

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;" — 1 Nephi 3:187*

Volume 67

Independence, Missouri — November 1990

Number 11

BEAUTIFUL ZION

Beautiful Zion, built above,
Beautiful city that I love,
Beautiful gates of pearly white
Beautiful temple ---- God its light;
He who was slain on Calvary,
Will ope' those pearly gates to me.

Beautiful throne of Christ our King,
Beautiful songs the angels sing,
Beautiful rest, all wanderings cease,
Beautiful home in perfect peace;
There shall my eyes the Saviour see,
Happy with him forever be.

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SPECIAL ISSUE

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To promote Jesus Christ as Saviour, and His teachings;
To promote His Church, the Church of Christ;
To be a voice of warning to His people;
To be Zion's advocate.

Please remember the editorial staff in your prayers.

Concerning Ourselves With Zion

As We Approach the End Times

During the past one and one half years, the Committee to Study Zion has been involved in seeking the definition of Zion and the many facets of its eventual successful implementation. As part of this study, the November issue of *Zion's Advocate* has been dedicated to expressing some of these thoughts and ideas.

The logical first step in this study is to define what Zion is. Zion might be a familiar term and concept to some while to others it is but a vague notion. Hopefully, as this study progresses, more and more people both inside and outside the Church will become fluent in the concepts of Zion.

In the scriptures, Zion generally refers to a place in which resides the seat of the Lord's government on earth. Some immediate needs come to mind as this idea is pondered. Obviously, upon the Lord's second coming, a physical location will need to have been established as a base from which the laws and commandments can come forth. This physical location might also probably act as a place of solace and protection for the true believers of the Lord's commandments. We can look to Psalm 132:13 for support of this premise: "For the Lord hath chosen Zion: He hath desired it for habitation."

What a joyous thought - having the Lord in our very midst - an ever present example of how to guide our lives! The wonder of being able to commune with the Lord on a direct basis makes a person all the more susceptible to the conclusion that the time is right to begin examining our inner beings and to inventory our outward actions. Does anyone reading this article truly believe that he or she is spiritually ready to participate in this type of community? Hopefully so.

If you are one of many who probably isn't ready to fully commit themselves to living a life totally centered around Christian principles, the time is fast approaching in which we must prepare ourselves for what has been prophesied.

Another scripture which helps define Zion follows (Isaiah 52:1): "Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean."

Throughout the scriptures, ample evidence exists of a preparation time being given prior to times of crisis or hardship. This preparation time has also been given to those who desire to help fulfill his commandments. Noah, was given time to prepare for what was to befall the Earth at the time of the great flood. Jesus, himself was given time to grow from childhood to maturity as a time for gaining knowledge to help prepare for his wondrous priesthood, which still shapes our lives to this very day. We can take a cue from these prominent examples and begin preparing for our quest of helping fulfill the commandments regarding the establishment of Zion.

Another scriptural example to illustrate what Zion is, might possibly be:

And I will gather my people together, as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor, for I will make my people with whom the father hath covenanted, yea, I will make thy horn iron and I will make thy hooves brass. And behold, a people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfill-

ing of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you. — III Nephi 9:54, 58-59

One cannot escape the conclusion that the redemption of Zion will be a reality. As a people who have a distinct advantage in receiving the full re-

Editorial ...

by Teacher Robert DeWaele

Chairman,
Committee to Study Zion

stored gospel, an exacting requirement is presented for us to take advantage of this knowledge which has been given, and to act upon these commandments. Part of these actions will not only be to consider the logistics of physically securing a place for the Lord to come, but for us as individuals to develop an intense desire to better ourselves spiritually for the momentous event of Christ's second coming, and the millennial reign to follow. Zion will only be for the pure in heart. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us all to become more spiritually and less worldly oriented.

Physical preparation will also play an important part in the bringing forth of Zion. This can begin by identifying what one's physical needs are. All efforts toward becoming self-sufficient is only prudent. As world events force the believer to make a choice between participating in worldly pursuits and to think worldly thoughts, or to stay true to that which we have been commanded, a place of refuge surely will be needed.

Scanning the daily newspaper only reinforces the thought that the last days spoken of prophetically are fast approaching. The incredible instability surrounding us provides a strong impetus to gather together both in spirit and in body and to help establish Zion, a place for both the seat of the Lord's government and as a place of refuge.

Sometimes, the thought is voiced that there is no need to work or be concerned about the future. Some feel that it is enough to only believe and not to put their beliefs into actions.

This dual dimensional view of what is required will fall short in the successful development of Zion. II Nephi 12:30 underscores the need for individual effort: "Therefore wo be unto him who is at ease in Zion".

Consequently, we will need to search the scriptures for a better understanding of what is expected of us as individuals. Nothing throughout the scriptures has been asked of people which could not be accomplished.

The Committee to study Zion has been making a compilation of known scriptures regarding Zion. These words of encouragement will set up an important framework from which to act.

Time is becoming increasingly scarce in which to carry out the commandments about Zion. Once we as a people begin moving forward, the sooner these wonderful promises can be fulfilled. Upon closing, I feel we should all consider the following scriptures:

For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are fully ripe in iniquity, they shall perish. But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent

of their wickedness and abominations, they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of hosts. But behold, that great and abominable church, the whole of all the earth, must tumble to the earth; and great must be the fall there of; for the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger and perish; for behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good:

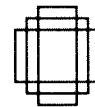
And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say, all is well in Zion: Yea, Zion prospereth, all is well; And thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell. And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them, I am no devil, for there is none. And thus he whispereth into their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains from whence there is no deliverance.

Yea they are grasping with death and hell; and death and hell, and the devil, and all that have been seized therewith must stand before the throne of God and be judged according to their works, from whence they must go into a lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment. Therefore wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion.

