



# DOCTRINE & COVENANTS

## & CHURCH HISTORY GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

\* GREEN MOUNTAIN 1<sup>ST</sup> WARD \* LAKEWOOD, COLORADO \* 26 JULY 2009 \* PAGE 1 \*

### Lesson 27: “They Must Needs Be Chastened and Tried, Even as Abraham”, Doctrine and Covenants 101; 103; 105; *Our Heritage*, pages 27–29, 37–45.

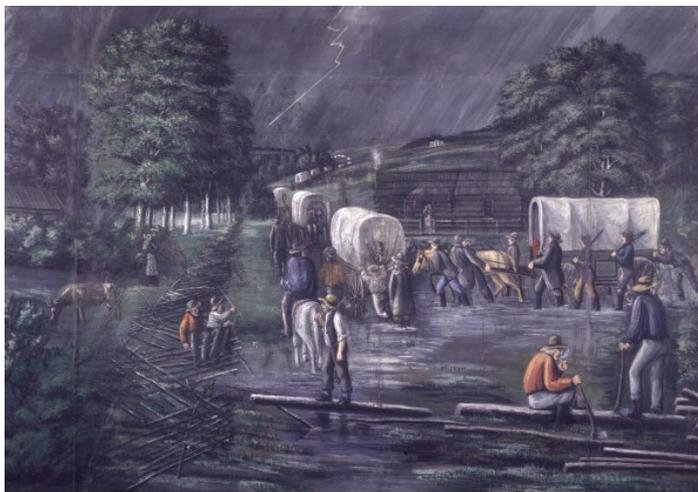
#### Introduction

**How would you feel if you were asked to leave your family and walk 1,000 miles in grueling conditions to help Church members who were in a hostile area?**

Consider the sacrifices would this require of you. How would you feel if you arrived at the destination and were told to return home without doing anything to help?

When the Saints in Jackson County, Missouri, were driven out of their homes, Joseph Smith organized Zion’s Camp, a group of 207 men, to march

nearly 1,000 miles from Ohio to help them. The preceding questions can help us understand some of the challenges faced by the participants in Zion’s Camp.



Zion's Camp by C.C.A. Christensen

#### The Saints settle in Jackson County, Missouri, and are later driven out.

From 1831 to 1838, the Church had two centers of population—one in Kirtland, Ohio, and the other in western Missouri. Important events were happening in both places. Lessons 27 and 28 focus on doctrines and events associated with the Church in Missouri.

In July 1831, Joseph Smith made his first journey to Missouri. There he received a revelation designating Missouri as the place for the city of Zion, with Independence as the center place (D&C 57:1–3). On 2 August, Sidney Rigdon dedicated the land for the gathering of the Saints. The next day the Prophet Joseph Smith dedicated the temple site in Independence.

Members from the Colesville Branch in New York were the first Saints to settle Missouri, and others soon gathered there, eager to help build the city of Zion (D&C 63:24, 36). By 1832 there were more than 800 Saints gathered into five branches in Independence and the surrounding areas of Jackson County.

The Saints in Jackson County enjoyed a time of peace and optimism. However, problems arose in late 1832. Some members would not accept the authority of their local Church leaders. Others criticized the Prophet Joseph, who had returned to Kirtland. Some members were contentious, covetous, selfish, and unbelieving.

In addition, tensions with other settlers in the area were increasing. On 20 July 1833, these tensions escalated into violence. (See the sections “Persecution in Jackson County” and “Tarring and Feathering of Bishop Partridge” from *Our Heritage*, pages 39–40 and 41–42.)

**Next Week**  
#28 “O God, Where Art Thou?” (D&C 121:1–33; 122; *Our Heritage*, pp. 45–53)

#### Lesson Highlights

- The Saints settle in Jackson County, Missouri, and are later driven out.
- The Lord instructs the Saints who were driven from Jackson County.
- Zion’s Camp is organized and marches to Missouri.
- The Lord reveals that His people must “*wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion.*”

**A study of this lesson will help us learn about the early Saints’ efforts to establish the city of Zion in Missouri and to encourage class members to help build Zion today.**

Between July and November 1833, persecutions against the Saints intensified. Mobs burned their crops, destroyed their homes, whipped and beat the men, and terrorized the women and children.

### The Lord instructs the Saints who were driven from Jackson County.

As word of the troubles in Missouri reached Joseph Smith in Kirtland, he was deeply distressed. He prayed concerning the redemption of Zion and received the revelation that is now **D&C 101**.

The Lord gave the following reasons for allowing afflictions to be visited upon the Saints:

- a. **D&C 101:2, 6**; see also **D&C 103:4**. (Because of their transgressions.)
- b. **D&C 101:4**. (Because they needed to be “chastened and tried, even as Abraham.”) Consider for what purposes the Lord chastens His people. (See D&C 95:1; 105:6; Helaman 12:3; Hebrews 12:11.)
- c. **D&C 101:7–8**. (Because some of the Saints had been slow to hearken unto the Lord.)

### Zion’s Camp is organized and marches to Missouri.

After the Saints were driven from Jackson County, they petitioned Governor Daniel Dunklin of Missouri for assistance in restoring their homes and for protection. The governor expressed a willingness to help if the Saints would organize a group of men for their own protection.

In February 1834, Joseph Smith received word of this offer in Kirtland, Ohio. He responded by organizing a group of men to march nearly 1,000 miles to carry relief to the Saints in Missouri, help them return to their lands, and protect them afterward. The revelation giving directions for this expedition, which came to be known as Zion’s Camp, is recorded in **D&C 103**.

