

Foreword By RUTH ELTON



**WE HAVE
COME TO
MOUNT ZION**

*... Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the
whole earth is Mount Zion...*

SYDNEY G. ELTON

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RC: 18Z026391

NiU Nation Publishers

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Unless otherwise stated, all scriptural quotations taken from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible.

ISBN: 978-978-50012-9-7

Printed and published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria by:

NIU NATION PUBLISHERS

The New Nation Centre, Central Market, OAU

Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria

Email: *niunationpublishers@gmail.com*

Tel: 0803 854 8073, 0805 506 7549

PREFACE

The late Pastor S.G. Elton, undoubtedly, was a prophet and an apostle to the church of God in the nation of Nigeria. He was one who saw many years ahead of his time and he stood in that prophetic anointing to declare the counsel of God concerning the last days and what the attitude of the Church should be to God's purposes. His messages provided clear prophetic warnings and instructions for a church that will avoid the many pitfalls along the way of a quest towards the finish.

It however cannot be said that the Nigeria church really heeded his prophetic warnings and thus we are where we are today. In the Father's mercy, the Spirit of God, today, is re-echoing those same prophetic truths that were shared three decades back and is stirring the hearts of His people to realise their indispensability in the task of accomplishing God's ultimate purposes for the Church - not only in Nigeria but the universal body of our risen Lord and King.

It is therefore with every sense of spiritual responsibility, as well as a deep sense of gratitude to the Lord for the privilege, that we present the church today the transcript of Pa Elton's messages. Minimal editing has been done on it to retain his meaning and style.

The audio messages from which these transcripts are derived are also available with Mama Ruth Elton or the publisher, for anyone interested in having them. We are also deeply grateful to Mama Ruth for the trust she has reposed in us in giving us free access to the Elton library and the liberty to undertake this project.

It is our sincere prayer that these messages will find a breeding ground in the hearts of passionate lovers of truth and seekers of the Kingdom of God and will trigger the last days move of the Holy Spirit Pa Elton often spoke so glowingly about. If you are blessed by this book, please, do what you can to spread it far and wide. May the good Lord bless you and keep you in the centre of His will and prophetic purpose, amen.

Adeyemo Temidayo
Niu Nation Publishers

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FOREWORD

BY MAMA RUTH ELTON

This book, “We have come to Mount Zion” concerns the future and is taken from the scriptural text in Hebrews 12:22. Though the church today is yet to come into that which is portrayed in this book, I believe we are approaching it definitely and seriously. The important question however is, what will be your position in mount Zion? And that is a question every Christian is faced with.

In many ways, we look to the future in anticipation of the time when we shall be caught up in the air to meet our Lord; and most Christians believe that that is the end of the world for us. But it is not the end; in fact, it is only the beginning - a wonderful new beginning.

Our God, through our Lord Jesus, our Head, through us, our Lord's body, is going to make this world what He meant it to be: a wonderful place ruled by man. At this point in time, God is preparing men and women who will join those prepared down the ages to take their places in the coming

Jerusalem and Mount Zion.

As a Christian therefore, are you being prepared? Is your life on earth now only for this present world or are you going through spiritual processes that will prepare you for a position of authority and honour in the coming Kingdom? This is the central subject of this book.

Ruth Elton

INTRODUCTION

Recently, the Lord has been speaking to us through a series of messages dealing with the believers' authority and with the battle for the nations. It could be assumed that the matter is very simple and very easy. That would however be a rather costly assumption, because the battle for the nations and our authority to war against principalities and powers in the spiritual realm is probably one of the highest revelations given to the Church of Christ. In this message, it will be made clear that not everybody who is a Christian will actually wield that level of authority in the spirit and not every church-going believer will make it to that highest position. You can however make up your mind to be among the elect company that will constitute God's channel of exercising Governmental authority and power over satan and all his works and over the nations of the earth. This is what we will be dealing with in this message. We will consider the subject of Zion, looking through various portions of scripture - in both the

Old and the New Testaments - in order to identify what Zion is in the Old Testament and how it relates to the New Testament Church and to those of us upon whom the end of age has come.

But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels - Heb. 12:22

The twelfth chapter of Hebrews will probably be our main text throughout this meditation and the verse above is where our topic is actually taken from. In this verse of scripture, we can see that two locations are mentioned. One is Zion and the other, Jerusalem. We will give greater attention in our meditation to Zion and in the latter end deal with the second location mentioned above, which is “...and to the heavenly Jerusalem”, the city of God. This second part of the message actually deals with the value of the spiritual and the heavenly over that which is earthly and passing and has not been able to carry out the purposes of God.

S.G. Elton
December 1983



Chapter One

WHAT IS ZION?

Historically, Zion is a smaller city inside the city of Jerusalem. It is a fortress inside Jerusalem. Its earliest mention in scripture is probably found in the second book of Samuel.

