Index to Zion Flash Cards - Part 2

Page	Author	Title
2	Peggy Feagins	Look Up
3	Evan Fry	Jesus is Coming Soon
4-6	Edmund Gleazer, Sr.	The Kingdom of Heaven is Like
7-8	Francis Harper, Jr.	from Great Treasures of Knowledge
9-10	Robert J. Miller	What Price Zion
11-14	Arthur Oakman	Repentance - For Zion's Sake
15-16	Arthur Oakman	My People Will I Preserve
17-19	Arthur Oakman	The Necessity for Zion
20-23	Arthur Oakman	The Promise and Longing for Zion
24-25	Parley Pratt	Arouse from Your Slumbers
26-28	Russell Ralston	Spritual Qualities of the Kingdom
29-31	Christina Salyards	Jesus Will Set Up His Kingdom
32-35	Donald Savage	What Will Zion Be Like?
36-37	Henry Schaefer	Keeping the Vision of Zion in Our Hearts
38	Roland Scott	Prophecy of the Last Days
39	Wayne Simmons	The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand
40	Elbert A. Smith	A Prayer of Blessing
41	Elbert A. Smith	Sermon 1929
42	Fred M. Smith	A Call to Build Zion
43	Lucy Mack Smith	Loose Thyself from the Bands of the Neck
44	Ed Story	The Invitation
45	Roy Weldon	Time is Running Out
46-48	Walter Weldon	Tell My People You Are There to Build Zion
49-50	Joseph White	Zion, After World War III
51	Ray Zinser	Independence, Missouri
52-54	Ray Zinser	Research and Planning
55-56	Ray Zinser	Build My Zion
57-64	Ray Zinser	The Word of Christ



What does it mean to look upward? If we are discouraged, or ashamed, or sad—our heads hang down. But we are to lift up our heads—be hopeful, be joyful, be expectant—faith-filled. Jesus told us, even in troubled times, "look up and lift up your heads, for the day of your redemption draweth migh." Luke 21:27

Kenneth Benedict was an elder in the RLDS church at the time document 156 was given, and many hearts were troubled about the church. He had a dream where he was engaged in a great race. At least a portion of this race was being run around the square in Independence. As the elder came around the southwest corner of the square, he saw someone was lying on the ground, and a few people were standing around.

He knew CPR, and he thought (in his dream) I must help. So he left the race and approached the prone figure. As he did, he saw it was a woman—a beautiful lady. He knelt by her and said, "Can I help you?"

She answered, "No. I am wounded, but I will be all right. You must run the race."

Upon awakening from his dream, he recognized that the beautiful woman was the church. She was wounded, but he could not help her. What he could do was tend to his ministry—to feed the sheep, feed the lambs.

We can't solve all the problems of the world, but if we can establish Zionic homes, so that the places where the Lord's people dwell may shine as Zion, the world will have a place to look for answers. Let's recommit (1)to honor our God with our lives, to seek always to please Him before ourselves. And

(2)we can Look Up to Jesus with hope and faith and live in expectation of the return of Enoch's city and the return of our Lord Jesus to reign in His Kingdom on earth.

Daily let us affirm with the Psalmist, "...O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." Psalm 5:3



Jesus is Coming Soon By Evan Fry

The Manner of His Coming: Some confusion of differences in the way Christ's coming is described are difficult to reconcile. His coming in clouds of great glory, when every eye shall see...with his coming "as a thief in the night". A thief comes quietly, does his work and is gone. It is not difficult to reconcile if we start with the concept that Jesus is not coming just one more time, but that he may come several times—at least twice after his birth.

We should be expecting him in the right time and place and way: We shall be just as surprised if we are looking for him in the wrong manner, as if we were not looking for him at all. At his birth the Jews thought they were watching for him, but they were looking for a conquering and liberating Messiah, not for a babe or a suffering servant to be crucified. Obviously, the birth of Jesus was in the first watch. It would seem, that there may be two more general comings: one as a thief and one in glory. For, behold, he cometh in the first watch of the night, and he shall also come in the second watch, and again he shall come in the third watch. And verily I say unto you, He hath already come, as it is written of him; and again when he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, blessed are those servants when he cometh, that he shall find so doing... (Luke 12:41-42).

The 12th Chapter of Luke has a list of things to accomplish:

- 12:17-23 Teaches against covetousness. It is the parable of the rich man.
- 12:16-33 Counsels against worry over solicitude in matters of meat and drink.
- 12:37 For where your treasure is there will you heart be also.
- 12:38-39 ... have your lights burning ...

The time when we and the world must give an account of our stewardship is drawing nigh...We cannot procrastinate the days of our probation, and suddenly get ready when we see the sign of our coming Lord in the heavens. Behave each day as if he were expected.

The Kingdom of Heaven is Tike - Card 1

By Edmond J. Gleazer, Sr.

I trust we all believe in the literal establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth. I also trust we believe that the God of heaven, in preparation for the establishment of the kingdom, made possible the restoration of the gospel and the reorganization of this church. Since I was converted to this work I have believed the reason this church was organized was that there was no other organization at that time qualified, equipped, and empowered to bring to pass the kingdom of God.

Equipped to Build = I should like to distinguish between faith and belief. We are told by our Lord that even devils believed and trembled. But faith goes beyond belief. Faith is dynamic to this extent: those of us who have it will move forward to accomplish that which we believe—in other words, that which we envision we will accomplish...this church is fully equipped to bring to pass the kingdom of God on earth...Revelations (12) makes it very clear that the church which God would organize in this dispensation of time would eventually bring forth the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

<u>God Depends on Us</u> = The fact is God has just done about all he can do to bring to pass the establishment of the kingdom...It is necessary, therefore, for those of us who would become his children to exercise the principle of faith...I believe that this principle of faith has been neglected and this neglect is one of the basic reasons why we have not yet realized the kingdom of God.

<u>God's Promises</u> = The first two verses of Psalm 50:1-5 have to do with history. It was a fact that out of the perfection of beauty, God has shone. We've heard it said, over and over again, "What has been, can be." Some tell us...the kingdom of God cannot be realized in this world...God would never require from us that which is impossible for us to accomplish. Furthermore, he has told us over and over again that he will lead in the accomplishment of any service which is required on behalf of his people.

The Kingdom of Heaven is Tike - Card 2

By Edmond J. Gleazer, Sr.

I am glad people are thinking of the second coming...the Psalmist said: "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before him and it shall be very tempestuous round about him." Forces having the same effect of fire are moving through the world. This is a tempestuous period, a time of trial and tribulation, a period of judgment. **Our task** = "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." (Psalm 50:5) Those who have made a covenant with God by sacrifice shall be gathered to Independence and the regions round about. Those who qualify to enter into such an arrangement of Christian brotherhood, where the will of God shall be expressed in all of their daily affairs, are to come. I also hold that there are in the church sufficient spiritually qualified men and women who, if they were brought together in community relationship, could even demonstrate the effectiveness of the kingdom of God. Some of us are going to be held responsible for any part we have failed to play in giving leadership and incentive to this type of movement.

<u>Joint Task</u> = There is no man in this church exempt from playing his part in the Zionic project. That is why I'm attempting to emphasize the principle of faith. First, we must exercise faith to the extent that we believe Zion can become a reality. I am disappointed when I hear people say we're not good enough to bring to pass the kingdom of God. Well, maybe we're not good enough, but God requires that we *become* good enough. And it's possible to become good enough as a people to produce the righteousness of his kingdom. It requires faith in the project.

Gathering of Prime Importance = When we as a church reach the place where we fail to believe in the Gathering, we'll be in apostasy and become just another church. We must have faith, not only in the project and in God, but in each other. **The Kingdom Will Come** = Jesus taught his disciples to pray after this manner: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven." Would anyone say that he taught his people to pray for a myth? Jesus knew the possibility of man's bringing forth the kingdom when he counseled his disciples: Seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God and to establish his righteousness." God would never have said to the prophet, "Gather my Saints together unto me," if such a thing were not practicable.



The Kingdom of Heaven is Like - Card 3

By Edmond J. Gleazer, Sr.

Dvnamic Faith Needed = I'm conscious of human weakness and human limitations, yet where men are responsive to the Spirit of God, he can and does move through them. If I'm going to have faith in the kingdom idea, then I'm going to have faith in God and in my fellow men...Too many people in the church want someone else to make the venture. Either they lack faith in God or they're lacking faith in their brothers...I think what we need today is faith = in God, in the project, and in each other = faith that will move us forward.

<u>**Our Power Plus**</u> = It is going to take all of our power plus the powers of heaven to bring to pass the kingdom on earth. In the 12^{th} chapter of Revelations, where the church is pictured as a woman traveling in pain waiting to be delivered, she went down into the valley of the shadow of death to bring forth the kingdom of God. I wonder to what extent we as a people are traveling in pain to bring forth the kingdom?

Obedience to the Law Needed = We observe today what a lack of faith and disobedience is doing to the civilized world. I'm wondering how long we're going to have to wait on those who have named the name of Jesus Christ and professed discipleship to prove what faith and obedience can bring to pass. No people on this earth are charged with a responsibility such as we are...if we do not learn obedience any other way, we shall learn by the things that we suffer. There will be enough who will respond. There will be enough who "travail in pain" so that the kingdom will be a reality. The Lord has never asked the accomplishment of any task that can't be realized, for he has provided means of its accomplishment. We are not dealing with individuals alone, we are dealing with Divinity and Divinity eventually will reach a sufficient number of men and women who will be obedient.

May God help us to recognize as never before that a lack of faith will postpone the establishment of his kingdom. A lack of faith – is damnable. If we believe in God, then we would work with him to bring to pass his purposes so that we'll be in a position to make a contribution to the nations of this earth in harmony with prophecy.



Taken From: Great Treasures of Knowledge By Francis Harper Jr.

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God, unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. To a virgin, espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary... And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive, and bring forth a son, and shall call his

name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:26-33



In the angel message to Mary eight promises were given:

- 1. Mary, a virgin was to conceive
- 2. A son was to be born to her
- 3. His name was to be called Jesus
- 4. He would become great

- 5. He would be called the Son of the Highest
- 6. He would be given the throne of His Father David.
- 7. He would reign over the House of Jacob forever.
- 8. Of his Kingdom there would be no end.

The first three promises given to Mary were fulfilled during her lifetime. The next two promises (four and five) were that he would become great and be called the Son of the Highest. These were fulfilled after the death of Jesus on the cross. The last three have not been fulfilled. But is there any reason to doubt they will be? Since the first five have been literally and completely fulfilled a person would have to be a fool not to believe the last three will be fulfilled also. (P. 550)

What God has promised he will fulfill. The saints have been called to 'establish the cause of Zion' (D.C.6:3, 11:3). This we must proceed to do with the Lords direction. We must seek his instruction heeding that which has already been given as well as that which will yet be revealed.



(During this Christmas season and in the days ahead, let us remember the message given by the angel of the Lord to mankind on that first Christmas Day.)

