

Sunday Night Message

April 19, 2015

Psalm 87 –

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 87

Introduction

This psalm is prophetic regarding the future for the City of Jerusalem (Zion). It is one of many psalms that speak about Zion. (See Psalms 48; 76; 125; 129; 137)

It is believed to have been written during the reign of King Hezekiah, after the defeat of the Assyrian army. It was after this time that some of the nations of the world became impressed with Jerusalem and actually sent gifts and ambassadors to visit her. (2 Chronicles 32:23; Isaiah 39:1)

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." (Isaiah 2:2)

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee. And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again." (Zechariah 2:10-12)

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." (Psalm 48:1-2)

This psalm is also a picture of the Heavenly Jerusalem (See Hebrews 12:18 – 24; Galatians 4:21 – 31)

God promised that Abraham would have an earthly family, like the sands of the sea, which is Israel, and a heavenly family, like the stars of the heaven, which is the church (Gen. 13:16; 15:4-5).¹

I The City of Zion (vs. 1 – 3)

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be worshipful* (1st ed., p. 280). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

Jerusalem is first mentioned in Genesis 14:18 in association with Melchisedek who is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Book of Hebrews.

Jerusalem is made the nation's capitol by King David in 2 Samuel 5:6 – 10.

Jerusalem is referred to as "my city", "the holy city", "the holy mountain", and the "joy of the whole earth".

It was the site of the Temple, and place of the crucifixion and resurrection. It was the place of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the home of the first church.

Jerusalem was the capitol of the nation since the time of David, but it was overrun by Gentile nations until 1948 when it regained its independence.

Jerusalem exists today as the capitol of the Nation of Israel, but the people of God are forced to co-exist with Muslim Palestinians.

Jerusalem will be the center of conflict in the end times (Zechariah 12 – 13:1)

Jerusalem will someday be the capitol of the world.

God is building the New Jerusalem now where the church will someday dwell. (See Revelation 21)

II The Citizens of Zion (vs. 4 – 6)

Notice here that the City of Jerusalem will be inhabited by her former enemies.

Rahab refers to Egypt. (Psalm 89:10; Isaiah 51:9)

Notice the mention of Ethiopia – who was the first Gentile convert? And Ethiopian eunuch.

See Isaiah 2:1 – 5; Micah 4:1 – 5; Zechariah 8:23; 14:16 - 20

III The Center of Zion (v. 7)

Jerusalem is the center of the earth. It is the earthly throne of God

"Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be a ruler over my people Israel: But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel." (2 Chronicles 6:5-6)