Wo be unto him that crieth, All is well, yea wo be unto him that hearkeneth unto the precepts of men, and denieth the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Yea, wo be unto him that saith, We have received, and we need no more. And in fine, wo unto all those who tremble, and are angry because of the truth of

God. for behold, he that is built upon the rock, receiveth it with gladness, and he that is built upon a sandy foundation trembleth, lest he shall fall.

Wo be unto him that shall say, we have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough. For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; For unto him that receiveth I will give more, and from them that shall say, We have enough, shall be taken away even that which they have. Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm, or shall hearken unto the precepts of men, save their precepts shall be given by the power of the Holy Ghost. — 2 Nephi 12: 20-39



Zion will only be for the pure in heart. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us all to become more spiritually and less worldly oriented.

Correction

The caption under a photograph on page 136 of the October 1990, Zion's Advocate, showing ground-breaking, indicates an incorrect date. The correct date is "08-18-1990."

— Editor

ZION: FACT OR FICTION

Seek to bring forth and establish my Zion. Keep my commandments in all things, and if you keep my commandments, and endure to the end, you shall have eternal life; which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.

— Book of Commandments 12:3.

Zion, the topic of interest to people through many passing years, comes to us yet today as a thought near and dear to some of our hearts; each of us with a somewhat different understanding of its concepts, but each with a firm desire to see it as a realistic practice.

Many things have been spoken through the years about Zion. Several earnest attempts have been made to establish some sort of a Zion Community. Most have failed for some reason or another, yet even some of those that were involved in failed attempts still have the zeal or desire to try again. Some who have attempted to establish Zion and failed, have, in their failure, given the entire concept a bad image, which is a very sad situation.

It is not my intent in this short article to ridicule those who have attempted to establish this great cause, but only touch on the thought that there were those with zeal enough to try. I hope that we as Latter-day saints have learned through the years, beginning in 1830 to our present day, that we can not build on our loved one's failures, but we can learn from them. We cannot build on others mistakes nor

profit from their sorrows.

Many have given their life for the cause of Zion. Many have devoted their entire lifetime in some way to the promotion of this great cause. From my childhood, I remember our missionaries of old, preaching, teaching and promoting the cause of Zion and the gathering; that Independence, Missouri, was the Center Place of this great plan. They dreamed of the day it would become a reality. Many have gone to their eternal rest with that dream foremost in their minds. And yet, even today, some of us anxiously await the day that Zion might become a reality.

We, too, await the day that Zion will be real to each of us, when we can live together in peace and harmony; the day when God will speak and we will obey, without question.

The day when the saints of God will desire to gather to this place designated by the Hand of God to be the Center Place of His Zion.

And this, even as I have said, if ye are faithful, ye shall assemble yourselves together to rejoice upon the land of Missouri, which is the land of your inheritance, which is now the land of your enemies. — Book of Commandments 54:43

Hearken, O ye elders of my church saith your God, who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments, in this land which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of

the saints: wherefore this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion. And thus saith the Lord your God, if you will receive wisdom here is wisdom. Behold, the place which is now called Independence, is the center place, and the spot for

by **Elder Isaac Brockman**

the temple is lying westward upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse; wherefore it is wisdom that the land should be purchased by the saints; and also every tract lying westward, even unto the line running directly between Jew and Gentile. And also every tract bordering by the prairies, inasmuch as my disciples are enabled to buy lands. Behold, this is wisdom, that they may obtain it for an everlasting inheritance. — D&C 57:1

Needless to say there is much more that could be written on this subject, and this entire edition of Zion's Advocate has been devoted to this subject. I have refrained from quoting a lot of scripture, because I felt other authors would likely use the same quotes as I would.

The title of this treatise, "Zion: Fact or Fiction?," asks a significant question. I believe Zion to be a fact and I leave it to each of you, the readers, whether you judge it to be fact or fiction in your own personal regard of it.

May God richly bless us, each one, in our endeavor to serve Him.

Many have devoted their entire lifetime in some way to the promotion of this great cause.

Zion Defined

Apostle Robert H. Jensen

Within the last few years there has been a renewed interest by many in studying the subject of Zion. A committee was appointed by the April 1989 Ministers' Conference to assist in such a study. Copies of all Scriptures considered pertinent to our present-day study have been assembled in a type-written document and were distributed to the 1990 August Ministers' Conference. It is hoped that the ministers who received those copies will further assist by making additional copies and sharing them with friends of the subject.

Zion has been a theme of the Scriptures from the earliest of time, continuing through the New Testament, Book of Mormon, and Latter-Day revelation. Positive emphasis gives indication that we of the latter-day dispensation of time are enjoined to become familiar with God's intent toward us who are presently living upon the earth and striving to learn of and follow all of His Commandments. His commandments have always been given for the benefit of His people, a benefit both in this life and in the life to come.

It is initially interesting to observe the limited official English language definition of Zion:

Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language; 1977:

1. A hill in Jerusalem, site of David's palace and temple, and the center of ancient Hebrew worship;
2. The house or household of God, as consisting of the chosen people;
3. The Israelites;
4. The Theocracy, or church of God;

5. The church in general;
6. Heaven as the final gathering place of true believers;
7. A church or chapel of some Christian denomination.

Webster's New World Dictionary (2nd College Edition), 1984:

"A Canaanite fortress in Jerusalem captured by David and called in the Bible 'City of David,' later, the hill in Jerusalem on which the Temple was built."

World Book Encyclopedia:

"Zion is a word with many different meanings. It comes from the Hebrew word Tsiyon. Originally, it was the name of a hill in the city of Jerusalem. After the Israelites captured the city from the Jebusites, Zion became the place where the royal palace of King David stood and where Solomon later built the Temple. It was the seat of Jewish worship and government.

"The name Zion is also used to refer to the Israelites themselves. After their exile from the Holy Land, the word Zion meant to them their homeland, with Jerusalem the Temple, and all Palestine's ancient glory. Among Christians, the name Zion means the church ruled by God, or a heavenly city or heavenly home."

