

Message Ten

The Lord's Recovery—to Build Up Zion

MC Hymns: 894

Scripture Reading: Psa. 48:2, 11-12; 20:2; 50:2; 53:6a; 87:2;
Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 20-21

Psa 48:2	Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.
Psa 48:11	Let Mount Zion rejoice; / Let the daughters of Judah exult / Because of Your judgments.
Psa 48:12	Walk about Zion, and go around her; / Count her towers.
Psa 20:2	May He send you help from the sanctuary / And support you from Zion.
Psa 50:2	Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, / God shines forth.
Psa 53:6a	Oh that the salvation of Israel might come forth from Zion! ...
Psa 87:2	Jehovah loves the gates of Zion / More than all the dwellings of Jacob.
Rev 2:7	He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
Rev 2:11	He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.
Rev 2:17	He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.
Rev 2:26	And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
Rev 2:27	And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;
Rev 2:28	And to him I will give the morning star.
Rev 3:5	He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
Rev 3:12	He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
Rev 3:20	Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.
Rev 3:21	He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

I. Zion was the city of King David (2 Sam. 5:7), the center of the city of Jerusalem, where the temple as God's dwelling place on earth was built (Psa. 9:11; 2:6; 74:2; 76:2b; 125:1; 135:21; Isa. 8:18):

2 Sam 5:7	But David took the stronghold of Zion, which is now the city of David.
Psa 9:11	Sing psalms to Jehovah, the Inhabitant of Zion; / Declare His deeds among the peoples,
Psa 2:6	But I have installed My King / Upon Zion, My holy mountain.
Psa 74:2	Remember Your assembly, which You have purchased of old, / Which You have redeemed as the tribe of Your inheritance, / And Mount Zion, where You dwell.
Psa 76:2b	... And His dwelling place, in Zion.
Psa 125:1	Those who trust in Jehovah are like Mount Zion, / Which cannot be moved but abides forever.
Psa 135:21	Blessed be Jehovah from Zion, / Who dwells in Jerusalem. / Hallelujah.
Isa 8:18	See, I and the children whom Jehovah has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from Jehovah of hosts, who abides on Mount Zion.

- A. Jerusalem typifies the church, and Zion typifies the overcomers in the church:
1. Zion is the highlight of Jerusalem, the beauty of the holy city—Psa. 48:2; 50:2.
Psa 48:2 Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.
Psa 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, / God shines forth.
 2. As the highlight and beauty of the holy city Jerusalem, Zion typifies the overcomers as the high peak, the center, the uplifting, the strengthening, the enriching, the beauty,

and the reality of the church—48:2, 11-12; 20:2; 53:6a; 87:2.

Psa 48:2 Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.

Psa 48:11 Let Mount Zion rejoice; / Let the daughters of Judah exult / Because of Your judgments.

Psa 48:12 Walk about Zion, and go around her; / Count her towers.

Psa 20:2 May He send you help from the sanctuary / And support you from Zion.

Psa 53:6a Oh that the salvation of Israel might come forth from Zion! ...

Psa 87:2 Jehovah loves the gates of Zion / More than all the dwellings of Jacob.

3. The hill of Zion is absolutely open to the Lord and is absolutely possessed by Him—24:1, 3, 7-10.

Psa 24:1 The earth is Jehovah's, and its fullness, / The habitable land and those who dwell in it.

Psa 24:3 Who may ascend the mountain of Jehovah, / And who may stand in His holy place?

Psa 24:7 Lift up your heads, O gates; / And be lifted up, O long enduring doors; / And the King of glory will come in.

Psa 24:8 Who is the King of glory? / Jehovah strong and mighty! / Jehovah mighty in battle!

Psa 24:9 Lift up your heads, O gates; / And lift up, O long enduring doors; / And the King of glory will come in.

Psa 24:10 Who is this King of glory? / Jehovah of hosts

B. The overcomers as Zion are the reality of the Body of Christ and consummate the building up of the Body in the local churches to bring in the consummated holy city, New Jerusalem, the ultimate Holy of Holies as God's dwelling place, in eternity—Rev. 21:16; cf. Exo. 26:2-8; 1 Kings 6:20.

Rev 21:16 And the city lies square, and its length is as great as the breadth. And he measured the city with the reed to a length of twelve thousand stadia; the length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

Exo 26:2 The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain, four cubits; all the curtains shall have the same measurement.

Exo 26:3 Five curtains shall be joined to one another; and the other five curtains shall be joined to one another.

