



Reaching the New Jerusalem: A Biblical and Theological Framework for the City



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Park set out to help readers get a holistic, biblical, and theological understanding of the church's missional activities in modern urban settings. Park writes this book to help his readers better understand the city and find ways to serve it according to God's plan. He says the church should recognize its role in God's rescue purpose for the city and act accordingly. The crux of Park's argument is that the church should bring the redeemed message of the gospel to bear on the city's flawed processes to make it more just and peaceful. He emphasizes the church's responsibility to work for shalom and justice on behalf of the city's impoverished and disadvantaged.¹ He argues that successful missionary work requires a holistic approach that includes evangelism, discipleship, and social action.

Park provides a sociological assessment of the urban core, linking to the resulting religious reflection and growth. Park argues that the Bible provides a framework for comprehending and engaging in the transformation that the city can function. He begins by looking at the city, emphasizing how many of the world's most pressing issues are located there. He argues that cities are the focus of human flourishing and catastrophe and that this intrinsic connection presents unique challenges and opportunities for the Church. Afterward, Park looks at the Bible's perspective on city living. He argues that the Bible provides a holistic vision of city development that incorporates both material and spiritual, social, and economic factors.

Park believes this transformation must first occur in Christian beliefs and practices. Christians, in his opinion, should recognize the city's worth within God's grand scheme despite its many challenges. Followers of Christ are invited to "embrace the city" and "create their theology by the city" in his book. According to Park, Christians living in cities should have an

¹ Park H. Seone. *Reaching for the New Jerusalem: A Biblical and Theological Framework for the City*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013.

open mind toward other cultures and actively pursue social justice and acts of compassion. Christian involvement in urban ministry, aid advocacy, and outreach to the poor are all encouraged as means to this purpose. He suggests that such efforts may be grounded in a theology influenced by the biblical notion of the city.

Both the teaching and reflection supplied by Park in urban theology are based on the Bible and its values, and both are pretty insightful. The expectation of the entrance of the New Jerusalem, sometimes referred to as the city of God and pictured in Revelations 21 and 22, serves as the central organizing principle for the conceptual framework of the Park game. According to Park, who emphasizes the significance of this issue, the expectation of the New Jerusalem should be exploited as a tool for knowing God's purpose for the city and developing appropriate urban theology. This is the key to achieving these two goals.

The idea of shalom in the Bible is the basis for Park's framework. Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace and harmony, and it describes the state that individuals find themselves in when they agree not just with God but also with one another and with creation. The idea of peace, also known as shalom, is fundamental to the teachings of the Bible and may be found in several different locations, ranging from the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem². According to Park's line of reasoning, shalom must function as the primary foundation for all urban theologies. Since the city is a place where people may interact with one another, with God, and with creation, it is essential to know this idea to comprehend the purpose of the city.

² ² Park H. Seone. *Reaching for the New Jerusalem: A Biblical and Theological Framework for the City*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013.

The framework that Park constructed also incorporates several other ideas and principles found in the Bible. Some examples of these are transformation, hospitality, and justice. He maintains that justice needs to be at the forefront of any urban theology since it is the cornerstone of constructing a just and equitable urban environment. This is because justice is crucial to the process. In a similar vein, hospitality is an essential concept for comprehending the city and the function it serves because the city is designed to be a location where people may congregate and engage in social activity within a setting that is both hospitable and quiet. In other words, transformation should be included in any urban theology because it is essential to urban regeneration and rebirth.

Park explores the relevance of urban theology as well as the repercussions it has on the Christian community. According to Park's argument, Christians who live in urban settings need to be mindful of the effects of the lifestyle choices they make and should make use of urban theology as a tool for theological study and development. According to Park's argument, Christians would fully understand their presence in the city and its influence on their religion by participating in urban theology. The primary objective of Park's theological implementation method is to achieve a deeper level of understanding of urban settings and the people who call them home. He believes that one may learn how to live better as a Christian by connecting with the city and that the city itself is a force that can alter people. Park argues that practices like worship, prayer, and service may make this engagement more accessible. By participating in these activities, Christians can develop their spirituality, acquire the skills necessary to deal with the obstacles of city life, and enhance their ability to engage with members of their communities.

To encourage theological reflection and development, Park encourages Christians to get active in the lives of their local communities. He contends that Christians have the potential to

make a constructive contribution to city life and the overall improvement of the urban environment³. According to Park, volunteering, engaging in political discourse, and positively contributing to one's community are ways Christian believers might get active. With these tactics, the Christians may get more insight into their community's issues and begin working toward a solution. Park's urban theology is a powerful approach to the spiritual development and reflection it aims to foster. Engaging in the activities and culture of a city may help Christians develop their faith and understanding of the wider world. If Christians follow this approach, they have the potential to become agents of change and contribute to the creation of a better future for their community.

³ Park H. Seone. *Reaching for the New Jerusalem: A Biblical and Theological Framework for the City*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013.

References

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