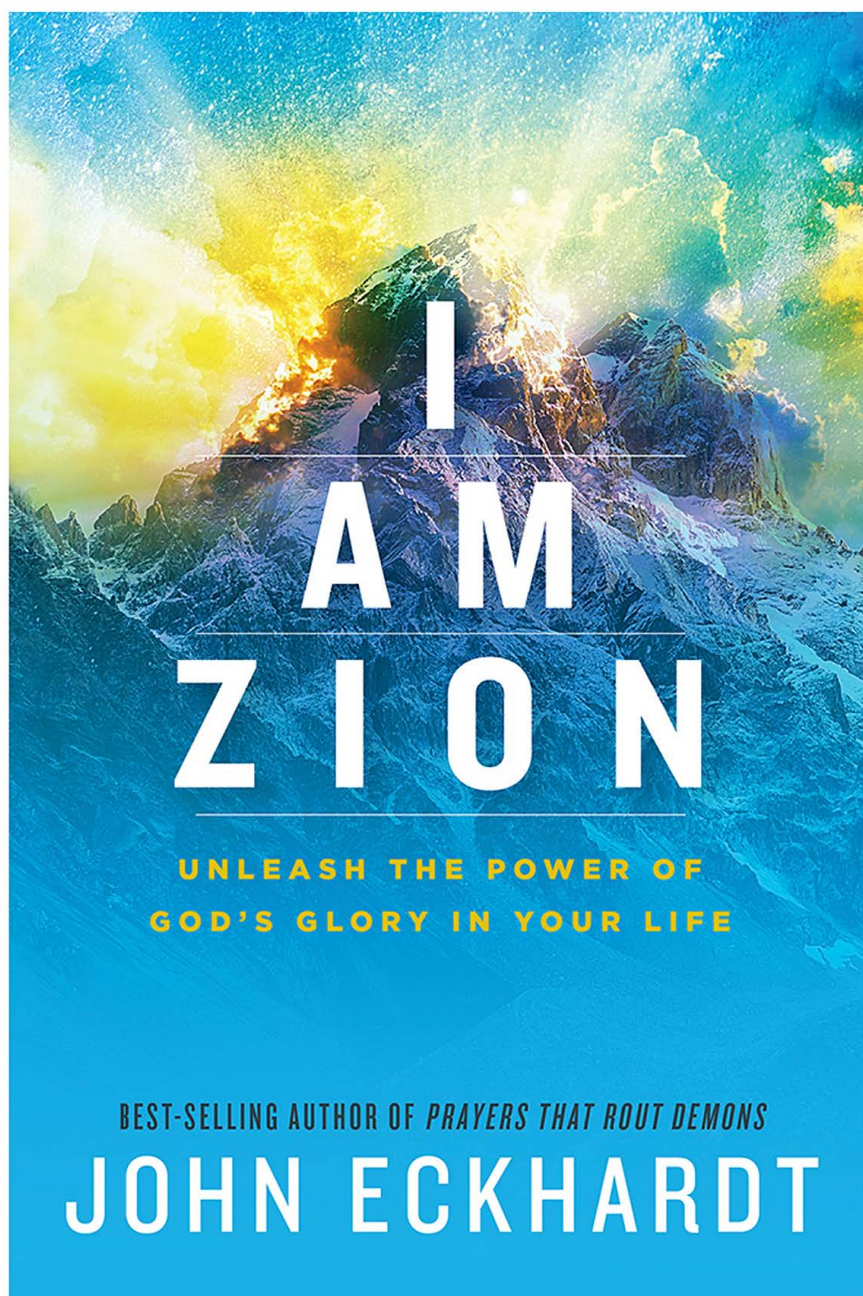


Order Today!

Amazon | Barnes & Noble | Books-A-Million | ChristianBook.com





# I AM ZION

JOHN ECKHARDT



Most Charisma House Book Group products are available at special quantity discounts for bulk purchase for sales promotions, premiums, fund-raising, and educational needs. For details, call us at (407) 333-0600 or visit our website at [www.charismahouse.com](http://www.charismahouse.com).

I AM ZION by John Eckhardt  
Published by Charisma House  
Charisma Media/Charisma House Book Group  
600 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, Florida 32746

This book or parts thereof may not be reproduced in any form, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission of the publisher, except as provided by United States of America copyright law.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked AMP are from the Amplified Bible. Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org)

Scripture quotations marked AMPC are from the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition. Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org).

Scripture quotations marked ASV are from the American Standard Bible.

Scripture quotations marked CEV are from the Contemporary English Version, copyright © 1995 by the American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations from the Complete Jewish Bible are copyright © 1998 by David H. Stern. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations from the Easy-to-Read Version are copyright © 2006 by Bible League International.

Scripture quotations marked GNT are from the Good News Translation in Today's English Version—Second Edition. Copyright © 1992 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked GW are taken from GOD'S WORD®, © 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group.