Exo 26:4 And you shall make loops of blue strands on the edge of the one curtain at the end in the set; and likewise you shall make them in the edge of the outermost curtain in the second set.

Exo 26:5 You shall make fifty loops on the one curtain, and you shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is in the second set; the loops shall be opposite one another.

Exo 26:6 And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and join the curtains to one another with the clasps, so that the tabernacle may become one.

Exo 26:7 And you shall make curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle; eleven curtains you shall make in all.

Exo 26:8 The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain, four cubits; the eleven curtains shall have the same measurement.

1 Kings 6:20 And the interior of the innermost sanctuary was twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and twenty cubits high; and he overlaid it with pure gold, and he overlaid the cedar altar.

C. The church life is today's Jerusalem, and within the church life there must be a group of overcomers as today's Zion—Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 4:16; Rev. 2:7; 3:12:

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

1. This reveals that the local churches are not God's goal but a procedure God takes to reach His goal; the local churches usher us into the reality of the Body of Christ.
2. The highest peak of the Lord's recovery that can carry out God's economy is for God to produce not many local churches in a physical way but an organic Body to be His organism—1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:16.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

II. We have to realize what the Lord's recovery is; the Lord's recovery is to build up Zion—Rev. 14:1; Eph. 4:16; Rev. 21:2, 9-10:

Rev 14:1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

- A. The characteristics, the life, the blessing, and the establishment of Jerusalem come from Zion—1 Kings 8:1; Psa. 51:18; 102:21; 128:5; 135:21; Isa. 41:27; Joel 3:17.

1 Kings 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the children of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem in order to bring up the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah from the city of David, which is Zion.

Psa 51:18 Do good in Your good pleasure unto Zion; / Build the walls of Jerusalem.

Psa 102:21 That the name of Jehovah may be declared in Zion, / And His praise, in Jerusalem,

Psa 128:5 Jehovah bless you from Zion; / And may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem / All the days of your life.

Psa 135:21 Blessed be Jehovah from Zion, / Who dwells in Jerusalem. / Hallelujah.

Isa 41:27 Formerly I said to Zion, Here, here they are; / And to Jerusalem, I will give someone who preaches glad tidings.

Joel 3:17 Thus you will know that I am Jehovah your God, / Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. / And Jerusalem will be holy, / And strangers will pass through her no longer.

- B. In the book of Revelation what the Lord wants and what the Lord will build up is Zion, the overcomers; this is the intrinsic reality of the spiritual revelation in the holy Word of God; we surely need to be desperate to pray at any cost and to pay the cost just as the apostle Paul did—2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 20-21; Col. 4:2; Phil. 3:8-14.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

Rev 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

Rev 2:28 And to him I will give the morning star.

Rev 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.

Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

Col 4:2 Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,

Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

C. Our response to the Lord's calling of the overcomers in this age is for us to be vitalized; to be vital is to be living and active in oneness with our living and acting God; God's move on the earth for the accomplishment of His eternal economy is ultimately through the overcomers—Dan. 11:32; Heb. 3:12; 9:14; cf. Rev. 3:1.

Dan 11:32 And with his smooth words he will cause those who act wickedly toward the covenant to be profane. But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.

Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.

Heb 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Rev 3:1 And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead.

D. The overcomers, who are typified by Zion, are the beachhead through which the Lord as the King of glory will return to possess the whole earth as His kingdom—Psa. 24:1, 3, 7-10; Dan. 2:34-35; 7:13-14; Joel 3:11; Rev. 11:15; 19:13-14.

Psa 24:1 The earth is Jehovah's, and its fullness, / The habitable land and those who dwell in it.

Psa 24:3 Who may ascend the mountain of Jehovah, / And who may stand in His holy place?

Psa 24:7 Lift up your heads, O gates; / And be lifted up, O long enduring doors; / And the King of glory will come in.

Psa 24:8 Who is the King of glory? / Jehovah strong and mighty! / Jehovah mighty in battle!

Psa 24:9 Lift up your heads, O gates; / And lift up, O long enduring doors; / And the King of glory will come in.

