

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.”

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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 life—but 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.