

Psalm 87 - Prelude

We've now come to the *fifteenth* chapter (Psalm 87) that is in the "Leviticus book" of the Psalms; and it's still part of the portion (chapters 84-89) that are concerning the '*Sanctuary in Relation to Yehovah*' (instead of 'to man'). And, let's remember that **Psalm 84** had the subject/title of "*The Blessedness of Its Worshipers*". And it was a chapter that taught us how, even though we're *physically* far away from our Heavenly Father (just as the Psalmist was far away from the Tabernacle, in Jerusalem, when he wrote the Psalm), we *can* still be *spiritually* close to Him. For when we have God's Words (and Holy Spirit, which we receive when we believe in, and obey, Jesus Christ) in our heart (desires, emotions) and mind (thoughts) we *will* be blessed (happy) – both physically *and* spiritually. And, even though hard times *will* come upon those who faithfully serve Jesus Christ, it's *far* better to endure those trying times than to be friends with the world (the wicked and workers of iniquity). And that's because there's truly no other way to obtain peace of mind (or *eternal* life) than by *following God's Word* (and Holy Spirit) and *trusting* in Him, with *all* our heart and mind. So thankfully, while we cannot see our Heavenly Father, we *can* be *spiritually* close to Him, through our faith in Jesus Christ (the Word of God), *because* His Word and Holy Spirit *dwell within us* (John 15:1-11) – leading, protecting and strengthening us through the 'journey' of this flesh life, so that, *one day* we'll be able to *physically* dwell in the Millennial Temple, serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ *forevermore* (Rev 20:4-6).

And then, **Psalm 85** had the subject/title of "*Prayer for the Land of the Sanctuary*". And it was a beautiful Psalm that truly taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prophesied of His First *and* Second Advent as well. And he did so simply through a prayer asking for *complete* restoration for Israel. While the Psalmist declared that the Lord had 'brought back' their 'captivity' (meaning, their former state of prosperity; likely when David returned to rule after Absalom's rebellion had been put down) and forgiven them their sins, he recognized they *still* needed help to change from their sinful ways, so they wouldn't *return* to folly (apostasy/rebellion). So, the Psalmist not only spoke of the essentials to salvation (sincere repentance and cleansing our corrupted heart and mind, so we *don't return* to sinning rebelliously); but he also prophesied of the immense prosperity that *would come* when truth and mercy 'meet' together – and when peace and righteousness kiss – which is what will happen when the *true* Jesus Christ returns and takes *full control* over all that is on (and under) earth, as well as in heaven. Jesus Christ *will* rule with *perfect* righteousness, mercy and truth; and the lasting effect that will have on the earth is *abundant* peace and prosperity.

And then, in the last chapter, **Psalm 86**, we learned it had the subject/title of: "*Prayer in the Sanctuary*". And, it was a beautiful prayer which teaches us how to humbly implore our Heavenly Father in prayer, especially when we're having hard times. For, David not only confessed that he was God's servant (pointing out *he was* in a covenantal relationship with the

Lord, YHVH), but he also pointed out that God *promised* to *always* show compassion, mercy, grace, longsuffering and give truth *to those who are in a covenantal relationship with Him* (i.e. those who humbly love, fear, revere and serve Him). And David also asked the Lord (YHVH) to ‘unite’ his heart to fear (and revere) God’s name *so that he would be able to* glorify God’s holy name (character) *through* his actions and words. As Jesus said in Matt 5:16, when we let His light (the truth, i.e. God’s Word) shine through us via our good works (from the heart), then we do glorify our Heavenly Father who is in heaven. And then David also asked God for a ‘token for good’ (a sign of assurance) that He would help him through his great difficulties (proud and powerful men were seeking to kill him; which were likely Saul and his followers) so that those who were afflicting him would see that the Lord (YHVH) was truly *with David and not them*.

And now we come to a new chapter (**Psalm 87**) in the book of Psalms which has yet a different subject/title: “***The Blessedness of the Dwellers in Zion***”. And the reason for this title is because it was written (by a son of Korah) for the *great* event of the Ark of the Covenant being taken up to Zion, in Jerusalem, when David was king (2 Sam 6:12-19; 1 Chron 15). As we learned back when studying Psalm 24: Psalms 68 was written for the **setting out of the procession of the Ark of the Covenant going up to Zion** (in Jerusalem), while Psalms 24 was concerning **the entrance up to Zion**. Psalms 25 then related **to the worship itself**, which was to be, and could henceforth be, offered since the Ark was in Zion. And then, this Psalm 87 **relates the joy of the entrance of the Ark, with dancing’s and shouting’s**. Psalms 105 will then cover **subsequent celebrations of the event**. So, all these Psalms cover some form of the ‘great event’ of the Ark of the Covenant being brought to Zion (in Jerusalem) when David was king. So, while these Psalms (68, 24, 25, 87, 105) all had a *historical* fulfillment (for the Ark *really was* brought to Zion), they are also all *prophetical* of the return of the *true* King of kings (Jesus Christ) returning to Zion, so we too can worship Him in humble adoration and joy!

We’ll pick it up then, with part 1...

AMEN.