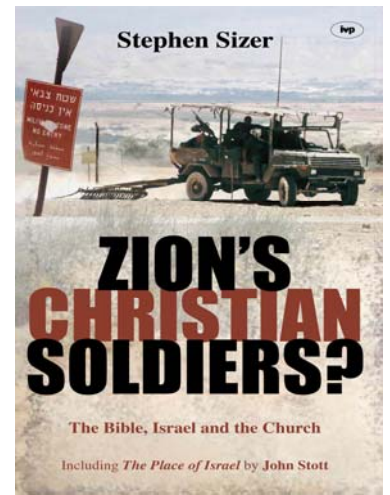


ZION'S CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Seminar 4: Battle for Jerusalem: The Eternal Capital of the Jews?

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’” (Matthew 23:37-39)



1. The Passion for Jerusalem

2. Jerusalem in the Old Testament

Joshua 15:63

2 Samuel 6:1-19

1 Kings 11:9-13

Micah 3:9-12

Jeremiah 7:1-11

Jeremiah 21:3-10

Zechariah 14:2,15-16

He has founded his city on the holy mountain. The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the other dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are said of you, city of God: “I will record Rahab and Babylon among those who acknowledge me— Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush — and will say, ‘This one was born in Zion.’ “Indeed, of Zion it will be said, “This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her.” The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: “This one was born in Zion.” As they make music they will sing, “All my fountains are in you.” (Psalm 87)

3. Jerusalem in the New Testament

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' (Luke 13:34-35)

Luke 19:41-44

The Times of the Gentiles

Luke 21:20-28
Revelation 11:2
Isaiah 63:3-6

The Jerusalem Above

Galatians 4:26-27
Isaiah 54:1

The Heavenly Jerusalem

Hebrews 12:22-23
John 4:21-23

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2, 22-26

Summary Points

1. Many Christian Zionists defend and justify Israel's annexation of Jerusalem claiming it is the eternal, undivided and exclusive capital of the Jews.
2. Jerusalem became the capital of Israel briefly under David and Solomon before its decline following the disintegration of tribal alliances and their eventual exile.
3. The Old Testament vision of Jerusalem enjoying God's blessing is of an international and inclusive city of faith, justice and holiness.
4. Jerusalem in the New Testament is associated not with Israel, the Jews or the Temple, but with Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
5. The end of the 'times of the Gentiles' far from being a sign of Jewish national sovereignty more likely points to the return of Jesus.
6. The Jerusalem that rejected Jesus and his followers is associated with the immorality of Sodom and oppression of Egypt in the Book of Revelation.
7. Christians look instead to a heavenly Jerusalem as their spiritual home.

Passages to Review

2 Samuel 6:1-19; Psalm 87; Isaiah 2:3-5; 63:3-6; Jeremiah 7:1-11; 21:3-10; Micah 3:9-12; Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35; 19:41-44; 21:20-28; John 4:21-23; Galatians 4:21-31; Hebrew 12:18-29; Revelation 21:1-27.

Questions for Further Study

1. What role does Jerusalem fulfil in the purposes of God?
2. Why did the Prophets criticize the people of Jerusalem?
3. How did the coming of Jesus redefine the role of Jerusalem?
4. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?
5. How should we interpret the 'times of the Gentiles' in Luke 21:24?
6. What do we learn about the 'New Jerusalem' from Psalm 87, Isaiah 2 and Revelation 21?
7. How should we pray for the peace of Jerusalem today?