

## The Promise and Longing for Zion – Card 3

Presented at: Research and Planning for Zion 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)***

### For Such a Time – Card 1

by F. Henry Edwards

Mordecai made a special appeal to Esther. *Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?* Esther took her stand clearly with her people saying, “This thing I will surely do, *and if I perish, I perish.* (Esther 4:14, 16).” Esther could not have known ahead of time that she was appointed to be the deliverer of her people. Nor can we know ahead of time if we are appointed to be those who, under God, will usher in his golden age. Bishop Koehler testified, “I do not know that this is the year in which God shall build his kingdom. I only know that this is my year to try.”

F. Henry states = “THIS IS OUR YEAR TO TRY!”

**God has matched us with this hour. This purpose for which God has brought us to the kingdom at such a time as this is a majestic one. This is a time for greatness. The greatness to which we are called will not be ours merely because of the calling, but only of our response. It cannot be won cheaply.** Of its very nature it involves great risk and great sacrifices. But the

taking of such risks, the embracing of such sacrifices, in the cause of Christ, is what we mean by sainthood. God has always expected great things of his people. Those who are truly his people have always done valiantly in his name.

**We have come to the kingdom for such a time as this that we and our fellows may learn to love and serve God for his own sake. Remember the counsel of the Master: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength (Mat 22:36). This is addressed to us today just as surely as it was first addressed...it takes precedence over everything else in the sight of God.** It is my deep conviction that we do not love God as we ought. As John said: *This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments (1John 5:3).* We are come to the kingdom at such a time as this in order that we may know and do the will of God with full purpose of heart because we love him. **I believe that we are come to the kingdom at such a time as this so that out of our love for God we shall do great things together. Saints let us make this year, the year that we build God’s Kingdom!**