Of Zion in the Scriptures, it is said:

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their

bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure. Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion. —Psalm 2:1-6

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; — Psalm 51:17-18

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments; And the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion, for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. — Psalm 133:1-3

The Lord shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord. — Psalm 146:10

And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. — Isaiah 59:20

And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be. — I Nephi 3:187-189

But behold, this land (America - rj), saith God, shall be a land of thine (Nephi and His posterity-rj) inheritance; and the Gentiles shall be

blessed upon the land. And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles; and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles. And I will fortify this land against all other nations; and he that fighteth against Zion, shall perish, saith God; for he that raiseth up a king against me, shall perish. For I the Lord, the King of heaven, will be their King; and I will be a light unto them for ever, that hear My words. — 2 Nephi 7:17-21

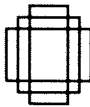
And verily, I say unto you, I give unto you a sign, that ye may know the time when these things shall be about to take place, that I shall gather in from their long dispersion, my people, O House of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion. — 3 Nephi 9:86

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear; — Isaiah 59:1

... And the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. — Malachi 3:1

Read each of the quotations from the Scriptures in their entire context for a complete understanding.

A study is now being made of all available Latter Day Revelations given to the Church through Joseph Smith, Jr., and others pertaining to the Zion of the Latter times. They will also be published in text form for the reading and knowledge of all.



Obituary

Margery Stacey

Thursday, September 27, 1990, Mrs. Margery Stacey, age 80 years, of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, passed from this life. She was predeceased by her first husband, Frank Smith, in 1938, and her second husband, William (Bill) Stacey, in 1982; four brothers: Denver, Ariel, John and Ralph Gibbons; two sisters: Myrtle Gibbons and Luella Hoare. Mrs. Stacey is survived by her son, Gordon Smith of Alberta, Saskatchewan; stepson, Eugene Stacey of Scarborough, Ontario; daughters: June Voil of Vancouver, B.C., and Marlene Hansen of Windsor, Ontario; several grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was a longtime resident of Saskatchewan.

Funeral services were held Monday, October 1, 1990, at the Speers Funeral Chapel in Regina, with Elder J. Somers officiating. Interment was in the Regina Cemetery.

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(See instructions on reverse)

IF JESUS GOES WITH ME, I'LL GO ANYWHERE

I am writing to tell you about a not so perfect weekend. "Why," you ask, "would anyone want to hear about that?" Because even in a not so perfect weekend, God can make something beautiful.

First, I'll begin by explaining that my husband Steve was in charge of the Missouri Camp For All Ages. This is sometimes a rather wearying task. Many things must be considered when finding a location suitable for people of all age groups. Facilities must handle 75 to 100 people, and offer activities like swimming or canoeing, but without being too close to outside groups so that we can hold our worship services.

Taking all these things into consideration, we decided on a lovely campground in which, two years prior, we had a most memorable camp in relative seclusion. This year, it was not meant to be. Everything that could go wrong did. The weather was terribly hot nearing 100. The river was down and we had a rather tiring canoe walk not to mention crowded river conditions with a lot of unsavory people. Even our fun campfire held on Saturday night, was disrupted by outside campers who did not appreciate our singing ability and decided to compete with music (if you can call it that) of their own.

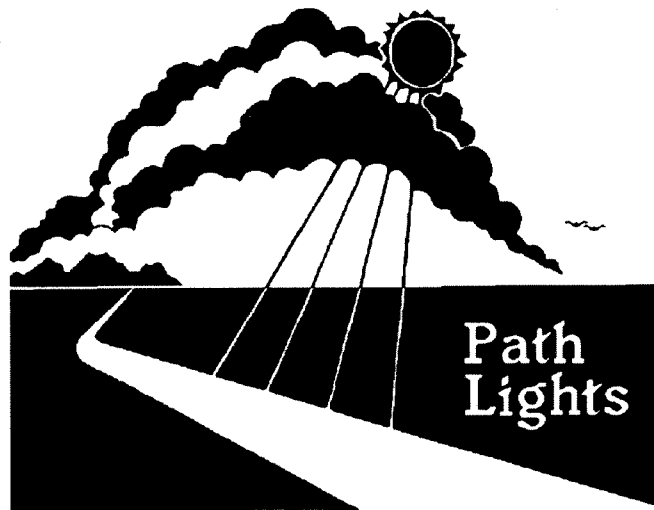
At this time, we were not exactly feeling like successful camp directors. We felt as if we had let people down and I guess you could sum it up by saying we felt as if we were failures.

I questioned, "Had our prayers gone unheard?"

On Sunday, we began our worship services. The day was again very hot and the temperature made it difficult to enjoy our services. In the afternoon, as a respite from the heat, we decided to take the kids and any who desired to come along on a tour of a small privately owned cave. After tour-

ing the cave, we were struck with the thought that perhaps we could hold our evening prayer and testimony service there. We approached the owner with the idea of renting the cave. He stated that was not possible and to his knowledge a church service had never been held there. After considering a moment he said I can't rent it to you, but I will let you use it. "After all, we're all trying to get to the same place."

We were escorted through the cave by the owners granddaughter. The very act of walking through the narrow corridors to the area where we were to hold our service seemed to have a calming effect. We all found a place to sit in the room we chose, and began gathering our thoughts, preparing for the service ahead. As we sat there in the quiet (the type that only God can create), in a room secluded from all the worldly noises, we looked at the formations and felt the cool (60 degrees) and waited upon the Lord.



You could literally feel all stress and worries leaving, being replaced with the Spirit of God. It is almost impossible to describe. We partook of the sacrament and shared our testimonies. There was no lull. Young and old alike shared what was in their heart. Our guide, who asked to stay with us during our service, stood part way into it and asked if she could share with us her testimony. She said she had never been in a service such as ours and

even was not much of a church going person, but God touched her.