And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here". Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is the city of David). Now David said on that day, "Whoever climbs up by the way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul), he shall be chief and captain". Therefore they say,

“The blind and the lame shall not come into the house. Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all round from the Millo and inward - II Sam. 5:6-9

In this passage, we see the Jebusites who had lived in the fortress of Zion for centuries, saying to David, “You cannot conquer Zion; we will leave the lame and the blind to deal with you”. That was their confidence in the strength of the fortress of the Zion. It was a stronghold located on the highest portion of a mountain and surrounded by other mountains. Because of this topographical advantage, any attempt by any enemy troop to come against it in battle is an outright suicidal mission. So even though it was part of the inheritance which the Lord had given to the children of Israel, even from the days of Joshua, they could not be driven out.

As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem to this day - Joshua 15:63

But several generations after, David, on ascending the throne made that his first assignment and he did drive them out - and that became the city of David; it became his special portion of the city of Jerusalem, it was the dwelling

place of King David.

The city of Zion is also specially remembered by God as we can see in various portions of scripture:

Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King - Psalms 48:2

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth - Psalms 50:2

But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which he loved - Psalms 78:68

The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob - Psalms 87:2

For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place. This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation; and her saints shall shout aloud for joy - Psalms 132:13-16

From these scriptures, we see that Zion is called by God the most beautiful place on earth. It is the sum of God's perfection and beauty; it is specially loved by God and chosen by Him for His habitation. For some reason or the

other, and I am keenly interested in why this is so. God seems to separate Zion from Jerusalem. Jerusalem is His capital city; it is the capital of the whole nation of Israel. But inside Jerusalem, God has a special portion called Zion, which He has chosen for His habitation. What then is the relationship of Zion to Jerusalem in the Old Testament? It is important to know this so that we can relate this to the Church in the New Testament which the writer of the book of Hebrews calls Mount Zion.

But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels - Heb. 12:22

I therefore want to relate with the New Testament Church as spiritual Zion. Looking again at Psalms 132, we see that God has determined to specially choose Zion. It is not clear when this Psalm was written but I need to refer you to Psalms 2 - supposedly written by David - in which verse 6 says, "Yet I have set my king on my holy hill of Zion" - not Jerusalem. Please take note of that; God has deliberately separated Zion from Jerusalem. I am convinced that God in His purposes planned that the city of Melchizedek will be the city of peace - for that is the meaning of Jerusalem. Yet what do we see? No other city in the world has experienced more war, more destruction, more division and more

attacks than the city of Jerusalem. The city of peace, thus, became a city of war and disorder and was finally destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70.

Still, God, having chosen Jerusalem as His city and having promised wonderful things for her, did not abandon the city. And I want to say that those glorious promises made to Jerusalem will be fulfilled. In fact they are already being partially fulfilled today; Jerusalem, now the capital of the nation of Israel, is again free from Gentile control and is totally in the hands of God's chosen people - the Jews. We have been given a prophetic insight into the events that will characterise the end of the age. The scriptures clearly speak of days of trials and tribulations for the nation of Israel, when Judah will be scattered all over the world:

And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled down by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled - Luke 21:24

We can say that the time of the gentiles seemingly has been fulfilled because today, Jerusalem is no longer trampled down by the Gentiles, even though there is still an on-going battle as to who should control Jerusalem. So, it would seem that God, although He wanted Jerusalem as His capital city, yet knowing what would happen to Jerusalem

and to the entire nation of Israel - that they would not remain faithful to the covenant but would backslide - He selected a portion within the city of Jerusalem as His own special habitation.

I have set my king on my holy hill of Zion - Psalms 2:6

Zion, like we saw earlier, is a portion inside Jerusalem. Jerusalem is now free from the gentiles and it is in the process of being declared capital of the restored nation of Israel in these days. But certainly, it is not free of all travails; we know that the battle of Armageddon is a certain event awaiting the nation of Israel, when the nations would gather against Israel in warfare. The valley of Megiddo near Jerusalem will be the scene of the final battle of the nations.

Zion is God's eternal habitation on earth and will be the site of His king's throne, when the Lord Jesus Christ will return to reign and rule on the earth during the millennium. In Isaiah 4:2-4, we find a reference to the Messiah, returning to reign:

In that day, the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped. And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy - everyone who is recorded among the living in

Jerusalem. When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning. Then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering - Isaiah 4:2-4

In this passage, we note that Jerusalem and Zion are both mentioned. It is clear that Zion is the centre of God's government; it is the place where the nations will gather for worship during the Millennial reign. It is also the place where Jesus Christ will manifest Himself and that has a special significance in relation to the city of Jerusalem. I think it is probable that in mentioning them separately, God means to infer that there are two companies of people: those He regards as His special people - represented by Zion; and those who are the vast crowd of His people, the nation of Israel - represented by Jerusalem. We shall also discover an arrangement like this in the New Testament. I do not mean to infer that God has chosen a special people but I do know this: that in the great crowd of the nation of Israel, there were those who specially worshipped the Lord, who obeyed him and followed him.

