

Mother Jerusalem and her daughters

Message to all the people of Israel, at home and in the diaspora and to the religious and political leaders of all nations
J. den Admirant

Jerusalem

No doubt there is no city more difficult to govern than Jerusalem. Day by day she is featured more in the news. Not just because of the fact that she harbours a multitude of nations, religions, cultures and political directions, for there are more cities like that. Yet none of them is in the cross-fire of criticism as much as Jerusalem. Nowhere more journalists walk around with their cameras ready, then here. What could be the reason that world opinion carps at just about everything when it concerns the state of Israel? Why this unreasonable criticism, this measuring with two measures? Why does the world see the mote in Israel's eye and not the beam in its own? Maybe every single nation is more closely connected with Jerusalem, than mankind cares to know? Yes indeed, and in this respect Jerusalem is incomparable. As the capital of a country that the prophet Ezekiel has called "the navel of the earth", she fulfils a mother-role, which makes the position of other cities that assume this role pale by comparison. This makes Jerusalem only more vulnerable than she already is. Inevitably daughters have to adopt an attitude towards their mother, warm or wayward. It seems that today the whole world is getting increasingly involved in the matter of "Jerusalem". This fact cannot be judged by ordinary journalistic or political standards. We need a different light to fall on this city, its history and its inhabitants. Mankind cannot escape, looking in the mirror of Israel's prophets, from at the same time taking a look at its own existential position. And whoever looks at Jerusalem this way - for example, in the mirror of Ezekiel 16 - will get quite a different impression from what is usually put forward. Many centuries ago this priest and prophet, in banishment as an exile with Judah in Babel (now Iraq) sent out a word, that is able to shake today's world to its very foundations.

More powerfully than terrorists managed to pierce the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. with air-planes, his voice is able to reach everybody's ear, in every living room, even in any religious or political centre in the world!

Four millennia in a few pages

While historians depict history in voluminous books, the prophets of Israel need only a few words to expose the situation to its very core. Who is able to paint four thousand years of the history of Israel in just a few pages? This is what Ezekiel does, when he confronts Jerusalem with her condition at that moment, with retrospect to the birth of Israel and with the perspective of a glorious restoration! And he does it in such a shocking manner, that it can make Jerusalem shudder even today. And not Jerusalem alone! For the fact that this city is situated "on the navel of the earth" implies no less, than that all nations are, spiritually speaking, connected to "mother" Jerusalem by the umbilical cord. Which is as uncomfortable to Jerusalem as it is to the nations...

Khai Israel! May Israel live!

Ezekiel does not mince matters. He likens the people of Israel in her early existence to a foundling, an exposed new-born baby. The girl is kicking about in the blood of her birth. The cord is still wrapped around her. No-one has taken the trouble to cut it, to wash the child and rub it with salt to protect it from infectious diseases and to wrap it in cloths. No such thing. This girl is neglected, a throwaway. Without a compassionate eye. Until.. the Eternal One came by.

He saw the child, kicking about in the blood of her birth. Filled with deep compassion He approached the child and spoke to this girl, that was left to die: "Live!" "Khai Israel!" This is the only basis for Israel's existence. The Word of the living God, who created Israel from Sarah's withered womb. Taken away from the idolatry and death-spirit of paganism. For in Ur Abraham's father Terah had also served false gods.

A young, neglected woman asked to be a bride...

After this "first act" of the love story between God and Israel a second episode follows. Jacob's family, having come to Egypt with seventy-five persons, there, in foreign parts, develops into a people of a few million souls. The throwaway, but lovingly adopted baby has developed into a full-grown teenager. But... this numerous nation-to-be still has not disentangled herself from "the blood of its birth". As before she is neglected, chastened by the heat of oppression in Egypt.

Hard labour and systematic extermination of her babies have left deep marks on this young woman. Then the Eternal One passes a second time. He sees this young, marriageable woman. Once more, moved by her fate, He takes pity on her and... takes her to be His wife, spreading His garment over her like a huppah. A wedding at the foot of mount Sinai: the "second act".

After a few centuries of crisis this resulted in a temporary culmination: the kingdom of Israel under David and Solomon. Israel is as a beautiful wife at God's side. Cleansed, clothed, richly adorned and fed by Him. Her fame went forth among the nations. Heads of state paid a visit to Solomon from as far as Africa. For the sake of God's name Israel and her king Solomon are on everybody's lips. The fame of the Eternal One has a wide range. What the world gets to see is no less than a miniature realm of peace. With at its centre Jerusalem, named "*perfect in beauty*", "*the joy of all the earth*". This is the third act, the temporary climax.

