

Jerusalem, Jerusalem...

by Thom Ernst

Jerusalem ... The name "Jerusalem" occurs 806 times in the Bible, 660 times in the Old Testament and 146 times in the New Testament. What the name of that city invokes! Passion – both in love and hatred; sorrow and joy; and conflict – eons and eons of conflict, between individuals, religions and nations. Jerusalem – the Holy City! Numerous thoughts collide in my mind whenever I think of Jerusalem:

I see King David dancing for joy as he secures the site for the coming Temple, unable to build because he was a man of war.

I see King Solomon, David's son, a man of peace, expanding and securing Israel's borders per the promise God made to Abraham. I see that same King, in all his wisdom, securing the materials and building a tribute to the worship of Elohim that bears his name – Solomon's Temple!

I see Jeremiah lamenting over the treachery and evil that went on in Jerusalem and the Temple itself, that ultimately ushered in God's Judgment via the Babylonians and resulted in the complete destruction of Solomon's Temple, to the degree that not one stone was left standing upon another!

I see Israel in 70 years of captivity for the majority of Jews as Jerusalem and its beloved Temple lies in ruins. That period of Jewish History saw the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel writing God's words about past sins, the reason for this present judgment and His future warnings and hope.

I see Jesus weeping over her and saying: "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!" ~Matthew 23:37 (KJV, emphasis added). What a Lament!

I see where, almost 3,000 years later, the conflict still rages between Arabs and Jews; and, between nations over whether or not Jerusalem belongs to the Palestinians or to Israel. Whether or not this city of conflict should be Israel's Capitol, while over the site of Solomon's Temple sits the Temple of Islam.

History has shown us that religion *per se* cannot solve Jerusalem's problems. At times, the Jews were their own worst enemy regarding maintaining the integrity of God's Holy City, whether with the sinister evil of pre-Babylonian Prophets and Priests or the perverse manipulation of the Law in order to guarantee the death of Jesus – Prophet, Priest and King. Again, destruction came. This time in 70A.D. in the form of Roman dominance. The result was more than the devastation of a place, it was the displacement of its people – the scattering of the Jews. A scattering that culminated in the horrific desolations of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Treblinka and many, many more.

Then, the miracle of restoration started in 1947 as Israel, once again, began the process of becoming a nation of Jews. And, once more, Jerusalem became the focal point and continues to be so almost 80 years later.

Jerusalem – it's not just any city. Jerusalem – it's not just a holy city torn asunder by two opposing religions. Jerusalem – God's Holy City; and, He has yet to fully weigh-in on proving that point; thus, there is more to come!

I'm keeping my eye on Jerusalem; because, regardless of what politicians decide or nations decree the final chapter will be written by God Himself!

The Holy City Music by Stephen Adams; words by Frederick E. Weatherly

Last night I lay a sleeping,
There came a dream so fair,
I stood in old Jerusalem
Beside the temple there.
I heard the children singing,
And ever as they sang,
Methought the voice of angels
From Heav'n in answer rang;
Methought the voice of angels
From Heav'n in answer rang:

“Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Lift up your gates and sing,
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna to your King!”

And then methought my dream was chang'd,
The streets no longer rang,
Hush'd were the glad hosannas
The little children sang.
The sun grew dark with mystery,
The morn was cold and chill,
As the shadow of a cross arose
Upon a lonely hill,
As the shadow of a cross arose
Upon a lonely hill.

“Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Hark! how the angels sing,
Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna to your King.”

And once again the scene was chang'd,
New earth there seem'd to be,
I saw the Holy City
Beside the tideless sea;
The light of God was on its streets,

The gates were open wide,
And all who would might enter,
And no one was denied.
No need of moon or stars by night,
Or sun to shine by day,
It was the new Jerusalem,
That would not pass away,
It was the new Jerusalem,
That would not pass away.

“Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Sing, for the night is o’er!
Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna for evermore!
Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna for evermore!”

Listen here to this awesome hymn from 1892:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10t7EbKHDzg>