

## Lesson 38: D&C 102-105, "After Much Tribulation... Cometh the Blessing"

### The Law of Consecration

The Lord had commanded Joseph Smith and the Saints to establish Zion.  
The United Order was given as a step towards establishing Zion.  
The Lord commands the Saints to consecrate their properties to the United Order

D&C 104:1-2

1 Verily I say unto you, my friends, I give unto you counsel, and a commandment, concerning all the properties which belong to the order which I commanded to be organized and established, to be a united order, and an everlasting order for the benefit of my church, and for the salvation of men until I come—  
2 With promise immutable and unchangeable, that inasmuch as those whom I commanded were faithful they should be blessed with a multiplicity of blessings;

Note that properties are consecrated to the United Order

What promises pertain to living the United Order?

(benefit of my church, and for the salvation of men  
promise immutable and unchangeable... with a multiplicity of blessings)

D&C 104:31-33

31 And inasmuch as they are faithful, behold I will bless, and multiply blessings upon them.  
32 And this is the beginning of the stewardship which I have appointed them, for them and their seed after them.  
33 And, inasmuch as they are faithful, I will multiply blessings upon them and their seed after them, even a multiplicity of blessings.

The Lord states that it is His desire to provide for His saints, but it must be done according to His plan

D&C 104:11-18

11 It is wisdom in me; therefore, a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall organize yourselves and appoint every man his stewardship;  
12 That every man may give an account unto me of the stewardship which is appointed unto him.  
13 For it is expedient that I, the Lord, should make every man accountable, as a steward over earthly blessings, which I have made and prepared for my creatures.  
14 I, the Lord, stretched out the heavens, and built the earth, my very handiwork; and all things therein are mine.  
15 And it is my purpose to provide for my saints, for all things are mine.  
16 But it must needs be done in mine own way; and behold this is the way that I, the Lord, have decreed to provide for my saints, that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low.

17 For the earth is full, and there is enough and to spare; yea, I prepared all things, and have given unto the children of men to be agents unto themselves.

18 Therefore, if any man shall take of the abundance which I have made, and impart not his portion, according to the law of my gospel, unto the poor and the needy, he shall, with the wicked, lift up his eyes in hell, being in torment.

What must the Saints do to show accountability for there stewardship?

(impart... his portion, according to the law of my gospel, unto the poor and the needy)

Note that this basic commandment of providing for the needy is part of the Law of the Gospel in general and not just encapsulated in the United Order

It sounds like the Lord is only going to give the Saints at that time one chance to show that they are willing and able to live the Law of Consecration

D&C 104:85-86

85 And pledge the properties which I have put into your hands, this once, by giving your names by common consent or otherwise, as it shall seem good unto you.

86 I give unto you this privilege, this once; and behold, if you proceed to do the things which I have laid before you, according to my commandments, all these things are mine, and ye are my stewards, and the master will not suffer his house to be broken up. Even so. Amen.

## The Land of Zion

Part of establishing Zion was to consecrate a land for the gathering of the Saints. This land was to be Jackson County Missouri but members of Jackson County were driven from the properties that they had settled. In response the Lord command Joseph Smith to gather members in Kirkland to go to Jackson County to help the members.

This became known as Zion's Camp

The Lord tells us why he allowed the enemies of the Saints to prevail

D&C 103:1-4

1 Verily I say unto you, my friends, behold, I will give unto you a revelation and commandment, that you may know how to act in the discharge of your duties concerning the salvation and redemption of your brethren, who have been scattered on the land of Zion;

2 Being driven and smitten by the hands of mine enemies, on whom I will pour out my wrath without measure in mine own time.

3 For I have suffered them thus far, that they might fill up the measure of their iniquities, that their cup might be full;

4 And that those who call themselves after my name might be chastened for a little season with a sore and grievous chastisement, because they did not hearken

altogether unto the precepts and commandments which I gave unto them.

What reasons does the Lord give for the Saints being smitten?

(that they [enemies] might fill up the measure of their iniquities)  
(be chastened for a little season with a sore and grievous chastisement,  
because they did not hearken altogether unto the precepts and  
commandments which I gave unto them)

Brigham Young

“It would have been a delightful task to have walked in obedience to his commands and to have been of one heart and one mind; but through the selfishness of some, which is idolatry, through their covetousness, which is the same, and the lustful desire of their minds, they were cast out and driven from their homes. We have been driven many times; but each time, if they who professed to be the servants of God had served Him with an undivided heart, they would have had the privilege of living in their houses, possessing their lands, attending to their meetings, and spreading abroad on the right and the left, lengthening the cords of Zion, and strengthening her stakes until the land had been dedicated to the Gospel of the Son of God.” (JD 13:1)

The Lord gives them this promise if they repent and are obedient

D&C 103:5-7

5 But verily I say unto you, that I have decreed a decree which my people shall realize, inasmuch as they hearken from this very hour unto the counsel which I, the Lord their God, shall give unto them.

