrogance of the city – hereafter symbolized as God’s adulterous wife -- as she basked in the limelight of her own glory rather than her Husband’s goodness, believing her own beauty and riches and power would carry her through any situation.

There is God’s will. And there is self-will. And she was steeped in self-will, and rejected God’s will. Again, this is a thoroughly Satanic attribute that always leads to one’s downfall.

**Eze 16:17** Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them,

These “images of men” are the idols composed in the image of the male phallus, which I mentioned earlier. Rejecting God’s Word, the people of the city had taken the very riches God had blessed them with, such as the gold and silver, and used those riches to decorate the idolatrous sexual images they had created to worship.

Of course, that could never happen today, right? You’ve never seen any Christian organizations or denominations that trust in their riches and fancy buildings and plush decorations, while reveling in the false doctrine that comes forth from their pulpits, right?

Of course not. And there’s no fancy church steeples either, looking like giant phalluses, sticking straight up into air over the churches, right? Of course not. Christians would never do anything like that today.

**Eze 16:18** And tookest thy broidered garments, and coveredst them: and thou hast set mine oil and mine incense before them.

Metaphorically speaking, the garments of royalty our heavenly Father had granted the royal city were now being used to cover the phallic images being worshiped by the people.

In other words, the royalty our heavenly Father so generously bequeathed upon the city was now being given over to idols of sexual and spiritual immorality.

Imagine a married woman taking the expensive wedding and anniversary gifts her husband had given her over the years, and bequeathing these gifts upon her foul lovers in the very sight of her husband! How would that make you feel, as the husband?

Are you beginning to get an idea of our Father’s emotions in regards to Jerusalem and its inhabitants, who to this day reject His great gifts to this city – most importantly of all, the gift of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which He specifically gave to this once royal city before they rejected Him as the Bridegroom and then crucified Him?

**Eze 16:19** My meat also which I gave thee, fine flour, and oil, and honey, wherewith I fed thee, thou hast even set it before them for a sweet savour: and thus it was, saith the Lord GOD.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem set the gifts given to them by God in front of the priests of these idolatrous images.

How many millions of Christians today unwittingly set a portion of their blessings before the false priests of the any-moment-now rapture Jesus, which is to say, the priests of the antichrist himself?

**Eze 16:20** Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter,

The corruption was so deep in the holy city, that the people were even sacrificing their children to these idols, just as the heathen had done before the city was rescued by our heavenly Father and refurbished as royalty and wed by Him. The city had turned full circle back to its filthy origins.

Well, we'd never do that today, right? Of course not. After all, God doesn't notice all of those millions of children aborted by their mothers on the altar of "population control" and the god of personal expediency, right?

Nor does he notice the tens of millions more young children being sacrificed by Christian parents today to every form of false doctrine on the dual altars of political correctness and religious tradition, right?

Nor does He notice that we've allowed our leaders to kick even the very mention of God and His Word out of the public schools, so children are led to believe He is irrelevant, right?

These things are small matters, and people who think they're important are just making a big deal out of nothing, right?

The more things change, the more they remain the same, my friend. As it was then, so it is again. It's the same thing, just dressed up a little bit differently so we don't notice it as much.

**Eze 16:21** That thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them?

Yes, the people of Jerusalem sacrificed their children to the fire god, Moloch, just as the heathen around them did -- the very heathen from which Jerusalem had been rescued by God in the first place.

How many heathen customs do we have in our own nation, and even within our own churches, today? I keep noticing more and more churches supporting "gay marriage," and even ordaining "gay priests." Some churches have whitewashed child molestation.

Many Christian churches are even actively participating in global "inter-faith" programs in an effort to meld all religions, no matter how heathen in practice, into a global one-world religion.

Could God be any less disgusted now, than He was then?

**Eze 16:22** And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, and wast polluted in thy blood.

Once again, the word “polluted” above should be translated “trampled” or even “wallowing.” When God found Jerusalem, she was a heathen city, cast off and abandoned and wallowing in blood.

The royal city did not look back and remember the dire circumstances from whence she was originally rescued. Nor did she look back and remember who had rescued her. Instead, she returned to the ways of the very heathen that had abandoned her and cast her off to die in the field.

The Proverb, “*As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly*” comes to mind (Proverbs 26:11).

**Eze 16:23** And it came to pass after all thy wickedness, (woe, woe unto thee! saith the Lord GOD:)

Here we have the first two “woes” of Revelation 8:13 woven into God’s reading of legal charges against the earthly city of Jerusalem.

As it is written in Revelation 8:13, “*And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*”

Why are the first two woes woven into God’s legal charges against the earthly city of Jerusalem? Those who have studied the three woes written of in the great book of Revelation know they correspond to the final three trumpets that are blown in the final days of this flesh earth age.

The third and final “woe,” of course, is Father’s great wrath upon this earth, which is executed at the seventh trumpet. But the first two woes, which correspond respectively to the fifth and sixth trumpets of the book of Revelation, have to do with the coming of the antichrist and the great deception he unleashes upon the earth from his seat in Jerusalem. That is the ultimate wickedness committed by this once-great city.

As we learned earlier from II Thessalonians 2:1-4, the antichrist will seat himself in the temple in Jerusalem, and exalt himself above God, even pronouncing himself to be “God.”

And at that time, many Christians who have been unwittingly taken in by the vain religious traditions of man in this final generation, will think it is actually Jesus, come to rapture them away. And they will worship him as their “Savior,” which is essentially the *final insult* to our heavenly Father. At that point His great wrath will indeed be poured out upon the ungodly city Jerusalem.

**Eze 16:24** That thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place, and hast made thee an high place in every street.

Prophetically speaking, the residents of Jerusalem will institute a one-world religion at that time, with the antichrist at its head, and will put a church on every corner to carry forth its ungodly doctrine.

In the Hebrew, our heavenly Father is saying they've made a religion of immorality, and have established a brothel on every street. False religion everywhere you look.

It will be even more so when the antichrist rules from Jerusalem, though by all appearances it will be oh-so very spiritual.

Prophetically speaking, the stench of false religion and idolatry will permeate every corner of the city, just as it did in Ezekiel's time.

**Eze 16:25** Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms.

Father's charges against the royal city become a bit more graphic, as He relates their religious worship to the operation of a whore house.

The city has spread its legs wide open to any and all who will come in. The city is open to every whim, every spirit, every impulse. All doctrines are welcome but the Living Word of God.

This of course will be exactly the same when the antichrist seats himself in Jerusalem. The whole world will rush to jump into bed with him, spiritually speaking. The one-world religion will be in full swing, headquartered at Jerusalem, and spreading around the world from there.

**Eze 16:26** Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger.

"Great of flesh" means *lustful*. Our heavenly Father does not like it one bit when we so eagerly run off to enjoin ourselves to the ungodly heathen who despise His very name.

Egypt is the land of bondage, Biblically speaking. It is where God's People Israel spent hundreds of years in the most severe form of bondage. And even to this very day the inhabitants of Egypt despise the Lord. Yet our leaders welcome Egypt them with open arms and give them money and military might thinking we can buy their friendship.

Even Jerusalem of today depends largely upon Egypt, rather than the Lord God, in a vain attempt to maintain peace in that area of the world.

Prophetically speaking, when the antichrist rules and reigns from Jerusalem, all of the Arab nations, and the rest of the nations of the world as well, will fall into bed with the great harlot city.

