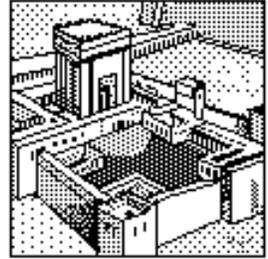


בּוֹנֵה יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Builder of Jerusalem

Since the days of King David, when Jerusalem became the capital of Israel, the city has been under attack by our enemies. Due to our unfaithfulness to HaShem, He allowed our enemies to take Jerusalem away from us, and to make us live away from the very place in which our Temple existed. After Solomon built the Temple, it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. After our people returned from exile in Babylon, the Temple was rebuilt under the leadership of Zerubbabel. This Second Temple stood until the Roman times. However, fearing a revolt, the Roman general Titus came into Jerusalem and totally destroyed the Temple in 70 CE. Since that time no Temple of G-d has stood in the Holy City.



Because G-d has promised that He would regather the exiles to the Land, and that He would rebuild the city, our Sages incorporated into the Shemonei Esrei the 14th Benediction that implores G-d to return in mercy and to take up His visible dwelling in Jerusalem. Of course, we know that this will be in the person of His Messiah, Yeshua. The Benediction goes like this:

*And to Jerusalem, Your city,
return in mercy,
and dwell therein as You have spoken;
and rebuild it soon, in our days,
as an everlasting structure,
and the throne of David,
may You speedily establish therein.
Blessed are You, Adonai,
Builder of Jerusalem.*

As we prayer this prayer in the daily services, we reaffirm our attachment to the Land and the people of Israel. G-d's promises are sure, and thus we pray for the fulfilment of what He has said. When we pray this prayer, we can be sure we are praying for what HaShem will do—He promised He would.

A d o n a i
b u i l d s u p
J e r u s a l e m ;
H e g a t h e r s
t h e o u t c a s t s
o f I s r a e l .

P s a . 1 4 7 : 2