



# PTNews

January 2015

Published 10 times annually

*(Examining Current Events in the Light of Bible Prophecy)*

P.O. Box 13006, Roanoke, VA 24030-3006

This newsletter is also available on our website: [www.ptnews.org](http://www.ptnews.org)

E-mail address for general communication: [mike@ptnews.org](mailto:mike@ptnews.org)

E-mail address for orders: [deedee@ptnews.org](mailto:deedee@ptnews.org)

## The Holy City of Jerusalem

*“Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof.”* Psalm 102:13-14

By Mike Wingfield

Just a few weeks ago, I once again stood within the ancient walls of the most important city in the world – Jerusalem. Strangely enough, when I am in Jerusalem, my heart fills with joy because it feels like “home” to me.

For almost three decades, I have been making trips to Israel. What a privilege I have had to walk where so many prophets and kings of Israel, and especially our Lord Jesus, walked. With each of my tours, I have purposely left Jerusalem as the final destination of our pilgrimage in the Holy Land. As a lifetime student of the Word of God and believer in Jesus Christ, my heart has been greatly stirred each time I have visited the holy city of Jerusalem.

There is no city on earth like Jerusalem. It is the only city with a divine destiny. The sovereign power and zeal of God guarantees that this city will ultimately fulfill its divine purpose. (Read [Isaiah 62:1-7](#).) When the old

Jerusalem passes away with the old earth, the New Jerusalem will appear on the New Earth. ([Revelation 21:1-2](#))

No other city in the Bible demands attention like Jerusalem. It is mentioned by name over 800 times. When other names for this city are considered, the Biblical references to Jerusalem number over 1,000. Jerusalem is called “Zion” over 150 times in the Scriptures. Other names include: “The city of the great King,” “The city of the Lord of Hosts,” Ariel, City of God, City of David, City of Judah, City of Righteousness, City of Truth, Holy City, Faithful City.

The Lord considers Jerusalem to be holy. This means that this city is different than all other cities. It is a city set apart from all other cities. It is not the largest city in the world, or the most populated. The uniqueness of Jerusalem is bound up in the eternal purposes of God.

(Psalm 102:13-21; 125:1) It has played a major role in God's plans in the past and is destined to be at center stage during the last days of man's time on this earth.

In many ways, Jerusalem is totally unique. With this in mind, let us look at five ways Jerusalem is unique:

## 1. Jerusalem is geographically at the center of the earth.

When the Lord created the nations, He placed the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem at the center of the earth. (Ezekiel 5:5) Literally, Ezekiel 5:5 declares that Jerusalem is the "navel" of the earth. Just as the umbilical cord has been designed by the Creator to transfer life sustaining substances to the baby while in its mother's womb, even so the Lord has chosen that spiritual life for the soul has come through Jerusalem to the nations of the world. The Word of the Lord and our redemption have come out of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is destined to be the center of the Messiah's global administration during His reign over the nations for 1,000 years. (Isaiah 2:1-3) Jerusalem will serve as the spiritual, political, educational, and economic hub of the world. All nations will be required to go up to Jerusalem annually to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zechariah 14:16) Those who dwell in the kingdom will call the Holy City *"the throne of the LORD."* (Jeremiah 3:17) How fitting for Jerusalem to be located in the center of the nations.

Before we continue with our consideration of Jerusalem being unique among the cities of the nations, I would like to point out that Ezekiel's statement about Jerusalem being the geographical center of the nations could not have been humanly determined in his time. The first attempts to construct a global map took place only a few hundred years before the time of Christ. These maps were very crude and inaccurate. Therefore, Ezekiel's declaration about Jerusalem being the center of the earth must have been due to divine revelation. This is the only logical explanation.

