

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Hebrews 11:9-10

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:16

“Zion, Zion, I long thy gates to see”

- Old testament prophets spoke of Zion in figurative terms, knowing that there was something wonderful yet to come

Those who trust in the Lord
Are like Mount Zion,
Which cannot be moved, *but* abides forever.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the Lord surrounds His people
From this time forth and forever.

Ps. 125:1-2

“Zion, Zion, I long thy gates to see”

- Old testament prophets spoke of Zion in figurative terms, knowing that there was something wonderful yet to come

Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts;
Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home,
A tabernacle *that* will not be taken down;
Not one of its stakes will ever be removed,
Nor will any of its cords be broken.

Isaiah 33:20

Zion: Historical Background



- Originally inhabited by the Jebusites and the city known as Jebus. The city was taken and eventually became known as the city of David or Zion.
- Through the years it went through periods of expansion and change:
 - David purchased the threshing floor of Araunah (2 Sam. 24:16:25)
 - Originally Zion did not encompass the temple area (2 Chron. 5:2)
 - In time Zion referred to the whole of the mountain of Jerusalem (Is. 2:3; Ps. 48:1-2)

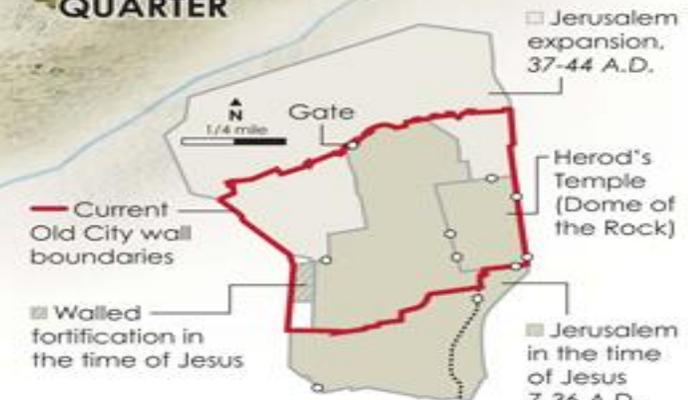
BEZETHA (NEW CITY)

Ancient Jerusalem Circa 63 A.D.



Jerusalem

By 34 B.C., under King Herod's rule, ancient Jerusalem went through major redevelopment, crowned with the rebuilding of the Second Temple and a bigger Temple Mount. In 66 AD, the Great Jewish Revolt challenged Roman rule over Jerusalem, resulting in the destruction of the temple and the fall of Jerusalem by 70 CE.



Zion: Historical Background



- Old Testament prophets spoke of Zion as a harbinger of better things to come

And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be saved.

For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,
As the Lord has said,
Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

Joel 2:32

Zion: Historical Background



- Old Testament prophets spoke of Zion as a harbinger of better things to come (Joel 2:32; Is. 28:16; Ps. 132:13-14)

Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation,
A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;
Whoever believes will not act hastily.

Isaiah 28:16

Zion: Historical Background



- Old Testament prophets spoke of Zion as a harbinger of better things to come (Joel 2:32; Is. 28:16; Ps. 132:13-14)

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
He has desired *it* for His dwelling place:
¹⁴ “This *is* My resting place forever;
Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

Ps. 132:13-14

Zion, Zion, when shall I dwell in thee?

- The invitation to come to Zion is given in Heb. 12:18ff
- The Hebrew writer contrasts 2 mountains:
 - **Sinai (:18-21)**
 - It was terrifying and fearsome (:21) Blackness, darkness, tempest (:18)
 - They could not endure the commandment (:20)
 - Begged for the word not to be spoken anymore (:19)
 - **Zion (:22-24)**
 - A heavenly city, innumerable angels, the church etc! (:22-24)
 - A new covenant, that which speaks better things (:24)
 - Enjoined to not refuse Him who speaks (:25)

Zion, Zion, when shall I dwell in thee?

What must I do?

- Listen to Him! (:25-27)
- Serve God acceptably with reverence (:28)
- Fear God (:28-29) But in a different sense!