**R764 Rumination for 29 Sept 2019** By K.C. Ung

The **T**heme: **Jerusalem** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *…and I asked them concerning the* ***J****ews …and concerning* ***J****erusalem.* Neh. 1:2

The **T**hots:

Intro. Nehemiah was **C**oncerned about **J**erusalem and the **J**ews there. So were others.

1. **Jehovah and Jerusalem** – Jerusalem was God’s City.
2. **God’s Choice of the Place as His** **for Worship**.
3. It was*…the* ***C****ity of God, the* ***H****oly place of the tabernacles of the most* ***H****igh.* Psa. 46:4
4. *…Jerusalem, the* ***C****ity which the LORD did* ***C****hoose out of all the tribes of Israel,*

*to put His name there*. I Kgs. 14:21

1. *Jerusalem, the* ***C****ity where I have* ***C****hosen to put My name.*  I Kgs. 11:36
2. *Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God*

*in the place which He shall choose…and they shall not appear before the LORD empty.* Deut. 16:16

1. **God’s Choice of the People [the Jews] to Worship Him**.
2. God’s **S**pecial **C**hoice of the **P**eople – the **J**ews Deut. 7:6-9

*For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee*

*to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*

1. God’s **S**ure **C**urses if they did not obey His **P**recepts – **J**udgment to be meted out. Deut. 28:15

*But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God,*

*to observe to do all His commandments…that all these curses shall come upon thee…*

1. **David and Jerusalem –** Jerusalem was David’s **C**ity.
2. The **C**itadel of "**S**ion" (**J**erusalem) of the **J**ebusites became the "**C**ity of David" II Sam. 5:7 *David took the* ***C****astle of Zion: the same is the* ***C****ity of David*. I Chr. 11:5
3. The **C**ity and **S**olomon  *– Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes the* ***C****hief of the fathers of the* ***C****hildren of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the* ***C****ovenant of the LORD out of the* ***C****ity of David…Zion.*

I Kings 8:1

1. **The Jews and Jerusalem** – **J**erusalem was the **C**oncern of the Jews.
2. **J**erusalem had been **R**azed to the ground by King Nebuchadnezzar’s Army. II Chr. 36:19

*They burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof*

1. By the **R**ivers of Babylon, the **J**ews had **C**ried out when in **C**aptivi**ty**: Psa. 137:1-5

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we* ***R****emembered Zion…*

*For there they that* ***C****arried us away* ***C****aptive required of us a song…*

*How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?*

*If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her* ***C****unning.*

1. Then God **R**aised up King **C**yrus to **R**eign and decree its **R**estoration. Isa. 44:28

*That saith of Cyrus, He is My shepherd, and shall perform all My pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

1. Later Nehemiah **R**ealised then that there was the Opportuni**ty** to **R**eturn to **R**estore Jerusalem. Neh. 1:2

*and I asked them concerning the* ***J****ews …and concerning* ***J****erusalem.*

1. Finally Jerusalem was fully **R**estored – its Temple and its **C**ity Wall.
2. *So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days*. Neh. 6:15
3. *And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar…* Ezra 6:15
4. And there was much Rejoicing in Jerusalem – *And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites,*

*and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy.* Ezra 6:16

1. **Jesus and Jerusalem**.
2. He **P**redicted His coming death in Jerusalem. Mt. 20:17, 18

*Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed…they shall condemn Him to death.*

1. However, Jesus was **P**raised when He rode into Jerusalem. Mt. 21:9-11

*And the multitudes…cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh*

*in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when He was come into Jerusalem…*

1. Jesus then **P**ronounced that the **P**eople having killed the **P**rophets, Jerusalem would now be destroyed. Mt. 23:37, 38

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee…*

*Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.*

1. However after His death and return to heaven, He would **R**eturn to Jerusalem: Zech. 14:4

*And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east…*

*In the meanwhile u*ntil the Lord Returns for us His Church, we shall continue to Remember Him in His death, burial and resurrection in the Breaking of the Bread at the Lord’s Supper. I Cor. 11:26

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come*

*O’er Jerusalem Thou weepest In compassion, dearest Lord,*

*Love divine, of love the deepest, O’er Thine erring Israel poured.* [**An­na B. Hoppe**](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/h/o/p/p/hoppe_abd.htm)

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 764**

1. Zechariah prophesied at a time when the children of Israel had just returned from captivity in Babylon to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago concerning its future. The possibility of these prophecies to be fulfilled can only be seen in our days indicating that the end times are indeed very imminent.

Following are some of his prophecies concerning **Jerusalem**:

* The Lord Confirmed His Sovereign Choice of Jerusalem as His City:

Zech. 2:12 – *And the LORD shall inherit Judah His portion in the holy land,*

*and shall choose Jerusalem again*.

Zech. 8:3 – *Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth.*

* The Lord will bring back the Jews whom He had dispersed to the four corners of the earth for crucifying the Lord Jesus Christ to Jerusalem to renew His covenant with Abraham and Moses that they would be His people –

Zech. 8:8 – *And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.*

* Before they could enjoy the Peace of Jerusalem that He had promised to their fathers, the Jews in Jerusalem would have to go through great persecution and tribulation from the nations around, but they would survive because the Lord would deliver them.

Zech. 12:2, 3 – *Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about…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.*

Zech. 14:2 – *For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken…and half of the city shall go forth into captivity…*

Zech. 12:9 – *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*

* The Lord Jesus Himself personally would then return with His heavenly hosts to destroy these nations amidst natural catastrophes.

Zech. 14:4 – *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…*

Zech. 12:9-10 – *And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him…*.

* Then Peace will return to Jerusalem when Jesus will reign as King over it and its inhabitants.

Zech. 8:22 – *Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.*

Zech. 14:16, 17 – *And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles*…

Are we seeing signs of these things happening in our days now? Will these prophecies be fulfilled even as the earlier ones were in the past? If so are you ready? **REFLECT**

1. However, we who are in the Church, may not see their full fulfilment because we will be raptured to Heaven first when the Lord Himself shall come to meet us in the air to take us back to be with Him in Heaven forevermore. (I Thes. 4:13-17)

Do you believe this? Are you expecting the imminent return of the Lord for you?

What would you do just now to prepare for His coming? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:**

*What happens to the Jews and Jerusalem today prove our Scriptures are true!*