

**HWMR: CRYSTALLIZATION –STUDY OF 1 AND 2 KINGS, (Week 10)**

*Scripture Reading: Psa. 48:2, 11-12; 20:2; 50:2; 53:6a; 87:2; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 20-21*

**THE LORD’S RECOVERY—TO BUILD UP ZION**

Psalms 48:2	Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.
Psalms 48:11	Let Mount Zion rejoice; / Let the daughters of Judah exult / Because of Your judgments.
Psalms 48:12	Walk about Zion, and go around her; / Count her towers.
Psalms 20:2	May He send you help from the sanctuary / And support you from Zion.
Psalms 50:2	Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, / God shines forth.
Psalms 53:6	Oh that the salvation of Israel might come forth from Zion! / When God turns the captivity of His people, / Jacob will exult, Israel will rejoice.
Psalms 87:2	Jehovah loves the gates of Zion / More than all the dwellings of Jacob.
Revelation 2:7	He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
Revelation 2:11	He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.
Revelation 2:17	He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives it.
Revelation 2:26	And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
Revelation 2:27	And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;
Revelation 2:28	And to him I will give the morning star.
Revelation 3:5	He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
Revelation 3:12	He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
Revelation 3:20	Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.
Revelation 3:21	He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

## Day 1

- Psalms 48:2* - Beautiful in elevation, / The joy of the whole earth, / Is Mount Zion, the sides of the north, / The city of the great King.
- Psalms 50:2* - Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, / God shines forth.
- Psalms 125:1* - Those who trust in Jehovah are like Mount Zion, / Which cannot be moved but abides forever.

### I. **Zion** was the city of King David (2 Sam. 5:7), the center of the city of Jerusalem, where the temple as God's dwelling place on earth was built (Psa. 9:11; 2:6; 74:2; 76:2b; 125:1; 135:21; Isa. 8:18):

- A. Jerusalem typifies the church, and **Zion** typifies the overcomers in the church:
1. Zion is the highlight of Jerusalem, the beauty of the holy city—Psa. 48:2; 50:2.
  2. As the highlight and beauty of the holy city Jerusalem, **Zion typifies the overcomers** as the high peak, the center, the uplifting, the strengthening, the enriching, the beauty, and the reality of the church—48:2, 11-12; 20:2; 53:6a; 87:2.
  3. The hill of Zion is absolutely open to the Lord and is absolutely possessed by Him—24:1, 3, 7-10.
- B. The **overcomers** as Zion are the **reality of the Body of Christ** and consummate the building up of the Body in the local churches to bring in the consummated holy city, New Jerusalem, the ultimate Holy of Holies as God's dwelling place, in eternity—Rev. 21:16; cf. Exo. 26:2-8; 1 Kings 6:20.
- C. The church life is today's Jerusalem, and within the church life there must be a **group of overcomers as today's Zion**—Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 4:16; Rev. 2:7; 3:12:
1. This reveals that the local churches are not God's goal but a **procedure** God takes to reach His goal; the local churches **usher** us into the reality of the Body of Christ.
  2. The highest peak of the Lord's recovery that can carry out God's economy is for God to produce not many local churches in a physical way but an organic Body to be His organism—1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:16.

Jerusalem is built on the top of a mountain. Although Jerusalem is good, it is not the peak. In Jerusalem there is a peak, that is, **Mount Zion**, on which the temple was built. About one thousand years before the building of the temple, God asked Abraham to offer his son Isaac on Mount Moriah, which is another name for Mount Zion. The good situation in the recovery today is just like Jerusalem. However, there is no Zion. In the New Testament the overcomers are likened to Zion. In Revelation 14:1 the one hundred forty-four thousand overcomers are not just in Jerusalem; they are on the peak of Zion. **The overcomers, the vital groups, are today's Zion.** My burden today is to help you reach the peak of the vital groups, that is, the overcomers' Zion. Although we may have a good church life, among us there is almost no realization, no practicality, no actuality, and no reality of the Body life. This is the need in the recovery today.

