

FOUNDATIONS : Places and Moments: God's Plan Study 5 *"Did you not hear long ago how I made it, from ancient times that I formed it? Now I have made it happen! In Me, you should be for crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins."* 2 Kings, 19: 25; Isa. 37: 26

Jerusalem 'City of David', 'Zion'	The Physical and The Spiritual The 'Present' and The 'Future'
<p>David transformed Jerusalem into the religious center of his growing kingdom by bringing into it the Ark of God. [2 Sam 6: 1 – 19] <i>"For the Lord declares, "I have placed My chosen king on the throne in Zion, on My holy mountain."</i> Ps. 2: 6 <i>[Solomon, David's son, completed the 'religious center of Jerusalem by building the Temple.]</i></p> <p>Around 400 years after the death of David, Jeremiah writes from Babylon. The physical Jerusalem is wrecked, the surviving population largely enslaved and taken away in captivity. They had turned their back on God as a people. <i>"See how the precious children of Zion, Jerusalem, worth their weight in fine gold, are now treated like pots of clay made by a common potter."</i> Lam . 4: 2</p>	<p>¹¹Sing praises to the LORD, you who dwell in Zion! ¹²Declare His deeds among the people. When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble. ¹³Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the 'gates of death', That I may tell of all Your praise in the 'gates of the daughter of Zion', 'the New Jerusalem'. <i>[the contrast between the 'gates of death' and the 'gates of the New Jerusalem' is stark! David sees the fortress city Zion, Jerusalem, and the spiritual center of God's People. God is the center. The future 'New Jerusalem' is 'just out of sight'.]</i> I will rejoice in Your salvation." Ps. 9: 11 – 14</p>
<p>⁹Next, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and set Him on the highest point of the Temple and tempted Him there, saying, <i>"If you really are the Son of God, jump down in front of all the people. ¹⁰For it is written in the Scriptures, 'God has given His angels instructions to protect You from harm. ¹¹For the hands of angels will hold You up and keep You from hurting even one foot on a stone.'</i>" <i>[Satan quotes Ps. 91:11 - 12 to Jesus, but mis-applies it, deliberately; Satan is a liar!]</i> ¹²Jesus replied, <i>"It is also written in the Scriptures, 'How dare you provoke the Lord your God!'"</i> [Jesus quotes Deut. 6: 16 in response] ¹³That finished the devil's harassment for the time being. So he stood off at a distance, retreating until the time came to return and tempt Jesus again." Luke 4: 9 – 13</p>	<p><i>[Jerusalem and the Temple symbolized the covenant between God and His people. The covenant relationship was disordered by sin and rebellion.]</i> ⁴¹When Jesus caught sight of Jerusalem, He burst into tears with uncontrollable weeping over the city, ⁴²saying, <i>"If only you could recognize that this day peace is within your reach! But you cannot see it. ⁴³For the day is soon coming when your enemies will surround you, pressing you in on every side, and laying siege to you. ⁴⁴They will crush you to pieces, and your children too! And when they leave, your city will be totally destroyed. Since you would not recognize God's day of visitation, your day of devastation is coming!"</i> Luke 19: 41 – 44 <i>[Jesus saw the result of wanton sin; physical and spiritual decimation of physical 'Jerusalem'.]</i></p>
<p>⁴⁴Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. ⁴⁵Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the Temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, <i>"Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'"</i> Having said this, He breathed His last." Luke 23: 44 – 46</p>	<p>³⁷And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and He breathed His last. ³⁸Then the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, <i>"Truly this Man was the Son of God!"</i> Mark 15: 37 – 39</p>

FOUNDATIONS : Places and Moments: God's Plan Study 5 *"Did you not hear long ago how I made it, from ancient times that I formed it? Now I have made it happen! In Me, you should be for crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins." 2 Kings, 19: 25; Isa. 37: 26*

<p>[In Jerusalem, God gave Paul his commission to preach to the Gentiles, the non-Jews.]</p> <p>⁷ "Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the Temple, that I was in a trance ¹⁸ and saw Him saying to me, 'Get up and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' ¹⁹ So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. ²⁰ And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' ²¹ Then He said to me, 'Go now! For I will send you far from here to the non-Jews, the Gentiles.'" Acts 22: 17 – 21</p>	<p>"When Jesus was eating with them, He told them not to leave Jerusalem. Jesus said, "Wait here to receive the promise [the Holy Spirit] from the Father which I told you about." Acts 1: 4</p> <p>¹ "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place in Jerusalem. ² Suddenly a noise like a strong, blowing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw something like flames of fire that were separated and stood over each person there. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages by the power the Holy Spirit was giving them." Acts 2: 1 – 4</p> <p>Peter preaches the Gospel, the Good News, for the first time! ⁴⁴ "about three thousand people were added to the number of believers that day...⁴⁶ the believers met in the Temple every day." Acts 2: 14 - 47</p>
---	---

David won the battle against the Jebusites who were hiding behind the city strong walls, taking 'fortress Zion, Jerusalem, for his own. David would then make it the capital of his Kingdom. David would center Israel's focus on **God in Jerusalem**, the "City of David". David would bring the Ark back into the life of God's People by giving it visibility and honor. David wanted to be a God led and God focused leader for God's People.

