

There is a city located about 14 miles west of the Dead Sea and 33 miles east of the Mediterranean. It is a city built on an uneven plateau at an elevation of 2550 feet. The city is Jerusalem.

One cannot possibly honestly read the Bible without realizing that this city is very important to God regardless of the dispensation. Today it is called a “holy city” because it headquarters three religions—Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

When we go through the Bible what we discover is that over and over again God emphasizes the importance of this place. It is His city. He has decided to make it eternal and people who are interested in being right with God and accurately understanding the Bible had better take this place seriously.

What is absolutely amazing is that if one today looks at the various cities of the world, Jerusalem certainly does not look too impressive. It certainly does not have the skyline of New York, Chicago or Atlanta. **But this city will one day be the major city of the world.** It will extend from heaven and it will be honored by all and that is precisely what this Psalm is all about.

Psalm 87 is another Psalm of the sons of Korah and it is also a song. So what this means is that imperfect people wrote about a perfect city and this was not only to be studied but sung. The truth of this Psalm is that no city that has ever been in existence will ever compare to Jerusalem one day.

Think through history of some of the great cities of the world. There was Rome, who in her prime stood on seven hills. There is Paris, the city of love. There is Tokyo in Japan and Hong Kong in China. No city will even begin to compare to Jerusalem. The point of Psalm 87 is this:

**EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO SPECTACULAR RIGHT NOW, GOD WILL EVENTUALLY MAKE JERUSALEM THE MOST ESTEEMED CITY AND PLACE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.**

This point is very applicable to us right now because we who know the Lord don't look like much. But there will come a day when faithful people of God will be the most beautiful and most powerful people in existence. That is clearly what this Psalm is all about.

Now the Psalm breaks down nicely into three main thoughts, two of which end in “Selah.”

**THOUGHT #1** – Jerusalem has a present glory. **87:1-3**

Although most people don't see this point, the truth is the most glorious city on earth right now is Jerusalem. Even though to the world right now it doesn't look too impressive. The present glory is determined by three realities:

**Reality #1** - The glory of Jerusalem is seen in that it is the place chosen by God. **87:1**

When you think things through Biblically, God's foundation for everything He has chosen to do, in regard to man, begins in this holy place. When we read a prediction like that of Isaiah 28:16, we learn that the foundation for any relationship with God begins in Jerusalem with the finished work of Jesus Christ.

"Zion" is a poetic name for Jerusalem (Is. 1:26-27) and it refers to a specific hill spot in Jerusalem. Zion was David's city, it was Jesus' city, and it will be the millennial city and ultimately the heavenly city. This city is a geographical place that is foundational for both Jews and Gentiles in their relationship with God because this is the very city in which Jesus Christ died and it is the very city where He will reign.

The mountains are literally the mountains around Jerusalem. They are called "mountains" plural because Jerusalem is part of a mountain range.

For example, we say Jackson Hole, Wyoming sits in the "Tetons." The reason we just use the plural is because it is a city that sits in a massive mountain range known as the Teton Mountain range. Again we cannot help but see how important the mountains are in displaying the awesome majesty of God.

**Reality #2** - The glory of Jerusalem is seen in that it is a place loved by God. **87:2**

God loves Jerusalem more than any other place in Israel's possession. This is the place that is most sacred to Him. This is the place that He loves. This is the place where His precious Son died.

This certainly teaches us that God's love is not the same for every one and every place. Even when God loves something, it doesn't mean He doesn't love something else more. The theological world has a very distorted view of the love of God.

I am convinced in this age that God loves the church that stands for His precious Word more than any other place in existence. Spurgeon said many people stay home from church—too cold, too boring, too tired—but what they don't realize is this is the place God loves the most. When God sees His people going to church, He loves it.

Now this is something many people miss about the love of God. God loves in greater and lesser degrees. He may love all of the dwelling places of Jacob, but He loves Jerusalem more. Jerusalem is obviously a city greatly loved by God. He loves at a deeper level when people are obedient to Him. Jesus said if you love me, keep my commandments.

**Reality #3** - The glory of Jerusalem is seen in that it is a place highly spoken of by God. **87:3**

The truth is more things are said and predicted about Jerusalem than are said about no other place. In Revelation 21-22, glorious things are predicted concerning the city. Its dimensions and its looks are spectacular. Its beauty will be like nothing ever seen before in a city. This city will actually feature the personal presence and reign of God Himself in all of His glory. No other city in the world holds such a special position in Scripture like Jerusalem.

“Selah”—stop and think about it.

**THOUGHT #2** – Jerusalem has a future destiny. **87:4-6**

One commentator said this Psalm is one of the most difficult to understand in the whole Psalms. The fact is if you know truth about Israel, about the church and about prophecy that is simply not true. In fact, this Psalm is easy to understand.

In **verse 4**, God makes it clear that there will come a day when all of the Middle East will be in a right relationship with God, with Israel and with Jerusalem. In fact, according to **verse 5** Zion will be the mother city of all the nations (Is. 60:4-14; 2:2-4; 26:1-2). Jerusalem will be the great city of the world and all people will realize this.

All people will realize that they were born into a right relationship with God out of Jerusalem (**Ps. 87:4-5**). The city of Jerusalem will be the city of the world established by “the Most High God.”

According to **verse 6** there will be a count and there are books. God keeps a book of every person who has been born from this place where His Son died. God keeps records of Israel and He knows each tribe. God keeps records of all who are saved and He knows all who are born again due to the cross-work of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem.

Does God know those who are faithful and those who go to church? Yes, He does. God does know those who are faithful and those who go to church. There is an actual number count. There are names that are literally recorded in the Lamb’s book of Life and God knows them all. He knows the name of every person who is “born again.”

Selah—stop and think about it.

**THOUGHT #3** – Jerusalem has a future joy. **87:7**

The joy of God will ultimately be found in this city for everyone. Voices will sing and instruments will play because of the joyous things that will happen in Jerusalem.

This is truly the glorious place of God. All blessings will spring forth from this city. All joyous blessings spring from a right relationship with God. Without a right relationship with God, one is dead and dry.

**PRACTICAL LESSONS:**

**1) Great works of God may not presently look impressive.**

**This is true with places and this is true with people.**

**2) There are places God deems as sacred and He loves those places the most.**

**3) There are real books and real records kept by God with names of real people.**

**4) Jerusalem and Jewish people should always be esteemed by us because one day they will be esteemed by the whole world forever.**