

“Zion”
2 Samuel 5:6-9
(Preached at Trinity, October 14, 2018)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we saw last time, **Chapter 5** contains several episodes, each relating to the establishing of David's kingdom. They are not necessarily in chronological order. For example, Hiram's reign only overlapped with the last ten years of David's reign. The war with the Philistines may have preceded the capture of Jerusalem and the report of David's concubines covered a large part of his reign.
2. **Verse 3** declares God establishing His kingdom. David was God's king. He wasn't the full expression of the kingdom of God but he served as the foreshadow of God's ultimate and perfect King, Jesus Christ.
3. With David anointed and enthroned as king, he began to consolidate his kingdom. One of his first acts was driving the Jebusites out of Jerusalem.
 - A. The Jebusites were among the people God promised to drive out before Israel as they took possession of Canaan.
Exodus 23:23-24 NAU - "For My angel will go before you and bring you in to *the land of* the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them. ²⁴ "You shall not worship their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their *sacred* pillars in pieces."
 - B. But Israel was not steadfast in obeying God and many of their enemies remained in Canaan. We read the tribe of Judah was not able to drive them out:
Joshua 15:63 NAU - "Now as for the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the sons of Judah could not drive them out; so the Jebusites live with the sons of Judah at Jerusalem until this day."
 - C. Dwelling among these foreign nations proved devastating for Israel.
Judges 3:5-7 NAU - "The sons of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; ⁶ and they took their daughters for themselves as wives, and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods. ⁷ The sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth."
4. David was to be a righteous king so he knew he had to begin ridding the land of the foreign nations. He would do what Israel had failed to do. In addition, David was about to establish a city in which to establish his throne.

5. As David approached the city the Jebusites boasted and mocked David.
2 Samuel 5:6 NAU - "You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away"; thinking, "David cannot enter here."
 A. Their insolence was a rejection of David's authority to reign. This rejection came from within the borders of his kingdom. David could not allow this to happen.
 B. We are not told precisely how the city was taken but apparently David's army made their way up through the aqueduct.
6. David conquered Jerusalem and it was named "the City of David."
 A. Jerusalem would be prominent in David's reign. We read in **Verse 5**
2 Samuel 5:5 NAU - "At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah."
 B. It is interesting that David's first relationship with Jerusalem was when he killed Goliath.
1 Samuel 17:54 NAU - "Then David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent."
 C. In **Verse 7** it is referred to as Zion. This is the first of 162 times we find the name "Zion" in the Bible.
 Zion became a synonym for Jerusalem as well as the land of Israel as a whole. It originally referred to a specific hill in Jerusalem, Mount Zion located just south of Mount Moriah.
7. In time the name Zion took on a much more significant meaning.
 A. It went from being the City of David to the dwelling place of God, the Holy Mountain. It became the location of the Temple Mount.
Psalms 2:6 NAU - "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."
Psalms 9:11 NAU - "Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion; Declare among the peoples His deeds."
 B. After the captivity it became the focus of Israel's hope of deliverance.
Isaiah 12:2-6 NAU - "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." ³ Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of salvation. ⁴ And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; Make *them* remember that His name is exalted." ⁵ Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth. ⁶ Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."
Isaiah 35:10 NAU - "And the ransomed of the LORD will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away."
 C. It also was the center of the Messianic promise – the coming of the Holy One of Israel.
Isaiah 28:16 NAU - "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone *for* the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes *in it* will not be disturbed."

- D. At times the promise to the remnant of Israel in captivity and the promise to God's New Covenant people becomes one and the same promise of redemption and deliverance.
Isaiah 52:6-7 NAU - "Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, 'Here I am.'" ⁷ How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
Isaiah 59:20 NAU - "A Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," declares the LORD."
- E. By the time we reach the New Testament it is recast again to the great fulfillment of God's covenant promises – the Heavenly Jerusalem.
Hebrews 12:22-23 NAU - "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect,"
- I. The first point of note was Zion's initial weakness
- A. The initial introduction of Zion was not impressive
1. It was a city originally ruled by pagans – the Jebusites (It should be remembered that it was originally ruled by Melchisedec but at some point had fallen into the hands of pagan people.
 2. It consisted of a mere eleven acres. Mount Zion was actually just a hill.
 3. God's Kingdom manifestation is displayed on earth as starting small. David was being anointed king. God was putting His Kingdom on display, yet it would grow slowly
Matthew 13:31-33 NAU - "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; ³² and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." ³³ He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."
- B. Zion on earth has been plagued by sin
1. David was a man after God's own heart, but he wasn't a perfect man. He would die and his son would rise to the throne. Solomon would ultimately fall into sin as well as every other king.
 2. God raised up nations to oppress Israel. After conquering the Northern Kingdom Assyria set its sights on the South. Sennacherib taunted them and they were terrorized. Zion was in trouble.
Isaiah 33:14 NAU - "Sinners in Zion are terrified; Trembling has seized the godless."
 3. But earthly Zion was only a shadow of God's true Kingdom of Christ which exists today as He reigns with absolute authority in the lives of His redeemed people. The Kingdom today exists through the spiritual seed of Abraham.

