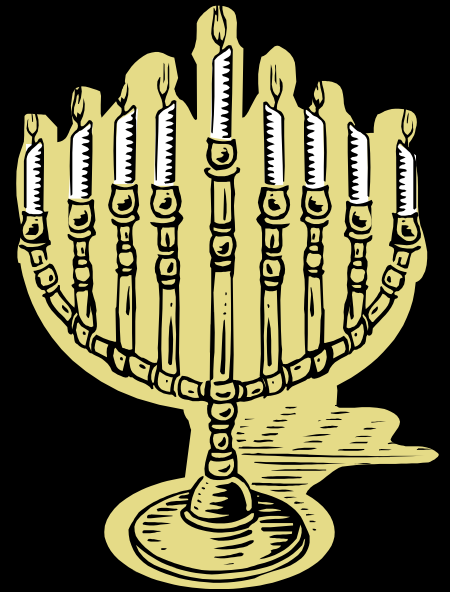


PSALM 87

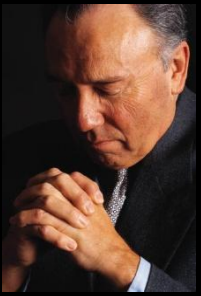
O, ZION!



Introducing Psalm 87

- Psalm 87 picks up the prophecy of 86:9 that **“Todas as nações que fizeste virão e se prostrarão perante a tua face.”**
- This psalm interprets Psalms 46 and 48 (also by “the sons of Korah”).
 - Verbal similarities. [See Notes.]
- Augustine chose verse 3 for the theme and title of *The City of God*.

Praying Psalm 87



- May You bring peace to Jerusalem, O God. [v. 2; Psalm 122:6]
- Praise the Lord for those who know Him in many nations. [v. 4]
- Father, help people understand that physical birth is not the truly important issue. [vv. 4–6]
- May I always find my greatest joy in You, Lord. [v. 7]

Understanding Psalm 87

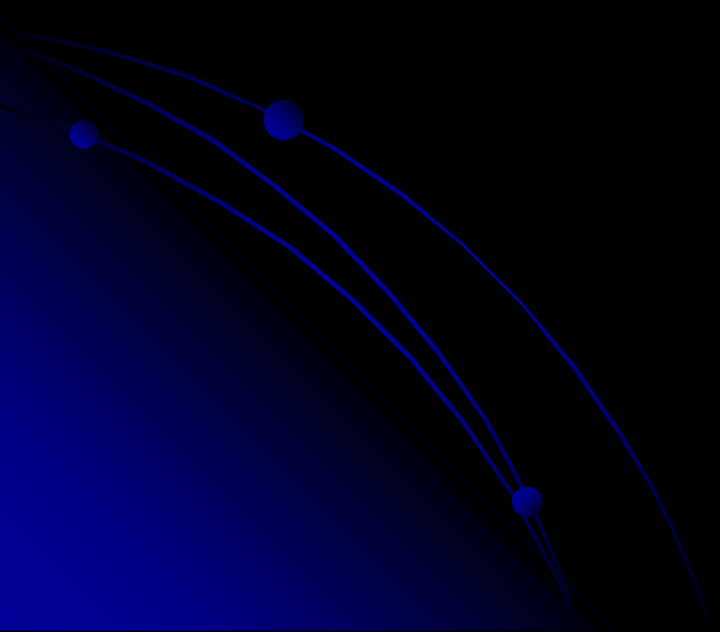
- I. Zion's Sovereign Selection (vv. 1–3)**
- II. Zion's Selected Citizens (vv. 4–6)**
- III. Zion's Celebrating Citizens (v. 7)**



