

“God’s Glorious City” Psalm 87

Psalm 87 (NKJV)

A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song.

¹ His foundation *is* in the holy mountains.

² The LORD loves the gates of Zion
More than all the dwellings of Jacob.

³ Glorious things are spoken of you,
O city of God!

Selah

⁴ “I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me;
Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia:
‘This *one* was born there.’ ”

⁵ And of Zion it will be said,
“This *one* and that *one* were born in her;
And the Most High Himself shall establish her.”

⁶ The LORD will record,
When He registers the peoples:
“This *one* was born there.”

Selah

⁷ Both the singers and the players on instruments *say*,
“All my springs *are* in you.”

I. A city worth singing about -

A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song. ¹ His foundation *is* in the holy mountains. ² The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. ³ Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!

Selah Psalm 87:1-3 (NKJV)

I was born in a City that has a song – “My kind of town Chicago is ...” Frank Sinatra. Some of you are from the other city Frank Sinatra sang about – New York!

I am not proud of being from Chicago. It is the city of corrupt politicians, and gangsters, Al Capone ... My grandfather was Al Capone's tailor.

I count the Sons of Korah superior to Frank Sinatra. I count Jerusalem, Zion, the City of God superior to Chicago or New York. This is especially true when you realize God the Holy Spirit, the Ultimate Author of this Psalm probably had the Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem in mind when this song was written –

21 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 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 21:1–4 (NKJV)

Hymn #345 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken - John Newton (Author of Amazing Grace) is based on :3 of this Psalm

The children's son "Father Abraham" could have come from this Psalm too, verses :4, :5 & :6

1. *It is a city literally and spiritually built upon Mountains –*

A. *Exodus 20 – Ten Commandments*

B. *Matthew 5-7 Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*

²⁴ "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matthew 7:24–27 (NKJV)

¹ His foundation *is* in the holy mountains. Psalm 87:1 A

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

II. A song to sing everywhere -

⁴ “I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me; Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia: ‘This one was born there.’ ”

Psalm 87:4 (NKJV)

- 1. Rahab was a nickname for Egypt a proud, arrogant, ferocious nation, south of Jerusalem*
- 2. Babylon was an empire, a worldly nation, to the East*
- 3. Philistia was the near by enemy nation, home of the Giant Goliath, and it was West*
- 4. Tyre was a powerful city state to the North*

So, you might say Jerusalem was surrounded!

5. Ethiopia, compared to the others was a DISTANT nation!

6. Nobody knows for sure when this Psalm was written. Some say during the reign of Hezekiah, which would have been before Solomon’s temple was destroyed. John Calvin argues the song was written after Solomon’s Temple was destroyed and the second, humbler Temple was built. This is closer to Jesus’ time; and because of Jesus, the second temple is prophesied to excel the first!

7. Consider Zechariah’s prophecy -

⁶ “Up, up! Flee from the land of the north,” says the LORD; “for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven,” says the LORD. ⁷ “Up, Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.”

⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye. ⁹ For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me.

¹⁰ “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the LORD. ¹¹ “Many nations shall be

joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. ¹² And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem. ¹³ Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!” Zechariah 2:6–13 (NKJV)

8. *And Haggai's prophecy -*

⁹ ‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.” Haggai 2:9 (NKJV)

9. *Ephesians 2 –*

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ Our Peace -

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:11–22 (NKJV)

10. *Revelation 5 –*

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:9 (NKJV)

*The nations mentioned in Psalm 87:4, are representative of every nation, Revelation 5:9 those redeemed by Christ are considered **born there.**’ ” Psalm 87:4 (NKJV)*

III. The rest of the Psalm emphasizes this fact –

*1. Notice a certain idea started in :4 is repeated - **This one was born there.’ ” Psalm 87:4 (NKJV)***

⁵ And of Zion it will be said, “This one and that one were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her.” ⁶ The LORD will record, When He registers the peoples: “This one was born there.”

Selah

2. This is about being born again -

*I was born in Chicago, Illinois, but spiritually I was born again in Zion! This is what the LORD will write on the official registration papers - ⁶ **The LORD will record, When He registers the peoples: “This one was born there.” Psalm 87:6 Selah***

3. We, though Gentiles, are children of Abraham in Christ -

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)

4. Zion is the spring, the source from which the blessings of life flow -

⁷ Both the singers and the players on instruments say, “All my springs are in you.”

Arnold Brevick