

# He Wept Over Jerusalem

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“And when He (Jesus) had come near, **seeing the city (Jerusalem), He wept over it**, saying, 'If (if-only) YOU (the city and by implication the Jewish religious rulers of the people) had known, even you, in this day, the things moving-towards peace (towards peace with God)! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you, when your enemies shall build a barricade about you, and surround you, and keep you in on every side, and shall level you even with the ground, and your children within you; and they shall not leave in you one stone upon another; because you did not know the time of your **visitation** (i.e. the first coming of Jesus as their Christ-Messiah and Savior from sin). And He went into the Temple, **and began to cast out those who sold therein, and those who bought**; saying unto them, 'It is written, **My House is the House of prayer**; but **you have made it a den of thieves**.' And He **taught daily in the Temple**. But the chief priests and the scribes and the leaders of the people **sought to destroy Him**, but could not find what they might do; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him." ([Luke 19:41-48](#))

**Seeing:** from the Greek word **idon** a verb which means: seeing, beholding; in context: as Jesus beholds the Holy City, He is reminded that this is the Father's chosen Holy City, and its people, and that in the near future it will be violently destroyed by the Roman Empire (it happened in 70AD); Why? Because the Holy City of God rejected Jesus – God's promised Messiah! And the City had profaned the Holy Temple by making it a den of thieving merchants; and it was full of blind teachers leading their blind disciples into the pit!

**City:** from the Greek word **polin** which means: a city; in context: the Holy City of God - Jerusalem; the city chosen by God as the location for the Temple of God; and the place chosen as the central place of worship and sacrifice for God's chosen people Israel. The City of David, the Capital City of the Nation Israel.

**Wept:** from the Greek word **eklausen** a verb which means: to weep, sobbing; properly, to weep aloud, expressing uncontainable audible grief, compassion, relief, etc. In context: for Jesus, profound grief; and perhaps great compassion also.

This is the only instance that mentions Jesus weeping over the city of Jerusalem. However, there were more than a few current, and yet to come situations that moved Jesus to grief felt weeping. Please consider the following:

“Then there came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, **who were from Jerusalem**, saying, 'Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.' But He answered and said unto them, 'Why do you also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and mother: and, He that curses father or mother, let him die the death.' But you say, 'Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou might be profited by me; And honor not his father or his mother, he shall be free.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. You hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 'This people draws near unto Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.' And He called the multitude, and said unto them, 'Hear, and understand; not that which goes into the mouth defiles a man; but that which comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.' Then His disciples came, and said unto Him, 'Do You Know that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?' But He answered and said, 'Every plant, which My heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone; **they are blind leaders of the blind**. And if the blind lead the blind, **both shall fall into the pit**.'" ([Matthew 15:1-14](#))

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After weeping over Jerusalem, Jesus entered Jerusalem, and upon entering the Temple He cast out the thieving merchants; and later, from the same grieving heart that moved Jesus to weeping, the same grieving heart bore forth this tense exchange with those who rejected Him as the Father's chosen Savior Messiah:

"... You blind guides, who strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. **You blind Pharisee,** cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, so that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you are like whitewashed tombs, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** Because you build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the tombs of the righteous, and say, 'If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' Therefore, you are witnesses unto yourselves, that you are the children of those who killed the prophets. Fill you up then the measure of your fathers. **You serpents,** you **generation of vipers,** how can you escape the damnation of hell? Therefore, behold, I will send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes; and some of them you shall kill and crucify; and some of them you shall scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city; so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zachariah son of Barachias, whom **you (the nation)** slew between the Temple and the Altar. Truly I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who killed the prophets, and stoned those who are sent unto you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you would not (allow it to happen)! **Behold, your House is (to be) left unto you desolate.**" (see [Matthew 23:23-39](#))

These harsh, but just words spoken by Jesus, reaffirms the prophetic words of God spoken to King Solomon, King David's son, when Solomon finished building the First Temple of God in Jerusalem. Please consider the Following:

"And the LORD said unto him, 'I have heard your prayer and your supplication, that you have made before Me. I have sanctified (or consecrated) this House (the first Temple), which you have built, to put My Name there forever; and My eyes and My heart shall be there perpetually. And if you will walk before Me, as David your father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep My statutes and My judgments; then I will establish the throne of your kingdom upon Israel forever, as I promised to David your father, saying, 'There shall not fail you a man upon the throne of Israel.' **But** if you shall at all turn from following Me, you or your children, and will not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them; **then** will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; **and this House**, which I have sanctified for My Name, **I will cast out of My sight**; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people: and at **this House**, which is high (exalted at this moment as God is speaking to Solomon), every one that passes by it (later after it is cast down) shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, 'Why has the LORD done thus unto this land, **and to this House?**' And they shall answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them; therefore the LORD has brought upon them all this evil.'" ([1 Kings 9:2-9](#))

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The First Temple, built by King Solomon was destroyed, by the Babylonian Empire, after the people did indeed forsake God, and His Law; and the people were forcibly removed from the Land and dispersed. Centuries later, Jesus Himself warned His adversaries about the same fate of destruction, because of their rejection of Jesus, their hypocrisy, and rebellion against God. Please consider the following:

"The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto Him (Jesus), Get yourself out, and depart from here; for Herod will kill You. And He said unto them, 'You go, and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.' Nevertheless I must walk today, and tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet perishes outside of Jerusalem.' 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which kills the prophets, and stones those who are sent unto you; how often would I have gathered your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not (allow it to happen)! Behold, your **House is left unto you desolate.**' " (Luke 13:31-35)

"And when you **shall see Jerusalem surrounded with armies**, then know **that the desolation of it is near**. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let those who are in the midst of it (the city) depart out; and let not those that are in the country enter there into it (the city). For those will be the days of vengeance, so that all things which are written (prophecies) may be fulfilled (please see Zechariah 13:7-9). But woe unto those who are with child, and to those who nurse, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Luke 21:20-24) (see also [Matthew 24:9-22](#))

This was fulfilled in AD 70 by the Roman Empire: the Temple was destroyed and left desolate; many of the Jewish people were killed (1.3 million = 2/3 of the Jewish population); and the survivors dispersed as captives throughout the Empire; and most of Jerusalem itself was destroyed. Since Jesus knew that all this destruction and loss of life would happen; it is clearly understandable why He wept over Jerusalem when He beheld the Holy City for the last times. The apostle John summarized the situation as follows:

"Jesus "was the True Light, who enlightens every man who comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came unto His own (the Jewish people), and His own did not received Him. But as many as do received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on His Name: " (John 1:9-12)

## In Grief Jesus Wept Over Jerusalem

Why?

**Because the Jewish ruling elite and many others hated and rejected Jesus !  
Thereby rejecting God the Father Himself !!**

**Because those rulers were wicked, hypocritical blind guides leading the people astray !  
Because those rulers allowed the Sacred Temple of God to be come a house of  
merchandise and thievery !!**

**Father, this world, even today, for the most part both Jew and Gentile,  
are outright rejecting You, and Your Son Jesus The promised Messiah and Savior !!**

**Thank You Father Son and Holy Spirit for granting to us who do believe, both Jew and  
Gentile, the power to become sons of God !! Amen! and Amen!!**