

Jerusalem

Various Perceptions about Jerusalem

The city (Isa. 40:9),

The Land of Judah (Jer. 31:12),

The whole land of Israel (Zech 9:13)

The People (Isa 52:1-2; 60:14)

The Sanctuary of Yahweh (Joel 2:1; Zech 8:3)

Jerusalem or Zion is the identity as well as the destiny of the Israel (Isa1:8; 10:31)

The City of the King

The City of the King, David

- BC 1050, David conquered the fortress of the Jebusite, the city of Zion (2Chron.11: 4-9; 2 Sam 5;6-7) and it became the city of David.
- David wanted this impregnable fortress because he believed that there should be God's name (2 Sam. 5:5-10; Acts. 2:30).

- When the ark of the LORD representing the presence of God entered in the City of David, the city became the Temple city of God(2 Sam 6:12-17).
- “while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.” (2 Sam 6:15)

The Jerusalem Temple Site

“Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.” (2Chron. 3:1; 1Kings 6:1)

Jerusalem and the King of Salem

- Psalm equates the city of Salem and Zion
- “His tent is in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.” (Ps.76:2)
- It is stressed that the kingship built in Zion is a royal priestly kingship by mentioning the order of Melchizedek.
- “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” (Ps. 110:4)

□ “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High and he blessed Abram...Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything” (Gen. 14:17-24)

The Mount Moriah

- God challenged Abram's faith by creating the crisis that almost destroyed the promise of "seed" at the place: "Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." (Gen. 22:2)
- However at the proof of Abram's faith, God, Himself provided a sacrifice: "So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."(22:14).

The Threshing Floor of Araunah

- “Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” (1 Chron.21:18.
- The Holy fire fell down from heaven on the altar of burnt offering, then, judgment was stopped. (26-27)
- Since then, David offered sacrifices in there instead of the high place at Gibeon.

- Then David said, "The house of the LORD God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel." (1 Chron.22:1; Duet 12:4-11)
- David might connect the threshing floor to the God's assigned place where Israel's central worship would happen after entering the Land.
- "You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance-- the place, O LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands established. (Exod 15:17).

“But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go;” (Deut 12:5)

“But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land.... Then to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name--there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord (Deut. 12:10-11)

□ “...this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there...'” (1 King 8:29)

□ “...But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel. ...” (2 Chron. 6:5-6, 20)

The temple was built in Jerusalem, Salem, the city of Melchizedek, also was in the region of Moriah, and on the threshing floor of Jebusite. Through the generation to generation, His finger kept pointing this one place as his choice.

Mt Sinai and Mt Zion

□ Some Psalms give links between Sinai and Zion by providing the descriptions of theophany such as fire, clouds, darkness, thunder, and lightening. (Exod 19: 18-19;Ps. 97: 2-4).

“Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him... His lightning lights up the world: the earth sees and trembles.” (Ps 97:2-4)

□ “From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages.” (Ps. 50:2-3)

The Temple connected to the Heaven

□ “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob.” (Isa 2:3; Mic 4:1-2)

□ “...It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth. Like the utmost heights of Zaphone is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.” (Ps. 48:2)

Yaweh’s worshipers went up Mt Zion with believing that temple is connected to the throne of God in heaven.

- The ancient Israelites believed that the holy of holies is connected to the throne chamber of Heaven as the ark of covenant was metaphorically expressed as the footstool of God sitting on the throne. (Isa 66:1; Acts 7:49; Ps. 99:5; 110:1).
- “The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne....” (Ps. 11:4)
- “Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool.” (Ps. 132:7)
- “Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy...” (Ps. 99:5)
- “...I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.” (Isa 6:1)

The Temple Garden

□ The same verbs “cultivate” and “keep” in between the commission in the Garden of Eden and the priestly service in the temple (Gen.2:15;Num. 3: 7-8).

□ The water river was in the Garden of Eden and will be the eschatological temple. (Gen. 2:10; Ezek 47:1-12; Rev22:1-2)

“ ...They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.

□ ...”(Ps. 36:7-9)

□ The prophet Ezekiel portrays Eden on a mountain (Ezek. 28:14, 16). Israel’s temple was on Mount Zion (e.g., Exod. 15:17), and the end-time temple was to be located on a mountain (Ezek. 40:2; 43:12; Rev. 21:10)

The Center of the World

Jerusalem is the center of the world.

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

”(Ezek. 5:5);

“... the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land.” (38:12)

“...The Land of Israel is the center of the world. Jerusalem is the center of the Land of Israel. Temple mount is the center of Jerusalem, there is the ark of the covenant on the Rock, on that foundation, the world begun.” (b. Yoma 54b, Levenson, 118)

The Foundation of the World

- As the belly button of the man is connect to mother receiving life from her, Zion is in function of receiving life from God (Blessings) for the the world.
- “He has set his foundation on the holy mountain; ...the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are said of you, O city of God: Selah "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." Selah As they make music they will sing, "All my fountains are in you.”” (Ps. 87:1-7)

- The prayer at the ceremony for the dedication for Solomon's temple
- "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name for men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm-when he comes and prays toward this temple, then, hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name." (1Kings 8: 41-43)

- Jerusalem temple is the international prayer house for all nations (Isa 56:6-7; Mk11:17).
- “And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the Lord, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who holdfast to my covenant-these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my alter: for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Clean Hands for the Zion Worship

- Who may ascend the hill of the LORD ?
Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.” (Ps. 24: 3-4).

