

Backdrop: Jerusalem The City of God

Opening Discussion:

1. What do you think of when you think of Jerusalem?
2. Have you ever been to Jerusalem? If so, what surprised you about the city?
3. What are some important historical events in Jerusalem's history?
4. What role does Jerusalem play in the end times?

Throughout history, God has worked to develop a _____ of people from every nation for His own _____ and _____. _____ represents that Kingdom.

1. Jerusalem in _____

Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. **Genesis 14:18-20**

Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you. **Genesis 22:2**

And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. And David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack 'the lame and the blind.'" **2 Samuel 5:6-8**

2. Jerusalem in _____

- Jerusalem is the place where God dwells. (Psalm 50:2, 116:19)
- The peace and prosperity of God's people is inseparable from that of Jerusalem. (Psalm 128:5)
- Jerusalem is the place where the Messiah rules. (Psalm 2:6)
- Jerusalem is key to the restoration of God's people. (Psalm 14:7)
- God's salvation will come for Jerusalem. (Psalm 69:35)
- God gathers those who are scattered from Jerusalem. (Psalm 147:2)

3. Jerusalem in _____

- Jeremiah: Jerusalem will be destroyed and restored. (Jeremiah 21:1-10, 25:1-14)
- Ezekiel
 - God's presence left Jerusalem.

Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the Lord, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. **Ezekiel 10:18-19**

- The city and Temple will be destroyed. (Ezekiel 5)
- God will establish a new covenant with His people. (Ezekiel 36:22-36)
- The Temple will be restored to a glory that has not yet been seen. (Ezekiel 40 and following)

- Jesus
 - Jerusalem and the Temple system have been corrupted and will be judged. (Matthew 23:37-24:2)

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is forsaken. **Luke 13:34-35**

- The Temple system is like a fig tree that doesn't produce figs. It will be judged

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. And when evening came they went out of the city. As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." **Mark 11:12-21**

4. Jerusalem in _____

- The Jerusalem below and the Jerusalem above (Galatians 4:21-26)
- Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion (Hebrews 12:18-24)
- The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21-22)

Fill in the Blank Answers:

Throughout history, God has worked to develop a Kingdom of people from every nation for His own possession and inheritance. Jerusalem represents that Kingdom.

1. history
2. poetry
3. prophecy
4. eschatology