Zionic Conditions – My Vision

by Marilyn Middleton

Zion may not be the perfect city of God on day one. Once here on earth, Zion will be made into what God wills over time. We will be taught precept upon precept as it says in II Nephi 12:36. Enoch worked with his people 365 years before they were perfected and translated. (Genesis 7:76) Christ will be teaching us and guiding our actions and we will grow accordingly. We should all be looking forward to the MORE that God, through Jesus, will reveal to us daily. How exciting!

This picture is not complete. More will be added as the actions of each member of Christ's church reflect our dedication to laboring for Zion. We are called to give our lives, time, resources, and talents to the cause of Zion. "And your whole labor shall be in Zion, with all your soul, from henceforth; yea, you shall ever open your mouth in my cause, not fearing what man can do, for I am with you. Amen." DC 29:3c

Zion is...

- A place where the people love the Father above all else.
 - Matthew 22:36 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
- A place where the Father's love is manifested in the hearts of the people.

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.

• A place where each covenants with the Father by sacrificing his desires to the Father's will, keeping His commandments, taking upon them the name of Christ, and witnessing to others, honoring the Father always.

Alma 5:27 ...shew unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins, and enter into a covenant with Him to keep his commandments, and witness it unto him this day by going into the waters of baptism.

• A place where people expectantly seek the Father's blessings and receive them.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Zion is...

- A place where all are welcome who seek the Father's face and desire to learn of His ways.

 DC 6:4b Seek not for riches but for wisdom, and, behold the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you.
- A place where people submit ALL to Christ trusting completely in the Father's promises to pour out blessings. A people of sacrifice and repentance.

Mosiah 1:120, 122 But if he yields to the enticing of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.

...more shall be found blameless before God,... only through repentance and faith on the name of the Lord God omnipotent.

• A place where people pray often and raise their voices in speaking and singing praises to Christ and the Father.

Ether 3:11 And they did sing praises unto the Lord; yea the Brother of Jared did sing praises unto the Lord, and he did thank and praise the Lord all day long; and when the night came, they did not cease to praise the Lord.

• A place where people recognize the Father's hand in all things and the mighty power that we have through Him.

DC 58:6d Verily I say men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; for the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves.

| Proverbs 29:18 "W | here there is no visio | n, the people perish | , but he that kee | peth the law, happy is he." |
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| Zion | IS | |
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| • A place where each shows thanks and gratitude to Jesus and the Father for all blessings rec | | | | |
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| | Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. | | | |

- A place where Jesus is present physically. He walks among us, teaches and heals us. DC 37:13b and there shall be my abode, and it shall be Zion which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; ...
- A place where people seek the Father's will through the teachings of Jesus and are obedient in doing it. People walk uprightly before the Father.

DC 16:5d ...Behold my grace is sufficient for you; you must walk uprightly before me and sin not.

- A place of learning where truth is taught and the people receive it.

 II Nephi 12:36 For behold, this sayest the Lord God, I will give to the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little.
- A place of wisdom and knowledge and spiritual understanding of the Father's will.

 DC 129:8h Therefore harken once again unto the words of inspiration, in warning and instruction, and conform to that which is given and receive what is awaiting the upright and the pure in heart.

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

Zion is...

• A place of safety, refuge where people feel protected.

DC 45:12c, d ...and, it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the most high God.

And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the furor of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

• A place of peace where all kinds of people from all kinds of backgrounds and cultures learn to live in harmony.

DC 45:14a 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.

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

• A place of humility where each prefers the other and no one thinks higher of himself than others. DC 85:38a See that ye love one another, cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another.

• A place of happiness and joy.

DC 94:5c, f Let Zion rejoice for this is Zion, THE PURE IN HEART, therefore let Zion rejoice, while all the wicked shall mourn.

| Proverbs 29:18 "W | There there is no vision | , the people perish. | but he that kee | peth the law | , happy is he." |
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Zion is...

| • | A place of healing – restoring the broken and hurting. | | | | | | |
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| | I Nephi 3:85 And they were healed by the power of the Lamb of God, and the devils and unclean spirits were | | | | | | |

I Nephi 3:85 And they were healed by the power of the Lamb of God, and the devils and unclean spirits were cast out.

• A place of hope for now and in the future.

Moroni 7:48 Wherefore, if a man have faith, he must needs have hope, for without faith there can not be any hope.

• A place where people have an attitude of service, are patient, long-suffering, and care for one another physically, spiritually, and emotionally, sacrificing their own desires to help others.

Mosiah 1:49 ... when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God.

• A place where all work. A living community where each has his responsibilities and duties which contribute to the welfare of the whole community.

DC 42:b Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer.

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

Zion is...

| • | A | place | of | sharing | physical | necessities | of | life. |
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Acts 2:44, 45 And all that believe were together, and had all things common. And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

• A place of justice, of law and order, that all are treated fairly and respectfully. Righteous judgment will prevail.

Mosiah 1:126 Whereof, they shall be judged, every man according to his works, whether they be good, or whether they be evil.

• A physical and spiritual place. A place of houses, stores, businesses, offices, farms, schools, streets, parks, open spaces where people can gather, God's temple.

DC 36:12f, g ... to gather out mine our elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place which I shall prepare; A holy city ... and it shall be called Zion, a new Jerusalem.