We can easily think of Joshua and Caleb when considering the journey of the children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan. Indeed, the whole nation was God's special people but out of the mammoth crowd that left Egypt, only two people made it into the Promised Land. And it is certain that even in the first advent of the Messiah, there was a small remnant of those who waited for Him, looked for Him, and expected Him while the main body of His people were backslidden and cared very little about the promise of the coming Messiah. Among these remnants were Simeon and Anna, many of the disciples of Jesus including a secret disciple called Joseph of Arimathaea.

Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus - Mark 15:43

These would be referred to as the citizens of Zion and represented His covenant people. God had allowed the larger nation of Israel and Jerusalem to go down into captivity; He allowed Jerusalem to be invaded and destroyed but His hands were upon His special people - those who were dedicated to Him. So was it in the New Testament and so is it for us today.

There are many today within the main body of the church,

who are truly born again, who believe in Jesus Christ and are committed members of the church. Some of them may even boast that they have been baptised in the Holy Spirit and can prophesy and speak in tongues and have even been given the use of the power gifts of healing, miracles and the discerning of spirits. But many of them will fall away and yield to seducing spirits and to the doctrine of devils; whereas God undoubtedly does recognise that there is an elect company of those who will still remain true to Him and will be faithful to Him. I think those are the people whom we recognise as citizens of Zion - His special people.

I will support my statements when we begin to examine Hebrews 12. The first eleven chapters of Hebrews are written to Hebrew Christians and deals with the Old Testament heroes of faith. The author of Hebrews compares them with the Lord Jesus Christ and infers that whereas all those heroes failed, the Lord Jesus Christ will not fail. But those eleven chapters also imply that the body, now being introduced in the twelfth chapter, the great overcomer company of people, will succeed. They will do better than the Angels; they will do better than Moses; they will do better than Joshua; they will do better than Abraham, better than the priests and are better than the sacrifices.

The body will do better because of all the additional persons and benefits that the body has, but I am also aware that when Jesus Christ refers to the Church, He also refers in the second and third chapters of Revelation, to a special body inside the Church called the overcomer company - the people who will overcome. The people undoubtedly are those who have dedicated themselves fully to the Lord Jesus Christ. I may not be able to define who they are; the Bible does not define who they are. But there is undoubtedly an overcomer company and that overcomer company is inside the church. And I think we should find that, that overcomer company could be referred to as ZION.



Chapter Two

WE HAVE COME TO THE HEAVENLY

But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel - Hebrews 12:22-24

To appreciate what the writer of Hebrews was saying, the context must be well understood. The book of Hebrews was written about the same time that Jerusalem, (I'm not going to include Mount Zion) was destroyed by the Romans with no stone left on top of another. The destruction of

Jerusalem indicated the destruction of the whole of the earthly system of the Jews and the whole of the earthly and natural glory of Israel. With Jerusalem completely razed down, there was nothing left on earth in which to glory. It was in that context and in the context of the earlier discussion of the failure of all the Old Testament heroes (in Hebrews 11) that the writer now declared, *“Now, we have come to Mount Zion, and to the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem”*.

What then did he mean by that? To what was he referring - because at this time, there wasn't an earthly Jerusalem nor was there an earthly Mount Zion in existence when the writer wrote those words. We will deal only with mount Zion now and then later deal with the New Jerusalem - because they are different. I think you will find that Mount Zion refers to that select body of people who are spiritual.

As it were, the Spirit would have us stand in the very ashes of the earthly Jerusalem and, looking all around the debris, understand that we have finished with the earth and all that is earthly - including the observance of earthly rituals and laws which obtained in the Old Testament. We have put away all of that and we have now come to that which is heavenly; we have come to that which is spiritual. Now, we have only the spiritual, only the heavenly to crave for and to

look forward to - that is what the writer was saying.

Now I want to examine exactly what Mount Zion stands for in this present age and particularly at this time as we move into the last few years of this dispensation because it has very great meaning for this last days.

We are moving into a time when the great conflict of the church inside the church in these last days will be between that which has been built up by man and that which is entirely divine. That which man has built is the earthly system, the organised system, the denominational system, the sectarian system, the buildings, the ceremonies, the liturgy, the church orders and ceremonies and services - all of which very little of it has any New Testament significance, New Testament relevance, New Testament support and very little of it has the blessing of God upon it. It is not scriptural - much of it.

The Spirit of God through the writer of Hebrews wants to assert very strongly that we have now come to that which is heavenly. Now, we have no altar on earth; now, we have no church building on earth. We can only move into the spirit to realise and actualise the heavenly. Please note that there is not one single church building mentioned in the book of Acts or in any of the epistles. The only church building that can be referred to in the entire New Testament, can only be

found in the book of Revelation where we discover that the Lord Jesus is standing outside and knocking on the door.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me - Rev. 3:20

Now, we have always thought that this scripture is meant for unbelievers but we forget that it was a letter to the churches dictated by the Lord Jesus Himself. He is standing at the door, knocking. It can be implied that it is the door of a church meeting and it is locked. The meeting is going on inside; the people inside can manage with their committee meetings and their orders of service and their arrangements, and all their earthly plannings and programmes - they don't need the Lord Jesus there. So He is outside and the door has been locked from the inside. He says therefore, *"To him that overcomes..."* - not 'to them' or 'to the church in general' but 'to him'; the overcomers who are probably in ones and in twos. The overcomers are the few remnants inside each of those churches.

