ISRAELU

LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES:

SEEING ISRAEL THROUGH THE FATHER'S EYES

COURSE STUDY GUIDE

COURSE ONE | LESSON SIX




PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM:
“MAY THEY BE SECURE
WHO LOVE YOU!”
PSALM 122:5
ISRAELU

Welcome to Lesson Six, *Jerusalem, Jerusalem: The City Of The Great King*

In this lesson, we'll explore the complex realities of the spiritual battle and future hope of Jerusalem, the city where Jesus purchased our peace.

JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM: THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING

IN ESSENCE

Jerusalem, whose name means *foundation of peace*, is the place where our peace was purchased by the blood of Jesus. It is the place of God's habitation, His desire, the place where His name is written, and upon which are His heart and eyes. It will be the place of Jesus's throne when He returns to reign as King. Until that day, a spiritual battle rages over this city. Jerusalem is like a threshing floor, a place of sifting and separation. God has chosen it for Himself and Satan leads a rebellion against it challenging God's authority.

We are invited to partner with God's redemptive plan for this city and its people, to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and declare God's eternal purposes to see His will accomplished - on earth as it is in heaven.

GETTING STARTED

Group leader, read the In Essence *summary as you begin your time together. This will help set up the direction for this lesson.*

As you open the group time, give everyone an opportunity to answer this question.

- Where is "home" to you and why is that place significant?

The psalmist recorded that Zion, or Jerusalem, is God's desired place of habitation, His resting place forever. What makes Jerusalem significant to God? Should it also be a place of importance to us as well? Let's find out what the Bible has to say about Jerusalem in this week's lesson.

LESSON SIX VIDEO

Group leader, stream the video teaching.

As you watch the video teaching, use the following prompts and space provided to record anything that stands out to you.

1. **"Jerusalem" means *foundation of peace*.**

2. **Jerusalem is at the center of God's heart. Why?**

3. **When Jesus returns, Jerusalem will again be like a threshing floor, a place of separation, where the righteous and unrighteous will be separated.**

4. **Satan was determined to have God's place, His throne of authority, and the worship that belongs to God alone.**

5. **Satan wants what he has always wanted: place and worship. He wants these in the spiritual realm, on earth, and in our lives.**

6. **Satan has continually sought to occupy, corrupt, and destroy the city God calls His own.**

7. **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**



GOD HAS CALLED US TO PARTNER WITH HIM IN HIS ETERNAL PURPOSES.

THE LORD WAS MOVED BY PRAYER FOR THE LAND.

2 SAMUEL 24:25

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Group Leader, read aloud the questions and prompts below and lead the discussion.

1. In the Old Testament, names are significant in identifying character and purpose. *Jerusalem* means *foundation of peace*. From your perspective, how does Jerusalem's modern context align with its name?

2. Moses wrote Deuteronomy as Israel prepared to cross into the Promised Land. What instruction did God give Israel in Deuteronomy 12:10-14? Watch for the words "the place" and "there."

Be sure to note who chose the place and what it was chosen for (v.11).

Could Israel fulfill their sacrificial requirements anywhere they wanted?

3. God chose Jerusalem as the place for His name to dwell (2 Chronicles 6:6). According to Isaiah 18:7, what name of God is identified as being connected to Mt. Zion, which is Jerusalem.

Note: This name means the Lord of the Armies, or the heavenly hosts. It's a name for times of conflict and warfare.

4. According to 2 Chronicles 3:1, where did Solomon build the Temple and what was the site used for before King David purchased it?

According to 2 Chronicles 7:12, for what purpose did God choose that place?

According to Isaiah 24:23, what future purpose will it have?

5. Discuss within your group why it's significant that the place of God's choice for His name, the place of Jesus's sacrifice and one day throne – was a threshing floor. What does it speak to us of?

6. Although Jesus is the exact representation of the Father, when He ministered on earth there was a partial hiding of His identity. Read Matthew 13:10-15 and discuss why Jesus taught in parables to the larger crowds.

