

**WCCC 2025**

**Brother Ted Peng**

**Those Who Sow in Tears Shall Reap with Shouts of Joy  
— God's Glory in the Old Testament Points to Zion (1)**

Good afternoon, brothers and sisters. The burden the Lord has given to all of us this time is "His Glory". We all know that glory is something very wonderful, yet very difficult to describe. We ask the Lord to give us a calm and steady heart so that we can enter into this topic. The theme of our conference this time is "You were created for my own glory," which comes from Isaiah 43:7. The topic given to me by the brothers this time is Psalm 126.

Psalm 126 speaks of Zion and also of the captive people returning to Zion, sowing in tears and then coming again to reap. This sounds a bit complicated, but thank the Lord, yesterday evening and this morning, our brothers have already given a very good explanation of glory and told us what we should do. Therefore, we can extend this to speak about the matter of Zion—what relationship it has with us, and how He led many people forward in the past. Let us first read a few verses.

**Scripture Reading**

First, let us turn to Isaiah 43:7:

***"Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made".***

The next verse is very much related to us, which is verse 10 of the same chapter:

***"You are my witnesses,' declares the Lord, 'and my servant whom I have chosen'".***

Witnesses are those who come to witness to God's glory; they are not only witnesses but also servants. A servant is one who serves His will, so these two verses are together: you were created for My glory; you are My witnesses and also My servants. This is Isaiah chapter 43. Here, God does not suddenly speak about this point; before speaking of this, He first mentions two points with which He is very satisfied.

The first point is in chapter 43, verse 4:

***"Since you are precious and honored in my sight".***

God said through Isaiah, "You were created for my own glory," but before that, He said, "I consider you precious and honored".

The second point is in chapter 42, verse 1, speaking of My servant:

***"Here is my servant".***

This is concerning Christ. Before God spoke through Isaiah saying "you were created for my glory," He first said "you are precious and honored"; He also spoke of a coming servant, someone He views as precious and honored, and who is His servant, which is Christ; these are the foundations of My glory.

When we look further into Isaiah, we see Zion appear in chapter 59, verse 20:

***"The Redeemer will come to Zion".***

The Redeemer is coming to Zion, and He will make Zion into a different place.

We then look at chapter 60, verse 15:

***"Although you have been forsaken and hated, with no one traveling through, I will make you the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations".***

When God says "you were created for my glory," at the end of Isaiah, that Servant Himself will come to Zion as the Redeemer of Zion, and He will do something in Zion. This Redeemer will lead these precious and honored people to do wonderful things, making Jerusalem an eternal splendor and a joy for all generations. Thus, we see God's glory finally manifested here.

There is one more passage very familiar to us, in chapter 62, verses 6-7, where this Redeemer says:

***"I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth".***

God's glory finally manifests in Zion, in Jerusalem, showing eternal glory, eternal splendor, and joy for all generations. This is what we see in Isaiah. This is the relationship between Zion and God's glory as seen through the eyes of Isaiah.

## **The Heavens Declare the Glory of God**

More than two hundred years before Isaiah, in the time of David, the relationship between David and Zion was unimaginable.

Let us read a few verses. Psalm 19:1 speaks here of God's glory:

***"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands".***

This is a great declaration that has nothing to do with you or me. "The heavens declare the glory of God" is a wonderful thing, speaking of God's glory as objective; whether you see it or not, it is there.

When we understand how the heavens were created by God—God created the heavens and the earth 13.8 billion years ago; scientists call that starting moment the Big Bang, which is a fact. Before that, there was nothing; after that, everything began, and many years later, the stars were seen in the heavens. God created the heavens and the earth, and the heavens declare God's glory—how wonderful!

Billions of years later, in the time of Abraham, Abraham lived in a tent. God took Abraham out of the tent and said: look at the stars in the sky and count them—if indeed you can count them—so shall your offspring be. At that time, God had already been leading Abraham for a while, and the Bible says Abraham believed God, and at that moment, God credited it to him as righteousness. So basically, the heavens declared God's glory to Abraham. When David wrote this psalm, the heavens were declaring God's glory to him. Thank the Lord, this is God's wonderful work, and God also reveals, expresses, and manifests Himself to man.