⁶ Then David again gathered all the elite troops in Israel, 30,000 in all. ² He led them to Baale Judah, to bring back the Ark of God, which bears the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies, He who is enthroned between the cherubim.

FACTOID: God commanded Moses to build the Ark over 400 years before David's time. The Ark was a wood box covered in gold sheet, with an ornate gold lid known as the "mercy seat"; with inward facing gold Cherubim. Inside the box rested the tablets of God's Ten Commandments. God gave explicit instruction on WHO was to carry the box, HOW it was to be carried and WHO could touch it. David retrieved the Ark from Abinadab's home. It had 'rested' there for 70 years since its return from the land of the Philistines (1 Sam. 7: 1). David's motive to bring the Ark into prominence again with God's People was to emphasize the presence and glory of God in Israel, in the "City of David".

³ They placed the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it from Abinadab's house, which was on a hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons, were guiding the cart ⁴ that carried the Ark of God. Ahio walked in front of the Ark. ⁵ David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals.

⁶ But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand and steadied the Ark of God. ⁷ Then the LORD's anger was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him dead because of this. So Uzzah died right there beside the Ark of God.

FOUNDATIONS : Places and Moments: God's Plan Study 5 *"Did you not hear long ago how I made it, from ancient times that I formed it? Now I have made it happen! In Me, you should be for crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins."* 2 Kings, 19: 25; Isa. 37: 26

*[Uzzah saw **the Ark** as just another valuable religious relic. He did not respect **God's command**; "they shall not touch any holy thing OR they will surely die!" Num. 4: 15.]*

⁸ David was immediately angry and confused because **the LORD's anger** had burst out against Uzzah. He named that place Perez-uzzah (which means "to burst out against Uzzah"), as it is still called today.

⁹ David was now afraid of **the LORD**, and he asked, "How can I ever bring **the Ark of the LORD** back into my care?"

¹⁰ So David decided not to move **the Ark of the LORD** into the "City of David". Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-edom of Gath. ¹¹ **The Ark of the LORD** remained there in Obed-edom's house for **three months**, and **the LORD blessed** Obed-edom and his entire household.

*[David did this in obedience to **God's word**; Obed-Edom was a Levite of the family of Koath. This family was in the tribe of Levi that **God commanded** to transport and take care of the Ark. 1 Chron. 26: 4; Num. 4: 15.]*

*[David later explained to the priests why **God struck** out against them in their first attempt to bring **the Ark** to Jerusalem; "... because you did not do it the first time, **the LORD our God** broke out against us, because **we did not consult Him** about the proper order." 1 Chron. 15:11 - 15.]*

¹² Then King David was told, "**The LORD has blessed** Obed-edom's household and everything he has because of **the Ark of God**." So David went there and brought **the Ark of God** from the house of Obed-edom to the "City of David" with a great celebration. ¹³ After the men who were carrying **the Ark of the LORD** had gone six steps, David sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴ And David danced before **the LORD** with all his might, wearing a priestly garment.

*[David danced extravagantly as his own expression of worship; not through some personal of kingly obligation. He truly **worshipped God**. David understood **God's expectation** and was fully committed to bring **the Ark of the LORD** into **Jerusalem** according to **God's word**. Setting aside his kingly robes, he was dressed like the priests and Levites in the procession into Jerusalem; a line of singing, dancing, worship and celebration as **the Ark of the LORD** and **Jerusalem** came together.]*

¹⁵ So David and all the people of Israel brought up **the Ark of the LORD** with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns.

¹⁶ But as **the Ark of the LORD** entered the "City of David", Michal, his wife and the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before **the LORD**, she was filled with contempt for him.

¹⁷ They brought the **Ark of the LORD** and set it in its place inside the special tent David had prepared for it. And David sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings to **the LORD**. ¹⁸ When he had finished his sacrifices, David blessed the people in the name of **the LORD of Heaven's Armies**. ¹⁹ Then he gave to every Israelite man and woman in the crowd a loaf of bread, a cake of dates, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people returned to their homes.

²⁰ When David returned home to bless his own family, Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet him. She said in disgust, "How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!"

²¹ David replied sharply to Michal, "I was dancing before **the LORD, He who chose me** above your father and all his family! **He appointed me** as the leader of Israel, **the People of the LORD**, so I celebrate before **the LORD**. I danced **for God**, not for you. ²² Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes! But those servant girls you mentioned will indeed think I am distinguished!"

²³ So Michal, the daughter of Saul, remained childless throughout her entire life." 2 Sam. 6: 1 - 23

FOUNDATIONS : Places and Moments: God's Plan Study 5 *“Did you not hear long ago **how I made it**, from ancient times that **I formed it**? Now **I have made it happen!** **In Me**, you should be for crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins.” 2 Kings, 19: 25; Isa. 37: 26*