

SET YOUR FACE TOWARD JERUSALEM

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May 7, 2017

Introduction: I want to speak tonight on an international Jewish conspiracy of which we are involved—we want to see a Jew come and rule the world. He will sit on a throne in Jerusalem, judge the nations, redeem His children, and rule forever.

We are in a historic period in Israel's history.

In November, it will be 100 years since the Balfour declaration in 1917 that acknowledged Britain's support for a Jewish homeland.

In May (next year), it will be 70 years since the modern State of Israel was established in 1948.

And this month, on the 24, will be the 50th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification under Jewish control in 1967.

There are many voices calling out for our attention today. They say, look over here, or fix your gaze upon this nation, or stare at this political problem.

But I want to address a more important focus—something the Lord is emphasizing in this month. I want to speak tonight on Set Your Face Toward Jerusalem.

Why should we set our face toward Jerusalem?

1. Because G-d chose Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 6:6

"I have chosen Jerusalem that My name may be there"

2 Chronicles 7:15

"My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer made in this place.

2 Chronicles 7:16

For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."

There is no other city where God has said He has placed his name.

Priests to place God's name on the children of Israel. Shin for El Shaddai. Jerusalem's reflects this with the three valleys that make up it's geography, Hinnom, Central and Kidron.

Jerusalem is the city where God has revealed His heart. It is the place where God has a unique dwelling. Matthew calls Jerusalem the "holy city" (4:5).

God's deep desire is to see His glory revealed in Jerusalem.

I believe Jerusalem is where the Garden of Eden and the tree of life were located.

In the glory of the future Jerusalem (Rev 22), a river will flow from the Lamb's throne, and a second tree of life will again emerge to bring healing to the nations.

Judaism says that the foundation stone of creation is the rock where Abraham offered Isaac which is located on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

On this same ridge of rocks, Yeshua was slain from the foundation of the earth.

We face Jerusalem because it is chosen by God.

Why should we set our face toward Jerusalem?

2. Because there is an earthly and heavenly Jerusalem.

The Bible teaches this. The Jewish people see it this way also.

When Jacob had his vision at Bethel, he saw angels ascending and descending on a ladder. It is a picture of God's desire to have heaven touch earth. Ascending angels taking up prayer and worship. Descending angels bringing down answers, presence of God.

David yearned to find a resting place for God's presence. He wanted to build a temple, but because he was a man of war, Solomon was God's choice to build this temple. Solomon decreed that no iron tool be used on the mount, because this is God's place. It is not a place for the glory of any man, nor the charisma of any man, nor the force of personality of any man, nor the building ability of any man.

On dedication day, when the ark was placed in the holy of holies, the Glory of God descended so that those ministering could not stand.

When Yeshua came, the angel told Mary that Yeshua would have the throne of David forever. He came humbly, died, and the ground of Jerusalem absorbed His blood. Here he was buried, resurrected and ascended. It was here that the Holy Spirit descended upon 120 men and women on Shavuot and these disciples went into all the world proclaiming this Good News.

Revelation 21:9

Then one of the seven angels ...

Revelation 21:10

carried me away in the Spirit ... and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from G-d,

Revelation 21:11

having the glory of G-d.

The heavenly Jerusalem is deeply rooted in the tribes of Israel and the apostles of the Lamb, showing that its gates and foundations are eternally Jewish.

And there is an eternal connection between Israel and the Church.

When Yeshua comes again the heavenly descends on the earthly and they become one—the city where Yeshua reigns.

Micah 4:1 (TLB)

But in the last days Mount Zion will be the most renowned of all the mountains of the world, praised by all nations; people from all over the world will make pilgrimages there.

Micah 4:2 (TLB)

“Come,” they will say to one another, “let us visit the mountain of the L-rd, and see the Temple of the G-d of Israel; he will tell us what to do, and we will do it.” For in those days the whole world will be ruled by the L-rd from Jerusalem! He will issue his laws and announce his decrees from there.

Micah 4:3 (TLB)

He will arbitrate among the nations and dictate to strong nations far away. ... nations shall no longer fight each other, for all war will end. There will be universal peace, and all the military academies and training camps will be closed down.

Micah 4:4 (TLB)

Everyone will live quietly in his own home in peace and prosperity, for there will be nothing to fear. The L-rd himself has promised this.

Micah 4:7 (TLB)

and the L-rd himself shall be their King from Mount Zion forever.

Why should we set our face toward Jerusalem?

3. Because Yeshua’s destiny is to be King in Jerusalem.

In Gen. 14: 18, Jerusalem is first mentioned

Genesis 14:18

Melchizedek king of Salem ... was the priest of G-d Most High.

Salem or Shalem means “peace, wholeness or completeness.”

Melchizedek (Heb. Melek-King; sedeq-Righteousness), the king of the city of Salem (Shalem).

Here, Melchizedek blessed Abram after a battle and Abram gave him a tithe.

The greatness of Melchizedek has puzzled Jewish scholars. Abraham's paying tithes to Melchizedek and being blessed by him suggested that Melchizedek's importance exceeded even that of the patriarch.

In Ps. 110:4, David spoke of a future King whose priesthood would last forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Psalm 110:4

The L-rd has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

The Hebrew writer picked up on David's Messianic theme and declared the greatness of Melchizedek as a picture of Yeshua and his unending priesthood.

So in the first reference of Jerusalem, we have a picture of Yeshua who is King of this city.

Yeshua himself said in

Matthew 5:34

"But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is G-d's throne;

Matthew 5:35

nor by the earth, for it His footstool; nor by Jerusalem for it is the city of the great King."