Note: In scripture, threshing floors were places of separation, where a price was paid, a place of decision (Gideon), where Ruth met Boaz, where the harvest is gathered, where the Philistines attacked to steal the harvest…

6. Where does the Holy Spirit dwell today, according to 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19-20?

7. Using spiritual imagery, are our lives in a sense a threshing floor? Are there areas within our hearts and minds that are places of separation and decision, where a price must be paid? How so?

8. Michael said that Satan wants "the place" and "the worship" in natural Jerusalem and in our lives. Can you identify where the enemy is most at work to steal what God has established in you? How about in the culture you live in?

9. The name of God connected to Jerusalem is the Lord of Hosts – the Lord of the Armies. Why is this significant and how can this name of God impact your circumstances today?

CONCLUSION

Jerusalem is like no other city on earth. Even as the Jewish people have been chosen, God chose Jerusalem as the place of His ultimate sacrifice and future throne. It's His city for His purposes. Satan desires every "place" and sound of worship that belongs to God – whether in heaven, on the earth, or in our lives. It's a spiritual battle, and the Lord of Hosts will have His way. The gospel will go forth from Jerusalem, reach every person before Jesus returns to Jerusalem as king.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you. You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you close your time together, see if anyone within your group has a need for prayer, and take a few minutes to cover those.

Identify the significant spiritual battles group members are facing and stand with one another in prayer to see the enemy defeated and the Lord magnified.

Pray for physical and spiritual peace of Jerusalem – protection for the people and city, and for Israel to know the Prince of Peac



WHO MAY ASCEND THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD? WHO MAY STAND IN HIS HOLY PLACE? THE ONE WHO HAS CLEAN HANDS AND A PURE HEART...

PSALM 24:3-4

PERSONAL STUDY FOR BETWEEN SESSIONS

This section is designed for your personal study to help you dig deeper into some of the themes from the teaching and discussion.

DAY ONE

MOUNT MORIAH — CHOSEN BY GOD

The land of Israel is arguably the most contested real estate in the world. Let's drill down. Within Israel, the city of Jerusalem has endured centuries of dispute. Within Jerusalem, the piece of real estate bearing more struggle than any other place is the Temple Mount.

The Temple Mount is considered holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, but for different reasons.

Why the uproar over that "place" and the worship that ascends from there? What does the Bible have to say about the location of the Jewish Temple?

> *Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.* **2 Chronicles 3:3**

The word Moriah (מֹרִיָּה) in Hebrew means chosen by God. Chosen! Chosen for what? Like the Jewish people and like Jerusalem, Mount Moriah was chosen by God for a specific reason and purpose.

The first mention of Mount Moriah is in Genesis 22 when God tested Abraham. Let's discover why God chose Mount Moriah for Himself.

1. **Read Genesis 22:1-14 and answer the following questions.**

- **(v. 2) How is Isaac described and what was the instruction God gave Abraham?**

- **(v.8) What did Abraham believe about the sacrifice?**

- **(v.10) What was Abraham's posture and what did he have in his hand?**

- **(v.11) Who spoke to Abraham?**
  Note: Most scholars agree this figure is the preincarnate Jesus.

Moriah (מֹרִיָּה) in Hebrew means chosen by God.

He called the place "The Lord Will Provide."

- **(v.14) What did Abraham name that place, the chosen mountain in Moriah?**

It's in Genesis 22 that the words love, obey, and worship are first mentioned in the Bible. Sacrifice is the context for these monumental Biblical themes.

2. **How are the themes of love, obedience, and worship displayed here through Abraham and Isaac's actions?**

3. **God had provided many times for Abraham over the years, but never at a more significant moment than with the ram. What do you imagine went through Abraham's mind?**

The Genesis 22 account is a foreshadow of another Father, greater than Abraham, God the Father, who would not withhold His only Son, but offer Him on Mount Moriah. Let's look, now, at the other significant event that took place at the same location.

In 2 Chronicles 3:3 (above) we learn Mount Moriah was also the place where the Lord appeared to David at the threshing floor. It's in this biblical scene that the reason for the sacrifice of God's Son is foreshadowed.

The context of this story is that Satan moved King David to call for a census within Israel. This was not to be done; David committed a great sin against the Lord.