Understanding Psalm 87

v. 1 “His foundation”: O seu fundamento

- **God is the founder of the city of Zion.**

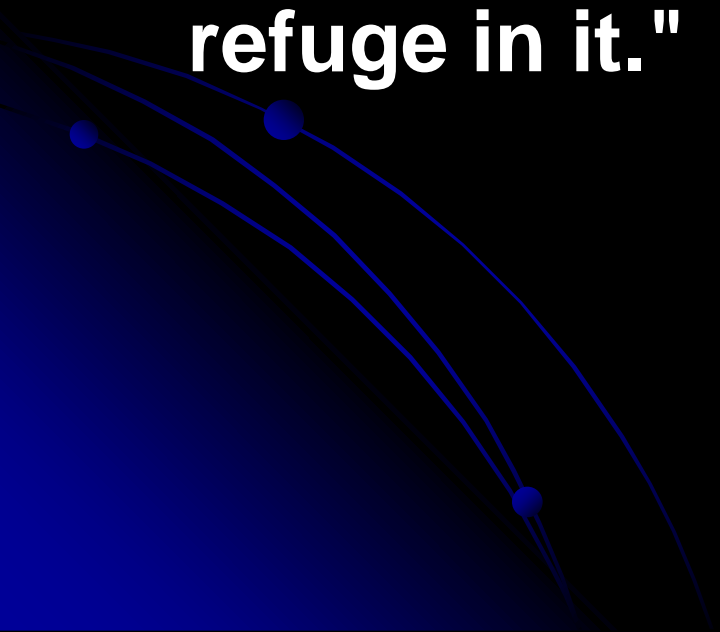


Isaiah 14:32

**“How then will one answer the
messengers of the nation?**

That the LORD has founded Zion,

**And the afflicted of His people will seek
refuge in it.”**



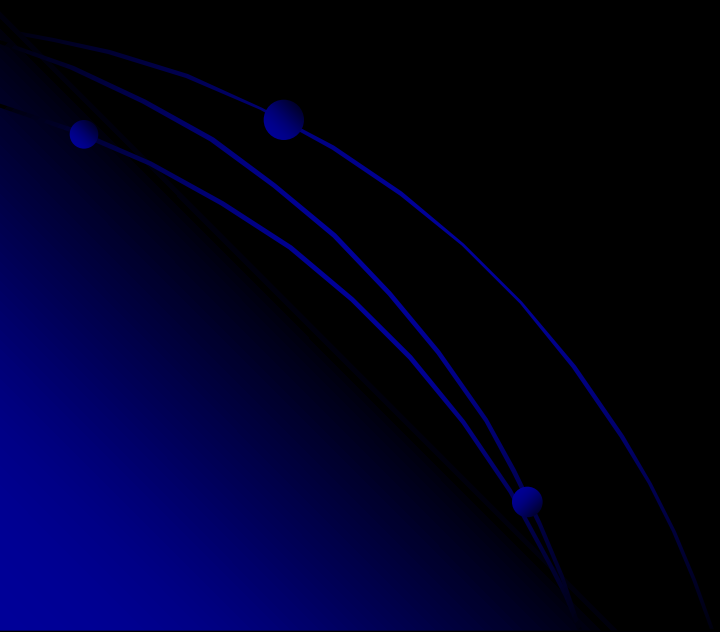
Understanding Psalm 87

v. 1 “His foundation”: O seu fundamento

- **God is the founder of the city of Zion.**
- **“In the holy mountains” [nos montes santos]:** God selected and sanctified the range of hills upon which Jerusalem sits, that it might be the residence of His Presence.


Psalm 125:2

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the LORD surrounds His people
From this time forth and forever.**



Psalm 133:3

It is like the dew of Hermon
Coming down upon **the mountains of
Zion**;
For there the LORD commanded the
blessing — life forever.



Understanding Psalm 87

v. 2 “The LORD loves the gates of Zion”:
O SENHOR ama as portas de Sião

- “The king has a palace in every province, but which palace is best loved by him? The palace which is in his own province. Hence *The Lord loveth the gates of Zion*. The Holy One, blessed be He, said: I love the synagogues and houses of study. But what do I love even more? Zion, for it is my own palace” (*Midrash Tehillim 87.4*).

