

# NOON BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION 14 (PART 1)

REVELATION 14:1-5

*WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU IN THIS PASSAGE?*

*DOES ANYTHING SEEM FAMILIAR OR REPEATED FROM AN EARLIER PLACE?*

*DOES ANYTHING SEEM NEW?*

THE LAST FEW CHAPTERS HAVE DESCRIBED THE PINNACLE OF EVIL AND DEMONIC POWER. WE'VE READ OF BEASTS AND ABYSSES AND DRAGONS. NOW WE'RE SEEING THE VICTORIOUS ONE AND HIS FORCES IN CONTRAST TO THE POWERS OF DARKNESS AND EVIL.

THE VICTORIOUS ONE IS THE LAMB, WHO IS JESUS. NO LONGER A HELPLESS BABY NEEDING TO BE PROTECTED FROM THE HUNGRY DRAGON, HE IS STANDING ON MOUNT ZION WITH A LARGE AND PERFECT ARMY WITH HIM. AS WE START CHAPTER 14 WE'RE GOING TO FOCUS ON A FEW THINGS. FIRST WE'RE GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME LOOKING AT THE LAMB & MOUNT ZION.

## THE LAMB

REVELATION 5:6-14 - THE LAMB APPEARS AND PRAISES RING OUT

*WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LAMB APPEARS?*

*WHAT EMOTIONS SEEM TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIS ARRIVAL?*

MOUNT ZION -

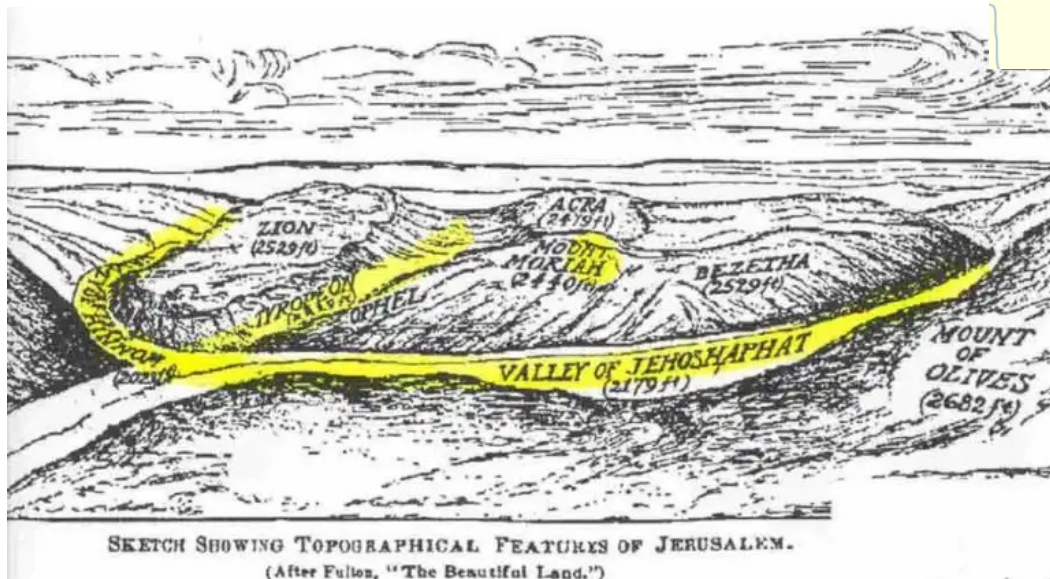
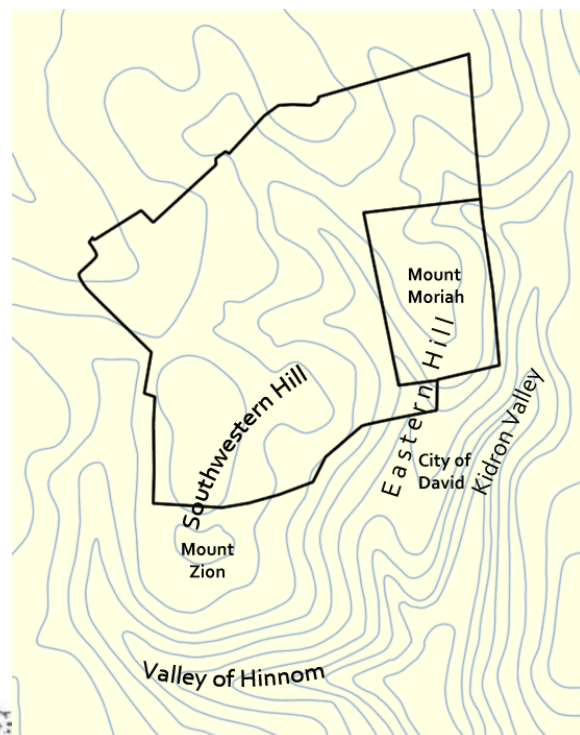
*Q - WHERE IS MOUNT ZION?*

