



#01 Tue 1 Nov The Temple Mount & Muslim Occupation

Our day began at the City View Park atop the Mount of Olives. It was daylight now at 0730 and our recitation of Jesus' words in Matt.23:37 and the Psalmist plea in 122:6 fit superbly with the worship at the likely place where the resurrected Christ ascended into heaven with the promise of return.



O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate (Matt.23:37-38, cf Lu.13:34).¹

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. (Ps.122:6-7)

Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. ... To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD. (Ps.102:13-17,21-22)

1 The Holy Bible

Our bus ride toward the Temple Mount did not interrupt our worship. “Lord, let the awe of being in your Jerusalem, this holy city of Zion, never lessen in me.” Eiad's miracle maneuvering of a 40 foot Irizar i6S bus through the narrow streets of Jerusalem was repeatedly interrupted with Joe's reports that on the right you can see the Kidron Valley² and the walled up Eastern Gate, ... don't forget them as we will talk more of them shortly; on the left you see the tombs that line the Mount of Olives, remember them we will visit Gethsemane Today. “This traffic is not too bad today.” Joe reports on one hard break and harder bank to the right, “That's because today is Election Day in Israel.” (The Israeli Legislative Elections 2022, where “BB” Netanyahu was set for a dramatic return to power, and exit polls this morning, 0400, put him in a good lead.)

Joe again tries to catch up on the sites rapidly passing our bus windows. Much needs to be said here about the inferno of the old Valley of Hinnom³ that we passed, and the City of David, that we will visit. I couldn't capture all that swept by our bus windows, but alas we careened to a halt somewhere near the Dung Gate. Joe said he probably did not need to expound how this gate got its name. Here we would enter and make our way toward the temple mount.

The hatred that Muslims have for the Holy Bible, for God's chosen nation Israel, and the people of the book, i.e. Bible believing Christians, would be on full display as we entered the Muslim controlled Temple Mount. We were instructed to leave all Bibles and

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- 2 The Kidron Valley (Hebrew: נַחַל קִדְרוֹן, Naḥal Qidron, literally Qidron River Valley) is the valley originating slightly northeast of the Old City of Jerusalem, which then separates the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives. It continues south-easterly thru the Judean desert reaching the Dead Sea. It descends 4,000 feet along its 20-mile course. The Holy Bible calls the upper course the "Valley of Josaphat". It appears in Bible eschatologic prophecies, which include the return of Elijah, followed by the arrival of the Messiah, and the War of Gog and Magog and Judgment Day's Battle of Armageddon. The upper Kidron Valley holds Jerusalem's most important cemetery from the First Temple period, with rock-cut tombs dating between the 9th and 7th centuries BC. The upper Kidron Valley segment north of the Old City was one of the main burial grounds of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period, where hundreds of tombs have survived until today, while the segment east of, and opposite the Temple Mount, boasts several excellently preserved monumental tombs from the same period. Several of the Second Temple period tombs were also used later in time, either as burial or as shelters for hermits and monks of the large monastic communities which inhabited the Kidron Valley during the Byzantine Empire period (4th-7th century).
- 3 Valley of Hinnom (Hebrew: בְּנֵי־הִינּוֹם בְּנֵי־הַיָּם, ge ben hinnom or son of Hinnom): The Valley of Hinnom is the Modern Hebrew name for the valley surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem and the adjacent Mount Zion from the west and south. It meets and merges with the Kidron Valley, the other principal valley around the Old City, near the Pool of Siloam which lies to the southeastern corner of Ancient Jerusalem. The Valley of Hinnom is first mentioned in the Holy Bible as part of the border between the tribes of Judah and Benjamin (Joshua 15:8 “*And the border went up by the valley of the son of Hinnom unto the south side of the Jebusite; the same is Jerusalem: and the border went up to the top of the mountain that lieth before the valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the end of the valley of the giants northward:*”). During the late First Temple period, it was the site of the Tophet (Strong's#08612 תֹּפֶת Topheth = “place of fire”), where some of the kings of Judah had sacrificed their children by fire (2Ki 23:10 “*And he (King Josiah) defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.*” also Jeremiah 7:31 “*And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.*”). God cursed the valley of the son of Hinnom (Jeremiah 19:2–6) and in the Bible, Gehinnom is associated with divine punishment and as the destination of the wicked. It is thus associated with the word Sheol (Strong's #07585 שְׁאוֹל shē'owl), the abode of the wicked dead, the place of no return. The King James Version of the Bible, and only the KJV, properly translates both the Hebrew *Sheol* (31 times) and Greek *Genna* (all 12 times) with the Anglo-Saxon word hell. See Matt.5:22, 29,30, 10:28, 18:9, 23:15, 33, Mrk.9:43, 45, 47, Lu.12:5, Jas.3:6 (Strong's #1067 γέεννα geenna) in a King James Bible.

