

Psalm 87 – The City God Delights In and the Source of Our Life

"His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob." (Psalm 87:1–2, NKJV)

This psalm opens by declaring God's special affection for Zion—another name for Jerusalem, the city where His presence was uniquely revealed in the Old Testament. While all the tribes and regions of Israel were important, God had chosen Jerusalem to be His earthly dwelling place. He loved the "gates of Zion," where worshipers gathered and praise ascended.

Personal Application:

There are places and moments in our walk with God that mark us deeply—times of prayer, worship, or communion where His nearness becomes evident. This psalm reminds us to cherish those sacred spaces, not because they are magical, but because God meets His people there. Ask God to make your heart a sanctuary where His presence is welcome.

"Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!" (Psalm 87:3)

Jerusalem is called "the city of God," not because of its beauty or size, but because of the One who chose to dwell there. The greatness of Zion is found in God's presence, not in its structures or citizens. When the Lord is in a place, it becomes glorious.

Personal Application:

The true glory of your life doesn't come from your accomplishments or reputation—it comes from God's presence in you. You are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), and when He dwells in your heart, your life reflects His glory.

*"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)*

This verse lists historic enemies and Gentile nations—Rahab (a poetic name for Egypt), Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia—and speaks of people from those nations being regarded as if they were "born in Zion." In other words, outsiders are now included as citizens of God's holy city.

Personal Application:

This verse reveals God's heart for the nations. He welcomes people from every background, even those once considered far from Him. You don't need a perfect past or religious pedigree to belong in His kingdom. If you have been born again by faith, you are part of the family of God—fully accepted, fully included.

"And of Zion it will be said, 'This one and that one were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her.'" (Psalm 87:5)

Zion becomes a symbol of spiritual rebirth and belonging. Those who are spiritually born into God's kingdom are counted as citizens of this holy city—not based on geography but on relationship with God. And it is *God Himself* who establishes this city and secures its future.

Personal Application:

You don't need to establish your own security or identity. Let the Lord establish you. When you walk with Him, you are grounded in something unshakable—His promises, His presence, and His purpose.

"The Lord will record, When He registers the peoples: 'This one was born there.' Selah" (Psalm 87:6)

There will be a divine record of those who belong to God's eternal city. Those who have been spiritually reborn will be counted among His people, no matter their origin. What matters most is not where you started, but whether your name is written in His book.

Personal Application:

Do you know your name is written in God's book? If you've placed your trust in Him and received the gift of new life, you belong to His family. This truth offers great assurance—your identity is secure in Him, and your future is tied to His eternal purposes.

"Both the singers and the players on instruments say, 'All my springs are in you.'" (Psalm 87:7)

This beautiful ending line is a poetic declaration: *"All my springs are in You."* Springs symbolize life, refreshment, and vitality. The psalmist is saying that every source of strength, hope, and joy in life is found in God alone.

Personal Application:

Let this be the declaration of your heart today: *"Lord, all my fountains—my joy, my peace, my energy for life—are in You."* Don't try to draw life from broken wells. Let the Lord be your source. He alone refreshes the soul.

Final Reflection

Psalm 87 begins with praise for Zion, but it ends with a deeper truth: God is building a people for Himself from every tribe, tongue, and nation. He is the source of life, the establisher of His people, and the One who welcomes all who come to Him by faith.

So today, walk in confidence—not because of where you come from, but because of who you belong to. Let your soul echo this line: *"All my springs are in You."*