

## July Week #3 Devotionals & Consideration



### Genesis 7:23

**And the Lord called His people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them.**

On page twelve of the booklet *Spiritual Preparation of the Body of Christ*, point number four states: “We are required to be of one heart and one mind.”

When we hear the phrase, “one heart and one mind,” the first thing that most of us think about is Enoch’s city of Zion.

Take this opportunity to read about all of Enoch’s story and his ministry (**Genesis 6:26-7:78**).

Enoch obeyed God’s call to preach, even though he was “*just a lad*” and all the people hated him because he was “*slow of speech*” (**Genesis 6:32**).

When Enoch preached repentance to the people, “*all men were offended because of him*” (**Genesis 6:40**), but they still came to hear the “wild man” who had come among them.

**Genesis 6:48** And as Enoch spake forth the Words of God, the people trembled and could not stand in his presence.

Enoch also obeyed when God commanded him to meet Him upon Mt. Simeon. Enoch said:

**Genesis 7:3-4** And it came to pass, that I turned and went up on the mount; and as I stood upon the mount, I beheld the heavens open, and I was clothed upon with glory. And I saw the Lord, and He stood before my face, and He talked with me, even as a man talketh one with another, face to face.

God showed Enoch the world for the space of many generations. After this experience, Enoch continued to preach. Those who repented, he baptized:

**Genesis 7:13** ... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, who is full of grace and truth, and the Holy Ghost which beareth record of the Father and the Son.

**Genesis 7:15-17** And so great was the faith of Enoch, that he led the people of God, and

their enemies came to battle against them, and he spake the Word of the Lord, and the earth trembled, and the mountains fled, even according to his command.

And the rivers of water were turned out of their course, and the roar of the lions was heard out of the wilderness.

And all nations feared greatly, so powerful was the word of Enoch, and so great was the power of the language which God had given him.

**Genesis 7:20 And from that time forth, there were wars, and bloodshed among them [the wicked]; but the Lord came and dwelt with His people, and they dwelt in righteousness (Emphasis added).**

Then came the “one heart and one mind” we read about in verse 23.

**Genesis 7:21-23 And the fear of the Lord was upon all nations, so great was the glory of the Lord which was upon His people.**

**And the Lord blessed the land, and they were blessed upon the mountains, and upon the high places, and did flourish.**

**And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them (Emphasis added).**

We have another glimpse into a time when the Lord’s people came together in unity in the book of Acts in the New Testament. This was shortly after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, and after the day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost came upon the disciples.

**Acts 2:41-47 Then they that gladly received His word were baptized.... And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things**

**common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Emphasis added).**

There is another time when God’s people were of one heart and mind. We read about it in Fourth Nephi in the Book of Mormon.

It is important to understand the background that led up to this “Golden Era” in Nephite history. In Third Nephi, chapter four, we read about the terrible storm and great destruction, followed by three days of complete darkness, which was fulfillment of the prophecy given by Samuel the Lamanite of the sign by which the inhabitants of America would know of Christ’s death and resurrection (**Helaman 5:75-82**). Only the “more righteous” part of the people were spared (**3 Nephi 4:66**).

Jesus Christ then visited this remnant of people. Each one came forward and *“thrust their hands into his side and did feel the prints of the nails in His hands and in His feet”* so they did *“know of a surety...that it was He of Whom it was written by the prophets that should come”* (**3 Nephi 5:15-16**).

The people of this continent accepted and worshiped Jesus Christ. He taught them and performed many miracles in their midst (**3 Nephi, chapters 5-13**). Christ healed all of their sick and afflicted (**3 Nephi 8:6-9**).

They heard Christ pray for them things which were so great and

marvelous that no tongue could speak them, neither could they be written by any man (**3 Nephi 8:16-19**). They saw Christ bless their little children and pray for them, and saw their children encircled by holy fire and ministered to by angels (**3 Nephi 8:24-26**).

The people responded with great joy and unity. They kissed the feet of Jesus and washed His feet with their tears (**3 Nephi 8:11, 20**).

Before His final ascension into heaven, Christ expounded to them:

**3 Nephi 11:30 ...all things, even from the beginning until the time that He should come in His glory.**

Within two years of Christ's visit, *"the people were all converted unto the Lord upon all the face of the land"* (**4 Nephi 1:3**).

Let's look at some of the details of this time of unity:

- There were no contentions or disputations among them (verse 3).
- Every man did deal justly one with another (verse 3).
- They had all things in common among them (verse 4).
- There were no rich or poor, bond or free (verse 4).
- The disciples worked great and mighty miracles in the name of Jesus (verses 6-7).
- They were industrious and rebuilt many of the cities which had been destroyed (verse 9).

- They walked after the commandments they had received from the Lord (verse 13).

- They continued in fasting and prayer (verse 13).

- They continued to meet together often, both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord (verse 13).

- There were no divisions (such as Lamanites) but they were in one, the children of Christ (verse 20).

It is mentioned FOUR times in the first twenty-one verses that there was no contention. This must be important to be written so many times.

Verse 17 tells us why they had no contentions: *"And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people"* (Emphasis added).

*"And surely there could not be a happier people among all the people which had been created by the hand of God"* (verse 19).