Deuteronomy 7:7–8

- 7** “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,
- 8** but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

Understanding Psalm 87

v. 2 “dwelling places of Jacob”:
as habitações de Jacó

- **Refers either to all the other cities of Israel or to the previous locations where the Ark of the Covenant had resided:**

- **Gilgal**
- **Shiloh**
- **Nob**
- **Gibeon**

Understanding Psalm 87

v. 3 “Glorious things”: Coisas gloriosas

- **The Hebrew word occurs only here in the Old Testament.**

- **Compare the use of “glorious” in Isaiah 9:1 [enobreceu] and 60:13 [glorificarei].**

- **Psalm 48:1–2 reveals the kind of things spoken about Zion.**

Understanding Psalm 87

v. 3 “Glorious things”: Coisas gloriosas

- Those who say these things are left unidentified — they might be Israelites, Gentiles, angels, or even God Himself.
 - A passive verb is a way to refer to God indirectly — a so-called “divine passive.” E.g., “Assim foi subjugado Moabe” (Judges 3:30).

Understanding Psalm 87

vv. 4-6 All Nations Worshipping God

- **Psalms 22:27–28; 48:9–10**
- **Isaiah 2:2–4 (//Micah 4:1–2); 19:23–25; 45:22; 56:6–7**
- **Zechariah 2:10–11; 8:22–23; 14:16–19**
- **Malachi 1:11**
- **Ephesians 3:4–7**
- **Philippians 2:9–11**
- **Revelation 7:9–10**

Understanding Psalm 87

v. 4 “Rahab”: Raabe

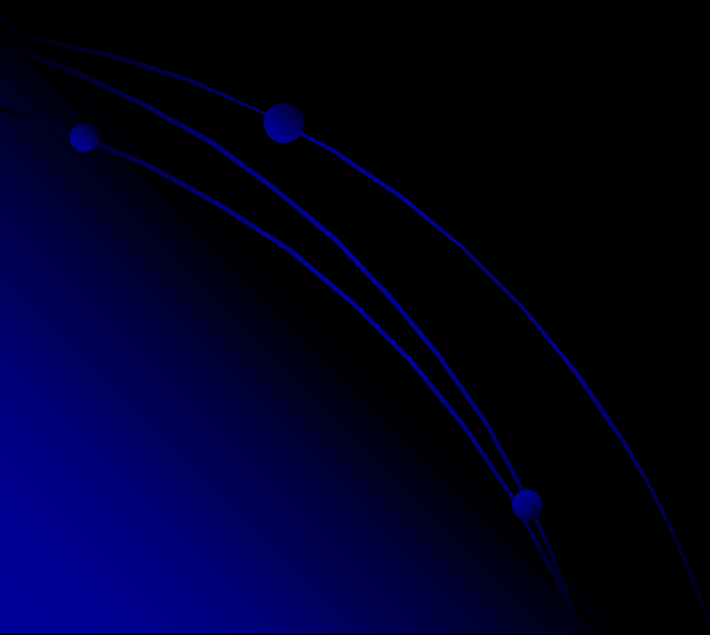
- Rahab is a poetic name for the nation of Egypt.
- Isaiah 30:7 –

Porque o Egito os ajudará em vão, e para nenhum fim; por isso clamei acerca disto: No estarem quietos será a sua força.