Scripture quotations from the International Children's Bible are copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson™, a division of Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations from the International Standard Version are copyright © 1995–2014 by ISV Foundation. All rights reserved internationally. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC.

Scripture quotations from *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary English* are copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Scripture quotations from the Names of God Bible are taken from GOD'S WORD®, © 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group.

Scripture quotations marked NASB are from the New American Standard Bible, copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org)

Scripture quotations marked NCV are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com). The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.®

Scripture quotations marked NLT are from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations from The Voice™ are copyright © 2008 by Ecclesia Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations from The Passion Translation® are copyright © 2017, 2018 by Passion & Fire Ministries, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. [ThePassionTranslation.com](http://ThePassionTranslation.com).

Scripture quotations from the Worldwide English (New Testament) are copyright © 1969, 1971, 1996, 1998 by SOON Educational Publications.

Scripture quotations from Young’s Literal Translation are in the public domain.

Copyright © 2020 by John Eckhardt

All rights reserved

Visit the author’s website at [www.johnneckhardt.global](http://www.johnneckhardt.global).

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Eckhardt, John, 1957- author.

Title: I am Zion / by John Eckhardt.

Description: Lake Mary, Florida : Charisma House, [2019] | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019020867 (print) | LCCN 2019981461 (ebook) | ISBN 9781629996219 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781629996226 (ebook) Subjects: LCSH: Spiritual life--Christianity. | Christian life.

Classification: LCC BV4501.3 .E325 2019 (print) | LCC BV4501.3 (ebook) | DDC 248.4--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019020867>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019981461>

While the author has made every effort to provide accurate internet addresses at the time of publication, neither the publisher nor the author assumes any responsibility for errors or for changes that occur after publication. Further, the publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

20 21 22 23 24 — 987654321

Printed in the United States of America

## CONTENTS

	Introduction: A Chosen Place for a Chosen People. . . .	vii
1	The Stronghold of Zion . . . . .	1
2	The Habitation of God . . . . .	11
3	Born of Zion . . . . .	27
4	The River of God . . . . .	47
5	Zion Heart . . . . .	59
6	Worship—The Doorway to the Glory Realm. . . . .	89
7	The Blessings of Zion (Part 1)—The Glory Realm . . .	105
8	The Blessings of Zion (Part 2)— You Can't Stay Small. . . . .	119
9	The Weight of Glory . . . . .	133
10	The Authority and Strength of the Zion Believer . . . .	145
11	God's Mercy Toward Zion. . . . .	175
12	I Am Zion, Holy and Sought Out!. . . . .	183
	Appendix: Prophetic Poems of Zion . . . . .	197
	Notes . . . . .	211




## Introduction



# A CHOSEN PLACE FOR A CHOSEN PEOPLE

*For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.*

—PSALM 132:13–16



**Z**ION IS ONE of the most important topics in Scripture, yet we do not teach much about it. The revelation concerning Zion has been all but lost in today's church. It is one of my favorite subjects because I believe the spiritual significance of Zion is one of the most important revelations you can have as a child of God. Locked up within the mysteries of Zion are the eternal plans and purposes of God for all His children.

Studying God's plans and purposes gives us insight into His wisdom. And when you access the realm of God's wisdom, special blessings are always the result. The Bible says throughout Proverbs that wisdom brings riches (3:16; 8:18), favor (3:4; 8:35), and promotion (4:8).

I have learned that the more I understand and walk in the plans and purposes of God, the more wisdom comes into my life. And the more that wisdom comes into my life, the more I experience the blessing of God. God imparts wisdom when we seek to understand and yield to His plans, purposes, and will.

In the Old Testament—the age of the prophets, priests, and



kings—and even into the New Testament with the apostles, the plan of God was a mystery. The apostle Paul wrote about the mysteries of God throughout his epistles as God gave him. These revealed mysteries revolved around the church, or the body of Christ (Heb. 12:22–23); the kingdom (Mark 4:11), which is established in Zion; and the revelation of Christ Himself (Col. 1:27; 2:2–3). These were hidden things. They were mysteries. They were the hidden wisdom of God, which God revealed to Paul apostolically; Paul then revealed them to the saints through his teachings and writings, even while in chains.

One thing we need to understand concerning Zion and the apostolic anointing is that the purpose of the apostolic anointing is to bring insight, revelation, and understanding to God's people concerning His plans, purposes, and will. The function of the apostolic is to unlock the mysteries of the kingdom of God so that people can begin to gain understanding and embrace the plan and purpose of God for their lives. If it had not been for Paul's function under the weight of his apostolic call and anointing, we would not be able to search the Scriptures for this present truth of the reality of Zion. I will talk more about Zion and the apostolic in later chapters.

What we need to know now, however, is that the enemy worked overtime to keep these revelations from being released so we could not walk in the benefits of them. Paul suffered great persecution as he went from church to church and city to city, preaching the revelations of Christ, the kingdom, heavenly Zion, and the full measure of the gospel. Yet these are the very revelations we must have knowledge of to take hold of the abundant life in Christ.