Her testimony was of reassurance from God that her grandmother, who had passed away that year, was far happier and now in a much better place. She was allowed to view her and see her happy expression. She said this was brought to her and this service touched and reassured her of God's presence. Following the service, she hugged and loved almost every person, all 50 of us, who were there.

Why do I know there is a God? Because he has shown me his love, because I have felt his presence and because he can take a miserably hot weekend, 50 to 75 irritable, tired people and create a miracle. From the oldest to the youngest in the beauty of his creation, in the comfort of his natural air conditioning, he touched us

Our closing song was, "If Jesus Goes With Me, I'll Go Anywhere." As we sat there singing "It may not be in the valley, where countless dangers hide. It may be in the sunshine that I in peace abide; But this one thing I know, if it be dark or fair, If Jesus is with, I'll go anywhere."

He made all problems disappear, all irritations cease, success out of failure, and touched not only all our hearts, but that of a stranger to our group. God can do all things if we are but willing to "go anywhere" -- even in a cave.

Your sister in Christ,
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Editor's Note:

Melissa is informally and voluntarily a part of the *Zion's Advocate* staff, as coordinator of this on-going "Path Lights" feature. She is in need of your testimonies. Please jot one or two down and mail them to Melissa at the address shown above.

The Lord Shall Build Up Zion

Apostle William A. Sheldon

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Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord. - Psalms 102:13-18.

With regard to Zion, I feel this is something that is a matter of our more eminent or desirable concerns, perhaps more than anything else we might discuss or have on our minds in the time in which we live, because, surely the events that are transpiring around us in the world today should cause us to realize that except the Lord does bring about that blessed condition that is referred to so abundantly in the scriptures of truth in which a people shall be prepared and ready for the coming of the Savior, and except that condition is brought about very shortly there perhaps would be no flesh that would be spared, before God.

And I say this advisedly, because we are given to understand by the word of the prophets of old that the conditions that are to be, and are in the latter days are like unto that which was had in the days of Lot; also in the days of Noah; the imaginations of men's hearts being evil continually and becoming such a gross matter of insult to the righteous souls that are on the earth, though few they may be, that it behooves us to be thinking in terms of Zion and it's literal fulfillment, as I believe to be in our day and time, in the day and time of those of this generation. We need to be concerned about the conditions that will bring about Zion. And I want to say

unequivocally that I believe that Zion is really the destiny of the Church of Christ, and of course I'm speaking in so far as the earthly destiny is concerned realizing that the primary thing is salvation of the souls of men; to bring them into a covenant relationship with God by which they might inherit a place at his right hand.

We should realize as the scripture gives us to understand that the time will come that the saints will inherit the earth. We are told to pray for that because God himself, in the presence of his Son, Jesus Christ, is going to dwell upon the earth again, and there's going to be peace prevailing upon the face of the earth and the hearts of the children of men will have been changed greatly from the grievous condition of sin and the gross wickedness that presently prevails, and which I believe is going to prevail to a greater extent in the future than it has up till this time. That all is going to change and yet we should realize that this can only come about when and because the children of men have permitted the Spirit of God to change their hearts and their relationships one with another, insomuch that they become like the Master.

Going back to the scripture reading, I want to emphasize that the first verse said, the Lord shall arise and have mercy upon Zion for the time to favor her, yea, the set time is come. And that when the Lord should build up Zion that he would appear in his glory. And in the last verse it says, this shall be written for the generation to come and the people that shall be created shall praise the Lord. That's a rather peculiar terminology, but yet it is so appropriate to the facts as we understand them so to be given to us in a prophetic sense, in the scripture.

We realize that the whole creation of God has been accomplished from the very beginning; that there was ac-

complished a spiritual creation and then a physical formation of all things and in which the Lord has caused that his Spirit should be breathed upon all that he had formed in bringing life to all things that do possess life, not only as far as the human family is concerned but also the animal family and the vegetable family. We believe that all these things exist by reason of the creative process that took place in which this Spirit of God was placed within all living things. But here it speaks of a people that shall be, and that's future tense, which shall be created shall praise the Lord. We must necessarily look upon that in a slightly different sense from what I've just been speaking of. It's speaking of that which I referred to a moment ago; a change taking place in the hearts of men, creating them to become god-like, causing them to become more like the Master.

And when the Lord has accomplished this thing, and which I'm fully persuaded will be accomplished in these the latter days in this generation, then there will come that blessed event of which I have spoken, when Christ shall dwell upon the earth and peace shall prevail amongst the children of men. I read in connection with this 102 Psalm, going over to the 60th chapter of Isaiah, verses 21 and 22, and remember that I said that Zion is the destiny of the Church of Christ, and I believe this is exactly what is referred to in these two verses. "Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time." And I want to say that this is the time, this is the set time for the Lord to begin the gathering of his people of the latter days and the establishment of Zion.

We're living right in the very opening moments of that blessed event that is going to transpire in which a people shall indeed be a branch of the Lord's planting. They will be his creation because he will have put his Spirit upon them because they have turned their hearts unto him. Note, he speaks of this as a branch of his planting, the work of my hands. And we're told in the scripture by the Master himself, "I am the vine, ye are the branches," and he goes on to tell us further that except the branches shall abide in the vine that there is no life there, that it shall wither and die. Therefore the importance of impressing upon our minds as the very essential element of the establishment of Zion the fact that there must come an abiding power within us, a desire upon our hearts to become godlike; to become as the Master of men. This is the only thing that will produce Zion. When that blessed event takes place, note that he says, a little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation. I glory in that thought because we realize that the Lord uses the small the weak, the insignificant in the accomplishment of his purposes and we read that there was to be a stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands that was to roll until it filled the whole earth and we are told that this stone was to be the Kingdom of God.

