

Evening Sermon Outline – January 12, 20202

“The City of God” Psalm 48

I. Praise the LORD, admire His City –

¹ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised In the city of our God, In His holy mountain. ² Beautiful in elevation, 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 (NKJV)

1. This Psalm is about Jerusalem, most likely after the Temple was built!
2. Though the Psalm is about Jerusalem and yet it begins and end with praising the LORD, talking about our God - :1 & also :14 -

¹⁴ For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death. Psalm 48:14 (NKJV)

3. Jerusalem is God’s City, in His Holy Mountain ... Some might think Mt. Sanai from which the Ten Commandments were spoken would be the mountain crowned by God, as it was symbolic of God’s Law ...

Yet, Jerusalem is symbolic of God’s grace, His dwelling, and staying with us, the Book of Hebrews compares these two mountains -

¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. Hebrews 12:18–24 (NKJV)

Note Hebrews relates the Heavenly Jerusalem to the church & Jesus – Hebrews 12:23-24

A. Jerusalem is called “His holy Mountain” :1 – referring to the fact it is set apart as God’s, His possession. As different, separated from all other mountains! So we are to be holy –

¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

1 Peter 1:15–16 (NKJV)

B. Beautiful and joy are words used to describe it, Jerusalem as a literal city loses this, the lose it because of moral failings –

¹⁵ All who pass by clap their hands at you; They hiss and shake their Heads At the daughter of Jerusalem: “Is this the city that is called ‘The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?’” Lamentations 2:15 (NKJV)

C. God calls us to an even higher moral calling -

²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” ²⁷ Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:25–29 (NKJV)

Verse 2.—“Beautiful for situation.” This earth is, by sin, covered with deformity, and therefore justly might that spot of ground, which was thus beautified with holiness, be called “the joy of the whole earth,” i.e., what the whole earth had reason to rejoice in, because God would thus in very deed dwell with man upon the earth.—Matthew Henry.

II. The city is one God protects –

³ God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge. Psalm 48:3 (NKJV)

Other cities are known for their great walls or weapons, God protects His people –

⁷ Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7 (NKJV)

III. *It is a place, a people, fearful to God's enemies –*
⁴ For behold, the kings assembled, They passed by together. ⁵ They saw it, and so they marveled; They were troubled, they hastened away. ⁶ Fear took hold of them there, And pain, as of a woman in birth pangs, ⁷ As when You break the ships of Tarshish With an east wind. Psalm 48:4–7 (NKJV)

1. *Kings assembled – maybe they dare not pass alone? Or perhaps it is a sight-seeing tour?*
2. *They marveled!*
3. *They were troubled, left quickly!*
4. *Tarshish, a hurricane causes fear, so does the LORD!*

IV. *It is a place, a people, loved and cared for by God*
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1. *This is the eternal Jerusalem –*

⁸ As we have heard, so we have seen In the city of the LORD of hosts, In the city of our God: God will establish it forever. Psalm 48:8 (NKJV)

A. *The history of God's fighting for His people mentioned here, ⁸ As we have heard... so we have seen In the city of the LORD of hosts, In the city of our God*

We read such things in Scripture!

B. *Established forever points to the New Jerusalem –*

• *This is the Church the Bride of Christ –*

² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. Revelation 21:2–3 (NKJV)

• *The Church, the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ, includes both Jews and gentiles –*

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city,

the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹² Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21:9–14 (NKJV)

2. *Solomon's Temple is destroyed, as well as His Jerusalem, we are the current Temple, God's people are the eternal Jerusalem!*

V. *The Temple is a place of God's Lovingkindness –*

⁹ We have thought, O God, on Your lovingkindness, In the midst of Your temple. Psalm 48:9 (NKJV)

² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:2–4 (NKJV)

VI. *A place for the Glory and praise of God, a people dedicated to that purpose –*

¹⁰ According to Your name, O God, So is Your praise to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is full of righteousness. ¹¹ Let Mount Zion rejoice, Let the daughters of Judah be glad, Because of Your judgments. ¹² Walk about Zion, And go all around her. Count her towers; ¹³ Mark well her bulwarks; Consider her palaces; That you may tell it to the generation following. ¹⁴ For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death. Psalm 48:10–14 (NKJV)

1. *God's Name, Reputation, Glory - :10*
2. *Rejoice of God's people – Zion - 11*
3. *God's glory is seen in His people, their protection - :12-13*
4. *God Who does these things is worthy of our praise - :14*

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