1. The Kingdom of God will bring Joy, Peace and Goodwill to men on the earth. But the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

2.

In the midst of a mighty battle when the saints are nigh well overcome, the Deliverer will come.

The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. (Joel 3:16-17) 3. The apparent triumph of those who will fight against Zion in the last days will be short lived. John described the effect of the sudden appearance of Jesus as he returns in triumph. And the kings of the earth, and the great men ... hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountain: And said to the mountains...fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne... (Rev. 6:15-16)

4 Just as Jesus came to his disciples in the fourth watch of the night in the midst of a terrifying storm, he will come again to rescue all who will turn to him in faith. In the same miraculous manner, he will reveal himself during the darkest hours before the dawn of the new era of peace and righteousness. As before, he will speak peace. Peace be still; and the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:31)

The hope of the world rests upon the establishment of the kingdom of God upon the earth. The Lord's reign as Prince of Peace will usher in a Millennium of peace and righteousness. <u>The kingdom of God on earth should be our</u> <u>highest hope, aspiration, anticipation and expectation.</u>

What Price Zion

By Robert J. Miller - St. Herald VI.94 #48

"Zion the Beautiful Beckons Us On" is a song all Saints love to sing, and rightly so, for it embraces in its verses the purpose, desire, and fondest ambitions of the disciples of Christ. Zion - the city of the pure in heart, where the will of God is obeyed with enthusiasm. Zion - the city of prosperity, where there is no poor and needy, no filth and rags, no sorrow or pain, no arrogant rich or vain selfish people. These things the followers of the Master look forward to with keen anticipation. And yet, over one hundred years ago, Christ spoke to this people and told them Zion could have been redeemed even then were it not for the transgressions of the Saints. See D&C 102:2

We, the children of God, can have Zion whenever we want it enough to follow the pattern Christ gave us; *whenever we ourselves appoint the time for its founding* *by righteous conduct,....* Zion will not come so long as we withhold our goods from those in need and place our trust in the power of money more than the power of God. Neither will it come so long as we compromise with worldly things. We cannot have Zion until we willingly surrender the things we now love which are detrimental to a fullness of life.

We believe in Zion...but we have not worked hard enough at our belief to desire it with all our hearts. The realization will never come to us as a lukewarm or double-minded people. We cannot serve God and Mammon and have Zion... ...The price of Zion is high, not because it is so precious, but we find ourselves so poor in Godly things in the coin of the heavenly realm. It is high because we have elected to reach it by the "things which we suffer."

What Price Zion Robert Miller Part 2 – St. Herald V1.94 #48

We hear a lot about vanishing frontiers, yet the greatest frontier of them all is ahead of us-the frontier of Zion. It beckons us...as the plains and Rocky Mountains did in the days when Independence was the jumping off place.

Talk to an old frontiersman or his good wife and ask them the price of settling in a new country-of advancing the frontier. You know the answer...It means good-bye to loved ones, breaking old ties, facing a new lifebut with great hope. It means trusting others in the group; it means sacrifice, courage, patience, faith and vision...it means gambling with life for things that are believed to be worth more than existence. The Frontier of Zion demands all of this of those who would be disciples for Christ- and somewhat more. It demands, first of all, a firm belief in God and in the word Christ gave; it calls for trust in God and the willingness to obey; it requires highest allegiance to the Master, even if it necessitates leaving family and friends. It means trusting and helping fellow travelers along the way. It demands sacrifice, courage, loyalty, patience, and perseverance. All this and more for it demands complete victory over self-the ability to love God with all one's heart, mind and soul, and the ability to love friend and enemy as one's self.

No other frontier asks so much. No other frontier offers eternal rewards or a fullness of spiritual power. The price of Zion is not too high.

Repentance---For Zion's Sake By Arthur Oakman card #1; from Saint's Herald 1943, Vol. 90 #42

The world needs Zion ... If we and our children are to be delivered from what Peter Drunker has called "demons" war, unemployment, and insecurity ... then somewhere, sometime and soon, that example must be displayed. The world needs Zion. Zion, Deity has decreed, shall provide the dynamic which will give power to enable men to effect change in social life which they see are so necessary, but which they lack the ability to put into operation. "The ways of peace they do know not." Man cannot do what needs to be done. The government of man, by man, has failed. And --if prophecy and prophets are to be believed-they ever fail until He comes to reign whose right it is to reign; and every social system derives its power and permanency from institutions of His Ordaining ... But the great task, the strange act, the "Mystery of Godliness," he has reserved to himself. "I will show unto the children of men," he says, "that I am able to do mine own work!" Zion is his work. We are to be laborers together with Him. Regardless of what is now promised by the leaders of the nations, peace will elude mankind until the Kingdom of God enshrines the intelligence of heaven. "For I will fill this house (the house of Israel) with glory (intelligence) ... and the desire (peace) of all nations shall come." The world needs Zion. The power to build this great work cannot be done unless Divine Power is given. It is not simply that God must help men. It is rather that they must help Him. Their idealism must be derived from contact with heaven.



The world needs Zion. The gathering, which preludes institution of Zionic ideals, is to be brought to pass, so we are given to understand, by Deity. "Unto a place which I shall prepare," he says. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Let's get this in mind. Jesus Christ is in business. He has called the people of this church to assist him. Did we understand that when we were baptized ... or did we think then that we were conferring some sort of mysterious honor upon the creator? We are called to labor with Him. Our Father still works hitherto; that is to say toward the Zionic pattern and purpose and invites all to work with Him, as Christ did while on the earth. Any endeavor we make then ... must be permeated with His personality. His Spirit must be the guiding power. Whatever is done under any other spirit is vain.

Let us ask ourselves, "Will what we build now stand the test of Divine Judgment?" <u>Has it not been</u> promised that they who seek to bring forth and "establish my Zion ... shall have the gift and power of the



Holy Ghost," and upon conditions of continued endurance and "be lifted up at the last day?" Those who apply themselves thereunto abide "Under the shadow of the Almighty." Always whenever this overshadowing power of Christ has been made manifest it has demanded something of men. These demands, after testifying of the resurrection of Christ, were so moving people cried, "Men and Brethren! What shall we do?" The answer was swift and clear, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Still the cry goes forth to those who want to help the Lord in his work of redemption, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you."

Repentance---For Zion's Sake By Arthur Oakman card #3; from Saint's Herald 1943, Vol. 90 #42

Sin stands in the way of Zion. Yes, we have spelled it with a capital "S" because it is a capital problem. It must be got rid of. We do not lack the means to build the city. Some have wondered about Zion, the place. "How, they ask, are we to ever buy enough land to be self-sustaining?" The choice land will be given to the choice people--whoever they be. The choice people will be chosen by God, when they choose Him. In reference to this, it is well to keep in mind His Covenant. "I have made the earth rich...and behold it is my footstool...and I hold forth and deign to give you greater



riches, even a land flowing with milk and honey, upon which there shall be no curse when the Lord cometh; and I will give it unto you for the land of your inheritance, if you seek it with all your hearts: and this shall be my covenant with you." Not, we understand, " if you seek first material prosperity, social advancement, and comfortable quarters in old age or physical well-being." We have now all the means we need. But we do not have enough Kingdom seeking men. There are not enough repentant men. It is sin, not lack of means; that stands in the way of Zion. The choice is before us. No one is going to make us build the Kingdom. But if we want to share in its erection we have got to pay the price. The price is to be rid of sin ... the world needs Zion. God purposes to build it. He pleads with us to rid ourselves of sin so that we may assist him in this work, and share with him the song of redeeming love. Men and Brethren, what shall we do?

MAN

Repentance---For Zion's Sake By Arthur Oakman card #4; Lectures to Melchizedek Priesthood given 1-12-58 at Independence, Missouri



You should knoWthis and make preparation for that Which you knoWis coming. ... Now is the time to strengthen your convictions, to plant your faith, deepen your experiences Wth God and come to a higher plane of life than We have knoWh heretofore. You Will need every bit of strength, faith and courage you can obtain noW to carry you thru the trials to come.

There are great cities in our great nation where we have branches that are doing the best they know how, and no doubt God will spare to some extent those cities, that God's people might bear testimony of salvation to them...after the storm has passed. I know the following to be true, because my savior told me it was so. He will not permit the forces of destruction to engulf the world to such an extent that Zion cannot be redeemed. Though your enemies come against you on your right hand and Satan encamp against your left hand, yet God will strengthen and support you to do His work. God will be at your right hand and one day angels will walk the streets of this city.

My People Will I Preserve

A Sermon by Apostle Arthur Oakman, November 1957 Norwalk, Connecticut, Metropolitan New York District Conference – Part 1

I had a peculiar experience in 1954. It was at Conference. At that Conference I had the responsibility, along with [Apostle] Percy Farrow, of directing priesthood prayer meetings on every morning of the week. On the last morning, I was made to know that the time would come that it would be necessary for the Almighty to sanctify the atmosphere above Zion for the distance of 15,000 furlongs. I knew too that He had the power in His hands, by miraculous means if necessary, to preserve every hair of every head that it was His will to preserve. Ladies and gentlemen, the only safe place there is, is "the secret place of the Most High," as the Psalm says.

The forces of destruction will be let loose, and the inhabitants of the earth be made to mourn. The Church people will mourn too. Days of sorrow and weeping will come upon us. We shall be made to feel the nature of the wrath that comes upon people of wickedness.

President Frederick M. Smith said in one of his last revelations, "The promise has been given that no power shall stay the hand of God in the accomplishment of his purposes among his people; and as the church shall move forward in its great work, the fulfillment of prophecy may cause the Saints to tremble at the exhibition of divine power, yet they shall rejoice in the protection of his grace." (DC 135:3)

When those days come, it is the will of God that His people do not fear. It is the will of God that His people look up and seek His grace, that in the midst of such conditions their testimony might be forthcoming to a perplexed and smitten people, and that their testimony may restore to them some measure of faith and hope. That when these days of sorrow and destruction come upon the people of this country, brief as they may be yet terrible, that there will be created an opportunity by reason of this judgment that will open the ears of men, and unstop their ears and open their hearts to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. A brighter and more prosperous day will be seen and experienced by the people of this Church than they have ever experienced before.

Blessed and holy is he or she who, through these days of comparative peace and prosperity, shall develop their talents—whether they be young or whether they be old—and shall spend their energies and make sacrificial efforts, that they may be equipped to minister solace and comfort and reconstruction to the people who are around them. That is the calling of our Church.

My People Will I Preserve – Part 2 A Sermon by Apostle Arthur Oakman, November 1957 Norwalk, Connecticut, Metropolitan New York District Conference

As we look forward into the future, let us not be afraid, but let us be conscious of the fact that these things of which I have spoken, (refer to June flash card), must surely come; for as the Book of Mormon says, "For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance" (2Nephi 12:23). A terrible thing to contemplate! But it is in the hands of God. If we will offer ourselves more perfectly than ever before for the ministry of salvation and peace, I am sure the good Lord will bless us and keep us; availing to bring peace and release and freedom, for I am sure He will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. But I am equally sure that He will not do for us what we can do for ourselves. "Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; for the power is in them wherein they are agents unto themselves" (Doctrine and Covenants 58:6d).

