



A Devotion Based on Psalm 87

Devotion

[Please provide: three speakers, three copies of the devotion.]

Speaker 1: Introduction: This devotion is based on Psalm 87. Psalm 87 is a song of praise. It celebrates Zion as the city of God, the special object of His love, and the royal city of His kingdom.

Speaker 2: Psalm 87, a psalm of the Son of Korah.

Speaker 1: “Son of Korah” refers to the Levitical choir comprised of the descendants of Korah appointed by David to serve in the temple’s liturgy. It foresees the ingathering of the nations with Israel as fellow citizens in the kingdom of God.

Speaker 2: Psalm 87:1-2. *He has set his foundation on the holy mountain; the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.*

Speaker 3: Isaiah 2:2-4. *In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, “Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.*

Speaker 2: Psalm 87:3. *Glorious things are said of you, O city of God.*

Speaker 3: Hebrew 11:10. *For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

Speaker 1: This psalm reminds us of the wonders of God and His kingdom. Even though we are not descendents of the covenant nation of the Old Testament, we belong to His kingdom.

Speaker 2: Psalm 87:4. *“I will record Rahab [the poetic name for Egypt] and Babylon among those who acknowledge me – Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush [Ethiopia in LSB, RSV, KJV].*

Speaker 3: Revelation 7:9. *After this, I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

Speaker 1: Do not take membership in God's people for granted. We should look forward to the time when *all the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord* (Psalm 86:9). There will be widespread conversion to God from people who have been hostile to Him. God records the names of His people who acknowledge Him as their covenant Lord. He will take them under His protection. They are like the citizens of a royal city. He warns nations that He has carefully registered those that belong to Him. He will hold nations accountable for the harm they do to any of them.

Speaker 2: Psalm 87:5. *Indeed, of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her."*

Speaker 3: Revelation 15:4. *"Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

Speaker 2: Psalm 87:6. *The Lord will write in the register of the peoples: This one was born in Zion.*

Speaker 3: Malachi 3:16. *Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His name.*

Speaker 1: Those who fear the Lord do not give way to doubt and cynicism. In the face of widespread complaining against God, they seek mutual encouragement in fellowship. They are joyful because blessings from God satisfy every want they have.

Speaker 2: Psalm 87:7. *As they make music they will sing, "All my fountains are in you."*

Speaker 1: Closing Prayer: Lord God, Heavenly Father, bless the study of Your Word through the psalmist. Accept our reading of psalms and singing of hymns offered as praise. Give ear to our prayers and strengthen us as we meditate on Your Word. Keep in Baptismal Grace those claimed by You in the gracious washing and strengthen them to live their baptism daily. Grant peace to Your children everywhere who call on Your name this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture references are from the NIV.