Christ is the cornerstone of Zion (1 Pet. 2:6). The revelation of Christ unlocks the mystery of Zion, which holds the plan of God for you and me. When we get an understanding and a revelation of the plans and purposes—the mysteries—of God, we increase in God's wisdom, and when you increase in God's wisdom, get ready for promotion.



We will discover that the revelation of Zion is a revelation of the glory of God. And in the glory of God it is impossible to stay small, insignificant, unnoticed, or forgotten. You can do nothing but increase in every area when the glory invades your life, because God does not do small when it comes to His glory.

## **THE KEY TO PROMOTION AND INCREASE**

People often ask me, “What is the key to success?” “What is the key to promotion?” I always tell them, “Wisdom is the principal thing.” When you get wisdom, understanding, revelation, and insight into the plans and purposes of God, get ready for breakthrough. Get ready for prosperity. Get ready for abundance. Get ready for promotion. But you will not get insight and wisdom in a church where all they do is whoop and holler. You need teaching, instruction, insight, revelation, and understanding of the wisdom of God that brings the apostolic into play. Part of the apostolic ministry is to establish order and foundation in the body of Christ. This is what Paul was establishing in the first-century church at great peril and risk to his physical body. He suffered much persecution bringing revelation to the people of God concerning God’s ultimate plan for them beyond the plan of salvation. The revelation of Zion goes beyond just being saved. When you understand who you are in relationship to Zion, everything changes.

There is a key to exaltation, promotion, and all the good things God has for us through understanding this biblical mystery of Zion. If you attend a church, you need to make sure it is a Zion church, and you will need to know what you are looking for to recognize those qualifying characteristics. You need to be among a people who know how to tap into the glory of Zion in worship. We will discuss why this is so important throughout the book, but the first thing to know is that Zion represents the place God has chosen as His dwelling place. Therefore Zion churches are the places God has chosen to dwell. If it is not a Zion church, God’s presence doesn’t manifest there. We make a lot of choices in our lives, including



what church we go to, based on what we want and not based on what God wants—what He chooses. But as we come into this revelation of Zion, we should understand how important it is to choose what God chooses. If God chooses Zion, we should too.

As I will explain, Zion is more than a physical place; it is now a state of spiritual being. When we live with this understanding, life as we know it goes to a whole other level. If you want to enjoy God's best, you need to be in the best place, and the best place needs to reside in you. This is a place called Zion. In this book I will help you know what Zion is, how to identify it, how to know when you've arrived, and what happens when you are not in Zion.

As a Zion believer, when it comes to being part of an assembly or church, or making decisions in life altogether, the priority is not your preferences. What matters is God's choice, and He chooses Zion. So many people make decisions based on certain characteristics they find appealing—qualities that have nothing to do with Zion. But I want to show how having a Zion heart calls you out of feeding the desire of a heart bound to limitations and restrictions of the world. Sin and carnality limit us. The enemy has fooled man into believing the lie that any good can come from rejecting what God chooses, and that is never the case. We must develop a heart that desires what God desires. God desires Zion.

## COME OUT OF BABYLON AND INTO ZION

In my book *The Good Land* I discussed how the people of Israel could not crossover into the Promised Land until they shed their Egypt and wilderness mentality. A whole generation had to die off before they could enter the land. But even as they dwelled in the good land, the people rebelled against God. They disobeyed Him over and over again until He led them back into captivity—this time by the hands of the Babylonians.

So, before we can claim a Zion identity, we must first come out of Babylon, which represents the place of our spiritual captivity. This is where receiving the gospel message, restoring covenant with

God, getting delivered, and coming into fellowship with the righteous saints of God come in. You cannot live in Babylon and Zion at the same time. You must deliberately separate yourself from Babylon.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

—REVELATION 18:4

Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

—ISAIAH 48:20

God does not desire for His people to remain in Babylon. Babylon is the city that is the direct opposite of Zion. Babylon is a place of weeping and captivity, while Zion is a place of joy and freedom. Babylon is a place of witchcraft, sorcery, and divination (magicians); Zion is a place of prophets and prophetic people. God redeemed His people from Babylon.

Babylon loves to take the best people. The king brought the best of the Israelites to Babylon. Daniel and the others were taught the language and knowledge of Babylon. (See Daniel 1.) Babylon is filled with worldly wisdom, but Zion has the wisdom of God. Babylon is worldly, carnal, and fleshly; Zion is spiritual and heavenly.

Babylon was a physical city, but it also represents something in the spirit. Babylonian systems are religious systems that do not allow people to enjoy the liberty of the Spirit.

Babylon is guilty of fornication and idolatry (Rev. 14:8). Babylon is a harlot (Rev. 17:5). Zion is a place of holiness and true worship; Babylon is a place of uncleanness and demons. Zion is the place of glory!

God used Babylon to capture His people; then God judged Babylon for its pride and cruelty. Babylon is self-promoting; Zion

## I AM ZION

is promoted by God. Babylon is legalistic; it is all about religious control, which it does through the traditions of men.

