

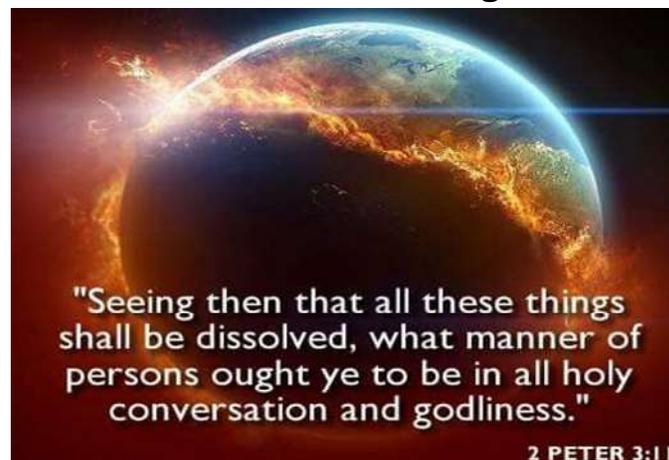
April 12, 2022
To Go Into the Promised Land (Zion)
We Must Obey the Commandments
and
Put Aside Murmuring and Dissention



Are You Ready to Move Out?

Prophecy helps us make better choices. We have been going over many of the prophecies of the last days in these classes. Now, knowing these things, what changes do you need to make in your life? Peter asked the same question of us in 2 Peter 3:10-12: But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall shake, and the earth also shall tremble, and the mountains shall melt, and pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be filled with fervent heat; the earth also shall be filled, and the corruptible works which are therein shall be burned up. 11 If then all these things shall be destroyed, what manner of persons ought ye to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 Looking unto, and preparing for the day of the coming of the Lord wherein the corruptible things of the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the mountains shall melt with fervent heat?

What Manner of Persons Ought Ye to Be



God Has Given Us Commandments and Instructions as to What Manner of Persons We Are Called to Be

The Two Greatest Commandments

Mark 12:29-31
Jesus answered ...
'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. [a] 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [b] 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [c] There is no commandment greater than these."

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:40

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John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

We Can't Be Hating or Angry with Our Brothers and Sister's in the Church and Be Called His Children. We Can't Come Unto Christ Holding Anger Toward Others

But I say unto you which hear,
Love your enemies,
do good to them which hate you,
Bless them that curse you,
and pray for them which
despitefully use you.

Luke 6:27-28

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If We Are Going to Assist in Building the Kingdom of God = Have to Obey His Commandments

DC 6:3a Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, **Keep my commandments**, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion

DC 6:4b Say nothing but repentance unto this generation: **keep my commandments**, and assist to bring forth my work according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed.

DC 10:3a Now as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, **Keep my commandments**, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.

We must keep God's commandments. We need to break the Bonds of Sin "That Bind Us Down." We can't go into the "Promised Land" as slaves to sin. Our hearts must not harbor hate or contempt for anyone, but especially our brothers and sisters in the faith.

D&C 4:1e And faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work.

D&C 42:8a If thou lovest me, thou shalt serve me and keep all my commandments.

Clothe Yourself with Charity

See D&C 4:1e, 16:4d, 85:38c

Forgive Each Other

- **Colossians 3:8** But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
- **9** Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
- **10** And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.....
- **12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;
- **13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

We Are Called to Be the Bride of Christ and Have On Our Wedding Garments
Colossians 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.



Are We in Bondage?

- Sec. 83:7a And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God..... **f and the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under the darkness and under the bondage of sin:**
- **7g and by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me; for whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin;**

Are We Under Condemnation?

- Sec. 83:8a And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation.
- **8b And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written,**

Words For Us Today

- **Mosiah 5:52** But **if ye will turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart, and put your trust in him, and serve him with all diligence of mind;** if ye do this, he will, according to his own will and pleasure, deliver you out of bondage.



