

J.N. April 23, 18 AM

## THE DIVINITY OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 87

One of the greatest and most distinguishing events in the history of time is doubtless the founding among men of the church of the living God. The setting up in this world in accordance with the prediction of the prophet, the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Dan. 2:44. "And in the days of these kings, shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom. Which shall never be destroyed and the kingdom shall not be left to other people. But it shall break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms - and it shall stand forever."

We recognize that the kingdom is the church of Christ. To it we find the powers that it possesses. And that the world is indebted for every excellent enjoyment. Which it has in the present and a hope for the future.

The church is like the sun in the Heavens. It lends its beams of light and its radiance. And the son of God sends and presides over the whole church. "For the earth shall be full and filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Hab. 2:14.

From this center, God chose us from the beginning of time until this present day, that here is an institution divine. The head of every man is Christ, and the head of Christ is God. I Cor. 11:3. This also is of Christ and from God.

The mysterious gift of God in sending the son to redeem the world, is described

And the Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

The open declaration here - is the Lord loves his foundation upon the divine mountains. Here is the bulwark of the church.

It is a brief but a joyous Psalm and it celebrates the praise of the church, of the most high. It shows us some of the things in which the church has glory. The church of God is. Let us look at these things - first, permanent in origin. V. 1-2. Second, prediction of prosperity. V. 3-4. Third, precious in priority. V. 5. Fourth, purpose in preservation. V. 6. Fifth, priceless in provisions. V. 7.

#### I. PERMANENT IN ORIGIN

V. 1 - 2 - His foundation is the holy mountain. The Lord loves his city founded on the holy mountain. The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. The foundation is of a permanent origin. It is in the holy mountain because Zion is part of the mountain range. It is holy. The church of God upon this earth is glorious in so far as she is holy. A glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing - but holy and without blemish. God chose the members of his church - that they should be holy and without blame because he loves them.

It is permanent because it is glorious in its (security), Jerusalem was a mountain city. It was enthroned upon a rock. You compare Jerusalem with Jericho and you get the difference. It is a mountain capitol. The sanctuary of God. Trust in the Lord and it shall be as Mount Zion. God is in the midst of her. She is a strong hold.

Which catches your eye from every corner, as you approach Jerusalem. This rocky place which is a fortress. The refuge where first the Jebusite and the lion of God stood. It is high, and it is firm - and so is the church of God. And the temple at Jerusalem is no more - but the church of God remains. And continues.

v.c.b - The highest himself shall establish her, he says in the last part of V. 6. The origin of the Christian religion cannot be clearly traced without looking at its divine authorship. There must be the looking into this - if you trace it by other systems, you will never find the foundation. But it is direct from God through Christ - through the power of the Holy Spirit which conveys to us while it is written - eye has not seen nor ear heard. Neither have entered into the heart of man. The things which God has prepared for them that love him. I Cor. 2:6.

So here is a permanent origin - the plan of salvation which is the visible instrument. It first was thought of in Heaven. It had its beginning in God who created all things and said, they are very good. And God looked out from himself and saw that this world needed much more. The morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Such a scene we should think would be in the nature of things to produce abundant results. Here was the birth of man - his case. God said let us make man in our own image. And so man was created in the image of God. How long this state of perfect being might have continued, or what would have been the results if he had not been injured, he did not so continue. But instead he resisted - and by resisting the temptation he cast himself to the forbidden fruit. And here the second triumph over Lucifer, he died. With his own hand, he plucked away the key-stone that brought him to ruin. The earth felt this blow. And to this point, we begin to trace the beginning of the plan of salvation. And it was a promise revealed in Heaven and it was applied on earth. In division, John said no man in Heaven or on earth, nor under the earth was able to open. Rev. 5:2. And as it is declared the prophet wept. Because no man was found worthy to open and read the book.

But his tears were checked when he comes in and sees that here is the Lord, clothed with divine power, lays his hand on the book and behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah - the root of David hath prevailed to open the book. Rev. 5:5.