In today's education the goal is not merely to finish elementary school and junior high school and then to graduate from high school. The goal is to study in a university and to earn not only a bachelor's degree but even a master's degree or a Ph.D. After many young people finish high school, they become tired of studying and terminate their education to get a job and make a living. This is just like our church life. To be in the church life may be likened to being in high school. Being satisfied to be merely in the church life, we may say, "Praise the Lord! Hallelujah for the church life! How good it is!" But will this reach the goal for the fulfillment of the Lord's purpose? It will not, just as graduating from high school will not reach the goal of the purpose of today's education. Today in the recovery, **we need to** go on and on to reach the high peak of God's economy, that is, Mount Zion. (*The Practical Point concerning Blending, chapter 2*)

## Day 2 & Day 3

- 1 Kings 8:1* - Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the children of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem in order to bring up the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah from the city of David, which is Zion.
- Revelation 14:1* - And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.
- Psalms 24:7* - Lift up your heads, O gates; / And be lifted up, O long enduring doors; / And the King of glory will come in.
- Revelation 3:20* - Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.

### II. We have to realize what the Lord's recovery is; the Lord's recovery is to **build up Zion**—Rev. 14:1; Eph. 4:16; Rev. 21:2, 9-10:

- A. The characteristics, the life, the blessing, and the establishment of Jerusalem come from Zion—1 Kings 8:1; Psa. 51:18; 102:21; 128:5; 135:21; Isa. 41:27; Joel 3:17.
- B. In the book of Revelation what the Lord wants and what the Lord will build up is Zion, the overcomers; this is the intrinsic reality of the spiritual revelation in the holy Word of God; **we surely need to be desperate to pray** at any cost and to pay the cost just as the apostle Paul did—2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 20-21; Col. 4:2; Phil. 3:8-14.
- C. Our response to the Lord's calling of the overcomers in this age is for us to be vitalized; to be vital is to be **living and active in oneness with our living and acting God**; God's move on the earth for the accomplishment of His eternal economy is ultimately through the overcomers—Dan. 11:32; Heb. 3:12; 9:14; cf. Rev. 3:1.
- D. The overcomers, who are typified by Zion, are the beachhead through which the Lord as the King of glory will return to possess the whole earth as His kingdom—Psa. 24:1, 3, 7-10; Dan. 2:34-35; 7:13-14; Joel 3:11; Rev. 11:15; 19:13-14.
- E. There is no other way to reach the high peak of God's eternal economy, the reality of the Body of Christ, except by **praying**; our becoming the overcomers as the reality of the Body of Christ to be the bride of Christ will close this age, the age of the church, and **will bring** Christ as the King of glory back to take, possess, and rule over this earth with His overcomers in the kingdom age—vv. 7-9; 20:4, 6; Psa. 24:7-10.

We all have to **endeavor to reach** this high peak. If you think it is too hard to reach this high peak and that the price to pay is too high, be prepared. In the next age the price will be higher. Sooner or later, you have to be made God, either in the church age or in the coming kingdom age. **All of God's redeemed people will eventually become gods as the very God in life, in nature, and in appearance but not in the Godhead.** The New Jerusalem is the God-men who have been transformed, glorified, and mingled with the processed and consummated Triune God. The holy city will be a mingling to be God's increase and expression for eternity. We will enjoy and participate in this divine mingling for eternity.

