

When God's People Think of Jerusalem

- A. Thirty-three miles east of the Mediterranean Sea and fourteen miles west of the Dead Sea stands a mountain—2,500 feet above sea level (*Psa 122:3-4*)—surrounded by other mountains (*Psa 125:2*).
- B. Jerusalem, a major intersection for thousands of years, sits on the variously named peaks of that mountain.
- C. It is hard to overstate what Jerusalem has meant to people through the ages. When we think of Jerusalem, what should come to mind? For what should we hope? What is Jerusalem's future?

Jerusalem in the Old Testament

- Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac in “the land of Moriah” (*Gen 22:1-2*)
- Jerusalem was captured after the death of Joshua by the men of Judah (*Judg 1:8*), but the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived there (*Judg 1:21*)
- Jerusalem remained largely Jebusite until David conquered it and made it his capital (*1 Chron 11:1-9*), bringing the ark of the covenant into the city with great rejoicing (*2 Sam 6:12*) and establishing the crown jewel of the Jewish nation (*Psa 48:1-3, 12-14; Psa 122; 125; 128:5-6; 132:13-18*)
- Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem (*2 Chron 3:1; 1 Kings 8:13; Song of Solomon 6:4*)
- This city of Jewish kings was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (*2 Kings 25:1-12*)
- God's prophets revealed why Jerusalem had been destroyed (*Jer 44:2-6; Lam 1:8; 4:11-13*)
- Deep laments came after Jerusalem's destruction (*Psa 137:1-6; Lam 1:1; 2:13; Dan 6:10; 9:16*)
- Cyrus king of Persia made a proclamation that Jerusalem was to be rebuilt (*Ezra 1:1-4*)

Jerusalem in the New Testament

- A temple built by Herod the Great in Jerusalem had taken 46 years to build (*John 2:20*)
- Anna and others like her were anxiously waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem (*Luke 2:36-38*)
- People were coming out of Jerusalem to hear the message of John (*Matt 3:5-6*)
- Jesus was taken by the devil to Jerusalem and tempted (*Matt 4:5-7*)
- Jesus performed multiple miracles and delivered powerful messages in Jerusalem (*John 3:1-2*)
- Jesus told his disciples multiple times that he would be killed in Jerusalem (*Matt 16:21*)
- Jesus wept over Jerusalem's refusal to repent and foretold its destruction (*Luke 19:41-44*)
- Jesus was crucified outside Jerusalem at a place called Golgotha (*Matt 27:32-35, 51-53*)
- Jesus rose and appeared to many in Jerusalem and beyond over the course of 40 days (*Acts 1:3*)
- Jesus expected and empowered his disciples to be witnesses, beginning in Jerusalem (*Acts 1:8*)

Jerusalem Today

The New Jerusalem

- God has prepared a city for the faithful (*Heb 11:13-16, 10; 12:18-24*)
- John saw “the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God” (*Rev 21-22*)