

FACULTY OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

COURSE CODE: [FCM 107]

COURSE TITLE: ZION, THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD.

TEXT

Hebrews 12:18-26 (NKJV)

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."

Isaiah 2: 2 NKJV

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days. That the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.

INTRODUCTION

The law of recognition requires that we can only maximize a place, person, or thing if it is appropriately recognized. The recognition makes us position ourselves to be blessed by it. Mountains like Mount Zion in Bible times are significant for the encounters and transactions of people who had interactions with them. Until we can fully understand the meaning, implication, and importance of Zion, we will be robbing ourselves of the blessings and benefits that can only be found therein.

1. ATTRIBUTES OF ZION

A. ZION IS THE APPROACHABLE MOUNTAIN

Hebrews 12:18-22

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

Exodus 19: 10-12

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, "Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

In the Old Testament, God commanded the people of Israel through Moses to consecrate themselves in preparation of his descent upon mount Sinai and the people were commanded not to move beyond a certain boundary or risk death. In Hebrew translation, Mount Sinai represents the law or the mountain of the sword. However, Mount Zion represents the Highest point. This Mount Zion represents the place of the connection (the ladder) between heaven and earth and in our earlier class, it has been established that Jesus is that ladder. Zion is the house of God that is approachable by man.

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

B. ZION IS THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD.

Hebrews 12:22

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.

Hebrews 7:7-8

Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

Zion is the city of the living God. This means that the God in Zion is alive and as such every time we come to Zion, we encounter life. Nothing dead can stay dead in Zion.

C. ZION IS THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM.

Galatians 4:21-26

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Revelations 3:12

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God. I will write on him my new name.

Jerusalem means the city of peace and prosperity. There is a Jerusalem above and a Jerusalem below. The church is the Jerusalem above where prosperity abounds.

D. ZION IS THE JERUSALEM ABOVE, THE MOTHER OF US ALL.

Galatians 4:21-26

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

E. ZION IS THE LOCATION OF INNUMERABLE COMPANY OF ANGELS.

Hebrews 12:22

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.

Genesis 28:12

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

For every gathering at Zion, there are angels in the congregation that cannot be numbered. The angels are present to take our requests and bring our answers. When we come to Zion, we must realize that we are in the company of angels.

F. ZION IS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN WHO ARE REGISTERED IN HEAVEN.

Hebrews 12: 22-23

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect

Isaiah 2:3

Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us his ways, and we shall walk in his paths. "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem".

The church is God's house of assembly where laws and decrees are issued to govern life. Zion is the place of legislature. Zion is also the church of the firstborn; every member of the church is God's first born. There is a church we have been assigned in heaven. Everything God apportions to us will be given us in our God-ordained church.

G. ZION IS THE CITY OF GOD, THE JUDGE OF ALL

Hebrews 12:23

to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

The highest court in the earth is the supreme court but all the courts are subject to God -the judge of all. Every time the Judge sits in a court of law, the court is said to be in session, therefore, every time we gather in Zion, the court is in session and the Judge of all presides in it. Zion represents the court where we come to present our case to the Judge of all.

Psalms 82:1-2

God stands in the congregation of the mighty;

He judges among the gods.
How long will you judge unjustly,
And show partiality to the wicked

H. ZION IS THE LOCATION OF THE SPIRITS OF JUST MEN MADE PERFECT.

Hebrews 12: 22-23

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect

1 Corinthians 5:4

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The imperfection of the men we read in the scriptures is perfected in Zion. The spirits of these just men connect/ interact with us in Zion. We receive their spirits without their imperfections.

I. ZION IS THE CITY OF JESUS, THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW COVENANT.

Hebrews 12:24

to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 8:7-13

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Every meeting in Zion is a meeting with Jesus the mediator of the new covenant. Our response to church is determined by discerning the spirit of Jesus in man. Until we can discern the spirit in man, we would keep wrestling with which is the only way by which we can possess the blessing.

J. ZION IS THE CITY OF THE BLOOD OF SPRINKLING THAT SPEAKS BETTER THINGS THAN THE BLOOD OF ABEL.

Hebrews 12:24

to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Genesis 4: 10-12

And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.

Exodus 12:13

Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

In Zion, the blood of Jesus is sprinkled; this blood offers blessings in place of curses and protection from the Angel of death.

K. ZION IS THE CITY OF HEAVEN'S VOICE.

Hebrews 12:25

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven.

Psalms 29:1-9

Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones,
Give unto the LORD glory and strength.
Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name;
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
The God of glory thunders;
The LORD is over many waters.
The voice of the LORD is powerful;
The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars,



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Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes them also skip like a calf,
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.
The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth,
And strips the forests bare;
And in His temple everyone says, Glory!"

Assignment.

Log on to Enthronement Assembly's YouTube page and Listen to Reverend Deji Olabode's message "Understanding Zion, the City of the Living God". Make your transcripts and submit it to ehccmrp@gmail.com within 24hours for Grading. Your name and message title should be used as the mail subject. E.g. John Kasali- Understanding Zion, the City of the Living God.

