

# Psalms 87:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there.

## Analysis

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God speaks of Gentile nations: "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there" (Hebrew *azkir Rachav u-Vavel l-yod-ay hineh Peleshet v-Tzor im-Kush zeh yullad-sham*). "Rahab" symbolizes Egypt, "Babylon" Israel's oppressor—yet God claims them as birthplaces of His people. This astounding prophecy envisions Gentiles born into Zion, registered as citizens of God's city. Isaiah 19:23-25 similarly prophesies Egypt and Assyria worshiping with Israel. The New Testament fulfills this: Gentiles grafted into Israel (Romans 11), all believers citizens of heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-24).

## Historical Context

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Written by the sons of Korah, this psalm celebrates Jerusalem as God's chosen dwelling. Yet even Zion's exclusivity becomes inclusive—those born in pagan lands become citizens through God's sovereign grace. This anticipates the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) and the multiethnic worship of Revelation 7:9. The "register" recalls the book of life (Philippians 4:3, Revelation 20:12).

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this prophecy of Gentile inclusion demonstrate that God's plan always encompassed all nations?
2. What does it mean to be "born" in Zion, and how does spiritual birth supersede physical descent?
3. How should the global scope of God's redemption shape Christian mission and our view of cultural diversity in the church?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶזְכֹּר יֵרָא	בְּרַחֲבֵי	וּבְבָבֶל	לִי יָדָעַי	הֵנָּה	
I will make mention	of Rahab	and Babylon	to them that know	H2009	
H2142	H7294	H894	H3045		
פֶּלִשְׁתִּים	וְצֹר	עִם	כַּעֲשֵׂה	זֶה	יָלַד שָׁם:
me behold Philistia	and Tyre	H5973	with Ethiopia	H2088	this man was born H8033
H6429	H6865		H3568		H3205

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 45:12** (Parallel theme): And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.

**Psalms 68:31** (Parallel theme): Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.

**Psalms 89:10** (Parallel theme): Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm.

**Job 9:13** (Parallel theme): If God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him.