May I say boldly that in most churches, there is usually an overcomer company; a small elect body of people who are spiritual. There is usually an elect few who are basing their faith and their beliefs and their practices on that which is heavenly. They are not building their faith round the church

building or programmes or round the church dogmas - as we find in many churches today. They are not controlled by church doctrines and by church orders and constitutions. Rather, they are united as one governed by the Holy Spirit; they are led into the unity of Spirit and are engaged in true spiritual worship in the power of the Spirit. They are special people; they are the ones the Lord probably was referring to in Matthew 24:22 as the elect of the last days:

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened - Matt. 24:22

Jesus, here, makes it clear that for the sake of this elect company, the rest of the church will be spared. This elect company are the Levites of the nation of Israel; they are the Gideon-300 company and the small body of warriors of David's group that conquered Mount Zion. All these are prophetic patterns in the Old Testament.

In the New Testament, they refer to those who have come under the governance of the Holy Spirit and are worshipping by the Spirit, praying in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit and whose ambitions are all spiritual and all heavenly. They are not seeking to rush for Naira and Dollars; they are not seeking earthly possessions, earthly ambitions and earthly attainments. Their hearts are set on heavenly

attainments and on that which is eternal, that which is unshakable and unmovable.

...Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven ... indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace... - Hebrews 12:26-28

Mount Zion refers to that which is absolutely unmovable and unshakable. Earthly buildings and rituals and programs have been shaken away. The organised church has lost the vision of this coming unshakeable Kingdom so far that they are building buildings and calling them the sanctuary of God. Church buildings do not represent the sanctuary of God; there is no church building on earth that is a sanctuary of God or the dwelling place of God. God destroyed His dwelling place, the earthly Mount Zion and the city of Jerusalem and fully indwelt the Lord Jesus Christ when He came to the earth. And on the day of Pentecost, God indwelt the body of His believing people.

Since then, the Holy Spirit has been inside the people of God - not in church buildings. So again, I say that the Mount Zion is the spiritual. We have come to a spiritual Mount Zion

- not to a geographical location but to a situation where we gather ourselves together, representing the inhabitants and citizens of Mount Zion, the spiritual people of God who gather to worship Him in the spirit.

Now in practice, what would this mean? It would mean that no church denomination or group has the right to say their members alone are the body. I do want to say that no church holds the monopoly of being the body; but God is building one body - not one denomination. He is building one body and no denomination can say they are that body. The body of Christ consist of the general mass of the born again and baptised believers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, I have evidence before my eyes, in some places and towns in Nigeria, where a great revival has been poured into that town and tens of thousands of people became born again and were swept into the Kingdom of God and baptised with the Holy Ghost; but some twenty-five, thirty-five, forty years later, we find very few of those people still worshipping the Lord in spirit and in truth. They have returned to man-regulated religious services and are being governed by a religious system.

They are being governed by an earthly system and earthly customs which originated from church leaders who simply adapted what they saw from the Old Testament orders,

liturgy, customs, plans and programs and also some of what they saw in history. They have imposed that upon the people and the people do not bother about seeking the guidance and the government of the Holy Spirit; they simply follow earthly regulations, earthly orders and earthly systems and have lost their identity as citizens of Zion.

But God is going to bring restoration. Zion speaks of the people who will follow the Holy Spirit, be governed by Him and commit all of their lives to the pursuit of the spiritual. That does not mean they would not attend churches but it does mean that they will not submit to man-made church regulations as coming from God; they will discern between that which is spiritual and that which is carnal. There are a lot of churches in Nigeria today that preach the gospel, that believe in the baptism in the Holy Ghost but the purposes and the method of conducting their services are often very commercial. It is supporting a man-made hierarchy of priests and ministers for the purpose of maintaining the ministers - that is not Mount Zion.

Mount Zion refers to those who worship the Lord in spirit and in truth and who are led by Him. They do not belong to any one church, or any one fellowship, or any one group. They are scattered right throughout the country but the

Holy Spirit knows who and where they are. They have been marked by the Lord and are governed by the Lord and led by the Lord. They are hidden right throughout the nation but they are here and God is leading them and when they meet, they connect in the spirit of their allegiance to Zion. They recognise the Holy Spirit in each other and no matter what identity they have as a church denomination, they are spiritual believers and they worship the Lord together and, may I tell you, that number is growing rapidly.

That's right! The number will grow rapidly in the last days as the Holy Spirit moves and brings to bear upon the people the fact that in these last days, God is concerned only with a spiritual body of people; a heavenly-minded body of people; a people who are looking forward to Mount Zion, to that which is entirely heavenly and to that which is entirely spiritual. Everything that the senses pay attention to has been done away with. Now we come to that which is heavenly, spiritual and divine. And that is the future for us. It is the most important factor in God's mission and God's plan and programme for the future. We must realise that when God moves in the end-time to replace the organised commercial church system, and it is left to go to decay and destruction and to disintegration, nothing of man must have any place whatsoever in that which belongs to Mount Zion.