"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee" (Psalm 91:7). "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1). We are in the hands of God to do with us as seemeth Him good. Let our souls then rest content, and let us in every place bear our testimony now of those things which are to come. And when the day of desolation shall come, we shall be able to stretch forth a helping hand and preach the saving word, which I am sure it is our duty and our high privilege to do.

I am sure that God has nothing but good for us, and in spite of the shadows and clouds which gather around us with speed, and gather toward the storm, let us be assured that after the storm and the earth is cleansed once more, and the air is sweet and nature is revived, so will it be, and a more glorious opportunity to spread abroad the ministry of Jesus will be vouchsafed to this people. I am sure of these things. I know God is, and that His Son Jesus Christ is the Lord of Creation, and I know that all that we may achieve under Him will be achieved as we recognize Him and give Him the place of rightful Lordship in our lives. May God bless each one of you all the time and in every place, is my prayer.

The Necessity for Zion – Card 1 By Arthur Oakman (Talk given in 1967 at the Seminar on the Zionic Community.)

Ladies and Gentleman, I assure you with every ounce of emphasis that I can muster <u>that to</u> <u>which God has set his hand shall be. He has labored over the course of time and</u> <u>suffered through the course of time and was crucified in time in order that this may be.</u> <u>Shall he now abandon his purpose?</u>



And though each of us bring to the altar varying gifts, each of us bring varying degrees of devotion to the altar, yet my friends God accepts that which we do. We love God that is not our problem. <u>Our</u>



problem is that in loving him we do not love him enough.

What impedes the coming of the Kingdom? Not lack of wealth, not lack of gifts or talents not lack of opportunity. <u>The thing that impedes the coming of the kingdom is the fact that we have not learned the truth of the first commandment. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might, mind, and strength, first.</u>

And if you love him with all you heart, mind, might, mind, and strength then your "self", which is you, will be cleansed and purified and made white and clean, and with such a self you can be left safely to love your fellow men. This is the essences of the kingdom of God.

The Necessity for Zion – Card 2 By Arthur Oakman (Talk given in 1967 at the Seminar on the Zionic Community.)

I would remind you humbly this afternoon that God has agencies at work which we know not of. Not only within the church but outside of the church. I would remind you that there are hundreds of people in this world today and in this country and in this area perhaps whom God cannot bring into the church because we are not worthy of them.

And because the quality of our testimony has not risen to the place, the mode of performance hasn't reached the point, where we could use their gifts.

So my friends, as we look to the future let us orient our lives upon the Lamb of God. We are a blessed people, blessed not by what we are, for God has called us in spite of our limitations, not because of them, but we are blessed that in these days it is his good pleasure to give us the kingdom. <u>And he has endowed us with a heart-</u> <u>breaking, back-breaking sacrificial task and says to us, "Blessed</u> <u>are ye who seek to bring forth my Zion, ye shall have the gift and</u> <u>that power of the Holy Ghost. And if you endure to the end, ye</u> <u>shall be lifted up at the last day. You shall be saved in the</u> <u>everlasting kingdom of the lamb."</u>



The Necessity for Zion – Card 3 By Arthur Oakman (Talk given in 1967 at the Seminar on the Zionic Community.)

My friends and colleagues, if with the love of God in your hearts you will look into the lives of each other and the lives of all those with whom you come in contact, you will see the towers of Zion arising in their glory and beauty. And when you come in contact with those sunk in degradation and sin, and you see the image of the Lord Jesus Christ as it is intended to be, and you act towards those people as if they had already achieved that which you see is possible in them, you will cause them to be quickened, and they will find new life, and be brought to the altar of God, confessing their sins.....All of us are beggars.....to know God is life....To be in his presence is the essences of glory and joy. Seek his face always....seek him for his own sake that you may dwell with him, for love seeks its own.

The Promise and Longing for Zion - Card 1

Presented at: Research and Planning for Zionic Communities, 1967, by Arthur Oakman

Thirty years ago I had some insights which came to me in a reunion in England ... I was in a dimension that was outside of time. I perceived the order of creation and I want to testify to you that the trinity is not a doctrine about God. It is God.

At the heart of reality there is a society of people who live their lives in each other. Ask me to explain—I cannot—how three can be one and one can be three. No human can express it but that's the truth.



I saw the Holy Spirit proceed from the presence of the Father and the Son ... I saw something else and this was the heart of the thing ... In the meridian of time there was a pure virgin chosen, and the seed of life in her was quickened by the Holy Ghost and that physical miracle was necessary in order that the two natures—the nature of God and the nature of man—might be joined together. <u>The Lord Jesus Christ in whom Heaven and earth were joined together, I saw clearly was Zion, the Kingdom of God, in the individual mode.</u>

I saw the death and resurrection of our Lord. How did I see it? I don't know, but this I do know—that his life was the life of <u>sacrificial love</u> which is the nature of God and I saw too clearly that the <u>only thing that</u> love has to accomplish its purpose is sacrifice. And that is the only way Zion can be built. (To be continued.)



I saw the death and resurrection of our Lord. How did I see? I don't know, but this I do know—that his life was the life of sacrificial love, which is the nature of God, and I saw too clearly that the only thing that love has to accomplish its purpose is **sacrifice**. And that is the only way Zion can be built. This doesn't mean that there mustn't be planning; of course it doesn't. It doesn't mean that there mustn't be experiments; of course it doesn't. It means that the general view, the general atmosphere, the general spirit, in which we do our work must be that which is exhibited by the Lord Jesus Christ.

But I saw more than this. I saw a great company of people who had been invested with the self-same spirit that quickened the seed of life in Mary. And I saw the Lord look upon them with pleasure and with joy and I knew that Zion, alone, is God's way of finding himself in his creation. ...it is his purpose, out of the many that he has created, to bring forth one people, dominated in form, guided in form and filled with Jesus Christ. I discerned too that in this no man loses his individuality but rather gains it, for it was the glory of the Creator that out of the multifarious varieties which he had created should come this unity.

And so ladies and gentlemen, it is my testimony to you that we have been called in communion with a vast company of those who have gone before. And if our task on earth is to be made intelligible, if the world is to receive any meaning at all, or mankind himself is to find any understanding of this nature, it can only come from the Father. It can only be the gift of God. We cannot find it in the world or among the people of the world, for the everlasting covenant which binds heaven and earth together says, "When thy posterity shall embrace the truth and look upward..." It doesn't say look outward.



The Promise and Longing for Zion - Card 3

Presented at: Research and Planning for Zionic Communities, 1967, by Arthur Oakman

Oakman continues to describe an experience he had and speaks on Zion:

The everlasting covenant which binds heaven and earth together says, "When thy posterity shall embrace the truth and look upward..." It doesn't say look outward.

Our difficulty is that we—too many of us-- have the outward look instead of an upward look. Let me talk to you a little about that ... Seek those things which are about Christ. Set your affections on things about



him, and not on things on the earth. Ye are come to Mount Zion to an innumerable company of angels. ...God invested mankind with a promise and a longing, it is a part of man's nature. Do we have that kind of longing? Or have we become so stultified by the multiplication of material things in this age of affluence and has our capacity to long for the things of the Kingdom atrophied?

We are called to glory and to honor and to immortality and to eternal life. We are not supposed to be butchers and bakers and candlestick makers. We are the sons and daughters of God.

Have we remembered what God's covenant with us is in these the Last Days? Behold I the Lord, hold forth to give you greater riches, even the land of promise, for which there shall be no curse when the lord shall come, and ye shall have it for your inheritance and the inheritance of your children, if you seek it with all your heart. And this shall be my covenant with you. (D&C 38:4)

The Promise and Longing for Zion - Card 4

Presented at: Research and Planning for Zionic Communities, 1967, by Arthur Oakman

Sir Julian Huxley, a great biologist, said, "I predict that within the next hundred years that a small group of people somewhere in the world will come forth with a plan based upon spiritual laws of community living which will revolutionize the world. If this does not come to pass, man will destroy himself."

I believe this with all my heart. <u>I believe that the history of the world presents to us a race between Zion</u> <u>and catastrophe</u>. I would not harrow your minds up with the pictures of wickedness which are in the world today. I would not close your eyes to the beauty that is in much of human life.

But I would remind you humbly that we are living in the last days, the days of wickedness and vengeance – the wickedness of the sons of men and the vengeance of the son of God.



<u>And we have been called to join with the ages to bring to pass this one act – this</u> <u>strange act – this glorious consummation of the purpose of God, not in a static,</u> <u>finished product, but in the process continuously lawful and expanding, which shall</u> <u>be known as Zion.</u>

I wish I could say more. I cannot. I do know that God wants Zion, more than He wants anything else in the world. I do know that He has done all that He can for us, and that as we move out in the accomplishment of His purpose we will empower Him to do more. I believe in the living God. <u>I believe that Zion is the process by which he fulfills</u> <u>himself and finds the reflection of His own life in that which He created.</u>



Arouse From Your Slumbers-Voice of Warning Part 1 By Parley P. Pratt

Prophecies were literally fulfilled in relationship to Jesus Christ. "Behold," said the prophet, "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14 Bethlehem was to be the place of his birth; and Egypt, where he sojourned with his parents, the place of which he was called. If you had walked up and down with our dear redeemer during his whole sojourn in the flesh, and taken the pains to record the particular circumstances of his life and death, your history would not be a plainer one than the prophets gave of him, hundreds of years before he was born.

The Jews overlooked His first coming ... and were broken and scattered ... so the gentiles will overlook the prophecies concerning his second coming. His coming will overtake the world unawares, as the flood did the people in the days of Noah. The reason is they will not understand the prophets. They will not endure sound doctrine ... but thank heaven there are individuals in every sect who are humbly seeking the truth, and will know the voice of truth, and who will be gathered out and planted in the new and everlasting covenant and shall be adopted into the family of Israel, and will be gathered with them, and be partakers of the same covenant of promise.

O! My brethren according to the flesh, my soul mourns over you; and had I a voice like a trumpet, I would cry awake, awake, and arouse from your slumbers, for the time is fulfilled, your destruction is at the door. **The Lord is to come!** Zechariah chapter 14 has told us much concerning the great battle and overthrow of nations who fight against Israel ... Then will the Jews behold that long expected Messiah ... but what will be their astonishment when they see their deliverer and at once recognize Jesus of Nazareth ... the man so long rejected. He will forgive their iniquities and cleanse them ... Jerusalem shall be a Holy City from that time forth.

(Ladies, as we busy ourselves with preparations for Christmas let us keep in mind that the time of Jesus' Second Coming is at our doors and let us prepare also for His next appearance as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!)