4. **Read 1 Chronicles 21:7-18, 22-27 and answer the following questions.**

- **(v. 14) What did God send upon Israel and what was the cost in lives?**
- **(v.16) What posture did the angel of the Lord (the preincarnate Jesus) have and what was in his hand?** How does this compare to Abraham in Gen. 22:10?
- **(vv. 18, 22) What did David build on the threshing floor and why?**
- **(v.24) What was David willing to pay and why?**

- **(v.26) Where did the fire (a picture of judgment) come from to consume the burnt offering?**

5. **Read 1 Chronicles 22:1. What did David call that place and what would it be used for?**

6. **The plague was stopped because of David's sacrifice at the threshing floor.** According to Hebrews 10:10-12, 14 what plague is stopped because of Jesus's sacrifice?

REFLECTION

Sin must be punished. Sin had unsheathed the sword and without a sin-offering there was no sheathing it again. "It is enough" the Lord said in 1 Chronicles 21; "It is finished" Jesus said from the cross.

"In the mount of the Lord, it will be provided," Abraham prophesied.

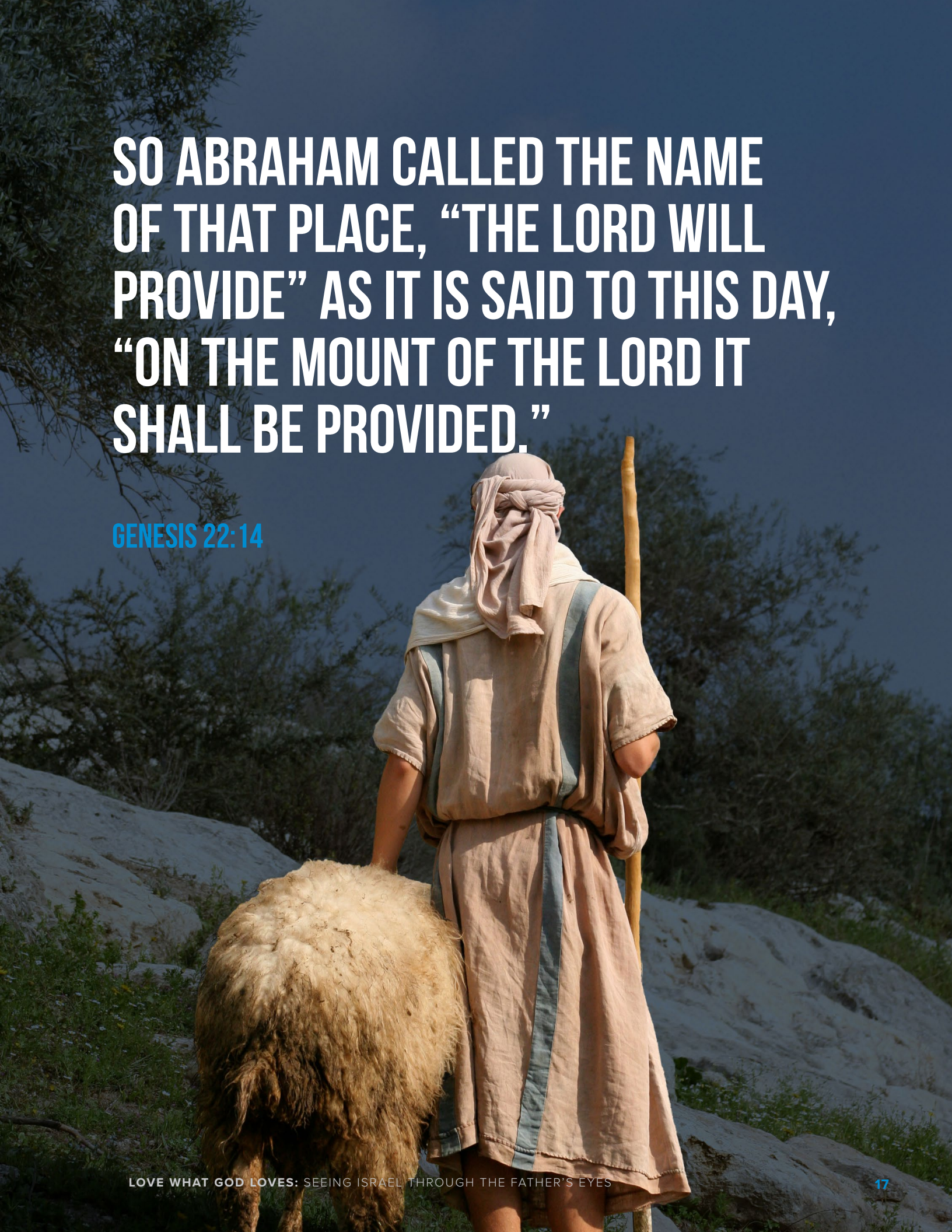
7. **Is there a sin that entangles you today? If so, what is it? Paul wrote "and do not give the devil an opportunity" in Ephesians 4:27. The word for "opportunity" is place.**

