

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 87 **TITLE:** "Zion: City of God"

Intro: *Planning for a trip.* Packing. Preparing. Man. This is going to be awesome. Reading up on it. Planning your stops. Where you'll eat. What you'll do. What it's like. Today, we get to plan our trip. We get to think about, get excited about going to the God's City. Zion. Holy Mountain.

Thesis: "The City of God is going to be Awesome."

I. The City of God (1-3)

- A. **Zion.** Mountain. Jerusalem. Where God's people live. Safety. Refuge. Rest. Sanctuary.
- B. **God's Dwelling Place.** God's presence. Place where He loves to be with His people.
- C. **He founded it.** Created it. **Glorious things** are spoken of it. It's awesome. Going to be.
- D. **Psalm 48:8-11:** *Man. This place is awesome!* **Ps.76:1-3. Rev.14:1 "Lamb on Mt. Zion"**
- E. **2 Sam. 5:7.** "David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David."

ILLUSTRATION: **Isaiah 2:1-4:** Swords>plowshares. Spears>pruning hooks. Peace. Rest.

- F. **1 Peter 5:10-11** - Eternal hope. After suffering for a little while. O man!

APPLICATION: Man. Who wants to go there? Who's ready?

> **Heaven & Hell.** 2 definite places. One of 2 destinies. Which one are you going to?

- All the worst things of earth will only be multiplied and never-ending in **Hell** as a worse reality.
- All the best things of earth are meant to draw us to hope in **Heaven** as their better fulfillment.

TRANSITION: But, who can go?

II. The Citizens of God (4-7)

- A. **Foreigners.** Not just Gentiles. These are enemies! That's us! **Romans 5:10-11.**
- B. **Psalm 2:4-6** (enemies not there). King Jesus is.
- C. **Psalm 86:9-10.** Nations will come and worship before you. Glory to your Name.
- D. **Now Citizens!** As if born there! **Eph. 2:11-22; 3:6!** Mystery! **Rom. 11. Grafted in!**

ILLUSTRATION: **Grafting in on a tree.** Becomes a part of it. Awesome!

- E. **We're Registered! Enrolled.** "It's in the books!" God's roll.
 - 1. **Phil 3:17-21** - Citizenship in Heaven. That's our hope! Transformation.
 - 2. **SPRINGS** = Life. River of Life. **Rev. 21:22-22:5. Dude!**
 - 3. **Book of life. Luke 10:20** "Rejoice!"

APPLICATION:

1. **Only through Jesus. Are you in Christ?**

2. **What does that change about your life here? My citizenship is in heaven.**

> **Politics.** Country. Freedoms. Ease of life. So what? **This is not my home.**

ILLUSTRATION: **Ireland. Mexico. Belize. Bahamas.** Talk about leaders. Banks. I didn't care.

> **Money.** Work. House. Wealth. Stuff. I don't need all that. **This is not my home.**

> **Struggles.** Sins. Temptations. Won't always be like this. **This is not my home.**

> **Suffering.** Pain. It hurts. It really does. It's hard. It really is. **This is not my home.**

CONCLUSION: ***Hebrews 12:18-29***. AMEN!

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Isaiah 2:1-4:

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Eph. 2:11-22; 3:6:

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,[a] but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

3:6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Rev. 21:22-22:5:

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.