## **God's Glory Manifested Sometimes for Judgment**

In the Bible, God manifested Himself to man many times. Sometimes God's manifestation was for judgment because man's condition was very bad. When those twelve spies came back from exploring the Promised Land, only two said we should go, while ten said there were giants there and we could not enter; the congregation wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb. At that very moment, God's glory appeared, and everyone became quiet. So sometimes, the manifestation of God's glory is for judgment.

## **God's Glory Appears When God's Heart is Satisfied and Delighted**

On the other hand, more often, God's glory is manifested because His heart is satisfied. Our brothers have already mentioned this twice: once when the Tabernacle was built, and another time when God's Temple was built. In both

instances, the presence of God's glory was manifested. Why was God satisfied? Because people heard and obeyed God's word, and their construction of the Tabernacle and the Temple was entirely according to God's pattern, therefore, God's heart was joyful and satisfied.

Not only on these two grand occasions but also to individuals, God's glory appeared. Yesterday our brother said God's glory was manifested to Moses; additionally, we know it was manifested to Abraham, to David, and to Daniel; each time, God's heart was satisfied. He was satisfied because His Will was obeyed: Abraham did His Will, Moses did His Will, David did His Will, and Daniel also did His Will. He was not only satisfied but also delighted. Satisfaction concerns the work, while delight concerns the person; therefore, God called Abraham His friend, Moses His servant, David His servant, and Daniel His beloved.

Brother T. Austin-Sparks wrote a booklet on the Gospel of John titled We Beheld His Glory; in the book, Brother Sparks gave a definition of glory: when God's heart is satisfied and He has delight, that is God's glory. Thank the Lord, He is not only satisfied but also has delight.

Furthermore, glory is not just at one moment in our lives. Our brother also spoke about Isaiah chapter 6, where Isaiah saw the glorious God sitting on the throne. This was not the end of glory; from that moment until the end of the book of Isaiah, he kept speaking of God's glory.

### **The Remnant Shall Witness God's Glory**

Why was Isaiah able to speak of God's glory this way? Because he witnessed God's Glory, he saw God's work and also saw what His people did. We remember God saying to them, "You are precious and honored". Actually, in the beginning, Isaiah was very sad. He said, the Lord says this: the ox knows its master, and the donkey its owner's manger, but my people do not know me, and Israel does not consider. This is the condition of the people described at the beginning of Isaiah. At the same time, God also brought forth another group of people, calling them the remnant. In chapter 1, verse 9, Isaiah says: Unless the Lord had left us some survivors (remnant), we would have become like Sodom and Gomorrah. When we look at Isaiah, we see these people; thank the Lord, we see a group of people there witnessing God's glory.

### **Zion Began with David's Love for God**

Regarding Psalm 126, it mentions Zion and speaks of those captives returning; it also speaks of sowing and reaping, and that they will surely reap with shouts of joy. So, if the Lord is willing, in the first session, we will talk about Zion, about the experiences of David and Isaiah, and how Zion relates to you and me today.

In the second session, we will talk about the history of captivity and return—how these people lived for the glory of God. At that time, in the land of captivity, it was very difficult to speak of God's glory; God was in heaven and not beside them, but their hearts were with God. The life of Daniel, the life of Ezra, and the life of Nehemiah were all for God's glory; their stories are truly wonderful, no wonder God was so delighted. It was not only these three but also all the people. This is what we will share next.

In the third session, we will talk about sowing in tears. When we want to understand the meaning of sowing in tears, looking at it from Psalm 126—that is, from the return from captivity, from Zion, and from God's glory—we will know it is a wonderful thing. I will talk about this on the third day. Today, we will talk about David, Isaiah, and what Zion means to you and me.

