

PSALM 87

The Privileges of Citizenship in Zion.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A Song. "Glorious things are spoken of you..."
- B. This beautiful psalm glorifies Zion, the city of God, and some project this blessings to the Messiah and the church (Isa. 2:2,3).
- C. We do not know the occasion of this psalm, but some have suggested the time of Hezekiah when God delivered the city from the Assyrians.
- D. Coffman divides the psalm into three parts:
 - I. Zion is God's Dwelling Place (87:1-3).
 - II. The Glorious Things (87:4-6).
 - III. Conclusion (87:7).

THE TEXT.

- 87:1** His foundation is in the holy mountains.
- 2** The LORD loves the gates of Zion
More than all the *other* dwelling places of Jacob.
- 3** Glorious things are spoken of you,
O city of God. Selah.
- 4** "I shall mention Rahab and Babylon among those who know Me;
Behold, Philistia and Tyre with Ethiopia:
"This one was born there."
- 5** But of Zion it shall be said, "This one and that one were born in her";
And the Most High Himself will establish her.
- 6** The LORD will count when He registers the peoples,
"This one was born there." Selah.
- 7** Then those who sing as well as those who play the flutes *shall say*,
"All my springs *of joy* are in you."

COMMENTS.

- A. Zion is God's Dwelling Place (87:1-3).
 - [v1]** "...in the holy mountains." Since the psalm is glorifying Zion, or Jerusalem, it may refer to the four mountain peaks of Jerusalem, of which Zion is the one where David built his palace and reigned. Coffman points out that the mountains are holy because God dwells in them and not that God dwells in them because they are holy of themselves.
 - [v2]** "The Lord loves the gates of Zion more..." God made it His holy city when He had the Ark brought there and the temple built there.
 - [v3]** "Glorious things are spoken of you..." Coffman suggests that the glorious things are what God says about Zion in the next three verses.
- B. The Glorious Things (87:4-6).
 - [v4]** "...Rahab and Babylon...Philistia and Tyre...Ethiopia..." These nations were enemies of God's people, but they will be able to be called "children of Zion" or "born in Zion." This may well refer to spiritual Zion or the New Jerusalem, as God promised Abraham (Gen. 28:14).
 - [v5]** "...this one and that one..." "This one" of verse 4 becomes many in verse 5: the Gentile world is allowed to be Born in Zion, or "born of water and the Spirit" (Jn. 3:5).
 - [6]** "The Lord will record..." It is God who adds to the church or kingdom (Ac. 2:47; Col. 1:13).
- C. Conclusion (87:7).
 - [v7]** "...All My springs are in you." Life in dry countries depends on water and the security of a city depended on a reliable water supply in times of siege. All blessings are from God. See Jas. 1:17; Eph. 1:3.