Babylonian leaders are controlling and domineering. They do not release and launch people into their destinies. Babylon loves to control the wealth; it is greedy and eats up the riches of the people. Zion, on the other hand, gives willingly and sacrificially.

Babylon is a place of sorrow. The psalmist said, "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion" (Ps. 137:1). Babylon is a place of rivers. Ezekiel had his visions by the river Chebar in Babylon (Ezek. 1:1). Darius, the Mede, captured Babylon by drying up the river and entering through the dry channel (Dan. 5:30–31). Both Zion and Babylon have rivers. But Zion has the life-giving river of God, whereas the rivers of Babylon do not give life.

After the Israelites had been in captivity for roughly seventy years, God restored them back to the land. He returned them to Zion, a place of freedom and protection from their enemies and a place of rebuilding and restoration after their deliverance. This is a type of what Jesus came to do. He came to bring restoration. In Zion the gospel is preached, and it liberates and sets free. It brings hope and deliverance. This is what the psalmist longed to see when he proclaimed, "Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad" (Ps. 14:7).

As I mentioned, Zion is the opposite of Babylon. Zion is liberty; Babylon is bondage. The Zion believer cannot be satisfied in Babylon. Zion is laughter and joy; Babylon is weeping and sadness. Zion worships the true God; Babylon worships idols. Zion is divine order; Babylon is confusion. Zion is the home of the believer; Babylon represents exile.

## LOOSE YOURSELF FROM BABYLON'S GRIP

According to Revelation 19:1–10, Babylon has been judged and is fallen. It no longer has dominion over Zion. Because the spiritual

nature of Zion dwells in you, you are Zion. That means you are free. As Galatians 4:3–9 indicates, you are no longer in bondage to the elemental spirits or the weak and beggarly elements (man-made religious tradition or the philosophical teachings of the world). So stand fast in your liberty. Do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage (Gal. 5:1). The Son has set you free, which means you are free indeed (John 8:36). Be glad and rejoice!

When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then said they among the heathen, the LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

—PSALM 126:1–3

Zion believers belong in Zion churches. They do not belong in Babylonian systems. They cannot sit under control and domination. They need to be where their gifts are recognized and released. Thanks be to God that we don't have to live in Babylon.

Zion believers laugh and sing. The Lord's salvation has come. The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.

God commands Zion believers to come out of Babylon. Those with hearts after Zion will flee Babylon. They will loose themselves from Babylon's bonds and come into the freedom of Zion. If you want to experience the fullness of the glory of Zion in your life, you have to deliver yourself. Zechariah 2:7 says, "Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon."

The Zion heart cannot stay in the dust. The call of Zion will cause the person to desire freedom. Zion shakes herself free. God said through the prophet Isaiah, "Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion" (Isa. 52:2). God says loose thyself!

Zion awakes. Zion puts on strength. Zion puts on beautiful garments. The unclean cannot enter Zion, as Zion is for the holy

## I AM ZION

and clean. The Zion identity is for those with clean hands and pure hearts.

But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

—GALATIANS 4:26

The church is heavenly Zion (Heb. 12:22–23), and the heavenly Zion is free. We are not slaves.

In Galatians 4:24–25 Zion is compared with Mount Sinai, which represents the law and legalism. Sinai is symbolized by Hagar, the bondwoman. And Galatians 4 tells us we are not born of the bondwoman but of the free (Zion).

The New Testament Pharisees had become legalistic. They were judgmental and hypocritical, and they brought the people into bondage through their teachings and traditions, many of which came out of Babylon (specifically the rabbinic writings collected in the Babylonian Talmud).<sup>1</sup> Jesus exposed and rebuked the Pharisees, knowing they were wicked and envious of Him. (See Mark 7:1–13.) Ultimately God called His people out of apostate Judaism into the church.

Babylon traffics in the souls of men (Rev. 18:13). No person or system should control your soul. Babylon hunts and trades in the souls of men (Ezek. 13:18), but our souls are as watered gardens in Zion (Jer. 31:12). Our souls are nourished in Zion instead of being enslaved in Babylon.

The Book of Revelation is a tale of two cities, Babylon and the New Jerusalem. Babylon is judged, and Jerusalem comes to the earth from heaven. Heavenly Jerusalem replaces fallen Babylon. Babylon is the city where the Lord was crucified (old Jerusalem), and it is also known as Sodom and Egypt (Rev. 11:8).

Moses brought the Israelites out of Egypt; God brought His people out of Babylon, and still today He brings us out of captivity so we can serve Him and live in the blessing and freedom that

comes from serving Him. We do not serve Pharaoh or demons. We are Zion; we are servants of the Lord.

We cannot develop hearts after God without shedding our old desires and old ways. Deliverance and spiritual warfare are part of this process as much as the physical warfare and chastening from God were for the people of Israel. Zion believers have gone through this process and have an unshakable heart for God and the things of God. Just as God chooses Zion, the Zion believer chooses God.