Let me give an illustration from the life of Abraham and Sarah. When Sarah died, Abraham, who had a good stand in the country, sought a place of burial for his wife, himself and his seed. The cave of Machpelah proved to be suitable place, so he offered to buy it but the man who owned it offered it to him for free. They, as it were, begged him to accept it as a present. But Abraham would not have it as a present; he preferred to pay the full price so that no one would be able to say, "You got it cheaply; you really owe it to us, you really are indebted to us, so really, we have a claim over you". No, he paid to the very last naira; he bought it outright.

That is the situation that the future will hold. We have got to make sure that nothing of the earth has any claim whatsoever on that which belongs to the spiritual and the heavenly in the future. You see, this is a principle; no hand of man, no rights of this world should govern the Church. The Jerusalem which is above is free. This world has no claim over it. There is no other power that has any rights in her, and the Church which represents in the New Testament the place of Mount Zion in the Old, stands free in God. When we look at what the church has turned into today, we consider all the complications and the way it has sold itself to the world, and how the world has taken over and dictates the trends that it follows, and the world seem to be saying,

“You are under obligation to us” - that is not the church according to His thoughts.

A necessity here and now is for the Lord's people to come to a spiritual understanding of what Mount Zion really means. Only then can the Church, the Lord's people, attain real power. I am certain that the whole question of spiritual power is bound up in this principle. We must be very careful and it is one of the great tests of the future. Let me draw your attention to a vision of Zechariah.

And he said to me, “What do you see?” So I said, I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold, with a bowl on top of it... - Zech. 4:2

What does this tell us? The ministry of the future will be of pure gold. The angel then responded replied, “The lesson you are to learn, says the Lord of host - the Lord of the army, the Person who will lead the Church of the last days against the hordes of darkness - is this: not by might, not by power, not by Naira, not by dollars, not by influence or affluence, not by mighty church buildings, not by government connections, or academic prowess, but by my Spirit says the Lord” (Zech. 4:6). And God is going to bring this about in these last days. It is very clear to me - I may be wrong - but it is very clear to me that the larger percentage of the born again children of God will not step into this level; they will

be content with being saved and they will not step forward to attain the real spiritual things. Therefore, they cannot overcome the world and they would be overcome themselves.

It is wise for us always to realise that there is always a price to pay and so, prepare our hearts to paying the price. It could mean a loss of friends; it could mean that in some cases you will find yourself out of tune with the denominations and with the organisations. However, I advise you not to walk out. I advise you to stay where you are; learn and minister to those who are there. There is no value in stepping out and isolating yourself from everybody else. That is not good and will not solve the situation at all. God does not want us to be independent; He does not want us to be isolated. He wants us to be part of a community of people and if our spirituality is of value, then it will tell and speak and reveal itself as we fellowship in that setting and there are some within the group who will be stirred in their hearts to seek for deeper levels in the things of God.

Those who are being stirred will eventually want to know. We are the light of the world and as our light grow and as we shine our light, so will people get to know. I am quite sure that what will happen would be that all over the world and especially in Nigeria, there will be companies, small

companies - house groups in many cases - who would be composed of people with like-spiritual interests, like-spiritual desires who have been born again, baptised in the Holy Ghost, delivered and are striving for the best, the highest, the most spiritual and the most heavenly and are prepared to put that principle first and foremost in their lives. That is what will happen and God will give them power; they will be able to stand up against the enemy and command him and instruct him on what to do and he must obey. It will be the same as when the Lord Jesus was on earth. He said on one occasion to his disciples:

I will no longer talk much with you, for the prince of this world is coming, and he has nothing in me - John 14:30

Try as he could, the enemy found no commodity of his in Jesus Christ; no wonder the Lord Jesus Christ was able to deal with him. He was completely heavenly; there was nothing of the enemy, nothing of the earth, nothing of the carnal in Christ. He was completely governed by the spiritual and therefore, he could by a single word command the powers that existed on the earth and they had to obey Him.

Be assured that the spiritual is the stronger; the heavenly holds greater substance; it is the more powerful and must

triumph in the end. Let us learn this great lesson. It is the lesson that the writer to the Hebrews seeks to establish in the twelfth chapter of Hebrews: we have come to Mount Zion. Notice that he further mentions seven other things to which we have come:

- To the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
- To an innumerable company of angels
- To the general assembly and the church of the firstborn, who are registered in heaven
- To God the Judge of all
- To the spirits of just men made perfect
- To Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant
- And to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel (Heb. 12:23-24).

Notice that every one of these is related to the heavenly. We have left the things of the earth; we have now moved into Heavenly realities, into the spiritual position. May God help you to understand this and to be prepared to pay the price to realise this.