The crack that has not healed

However, *noblesse oblige*. Being a bride of the Eternal One puts a great responsibility on Israel. Especially on her shepherds, the kings. When Solomon, the prince of peace, goes as far as to build temples for the idols of his women, and even allows babies, that belong to God, to be sacrificed to Moloch, decline begins to show very rapidly: the forth and as yet longest "act". The one, undivided kingdom of Israel disintegrates into two kingdoms. The larger part of the twelve tribes form the Northern kingdom of Israel. In 722 before the Christian era this kingdom dissolves into Assyria. By and large the majority of Israel lose their identity as Israel. The call: "give us a king, just like other nations" was understood by the Eternal one as a slighting of Himself as Israel's King. But at the same time it is a disengagement from the calling to be a holy nation, by her testimony serving all nations. Because of that, during the centuries that followed the majority of Israel would tail away to the level of the other nations.

From now on it will be called "Lo-Ammi", "not-My-people". And ever since the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" have not officially been found!

Fortunately, after the split in the kingdom, there remains another representative of the chosen people: Judah. While its big sister "Samaritah" (the ten tribes of Israel) has long since gone in exile, and part of Judah has meanwhile been banished to Babel, still some representatives of Judah remain in Jerusalem. They imagine they are the sole heir, solidly established in the ancient land as they think they are.

But by mouth of Ezekiel the Eternal One completely upsets their calculations. Jerusalem, he says, better had not imagine vain things. Not only she is of the same mould as her "sister Israel", but both of them, Israel and Judah, were torn from the same cloth as... Canaan. Imagine being told a thing like that: "*Your father was an Amorite, your mother a Hittite.*" Those were the ancestors of Canaanite peoples, born from Ham. If Ezekiel would have said this in an ethnological sense, he would be far beside the point. But what he wants to point out to Jerusalem (and to her "daughters") is this: spiritually speaking you have the same roots as Canaan.

What is the central address of "Israel"?

I apologize for the following digression, but we are still looking in the mirror of Ezekiel's prophecy. This "we" should be taken in as broad a sense as possible. "We", that is the author of this message, writing as a representative of that great family of peoples of which this one "sister", Israel, consists. No-one needs to tell you that the majority of the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not Jews, but "children of Israel". Throughout the centuries the synagogue has known about its ten brothers. Moreover in recent years in your own country publications about this matter have been issued from Orthodox Jewish circles, well-documented and in growing quantity. The fact that the ten tribes of

Israel are still blind to their own descendance and identity does not make things easier. To deliver a message to Judah and the Jews at the right address is easy - which we are doing herewith. But we state emphatically, that in this epistle to the official representatives of the state of Israel we are actually addressing all tribes and peoples of Israel.

And more than just them! For in his message the prophet Ezekiel lumps Judah, Israel and Sodom all together. That is why this message, though addressed to the Knesseth and Chief Rabbinate, is directed not only to all descendants of Israel, but even to all nations!

Pre-Israelite inhabitants

It is a foregone conclusion that Ezekiel had ample reason to make his message so broad and even involve the pagan peoples in it. The Eternal One does no injustice. Not even when in the time of Moses He commands Israel to eradicate all Canaanite people, after their coming into this land. For had not God already told Abraham, that He would give them four more centuries to turn from their unrighteousness? When after four centuries of oppression Israel is standing at the gates of Canaan, the time has come. This land spits out its people, Adonai says. The whole spiritual and natural atmosphere of the country had been corrupted by horrible ungodliness. In order that it will never be possible to accuse the Eternal One of iniquity, the Torah sums up these detestable sins: adultery, incest, homosexual practices, sexual intercourse between man and animals, idolatry, fortune-telling, spiritism, child sacrifices etc.

"Daughter like unto mother"

This enumeration is surprisingly up-to-date. If it is true that the Eternal One does not allow Himself to be carried away by the stream of time, but really has given eternal commandments to His people, then the question is justified: why should not the soil of America and Holland, and many countries like them, spit out its inhabitants likewise? All of us are tarred with the same brush. All the things the Canaanites used to do, the Israelites and Judeans did too. And their offspring in the twenty-first century do the same things again! Ezekiel confronts Jerusalem of those days, and contemporary Jerusalem, together with all her daughters, with her past and with her present condition. Child sacrifices are common practice today and approved by law.

For what is the cruel tearing asunder of babies, formed in the mother's womb, but a downright attack on God's creative act, a sacrifice to the modern Moloch of materialism, love of ease, humanism and state security? Even Jerusalem is not free of guilt in this matter. How could one ever justify the two abortions free of charge available to every woman serving in the Israeli army? The blood guilt, pressing down heavily upon this earth, is immense; and even Jerusalem is not free from it.

Where does the shoe pinch?

