

## **What Have I Gotten Myself Into? The City**

### **God and the City**

<sup>1</sup> But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. <sup>3</sup> Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup> But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup> Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine. <sup>7</sup> But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" "I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die."

<sup>10</sup> But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup> But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?" Jonah 4

<sup>41</sup>As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup>and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup>They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." Luke 19:41-44

### **The New City**

<sup>1</sup> Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,  
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

<sup>2</sup> It is beautiful in its loftiness,  
the joy of the whole earth.  
Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,  
the city of the Great King.

<sup>3</sup> God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress.

<sup>4</sup> When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together,

<sup>5</sup> they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror.

<sup>6</sup> Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labor.

<sup>7</sup> You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind.

<sup>8</sup> As we have heard, so have we seen  
in the city of the LORD Almighty,  
in the city of our God:  
God makes her secure forever. Psalm 48 1-8

<sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:13-15

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

<sup>11</sup>By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup>And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

<sup>13</sup>All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup>People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:8-16

<sup>13</sup>Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. <sup>14</sup>For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Hebrews 13:13-14

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:1-4

### **The City and Scripture**

- City occurs 31 times in the book of Revelation
- City occurs 42 times in the book of Acts

## The City and Canada

- 4/5<sup>th</sup> of Canada now lives in an urbanized area
- Nearly ½ of Canada's population live in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal
- Over 75% of all immigrants and refugees move to Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal

## Engaging the City

<sup>4</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup> Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.

<sup>7</sup> Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

- Institutionally
- Politically
- Economically

Sector	1996	2006	%change
Manufacturing	64,750	57,630	-11%
Health Care	30,630	40,080	31%
Education	19,550	30,830	57%
Construction	15,680	28,080	78%

- Hamilton Health Science Corporation is Hamilton's largest employer with 10,000 employees. The City of Hamilton is the second largest employer with 9,000 employees.
- Poor
  - 41% of our community lives in poverty (the poorest in the city)
  - 55% of children under 6 in our community live in poverty
  - 35% of Canada's homeless have a diagnosed psychiatric disorder
- Tribe
  - Culture and Language
  - Athletic
  - Artistic
  - Musical
  - Academic
  - Pubs
- Soul

<sup>8</sup> Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. <sup>9</sup> They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:4-13