We Can't Move Higher in The Condition We Are In

- DC 137:6b Remember and keep the commandments, **be alert to keep out of the church and from its members those forces which make for disunity,**
- **and in harmony and**
- **saintly accord be about**
- **the task of freeing Zion**
- **from her bondage.**



The Patriarch's of the Church have given us a good guide to follow in the Patriarch's Pamphlet. One of the things listed is "Do I Have Aught Against Any Person?" Then they quote D&C 64:2d-e: Wherefore I say unto you, that ye ought to forgive one another, for he that forgiveth not his brother his trespasses, standeth condemned before the Lord, for there remaineth in him the greater sin. 2e I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men; and ye ought to say in your hearts, Let God judge between me and thee, and reward thee according to thy deeds.

The Patriarch's Pamphlet is full of "Core Values" for us to instill into our lives. Without these core values we will not get very far in building God's Kingdom. A few listed are:

Core Values and Statements from The
Patriarch's Pamphlet
Spring of 2021

- Beginning of Pamphlet = List 4 Major Themes That Form a = Central Core of Values
 - 4 Things Listed
- 1. Humility
- 2. Feasting on the Words of Christ
- 3. Continuing in Prayer and Fasting
- 4. Working Tirelessly on the Behalf of Others.
- (If we do these things = We will be Obedient to the Commandments of God)

We Find Core Values
All Through the Scriptures

- Alma 10:28 But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord,
- and call on his holy name, and watch and pray continually that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear,
- and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive,
- patient, full of love and all long suffering; having faith on the Lord;

Many of our Apostles and Patriarch's have stated: "We Cannot Have Zion on the Level We Are Now Living On." Walter Weldon in "Tell My People," Brother Oakman, Ray Zinser, many others have stated we must come up to a higher level to assist in building God's Kingdom. Are we ready to do this, to climb higher? I think that we are and I believe with God's help we can become the people God has called us to be.

D&C 68:4f Now I, the Lord, am not well pleased with the inhabitants of Zion, for there are idlers among them: and their children are also growing up in wickedness; they also seek not earnestly the riches of eternity, but their eyes are full of greediness.

D&C 64:7a Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.

D&C 81:4c For Zion must increase in beauty, and in holiness; her borders must be enlarged; her stakes must be strengthened; yea, verily I say unto you, Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments.

Let's Hit the Road and Head Upwards to Zion

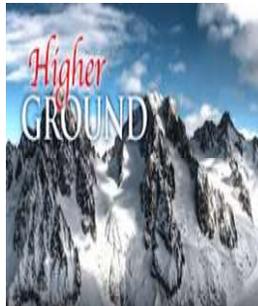
We Must Grow Our Core Values to Grow Spiritually =
We Can't Have Zion On the Level We Are Now On

DC 102:2c and Zion
cannot be built up
unless it is
by the principles of
the law of the
celestial kingdom,
otherwise I cannot
receive her unto
myself;



God Has Called Us to Higher Ground

- We Are Called to Come Up Higher = To the Celestial Level
- But As a Whole Church
- We Are Still Camped on the Plain = Flat Land



Murmur in the Hebrew Murmur = Root word in Hebrew

- Continue to Dwell
- Stay Permanently (in a bad sense)
- continue to dwell = grudge, to complain, to be obstinate, grumble, rebel against authority
- Murmuring = is the habit of being discontent always looking for the down side & then continually complaining about it.
- Murmuring = can lead to holding grudges & rebellion against authority = such as parents, pastors, people in authority, or even God

Early Church Told Murmuring a Sin

- Sec. 75 = The Elders asked Joseph to "inquire of the Lord that they might know his will, or learn what would be most pleasing to him for them to do, in order to bring men to a sense of their condition."
- 1b Behold, I say unto you, that it is my will that you should go forth and not tarry, neither be idle, but labor with your mights, lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trumpet, proclaiming the truth according to the revelations and commandments which I have given you,
- 2a William E. McLellin.....I, the Lord, chasteneth him for the murmurings of his heart; and he sinned, 2b nevertheless I forgive him, (he did not want to go where told)

