



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 46

Zion—The Pure in Heart

"Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion." (D&C 6:6)

D&C 57:1–3; 64:33–43; 82:14–15; 97:8–28;
105:1–12; Moses 7:12–19, 61–63, 68–69; Articles
of Faith 1:10

A study of this lesson will help us understand what the scriptures teach about Zion and to inspire us in our efforts to establish Zion.

Joseph Smith: "We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object." (History of the Church, 3:390)

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." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p231)

Joseph Smith: "The time is soon coming, when no man will have any peace but in Zion and her stakes." (History of the Church, 3:391)

Elder Alexander B. Morrison: "The dream of a better world is as old as mankind. From time immemorial, men and women of faith and hope have dreamed of a Holy City, whose king is the Lord God Omnipotent; a place of refuge for the righteous fleeing the storms of a wicked world; an abode where peace is in every heart, where there is no fear nor want and all people are brothers and sisters, where faith and purity shine in every face. That place, in Judeo-Christian parlance, is called Zion." (Visions of Zion, p1)

Brigham Young: "If we go to the Scriptures we shall find that the Zion of God is composed of the pure in heart. Brethren and sisters, have you Zion within you? If Jesus Christ is not in you, the apostle says, 'then are ye reprobates.' [2 Cor. 13:5.] Be careful that no man takes advantage of you, leads you astray, and causes you to leave the Church and Kingdom of God, apostatize, and go down to hell. If you have Jesus and the Kingdom of God within you, then the Zion of God is here." (Journal of Discourses, 12:60)

Elder Alexander B. Morrison: "In its complete sense, then, Zion remains for us the golden, flawless ideal, the dream of what we may become if we are worthy, the goal toward which we must labor, the paradise which though now lost may yet be regained. The dream of establishing Zion thus is a dream of perfection that deals with the conquest of the heart rather than with constructing buildings or paving streets with gold. It calls us to subdue and purify our passions, to overcome the carnality of the natural man; and to become 'as a

child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon [us], even as a child doth submit to his father'." (Visions of Zion, p16-17)

Elder James E. Talmage: "But gathered Israel cannot be confined to the 'center place,' nor to the region immediately adjacent; other places have been and will be appointed, and these are called Stakes of Zion. Many stakes have been established in the regions inhabited by the Latter-day Saints, to be permanent possessions; and thence will go those who are appointed from among the worthy to receive possessions of their inheritances." (Articles of Faith, p319)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "The New Jerusalem to be built in Jackson County, Missouri, is also called the City of Zion or Zion. Dozens of revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants speak about this Zion. Isaiah and other of the ancient prophets have much to say both about it and about the Jerusalem of old which shall be restored in grandeur and beauty in the last days. These two great cities, dual world capitals, are needed to fulfil the great millennial promise: 'Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.' (Isa. 23)." (Mormon Doctrine, p855)

Brigham Young: "And what is Zion? In one sense Zion is the pure in heart. But is there a land that ever will be called Zion? Yes, brethren. What land is it? It is the land that the Lord gave to Jacob, who bequeathed it to his son Joseph, and his posterity, and they inhabit it, and that land is North and South America. That is Zion as to land, as to territory, and location. The children of Zion have not yet much in their possession, but their territory is North and South America to begin with." (Journal of Discourses, 2:253)

Brigham Young: "As to the spirit of Zion, it is in the hearts of the Saints, of those who love and serve the Lord with all their might, mind, and strength." (Journal of Discourses, 2:253)

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "I see a wonderful future in a very uncertain world. If we will cling to our values, if we will build on our inheritance, if we will walk in obedience before the Lord, if we will simply live the gospel, we will be blessed in a magnificent and wonderful way. We will be looked upon as a peculiar people who have found the key to a peculiar happiness.

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord ... : for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem' (Isaiah 2:3).

"Great has been our past, wonderful is our present, glorious can be our future." (Conference Report, Oct 1997)