



JESUS WARNS US ABOUT SATAN'S THRONE, THE MARK AND THE IMAGE

HISTORY OF THE FALSE WORSHIP BLACKSTONE AND WICKED HOUSE

In the Book of Revelation Jesus warned the Apostle John about spiritual warfare—both at that time and far in the future. John wrote the Book of Revelation around 95 AD, and in it Jesus gives us at least three strong warnings. In Revelation Chapter 2, Jesus warns us Pergamum is where Satan lives and has his throne. To both the churches at Ephesus and Pergamum, Jesus tells them He hates the practices of the Nicolaitans. Later in Revelation Chapter 13, Jesus warns us to avoid the image and mark of widespread false worship that will occur sometime in the future, well after 95 AD. Jesus warns us eight times to avoid this mark, and another eight times to avoid this image. There is a strong connection between all three warnings—the Blackstone. In stark contrast to the Blackstone of false doctrine--Jesus gives the Whitestone of truth (Rev 2:17).

Rev 2:6 (NIV)

6 “You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

Rev 2:12-13 (NIV)

12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.”

Rev 13:14-16 (NIV)

14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. 16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads.

**When the Book of Revelation Was Written Pergamum Was Where Satan Lived—
Satan Later Moved His Throne to the Wicked House in Mecca**



The church at Pergamum was one of the seven churches in Asia Minor (Turkey) that Jesus addressed in the opening chapters in Revelation. Jesus tells us Satan had his throne in Pergamum (Rev 2:13), warned that some there hold to the teaching of Balaam—who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality (Rev 2:14), warned some others hold to the false teaching of the Nicolaitans (Rev 2:15). Jesus promises to the one who is victorious, He will give some of the hidden manna, and **will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it,** known only to the one who receives it. (Rev 2:17).

Pergamum was the ancient capital of Asia before Ephesus. Pergamum was a city in northwest Asia Minor (Turkey today) and was about twenty miles from the sea. It had a vast library of about 200,000 volumes, and was a city of learning. In this city was first discovered the art of making parchment, which was called “pergamena.” Pergamum was the religious center of the province and it boasted many temples. It also had the great altar of Zeus. Thus, it was a very idolatrous city, being filled with statues and altars, and **it also held a Blackstone meteorite that was worshipped** as the female goddess Cybele, and a similar female goddess Artemis was worshipped at Ephesus.