We know David loved God very much. When he was young, he was a shepherd, and his parents did not pay much attention to him. He said that when a lion or a bear came to seize some sheep, he relied on God's power to snatch the sheep back. This is a very wonderful thing. Later, they fought with the Philistines, and after David killed Goliath, his suffering immediately began. Because Saul began to be jealous of him, for the next ten years, he was running for his life. He had to flee from cave to cave and from mountain to mountain, with Saul's army pursuing him. We see that Saul and those belonging to him had a very bad view of David; remarkably, there were still people willing to follow David. But no matter how you say it, it was a painful thing for almost ten years. It can be said that this was the way of the cross, very difficult. About ten years later, Saul died, and David became king. In those ten years, he really suffered a lot; he wept many times, but his heart was closely attached to God.

Some say David endured such suffering because he knew he would be king; the Bible does not say so. David simply loved God; for this reason, God was by his side, and he had joy before God and also wept before God. Twice, he had the chance to kill Saul, but he didn't; he felt God would not allow him to do so. The second time he had the chance to kill Saul, he told Saul: O King, if I have done anything wrong, then kill me; if I have done nothing wrong, then I say one thing: do not let me die in a place far from God! This was David.

## **David Captured Jerusalem as the Capital City to Dedicate to God**

After he became king, he immediately did one thing: he captured Jerusalem to make it God's capital city. Why he wanted to capture Jerusalem, the Bible does not explicitly state, but he knew one thing: in Deuteronomy, God told the Israelites that after entering Canaan, they could only offer sacrifices in one place. God didn't tell them exactly where it was, but somehow David felt it was in Jerusalem. From the time of Joshua, they had been in Canaan for four hundred years, yet they could not capture Jerusalem because the Jebusites were very

strong. When David became king, the first thing he did was capture Jerusalem. That was Mount Zion, with Jerusalem closely connected to it; he captured the city, named it the City of David, and dedicated the city to God. This was the first thing he did.

### **David Found the Ark and Brought it to Jerusalem**

The second thing he did was bring back the Ark. The Ark had been in the forest for about sixty years, and no one had gone there to inquire of God, but David did. Not only did he go himself, but he also took many people with him, including responsible people and national leaders, to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. This was the second thing he did.

### **David Wanted to Build a Temple for God**

The third thing was that David felt everyone had their own home, even he had a home, but his God had no home. So he asked the prophet Nathan: can I build a home for God on Mount Zion, in this city? The prophet Nathan went to tell God, and God's heart was truly touched: for so many years I have been among my people, and no one has raised such a matter. David truly touched God's heart! In those past years, when God saw David and now heard what David said, His heart was truly moved. He said: David and his descendants would sit on the throne forever. He said: David was a warrior with blood on his hands, and My house could only be built by a prince of peace, so David could not build My temple.

However, David's heart was also touched, and he said to God: O God, my throne can be here, but You must be the God of Israel, and then I can sit on this throne. In the following years, although David was not allowed to build the temple, he found a place, he received the pattern of the temple from God, he prepared all the materials, and he also prepared the money for construction; he prepared everything for Solomon to build the temple. He did not do this alone; when he prepared materials for God's temple, he led all the Israelites to offer either materials or money. Moreover, after completion, he praised God: Lord, we thank You; what we can offer is nothing but what You have given us. Lord, thank You for giving me such a heart, and not only to me but also to my people to have such a mind to offer. This is the final chapter of 1 Chronicles. This was David.

### **David Pursued God's Heart**

Were these things easy? They were all very difficult. For ten years, he was pursued by Saul, which was not easy. Later, he made a mistake; the Bible records that in his whole life, there was only once he was not with God, and that time he sinned; but later he turned back. Thank the Lord, he was with God for the rest of his life. God disciplined him time and again, and do you know what God finally accomplished in him? In Acts chapter 13, Paul said to everyone that

God said: I have found David, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do. God also said that in his own generation, he served God's will and then fell asleep. God said, "David is a man after my own heart," which can also be translated as "David is a man who pursues my heart". We see that David was always pursuing God: God is my God, and His people are my people. This was David, and this was God's evaluation of David.

