

Lesson 42: D&C 115-120, "His Sacrifice Shall Be More Sacred Unto Me Than His Increase"

The Church in Northern Missouri

Lets review what happened in Missouri since they were driven from Jackson County

For the most part, they settled across the Missouri river in Clay County where they stayed for more than three years. They considered this a temporary move while they worked on to getting their property restored in Jackson Co.

But after about three years the residence of Clay Co. started growing anxious and asked them to leave. They moved to an area of Missouri that was mostly uninhabited.

Because of the Saints settling in the North, two counties were formed, Caldwell and Daviess.

Joseph Smith came to Missouri for a short stay in November, 1837 to help settle the Saints in Northern counties. When he returned to Kirtland he found that the apostasy had gotten much worse and the faithful members could no longer live there. He went back to Missouri to stay in March, 1838

(Church History in the Fulness of Times - Student Manual religion 341-343, pg. 181-185)

Far West Stake

Christ names his church

D&C 115:3-5

3 And also unto my faithful servants who are of the high council of my church in Zion, for thus it shall be called, and unto all the elders and people of my Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, scattered abroad in all the world;

4 For thus shall my church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

5 Verily I say unto you all: Arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations;

What does the name of the church teach us about His church?

M. Russell Ballard

"Every word is clarifying and indispensable. The word *The* indicates the unique position of the restored Church among the religions of the world.

"The words *Church of Jesus Christ* declare that it is His Church....

"*Of Latter-day* explains that it is the same Church as the Church that Jesus Christ established during His mortal ministry but restored in these latter days. We know there was a falling away, or an apostasy, necessitating the Restoration of His true and complete Church in our time.

"*Saints* means that its members follow Him and strive to do His will, keep His commandments, and prepare once again to live with Him and our Heavenly Father in the future. Saint simply refers to those who seek to make their lives holy by covenanting to follow Christ." (CR, Oct. 2011)

Why is it important that we use the full name of His church and not nicknames?

Russell M. Nelson

"The name of the Church is not negotiable. When the Savior clearly states what the name of His Church should be and even precedes His declaration with, 'Thus shall my church be called,' He is serious. And if we allow nicknames to be used or adopt or even sponsor those nicknames ourselves, He is offended." (CR, Oct. 2018)

As members of His church, from these verses, what are we expected to do?

(Arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations)

Elaine S. Dalton

"That light is the Savior's light. It is the light of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. By the way you live the gospel, you reflect His light. Your example will have a powerful effect for good on the earth. 'Arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations' is a call to each of you. It is a call to move to higher ground. It is a call to leadership—to lead out in decency, purity, modesty, and holiness. It is a call to share this light with others." (CR, April 2006)

Far West was to be a stake, a place of refuge, a gathering place, a holy land, a place for a temple.

D&C 115:6-8

6 And that the gathering together upon the land of Zion, and upon her stakes, may be for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm, and from wrath when it shall be poured out without mixture upon the whole earth.

7 Let the city, Far West, be a holy and consecrated land unto me; and it shall be called most holy, for the ground upon which thou standest is holy.

8 Therefore, I command you to build a house unto me, for the gathering together of my saints, that they may worship me.

What great blessing do we receive by having stakes established by the Lord?

(may be for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm)

Russell M. Nelson

"As turmoil rages around us, we need to create places where we are safe, both physically and spiritually. When your home becomes a personal sanctuary of faith—where the Spirit resides—your home becomes the first line of defense.

“Likewise, the stakes of Zion are 'a refuge from the storm' because they are led by those who hold priesthood keys and exercise priesthood authority. As you continue to follow the counsel of those whom the Lord has authorized to guide you, you will feel greater safety." (CR, Oct. 1973)

The Lord said there would be additional stakes created in that area

D&C 115:17-18

17 And again, verily I say unto you, it is my will that the city of Far West should be built up speedily by the gathering of my saints;

18 And also that other places should be appointed for stakes in the regions round about, as they shall be manifested unto my servant Joseph, from time to time.

Where are we now admonished to gather to?