False God Temple Ruins in Pergamum

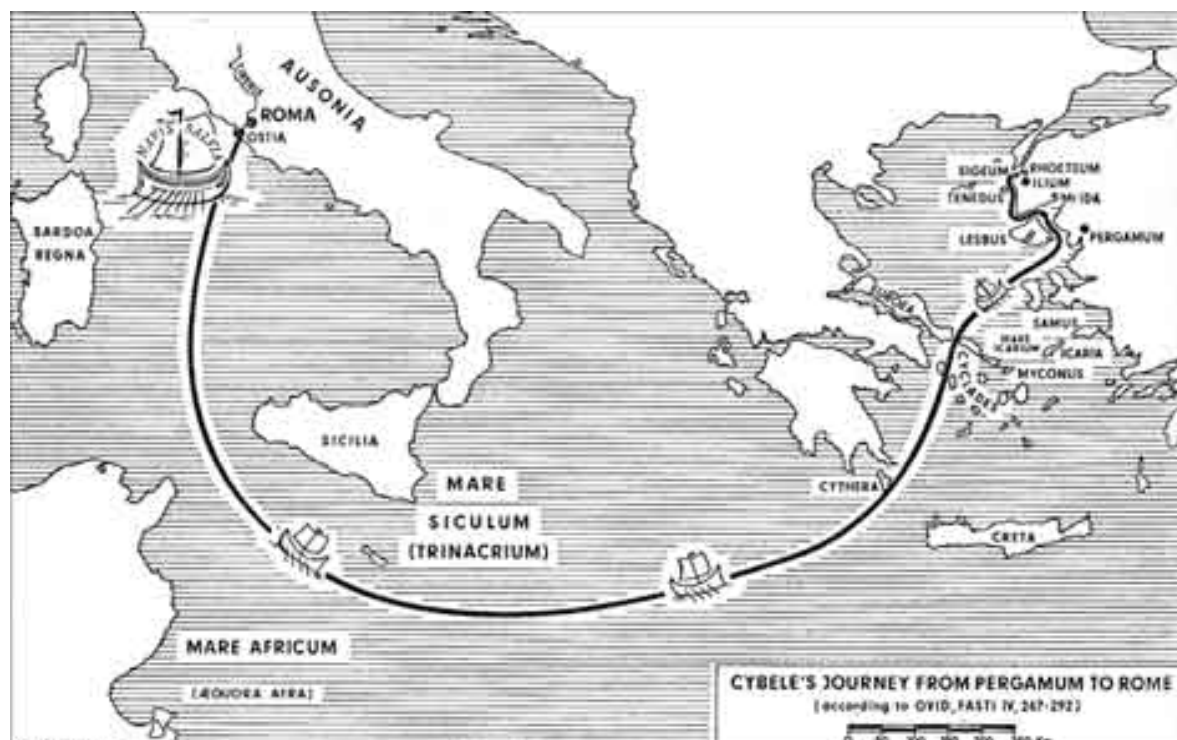
Pergamum Worshiped Cybele--the Blackstone Meteorite

Cybele was the mythological ancient Mother of the Gods, a primal nature goddess worshipped with immoral sexual rites in the mountains of central and western Anatolia (Turkey). The Greeks identified her with their own mother of the gods--the Titaness Rhea. **The most sacred manifestation of Cybele worship was a Blackstone meteorite that was said "to have been a stone from heaven."**

When Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon in 457 BC, he forced the pagan Babylonian priesthood to flee westward — to Pergamum in present day Turkey. In 204 BC, the king of Pergamum sent the great mother goddess Cybele--in the shape of a meteoric Blackstone--from Pergamum to Rome.

In 204 BC Rome determined that it must possess this particular manifestation of the goddess, a black meteorite. The origins of the worship of the Roman Great Mother ("Magnus Mater") are ascribed to a crisis in war time. During Hannibal's invasion of Italy in 204 BC, the Romans followed a Sibylline prophecy that the enemy could be expelled and conquered if the "Idaeian Mother" were brought to Rome, together with her sacred symbol, **a black stone reputed to have fallen from the heavens.** The Romans imported the goddess meteorite Blackstone from Asia Minor, where she was worshipped under the names of both Cybele and the Great Mother (the Greek word for "great" is Megale; hence the "Megalesian" games in her honor).

The goddess's connection with victory in war (as the motivation for importing her) is strengthened by the location of her temple beside the Temple of Victory, which was in fact her home with the Blackstone until her own temple was finished.



Sea Route of the Blackstone from Pergamum to Rome

When the ship carrying the Blackstone approached the mouth of the Tiber, Publius Cornelius Scipio sailed out, as required, to the offshore waters to receive the goddess from her priests, and he brought her in to the shore where the leading matrons of Rome were waiting to receive the goddess.

Passing the Blackstone hand to hand in unbroken succession, the women sent the sacred Blackstone on its way to Rome. The entire city poured out to watch. Incense-burners were placed at the doorways of homes all along the route, and when the stone passed, they lit incense and prayed that the goddess would enter Rome willingly and look upon them favorably. The matrons brought her to the Temple of Victory on the Palatine on April 12, her holy day, and a crowd of people brought the goddess gifts; a banquet for the gods was held, as well as games called the Megalesia.

