

Prayer-walking the City of God

Psalm 48

You're always safe and secure when
you're in the presence of God.

The beauty of the City
of God (vs. 1-3).

The agony of those
who attempt to destroy
the City of God (vs.
4-7).

The eternal security of
the City of God (vs. 8).

“O blessed church, at one time you heard, and at another time you saw. The church heard the promises and now sees the promises fulfilled; it heard in prophecy what it now sees made manifest in the gospel. Everything that is now being realized was prophesied beforehand. Lift up your eyes; let your gaze sweep around the world, look at the inheritance that stretches to the ends of the earth; see how the promise is being made good.”

- Augustine

The ecstasy of
worship that fills the
City of God (vs. 9-11).

The legacy we must
pass down to future
generations who will
dwell in the City of
God (vs. 12-14).

Isaiah 33:5-6

The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. There will be times of security for you—a storehouse of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

1 Kings 8:27

But will God indeed live on earth?

Even heaven, the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this temple I have built.

Jeremiah 7:3-4

This is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Correct your ways and your actions, and I will allow you to live in this place. Do not trust deceitful words, chanting, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.”

Lamentations 2:15

All who pass by scornfully clap their hands at you. They hiss and shake their heads at Daughter Jerusalem:

“Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth?”

Mark 13:1-2

As [Jesus] was going out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Teacher, look! What massive stones! What impressive buildings!”

Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another—all will be thrown down.”

Hebrews 12:22-24

Instead you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels, a festive gathering, to the assembly of the firstborn whose names have been written in heaven, to a Judge, who is God of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel.

Revelation 21:1-5a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne:

Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new."

1. Pray for the ongoing beautification of Christ's church through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray:

Lord, too many of our Christian communities are ingrown and invisible at best or unattractive at worst. Help me become one small important part of making my church beautiful to all around it.

2. Praise God that his presence and power are the only protection you and your loved ones need in a dangerous world.

3. Whenever you think about the “unfinished work” in your life or in the church, pray with grateful confidence that God will establish his church forever.

4. Rejoice in the faithful love, justice, and judgments of God on behalf of his people—and pray that his praise will reach the ends of the earth.

5. Pray for your own commitment to telling future generations that *this* God is *our* God—forever and ever!