Our local Stakes

Dallin H. Oaks

"In the early years of this last dispensation, a gathering to Zion involved various locations in the United States: to Kirtland, to Missouri, to Nauvoo, and to the tops of the mountains. Always these were gatherings to prospective temples. With the creation of stakes and the construction of temples in most nations with sizeable populations of the faithful, the current commandment is not to gather to one place but to gather in stakes in our own homelands. There the faithful can enjoy the full blessings of eternity in a house of the Lord. There, in their own homelands, they can obey the Lord's command to enlarge the borders of His people and strengthen her stakes. In this way, the stakes of Zion are 'for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm, and from wrath when it shall be poured out without mixture upon the whole earth'" (CR, April 2004)

Adam-ondi-Ahman

Joseph Smith started locating places for the saints to settle. In north Daviess Co., at a place called Spring Hill, he received Section 116

D&C 116:1

1 Spring Hill is named by the Lord Adam-ondi-Ahman, because, said he, it is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people, or the Ancient of Days shall sit, as

spoken of by Daniel the prophet.

Orson Pratt said the name means "Valley of God, where Adam dwelt" (JD, 18:343)

Why is Adam-ondi-Ahman so significant in the history of the world?

Alvin R. Dyer

"When Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden, they... settle in a place that we now have come to know by the revealed word of God as Adam-ondi-Ahman. Here is where mortal family life began, as Adam and Eve begat sons and daughters." (CR, Oct. 1968)

Also it is where Adam called his posterity together to bless them before he died.

D&C 107:53-57

53 Three years previous to the death of Adam, he called Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, and Methuselah, who were all high priests, with the residue of his posterity who were righteous, into the valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and there bestowed upon them his last blessing.

54 And the Lord appeared unto them, and they rose up and blessed Adam, and called him Michael, the prince, the archangel.

55 And the Lord administered comfort unto Adam, and said unto him: I have set thee to be at the head; a multitude of nations shall come of thee, and thou art a prince over them forever.

56 And Adam stood up in the midst of the congregation; and, notwithstanding he was bowed down with age, being full of the Holy Ghost, predicted whatsoever should befall his posterity unto the latest generation.

57 These things were all written in the book of Enoch, and are to be testified of in due time.

What does this verse state will happen at Adam-ondi-Ahman before Christ's second coming?

(it is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people)

Joseph Smith

"Daniel in his seventh chapter speaks of the Ancient of Days; he means the oldest man, our Father Adam, Michael, he will call his children together and hold a council with them to prepare them for the coming of the Son of Man. He (Adam) is the father of the human family, and presides over the spirits of all men, and all that have had the keys must stand before him in this grand council.... The Son of Man stands before him, and there is given him glory and dominion. Adam delivers up his stewardship to Christ, that which was delivered to him as holding the keys of the universe, but retains his standing as head of the human family." (TPJS, pg. 157)

This verse references a prophecy by Daniel concerning the last days

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Joseph Smith designated Adam-ondi-Ahman as a place for gathering and organized a stake there. This is where the saints who were in the Kirtland Camp settled

Coveting Possessions

Section 117 is directed to some Elders that had not yet left Kirtland.

The Lord lets them know about how He feels about covetousness, property, and what we need to do to prosper

D&C 117:1-9,13

1 Verily thus saith the Lord unto my servant William Marks, and also unto my servant Newel K. Whitney, let them settle up their business speedily and journey from the land of Kirtland, before I, the Lord, send again the snows upon the earth.

2 Let them awake, and arise, and come forth, and not tarry, for I, the Lord, command it.

3 Therefore, if they tarry it shall not be well with them.

4 Let them repent of all their sins, and of all their covetous desires, before me, saith the Lord; for what is property unto me? saith the Lord.

5 Let the properties of Kirtland be turned out for debts, saith the Lord. Let them go, saith the Lord, and whatsoever remaineth, let it remain in your hands, saith the Lord.

6 For have I not the fowls of heaven, and also the fish of the sea, and the beasts of the mountains? Have I not made the earth? Do I not hold the destinies of all the armies of the nations of the earth?

7 Therefore, will I not make solitary places to bud and to blossom, and to bring forth in abundance? saith the Lord.

8 Is there not room enough on the mountains of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and on the plains of Olaha Shinehah, or the land where Adam dwelt, that you should covet that

which is but the drop, and neglect the more weighty matters?

