

D & C Lesson 46 “ZION—THE PURE IN HEART”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, December 2001

*“We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object. . . .
The time is soon coming, when no man will have any peace but in Zion and her stakes.”*
[Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 1976, pp. 160-161]

1. The word *Zion* has several meanings

- A. *D&C 97:21: The pure in heart.* [97:10-28]
- B. *D&C 82:14: The Church and its stakes.* [82:8-14]
- C. *Moses 7:19: The city of Enoch.* [Moses 7:17-32]
- D. *2 Sam. 5:6-7; 1 Ki. 8:1: The ancient city of Jerusalem.*
- E. *D&C 45:66-67; 57:1-2; Article of Faith 1:10: The New Jerusalem*, which will be built in Missouri. [D&C 45:64-71; 57:1-5]
- F. *Heb. 12:22-23: The dwelling place of those who are exalted.*
- G. “In the scriptures, Zion can mean the Lord’s people (the pure in heart), a specific place, or both. In this lesson, when we speak of building Zion in our day, we are referring to *purifying our hearts so that the places we live can be called Zion.*” [Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, 1999, p. 267]

2. Zion: the City of Enoch

- A. *Moses 7:12-19, 68-69:* The city of Enoch (A) existed 365 years, (B) was taken to heaven.
- B. *Moses 7:18:* “The Lord called his people ZION, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.”
- C. *Moses 7:62-64:* Near the time of the Millennium: The New Jerusalem will be built, and Enoch’s city will descend from heaven and be with them there; the Lord will dwell there.

3. A commandment for our dispensation concerning Zion

- A. *D&C 6:6; 11:6; 12:6; 14:6:* “Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, *keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.*”
- B. “One of the most frequently mentioned subjects in the Doctrine and Covenants is the establishing of Zion in the latter days. There are more than 200 references to Zion in these revelations. Some of these refer to a physical location, some to a condition of the heart, and some to building the Lord’s Church. . . . For the early Saints, establishing Zion not only meant becoming pure in heart and living in unity. It also meant building the city of Zion, or New Jerusalem. . . .” [Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, 1999, p. 267]

4. Zion must increase in beauty and holiness

- A. *D&C 82:13-14:* “I have consecrated the land of Kirtland in mine own due time for the benefit of the saints of the Most High, and for a stake to Zion. Zion must increase in beauty, and in holiness: her borders must be enlarged; her stakes must be strengthened; yea, verily I say unto you, Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments.”
- B. *President Harold B. Lee:* “The borders of Zion, where the righteous and pure in heart may dwell, must now begin to be enlarged. The stakes of Zion must be strengthened. All this so that Zion

may arise and shine by becoming increasingly diligent in carrying out the plan of salvation throughout the world.” [Ensign, July 1973, p. 3]

5. How can we strive to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion?

A. *D&C 97:21: Strive to be pure in heart.* “Let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion—The Pure in Heart.” [D&C 97:12-28: the “if” clauses] (See *Moroni 7:47-48, 10:32*)

B. *D&C 38:27: Become unified.* “I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine.” *Moses 7:18*: “The Lord called his people ZION, because they were of one heart and one mind, . . .” (See *D&C 105:4-5; 101:5-6*)

C. *D&C 64:34-35: Be obedient.* “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. And the rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land.” (See *D&C 105:1-10*)

D. *D&C 105:3: Care for the poor and afflicted.* “They have not learned to be obedient to the things which I required at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh saints, to the poor and afflicted among them.”

E. *D&C 97:12-13: Build temples and receive the blessings of the temple.* “This is the tithing and the sacrifice which I, the Lord, require at their hands, that there may be a house built unto me for the salvation of Zion—for a place of thanksgiving for all saints, and for a place of instruction for all those who are called to the work of the ministry in all their several callings.” (See *D&C 105:9-13*)

F. *D&C 105:9-10: Teach one another and learn our duties more perfectly.* “It is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion—that they themselves may be prepared, and that my people may be taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands.”

G. *D&C 133:8-13: Preach the gospel to the world and prepare for the Lord’s second coming.* “Let the cry go forth among all people: Awake and arise and go forth to meet the Bridegroom; behold and lo, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord. Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour. Let them, therefore, who are among the Gentiles flee unto Zion. And let them who be of Judah flee unto Jerusalem, unto the mountains of the Lord’s house.” (See *Is. 2:1-3; Mi. 4:1-2*)

6. The scriptures include glorious promises about the future of Zion

A. *D&C 97:18*: Zion will prosper, spread and become glorious and great.

B. *D&C 97:19*: Zion will be honored by the nations of the earth.

C. *D&C 97:20*: The Lord will be Zion’s salvation.

D. *D&C 97:21*: Zion will rejoice.

E. *D&C 97:22-25*: Zion will escape the Lord’s vengeance.

F: *Joseph Smith*: “The building up of Zion is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age; it is a theme upon which prophets, priests and kings have dwelt with peculiar delight; they have looked forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we live; and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipations they have sung and written and prophesied of this our day; . . . we are the favored people that God has [chosen] to bring about the Latter-day glory.”

[*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 231]

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