



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 12

The Gathering of My People

“And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy.” (D&C 45:71)

D&C 29:1–8; 33:3–7; 37; 38:24–41; 52:2–5, 42–43; 57:1–3; 110:11; Articles of Faith 1:10

A study of this lesson will help us understand how latter-day Israel was gathered in the early days of the Church, how it is being gathered today, and how we can participate in this gathering.

Joseph Smith: "All that the prophets have written, from the days of righteous Abel, down to the last man that has left any testimony on record for our consideration, in speaking of the salvation of Israel in the last days, goes directly to show that it consists in the work of the gathering." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p83)

"The spiritual gathering of Israel occurs as people learn the gospel, come unto Christ, are baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and keep their covenants. In this way they are gathered from the world into the Church, or the kingdom of God on earth." (Gospel Doctrine Teachers Manual)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "The purpose of the gathering of Israel is twofold: 1. To put the peoples of living Israel in that environment where they may the better work out their salvation, where they may have the Gentile and worldly views erased from them, and where they may be molded into that pattern of perfect righteousness which will please the Almighty; and 2. To enable the gathered remnants of the chosen lineage to build temples and perform the ordinances of salvation and exaltation for their Israelitish ancestors who lived when the gospel was not had on earth." (Mormon Doctrine, p306)

Joseph Smith: "God gathers together his people in the last days, to build unto the Lord a house to prepare them for the ordinances and endowments, washings and anointings, etc." (Teachings, 308)

Joseph Smith, "It was the design of the councils of heaven before the world was that the principles and laws of the priesthood should be predicated upon the gathering of the people in every age of the world." (Teachings, p308)

President Harold B. Lee: "If we would be united in love and fellowship and harmony, this Church would convert the world, who would see in us the shining example of these qualities which evidence that divine ownership." (Con-ference Report, Apr 1950)

President Spencer W. Kimball: "I come to realize more and more, as my experience broadens, the vast influence and power that a small minority may wield in this world, in politics, in religion, in social activities, everywhere you go. A small group, united in purpose, with

definite goals, may greatly influence the great majorities." (Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p178)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie : "The place of gathering for the Mexican Saints is in Mexico; the place of gathering for the Guatemalan Saints is in Guatemala; the place of gathering for the Brazilian Saints is in Brazil; and so it goes throughout the length and breadth of the whole earth. . . . every nation is the gathering place for its own people." (quoted in Church News, 03/06/93)

President Spencer W. Kimball: "There is good reason for members of the Church who are isolated from the stakes and their benefits that they may wish to consider moving to central places, where all the blessings of the Church are available. Sometimes, of course, that is not feasible, and so we remain in the outskirts and build up the Church wherever we are. . . . Migration to America is not necessary any longer." (quoted in Answer To Your Questions About the Doctrine and Covenants, p43-44)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "Presently, Israel is being gathered to the various stakes of Zion. . . . A stake has at least four purposes:

"1. [Stakes are] to unify and perfect the members who live in [their] boundaries by extending to them the Church programs, the ordinances, and gospel instruction.

"2. Members of stakes are to be models, or standards, of righteousness.

"3. Stakes are to be a defense. They do this as stake members unify under their local priesthood officers and consecrate themselves to do their duty and keep their covenants. . . .

"4. Stakes are a refuge from the storm to be poured out over the earth." (Ensign, Jan 1991, p2, 4-5)

President Harold B. Lee: "The Lord has placed the responsibility for directing the work of gathering in the hands of the leaders of the Church to whom he will reveal his will where and when such gatherings would take place in the future. It would be well—before the frightening events concerning the fulfillment of all God's promises and predictions are upon us, that the Saints in every land prepare themselves and look forward to the instruction that shall come to them from the First Presidency of this Church as to where they shall be gathered and not be disturbed in their feelings until such instruction is given to them as it is revealed by the Lord to the proper authority." (CR, Apr 1948)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

Our Heritage, pages 23–25, 41, 58;
Bible Dictionary, "Joseph Smith Translation," page 717