

=BIBLE MOUNTAINS=

Lesson 6

Mount Zion

INTRODUCTION: Perhaps nothing encompasses the total plan of God as does the symbolism of Mount Zion. Mount Zion is also called Mount Sion, and the term “Zion” means several things in the Bible.

- I. MOUNT ZION WAS ONE OF THE HILLS ON WHICH JERUSALEM WAS BUILT. It was the southwestern hill at the southwestern tip of Jerusalem. For many years it was the dwelling place of the Ark of the Covenant and was celebrated as such by David. (II Samuel 6:12-18; I Kings 8:1-4; Psalm 2:6)
- II. ZION LATER CAME TO INCLUDE MOUNT MORIAH WHERE THE TEMPLE WAS BUILT. Mount Moriah was in the middle of the city, north and south, but on the extreme eastern side of the city. Mount Moriah could be seen from Mount Zion and vice versa. It was on Mount Moriah where Abraham offered Isaac. It was also on Mount Moriah where the temple was built. At the present there is a Moslem mosque on Mount Moriah which later was included in Mount Zion, which means that Mount Zion encompassed geographically Mount Zion and Mount Moriah and the land between the two mounts.
- III. ZION LATER BECAME THE TERM USED FOR THE ENTIRE CITY OF JERUSALEM. Notice II Kings 19:21; Psalm 48; Psalm 133:3. So, that which was once a mount on the southwestern part of the city stretched all the way to the eastern part to include Mount Moriah, and then stretched to cover the entire city of Jerusalem, making Zion and Jerusalem synonymous.
- IV. LATER, ZION CAME TO REPRESENT HEAVEN. Review Hebrews 12:22. We sing the song, “We’re Marching to Zion.” When we sing about Zion, we are singing about Heaven.
- V. MOUNT ZION IS MENTIONED AS THE PLACE WHERE JESUS SHALL REIGN AS KING DURING THE MILLENNIUM; THAT IS, THE 1,000-YEAR PERIOD WHEN CHRIST RULES AND REIGNS ON THE EARTH AND WE RULE WITH HIM, Micah 4:7; Joel 2:32; Obadiah 17. One thing we do know: Jesus shall reign from the city of Jerusalem. Perhaps His headquarters will be on that southwestern mount. Whether or not Zion, being the headquarters of the millennial kingdom, means that mount or Mount Zion plus Mount Moriah or the entire city of Jerusalem, we do not know; but we do know that He shall reign from Zion, and that shall be somewhere in the beloved city.
- VI. ZION HAS COME TO MEAN FIGURATIVELY THE BEST OF GOD’S BLESSING. It is used as a symbol of total surrender to God, of being in the center of God’s will, of being immeasurably blessed by God, etc.
- VII. THE UPPER ROOM WAS ON MOUNT ZION. When Jesus met with the disciples in the upper room, it was on Mount Zion. (Mark 14:15; Luke 22:12) When the disciples prayed in Acts 1 in the prayer meeting that preceded Pentecost, they were in that same upper room on Mount Zion. (Acts 1:13)

CONCLUSION: There are many things that can be discussed in the lesson Sunday concerning Zion. The people should be taught that they should live in their Zion—that is, the will of God; that they should thank God for the Zion of His blessings. They should have a place to pray—their own upper room, their own private place, that is, their Zion of prayer. Then, they should be taught to be ready to go to Zion, that is, Heaven. Of course, they should be reminded of the Heaven before Calvary, which is Paradise; the Heaven after Calvary, where people are now; the New Jerusalem where we shall live forever after the Millennium. All of these are called at some place in the Bible “Zion.” Then the people should also be taught something about the Millennium, when Jesus shall reign as King of kings: the world shall have perfect peace; the lion and the lamb shall lie down together; we shall beat our weapons of war into weapons of peace; we, as God’s children, shall be political leaders of the world, and righteousness shall prevail. We will be in our glorified bodies. Many of these things have been discussed in previous lessons.

So, from Mount Zion we get God's blessings, God's will, Heaven, the Millennium, prayer, and many other things. Each or all of these things can be mentioned and taught in the lesson for Sunday.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Zion originally?

Answer: A mount on the southwestern side of Jerusalem.

2. When Zion was mentioned, it later included another mount. What was that mount?

Answer: Mount Moriah.

3. What did Abraham do on Mount Moriah?

Answer: Offered Isaac as a sacrifice.

4. What was later built on Mount Moriah?

Answer: The temple.

5. Mount Zion grew to be even larger than the two mounts. It represented an entire city. What city was this?

Answer: Jerusalem.

6. Mount Zion also became a symbol for another city. What city is this?

Answer: Heaven and the New Jerusalem.

7. Give two things that took place on Mount Zion in the closing days of Christ's ministry and the days following His resurrection.

Answer: The disciples met in the upper room with Jesus. It was here that He gave that beautiful statement in John 14:1-3. It was also here that He washed the disciples' feet. It was also here that He instituted the Lord's Supper. Also, the ten days of prayer before Pentecost took place in the same upper room. Of course, this means that Jesus appeared to them in His resurrection body while they were on Mount Zion in the upper room. It was here where Thomas doubted Him. It was here where Jesus showed him His hands and feet.

8. What will Jesus do someday for 1,000 years from Mount Zion?

Answer: Rule and reign.