

## The Dew of Hermon

*“It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing...Life forevermore. (Psalm 133-134)*

A poetic figure is taken here. Hermon, the highest and most visible peak in the promised land is associated with its perpetual snowy peaks. They stand out in stark contrast to the hostile, sterile barrenness of its surroundings. It's snow, appearing like visible dew descending from heaven, touching first its highest pinnacle, then pouring down in rivulets over every crevice and ridge of the mountain. Like the holy anointing oil poured out on the high priest, this is a continual reminder of the outpoured Holy Spirit, baptizing and abiding upon God's people, the church of the Living God. First the descending dove, then the outpouring of water, prophesied the coming baptism. Mt. Hermon's peaks set before spiritual Israel a perpetual memorial of the fragrant, refreshing life, the grace and power of Heaven's Holy Anointing, descending and falling upon the humble mountains of Zion, God's elect people.

It is *here*, in the church of the living God that the blessing is commanded. Men, women, children, redeemed from the cursed earth with all its hate, strife, bitterness, ruin and death are covered, swallowed up in God's unifying love. No temporal, passing thing that fades away like the morning dew, this is the blessing of life, eternal life, now and forever more!

Small wonder then that the songs of ascents conclude with an exultant *“Behold! Bless the Lord, All you servants of the Lord Who by night stand in the house of the Lord, who by night stand in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord. The Lord who made heaven and earth. Bless you from Zion!”*

How far the pilgrim has now traveled from Meshech, those darkened tents of Kedar where, in his distress he first cried unto the Lord in Psalm 120! He then first lifted up his eyes to the hills, which testified of the Lord *“who made heaven and earth”* (Psalm 121:2). From that cursed beginning where all was deceit, war, and strife, he has ascended to a horizon filled with nothing but blessedness. In the darkest of night, when the least of heaven's glory is shining on the servants of the Lord, they may stand, lift up their hands in adoration and bless the Lord! The house of the Lord is the house of blessings. There blessings flow in every direction. The people bless one another. They bless the Lord. How can the creature bless the Creator? We can only stand, lift up our hands toward heaven, and with exultant voices praise the God Who lives and saves and keeps and blesses us forever and ever. And our benediction to all peoples is that the Eternal God, the Creator of all should bless them out of Zion, the church of the Living God.

*C. M.*