

# JERUSALEM

## MELCHIZEDEK

### THE END TIMES

#### AND THE **NEW JERUSALEM**

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killed the prophets, and stoned them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathered her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, You shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”*  
- Matthew 23:37-39 (Luke 13:34-35)

Jerusalem the city from which the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Himself, shall rule over this earth during His millennium reign. There are many who declare that many things will take place concerning the end times within the United States and other parts of the world – which I do think may happen. It will all be a part of the end times that will all come to pass. However, we must always remember that there will always only be one Jerusalem.

After every one of the end time prophecies as well as Armageddon, etc. come to pass, there will still be a few more prophetic things that will need to come to pass. One of them of course is when our King shall rule this earth for 1000 years upon the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. There is no shadow of a doubt about this. The scriptures are super clear in this. Jesus will rule and reign for His 1000 year millennial reign from that exact spot that we all know as Jerusalem.

We see that Jerusalem is actually found in the Genesis 14:18-20. There we read of Melchizedek the “King of Salem.” It is a very short passage of scripture as it reads, *“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the Most High God.”*<sup>19</sup> *And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:”*<sup>20</sup> *And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”*

The name Melchizedek literally means “King of righteousness” or “righteous King.” Without going through it all this “King” is a representation of Jesus, the Messiah. He met Abram and Abram blessed Him with what has become assimilated with tithes and offerings. Melchizedek is referred to as the “most High God.” We see that Melchizedek is cited as being both a King and a High Priest. Melchizedek’s sudden appearance and disappearance in the book of Genesis is somewhat mysterious.

The next time we hear of Melchizedek again is in the Psalms. Psalm 110:4 tells us, *“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”* It immediately follows verse one which states, *“The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make your enemies thy footstool.”* This is referring to the “LORD” (YHWH – the Father) saying and inviting the “Lord” (Adonai – Yeshuah) to sit at the right hand of authority of the Living God. Obviously, it is referring to Jesus.

This theme is repeated in the book of Hebrews, where both, Melchizedek and Jesus are considered “kings of righteousness” and “of peace.” They are both considered a King and a Priest. By citing Melchizedek and his unique priesthood as a type of Jesus, the author of Hebrews shows forth the new priesthood that will forth with Jesus being the High Priest as well as our King. Jesus’ new priesthood is superior to the old Levitical priesthood and greater than the priesthood of Aaron (Hebrews 5:6–11; 6:20–7:28).

We see that when we first meet Melchizedek, He is the “king of Salem. The city of Salem is a precursor to the city that we know of today and throughout the Bible as Jerusalem. The Bible, which mentions Jerusalem more than any other place (about 800 times), states, in Psalm 132:13-14, *“...the Lord has chosen Jerusalem*

*and will dwell there forever.” We read that God expressly calls upon His people to **never forget** Jerusalem and to “...exalt it above their chief joy” (Psalm 137:5-6).*

As believers in Jesus there is a tendency to neglect or even forget about many of the truths found within the Bible. That, unfortunately, has happened with our thoughts concerning Jerusalem and its importance to God and His coming Kingdom. Unfortunately, we hear many things by many of today’s “prophets” concerning America and its importance in the “kingdom realm.”

I do not necessarily totally agree with everything that has been said about that. I know that many see the United States in many scriptures and other areas of scriptures as having a prominent role in the end times. The scriptures are never very clear about that. However, the most relevant and clearest statements are always about Jerusalem. Jesus never stated that there was nor will there ever be anywhere else on this earth that would compare with Jerusalem as being the city of our God.

Oh yes, there are places, cities and countries that have relevancy in the coming days concerning Jesus and His return. However, we must take note that when that day does come, the Bible is clear in that it tells us that Israel and Jerusalem will be **alone** against all the forces of darkness that the Anti-christ will bring its wrath. The Anti-christ will take over the world and set His throne upon the Temple Mount that is found in Jerusalem. The final battle of Armageddon will be in the valley of Megiddo in Israel. But....

...the Lord of lords and King of kings shall come in a moment’s notice. There will be believers waiting in the forests, in the woods, in the hills, in the mountains upon the earth just waiting to hear the final trumpet sound. And then, when it is sounded, they will all be caught up, in the twinkling of an eye and meet with Jesus as well as all of those other believers who have been waiting for over the centuries for “that day” to come.

They will come along with the heavenly hosts and destroy every force of wickedness and evil that would be upon the earth. It will be at that time that Jesus will then take His place upon the “throne of David,” His throne, in Jerusalem and begin to rule and reign over the millennial kingdom for 1000 years.