Chapter Three

THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM

Now, I want to move on from Mount Zion to the heavenly Jerusalem - the city of the living God. Remember what we established earlier: the earthly city of Jerusalem, which is the glory of the Jewish nation, had been destroyed and not one stone remained upon another. It was a complete destruction; they could no longer have any pride in it. But instead of lamenting and grieving over the loss, the writer says, "Now you have come to the real thing - the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem", and that is more important. It is as though the taking away of the earthly and natural paved the way for the heavenly and the spiritual to become manifest.

Then he said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God". He takes away the first that he may establish

the second - Heb 10:9

I want to examine what this heavenly city is; I want to examine what its programme and its purpose in the mind of God is and I want to give you a few facts which you may not have realised in relation to God's plan for the future. Let me begin by saying this: a large number of people are of the impression that the story of the heavenly Jerusalem contained in Revelation 21 and 22 is more of a typology; it is rather an allegorical depiction and therefore, it is not real. I do not agree with this view; I think it is very real; I believe that God has got a city in Heaven and that city is as real as any city here on earth.

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them - Hebrews 11:16

The scripture here says a city has been prepared for them. It did not say a city will be prepared or He is going to prepare; "...he hath prepared a city for them". Abraham looked for a city. Abraham, in some strange way, knew that the things of the earth were transient; that they were passing away; that they could not be eternal; they were not to be relied upon; they could change overnight, and the situation was completely unreliable. Such are the things of the earth -

they are shakeable and moveable. They have no foundations. So Abraham says, *“I look for a city with foundations, whose builder and founder is God”* (Heb. 11:10).

I also want to remind you that a large number of Christians are content only to think of getting to Heaven. I am constantly referring to this because it shows how unspiritual and how far out of the programme of God we are. They are only concerned about getting to Heaven, to leave this evil world, get to Heaven and stay there, where everything will be at peace and everything will be alright - that is their objective. But that is not the final plan of God; to go to heaven and live in heaven as a heavenly subject - no. Please understand this.

Being born again, I belong to God's eternal family. Divine life dwells in me and in every person who is born again. We are heavenly citizens; we have within us a spiritual life, a divine life, a heavenly life. And we, therefore, belong to a new race of people; a new species of humanity. We do not belong to any tribe but to the Lord Jesus Christ, sharing His nature and exhibiting His power. We should therefore manifest His character and His nature - that should be our objective. Rather, a large number of people are content to really think of getting to heaven only and then sitting down and staying

in heaven in eternal rest. That is not what the Bible teaches.

The Bible teaches that the Lord has a plan for this earth and He is going to revolutionize this earth. He is going to destroy its systems; He is going to replace its systems with something that is spiritual and entirely righteous. The bible teaches that God eventually will destroy both the heavens and the earth and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. But before that happens, we are going to put up with this world for at least another one thousand years. God has not and will not surrender this earth over to satan. He, satan, has acquired a right over it - true; and he acquired that right by tempting Adam and Eve and gaining a control over them.

God's original plan was that man should govern the earth. He said in Gen. 1:26, "*Let them have dominion...*" and God does not change His plans. He means to make sure that man, His creation, will rule the earth in the name of the Lord God and establish righteousness, peace and prosperity on the earth; and that is what is meant by the Kingdom. Notice what the writer of Hebrews says:

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear - Hebrews 12:28

Our destination is an unmovable kingdom. The end is a kingdom, not the Church. The Church is only a vehicle to realise that end. The Church is God's channel of taking over the earth and establishing the Kingdom of heaven on earth

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven - Matt. 6:10

May I tell you that this will be fulfilled literally and the Lord Jesus Christ and His victorious company of people - I want to emphasise that, 'victorious company of people' as those who have been trained and have submitted themselves to understanding and recognising the value and importance of the spiritual and the heavenly; those who know how to administer spiritual authority; who know how to govern themselves, who know how to control the powers of darkness in this present age - they will be brought back with the Lord and they will be set in positions of authority over the earth and over the nations.

Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession - Psalms 2:8

The Father has given all the nations of the earth as an inheritance to the Lord Jesus Christ. And as a joint heir with the Lord, I also have been given the inheritance of the nations and God means to use us as the governors of the

nations. That is why we are not so very much worried about political parties and the way they are running things; we have got our own party - the divine party. We have got our own future and that future is real; we shall govern the earth.

If you look at the book of Ephesians, you will find six times over, reference is made to governmental power. So it is quite sure that when we talk about the city, the heavenly city, we must inevitably also think of political power. No city can be governed without power, without political power. There will be a special rank of authority in charge of the city, which will be governing the city. I speak only of the city of the future here and not of the cities of this present world. Before that future comes, we must deal with the government of the nations on earth.

Let us realise God's great programme because our conduct and attitude towards it will shape our lives in the present and will determine our placement in the world to come. We should realise that all the chastening, all the training and all the testing that we are presently going through are a Bible school training for our future role as possible governors and possible members of the government of the Kingdom of heaven on earth. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the King of kings and the Lord of lords and He is coming back again to

take over the government of this world, in the very near future. And He is not prepared to come back alone, He is coming back with a body of trained people; those who have undergone spiritual training and are able to exercise authority and rule the nations with the rod of iron.