We surely need to be **desperate to pray** at any cost and to pay the cost just as the apostle Paul did. We should not have the attitude that we are safe in the Lord because we have sacrificed our future and do not love the world. That is not adequate. You must know the intrinsic scene of all the spiritual things. God's intention is to make Himself man that man may become Him. Then He and man will be united and mingled together to live a corporate life. Eventually, this holy city, Jerusalem, is the aggregate of all the visions and revelations. It is a constitution of the Triune God with the tripartite man. This constitution, the New Jerusalem, will be a pair of lovers in eternity. This pair of lovers are men and God as well. They have become a kind of mutual abode in divinity and humanity. In this humanity, the glory of God will be expressed, manifested, to the uttermost, full of brightness, full of splendor, and full of glory. (*The Practical Points concerning Blending, chapter 5*)

## Day 4

*Ephesians 4:23* - *And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind*

*Ephesians 5:26-27* - *That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word, That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.*

- F. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians reveals the living of the overcomers, who live in the reality of the Body of Christ by **living in the mingled spirit**:
1. The reality of the Body of Christ is the highest peak in God's economy and the top revelation of the Bible, revealed through a spirit of wisdom and revelation—1:17, 22-23.
  2. The reality of the Body of Christ is a **living in the mingled spirit**, which is the dwelling place of God, the house of God, today's Bethel, the gate of heaven, and the Holy of Holies, the dwelling place of the pneumatic Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, who is typified by the Ark—v. 17; 2:22; 3:5, 16; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18; Gen. 28:12-17; John 1:51; Heb. 9:3-4; 10:19-22.
  3. The reality of the Body of Christ is the reality in Jesus, the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, duplicated in His many members as the corporate living of the perfected God-men through the **renewing** of the mind by the **renewing Spirit mingled** with their regenerated spirit—Eph. 4:1-6, 15-16, 20-24; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a; 4:11-13.
  4. The church is **filled** with the beautifying, bride-preparing Spirit, who is **mingled** with our spirit, so that we may become Christ's holy, beautiful, God-expressing bride, a bride without blemish or imperfection—Eph. 5:18, 26-27; Isa. 60:7, 19; 62:3; Exo. 28:2; cf. Psa. 27:4; 48:2; 50:2; 110:2-3, 7; Isa. 28:5; 60:21; 61:3.
  5. For Christ to be victorious in our entire being, we must **experience** the **slaying Spirit** mingled with our spirit so that everything of God's adversary can be killed within us, enabling us to rule in the divine life of the Spirit over Satan, sin, and death for God's dominion and to live a healthy Body life, a healthy church life—Eph. 6:10-18; Psa. 48:12-13.

In the church as the new man, we **should live** not according to the vanity of the mind, but according to the spirit of the mind. This is the key to the daily living of the corporate one new man. Formerly, our mind was filled with vanity; now it must be **permeated** with the spirit. **We need to** walk according to the spirit that is **spreading** into our mind and **filling** it. In this way the daily walk of the new man will be in the spirit of the mind. This is the secret of the church life.

I hope that we all are impressed with the place of the human spirit in the book of Ephesians. In chapter one we have the spirit of wisdom and revelation; in chapter two, the spirit as the place of God's dwelling; in chapter three, the spirit as the means of receiving revelation and as the organ that needs to be strengthened; in chapter four, the renewing spirit that spreads into our mind to renew all our inward parts; in chapter five, the spirit being filled with Christ unto all the fullness of God; and in chapter six, the mingled spirit as the organ in which we pray to fight the battle for the Lord. As we consider all these references to the spirit in this short book, we see that **the church life is altogether a matter in the spirit**. In order to practice the church life, **we need to** turn to our spirit and remain there. The daily living of the corporate new man is absolutely in the spirit of the mind. (*Life-Study of Ephesians, chapter 94*)

## Day 5

*Psalms 84:5-7* - Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, / In whose heart are the highways to Zion. Passing through the valley of Baca, / They make it a spring; / Indeed the early rain covers it with blessings. They go from strength to strength; / Each appears before God in Zion.