*Q - WHAT IS MOUNT ZION?*

## WHAT IS ZION? A PLACE

MOUNT ZION IS NOT ONLY A PLACE, IT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF A TIME AND A SYMBOL. IT IS THE MOUNTAIN WHERE THE TEMPLE AND KING'S PALACE WAS LOCATED IN JERUSALEM. ITS A HIGH POINT THAT DAVID FIRST CAPTURED TO BE HIS CAPITAL. IN FACT, THIS WAS THE FIRST ACT OF DAVID WHEN HE BECAME KING.

**2 SAMUEL 5:4-10** - DAVID WAS THIRTY YEARS OLD WHEN HE BECAME KING, AND HE REIGNED FORTY YEARS. **5** AT HEBRON HE REIGNED OVER JUDAH SEVEN YEARS AND SIX MONTHS, AND IN JERUSALEM HE REIGNED THIRTY-THREE YEARS OVER ALL ISRAEL AND JUDAH. **6** NOW THE KING AND HIS MEN WENT TO JERUSALEM AGAINST THE JEBUSITES, THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND, AND THEY SAID TO DAVID, "YOU SHALL NOT COME IN HERE, BUT THE BLIND AND LAME WILL TURN YOU AWAY"; THINKING, "DAVID CANNOT ENTER HERE." **7** NEVERTHELESS, DAVID CAPTURED THE STRONGHOLD OF ZION, THAT IS THE CITY OF DAVID. **8** DAVID SAID ON THAT DAY, "WHOEVER WOULD STRIKE THE JEBUSITES, LET HIM REACH THE LAME AND THE BLIND, WHO ARE HATED BY DAVID'S SOUL, THROUGH THE WATER TUNNEL." THEREFORE THEY SAY, "THE BLIND OR THE LAME SHALL NOT COME INTO THE HOUSE." **9** SO DAVID LIVED IN THE STRONGHOLD AND CALLED IT THE CITY OF DAVID. AND DAVID BUILT ALL AROUND FROM THE MILLO AND INWARD. **10** DAVID BECAME GREATER AND GREATER, FOR THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS WAS WITH HIM.



## WHAT IS ZION? - A TIME & SYMBOL

THE TIME OF ZION REFERS TO THE BEST TIME IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY. IT WAS WHEN DAVID WAS KING, YAHWEH WAS WORSHIPED, AND THE PLANS FOR THE PERMANENT TEMPLE WERE PUT IN PLACE AND SEEN TO FRUITION DURING SOLOMON'S TIME. THIS WAS QUITE THE TIME AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE "TIME OF ZION".

## 2 CHRONICLES 5:1-14 - TEMPLE DEDICATION, THE TIME OF ZION

AS A RESULT OF THIS AMAZING MOMENT IN THE BIBLICAL STORY, IT BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE BEST TIME FOR GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE. YOU'LL READ OF ZION THROUGHOUT THE PSALMS (39X) - SPEAKING NOT ONLY OF THE PLACE OF GOD'S GLORY BUT THE SONGS OF PRAISE THAT WERE SUNG THERE, AS WELL AS THE VERY PEOPLE, GOD'S PEOPLE WHO WORSHIPED HIM IN THIS TIME AND PLACE.

SADLY, THIS TIME WAS SHORT LIVED. IN THE NEXT GENERATION, AFTER THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL (AND JUDAH) TURNED AWAY FROM YAHWEH, THE TIME OF ZION SHIFTS FROM A MEMORY OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISRAEL TO THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF GOD'S PEOPLE. THE PROPHETS BEGIN TO LONG FOR "ZION", AS THE HOPE FOR RENEWAL AND RESTORATION.

**ISAIAH 2:1-5** - THE WORD WHICH ISAIAH THE SON OF AMOZ SAW CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM. 2 NOW IT WILL COME ABOUT THAT IN THE LAST DAYS THE MOUNTAIN OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WILL BE ESTABLISHED AS THE CHIEF OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND WILL BE RAISED ABOVE THE HILLS; AND ALL THE NATIONS WILL STREAM TO IT. 3 AND MANY PEOPLES WILL COME AND SAY, "COME, LET US GO UP TO **THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD, TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB**; THAT HE MAY TEACH US CONCERNING HIS WAYS AND THAT WE MAY WALK IN HIS PATHS." FOR THE LAW WILL GO **FORTH FROM ZION AND THE WORD OF THE LORD FROM JERUSALEM**. 4 AND HE WILL JUDGE BETWEEN THE NATIONS, AND WILL RENDER DECISIONS FOR MANY PEOPLES; AND THEY WILL HAMMER THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS. NATION WILL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, AND NEVER AGAIN WILL THEY LEARN WAR. 5 COME, HOUSE OF JACOB, AND LET US WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD.