Psa 24:10 Who is this King of glory? / Jehovah of hosts

- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- Dan 7:13 I watched in the night visions, / And there with the clouds of heaven / One like a Son of Man was coming; / And He came to the Ancient of Days, / And they brought Him near before Him.
- Dan 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, / That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. / His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; / And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.
- Joel 3:11 Hurry and come, / All you surrounding nations, / And be gathered. / There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!
- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- E. There is no other way to reach the high peak of God's eternal economy, the reality of the Body of Christ, except by praying; our becoming the overcomers as the reality of the Body of Christ to be the bride of Christ will close this age, the age of the church, and will bring Christ as the King of glory back to take, possess, and rule over this earth with His overcomers in the kingdom age—vv. 7-9; 20:4, 6; Psa. 24:7-10.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
- Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.
- Psa 24:7 Lift up your heads, O gates; / And be lifted up, O long enduring doors; / And the King of glory will come in.
- Psa 24:8 Who is the King of glory? / Jehovah strong and mighty! / Jehovah mighty in battle!
- Psa 24:9 Lift up your heads, O gates; / And lift up, O long enduring doors; / And the King of glory will come in.
- Psa 24:10 Who is this King of glory? / Jehovah of hosts
- F. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians reveals the living of the overcomers, who live in the reality of the Body of Christ by living in the mingled spirit:
1. The reality of the Body of Christ is the highest peak in God's economy and the top revelation of the Bible, revealed through a spirit of wisdom and revelation—1:17, 22-23.

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
 2. The reality of the Body of Christ is a living in the mingled spirit, which is the

dwelling place of God, the house of God, today's Bethel, the gate of heaven, and the Holy of Holies, the dwelling place of the pneumatic Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, who is typified by the Ark—v. 17; 2:22; 3:5, 16; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18; Gen. 28:12-17; John 1:51; Heb. 9:3-4; 10:19-22.

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
Eph 3:5 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,
Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,
Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
Gen 28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
Gen 28:13 And there was Jehovah, standing above it; and He said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed.
Gen 28:14 And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.
Gen 28:15 And, behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.
Gen 28:16 And Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it.
Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.
John 1:51 And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.
Heb 9:3 And after the second veil, a tabernacle, which is called the Holy of Holies,
Heb 9:4 Having a golden altar and the Ark of the Covenant covered about everywhere with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna and Aaron's rod that budded and the tablets of the covenant,
Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,
Heb 10:20 Which entrance He initiated for us as a new and living way through the veil, that is, His flesh,
Heb 10:21 And having a great Priest over the house of God,
Heb 10:22 Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

3. The reality of the Body of Christ is the reality in Jesus, the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, duplicated in His many members as the corporate living of the perfected God-men through the renewing of the mind by the renewing Spirit mingled with their regenerated spirit—Eph. 4:1-6, 15-16, 20-24; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a; 4:11-13.

Eph 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,
Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,
Eph 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:
Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
 Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
 Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
 Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
 Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
 Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
 Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
 Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
 Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
 Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
 Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
 Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
 Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
4. The church is filled with the beautifying, bride-preparing Spirit, who is mingled with our spirit, so that we may become Christ's holy, beautiful, God-expressing bride, a bride without blemish or imperfection—Eph. 5:18, 26-27; Isa. 60:7, 19; 62:3; Exo. 28:2; cf. Psa. 27:4; 48:2; 50:2; 110:2-3, 7; Isa. 28:5; 60:21; 61:3.
 Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,
 Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
 Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
 Isa 60:7 All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered together to you; / The rams of Nebaioth will minister to you; / They will go up acceptably upon My altar, / And I will beautify the house of My beauty.
 Isa 60:19 You will no longer have the sun for your light by day, / Nor for brightness will the moon give you light; / But Jehovah will be an eternal light to you, / And your God your beauty.
 Isa 62:3 You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of Jehovah, / And a royal turban in the palm of your God.
 Exo 28:2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.
 Psa 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.
 Psa 48:2 Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.
 Psa 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, / God shines forth.
 Psa 110:2 Jehovah will send forth / The scepter of Your strength from Zion: / Rule in the midst of Your enemies.

- Psa 110:3 Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration. / Your young men will be to You / Like the dew from the womb of the dawn.
- Psa 110:7 He will drink from the brook by the way; / Therefore He will lift up His head.
- Isa 28:5 In that day Jehovah of hosts / Will become a crown of beauty and a diadem of glory to the remnant of His people,
- Isa 60:21 Then all your people will be righteous; / They will possess the land forever, / The branch of My planting, / The work of My hands, / That I may be beautified.
- Isa 61:3 To grant to those who mourn in Zion, / To give to them a headdress instead of ashes, / The oil of gladness instead of mourning, / The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of heaviness; / That they may be called the terebinths of righteousness, / The planting of Jehovah, that He may be glorified.
5. For Christ to be victorious in our entire being, we must experience the slaying Spirit mingled with our spirit so that everything of God's adversary can be killed within us, enabling us to rule in the divine life of the Spirit over Satan, sin, and death for God's dominion and to live a healthy Body life, a healthy church life—Eph. 6:10-18; Psa. 48:12-13.
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
- Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
- Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- Psa 48:12 Walk about Zion, and go around her; / Count her towers.
- Psa 48:13 Consider carefully her bulwarks; / Pass between her palaces; / That you may recount it to the generation following.