6 Behold they shall, for I have decreed it, begin to prevail against mine enemies from this very hour.

7 And by hearkening to observe all the words which I, the Lord their God, shall speak unto them, they shall never cease to prevail until the kingdoms of the world are subdued under my feet, and the earth is given unto the saints, to possess it forever and ever.

What does the Lord promise the Saint if they do harken to His commandments?

(by hearkening to observe all the words which I, the Lord their God, shall speak unto them, they shall never cease to prevail until the kingdoms of the world are subdued under my feet)

Marion G. Romney

“That’s our great promise. We will never cease to prevail until the Lord establishes his Zion in this world. The true discipleship of the priesthood of God will determine how fast we move toward that great consummation as we, through living the gospel, fight the debauchery and the wickedness that’s going on in this world.” (CR, Oct. 1978)

George Q. Cannon

“And thus it has been from that day until the present time. Notwithstanding the many measures that have been taken against us as a people, the many plots that have seemed so promising to those who framed them concerning the destruction of the Latter-day Saints; when it has seemed that destruction was inevitable, that no power could save us, God has interposed by His wonderful power and we have escaped, and today, notwithstanding these many efforts, we are a free people in the mountains, having the privilege, that God said we should have, of worshipping Him, and enjoying peace and prosperity, if we would but continue to put our trust in him and keep His commandments.” (JD 25:148)

D&C 103:8-10

8 But inasmuch as they keep not my commandments, and hearken not to observe all my words, the kingdoms of the world shall prevail against them.

9 For they were set to be a light unto the world, and to be the saviors of men;

10 And inasmuch as they are not the saviors of men, they are as salt that has lost its savor, and is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men.

Why will the world prevail against the Saint if they do not keep the Lords commandments?

(For they were set to be a light unto the world, and to be the saviors of men;  
10 And inasmuch as they are not the saviors of men, they are as salt that has lost its savor)

Ezra Taft Benson

"It is easy to despair when we see about us the moorings of society slipping. We must remember, however, that the Lord sent His Saints into the world 'to be a light unto the world, and to be the saviors of men.' This is a time when 'Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments.' (D&C 82:14) The contrast between the Church and the world will be increasingly marked in the future, which contrast, we hope, will cause the Church to be more attractive to those in the world who desire to live according to God's plan for us, His children." (CR, April 1978)

George Q. Cannon

“It is no good sign for us to be beloved by the world, and to be spoken kindly of by the world, however pleasant it may be to us, and however much we may shrink from the opposite condition of affairs... nevertheless it is one of the worst signs for us as a people to be spoken well of by the world, and to be free from threatenings, from opposition, and from hatred. It is not the true condition for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to be in, to be petted by the world, to be fostered by the world, to be spoken well of by the world, to be welcomed by the world, to have favor showered upon it by

the world, because we ought not to be of the world, God having chosen us out of the world.” (JD 24:357)

But the blessing of the establishment of Zion won't arrive until the Saints have overcome many tribulations

D&C 103:11-14

11 But verily I say unto you, I have decreed that your brethren which have been scattered shall return to the lands of their inheritances, and shall build up the waste places of Zion.

12 For after much tribulation, as I have said unto you in a former commandment, cometh the blessing.

13 Behold, this is the blessing which I have promised after your tribulations, and the tribulations of your brethren—your redemption, and the redemption of your brethren, even their restoration to the land of Zion, to be established, no more to be thrown down.

14 Nevertheless, if they pollute their inheritances they shall be thrown down; for I will not spare them if they pollute their inheritances.

What are we promised if we are obedient and overcome our tribulations?

