

#1419 The United States of America as the New Jerusalem/New Israel – At its founding, the land of America was looked upon by many as representing a New Jerusalem and/or a City Upon a Hill and/or a New Israel, part 2, Salem, Massachusetts, as a new Jerusalem, established by the Church in the New World

In the Book of Genesis, *Salem* is the name of the city of Jerusalem during the time of Abraham. It was ruled by Melchizedek. Salem is regarded as a shorter name for Jerusalem. Following are scriptural references to Salem:

Genesis 14:18 (KJV) And Melchizedek KING OF SALEM [ancient Jerusalem] brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Psalms 76:2 (KJV) IN SALEM [ancient Jerusalem] also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion.

Abraham receiving the blessing of Melchizedek, by Maerten van Heemskerck, 16th century



Hebrews 7:1-2 (KJV) For this Melchisedec, KING OF SALEM [ancient Jerusalem], priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also KING OF SALEM [ancient Jerusalem], which is, King of peace;

Salem, Massachusetts. Salem, Massachusetts, was established by Roger Conant in 1626 and was originally called Naumkeag. In 1628, John Endicott (also spelled Endecott) led about 50 people from England to Salem, establishing the Massachusetts Bay Colony there [reference Unsealing #596]. Endicott had been deputized by the Massachusetts Bay Colony to govern the little colony of Salem in subordination to the main governor and company in London. John Winthrop was elected governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony on October 30, 1629. **It was in 1629 that the village's name was changed to Salem.**



Statue of Roger Conant, founder of Salem, Massachusetts

The decision was made to transfer the whole government of the Massachusetts Bay Colony to American soil, and Winthrop was made governor to effect and carry out the transfer. Salem would be the founding seat of government of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In June 1630, John Winthrop and the Winthrop Fleet of 11 ships landed in Salem with the charter. A few days later he went to what is now called Charlestown, and soon afterward to the site and settlement of Boston. Winthrop's hope was that both Salem and Boston would become "Cities Upon a Hill" for God.

Matthew 5:14 (KJV) YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY THAT IS SET ON AN HILL cannot be hid.

Key Understanding #1: Though sources say that Salem, Massachusetts, derived its name from *Shalom*, the Hebrew word for *peace*, there is little doubt that the naming of Salem, Massachusetts, had at its roots the biblical Salem, which was the name for ancient Jerusalem. In a sense, just beneath the surface was the spirit of Salem representing a *second* Jerusalem for God – and for the *Church* in the New World.

Key Understanding #2: *Salem and Boston, cities upon a hill*. Because Salem, Massachusetts, was associated with its "twin city" Boston, Massachusetts, which, in turn, was thought to be a "City Upon a Hill" of the Lord, Salem likewise would be associated with being a "City Upon a Hill."



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