

## Wednesday Word Meditation Material #24 (September 9, 2020)

OrderPrayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 245 & 248 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 87:1~7
  
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture (*Those Born in Zion*)**
  1. This psalm was written by sons of Korah, singing Zion's gloriousness, influence, and eternity and showing the reason for Zion's existence and role. Zion is the symbolic place of God's presence. In this short 7-verse psalm, each verse has the word, "Zion" or its equivalent in order to emphasize that this psalm is to explain and show "Zion" and "Those Born in Zion."
  2. In verse 1, we can see that God already established "Zion" in his holy mount. Zion's place is already holy. Verse 2 tells us that YHWH God loves "the gates of Zion," so to speak, "Zion," more than any other dwelling places in Jacob (i.e., Israel). Thus, we can see that Zion is exceeded out of others because it is holy and most beloved place of God. Verse 3 shows us that "Zion" was called as "God's city." Zion is distinguished place because it is holy, most beloved by God, and glorious place. In verse 4, "Rahab" is poetic expression of Egypt. "Cush" means "Ethiopia." Egypt, Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Cush were the prominent nations and cities. God said that they are "among those who know me." He also mentioned that "this one was born there." All of these nations and cities were closely related to Israel in history. They persecuted and oppressed Israel as well as enticed her. Therefore, they are supposed to be destroyed. But, at the end of verse 4, we can see that they also have close relation to "Zion." Yes, they are "among those who know me" and "born there." In other words, they are also the people of God as Israel is. Verse 5, continually from verse 4, tells us that among the people in the world were God's people ("born there"). Then, God's sovereignty is revealed in the expression that God already established Zion (v.1) and will continually establish Zion (v.5). In verse 6, we can see that this "Zion" is indicating worldly nation, Jerusalem. But, moreover, "Zion" indicates Kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven. "This one was born there" means "Those born in Zion" and also "born in the kingdom of heaven." In verse 7, we can find that those who know the grace of salvation express their thankful heart that the "springs"(i.e., foundation) of salvation is in "Zion" where God is present and in control.
  3. From today's text, where we can see the "those who are born in Zion," we can see God's sovereignty. Differently from Israel's thought, God called the gentiles along with the Israelites as His people and established His kingdom, spiritual Israel and will continually establish it. Yes, we can see the greatness of God. We also see that those who were not to be saved but to be saved by "Jesus' cross," the expression of God's grace, give thanks to God for their salvation in Christ.
  
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
  1. When you look at yourself as "the gentile" who became "born in Zion", similar to the gracious states of gentile nations and cities due to God's salvation, what do you think? Let us share together!
  2. What is the way to stay firm today's life for those who became "born in Zion" by uniting with Christ?
  3. Why don't we submit all the burdens of today's life to Jesus who made us "born in Zion."?
  
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord's Prayer.