What was the book - was it a symbol of the Bible, the book of mercy to man, the book of salvation to the world. So it would seem here that as he opens this, it was the lamb of God present in his pledge of sacrifice to take away the sin of the world. Which pledge afterwards was fulfilled on Calvary. When the universal altar smoked with the blood of a God.

Here we discover that the world's restoration was planned in the courts of Heaven. It had its origin and its beginning in Heaven. And it was from the Heavenly throne that the consecrated blood of the lamb and the free grace descended to man.

The long period of spiritual and moral darkness preceeded the coming of the Messiah. For centuries the kingdom of Judah had been the state of progressive decline. The prophesy was concerning the Jews, and it had been mainly fulfilled. Say one, and that was the prophesy was that somehow the scepter would not depart from Judah. Nor a law-giver from between his feet until Shiloh comes. And unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

So the question now begins to be started - what shall the end of these things be. Has God forgotten to be gracious. Is his mercy clean gone forever. No, it was his decree that the emperor should go forth. And how solemm a scene it was. Just at the peak of darkness. Below, the glory of the angel of the Lord came upon

them. And the glory of the Lord shone round about them. Luke 2:9. In the midst of the glory, as in a chariot of descending light, a holy company appears. Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God. It was an anthem about the birth of Christ. The liberty of the world and the bondage of sin. Was about to come to an end. It was the coming of the king into his kingdom to head up the church. And it was a glorious sight and a glorious message. And the highest himself shall establish it.!

So the divinity of the church was permanent in its origin.

*Cathedral in Florence - 2 Statues - 2 architects who planned  
Arnolfo started the structure - " looking down, as if Examining Foundation  
Brunelleschi built the steeple - " " up to finished work  
eh - God planned - Christ created it. Holy spirit continues it!*

II. PREDICTION OF PROSPERITY - V. 3-4

*Matt. 18:20*

V. (2) - The glorious beloved God said that he loved the gates of Zion more than the dwellings of Jacob. When Sennacherib camped before the city - he was not allowed to pass within the gates. All of the rest of the country was subject to him. The gates remained closed, and they were safe. And the whole city was safe. God loved Jacob very much but he loved Zion more. He loved the worship of his people. A father is glad to see his children come, and makes them welcome when they visit him. The love of God comes from his church. And it is for every believer. We ought to seek union with the church. We ought to esteem worship of the church. We ought to unite with the church.

V. (3) - A prediction is made of the glorious reputation of the church. Many glorious things were spoken of Mount Zion as to its situation. The joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion. It is known of her palaces and it is a place of refuge. As engaged in the most useful and glorious way. It's members go forth and they seek to

save the lost.

V. 3-4 - I shall add Egypt and Babylon to the nations that acknowledge me.  
Now Tyre, Palestine, or Ethiopia - all of these will name Zion as their individual  
birth place. Here is a prediction that progress will be plentiful. And he is  
talking about the power and the expansion of the kingdom of Christ. High amid the  
mountains of the Lord a stone was cut out with their hands and it commenced to roll  
down upon the earth. The great image representing the idolators as well as the  
kingdom of the world was crushed beneath it. The hills were leveled and the valleys  
were raised until in its vast expansion, it filled the whole earth. This was  
Christianity. Which being of God and not of man literally was made without hands  
In Dan. 2:31-35. Here is a divine, heavenly throne, that has power and is expanding  
in purpose. Extending itself by the force of its power.

Jesus Christ tasted death for every man. Heb. 2:9. The time shall certainly  
come when in the language of the prophet, they shall teach no more that every man is  
neighbor and every man is brother - saying, know the Lord. For they shall all know  
me from the least of them to the greatest of them, saith the Lord. Jer. 31:34.

