

THE VISION OF ZION

- A vision shows us what the Lord wants to accomplish in our life / church / nation. It gives us a goal to attain!
- Proverbs 29:18 tells us, *“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”* KJV, or *“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint.”*
- When we gain a heavenly vision of God's calling, the natural goals that many people seek fulfillment in are seen as insignificant in comparison with the eternal and glorious plans of God, 1 Cor.9:25, Rom.8:18.

WHAT DOES ZION SIGNIFY?

FIRST MEANING: a fortress hill in Jerusalem.

FINAL MEANING: Zion speaks of the high calling of God for His people, the center of heaven's purposes.

The first time the name 'Zion' is found in the Bible is in 2 Sam. 5:6-7 & 9-10. The Jebusites had built a fortress there on a hill on the southeast side of Jerusalem called Mount Zion. The hill was probably named after this fortress. Once David captured this fortress, it became his royal capitol that he also named 'The City of David.' As he ruled from Zion, his kingdom grew until he ruled over a great empire.

#1- ZION, THE PLACE OF KING DAVID'S THRONE (Authority)

- Ps.110:2 & Ps. 2:1-8 God's anointed rules from Zion- Ask God for the nations! This also represents the authority available to the overcomers who are in spiritual Zion
- Heb.12:22 We read of a greater, spiritual Mt. Zion in heaven- the city of King Jesus!
- Eph.2:6, 1:20-23 We can sit w/ Christ above all principalities & powers in heavenly places- in Zion!
- Rev.3:21 King Jesus invites the overcomers to sit on His throne in the heavenly Mt. Zion
- Ob.21 Saviors (deliverers) will ascend Mt Zion (in the last days revival) to judge the heathen.

#2, ZION, THE PLACE OF GOD'S ARK (Worship & Glory)

- Mt. Zion was where David built a tabernacle and placed the Ark of the Covenant, 1 Chronicles 15:1 & 16:1.
- The Ark of the Covenant was where God dwelt, spoke from, and revealed His glory to His people, Ps.80:1
- King David placed the ark on Zion, which he made a place of worship where God dwelt in the midst of His people, 1 Chron.16:4-37; Ps.9:11, Is.23:10, Ps.84:7.
- Zion became famous for these two reasons: both the throne of the king and the ark of God were there! The throne speaks of authority, while the ark speaks of worship and God's glory.

ZION, THE 'CENTER OF THE ACTION'

Many who live in the capitol of a nation have higher social standings than those who live out in the remote countryside. Furthermore, if you live or work at the national palace you could hold a very high position. We find a similar spiritual parallel in the Scriptures, Psalm 76:1-2.

- All the Israelites were God's people, who could prepare for an eternal reward in heaven. Some were offered higher callings than others, such as the tribe of Judah that gained the kingship. Yet the people who lived on Zion were in the very center of the action, because the throne of David and the worship at the ark were there.

ZION BECAME KNOWN AS THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

- Zion was praised as the city of God and the king, Ps.48.
- Zion was God's favorite city, Ps.87:2
- Those born in Zion were given the highest honors, Ps.87:1-6.

THE HEAVENLY ZION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

As we go on to study the New Testament, we find that the vision of Zion is lifted much higher:

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT- Zion was the center of David's world empire.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT- Mount Zion is the heavenly center of God's throne, presence, and glory.

- There is a heavenly Mount Zion & Jerusalem, just as an earthly Mount Zion & Jerusalem, Hebrews 12:22-24.
- Rev.14:1-3 THE HEAVENLY MOUNT ZION IS AT THE THRONE OF GOD
- Just as earthly Zion is the place of the throne and of worship, the true Zion in heaven is at the throne of God and is the center of worship!
- THE HIGHEST PLACE OF AUTHORITY & GLORY IS FOR THOSE AROUND THE THRONE OF GOD.
- The resurrected saints will each be filled with varying amounts of glory, just as the stars, moon, and sun shining in the sky (see 1 Cor.15:41-42 & Dan.12:2-3).
- The saints will each be ready for different levels of authority, such as kings, governors, and mayors (study Rev.2:26-27; Jer.30:9; Mt.19:28; and Lk.19:11-17).

HOW CAN WE OBTAIN THE INHERITANCE OF ZION?

1. We must see the calling and consecrate ourselves to the plan of God!
 - Eph.1:17-18 have our spiritual eyes opened, to see the hope of His calling!
 - As this calling becomes birthed within our spirit: Ps.87:5-6 "And of Zion it will be said, This one and that one were born in her..." We can be birthed into Zion's calling & vision
2. We must go through the preparations to enter into Zion's inheritance!
 - Mt.22:14 Many are called, but few are chosen: we must prepare!
 - Lk.12:48 To whom much is given, much is required

THE HIGHWAYS TO ZION

The Psalmist said, *"How blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are the highways to Zion! Passing through the valley of Baca [or, 'weeping'], they make it a spring... They go from strength to strength, every one of them appears before God in Zion,"* Psalm 84:5-7 NASV.

- Our hearts must be centered on obtaining the goal of standing before God at His throne in heaven.
- Through all the tears of our earthly pilgrimage, God can comfort, refresh, and lift us higher and higher.
- We can go from strength to strength & from glory to glory until we will appear before God in Zion in heaven.

Do you have the highways to Zion built in your heart that will lead you on towards obtaining this goal?

John the Baptist: a voice crying in the wilderness, *"Make straight...a highway,"* Is.40:3-5; Mt.3:1-3.

Isaiah chapter 35:8-10 also tells us more about that highway, the "Highway of Holiness" to lead us on to Zion.

DWELLING IN ZION

The Highway of Holiness leads to Zion. To spiritually arrive there, we must qualify:

- Ps.24:3-5 There are four requirements to ascend and *visit* Zion.
- Ps.15:1-5 There are eleven requirements to abide & *dwell* on Zion.
- Is.4:4-5 There must be cleansing before the glory will cover the churches on Zion.

THE VISION OF MT. ZION

The Lord wants to plant a vision in our hearts. The assemblies of Mount Zion, composed of every church that is pressing on in holiness towards the high call of God, will be covered with His glory, Is.4:3-6.

- Moreover, in heaven the Lord sits on His throne in Zion, where He invites the overcomers to sit with Him on His throne and reign with Him in glory throughout eternity.
- Do these truths stir your heart to run after God's best? If so, let us join together to help build this vision within the Church!