The world will all couple together as “one” with Jerusalem in a great religious orgy of false fellowship with the false Christ who will be ruling in her midst, the antichrist himself, which is Satan.

**Eze 16:27** Behold, therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food, and delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way.

Isn't it amazing that today, the Palestinians (Philistines) claim the eastern sector of the city of Jerusalem as their capital, and in so doing cause that very land much consternation and pain? Because of this, the peace which the once royal city should be enjoying has been turned into fear and loathing and violence and bloodshed. So you can see your Father's Word has come to pass in this regard.

Father says in the verse above that He's “diminished thine ordinary food,” which in the original Hebrew means He's withheld the appointed blessings from the city. The city is no longer blessed as it once was. There's trouble within, and trouble brewing on all sides.

And as the famine for truth of the final days of this flesh earth age reaches its zenith in that city, the antichrist himself will arrive to rule and reign, replacing the Word of God with his own empty words that cannot profit nor provide eternal life.

Our heavenly Father will not be mocked. He will not be mistreated. He will not be disrespected. He will bring about the promised curses upon that earthly city as long as it rejects His Savior, which is to say, His Living Word, who was meant to be the city's Bridegroom.

**Eze 16:28** Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied.

Prophetically speaking, the Assyrian is a type of the antichrist himself.

As it is written in Isaiah 10:5, “*O Assyrian, the rod of my anger, and the staff in their hand is my indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.*”

If you want to whore around insatiably with the antichrist, our heavenly Father will turn you over to the antichrist. As it is written in II Thessalonians 2:11-12, “*And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (11) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*”<sup>(12)</sup>

He turns the entire city over to the antichrist in the final days of this flesh earth age, and allows the antichrist to conquer, take the spoil, take the prey, and tread down the people. Spiritually speaking, they are taken captive by his false doctrine and the miracles he works in their sight (Revelation 13:13-14).

**Eze 16:29** Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith.

The city spread her legs, so to speak, for any who would join her. And when the antichrist is ruling and reigning from Jerusalem, it will be no different. The entire world will flock to Jerusalem, thinking that “God” has arrived.

As it is written in Zechariah 8:23, *“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.”*

The leaders of the nations of the world will traipse off to Jerusalem, eager to enjoin themselves to that city, thinking that “God” is reigning there.

**Eze 16:30** How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman;

The phrase “how weak is thy heart” should be translated from the original Hebrew, “How sick is thy mind.”

The word “imperious” should be translated shameless. The word “whorish” means an adulteress. And the word “woman” should be translated “wife” in keeping with the context of this chapter.

Our heavenly Father is saying that the royal city, Jerusalem, is to Him like a sick-minded, shameless and adulterous wife with no personal restraint.

Again, God is using the emotion involved in egregious acts of *adultery* to help us understand how He feels about the rampant *idolatry* that to this day typifies the city of Jerusalem, where our heavenly Father and His Christ are simply not welcome, but the antichrist will be, and with open arms.

**Eze 16:31** In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire;

God points out that the royal city isn’t welcoming all comers for money or gain, but instead, for the sheer lust of it. She “scornest hire,” meaning unlike a prostitute who at least charges for it, she gives it away for free.

Again, Satan’s one-world mystery religion of the end times will be welcomed with open arms in the once-royal city. And all who will embrace it are welcome, as well. But God and His Word

are not. The spiritual fornication with the antichrist, centered in Jerusalem, will suck in the whole world.

**Eze 16:32** But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!

God likens Jerusalem to a wife who prefers the sexual company of strangers to that of her own husband.

The phrase “committeth adultery” is translated from the Hebrew word *na aph* (Strong’s H-5003), and quite literally means “to commit adultery” or “break wedlock,” but figuratively means “to apostatize.”

In other words, Father is once again relating adultery to idolatry – Jerusalem prefers the company of her false idols to the company of her true husband, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The word “strangers” here is the Hebrew word *zur* (Strong’s H-2114) meaning “to turn aside (for lodging).” In other words, she will take in any stranger who will turn aside from the truth and come in unto her.

Prophetically speaking, it means those who have turned aside from the teachings of God in the great falling away we read of in II Thessalonians 2:3 are welcome in Jerusalem, but God and His Christ are not.

**Eze 16:33** They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom.

Father says Jerusalem is like a whore who has to pay others to pleasure her, rather than charging them.

In other words, spiritually speaking, God’s once beautiful wife spread her legs for the phony religionists, and then after she’s been molested by them over and over again, she opens up her purse and pays her molesters.

You can’t get any more graphic than that, beloved. Our heavenly Father is certainly not happy with this city.

He simply wants His wife to depend upon Him, and to love Him and to seek out His wisdom and be blessed in the process. Instead, it’s anybody-but-Him.

The lust for falsehood is so great in the once-holy city, the inhabitants would rather *pay* to have apostate religion than be blessed with the truth. And Christ Jesus IS the truth.

**Eze 16:34** And the contrary is in thee from other women in thy whoredoms, whereas none followeth thee to commit whoredoms: and in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art contrary.

Father is saying, basically, “Compared to a common street whore who at least charges for her services, you actually *pay* to be spiritually molested by all of the phony religionists in your midst.”

Remember, these are the charges our heavenly Father is bringing against His holy city Jerusalem, because it has rejected Him as the Husband, and over the centuries has played the whore with antichrist religion in all of its forms, instead.

And when the antichrist arrives to this earth in the final days of this flesh earth age, and sets up camp in Jerusalem as it is written throughout the Scriptures, this behavior will reach its zenith. And God’s wrath will finally boil over.

### **The Sentence Pronounced**

In the following verses, our heavenly Father is now going to pronounce sentence upon this once-royal city.

**Eze 16:35** Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD:

**Eze 16:36** Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them;

**Eze 16:37** Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness.

Notice that the word “will” is used three times in that verse, and will be used multiple times in the following verses. In other words, Jerusalem’s sentence is being made part and parcel of God’s will. And you can rest assured when something is in your heavenly Father’s will, it’s going to come to pass exactly as it’s written.

Father is saying “You asked for it, you got it.” Since you prefer your lovers to me, I’m going to turn you over to them, as well as to all those you’ve hated. And I’m going to allow them to take advantage of you until everyone knows you for who and what you truly are.

This verse should remind you of a verse in the New Testament, in which Christ Jesus forewarned us of the final days of this flesh earth age, “*And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.*” (“Luke 21:20).

Father has truly turned the once-holy city over to the heathen. And they come in and out of her with impunity, while her surrounding enemies become more emboldened in their hatred of her by the day. And so our Father’s Word continues to come to pass exactly as it’s written.

And when the antichrist arrives to that city with his one-world religion that welcomes all comers, the heathen that Jerusalem has loved and even the heathen that Jerusalem has hated will be given the keys to the city, so to speak. All they have to do is bow down to the antichrist as their god, and Jerusalem will be theirs.

As it is written of that time in Revelation Rev 11:1-2, “*And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. (1) But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.”*

The time will come when Jerusalem is measured by God for destruction. And leading up to that time, the city will be trod under foot by the gentiles, meaning the people’s of the world will flock there, thinking “God” to be present.