David conquered Jerusalem in 1000 BC. And since 400 BC, Jerusalem has passed from one Gentile power to another. From 70 A.D. alone, the transition of power went from the Roman conquerors to the Persians in 614; to Caliph Omar in 637; to the Crusaders in 1099; to Saladin in 1187; to the Egyptian Mamelukes in 1250; the Turks in 1517; the British in 1917.

Folklore has it that when General Allenby (whose mother taught him to love Israel) came into Jerusalem for the first time in 1917 on his white horse, he dismounted before entering the old city gates. He said there is only ONE who will enter this city on a white horse and it will not be me.

Finally, after 2400 years, in 1967, Jerusalem came back under Jewish control.

If you were not aware, Israel lives in a tough neighborhood. Less than 20 years after Israel was reborn in 1948, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq, made an alliance to destroy Israel.

The world stood by silently as these armies gathered on Israel's borders in the spring of 1967. Many expected young Israel to be destroyed.

But in a miraculous turn of events, like a modern Purim story, Israel defeated four armies in the Six Day War. Israel also conquered key strategic territory in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Sinai, and East Jerusalem.

Until this time, the Jewish people were not allowed into the Old City. Though Israel was declared a nation in 1948, Jordan still controlled the Old City of Jerusalem and the holy sites that lay within her walls.

The Mideast situation is complex. There is much I don't know. But I do know that God loves the Palestinians. God loves the Israelis. God's eternal plan for Jerusalem will be fulfilled, and Yeshua is destined to reign as King.

John 18:36 (TLB)

Then Yeshua answered, "... my Kingdom is not of the world."

John 18:37 (TLB)

Pilate replied, "But you are a king then?"

John 18:38 (TLB)

"Yes," Yeshua said. "I was born for that purpose"

Yeshua said His Kingdom was not of this world, but His purpose was to be a king (of everything and eventually this world).

Fulfillment in life means to accomplish what God created you for. What is it that makes you tick, that jazzes you.

For what has God created you?

Yeshua will only complete His destiny in being the King of the Universe.

His destiny is to be a King. You cannot have a bride without a groom. And you cannot have a kingdom without a king. I want to see Yeshua fulfill His destiny.

Six times in NT it says Satan is the god of this world. He is mostly in charge of what happens in society. From his viewpoint, the fact that someone is saved and goes to heaven does not affect him. The devil is secure on this planet until something happens. It is not evangelism alone that scares him, but the second coming of Yeshua when Satan's power is removed.

Satan knows that Jerusalem is where Yeshua is coming back to reign. Jesus said he would not return until Jerusalem says, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” This is why Satan is trying to kill Jewish people.

Satan also wants to scare Christians from going to Israel so they won't pray for Israel or grasp God's purposes there.

Some are confused and cannot see Yeshua's return is the central event of the end times. He is coming back to bind the devil and take dominion over this planet.

Yeshua in Hebrew is the same as Joshua. He will be the conqueror of this planet. The heavens will open and he will return with the armies of heaven. We will be resurrected and live on this planet.

All of human conflict and spiritual battle will come to a climax in Jerusalem. This is where it is going.

Zechariah 12:2

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:3

And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.”

Zechariah 14:2

For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;

(Hill of Evil Counsel where Adonijah made plans to become a king; today UN)

Zechariah 14:3

Then the L-rd will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.

Zechariah 14:4

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west

Zechariah 14:5

Thus the L-rd my G-d will come, and all the saints with You.

This is the spiritual war to end all wars. If your spiritual warfare is not facing Jerusalem, where are you aiming?

Satan is losing and we are winning. We face Jerusalem because Yeshua is destined to be King here.

Finally, why should we set our face toward Jerusalem?

4. Because Yeshua set His face toward Jerusalem.

Luke 9:51

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

Luke 9:52

and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.

Luke 9:53

But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

In this text, we see Yeshua set his face toward Jerusalem.

Why?

Because He knew it was the city of His destiny. The city where he will one day rule. But first, suffering and death awaited him. It was a prerequisite to living in the glory.

“Face toward Jerusalem” not just “looking or glancing this direction” but the idea of walking intently this way. Are you willing to focus and walk this way? Are you willing to face Jerusalem?

The Psalmist said to focus and pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Solomon’s dedication prayer asked God to hear the prayers that were focused this way, and God responded that He would.

Daniel knelt down three times and day and faced Jerusalem in his prayers.

There is a price to be paid for resurrection and fruitfulness. It requires dying to oneself that His glory can be seen.

Are you willing to pay the price for Yeshua to fulfill His destiny of reigning as a king?

Are you willing to face Jerusalem?

When we set our face toward Jerusalem, we are saying that we stand for the restoration of Jerusalem to the fullness of its divine potential and purpose:

- **as a prophetic city, central to G-d's redemptive purpose;**
- **as a city of authority in the worldwide Body of Messiah;**
- **as a city of reconciliation that will be a blessing to all the nations.**

When Yeshua faced Jerusalem, some opposed Him. Some will oppose you for being on this journey.

I remember one of the most hurtful experiences we had was being a guest in a church in Europe. When the pastor and his wife found out that we were associated with Messianic Jews, they treated us so disrespectfully (mean).

Sadly, most churches are still facing other cities in their Christian orientation. I faced Abilene, Texas, for years. Others face Dallas, or Springfield, or Cleveland, TN, or Rome, or Constantinople, or Moscow in their Christian orientation.

I want to see the Christian world wake up as to the role and significance of Jerusalem and the Jewish people.

Let's set our face, brothers and sisters, and begin to walk toward Jerusalem. We don't know what awaits us as we travel; but we DO KNOW that eventually it will be resurrection and living in His glory.

We are a part of this Jewish conspiracy to bring in a Jewish King to rule the world.

Take a step toward Jerusalem as a prophetic sign.

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