

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL TERMS

ZION

1.) What and where is Mt. Zion? Share what you know about the term.

2.) Because of direct association with the LORD's worship and personal presence, the term Zion, can take on several nuances depending on the context.

a.) It can refer to the physical, geographical location.

2 Samuel 5:7 Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David.

b.) It can serve as a picture of God's dwelling with his believers and its effect: the Old Testament and New Testament Church.

Psalms 146:10 The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Psalms 149:2, 4 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. ...For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.

c.) It can serve as a picture of God's dwelling with his people forever, a foreshadowing of heaven.

Isaiah 4:3, 5-6 Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. ...Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over all the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

Isaiah 33, 20-21, 24 Look upon Zion, the city of our festivals; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a peaceful abode, a tent that will not be moved; its stakes will never be pulled up, nor any of its ropes broken. There the LORD will be our Mighty One. It will be like a place of broad rivers and streams. No galley with oars will ride them, no mighty ship will sail them. ...No one living in Zion will say, "I am ill;" and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven.

3.) Mt. Zion is called David's city, but it is the city of a much greater King. In what ways did Jesus fulfill the prophecies regarding Zion?

Psalms 2:6, 8 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." ..."Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

4.) Why should we put our trust in Jesus, the King of Zion? (cf. also previous verse)

Psalms 23:3, 7-8 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? ...Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Isaiah 28:16 "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed."

5.) What does it mean to be "born in Zion"? What does it mean to "go up to Zion"?

Psalms 87:5-6 Indeed, of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her." The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: "This one was born in Zion."

Isaiah 2:3 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.

Hebrews 12:22-23 You have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

6.) Based on what we have learned in this lesson and recalling our study of symbolic numbers in Scripture, explain the vision of Mt. Zion in the following passage.

Revelation 14:1, 4 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ...These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

Closing Prayer: God of Zion, we adore you for meeting us in your modern-day temple, the holy Christian Church. May we treasure your gracious love and presence and seek to share it with others. Amen.