### **Only by Walking the Way of the Cross Can One See God's Glory**

Brothers and sisters, have you thought about whether David saw God's glory? I believe he saw God's glory many times. We remember Brother Sparks saying that glory is when God's heart is satisfied and God's heart is delighted. So there is one thing we should notice, as our brother mentioned this morning: if you are unwilling to walk the way of the cross, you will not see God's glory. We see this in David; he was willing to walk the way of the cross. For ten years, he did not complain to God, and afterwards, he did not complain either; he was unwilling for God to leave him. Therefore, he could always see God's glory. In Psalm 19, we read "The heavens declare the glory of God". In Psalm 132, David said: I will wait for God to find His resting place; I will not sleep or rest until I find a place for the Lord. This was David.

Therefore, we must see that the path to seeing God's glory is the way of the cross; the New Testament speaks of the true meaning of the way of the cross. In Matthew chapter 16, after the Lord Jesus said "On this rock I will build my church," He said He would go to Jerusalem and suffer. Peter said: Never, Lord! The Lord said: Get behind me, Satan! Whoever wants to follow me must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. So the cross has a very positive and constructive meaning, which is to follow Christ. Why follow Christ? It is on this rock that He will build His church.

The cross has a very positive meaning; if you walk on the way of the cross, you will see God's glory; you will become more and more sensitive to His will: the Lord said, on this rock I will build my church; we will therefore become more and more willing to suffer—Paul described his own subjective experience of the cross very well—I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

What is the way of the cross? Simply put: No longer I but Christ lives in me. Thank God, may the Lord enable all of us to see this. Let us not think that the way of the cross is to be avoided, letting other brothers walk the way of the cross but not me. We see Abraham, Moses, David, and Daniel in the Old Testament, and Peter, John, and Paul in the New Testament. These people's lives were very difficult, but they never complained; they considered the way of the cross to be glorious, and they thanked God for counting them worthy to walk this way of the cross. This is the only way to see God's glory; if we walk with God and take the way of the cross, we will see God's glory again and again. It may not be that

grand, but our hearts will know that God's heart is satisfied and God's heart is delighted. Brothers and sisters, please remember this point.

### **Isaiah Saw God's Glory - "My Servant"**

Now we speak of Isaiah. Before God let Isaiah say "you were created for my own glory," He first said "you are precious and honored in my sight," and before that, chapter 42 speaks of "Here is my servant". On one hand, this is My servant; on the other hand, these people are precious and honored in My sight. These are the fundamental bases for glory to occur. Regarding this "My servant," chapter 42 says

***"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,"***

that is one aspect; then it says "in faithfulness he will bring forth justice".

Two things: first, "a bruised reed he will not break," which in the New Testament is called grace; second, "in faithfulness he will bring forth justice," which in the New Testament is called truth. Chapter 42 says "this is my servant," and John chapter 1 says "Jesus Christ was full of grace and truth"; so we know that chapter 42 speaks of Christ. But Isaiah was seven hundred years before Christ; how could he see Christ so accurately? Regarding this servant, chapter 53 says He is the Lamb of God, the Lamb led to the slaughter, speaking of Him as My servant. By chapter 59, it says My servant, My Lamb, is the Redeemer of Zion. At that time, Isaiah knew exactly what Zion meant because David had already said that Zion was for God's dwelling.

### **David Saw God's Glory—My Lord**

Regarding Zion, David spoke even more words; when David spoke of Christ being in Zion, the most powerful expression is in Psalm 110. David said:

***"The Lord says to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'".***

Our Lord Jehovah is there, and here is "my Lord". He did not say who his Lord was, but he said "my Lord". Then the Lord said to my Lord, I will give You the scepter of power. The scepter of Zion's power was given to my Lord.

So the **first thing** is the Lord said to my Lord; the **second thing** is the power of Zion; the **third thing** is that before the altar,

He will be a high priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. So this person called "my Lord" by David is the one whom God wants to sit at His right hand, to whom God gives the scepter of Zion's power, and who is to be a high priest in the order

of Melchizedek. This is specifically the glory of Christ in God's eyes as seen by David—His position, His power, and His heavenly high priestly ministry.