Arouse From Your Slumbers-Voice of Warning Part 2 Excerpts taken from article by Parley P. Pratt

There will also be a city which is called Zion, which will be most beautiful, and the chosen city of God, as the prophet states, "I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires...and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord...In righteousness shalt thou be established;" Isaiah 54:11-17. In Isaiah chapter 60 we learn: First, that there is a city to be built in the last days, unto which not only Israel, but all the nations of the Gentiles are to flow; and that the nation and kingdom that will not serve that city shall perish and be utterly wasted. Second, that the name of the city will be Zion, the city of the Lord. Third, that it is to be the place of his sanctuary, and place of his feet.

The Psalmist David has told us concerning the time for the building of the city as follows: "But thou, O lord, shalt endure forever; and thy remembrance unto all generations. <u>Thou shalt</u> <u>arise, and have mercy upon Zion; for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come.</u> 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... This shall be written for the generation to come; and the people which shall be gathered shall praise the Lord. To declare the name of the Lord in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms to serve the Lord." Psalm 102

From this prophecy we learn: First, that there is a set time to build up Zion...just before the second coming of Christ, and when this city shall be built the Lord will appear in his glory. Second, we learn that the people and kingdoms are to be gathered together to serve the Lord, both in Zion and in Jerusalem. Third, we learn that this Psalm was written expressly for the generation to come, and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord, when they read it and see it fulfilled.

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES OF THE KINGDOM-CARD

By Russell Ralston (taken from The Kingdom of Heaven is Like)

There has been considerable discussion throughout the years as to whether the kingdom of God was to be a physical reality or would exist spiritually only. We believe the kingdom will have definite organization, produce physical results, and bring physical blessings to mankind; however, its reality will be the result of obedience to the spiritual principles which are basic to the kingdom itself. A close study of teachings concerning the kingdom leads one to the inevitable conclusion that the kingdom is both spiritual and physical.

The time has come when we must realize that the potential of the kingdom is within us in proportion to the degree

of our acceptance of Christ and his way of life. The kingdom can only come through lives that have been transformed by the Spirit of God. No one can participate in the building up of the kingdom nor enjoy its fruits unless repentance has worked in his life, causing an adjustment of his way of life to the Christ way. The potential of the kingdom is resident within every person who has been touched by the Spirit and gospel of Jesus Christ.

When the power of God comes into our lives through the first steps of obedience to his gospel, it is indeed a grain of mustard seed and unless it is nourished it shrivels and dies. However, if we care for this seed and through further obedience offer it opportunity to grow, we will find that it will become the greatest and most moving factor within our lives-one that empowers our every thought and deed. Not alone will it affect our lives but its influence will reach out, just as the branches of the mustard tree, to bring comfort and peace to those whom we come in contact. Within the individual this kingdom potential when magnified means much. Within a society of men this kingdom potential, if magnified, will bring the affirmative answer to the hopes of God and man throughout the ages. Sin, pain, injustice, inequality, and all the plagues of mortal life shall cease. Through Him we shall become victorious.



SPIRITUAL QUALITIES OF THE KINGDOM-CARD 2



By Russell Ralston (taken from The Kingdom of Heaven is Like)

Apostle Paul emphasized the eternal values of the kingdom in a letter to the Romans: *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy, in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17).* Here Paul challenges men to live a life with a new sense of values. He did not say meat and drink were unimportant nor that they would not be found in the kingdom. But he did say the kingdom was more than these. He knew that it could not be built up by things material; rather it must be the result of lives lived in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Paul's teachings are well supported by the words of Christ who, in his lifetime, had <u>consistently called upon men to come up higher</u>.

In his sermon Bro. Ralston lists several qualities needed for Kingdom building:

<u>**Trust</u>:** Christ said, "How hard it is for them who trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God (Mark 10:23)." Let us note that it is not riches but the fact that men trust in riches which keeps them from the kingdom. Perhaps the most important detriment of all is that those who trust in riches do not trust in God. Since the kingdom exists by the power of God, complete trust in Him is essential.</u>

To Become Like Little Children: The basic qualities of the kingdom way of life are typified by little children, for Jesus said, "Of such is the kingdom of God (Mark 10:12)." Their qualities of loving, sharing, forgiving each other (Jesus said to forgive 7x70), trusting, and living humbly are the qualities of life so evident in the Master himself. In our lives they must become fruitful, for they are the basics to the kingdom itself.

<u>Righteousness</u>: The quality of righteousness must likewise become a vital part of our lives, for it is basic to the kingdom. Let us recall the statement quoted earlier...*For the kingdom of God is...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17)*. If we are to build the kingdom and establish his righteousness, we must become intelligently obedient. This goes beyond submission, for it requires of us that we magnify the intelligence he has given us and utilize all our faculties constructively for his purposes. (Continued on March, Card 3...)

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES OF THE KINGDOM-CARD 3

By Russell Ralston (taken from The Kingdom of Heaven is Like)

Brother Ralston, in this card, continues to give us more **Eternal Values needed to bring forth God's Kingdom:** <u>Peace</u>: Peace is the result of the quality of our lives and the spirit thereof. Jesus promised his disciples peace that the world could not give. With this peace he challenged them, "*Let not your hearts be troubled (John 14:27)*." This peace can come only to lives and peoples who have placed such trust in God that their contact with him has caused all things to become new unto them and they themselves have become new creatures in Christ. We have examples of this. In the sacred record of the early people of ancient America, we find a people who began to be intelligently obedient to the laws of God and in their closeness to him found this peace (Alma 1:40-47). A remarkable statement is made concerning them, "*And thus they began to have continual peace again, notwithstanding all their persecutions.*" The qualities of their lives had made this possible. Their peace was not the result of their environment, for they were being persecuted. Their peace came from within, for they had the joy of the Holy Ghost. ...My wife and I experienced this peace at the passing of our little daughter. For the first time in our lives we were truly broken hearted. We came to the reality that in this world there was no source of real help or strength in spite of the wonderful expressions offered by friends… We found that there was only one source of peace and strength and we turned to Him….He heard our prayers and in our time of greatest turmoil came our sweetest peace. Such peace is not physical, but is spiritual, lifting man above the woes of life and giving him a taste of blessings yet to come.

<u>The Holy Spirit</u>: The kingdom can only become triumphant when we so live that his Spirit can dwell within us and make us new creatures—creatures filled with infinite qualities of loving, forgiving, sharing, trusting, learning—who live humbly before man and God...Living in the Joy of the Holy Ghost. The kingdom triumphant can only come...when our visions have been cleared and our sense of values lifted by the challenge of the eternal. In this day of sin and pain, injustice and inequality, there is yet much hope, for the challenge of the kingdom calls us on. Let us go forth with unfailing faith, blessed with the knowledge that three things shall be: A loftier race than ever the world hath known shall rise, With flame of freedom in their souls, and Light of knowledge in their eyes.



Jesus Will Set Up His Kingdom

By Christine Salyards

The angel who came to Mary told her that the son which she would bring forth would set up a kingdom. This statement still applies today. Jesus who was born so long ago will yet return and set up His Kingdom on the earth. When the angel, Gabriel, announced to Mary the birth of a son he said: *The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David, and he shall reign*

over the houses of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end (Luke 1:32-33). It linked the son of Mary with the Old Testament prophecies.

The kingdom Jesus came to establish was not such a one as the Jews expected their Messiah to usher in. As he was about to take his departure into heaven, the disciples asked him, "Lord wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom unto Israel?" He answered that it was not for them to know the times and seasons. He spoke to them again of the responsibilities he had left upon them and then ascended into the clouds of heaven. But though Jesus did not name the specific time of his return to earth, he has left some general information concerning it. He told Enoch it should be in the last days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance (Genesis 7:67). In answer to the question of his disciples, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus said it would be in a time of great iniquity and the world would be taken unawares, as it had in the days of Noah, when the flood came and carried them all away. He said there would be wars, earthquakes, famines, and perplexities, and men's hearts would fail with fear. (Luke 21:25-27; Matthew 24:37)

He stated that, as one of the signs of his coming, the gospel should be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations. Matthew 24:32 says that a remnant of Israel should be gathered back to Jerusalem, and that the Saints of the latter days should be gathered to a place of safety appointed for them, a city of refuge (DC 45:2). As we celebrate Christmas let us remember what the angel said to Mary and not only rejoice in Christ's birth but prepare ourselves for His Kingdom.

The Enduring Word: A City to be Built - Part 2

Laying the foundation Brick upon Brick

By Christine Salyards

Laying the foundation Brick upon Brick

When it was revealed to Enoch that the Lord will come to earth again in the last days he was told: And the day shall come that the earth shall rest...And great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve (Genesis 7:28-71). The Lord said his people should be gathered to a place he would prepare and would build up a holy city.

This city of the latter days is to be built up by those who receive the gospel, restored for the last time. It must be built on the same principles of righteousness by which the people of Enoch's Zion were developed spiritually, until they were ready for translation to heaven. At the coming of Christ there will be gathered in one of all who, in past times have built upon that foundation of truth.

Doctrine and Covenants 65:1e refers to this union as a meeting that will occur when "the Son of man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the Kingdom of God which is set up on the earth." It says, Wherefore, may the Kingdom of God go forth, that the Kingdom of heaven may come (DC 65:1e). To the church...is committed the responsibility of making known his wonderful works among the people that they may be prepared for the great day that is approaching.

Christine admonished = Give Heed With Your Might!"

Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion...and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care. I am the light and the life of the world, that speak these words; therefore, give heed with your might (DC 11:3b, 4b, 5a-b).



The Enduring Word – Part 3

By Christine Salyards

The angel Moroni, sent to introduce the latter day works of restoration to Joseph Smith, quoted the prophecy of Malachi among those to be fulfilled. (History of the

Church Vol 1, p. 13) This visit may be regarded as the commencement of a work in this closing stormy period of world history. It includes the presentation of the gospel in its original purity and the gathering of a people who receive it to a place where they may be safe in the time of stress soon to break upon the whole world, already at the door.

The prevalence of the unrest coming on the world is indicated in the prediction that the people gathered in their place of refuge will be the "only people not at war one with another". (DC 45:12-13) It is required that those who gather to the place of safety shall be upright and faithful. The church is warned that in the time of the end, the parable of the ten virgins will be fulfilled. This indicates that its people must be true followers of Christ. It suggests the danger that those, once enlightened by the Spirit, may fall away through failure to keep the commandments of the law of Christ.

The church is a colony of heaven, where our spirits were in the beginning with God. We profess allegiance to Christ and avow our willingness to keep his commandments. Upon condition of our loyalty to the law of the Kingdom, we shall finally have fellowship with the general assembly of the church that shall inherit the earth. With Jesus in the Kingdom, DC 26:2-3 mentions representative men of different periods of time, who will be in the Kingdom on earth when Jesus comes again: Adam, the father of all, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Elijah, Elias (Gabriel) who appeared to Zacharias, John the Baptist, Peter, James, John and Moroni. With these, to whom special work was assigned, will be the multitudes of the meek, the pure in heart, who have loved truth and have been loyal to it in their lives. The magnitude of the responsibility borne is not the most important consideration, but the faithfulness with which it is discharged. Much is said of the necessity of preparing ourselves to be worthy of life on this higher plane. This work of personal preparation is our responsibility. To prepare the place for us is the work of Christ, and he will do his part!

