

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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SERIES: Israel

TITLE: Program 19 – Who Is The King Of Salem, Priest Of God Most High?

THURSDAY

OPEN

I'm standing in the ancient city of David and behind me, the temple mount. And on that temple mount, the Al-Aqsa Mosque. There's a controversy in this land. A controversy over to whom does this city belong. Should Jerusalem be divided? Should it belong to the Arabs as they want with no place if the Jews being here? Precious One, if you're going to understand beyond the political, if you're going to understand what God thinks about this city then you've got to know the Word of God. You've got to know the significance of the city of David and the place that Solomon chose to build the temple of God. We're going to see what God says.

PART ONE

When the Oslo Accord was being dealt with and when the Prime Minister of Israel sat down with the PLO Chairman, Arafat refused to take those terms of peace and the reason that he refused to take those terms of peace was



because it did not include a piece of Jerusalem. Let me ask you a question. If God is sovereign, if He turns the heart of the king anyway that he wants, could it be that He was restraining Israel from giving Jerusalem? Can Israel legitimately before God sign over this city to the PLO? Well let's see what the Word of God has to say about Jerusalem, a city one time called Jebus. And what I want to do is I want to take you to the very first mention of Jerusalem in the Word of God. And I want to take you to Genesis chapter 10. In Genesis chapter 10, "[We have] the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah..." (Genesis 10:1a) So all the nations on the face of this earth would trace their genealogy back to one of these three men. All right now. In Genesis chapter 10 it says, "[And] Canaan...," or Canaan is the way they pronounce it here, "...became the father of Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth and the Jebusite..."(10:15-16a) You see before this was ever called Jerusalem it was called the city of Jebus. All right. So this city of Jebus traces us all the way back to Canaan and from Canaan all the way back to Shem, Ham and Japheth. So Ham is the father of Canaan. So this is the first mention that we see in the Word of God. All right now. The next place I want you to go to in your Bible is I want you to go to Genesis chapter 14 and we're going to think all the way back to the time of Abraham. So we're going back to the years 2165 to 1990 BC or as the Jews would say BCE. We say BC, before Christ. The Jews say BCE, before the common era. So let's go to Genesis chapter 14. Now in Genesis chapter 14 Lot has been captured and Lot is the nephew of Abram. He is the nephew that Abram brought from the Ur of the Chaldees up to Haran and then down into the land of Canaan. A land that God promised to Abraham as an everlasting possession. In Genesis chapter 12 God says to Abraham and I want you to see this in Genesis chapter 12, verse 7, "And the Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.' So he, [Abraham,] built an altar there to the Lord who [had proceeded] him." (Genesis 12:7) And then when we come to Genesis chapter 14 we find



Abraham going out to rescue his nephew Lot and then as he conquers these kings we find a high priest coming. A high priest by the name of Melchizedek. This is so very significant, Beloved, not just to that ancient time but it's significant to you and to me. Listen to Genesis chapter 14, verse 18. And it says, "And Melchizedek king of Salem..." (14:18a) Now this was also called Salem. So he was the king here in this Jebusite city, in this city of Jebus. Salem means peace. So we find Melchizedek the first time in the Word of God mentioned as the king of peace. "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he...," listen carefully, "...was a priest of God Most High."(14:18) And what does God Most High mean? Most High means that He is El-Elyon, E-l and then capital E-l-y-o-n and this is so exciting because this is the first mention of this name of God in the Word of God. And this is the name that shows God's sovereignty that He rules over all. As a matter of fact in Daniel you'll find God being called the God Most High over and over again. Why? Because "...[God] does according to His will [and] the army of heaven...among the inhabitants of the earth. [None] can stay [the] hand [of God and none can] say to [God], 'What doest Thou?'"(Daniel 4:35, KJV) Why? Because He is God Most High and Melchizedek is the high priest of God Most High. Well, as we look at Melchizedek, the king of Salem, the priest of the Most High God, we find Abraham paying tithes to Melchizedek. And we find in turn the high priest turning and saying this to Abraham. "... 'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." (Genesis 14:19-20a) Do you know what? That is going to come to pass. Someday all of Israel's enemies will be delivered into Abraham's hand. But now I want to take you from Genesis 14 where we find Melchizedek to the book of Hebrews. And I want to take you there because this has significance for you and for me. In Hebrews chapter 7 and he's talking to a people that are in distress. He's talking to Jews, Israelites, who have believed that Jesus Christ is the



Messiah. Israelites who have received Him. Israelites now that are being persecuted by their own people because now they have said and professed Jesus Christ as the Messiah. They're being persecuted by the Roman government who hates their Christianity. And in the midst of all of this he wants them to understand your peace is not in your circumstances. Your peace is in the One in whom you have believed. So in Hebrews chapter 7, he wants them to understand that Jesus is a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. He's not from the tribe of Levi so therefore He would not qualify as an earthly priest if He were living in this time. But He qualifies as a priest of Most High God because He's a priest after the order of Melchizedek. In chapter 7, verse 1 it says, "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name...," listen, "...king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither the beginning of days nor end of life, but [was] made like the Son of God...," listen carefully, "...he [abides] a priest perpetually." (Hebrews 7:1-3) Our faith rests in the One who is like the king of Salem, who is like the high priest of the Most High God. Our faith, our peace rests in Jesus Christ. The priest sent by God to this temple mount to make a sacrifice for your sins and for my sins, Precious One. But let's move on and let me tell you more about this city of David that becomes the city of Jerusalem. And what I want to do is I want to take you to 2 Samuel chapter 5. In 2 Samuel chapter 5 we have an interesting account. We have interesting account because it tells us how this Jebusite city became the city of David. In 2 Samuel chapter 5 it says, "...the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, 'Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and in. And the Lord said to you, "You will shepherd My people Israel, and you



will be a ruler over Israel." So all the elders came to the king at Hebron, and...David made a covenant with them before the Lord at Hebron; [and] they anointed David...," listen, "...king [of] Israel." (2 Samuel 5:1-3) Now what does that mean to you and to me? We'll walk about it when I come back as we look at God's Word: precept upon precept [because through His precept we get understanding, Beloved, and we hate every false way.] (PARAPHRASE, Psalm 119:104)