Example of a Correct Response

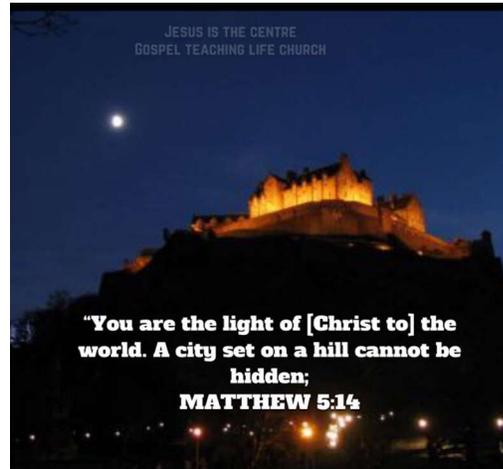
1 Nephi 5: 198-199 Wherefore, they came unto me and loosed the bands which were upon my wrists, and behold, they had swollen exceedingly; and also mine ankles were much swollen, and great was the soreness thereof. 199 Nevertheless, I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur against the Lord because of mine afflictions.

Are We Ready to Shine to the World

Philippians 2: 14

Do all things without
murmurings and
disputings;

15 That ye may be
blameless and
harmless, the sons of
God, without rebuke, in
the midst of a crooked
and perverse nation,
among whom ye shine
as lights in the world;



To Trust and Obey God Without Murmuring is a Matter of Your Heart

The Children of Israel Were Expert at Murmuring Which Led To Anger and Rebellion

Exodus 16:2 **And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness**

- 3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, **when we sat by the fleshpots,**
- **and when we did eat**
- **bread to the full;**
- **for ye have brought**
- **us forth into this**
- **wilderness, to kill**
- **this whole assembly**
- **with hunger.**



Jesus gave us an example when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Not My will, but Thy will be done." And the children of Israel are saying here, Not Thy will, but my will be done. Thus they have manifested their desires and have not been brought into conformity with God's desires, but they have put their desires over God's desires. Greed, idolatry, pride. . . . the wilderness tests, you see, were all about humility manifested in obedience and dependence, and here they showed no humility, no obedience, and no dependence.

The old gospel song has it right: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." And they did neither, and that revealed their hearts.

Are You Ready to Go into the Promised Land?

Because Israelites complained they were not allowed to go into the Promised Land. Numbers 14:1-2 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron; and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God that we had died in this wilderness!

I Believe God is Getting Ready For Us To Go Into The Promised Land = Zion

- Psalms 102:13 Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion; for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come.



After wandering for 40 years the younger generation went in to claim the land. The ten tribes went into the Promised Land as a unified force. They were told three times in the first chapter of Joshua to “be strong and of a good courage.” We too are told this in the latter day.

D&C 38:4c Therefore, **be ye strong from henceforth; fear not for the kingdom is yours.**

D&C 110:22a **Brethren, shall we not go on in so great a cause? Go forward and not backward. Courage, brethren; and on, on to the victory!**

D&C 66:4 **He that is faithful shall be made strong in every place, and I, the Lord, will go with you.**

Press On To The Consummation

DC 129:9c So be ye encouraged and press on to the consummation designed of God for his people--unity, honor, sanctification, and glory. Amen. JOSEPH SMITH. LAMONI, IOWA, April 18, 1909

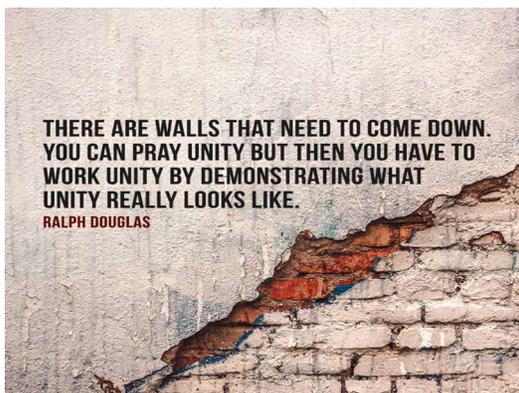


Let us Free Zion From Bondage and Lay Her Foundation

DC 137:6b Remember and keep the commandments, **be alert to keep out of the church and from its members those forces which make for disunity, and in harmony and saintly accord be about the task of freeing Zion from her bondage.**

- DC 138:3c **To lay securely the foundations for Zion and her buildings the work should be accomplished in peace and harmony. Unity should prevail.**

The Walls Must Come Down Quickly Work Toward that Goal



Let Us Set Aside Contentions, Murmuring & Divisions Among Us and Press Towards the Goal



D&C 140:5c The work of preparation and the perfection of my Saints go forward slowly, and Zionic conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my people justifies.