What will Zion be like? Evening of the 6th Day by Donald Savage 1982, p.200

In Zion (Enoch's City) men and women lived together and died, but the time came when, because of righteousness, death was set aside, and Zion's inhabitants were translated into the unseen world. There they await the hour when Zion will

again come on the earth. At that time their Zion will return to earth and grow together with the new Zion towards holiness in anticipation of Christ's return in glory and His millennial reign. We reasonably anticipate that the latter day Zion will compliment this pattern of things, that it will be a very high spiritual level. In that day the veil between heaven and earth will be pulled aside. Both mortals, translated persons and resurrected persons will live side by side.

There will be peace.....the child indeed can shepherd the lion as well as the lamb.....so will Zion become a city set on a hill, a light in the darkness, an ensign to the nations with the light of Christ's presence shining in the countenances of His people, and indeed some will say:

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem;" Isaiah 2:3

This singular group will have gathered from the four corners of the earth as a result of powerful

ministry by Christ and His special chosen ministers: Enoch asked God, "I ask you if you will not come again on the earth? And the Lord said unto Enoch, As I live, even so will I come in the last days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance, to fulfill the oath which I made unto you, concerning the children of Noah: and the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day, shall the heavens be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve; and righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of my Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out my own elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place which I shall prepare; a holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem." D&C 36:12a-g





How Will Zion be Brought Into an Actual Operating Entity? - Part #1 Evening of the 6th Day by Donald Savage 1982, p.201

Christ has made His promise of the latter day Zion a matter of scriptural record for all to see. Because he has thus uttered these words, they are truth and law, in time and in eternity. It cannot be otherwise. Those words are as absolutely certain of fulfillment as any law of science (of God) ever recognized by man. The veracity of the Almighty, the very existence of all creation hinges upon it—it will be accomplished. His word will not return to him void.

It is obvious that we have a ways to go and that it will be a step by step progress. ... It must come to pass as man himself deliberately, through his own agency, seeks a higher spiritual level through and in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind of the Father and the Son.

Man must want Zion with All His Heart. = That is step #1

"And the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers." That is, the Church Membership will respond and seek Zion with all their hearts, ... In this they will be encouraged by their fathers. (For the fathers hunger for Zion and the millennium also!) Angelic ministry will be thus a rich reality.

"...and also Elijah, unto whom I have committed the keys of the power of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children and **the hearts of the children** to the fathers, that the whole earth may not be smitten with a curse;" D&C 26:2e

"...and the nations of the earth shall honor her, and shall say, Surely Zion is the city of our God; and surely Zion cannot fall, neither be moved out of her place, for God is there, and the hand of the Lord is there, and he hath sworn by the power of his might to be her salvation, and her high tower; therefore verily thus saith the Lord, Let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion, THE PURE IN HEART; therefore let Zion rejoice, while all the wicked shall mourn;" D&C 94:5b-c

How Will Zion be Brought Into an Actual Operating Entity?- Part #2 Evening of the 6th Day by Donald Savage, 1982

On Zion, Don said, "This singular group will have gathered from the four corners of the earth as a result of powerful ministry by Christ and His chosen ministers. To a place which (He) shall prepare. That place will center at what we now call Independence, Missouri.

D&C 57:1a-c "Hearken, O ye elders of my church saith the Lord 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."

Now the Holy Spirit, in power such as required for this supreme task, is not received in man apart from the authoritative ordinances of Christ's Church. The steps are, of course, faith, repentance, baptism, confirmation and continuation...

D&C 102:2c "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;"

The receipt of the necessary degree of the Holy Spirit to achieve Zion is available in and through Christ's Church alone. = This is Step #2"

D&C 85:20a "Behold, I will hasten my work in it's time; and I give unto you who are the first laborers in this last kingdom, a commandment, that you assemble yourselves together, and organize yourselves, and prepare yourselves; and sanctify yourselves;"

How Will Zion be Brought Into an ActualOperating Entity?- Part #3 Evening of the 6th Day by Donald Savage 1982, p. 202

Inherent in the society of Christ's Church is a fellowship one to another, through Him, above and beyond anything else known on earth. This fellowship is a oneness that makes brothers and sisters of strangers, an all-abiding mutual trust through their God. The true feeling of that fellowship is an affair of the heart and soul, it must be lived and experienced to be understood. It is the glow of that pearl of great price.

Zion is a body of people with deep profound love for each other through the Son of God = This love for one another is step #3.

In Zion, people will, without hesitation or reservation, be willing to lay down their lives for each other because they love one another. But this love cannot exist one sided. It is founded in the all piercing eye of Him who demands individual honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, kindness, humility and patience. And to this we have added the expectation of achieving mutual goals and eternal life. This love is developed through men as through the Holy Spirit they, on a Zionic plane, sacrifice together, work together, pray together and otherwise worship together.

So now we have the frame work of Zion's redemption: It will come about when men and women want Zion with all their hearts, work toward that end through Christ's Church and strive to develop a profound love for their brothers and sisters through Christ and become loveable themselves.

"...and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care." DC 11:4b

Keeping the Vision of Jion in Our Hearts - Part 1 -Message give through Henry Schaefer, at East Alton – February 3, 1974

In this message, given through Henry Schaefer, God reminds us of the importance of keeping the vision of Zion in our hearts as a real and tangible goal. God has called us as a people to keep the vision of building Zion: Now as you have asked, behold I say unto you, Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion (D&C 10:3a). (This message was given after a sermon on Zion by Ray Zinser.)

How could I withhold myself from those who have come here in the spirit of repentance, in the spirit where they have been willing to more completely dedicate your lives to my eternal purposes? It grieveth me when I still see some of my children not having caught the vision of my city of Zion where I have pleaded and challenged you from time to time that you might go forth under my power in the bringing to realization that "Zion" is supposed to be the ensign for the whole wide world to see that my ways are indeed the best ways.

And so, I would desire that those that have not caught the vision, those that hath through trials and temptations lost the vision, to recapture what was in the heart of my Son when He pleaded with me that my Kingdom might come and my will be done here on earth as it is done so gloriously in heaven.

This is still at the center of my mission to my children so that they might yet produce that which will bring an end to sin in this whole wide world of ours. And so, I would call each one of you that you might continue to repent, that you might continue to discipline your life after the pattern of my Son, for by doing so you shall give me opportunity to extend the power of my Spirit into your hearts by the bestowal of that greater endowment of my Spirit with which you shall be able to go forward among mankind so that eventually they will have to confess that I have residence within you.
Keeping the Vision of Zion in Our Hearts - Part 2

-Message give through Henry Schaefer, at East Alton – February 3, 1974

This Message is a reminder of how Satan seeks to destroy and stop Zion from coming. It is a warning but also offers encouragement and hope. May we all be encouraged for God has said, "Zion shall be!"

All of you my people are aware that the adversary has unleashed his power and his evil forces more than ever before for he is aware that his time is short. He is doing everything possible in order to discourage my people, if not possible to destroy, at least to delay that which is bound to come because after all I'm still God.

I still rule in heaven and on the earth and I would encourage you my people, to look at the horizon with your spiritual vision that shall be in the hearts of those that are possesors of the Holy Spirit, whereby you can see the fulfillment of all things that have been spoken to my children down through all ages through my servants the prophets.

So, take heart, be renewed and strengthened in the inner man by the giving of yourself more completely than you have ever done before and you shall be assured that with me you're engaged in a winning cause because my purposes will not be frustrated.

Zion shall be. My Kingdom will become a reality and it is my heart's desire that each one of you might be found faithful so that at the end I shall be permitted to speak to each one of you, "Come ye blessed of My Father, inherit My Kingdom." Be steadfast and true to the sacred covenant that you have made with me and I will never fail you, even so, Amen.

Prophecy given by the Spirit through Patriarch Roland Scott,

Received the Evening of May 23, 1955; Vision #4

Behold thus saith the Lord unto you who seek for the signs of the closing days of the Lord, and ye say, "and yet a little while that is close at hand, the Lord will send forth His power in judgment unto the proud and wicked," and ye also say, "If ye can endure a little bit longer this hateful condition (for behold, this is mostly what we have to do), and if we shall endure a little longer, then we shall see great promise of help and deliverance."

Now behold I will teach thee and show thee that this is not altogether true. Behold and see; I am sending forth strong trials upon my people (or they who truly seek to keep my commandments), and they shall be proven without a shadow of a doubt just whether they can stand or whether they shall fall. For they who put their trust in me, after they have borne their trials, shall burst forth in great joy when the veil of heaven is lifted.

But behold my strong trials shall cause much anguish and suffering, and ye shall feel as if the God ve have truly believed in has suddenly forsaken thee, and when thine heart shall cry out, even to the extent that ye would rather die than live, even to the feeling of truly denying me, Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Ghost (and yet ye shall not), behold then shall I the Lord God release thy great trial which shall be upon thee, and shall give thee in return great strength. For thy sorrow shall be turned to gladness and thy gladness to great joy, and ye shall confess with the power of the Holy Ghost, "The Lord God surely hath songs of everlasting joy." And behold, all thy trials shall cease ... Behold, my coming is not yet, ye know not when. But I say unto thee, the power of Satan in the hearts of men shall increase in greatness ... Therefore watch and be faithful that ye be ready and do hear my call ... I the Lord, do work according to mine own time. For behold, my time unto men seemeth slow, but they who will slow their patience, shall be strengthened with more patience, ... I, the Lord God, shall bring to pass all that I conceive to be. The Lord God hath spoken it.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND By Wayne Simmons

John the Baptist and Joseph Smith had a similar calling: To make ready a people prepared for the Lord. The challenge of Christ sent to men and their message in this age is the same as AD. 30. "Repent...Prepare ye the way of the Lord...Restore that which was Lost...The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand." Those who prepare the way for the Christ of the kingdom know that they do not labor in vain, for Christ has already been in the world, and the Spirit of God testifies to his worthiness to rule over all men. What a Herculean task awaits those who shall be laborers of the Lord's harvest or kingdom! They will not have time for building shrines or cathedrals in memory of the past. They must prepare for his coming. Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Let us look forward, not backward, to the Christ.

Two years ago, in a dream or vision, I was privileged to see the Savior. I was in a Latin American village standing in the midst of a small party of English-speaking friends, surrounded by a multitude of Latin Americans who lined the curbs and filled the narrow sidewalks of the main street. They were waiting for someone to come parade down the street. At first I didn't know who was being welcomed. And suddenly, the shouting crowd grew still, and I saw the Lord coming from a side street turning directly in front of us so that all of us saw him at the same instant. He was alone. He was a tall man, for his head showed high above the heads of all who were in the crowd. He wore scarlet, and his cloak of the same color, draped around his shoulders, was richly embroidered with gold.

