

Episode: Kings and Prophets Series No. 7

Narrator: King David

Primary Scriptures: 2 Samuel 5, 1 Chronicles 11

Story Summary: David conquers Jebus, importance of Jerusalem

Location: Jerusalem

Time: Circa 1010 BC David conquers Jebus

Suggested Memory Scriptures: 2 Samuel 5:3, 5:9, 5:13; 1 Chron. 11:6

There is no city like Jerusalem. It is a sacred site for the three major religions of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. It has long been known as the City of God.

The likely first mention of Jerusalem was when Abraham met Melchizedek, the king of Salem, as in Jeru-Salem.¹ The first specific mention is when Joshua and the Israelites confront the king of Jerusalem.² Shortly thereafter, Jerusalem is identified to be the same city as Jebus.³

With that information, Jebusites are mentioned in *Genesis* to *Judges*. In the book of *Judges*, it is not clear whether the Israelites did or did not conquer Jebus, or if they conquered it for a short period of time. It is also not clear whether the people of Judah or Benjamin were to conquer the city, but it was most likely Judah.

Imagine David as a shepherd boy, tending sheep a few miles away from Bethlehem, sometimes almost in the shadow of Jerusalem. It must have rankled him that his own tribe could not defeat that one hilltop city. It must have goaded him to the point that the first thing he did after killing Goliath was to take his bloody head to Jerusalem as a warning.⁴

David lived in Hebron when he first became king of the Israelites. One of King David's first actions was to attack Jebus/Jerusalem and take it for his own personal possession...the City of David. He used the city as one of the rallying points of uniting the twelve tribes under his kingship.

More importantly, God chose Jerusalem to be his own city,⁵ with his home to be in the Temple. Even though God chose to leave the Temple and the city, he never quite gave it up. Jesus had a special place in his heart for Jerusalem, shown many times. It continues to be special, too. Jesus will come back to Jerusalem in his Second Coming, and all of God's people spend eternity in a place called a New Jerusalem.⁶

Discussion Questions:

¹ Genesis 14:18

² Joshua 10

³ Joshua 15:8

⁴ 1 Samuel 17:54

⁵ Hebrews 12:22

⁶ Acts 1:11, Rev. 21:2-10

1. What are some of the names that refer to Jerusalem?
2. What tribe inhabited the city of Jerusalem?
3. Why was Jebus so hard to conquer?
4. How was Jebus conquered by David and his army?
5. Why was it important for David to conquer Jebus?
6. What were the ties of Abraham to Jerusalem?
7. Jerusalem was God's City because he allowed Solomon to build the Temple there, and he inhabited the Temple. Based on the actions of the kings and people of Israel, God allowed the city and Temple to be destroyed (more than once), and he no longer inhabited it. Why should Christians and Jews still consider Jerusalem to be important? What did Jesus think about Jerusalem?

1. Jerusalem, Jebus, City of David, City of God, Zion, possibly Salem 2. Benjamin originally owned it, but it seems to have been controlled by Judah at a later date. 3. It had steep ravines and walls on three sides, and a big wall on the north side. It had its own water supply so it could withstand a siege until it ran out of food. 4. Some versions of the Bible imply that they came through a water shaft, but it is not perfectly clear how Joab led his men to victory. 5. David needed a new capital that would help him unite the tribes of Israel under his command. By starting fresh, he did not have to contend with old rivalries. Jebus was a ready-made city that was secure and central to much of the country. 7. It's possibly where he met Melchizedek. It's traditionally thought of as the place on Mount Moriah where Abraham took Isaac.

Application Questions:

1. David promised the command of his troops to whoever conquered Jerusalem. Was that a rash promise? Is that the way a commander should be chosen? Have you ever made a rash promise that you were compelled to keep? How did that work out?
2. Jerusalem was considered God's City because he chose to live there when the Temple was built by Solomon. Based on the actions of the Israelites, God left the Temple and allowed the city to be destroyed. Have you ever had something valuable that was destroyed because you did not love it?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. David daily saw Jebus in the distance when he was a teenager, knew of its history, and took Goliath's head there. He clearly had dreams about conquering Jebus when he was your age. What are your dreams for conquering something big? What are you doing to work toward accomplishing those dreams?
2. What would Jesus think about the contention of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims over the city of Jerusalem? If you had the sole power, what would you do about who controls the Temple Mount and Jerusalem today?