



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Entry 6 - 9

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WHY JERUSALEM ?

God created the earth, the human race and Israel because He has a plan. That is why there are so many prophecies in the Bible. Every prophecy describes a part of God's eternal design. His plan is larger than science can discover and far more wonderful than what we have imagined. Asking one question and discovering God's answer will answer all other important questions. Then the empty ideas of philosophy can fall away and new hope can light the hearts of believers. One question can open the flood gates of revelation and bring everything into focus. You may be surprised; the question is, Why Jerusalem? God chose this city. All the world will focus on it and one day, Jesus will return to it. Then the world will finally understand the importance of Jerusalem.

To discover the answer to the question, why Jerusalem? we go to the end of the Bible. Revelation says:

"The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city [Jerusalem] and his servants will serve him." Rev. 22:4

Jerusalem is so important because one day, God will move His throne there. God rules the universe from His throne. Right now, His throne is in heaven, but amazing as it seems, its location will move. God's throne and therefore His headquarters, will be moved to planet earth and to the city of Jerusalem. In this study, we will look at its human significance and then discover the heavenly significance of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem's Earthly Significance

Jerusalem is like a magnet. Since creation, humans have been drawn to this piece of land. It is the capital of Israel and Israel is the cradle of civilization and the focus of human history. In the beginning, God made Adam and Eve and put them in the Garden.

It had 4 rivers and one was the Euphrates. Gen. 12:18 tells us that the Euphrates will, one day, become part of Israel. The Garden of Eden and Israel are connected. Scientists say Africa is the cradle of civilization but they have ignored the Bible and overlooked Israel. Israel is where it all began.

- Four thousand years ago, Abraham offered Isaac on the altar of Mt. Moriah where Jerusalem is today.
- Three thousand years ago, King David conquered the city of Jebus on that site and named it Jerusalem.
- Two thousand years ago, Jesus came and died there.
- At the end of the great tribulation, He will return to the Mt. of Olives and set up His throne in Jerusalem.

Furthermore, God designed Israel to be the cross-roads of the ancient world. It is situated in the middle of the 4000 mile, African Rift Valley. The Dead Sea, the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee, run north and south in the Rift Valley. On either side of the valley there is a mountain range that is almost impossible to

pass with an army of chariots. For hundreds of miles, there is only one gap in the mountains that would allow a chariot army to get through. That opening goes through Israel. It is the Jezreel Valley, the Valley of Armageddon. This opening in the mountains creates a bottleneck that every ancient army had to funnel through to travel to the east or to the Mediterranean if they were going west. Rome, Egypt, Greece, Persia and Babylon fought battles in this valley. If they conquered and fortified this bottleneck in Israel, they could stop the invading armies from Asia or those coming from the Mediterranean in the west.

- If the Roman army planned to attack Asia, they would sail to the end to the Mediterranean Sea and drive their chariots through the Valley of Armageddon to the Jordan River. Then they would turn north to the Sea of Galilee, then to Damascus where they would turn right, leave the Rift Valley and attack the nations of the east. All the way they would drink fresh water and be able to eat food. All the surrounding area is desert, but Israel provided the doorway to the Fertile Crescent. The open valley of Armageddon and the source of fresh water made Israel the crossroads of the ancient world and that is why Israel was a place of battles.

Jerusalem's Heavenly Significance

Jerusalem's heavenly significance is more important than her earthly one.

"The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city [Jerusalem] and his servants will serve him." Rev. 22:4

God has decided to move His throne to Jerusalem. That is why Jesus prayed:

"thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Mt. 6:10

God's kingdom will come to earth, literally and spiritually. For 1000 years Jesus' throne will be in Jerusalem, during the millennium. Then, He will give the kingdom to His Father. God will move His throne to Jerusalem and complete His plan. In eternity past, God decided to create a new throne room. Look at what God did. Notice the words that start with the letter "P."

1. God made a **plan** - to create a new throne room and move His headquarters. There is only one throne of God; it is coming here.
2. To fulfill His plan, God created a darling of a **planet**. Earth is the greatest planet because God's throne is moving here. There may be other beautiful planets, but none can be as great as earth because God has designed it for His throne room. When it is finished, it will be even more fantastic than it is now.

3. God's greatest creation is a **population** because only humans, and no other creatures, are made in His image.

We are so blessed to be included in God's amazing plan.

4. Then, God sent His Son, the **Prince** of Heaven, to show us how to live, and to save us from our sins. Jesus is God, but He became man. One day, everything in the universe will be unified under the authority of Jesus.
5. God made a **person** whose name was Abraham. This man was created to teach us how to follow God and live by faith. By his example, he became the father of all who live by faith.
6. God created His chosen **people**. They are natural descendants of Abraham. They are the Jews; His courtiers, created to lead the temple worship (Ro. 9:4) and to serve God in the land of Israel.
7. God is designing a **place**. For this reason, all of His plans must come together, because God is moving His throne to Jerusalem.

The earth, the Jews, and we must be perfected because God has decided to include us in His amazing plans. He will have a new earth, a glorified people and a new throne room. AΩ



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