9 Therefore, come up hither unto the land of my people, even Zion.

13 Therefore, let him contend earnestly for the redemption of the First Presidency of my Church, saith the Lord; and when he falls he shall rise again, for his sacrifice shall be more sacred unto me than his increase, saith the Lord.

What does the Lord remind them concerning their property and His blessings?

(for what is property unto me
Have I not made the earth?
will I not make solitary places to bud and to blossom
covet that which is but the drop, and neglect the more weighty matters
is sacrifice shall be more sacred unto me than his increase)

Neal A. Maxwell

"Stubborn selfishness leads otherwise good people to fight over herds, patches of sand, and strippings of milk. All this results from what the Lord calls coveting 'the drop,' while neglecting the 'more weighty matters.' Myopic selfishness magnifies a mess of pottage and makes thirty pieces of silver look like a treasure trove. In our intense acquisitiveness, we forget Him who once said, 'What is property unto me?'" (CR, Oct. 1990)

Instruction to the Twelve

Joseph Smith prayed to know concerning the Twelve. Four of the original quorum had been excommunicated

D&C 118:1-6

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord: Let a conference be held immediately; let the Twelve be organized; and let men be appointed to supply the place of those who are fallen.

2 Let my servant Thomas remain for a season in the land of Zion, to publish my word.

3 Let the residue continue to preach from that hour, and if they will do this in all lowliness of heart, in meekness and humility, and long-suffering, I, the Lord, give unto them a promise that I will provide for their families; and an effectual door shall be opened for them, from henceforth.

4 And next spring let them depart to go over the great waters, and there promulgate my gospel, the fulness thereof, and bear record of my name.

5 Let them take leave of my saints in the city of Far West, on the twenty-sixth day of April next, on the building-spot of my house, saith the Lord.

6 Let my servant John Taylor, and also my servant John E. Page, and also my servant Wilford Woodruff, and also my servant Willard Richards, be appointed to fill the places of those who have fallen, and be officially notified of their appointment.

Four new Apostles are called. Recall that the original 12 were named by the Three Witnesses. Now we have the Lord revealing His will directly to His

prophet

What is the quorum specifically commanded to do?

(next spring let them depart to go over the great waters, and there promulgate my gospel leave... Far West, on the twenty-sixth day of April next)

And the specific date and place was given for them to depart on their mission. But where would the saints be on that date?

Nauvoo – forced out of Missouri

Undertaking this mission in the way the Lord had commanded would be a great test of faith and obedience

Wilford Woodruff

"When that revelation was given this Church was in peace in Missouri. It is the only revelation that has ever been given since the organization of the Church, that I know anything about, that had day and date given with it. The Lord called the Twelve Apostles, while in this state of prosperity, on the 26th day of April, 1838, to go to Far West to lay the cornerstone of the Temple; and from there to take their departure to England to preach the Gospel. Previous to the arrival of that period the whole Church was driven out of the State of Missouri, and it was as much as a man's life was worth to be found in the State if it was known that he was a Latter-day Saint; and especially was this the case with the Twelve.... Joseph and Hyrum Smith and Parley P. Pratt were in chains in Missouri for the testimony of Jesus.

Why was it impractical, if not impossible, for the Twelve to accomplish the details of their instruction outlined in Section 118?

"As the time drew nigh for the accomplishment of this work, the question arose, 'What is to be done?' Here is a revelation commanding the Twelve to be in Far West on the 26th day of April, to lay the cornerstone of the Temple there; it had to be fulfilled. The Missourians had sworn by all the gods of eternity that if every other revelation given through Joseph Smith were fulfilled, that should not be, for the day and date being given they declared that it should fail.

What had the Missouri mob committed to do to make sure the prophecy of Joseph Smith was not fulfilled?

"The general feeling in the Church, so far as I know, was that, under the circumstances, it was impossible to accomplish the work; and the Lord would accept the will for the deed.... When President Young asked the question of the Twelve, 'Brethren, what will you do about this?' the reply

was, 'The Lord has spoken and it is for us to obey.' We felt that the Lord God had given the commandment and we had faith to go forward and accomplish it, feeling that it was His business whether we lived or died in its accomplishment.