Understanding Psalm 87

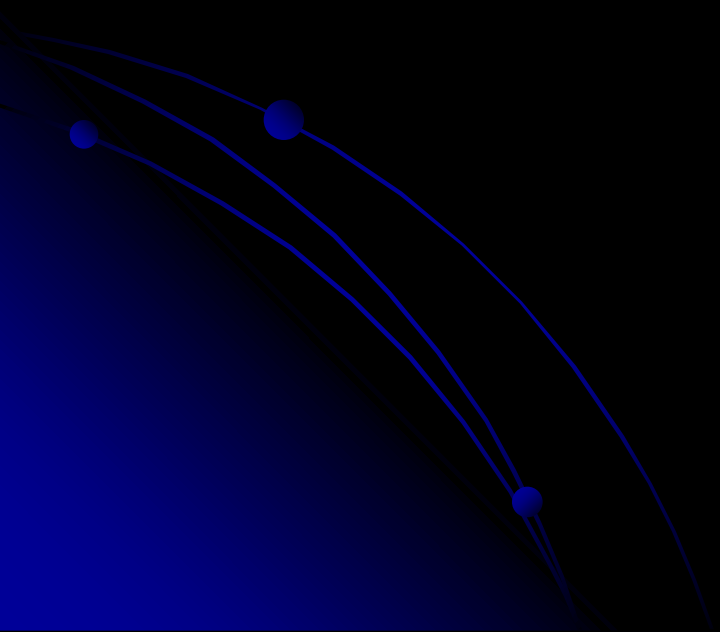
v. 5 “Zion”: Sião

- “Mother Zion” (Septuagint).



Galatians 4:26

But the Jerusalem above is free;
she is our mother.



Understanding Psalm 87

v. 5 “Zion”: Sião

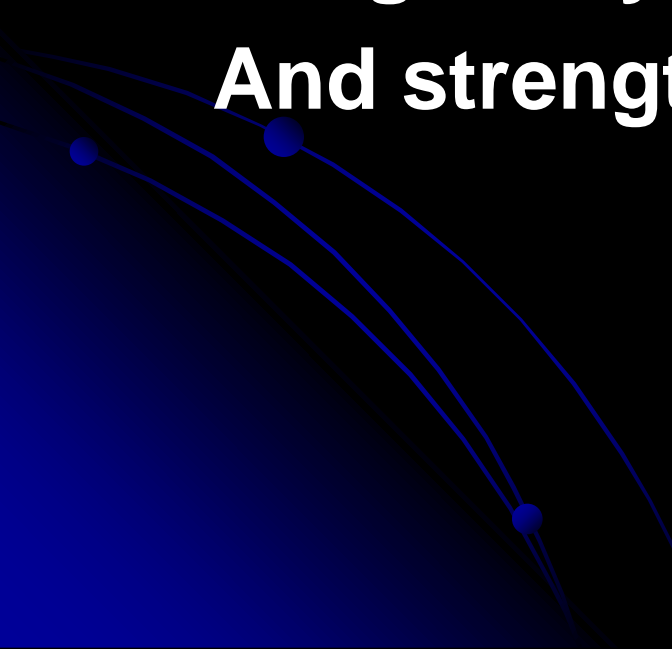
- **“Mother Zion” (Septuagint).**
- **Believing Israel’s numbers shall be augmented by believing Gentiles, so that the offspring of long barren Jerusalem will be more than she formerly possessed.**

Isaiah 54:1–3

1 “Shout for joy, O barren one, you who
have borne no *child*;
Break forth into joyful shouting and
cry aloud, you who have not
travailed;
For the sons of the desolate one *will*
be more numerous
Than the sons of the married woman,”
says the LORD.

Isaiah 54:1–3

2 “Enlarge the place of your tent;
Stretch out the curtains of your
dwellings, spare not;
Lengthen your cords
And strengthen your pegs.



Isaiah 54:1–3

3 “For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left.

And your descendants will possess nations

And will resettle the desolate cities.”