- The security guaranteed by God for the Israel in loyalty. (Ps. 24:8-10).
- “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.” (Ps. 125:1-2)
- “In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness...let the nations fall beneath your feet...” (Ps 45:4-6)

The Expansion of Temple

- The presence of God is the essence of temple, Jesus is Emmanuel (Mt. 1:23; Isa 7:14). His body contains the Presence of God, So he is the embodiment of temple (Jn. 2:21)
- As the earthly Jerusalem is connected to the heavenly Jerusalem, the incarnated body of Jesus is connected to the throne of Heaven. When Jesus died on the cross, Gospels witnesses the significant parallel between the torn curtain of the temple and the broken body of Jesus.

- The Gospel John expresses The Word became flesh and made his dwelling (tabernacled) among us (Jn. 1:14) with reminding scene of the tabernacle among tribes at Exodus (Ex.1: 14)
- Jesus said "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (Jn. 2:19); Jesus died, rose again, ascended, sitting on the throne and pouring the Holy Spirit upon those who believe in Him.
- Jesus raise the temple for the spiritual worship among nations. However, that fact can not deny the validity of particularity of the worship center located Mt. Zion as well as the unfulfilled prophecies around Jerusalem. All these words of God will be fulfilled in his appointed.

Then the nations will know that I the LORD
make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among
them forever.' (Ezek 37:28).

The Explosive Increase of The Mobile Temples

- “Enlarge the place of your tent... your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. (Isa 54: 2-3)
- “Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem....Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth....” (Jn.4: 21-24).
- ; by works of the holy Spirit, Jerusalem has been expanded and enlarged unto the ends of the world.

- “Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?” (1 Cor.3:16).
- “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?...” (1 Cor.6:19).
- The individual mobile temples has been explosively increased over the world through the mission of church.
- “...In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”(Eph. 2:19-22).

□ The Entry of the Ark of the Covenant signified Yahweh's kingship in Jerusalem at the time of the King David.

□ The Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem declared His Messianic kingship over the people of Israel.

□ “Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey...The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" (Mt. 21: 5-10; Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26)

The Rejection and Judgment

“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.” (Mt. 23:37-38; Lk 13:34)

Positive Expectation from Negative Prediction: until

For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Mt. 23:39)

Jesus and his disciples never disregard God's plan for Jerusalem.

The acts of the Holy Spirit from Jerusalem to the ends of the world (Lk 24:47; Acts 1:4, 8)

Disciple's habitual visits to temple (Lk 24:5; Acts 3:1; 11:2), Disciples pilgrimage to Jerusalem (Acts 19:21; 20:16). Apostle's collection from the gentile churches to support the poor in Jerusalem and so on.

- Therefore,
- The locality of Jerusalem is always the choice of God. God called Abraham to be there, God led Moses and Israelites to there, God reveal David to know there is the contact between Heaven and Earth with fire.
- At the last days, God restored the tent of David to have his people from all nations. That is the organism connected and united by the individual mobile temples of God. God assigned Jerusalem and put His name within..
- Someday, the true worshipers of all nations will see Jesus coming to Jerusalem.

Diaspora and Expansion

- The diaspora pattern for expansion shown in Early church.
- The summary of book of Acts (Acts 1:8)
- The persecution in Jerusalem drove believers cross over the foreign territories though they would not do. (Acts 8:1,4; 9:31).
- ...On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:14)

Centrifugal Vision

- God with His people in diaspora
- "Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Although I sent them far away among the nations and scattered them among the countries, yet for a little while I have been a sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone.' (Ezek. 11:16).
- Book of Esther shows how widely scattered Jews were in the Persian empire and God's sovereign power protected and preserved Jews
- Gentiles became recognize the greatness of God through Jews.

- God punished disobedient Israel by scattering them over the world.
- God's sovereignty reach to the whole world as a result of diaspora of Israel.
- God's people was increased while the physical temple was not in Jerusalem by the expansion pattern of diaspora.
- Not only physical, but also spiritual accomplishment for the great commission of the beginning: "God blessed them... "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth (Gen1:28).

- When the gospel reaches to all nations by church mission, as a consequence, the presence of God will fill on earth.
- The body of Christ will stand that is the corporative temple united by individual mobile temples of true worshipers.

Centripetal Vision

The sanctuary of God will be established in the middle of Jerusalem (Ezek 37:22-28).

“My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.” (Ezek 37:27-28)

The presence of God will return to the temple

The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east. Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. (Ezek. 43: 4-5).

□ “...In those days At that time they will call Jerusalem The throne of the Lord and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the Lord....(Jer. 3:16-17)

“In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it, Many people will come and say, “ come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isa 2:2-3)

- “And they will bring all your brother, from all the nations, to my mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the Lord... They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites, says the LORD.”(Isa. 66:20-21)
- “To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 15:16)

The Mystery of God

“...Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in..” (Rom 11:25)

“And all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The deliver will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.”
(Rom. 11:26)

The full number of the Gentiles and all Israel will come to Jesus, and will be the people of God and Jesus will sovereign over the world with His Kingship.

The Universal Worship

- Jerusalem is assigned to be the center of this universal worship of the world. (Rev. 7:4-8; 9-12)
- “Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel...After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb...”
- And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.... saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen!" (Rev. 7:4-12)