



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

“Preserving the cultural and religious character of Jerusalem”

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PLENARY III

Jerusalem: Holy to the three monotheistic religions

A Jewish perspective on the Holy sites in Jerusalem

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A Jewish Perspective on the Holy Sites in Jerusalem

- 1. Jerusalem – King David's new capital. David chose Jerusalem, and God chose David, reaffirming his choice of Jerusalem, including the initiative of building there a Temple, but postponing it to the times of his son, Salomon.**

2 Samuel 7

1 After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." [...] 4 That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: 5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. 7 Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' 8 "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. 10 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning 11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ; your throne will be established forever.'"

2. Jerusalem read retroactively into earlier mythical times
3. Jewish people's national identity organized throughout the generations around the focus of the return to, and the rebuilding of, the Land of Israel – Jerusalem – Zion – the Temple:

Psalm 137

¹ By the rivers of Babylon—
there we sat down and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.

² On the willows there
we hung up our harps.

³ For there our captors
asked us for songs,
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,
'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!'

⁴ How could we sing the LORD's song
in a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

⁶ Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy.

Daily prayer

And to Jerusalem Your city return in mercy, and dwell therein as You have promised; and rebuild it, soon in our days, as an everlasting edifice. Speedily establish therein the throne of David Your servant. Blessed are You Lord, who rebuilds Jerusalem.

Please God our Lord, take to heart Your people Israel, and turn to their prayers, and renew the sacrificial rituals in Your house, the temple, and accept their sacrifices and their prayers soon and lovingly.



Reuven Masel, Miami, Fl. : Pushke (donation box)

4. **Peace, co-existence, and co-operation in the Holy Basin (including the Temple Mount / Haram el Sharif + Western Wall and the Church of Revival**
5. **Attenuation of the divisive exclusivity of particularistic religious fervor. Inter alia, every one of the three religions has many places of prayer in the Holy Basin, not just one. For example, the Jews have the Western Wall.**

1 Kings 8

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. 23 He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, 24 the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. [...]

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servants who walk before you with all their heart, 24 the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. [...] 27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! 28 Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; 29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. [...] 33 When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you, and when they turn back to you and confess your name, praying and making supplication to you in this temple, 34 then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to their fathers. [...] 41 As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name-- 42 For men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm--when he comes and prays toward this temple, 43 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.