

Introduction to July's Devotionals

Zion's Redemption

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Brother White was concerned about many things in regards to the church and the development of Zion. He says:

"These thoughts caused me to exclaim, Oh Lord why suffer the people to be tried so severely in this matter? Why not reveal unto Thy people that which will relieve them of this great trial and let them know how the redemption of Zion shall be?"

"When I heard a voice (which I understood to be the Voice of God) saying, 'The time was when My people might have redeemed Zion, if they had kept My counsel, but now it has passed out of their power. I will redeem Zion in its time, and I will do it in this way.'

"Then I saw a narrow and very bright red ring, which enclosed Independence and a portion of the surrounding country, the center of which seemed to be a little southwest of where I was standing on a high spot of ground.

"Then He said, 'Do you see that ring?' I said, 'Yes.' Then He said, 'I have sanctified all of the ground inside of this ring, and I will not suffer any person to live inside of this ring except those who keep the celestial law.

'Now My elders shall receive an endowment, and it shall be the same endowment that Peter had when he judged Ananias and Sapphira.'

"I was given to understand that only such elders received this endowment as were chosen by the Holy Ghost.

'Now all written law ceases on the inside of this ring, but on the outside it shall continue as it is. Now My judgment commences on the inside of this ring that is the judgment of the Holy Ghost, that no sin may escape.

"By the written law and the judgments of men many guilty ones go unpunished and many of the innocent suffer.

"You read in My word that Zion shall be redeemed by judgment. Many elders misrepresent Me in regards to My judgment. They say it is storms, pestilence, earthquakes etc., but this is not what I mean.

"I mean the judgments of the Holy Ghost, and as you see Peter yonder judging Ananias and Sapphira by the Holy Ghost, so shall the judgment be here. Death is laid at the feet of every person.'

"Then the vision opened to a very great distance where I saw Peter judging Ananias and Sapphira by the Holy Ghost. Then looking back to near the center of the ring, I saw the judgment going on, yet a sufficient distance to prevent me from knowing anyone engaged in it.

“There were about ten or twelve men standing with their backs toward me, and about four or five feet to their right stood a man judging some person who was in front of them, yet hid from my sight by the other men.

“Immediately there was great excitement around where the judgment was going on, which soon extended to all parts within the circle, all seeming to know that everyone must immediately get out of the ring or come up and be judged by the Holy Ghost, which proved fatal to whose consciences do not hold them guiltless; and I saw many hastening to get outside of the ring. Some ran some walked and others went in wagons, one of whom I noticed particularly.

“After he had driven over the ring he turned toward me, so that I could see the tears running down his cheeks, and I was enabled to hear what he was saying to himself.

“He said, ‘Now I have lost this great blessing because I have not lived up to my privilege.’

“I was given to understand he could soon prepare himself by repentance and faithfulness to return and be able to abide the judgment, which he immediately sought to do.

“I also noticed another one, on foot, who did not care for, or know, what he had lost, but seemed to be glad he had escaped the judgment, and showed no signs of repentance.

“I understood that both of these were Saints.

“Then I asked to know what degree of perfection would have to be attained to enable one to abide the judgment, and to have it manifested by pointing out some one that I knew. This He refused to do, but would tell me what kind of character could abide the judgment and what kind of character would have to go out.

“He said, ‘All those whose words had been just and true, all those in whose hearts there was no guile or deceit, can abide the judgment.’

“He also told me that the following characters could not abide the judgment: All those that forgave with their lips, but not with their hearts; all those who have not spoken the true sentiments of their own hearts.”

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*To continue reading this testimony, see *Infallible Proofs by Alvin Kinsley.**

July Week #2 Devotionals & Consideration



The Everlasting Covenant Genesis 9:21-23

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. And this is Mine everlasting covenant, that when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is Mine everlasting covenant, which I made.

Keeping the Vision of God's Kingdom Before Us

What a wonderful promise God made to us. I can see by reading the everlasting covenant why the Patriarchs told us to look upwards. If we would only look upwards and keep our eyes on God and His plan and purpose we could have Zion.

Zion! What hope, peace, love and joy that promises. My husband and I have been struggling with some big decisions ahead of us. We have been praying that God's will be done and that we would see and accept His will for us.