Here was no carpenter, no itinerant prophet but a veritable king, dressed as a king! His head was bare, and he carried no crown or scepter, but the brightness of his face testified to my heart that he was, indeed the King of kings and Lord of lords. He stopped and smiled and made a beckoning movement with his head to us. We followed him...there was no shouting now only a spirit of reverence, and I saw them come, straggling in numbers, first one; behind two more; then four abreast and so on, but all were coming. I woke to the knowledge that the Christ of the Kingdom, who I had seen, will cause his work to prosper among these people! (Micah 4:1-7)

A Prayer of Blessing By Elbert A. Smith 1959

Recorded in Saint's Herald Vol. 106 #26. Elbert A. gave a special blessing to the church that included the women of the church; this blessing still rests upon us this day.

"Being alone in my home on a Sunday afternoon ... I felt the urge to indict a prayer of blessing upon all those of the church membership in need of divine aid and willing to receive it. I am persuaded that all who are so minded will have help."

"O God, our heavenly Father, most humbly I do beseech thy blessing to be upon thy church and upon the individual members of thy church, to each according to his or her personal need.

We dwell in the shadow of great danger which threatens all people. These are such times as the prophets warned us would come in the latter days when peace should "be taken from the earth." But with the warning went promises of blessings to all those who love thee and keep thy commandments. Forgive us, Lord, our blunders and our shortcomings. May we from this time on serve thee more diligently and more intelligently. May thy people be blessed as never before with unity and good will, with light and divine guidance, for this is a time of great need......

Bless those devoted women of the church who serve according to their gifts and talents in the branches and departments of the church. Thou knowest the needs of each. May their needs be fully met.

In an especial manner bless the women who are homemakers and homebuilders that they and their companions may build Godly and enduring homes from which may come the next generation to serve the church.

Bless the homes that are truly devoted to thee, and reach out and help us reclaim the homes in which there is contention and worldly folly... ...once more I invoke the blessing to be upon thy church now and evermore. Amen."

Elbert A. Smith Sermon (Saints Herald, Volume 76, page 449 –Sermon given at the Stone Church, April 7, 1929)

Prophesied Thus: "I have gathered my people out from the world saith the Lord, even from many different parts of the earth, and you are here as seed to be planted in my fields of Zion, and if you will be faithful and humble and consecrate yourselves, the harvest shall be great and very beautiful.Be not troubled in your minds by anything that shall occur. Mark this well: I say unto you, the only temple standing on the face of the earth today, built by commandment of heaven, is in your possession (The Kirtland Temple), and its courts are open to this people, and they who have gone into those sacred courts on many occasions received the Pentecostal Baptism of my Spirit; ... My arm is not shortened, my purpose remains one. I have put into the hearts of thousands the testimony how my church was organized nearly a century ago; and if you will bow yourselves and humble your hearts I will put into your souls the testimony that this is still my *church today."

<u>Resolve to put out of your lives all things that displease me,</u> <u>saith the Lord; and those whose hearts have been sad shall be baptized</u> <u>by the spirit of joy, and those who have wandered shall be called to return.</u> <u>I will build Zion saith the Lord. Therefore, on this day</u> <u>covenant together to keep all of my commandments</u> which I have given you, and behold my Spirit shall be with you, saith the Lord."</u>

*The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, established on this earth in 1830 by Joseph Smith II, through authority and power given from on high, and reorganized by his son Joseph Smith III, is still found today among those who embrace it's original doctrine.

A Call to Build Zion - by Fred M. Smith

Sermon given at the Stone Church - January, 1920 - Saints Herald Vol. 67, #9

Although this was given in 1920 we see the vision and the understanding given to Fred M, as the prophet of the church, concerning those things that would yet come to pass. He was given a deep concern for the saints of the church to be prepared and this concern is expressed in the following remarks taken from his sermon:

A Call to Build Zion

I wonder how long it will be until we have Zion. My concern has been intensified of late. Forces are at work which threaten our government, and the men at Washington know this well. Discord and chaos are liable to break out overnight and the institutions upon which we lean for our safe-guard may crumble, and our protection be weakened.

I wish I could tell you some of the things I feel and know. The great concern that has stirred me at times is, "When that time of chaos comes will this people be prepared to furnish the place of safety God has intended that we should? If we are going to prepare this place, we must be up and doing. The time may be nearer than you think. Whether it be five years or fifty, it makes no difference to us in regard to our determination to do everything in our power to establish the things God has told us we should establish ... 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!"

We need not only implore God every night as we go to our secret closets for prayer, but we need also to rise from our knees and say that the morning light that shall come following our night of rest shall find us active in carrying out the thing that shall contribute to the bringing about of the conditions that we prayed for. <u>Let us</u> <u>help God establish Zion!</u>

Loose Thyself from the Bands of the Neck

Testimony of Lucy Mack Smith Written by Pat Chadwick

Lucy Mack Smith, the mother of Joseph Smith the prophet, was in charge of moving about 80 people, mostly women and children, from New York to Kirtland, Ohio. They were traveling by river in the winter. At Buffalo, New York, the wharf area iced over and no one was able to go forward on the river. Other Saints were stranded there and cautioned Lucy not to tell anyone they were of the Mormon faith. Lucy replied she should tell the people precisely who she was. She was not

ashamed of Christ and expected that her group would get to Kirtland before the stranded Saints.

Speaking to her group she said, "Now brethren and sisters, if you will all of you raise your desires to heaven, that the ice may be broken up, and we be set at liberty, as sure as the Lord lives it will be done." At that instant a noise was heard like bursting thunder. The ice parted, leaving a narrow passage for the boat to pass through. The ice then closed together again.

This story of Lucy Mack Smith reminded me again of the power of God to assist us in the work. We see here it was the power of prayer and faith that made the difference. Prayer is powerful because it connects us to the very source of power, even the Creator of heaven and earth.

Is this not another parable, as it were, to us today? Ladies let us not be discouraged at the ice/bands that seem to have encased our people, but let us pray that the ice/bands be loose/broken, just as Lucy prayed for the ice that held them captive to be broken. My sisters if we pray in faith believing, surely God will hear our prayers and set us free.

We also need to be repentant of those things that we have done that hinder the work and the sins that have beset us. Let us be repentant and pray for God to move in great power that His Kingdom will be set free from all that holds it captive.

The Invitation

Portion of a Message Given at Oak Grove Restoration Branch – June, 2014 By Elder Ed Story

This message by Bro. Ed Story reminds us of Bro. Davey's writings, (summer of 2016), that we need to be transformed. Let us work towards this transformation in the days ahead, that we will be prepared to meet our Lord and King, Jesus Christ at His 2nd coming.

My Children who are willing to serve Me listen to My word. I am offering you another invitation to come unto My Fold for the last time, in these the last days and age to do My will ... <u>Come to Me in praver</u> and study and fasting, for there is no other way that you can receive Me into your hearts, that I will be able to soften them to do My will among you ... You have set aside My first counsel and invitation unto you through My Patriarchs. (This counsel is to be found in the pamphlet called: Spiritual Preparation of the Body of Christ.) ... You have sinned before me in many and grievous ways. I will forgive you of your trespasses before Me if you will repent of your wicked ways <u>You must obey and be cleansed and made new creatures before I will allow you to be worthy of My invitation. You must be made new, transformed, cleansed before you can come into My holy and celestial chamber to meet Me, your God, and My Bride at the marriage supper, My celestial and holy table. Only then can I claim you as My own.</u>

"Time Is Running Out" – 1968 Excerpt of a Revelation given through Patriarch Roy Weldon

"Some 140 years ago the Restored Gospel burst upon the world with the startling declaration of the Lord's servant, "God speaks to men today--hear ye Him." Now, nearly a century and a half since Palmyra, a new day is starting to dawn. Instructions have come to prepare the stage for the next great act of the Restoration: the Temple, the endowment, and the Holy City. For decades, this people have been counseled and warned to prepare for those things which are to come. Now *time is running out! Time is running out!* Running out for those

families and homes who have failed to establish the family altar. Who have failed to discipline their lives and the things that are allowed to enter their homes from worldly sources. Time is running out for those homes where there is bickering, quarreling, crabbiness, and gossiping. But for those families where family worship is daily conducted, where love, affection and righteousness prevails, and where the Spirit of the Lord can dwell—for these families, *time is* **not** *running out*. Time will bring you to a new day! Time will bring you, your children, and your grandchildren, to the gates of the Holy City; to the blessings of which it has been written that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it yet entered into the heart of man, those things that the Lord hath prepared for those who love Him and serve Him and keep His commandments." 1 Corinthians 2:9

Tell My People – Card 1 By Walter Weldon

Tell my people, "You are here to build My Zion."

Gen. 7:23 "And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in Righteousness; and there were no poor among them. And Enoch continued his preaching in righteousness unto the people of God. And it came to pass in his days, that he built a city that was called the city of Holiness, even Zion." We see that the people of Enoch built a city..., even Zion. This is exactly what the Lord is asking us to do.

1 Nephi 3:187-188 "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and 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;" The power of the Holy Ghost is promised to those who seek to bring forth Zion.

Psalms 53:7 "Oh that Zion were come, the salvation of Israel; for out of Zion shall they be judged, when God bringeth back the captivity of his people. And Jacob shall rejoice; Israel shall be glad." Oh that Zion were come! This is our cry for today also. Zion is the answer to our problems, as well as the world's problems. We have the blue print given to us, by our heavenly Father, for a better way of life. I am afraid time is running out.

Isaiah 4:2-3 "And it shall come to pass, they that are left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even everyone that is written among the living in Jerusalem; When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning." There shall be no unclean thing in Zion, only those who are living the celestial law, for they have become sanctified. They have made His word flesh. These are the ones who will be in Zion.

Tell My People – Card 2 By Walter Weldon

Tell my people, "You are here to build My Zion."

2 Nephi 12:24-25, 30-31 "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; ... 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." Satan will rage in the hearts of men, others will he pacify and lull into carnal security. There is no security in the world. It can and will be wiped out in one day as Babylon falls. We are not to listen to the precepts of men. The prophet Nephi is using some very harsh words in speaking to the Gentiles of our day. Nephi finishes with these words, "they will deny me." The way His people deny him is that they will not do His will ... Parents often tell their children to do something and they will defy them and not do it. This is what we are doing to our Heavenly Father. The Lord says we are to build Zion ... Great and rich promised are made to those who will fulfill His great promises.

D&C 98:4f-g, 10c "Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion, for all flesh is in mine hands: be still, and know that I am God. Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to build up the waste placed of Zion. And all these things, that the prophets might be fulfilled.

There is even now already in store a sufficient, yea, even abundance to redeem Zion, and establish her waste places, no more to be thrown down, were the churches, who call themselves after my name, willing to hearken to my voice." The Lord is telling his saints that Zion could have been redeemed if the saints would only hearken unto his voice. We have not been willing to trust and obey His voice.

Tell My People – Card 3 By Walter Weldon

Tell my people, "You are here to build My Zion."