III. The overcomers enjoy Christ as the incarnated Triune God, the God-man, and are those in whose heart are the highways to Zion—“Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, / In whose heart are the highways to Zion. / Passing through the valley of Baca, / They make it a spring; / Indeed the early rain covers it with blessings. / They go from strength to strength; / Each appears before God in Zion”—84:5-7:

- A. The strippings and weepings result in the enjoyment of the loveliness and sweetness of God's house—vv. 1, 6 and footnotes 1¹ and 6¹; cf. 73:26 and footnote 1.
- Psa 84:1 How ¹lovely are Your tabernacles, / O Jehovah of hosts!
- note 1 This psalm, concerning the psalmist's love for the house of God with Christ, follows the psalms on the stripping of God's seekers and the desolation of God's house, beginning with Psa. 73. In the recovery and restoration (Psa. 80) the loveliness and sweetness of God's house is intensified.
- Psa 84:6 Passing through the valley of ¹Baca, / They make it a spring; / Indeed the early rain covers it with blessings.
- note 1 Meaning weeping. On the one hand, those on the highways to Zion are strengthened in God (v. 5); on the other hand, they are opposed by Satan, who causes them to suffer persecution. The trouble and persecution caused by Satan can make the

highway a valley of weeping. This special term indicates that the psalmist had been disciplined by God and had been stripped by Him (see notes 26¹ in Psa. 73 and 1¹ in Job 3).

Psa 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail, / But God is the rock of my heart and my ¹portion forever.
note 1 In God's sanctuary the psalmist was instructed to take only God Himself as his portion, not anything other than God. The one who does not care for God may gain many things and seem to prosper. However, the one who cares for God will be restricted by God and even stripped by God of many things, as was the case with Job (Job 1:6 — 2:10) and the apostle Paul (Phil. 3:7-8). God's intention with His seekers is that they may find everything in Him and not be distracted from the absolute enjoyment of Himself. It is not a matter of keeping the law, as in Psa. 1, or of being right or wrong, but of gaining God and keeping God as everything. See note 13¹ in Job 2.

B. While we are weeping, we are being filled with the Spirit, and the Spirit becomes a spring and the early rain to us; the highways to Zion signify our intention to enter into the church as the house of God with the two altars, which signify the leading consummations of the work of the incarnated Triune God, who is Christ as the embodiment of God for His increase—84:3-6.

Psa 84:3 At Your two altars even the sparrow has found a home; / And the swallow, a nest for herself, / Where she may lay her young, / O Jehovah of hosts, my King and my God.

Psa 84:4 Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; / They will yet be praising You. Selah.

Psa 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, / In whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Psa 84:6 Passing through the valley of Baca, / They make it a spring; / Indeed the early rain covers it with blessings.

C. Psalm 84:11 reveals that the blessings of our dwelling in the house of God are our enjoyment of the incarnated and consummated Triune God as our sun to supply us with life (John 1:4; 8:12), as our shield to protect us from God's enemy (Eph. 6:11-17), as grace for our enjoyment (John 1:14, 17), and as glory for the manifestation of God in splendor (Rev. 21:11, 23).

Psa 84:11 For Jehovah God is a sun and a shield; / Jehovah gives grace and glory; / He does not withhold anything good / From those who walk uprightly.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

IV. “His foundation is in the holy mountains./ Jehovah loves the gates of Zion”—

Psa. 87:1-2a:

- A. Zion, as a type of the overcomers in the church, is built on the highest peak of the “holy mountains,” which typify the local churches, whose foundation is Christ (v. 1); the heavenly Zion, of which glorious things are spoken (v. 3), will be the final place of rest for the overcomers (Rev. 14:1).

Psa 87:1 His foundation is in the holy mountains.

Psa 87:3 Glorious things are spoken of you, / O city of God. Selah.

Rev 14:1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

- B. The gates of Zion are for coming in and going out, signifying fellowship; the fact that the New Jerusalem will have twelve gates (21:12, 21) indicates that God’s holy city will be full of fellowship.

Rev 21:12 It had a great and high wall and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names inscribed, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel:

Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

- C. “Of Zion it will be said, / This one and that one were born in her, / And the Most High Himself will establish her. / Jehovah will count / When He records the peoples: / This One was born there” (Psa. 87:5-6); the unique One, Christ, who is the totality of all the saints (“this one” and “that one”), is the One who is all the saints and in all the saints (Col. 3:11).

