

Defining Zion

What does Zion mean to you as an individual? Collectively, what do you think Zion is and what will it be like?

In order to understand a subject completely, we often need to compare it with its opposite? What is the opposite of Zion? Would it not be the world? How then would you define the world?

How do the Scriptures define Zion and the World?

Zion
➤ Genesis 7:23-25
➤ Genesis 6:61-62

The World (Babylon)
➤ DC 1:3d-e
➤ Genesis 6:49, 61

Is Zion spiritual or temporal? Is the World spiritual or temporal? Rather than viewing Zion and the World as either one or the other, let us consider both elements together using the two greatest commandments and 1 John 4:20-21 as the key.

Zion
Spiritual
➤ DC 94:5c
➤ 4 Ne 1:13-14, 17-20
Temporal
➤ DC 77:1f
➤ Acts 2:41-47, Acts 4:31-35

The World
Spiritual
➤ 2 Ths 2:4
➤ Eph 6:11-13 (2 Cor 10:3-6)
Temporal
➤ Gen 5:13-18
➤ Alma 17:61-64

Other Scriptures on Zion: Psa 50:1-5, Isa 2:2-4, Isa 4:2-5, Isa 11:6-9, Isa 51:3, 13-16, Isa 60:18-22, Isa 65:20-25

Zion is... the perfection of beauty; where we will learn of His ways and walk in His paths; a place of defense; a place of peace; a place of everlasting joy and holiness; a place where sorrow and mourning shall flee away; a place where the Lord is an everlasting light; a place where children shall not die; where we will labor and be fruitful; where the Lord will answer and speak

Zion through the Ages

Did the idea of Zion originate with the Restoration of the Church in 1830, or did it start before then? The first revelation of Zion within the Restoration was April 1829 (Section 6). Sections 6 through 11 use the phrase, “establish the cause of Zion,” while Section 12 and 19 say, “establish my Zion” and “move the cause of Zion in mighty power for good,” respectively. [Side note: What causes Zion? The Everlasting Covenant]

- Zion is mentioned 171 times in the D&C, 179 times in Old Testament, and 42 times in the book of Mormon.

Ephesians 1:9-10, Matthew 6:38 – All of history has been moving toward Zion, which is the epitome of love and joy, and the utter abolishment of pride and selfishness. It is a war that has been raging since the foundation. It started in the Garden of Eden and has continued through Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses, Lehi and Nephi, they days of Christ, the Apostles, the reformation, the restoration, and in our day as well.

- Satan’s rebellion – Gen 3:1-7, Isa 14:12-14, DC 76:31-I, DC 28:10
- Fall of Man and Redemption – 2 Ne 1:97-121, Gen 3:8-33, Gen 4
- Gospel from the Beginning – Gen 5:1-2, 44-45, Gen 6:49-66, Gen 7:48-66, Gen 8:1-23, Gen 9:17-23 [The Cause of Zion (DC 45:2d)]

The work and glory of God is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man [DC 22:23b]. While the work of Satan is to bring to pass the eternal destruction of man. Thus the forces of Zion and the World [Babylon] are always at war.

Author of Faith [Heb 12:1-2]
➤ Love of God
➤ Solemnities of Eternity [43:8]
➤ Hope [Moro 7:45-48]

Author of Sin [Hel 2:145-156]
➤ Love of Self
➤ Tomorrow we die [2 Ne 12:6-14]
➤ Discouragement [Job 14:1-4]

When we become discouraged we have no joy. If we have no joy, we have no hope. If we have no hope, we have no vision. Thus, we will perish [Pro 29:18]

(1) Our battle as individuals [Joseph Smith Jr.’s testimony of the war within]. **(2)** Our battle as a people [Arthur Oakman’s testimony of a physical representation of the Kingdom]

The Redemption of Zion

What is Zion? It is important to understand that the word “Zion” can mean different things depending on the context and content. Zion is:

- A Spiritual Condition [94:5c, Gen 7:23]
- A Holy City prepared to meet Jesus [Gen 7:70, Heb 11:10]
- Enoch City promised to return with Jesus [Gen 7:71]
- New Jerusalem [Gen 7:70, Eth 6:4-6]
- New Jerusalem that comes with a new heaven and new earth [Eth 6:9-10, 2 Ne 11:30-33, 3 Ne 5:92, DC 28:6, Rev 21:1-8]