Upon Jesus alone the fire of judgment fell. If you belong to Him, the power of sin has been broken from your life. How can this truth free you from condemnation?

Do you see, friend, why the Temple Mount in Jerusalem today is steeped in a spiritual battle? No wonder Satan wants to rewrite the story in that place and confiscate the worship. The Lord has summoned believers to stand with Him and pray for Jerusalem's peace until the day that Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth. Will you pray?

FURTHER STUDY

If you'd like more on the Biblical site of Mount Moriah, scan this QR code, or click on this link for an article written by Doug Hershey, titled "What is the Temple Mount and Why is it Important?"



SO ABRAHAM CALLED THE NAME OF THAT PLACE, "THE LORD WILL PROVIDE" AS IT IS SAID TO THIS DAY, "ON THE MOUNT OF THE LORD IT SHALL BE PROVIDED."

GENESIS 22:14

DAY TWO

NO GREATER LOVE

The first mention of love in the Bible is in Genesis 22:2 in the context of Abraham, a loving father, who would not withhold his only son as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah. Here, the grand biblical themes of love and sacrifice are joined, and the two remain connected throughout the entirety of Scripture.

A line from an old, Italian poem states: *Love's strength lies in love's sacrifice.*

1. **What did Jesus declare in John 15:13?**

2. **Other than Jesus's love for you, whose sacrificial love has had the greatest impact on your life?** How has it affected you?

3. **According to Romans 5:7-8, at what point in our lives did Jesus willingly die for us?**

How hard or easy is it for you to accept that God loves you unconditionally, even before you loved Him?

Are there hindrances to your believing it? If so, what? Ask the Holy Spirit to meet you in the place of doubt or unbelief, to heal the wound there, and to bring you to the place of being able to fully receive His love.

The apostle John wrote about love and love's sacrifice more than any other biblical author.

Look up the following verses and write out what you see about love and love's sacrifice.

- **John 3:16** (note who the focus of God's love is)

- **John 10:17-18** (Jesus speaking)

- **John 13:1, 34**

- **John 4:9-11**

- **Ephesians 5:1-2**

REFLECTION

When did the apostle John receive the revelation that love's greatest expression is found in sacrifice?

On the night of Jesus's arrest, Peter and "another disciple" followed Jesus and entered the high priest's courtyard where Jesus was falsely accused and beaten. Scholars believe John was referring to himself as the other disciple. (John 18:15-16)

Later, John stood nearby the cross at Jesus's crucifixion. Despite a viciously beaten and likely swollen face, Jesus spoke to John and entrusted His mother into John's care. No doubt, John held a trembling, grieving Mary as she looked upon her beloved Son whose appearance had been marred more than any other man's - tortured beyond recognition (Isaiah 52:14).

"It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. (John 19:30)

To expedite matters, the Roman soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves crucified next to the Lord. When they came to Jesus, though, He was already dead. Water and blood gushed from His side as the spear was thrust into his chest cavity. He paid the ultimate price to stop sin's plague of death directed at us.

John added this profound statement in John 19:35.

> *And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.*

In essence, John said this: I didn't run away with the others, but I've seen with my own eyes the gore and suffering, I see the price of our sin - *my sin. I see the cost of my sin upon Him! My soul is pierced.* I'm telling the truth, there has never been a greater sacrifice of love than this. He is the Son of God, our Messiah. I believe, will you?!