The Church of Christ represents the Kingdom of God upon the earth today notwithstanding the fact that there are those elements yet within us as a people that are not altogether as they should be; that God is going to have cleanse and sanctify the body in order that there might be a people brought down into the depths of humility and to rise to the heights of righteousness that shall qualify them to be known indeed as the saints of the most high God. When this blessed event takes place the Lord will have then made a small one become a great nation. We're told in the Book of Mormon, that the saints of God, the people of the Church of the Lamb of God, were few and their dominions were small upon the face of the earth,

and contrariwise the great and abominable church which is the church of the devil, would be a large people upon the face of the earth. But the Lord was to arm his saints with power, and we're looking forward to that time when the power of heaven will be upon the saints of god and they shall indeed have become a mighty instrument in the hands of God in the accomplishment of his purposes.

Going to the 61st chapter of Isaiah, I want to read just the 3rd. verse. Here the prophet is speaking of the Lord himself, of the great mission that was to be accomplished by Jesus Christ, and he says concerning him, "To appoint unto them that mourn," in other words Christ was going to "appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." Now note this, he's going to give unto those that mourn in Zion, beauty for ashes, in other words this is speaking prophetically of a terrible time of tribulation spoken of by Christ and by Daniel that was to occur in the latter day and I'm very sure that this mourning that will be had by the people of God will be to a large extent because of the wickedness, the distress amongst the nations; that is in existence right at the present time.

Wickedness is becoming the order of the day, and has become so prevalent as to become acceptable in the hearts, the conversations, in the activities of the children of men. Sin is no longer sin so far as the world is concerned, as far as this great nation is concerned. You hardly hear about sin except, of course, from the pulpits as we have it brought to our attention by the ministers of the day, and I give credit to those who are very much concerned about sin outside of the Church of Christ. I give them credit and I believe the Spirit of God is working, but where there is one voice lifted up against the power of wickedness that is upon the face of the earth, there is a hundred or a thousand that

are seeking to lead the children of men into darkness, and call it light.

The Lord is going to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, as we read prior to this, that he might be glorified. Again we have in the 62nd chapter of Isaiah, verse 1, "For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest," the Lord speaking, "until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." The Lord is going to accomplish this task; and I'll tell you that if we will not submit ourselves that the leading of the Spirit of God will lead us into the ways of truth and righteousness, the Lord is going to take us out of the way that those that remain may be a people that will be a choice planting of his, whom he will lift up as an ensign upon the mountains, in which the nations will be able to see the great power of God. Yes, it's time that we were making that preparation within our lives in order that we might indeed be the Zion of God.

There is a thought that is sometimes presented with regard to Zion, that we might discuss just a little, and that is that there must be a Celestial law given. And of course we don't find that given in just that way in the Bible and Book of Mormon; we do find reference to it in latter day revelation, and I don't have any objection to the idea of there being a Celestial law of God that will be necessary for the establishment of Zion. I don't have any qualms or any feeling against the idea of there being a Celestial law, but I think sometimes that there are those who have not really considered from the scripture standpoint what the Celestial law of God is. This is really what I'm concerned about today, what is that Celestial law? It has been termed as a law of consecration in latter day revelation, and I'm not opposed to the idea of there being a consecration. As a matter of fact, I am fully and heartily in favor of the idea

of a consecration, but when I consider consecration I believe that I do so in terms of that which is revealed in the Bible and the Book of Mormon as that which contains the fullness of the gospel, not as being just simply a consecration of our monies or of our substance. But it's a consecration of our lives, of all that we have, and I can't consider the law of consecration in any other terms than that there should be a consecration of our lives, our very souls to God so that he has the pre-eminence there. Yes, above anything else in life.

I'm going to read to you what I'm persuaded within my own mind is the consecration law as found in the scripture and this is found in the scripture and this is found in the 22nd chapter of Matthew, and here we find that there was one who was a lawyer who came to Christ and tempting him, saying:

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? [Pause right there; he's saying, what is the great commandment in the law? If the Lord gives him the answer to that, I can hardly believe it could be other than the Celestial law. So he is going to give him the answer and tell him what the Celestial law really is, and here it is: (w.a.s.)] Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. [Pause there; have you committed your soul in love to God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind? Well he says that's the great commandments. It's a part of it anyway. He says: (w.a.s.)] This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

I'm going to suggest that there is the Celestial law of the Kingdom of God, right there.

It isn't that we haven't heard these things, every one of you, I daresay, except it be some of your little children are well aware of this scripture that I have just read. You know what the great commandment is, you know what the great law of God is. The problem is just putting it into effect in our lives. That's the problem, isn't it? It is something that must engage all our attention; it must engage our attention at this time and from here on as it has never done before. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all

thy heart, mind, soul and strength; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." It doesn't say anything about loving yourself, does it? Because that's just so human that we love ourselves and we love our families. I think most of us do really love our families although we're living in a world today that doesn't have much love of family, speaking in a broad sense. If they did there would be some teaching going on that would not be permitting our children to do some of the things that are being done, the things that they are engaged in today that is making a generation of people to rise up that will be further down the road spiritually than the present generation, if it keeps on.

I don't say this just in regard to our children, because we are all the children of our fathers and mothers and we are to a very great extent that which we have been taught, or the failure of that teaching that has been had for us. We are down the line; each generation is going further down spiritually and morally in everything that pertains to truth and righteousness. But God is to create a generation of people by his Spirit that He would place his approval upon. I want you to note that both of these commandments were based on love. We hear a lot about love, but when you come down to really loving God, it is keeping his commandments, and the doing of just such things as He has caused to be spoken here, by his Son.

Turning over to the book of 1st John, and reading from the 4th chapter, just verse 16. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." We're told further here that by this we shall know that we love God, if we love our brethren, and of course not only our brethren but our fellowmen also, even as we love ourselves. I'm quite sure that what we need is to comprehend what the love of God is. We're told very plainly in the scripture that God so loved the world that he gave his only Begotten Son that whoso should believe on him might not perish but have everlasting life.

