Holy City of God
Constructing a Metaphysical Image of Jerusalem

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Abstract

The intention of my dissertation is to attempt to construct a metaphysical image
of the city of Jerusalem in relation to the analogy of the human faculties of soul, mind
and body based on a Christian perspective. This study thus involves these three aspects
and how an image of Jerusalem is spiritually, mentally and experientially constructed
respectively.

This study neither presents a comprehensive nor an objective image of the city.
Instead, it is based on a personal engagement with Jerusalem; first, as a believer using
the Bible as a revealed textual source; second, as a student using secular and scholarly
resources; and last, as a traveller experiencing the city.

The mental image compliments and reinforces the spiritual image, as the former
helps to fill the factual “gaps” that is lacking in the latter. The fact that both images are
abstract, makes this reconciliation more viable.

The physical image based on experiencing Jerusalem, however, challenges and
attempts to displace the abstract images, because it sharpens and enlarges the sensibility
and awareness of the place in reality.