Christian literature on the bus, and to conceal all “religious” jewelry and talk, none would be allowed in the Temple Mount area. I even left my walking stick (that the VA calls my cane) behind because it was inscribed with, “In the beginning God” in both English and Hebrew (בראשית ברא אלהים the first three words of the Hebrew Bible).

This was to be an awesome incursion into the Temple Mount area of the Mount Moriah of Bible times. It is curious that Israel hating, Jehovah hating Muslims are in control of the whole Temple Mount area. In a brief explanation Joe implied that in order to ward off

WWIII, the area was gingerly handed back⁴ to them after the whole city of Jerusalem was conquered during the Six Day War⁵.

Their repressive controls and restrictions displayed this hatred for both God's Holy Word,



and God's chosen people. The Israeli groups who were allowed on the Temple Mount were lead and followed by armed Muslim security teams. One Israeli “dissident” armed with a GoPro, a camera, and a handful of Hebrew flyers was being escorted out as we went in. He was capturing all the hostilities of the Muslim security team, ... I supposed.

Lots of drama unfolded at the checkpoint as they searched us to ensure we were not carrying any contraband literature, and god forbid any Holy Bibles. It was quite like Satan himself was in full control of who and what got into this temple mount area.

Fifty born-again believers, nine of them Pastors and Preachers of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ got in just the same, and looked in amazement at the unholy Muslim

4 A few hours after the Israeli flag was hoisted over the Dome of the Rock in 1967 during the Six-Day War, Israelis lowered it on the orders of Moshe Dayan (Israeli Defense Minister with a patch on his eye during the 6 day war) and invested the Muslim waqf (religious trust) with the authority to manage the Temple Mount in order to "keep the peace".

5 This summary of the 1967 war is from a note scratched in the margin of my Bible: In 1956, after continual Arab attacks on its border, Israel overruns the Gaza strip, and would advance all the way to Egypt if not stopped by action of the major powers. In 1967 Egyptian Nasser, armed to the teeth by Russia and urged ahead by them, declares total Arab war against Israel. Israel's June 6th preemptive strike totally eliminates the Egyptian Air Force, and Israel takes Jerusalem and their most holy place, the Temple Mount, vowing never to retreat again. The 1948 Armistice only gave access to the Western Wall, now they had it all! They swept to the Jordan River Valley, Jordan armies were cut to bits. They advanced against Syria and Egypt taking the Golan Heights, Syria's strong post. In only six short days Jordan demanded a cease fire, against Russian advice. Thus in six days Israel increased her area from 8,000 to 34,000 square miles. There were 1,000 Israeli fatalities, and 35,000 Arab fatalities.

mosque that stood before us. “O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps” (Ps.79:1).

Our guide Joe assembled our group of fifty in front of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. He kindly explained some history and details of the mosque, its presence here on the Temple



Mount, and he pointed out the open door but forbidden entry. I say, “kindly” because a tour guide must keep his explanations of the three major religions that gather here quite civil and guarded. Joe did extremely well, when you consider this group of Baptist were not part of those three major religions.⁶

The Al-Aqsa Mosque was named “The Distant Mosque” because Qur'an 17:1 gives a story line that one of Allah's servants went to a far away

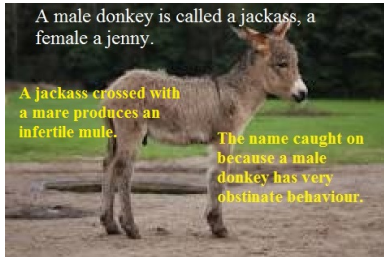
mosque and Unmayad, who built Al-Aqsa in the 8th century, wanted it to be supposed that this was the very “distant mosque” that the unspecified servant went to. He was very successful with his myth building scheme.

First consider that in the single reference in the Qur'an where Allah's servant visited a “distant mosque”, the word *mosque* at the time meant any place of worship, not just an Islamic place of worship. Thus Qur'an 17:1 has an unspecified servant going to an unspecified temple. It might have been any existing temple, synagogue, church,



Al Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem Temple Mount
an open door, but no welcome sign.

or monastery. The unspecified servant could have visited the Saint Catherine Monastery on the Sinai Peninsula, it was then in existence, or the Buddhist Monastery in Bengal, it was then in existence, but he could not have visited the so named Al-Aqsa Mosque, because it did not exist in the 7th century. It did not even exist when Muslim prophet Muhammad was alive (born 570 AD in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, died 632 AD in Medina, Saudi Arabia).