**Eze 16:38** And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy.

The word “judge” in the verse above is the Hebrew word *shaphat* (Strong’s H-8199), and it means “to pronounce sentence.” God is saying to Jerusalem, in essence, I’m going to pronounce the sentence upon you that pertains to a woman who breaks her marriage vows, cheats on her husband, and who commits murder. In other words, He’s pronouncing upon her *the death sentence*.

This is the earthly city so many Christians to this day have endeared themselves to, thinking it is God’s holy city. How wrong they are. They have unwittingly bonded themselves to a city that has the death sentence pronounced upon it by their own heavenly Father.

Note the two uses of the phrase “I will” in the above verse, further emphasizing the fact that Father has made this sentence upon earthly Jerusalem part and parcel of His will.

He states He will sentence her to death, and will give her blood “in fury and jealousy,” meaning at some point in time His anger will reach the boiling point, as any husband’s would under such circumstances, and He will carry out the just sentence He has pronounced upon her.

This of course takes place at the height of the antichrist’s rule over Jerusalem and the world, which is what triggers Christ’s second advent. Our Lord and Savior will arrive to that city at that time, and turn every building to sand, as we will see later in this study.

**Eze 16:39** And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked and bare.

Spiritually speaking, Jerusalem will be left as she was originally found by God. Naked and bare. The phrase “I will” in the verse above makes this part and parcel of God’s will.

God is simply saying that in welcoming the antichrist with open arms to rule over her, Jerusalem loses any heavenly reward she may have had coming. She is stripped bare of her once-great royalty.

Does this not remind you of Revelation 17:16, in which Father warns that in the final days of this flesh earth age, after the antichrist has taken up residence in Jerusalem with his fallen angels, the 10 supernatural kings Satan appoints to rule the world under his direction will come to hate the whore, and will spiritually ravage her?

As it is written in Revelation 17:16, “*And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.”*

Think spiritually, of course, and not in the flesh. At that time Satan himself will be ruling the world from Jerusalem, claiming to be God. Jerusalem will be the centerpiece of Satan’s global religio-political system referred to as “the beast” in the book of Revelation. So Satan’s spiritual desecration of Jerusalem will indeed be great.

What’s more, the “whore” spoken of in Revelation 17:16 above is composed of all of those participating in the new world religion ushered in by Satan from his seat in Jerusalem. Even today it is beginning to take shape as Christians unwittingly begin attaching themselves to that city erroneously thinking Jesus is going to return there at “any moment now.”

The bottom line is that Jerusalem will be spiritually overthrown by the antichrist and his fallen angels, and the city will be spiritually ravaged by them as they set up their false kingdom of “heaven on earth” from that vantage point.

And our heavenly Father has ordained this to happen, in utter disgust at that city which has rejected Him and His Christ, who was to be the city’s Bridegroom.

**Eze 16:40** They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords.

The word “company” means *a military host*, which is to say, an army. But think spiritually. In the days of old, Jerusalem was indeed militarily overrun and the people conquered. And so it is that in the final days of this flesh earth age, she shall be ravaged and overthrown and laid desolate once again, only this time, it will be spiritually, and by the antichrist himself and his fallen angels.

**Eze 16:41** And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more.

Again, our heavenly Father makes this part of His will, with the statement “I will.”

Spiritually speaking, the fire of Satanic deception will desecrate the earthly Jerusalem of today, and all who have unwittingly pinned their hopes on her, in ignorance of our Father's Word.

And at Christ's second advent, when Christ's words in Matthew 24:2 are fulfilled and that city is destroyed in order to cleanse it of Satan's spiritual stench, Jerusalem will have ceased once and for all times from playing the harlot, and from paying others to ravage her.

So if Jerusalem is where your heart is at today, I assure you, your heart is in the wrong place. You do not know your heavenly Father's Word, nor His emotions towards such a sinful city.

If you're spiritually yoked to that which in God's will is destined to be destroyed, where does that leave your soul? Think about that carefully.

**Eze 16:42** So will I make my fury toward thee to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from thee, and I will be quiet, and will be no more angry.

I urge you not to miss the fact that our Father continues to make this sentence upon Jerusalem part and parcel of His will.

It will take the complete and utter destruction of Jerusalem to give rest to His fury, His jealousy and His anger against that city.

**Eze 16:43** Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness above all thine abominations.

Because Jerusalem did not appreciate what our heavenly Father has done for her, but instead enraged Him by rejecting His laws...rejecting His commands...rejecting His authority as Husband...and most importantly of all, rejecting His Christ, then God has written it into His will to put an end to her whoredoms once and for all, that they may never happen again.

**Eze 16:44** Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter.

Like mother, like daughter. Jerusalem of the Old Testament was a spiritual whore. And so is Jerusalem of the New Testament, even that unfaithful city of the final days of this flesh earth age that continues to reject God the Father and His Christ, and will continue to do so right up to Christ's second coming.

**Eze 16:45** Thou art thy mother's daughter, that lotheth her husband and her children; and thou art the sister of thy sisters, which lothed their husbands and their children: your mother was an Hittite, and your father an Amorite.

Father is saying instead of following after the One who rescued her, and who brought her up and fed her sumptuously, and who gave her the riches and royal glory she enjoyed, she instead reverts back to her heathen origins.

And she “loatheth her husband and her children,” meaning, symbolically, she loathes Christ and His faithful followers, just like the cities around her. That is true to this very day of the city of Jerusalem and the surrounding areas.

**Eze 16:46** And thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy right hand, is Sodom and her daughters.

We have two geographical locations named here, Samaria and Sodom.

Historically, Samaria was the home of the ten northern tribes of Israel, who had also turned their backs on God and His Word, and as a result, were overthrown by the Assyrians, taken captive and removed from their land.

And of course, historically, Sodom – the rich and fertile region where righteous Lot and his family once dwelt – was destroyed due to the rampant immorality and perversion taking place there.

Father is simply saying that the southern kingdom of Judah, centered around Jerusalem as its capital, is no less sinful than these two, and therefore fully deserving of the *same* punishment.

**Eze 16:47** Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways.

Though Jerusalem had the destruction of Samaria and Sodom as examples to learn from, and should have known better than to follow in their footsteps, she quickly became even more spiritually corrupt than they were.

**Eze 16:48** As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.

Our heavenly Father is saying that the sins of Sodom and her people were not nearly as egregious as the sins of Jerusalem and hers. That’s a pretty bad indictment, beloved. After all, Samaria’s sins and Sodom’s sins resulted in their utter destruction.

**Eze 16:49** Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

The four sins of Sodom are given here: self-pride, abundance of goods, idleness, and disdain for the poor. In short, they were rich and lazy and prideful and selfish.

**Eze 16:50** And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

As you know, in Sodom, the level of immorality had reached the point that the residents there had no second thought about committing abomination before the Lord.

The word “abomination” in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *to ‘ebah* (Strong’s H-8441), meaning something morally disgusting. If you know the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, I don’t have to remind you of what that was.

By the way, this is the very same Hebrew phrase our heavenly Father used earlier, in verse 2, where he told the prophet Ezekiel, “Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations.”

The point being, God destroyed Sodom with a rain of fire and brimstone, leaving no inhabitant left alive. Yet Sodom’s filthy sins weren’t nearly as egregious as those of Jerusalem. And when she welcomes the antichrist with open arms in the final days of this flesh earth age, she will have committed the greatest sin of them all. The implication being, of course, that Jerusalem should know better, and judgment against her will be carried out accordingly.