4. It is still affected by sin. The redeemed of Christ have not yet been glorified. Zion is at war. The church is the church militant marching boldly in the hope of becoming the church triumphant.
LBC 13:1-2 – *Of Sanctification* – “This sanctification is throughout, in the whole man, yet imperfect in this life; there abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.”
5. While affected by sin, the inhabitants of Zion have been washed, cleansed, and purified by the blood of the Savior. By God’s transforming grace sin no longer reigns over us.
Psalm 24:3-5 NAU - "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully. ⁵ He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation."

II. The Kingdom today seems small and insignificant to the naked eye

- A. The kingdoms of this world seem to overshadow the Kingdom of God in significance.
 1. They dominate the news. They rule over men’s lives and men find comfort in their provision.
 2. Men today find it easy to mock and dismiss the Kingdom. They deny its King and abuse its citizens.
Psalm 2:2 NAU - "The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed"
 3. They fail to take into account the nature of true Zion. Zion isn’t a parcel of land in the Middle East. The outward weakness expressed by the sinfulness of its people in no way reflects the reality of its strength.
 4. Zion is strong. It is a fortress beyond penetration.
 5. As the people of Zion we are to pray for its increase.
 - a. This is at the heart of the Lord’s Prayer
Matthew 6:10 KJV - "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven."
We are praying that all men come under the power and authority of the King as the Gospel continues to advance.
 - b. We read about it in the Psalms
Psalm 122:6-7 KJV - "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. ⁷ Peace be within thy walls, *and* prosperity within thy palaces."
 - c. As God’s New Covenant people read **Psalm 122** our hearts are lifted up to a greater Jerusalem. Multitudes from every nation are flowing into this Jerusalem—the church of Christ.
Micah 4:2 KJV - "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."
 6. God has exalted His Kingdom and His people dwell in security

- B. The New Jerusalem isn't made of brick and stone but of God's holy people.
1. In the New Jerusalem God doesn't merely dwell *among* His people, He dwells *in* them.
 2. Jesus Christ reigns graciously over His people
 - a. Jesus is seated at the right hand of majesty where He governs His Kingdom perfectly
 - b. As our King He rules with perfect justice and equity. Let us love His gracious rule in our lives. May we not murmur against His gracious governing nor chafe against His Law.
 3. Zion continues to be a beautiful city
John Newton:
"Glorious things of Thee are spoken, Zion city of our God; He whose Word cannot be broken, Formed thee for His own abode: On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may smile at all Thy foes."
- C. Zion awaits its final consummation
1. There will be a final heavenly Jerusalem, the perfected church
 2. God has an eternal tabernacle of which earthly Jerusalem was only a shadow. In Revelation this Jerusalem is called the "Bride of the Lamb."
Revelation 21:2 NAU - "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband."
 3. The Kingdom rule of Christ today will find its fullness in heavenly Zion, the glorified Kingdom where every knee shall bow and every enemy cast from the presence of the King.

Conclusion:

Zion has a past, present, and future reality.

1. As we consider the past, Jerusalem was conquered and occupied by David. The Jebusites were cast out and Jerusalem became the City of David. This Zion was the great center of God's theocracy in Israel. It was the city chosen of God. It was the place of the throne of David. It was the place of God's holy Temple. It was the place of God's own abode.
2. Zion is a present reality. It refers to God's Holy reign through Christ in the lives of His holy people. Zion is represented through the Church of Christ.
 - A. The City of Zion is drawing a great multitude from every nation - even the Gentiles are flocking to the light of Christ.
Isaiah 60:3 – "And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."
 - B. Those who are redeemed are already the citizens of this city. We are already dwelling within its walls.
*"The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets."*
 - C. There is also the true sense that Zion represents the people of God themselves. God dwells in them, protects them. He is building them up to a beautiful house. He reveals His glory through them.

3. Zion is a future hope. It refers to the everlasting habitation of the people of God when they will spend eternity in His presence.
“We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful, Zion, we’re marching upward to Zion the beautiful city of God.”
4. The question is are you a citizen of Zion? It is the dwelling place of God, His holy Church. It can only be entered through God’s Son, the true King. We must embrace Him by faith. Do you know Him?
5. John Owen wrote of Zion – “The Gospel-church is the city of the living God; and it is ten thousand times more glorious to be a citizen thereof, than of the greatest city in the world. To be a citizen of the city of God, is to be free, to be honourable, to be safe, to have a certain habitation, and a blessed inheritance. It is no small privilege, to dwell with God in His own city. The privileges of this city of God are heavenly, hence it is that the world sees them not, knows them not, values them not.”¹

¹ Owen, John, *Exposition of Hebrews, The Works of John Owen, Vol 23*, (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, (2010), page 334.