(your redemption, and the redemption of your brethren, even their restoration to the land of Zion)

Wilford Woodruff

"I say to the Latter-day Saints, we should be faithful to our God... and we are blessed above all other dispensations and generations of men, for the Lord has put into our hands the power to build up his Zion upon the earth, never more to be thrown down, and this is what no other generation has ever been called to do. But although this is the mission of the Latter-day Saints, we have a continual warfare to wage—a warfare with the powers of darkness, and a warfare with ourselves. The ancients had a similar experience to pass through—they had their day of trials, troubles and tribulations. Enoch labored three hundred and sixty-five years in building up Zion, and he had the opposition of the whole world." (JD 18:29)

Zion's camp

D&C 103:22,31-36

22 Therefore let my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., say unto the strength of my house, my young men and the middle aged—Gather yourselves together unto the land of Zion, upon the land which I have bought with money that has been consecrated unto me.

31 Behold this is my will; ask and ye shall receive; but men do not always do my will.

32 Therefore, if you cannot obtain five hundred, seek diligently that peradventure

you may obtain three hundred.

33 And if ye cannot obtain three hundred, seek diligently that peradventure ye may obtain one hundred.

34 But verily I say unto you, a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall not go up unto the land of Zion until you have obtained a hundred of the strength of my house, to go up with you unto the land of Zion.

35 Therefore, as I said unto you, ask and ye shall receive; pray earnestly that peradventure my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., may go with you, and preside in the midst of my people, and organize my kingdom upon the consecrated land, and establish the children of Zion upon the laws and commandments which have been and which shall be given unto you.

36 All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith.

How many men were commanded to go to Missouri to help redeem Zion?

(but men do not always do my will  
if you cannot obtain five hundred  
ye shall not go up unto the land of Zion until you have obtained a hundred  
of the strength)

Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual

[On February 1834] Joseph Smith received a revelation concerning the recruitment and size of this army.... They were to recruit a company of five hundred men if possible—but no fewer than one hundred—to march to Missouri to redeem and restore Zion....

[On 5 May 1834] Joseph Smith assumed his role as commander-in-chief of the army. The eighty men [from Kirtland] joined the twenty brethren in New Portage late Tuesday evening, 6 May 1834. There the Prophet organized the camp. (pg. 141)

Brigham Young

"When we arrived in Missouri, the Lord spoke to his servant Joseph and said, 'I have accepted your offering,' and we had the privilege to return again. On my return many friends asked me what profit there was in calling men from their labor to go up to Missouri and then return, without apparently accomplishing anything. 'Who has it benefited?' asked they. 'If the Lord did command it to be done, what object had he in view in doing so?'... I [have since] learned that those persons who asked me such questions were weak in the faith and, like a faulty column in an edifice, could not bear up under the burden designed to rest upon them. This has since proved to be the case. I wish this fact to sink into your hearts, that when men or women have doubts, they also have fear; and when they have fear, they are in danger of what? Of themselves. Want of confidence is the parent of moral imbecility and intellectual weakness." (JD 10:17)

## Wait to Establish Zion

The fact that only 100 men – the bare minimum – were willing to join Zion’s Camp tells us that they didn’t have the faith sacrifice what was needful to establish Zion. This is confirmed in Section 105

D&C 105:3

3 But behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I required at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh saints, to the poor and afflicted among them;

Why were the Saints unable to establish Zion?

(they have not learned to be obedient  
do not impart of their substance, as becometh saints, to the poor and  
afflicted among them)

D. Todd Christofferson

“As we pursue the cause of Zion, each of us should prayerfully consider whether we are doing what we should and all that we should in the Lord’s eyes with respect to the poor and the needy.

“We might ask ourselves, living as many of us do in societies that worship possessions and pleasures, whether we are remaining aloof from covetousness and the lust to acquire more and more of this world’s goods. Materialism is just one more manifestation of the idolatry and pride that characterize Babylon. Perhaps we can learn to be content with what is sufficient for our needs.” (CR, Oct. 2008)

D&C 105:4-6

4 And are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom;

5 And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself.

6 And my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.

Why were the Saints unable to establish Zion?

(are not united)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“This great unity is the hallmark of the true church of Christ. It is felt among our people throughout the world. As we are one, we are his... We pray for our prophet dear, whom we love and honor. We pray for one another that we may go on in unity and strength. If we do so, no power beneath the heavens can stop the onward progress of this great kingdom.” (CR, Oct. 1983)

(the principles of the law of the celestial)

D. Todd Christofferson

“The law of the celestial kingdom is, of course, the gospel law and covenants, which include our constant remembrance of the Savior and our pledge of obedience, sacrifice, consecration, and fidelity.” (CR, Oct. 2008)

D&C 105:9-13

9 Therefore, in consequence of the transgressions of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion—

10 That they themselves may be prepared, and that my people may be taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands.