## 2. Jerusalem is the focus of divine attention.

The divine will and purposes of God are always at the center of His focus. While speaking about the Promised

Land, the Lord told Moses that the land He was giving to His people was a land that He cared for, and that *"the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."* (Deuteronomy 11:12) Hundreds of years later, when Solomon had completed the Temple in Jerusalem, the Lord repeated the Davidic covenant to the King (a covenant that guarantees a future descendant of David will rule from Jerusalem). In doing so, He spoke concerning Jerusalem and swore: *"mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."* (1 Kings 9:3)

When the Lord looks upon Jerusalem, He uses the language of affection that a young man would use as he looks upon his virgin bride. (Isaiah 62:5) God rejoices over Jerusalem and longs for her with a great love. Under divine inspiration, the Psalmist wrote: *"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion."* (Psalm 48:2) In Psalm 50:2, he declared: *"Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."* This beloved city is known as *"the mount Zion which he loved."* (Psalm 78:68) *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. ... for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. ... And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again."* (Zechariah 1:14; 2:8, 12)

In a very unique way, Jerusalem is known in the Bible as symbolically being the dwelling place of God. (Psalm 74:2; 76:2) Psalm 132:13-14 proclaims: *"For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest forever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it."* It is called *"the throne of the LORD."* (Jeremiah 3:17) It is *"the city of our God"* (Psalm 48:1, see also Psalm 87:3), *"the city of the great King"* (Psalm 48:2), and *"the city of the LORD of hosts"* (Psalm 48:8) The Lord has determined that His name is to be associated with Jerusalem. (Deuteronomy 12:5, 11) Jerusalem is *"a crown of glory,"* and *"a royal diadem"* in the hand of the Lord. (Isaiah 62:3) While speaking of His Son, the Lord Jesus, the Father has announced to the nations: *"Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion."* (Psalm 2:6)

The Lord has promised that He will never forget Jerusalem. In a very unique way He has declared: *"Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."* (Isaiah 49:16)

When we begin to grasp the reality of these truths, we can begin to fathom the purposes behind Satan's great efforts to destroy the very city that the Lord loves. Satan hates what the Lord loves.

### 3. Jerusalem is the epicenter of the spirit world

Satan is known in the Bible as the prince of this world. It is his objective to dominate and control the kingdoms of this world in his war against the Most High God. God's name, "*the Most High God*," indicates that He is "*the possessor of heaven and earth*." (Genesis 14:19, 22) Satan knows that the creation belongs to God. However, it is his desire to dethrone God and take control of the creation for his own purposes. There is a sense in which the Lord has allowed Satan to have temporary control over the godless kingdoms of this world. All of this is reflected in Satan's strategy in the temptation of Jesus at the beginning of our Lord's earthly ministry. (Matthew 4:8-10) Jerusalem is at the center of Satan's efforts to dominate the kingdoms of this world in his opposition to God's eternal plan. (Isaiah 14:12-14) The prophetic Word of God clearly demonstrates that Satan's messiah, the Antichrist, will desire to dominate the city of Jerusalem, especially the Temple Mount. (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-24; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 11-12) It is not an accident that Israel is locked in a death duel with Islam over the occupation and possession of Jerusalem, and especially the Temple Mount.

While speaking to Satan about His divine purposes for Jerusalem, the Lord referred to Jerusalem as "*a brand plucked out of the fire*." (Zechariah 3:2) Indeed, Jerusalem has faced the attack of satanically inspired Gentile forces for centuries. What God has chosen to bless and use for His glory, Satan has desired to curse and abuse for His own purposes in his war against the Lord. At the epicenter of the war in the spirit world is the city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel.

While in Israel in November, my Israeli guide informed us that more foreign journalists live and report out of Jerusalem than any other city in the world, with the exception of Washington D.C. It is interesting to note that the occupation and control of Jerusalem was of little significance to the world until the return of the Jewish

people in the last century. It is very apparent that Satan opposes any Israeli control of the Holy Land or holy city of Jerusalem because of its relative significance to the approaching kingdom of God upon this earth and his doom in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. (Revelation 20:1-3)

This struggle for Jerusalem is made even more complicated because it is the center of three monotheistic religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. It is most unique to be in Jerusalem for a weekend. The Muslim's holy day is Friday. The Jewish people worship on Shabbat, beginning on Friday evening and ending the following evening. The Christians worship on the first day of the week, Sunday. Most Israeli churches have their worship service on Saturday evening, which according to Biblical reckoning of time begins at sundown. (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31) In the Jewish frame of Biblical time, Sunday begins at sundown, not at midnight. The weekend in Israel consists of Friday and Saturday. Their workweek begins on Sunday morning.