And he who overcomes, and keeps my works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations - he shall rule them with a rod of iron; shall they be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels - as I also have received of my Father - Rev. 2:26,27

So, let us look and see what the heavenly Jerusalem means. It means that everything in that city will be governed on a heavenly, spiritual, divine principle. The sceptre of His kingdom is the sceptre of righteousness. Righteousness will govern the earth and that is what we have got to learn today. The challenge in the very near future - in Nigeria at least - will be that as our situation of austerity, as the situation politically get worse and it will, there will be a division amongst the people. The situation will become so difficult that men and women will more or less have to buy their jobs in government institutions; they will have to conform to a system and I can tell you that, that system is what the Bible calls Babylon.

Babylon is the system of evil; it is a system whereby you

retain your rights by doing that which you know is wrong: bribery, corruption, sin and immortality. You buy your rights and that will challenge every Christian. So I know very well that in the next two or three years, there is going to be a real challenge for the Christians in Nigeria - especially those who are in government institutions. They will try and force you to conform to their own principles; they will try and force you to take part and share with them in bribery and corruption. If you refuse, then they will tell you, "Either you do as we tell you or..." That 'or' simply means that you will be shown the way out - which means that many Christians who lack foresight and clear understandings of these coming realities would be found without a job.

Whilst the austerity programme increases, the difficulties will increase and the times will wax harder and more difficult. The hand of the enemy will be stronger on the unbelievers, yet I must quickly add that the Lord God has promised to supply all the needs of His people. There is no need whatsoever for a truly dedicated Christian to worry about his provision or his future in any way. That rests in the hands of God and God will look after it. Don't you worry about it.

But now is the time when you have got to make that decision. It is coming upon us; we see it in all the big

institutions: in the medical, in the educational, in the judiciary, in the transport - every sector of industry. You have got to be prepared to conform to the system if you want to retain your job and if you don't conform to the system, the probability is that they will get rid of you because they detest righteousness; they detest light and you are exposing them. So you will be pushed out. That is why we are advising so many of our own close friends and colleagues to prepare for it now. Many of those who are in the institutions at the present moment are preparing a second course - a second job, where they can turn to at once; the moment they are asked to quit, they will have something to turn to and God would bless that.

It is wise for those of you who are seeking academic opportunities in academic development to get whatever you can at the present moment while you can, because the time is coming when it will be barred from you, when you will not be allowed to have the facilities that you have been having in the past. Postgraduate studies will become a thing of the past unless you can conform to the system. So get all you can whilst you can, and then keep clean and be quite sure you do not sell your birthright and sell out to satan because he is a bad master.

It is worse to be caught in-between the two camps than it is

to belong to satan completely. At least, if you belong to satan completely, he will promise you a certain amount of enjoyment and pleasure sensually and materially in this world whilst you're alive - if you are not so concerned about the future. But if you are between the two - partly Christian and partly for the world - you are going to have an extremely miserable time. Your conscience will accuse you whenever you do wrong, until you are completely out of the faith and you will not be able to enjoy either side. So now is the time when God is forcing you into a corner and forcing you into a position of deciding what you are going to do.

Let us go back again into heavenly Jerusalem. I want to remind you of what the scripture says. It says in Hebrews 11:16 *"He has prepared a city for them"*. Again, it is not, 'He will prepare'; He has already prepared for them a city. It is there in heaven and God is waiting for the earth to complete its cup of iniquity before He comes back to cast out all evil, put down all opposition and bind satan. He will then take over and establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Because this present earth has been polluted with sin, God will clean it up - this time however by fire - and He will equally cleanse the second heaven where satan set up his headquarters after his eviction from Heaven; the Lord will cleanse it completely.

At the same time, God is preparing something that is very much better. For many years, I have been interested in the various promises that are made to the special group of the overcomer company inside the Church, mentioned in the second and third chapters of Revelation. We find one of such promises in Revelation 3:12 which says:

He who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God. And I will write on him my new name - Rev. 3:12

This is a promise to the company of overcomers within the Church; those who recognise the future and the plan and the programme of God and are prepared to dedicate themselves to it. Here, the Lord declares that He would write upon the overcomer company, the name of His God and the name of the city, the New Jerusalem which comes down out of heaven. That is a promise, a promise made to John whose gospel was completely spiritual and completely heavenly. Here, we find him in this revelation shown to him talking of something which combines cities and which combines judgment - for judgment is coming. Do not be deceived; God is going to judge this earth. And in the end,

God will establish a new order of creation on the earth - a new heaven and a new earth.