We see this declared and prophesied by the prophet Zephaniah. Let us read what this prophet declares unto us, the people of the One True God in these last days. Zephaniah 3:12-17 states, *“I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid. <sup>14</sup> Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. <sup>16</sup> In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. <sup>17</sup> The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.”*

Yes, Zephaniah states that it will be difficult for the true believer in these end times. As stated previously, they will run into the hills, the mountains and the forests as the tremendous persecution rambles on. However, God says that He will protect His people. He tells us that we will not fear nor be afraid. The children of God will not commit iniquity (sin). They will not speak lies or be deceitful in any way during this time. Why? It is because we love our God and we know without a shadow of a doubt that He will keep His people. The only thing we all must do is to simply trust our God.

We are commanded to sing, shout, be glad and rejoice with all of our heart. Why? Simply because we recognize that God has taken away our sin and the dreadful punishment of that sin – eternal death. We shall not see or experience evil any longer. But rather He has given us a new life that will never, never end. Why? Because the LORD our God is in the midst of us, He will save and He will rejoice over us with His joy and with His song. We will rest in His love that He has for each and every one of us. Wow!!! Praise the Lord!!!

As stated previously, Jesus will then come and rule and reign upon this earth for 1000 years. There will be total love, joy and peace prevailing upon this earth. There will be no death, no sin. It will be wonderful. However, that is not the end. We know that the devil will be loosed for a short period of time. Those that have lived upon the earth since the 1000 year rule began still need to make a final choice. These are not those that have come back with Jesus but rather these are those that lived through all of the end time tragedies. They have been able to experience the true love of God but yet they still need to make the choice to believe fully in the absolute supreme and final authority – Jesus.

This will be the time for them to make their choice – either turn fully towards God or reject Him and follow after the forces of wickedness and darkness. Yes this will be their last opportunity. God is so very gracious that He gives people so many opportunities to accept and receive eternal life but yet it is still left up to each and every individual.

Satan will be released for a brief time but his final doom is at hand as it states in Revelation 20:7-10, *“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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 forever and ever.”*

Then it will be at this time that we will see the great White Throne judgment as presented to us in Revelation 20:11-15, *“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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”* The key to all these scriptures is found in Revelation 20:15 as it states, *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”* Oh my!!!

However, then... then... then we read of the tremendous prize that awaits all of those who will remain fast in the Lord and stay strong through all the difficult times. It tells us in Revelation 21:1-3, *“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. <sup>2</sup> And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> 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.*

Yes, the “New Jerusalem.” That is the place where we will dwell with the Lord forever and ever and ever. There will be absolutely no walls, no petitions, absolutely nothing that will separate us from being in the presence of our God. It is a new place that never existed before and it will be there for all those that believe and have a true relationship with the Living God.

The essence of the covenant that God had been expressing throughout the Bible is now at its completion. If you read through the scriptures you will see these words written and expressed throughout the Bible. It is the words of the covenant that God has desired for all this time to finally come to its fruition. We read it in its final stage, its completed stage as found in Revelation 21:3 as it states, *“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.”* That is the essence of the covenant that runs throughout the Bible – from Old Testament to the New Testament.

As I wrote in the very beginning of this essay, Jesus reminds us as the scriptures tell us that, *“For I say unto you, You shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.”* God would send us a Savior, the Lord Jesus, and we mentioned that when we see Him the second time we shall say, *“Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.”* That is the essence of God’s heart for every single one of His creation. It is to experience that very moment of time.

You may have wondered why I chose to write about Jerusalem, Melchizedek, the end times and the New Jerusalem at this time of year. Well, I could have simply wished each of you a very blessed Christmas and that would have been nice and appropriate. However, I chose to write about these things because that is what the celebration during this time of year should stir within the child of God.

If you have accepted and received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, every Christmas should remind us of the true gift that was given to us through Jesus. We have been given the gift of eternal life. However, we must remember that it will not be an easy task. We must have the expectations of possibly going through some very difficult times ahead because of our faith in Jesus.

However, the primary thing to always remember is that in and through Jesus we have been given the greatest gift that was ever made available to man. That one day soon, we will be with the true and living God in a place called the New Jerusalem that will have no walls, no barriers, no nothing that will ever hinder us in the least to experiencing and being in the presence of the true and living God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Have a truly blessed Christmas  
Ray and Trish