### 4. Jerusalem is at the heart of God's redemptive plan

The city of Jerusalem is at the center of God's stage in His eternal plans. The city is first mentioned in Genesis 14:18 as "Salem," which means "peace." The name Jerusalem means "city of peace." It is not a coincidence that the eternal God sent His Son to die outside the walls of Jerusalem to reconcile sinful men to Himself, thereby establishing a way that redeemed men can be at peace with God. The final mention of the earthly Jerusalem is found in Revelation 20:9. Here, it is the location of the final satanically induced rebellion against the Lord. This final revolt is the last recorded activity upon this old earth before it passes away and the new earth appears in the new heavens. (Revelation 21:1)

The Lord has ordained that Jerusalem is at the heart of the story of His plan of redemption. The details of God's redemptive purposes were in place before the world was created by Him in the beginning of time. Revelation 13:8 speaks of Jesus as "*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*." An examination of the hundreds of prophecies of the first coming of the Messiah overwhelms the Bible student with the precious reality that our redemption is a beautifully planned and orchestrated

divine provision. At the heart of that plan and its development on earth, the Lord ordained that Jerusalem would be the city of redemption.

It was on the temple mount in Jerusalem, the same as Mount Moriah, where Abraham was tested to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. (Genesis 22:1-14) Later, it was this same mountain where the Lord directed Israel to build the temple. (Deuteronomy 12:5-16; 2 Samuel 24:18-25; 1 Kings 11:32) This location became the only divinely approved place of sacrifice for all of the animals that pointed to the final perfect sacrifice that would come, the Messiah. (Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 9:11-14) Therefore, it was very fitting that the place of Christ's crucifixion was a part of Mount Moriah.

Historically, the Word of the Lord has gone forth from Jerusalem. The Old Testament prophets were focused upon Jerusalem. The revelation given to them about Jerusalem certainly helped them understand the significant role this city would have in the coming of their Messiah. Jerusalem was the hub of divine activity for the church, and the apostles of our Lord in the beginning decades of the church. The Great Commission given to them by Jesus made it clear that it was God's plan that the message of redemption was to be sent out to the nations from Jerusalem. (Acts 1:8)

Prophetically, the Word of the Lord will once again flow out to the nations from Jerusalem during the Tribulation Period and the Millennial Kingdom. The two Jewish witnesses (Revelation 11:3-12) and the ministry and training of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses (Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1-5) will be centered in Jerusalem. The ancient Jewish prophet, Joel, proclaimed: *"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance..."* (Joel 2:32) During the Millennial Kingdom the city of Jerusalem will be the spiritual capital of the world. The prophet Isaiah wrote: *"... for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."* (Isaiah 2:3) During the reign of the Messiah on earth, all nations will be required to annually go up to Jerusalem to worship the King. (Isaiah 2:2; Isaiah 60:3; Zechariah 14:16)

The zeal of the Sovereign Almighty God of Israel guarantees that Jerusalem will become a spiritual light

unto the nations. He has declared: *"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."* (Isaiah 62:1)

## 5. Jerusalem is at the core of divine protection

Jerusalem is the epicenter of the war in the spiritual realm. Since this holy city is so vital to the eternal redemptive plan of God, the human mind, apart from Scripture, cannot begin to understand the magnitude of the spiritual attack upon Jerusalem by Satan and all those who aid his ancient rebellion against the Lord. This is why Jerusalem must remain at the core of divine protection for the purposes of God to unfold as He has promised. The Lord has declared: *"I have set watchmen upon thy walls O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him to rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."* (Isaiah 62:6-7)

The Lord's promises to defend Jerusalem are numerous. In Psalm 125:1-2, the Lord pledged: *"They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed but abideth forever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever."* In Isaiah 29:1-8, the Lord calls Jerusalem "Ariel," "the Lion of God." In this text He warns all those who dream about capturing Jerusalem as their possession, that they will have their dreams frustrated. While speaking about Jerusalem in Zechariah 2:5, the Lord declared: *"For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of thee."* When the end of this age comes, He has given the following assurance: *"I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."* (Zechariah 12:9)