Clearly the Al-Aqsa Mosque was built to propagate a lie, and my, my, my, did it propagate. The myth is now told that the prophet Muhammad rode a mythical horse (possibly white, smaller than a horse, larger than a jackass) named Buraq (indeed wfd did have a former president named after Muhammad's jackass). He rode Buraq, it is

supposed, in a night journey, “Isra and Mi'raj”, through the heavens and back. The Al-Aqsa Mosque was built in the 8th century, to build the supposition that he took this 7th century night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and then off to the “seventh heaven”. It is one of the most important episodes in the life of the Muslim's prophet, and it is completely mythical, with but this one very vague verse in the Qur'an for a reference.⁷

6 Baptists are not part, and have no part of Catholic Christianity; Catholics burned Baptist at the stake for rejecting their infant baptisms and still would if they could. The Protestants that sprang from those persecuting Catholic roots still thought themselves to be Catholic (Universal), still thought they were the catholic replacement for Israel, and still persecuted Baptist who rejected their catholicness and infant baptisms.

7 More of this mythical imagination is more eloquently debunked in an article “The Islamic claim to Jerusalem makes no sense” by Joel Yliluoma at <https://bisqwit.iki.fi/story/apologetics/alaqsa/> accessed



The late Evangelist Loren Dawson had taught us well, “In the Old Testament God made a temple for the people; in the New Testament God makes a people for his temple.” It was sad to see the Temple Mount controlled by Muslims, but God's holy temple was not defiled. Today no less than fifty temples stood on this Temple Mount. *“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's”* (1Cor.6:19-20).

We gathered in a quiet corner where we could view the Dome of the Rock. In our minds eye we could see the mound of bedrock where Solomon's temple once stood.

Pastor Chalie spoke bluntly but softly while no Muslim security listened in. He carefully described what was just below the surface of what we saw here. He briefly described how Abraham visited the land of Moriah where we stood, and came to this very crust of

bedrock with his only begotten son, fire, wood, and a knife. God stopped that sacrifice; Abraham had spoken and said, *“My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt-offering”* (Gen.22:8). That play on words is not captured in the Hebrew tongue, but English can easily misplace modifiers, and those fifty-seven genius linguists who took seven years to translate the Holy Bible into the Kings English sure got it right. Indeed God did provide *“the Lamb that taketh away the sin of the world”* (Jn.1:29). And it was God himself (Jn.1:14).



Pastor Chalie teaching on the Temple Mount.

That only begins to tell what all happened on this piece of real estate, and in hushed tones, as men shushed him when Muslim security guards approached, Pastor Chalie unfolded the next page of Bible history as this eager crowd of worshipers leaned in to hear every word.

More of what Pastor Chalie said on the Temple Mount is in the next journal: see www.GSBaptistChurch.com/israel22

For eighteen years I have published a weekly 1 page Penny Pulpit called What the Bible Says. To get these in your weekly email simply go to our web page www.GSBaptistChurch.com and click the link: "Subscribe to Weekly Penny Pulpits" I thought this weeks Penny Pulpit fit well into this Half Shekel Journal.

Msg #2246 Being Saved from the Fire

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Right after God takes Jeremiah to the potters house and gives him a poignant message about his forming a nation by carefully molding it in his hands (Jer.18), he tells him to *"get a potter's earthen bottle, and take of the ancients of the people, and of the ancients of the priests; and go forth unto the valley of the son of Hinnom ... and say, Hear ye the word of the LORD ... Then shall thou break the bottle in the sight of the men that go with thee, And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again and they shall bury them in Tophet (place of fire), till there be no place to bury"* (Jer.19:1-3,10-11).

The nation of Israel was formed, framed, and fashioned by the careful persistent hand of The Potter, cf Genesis 12 thru 2Kings 25. It was very often *"marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it"* (18:4).

After an earthen vessel is dried, fired, used, and broken it cannot be made whole again. The valley of of Hinnom, *Gehenna*, where Tophet burned as an inferno, is where Israel passed her children through the fire of Molech and incurred this wrath of God.

Twelve times Jesus used the Hebrew name of this inferno, *Gehenna*, to describe hell where the fire is never quenched. He said it would be better to gouge your eye out than to go there (Mat.5:29). God is forming you; don't end up a broken burning potter's bottle. Be sure you are saved from that fire the Bible way (Joh.3:16-18, Rom.10:9-10).

An Essay for week #46 - Nov 13, 2022

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God Bless your studies of Him and His Word.