D&C 138:3a-e "Let the church again be admonished that the task of establishing Zion presses heavily upon us. Barriers and hindrances to the achievement of this goal should be removed as speedily as possible and practicable. To lay securely the foundations for Zion and her buildings the work should be accomplished in peace and harmony. Unity should prevail among them when they keep faithfully the commandments. Great blessings are in store for the church if it will in faith and saintly devotions go forward in its tasks."

The Lord is saying the time to establish Zion is NOW. The things that are preventing the progress of building Zion should be speedily removed. There is an urgency expressed at this time. The foundation of Zions is peace and harmony, one heart and mind. In spite of what has happened to the church God is still in control. This is the sifting time. If we will not keep his word we will be like the foolish virgins, the door will be closed and we will be standing outside.

The Lord is saying the task to build Zion presses heavily upon us. The barriers and hindrances should be removed. The barriers are still with us today, such as selfishness and pride, and the cares of the world. We do not keep His commandments. We are not dedicated to carry out what is required. The Lord promises to always fulfill His word when we do what he tells us to.

Zion, After World War III – Part 1 by Elder Joseph White

(An experience given to Bro. White in 1941 while attending a prayer service at the Stone Church. This was a critical year for America as Hitler was overtaking country after country. World War II was looming in the future.)

I stood to bear my testimony. I had spoken for a few moments, when the spirit of prophecy came to me in a great power. Never had I felt such power before in my life! At this moment, I became conscious of a heavenly angel standing by my side and speaking to me ... His first words were:

<u>"Behold, thus saith the Lord unto you My people. It was I who hung upon the cross for you, that you</u> might receive eternal life. Tonight, I pled with you to come unto me. Oh will you come unto me? For verily, thus saith the Lord, the day of the Gentiles is over. From now on, they shall go down and down, until there shall not be one left against Me, saith the Lord. You could have escaped this hour, but ye would not. Now you will have to bear the burden and sorrow of this hour, for My judgments are upon the Gentiles and all the ungodly. My Zion waits for a later day, and thou art caught in the judgments of the Gentiles. Yet will I spare thee."

At this time the angel quoted a part of Sec. 102:2 (See Front of Card). The scripture quoted by the angel read a little differently than the Doctrine and Covenants. "Behold, I say unto you, were it not for the transgressions of My people, Zion could have been redeemed long ago. But behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands."

At the time this was taking place the Second World War lay at my feet – but seemly it was nothing compared to what was yet to come. Here again the angel spoke to me saying not to fear this, but that which is to follow. (To be continued on Joseph White card #2)

Joseph White Card II – Part 2 By Elder Joseph White (An experience given to Bro. White in 1941-Continued from card #1)

Here at this time I seemed to be looking down on a scene that was being shown to me ... the next scene that came before me was the general priesthood of the Church-both appointees and local priesthood members ... I did not know any of these men ... As I stood viewing these men , I was made to know and understand their condition. They were weak and very pale looking, not measuring up to their calling which God had placed upon them. The scene changed from the priesthood to the saints of the church ... They too looked weak and pale ... here the angel said to me, "My people cannot rise to the higher ground of righteousness until My priesthood are living and ministering up to their calling."

Here the scene change from the condition of the Church to the war with Russia. It was shown to me in a spiritual sense, although I knew I understood, while under the Spirit. It came like a flash of lightening from a great storm. I heard howling and moving wind. Great and terrible was this hour. I trembled as I looked upon it. I knew it was the Third World War. There are dim thoughts and scenes in my mind yet today (1976). I cannot reveal, neither can I utter them for they have been closed up like a book.



Great and terrible was this hour (I feel it to be) the darkest hour for civilization, this side of the days of our blessed Lord. <u>As I viewed</u> <u>this hour, I felt America came very close to being over thrown. I</u> <u>was made to understand that because of the Kingdom (Zion),</u> <u>America would be spared</u> ... I was made to know in this experience we would not do much in building the Kingdom until the Third World War was over. <u>May God bless all who believe in the redemption of</u> <u>Zion and minister to that end.</u>

Zion Flash Card – January, 2013

(Excerpt from Ray Zinser Sermon, Part 3)

(Dedication of Temple Lot)

OKLAHOMA

"What we need to sense above all other things, today is, that Independence, Missouri, was designed from the foundation of the world as the central gathering point of the world. This places tremendous responsibility upon all of you who live

in this area.

Can you understand you're also going to be responsible in the gathering, as people come from all over the world to this central area? We are they who must be so loving and so understanding and have the kind of capitalization and the kind of economic resources, that we can share.

Likewise, all persons coming to Zion must be stewards and give of themselves completely to the work of Zion. We have lived a long time knowing that the gathering was near at hand, but you're going to see some gathering now from all over the world; unfortunately, in some cases by hysteria, and some massive crises. But nonetheless, the Lord has said this is the place for the redemptive process for the world."

ILLINO15

Presented at: Research and Planning for Zionic Communities – Part 1 By Ray Zinser, (1967)

Throughout the ages, prophets and seers, planners and dreamers have looked to the day when there will be established on the earth a society of believers whose fellowship would be so moving, whose faith be so sure, whose wisdom so profound, that the kingdom of Heaven would be established. And then this scripture, "...righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place I will prepare;" (Genesis 7:70).

Thou art aware of the desire of God to establish in this day and generation his Zion. Blessed are they who shall have opportunity to work in the interest of Zion, assisting to bring to pass the social order that shall be a blessing and aid in the ultimate salvation of the children of men.

The scriptural records contain words which are replete with instructions to the church. The church must move forward to implement these words as rapidly as possible. If we abide in faith, the end is known, for the Zionic process is a part of the record ... Zion is to come to prepare us for the time that we can share eternally with our heavenly Father. He wants to prepare us and gather the peoples of the world that will listen -those few that will hearken and obey.

Research and Planning for Zionic Communities – Part 2

By Ray Zinser, (1967)

The following was quoted by Bro. Zinser and given by Elbert A. Smith in the Kirtland Temple and recorded in the book, Brother Elbert. We are given insights into the work of the Father that began on that starry night long ago when Christ was born. The work continues with the call to hear Christ today.

"I am he who was born of the Virgin Mary. I am He who was crucified on Calvary's cross but I ascended up on high. And behold I am alive for evermore. Like you, I said in my early youth, I must be about my father's business. I knew what it was to leave home and friends and loved ones, to be weary and lonely, and sometimes to be outcast. I knew my Gethsemane, but I knew also the Mount of Transfiguration. He who appeared unto the prophet in his youth, the prophet Joseph, and the Heavenly Father attested my ministry saving. This is my beloved son, hear him. And ye are to hear Him now and always.

I am He who gave the missionary commission, go Ye into all the world and preach the gospel—teach all nations, baptizing them, teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded You ... Be of good cheer. I am merciful. I had compassion on the people of old and out of the compassion I said to my followers, 'Pray the Lord to send more laborers into the harvest.' ... Do not be discouraged ... especially to you who are pastors, and feed the sheep and the lambs – do so tenderly, and with wisdom. See to it that they are fed, and you shall have joy in the love that comes back to you in your service ... In your own minds search yourselves and decide what the church has done for you, and what you can do for the church, which I purchased with my own blood."

Research and Planning for Zionic Communities - Part 3

By Ray Zinser, (1967)

Whether we live or die is not so important as how we live, for perfect love casteth out all fear. We offer ourselves in love, service and sacrifice as long as life shall last on the earth, and then for eternal preservation in His celestial kingdom.

I propose 3 levels of love: 1. Creature Love; 2. Covenant Love at baptism; and 3. Obedience Love when man follows the basic laws and principles of God's creation. And the level of love is different at each stage and we are eligible for higher levels of love from our Heavenly Father as we respond to the laws of His universe. This response in which man voluntarily offers his obedience to truths, the word of God and God's creation, validates or fulfills the initiated creative act.

To alter oneself totally, completely, to transform oneself from the carnal, sensual, natural man to the celestial man is the basic vehicle of Zion.

We are born selfish. We are born ego centered. We are also born with the possibility of becoming Christ like. Zinser quotes Fred M. Smith, <u>"The sacrifice of body and mind and means, to the work, is what is</u> <u>demanded at this hour – unreserved consecration and devotion to the cause of Zion, which is the chief</u> <u>function of this church and is the one great thing that will permit us to carry on the tasks of the church."</u>

"Let the church be admonished that the task of establishing Zion presses heavily upon us. Barriers and hindrances to the achievement of this goal should be removed as speedily as possible and practicable."

Build My Zion - Part 1

Excerpts of a Message given by Ray Zinser, 1974 at East Alton Congregation

For centuries, I have called men and women to build my Zion. Yea even today Zion would be built and there would be flowing from the Center place of Zion to the sin sick world a message of peace and love which can be found only in my kingdom. Many of you have sought happiness in iniquity, which cannot be. Many have sought other idols and gods other than me. Ye have not served me but have served him who is the heart and soul of disguise, deceit and rebellion. ... **But my promises and covenants are true and as the**



prophet Fredrick M. Smith said, "You will tremble with joy in the spirit of Restoration and you will be protected by that spirit which provides for physical and spiritual safety in the hour of need."

So, I call you this morning to the same kingdom for which the risen Lord pled and bled and arose to bring forth. It is the same kingdom that I called young Joseph to build. It is the same kingdom the world calls for in its hour of agony. <u>Know ye not there is no other way than that of my Son</u>? <u>Know ye not that ye have been asked to build this Kingdom, an honor beyond comprehension</u> <u>and a glory beyond understanding when fulfilled</u>?

> Search and ponder my scriptures carefully that ye might know the truth that this truth might set you free, in your personal lives, and in your family lives and your congregational lives. (...to be continued.)

Build My Zion - Part 2

Excerpts of a Message given by Ray Zinser, 1974 at East Alton Congregation

The call will soon come to build my Kingdom. It is my good pleasure to give you the Kingdom when you turn to me in righteousness and holiness. This gift have I prepared for this day and age. Not only for your joy and fulfillment but as a light which goes forth to the world before the closing days.



Call your families together in family alter. You are instructed to return to

your homes and develop plans of scripture study and family worship that will bring you close to me that my spirit may be with you in your daily walks, not only to protect your physical presence in the days of violence which are ahead but to bring spiritual uplift and understanding which will allow you to know me and share me with others who stand in distress.

Many of you come with heavy hearts this morning because there are loved ones that are without the pale of the gospel of Jesus Christ or who have rebelled against me. <u>I call you to praver</u>, that by angelic host these that you will pray for will have the kind of spiritual motivation and transformation which comes only by the Holy Spirit to respond to me.

There are sick among you that could be healed. There are lame among you who could walk. There are blind among you who might see ... **if you would but respond to me in this moment of need and exercise a particle of faith and experiment upon my word and build my Kingdom.** Then the priesthood shall be endowed from on high and hands shall be placed upon heads and the healing process shall come not merely to bring restoration of physical wellbeing but the ultimate of all human experience is the restoration of the spirit of God which lasts forever and ever.