Genesis records God receiving Zion into His own bosom [Gen 7:23-28, 76-78], as well as the promise of Zion’s return [Gen 9:21-23]. The promise concerning where Zion will return was giving July 1831 [DC 57:1a-d]. Though the Church was commanded to gather, it found itself under condemnation for treating lightly the truth which it has received [DC 83:1b-2b, 8]. Essentially, the Church was not living by the laws of the Celestial Kingdom and remains under chastisement until it learns obedience. [DC 102:1-2]. Yet, we have the promise that God will redeem Zion by power and His outstretched arm [DC 100:3] if we seek for Zion with all our heart. [DC 38:4]

What or who will return first, Zion or Jesus Christ? Does the destruction of the wicked as spoken of by Jesus occur before or after the millennial reign? In what order does Zion, the thousand years, the little season, and the new heaven and the new earth actually occur? We can find the answer to many of these questions in Genesis 7:67-75].

God’s Pattern

Zionic conditions [DC 140:5c] have appeared numerous times in history, as described in the Scriptures. Each one of these testimonies [**Enoch** (Gen 6:26-48, 7:1-4, 12-27), **Melchisedek** (Gen 14:26-38, Al 10:1-15), **Alma** (Mos 9:37-67, 11:16-20), **Alma II** (Al 11:21-33), **early Jerusalem Church** (Acts 2:37-47, 4:24-37), and **the Nephites** (4 Nephi 1:1-21)] occurred through the same pattern.

1. Great Tribulations [1 Pet 2:9-10, Act 26:15-18, Psa 107:8-15]
2. A Remnant and a Righteous Priesthood [Gen 9:17-22, Isa 10:20-22, 11:11-12]
3. An Endowment and Preaching the Gospel [DC 38:7-9, 43:4-7, 102:3c-f]
4. Establishment of the Church [Rev 12:1-7, DC 83:3c, Al 11:29-33]

5. All Things Common [4 Ne 1:3-4, 2 Cor 8:3-5, 7-15, 20-21]

Redemption of Zion

God will bring about His Zion as described in Genesis 7:67-75. This is covered in five broad topics which follow after the same pattern that God has already established.

1. **Great Tribulations among the Wicked** [2 Nephi 12:23-28, Lu 21:27-36]
 - a. Peace taken from the earth [DC 1:6]
 - b. Turning of hearts from God [DC 45:4-6, 3 Ne 7:34-41]
 - c. Desolations upon Babylon [DC 34:3, DC 43:5-6, DC 85:25]
2. **Righteousness Sweeps the Earth, Saints Gathered, and Zion established** [DC 98:6-8]
 - a. A Prophet Called [DC 100:3-4, Exo 3:7-10]
 - b. Church Established [DC 105:9-13]
 - c. Land of Zion Redeemed [DC 98:7e-g]
 - d. An Endowment and Ensign [1 Ne 3:187-188, 230-231, DC 64:8, DC 102:7, 9]
 - e. Lamanites Restored [3 Ne 10:1-4, Eth 6:6-8, 2 Ne 12:49-51, 79-87, DC 49:5]
 - f. Gathering [Isa 11:10-12, DC 63:9a-e, DC 108:4, DC 64:5b]
3. **Coming of Christ and the City of Enoch, the Millennial Reign**
 - a. A Thief in the Night [2 Pet 3:10-14, Luke 12:38-43, Mat 25]
 - b. Rebellious are Cut Off [DC 64:7, Mat 13:22-45]
 - c. Stand in Holy Places [DC 98:5a-j, DC 38:2b, Heb 12:18-29, DC 45:7-10a, 1 Ne 7:47-62]
 - d. The Trumps [DC 85:26d-35b, 1 Ths 4:13-17, DC 43:5]
4. **The Little Season and the Great Battle of the Lord God Almighty**
 - a. Satan is loosed [Rev 20:6-8, DC 28:6a, DC 43:7c]
 - b. The Coming Battle [Rev 16:14-21, Rev 20:7-10; DC 85:35]
 - c. The Weapons [2 Cor 10:3-6, Isa 54:15-17, Rev 12:9-11]
5. **The New Heaven and the New Earth** [Rev 21:1-7]
 - a. [3 Ne 5:92, 2 Cor 5:14-19, DC 28:6, 43:7c-d, 63:6, 83:17, 85:4,6, 33

A Citizen in the Kingdom [DC 65:1]