Five times in John's gospel he referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." He's known through history as "John the Beloved," yet not once do we read of Jesus calling him this. No. It was a personal revelation as John saw the sacrifice and he was never the same. Jesus's sacrificial love shaped John's identity.

5. **In what ways can unconditional, sacrificial love change how we see ourselves?** Has Jesus's love transformed your identity, your view of yourself? If so, how so?

Love's strength lies in love's sacrifice. You are so loved! There's no greater love than this.

FURTHER STUDY

If you'd like more on the Hebrew word for love in the Bible, scan this QR code, or click on this link for an article written by Estera Wieja, titled "Hebrew Word for Love: 4 Biblical & Modern Words to Know."



BY THIS WE KNOW LOVE, THAT HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US...

1 JOHN 3:16

DAY THREE

JERUSALEM WILL BE A PRAISE IN THE EARTH

Michael closed the teaching this week by quoting the Isaiah 62 call to prayer for Zion's sake, for Jerusalem.

> *For Zion's sake I will not keep silent and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet,* ***until*** *her righteousness goes forth like brightness and her salvation like a torch that is burning…You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest* ***until*** *He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.* **Isaiah 62:1, 6-7** (emphasis added)

There are two time-identifiers in these verses, both starting with the word "until." Pray like crazy – *until.*

- Until Jerusalem's righteousness and salvation shine brightly.
- Until God establishes her as a praise in the earth.

In other words, there is coming a day when Jerusalem's battles will be over, her inhabitants will all know the Lord, and the world will unanimously erupt in praise at what God has accomplished on Jerusalem's behalf.

Because God has chosen Jerusalem and Mount Moriah as the place for His name, the place of His habitation forever, the place of highest sacrifice, victory, and expression of love - Satan has thrown his entire arsenal at it. Jerusalem has been attacked 52 times, captured and recaptured 44 times, besieged 23 times, and destroyed 2 times… oh, Jerusalem, the saints have been summoned to never be silent until your day of restoration.

When will that be? What will be the setting?

Let's take a cursory look at Jerusalem's future restoration and high calling. There are many perspectives and details surrounding end times events and we won't get deep into all that (although it's interesting!), but we can identify general details. As we conclude our lesson about Jerusalem, let's close it by seeing her in her beauty.

1. **Look up these verses and write out what you learn about Jerusalem/Zion and the people.**

   - **Micah 4:11-12 speaks of the time prior to Jerusalem's full victory.** Note what posture the nations take.

   - **Matthew 23:37-39; Hosea 5:15:** What will happen before Jesus's return?

   - **Psalm 2:1-6**

   - **Zephaniah 3:14-17, 20**

   - **Jeremiah 32:37-42**

   - **Isaiah 2:1-4**

   - **Isaiah 24:23; 25:6-10a**

REFLECTION

2. **What stands out to you about the Lord as you consider the truths in the verses above?**

3. **Is there an attribute about Him that you see present in His dealings with Jerusalem, the city and the people, that you need in your life today?** What is it? Take some time to pray about that.

In Day One, we saw in 1 Chronicles 21:15 when the judgment of pestilence was about to wipe out Jerusalem altogether, the Lord spoke, **"It is enough."**