**Eze 16:51** Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done.

The sinfulness of Jerusalem surpasses the sinfulness of Samaria, as well. Samaria – the ten northern tribes of Israel – had set up two calves to for the people to worship as their gods. And had set up many “high places” for the practice of idolatry, in her cities.

And as a consequence, God allowed that northern kingdom to be conquered, destroyed and the people carried away captive by their enemy, the Assyrian army.

The implication here being, if Samaria were destroyed for her much fewer sins, how much greater destruction is the more sinful Jerusalem deserving of? After all, according to our heavenly Father in the very next verse, Jerusalem’s sins were of such magnitudes greater as to make Samaria look righteous by comparison.

**Eze 16:52** Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.

That’s pretty bad when your own sins are so egregious that God considers the sin-steeped heathen cities around you to be righteous by comparison. And so it will be even *more so* when Jerusalem welcomes the reign of the antichrist with open arms.

**Eze 16:53** When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them:

This will take place during the Millennium teaching period after Christ's second advent. All who have sinned against the Father will be brought together at that time. And the shame will be great, but greatest of all for Jerusalem who will have hosted Satan himself, proclaiming him to be "God."

**Eze 16:54** That thou mayest bear thine own shame, and mayest be confounded in all that thou hast done, in that thou art a comfort unto them.

God's intention is that Jerusalem should be wounded with shame for her doings, and particularly because she – who was supposed to be the Holy City of God and the glowing example of righteousness – instead set the sinful example for the rest of the world to follow.

**Eze 16:55** When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate.

During the Millennium teaching period all people and nations will be returned to their former estates, to learn righteousness with great discipline. We will no longer be in the flesh, but in spiritual bodies instead, at that time. And Satan will have been thrown in the pit, and bound for 1,000 years so he will not be able to influence anyone.

In other words, that is the time all of God's wayward children will be given one final opportunity to learn God's way without any interference from Satan, or from the lusts of the flesh that so easily pull us astray.

As it is written in Ezekiel 44:23, at that time God's faithful servants who did not bow to Satan when he arrived to Jerusalem, "*...shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.*"

And as it is written in Isaiah 26:9, "*...for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.*"

God's judgments upon this earth at the time of Christ's second advent will usher in the Millennial reign of Christ. And Christ, the Righteous One Himself, along with His faithful elect, will teach righteousness -- with discipline -- to the inhabitants of the earth during that time.

**Eze 16:56** For thy sister Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride,

The sins that caused Sodom's destruction were never mentioned by Jerusalem. In other words, Jerusalem did not learn from the bad example set by Sodom, but instead surpassed Sodom's level of sinfulness.

She certainly will surpass it even moreso when she embraces the antichrist, and then welcomes the world to come jump in bed with him, spiritually speaking.

**Eze 16:57** Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about.

Prophetically speaking, the last abomination occurring in Jerusalem before the arrival of the antichrist is the false peace between Israel, Syria and the Palestinians. It ends badly for all, of course, for our heavenly Father does not like compromise. You can read more about this in Isaiah 17:1-4, if you'd like.

**Eze 16:58** Thou hast borne thy lewdness and thine abominations, saith the LORD.

**Eze 16:59** For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant.

Notice again the phrase "I will," making it part and parcel of our heavenly Father's will that Jerusalem be appropriately punished for breaking the marriage covenant. Being part of Father's will, that sentence is irreversible.

In short, God is saying "You broke your vows. Now I'll deal with you in accord with My law."

As it is written in Isaiah 34:8, "*For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.*"

**Eze 16:60** Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.

Our heavenly Father says that after Jerusalem is appropriately punished for her sins (i.e., with the destruction decreed in Matthew 24:2) He will remember the eternal covenant He made with her at the very beginning, and will restore her.

This of course is ultimately speaking of the arrival of the New Jerusalem of Revelation 3:12 and Revelation 21:2, the *eternal* Jerusalem that comes down from God out of heaven at the beginning of the third and final earth age, to remain forever at that very geographical location our heavenly Father wed.

As it is written in the great book of Zechariah, chapter 8, "*Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. (2) Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.*"(3)

Our Lord will dwell in the New Jerusalem for the eternity, with us. And it will be called a city of truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts...the *holy* mountain of God. Amen and amen.

**Eze 16:61** Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.

God is going to restore all to their rightful places, if they will humbly learn righteousness and embrace it through His Living Word, Jesus Christ, and reject the vain religious traditions of man.

**Eze 16:62** And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:

God keeps His promises. Jerusalem was the covenant-breaker, not God. He will establish His covenant with New Jerusalem, the eternal city that comes down to this earth from God out of heaven, and in which only righteousness dwells.

And when all of these things come to pass exactly as they're written, the people shall know that He is YHVH, the heavenly Father. There will simply be no more room for idolatry in the Holy City.

**Eze 16:63** That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.

The boastfulness and pride and arrogance of that geographical location shall be gone, replaced with a humble and repentant spirit before the Lord.

That is the end of the legal charges our heavenly Father has pronounced against Jerusalem in this chapter, and the sentence He has pronounced upon her. I think the charges are clear, and the sentence as well.

He will destroy the earthly city. And ultimately, after the Millennium teaching period when all of His wayward children have been given the opportunity to hear and embrace the truth, He will set the heavenly eternal city – New Jerusalem – on that very geographical location. And He will restore that geographical location to her status as the Holy City of God.

But the Spirit in that geographical location will now be the Spirit of Jesus Christ, and not of the antichrist. And only the righteous in Christ will be its inhabitants. So stick with Christ, beloved. Don't fall away to the false Christ when he arrives to earthly Jerusalem in the final days of this flesh earth age.

### **Jerusalem in the Final Generation**

Has the restoration of Jerusalem happened yet? No. Jerusalem to this day disdains our heavenly Father's Word, rejects His Savior, Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, and wholeheartedly embraces the vain traditions of man disguised as religious doctrine.

And as the Scripture confirms, when the antichrist arrives this great city will host him with open arms, and he will even be proclaimed "God" there.

So perhaps the better question is, has *anything* really changed since Father had Ezekiel write those prophetic words so many thousands of years ago?

No, it hasn't. Indeed, we know from Revelation chapter 11 that in the final days of this flesh earth age, when the antichrist is here on this earth pretending to be "God" and ruling over his global, religio-political system from Jerusalem, our heavenly Father will send His two faithful witnesses to speak the truth, just as He has sent many other prophets to Jerusalem each time the city had drifted into idol worship.

But Father's two faithful witnesses will be murdered in the streets of Jerusalem, at Satan's behest, just like so many of God's prophets have been. And the deceived people of the world will rejoice at their deaths, thinking two "unbelievers" have been eliminated.

Father therefore labels the earthly Jerusalem of the final days of this flesh earth age as "Sodom" and "Egypt," spiritually speaking. As it is written in Revelation chapter 11, speaking of the deaths of God's two faithful witnesses in the streets of Jerusalem:

**Rev 11:8** And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Of course, we know our Lord was crucified in Jerusalem. And this verse tells us that's where God's two faithful witnesses will be killed, as well.

By labeling this city "Sodom and Egypt" our heavenly Father is labeling this city a habitation of religious perversion (i.e., Sodom) and spiritual bondage (i.e., Egypt).

