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JERUSALEM - The City of the Great King

President Trump has declared that he intends moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Of course that set off the usual hysterical Muslim outcry!

By so doing, President Trump has become the first president since Israel's founding in 1948 to recognise Jerusalem as the capital, although other presidential candidates have talked about doing so.

It has to be noted that he has more or less put it on the 'long finger'! There is a waiver to keep the embassy in Tel Aviv for another six months, and officials say it could take years to build an embassy in Jerusalem.

Naturally, the news was welcomed in Israel. The "Times of Israel" reported that others are indicating that they will follow Donald Trump's example. The newspaper reported: "As Trump prepares to recognise capital, Philippines and an unnamed Eastern European country among states that reportedly contact Foreign Ministry to discuss issue."

The Jerusalem Post carried the headline:

"Netanyahu: More countries plan to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital."

Of course, for every headline welcoming the announcement there are 20 denouncing it and Muslim strikes and riots have already broken out in Israel.

The BBC reports: "Many of Washington's closest allies have said they disagree with the move, and both the UN Security Council and the Arab League will meet in the coming days to decide their response."

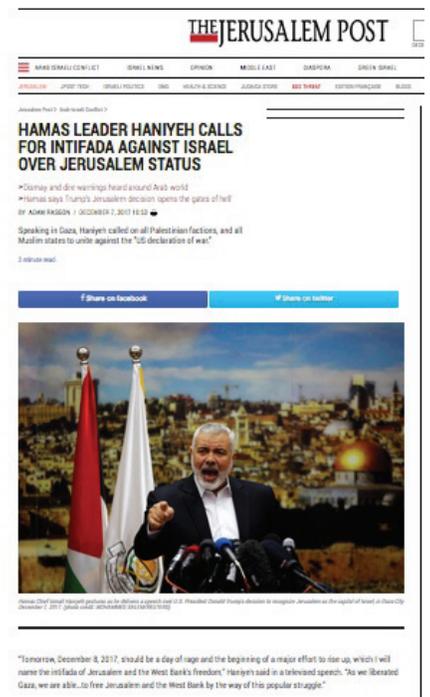
Jerusalem was conquered by Israel in the days of Joshua but was not completely subdued until the days of David.

"Now the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and had taken it, and smitten it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire, " Judges 1:8. "And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day," Judges 1:21. The Book of Judges is generally believed to have been written by Samuel so the phrase "unto this day" brings us to the days of Samuel who did not live to see David reign in Jerusalem.

It was in the days of David's reign that the city became fully the possession of the Israelites. "And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David. And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house. So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him," 2 Samuel 5:6-10.

Controversy

Jerusalem has ever been the centre of controversy for those who were the enemies of God and His people. Thus it was called "the rebellious and the bad city" by those who hated to see its rebuilding in the days of





The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Ezra, some 120 years after its destruction by the Babylonians in 587 BC, according to Archbishop Ussher's chronology.

"This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king; Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time. Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all countries beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them," Ezra 4:11-12, 20.

That is how the enemies of God saw the city of Jerusalem back then and their opinions have not altered much!

But that is not how God looked upon that city or speaks of it. As we look at the Lord's declarations regarding Jerusalem, we will see how it is perceived in Heaven and what its future is, irrespective of presidential degrees or Islamic displeasure and disorder!

1. The early words of God about this city.

"But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel," 2 Chronicles 6:6.

"The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob," Psalm 87:2.

"For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation," Psalm 132:13.

"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King," Psalm 48:2. (Repeated by Christ in Matthew 5:35.)

2. Believers are commanded by God to pray for and love Jerusalem.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee," Psalm 122:6.

3. Though Jerusalem has been under the rule and authority of the Gentile powers since the days of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, it has NOT been utterly forsaken of God.

"As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever," Psalm 125:2.

"I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew," Romans 11:1-2.

4. It will feature again on the world stage at the close of this age. It is there that Antichrist will focus his hatred of God in the closing three and a half years of this age.

"But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified," Revelation 11:2-8.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

That final verse leaves us in no doubt about the city that is the centre of these events. The time of these occurrences is also clearly indicated in the verses quoted below. The killing of the two witnesses is followed by their being raised from the dead three and a half days later and by signs of God's approaching judgment and clear indications of the return of Christ.

"And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth," Revelation 11:11-18.

5. Antichrist and his forces will launch an assault upon Jerusalem which will be intended to destroy it and Israel utterly forever.

"The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it," Zechariah 12:1-3.

6. The identity of those involved in these wickednesses and the evil ambition they have is detailed for us in Psalm 83.

Consider the verses 2-4. "For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance."

7. Just when this attack by Antichrist will be is detailed for us in chapter 14 of Zechariah.

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, (it is just before the return of Christ) and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south," Zechariah 14:1-4.

8. Is there any Christian who will question just what is referred to here? It is the second coming of Christ. As was explained by the two angels to the apostles as they stood on the Mount of Olives from which their beloved Saviour had just ascended.

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven," Acts 1:11.



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John the apostle repeated this truth on the Isle of Patmos.

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen,” Revelation 1:7.

9. In the age to come, the Millennial Age, Jerusalem will most certainly feature.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more,” Isaiah 2:2-4.

“In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten,” Jeremiah 50:4-5.

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: and the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD,” Zechariah 8:19-22.

10. But an even more glorious future awaits Jerusalem. Jerusalem on earth is a picture of a most wonderful and glorious city call the New Jerusalem.

““And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God,” Revelation 21:2, 9-11.

“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life. And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever,” Revelation 21:22 — 22:5.

The world will give no thought to these things amidst the controversy surrounding President Trump’s announcement but Christian, you give thought to what the Word of God says for “the words of God shall be fulfilled.”



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