And yet sometimes I wonder if some of us in the Church of Christ really understand that much of God's love. The Christian world today in general, and to some extent this has found place within the Church of Christ, seems to have the idea that God only loves us when we come to Him and confess Christ, and if we haven't come to that point we are lost. As I say, this has found lodgment even within the church of Christ, and so I think that some of us have really not comprehended how great the love of God is; because we are told in the scripture that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. He loved us, that He might bring us to Him.

I'm not trying to get away from the idea that God expects us to come to him when we have the gospel preached, but I would like us to really seek to comprehend just how great the love of God is that reaches down and seeks to lift an erring soul, and that Christ is the good Shepherd who will go after that which is lost until he find it. I believe that when we have really come to comprehend that, we will begin to comprehend the love of God. This says that he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God and God in him. Christ has made the statement in the scripture and it's recorded, "Search the scripture for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." He went on further to say that, "they will not come to me because they have not known me," I'm putting my own wording in there but that's the thought. I think that he's not only telling us to search the scripture, which I think is a part of this matter of developing love toward God, in other words, if we love God we will want to find out about Him so we will search the scripture; but He is, for the most part offering a rebuke, because He is telling the people of His day, you search the scripture for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me, but you will not come unto me. And sometimes I think that this is appropriate to us today; sometimes we will search the scriptures because we think that they contain eternal life, and they do,

but after we've searched the scripture we just simply lay it aside and forget about it. But He wants us to come to Him, because if we have learned of Him and do not come to Him on His terms, I'm very sure that those scriptures will be as a condemnation to us rather than as a blessing. In other words we must learn to live the gospel of Christ.

If we will pray always, we will be in a spiritual frame of mind. The things that we do will actually be as a prayer unto God because they will bear testimony that we will have learned of Him. We have come to Him, and we are constantly coming to Him in every aspect of our daily lives. When we are spiritually minded, when we learn to become spiritually minded, that is a prayer to God and we can be praying always then. We do need to pray. We do need to lift our hearts in a conscious communication with God. The Master has told us very plainly that we shall enter into our secret chambers and close the door about us and then lay open our souls to God. Do you do that my friends?

Again he has commanded us to come together in the congregation of the saints, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of our souls, and to lift our voices in prayer to him. Do you do that friends? Will you come and offer up your prayer in union with the saints of God? Not to be heard of man only that they might say amen, but to be heard of God. Yes, he wants us also to do those things. And he wants us to bear testimony to his loving kindness unto us. I'm giving us elements of that which God requires, that will make for us to be a people of Zion. I want you to think about that through all that I will bring to your attention. We must bear testimony of the loving kindness of God to us, and I don't think that we have to have some great astounding thing that has happened to us in order to bear testimony to the goodness of God. I remember Brother Flint, quite a few years ago, told of his father-in-law who was an old German who came to this country and didn't know too much English, he just could speak it in a rather broken way, but he came

to have a belief in Christ. I believe he came into the Church of Christ, and he would stand up occasionally in the prayer meeting and he would say, "Pray for me that I be good," or something to that effect. We can do that; we can ask each other to pray for us, and these things are well-pleasing unto God. Then if we will just express ourselves in as simple a way as we know how, of how our life has been blessed because we have had communion with God that would be pleasing to Him and He wants us to do that. And this is how we become trees of the planting of the Lord, by these things.

God wants us to offer hymns of praise to Him, and He wants us to obey His commandments. This is the one thing that the Christian world today scarcely seems to know anything about, and that is obedience to the commandments of God. And yet Christ said, "Why call ye me, Lord, and do not the things that I say?" When we read any of the teachings of Jesus Christ, inasmuch as he has given them by way of counsel to us, we should consider them as his commandments and realize that in the keeping of his commandments is eternal life. Obedience is of a prime requisite with God as it always has been down through the ages as he has dealt with his people.

People talk about faith, and we are told in one place in the scripture, "Show me thy faith without they works and I will show thee my faith by my works." And yet people will say that we don't need to have any works toward God. But you know, works are an evidence of our faith, and therefore if we really have faith in God we will obey Him, we will do the things He has commanded us to do. Faith is the assurance that God will do good for us, But also it gives evidence of a conviction that we must abide in His will, and if we abide in His will we are keeping His commandments. Therefore if we have faith toward God we will do those things He has commanded us to do, and if you don't keep the commandments of God you don't really have faith towards Him.

God has commanded us that in

obedience to His commandments we must repent of our sins. And we are told that this, the one great thing that is required of the servants of God in these latter days is to preach nothing but repentance unto this generation. And repentance is not only required of those who are in the world who are perhaps committing the grosser sins, and perhaps we have been able to put those things away, I hope that we have, but repentance is also required within the body of Christ. We must needs be continually repentant before him in order that we might be forgiven of our sins; and that we might come to him upon the terms of the gospel of Christ, and show forth our faith and our desires that we might have his Spirit to abide with us. Repentance is the forsaking of sins. I'll mention some of these gross sins. We speak of murder, we speak of lying. Did you know that is a very grievous sin in the sight of God? We speak of stealing in all the various aspects that might be made manifest. We speak of adultery, of fornication. We speak of homosexuality. These things are prevalent in our society today, and we say that we abhor these things, and rightly so. And I trust that is true within the body. These things must be so foreign to the minds of the people of God that they actually abhor them. It's not just a matter of forsaking some of perhaps smaller sins that we might have even though we're not guilty of the grosser sins, but in the forsaking of the smaller things that we will become so like the Master that we may become pure in heart, and have his Spirit abiding in us.

Another of the grievous sins that is in the world today is witchcraft. And it's amazing the number of people that have been taken up with that sort of thing. This is one of the things that the Lord foresaw, and told through the words of the prophet, that would be a characteristic of the latter days; even witchcraft.

