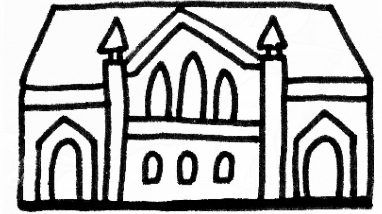


Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 7th July 2019 speaker Philip Wells, church minister
This morning - Psalm 87 - A song of belonging

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

Sermons and talks - calvary-brighton.sermon.net

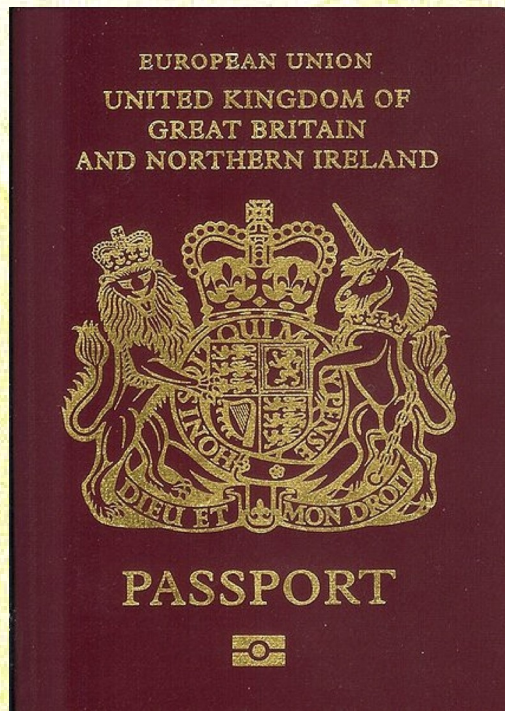
Psalm 87 - Introduction

Here's a thing ...

Some people would pay £xxxx and cross
YYYY miles to have one of these.

(I have one because I was born here,
by God's mysterious Providence)

It's about the privilege,
protection, status,
security of citizenship...



From expatica.com

**Understand how to get a British
passport, take the UK citizenship test
and more.**

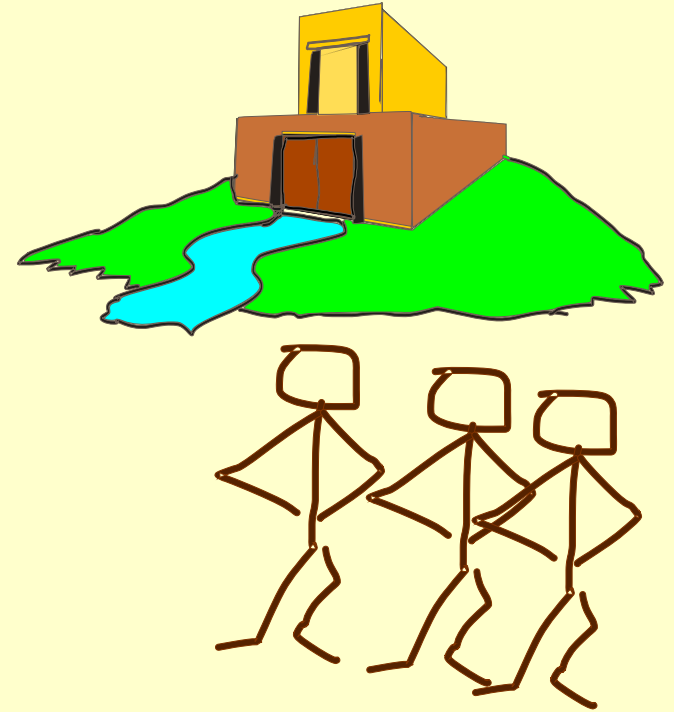
If you are living in the UK and want to settle permanently, you can apply for UK permanent residency - also known as UK indefinite leave to remain - and will then have the chance to apply for full UK citizenship.