After all, this city rejected and slew God's prophets throughout the Old Testament. Then she rejected and slew Christ Jesus at His first advent, even preferring the release of the murderer Barabbas over the release of our Lord and Savior.

What's more, this city continues to reject Christ to this very day. And as the final insult, in the closing days of this flesh earth age, this very city will welcome Satan with open arms in his role as the antichrist, proclaiming him to be "God," and then reveling in the deaths of God's two faithful witnesses.

That's why our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will destroy this very city upon His arrival to this earth at His second advent. He will cleanse that geographical location of Satan's stench. As it is written in the great book of Mark:

**Mark 13:1** And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!

**Mark 13:2** And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

The phrase "thrown down" in that verse is from the Greek word *kataluo* (Strong's 2647), meaning *to disintegrate*. In other words, the stones of the great buildings of earthly Jerusalem will be turned to sand by those 150 pound hailstones promised in Revelation 16:13-21.

This prophetic event has not happened yet, for the so-called Wailing Wall and other stone edifices from the time of Christ are still in existence to this very day. But the day of Jerusalem's destruction and cleansing is soon-coming. The arrival of the antichrist to Jerusalem, and his enthusiastic welcome there by the inhabitants of that city will seal the deal.

Then, and only then, can our Lord and Savior's second advent take place, at which time He will have Satan imprisoned in the bottomless pit so God's children can be taught righteousness, with discipline, and without any deceptive interference for the entire 1,000 years of the Millennial teaching period.

As it is written:

**Rev 20:1** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

This angel is Michael the archangel, who has control over Satan (Rev. 12:7).

**Rev 20:2** And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Satan is on this earth in the final days of this flesh earth age, ruling from Jerusalem. And at Christ's second advent, Michael will lay hold on Satan, bind him in chains and cast him into the pit for 1,000 years.

**Rev 20:3** And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Yes, Jerusalem will be cleansed of Satan's stench at Christ's arrival. Satan will be imprisoned for the entire Millennium. And Christ will establish His Millennial Kingdom at Jerusalem, and will rule the world with a rod of iron throughout the Millennium teaching period, meaning He will rule with great discipline, for the very lives of our heavenly Father's wayward children are at stake. Unless they can accept discipline, and learn righteousness, they cannot be saved.

As it is written in Revelation 19:15, "*And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*"

He's not coming back to play church. He's coming back to teach truth, with discipline. His sharp sword, of course, is symbolic of His Word of Truth. The rod of iron is symbolic of the disciplined teaching of that truth. And it is through His wrath that the wicked will be punished for their wickedness and rebellion against the truth at His arrival.

As it is further written of that time:

**Mat 25:31** When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

**Mat 25:32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

**Mat 25:33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Father's children will be divided up between the just and the wicked...the faithful in Christ and the unfaithful... the righteous in Christ and the unrighteous who worshipped the antichrist.

The righteous overcomers who refused to bow to the antichrist during his brief reign on this earth will now reign with Christ Jesus throughout the Millenium teaching period, from the freshly-cleansed Jerusalem.

As it is written in Revelation 20:6, "*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*"

And during that Millennium teaching period, the wicked and unjust shall be taught righteousness, with great discipline. Again, as it is written in Isaiah 26:9, "*...for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.*"

And again, as it is written in Psalms 37:27, "Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore."

That is the purpose of the Millennium teaching period, i.e., to convince as many of God's wayward children as possible to depart from evil, and do good, if they'd like to dwell forever more in the *eternal* city of Jerusalem which will come down from God out of heaven, and will be established on this earth *after* the Millennium is over.

Finally, as it is written in chapter two of the great book of Zechariah, the disciplined teaching during the Millennium will draw many nations to the Lord in Jerusalem at that time:

**Zec 2:10** Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

Christ will indeed dwell on this earth throughout the Millenium teaching period at the geographical location once occupied by earthly Jerusalem.

**Zec 2:11** And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

The phrase "in that day" means the Lord's day, which we learn in II Peter 3:9 is one thousand years long, otherwise known as the Millennium teaching period. The goal is to draw God's

wayward children back to Him, through the disciplined teaching of Christ Jesus and His elect, which will go forth from the newly-cleansed Jerusalem at that time.

**Zec 2:12** And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.

With her sins cleansed at Christ's second advent, our Lord and Savior sets up his Millennial Kingdom at that precise geographical location, in preparation of the arrival of New Jerusalem, which will come down from God out of heaven at the very *end* of the Millennium.

**Zec 2:13** Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

“Be silent” means it's a time for *listening*, not talking. A reverent hush descends upon the land at Christ's second advent, because of the fury of His wrath upon His enemies.

### **The Final Testing**

Of course, at the very end of the Millennium teaching period, God's wayward children will be tested *one last time* to see who will *accept* the disciplined teaching of righteousness they've just gone through, and who will *reject* it. Our Father wants them tested before He ushers in the eternity and brings New Jerusalem to this earth.

At that time, Satan will be released from his imprisonment in the bottomless pit. He will go out and attempt to deceive the nations one last time. And those who follow him this time around will have no excuse for their rebellion against God, for they will follow him with perfect knowledge of who and what he really is.

Therefore, they will be destroyed along with him in the great lake of fire at the time of the great White Throne Judgment of God, which takes place at the end of the Millennium teaching period.

As it is written:

**Rev 20:7** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

This will be the final test for those of God's children who did not make the first resurrection, which is to say, those who were caught wallowing at the feet of the antichrist just before Christ's second coming.

They have now been taught righteousness and discipline for 1,000 years. But will they have the faith to stick with the Lord, and look forward to the New Jerusalem, the eternal city which is due to come down from God out of heaven for the eternity? Or will they return like dogs to the vomit of their past and hop back into the sack with Satan once again?

**Rev 20:8** And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

The word “deceive” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *planao* (Strong’s G-4105), and it means “to cause to stray from safety or truth.” That’s Satan’s modus operandi.

Those who still retain their wicked characteristics and allow Satan to draw them away from the safety and truth of God’s Word once again, in spite of having just experienced 1,000 years of disciplined teaching of truth and righteousness from the Lord Himself, will now have to follow Satan to their deaths.

But it will be of their own free will. Sadly, as the above verse reveals, there will still be *multitudes* that will choose to follow Satan and rebel against God at that time.

**Rev 20:9** And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The “camp of the saints” and “the beloved city” refers to the geographical location of Jerusalem, where Christ Jesus will have set up His Millennial Kingdom after having destroyed earthly Jerusalem at His second advent.

He sets up His Millennial Kingdom on that same geographical location in anticipation of receiving the heavenly Jerusalem – i.e., New Jerusalem – at the end of the Millennium.

But after being released from the pit, Satan leads God’s wayward children in rebellion against that city in one final attempt to conquer it.

But the Lord and His saints will be dwelling there at this time, and before Satan and his followers can even get to the borders of the city, fire from God in heaven comes down and destroys them all.

**Rev 20:10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Satan is cast into the great lake of fire, and frankly, so are all who follow after him.

The phrase “tormented day and night for ever and ever” is a Biblical euphemism meaning Satan and his rebellious followers will never exist again. As it is written in Psalm 37:20, “*But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.*”

In other words, just as fat from a roasted lamb drips into the fire and is instantly turned to smoke which goes up forever and ever, never to return, so Satan and all of his followers will be dealt with.

