PSALM

87

LXXXVII

Declarative Zion Praise

Sons of Korah · Book III

"A Psalm by the sons of Korah; a Song."

PICTURE WORD

Birthplace

IN ONE SENTENCE

The LORD loves Zion, the city of God, and registers people of every nation as born there.

Remember it: Eighty-seven: God writes every nation into Zion's birth record.

MEMORY VERSE

Glorious things are spoken about you, city of God. Selah.

Psalm 87:3 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

יָלַד

"was born" · *verse 4*

In the Psalms: nine times, in 7 psalms

ילד is the ordinary verb for giving birth, the word behind the Bible's family lists. Here God keeps a birth register and writes in Egypt, Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia as "born there." Former enemies become citizens by birth, a bright glimpse of the nations brought into God's family.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–3	The LORD loves Zion, the glorious city of God.
4–6	Foreign nations are recorded as born in Zion.
7	Singers and dancers say, all my springs are in you.

MY NOTES

Listen. Hear Psalm 87 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at **ispress.de/psalms/87**.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Zion & the House of God · Praise & Thanksgiving

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The LORD _____ Zion, the city of God, and _____ people of every _____ as born there.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. What does the LORD love more than all the dwellings of Jacob?

- (A) The gates of Zion
- (B) The temple's gold
- (C) The tribe of Levi
- (D) The palace of David

2. Which of these places is NOT named in verse 4?

- (A) Babylon
- (B) Tyre
- (C) Ethiopia
- (D) Assyria

3. What do the singers and dancers say?

- (A) Zion is mighty
- (B) All my springs are in you
- (C) Our king reigns
- (D) Peace be within your walls

TALK IT OVER

1. What is surprising about the list of nations in verse 4?

2. What does this psalm reveal about God's plan for people outside Israel?

3. How should knowing God "writes up the peoples" change how your church welcomes outsiders?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 87 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
- ☐ I can say verse 3 by heart
- ☐ I can say what it teaches
- ☐ I know the picture word

Answers Blanks: loves · registers · nation · Check yourself: 1. A (v. 2) · 2. D (v. 4) · 3. B (v. 7)