The last account of the Blackstone meteorite's physical appearance was written over 500 years after it had been moved to Rome. Arnobius of Sicca (who died in around 330 AD), was an early Christian writer who spoke out against Pagans, recorded seeing the stone in his work, *Against the Pagans--Adversus Nationes*. Where the Blackstone meteorite went after the early 4th century AD is not known until a Blackstone meteorite was placed by Mohammad in the Kaaba (Mecca) in the early 7th century.

Idolatry of “Sacred Stone from Heaven” at Ephesus

In the Book of Acts we find a detailed description of a hostile Ephesus crowd surrounding the Apostles. The pagan crowd worshipped the female goddess Artemis and her "sacred" meteorite stone.

Acts 19:23-41 (NIV)

23 About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. 24 A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. 25 He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: “You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. 26 And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. 27 There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.”

28 When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together. 30 Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. 31 Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

32 The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. 33 The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. 34 But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

35 The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Fellow Ephesians, doesn’t all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? 36 Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash. 37 You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess.

38 If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. 39 If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. 40 As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it.” 41 After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.



Temples Ruin of the False Goddess Artemis in Ephesus

In Ephesus, a great temple was built in her honor, which became one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World". The temple of Artemis at Ephesus endured well into the third century AD, but its importance began to lessen with the expansion of Christianity. The temple was finally destroyed by the Goths around 262 AD, and very little of it remains today. Around the fifth century, a statue of the goddess near the marketplace was taken down by a Christian and replaced with a cross. On the base was an inscription stating that he had "removed the deceitful image of the demon Artemis."

Who Were the Nicolaitans?

We do not know a lot about the Nicolaitans. We do know Jesus hated what they did. Jesus seldom used the word "hate." Whatever the Nicolaitans did must really offend the true God. From the first and second commandments we know the false worship of idols angers the true God. The Nicolaitans were mentioned in Revelation twice--in the letters to the church at Ephesus and to the church at Pergamum. **The only other thing that Pergamum and Ephesus had in common was they both worshipped a Blackstone meteorite that fell from the heaven.** They both associated this Blackstone with the female goddess Artemis and Cybele. We also know Satan's throne was at Pergamum at the time when Revelation was written.

The Greek for Nicolaitans is composed of two words meaning "subduing" and "the people". "Islam" in Arabic means "submission of the people" to Allah. It is possible the Nicolaitans taught that the people should worship the Blackstone and be subdued by it or in submission to it. Since Satan's throne was in Pergamum, the people were in submission to Satan.

Some commentators believe the Nicolaitans encouraged each other to commit sexual immorality and to eat things offered to idols. Whichever theory is true, it is certain that the deeds of the Nicolaitans were an abomination to Christ. They, like the Gnostics and other false teachers, abused the doctrine of grace and tried to introduce Satanic false doctrine in its place (2 Peter 2:15, 19; Jude 1:4).

Satan's Throne in Mecca Will Be Destroyed in One Hour

Revelation chapters 17-18 give a detail description of the coming destruction of "the great city." While some think this city is Rome, it is almost certain this city is Mecca, which holds the Kaaba Blackstone image today. Mecca is a city on seven mountains.

Revelation 17:1-2 (NIV)

1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. 2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

Revelation 17:18 (NIV)

18 "The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

Revelation 18:9-10 (NIV)

9 “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. 10 Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

“‘Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!’”

Mohammad First Prayed Towards Jerusalem—Then Changed to the Kaaba Blackstone in Mecca

Jerusalem was originally meant to be the holiest place in Islam but when the Prophet Mohammed visited Jerusalem, the Jewish Scholars ridiculed him and called him a false prophet. Skeptics of Islam’s false teachings point out that the direction was changed because the Jews were making fun of Mohammad for praying toward Jerusalem, and then a “new revelation” was conveniently given.

According to the Koran, Allah then told the Prophet Mohammed to change the Qibla (“prayer direction”) as a supposed test for Muslims soon afterwards.

