

JERUSALEM: THE DWELLING OF GOD

BECAUSE OF OUR DISCONNECT FROM THE ISSUE OF THE ROLE OF JERUSALEM IN GOD'S TEMPORAL AND ETERNAL PURPOSES, THERE IS A LOT MISSING IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

I. LAYING THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR JERUSALEM

A. [Revelation 21:1-6](#)

- 1) Jesus returns at the end of the age and establishes a thousand year reign on the earth. At the end of the thousand year reign, there is another series of events that takes place, which leads us to [Revelation 21:1](#)
- 2) the dwelling place of God in eternity is not in heaven; it's in Jerusalem. The dwelling place of God, where He dwells with man, is not us ascending to heaven but the New Jerusalem descending on the earth

II. A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

- A. The same language is used in [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) and draws from [Isaiah 65 and 66](#) and [Matthew 19:28](#).
- B. When you and I became new in Christ, we were not destroyed and remade as an entirely new entity. Rather, we entered into the new creation and were regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the old passed away. In the same way, God isn't going to blow up the earth and create a whole new one
 - 1) if we have an assumption that the earth will not abide forever but will be completely destroyed one day, our understanding of time and eternity changes

III. MARANATHA

- A. In addition to the definition of "the Lord has come" or "the Lord is coming", Maranatha could be the paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer: "Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven." We are saying, "Jesus, return and bring to fruition the age to come and the new creation."
- B. Maranatha is all about the new creation, the restoration of all things, and the New Jerusalem descending.
 - 1) the New Jerusalem will be in the same location as the current Jerusalem ([Matthew 25](#))
 - 2) all of natural history is revolving around God's eternal purposes with this specific city

IV. CONNECTING TO THE PASSION OF JESUS FOR JERUSALEM

- A. If the global Maranatha family is to step into maturity and unity, we need to be mature and unified in our understanding of Jesus' passion for Jerusalem. That's what all of this is moving toward. Jesus is longing for the day when His Father will dwell among men forever in His city, the city of the Great King.
- B. You may say, "I'm 70 years old and I live in Arkansas. I will probably never get to go to Jerusalem. What bearing does that have on my life?" It's about the passions of Jesus. Not the politics of men. **We don't care about Jerusalem because of the politics of men. We care about Jerusalem because of the passion of Jesus.**
- C. The book of Revelation and all redemptive history concludes with Jerusalem as a bride. Some people take a hyper-metaphoric approach and say that, because the city is prepared like a bride and we are the bride, it must be a metaphor for the bride of Christ being presented. No, this is the actual city of Jerusalem being the dwelling place of God among men.
 - 1) [Matthew 25:31-33](#) when Jesus returns, He will sit on His glorious throne. From a multitude of scriptures, we know that Jesus' throne is the throne of David. Where is the throne of David? In Jerusalem
 - 2) when Jesus returns, He is going to assert Himself as king and judge. He's going to sit on the throne of David in the actual physical city of Jerusalem, and He will set in motion the restoration of all things
- D. Scripture is very clear about the way in which Jesus comes, where He comes, and what He does when He comes.
- E. Our conviction is that the Maranatha groan must sweep the earth in our generation.
 - 1) Maranatha is to be this all-encompassing demand on our lives to hasten the return of the Lord because we're longing for Him to come
 - 2) that longing is weakened to the degree that we don't understand what happens when He comes. Because of the rampant biblical illiteracy in the church in our generation concerning the end of the age and the Maranatha realities, there is a profound disconnect in what will actually happen when Jesus comes

V. THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- A. [Isaiah 34:8](#)
 - 1) why is Zion at the heart of the day of vengeance? Why is recompense at the end of the age globally connected to Zion? Zion is another word for Jerusalem. Zion is the City of the Great King, and it's the city that He will roar from and rule from. This is the day of vengeance that precedes the new heaven and the new Earth
- B. The Kingdom is the rule of Jesus, the Son of David, in Jerusalem, ruling the nations of the earth and judging them. Part of the way He judges them is how they treat Jerusalem. If we say we just want to focus on Jesus and the Kingdom, and yet we are rejecting the basic, fundamental realities concerning who He is and what He will do and what His Kingdom will be like, we are not focusing on Jesus or the Kingdom.



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- 1) in the middle of this, there are legitimate brothers and sisters trying to figure it out; again, it comes back to the issue of biblical illiteracy
- C. This goes very deep in the heart of God. We can't say we're against these things when Jesus is so for them. How do we know He is for it? Because this age ends with a New Jerusalem and with Jesus ruling and reigning as the son of David in Jerusalem.
- D. The veil comes off and we realize He's not just a Savior on a cross. He's also a glorious, wondrous King who will sit on a throne with a scepter and a rod of iron and rule the nations in an actual political theocracy. When we get this into our DNA, it changes everything.