

Friends, don't get me wrong. By no means do I count myself as an expert in all of this, but I've got my eyes on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

Philippians 3:13-14 The Message Bible

First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

Prayer Study #277

LET'S GO UP TO ZION!

The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold: how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

Lamentations 4:2

The Lord God, knowing all the way from the beginning to the end, caused the writing of the Bible to be done in such a way that many of the persons, places, offices, institutions, and events were meant to be viewed as anticipatory of what was to come. For example, when the writer of Malachi wrote, "*Behold, I will send Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord [speaking of the Last Days], and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse,*" he was speaking not of Elijah himself literally coming, but a type, i.e. a company of believers who have the call of Elijah on their lives.

In the same sense, I believe that He is calling forth today a Zion Company of believers who will be the overcoming, fired-up, passionate, loving not their lives unto the death (this death probably refers to soulish death of ego and desires and self-made plans and ambitions of this ME generation with self-will, as opposed to submission to His total authority, as much as to physical death). This company will be spirit-filled, joyful, church within the church, believers.

TYPES

ISRAEL: the Church (we Gentiles were grafted in the vine-Romans 11!)

JERUSALEM: the Spirit-baptized believers

ZION: the overcomers in the Church who truly love their lives not until the death (both in the sense of soulish death where we die to our plans, egos, and ambitions in favor of His plans for our life and physical death, if need be and He calls us to die for the Kingdom.) I believe these believers have been baptized with fire. Zion is the place all true believers should aspire to be.

1. **WHAT IS ZION?** “Zion in the natural is the highest and southernmost mount of Jerusalem. It was a fortified city of the Jebusites till subdued by David, and thenceforward was often called ‘the city of David,’ (2nd Samuel 5:7, 1st Kings 8:1). He seems to have greatly delighted in its beauty and strength and to have loved it as a type of the church of the Messiah (Psalm 48). It is also sometimes used figuratively in scripture for the seat of the true church on earth and in heaven (Jeremiah 8:19; Hebrews 12:22, and Revelation 14:1).” from the *International Bible Dictionary*

2. **WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ZION AS LAID OUT IN SCRIPTURE?**
 - a. **Holy Place**-Psalm 2:6: *Yet I have set My King on my holy hill of Zion.*
 - b. **Dwelling of the Lord**-Psalm 9:11: *Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion!* Psalm 74:2: *Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, the tribe of Your inheritance, which You have redeemed-This Mount Zion where You have dwelt.* Psalm 76:2: *In Salem also is His tabernacle and His dwelling place in Zion.*
 - c. **Glory of the Lord**-Psalm 102:16: *For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.*
 - d. **Rod of His strength**-Psalm 110:2: *The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of your enemies!*
 - e. **Place of His Blessing**-Psalm 128:5: *The LORD bless you out of Zion, and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life.*
 - f. **Place of Singing**-Psalm 137:3: *For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song. And those who plundered us requested mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”*
 - g. **Place of Joy**-Psalm 149:2: *Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.*
 - h. **Place of Shouting**-Isaiah 12:6: *Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!*
 - i. **Place of Quick Answer from the Lord**-Isaiah 30:19: *For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; You shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.*
 - j. **Place of the fire of the Lord**-Isaiah 31:9: *“He [the enemies of Israel] shall cross over to his stronghold for fear and his princes*

shall be afraid of the banner," says the LORD, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

- k. Place where sinners and hypocrites are full of fear-Isaiah 33:14:** *The sinners of Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"*
- l. Place of salvation-Isaiah 46:13:** *I will bring My righteousness near it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger, and I will place salvation in Zion, for Israel My glory.*
- m. Place of joy, gladness and the comfort of the Lord-Isaiah 51:3:** *For the LORD will comfort Zion. He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.*
- n. Place where the Redeemer shall come-Isaiah 59:20:** *"The Redeemer will come to Zion and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob."*
- o. Place where the sons of those who have afflicted you and despised you shall bow down at your feet and call you, "The Zion of the Holy One of Israel"-Isaiah 60:14:** *Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despise you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; and they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.*
- p. Place of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness-Isaiah 61:3:** *To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.*
- q. Place of quick work of the Spirit-Isaiah 66:8:** *Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children.*
- r. Place of restoration of the backslidden-Jeremiah 3:14:** *"Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; "for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion."*
- s. Place to blow the trumpet, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly-Joel 2:1:** *Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in*

My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: For the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand. Joel 2:15: Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly.