### III. The **overcomers** enjoy Christ as the incarnated Triune God, the God-man, and are those in whose heart are the highways to Zion—“Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, / In whose heart are the highways to Zion. / Passing through the valley of Baca, / They make it a spring; / Indeed the early rain covers it with blessings. / They go from strength to strength; / Each appears before God in Zion”—84:5-7:

- A. The **strippings** and **weepings** result in the enjoyment of the loveliness and sweetness of God’s house—vv. 1, 6 and footnotes 1<sup>1</sup> and 6<sup>1</sup>; cf. 73:26 and footnote 1.
- B. While we are **weeping**, we are being **filled** with the Spirit, and the Spirit becomes a spring and the early rain to us; the highways to Zion **signify** our intention to enter into the church as the house of God with the two altars, which **signify** the leading consummations of the work of the **incarnated Triune God**, who is **Christ** as the embodiment of God for His increase—84:3-6.
- C. Psalm 84:11 reveals that the blessings of our dwelling in the house of God are our **enjoyment** of the incarnated and consummated Triune God as our sun to **supply** us with life (John 1:4; 8:12), as our shield to **protect** us from God’s enemy (Eph. 6:11-17), as grace for our **enjoyment** (John 1:14, 17), and as glory for the **manifestation** of God in splendor (Rev. 21:11, 23).

### IV. “His foundation is in the holy mountains. / Jehovah loves the **gates of Zion**”—Psa. 87:1-2a:

- A. **Zion**, as a **type** of the **overcomers in the church**, is built on the highest peak of the “holy mountains,” which typify the local churches, whose foundation is Christ (v. 1); the heavenly Zion, of which glorious things are spoken (v. 3), will be the final place of rest for the overcomers (Rev. 14:1).
- B. The **gates of Zion** are for **coming in** and **going out**, **signifying fellowship**; the fact that the New Jerusalem will have twelve gates (21:12, 21) indicates that God’s holy city will be full of fellowship.
- C. “Of Zion it will be said, / This one and that one were born in her, / And the Most High Himself will establish her. / Jehovah will count / When He records the peoples: / This One was born there” (Psa. 87:5-6); the unique One, Christ, who is the totality of all the saints (“this one” and “that one”), is the One who is all the saints and in all the saints (Col. 3:11).
- D. “All my springs are in you” (Psa. 87:7); let Egypt boast of the Nile, and let Babylon boast of the Euphrates; they do not have the springs, but we in Zion have them

## Day 6

*Psalms 132:14-16* - This is My resting place forever; / Here will I dwell, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless its provision; / I will satisfy its poor with bread. And its priests I will clothe with salvation, / And its faithful ones will shout with a ringing shout.

*Psalms 134:3* - May Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, / Bless you from Zion.

Sometimes we have the concept that the matter of the church ground and the church practice are not matters of life. Sometimes we hear others say, “Let’s talk about life; don’t talk about the church ground.” In earlier days I had the same concept, but I have gradually been delivered from this kind of deceit. Never say that the church ground has nothing to do with life. It is **absolutely** a matter of life. I am fully assured that if any one of you is wrong in life, you will be distracted from the way of the church. In other words, when you are out of the church way, you are erring, at least to some extent, in the way of spiritual life. The matter of the church ground and the way of the church practice has very much to do with the inner life. **When we are deeply in the inner life, we will certainly be in the way of the church; the highways to Zion will be within us.**

If we adopt the church life in a cheap way, it means that the life within us is extremely poor. But I do believe that many of us have taken the way of the church at a certain cost. It did not cost me so much to take the Lord Jesus as my Savior as it did to take the church way. To receive the Lord Jesus as my Savior cost me almost nothing, but I can testify that it was very costly for me to take the church way. Do not imagine that the highway to Zion is external, superficial, and cheap. It is quite the opposite. **It is at a price that we take the church way and forever remain on the highway to Zion.** (*Christ and the Church Revealed and Typified in the Psalms, chapter 14*)

**V. The Songs of Ascents (Psa. 120—134) speak of the preciousness of Zion and Jerusalem in the experiences and praises of the saints:**

