

Truth #2 The city abounds with new life

v.4-6

The “glorious things” spoken of the city are now heard. What are the “glorious things” spoken of? In other words, 1) Who dwells in this city? 2) How did they become residents of this city? 3) What effects do “these glorious things” have on the citizens of the city?

1. Who dwells in this city?

The Gentiles v.4

(cf. Isa. 62:2; 65:15; 56:5; Ex.12:37-38; Ruth 1:16ff; Ephesians 2:11-22; Rev.7:9-10)

Prominent enemies of God's people

Rahab (Egypt) and Babylon – powerful world influences

Pesty enemies of God's people

Philistia – never fully removed from the land

Provocative enemies of God's people

Tyre – rich & mighty merchants (cf. 1Kings 9:11)

Peripheral enemies of God's people

Cush (Ethiopia) – to the ends of the earth (see Acts 8:27)

The Jews v.5

“And of Zion” refers to ethnic Israel.

2. How did they become residents in this city?

“were born in her” – Citizens of the city were born of God

(cf. Gen. 1:28; 2:7; 3:15; Eze. 36:26; 37; Matt.1:21; John 1:12-13; 3:1-8; 2Cor.5:17; 1Jn. 5:1)

“registers the peoples” – Eluding to a king taking census and registering individual names (“this one and that one”)

(cf. Ex.32:33; Dan.12:1; Luke 10:20; Phil.4:3; Heb.12:23; Rev.3:5; 13:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27)

Truth #3 The City overflows with joy & praise

v.7

3. What effects do “these glorious things” have on the citizens?

Singing, Dancing, Springs = exuberant joy giving rise to praise!

Lessons

- ☞ *The city of God refers to the people of God (i.e. the church; see Rev. 3:12; 21:2)*
- ☞ *God loves His people (cf. Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Gal.2:20; Rev.1:5)*
- ☞ *The people of God are made up of both Jews and Gentiles (cf. Matt. 28:20; Rom. 9-11; Rev. 7:9).*
- ☞ *God brings people into His family through spiritual new birth; people already written in the book of life. (see John 1:12-13; 2Cor.5:17; Phi. 4:3; 1Jn. 5:1)*
- ☞ *Through His church God causes others to be born again and placed into His church (cf. Gen.1:28; 12:3; Isa. 54:1-3; Matt.28:20; Gal. 4:26-31)*
- ☞ *There will be a time when God's people will no longer suffer from captivity but be restored forever to God's presence (see Isa. 52:1-10; Rev.21:2).*

Questions

- ☞ *What are some ways Psalm 87 should matter to us today?*
- ☞ *How can knowing what the LORD says of His people affect our behavior and perseverance?*
- ☞ *How can you know He says these glorious things about you personally?*
- ☞ *What are some ways to help take truths and “lay them upon your heart”?*
- ☞ *What would pondering this psalm do for us in our evangelistic efforts at the Chapel?*