- t. **Place of the former and the latter rain**-Joel 2:23: *Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He hath given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you-the former rain and the latter rain in the first month.*
- u. **Place where the Lord will restore what the enemy has taken**-Joel 2:25: *So I will restore to you [those in Zion] the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you.*
- v. **Place of deliverance**-Joel 2:32: *And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls. Obadiah 17: But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance and there shall be holiness; the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.*
- w. **Place of hope and strength**-Joel 3:16: *The LORD also shall roar out of Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth will shake; but the LORD will be the hope of His people and the strength of the children of Israel.*
- x. **Place of travail and birthing**-Micah 4:10: *Be in pain and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor.*
- y. **Place of woe for those who have been lukewarm and at ease concerning the Lord's work**-Amos 6:1-*Woe to you who are at ease in Zion...*
- z. **Place where righteousness will go forth**-Isaiah 62:1: *For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a lamp that burns. The Gentiles shall see your righteousness and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name. You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

3. **HOW DO WE GET TO ZION?** I believe the Zion company is made up of believers who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit but who did not stop with this experience. They continue to lay down their lives for the Lord and are willing to be baptized, and continually refilled, not only with the Spirit but also with fire.

What is the Baptism with Fire? There are three different main views of this experience:

1. Some believe Christians are automatically “baptized with fire” at the same time they are baptized with the Holy Spirit. They cite the “tongues of fire” that came unto the disciples at Pentecost in Acts 2. Thus, they see the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the baptism with Fire as the same experience. The problem with this view is that there is never any mention of fire when other people received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
2. Others believe that the context of the scripture indicates that Christians will receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but non-Christians will be “baptized with fire” (i.e. the “Lake of Fire” in Revelation 20:15 or sent to Hell). The problem with this view is the “Lake of Fire” is never referred to as “baptism with fire.” Still, to be honest, most Biblical scholars and theologians take this position, citing Matthew 3:4-12.
3. Finally, still others believe the baptism with the Holy Spirit comes after salvation and the baptism of fire comes after the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. I am certainly no scholar, but my personal view is this third viewpoint is correct. This baptism, according to this viewpoint, will both set spirit-baptized believers on fire to do the work of the ministry and will include a refinement by fire, which generally involves trials and tribulations.

At any rate, we want to get to Zion. Zion is a place of *being* in God, a place where praise to the Lord is perfected, a place of His continual presence. I believe in my own heart that we will corporately come unto Mount Zion when we enter into a new place of Worship and Praise that is devoid of competition, performance, fear of man, disunity, self-gratification, etc. And I think that the verses in Hosea give us a clue: *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you* (Hosea 10:12), and *Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is*

prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth (Hosea 6:3). But there is also His timing that I wait expectantly for and which is beyond our control. We are to make ourselves ready and available, and we are to be expectant, but He is in control and has a plan, and it is His perfect timing that we pray for. The right thing at the wrong time is disaster, much in the sense of a baby being born prematurely, who has to struggle for years to catch-up. This very significant time in history when the Lord is doing a new thing is not the time for us to struggle for years to reach the maturity of the Bride without spot and blemish that He is waiting for, but we must wait on the Lord.

The urgency in my spirit and my desire for you and me to be a part of the Zion Company and the Bridal Company that He longs for, leads me to believe we are living in a Kairos time and will soon see a quick and unprecedented outpouring of His Spirit upon His Zion Company of believers. I believe we are approaching the time when we should, as Zechariah 10:1 tells us, ask of rain in the time of the Latter Rain and when we should go up to Zion. It is a time when we must pray as never before.

ZION IS A PLACE OF SINGING

Larry Dempsey

Zion is a place of singing,
Zion is a place of joy,
Zion is the dwelling of the Lord.
Zion is a place of worship,
Zion is a place of praise,
Zion is the dwelling of the Lord.

So let us climb the hill of Zion
To the city of the Living God,
To the city of the Living God,
To the city of the Living God,
So let us climb the hill of Zion
To the city of the Living God,
For the Ark of the Testimony is in her midst.