Sometimes the path is as clear as mud! Sometimes I concentrate on the small steps that lead to God's Kingdom, and then I lose the ultimate focus of the Kingdom and its purpose.

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

When we lose focus we lose the vision of the Kingdom. Without the vision our eyes continue to drift off of God and His purposes and we flounder and fail.

Let us keep our eyes on God and the call to build up His Kingdom. Let us keep the vision before

us. We are a called generation, called to build God's Kingdom, His Zion.

D&C 4:1a-2a Now, behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men, therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve Him with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day; therefore, if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work, for, behold, the field is white already to harvest, and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perish not, but bringeth salvation to his soul; and faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work. Remember, faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.

How much do we really want Zion? Are we willing to keep our eyes on God through, study, prayer, fasting, and keeping the spiritual disciplines God has called us to keep?

Remember faith, hope, charity qualifies us for the work. But we also need much more. We need virtue, knowledge, patience, brotherly kindness,

godliness, charity, humility and diligence. Yes, diligence in keeping all the commandments and keeping our eyes on God and our hearts set on building His Kingdom.

D&C 34:6a Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound, and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble, and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in Mine own due time.

I have heard in a prayer service, in a Sunday school class, and also from the pulpit about how Zion will start with a small circle and grow out as God needs it to for His people and purposes.

I was looking at a house in Independence not far from the Auditorium. After I heard this topic brought up again my mind was drawn back to that house. I asked myself, "I wonder if that house will be in the first circle?"

I REALLY want to be in that circle. My heart ached with the desire to be there, in the circle working for my Lord. Then my mind thought of my family. I REALLY want my family to be there, too, serving the Lord.

The desire of my heart for my family to be in that circle almost brought me to tears.

Then I thought about my beloved church family. The desire for every one of them to be a part of this circle filled my heart, mind, and soul with so much love that it brought tears to my eyes with a deep yearning to have not one left behind. I was convicted to do everything I could to be a part of Zion!

I know that if I keep the Vision of God's Kingdom before me everything else falls into place.

Matthew 6:38 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.

God always meets me at my point of need. Does that mean everything I bring before the Lord will be answered clearly, and quickly? No, it doesn't. However, if I keep focused on Jesus, and God's Kingdom, my priorities will fall into place, my heart will heal, my joy will be full and the more willing and able I am to be used to help bring forth the Kingdom of Zion here on earth.

I don't know about you but when I read the following scriptures, I really want to be within that red circle. I want to be a part of Zion!! Let us all go

forward from this day and keep looking upwards, keeping our eyes upon Jesus.

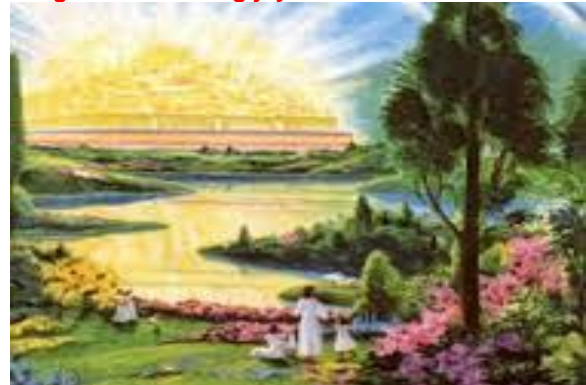
D&C 45:12d And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it; and it shall be called Zion.

D&C 45:13 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.

D&C 45:13b And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another.

D&C 45:13c And it shall be said among the wicked, Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible, wherefore we can not stand.

D&C 45:14 And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion singing, with songs of everlasting joy.



In the days ahead, let us truly look to Jesus and continually look for the beautiful and true. If we would do this daily our lives would be changed for the better and we would move forward towards the building up of God's Kingdom here on earth—Zion the beautiful!

LOOK FOR THE BEAUTIFUL (Hymn #226)

*Look for the beautiful, look for the true;
Sunshine and shadow are all around you;
Looking at evil you grope in the night,
Looking at Jesus you walk in the light;
Look for the beautiful, honor the right.*

*Live for the beautiful, live for the true;
Lifting the fallen as Christ lifted you;
Search for the jewels imbedded in sin,
Bring them to Jesus, His blood washes clean;
Live for the beautiful, keep love within.*

Amen