Understanding Psalm 87

v. 6 “This one was born there”: que este
homem nasceu ali

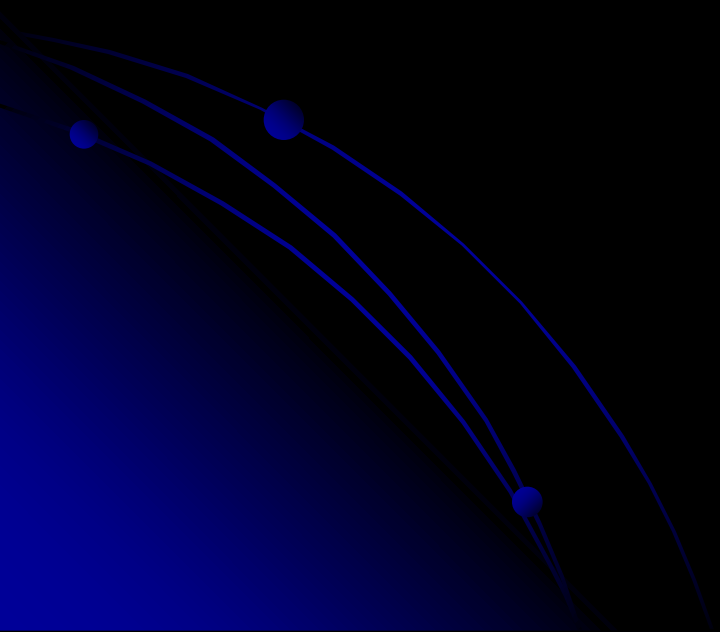
- Some conclude that such phrases refer to the Jews in the Diaspora — they have been born in various nations around the world.
- “the chief lesson that emerges from the psalm is that Zion is the birthplace of all those who come to it to serve God there, even if they are non-Jews and even if they come from very far-off lands.”

— Amos Hakham

Understanding Psalm 87

v. 6 “This one was born there”: que este
homem nasceu ali

- This birth is not the natural birth, but the supernatural birth.



John 3:10

*Jesus respondeu,
e disse-lhe:*

*Tu és mestre de Israel,
e não sabes isto?*



Understanding Psalm 87

v. 6 “This one was born there”: que este
homem nasceu ali

- This birth is not the natural birth, but the supernatural birth.
- For registering the birth, compare Daniel 12:1; Isaiah 4:3–5.

Daniel 12:1

“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise.

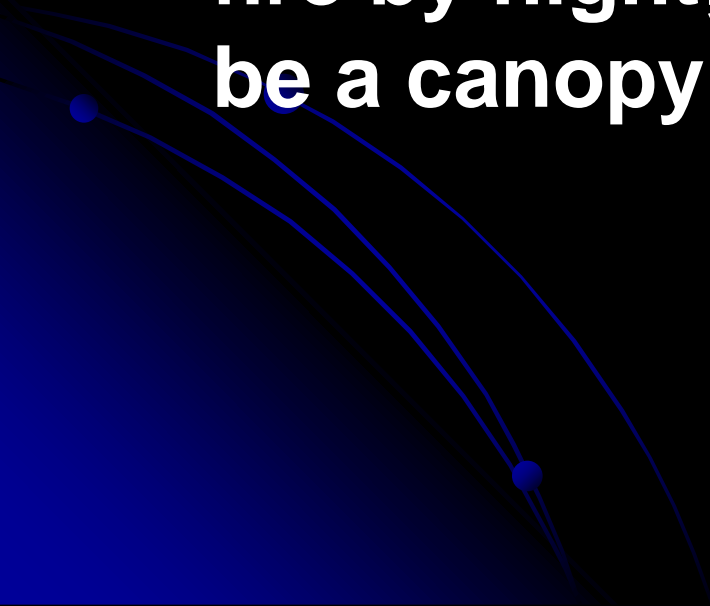
And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, **everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.”**

Isaiah 4:3–5

- 3 It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy — **everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem.**
- 4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning,

Isaiah 4:3–5

5 then the LORD will create over the whole area of **Mount Zion** and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy.