11 And this cannot be brought to pass until mine elders are endowed with power from on high.

12 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.

13 Therefore it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season, for the redemption of Zion.

What must the Saints do before they can establish Zion?

(that my people may be taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty)  
(are endowed with power from on high)

Neal A. Maxwell

“The modern Church even today is instructed to ‘wait for a little season’ to build up central Zion. Why? So that we ‘may be prepared... and have experience.’ We gain knowledge through particular experiences. Personal, spiritual symmetry emerges only from the shaping of prolonged obedience.

“Without patient and meek endurance we will learn less, see less, feel less, and hear less. We who are egocentric and impatient shut down so much of our receiving capacity. All the other cardinal virtues—love, patience, humility, mercy, purity, submissiveness, justice—they all require endurance for their full development. (CR, April, 1990)

Even though the Saints in general were not prepared to redeem Zion at that time, the Lord tells those who were faithful that He accepted their offering

D&C 105:16-19

16 Behold, I have commanded my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., to say unto the strength of my house, even my warriors, my young men, and middle-aged, to gather together for the redemption of my people, and throw down the towers of mine enemies, and scatter their watchmen;



17 But the strength of mine house have not hearkened unto my words.  
18 But inasmuch as there are those who have hearkened unto my words, I have prepared a blessing and an endowment for them, if they continue faithful.  
19 I have heard their prayers, and will accept their offering; and it is expedient in me that they should be brought thus far for a trial of their faith.

What does the Lord promise those who hearkened to His words and demonstrated their faith?

(I have prepared a blessing and an endowment for them)  
(12. I have prepared a great endowment and blessing to be poured out upon them)

The Lord tells the Saints how to prepare to establish Zion in the future

D&C 105:31,33-36

31 But first let my army become very great, and let it be sanctified before me, that it may become fair as the sun, and clear as the moon, and that her banners may be terrible unto all nations;

33 Verily I say unto you, it is expedient in me that the first elders of my church should receive their endowment from on high in my house, which I have commanded to be built unto my name in the land of Kirtland.

34 And let those commandments which I have given concerning Zion and her law be executed and fulfilled, after her redemption.

35 There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing; and let those be chosen that are worthy.

36 And it shall be manifest unto my servant, by the voice of the Spirit, those that are chosen; and they shall be sanctified;

What does the Lord expect the Saints to do to become ready to establish Zion?

(first let my army become very great, and let it be sanctified before me  
the first elders of my church should receive their endowment from on high)

Orson Pratt

"The Lord God has decreed that Zion shall become a strong nation, that the armies of Israel shall become very great, and not only very great, but they will be sanctified before him, and there will be such a power made manifest in their midst, that their banners will be terrible to all the nations of the earth. They will not be terrible because we outnumber the nations, but this terror of Zion which will be among the nations, will be because of the power of the great Jehovah that will be manifested in their midst." (JD 17:289)

What do you think is meant in verse 35 - "There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing"?

### Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual

This rugged journey served as a test to determine who was worthy to serve in positions of leadership and trust and to receive an endowment in the Kirtland Temple. The Prophet later explained: "God did not want you to fight. He could not organize his kingdom with twelve men to open the gospel door to the nations of the earth, and with seventy men under their direction to follow in their tracks, unless he took them from a body of men who had offered their lives, and who had made as great a sacrifice as did Abraham." (HC, 2:182) In February 1835 the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the First Quorum of the Seventy were organized. Nine of the original Apostles, all seven presidents of the Seventy's quorum, and all sixty-three other members of that quorum had served in the army of Israel that marched to western Missouri in 1834. (pg. 151)

And while we are preparing to establish Zion...

#### D&C 105:38-41

38 And again I say unto you, sue for peace, not only to the people that have smitten you, but also to all people;

39 And lift up an ensign of peace, and make a proclamation of peace unto the ends of the earth;

40 And make proposals for peace unto those who have smitten you, according to the voice of the Spirit which is in you, and all things shall work together for your good.

41 Therefore, be faithful; and behold, and lo, I am with you even unto the end. Even so. Amen.

#### John Longden

"Today, in fulfillment of this scripture to establish an ensign, there are seventy-four missions throughout the world, approximately 12,000 missionaries going out to the four corners of the earth, delivering a message which will bring peace to the hearts of men. This will come to all who will listen, study, pray, accept, and live the teachings of the Master." (CR, Oct. 1964)