The question suggests itself: how could it have come this far? In the past, but no less today? There is only one answer: Israel and Judah and their daughters have forgotten how God first saved them from the gutter! In pride and arrogance they - and we together with them - have bartered away that what was given us as a graceful gift from the Eternal One, as though it was our own possession. In figurative speech: the bridal dress was spread out on every street corner as a bed to commit adultery with every passer-by. And this folly is worse than that of normal whoremongers, for instead of taking rewards for this "fornication", for the sake of idolatry the peoples connected with "mother Israel" do just anything! For the Mammon, for power and fame the leaders of the nations sell their own peoples. The permissive policy towards drug abuse, legalization of abortion, euthanasia, pornography and prostitution, a mixing of service to the Eternal One with the gods of the nations, which the Torah plainly calls "devils" - all this is nothing short of a sell-out of their own peoples.

Under the guise of religious and cultural enrichments, but when it comes to the point, for the sake of Dollar or Euro, men of state sacrifice their own sheep!

The one "cumbersome stone", Jerusalem

That the towers of Babel, symbols of the power of money, can come down within one hour, the world could witness recently with their own eyes and with great horror. Yet the masses are not aware that much more serious things are forthcoming. To know that, you have to learn from Israel's prophets. And they all say as in one voice: the future will revolve around Jerusalem. The prophet Zechariah calls Jerusalem "a cumbersome stone". The nations have to lift it; but lifting it, they will hurt themselves and burn their fingers. And yet more! In this respect there is no city in the world, whose future has been painted by the prophets so plainly and realistically, but also hopefully and gloriously, as Jerusalem. That is why we feel our visit to Jerusalem in this time of tension to be a grace of God. The Eternal One says: "Comfort, comfort ye My people!" For Jerusalem reconciliation and total cleansing are in store. The blood guilt of Jerusalem, from past and present, will be washed away, says the prophet Isaiah. By the spirit of judgement and fire... The Holy Spirit will burn away from Jerusalem like a fire everything that does not belong there. So that the glory, the heavenly glory can overshadow this city like a column of cloud and fire. And... the hope of Jerusalem is also the hope of its "daughters"! Ezekiel 16 concludes with a joyous tidings that will change the whole people of Israel, spread all over the world, profoundly and decisively. Eventually as a blessing to all nations. In spite of the mountain of godlessness and the towering guilt, there is reconciliation. A completely new beginning. The marriage between the God of Israel and His people will be gloriously renewed. The "fifth act" is at hand: the kingdom of the Messiah! God's glorious presence and rightful government will be visible to everyone's eye on this earth, which will be made new.

That other, even more cumbersome stone!

Concluding I wish to put forward yet something else. There is one person, sprung from the bosom of the people of Israel, whose name has been seriously tainted by the acts of "christians". An endless row of books has been written to sever the One that is called "Christ" from His own roots - if that were possible. Church assemblies and resolutions have attempted to make a breach between the Son of Jesse and his people Israel. Even though the Gospels give a clear tidings of the birth of this descendant of David. Intentionally they put the spotlight on the Messiah, as in future He will reign over the house of Jacob on the throne of David in Jerusalem. Nevertheless year after year they have managed to cloud these words systematically. Actually we ought not to be very surprised.

Day by day they stumble more at the cumbersome stone, Jerusalem, exactly because the future of Jerusalem and the world revolves around that other cumbersome stone: the future pretender to the throne of David. The "christian" western world is heavily embarrassed with the fact that the Man they claim to follow, has the oldest rights to become Jerusalem's King. And even on the throne of David in Jerusalem. In spite of Rome and all other religious and political centres! They will simply have to clear the ground for the kingdom of the Messiah. And they have long seen the impending changes... In this respect little has changed since the time of king Saul. He sensed it very acutely, and voiced it too: *"As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established."* The moment is close, when the Eternal One will give the crown of David to that one Son of David. Before the eyes of all nations it will then become apparent, that the Lion of Judah triumphed by becoming a Lamb. Then soon all political and religious powers will be finished too.

However human a democratic government may seem, only when the Eternal One is given back His rights will righteousness be restored on earth.

Knesseth and throne of David

Are you still taking into account that the time is coming when the Knesseth will have to yield to the throne of David? Your government, however democratic, is after the ordinance of Saul. A form of government "just like other nations". The kingdom of the Messiah is of a different ordinance. This throne of David will be so authoritative and effective for all tribes of Israel and for all nations, that the mere thought of it will inspire awe. For this Son of David will turn the whole world upside down. No political, international or inter-religious organization can change that. That is the reason why all nations, whether they want to or not, will have to make a choice with respect to Jerusalem. Mother and daughters will be dealt with by God in the same way. But the decree of the Lord is established forever: *"I have installed (anointed) my King on Zion, My holy hill."* (Psalm 2:6) That is why, with the

oncoming shaking and sifting of all peoples and empires of the earth, only one last, pressing advise remains:

"Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for His wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him." (Psalm 2:12)