

Christ Revealed in Psalms
Campus Christians, Spring 2012
(10)
The Preciousness of Zion in the Psalms

Further Scripture Readings: Psa. 2:6; 137:1, 5-6; Heb. 12:18-24; 1 Tim. 1:4; 2:8; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thes. 5:17; Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 1:16-23; 3:14-21.

I. Among the Old Testament types, there is God's holy city, Jerusalem, and within this city there is a high peak called Zion, on which the temple was built—Psa. 2:6; 125:1:

- A. Although God is mysterious and invisible, there are two earthly signs of God's existence—Zion and Jerusalem.
- B. Psalms 120 through 134 indicate that Zion, the center, and Jerusalem, the circumference, remained deeply in the consideration of the people of Israel; they were very concerned for Zion and Jerusalem—137:1, 5-6.
- C. On Mount Zion we have the church—the Body of Christ—and God's economy for God's testimony—Heb. 12:18-24.

II. The only way to reach the high peak of Zion is by praying; in order to reach Zion by praying, we need to know the significance of prayer for the carrying out of God's economy—1 Tim. 1:4; 2:8:

- A. Prayer is man breathing God, obtaining God, and being obtained by God; real prayer is an exhaling and inhaling before God, causing us and God to contact each other and to gain each other—1 Thes. 5:17.

This refers to praying in a particular way. In order to reach Zion by praying, we need to know the significance of prayer...“the principle of prayer.” It is not that I feel something, need something, or want something, and hence I ask for it. That may or may not be prayer. What we are referring to is this: In God is a will, a desire, and an intention, but He will not act alone to carry it out. This is not like the creation of the universe, where He did everything by speaking. Rather, **He wants His people on the earth to be open to Him, to be one with Him, and to agree with Him so that His will becomes their will, His intention becomes their intention, and His desire becomes their desire in their fellowship with Him.** This is the principle of **John 15:7:** *“If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.”* Of course, this is absolutely not in the way of our saying, “I wish for a yacht; I wish for this and that.” **When the words of Christ abide in us, operate in us, and impart to us God's desire, that desire becomes ours.** We want it, and thus we may pray something like, “Lord, we want five hundred churches in India by 2020.”

Questions:

1. How can we see that Mount Zion as a type of the church is God's habitation (resting place) and where the Lord is today? (Psa. 132; 122:1; 2:6).
2. What is the significance of prayer for the carrying out of God's economy? (1 Tim. 1:4; 2:8; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thes. 5:17). What should be the focus of our prayer?

Hymn

1. Recall how David swore,
"I'll not come into my house,
Nor go up to my bed,
Give slumber to mine eyelids,
Until I find a place for Thee,
A place, O Lord, for Thee."
Our mighty God desires a home
Where all His own may come.

2. How blinded we have been,
Shut in with what concerns us;
While God's house lieth waste—
Lord, break through, overturn us;
We'll go up to the mountain,
Bring wood and build the house;
We'll never say, "Another day!"
It's time! We'll come and build!

3. Lord, against these days,
Inspire some for Your building,
Just as in Ezra's day—
A remnant who are willing
To come and work in Your house,
Oh, what a blessed charge!
Your heart's desire, is our desire—
We come, O Lord, to build.

4. Within those whom You'd call
Put such a restless caring
For building to give all—
These times are for preparing;
The gates of hell cannot prevail
Against the builded Church!
The hours are few, the builders too—
Lord, build, O build in us!

(Repeat the last four lines)

Scripture Reading:

Psa. 122:1

I rejoiced when they said to me,/Let us go to the house of Jehovah.

125:1-2 Those who trust in Jehovah are like Mount Zion,/Which cannot be moved but abides forever./Jerusalem—mountains surround her;/And Jehovah surrounds His people/From now and to eternity.

127:1 Unless Jehovah builds the house,/Those who build it labor in vain./Unless Jehovah keeps the city,/The guard watches in vain.

128:5 Jehovah bless you from Zion;/And may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem/All the days of your life.

132:1 Remember, O Jehovah, for David's sake/All his afflictions;

2 How he swore to Jehovah/And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

3 I shall not go into the tent of my house;/I shall not go up onto the couch of my bed;

4 I shall not give sleep to my eyes,/Slumber to my eyelids;

5 Until I find a place for Jehovah,/A tabernacle for the Mighty One of Jacob.

6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah;/We found it in the fields of Jaar.

7 We will go into His tabernacle;/We will worship at His footstool.

8 Arise, O Jehovah, unto Your resting place,/You and the Ark of Your strength.

9 Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness,/And let Your faithful ones give a ringing shout.

10 For the sake of David Your servant,/Do not turn away the face of Your Anointed One.

11 Jehovah has sworn unto David in truth;/He will not turn from it:/Of the fruit of your body I will set One upon your throne.

12 If your children keep My covenant/And my testimonies that I will teach them,/Their children also will sit/Upon your throne forever.

13 For Jehovah has chosen Zion;/He has desired it for His habitation.

14 This is My resting place forever;/Here will I dwell, for I have desired it.

15 I will abundantly bless its provision;/I will satisfy its poor with bread.

16 And its priests I will clothe with salvation,/And its faithful ones will shout with a ringing shout.

17 There I will cause a horn of David to shoot forth;/I have prepared a lamp for My anointed one.

18 I will clothe his enemies with shame,/But on him his crown will shine.