

Lesson 11: Zion—The Home of All Nations

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Ryan Day

Read Psalm 87:1, 2. What makes Zion such an esteemed place?

His foundation *is* in the holy mountains.

²The Lord loves the gates of Zion

More than all the dwellings of Jacob.—***Psalms 87:1, 2***

Psalm 87 is a hymn celebrating Zion as God’s specially chosen and beloved city. The foundation of God’s temple is on Mount Zion (*Ps. 2:6, Ps. 15:1*). At the end of time, Zion will rise above all mountains, signifying the Lord’s sovereign supremacy over the whole world (*Ps. 99:2, Isa. 2:2, Mic. 4:1*). Psalm 87 refers to Zion as “mountains” to highlight its majesty (*Ps. 133:3*). God loves the gates of Zion “more than all the dwellings of Jacob” (*Ps. 87:2, NKJV*), expressing the superiority of Zion over all other places in Israel that were special gathering places of God’s people in the past, such as Shiloh and Bethel. Thus, the psalm affirms that true worship of God is in His chosen place and in His prescribed way.

Read Psalm 87:3–7. What are the glorious things that are spoken of Zion?

³Glorious things are spoken of you,

O city of God! *Selah*

⁴“I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me;

Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia:

‘This *one* was born there.’ ”

⁵And of Zion it will be said,

“This *one* and that *one* were born in her;

And the Most High Himself shall establish her.”

⁶The Lord will record,

When He registers the peoples:

“This *one* was born there.” *Selah*

⁷ Both the singers and the players on instruments say,
“All my springs *are* in you.”—***Psalms 87:3-7***

The glory of Zion draws all the nations to God, and so the borders of God’s kingdom are extended to include the whole world. Notice that God does not treat the other nations as second-level citizens, even if Zion is portrayed as the spiritual birthplace of all peoples who accept the Lord as their Savior.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference—***Romans 3:21, 22***

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”—***Romans 10:12, 13***

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.—***Galatians 3:28, 29***

¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.—***Colossians 3:11***

The psalm’s portrayal of the prosperity of Zion is reminiscent of Daniel’s vision of God’s kingdom becoming an enormous mountain that fills the whole earth (*Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45*) and of Jesus’ parable about God’s kingdom growing into a huge tree that hosts the birds of the air (*Matt. 13:32*).

³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer

threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth... ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” —***Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45***

God's promises are endless for anyone who will make Him Lord of their life!

¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.—***Revelation 3:11, 12***