When you understand the magnitude of Zion, how it is in you, how God inhabits Zion, and how it, therefore, inhabits you, everything you touch will prosper. Every place you go you will be favored, blessed, and promoted. The glory of God dwells in Zion. The glory of God dwells in you.

### **GOD'S DWELLING PLACE**

When we go back into the Old Testament and study what happened during the old covenant, there was a point when the tribes of Israel were moving into Canaan. The question then became, "Which area will God choose to be His dwelling place?" At this time in their journey, the children of Israel had been carrying the presence of God in the ark of the covenant, which God commanded Moses to make in Exodus 25. The ark was an earthly replica of the ark in heaven. The ark represents the throne of God in the earth and is referred to by many titles in the Old Testament, such as:

- ✦ the ark of the testimony (Exod. 25:22)
- ✦ the ark of the covenant of the Lord (Num. 10:33)
- ✦ the ark of the Lord God (1 Kings 2:26)
- ✦ the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth (Josh. 3:13)
- ✦ the ark of God (1 Sam. 3:3)
- ✦ the holy ark (2 Chron. 35:3)

## I AM ZION

- ✦ the ark of thy strength (Ps. 132:8)
- ✦ the ark of the covenant of God (Judg. 20:27)
- ✦ the ark of the covenant (Josh. 3:6)
- ✦ the ark of the Lord (Josh. 4:11)
- ✦ the ark of the God of Israel (1 Sam. 5:7)
- ✦ the ark of acacia wood (Exod. 25:10, NKJV)

The tabernacle the people of Israel carried through the wilderness was in a place called Shiloh, but that was not God's chosen place. It was temporary. We know they brought the ark out of the tabernacle of Moses. Then they went into battle with the Philistines and lost possession of the ark. (See 1 Samuel 4:5–11.) For a time the Philistines had possession of the ark, and God sent plagues on them until they returned the ark (1 Sam. 6; 7:1–2).

The land had been divided among the twelve tribes into twelve areas. Which area would God choose? The choice was not made until David became king.

From the time of Joshua until the time of David, there was no specific place that God had yet revealed as His dwelling place. Yes, the people had come out of the wilderness—and all the first generation except Joshua and Caleb died out there. Yes, the new generation had come into the land of Canaan, the Promised Land, which is considered good land. But Zion is an entirely different place—Zion is the place God has chosen for Himself.

Since the time of Israel, Zion has transcended the natural, physical realm into being a spiritual place and state of the heart. *I Am Zion* is the result of many years of preaching and studying the subject of Zion. These messages have changed my life in many ways, and as I present them to you, I believe these messages will change your life as well. A revelation of Zion is a key to understanding much of Scripture and the purpose of God for the church and the



world. Many truths are connected to Zion, and I am still learning and discovering new facets of the great city.

The word *Zion* is used more than 150 times in the King James Version of the Bible. “It essentially means ‘fortification’ and carries the idea of being ‘raised up’ as a ‘monument.’”<sup>2</sup> From its first mention in 2 Samuel 5, the word *Zion* expands in scope and takes on an additional, spiritual meaning as the Scriptures progress.<sup>3</sup> The psalms are filled with references to *Zion*, which is not surprising considering that *Zion* is also called the city of David. The word *Zion* also refers to Jerusalem, and the two terms are often used interchangeably.

In Scripture there are two *Zions*. There is the earthly *Zion*—Jerusalem, the place where God dwelled—and then there was the heavenly *Zion* written about in the New Testament and that comes as a fulfillment of the earthly *Zion*. Ancient Israel was part of the earthly *Zion*, but as children of God we are part of the heavenly *Zion*.

The heavenly Jerusalem is greater than the earthly, and we have come to the heavenly, which is described in Psalm 48.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our  
God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation,  
the joy of the whole earth, is mount *Zion*, on the sides of the  
north, the city of the great King.

—PSALM 48:1–2

*Zion* is “the joy of the whole earth,” and indeed it is one of the most important places and symbols in Scripture. But it is important to keep it at the front of our hearts and minds as we study this revelation that *Zion* is more than a location. The physical *Zion* is a type, shadow, or symbol of both the corporate church and the individual believer. Jerusalem was the place where the temple was housed. It was the place where God dwelled. But under the new covenant and because of Christ, God dwells in us. The church is

the body of Christ; we are His dwelling place. Therefore we are Zion, both corporately and individually.

## A ZION IDENTITY

At one point some years ago when I had just come into the revelation of Zion, I would emphasize that we, the church, are corporate Zion. But recently I have come to understand that the individual believer is also Zion. Zion is the city of God, and in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus likened you as a believer to a city. He said, “Ye are the light of the world. A *city* that is set on an *hill* cannot be hid” (Matt. 5:14, emphasis added). The Bible also says in Proverbs 25:28, “He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a *city* that is broken down, and without walls” (emphasis added). Zion was once known as the city of David and the city of God—the place where God dwelled. We are likened unto a city within which God dwells—a city of lights that cannot be hidden. That light is the glory of God, which will we come to know as the glory of Zion.