How did Brigham Young and the other Twelve present feel about the general feeling that 'the Lord would accept the will of the deed'?

"We reached Far West and laid the cornerstone according to the revelation that had been given to us.... Brother George A. Smith and myself were ordained into the quorum of the Twelve on the cornerstone of the Temple. We then returned, nobody having molested or made us afraid. We performed that work by faith, and the Lord blessed us in doing it. The devil, however, tried to kill us, for before we started for England everyone of the Twelve was taken sick,... But we had to travel sick; we had to travel by faith in order to fulfil the mission to which we had been called by revelation. But the Lord sustained us; He did not forsake us." (JD, 13:156)

They had no issues or problems in Missouri but what additional hardships did the Twelve have to overcome before they could start their mission?

The result of their faith and obedience was remarkable.

Harold B. Lee

"[The early Nauvoo] years marked the period of some of the severest persecution that the Church was to undergo in this dispensation. In that one year and fourteen days the nine members of the twelve, with their associates, established churches in every noted town and city in the kingdom of Great Britain. They baptized between 7000 and 8000 converts. They printed 5000 copies of the Book of Mormon, 3000 hymnbooks, and 50,000 tracts, and they published 2500 volumes of the Millennial Star and emigrated 1000 souls to America....

"The total number of converts from 1837, when the work was first started, until the end of 1959 totals 136,026. The recorded number of emigrants during that same period was 57,149, and we have reason to believe that thousands of others emigrated without any record being made....

"A very large percent of the total membership of the Church today trace their genealogy to Great Britain." (CR, April 1960)

I am personally very grateful....

Tithing

The Lord institutes the law of tithing

D&C 119:1-4

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord, I require all their surplus property to be put into the hands of the bishop of my church in Zion,

2 For the building of mine house, and for the laying of the foundation of Zion and for the priesthood, and for the debts of the Presidency of my Church.

3 And this shall be the beginning of the tithing of my people.

4 And after that, those who have thus been tithed shall pay one-tenth of all their interest annually; and this shall be a standing law unto them forever, for my holy priesthood, saith the Lord.

Why was the law of tithing instituted at this time?

The church had failed to live the law of consecration and needed a principle for growing and meeting their financial obligations.

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The Lord had given to the Church the law of consecration and had called upon the members, principally the official members, to enter into a covenant that could not be broken and to be everlasting in which they were to consecrate their properties and receive stewardships.... Many of those who entered into this solemn covenant broke it and by so doing brought upon their heads, and the heads of their brethren and sisters, dire punishment and persecution. This celestial law of necessity was thereupon withdrawn for the time, or until the time of the redemption of Zion. While suffering intensely because of their debts and lack of means to meet their obligations Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery, November 29, 1834, in solemn prayer promised the Lord that they would give one tenth of all that the Lord should give unto them, as an offering to be bestowed upon the poor.... Now, however, it became necessary for the law to be given to the whole Church so the Prophet prayed for instruction. The answer they received [came] in the revelation [D&C 119].” (Church History and Modern Revelation, 2:90–91)

What is considered a proper tithe?

(pay one-tenth of all their interest annually)

Letter from the First Presidency, March 19, 1970

“For your guidance in this matter, please be advised that we have uniformly replied that the simplest statement we know of is that statement of the Lord himself that the members of the Church should pay one-tenth of all their interest annually, which is understood to mean income. No one is Justified in making any other statement than this. We feel that every member of the Church should be entitled to make his own decision as to what he thinks he owes the Lord, and to make payment accordingly.”

What is tithing to be used for?

(building of mine house, and for the laying of the foundation of Zion)

D&C 119:5-7

5 Verily I say unto you, it shall come to pass that all those who gather unto the land of Zion shall be tithed of their surplus properties, and shall observe this law, or they shall not be found worthy to abide among you.

6 And I say unto you, if my people observe not this law, to keep it holy, and by this law sanctify the land of Zion unto me, that my statutes and my judgments may be kept thereon, that it may be most holy, behold, verily I say unto you, it shall not be a land of Zion unto you.

7 And this shall be an ensample unto all the stakes of Zion. Even so. Amen.

What effect will the saints paying tithing have on Zion?

(by this law sanctify the land of Zion unto me)

Malachi 3:10-12

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.