PART TWO

As I move through the streets of Jerusalem, as I greet people, I'm always saying, "Shalom." And, in a sense, it seems like a contradiction because there's so much controversy over the city of Jerusalem. Shalom means peace. It comes from Shalem or Salem. Melchizedek was the king of Salem. Now, this Jebusite city, this city of David, was formerly a city of Jebus and Jebus had water here. And because it had water, then it made it a complete place. Shalom, Salem, all of those speak of peace because when we're at peace, there's a completeness about our life. Now stop and think and think of the controversy. What's the controversy over Hebron? Hebron is where Abraham was buried. Hebron is a city that does not belong to the PLO or the Arabs. It's a city that belongs to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the sons of Judah, and the house of David. And so it says, "David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem..." (5:5b-6a) So they came from Hebron up to Jerusalem and when they got here they were coming, "...against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, and they said to David...," they who? The Jebusites. Now listen very carefully. They said, "...'You shall not come in here...the blind...the lame will turn you away." (5:6b) In other words you're just an ant of a man. You have no



power. We don't need to send our valiant warriors after you, O David, so called king. Listen. The blind and the lame can drive you out of here. So listen very carefully. They were thinking David cannot enter here nevertheless David captured the stronghold of what? The stronghold of Zion. I'm standing in the city of David. I'm standing on the stronghold of Zion. That is the city of David. "[And] David said on that day, 'Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him reach the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul, through the water tunnel." (5:8a) Remember Jabez had water and there was a tunnel that came up this way. And so he says, "Okay. Go through the tunnel and strike down these lame and these blind that you're going to send against me. "... Therefore they say, 'The blind or the lame shall not come into the house." (5:8b)) Now that's another lesson. That's another story. But a rumor began to spread throughout this land and that rumor was this. That when David ruled here the people would not be allowed to come if they were blind or lame but listen, this is what happens when we listen to rumors. This is what happens when we don't get the story straight and, Precious One, that's why I'm standing on this spot in the city of Jerusalem so that you can get the story straight. So that you don't listen to the rumors of the PLO who say that this is their land and they were driven out by the Israelites. No. It was the land that God gave to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and his sons forever and ever. It was the land through whom the Messiah would come through the tribe of Judah, through the family of David and one day, one day that One will sit on His throne here in the earthly Zion. This is the city of David and Jesus, the Messiah, was born of the family of David. Well, this was the controversy over this city and this was the conquest of this Jebusite city but there's even more for us to see. And the next place I want to take you to is 1 Chronicles chapter 11, verses 1 through 7. So I want us to go to 1 Chronicles chapter 11 and its verses 1 through 7. Got it? 1 Chronicles chapter 11, verse 1. "Then all Israel gathered to David at Hebron and said, ['...we are your flesh and your bone.']"(1 Chronicles



11:1) So you see the similarity between that and Samuel. And it says in verse 4, "Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus); and the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, were there. [And] the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, 'You shall not enter here.' Nevertheless David captured the stronghold of Zion (that is, the city of David)."(11:4-5) Why doest this city belong to David, an Israelite? Because this is the city that God enabled him to capture. Now you may say to me, "Okay. It's the city of David but look at that mount. That is a holy site to the Arabs." Well, I don't want to be mean or cruel but let me just say this. Their holy site, their holy city is Mecca. This is not really the holy site that it is to the Jews. Rather this is more of a political site. It's a political site that is a stronghold that says, "Listen, you should give us Jerusalem because this is a holy site." Now, you may say, "This is the city of David but give them the temple mount." Well let me ask you a question. Can you give away what God has given to you? If God gives you a gift is it right for you to despise that gift or should you honor that gift, should you cherish that gift, should you defend that gift, should you treasure that gift? All right, now. There is another thing that is very significant about this city. And I want to take you to 2 Samuel, chapter 24, 2 Samuel, chapter 24. And you want to get all these scriptures down because when you have them down then you have the answers that you need and then [you're not swayed by every wind of doctrine that comes your way.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:14) In 2 Samuel, chapter 24, now I have an Inductive Study Bible. And in the Inductive Study Bible you can write the theme of every chapter at the beginning of that chapter. And I've written "David numbers Israel and he buys the threshing floor". David sinned against God. He he sinned by numbering the nation of Israel, and what I want you to understand is I want you to see that God works with imperfect people. And when we mess up, when we do something wrong, because God is God, He does not cast us away. God is a Redeemer and He wants to take you and me and He wants to redeem us and He wants us [to



grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with Him and with men.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Samuel 2:26) And so David sins and God sends a pestilence. And when He sends that pestilence over this city, multitudes are destroyed. And yet, is God finished with him? Is God going to give Jerusalem to someone else? Oh no, because God is faithful.