According to the Bible, when the end of this age comes, it will produce the final phase of the spiritual war that has been raging in the spirit world since the fall of Lucifer. We call this final phase – the Tribulation Period. This seven-year period will represent Satan's greatest effort to defeat God. He must do everything in his diabolical power to detain, disrupt, or defeat the return of Jesus to set up His earthly kingdom in Jerusalem for 1,000 years. If



he fails in his attempt to stop Jesus, he knows that there is an angel that has the key to the bottomless pit, and he will be bound by that angel and cast into that pit until the end of the millennial kingdom. (Revelation 20:1-3) Then, he will be released from his prison for one more final attempt to overthrow Jesus. This final confrontation will once again, take place in Jerusalem. (Revelation 20:7-9)

The fact that the world is riveted upon a godless plan that calls for two countries to share the Promised Land, with Jerusalem as their capital, is a clear sign that we are near the end of the Church Age. The world is united in passionate opposition to the eternal plan of God for His people and the Holy City. It is not a coincidence that the Arabs are descendants of Ishmael and Esau, those whom God rejected and made certain in the Scriptures that they were not to inherit the land given to the Jewish people.

Today, the Palestinians are demanding that Israel give up the heartland of what God promised His chosen people, Judea and Samaria and the very city that is mentioned in the Bible over 800 times. And, the world is supporting the Palestinian cause. This all indicates that the stage is set for the Antichrist to appear and the Tribulation to begin. Long ago, the Psalmist wrote: *“Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof. ... When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. ... This shall be written [for the last generation].”* (Psalm 102:13-14, 16, 18)

As this newsletter goes to press, the U.S. administration continues to badger Israel for building residential dwellings within their own capital. World opinion is rapidly turning against Israel for not capitulating to their demands and thereby committing national suicide. The world wants Israel to turn over the very heart of the land to a sworn enemy that continues to demonstrate that they hate the Jewish people and are determined to drive them from the Middle East.

A study of history will reveal that the Arabs and Muslims have never had a compassionate desire to make Jerusalem one of their major cities. Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Koran by name. Islam's two major cities are Mecca and Medina. It was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the modern return of the Jewish people to Israel that the

Arab/Islamic world began to view the Promised Land and Jerusalem as being important. Why? The answer is found in Ezekiel 36:1-8. In this text, the Lord revealed that when Israel would return to their land in the last days, the surrounding nations would demand that the land is not Jewish land, but Arab land. Concerning this, the Lord announced that these Arab nations *“have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey.”* (Ezekiel 36:5)

However, Jerusalem has been in the dreams, ambitions, and hearts of the Jewish people for over 3,000 years since King David established it as their capital. I was reminded of this last summer when I read the following article, *“We never forgot Jerusalem,”* that appeared in *The International Jerusalem Post*. This article, written by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, was an edited version of a speech he gave as part of the annual Jerusalem days in Israel; in which Israelis celebrate the stunning capture and reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. In this article he eloquently reminds us of the incredible love attachment that the Jewish people have had for Jerusalem for 3,000 years.

“No people ever loved a city more. We saw Jerusalem destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, captured and recaptured 44 times, and yet in all those years, wherever Jews lived they never ceased to pray about Jerusalem, face Jerusalem, speak the language of Jerusalem, remember it at every wedding, in every home they built, and at the high points of the Jewish year.

“I ask myself, how could Jews believe so much in a city they had been exiled from for so long? The answer, of course, is very powerful and is contained in [the] words in the story of Jacob. Recall, the brothers return home and show Jacob the blood-stained coat of Joseph. Realizing Joseph has gone, Jacob weeps, and when the brothers move to comfort him we are told, Jacob ‘refused to be comforted.’ Why? There are, after all, laws in Judaism about the limits of grief; there is no such thing as a bereavement for which grief is endless. The answer is that Jacob had not yet given up hope that Joseph was still alive. To refuse to be comforted is to refuse to give up hope.

“That is what Jews did with Jerusalem. They remembered the promise that the people of Israel had made by the waters of Babylon. *‘If I forget Jerusalem, may my right hand lose its cunning.’* We never forgot Jerusalem. We were never comforted. We never gave up hope that one day we would return and because of that Jews never felt separated from Jerusalem.