- A. Psalm 132 mentions seven precious items related to the overcomers in their going up to Zion; these items are at the top of the church life, and they portray the situation of the overcomers in Zion, the highest peak of God’s mountain—vv. 13-18:
1. **Resting** with God— “This is My resting place forever”—v. 14a.
  2. **Dwelling** with God— “Here will I dwell, for I have desired it”—v. 14b.
  3. Food for **satisfaction**— “I will abundantly bless its provision; / I will satisfy its poor with bread”—v. 15.
  4. Glorious **clothing**— “Its priests I will clothe with salvation, / And its faithful ones will shout with a ringing shout”—v. 16; cf. Exo. 28:2.
  5. The **horn** of victory— “There I will cause a horn of David to shoot forth”—Psa. 132:17a.
  6. The enlightening **lamp**— “I have prepared a lamp for My anointed one”—v. 17b.
  7. The shining **crown**— “I will clothe his enemies with shame, / But on him his crown will shine”—v. 18; cf. Isa. 62:3.
- B. When **Zion is built up** as depicted in Psalm 132, we have a place where we can gather and where we can dwell together in oneness; how good and how pleasant this is! — 133:1-3.
- C. “May Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, / Bless you from Zion” (134:3); wherever there are some **overcomers**, there will be **God’s blessing**; God always blesses His people from Zion, from the highest peak, from the ones who have attained to the top, to the position of the overcomers; from this position God blesses all His people.

**VI. Today in the church age, the God-men who are perfected and matured are Zion, the overcomers, the vital groups within the churches, but in the new heaven and new earth, the entire New Jerusalem will become Zion (Rev. 21:16), with all the believers as overcomers— v. 7 and footnote 1.**

After such a wonderful psalm as Psalm 132, we see a wonderful church life, the wonderful life of the brothers dwelling together in unity. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!” (133:1). No one can explain how truly wonderful this is. You can only **come** and **experience** it yourself. To hear about it is not sufficient; to read and learn of it is not adequate; you simply must “come and see.” I am so very happy that nearly all the dear ones who have come and have seen have been captured. “Behold, how good!” Just behold! If you would like to know what is going on in the church in Los Angeles, you had better come and see. It is marvelous!

It is here, in such a place of unity, that “Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever” (v. 3). Note that it does not say, “Jehovah gave the blessing,” but, “Jehovah commanded the blessing.” The blessing is life, fullness of life, forever. How glad we are to hear of the local churches **being full of life**. This is the fulfillment of Psalm 133. Where the brothers are dwelling together in unity, the Lord commands the blessing, even life forever. The beauty, the joy, and the blessing of the unity of God’s people are with the Body of Christ and in the local churches.

We have one further psalm of ascents, Psalm 134. Both Psalm 133 and 134 have only three verses. They are short psalms, but how precious! Never before have I appreciated Psalm 134 as much as I do today. Psalm 133 is a continuation of Psalm 132, and Psalm 134 is the conclusion of Psalm 133. By the close of Psalm 132 God **enters** into His rest, and we obtain **satisfaction** in the habitation of God. Hence, following that, we have the church life in Psalm 133. Psalm 134 now is a conclusion to that wonderful church life presented in Psalm 133. “Bless Jehovah now, / All you servants of Jehovah / Who stand by night in the house of Jehovah. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, / And bless Jehovah” (vv. 1-2). This was the word of the people to the priests. All the people were telling the priests, “All you servants of Jehovah, you must bless Jehovah.” Then the last verse of Psalm 134 is the answer, the reply, of the priests to the people: “May Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, / Bless you from Zion.” God’s servants bless Him in His house, and God blesses His people from Zion. This little psalm means that **we all must fellowship and communicate** in this way. After a good meeting, after a rich enjoyment of Christ, some of us may say, “Bless the name of the Lord.” Then others may answer, “The Lord bless you from Zion.” How blessed! Let us try it. This is a good fellowship, a good communication, a good conclusion, to a meeting of the church.

Hallelujah for the church life!

*(Christ and the Church Revealed and Typified in the Psalms, chapter 21)*