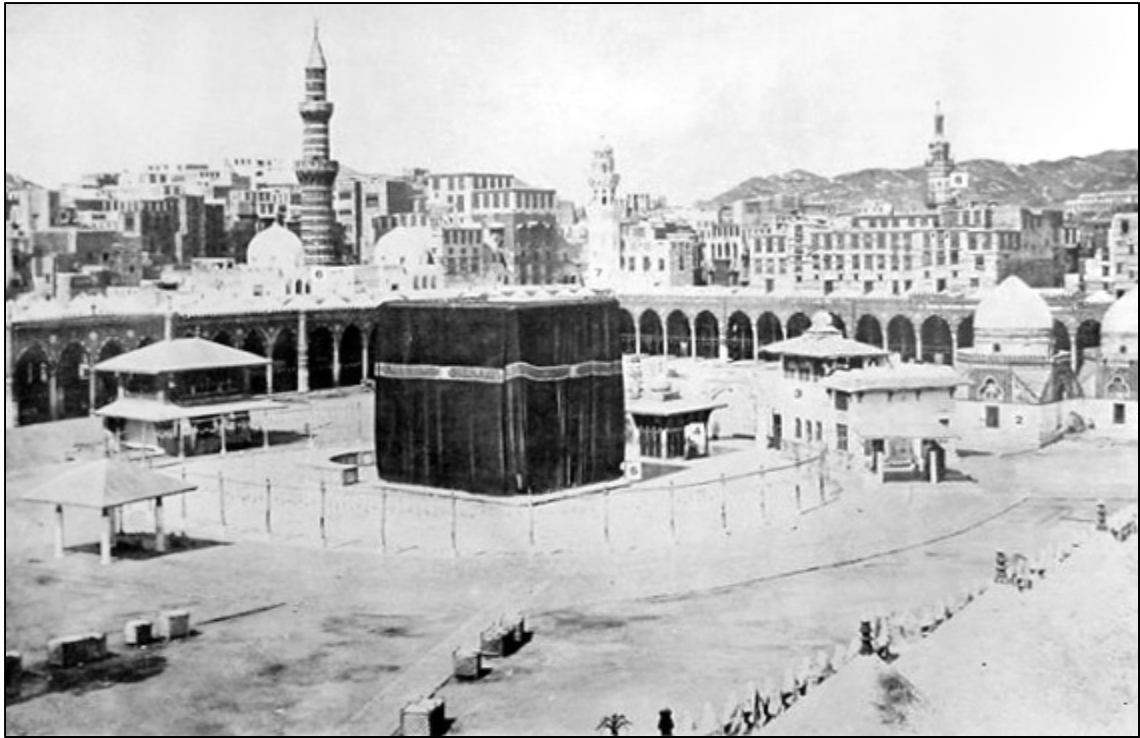
Koran 2:142 The foolish among the people will ask, “Why did they turn away from the direction of prayer they used to face?” Say, O Prophet, “The east and west belong only to Allah. He guides whoever He wills to the Straight Path.”

Koran 2:143 And so We have made you believers an upright community so that you may be witnesses over humanity and that the Messenger may be a witness over you. We assigned your former direction of prayer only to distinguish those who would remain faithful to the Messenger from those who would lose faith. It was certainly a difficult test except for those rightly guided by Allah.

What Is the Wicked House Called the Kaaba—“The House of Allah”?

Muslims believe that Abraham—known as “Ibrahim” in the Islamic tradition—and his son, Ishmael, constructed the Kaaba in Mecca. It is called the House of Allah. This story is false. Abraham was never within 200 miles of Mecca.

The Quraysh tribe (who was the tribe of Umar), who ruled Mecca, actually built the pre-Islamic Kaaba about 608 AD with alternating courses of masonry and wood. A door was raised above ground level to protect the shrine from intruders and flood waters.



