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## **Jerusalem, The City of God**

Opening:

1. Discuss what you think of when you think of Jerusalem.
2. Maybe you are reminded that it was the capital of the Kingdom of Israel.
3. Perhaps you recall that the temple was there.
4. Maybe you think of the archaeological site or the modern city with all its hustle and bustle.

Go on-line to [johnabeckauthor.com](http://johnabeckauthor.com). and watch the video: The Holy Land, Episode One: Jerusalem. Click on "The Holy Land" and then open Ep. 1 King David's Jerusalem.

Into the text:

1. Jerusalem was the place where Abraham honored Melchizedek, the priest and king of Salem (Gen. 14:19). This was before the place took on the name "Jerusalem." At that this time it was known as "Salem" (peace; see Heb. 7:2).
2. This was the place where Abraham sacrificed Isaac (Gen. 22:2; 2 Chron. 3:1). The area was then known as "Moriah."
3. During the period of the Judges it was known as Jebus (Judges 1:21; 19:11-12). Canaanites lived there and were called "Jebusites."
4. Jerusalem became the capital city of Israel during the days of King David (2 Sam. 5:1-5). The Israelites captured the city through the water tunnel that supplied water from the Gihon Spring (2 Sam. 5:6-11). Hiram, King of Tyre, a Phoenician, built King David's palace. Jerusalem was also known as "Zion" (2 Sam. 5:7).
5. Jerusalem was the place of the temple, the place that represented God's presence among His people. It symbolized the unique relationship that God had with His specially chosen covenant people.
6. Jerusalem was the place of Christ's death and His resurrection.
7. It was the place Peter preached Jesus as both Lord and Christ (Acts 2). The people crucified Him, but God raised Him up and seated Him at His own right hand. When the people asked, "What shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38). It was by the authority of the King that their sins could be forgiven.

8. But the above is not the full history of Jerusalem.
- a. In Rev. 21:9-10 John was told in a vision that he would be shown “the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” What he saw was “the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven” (Rev. 21:9). Ephesians 5:21-32 describes Christ as the husband and the church (the people of God) as His wife.
  - b. Hebrews 12:22-24 says that the faithful of God have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem . . . the general assembly and the church of the firstborn ones who are enrolled in heaven.
  - c. Thus, the people of God are the heavenly Jerusalem, ruled over by the heavenly King Jesus Christ, who died for them, and ever lives to protect and provide for them.

Return to the video and watch the “Bonus Feature.”  
After you watch this short clip answer the following questions.

Application:

1. Are you part of the heavenly Jerusalem?
2. What would you need to do to have such a special relationship with the heavenly King?
3. What does this relationship mean to you personally?
4. Take a moment to thank God for revealing His great plan through the city of Jerusalem.