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal - Rev. 21:9-11

In reading the scripture above, I want to pause and notice one significant fact. The messenger, who was one of the angels from beginning of the book of Revelation, said to John, "Come! I will show you the bride" - and the bride is the city. I have for years, wondered whether there was any relationship between the Body, the Church and the bride. I am convinced that the Church is the great mass of believers, born again, and in some cases, baptised in the Holy Ghost. The body is those who have been baptized in the Holy Ghost and who are functionally relating to one another, growing and ministering to one another. There is a possibility that the Church is greater than the body but I'm quite convinced that inside the Church, there is a body - a special kind of

body represented in the Old Testament by the Levites, the 300 Gideon-company, and the Ark bearers who stood in deliverance and salvation for the nation. They are also, in the New Testament, the elect of Matthew 24 and the overcomers of Revelations 2 and 3.

In Revelation 21 however, we are told that the Spirit said, "This is the bride" and the bride is the city. I don't want to spend much time explaining that; it is so broad a subject that it is best left for another day. But the city is adorned; it is a beautiful place. That city, which is obviously very, very big - 12,000 stadia square (1,500miles square) - is perfectly governed, with hundreds of millions of people living in it. It has its own social system, its own economic system, and its own governmental structures - because the people go on their businesses. It is the perfect pattern of how God intended man to live on earth in peace, in joy, every man enjoying his own victory and in perfect harmony with each other; and they are all righteous, they are all servants of the most High God.

Just one little thought: God is progressive in His ways and arrangement. He started in the book of Genesis with a garden and He finishes in the book of Revelation with a city - the heavenly city; a new heaven and a new earth, with the old earth burned away and the new coming down to

replace it, but still a heaven and an earth. How progressive; what a wonderful difference between the garden where two people lived and managed it and the city, 1,500miles square; a wonderful place and a place of peace and joy where the Lord God Almighty reigns forever and ever.

Meanwhile, we have got to live on the earth. This is our training ground and I want to urge you, we have now come to Mount Zion; we have now come to our heavenly Jerusalem. Our eyes should be looking forward to that which is to come. We should not be worried about our jobs, about our future here, about our academic performance or attainments or about our possessions because they are all going to be destroyed anyway. Rather, we are to concentrate on that which is eternal, that which is immortal and that which is heavenly and spiritual. We are to focus more on that which God has put His name upon.

In concluding, I want to urge you to set your priorities right. We have now come to face the challenge of the future. God is not going to judge you by your church membership or by the amount of money you give or by the amount of prayers and fasting that you perform. He is going to judge you by your righteousness and His standards and by your attitude towards His programme - whether you realised that which has eternal value and made that your priority or not. You

have got to realise that and you have got to place your importance upon that.

May God help you to realise the importance of what I am sharing with you. The testing is coming upon you. The things that are now valuable and desperately sought for now by man will become valueless in a few years from now. That which is eternal will become valuable; that which is spiritual will be valuable. I will not barter away my years of experience in Nigeria, the joy and the wonderful pleasure I have as I see the move of God in Nigeria, as I see God carrying out His programme - I will not exchange that for all the gold in Nigeria, all the oil in Nigeria, all the wealth in Nigeria - it is nothing. That which is spiritual is eternal; that which is heavenly is eternal, and that which is divine will stand the test of time. God is asking you to put your faith and your life in His hands and to devote the rest of your life to Him. God bless you.

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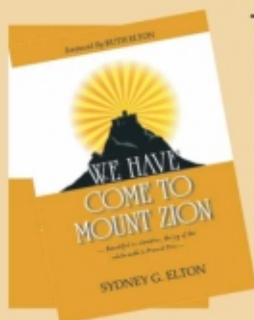
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THE BOOK



This book, "We have come to Mount Zion", taken from Hebrews 12:22, concerns the future. Though the church today is yet to come into that which is portrayed in this book, we are approaching it definitely and seriously. The important question every Christian is faced with is, what will be your position in mount Zion?

Presently, God is preparing men and women who will join those prepared down the ages to take their places in the coming Jerusalem and Mount Zion. Are you being prepared? Is your life on earth now only for this present world or are you going through spiritual processes that will prepare you for a position of authority and honour in the coming Kingdom? This is the central subject of this book.

"Nobody can truly write the history of either Pentecostalism or holistic gospel in Nigeria and leave Pastor S.G. Elton out of it" - E.A. Adeboye

Pa Elton, as he was affectionately called, left his native country, England, to come to Nigeria in March 1937, in response to a divine call to be missionary to Ilesha. Since that time right up to his home call 50 years later, Pa Elton was always at the centre of revival, playing one key role or the other. He was part of the ongoing revival at Ilesha (spearheaded by Apostle Joseph Babalola). In the 60's, he provided a platform for international evangelists like Gordon Lindsay, T.L. Osborne and others seeking to carry out evangelistic work in Nigeria. In the 70's, he became the father of the Pentecostal/charismatic movement that emerged in the nation's campuses; in the 80's up to his passage in Jan. 13, 1987, he concentrated on teaching prophetic truths about the Kingdom of God and the emergence of the end-time overcomer company.

Pa Elton's only child, Mama Ruth Elton following the footsteps of her parents, remains in Nigeria, as a missionary among the middle belt region of the nation.



Late Pastor S.G. Elton