

June 2–8

Doctrine and Covenants 58–59

“Anxiously Engaged in a Good Cause”



Historical Background

D&C 11:6 - Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.

D&C 12:6 - Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.

D&C 14:6 - Seek to bring forth and establish my Zion. Keep my commandments in all things.

D&C 39:13 - Thou art called to labor in my vineyard, and to build up my church, and to bring forth Zion, that it may rejoice upon the hills and flourish.

Historical Background

Joseph Smith

"The building up of Zion is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age; it is a theme upon which prophets, priests and kings have dwelt with peculiar delight;... it is left for us to see, participate in and help to roll forward the Latter-day glory [of Zion],... a work that is destined to bring about the destruction of the powers of darkness, the renovation of the earth, the glory of God, and the salvation of the human family."

(TPJS, pg. 231-2)

Establishing Zion

D&C 58:3-7

What information do we receive from these verses about the process, difficulty, and dedication needed to establish a Zion society?

Orson F. Whitney

“When [the Lord] commanded his people to build the New Jerusalem, he knew how much, or how little, they were capable of accomplishing in that direction - knew it just as well before as he did after. Such a thing as surprise or disappointment on His part is inconceivable....

“The All-knowing One knew in advance what those Zion-builders would do, or leave undone, and he shaped his plans accordingly. Evidently the time was not ripe for Zion’s redemption. The Saints were not ready to build the New Jerusalem. The proof is in the trespasses committed by them against the divine laws ordained for their government.” (Saturday Night Thoughts, pg. 187)

Establishing Zion

D&C 58:8-11

What do we learn about those who are worthy to “partake of the supper of the Lord, prepared for the great day to come”?

Joseph Smith

“The Saints, or those who are found faithful to the Lord, are the individuals who will be found worthy to inherit a seat at the marriage supper... Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: For the fine linen is the righteousness of Saints.” (TPJS, pg. 63)

Establishing Zion

D&C 58:21-23

What do these verses teach us about being subject to the laws of the land?

N. Eldon Tanner

“Freedom, liberty, and peace can be enjoyed fully only as the laws of the land and the laws of God are honored and obeyed....

“Let us remember, too, and never forget, that if we keep the laws of God, the greatest of all lawgivers, we will automatically keep the laws of the land and that the laws of God, if kept, will ensure peace, security, and happiness here on this earth and lead us to immortality and eternal life.” (CR, Oct. 1965)

Establishing Zion

D&C 58:26-29

What do we learn from these verses about how to be a “wise servant” and how to avoid being a “slothful... servant”?

Ezra Taft Benson

“Usually the Lord gives us the overall objectives to be accomplished and some guidelines to follow, but he expects us to work out most of the details and methods. The methods and procedures are usually developed through study and prayer and by living so that we can obtain and follow the promptings of the Spirit. Less spiritually advanced people, such as those in the days of Moses, had to be commanded in many things. Today those spiritually alert look at the objectives, check the guidelines laid down by the Lord and his prophets, and then prayerfully act—without having to be commanded ‘in all things.’...

“Sometimes the Lord hopefully waits on his children to act on their own, and when they do not, they lose the greater prize, and the Lord will either drop the entire matter and let them suffer the consequences or else he will have to spell it out in greater detail. Usually, I fear, the more he has to spell it out, the smaller is our reward.” (CR, April 1965)

Establishing Zion

D&C 58:30-33

W

Wilford Woodruff

“The Lord has had Zion before his face from before the foundation of the world, and he is going to build it up. ‘Who am I,’ saith the Lord, ‘that I promise and do not fulfill?’ (D&C 58:31) The Lord never made a promise to the sons of men which he has not fulfilled, therefore Latter-day Saints, you have all the encouragement in the world to sustain you in the faith that the Zion of God will remain on the earth. The work is in our hands to perform, the God of heaven requires it of us.... Why? Because the Almighty has decreed that this work shall be performed on the earth, and no power on earth or in hell can hinder it.” (JD, 15:275)

Establishing Zion

D&C 58:52-56

How were the Saints instructed to go about settling Jackson County?

Establishing Zion

D&C 58:59,63-64

What specifically are we commanded to bear record of?

To what extent “must [the gospel message] go forth”?

Spencer W. Kimball

“With the Lord providing these miracles of communication [radio, television, cassette tape players, satellites and receiving stations, and so on], and with the increased efforts and devotion of our missionaries and all of us, and all others who are ‘sent,’ surely the divine injunction will come to pass.....

“Using all the latest inventions and equipment and paraphernalia already developed and that which will follow, can you see that perhaps the day may come when the world will be converted and covered?

“If we do all we can... I am sure the Lord will bring more discoveries to our use. He will bring a change of heart into kings and magistrates and emperors, or he will divert rivers or open seas or find ways to touch hearts. He will open the gates and make possible the proselyting.” (“When the World Will Be Converted,” Ensign, Oct. 1974)

Establishing Zion

D&C 59:1-4

What blessing are promised those settling this area who have “an eye single to [God’s] glory”?

Establishing Zion

D&C 59:5-8

Why do you think that these commandants were emphasized to those attempting to establish Zion?

Establishing Zion

D&C 59:9-16

Why is sabbath observance especially important to those who are attempting to Zion?

In what ways do you think fasting causes us to rejoice?

Ezra Taft Benson

"The purpose of the Sabbath is for spiritual uplift, for a renewal of our covenants, for worship, for rest, for prayer. It is for the purpose of feeding the spirit, that we may keep ourselves unspotted from the world by obeying God's command." (CR, April 1971)

Joseph Fielding Smith

"This world, even in its fallen state, is beautiful with its many gifts and beneficent blessings all arranged for use of man. Our misery, poverty and jealousy come because of selfishness and greed and in the failure to heed the word of the Lord. There is no peace, no happiness, no real prosperity, except through obedience to the will of our Heavenly Father." (Church History and Modern Revelation, 1:218-19)

Isaiah 58:6-8

6) Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

7) Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

8) Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rearward.

Next Week:

June 9–15

Doctrine and Covenants 60–63

“I Am with the Faithful Always”