Graphic? Yes. But Father wants the wicked to fully understand the ultimate consequences of their rebellion against Him, in advance. Hopefully, as a result, some of them will repent of their wickedness and be saved.

**Rev 20:11** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Our heavenly Father Himself at this point will have arrived to this earth, and is about to institute the eternal age, in which the faithful and righteous shall dwell forever. The present earth and heaven age will be over with for good. Only the eternity will be remain.

**Rev 20:12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

If your works are works of faith in Christ, and works of righteousness in Christ, you have nothing to worry about. They'll be recorded in the book of life. But if your works are evil, then you will be judged appropriately from the books containing the records of your evil ways.

As it is written in Psalms 37:28, *“For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.”*

**Rev 20:13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Your righteous works are the fabric from which your heavenly wedding garment is made up of (i.e., Rev. 19:7-8). Make sure you have some good works on the books. Help support a good, truth-teaching ministry if you can. Do what you can to help plant gentle seeds of truth in the minds of God's wayward children.

Sometimes, all God wants is a loving smile from you for someone who is in dire need of one. Let your Christianity shine forth. As it is written in I Peter 4:8, Christian love goes a long way and conquers a multitude of sins.

**Rev 20:14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The first death is the death of the body. The second death is the death of the soul. Once the soul is gone, there's nothing left. It's as if that individual never existed.

This is why Christ stated in Matthew 10:28, *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

It is our heavenly Father who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell. He will do so to the wicked and rebellious, for He has promised us a peaceable eternal Kingdom. And He will *keep* His promise after having given His wayward children every chance possible to repent during the Millennium teaching period.

**Rev 20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

That is the final cleansing, which brings to pass all Scripture, and ushers the way in for the eternity to take place, and the New Jerusalem to come down from God out of heaven. As it is written:

**Rev 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The word “new” used in this verse is translated from the Greek word *kainos* (Strong’s G-2537), and it means “made fresh” or “rejuvenated.”

The word “first” used in this verse is translated from the Greek word *protos* (Strong’s G-4413), and it means “the former” or “previous.”

So the verse, better translated, should read: “And I saw a rejuvenated heaven and a rejuvenated earth: for the former heaven and the former earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

The flesh earth age we live in now will have passed away. Heaven and earth will be rejuvenated at that time, i.e., returned to the original state of paradise we enjoyed way back in the first earth and heaven age before Satan rebelled and led one-third of God’s children against him.

Even the protective water canopy above the earth is returned to its place, which is why the above verse says “there was no more sea.” Earth will be returned to a state of perfection, and eternal Jerusalem -- the New Jerusalem – will be its capital.

**Rev 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

This is what we came here for. This is the Jerusalem *all* faithful Christians should have their hearts and souls affixed to. Not earthly Jerusalem of today, which is destined to be destroyed at Christ’s second advent. But the *heavenly* and eternal Jerusalem that is coming down from God out of heaven, and will settle on that very geographic location our heavenly Father has always loved.

**Rev 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

We will dwell there forever with our Lord and Savior, who is our heavenly Father (Isaiah 9:6).

**Rev 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The wicked and rebellious will be gone. And the faithful will live forever. No more tears. No more death. No sorrow. No crying. No pain. For all of those former things are passed away at this point. This present flesh earth age will be over with, forever. Only the *eternity* will exist, in all of its perfection and beauty.

Why then, beloved, would you cling to those temporal things, when Father wants you to keep your eyes (and heart and mind) on the *eternal*, heavenly things to come?

**Rev 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Once again, the word “new” in this verse is the Greek word *kainos*, meaning “refreshed, rejuvenated.”

You can count on it, beloved, for your heavenly Father has promised it. This flesh earth age, with all of its sin and troubles and death, will be over with. It too will never exist again. Only the eternal age will exist. And the righteous in Christ will dwell therein with God Himself.

**Rev 21:6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

“It is done” were Christ’s final words on the cross at His crucifixion.

When He gave His life for the sins of mankind on that bittersweet Passover some 2,000 years ago, He set in motion the events you’ve just studied, leading to eternal life for all who will drink of the Water of Life.

Christ’s atoning Passover sacrifice made it all possible. He is the beginning of all things. And He is the end. We come full circle back to the eternal paradise we once enjoyed in the first earth and heaven age, before Satan grew prideful and led one-third of God’s children in rebellion against Him. (If you’re not familiar with the three world ages, see my study on the subject, [here](#).)

By the way, note the “I will” in this verse, meaning our heavenly Father has written this into His will. It will therefore happen exactly as it is written. The whole purpose of our Father’s great plan is to save as many of His wayward and rebellious children as possible. All they have to do is drink of the Water of Life, which is to say, embrace the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ.

**Rev 21:7** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

So be an overcomer, beloved. Don't let Satan's great deception take you in. For only those who overcome the deception of Satan will inherit eternal life.

Learn your Father's Word and then stand firm in it. When the great shaking takes place, don't be one of those who are shaken from the firm foundation of the Word of God. Don't go rushing off to earthly Jerusalem to worship the wrong "savior."

**Rev 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

You don't want to go there, beloved. Our heavenly Father has promised to rid us of all of the miscreants and trouble-makers, the wicked and the evil-doers, so we can have a peaceful and bountiful eternity together with Him.

### **Remember Lot's Wife**

Finally, with all of that in mind, Father's Word tells us that as Christians we're not to look back with longing upon the vanishing earthly things, as did Lot's wife, but instead to look FORWARD to the heavenly things to come, which in this case is the "New Jerusalem, which cometh down from out of heaven from my God" (Rev. 3:12) to replace the old.

In what's known as the "faith chapter" of the great book of Hebrews, the beloved St. Paul writes as follows of God's faithful Christian servants who await that eternal city:

**Heb 11:14** For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

**Heb 11:15** And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

**Heb 11:16** But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

And exactly *what* is this heavenly city our Father has prepared for us? As we learned earlier:

**Rev 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Rev 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

**Rev 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

This is what we are to look forward to, beloved. During the eternity, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is our heavenly Father (Isaiah 9:6) will rule and reign on this earth from New Jerusalem. And we will be with Him forever.

Indeed, St. Paul tells us that as faithful Christians we are *already* citizens of this heavenly Jerusalem, saying:

**Heb 12:22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

**Heb 12:23** To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

**Heb 12:24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Through Christ's atoning work on the cross at Passover, we *already* have access to the heavenly Jerusalem, spiritually speaking. It is the heavenly Jerusalem where God's throne resides, and we can approach that throne in spirit, through prayer, any time we need. For as it is written in Hebrews 4:14-16:

*"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. (14) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (15) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

With that so clear, how could any one of us allow our heartstrings to be attached to the earthly Jerusalem that has so willingly embraced the *curse* of God rather than the *Christ* of God? Our heavenly Father's Word is indeed abundantly clear on the matter. And He wants us to obey His Word, and not the vain religious traditions of man.

Continuing in Hebrews chapter 12 from where we left off:

**Heb 12:25** See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

The children of Israel who refused to listen to Father's Word in the wilderness were left to wander in the wilderness for 40 years, until the entire generation died off. Let us not be like unto them, but instead, hear our Father's Word exactly as it's written, and *do* it.

Let the ungodly argue and fight over earthly Jerusalem. Keep your heart and spirit attached to the *heavenly* Jerusalem to come, wherein dwelleth righteousness forever.