“When it happened, in 1967, my Jewish identity was transformed when the world heard, ‘The Temple Mount is in our hands.’ These ... words changed a generation. ....”

“Twenty-six centuries ago, the prophet Jeremiah said that a time would come when we would not thank God for bringing us out of the land of Egypt, but rather for bringing our people together from all lands of the earth. This second exodus, Jeremiah described, would be even more miraculous than the first. We lived to see this day, when Jews from 103 countries speaking 82 languages came to Israel to build not just their lives but the Jewish homeland. After generations it was Jerusalem that brought Jews together from all over the world as one people, in one voice, singing one song. ...

“Never has a city had such power over a people’s imagination. Never did God love a people more and never were a people more loyal than the ancestors who endured

and grandchildren or great-grandchildren could come home to Jerusalem, the Holy City, the home of the Jewish heart.” (“We never forgot Jerusalem, Jonathan Sacks, *The International Jerusalem Post*, June 13-19, 2014, pp. 10-11)

The Jewish people have never forgotten Jerusalem. The Lord has declared that He has never forgotten Jerusalem either. ([Isaiah 49:14-16](#)) He will also never forsake Jerusalem ([Isaiah 62:4, 12](#))

As we begin this year, we must have our spiritual hearts focused upon the promise of our Lord’s return. The key that unlocks the understanding of Biblical prophecy is the nation of Israel, and especially the Holy City of Jerusalem. So, keep your eyes upon Jerusalem. The Lord does!

### Israel a Blessing to the Nations

About 4,000 years ago, when God called the first Jew, Abraham, the Lord told him that his descendants would be a blessing to the world. ([Genesis 12:3](#)) In these modern times, the Jews, who represent just .2 percent of the world’s population, have won 22 percent of the Nobel prizes. How ironic that Satan has successfully deceived the nations to hate the people who have blessed them.

### Mike’s Upcoming Speaking Schedule

Please pray for these meetings and encourage your family and friends who live near these meetings to attend. It is very important for God’s people to have a proper Biblical world-view.

February 5	Rocky Mount, VA	Monthly Bible Study at Franklin Heights Baptist	540-798-5110
February 8-10	Manheim, PA	Manheim Grace Brethren Church	717-665-2334
February 19	Roanoke, VA	Monthly Bible Study at Grace Baptist Church	540-798-5110
February 21	Salem, VA	Faith Baptist Church	540-353-6357
March 5	Rocky Mount, VA	Monthly Bible Study at Franklin Heights Baptist	540-798-5110
March 12	Roanoke, VA	Monthly Bible Study at Grace Baptist Church	540-798-5110
March 15-17	Berne, IN	West Missionary Church	260-334-5451

Check out our website for directions and more information: [www.ptnews.org](http://www.ptnews.org)

**Mike has some available speaking dates for this year. If your church would be interested in scheduling him, please call 1-540-798-5110.**

20 centuries of exile and persecution so that their children

# Come and explore the Land of the Bible

*Join Mike Wingfield for his 20<sup>th</sup> tour to the Holy Land*

## November 2-10, 2015

*\$3,999.00 from NY*

(This price includes round-trip airfare from NY to Israel, hotels in Israel, 2 full meals daily, professional Israeli guide, tour bus, all entrance fees for places listed in the itinerary, taxes, tips, and transfer fees.)



*Join us for our boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. You will never forget the breathtaking views of the places where Jesus walked and taught around the shores of this beautiful little lake in northern Israel.*

Wow! We had a great tour last November. The weather, food, and accommodations were great. It was a delightful experience for me to guide a group of believers from 8 states as they enjoyed the spiritual impact of walking on the Biblical stage where God's story has and continues to unfold. We were never afraid. There was some unrest in Jerusalem while we were there. However, if we had not heard about it when we got back to our hotels and saw the news, we would have never known about the trouble. Those who traveled with me on this tour have continued to express to me the great impact it has had in their lives.

If you have ever wanted to travel to the Holy Land, come and join us this year. If you would like to speak to one of those who have traveled on a tour with me, please let us know and we will be glad to put you in touch with them.

***A color brochure with our itinerary is available upon request.***

***Call me today at 1-540-798-5110.***