## **The Prefiguration of Zion in the New Testament—Christ and the Church**

David spoke of his people; Psalm 133 speaks of you and me, of the reality of the church. Psalm 110 speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ, while Psalm 133 speaks of us being together, brothers dwelling together in unity, how good and pleasant it is brothers dwelling in unity—is this not the condition we hope for in today's gathering? Do we not all hope for this when we meet together? Second, he said it is like precious oil poured on Aaron's head, running down on the beard, running down on the collar of his robes.

Two things are mentioned here: first, precious oil, which lets us see the Holy Spirit being poured out; second, there is a head among them. So today in God's church, whenever we gather, the Lord Jesus is the Head; the Holy Spirit descends and governs. Under this, brothers dwell together in unity. These are the first two sentences. The third sentence: it is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion, for there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. Mount Hermon is a very high mountain, so the dew is like coming down from heaven. Where does it fall? It falls on Mount Zion. There God will give blessing, even eternal life.

In David's time, he knew there was eternal life. That eternal life comes down from heaven onto Mount Zion for all of them; this is what David saw. Every time I see it, I am amazed; every time I see our own gathering, I hope our gathering is like this. We truly hope brothers dwell together in unity; we truly hope the Holy Spirit can descend, so that the presence of the Holy Spirit is very clearly manifested in the church; we also truly hope the Head of the church is manifested among us; we also truly hope God sends down such a blessing from heaven, which is eternal life.

Is this not what we expect in every gathering? Is this not what we pray for? Is this not what we hope God will give us? David saw it then; he saw Christ and His church. Can everyone see it? When we speak of God's eternal purpose in Ephesians, we feel that Christ and His church seem far from us, as if Paul thought it up himself, but actually David saw it thousands of years ago. Brothers and sisters, God's wonderful, eternal purpose—Christ and His church—is truly eternal, and even from David's time, it had a very concrete meaning.

## **The Servant Becomes the Redeemer of Zion, Making Zion an Everlasting Pride and Joy of All Generations**

When we come to Isaiah chapter 60, why does this Redeemer come? He comes to make Zion different. In the past, Zion was despised, mistreated, and hated.

Now the Redeemer has come, and He will accomplish something so that no one can look down on Zion again; He will make Zion an everlasting pride, with unspeakable virtues, and not only that, but a joy for all generations. Today we all love our children; there are children's meetings and youth meetings; we may forget the elderly but will never forget the young. But Isaiah said that when the Redeemer comes, He will make Jerusalem and Zion an everlasting pride and a joy for all generations. So we thank the Lord; we can be very joyful when we think of God today; our children will also be joyful, and our grandchildren will also be joyful. This is what Isaiah saw, and this is in chapter 60.

### **Those Who Mourn in Zion Become Oaks of Righteousness Planted by God for His Glory**

We come to chapter 61, verse 3, where Isaiah says there is a group of people mourning there, those who mourn in Zion. Why do they mourn in Zion? Because the condition of Zion is not good, God's presence is not there, and they are very sad. Sometimes we don't care about these things, not caring much whether our gatherings please God; however, there is a group of people here who mourn in Zion. When the Redeemer comes, He will turn their mourning into joy, and they will become oaks of righteousness. God plants these oaks of righteousness for His own glory. Brothers and sisters, if we mourn for Zion, if we also care, God will make us oaks of righteousness, and the Lord's life will be among us. Because oaks of righteousness are planted by God, not based on you or me, but based on the life of Christ within us; the purpose of oaks of righteousness is for God's glory. This is what Isaiah saw. It is not just about you and me; those standing far off, when they see Zion and these trees, will know that Christ—the life of the Son of God—is among them, and they stand there for God's glory. This is chapter 61.

### **Watchmen Give God No Rest Until We Are Conformed to the Image of God's Son**

We come to chapter 62, and we see this Redeemer once again. The Redeemer says: I will keep working hard for Zion. In verse 1, He says He will make Zion's righteousness shine out like the dawn, and her salvation like a blazing torch. This is what He will accomplish; how does He complete it? He does not do it alone; there are people to help Him; who are these people? They are the remnant—not millions of people, but a small group whose hearts are with God; He will place them on the walls of Jerusalem to be watchmen.