The Kaaba in 1880



The Kaaba House Today is a Worshipped Image



Mohammad Placed the Blackstone in the Kaaba—The House of Allah

The Blackstone is a meteorite set into the eastern corner of the Kaaba, the House located in the center of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It is revered by Muslims as an Islamic relic which, according to Muslim tradition, dates back to the time of Adam and Eve. But there is no proof that this is true.

Mohammad came to Mecca after a fire damaged the Kaaba. The citizens couldn't agree on where to place the Blackstone and decided to ask the next person to walk through the city gates to make the decision. That person turned out to be Mohammad who set the Blackstone into the center of the House, where it is worshipped by millions of Muslims to this day. Islamic tradition holds that it fell from heaven as a guide for Adam and Eve to build an altar.



**About 520 BC Zechariah Saw a Basket of Wickedness
Going to a House in Babylon Built in the Future**



About 610 AD Mohammad Placed the Blackstone in the Kaaba House



Zechariah Saw the Wicked House in Babylon Long Before Mohammad Created Islam

Zechariah 5:6-11 (NIV) I asked, "What is it?" He replied, "It is a basket." And he added, "This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land." Then the cover of lead was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman! He said, "This is wickedness," and he pushed her back into the basket and pushed its lead cover down on it. Then I looked up—and there before me were two women, with the wind in their wings! They had wings like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between heaven and earth.

"Where are they taking the basket?" I asked the angel who was speaking to me. He replied, "To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place."

The False Prophet Sets Up the Image

Revelation tells us the false prophet (Mohammad) who set up this Kaaba image in the house of Allah and the Shahada mark will be thrown into the lake of fire when facing God's judgment.

Revelation 13:14-15 (NIV) 14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Revelation 19:20 (NIV) But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

The Koran falsely says, and most Muslims have been taught, that Abraham (or perhaps even Adam) built or at least used the Kaaba. Muslims also expect the Kaaba Blackstone to speak in the last days. Zechariah makes clear the house of wickedness in Babylon (the Kaaba) will be built sometime in the future after him. (*Zechariah 5:10 "Where are they taking the basket?" I asked the angel who was speaking to me. 11 He replied, "To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place."*)

Most scholars believe Abraham lived around 1800 BC. Zechariah lived long after Abraham around 520 BC. Thus the Kaaba house (image of the beast) was built not in the time of Abraham, but much later. In fact it was Mohammad--the false prophet--who set up the Kaaba house image. (*Revelation 13: 14-15 "It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed."*)

Three Trillion Prayers Annually to the Wicked House

All 1.5 billion Muslims in the world must pray five times a day while precisely facing the Kaaba Blackstone. That is about 3 trillion prayers a year to a false God—Satan the Antichrist. **“Qibla”** is the direction that should be faced when a Muslim prays. It is fixed exactly to the coordinates of the Kaaba in Mecca. Most mosques contain a wall niche, known as mihrab, that indicates the Qibla direction. **Most multi-faith prayer rooms will also contain a Qibla to give the Kaaba coordinates.**

Koran 2:125

“We made the House a place of return for the people and a place of security. And take, O believers, from the standing place of Abraham a place of prayer. And we charged Abraham and Ishmael, saying, "Purify My House for those who perform Tawaf and those who are staying there for worship and those who bow and prostrate in prayer.”

Tawaf (literally circling) is one of the Islamic rituals of pilgrimage. During the Hajj (pilgrimage) Muslims are to go around the Kaaba (House of Allah) seven times in a counterclockwise direction.

Koran 3: 96-97

"Indeed, the first House of worship established for mankind was that at Mecca – blessed and a guidance for the worlds. In it are clear signs such as the standing place of Abraham. And whoever enters it shall be safe. And due to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House – for whoever is able to find thereto a way.”