**Heb 12:26** Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

The great shaking is coming. Our heavenly Father wants to see who's on the firm foundation of His Word, and who's teetering on the fence line from listening to too many of man's empty religious traditions that make void the Word of God.

When the antichrist arrives to Jerusalem, working miracles and pretending to be "God," many will fall away to him, not just from the Christian religion, but from every religion. They will all flock to his one-world religion and jump into bed with him, spiritually speaking. Turning their backs on Father's Word, they will rush headlong to wed the false husband instead of the true.

**Heb 12:27** And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

This is a hard saying for many. But let's just get to the point:

Those who cannot be shaken away from Father's Word by the antichrist's arrival in Jerusalem and by that flood of sweet-sounding lies that will flow from his mouth, will, at Christ's second advent, be given immortal souls and eternal life. They will reign with Christ during the Millennial teaching period (i.e., Rev. 20:6). And they will reside forever in the New Jerusalem, which comes down from God in heaven after the Millennial teaching period ends and the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11-15 takes place.

But those who are shaken away from Father's Word by the arrival of the antichrist in Jerusalem, and who embrace the lies flowing from his mouth at that time, will be given *mortal* souls at Christ's second advent, meaning they will be liable to die in the lake of fire at the Great White Throne Judgment if they do not respond to discipline during the Millennium teaching period.

In short, they will miss the first resurrection described in Revelation 20:5-6, in which God's faithful servants are given immortal souls. And because they've missed it, they'll have to go through the Millennium teaching period, to be tested once again by Satan when he is released from the pit at the end of the Millennium, as we've seen earlier in this study.

Our heavenly Father is simply sorting out the good from the bad, the "sheep from the goats" as He has promised. He uses Satan to do so, watching to see who will reject His Word and follow the vain religious traditions of man that lead directly to the adversary, and who will embrace His Word and follow the truth instead of those vain religious traditions.

God's faithful servants are going to be together as a family for the eternity. And Father has promised us there will not be left any unbelievers, unfaithful, doubting, trouble-makers, evildoers or disruptors. He has promised us a peaceful kingdom – a return to the way things were before Satan grew prideful in the first earth age and led one-third of God's children astray.

**Heb 12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

We are to look forward to that kingdom which cannot be moved – the *heavenly* Jerusalem. It will be here on this earth, as our Father has promised. And He will dwell here with us, in person.

So let us show the gratitude that comes from that divine influence of the Word of God on our heart, and it's reflection in our life, that we may serve our heavenly Father agreeably, with due humility and reverence for what He's doing for us.

**Heb 12:29** For our God is a consuming fire.

Our God is indeed a consuming fire. And all who still choose to stand in rebellion to His Word after being taught the truth for 1,000 years during the Millennium teaching period will be consumed by that fire in that great lake of fire described in Revelation 20:15.

### **The Bottom Line**

The bottom line is that our heavenly Father wants us to listen to Him, and do what He says. It's all He's ever wanted from His children. He wants us to believe and follow His Word, and not the vain religious traditions of man which make void His Word.

On the subject of Jerusalem, He warns that we must choose the heavenly and not the earthly, for the earthly has been ordained to be destroyed. And within His Word, He's spelled it all out so clearly, a child can understand it.

Yet in spite of the clarity of God's Word on this subject, all too many Christians today unwittingly yoke themselves to earthly Jerusalem, not knowing their Father's Word, and not being able to "see" the heavenly city to come.

Worse yet, they don't realize that even *now* they would be considered by our heavenly Father to be among the "lively stones" of that city (I Peter 2:5) – meaning the *residents* that make up that city – if they only understood and believed their Father's Word, and had their focus on the right Jerusalem and the true Christ, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This grave error of looking back longingly (spiritually speaking) at the fleshly material Jerusalem that has already been reserved for destruction, rather than looking FORWARD as He has commanded, with joy, to the new and heavenly Jerusalem He has provided for our eternity, places most Christians today solidly in the camp of "Sodom and Egypt," which is to say, the camp of the antichrist.

Thankfully, their sin is an unwitting one, rather than a witting one. And they will have the Millennium teaching period to learn the truth, and repent of their sins, and choose instead the eternal Jerusalem under Christ Jesus.

### **The Right to Exist**

With all of that said, be sure to keep in mind that Christ's parable of the fig tree in Matthew 24:32-35 gives temporal Israel – and therefore temporal Jerusalem – the right to exist in the final days of this flesh earth age.

Our heavenly Father has ordained earthly Jerusalem's existence, for two important reasons:

One, so that antichrist will have a seat to sit upon when he arrives in imitation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at the sixth trump, and...

Two, so that Christians can be *tested* to see if they've read their heavenly Father's Word with understanding, or have preferred the temporal vain religious traditions of man in place of Father's eternal Word of Life.

Therefore while we as Christians are not to look back with longing on that which is slated to be done away with at Christ's second advent, we nevertheless must allow it to exist, for it serves our heavenly Father's great purpose and plan to test and teach His children.

So as overcomers in Christ, how are we to consider Jerusalem of today and its inhabitants? What are our specific instructions from the Lord? St. Paul spells them out in II Corinthians chapter six:

**2Co 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

**2Co 6:15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

**2Co 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**2Co 6:17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and **touch not the unclean thing**; and I will receive you,

**2Co 6:18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

If you want your heavenly Father to receive you and consider you a son or daughter, you have to be willing to follow His Word. He tells us to come out from among the ungodly, and "touch not" that which is unclean.

For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, this is a reference to Genesis 3:3-7, in which Eve acknowledged knowing she was not supposed to "touch" the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which "tree" of course is Satan himself.

Yet she embraced that evil “fruit” from that evil “tree” anyway, and the curse of Cain began from that day forward in her womb. (If you do not understand this, read my previous study “A Strange Thing -- Mystery in the Garden,” which can be found [here](#).)

The point being, that unclean city, earthly Jerusalem, is slated to be cleansed through destruction by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Your spiritual embrace, therefore, should be with the *heavenly* Jerusalem which is eternal, and not earthly Jerusalem which now has a very short shelf life, and an even shorter one when Satan arrives there to set up his false kingdom during his brief stint on this earth as the false Christ.

## **Psalm 122**

Finally, I’d be remiss on this topic if I didn’t point out that many Christians cite the sixth verse of Psalm 122 as evidence that we must all “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” And they further point out the solemn promise attached to that verse, “they shall prosper that love thee.”

But let’s take a close look at that beautiful and very prophetic Psalm, and see what more we can learn from it, keeping in mind what we’ve learned already in the course of this study. As it is written:

**Psa 122:1 A Song of degrees of David.** I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

The word “degrees” in the song title above is translated from the Hebrew word *ma’alah* (Strong’s H-4609), and it means “elevation” or quite literally, “a journey to a higher place.” It can also mean to raise one’s thinking to a higher level.

Our heavenly Father wants us to raise our spiritual eyes when reading this Psalm, and look toward the heavenly above and not the earthly beneath.

Spiritually speaking, the many-membered body of Christ is now the “house of the LORD” – a household composed of God and His faithful children. And we are glad, indeed, to be a part of it, even now, and even more so at that time when He is here with us on this earth!

As it is written in 1Peter 2:5, “*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*”

You’re part of that spiritual house when you turn from the vain religious traditions of man and embrace the Living Word of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Psa 122:2** Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

This is at Passover, and the location is the New Jerusalem of Revelation 3:12 and 21:2, i.e., that “strong city” whose “walls and bulwarks” are made up of salvation.