In the various histories of struggles, fortunes, and persecutions - the church  
through which it has all been - it has been triumphant to know other power but to  
the direct installation of Almighty God. So the prediction for its prosperity is  
continuous. It is not political or by governments. Will not be settled by the  
hatred of this world. If it had been simply human in its nature, it is plain to  
see that with the crumbing and the changing kingdom of the world, that the church  
today would not be in existence. This is the thing that marvels us. But instead of

this, it has grown mightily. Even in the midst of death and expanding powers.

*Failing to understand The word Militant - Little Girl -  
"she belonged to the Church" Diligent? Near the Truth!*

The secret of progress and prosperity which came even to the promise of Moses, - might presence shall go with you. And I will give thee rest. And being verified in every step and period of History. The first persecution at Jerusalem, even until this day. Wars, steel, flame, martyrs, have been listed in the tens of thousands. Even this, divinity has over-ruled.

Millions have risen into the places of the thousands lost. Like a great movement, the church stands on the ocean of time against its Pharaoh's.

A great characteristic of the church is salt. And it preserves. The church is an institution that operates to preserve, the world for a time, because it has divine addition to it. It might be said then that the church and the world that it was once in the Roman world - while the church stands the world stands. And when the church falls, the world falls. That is while the church holds it's present relationship, to the world of mankind, the earth will stand. But when the divinity of the cause has carried it to its close of progress, the design then will be over.

Then for the ransom of the Lord shall return and come to Zion. And with songs and with everlasting songs upon their heads. And they shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow. And sighing shall flee away. Isa. 35:10.

The saints in his presence receive the great and eternal reward. In Jesus, in Heaven, they live. In the smile of the Lord.

So here is a glorious thing of the prediction that its going to be variously composed in V. (4.) As he mentions Rahab and Babylon, and Tyre. This was where they were born. He said the idea is that converts in the church for God will be added from all nations. The ten tribes had been led away into captivity. And the prediction of the prosterity of Abraham to become as numerous as the stars of Heaven. And the sands of the sea. The Psalmist says, that actually is going to take place by a new birth into the church of God. Many shall come from the East and the West, and from the North and the South. And shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

III. PRECIOUS PRIORITY - V. (5)

John 17:22-26  
Matt. 17:1

Here is the distinction which he makes of Zion. This and that man was born in her and the highest himself shall establish her. And this is something that is very distinguishing. The word means a man of eminence. And the church has been and still is the abode of men most reknown of knowledge and wisdom. So here is the precious priority here. Marvel not, said Jesus to Nicodemus. That I say unto you, you must be born again. Now the precious priority here is holiness to the Lord. It is a sanctification through the spirit. No man shall see God without this.

Holy living is the first fruit of the system and is the early demonstration of the individual in his practice. And in his profession. And if he is going to be

true to the purposes of the church. The design is here is a mission - that whosoever will with the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, while Christ therefore says to his followers - lo, I am with you always. Even unto the end of the world. And he has prepared a highway. Now holy living, or holiness of heart and life, which is the way of the Christian is necessary in Christ. And cannot be anywhere else. We walk by faith and not by sight. To be in Christ, where the church is, and where the spirit was given - it invites those in the world to come in and to be involved in two things. One is, in (holiness). And the other is, in (happiness). The holy man is a happy man. And the happy man is a holy man. These things are infallible. They are consequently - if your relationship be perfect, it must be like him. And they show as reflector of his divinity.

The less holiness you have, the less you measure up to Christ. He said, of his relationship - I am the vine and ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. John 15:5. And this is the fruit of holiness - the end result. Which means the divinity of the church. And it is a precious priority which he says that man was born in her and the highest himself is the one here in this birthplace that took place in a Christian's life.

#### IV. PURPOSE IN PRESERVATION - V. 6

Math. 16: 17-18

V. 6 - Our Lord here unfolds something about the purpose in our preservation. He says that he is going to enter the people in his ledger, he will note against (each born here). God is going to take a census - and the Lord will clearly distinguish those that were born in Zion. And that are written in the Lamb's book of Life. The name of no true citizen is going to be familiar. What a book, God's census. The government census reports such a sacred book in America - about how big it is, etc.

