

Psalm 87

In Praise of Yahweh's Granting "Born in Zion, His Favorite City" Status to Multitudes of Gentiles!

(A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A Song.)

A1 YAHWEH'S LOVE FOR ZION, THE CITY OF ELOHIM 87:1-3

B1 The Mountains (of Zion) -- the Foundation of God's Dwelling: {1} His foundation is in the holy mountains. 87:1

B2 Yahweh's Supreme Love for Zion 87:2

C1 {2} The LORD loves the gates of Zion ¹

C2 More than all the *other* dwelling places of Jacob.

B3 The Glorious Commentary on (Zion) the City of Elohim 87:3

C1 {3} Glorious things are spoken of you, ²

C2 O city of God. Selah.

¹ 87:2 - Zion: Scholars are uncertain as to the root meaning of the term. Some suggest it is related to the Hebrew word for "dry place" or "parched ground." Others relate it to the Arabic word meaning "hillcrest" or "mountainous ridge" (James Newell, *Holman Bible Dictionary*).

As far as actual usage in the Psalms, Zion refers to a specific mountain, Mount Zion (48:2, 11; 74:2; 78:68; 125:1). In Psalm 2:6, God refers to "Zion, my holy mountain." Occasionally Zion occurs in a context of mountains (plural): Ps 87:1-2; 133:3).

Zion is used in the Psalms, moreover, in reference to a city (48:2, 12-13; 69:35; 87:2-3, 5), sometimes identified as Jerusalem (51:18; 102:21; 128:5; 135:21; 147:12).

In the Psalms, Zion also refers to the dwelling place of God (9:11; 74:2; 84:7 [implied]; 132:13-14; 135:21). In Ps 76:2 there is specific reference to the structure in which Elohim resides, specifically, a temporary structure, booth (tabernacle, NASB).

² 87:3 - Glorious things ... spoken of you (Zion): The glorious attributions concerning Zion are enumerated in the following verses, namely, that Gentiles will graciously be granted, by God Himself, citizenship status in Zion. This beautiful missionary psalm shows the heart of God from ancient times to provide "born in Zion" status to multitudes of Gentiles! God's grace and compassion for us among the nations is humbling and overwhelming! THANK YOU, GOD!

From a NT perspective, this "born in Zion" status is granted to all those who have been "born again" (John 3:3, 7), which is defined as being "born of the Spirit" (John 3:5, 6, 8). One is "born again", or "born of the Spirit" by trusting in God's uniquely-born Son, Jesus, whom God lovingly gave to the world upon the cross so that, through faith in Him, they might have eternal life (John 3:14-15, 16) and be saved from perishing in judgment (John 3:16, 17, 18).

A2 YAHWEH'S GRANTING OF "BORN-IN-ZION" CITIZENSHIP STATUS TO MULTITUDES AMONG THE NATIONS! 87:4-6

B1 Specific Nations Who Know Yahweh and Are Granted Citizenship Status in Zion! 87:4

C1 They Know Yahweh: {4} "I shall mention Rahab³ and Babylon among those who know Me;

C2 They Are Granted Citizenship Status

D1 The nations: Behold, Philistia and Tyre with Ethiopia:

D2 The Zion-born citizenship status: "This one was born there."

B2 The Most High's Gracious Establishment of Zion as the Birthplace for Multitudes of Gentiles! 87:5

C1 The Multitudes of Gentiles to be Stated to Have Zion as Their Birthplace: {5} But of Zion it shall be said, "This one and that one were born in her";⁴

C2 The Deliberate Establishment of Zion as a Center for "Adopt-a-Gentile" by the Most High Himself! And the Most High Himself will establish her.

B3 Yahweh's Registrations of Gentiles as Having Been Born in Zion! 87:6

C1 Yahweh's Registration of Gentiles: {6} The LORD will count when He registers the peoples,

C2 His Counting Them as Having Been Born in Zion! "This one was born there." Selah.

³ 87:4 - Rahab ... Ethiopia: Rahab is a sea monster (Job 26:12-13), here, probably a reference to Egypt (Allen P. Ross, *TBKC*). See also Isa. 30:7; 51:9-10; Ps. 89:10. Ethiopia translates Cush (AV, NIV), and, acc. to Ross, is modern-day southern Egypt, Sudan, and northern Ethiopia (Ross, *op. cit.*)

⁴ 87:5 - this one and that one were born in her: Heb. - "man and man (*ish* and *ish*) were born in her." K & D: "... accordingly here ... (individual and, or after, individual) affirms a *progressus in infinitum*, where one is ever added to another. Of an immeasurable multitude, and of each individual in this multitude in particular, it is said that he was born in Zion."

A3 GREAT JOY AND SUSTENANCE ATTRIBUTED TO ZION (BY ITS INHABITANTS)! 87:7

B1 The Celebration of the Musicians: {7} Then those who sing as well as those who play the flutes *shall say*,

B2 The Musicians' Acknowledgment That Zion is as Essential to Them as Life-Giving Springs of Water! "All my springs *of joy* are in you."⁵

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 87

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⁵ 87:7 - all my springs *of joy* are in you: This statement hearkens back to 87:3, which says "Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!" The preliminary fulfillment will take place during the Millennium; ultimate fulfillment in the New Jerusalem (Rev 21-22).

Thank you so much, God, that I, James T. Bartsch, am among those who have native-born citizenship status in the New Jerusalem because I have been "born-again" by virtue of my faith in Christ, the Jewish King, based upon Your promise to Abraham that in him all the nations of the world would be blessed! (Gen. 12:1-3).