Islamic False Version

Abraham	Kaaba	Zechariah	Mohammad
1800 BC	-----	520 BC	-----610 AD

True Bible Version

Abraham	Zechariah	Still in the Future →	Mohammad	Kaaba
1800 BC	-----	520 BC	-----	610 AD

Mecca Is Not an Ancient Town

The early history of Mecca is still largely disputed, as there are no unambiguous references to it in ancient literature prior to the rise of Islam. This makes it certain Abraham was never in Mecca. The Roman Empire took control of part of the Hejaz in 106 AD, ruling cities such as Hegra (now known as Mada'in Saleh), located to the north of Mecca. Even though detailed descriptions were established of Western Arabia by Rome, such as by Procopius, there are no references of a pilgrimage and trading outpost such as Mecca. The first direct mention of Mecca in external literature occurs in 741 AD in the Byzantine-Arab Chronicle.

Given the inhospitable environment and lack of historical references in Roman, Persian and Indian sources, historians have cast doubt on the claim that Mecca was a major historical trading outpost. There is no historical or archaeological evidence that suggests that Mecca ever existed before around the 4th century A.D., when migrants from Yemen initially settled the area.

Jerusalem, not Mecca, Is the Home of the True God

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob designated Jerusalem as the site of His Temple and Holy Mountain. Today we worship Jesus in the “Heavenly Jerusalem.” (Hebrews 12:22)



The Temple Mount in Jerusalem

Psalm 122 (NIV)

1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” 2 Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem. 3 Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

4 That is where the tribes go up— the tribes of the Lord—to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel. 5 There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.

7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.” 8 For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.” 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.

This psalm was penned by David for the use of the people of Israel, when they came up to Jerusalem to worship at the three solemn feasts. It was in David’s time that Jerusalem was first chosen to be the city where God would record his name. It being a new thing, this, among other means, was used to bring the people to be in love with Jerusalem, as the holy city, though it was but the other day in the hands of the Jebusites.

See the joy with which they were to go up to Jerusalem (v. 1, v. 2). Notice the great esteem they were to have of Jerusalem (v. 3-5). The great concern they were to have for Jerusalem, and the prayers they were to put up for its welfare (v. 6-9). **In reading this psalm we must have an eye to the Gospel church, which is called “the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven.” (Revelation 21:2)**

Likewise, Jesus described Jerusalem as the home of God.

Luke 19: 41-44 (NIV)

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 4 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

What Does the Bible Say about the Direction of Prayer?

Does the Bible teach about the direction of prayer? As it happens, no specific instructions are given. In one case, we find Daniel praying toward Jerusalem (Daniel 6:10). Most other times, we find direction irrelevant. In fact, the prophet Jonah prayed from inside the great fish while it swam around in any number of directions (Jonah 2:1).

Direction of prayer isn't mentioned in various Biblical passages on prayer such as Psalm 32:6 or Matthew 26:39. But even more to the point, Jesus Himself gives instructions for prayer, and direction is never mentioned. Jesus only mentions location in that He tells us to find a place of seclusion (Matthew 6:6). Jesus Himself finds a place of privacy for prayer (Matthew 14:23). Through the rest of His teachings, never once is direction of prayer of any significance. In fact, He specifically points out the place of worship is of no consequence (John 4:21). Does it matter? Is direction of prayer just a difference in the details or is there something bigger here that is being missed?

One thing Jesus tells us is that He will make His abode within us (John 14:23). Jesus tells us He will send the Holy Spirit to us. It is this Holy Spirit who helps us to pray when words escape us (Romans 8:26). Jesus tells us specifically that when we gather in His name, He is there (Matthew 18:20). In fact, He makes sure we know that His presence is always with us (Matthew 28:20). Those who pray earnestly know personally how the LORD meets them wherever they are, in whatever place and time we come to Him in prayer. The reason our direction of prayer is of no consequence is because Jesus is right there with us when we pray!

As Jesus Prayed Peter Declares Jesus Is the Messiah

Luke 9:18-22 (NIV)

18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

19 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." 20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "God's Messiah." 21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. 22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."