What do watchmen do? Watchmen do not stand on the wall looking down into the city saying this person is wrong or that person is wrong; watchmen look outward and look toward heaven. The book of Ezekiel speaks of what these watchmen do: they look at God to see if God is going to do something in Jerusalem. This is what watchmen should do. They give themselves no rest and

give God no rest. They want God to do something in Jerusalem; they hope God makes Jerusalem the praise of all the earth.

Our brother also said this morning that the walls of Jerusalem are not stones, but you and me—people. At the end of Revelation, the wall of Jerusalem is measured by a human measurement and described with precious stones. So when these watchmen give themselves no rest and want God to do something in Jerusalem, actually God wants to do these things in you and me; He wants to make us different; God wants us to be like His Son, Jesus Christ. Finally, when people look at the walls of Jerusalem, from a spiritual perspective, His Son is here and there. This is what the Redeemer wants His remnant and watchmen to do, and this is also what God finally wants to do—to do it in Jerusalem. Being conformed to the image of God's Son does not happen in a moment; our hearts must be humble, willing to let God work in us, willing to treasure the life of Christ—He is humble, He is love, never-failing, He suffers, and He is willing to give Himself for everyone. If we are like Him, according to Isaiah, Jerusalem will become the praise of all the earth. This is what Isaiah saw would happen in the future.

### **Entering Glory, the Cross is the Only Way**

We remember that Isaiah was seven hundred years before Christ, and seven hundred years later, Jesus Christ came. Today is two thousand years after Christ; we need to remember this picture, letting God work in us so that our lives can be transformed to be like Jesus. This is the only way for the church to manifest God's glory. This is also the only way for brothers to dwell together in unity. Then the Holy Spirit will descend, and God's blessing will come down from heaven onto Mount Zion. So, brothers and sisters, there is a way, which is that we must be willing to walk this way of the cross; I believe there is no other way. So we need to think about this.

### **Christ Will Bring Many Sons into Glory**

Finally, we think of today. For us today, Zion does not refer to the earthly Zion, not the earthly Jerusalem, but the heavenly Jerusalem, the heavenly Zion. Hebrews chapter 2 says that Jesus Christ will lead many sons into glory; our brother also said yesterday that this is a very great thing. Did we ever think we would be brought into glory before we became Christians or when we first became Christians? Many times we feel unworthy, letting others walk the way of the cross while I just want peace and joy in my life. But God slowly opens our eyes to see that we are to follow Him. Thank the Lord, when we truly understand that Jesus Christ is leading many sons into glory, we will be greatly encouraged to see that you and I are to be in glory. This is what Hebrews says.

## **Living for the Glory of God**

Coming to Hebrews chapter 11, we see many witnesses: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and many more. What does this mean? It means that in real life, we can be like these people. Because these people were real people, in New Testament terms, these people walked the way of the cross—every single person mentioned in chapter 11, without exception. This was not just a part of their lives, it was their whole life. The life of Abel, the life of Enoch, the life of Noah, the life of Abraham, the life of Sarah—was it not? If we live such lives, unknowingly it is living for God's glory.

## **We Have Come to Mount Zion**

Coming to chapter 12, we are reminded that these many witnesses surround us like a cloud. We live in the present world, which is very difficult. In the past, social standards were mercy and honesty, but now it is different, and very difficult, especially for young brothers and sisters; when they look at their future, they don't know what society will be like, it's very hard. Thank the Lord! There are these cloud-like witnesses surrounding us, so we can look at our lives from different perspectives, no longer being slaves to circumstances; we are free, we are just like these witnesses, walking the same path and having the same direction.

When they walk, what happens? Chapter 12, verse 22:

***"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem".***

When we speak of Zion, it refers to the heavenly Jerusalem; speaking of Zion is speaking of the city of the living God, which is different from the earthly Jerusalem. Thank the Lord! So those witnesses in chapter 11 are for you and for me. It's not that we need to buy a plane ticket to go to the present Palestine to see that Jerusalem; this Zion is in heaven, it is the city of the living God, the Jerusalem coming down from heaven. It means we can enter it today. This is what Hebrews tells us.

