



ASCENDING MOUNT ZION

*But 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
Hebrews
12:22*

When Israel left Egypt, the place of its bondage and slavery, Mount Zion was her visible objective. Historically, Zion was in view from the very outset of their journey. Zion was on the horizons for Israel right from the beginning. God guided the Israelites to His holy mountain as they travelled through the wilderness and experienced many hardships (Exodus 15:13). In other words, a view of Zion, in the distance, motivated them throughout their difficult journey. Right at the beginning of their journeying Zion was in view as the end. Zion was the consummation of their journeying and their experiences.

We need to understand that even under the New Covenant as well, the moment a person is born of the Spirit, he is in Mt Zion. How can this be so? It is difficult to understand and accept intellectually. But, this is what the Hebrew writer would have us know. We have come to Zion. We have become the inhabitants of Mt Zion by virtue of believing in Christ, the Son of God. There are many experiences we have to go through yet, but the end of them lies in Zion, which, is

the consummation of the full purposes of God. Zion comes into view in one's life, when one turns to the Lord and is born again by the Spirit. Zion is in view right at the time of our born-again experience. Zion is the consummation of all our experiences. The Lord shall open your eyes of understanding to see this precious truth as we continue in this meditation. This truth is vital for your growth in Zion.

Let me make a few things quite clear. Zion is not a place in heaven; it is a realm in God. People have misunderstood the true meaning of Zion. In reality it is quite different from what people have thought. Today, the emphasis is that, when we are born again by the Spirit of God, we find a berth in heaven after our death. This is Scriptural no doubt, but the early disciples did not give such an emphasis to their messages. Nor did this form the major part of the teaching of the early apostles. When a person accepts Jesus as His Saviour and Lord, the important thing is that the person has come to a new place or realm. He has not only become a new person in Christ **but he has also come to a new place in Christ.** Yes, he has **come to Zion**, the city of God, and the place of the consummation of all things in Christ. Many of us understand that we have become new beings in Christ ("Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" 2 Corinthians 5:17), but not

many realise that we have come to a new place also. It must be a revelation to our spirit that we have not only received a new life but have come into a new place and realm in God. Just as the Israelites, in the Old Covenant, came out of Egypt and saw Zion on the horizon as a reality in their lives, so we of the New Covenant, have also come to the reality of Zion in our lives. The Scripture does not say that we are coming to Mt. Zion. but that we have already come to Mt Zion, which is the picture of the consummation of all things in Christ.

It took the Israelites forty-one years to move from Egypt to the borders of Canaan and several more years to make Zion their habitation. The children of Israel moved from place to place, one step at a time, in their journey to their utopia. There is a mention of these 'journeys' in the book of Numbers, more than in any other book of the Old Testament. 'Journeys and journeyed' are words that are repeated again and again. It is interesting to see that in the New Testament, the words 'come, cometh and coming', signifying an 'arriving' figures in greater abundance. We have come to Mt Zion whereas they were journeying to Mt Zion. In the olden days, the Lord spoke to the prophets on different occasions, here a little, there a little. God moved the people forward in stages, as from one tabernacle to the other. But now in the New Covenant, all

things are centred round Christ, as the writer of the book of Hebrew says.

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