D&C 137:6b Remember and keep the commandments, be alert to keep out of the church and from its members those forces which make for disunity, and in harmony and saintly accord be about the task of freeing Zion from her bondage.

D&C 138:3c To lay securely the foundations for Zion and her buildings the work should be accomplished in peace and harmony. Unity should prevail.

We Must Do This Thing



Peace of Fraternity and Unity

DC 136:3c Only in the peace of fraternity and the unity of those caught up in the spirit of Zionic redemption can the work of the Lord be accomplished. To this task let the church devote its energies.

- 10 Tribes stayed unified after Moses Died = They went into the
- Promised Land
- as a Unified Force



We must retrain ourselves. Break our bad habits and put on new ones. Get Rid Of Murmuring, Complaining and Contentions = Replace it with Love, Unity, Encouragement, Forgiveness, Giving Each Other Respect and Humbling Ourselves, Love Each Other as Jesus Would Have Us to!

D&C 135:2b The hastening time is here and greater unity than ever before is necessary if the forces of opposition are to be met.

You Are not Here By Accident, God Placed You Here for a Purpose

Every one of You Were Created for This Day = Given Gifts and Talents

- Sec. 46:5b for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God:
- 5c to some it is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby;



- I Nephi 1:65 I know that the Lord giveth no commandment unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.

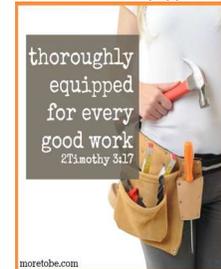


- Sec. 46:7a And again, verily I say unto you, To some it is given, by the Spirit of God, the word of wisdom;
- 7b to another it is given the word of knowledge, that all may be taught to be wise and to have knowledge.
- 7c And again, to some it is given to have faith to be healed, and to others it is given to have faith to heal.
- 7d And again, to some it is given the workings of miracles; and to others it is given to prophesy, and to others the discerning of spirits.

7e And again, it is given to some to speak with tongues, and to another it is given the interpretation of tongues

7f and all these gifts come from God, for the benefit of the children of God.

We Are Equipped



Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; You were appointed for this time. You were selected and you have a work to do. Each of us has been placed in this “Last Days” dispensation for a specific purpose. We are here to build Zion. We have a very large task ahead of us. Yes, we need God’s help, but do not fear for He has equipped us for the task. With your talents and my talents, all our gifts and talents coming together in unity, we can accomplish the task. It is an honor and privilege to be here upon the earth at this time and take part in this marvelous work and a wonder, even the building of Zion. Zion beckons us on.

You and I Are Called To Assist in Building God’s Kingdom, in This the Latter Day, Let’s Go to Work!



D&C 38:9c And again I say unto you, I give unto you a commandment, that every man, both elder, priest, teacher, and also member, go to with his might, with the labor of his hands, to prepare and accomplish the things which I have commanded.

If We Are Going to Prepare This Place We Must Be Up and Doing.

- **Let us get together and build Zion; let us start now; let us do something every day that will make us feel we are working toward the establishment of Zion! Fred M Smith**



D&C 45:13b-14 And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another . . . 14 And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion singing, with songs of everlasting joy.

Lyle Smith on communion Sunday asked the congregation to read the third verse of this hymn. I felt impressed that this needed to be a part of this class, as it presents a challenge to us as a people to move out in faith and accomplish the task set before us.

Hymn 43 in the blue hymnal, “A Calm and Gentle Spirit Reigns Tonight”

Third verse:

We must not wait, for now the time is ours, And if I wait another waits for me;

We see the workings of contending powers; The darkness and the holy light we see.

Then let us render service to the Lord, and drive those clouds of fear and doubt away.

That we may all rejoice with on accord until the dawning of that perfect day.