Back in the 1930's they had a census report. It was published in daily installments. And cities awaited with eagerness for the report of their size. The news of Detroit's growth of almost 600,000 in ten years, was the signal of fire works and a brass band.

St. Louis went into a day of mourning - gloom. It was just like a cyclone for their figure gave barely 50,000 gain. When it's real estate profits predicted an increase of 200,000 - there was weeping.

But the thing about that, it may be a post script - it proves a few years later, the bigger the city, the larger number of unemployed, and destitute that the city had to take care of. And mere numbers had proved a doubtful gain.

You remember Israel in Biblical history tribes. But here, what will be in the book, his census. Now God uses a different arithm Geogian Calendar. Nor does he post his bala

Now the population in Los Angeles and in the American colonies had at the time of the poverty etc.

But now, if you look here in this verse, Palestine, in Zion. And that is the thing we when he writeth up the people. You know what

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Faithful in Service

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.—Verse 5

As I read my daily newspaper, I was amazed at one obituary. It was two columns wide and three-fourths of a page long. What had such a person done with her life? She was a life member of seven historical organizations and a charter member of thirteen more. She had held twenty-five different offices in the organizations since 1952. The article named eleven publications that contained her biographical notes, appointments given to her by the governor, and important events she had attended all over the world. Survivors as distant as great-nephews and nieces were listed. There would be two funerals. It did not say that her name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life, that she belonged to any church, that she had walked across the street to witness to a neighbor, or that she was leaving behind Christians that she had influenced for the cause of Christ.

If God were to write my obituary, would he say that I have been faithful to the service he called me to do? What was first in my life?

Pray that God will help you be faithful.

in this divine institution, will die happy. He is happy in Christ when he is born. He takes the bond of faith. And here is something - to die with hope in life. Now the sinner will admit that he would like to die with hope. There is no difference between the church and the world in this regard. When you think about the desired end. Everyone wishes to be saved. Or to be happy. But the difference lies in the decision and the labor that is put in. How different it is to live a holy life. Christ, in you, the hope of glory. And to die in him. This is something that all would desire to take part in.

God says, be thou faithful until death - and I will give you a crown of life. Rev. 2:10. In view of this, Paul examined the holy joy by saying his departure, being at hand, I am now ready to be offered. Henceforth, there is layed up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me in that day. And not to me only, but unto all of them also that love his appearing. 2 Tim. 4:8.

Oh death where is thy sting, oh grave, where is thy victory. Thanks be to God which giveth us our victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:55.

This happiness in death, has its cause and results in the new birth which plants Christ in us. And here is the divinity of the church. Where he says, he is going to record and say that this man was born there. And men have died saying, best of all, God is with us.

power and filled with the same spirit and have gone up to glory and to God. Where the holy martyrs are as a cloud of witnesses. They wait beneath the altar to attest the mighty truth. They will receive their reward in the great day of the Lord.

The poet said, let sickness blast  
Let death devour  
If Heaven must recompense thy pains  
Perish the grass and fade the flower  
If firm the word of God remains.

So the purpose of preservation is here in the Psalmist mind as he thinks about death. This man was born there.

V. PRICELESS IN PROVISIONS - V. 7

*Eph. 2:19-22*

V. 7 Here is the glorious joy as he says - and their rulers and their singers will come and say this is your mother land. And all my springs are in thee.

The priceless provision here is that the divine church is immortal. The springs from which the dry soul must be watered. Lies in the church. The citizens of Zion will be refreshed with music and fountains, and springs will make glad. These provisions are free. And God has given them in his church to communicate with his saints.

Paul said, where sin abounds, grace did much more abound. Which grace he sets

forth for the church. For by grace are you saved through faith. This being clear, the soul has been set free. And these must be perfect and infallible. Without which the judgement seat would be liable to condemn.