Foreigners can apply for UK indefinite leave to remain after 5 years of legal residence in the UK in most cases, although in some instances it will be sooner. You can apply for UK citizenship after 5 years of residence (sooner in some cases) if you have been a permanent resident for 12 months. Circumstances and requirements vary depending on your nationality, whether you have family in the UK and what type of UK visa you arrived on. The process is currently simpler for citizens of EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) although the situation may change in 2019 when the UK is due to leave the EU following the 2016 Brexit vote.

Singing salvation

*This is a song about LORD God
About his mountain
About his city
About the people in the city*

*It refers to Zion = Jerusalem
It starts with the earthly physical city
But goes further and higher ...
And leaves behind ...
Until the last day comes when the city is
all in all*



Plan

Psalm 87

- celebration of belonging as a citizen of God's city

- 1. the secure foundation of the city*
- 2. the marvellous grace of the city*
- 3. the delightful privileges of the city*

1. the secure foundation of the city

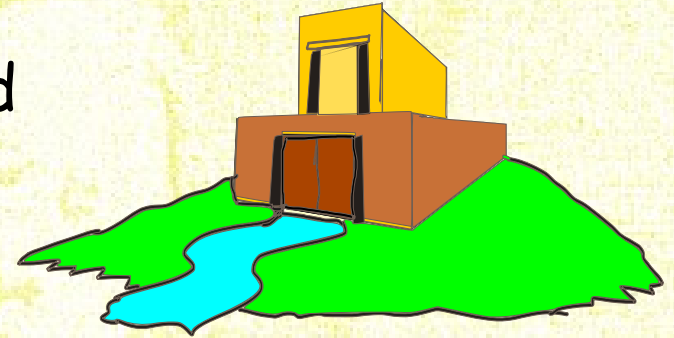
There is something very definite and fixed asserted about the city

v.1 ***"he has set his foundation upon the mountain holy"***

- Set-his-foundation = strong basis (how strong??)
- No ordinary mountain ... Holy (=the moral, relational character of God himself)

v.2 set his love, the LORD, on the gates of Zion (more than any of the tents of Jacob)

- Set-his-love = choosing love (not steadfast love)
- Nowhere else is more loved
- ==> oh the wonder that he should set his love upon anyone anywhere!



1. the secure foundation of the city

There is something very definite asserted about the city

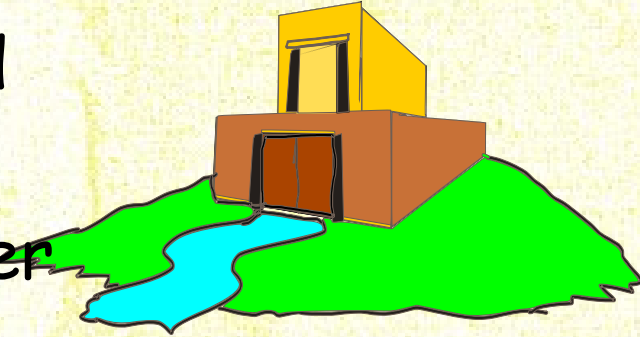
v.5 the Most High himself will establish her

Q: How strongly is she established?

A: more strongly than creation itself, and for-ever

– It outlasts the earthly Zion (destroyed in AD 70)

- Galatians 4:25 "the present city of Jerusalem is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother"
- Hebrews 12:22 "but you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God"
- ==> this is the city that outlasts all others!



1. the secure foundation of the city

There is something very definite asserted about the city

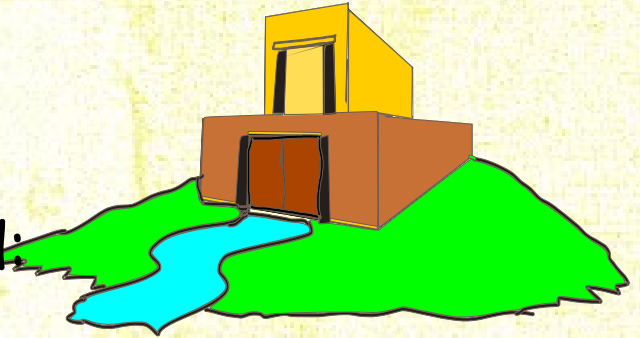
The citizens names are definitely recorded:

v.4 I will record ...