SPEAKING OF THE FUTURE RESTORATION:

**ISAIAH 35:8-10 (NIV)** - AND A HIGHWAY WILL BE THERE; IT WILL BE CALLED THE WAY OF HOLINESS; IT WILL BE FOR THOSE WHO WALK ON THAT WAY. THE UNCLEAN WILL NOT JOURNEY ON IT; WICKED FOOLS WILL NOT GO ABOUT ON IT. 9 NO LION WILL BE THERE, NOR ANY RAVENOUS BEAST; THEY WILL NOT BE FOUND THERE. BUT ONLY THE REDEEMED WILL WALK THERE, 10 AND THOSE THE LORD HAS RESCUED WILL RETURN. **THEY WILL ENTER ZION WITH SINGING**; EVERLASTING JOY WILL CROWN THEIR HEADS. GLADNESS AND JOY WILL OVERTAKE THEM, AND SORROW AND SIGHING WILL FLEE AWAY.

THIS HOPE FOR ZION BECAME THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF "GOOD NEWS" (GOSPEL):

**ISAIAH 52:7-10** - 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!" 8 LISTEN! YOUR WATCHMEN LIFT UP THEIR VOICES, THEY SHOUT JOYFULLY TOGETHER; FOR THEY WILL SEE WITH THEIR OWN EYES WHEN THE LORD RESTORES **ZION**. 9 BREAK FORTH, SHOUT JOYFULLY TOGETHER, YOU WASTE PLACES OF JERUSALEM; FOR THE LORD HAS COMFORTED HIS PEOPLE, HE HAS REDEEMED JERUSALEM. 10 THE LORD HAS BARED HIS HOLY ARM IN THE SIGHT OF ALL THE NATIONS, THAT ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH MAY SEE THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD.

ZION WAS A PLACE AND A TIME AND PEOPLE THAT GOD LOVED. IT WAS SYMBOLIC OF HIS PRAISE AND GLORY AND THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY, SPECIFICALLY THE PEOPLE HE HAD CHOSEN AND LOVED. IT IS CLOSE TO HIS HEART.

AND AS THE OLD TESTAMENT ENDS, THIS TIME OF ZION IS ONLY A HOPE. WE'LL FINISH OUR TIME TODAY LOOKING AT ZEPHANIAH, ONE OF THE LAST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE, WHO'S PROPHETIC MINISTRY WAS DURING THE REIGN OF JOSIAH, DAVID'S DESCENDANT, WHO WAS THE LAST FAITHFUL KING IN JERUSALEM BEFORE THE CITY AND TEMPLE WERE DESTROYED BY BABYLON. AS WE READ THIS, BE MINDFUL OF WHAT WE READ FROM REVELATION 14:1-5.

**REVELATION 14:1, 3-5** - THEN I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, THE LAMB WAS STANDING ON MOUNT ZION, AND WITH HIM ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND, HAVING HIS NAME AND THE NAME OF HIS FATHER WRITTEN ON THEIR FOREHEADS...3 AND THEY SANG A NEW SONG BEFORE THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE ELDERS:...4 THESE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE NOT BEEN DEFILED WITH WOMEN,

FOR THEY HAVE KEPT THEMSELVES CHASTE. THESE ARE THE ONES WHO FOLLOW THE LAMB WHEREVER HE GOES. THESE HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FROM AMONG MEN AS FIRST FRUITS TO GOD AND TO THE LAMB. 5 AND NO LIE WAS FOUND IN THEIR MOUTH; THEY ARE BLAMELESS.

## ZEPHANIAH 3:11-20

**ZEPHANIAH 3:11-20 (NLT)** - ON THAT DAY YOU WILL NO LONGER NEED TO BE ASHAMED, FOR YOU WILL NO LONGER BE REBELS AGAINST ME. I WILL REMOVE ALL PROUD AND ARROGANT PEOPLE FROM AMONG YOU. THERE WILL BE NO MORE HAUGHTINESS ON MY HOLY MOUNTAIN. 12 THOSE WHO ARE LEFT WILL BE THE LOWLY AND HUMBLE, FOR IT IS THEY WHO TRUST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. 13 THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL WILL DO NO WRONG; THEY WILL NEVER TELL LIES OR DECEIVE ONE ANOTHER. THEY WILL EAT AND SLEEP IN SAFETY, AND NO ONE WILL MAKE THEM AFRAID."

