

This One was Born in Zion- Psalm 87

October 26, 2008 - Skip MacMillan

Psalm 87 (Praise of Zion, God's Register in Heaven, the joy of Zion)

"He has set His foundation on the holy mountain" (v. 1)

God establishes His foundation in Zion

"You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance -- the place, O LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands established" (Exodus 15:17).

Prophetic

"So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed'" (Isaiah 28:16).

Fulfillment

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Our foundation is Jesus Christ. He is why we do what we do; He defines our perspective and life. This foundation does not change, move, ebb or flow; He does not plummet or act erratically. Jesus Christ is the one sure foundation, timeless and true throughout all time.

Who or what is Zion?

Zion = "parched place," Holy Mountain, Jerusalem, City of God, the Temple.

God chose this "parched place" to establish His presence.

Just as Adam (we) was a lifeless lump of clay until God breathed the breath of life on him.

Zion's special quality did not reside within herself but in God choosing her.

The physical Zion was a shadow of what would come.

Abraham "was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel" (Hebrews 12:22-24).

"I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God'" (Rev. 21:2-3).

Zion is where God meets with His people to converse, receive worship, and reveal His glory.

"The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are said of you, O city of God" (vv. 2-3)

“gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob”

Dwellings of Jacob represents all the surrounding area, where people lived and families and friends worshipped during the week.

The gates of Zion represents the temple, corporate worship, where all those who are called gather together to worship the LORD.

While God loves individual and family worship time and calls us to it (Deuteronomy 6); He loves all the more the gathering of all His sons and daughters who come to worship and commune with Him.

“Glorious things are said of you”

You are the bride of Christ, purchased by his blood; a peculiar people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against you” -Matthew Henry.

“I will record Rahab (Egypt) and Babylon as those who acknowledge (know) Me - Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush (Ethiopia) – and will say, ‘This one was born in Zion.’ Indeed, of Zion it will be said, ‘This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High Himself will establish her’ ” (vv 4-5).

I, the Most High, will record and I will establish you.

I will redeem them through the blood of My Son, Jesus Christ.

I will record their name in the book of life; those whom I have called, those who believe and place their faith in Me.

I will establish My people forever as My Church, My Temple, My People.

“It is a prophecy or promise of bringing the Gentiles into the church and of uniting them in one body with the Jews. God says, I will reckon them my people as much as Israel when they shall receive the gospel of Christ, and own them as born in Zion, born again there, and admitted to the privileges of Zion as freely as a true-born Israelite. Those that were strangers and foreigners became *fellow-citizens with the saints*, Ephesians 2:19” -Matthew Henry.

My reach, My calling, My election is far and wide.

Isaiah 2:1-5 - “This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’ The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.”

Rev. 7:9-10 - “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’ ”

“Indeed, of Zion it will be said, ‘This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High Himself will establish her’ ” (Psalm 87:5).

From the very beginning (Genesis) the Gospel was reaching all people.

"Out of all quarters they will come to the Church, and be counted as citizens (of Zion)" - Geneva Bible.

From Exodus to Revelation, Zion is made up of all those who place their faith in Him, all those who call on His name, all those He has drawn to Himself, all those He has written on the palm of His hand, all those He has justified, is sanctifying, and will glorify. This is Zion.

"Of Zion it shall be said that the law which went forth out of Zion, the gospel of Christ, shall be an instrument to beget many souls to God, and the Jerusalem that is from above shall be acknowledged the mother of them all" -Matthew Henry.

Some are born in and into the city of Zion.

Some are born physically in Zion and later believe in the LORD.

Others are born outside Zion but believe in the LORD; born again of his Spirit, they become citizens.

"The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: 'This one was born in Zion' " (Psalm 87:6).

"Book of Life".

The people will respond to the LORD.

"As they make music they will sing, 'All my fountains (springs of joy) are in you' " (Psalm 87:7).

They will make music and sing; instruments and song.

Song and music were prominent features of worship in David's time. 288 Levites were appointed for singing and the performance of music.

Fountains

"Christ is the true temple; all our springs are in him, and from him all our streams flow" - Matthew Henry

"Where God is there must be joy, and where the church is increased by numerous conversions the joy becomes exuberant and finds out ways of displaying itself. Singers and dancers, Psalmists and pipers, united their efforts and made a joyful procession to the temple" -Spurgeon.

"To the Lord he would look for all inspiration, comfort, strength, joy, life and everything. The last is the truest doctrine. Churches have not such all-sufficiency within them that we can afford to look to them for all, but the Lord who founded the church is the eternal source of all our supplies, and looking to him we shall never flag or fail" -Spurgeon.

"Christ is the fountain and foundation of every drop of comfort; Christ is the God of all true consolation. It is not in the power of all the angels of heaven to give any soul one drop of comfort, nor can all on earth give you one drop of comfort. They can speak the words of comfort, but they cannot cause the soul to receive comfort. God comforts them, 2 Corinthians 7:6. . . . Comforting is called frequently in Scripture the speaking to the heart, Hosea 2:14. Who is able to speak to the heart but he who is the Lord and commander of the heart? God hath put all the oil of spiritual joy into the hands of Christ, Isaiah 61:3, and none but he can give it out. He that wants comfort must go to Christ, he that hath received any true comfort must ascribe it to Christ. 'All my springs', saith the Church, 'are in thee' " -Ralph Robinson.

In God our joy, from God our supplies, to God our praise.