Here we have that faith which takes the memory and the scene of Calvary - unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins, in his own blood - and has made us kings and priests unto God and his father. To him be glory and dominion to him for ever and ever. Rev. 1:5.

Yes, John thought about this messenger. It is the triumphant war of redemption. It was to be remembered. But everything else, this answers all the questions which we might have. We are going to be furnished from the springs that come up.

Men often say, shall we know, our friends again, when we meet, them in the other world? If the testimony of necessity and the declaration of the word of God be considered - the answer is, we shall. And not only shall we know our friends, but everything else also. From the days of Adam to the end of time, knowledge to this extent, is now imperfect.

For an example of this truth - we think of the record of the transfiguration. The recognition of Moses by the prophets. The same thing was declared of Paul. But we now see through a glass darkly - but to them face to face now I know in part but then shall I be known even as I am now known. I Cor. 13:12.

If we shall know other things as God knows us, which seems to be the idea of

Paul, then will knowledge be perfect.

We do not need to elaborate on this amazing perfection of the goodness of God's redemption because we will not be a stranger as we are dismissed from this earth. But we will go to our ~~sought~~ home of heavenly mansions where friends shall meet again.

There, long severed families shall be brought together and constituted as one in Christ Jesus. There the old warriors of the cross and the light of the lamb shall tell of his battles over and over again. That song which no man could learn say the 144,000 which were redeemed from the earth, that perfect number which represents all the saved of mankind in the Christian church. That group once bore the cross and it will now wear the crown. That group once a traveler in gloom, but not an inhabitant in glory. The pilgrim reaches home, he is sustained by the divinity of its cause. Through the purifying fires of truth and grace, he enters through the gates into the city. And there will be the shouts of Hallelujah. I heard a great voice in Heaven saying Hallelujah. Salvation, glory, honor and power. Of the Lord our God. Rev. 19:1.

It was the redeemed church of Christ in the gloryland.

" On earth, let all the saints begin to sing. Cry aloud in heavenly ways. "

" Glory doth to God belong. " God the glorious Saviour prayed. "

The priceless provisions of immortality are going to be ours.

V.7  
Resistant - My Miss:  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 16

Would You Believe It!

Psalm 37:1-9

And of Zion, it shall be said that this it so come to pass here in this church, after day and all of us have passed off - from the born souls rise before this sacred order and living God.

Even the divinity of this cause brings it into Heaven.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord and their works do follow them. Rev. 14:13.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.—Verse 5

Sometimes when all human resources are exhausted, we discover for the first time that God is abundantly able to provide what we need. Such an experience came to my parents early in their married life and furnished a bulwark of faith over the years.

My mother inherited a hundred-acre tract of forested land, without a single acre cleared. Father cut trees from the top of a hill, took the logs to a mill for lumber, and built a little three-room house. He then dug a well. Seventeen feet down he struck solid rock. Having no money for drilling, he tried another spot, with the same results. At a third location, it was the same. They were at their wits' end.

One morning my mother told a dream of the night before. She dreamed that they went directly east of the house to a large sweet gum tree, below which grew two pines so close together they leaned apart. They dug up the lower pine and found water.

Following those instructions, my father dug again and found a strong vein of water flowing from a crack in the rock. That well is still in use after seventy-five years as a testimony to the provisions of God's love.

Pray that you may learn to trust God to meet life's needs, even when solutions seem to be impossible.

Have you been born into the church of God. Are you a citizen of the spiritual Zion. Is your name in the Heavenly register. Has it been placed in the records of the church on earth, as well as in the lamb's book of life above. If we are citizens of Zion, let us rejoice. For we are members of the most glorious, divine institution ever founded.

Bulgarian - Nikolov Michi - wife habit attending ch -  
met her - got out car - Told Tom - on way ch - if go - Short -  
Told her husband if you short will go to heaven -  
" " don't " " " church -  
Rifle come down she proceeded to worship God.