Understanding Psalm 87

v. 7 “All my springs of joy are in you”:
todas as minhas fontes estão em ti

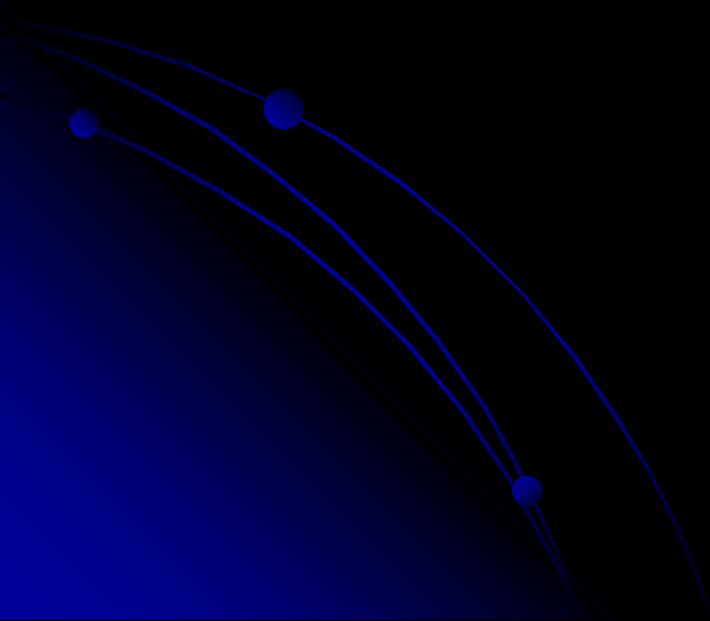
- “Just as natural springs were essential for the life of many a village and town, so Jerusalem, the city of God, is here being depicted as the source of all that is essential to the God-centered life, a life bubbling over with all the good things that God gives.”

— Robert Davidson

Understanding Psalm 87

v. 7 “those who play the flutes”:
os tocadores de instrumentos

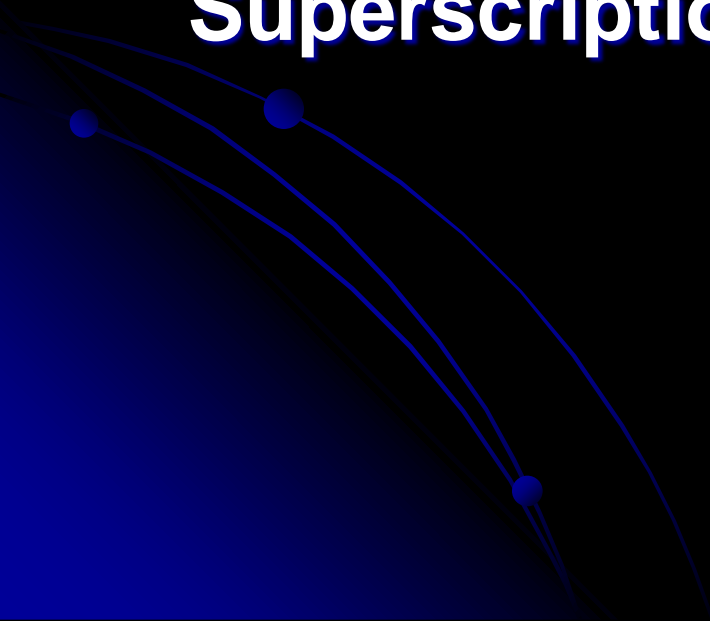
- **Preferably, “dance” (see the marginal note in NAU).**



Understanding Psalm 87

Musical Subscription: “A Psalm of the sons of Korah”: Cántico e salmo para os filhos de Coré

- **Note how this psalm begins with its Superscription.**



Understanding Psalm 87

Musical Subscription: “Mahalath
Leannoth”: Maalate Leanote

- Since Psalm 88 is perhaps the most mournful and gloomy of all the psalms, this tune hardly seems fitting.
- The meaning could be “to be sung at a dance” (Artur Weiser). This fits Psalm 87, due to its reference to “dance” (v. 7) and its exuberance and joy.

Preaching/Teaching Psalm 87

- **Jerusalem is loved and chosen by the Almighty God.**
- **Gentiles who know God are included among His people.**
- **Salvation is for those who are “born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:13).**