

D & C Lesson 36A

“THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, September 2001

1. **Isaiah prophesied of four periods:** [*Isaiah’s Four Periods of Prophetic Fulfillment*]

- A. Events before and during the fall of Israel to Assyria: 800–700 B.C.
- B. Events before and during the fall of Judah, the Babylonian Captivity and the Jewish return to Palestine, primarily 635–535 B.C.
- C. Events related to the ministry of Christ in the meridian of time
- D. Events during the last days, beginning with the restoration of the gospel about A.D. 1820

2. **“Blossom” scriptures** (all in period four, the “last days”)

- A. *Is. 27:6*: “He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.” [Context: *26:19-21*; *27:1-6*. “In that day”]
- B. *Is. 35:1-2*: “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and *the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.*” [Context: *34:1-17*; *35:1-10*]
- C. *D&C 49:24-25*: “But before the great day of the Lord shall come, Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness, and the Lamanites shall blossom as the rose. Zion shall flourish upon the hills and rejoice upon the mountains, and shall be assembled together unto the place which I have appointed.” [Context: *D&C 49:22-28*. See the heading to section 49.]
- D. *D&C 117:7*: “Therefore, will I not make solitary places to bud and blossom, and to bring forth in abundance? saith the Lord.”

3. **The drama of the first two years of pioneer survival in the west**

- A. Brief reports from *Our Heritage* and *Church History in the Fulness of Times*:
 - 1. Brigham Young’s early acts in the Salt Lake Valley and his return east [OH, pp. 81-82]
 - 2. Brigham Young’s expectations of settling the Great Basin [CHFT, p. 337]
 - 3. The pioneer companies of 1847 [CHFT, p. 337]
 - 4. Losing loved ones on the plains: Jedediah M. Grant [CHFT, pp. 337-38]
 - 5. The Municipal High Council and the Old Fort in Salt Lake City [CHFT, pp. 338-39]

(Map of the Old Fort, near Temple Square in Salt Lake City)

The Old Fort was erected in August 1847 and was located three blocks south and three blocks west of the temple block. Two additions to the fort were later added to accommodate expected arrivals. These were called the North Fort and the South Fort. [CHFT, p. 339]

6. Indians in the Great Basin and the Salt Lake Valley [CHFT, p. 338]
7. The first winter (1847-1848) and the first spring (1848) [CHFT, pp. 338-339]
8. Near starvation during the winter, spring and summer of 1848 [CHFT, p. 339]
9. Ten more companies in 1847; the very apparent danger of famine [OH, p. 82]
10. The crickets and the gulls, June of 1848 [OH, p. 82]
11. More on the crickets and the gulls [CHFT, pp. 339-340]
12. The harvest festival and the return of the First Presidency [CHFT, p. 340]
13. Brigham Young sends out early exploring parties, summer of 1848 [OH, pp. 83-84]
14. Early provisional government among the saints, 1848 [CHFT, pp. 340-341]
15. Plans for distributing farm lands, water rights, and public works [CHFT, pp. 341-342]
16. Gold dust from California [CHFT, p. 342]
17. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (2 Feb. 1848); the West becomes part of the Union [CHFT, p. 342]
18. The challenges of the second winter (1848-1849) [CHFT, pp. 342-343]
19. Rationing in the spring of 1849 [CHFT, p. 343]
20. The counsel of President Brigham Young to the struggling saints [CHFT, p. 343]
21. The California Gold Rush and its economic effects in 1849-1850 [CHFT, pp. 343-344]
22. Observations of a non-Mormon traveler headed for California, 1849 [OH, p. 83]

4. On 28 July 1847, four days after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, President Brigham Young identified the spot where the Salt Lake Temple was to be built

A. He struck his cane on the ground and said, "Right here will stand the temple of our God." [Wilford Woodruff, *Deseret Evening News*, 25 July 1888, p. 2]

B. "Within one week after President Young marked the spot for the temple, the Saints began surveying the new city, with the temple at the center of the survey. The layout of the city focused the people on the temple." [Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual, 1999, p. 209]

C. Before Johnston's Army came into Salt Lake City in 1857, the sandstone foundations of the temple were hidden by being covered with dirt so the area would look like an ordinary field. Later, when the dirt was removed, they noticed cracks in the rocks. They removed all the sandstone and replaced it with solid granite blocks. **Brigham Young** insisted that only the best materials and craftsmanship be used in the construction of the temple. He said,

I want to see the temple built in a manner that it will endure through the Millennium. *This is not the only temple we shall build; there will be hundreds of them built and dedicated to the Lord. . . . And when the Millennium is over, . . . I want that temple still to stand as a proud monument of the faith, perseverance and industry of the Saints of God in the mountains, in the nineteenth century.* [Discourses of Brigham Young, 1941, p. 395]

D. "It took years for the Saints to quarry, transport, and shape the granite blocks for the construction of the temple. During this time, they struggled just to survive, as they lost crops to the elements, served missions in faraway lands, and accepted calls to leave their homes and establish communities in remote areas. In spite of these many challenges, the Saints persevered, and with the

Lord's help they prevailed. The Salt Lake Temple was dedicated in 1893, 40 years after the cornerstones had been laid." [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*, 1999, pp. 209-10]

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5. The Saints were obedient as they carved their new homes out of the wilderness

A Doctrine and Covenants teachings on the blessings of obedience:

1. *D&C 58:2-4*: "He that is faithful in tribulation, . . . shall be crowned with much glory."
2. *D&C 64:33-34*: "The Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days."
3. *D&C 82:10*: I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise."
4. *D&C 130:20-21*: "There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—and when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated."

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