

JERUSALEM | CITY OF GOLD

SESSION 5: JERUSALEM SPIRITUALIZED

AN OUTLINE OF OUR JOURNEY

- Session 1: Jerusalem the Eternal Capital
- Session 2: Jerusalem at the time of Jesus
- Session 3: Jerusalem prior to the time of Jesus
- Session 4: Jerusalem in battles of the ages
- Session 5: Jerusalem spiritualized.
- Session 6: The Location of the Temple

JERUSALEM SPIRITUALIZED

A CLASSIC EXAMPLE: JOHN BUNYAN

- In 1628 Bunyan wrote *The Holy City* after receiving a “revelation” about the meaning of New Jerusalem.
- Quotes:
 - Jerusalem, in the language of the Scripture, is to be acknowledged for the church and spouse of the Lord Jesus.
 - *This city is the gospel church returning out of antichristian captivity.*
 - The church in captivity is called a woman...in fellowship is called a city. Wherefore this city is nothing else but the church returned out of captivity from under the reign of antichrist
 - Ver. 11. ‘Having the glory of God.’ These last words do put the whole matter out of doubt, and do most clearly show unto us that the descending of this city is the perfect return of the church out of captivity; the church, when she began at first to go into captivity, her glory began to depart from her; and now she is returning again, she receiveth therewith her former glory, ‘having the glory of God.’ Thus it was in the type, when Jerusalem went into captivity under the King of Babylon, which was a figure of the captivity of our New Testament church under Antichrist, it is said that then the glory of God departed from them, and went, by degrees, first out of the temple to the threshold of the house, and from thence with the cherubims of glory, for that time, quite away from the city (Eze 10:4–18; 11:22, 23 &c.).

JERUSALEM SPIRITUALIZED IN HYMNS

- Jerusalem, by William Blake

And did those feet in ancient time,
Walk upon England's mountains green:
And was the holy Lamb of God,
On Englands pleasant pastures seen!

And did the Countenance Divine,
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here,
Among these dark Satanic Mills?

Bring me my Bow of burning gold;
Bring me my Arrows of desire:
Bring me my Spear: O clouds unfold!
Bring me my Chariot of fire!

I will not cease from Mental Fight,
Nor shall my Sword sleep in my hand:
Till we have built Jerusalem,
In England's green & pleasant Land.

- We're Marching to Zion

The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We're marching through Immanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high.

THE ORIGIN OF ALLEGORY¹

- Origin (184-253) is often attributed as the beginning of the allegorical method of Biblical interpretation, but he really just popularized the method.
- Where did Origin learn the allegorical method?
 - Greek philosophy, especially the Stoics.
 - Origin began his ministry in Alexandria, a major center for Greek philosophy.
 - The Stoics used allegory to bypass issues with their own writings.
 - Gnosticism – because Origin was opposed to Gnosticism, he determined that the passages which gave Gnostics problems should be taken allegorically rather than literally.
 - Montanism (an over sensualization of the Kingdom) – like Gnosticism, Origin's response was to allegorize the physical.

IS THE ALLEGORIZATION OF JERUSALEM A PROBLEM?

- It allowed Christians to deny Jewish claims on the city.
- It marginalizes the physical realities of the city.
- It becomes dismissive of future prophecies of the city.

¹ "The Hermeneutical Method Of Origen: The Influences Upon Him And The View Of Inspiration He Developed," *Journal of Dispensational Theology Volume 14* 14, no. 43 (2010)