14 SING, O DAUGHTER OF **ZION**; SHOUT ALOUD, O ISRAEL! BE GLAD AND REJOICE WITH ALL YOUR HEART, O DAUGHTER OF JERUSALEM! 15 FOR THE LORD WILL REMOVE HIS HAND OF JUDGMENT AND WILL DISPERSE THE ARMIES OF YOUR ENEMY. AND THE LORD HIMSELF, THE KING OF ISRAEL, WILL LIVE AMONG YOU! AT LAST YOUR TROUBLES WILL BE OVER, AND YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN FEAR DISASTER.

16 ON THAT DAY THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO JERUSALEM WILL BE, "CHEER UP, **ZION**! DON'T BE AFRAID! 17 FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS LIVING AMONG YOU. HE IS A MIGHTY SAVIOR. HE WILL TAKE DELIGHT IN YOU WITH GLADNESS. WITH HIS LOVE, HE WILL CALM ALL YOUR FEARS. HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH JOYFUL SONGS."

18 "I WILL GATHER YOU WHO MOURN FOR THE APPOINTED FESTIVALS; YOU WILL BE DISGRACED NO MORE. 19 AND I WILL DEAL SEVERELY WITH ALL WHO HAVE OPPRESSED YOU. I WILL SAVE THE WEAK AND HELPLESS ONES; I WILL BRING TOGETHER THOSE WHO WERE CHASED AWAY. I WILL GIVE GLORY AND FAME TO MY FORMER EXILES, WHEREVER THEY HAVE BEEN MOCKED AND SHAMED. 20 ON THAT DAY I WILL GATHER YOU TOGETHER AND BRING YOU HOME AGAIN. I WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD NAME, A NAME OF DISTINCTION, AMONG ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH, AS I RESTORE YOUR FORTUNES BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES. I, THE LORD, HAVE SPOKEN!"

THE VISION OF ZEPHANIAH IS FOR A FUTURE DAY OF SALVATION, WHERE GOD'S PEOPLE WOULD NO LONGER BE ASHAMED, WHERE THEIR EVIL ENEMIES ARE DEFEATED. THE PEOPLE DESCRIBED IN ZEPHANIAH ARE DESCRIBED AS HOLY, HUMBLE, TRUTH TELLERS, FORGIVEN, AND WORSHIPPERS IN SONG. AND WHY ARE THEY CELEBRATING AND WORSHIPING, BECAUSE THEY LONG AWAITED DAY OF THEIR RESCUE AND REDEMPTION HAS COME - CENTERED IN THE FACT THAT GOD HAS DRAWN NEAR AGAIN WITH DELIGHT OVER THEM.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE IN REVELATION 14 - ON THE HEELS OF THE EVIL'S GREATEST DAY AND LAST HURRAH, THE CONQUERING LAMB APPEARS SURROUNDED BY HOLY PEOPLE OF GOD READY TO TAKE BACK ZION FOR THE LORD. WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, HE WILL TAKE BACK THE PLACE OF ZION FOR GOD'S NAME AND HE WILL RESUME THE TIME OF ZION WHERE THE LORD'S NAME IS EXALTED AND PRAISED ALL THE DAY - AND HE WILL SAVE AND REGATHER THE PEOPLE OF ZION, GOD'S CHOSEN AND LOVED MEN AND WOMEN - FROM ALL OF THE AGES TO BE WITH HIM AND CELEBRATE HIS GOODNESS, LOVE, VICTORY AND POWER.

**PSALM 53:6** -OH, THAT THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL WOULD COME OUT OF ZION! WHEN GOD RESTORES HIS CAPTIVE PEOPLE, LET JACOB REJOICE, LET ISRAEL BE GLAD.

**PSALM 69:34-36 ESV** - LET HEAVEN AND EARTH PRAISE HIM, THE SEAS AND EVERYTHING THAT MOVES IN THEM. 35 FOR GOD WILL SAVE ZION AND BUILD UP THE CITIES OF JUDAH, AND PEOPLE SHALL DWELL THERE AND POSSESS IT; 36 THE OFFSPRING OF HIS SERVANTS SHALL INHERIT IT, AND THOSE WHO LOVE HIS NAME SHALL DWELL IN IT.