The Word of Christ - Card 2

By Ray Zinser, The Word of Christ - (Compiled by Pat Chadwick)

Zinser writes of Calamity and Zion – Moroni quoted to Joseph Smith, Jr. on September 21, 1823: For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch (Malachi 4:1). During the second time that Moroni appeared to Joseph, he repeated everything he had said the first time and added information about disastrous conditions coming to the earth. Joseph said, "He commenced and again related the very same things which he had done at his first visit without the least variation, which having done, he informed me of great judgments which were coming upon the earth, with great desolations by famine, sword and pestilence." (Church History Vol 1, p. 14)

<u>Calamity and the Call of the Restoration</u> – The inceptions of the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ was laid in the setting of judgments coming upon the face of the earth. One of the significant purposes of the restoration of the Church was to prepare for calamity. *Wherefore I the Lord, <u>knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth,</u> called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments, and also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world (DC 1:4a).*

The only way to prepare for calamity is to build the Kingdom of God on earth (Zion) – ...gather up your riches that ye may purchase an inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you, and it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God...And it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety (DC 45:12c-13a).

How to Respond: Prepare your Hearts, Be Prepared in all Things and Gather to Zion – Wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father that they shall be gathered in unto one place, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things, against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked (DC 28:2d-e).

The Word of Christ - Card 3

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Zinser list several things that will happen in the latter days:

This center city of holiness is to be established to receive Christ in his glorious return to the earth: Genesis 7:70-71 And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem.

The Word of Christ through the prophets will be fulfilled: Faith, one of the great truths of the elements of the world, is made even stronger by the fulfillment of the word. **DC 1:4b** ...and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets: the weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh, but that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world that faith also might increase in the earth; that mine everlasting covenant might be established.

Enoch's City will return to the Earth: Genesis 9:21 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant, which I made unto thy father Enoch; that, when men should keep all my commandments, Zion should again come on the earth, the city of Enoch which I have caught up unto myself.

<u>The Everlasting Covenant will be fulfilled when</u>: 1. When the righteous embrace the truth. 2. When the righteous initiate the redemption of Zion. 3. When the city of Enoch returns to the earth. 4. When Jesus returns to head up his church.

<u>The Gospel will go forth to the World</u>: God also intends for the restoration of his church to make it possible to communicate the fullness of the gospel to the power holders (kings and rulers) of the world. DC 1:4e ...that the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple, unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers.



<u>God has all Power</u>: Zinser says: We live in a world where "power" in various forms is constantly displayed before us in mass media, nuclear bombs, criminal syndicates, natural catastrophes, violence, terrorist groups, etc. As we contemplate Zion we are tempted to wonder how we will be able to survive in the face of the power of these threats.

The Power of Direction, Affection, Protection and Correction:

- 1. <u>Direction</u>=Christ is the only role model that we can follow as we seek direction in all our lives. *Mosiah 1:116* And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given, nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent.
- 2. <u>Affection</u>=Splitting the atom created consequences far beyond the immediate objective of the scientist. Even more powerful is the element of love in the universe. As Love is shared or "split off" it produces a power that has no equal in the universe. *Ephesians 3:17-19 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.*
- 3. <u>Protection</u>=So many of us are tempted to believe that power of people is greater than the power of God. When we abide by the celestial laws on earth we can be assured of the protection of God. He will go before us, he will be with us, he will not fail us and he will not forsake us. *Doctrine & Covenants 135:3b And as the church shall move forward in its great work, the fulfillment of prophecy may cause the Saints to tremble at the exhibition of divine power, yet they shall rejoice in the protection of his grace.*
- 4. <u>Correction</u>=It is crucial for us to repent for repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost are all steps to bring about the Kingdom of God on the earth (Zion). *Doctrine & Covenants 32:2f Repent, repent and prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

The Word of Christ - Card 5

By Ray Zinser, The Word of Christ - (Compiled by Pat Chadwick)

<u>What is your priority = Are you Seeking First the Kingdom of God? The restoration of the gospel of</u> <u>Jesus Christ included the highest priorities of building the Kingdom of God.</u>

Each day individuals select goals and means to goals. The selection of goals is based on a set of values and a daily clarification of values...<u>The word of Christ is the eternal standard in establishing values.</u> Section 41 says it in a profound way: "...*hearken and hear and obey the law (Doctrine and Covenants 41:1-2).*" Enduring to the end by obedience to the word of Christ assures us celestial life. Jesus made it very clear in his ministry that the highest priority was in building up the Kingdom of God. Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:38).

Order of Priority of Goals = Celestial laws must guide our conscious selection of goals. Seven means = "to the end of immortality and eternal life have been listed".

- 1. <u>The Kingdom of God</u> = We must build Zionic communities for they are the setting where all means and goals may be achieved.
- 2. Your Days of Probation = Time to repent and commit to and act out the truths of the word of Christ.
- 3. <u>Evangelization</u> = To share the truth of the kingdom with all mankind.
- 4. <u>Service to mankind</u> = Is important in attitude and action and celestial love for all people.
- 5. <u>Joy</u> = Triumphant experience of righteousness as love is made operational.
- 6. <u>Perfection</u> = Model for eternity.
- 7. <u>Preparation</u> = For the millennium = As means for eternal life.

The Covenant people of God and the church of Jesus Christ have been invited to build the Kingdom of God on earth so that all persons could share in the condition described in the book of Nephi. And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God (4 Nephi 1:19).



We Must Gather Geographically

Independence Missouri is where Zion will be and the gathering will take place. Hearken, O ye elders of my church saith the Lord 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. (DC 57:1a).

The word of Christ calls for the gathering of his believers to the Center Place of Zion, it's stakes and to regions round about. ...And with one heart and with one mind, gather up your riches that ye may purchase an inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you, and it shall be called the New Jerusalem, and land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God (DC 45:12c).

The symbol of the cross is the willingness of social interaction to stand by the word of Christ rather than by the standards of secular society. There must be a sufficient number of believers with sufficient sanctification to have a workable community of believers. But firstly, let my army become very great, and let it be sanctified before me...that the kingdoms of this world may be constrained to acknowledge that the kingdom of Zion is in very deed the kingdom of our God and his Christ; therefore, let us become subject unto her laws (DC 102:9a-b).

The world has waited centuries for a special community of believers. This was expressed in a special way in a worship service at Graceland College September 10, 1940 by R. Edwin Browne: "Throughout the ages, prophets and seers, planners and dreamers, have looked to the day when there might be established on the earth a society of believers whose fellowship would be so moving, those of faith would be so sure, whose wisdom so profound that the Kingdom of Heaven would be established."

The Word of Christ (The Gathering to Zion Continued)- Card 7

By Ray Zinser, The Word of Christ - (Compiled by Pat Chadwick)

A Gathering of Attitudes

Some of the basic requirements for those preparing for Zion and Celestial Glory are:

Attitude of = Loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself. Every time we meet another person we are interacting with a "creation of God": <u>DC 59:2a-b</u> Wherefore I give unto them a commandment, saying thus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy might, mind, and strength; and in the name of Jesus Christ thou shalt serve him. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. <u>Genesis 7:23</u> And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them.

Attitude of = Dedication and surrender. Building the Kingdom of God requires sacrifice including the possible sacrifice of one's life: <u>DC 100:6a</u> Let no man be afraid to lay down his life for my sake; for whoso layeth down his life for my sake, shall find it again. And whoso is not willing to lay down his life for my sake, is not my disciple.

Attitude of = Seeking to become righteous and "pure in heart": <u>DC 94</u>:5c Therefore verily thus saith the Lord, Let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion, THE PURE IN HEART; therefore let Zion rejoice, while all the wicked shall mourn; <u>DC 102</u>:2c 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. <u>DC 85:20a-b</u> Behold...prepare yourselves; and sanctify yourselves; yea, purify your hearts, and cleanse your hands and your feet before me, that I may make you clean.

Attitude of = Agency and initiative. Each person desires to contribute to build God's Kingdom: DC 58:6c-d for, behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things, for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward. Verily I say, Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; for the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves.

The Word of Christ (The Gathering to Zion Continued)- Card 8

By Ray Zinser, The Word of Christ - (Compiled by Pat Chadwick)

Gathering by Spiritual Power

Spiritual Power = The importance of gathering by Spiritual Power was clearly renewed in a revelation to Israel A.: <u>DC 140:5c</u> 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.

Spiritual Power = Faith: <u>DC 44:2a</u> And it shall come to pass, that inasmuch as they are faithful, and exercise faith in me, I will pour out my Spirit upon them in the day that they assemble themselves together. <u>DC 102:3e</u> for, behold, I have prepared a great endowment and blessing to be poured out upon them, inasmuch as they are faithful, and continue in humility before me.

Spiritual Power = Having an eye single to the glory of God: <u>DC 85:18a-b</u> And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you, and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things. Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him: for he will unveil his face unto you.

Spiritual Power = Being taught from on high: <u>DC 43:4a-d</u> Again I say, hearken ye elders of my church whom I have appointed: ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach the children of men the things which I have put into your hands by the power of my Spirit; and ye are to be taught from on high. Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be endowed with power, that ye may give even as I have spoken.

Spiritual Power = Taking the Holy Spirit as your guide: <u>*DC.45:10b-c*</u> And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived, verily I say unto you, They shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day, and the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance.



The Word of Christ - Card 9

By Ray Zinser, The Word of Christ - (Compiled by Pat Chadwick)

Zion and the Return of Jesus

Bro. Zinser comments on the importance of the birth of Christ by saying: God could entrust the prototype of Zion and Eternal Life only to his Only Begotten, born of the virgin birth. The virgin birth provided the connecting link between time, space and eternity... The virgin birth will forever stand as a symbol of God's love for mankind. During this Christmas season let us not only reflect on the wonder of God's love found within the Christmas story but let us reflect on what is yet before us, even the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. In all seasons may the vision of Zion dwell in our hearts and may we pray daily for Zion!

Bro. Zinser says: It is urgent for us to vigorously support the word of Christ by supporting the gathering of people to Zion and regions about. The word of Christ is to be demonstrated in the Kingdom of God on earth before his return. Zion is the only alternative left to any person on the earth who does not want to take up his sword against his neighbor.

The Kingdom of God on earth is connected with the return of Jesus!

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths strait, for the hour of his coming is nigh, when the Lamb shall stand upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his father's name written in their foreheads; Therefore, prepare ye for the coming of the Bridegroom; go ye, go ye out to meet him, for, behold, he shall stand upon the Mount of Olivet and upon the mighty ocean, even the great deep, and upon the islands of the sea, and upon the land of Zion; and he shall utter his voice out of Zion, and he shall speak from Jerusalem, and his voice shall be heard among all people...And the Lord even the Savior shall stand in the midst of his people, and shall reign over all flesh (DC 108:5c-g). In our creation God established the bounds and conditions of our human nature. If we are to become "Spiritual Man" or the "Begotten Sons and Daughters of God" we must accept the highest priority in our lives of seeking first to build up the Kingdom of God.