

Jerusalem Touted As World's Capital
Israel's Peres Wants Shrines Under Stewardship Of U.N., Annan As Mayor
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Note from pastor Kevin: This news item is very significant in light of Bible prophecy. The prophet Zechariah said that in the last days the entire world would be in a debate over Jerusalem. The final battle of the world will be fought over Jerusalem.

*Zech 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: 2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 3 "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.
(NKJ)*

The Bible also teaches that Jerusalem is God's city and that He gave it to the Jews. Revelation 11:2 states that in the last days, a Jewish temple will be built in Jerusalem on the temple mount, but the area around the temple will be given to the Gentiles.

Rev 11:1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 "But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

There are three other places in scriptural prophecy that require a last-days temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem (Dan 12:11, Matthew 24:15, and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). These passages require that a temple of the Jews be built to allow the antichrist to go inside and defile it (in some way) and declare he is God.

Is it possible that the world leaders will offer the Jews the ability to rebuild their temple on the temple mount in Jerusalem in exchange for the sovereignty of the rest of Jerusalem, for the good of the world? If so, will it be part of the one week of years (seven year) peace treaty that the antichrist is going to enforce (Daniel 9:27). Time will tell.

No matter how it happens, the scriptures will be fulfilled. But it is shocking and unprecedented in the history of the world, for a nation to be told they have to give up the sovereignty of their capitol city for the sake of a world government. We are living in exciting times. I pray everyone reading this is ready for eternity, meaning you realize you are a sinner deserving of death and hell, but that Jesus

was sent into this world to live a perfect, sinless life, and to suffer death on the cross on your behalf, so that you could be saved. Those who believe and accept that Jesus is the only way truth and life, and that they cannot get to heaven without Him will be saved.

Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres, a former Israeli prime minister, is proposing Jerusalem be declared the capital of the world as a way of getting around competing Israeli and Arab claims to the city.

According to his spokesman, Yoram Dori, the dovish leader of Israel's opposition Labor Party suggested putting the important religious shrines in Jerusalem under United Nations stewardship. He said the holy sites in Jerusalem's walled Old City could be declared a "world capital."

The Maariv daily said Peres raised the idea Monday with visiting Russian officials. The "world capital" idea appeared to be largely symbolic. According to Maariv, Peres proposed that the U.N. secretary-general be declared mayor, in which capacity he would appoint Jewish and Arab deputy mayors to administer the two sides' intertwined neighborhoods. Kofi Annan is the current secretary-general of the U.N.

The United Nations has in the past taken a position on Jerusalem, one of the most intractable issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Under a 1947 General Assembly resolution partitioning British mandatory Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, the city was to be internationalized, belonging to neither side.

During the 1948-49 war that followed Israel's creation, Israel seized the western part of the city and Jordan the eastern side, including the walled Old City with its Christian, Jewish and Muslim holy sites. In the 1967 Mideast war, Israel recaptured east Jerusalem – along with the West Bank and Gaza.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's predecessor, Ehud Barak, offered the Palestinians limited sovereignty in Arab parts of Jerusalem and in most of the Old City – but the plan was rejected by Yasser Arafat, who launched an uprising that has claimed the lives of hundreds of Arabs and Jews. Barak lost a bid for re-election to Sharon.

Among the ideas reportedly considered during those talks were divine sovereignty or no sovereignty over the chief point of contention in the city – a holy site known by Jews as the Temple Mount and Muslims as Haram as-Sharif, where the Al Aqsa Mosque was built on the site of the biblical Jewish Temples.

Peres' 1996 election loss to Benjamin Netanyahu is partly attributed to Netanyahu's politically effective charge that Peres would divide Jerusalem. Peres was chosen to reassume the leadership of the opposition Labor Party after it again lost elections earlier this year.