Zion is a place of rule, reign, and dominion; it is a picture of the kingdom. Zion’s walls are strong. They are made of jasper and other precious jewels, and the city is a stronghold upheld by God. It is a place of authority and power. As you are saved and delivered from the hand of the enemy, the glory of Zion restores you and rebuilds your walls. You are no longer vulnerable to attack. You are strong and fortified, as Zion is.

Under the old covenant Zion was merely a location, but now it is a people. You are Zion. Christ, who is the spiritual nature of Zion, dwells in you and every other believer. When you receive Christ, you will get a full measure of the benefits of salvation. You can experience a whole new life as a Zion believer. Because of Christ you can declare, “I am Zion.” You are that glorious city set on a hill. You are a stronghold and fortress for the righteousness of God. You are a person of power, authority, and dominion as you rule and reign with Christ.

Every chapter in this book builds from the foundation of types

and shadows of the physical place called Zion and expands it into the spiritual reality of it as it has been made full and complete in Christ. Throughout our study I will refer to the body of Christ at large for context, but my emphasis will be on you, the individual believer.

My prayer for you is that you will come into an understanding of Zion that will expand your understanding of what it means to be in Christ. I believe this revelation will help you walk in the fullness of who you are in Him. I have a desire to see believers walk in their identity because your identity determines your destiny. Do you know who you are? Do you know who you are in Christ? A proper identity is key to being who God has called you to be. The Scripture reveals who we are in Christ, but it takes a revelation from heaven to truly see and know it. I pray that you receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation as you read the pages of this book.

## **I AM ZION CONFESSIONS**

God calls me Zion. I will not see myself the way others see me.

Zion is my name.

I am Zion, and God lives in me.

The enemy cannot defeat me, because God lives inside of me.

I receive my new identity. I am ready for things to change in my life.

I declare that I will go from poverty to prosperity.

I will be blessed with abundant provision and satisfied with food.

My provision is blessed.

No more poverty for my life. I will have abundant provision because I am Zion.

There is no lack in Zion. Zion has more than enough.

I am Zion. I have more than enough.

Glory rests on my life. I walk in abundance and blessing. God has chosen me, and whatever God chooses, He blesses.

I AM ZION

I am ready for increase. I am ready for expansion. I am ready for enlargement. I will not stay small.

I will stick with Zion. I will not leave Zion. I will not walk away from Zion. I will stay with Zion. I will not be moved.

I will stay with the glory of Zion. I will not be distracted.

Zion is God's place. I will stay in God's place.

I will arise.

I am Zion.

## YOU ARE ZION, THE CITY OF GOD

Zion, the heavenly city,  
The earthly was a type.  
The city of God,  
The place of rule and reign.

John saw the city come down,  
Filled with the glory of God.  
The gates are always opened.  
The nations are invited to come.

The river of God flows.  
This river brings life.  
It makes glad the city of God,  
The tabernacles of the Most High.

Zion, the place of worship,  
The church of the living God,  
The place of glory and beauty,  
And the place of commanded blessing.

God has chosen Zion,  
His habitation forever.  
Many are born in Zion,  
Their names recorded in the book.

XX

Zion, a stronghold,  
No enemy can defeat.  
A place of towers and bulwarks,  
The city of the King.

The saints gather in Zion,  
They offer to the King high praise,  
Zion, a city of worshippers,  
A city of kings and priests.

Zion, the place of dominion,  
The place of power and authority,  
The place of ruling and reigning,  
And the place of liberty.

Zion, a high place,  
It knows the joy of victory.  
Zion, the heavenly place,  
Saints' names recorded in the book.

God has a city.  
Zion is that place.  
The mountain of His holiness.  
The place of great praise.

There is a river  
Whose streams make the city glad.  
This river flows in Zion,  
The city of our God.

His kingdom citizens reside there.  
It is their residence.  
They abide in that place,  
Zion, the city of God.

Zion, a city in Judah,  
The tribe of praise.  
Zion, the high place,  
The city above all.

## I AM ZION

Those with Zion hearts,  
Those who love the city of God,  
They shout to the God of glory  
And lift their voices on high.

The city of God is a fortress.  
Saints dwell there in safety.  
No weapon can prosper against her.  
Her enemies must bow.

Come to Zion and worship.  
Come to Zion and abide.  
This is the city of God,  
The dwelling place of the Most High.



## Chapter 1



# THE STRONGHOLD OF ZION

*Nevertheless David took the strong hold of  
Zion: the same is the city of David.*  
—2 SAMUEL 5:7

**T**HE CITY OF Zion was a stronghold, a fortress, held by the Jebusites, and David conquered this stronghold and made it his city, the base from which he led the nation of Israel. From this point on Zion would take a central role in the nation of Israel.