What was Jesus's mission? [Luke 4:43, Luke 8:1-2, Luke 9:1-2]. We are called to seek first the Kingdom, but what is it? A kingdom is defined as "the territory or country **subject** to a king...and in Scripture, the government or universal **dominion** of God [1 Chr 29:11-12." It comes not with observation [Luke 17:20-21] and those seeking truth will press into it [Luke 16:18]. The government of the Kingdom is the Church [Isa 9:6-7]. What conditions prove that we are citizens? [Condition – DC 85:8-9, Parable – Matthew 22:11-14, Method – 2 Ne 13:16, 22-30]

Five Questions of a Member [Mosiah 9:39-41]

1. Desirous to come into the fold of God [Heb 10:22-25]
2. Willing to bear one another's burdens [Gal 6:1-2]
3. Willing to mourn with and comfort those in need [Rom 13:8, 10]
4. Willing to stand as witnesses of God [Mat 5:15-18, 2 Ne 1:71-73]
5. Willing to serve God and keep His commandments [Mos 1:52-58]

If we answer these questions with a sincere heart we will be fruitful in our knowledge of Jesus Christ, for we shall come unto Him [DC 90:1a, 1 John 2:3]

What are the commandments of God? What is their purpose? [Mos 1:32]. What is sin? [Mos 1:107-108] What is keeping the commandments? [1 Sam 15:22-23]

Seven Duties of a Member

1. Obtain God's Word [DC 10:8-10]
2. Know God's voice [Mos 3:11-21]
3. Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ [Eth 5:41]
4. Present our bodies a living sacrifice [Rom 12:1-2]
5. Stewardship [1 Pet 4:10, DC 147:5a]
6. Seek to know and do God's will, God's way [DC 63:7]
7. Seek to establish the cause of Zion [DC 6:3]

Ultimately, the purpose of these duties is to bring souls unto Jesus Christ.

Women in the Kingdom

- Woman of the man and **for** the man? [1 Cor 11:8-9]
- Man not meant to be alone, creation of Eve [Gen 2:23-24 and 27-30]
- Satan sought to destroy the world [Gen 3:7]
 - Who did Satan tempt?
 - Who did God approach first?

- The fall of man, roles and responsibilities [Gen 3:16-19 and 22-26]

Genesis 4:1-2 and 12

Adam (men)
➤ Spiritual leader
➤ Provider
➤ Taught their Children

Eve (women)
➤ Mother of all living
➤ Nurturer
➤ Taught their children

Ephesians 5:20-33 [Rev 12:1-3, 7]

Man (Jesus Christ)
➤ Spiritual leader
➤ Provider
➤ Taught their Children

Woman (the Church)
➤ Mother of all living
➤ Nurturer
➤ Taught their children

Children in the Kingdom

All members are important [1 Cor 12:12-14, 21-23] and the purpose and significance of the Kingdom has not been taught to the youth [DC 68:4]. The Church has been commanded to teach the youth [Mos 2:26-27, Al 17:66-70]. Children must seek a testimony of Christ like Melchizedek [Gen 14:26], David [1 Sam 17:24, 26, and 37], Chief Captain Moroni [Al 20:19, 132-140], Helaman's 2,000 [Al 26:100-103], and Mormon [Mor 1:1-4, 22-23].

Priesthood in the Kingdom

While each citizen of the Kingdom is essential, priesthood have a special role [DC 83:3c, Act 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2-3, Eph 4:12-16]. The purpose of priesthood is truly great, but with greater light and responsibility also comes greater condemnation if those who have been called and ordained do not fulfill their covenant of priesthood [DC 83:6g-h, Jer 23:1-2, Jer 50:6-7, Eze 34:1-2]. Priesthood must magnify their office and calling [Jac 1:19-20, DC 117:5, 135:2c]. Priesthood are called as Aaron, even as Christ was [Heb 5:4-5, Exo 4:10-15, 27-28, Exo 40:12-16].

Parables of the Kingdom

Parables are defined in Mat 13:12, 14-16, 33-34]. The Kingdom is like treasure [Mat 13:46-47], new cloth on old garments [Mat 9:15-23], salt and light of the earth [Mat 5:15-18], vigilant, faithful, and wise servant [Luke 12:44-53], house built on rock/sand [Mat 7:30-37], mustard seed [Mat 13:30-31], one [DC 38:6a]