

“Honored in Laying the Foundation”
(D&C 58:6, 7)

Doctrines for the Establishment of Zion: (1831-1839)

D&C 6:6; 11:6; 12:6; 14:6
Moses 7:18-19
4 Nephi 2, 3, 15, 16

D&C 97:21
D&C 115:5, 6
D&C 101:17, 18

President Joseph Smith: “We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object” (History of the Church 3:389).

President 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; . . . it is left for us to see, participate in and help to roll forward the Latter-day glory, ‘the dispensation of the fullness of times, when God will gather together all things that are in heaven, and all things that are upon the earth,’ ‘even in one.’ . . . The heavenly Priesthood will unite with the earthly, to bring about those great purposes; and whilst we are thus united in one common cause, to roll forth the kingdom of God, the heavenly Priesthood are not idle spectators, the Spirit of God will be showered down from above, and it will dwell in our midst. The blessings of the Most High will rest upon our tabernacles, and our name will be handed down to future ages; our children will rise up and call us blessed; and generations yet unborn will dwell with peculiar delight upon the scenes that we have passed through, the privations that we have endured; the untiring zeal that we have manifested; the all but insurmountable difficulties that we have overcome in laying the foundation of a work that brought about the glory and blessing which they will realize; a work that God and angels have contemplated with delight for generations past; that fired the souls of the ancient patriarchs and prophets; a work that is destined to bring about the destruction of the powers of darkness, the renovation of the earth, the glory of God, and the salvation of the human family” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 231-232).

Key Revelations to Interpreting the History of the Church Regarding Early Attempts to Establish Zion:

Laws for Zion

D&C 38:2, 4, 35, 39, 41, 42
D&C 42
D&C 45:65-71

“Centerplace” of Zion

D&C 57:2, 3
D&C 58: 3, 4, 6-8. 13
D&C 59:3-5

Why Zion not Redeemed

D&C 101:2-7
D&C 103:3, 4
D&C 105:2-6, 9-11, 13, 34

What Seven Conditions Did the Lord Specify for Establishing Zion:

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| 1. D&C 101:17, 18 | 5. D&C 105:11 |
| 2. D&C 103: 11, 12 | 6. D&C 105:13 |
| 3. D&C 103:15 | 7. D&C 105:34 |
| 4. D&C 105:10 | |

What Alternative Did the Lord Provide in the Event that Zion Failed in its Initial Attempt?
(See D&C 105:9, 10; 101:20, 21)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: “A little season—how long will it last? Will it be two hundred years? Or three hundred? Though the day of the Second Coming is fixed, the day for the redemption of Zion depends on us. After we as a people live the law of the celestial kingdom; after we gain the needed experience and learn our duties; after we become by faith and obedience as were our fellow saints in the days of Enoch; after we are worthy to be translated, if the purposes of the Lord should call for such a course in this day—then Zion will be redeemed, and not before” (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, Deseret Book Co. , 1985, 616).

President Stephen L Richards: President Richards entitled his address, “Aping the Ways of the World.” He then enumerated “some of the attacks which the subtle and insidious foes” will make upon Zion.

First, the emancipation of women from the home; second, the arbitrary curtailment of the size of families; third, an attack on the standard of personal moral purity; fourth, a criticism of the unity of the members of the Church; fifth, an indifference and neglect among members so that they step out of Zion into the world until finally they adopt the worldly standard to the detriment of their own posterity; and last, a direct attack on Zion’s theology—particularly by those who disparage orthodoxy and pride themselves on liberal thinking, and who disparage the noble work of the Prophet Joseph Smith (See *Conference Report*, October 1951, 109-118).

Elder Marion G. Romney: “The very building of Zion and the escape of the Saints from the tribulations yet to be poured out upon the nations turn upon a full compliance with the ‘royal law.’ We can with profit let our minds dwell upon these things; for Zion, ‘the New Jerusalem,’ is yet to be built, and it is to be a ‘land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God. . . .

When shall we build it? you ask. Well, according to scriptures, not until we can fully and ungrudgingly yield obedience to the ‘royal law.’ For the Lord has made it plain that Zion cannot be built up until the Saints become united according to the ‘union required by the laws of the celestial kingdom,’ which laws, he explains, require us to impart of our substance, ‘as becometh saints, to the poor and afflicted’ among us” (*Conference Report*, October 1954, 68, 69).

Elder Marion G. Romney: “Let us not forget that the Lord has given us the assurance that the survivors of the our present generation will enjoy a like society [to the Nephite Zion]” (Relief Society Magazine, February 1954, 169).