Let's consider some of the less obvious things. Hatred. Do you ever have any hate in your heart? It's not of God, and you are not keeping the commandments of God if you have it.

How about envy? Is there any

there? Are you jealous of anybody? It's not right; it's something that needs to be repented of. Is there any haughtiness of spirit? Do you feel above someone else because you see some things that you don't like, and perhaps it's not altogether right as far as that is concerned, but do you have a spirit of haughtiness or in other words is there pride within the church? These are things that are going to have to be cast out before our people become the planting of the Lord.

How about a spiteful tongue? Do you speak spitefully of your fellowmen? Or those within the Church? It ought not to be. We're told that we are to bridle the tongue, and I turn to James and find in the 1st chapter and 26th verse, "If any man seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." If you don't bridle your tongue your coming to church is vain. That's what it says. You can come and hear the word, and hear it proclaimed with power, but unless that word finds place within our heart and causes a great change to take place there you're deceiving yourself, and your religion is vain and you certainly can't qualify as the children of Zion. With regard to the use of the tongue we have the characteristic of boasting that is in the world today, and if you seek to exalt yourself, the Master has said, you will be abased; if you will abase yourself you will be exalted, so boasting has no place in the Church of Christ.

What about blasphemy, swearing, foul language? These are characteristics that are so prevalent in the world today; they certainly ought not to be in the body of Christ. Blasphemy is taking the Lord's name in vain and using foul language has become so commonplace in the world, and I've heard of it even in the Church of Christ. These things ought not to be. If we will obey God we will seek to cleanse the temple of our bodies; we will put away those things that are harmful to us physically as well as spiritually. And I'm thinking of the use of tobacco, of alcoholic beverages and of drugs. The world is being saturated with these things and their bod-

ies are being brought down even unto the grave. They have taken these things and assumed that there was no harm in them. They're not only a harm to the physical body but a harm to the spirit as well, because you can't really be thinking of God in the use of these things. We have to put them away from us.

We may say, for instance, with regard to tobacco, that's no grievous sin. I'll grant you it's not that which God can look upon with such disfavor as on some of these other gross things I have mentioned here; but God wants us to be clean in our bodies and in our spirits. Those things today are bringing grievous sickness upon the bodies of the children of men; heart and lung diseases are caused by the use of tobacco, and these things are causing cancer, and other attendant illnesses are connected with the use of these things and it's been definitely proven by the scientific and medical community, and ought not to be a part of the people of the Church of Christ.

If we keep the commandments of God we are of course to be baptized. We are to take upon us the name of Christ. I'm convinced that it is not simply a matter of just going down into the waters of baptism, because he has commanded that, but in the final analysis, or in the reality of the thing, it should be that there is a change in a person's mind, in their heart, that the desires to put off the old man and become a new man in Christ. We're to become, in the words of the Master of men, as a little child. I'm going to read in 3rd Nephi chapter 5, verse 40, "And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God." Did you catch that? If you don't become as a little child you can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God. And what is it to become as a little child? Is it not to become fully trusting in God? That you trust in all the commandments that He has given, that they are for our good. Is it not to be easily led of God? Not hard in our hearts. Is it not that we should put away malice from our minds? Is it not that there should be no guile or hypocrisy? Guile is lying

or having a spirit of lying. These are things a little child is not possessed of; he hasn't learned that as some of us have learned as we have grown older. But if we have gone that way, to put these things away is how we become as a little child and acceptable to God. If we do that thing, become as a little child, we will have no more disposition to do evil. We will be like the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi who were of the Lamanites who were converted to Christ; it says they had not more disposition to do evil.

Speaking of love as being part of the gospel economy, and as part of the Celestial law, as being the very element of the Celestial law, we're to love our fellowmen as well as our heavenly Father; we're to have love in our families, and if we have love in our families we will teach our children the right way. I've mentioned this before but I think it bears repetition. There needs to be a teaching of our children in the ways of the Kingdom of God, because just as surely as the sun shines and the night follows day, in the world our children are being taught things that will make for their death; of the spiritual and the physical. That is sure and we need to offset that with all the power of our beings, by teaching those children in our homes and by bringing them to the Sunday School that they might learn of the ways of God.

We're to have that love in our families and to show forth that love to each other because it is Christ-like. If we have a love for our brethren in the Church we will be patient toward their weaknesses, as we may see them, and towards their lack of wisdom. If we have the love of our fellowmen, or the love of the brethren in the Church, it may be necessary sometimes to exhort them, or rebuke, and yet that should be done in kindness and in consideration of the tender feelings of each other. If we have love to our fellowman we will also impart to them both temporally and spiritually. And I would like to read in that connection from the book of Mosiah, chapter 9, verses 60-64:

And again, Alma commanded that the people of the Church should impart of their

substance, every one according to that which he had. If he have more abundantly, he should impart more abundantly; and he that had but little, but little should be required; and to him that had not should be given. And thus they should impart of their substance, of their own free will and desires toward God, and to those priests that stood in need, yea, and to every needy, naked soul. And this he said unto them, having been commandment of God; and they did walk uprightly before God, imparting to one another, both temporally and spiritually, according to their needs and wants.

Yes, we should impart temporally to the brethren and to all mankind. And I see that as truly a part of the law of consecration. But if we think that the law of consecration and the Celestial law only has to do with temporal things, or if we think that that's the important thing, I would remind us of a statement made by Christ as we find recorded in chapter 23 of Matthew, verse 23:

Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgement, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

And so we see that if the consecration only has to do with the imparting of our substance unto the church for the benefit of others, I think we have really looked beyond the mark. We have omitted the weightier things of the law, which Christ says here are judgement, mercy and faith.

