

# Jerusalem Day 2019

By T.W. Tramm

JERUSALEM DAY, the holiday commemorating the Jewish liberation of Jerusalem during the Six Day War, is June 2.

On this day, it will have been 52 biblical calendar years since the momentous spring morning when Israeli paratroopers reached the western wall of the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism.

Among the troops was a 50-year-old Rabbi named Shlomo Goren who sounded the shofar in celebration of the holy site's liberation.

Goren spoke:

"The vision of all generations is being realized before our eyes: The city of God, the site of the Temple, the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, the symbol of the nation's redemption, have been redeemed..."

A week later, on Shavuot, the ancient city was officially opened to the Israeli public. For the first time in nearly two millennia, masses of Jews could visit the Western Wall and walk through the streets of Judaism's God-ordained capital.

One who was there describes the euphoric mood of that day:

"I've never known so electric an atmosphere before or since. Wherever we stopped, we began to dance. Holding aloft Torah scrolls we swayed and danced and sang at the tops of our voices. So many of the Psalms and songs are about Jerusalem and Zion, and the words reached into us a new life. As the sky lightened, we reached the Zion gate. Still singing and dancing, we poured into the narrow alleyways beyond."

A crowd of around 200,000 visited the Western Wall on Shavuot 1967. It was the first mass pilgrimage of Jews to a Jewish-controlled Jerusalem on a biblical festival since the feast-pilgrimages in the days of the Temple.

52 years later, on the heels of modern Israel's 70th year, it's fascinating to consider a timeline related to Jerusalem's walls in ancient times. About 2,460 years ago, following the 70 years of Jewish exile in Babylon, it took Nehemiah and his crew 52 days to rebuild the walls of the holy city (Neh. 6:15). A "70" followed by a "52" thus denotes completion or a finishing point related to Jerusalem and/or its walls.

Additionally, the number 52 signifies a period of prosperity for Israel. One of the nation's most successful leaders, King Uzziah, reigned 52 years in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 26:3).

During Uzziah's rule, the nation prospered. Desert areas were reclaimed by water conservation, the city's walls were reconstructed, towers mounted with sophisticated weaponry were added, and a large army was maintained. Scripture says King Uzziah was "marvelously helped [by the Lord], till he was strong" (vv. 4-15).

Unfortunately, when Uzziah grew strong, his heart became lifted up with pride and he transgressed the Law by entering the Temple to burn incense in the presence of the Lord—a privilege reserved only for the consecrated priests (2 Chron. 23:6). Upon the king's unlawful entry into God's sanctuary, he was at once struck with leprosy and thus forever cut off from the house of the Lord (vv. 16-21).

The lesson taught by this tragic turn of events is that not even a king is qualified to stand before the Lord unjustified.

Thankfully, owing to Jesus' atoning sacrifice, those who believe and accept Him as Lord are deemed pure and found fit to stand in God's presence.

Today, as a strong and confident Israel prepares to celebrate 52 years of rule over Jerusalem, it's more important than ever to be justified by the blood of Christ.

"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God" (Rom. 5:9).

Are you listening, Israel?

#### NOTES:

1. Jerusalem Day reckoning: The Gregorian date of the Jewish liberation of Jerusalem, June 7, 1967, corresponds to Iyyar 28 on the biblical calendar. Iyyar 28 corresponds to June 2 in 2019. June 2, 2019, is also the day on which some Churches observe Ascension Day, the day that Jesus was taken up into the clouds in the sight of the disciples while two men in white appeared and explained that He would return "in like manner" (Acts 1:6-11)

2. Shavuot, or Feast of Weeks, is also called the Harvest Festival in Scripture: "Celebrate the Harvest Festival [Shavuot/Pentecost] each spring when you start harvesting your wheat" (Ex. 23:16 CEV). The modern Jewish/rabbinic calendar reckons Shavuot June 9-10 in 2019. The biblical method of calculating Shavuot, however, which has the 49-day (omer) count starting from the day after the weekly Sabbath following Passover, puts the Harvest Festival at June 16:

<https://www.nehemiaswall.com/counting-omer>

3. The Magic of Shavuot 1967: <https://www.jewishlinknj.com/.../3707-the-magic-of-shavuot-19...>

4. In Bible prophecy a day is often equated to a year: Ez. 4:4-6; Num. 14:33, 34; Dan. 9:24-27.

5. How to be saved from God's wrath and gain eternal life: <https://www.abcjesuslovesme.com/ideas/abcs-of-salvation>