

Glorious Things For God's Faithful - 07/14/19

TEXT – Psa 87:1-7 A Psalm or Song for the sons of Korah. *His foundation is in the holy mountains. 2 The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. 3 Glorious things are spoken of thee.*

INTRO – From the earliest days the church has regarded Psalms as relevant to its needs and circumstances. In the first century, references to Psalms appear in nearly **eighty New Testament passages**. The church has regarded Psalms not only as relevant but also authoritative. References from no less than five psalms were quoted in the first chapter of Hebrews as statements that God “said.”

- Psalms speaks to us as well as for us.
- The apostles regarded David as a prophet through whom the Holy Spirit spoke (Acts 2:30 and 4:25).
- The writer of Hebrews saw in Psalm 40:6-8 a prediction of Jesus' coming (Heb. 10:5-7).
- Luke and John regarded Psalm 22 as a prophecy of Jesus' death (Luke 27:46, quoting Psalm 22:1; John 19:24, Psalm 22:18).
- Simon Peter saw our Lord's resurrection foretold in Psalm 16:8-11 and Christ's triumphant rule predicted in Psalm 110:1

The early church simply followed the pattern of Jesus himself, who regarded the psalms, no less than the law and the prophets, as part of that inspired word which predicted His coming (Luke 24:44).

The sons of Korah were the music leaders during the time of King David.

Some of the Psalms spring out of the times when life is anxiety-free and the believer can look away from himself and meditate upon the world around.

In these poems the heavens declare the glory of God (Ps. 19:1),

The Lord is the believer's shepherd (Ps. 23:1),

The Enthroned One laughs at those who oppose Him (Ps. 2:4),

Brothers live in unity (Ps. 133) and

Glorious things are said of Jerusalem (Ps. 87).

C. S. Lewis stated:

The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express that same delight which made David celebrate ... Against [the merely dutiful 'church-going'] it stands out as something astonishingly robust, virile, and spontaneous; something we may regard with envy and hope to be infected by as we read. Such is the case with Psalm 87

I. The Place of God's Blessing vs. 1

A. Sudden bursts of holy joy are precious.

B. God has chosen his earthly temple upon the mountains; he might have selected other spots, but it was his pleasure to have his chosen abode upon Zion.

C. The church is the place of God's blessing

The foundation of the church is laid in the eternal, immutable, and invincible decrees of Jehovah.

Mat 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Eph 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

II. God's Greatest Love vs. 2

A. He loved Zion greater than Jacob

- Jacob was a result of the unconditional providence of God

Zec 2:8 *For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.*

- Zion was a result of the voluntary worship of His people

B. He delights in the prayers and worship of His church.

1 Pe 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

III. Glorious Things Spoken vs. 3

A. The glory of Jerusalem

Glorious things were taught in her streets and observed in her Temple

Children taught at the feast of Tabernacles

Sacrifices made in the Temple

Tithes brought in to the Temple.

Peace and prosperity throughout the land

B. There is a glory in the church

Souls saved

Lives transformed

Good habits formed

Happy people

IV. Peace From Our Enemies vs.4

A. Once enemies will become allies and worship God

Egypt, Babylon, Tyre, Philistia, and Ethiopia

They were born into Zion

B. Christians share a common heritage and citizenship

Php 3:20 *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

V. Christianity is a Personal Decision vs. 5

1 Pe 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

There are great servants of the Lord.

Apostles, prophets, missionaries, martyrs, preachers and faithful Saints.

Hebrews 11 – men and women of faith

George Mueller, Hudson Taylor, David Brainerd, William Carey George Whitefield etc.

VI. All The Saints Names Recorded

Rev 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

Rev 20:15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

A census will be taken all who know Christ.

VII. Parade of The Saints

There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth

Rev 14:2 *And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:*

Among the highlights of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics: Etta James' singing "When the Saints Go Marching In," a man flying in on a jetpack and later, 84 grand pianos played simultaneously.

CONCL – Nothing will compare to the fanfare of the parade of Saints in heaven.