As it is written in Isaiah 26:1, *“In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.”*

Why are the walls and bulwarks (i.e., armies) of this great eternal city made up of salvation at that time? The word “salvation” as used here is translated from the Hebrew word *yeshuah* (Strong’s H-3444), which of course, is Jesus’ very name in the Hebrew language.

In other words, at that time Christ Jesus the Savior will be King over that city, and everyone there will have been saved through Christ Jesus. The wicked and rebellious will no longer exist. They will have been consumed by fire, in the great lake of fire, never to exist again.

As it is written in Jeremiah 33:16, *“In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.”*

You see, the New Jerusalem is the habitation of the righteous, which is to say, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His faithful overcomers – those who overcome the deception of Satan and have gained eternal life through Christ Jesus.

Satan has already been cast into the lake of fire at that point in this great Psalm. And God’s judgment will have already taken place on the “fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars” (Rev. 21:8) who have been cast into the lake of fire along with Satan.

As it is written in chapter 7 of the great book of Revelation, regarding the inhabitants of this great city at that time:

*“And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? (13) And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (14) Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. (15) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. (16) For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” (17)*

The time when all tears are wiped away from our eyes is the eternal age. You remember Revelation 21:4, which takes place when New Jerusalem comes down from God out of heaven at the very beginning of the eternity: *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

Finally, it should come as no surprise to you, if you’ve come this far in this study, that this great city is symbolized as the *wife* of Christ, for its inhabitants are His faithful servants who love Him and always have.

As it is written in Revelation 21:9-11:

*“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. (9) And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, (10) Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; (11)”*

In short, this is the city our Lord has married, and will be “one with” for the eternity. It is the heavenly city of God, the New Jerusalem. And it is composed of Christ Jesus, and all those who truly love God, in Christ. The unclean, earthly city of Jerusalem is long gone at this point.

And the best part is this: *You* are part of that group who will dwell within this great royal city for the eternity, IF your heart, mind and spirit are set on the heavenly Jerusalem wherein Christ reigns, rather than the earthly Jerusalem that has since olden times been ordained for destruction.

Let’s return to where we left off in Psalm 122:

**Psa 122:3** Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

The word “compact” is translated from the Hebrew word *chabar* (Strong’s H-2266), meaning “to join,” “to couple together,” “to have fellowship” or to “be in league with.”

In other words, everyone there is of a like mind, like spirit, like soul. The inhabitants thereof have the “mind of Christ” as St. Paul so aptly put it in 1 Corinthians 2:16, meaning they love the Lord God and His Word, knowing it is the very source of their life. They are all in league together, through Christ. They are His lawfully wedded wife, as part and parcel of this eternal city.

As it is written of that time in Zechariah 14:11, “*And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.*” Yes, death and destruction will have been done away with at that time, in the great lake of fire, along with all things wicked, rebellious and ungodly (Rev. 20:14-15).

**Psa 122:4** Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

The “testimony of the Israel” is the Ark of the Covenant, of course. That Ark, now in heaven under our heavenly Father’s care (Rev. 11:19), will be established in New Jerusalem at the beginning of the eternal age in which righteousness dwells.

Is not Christ Jesus the Ark of the Covenant? Does not everything in that Ark pertain unto Him? This is the Jerusalem which Christ Himself will inhabit. In contrast, the earthly Jerusalem is reserved by Him for destruction/cleansing at His second advent.

**Psa 122:5** For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

As Dr. Bullinger points out in his sidenotes in the *Companion Bible*, the word “thrones” used twice in this verse is a Hebrew euphemism put for the *plural of majesty*.

In other words, this verse is talking about the great Throne, the throne of our Lord. It is the throne of the house of David, because it belongs to that Son of David who is our Husband, Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is no throne in the earthly city of Jerusalem today. So as you can see, in this Psalm we are speaking solely of the *heavenly* Jerusalem to come.

**Psa 122:6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

The word “pray” in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *sha al* (Strong’s H-7592), meaning “to request,” or even “to desire.” We are to desire the peace of Jerusalem. And for those who know their Father’s Word, Christ Jesus *is* the “peace of Jerusalem.” He is the Prince of Peace. And those who love Him, desire Him.

So yes, desire the peace of Jerusalem. But know *which* Jerusalem you’re supposed to desire peace for. The unclean, earthly Jerusalem of today, bound for destruction by the very will of God? Or the heavenly Jerusalem, which is His eternal wife, and which is composed of His faithful overcomers who do not succumb to Satan’s great deception?

Would you like to be among them? You need to have the right “Jerusalem” in your heart, mind and soul.

**Psa 122:7** Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

And so it shall be, for the eternity. Will *you* be there to enjoy that peace and prosperity? I know the answer is “yes” if you love your Father’s Word, and rightly divide it, and thus understand the difference between the earthly and heavenly Jerusalem

**Psa 122:8** For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Amen, and amen. There *will* be peace within the walls of this city, forever, for it is the New Jerusalem and it is our heavenly Father’s eternal habitation as well as ours.

There will be peace within her, because the Prince of Peace shall dwell there, and because all that offend and cause trouble will no longer exist.

You can enjoy a great deal of this peace, even *now*, beloved, when you realize the Prince of Peace dwells within *you*, and you within Him, through His Word and His Holy Spirit.

**Psa 122:9** Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

The good of Jerusalem is Christ. If you’re not seeking Christ, you’re not seeking the good of Jerusalem.

The very word Jerusalem means “habitation of peace.” Christ Jesus *is* that habitation of peace we dwell in even now through the Holy Spirit, and will dwell in *forever* after the Millennium is over and the great white throne judgment has taken place.

Do you remember the tabernacle of God from Revelation chapter 21, verse 3, i.e., “*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God*”?

The tabernacle of God is Christ Jesus. His is the spiritual body our heavenly Father dwells in. And it is that “tabernacle” that will rule and reign throughout the eternity, in the eternal city. This is the “good” being spoken of above. Do you seek it? Or are your eyes and heart fixated on the temporal city of today that is slated for destruction?

### **Such Things Must Needs Be**

Let the Christ-hating heathen on both sides of the equation in Jerusalem argue, bicker and fight over who’s going to rule over that earthly city. For such things must be.

And let the Biblically ignorant who prefer vain church traditions to God’s Word continue to ignore the Word and embrace the earthly rather than the heavenly. For that too, unfortunately, must needs be, for the time being.

But be sure to keep *your* spiritual focus where it belongs, on the *heavenly* and not the earthly, for as it is written, where a man’s treasure is, there shall his heart be. Store up heavenly treasures and not earthly, as our Lord and Savior has admonished.

**Mat 6:19** Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

**Mat 6:20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

**Mat 6:21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

If your treasure is in earthly Jerusalem, then your heart is on things earthly that are destined for corruption and destruction. And if your treasure is in heavenly Jerusalem, then your heart is on things heavenly, which are eternal. Leave the things earthly to the heathen who love them more than they love God and His Word.

But plant seeds of truth among God’s children whenever your heavenly Father opens up the opportunities to do so, that per chance even some of those who are all too wrapped up in earthly things might take note, and be driven into their Father’s Word to learn and embrace the truth. Then your reward in heaven shall be great, indeed.

-- End --

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