

NCSY Torah
—on One Foot Series

JERUSALEM THE HOLY CITY

ירושלים
עיר הקודש

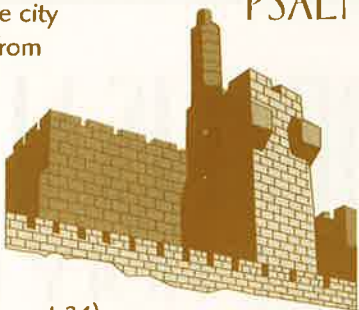


YERUSHALAYIM

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KING DAVID, who composed *Psalms*, conquered the city of Jerusalem from the Jebusites (*II Samuel 5*) and purchased the Temple Mount from Araunah the Jebusite (*II Samuel 24*).

JERUSALEM IN PSALMS



Jerusalem is fittingly a theme throughout Psalms:

- Do good in Your will to Zion; build up the walls of Jerusalem. (51:20)
- The name of G-d will be declared in Zion and His praise in Jerusalem. (102:22)
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: Those who love you will be secure. (122:6)
- As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so, too, Hashem surrounds His people, now and forever. (125:2)
- May Hashem bless you from Zion and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. (128:5)
- Blessed is Hashem from Zion, Who dwells in Jerusalem - Praise Hashem! (135:21)
- If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem above my highest joy. (137:5-6)
- The builder of Jerusalem is G-d; He gathers the exiles of Israel... Extol Hashem, Jerusalem; praise G-d, Zion. (147:2, 12)

In addition to these Psalms, it would be appropriate to pray for the welfare of Jerusalem with Psalm 79, a prayer for the Jewish people and Hashem's glory to be restored to the land of Israel, and Psalm 107, a song of thanks for deliverance from danger, typically recited on Yom Yerushalayim.

SPEAK OUT FOR JERUSALEM!



• The law will go out from Zion, the word of Hashem from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3)

• Herald of Jerusalem, raise up your voice

with strength. Raise it up, do not be afraid!

(Isaiah 40:9)

- For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, until her righteousness shines like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. (Isaiah 62:1)
- I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on Hashem, do not be silent; give Him no silence until He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. (Isaiah 62:6-7)
- Do you not see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? (Jeremiah 7:17)

YERUSHALAYIM (Jerusalem) represents the cradle of Judaism and has always been its most hallowed site. Our relationship to Yerushalayim is one that transcends time, space and other physical constraints, and our attachment to this holy city remains constant in our psyche, spirit and practices, wherever we may be.

- 2006 Orthodox Union Convention
Resolution Regarding Jerusalem

CITY OF DAVID, CITY OF HASHEM

Jerusalem wasn't chosen only by David; it was selected specifically by G-d to be the site of His Presence and His Temple. We see this in many places:

- I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put My Name. *(I Kings 11:36)*
- In this Temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My Name forever. *(II Kings 21:7)*
- David has said, "Hashem, the G-d of Israel, has given rest to His people and has come to dwell in Jerusalem forever." *(I Chronicles 23:25)*

THE JOY OF JERUSALEM

- There was great joy in Jerusalem; since the days of Solomon son of David, King of Israel, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. *(II Chronicles 30:26)*
- At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought from where they lived and brought to Jerusalem to joyfully celebrate the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with cymbals, harps and lyres. *(Nehemiah 12:27)*
- On that day, they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because G-d had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away. *(Nehemiah 12:43)*



IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD

We stand with Jerusalem even when times are tough. Witness these quotes from *Eicha* (*Lamentations*), following the destruction of the First Temple and the exile from Jerusalem:

- In the days of her affliction and wandering, Jerusalem remembers all the treasures that were hers in days of old. *(1:7)*
- Is this the city that was called perfect in beauty, the joy of the whole earth? *(2:15)*
- The kings of the earth did not believe, nor did any of the world's people, that enemies and adversaries could enter the gates of Jerusalem. *(4:12)*

RESTORATION

We are promised that Jerusalem will be reunited and restored to her former glory:

- People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. *(Isaiah 30:19)*
- Be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will recreate Jerusalem as a delight and its people as a joy. *(Isaiah 65:18)*
- In those days and at that time, I will restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem. *(Joel 4:1)*
- Awake, Zion, and clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city. *(Isaiah 52:1)*
- You will know that I, Hashem your G-d, dwell in Zion, My holy mountain. Jerusalem will be holy and never again will foreigners invade her. *(Joel 4:17)*
- Out of Jerusalem will come a remnant and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of Hashem Almighty will accomplish this! *(II Kings 19:31)*

JERUSALEM IN OUR PRAYERS

IN THE DAILY AMIDAH PRAYER:

So important is Jerusalem to the Jewish people that it has its own blessing in the Amidah prayer, three times every weekday. The Amidah was composed by the Men of the Great Assembly (whose members included the likes of Mordechai and Ezra). The Amidah is the main portion of each prayer service. In fact, throughout the Talmud, it is referred to simply as "The Prayer."

Here's what we pray for so fervently:

*Return in mercy to Jerusalem, Your city, and dwell in it as You have said. Rebuild it speedily in our days, as an eternal structure, and establish in it the throne of David.
Blessed are You, Hashem, Who rebuilds Jerusalem.*

We mention Jerusalem in many other places in our prayers.

AT THE END OF EVERY AMIDAH:

We recite a verse from *Malachi* (3:4) that "the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to Hashem as in days gone by and in former years."

IN YAALEH V'YAVOH ON HOLIDAYS:

May there rise... before You our remembrance and consideration, the remembrance of our forefathers, the remembrance of the Messiah... and the remembrance of Jerusalem, Your holy city.



IN BIRKAT HAMAZON:

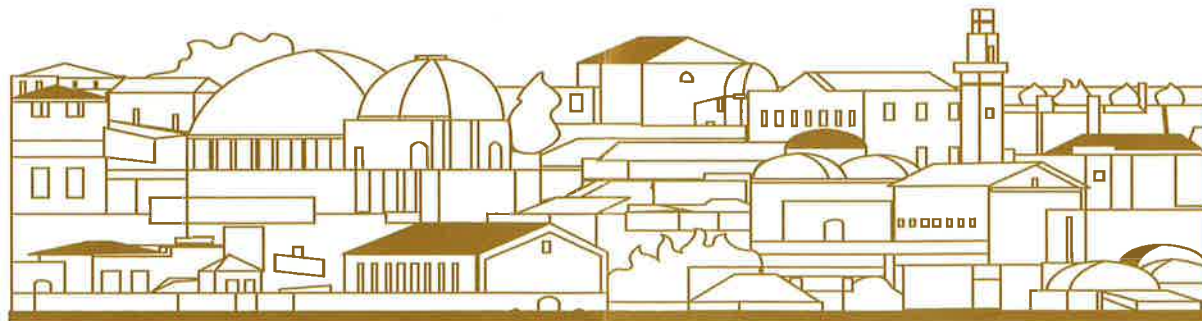
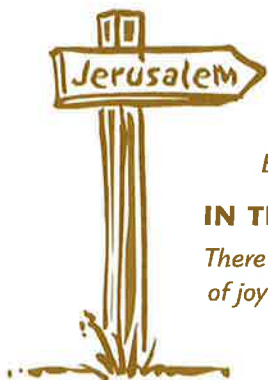
In *Birkat Hamazon* (grace after meals), one of the four blessings is dedicated to Jerusalem:

*May You build up Jerusalem, the holy city, speedily in our lifetimes.
Blessed are you, Hashem, Who in His mercy builds up Jerusalem. Amen.*

IN THE SEVEN BENEDICTIONS AFTER A WEDDING:

There will soon be heard in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem: the sound of joy and the sound gladness, the sound of the groom and the sound of the bride...

AND which way do we face when we pray? Towards Jerusalem! Clearly, in one form or another, Jerusalem should always be in our prayers!



NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!

לשנה הבאה בירושלים!

HIGH PRAISE INDEED!

You are beautiful, my darling, as Tirtzah, as lovely as Jerusalem, majestic as troops with banners.

(Song of Songs 6:4)



For more information on Jerusalem, please visit the OU website, www.ou.org, and see the Torah on One Foot pamphlet "Israel."



Inspiring the Jewish Future

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