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

- D. “All my springs are in you” (Psa. 87:7); let Egypt boast of the Nile, and let Babylon boast of the Euphrates; they do not have the springs, but we in Zion have them.

V. The Songs of Ascents (Psa. 120—134) speak of the preciousness of Zion and Jerusalem in the experiences and praises of the saints:

Psa 120~134 be omitted.

- A. Psalm 132 mentions seven precious items related to the overcomers in their going up to Zion; these items are at the top of the church life, and they portray the situation of the overcomers in Zion, the highest peak of God’s mountain—vv. 13-18:

Psa 132:1 Remember, O Jehovah, for David's sake / All his afflictions;

Psa 132:2 How he swore to Jehovah / And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

Psa 132:3 I shall not go into the tent of my house; / I shall not go up onto the couch of my bed;

Psa 132:4 I shall not give sleep to my eyes, / Slumber to my eyelids;

Psa 132:5 Until I find a place for Jehovah, / A tabernacle for the Mighty One of Jacob.

Psa 132:6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; / We found it in the fields of Jaar.

Psa 132:7 We will go into His tabernacle; / We will worship at His footstool.

Psa 132:8 Arise, O Jehovah, unto Your resting place, / You and the Ark of Your strength.

Psa 132:9 Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, / And let Your faithful ones give a ringing shout.

Psa 132:10 For the sake of David Your servant, / Do not turn away the face of Your Anointed One.

Psa 132:11 Jehovah has sworn unto David in truth; / He will not turn from it: / Of the fruit of your body I will set One upon your throne.

Psa 132:12 If your children keep My covenant / And My testimonies that I will teach them, / Their children also will sit / Upon your throne forever.

Psa 132:13 For Jehovah has chosen Zion; / He has desired it for His habitation.

Psa 132:14 This is My resting place forever; / Here will I dwell, for I have desired it.

Psa 132:15 I will abundantly bless its provision; / I will satisfy its poor with bread.

Psa 132:16 And its priests I will clothe with salvation, / And its faithful ones will shout with a ringing shout.

Psa 132:17 There I will cause a horn of David to shoot forth; / I have prepared a lamp for My anointed one.

Psa 132:18 I will clothe his enemies with shame, / But on him his crown will shine.

1. Resting with God—"This is My resting place forever"—v. 14a.
2. Dwelling with God—"Here will I dwell, for I have desired it"—v. 14b.
3. Food for satisfaction—"I will abundantly bless its provision; / I will satisfy its poor with bread"—v. 15.
4. Glorious clothing—"Its priests I will clothe with salvation, / And its faithful ones will shout with a ringing shout"—v. 16; cf. Exo. 28:2.
5. The horn of victory—"There I will cause a horn of David to shoot forth"—Psa. 132:17a.
6. The enlightening lamp—"I have prepared a lamp for My anointed one"—v. 17b.
7. The shining crown—"I will clothe his enemies with shame, / But on him his crown will shine"—v. 18; cf. Isa. 62:3.

Exo 28:2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

Isa 62:3 You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of Jehovah, / And a royal turban in the palm of your God.

- B. When Zion is built up as depicted in Psalm 132, we have a place where we can gather and where we can dwell together in oneness; how good and how pleasant this is!—133:1-3.

Psa 132 be omitted.

Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!

Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;

Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

- C. "May Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, / Bless you from Zion" (134:3); wherever there are some overcomers, there will be God's blessing; God always blesses His people from Zion, from the highest peak, from the ones who have attained to the top, to the position of the overcomers; from this position God blesses all His people.

VI. Today in the church age, the God-men who are perfected and matured are Zion, the overcomers, the vital groups within the churches, but in the new heaven and new earth, the entire New Jerusalem will become Zion (Rev. 21:16), with all the believers as overcomers—v. 7 and footnote 1.

Rev 21:16 And the city lies square, and its length is as great as the breadth. And he measured the city with the reed to a length of twelve thousand stadia; the length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

Rev 21:7 He who ¹overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me.

note 1 The meaning of overcomes here is different from that in chs. 2 and 3, where the word is used seven times. Here it means to overcome by believing, as in 1 John 5:4-5. The overcoming in chs. 2 and 3 qualifies the overcoming believers to participate in the enjoyment of the millennial kingdom as a particular reward in God's dispensational administration, whereas the overcoming here qualifies all believers to participate in the New Jerusalem with all its enjoyment as the common portion of God's eternal salvation.