



# DOCTRINE & COVENANTS

## & CHURCH HISTORY GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

\* GREEN MOUNTAIN 1<sup>ST</sup> WARD \* LAKEWOOD, COLORADO \* 20 DECEMBER 2009 \* PAGE 1 \*

### Lesson 46: "Zion—The Pure in Heart" (D&C 57:1–3; 64:33–43; 97:8–28; 105:1–12; Moses 7:12–19, 61–63, 68–69; Articles of Faith 1:10; Our Heritage, pp. 37–38, 145–46)

#### Introduction

If you were asked to list five important things you would like to accomplish in life, what would they be? Consider the following statement by the **Prophet Joseph Smith**: "*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, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 160–61).

On your list of important goals, how many of the items could help build up Zion? How might you modify your list to respond to the admonition of the Prophet Joseph Smith?

The revelations recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants contain many instructions about building up Zion. This lesson discusses what Zion is and what is required of us to help establish it.



#### The word *Zion* has several meanings.

The word *Zion* has various meanings in the scriptures. See the following passages:

- **D&C 97:21** – Zion refers to the pure in heart
- **D&C 82:14** – Zion refers to the Church and its stakes
- **Moses 7:19** – Zion refers to the city of Enoch
- **2 Samuel 5:6–7; 1 Kings 8:1** – Zion refers to the ancient city of Jerusalem
- **D&C 45:66–67; 57:1–2; Articles of Faith 1:10** – Here Zion means the New Jerusalem to be built in Missouri in North America
- **Hebrews 12:22–23** – Zion refers to the dwelling place of the exalted

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.

**Next Week**  
The Pearl of Great Price: The Fairest Gem, (Pearl of Great Price Introductory Note; Review the Books of Moses & Abraham).

#### Lesson Highlights

- The word *Zion* has several meanings.
- Zion has existed in previous dispensations.
- The Saints of our dispensation have been commanded to establish Zion.
- The scriptures include glorious promises about the future of Zion.

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



## Zion has existed in previous dispensations.

**Moses 7:12–19, 68–69.** There have been a few times in previous dispensations when Zion has existed among God's people. The city of Enoch is one example of a people who established Zion.

Characteristics of Enoch's City of Holiness:

- The Lord dwelt with his people (v.16)
- The people dwelt in righteousness (v.16)
- The glory of the Lord was upon his people and they did flourish (v.17)
- The people were of "one heart and one mind" (v.18)

## The Saints of our dispensation have been commanded to establish Zion.

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. Even before the Church was formally organized, the Lord directed a number of brethren to "seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion" (D&C 6:6; 11:6; 12:6; 14:6).

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. In July 1831, the Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith that the city of Zion should be built in Missouri, with Independence as the center place (D&C 57:1–3). After this revelation, many Saints gathered to Missouri. They prospered for a time, but contentions and divisions soon arose among them. There were also tensions with other settlers in the area. In November 1833, mobs drove the Saints from their homes. A few months later, in July 1834, the Lord revealed that the Saints would have to "wait a little season for the redemption of Zion" (D&C 105:9). (See lessons 12 and 27 for more information about establishing the city of Zion in Missouri.)

The Saints were unable to build the city of Zion:

- **D&C 101:6–8** indicates that the Saints in Missouri were contentious, envious, lustful, covetous, and that they polluted their inheritance. They were slow to hear the Lord and ignored him in peaceful times.
- **D&C 105:1–12** tells us that the Saints who failed to establish Zion were disobedient, full of all manner of evil, stingy and uncharitable, and divided.

Although the building of the city of Zion was postponed, latter-day prophets have exhorted

- There were no poor among them (v.18)
- Enoch and all his people walked with God (v.69)
- The city was taken into God's bosom (v.69)

**Moses 7:61–63** teaches that in the Millennium, Enoch's city will return to earth and become one with the New Jerusalem.

By becoming familiar with the account of the city of Enoch, we can see what will happen to its people and we can become aware of what we must do to become a Zion people and establish holiness within our cities. The city of Enoch is both an inspiration and a challenge to us.

us to continue our efforts to establish Zion in our hearts, stakes, and homes.

**President Harold B. Lee** said: "*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*" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1973, 5; or *Ensign*, July 1973, 3).

**D&C 82:14–15** records the Lord's commands to Zion to "arise and put on her beautiful garments." Saints were required to covenant with the Lord to increase in holiness.

Specifics of what has to be done to build Zion include:

- **D&C 97:21.** Strive to be pure in heart. See Moroni 7:47–48; 10:32 for instructions which include: Develop charity, pray fervently and be filled with the love of God, be a true follower of Christ, become a son (or daughter) of God, be pure like our Savior, come unto Christ and be perfected, deny all ungodliness, love God with all your might, mind, and strength, and do not deny the power of God.
- **D&C 38:27.** Become unified—be of "one heart and one mind"—because if we are not unified, we are not God's people.
- **D&C 64:34–35; 105:3, 5–6.** We must be obedient to gospel principles.
- **D&C 105:3.** We must care for the poor and the afflicted.
- **D&C 97:10–16.** Build temples and participate in the ordinances thereof.
- **D&C 105:10.** We must teach one another and learn our duties more perfectly.
- **D&C 133:8–9.** We must preach the gospel to the world and call people out of Babylon (the world).

**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.*" (JD, 2:253)



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

In the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord speaks of many blessings that will come to Zion in the last days.

In the D&C, we find the Lord's promises of many blessings associated with Zion in the latter days.

- **D&C 97:18.** Zion will spread and become glorious and great.
- **D&C 97:19.** Zion will be honored by the nations of the earth.
- **D&C 97:20.** The Lord will be Zion's salvation.
- **D&C 97:21.** Zion will rejoice.
- **D&C 97:22-25.** Zion will escape the Lord's vengeance.

### Conclusion

#### 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" (Ensign, Nov. 1997, 69).*

We are encouraged to establish Zion within our hearts, our families, and our stakes.

According to **D&C 97:25**, to enjoy these blessings, we must observe all the Lord's commandments.

The **Prophet Joseph Smith** taught: *"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*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 231).

#### Joseph Smith:

*"How pleasing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Let the Saints of the Most High ever cultivate this principle, and the most glorious blessings must result, not only to them individually, but to the whole Church."* (HC, 4:227)

#### Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- What can you do to "seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion"?