Before David captured the city, the Jebusites taunted him, saying the blind and lame would keep him from entering their citadel. They considered it impenetrable. Nevertheless David took their stronghold by sending men through the water tunnel to infiltrate the city. (See 2 Samuel 5.) The conquest became the first in a series of victories for David, and it signaled a turning point in the young king's life, as it solidified his rule and reign over the region.

Through this victory Zion was transformed from being the fortress of the Jebusites to being David's fortress. As I mentioned previously, the old covenant is a series of types and shadows of the new covenant we have through Christ. And so with Israel's possessing this new territory comes the foundational types and shadows of the gospel and the kingdom of God. David is a type and picture of Christ, as Jesus is called the son of David (Matt. 1:1). And the city of David, as it is called in the verse above, is a type and picture of the city of God. The Scriptures have much to say about the city of God. It is where God dwells—the place of His rule and reign



## I AM ZION

and the seat of His dominion and power. It is God's fortress. The psalmist declared:

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

—PSALM 48:1–2

Zion is “beautiful for situation.” This means literally that it is beautiful for elevation. Zion is an elevated place, which represents its preeminence and prominence. As the previous passage points out, Zion is “on the sides of the north.” When we think of north, we point or look up. Zion is up on the north side, signifying its loftiness and distinction. Zion is above all other cities.

As we understand that the spiritual nature of Zion dwells in us, we gain a more complete revelation of our spiritual position in Christ. The physical Zion was situated in a lofty place, and we, the spiritual Zion, are seated in heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 2:6). We have been exalted through Christ above principalities and powers. We are not under the rule of Satan; we are to rule over him. Zion people are people of power and authority.

In the Book of Psalms Zion is described as having towers, palaces, and bulwarks.

Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

—PSALM 48:12–14

*Palaces*, in this passage, is literally referring to citadels.<sup>1</sup> A citadel is a fortress, typically on high ground, protecting or dominating a city. Towers and bulwarks are symbols of strength, power, and fortification. *Fortify* means “to strengthen and secure (a place, such as a town)” with defensive works such as forts or batteries so it will be

protected against attack.<sup>2</sup> We see a clearer picture of the strength of Zion's bulwarks and towers in *The Message Bible's* paraphrase of Psalm 48:12–14: "Circle Zion, take her measure, count her fortress peaks, gaze long at her sloping bulwark, climb her citadel heights."

Zion was fortified by its towers. These are elevated places of defense and safety that were used by watchmen. Although the towers around the physical Zion were made of stone, an individual can also be a tower and a fortress. Intercessors and prophets stand on the watchtower, serving as guardians and protectors, as we see in the following scriptures:

I have set thee for a tower and a fortress among my people,  
that thou mayest know and try their way.

—JEREMIAH 6:27

And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter  
of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the  
kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

—MICAH 4:8

### **YOU ARE A STRONGHOLD FOR GOD**

Do you consider yourself Zion? Do you consider yourself a tower? Do you consider yourself a stronghold? As you come into the revelation that you are Zion, you will understand that you are also a stronghold for God. You are a strong tower through Christ. You are a fortress, a guardian, and a protector.

A bulwark is a solid wall-like structure—strong support or protection.<sup>3</sup> Zion is well defended because of its towers and bulwarks, and this is how we should see the church and the individual believer. You are a city set on a hill that is well defended with towers and bulwarks. You are a strong city through Christ. Begin to see yourself this way. Confess this with your mouth. You are not weak. You are strong in Christ. You are built up through the Word and the Spirit.

## I AM ZION

Zion is built upon Christ. He supports and holds it up, meaning He supports you and holds you up. Isaiah prophesied:

Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

—ISAIAH 28:16

Zion no longer has a physical foundation. Jesus is the foundation of Zion, and He is the foundation of your life and of the church. God declared in Isaiah 51:16:

And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

Zion, which was a physical place, is now a people. God is more concerned about people than physical places. The physical in the old covenant was a type and picture of something spiritual under the new covenant. Zion becomes the new creation, the church. Zion is the believer, the new creature.

The foundation supports the structure. The larger the structure, the greater the foundation. Zion is a great city. Psalm 87:3 says, "Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah." The Good News Translation says it this way: "Listen, city of God, to the wonderful things he says about you." God does great things in Zion, and He does great things for you.

I have a passion to speak about the glorious truths of Zion because they apply to the believer. There is greatness in Zion, and you possess greatness as a believer in Christ. God commands us to open our ears and listen. God is speaking to us. He wants us to hear the glorious and wonderful things He has to say about us.

Psalm 48 says in verses 4–6:

For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together.  
They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and

hasted away. Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail.

This is what the enemy feels when he sees Zion. The enemy marvels. The enemy is troubled. The enemy runs away in fear, and pain comes upon him as of a woman in travail.

Other translations say the kings were astonished and awe-struck when they saw Zion. When they looked at the great city, they froze with fear and fled in terror. The Passion Translation says when the mighty kings who united to oppose Zion “saw God manifest in front of their eyes, they were stunned. Trembling, they all fled away, gripped with fear. Seized with panic, they doubled up in frightful anguish like a woman in the labor pains of childbirth” (Ps. 48:4–6).

