

The Holy Land is in Our Hearts

By Jason Page

We can reflect on a profound truth from Hebrews 8:2, which declares that Jesus is “a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.” This verse unveils a revolutionary reality: the Holy Land is not a patch of earth marked by borders or buildings, but a sanctuary within our hearts, where God’s presence dwells through Christ. Under the new covenant, Jesus serves as our eternal high priest in a heavenly temple, not one crafted by human hands. This truth, rooted in the Bible, calls us to transcend earthly conflicts and embrace a spiritual access to God that no wall, no weapon, nor no war can confine.

Consider the context of Hebrews. The old covenant tethered God’s presence to a physical temple in Jerusalem, where priests offered sacrifices in a man-made structure. But Hebrews 8 reveals that this was merely a shadow of the true tent—the heavenly sanctuary where Jesus, our perfect mediator, intercedes for us. John 4:21–24 echoes this, as Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that true worship is not bound to Jerusalem or any mountain, but flows “in spirit and truth.” Amos 9:11–15, fulfilled in the Church through Acts 15, speaks of restoring “David’s fallen shelter” not as a physical kingdom, but as God’s people united in Christ. The Holy Land, then, is within us—where God’s Spirit resides, as Paul affirms in 1 Corinthians 3:16, calling us God’s temple.

Yet, across the globe, we see leaders—both foreign and domestic—clinging to the old ways, rejecting this new covenant’s truth. They stake claims on sacred sites, wielding power through control of land and resources, much like the Pharisees in Jesus’ time. The Pharisees profited from temple activities, exchanging currencies of sacrifice while knowing the corruption beneath—money changers exploiting the poor, priests upholding rituals for personal gain. Jesus condemned their hypocrisy in Matthew 23, calling them “whitewashed tombs” for their outward piety masking inner evil. Today, some leaders mirror this, promoting currencies of division—nationalism, territorial disputes, or economic dominance—while aware of the evil dealings that fuel perpetual conflict. Their actions sow discord, not peace, chaining humanity to cycles of violence over earthly materials that Hebrews 8 declares obsolete. This pattern is not new. Reflect

on the times of Gomorrah, where power corrupted hearts, and leaders indulged in greed and oppression, as Genesis 19 reveals. Or consider Goliath, whose might in 1 Samuel 17 symbolized earthly strength, yet fell to David's faith in God's unseen power. Even then, blackmail was a tool of control. In ancient times, secrets—whether of alliances, betrayals, or personal sins—were leveraged to manipulate kings and priests, as seen in the intrigues of 1 Kings 15, where hidden dealings shaped power struggles. Such corruption festers today, as leaders use information, wealth, or influence to dominate, ignoring the spiritual truth that true power lies in the heart's allegiance to God.

The consequences are clear: perpetual conflict. Wars over land, resources, or ideology rage because some refuse the new covenant's call to seek God beyond the material. Like the Pharisees, they profit from division, knowing the cost in human lives. Like Gomorrah's rulers or Goliath's arrogance, they trust in earthly might, only to find it fleeting. But Hebrews 8:2 offers hope. The true tent is God's eternal sanctuary, accessible to all through faith. The Holy Land is not a place to conquer, but a reality to embrace—in our hearts, where Christ reigns.

We may choose differently to reject the currencies of conflict and embrace the currency of grace. We may worship in spirit and truth, as Jesus taught, and build communities of peace, not walls of division. The Holy Land is within us, and no leader, no power, no earthly material can take that away. We may live as temples of God's Spirit, shining His light in a world desperate for hope. Thank you, and may God bless us all.

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