When we read this and see the heavenly Jerusalem and the heavenly Zion, we see a group of people who were witnesses in the past; they have gone, but they are there. At the same time, those who follow God—whom the Bible calls the firstborn—are also there. Angels are there, God is there, Jesus Christ is there, and His blood is also there. Brothers and sisters, this is the heavenly Jerusalem. The author of Hebrews says, you have come to this Mount Zion.

When we think of Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, it is for you and me—it is for you and me today. We hope that one day our Lord will return; yes, our Lord will return, maybe sooner than we think, He can return

any day; but you and I must be prepared. This is a wonderful picture—Zion—the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. We must run in that direction; if we want to walk there, we must walk like those witnesses surrounding us in chapter 11; we must walk this heavenly path, we must walk this way of the cross. Thank the Lord, how concrete, how real.

## **Christ is Our Hope of Glory**

Paul gives us some very real and simple points about our lives, regarding glory and its relation to us. I will read three verses, two in Colossians and one in Ephesians. First, Paul says in Colossians chapter 1, verse 27: Christ in you is the hope of glory. Brothers and sisters, let this truly enter your heart. This glory is something we can hope for, something we can reach, and this glory is based on the life within us. The apostle Paul said, Christ in you is the hope of glory. We must remember this every day.

## **Appearing with Christ in Glory**

Second, he speaks of the future manifestation of our Lord. When Christ's glory is manifested, Colossians chapter 3, verse 4 says:

***"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory".***

These are two precious things: first, Christ is our life. In the Bible, it says very specifically and clearly that Christ is our life. Second, when He appears, we will also appear with Him in glory.

Brothers and sisters, is this not our hope? Is this not also the encouragement our brothers gave us yesterday and today? Appearing with Christ in glory is not a dream, nor is it impossible. "Christ is our life" is certain, and I know we all love this; but I also know that when we are young, especially then, we have too many things to worry about. Sometimes we forget Christ is in me, sometimes we feel I have made a mess of things, giving my parents and siblings headaches, and my grades are also very bad... but please remember, our Lord has always loved us so much, He always gives us opportunities to turn back. Christ is our life, and when He appears, we will appear with Him in glory.

## **How Rich is the Glory of His Inheritance in the Saints**

Third, when we gather together, Ephesians chapter 1, verse 18 speaks of the Holy Spirit enlightening the eyes of our hearts, and our hearts are opened to see a wonderful thing. What is that wonderful thing? It is the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. This is not just about one person, it speaks of all the saints, each one of us, the hundreds of people here today, all of us together. It speaks of our inheritance; what is our inheritance? Not only is Jesus Christ our

inheritance, but also what He represents, His will and purpose, what He wants to obtain, and what He wants you and me to become—all these are our inheritance. This inheritance is in you and me, including the person sitting next to you, among all the people. Paul said, among each of us there is such an inheritance, and there is glory. Let Him see all of us together, this inheritance in everyone, how rich is the glorious inheritance. This is what the apostle Paul saw. As time passes, I really believe it.

This is what David said: brothers dwelling together in unity, how good and pleasant it is. Thank the Lord, we see David, we see Isaiah, and we see the apostle Paul; it is the same thing—the wonderful Christ unified with His wonderful people, and God's glory will be manifested. God's glory can only be manifested in such a situation. May the Lord motivate us. Our responsibility is to live for God's glory. In David's story and Isaiah's story, let us see that there is such a way, which also becomes an encouragement to all of us.

### **Prayer**

Lord, we thank and praise You, let us once again review how wonderful Your thoughts toward us are. Lord, we admit these things are very high and very wonderful, how precious they are in Your eyes. It seems we are not good enough, it seems this is very difficult for us, and it seems we have failed a lot in the past; but we thank You, our past failures count for nothing, You will give us strength. When we look to You, You will give us strength, so that we can renew our strength like eagles, soaring on wings, able to run and walk the heavenly path. Lord, we thank and praise You; may Your glory be manifested among us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

July 24, 2025