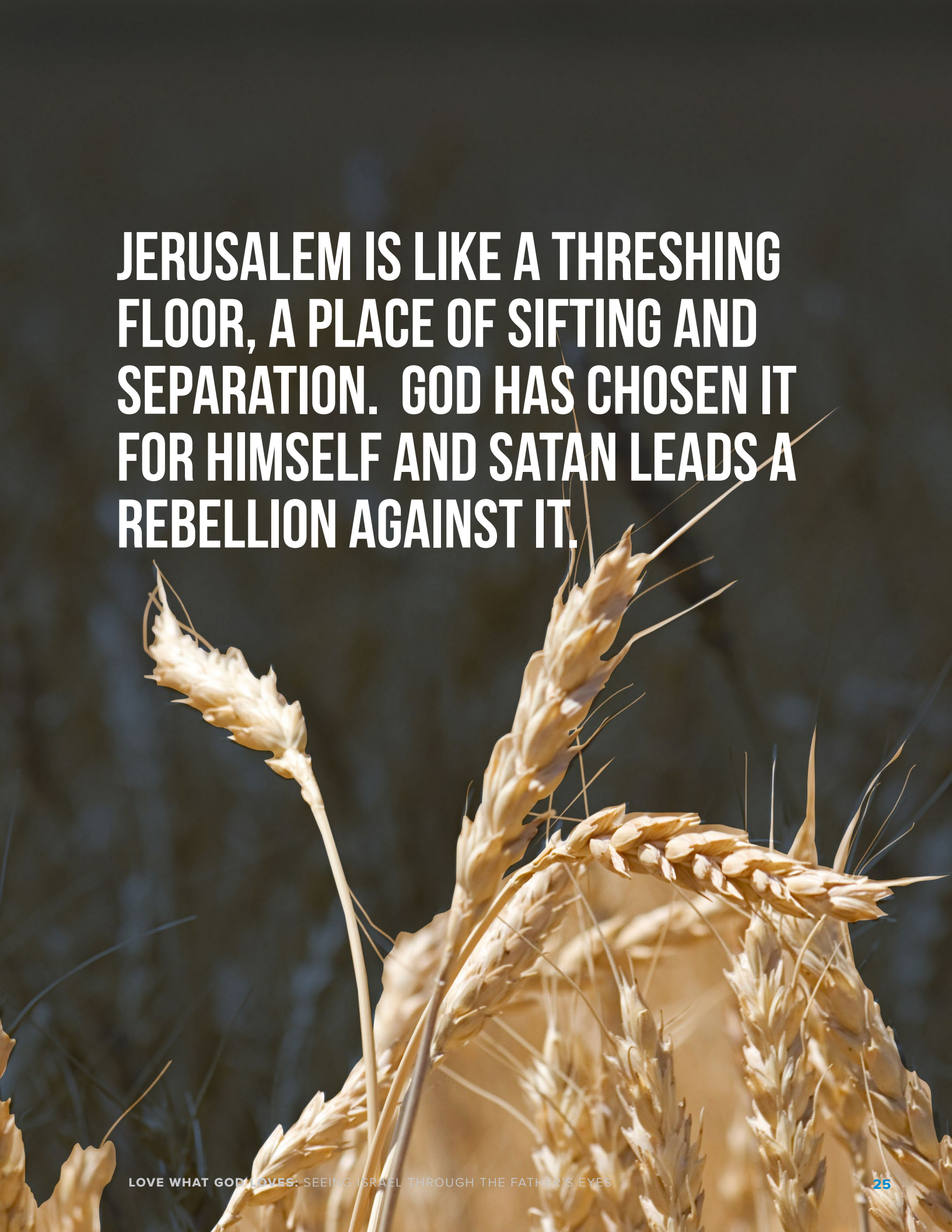
In Day Two, in John 19, from the cross that resulted in our salvation, Jesus said, **"It is finished!"**

Today, as we consider the future of Jerusalem, we read these words from Jesus in Revelation 21:6, **"It is done."**

The One who will sit on the throne in Jerusalem is making all things new – these words are faithful and true.

Be encouraged, today, no matter your circumstances. God is faithful and able! His heart is for you. Even as the Lord of Hosts is bringing Jerusalem to her expected end, her prophesied completeness, He will bring you through to yours!

> *How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion! Passing through the valley of Baca (weeping) they make it a spring...they go from strength to strength.* **Psalm 84:5-7**


JERUSALEM IS LIKE A THRESHING FLOOR, A PLACE OF SIFTING AND SEPARATION. GOD HAS CHOSEN IT FOR HIMSELF AND SATAN LEADS A REBELLION AGAINST IT.

Read the *In Essence* lesson summary provided at the beginning of Lesson Six. As you have considered this topic Jerusalem, Jerusalem, have there been further questions come to your mind, or perhaps poignant moments when some dots were connected for you? If so, write them out.

FURTHER STUDY

If you'd like more on how you can effectively pray for Jerusalem, scan this QR code, or click on this link for an article written by Dr. Wayne Hilsden, titled "How to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem."

ISRAEL IS GOD'S CHOSEN VESSEL, ENTRUSTED WITH A UNIQUE PURPOSE THAT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH CONNECTING US TO GOD.

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