Judgment is really the loving care that we have for those who stand in need; that really is what judgment is. In chapter 1 of Isaiah, verse 27, "Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness." In verse 23, prior to this, the Lord is condemning the people of Israel, "Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither does the cause of the widow come unto them." So it's the exercise of mercy and of love toward those who are the widows, the fatherless, and all of those who stand in need, that is judgment, and that's what Zion is going to be redeemed by. By the exercise of our love and mercy towards those who stand in need. But, I'll tell you it's got to be on a personal basis not just simply giving

to the church and let the church do it; it must be on a personal basis.

Incidentally I think that we're seeing strides in that direction. I don't think there's room for us to just set back and be complacent that we've got Zion, because we know that we haven't; because when we really have come to Zion, when Zion has really come into our hearts and we are walking in accord with the Celestial law as I have given to you here in the words of the Master of men himself, that we shall love the Lord with all our heart, might, mind and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves, when we have come to that we will find that the spiritual gifts of God will be a characteristic within the church, to a far greater extent than we have seen it in our time. The Lord will show forth his own works in that church that is called by his name that keeps the commandments of God.

I read again from the Book of Mormon, the 4th book of Nephi, chapter 1, beginning with verse 3, and here we find the condition that prevailed within the church upon this continent after Christ had come in their midst and had set up his church amongst them:

And it came to pass in the thirty and sixth year, the people were all converted unto the Lord, upon all the face of the land, both Nephites and Lamanites, and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another; And they had all things common among them, therefore they were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift. (And I go over just a little further, this time the 17-20 verses: w.a.s.) And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; (Do you know what lasciviousness is? That's "lustful desire." - w.a.s) And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God: There were no robbers, nor murderers, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ and heirs to the kingdom of God:

You want to be happy? Well here it is, the things that I've been bringing to our attention are the things that will make us a happy people. If you want to be happy start looking into

him, but there has to be a placement of those things within our hearts more fully than there has been. And those things that we've simply passed over, we think that they are true but we really don't think that we are guilty. Maybe we ought to look at ourselves and see whether we have really harmonized with the teaching of Jesus Christ in all of its aspects. We really ought to do that!

One more reading from 1 Peter, chapter 2, verses 1-5:

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, (which is duplicity or deception, lay it aside ... w.a.s.) and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby; (in other words, you desire it; that's what he's saying here ... w.a.s.) If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as to a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious. Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (And what are the spiritual sacrifices we are to offer? A broken heart and a contrite spirit. - w.a.s.) Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Well the time has come the set time for the Lord to establish Zion, and I think that the only reason it becomes the set time is because the Lord finds a people who are beginning to show forth the cause of Zion, which is the pure love of God in their hearts. When they have the pure love of God it will be manifest not only in their worship towards God and in the keeping of His commandments, those commandments that He has given with regard to our activities one with another, these things will have become precious and of great importance to our lives. When we do so, we will have the Spirit of God dwelling with us and Zion will be a reality. I think that Zion is growing but its got a ways to go yet. Shall we join hands and try to do that more fully than we have in the past? Let's seek indeed to live the Celestial law of God; to love the Lord with all our heart, might, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

Study Zion in Sunday School

This is a partial list of scriptural references compiled at the conclusion of an adult Sunday School class study of Zion that took place at the Phoenix, Arizona, local Church of Christ in the early 1970's (as published in *The Hand of Fellowship*). — editor

What is it?

A place - B of C 52:26
A condition - Isa. 35:8-10
A people - Isa. 51:16
The New Jerusalem - Rev. 21:1-4 & Ether 6:8-11

Where shall it be?

Beyond the rivers of Ethiopia (Africa) - Zeph. 3:10
In this land (America) - 2 Ne. 7:13-36
In America - 3 Ne. 10:1-4
In America - Ether 6:1-8
In U.S.A. - B of C 48:59-61

When will it be established?

A set time near the return of Christ - Psalms 102:13-16
In the last days - Isa. 2:2; Micah 4:1-ff
In the last days - Joel 3:12-17
In days of the Lord's indignation - Zeph. 3:8-20

What conditions will be present?

To be purged; a place of refuge - Isa. 4:1-6
Joy and gladness and peace - Isa. 35:8-10
Gladness and joy - Isa. 51:11
Joy, etc. - Isa. 52:7-12
The Lord will comfort - Zeph. 1:17
Evil shall be purged from God's Kingdom - Mt. 13:38-43
Fruits of the Spirit - B of C 11:3-5
Place of peace & safety - B of C 48:59-62

Who will be there?

Holy to dwell there - Isa. 4:3; Zeph. 2:3
Ransomed of the Lord - Isa. 35:8-10
Righteous people of the Lord - Isa. 5:1-10
Seed of Jacob / Christ - Isa. 59:20
A remnant of Israel - Micah 4: 6-7
Israel, and Gentiles who assist them - 2 Ne 7:13-21
The house of Joseph - 3 Ne. 9:57-59
Lamanites and Gentiles - 3 Ne 10:1-4
For descendants of House of Joseph - Ether 6:1-8

What is its purpose?

To be habitation the of the Lord - Ps. 132: 13
To teach the law - Isa. 2:3; Mic. 4
Place of deliverance in last days - Joel 2:30-32
To give hope to His people - Joel 3:10
Deliverance - Obadiah 1:17; Zeph. 2:1-3; Isa. 26:20-21
Gathering of God's people Zeph 3:8-20
That Israel might be gathered/saved - Rom. 11:13-32
Gather Israel - 3Ne 10:1-5
Peace & refuge for God's people - B of C 48:59-67

Christ to dwell in Zion

Joel 3:17
Zech. 2:10-13
Zech. 3: 8:1-3
3 Nephi 10:1-4
B of C 48: 37

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some news items, and both articles that have been appearing in Zion's Advocate as a continuing series, will be carried over for publication in the December issue.

Let us look forward to more submissions to Z. A. from this very timely and relevant committee.

The chairman of the Committee to Study Zion is Teacher Robert Dewaele, 2326 Avenue E, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 1991 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Easter Sunday, March 31. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M., Monday, April 1. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, March 29 and 30.

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