**CHRIST COMPANION BIBLE CHURCH**

**Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Headquarters Date:16/07/2024***

 **DEMONSTRATING UNABATED LOVE FOR ZION (Part 4) Study 22**

**TEXT:** Ezra 1:1-11, Revelation 3:12

**MEMORY VERSES: Luke 24:49, Hebrews 12:22**

The Jews' love for Zion and the sense of patriotism for their father land is unalloyed and amazing! At the time of King Cyrus' proclamation for the Jews volunteers for the building of the Sanctuary, Jerusalem was in shambles, as against the prosperous Persia where the Jews dwelled. Many of the former captive Jews VAIONAL ere now enjoying citizenship's right. In fact, some of them at the time were stalwarts with rich political careers as seen with Nehemiah the royal cup bearer! Nehemiah 2: 1-6. Yet, with all readiness and enthusiasm, thousands of Zealot's Zionists, left pleasure behind like Moses in Pharaohs' palace, to be identified with Israel and built the temple and the broken wall of Jerusalem!

**PATRIOTIC SOLEMN PLEDGE TO ZION: "I WILL NOT FORGET THEE" PSALM 137:4-8.**

 As a follower of Christ, Jesus taught about the need of the branch to attach and abide inseparably to the vine.

*i. Without the root stock, the vine cannot exist.*

*ii. Roots are always hidden, unknown and unannounced to onlookers, yet the root determines almost everything about the vine!*

*iii. The labour of the root is showcased to the world in the beauties of the trunks, branches, flowers, buds, fruits and seeds.*

 Should the root be forgotten at all? No! This was the reason for the solemn pledges towards Zion by Israel. It is a note of recognition of the primer place and roles the root plays to the fruitful vine tree! Whoever and wherever you are today: rich or poor, successful, empowered and fruitful, having dominion as a child of God, always trace your beginning to the gospel of grace.

 ***I. Application To Christ As Your Lord.***

 *i. Recognize and honour Christ as your saviour, Lord and head who supplies to feed you as His body.*

*ii. Let His interest be first in all your thoughts, actions and deeds.*

*iii. Love Him back as He loved you.*

*iv. Serve Him with your gifts and talents.*

*v. Crown His joy by making sure you get to heaven to be with Him to behold His glory forever.*

***II. Application To CCBC As Your Church.***

*i. If your salvation is traceable to this Church, then it is your Zion! A place your affection should always be.*

*ii. Pledge your love for CCBC and remember the church as your root.*

*iii. Demonstrate your love practically by playing roles that grow, build, promote her interest, expand and help fulfill her God given missions.*

*iv. Give your ideas, effort and money etc. to accomplish her goals.*

*v. Be and give encouragement to all brethren by your love, evangelism, commitment and patriotic attitudes towards the Church.*

*v. Uphold and follow the truth in love till the day of Christ. 2 John 4.*

*vi. Mention more ways:*

***III. Application To Spiritual and Biological Parents.***

*i. Honour and support them.*

*ii. Walk worthy of Christ and in truth of the gospel. Stay loyal. 2 John 4*

*iii. Don't forsake them for whatever reason, be an encouragement to them.*

*vi. Reward their love and sacrifice for you over the years.*

*v. Pray for them and receive their blessings.*

Finally, your heavenly abode must be kept in view, let nothing distract you! Press for Zion above, where dwells righteousness, eternal home, with the company of angels, to be with Him and behold His glory forever! Hebrew 12:22-24, 27, 28. Amen

**HYMN: JERUSALEM ON HIGH (CHS 159)**

1. Jerusalem on high
my song and city is,
my home whene'er I die,
the center of my bliss;
2. *O happy place!
When shall I be,
my God, with thee,
to see thy face?*
3. There dwells my Lord, my King,
judged here unfit to live
there angels to him sing,
and lowly homage give
4. The patriarchs of old
there from their travels cease;
the prophets there behold
their longed-for Prince of Peace.
5. The Lamb's apostles there
I might with joy behold,
the harpers I might hear
harping on harps of gold
6. The bleeding martyrs, they
within those courts are found,
all clothed in pure array,
their scars with glory crowned.
7. Ah me Ah me! that I
in Kedar's tents here stay;
no place like that on high;
Lord, thither guide my way.