### **YOU ARE THE STRENGTH AND BEAUTY OF ZION**

In the description from Psalm 48 Zion is a picture of strength and beauty. According to Psalm 50:2, Zion is the perfection of beauty. As Zion dwells in you, you too have the strength and beauty of God.

God is a God of beauty. It is an attribute of His glory. David desired to “behold the beauty of the LORD” (Ps. 27:4), and we worship in the beauty of holiness (Ps. 96:9). God’s beauty is upon us (Ps. 90:17). God is our crown of glory and diadem of beauty (Isa. 28:5). God gives us beauty for ashes (Isa. 61:3), and strength and beauty are in God’s sanctuary (Ps. 96:6). Job 40:10 says, “Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty.” A loss of beauty is a loss of glory (Lam. 1:6). Zion is told to put on beautiful garments (Isa. 52:1), and as the spiritual dwelling place of Zion, you wear the beauty of the Lord.

Like the earthly Zion, heavenly Zion also is pictured with attributes of beauty. Revelation 21:18–20 says the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with precious stones, which again represent glory and beauty:

## I AM ZION

And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysolite; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

Zion, the city of the King, is adorned in beauty, and the King rules and reigns from this place of glory and strength. David ruled from the physical Zion, and the King of kings, Jesus, rules and reigns in your life.

With Jesus as the head, Zion can't help but be victorious. All who attack Zion experience defeat because Zion cannot be defeated. This is how you must view yourself. Zion is a picture of the kingdom, and Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). Don't allow the enemy to intimidate you. You are victorious. You are a fortress. You are a citadel. You are the city of God—the city of the great King. God defends His city, which means He defends you.

The Lord is great in Zion. Its enemies tremble before Zion, and it "brokest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind" (Ps. 48:7). The ships of Tarshish represent a fleet or an armada, which are symbols of strength and power. The enemy's power is broken through Zion, meaning the enemy's power is broken through your life.

### PUT ON THE STRENGTH OF ZION

Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

—ISAIAH 52:1

Zion is a strong city, and the Zion believer is also strong. Zion has walls and bulwarks of salvation. Zion sings the new song. The

Zion believer has a circumcised heart, and the uncircumcised and unclean cannot enter.

Because Zion sings strength and you are Zion, you sing strength.

In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; we have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

—ISAIAH 26:1

You have the river of God flowing from your life. The river is filled with gladness.

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

—PSALM 46:4

We give God great praise in the city of God. The Names of God Bible translation of Psalm 48:1 says, “Yahweh is great. He should be highly praised.”

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

—PSALM 48:1

Zion is the city of the Lord of hosts (armies).

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah.

—PSALM 48:8

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

—PSALM 87:3

## RECEIVE THE SHALOM OF ZION

Zion is the place of shalom, the peace of God. It is the stronghold of God, where there is no hurt or spiritual abuse. The wolf and the lamb dwell together. Jews and Gentiles are made one in Christ. People from all nations come to Zion to live in peace and enjoy undisturbed composure.

## I AM ZION

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

—ISAIAH 11:9

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

—ISAIAH 65:25

As Zion, the dwelling place of God, the peace of God resides in your heart and mind (Phil. 4:7). Nothing that is unlike God is allowed in Zion. As it was for the physical Zion, no strangers shall pass through our spiritual Zion. Only kingdom citizens can live in this city and maintain a heart after Zion.

So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

—JOEL 3:17

Zion is heavenly. Zion is a heavenly people living on the earth. The kingdom is heaven coming to the earth. The mountain of the Lord fills the earth.

And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

—REVELATION 21:10

## LET THE REDEMPTION OF ZION COME INTO YOUR LIFE

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called



trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

—ISAIAH 61:3

Zion went into mourning because of disobedience. But Jesus came to redeem Zion and give beauty for ashes, which represent defeat and sorrow. The glory restores beauty. Zion is beautiful because the glory of the Lord is there. You are Zion, and that means you are beautiful.

The glory also restores joy. In Zion we receive joy and gladness instead of depression and defeat. We receive the garment of praise and display the splendor of the Lord. Isaiah 61 says we would be called “trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.” We receive the oil of joy for the spirit of heaviness. Zion is the place of joy and gladness. As we take on a Zion identity, God will deliver us from depression and defeat. We will receive the garment of praise.

In this verse we also learn that as Zion believers we are trees of righteousness. We are the planting of the Lord. Isaiah 60, which I call the glory chapter, speaks about trees. The glory is typified by Lebanon. Lebanon is a nation of magnificent trees. God is glorified in Zion because He is glorified through us. We are Zion.

Now that we understand what and who Zion is, let’s go deeper into understanding how it has become God’s choice, His desire, and His dwelling place or habitation forever.

## Order Today!

Amazon | Barnes & Noble | Books-A-Million | ChristianBook.com