As directed by the Lord in D&C 103, Joseph Smith organized Zion’s Camp to help the Saints in Jackson County regain their homes and lands. After the camp had traveled nearly 1,000 miles to Fishing River, near Jackson County, the Lord revealed that the Saints would have to wait for the redemption of Zion. Soon afterward, the Prophet disbanded the camp.

When Brigham Young returned to Kirtland after Zion’s Camp, he was asked, “[What have you gained by this journey?](#)” He replied, “[Just](#)

On 4 November, near the Big Blue River, members of the mob began a battle against a small group of Latter-day Saint men and boys (*Our Heritage*, pages 42–43). During the next two days more than 1,000 Saints were driven from Jackson County in the bitter cold. Destitute, most of them crossed the Missouri River and found temporary refuge in Clay County. (See the section “Refuge in Clay County” from *Our Heritage*, pages 43–44.)

The Lord showed compassion for the Saints after chastening them:

- a. **D&C 101:9**. (He promised that he would not cast them off and would be merciful “*in the day of wrath.*”)
- b. **D&C 101:10**. (He promised that His indignation would fall upon their enemies.)
- c. **D&C 101:11–15**. (He promised to save, gather, and comfort His Saints.)

*what we went for; ... I would not exchange the knowledge I have received this season for the whole of [this] County”* (in *Journal of Discourses*, 2:10).

Zion’s Camp accomplished important purposes:

- a. The participants were strengthened by several miraculous manifestations of the Lord’s power (see *Our Heritage*, pages 44–45, for one example).
- b. It provided an opportunity to try the faith of the participants, allowing them to prove that they would obey the Lord and sacrifice all things, even their lives if necessary, to do His will.
- c. It served as a proving ground to determine who was faithful to serve in positions of Church leadership.
- d. It gave participants an opportunity to associate closely with the Prophet and learn from him, preparing them for future leadership responsibilities.

While some people thought Zion’s Camp was a failure, the accomplishment of these purposes was of great importance to the Church. Zion’s Camp is an example of how God’s purposes can be accomplished in ways that we may not understand at the time.

Regarding the Zion’s Camp expedition, some were fearful of what lay ahead. **Heber C. Kimball** said, “I took leave of my wife and children and friends, not knowing whether I would see them again in the flesh.”

(In Orson F. Whitney, *Life of Heber C. Kimball*, 3d ed. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1967), p. 40.)



In February 1835, five months after the camp was disbanded, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the First Quorum of the Seventy were organized. Nine of the Twelve Apostles and all 70 members of the Quorum of the Seventy had served in Zion's Camp.

Speaking of how the camp helped prepare these leaders, **Joseph Smith** said:

*"Brethren, some of you are angry with me, because you did not fight in Missouri; but let me tell you, God did not want you to fight. He could not organize His kingdom with twelve men to open the Gospel door to the nations of the earth, and with seventy men under their direction to follow in their tracks, unless He took them from a body of men who had offered their lives, and who had made as great a sacrifice as did Abraham"* (*History of the Church*, 2:182).

The experience of George A. Smith demonstrates how Zion's Camp prepared men for future leadership in the Church. At age 16, he was the youngest man in the camp, inexperienced and lacking confidence. Despite personal discomfort and the complaints of many men about the poor conditions, George willingly followed all of Joseph Smith's instructions. George

### **The Lord reveals that His people must "wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion."**

The Lord had promised to redeem Zion and restore His people to their lands in Jackson County, Missouri. However, this promise was conditioned on the Saints' obedience (D&C 103:5-8, 11-14). Just as ancient Israel was not able to enter the promised land for 40 years because of their disobedience, the Lord revealed that modern Israel would have to "wait for a little season" for the redemption of Zion because of the disobedience and dissension of some Saints (D&C 105:9, 13).

Some of the requirements the Lord gave for the eventual establishment of Zion include:

- a. The Saints must learn obedience (**D&C 105:3, 6**; see also verse **D&C 105:37**).
- b. They must care for the poor and needy (**D&C 105:3**).

### **Conclusion**

The Lord has promised that Zion will be redeemed, and He has told us what we must do to prepare for that day. We should seek with all our hearts to help build Zion today in our families and stakes. Follow the example of the Saints in Kirtland who made great sacrifices for the Lord's work and remained faithful during times of adversity.

slept in the Prophet's tent and was able to hear much of his counsel and instructions. By closely associating with the Prophet, George learned leadership skills and developed strength that prepared him for a lifetime of leadership. Less than five years after Zion's Camp, George A. Smith was ordained an Apostle. He later served with Brigham Young as a member of the First Presidency.

We can use the Zion's Camp experience to learn some valuable lessons:

- a. An understanding of the purposes of trials. (See **D&C 103:12**.)
- b. The importance of obedience. (See **D&C 103:7-10, 36**.)
- c. The need to be willing to sacrifice all things for the Lord. (See **D&C 103:27-28**.)
- d. The importance of being unified in the Lord's work. When even a few people murmur and rebel, the entire group is weakened.
- e. The importance of sustaining the prophet and following his counsel even when it is difficult or when we do not fully understand the reasons for it.

- c. They must be "united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom" (**D&C 105:4**; see also verse **D&C 105:5**).
- d. They must be taught more perfectly, gain more experience, and know their duties more perfectly (**D&C 105:10**).
- e. They must be endowed with power from on high (**D&C 105:11-12**; see also verse **D&C 105:33**).

In **D&C 105:38-40**, the Lord counseled the Saints to seek peace, even with those who had persecuted them. He promised that in return, "all things shall work together for your good" (D&C 105:40).

### **Gospel Doctrine Notebook**

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- How has knowledge of the Lord's eternal promises helped you in times of trial?
- What purposes have you derived from trials in your life?
- How have you been blessed as you have applied the counsel to seek peace?