v.6 The LORD will write

v.6 ... in the register (=counting) of the peoples

- Definitely "in or out"
 - ==> church membership says "count me in"
- Writing by the LORD
 - If he has written my name in, then no-one can erase it. ("Neither life, nor death, nor principalities, nor powers, height, depth, nor anything else in all creation ... separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:38)
 - ==> to have that security is to have all things!



2. the marvellous grace of the city

i.e. "grace" = not according to natural right or earning

i.e. the people of the city

n.b. the city is not empty

- Rahab (=Egypt)
- Babylon (=Babel)
- Philistia ("Philistines")
- Tyre (all about trade and money)
- Cush (a long way off)

Either complete enemies OR totally unsuited

- By culture, or distance
- N.B. these peoples are recorded in Zion
- ==> this bold statement!
- ==> the promise is to your children AND all those who are far off for all whom the Lord our God will call (Acts 2:39)



2. the marvellous grace of the city

i.e. "grace" = not according to natural right or earning

we are talking about birthright, citizenship by birth!!

- v.4 "born in her"
- v.6 "born in her"

i.e. this city is their mother-city

Nicodemus: How can these things be?

Jesus: "flesh give birth to flesh, Spirit gives birth to Spirit ... you must be born again" - John 3:5

=> is this what you need to ask God for?



3. the delightful privileges of the city

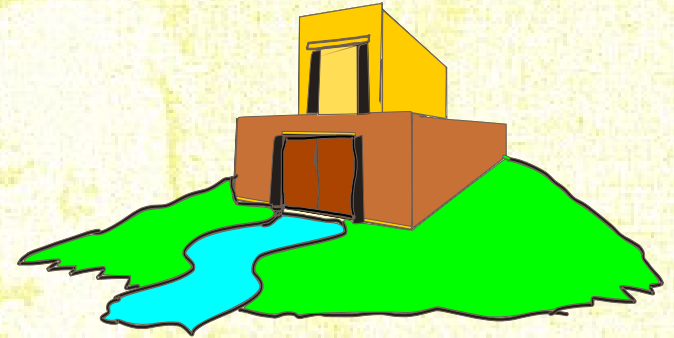
Not only

- Strong security
- Miraculous grace

But also

- Delightful privilege

It's not a boring or indifferent matter to belong to this city!!



3. the delightful privileges of the city

v.7 'They make music and sing "all my fountains are in you" '

it's a place of joy!

- Glad and thankful
- Amazed and overwhelmed
 - For the security
 - For the grace
 - For the goodness and holy beauty
 - For the privileges
 - "they know the LORD"
 - "glorious things of you are spoken!"
- ==> Isaiah's songs
 - "the ransomed of the LORD ... enter Zion with singing, everlasting joy will crown their heads" 51:11
 - (not the only emotion, not all the time, but they do sing!)



3. the delightful privileges of the city

v.7 'They make music and sing "all my fountains are in you" '

it's a place of living refreshment

- Psalm 46 "there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God"

- On the last and greatest day of the feast ... "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink ..." John 7:37
"By this he meant the Spirit whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified"

"Jesus side ... sudden flow of blood and water" 19:34



Singing salvation

*This is a song about LORD God
About his mountain
About his city
About the people in the city*

- 1. the secure foundation of the city*
 - Eternal foundation*
 - Written "passport" "register"*
- 2. the marvellous grace of the city*
 - Contains enemies, unsuitable*
- 3. the delightful privileges of the city*
 - A place of joy*
 - Fountain of living water*

*It's not a city on earth, but in heaven, one day heaven and earth
will be united in a new heaven and earth!*

=> if you are in ... be glad, live as a citizen!

=> if you are not it ... don't rest until you are!

