

268.1: Zion (D&C Gospel Doctrine Lesson 46, Updated)

[Lesson 46: “Zion—The Pure in Heart”](#)

Outline

- Framing
- New Resources
- Productive Sunday School: Zion in our hearts and in our social circles/communities
  - What does “Zion” mean in the scriptures?
  - Holiness, as individuals and communities
  - Becoming “pure in heart”
  - Becoming “one” with yourself, first and foremost
  - Becoming “one” with others.
  - What do we owe each other? What does it mean to be part of a community?
  - How do we balance individual and group wellness (always at tension, which is why relationships are the laboratory for the alchemy of the Plan of Salvation)

Outline of full episode

I think every social interaction we have comes down to one question: “Can I count on you to be there for me, especially when I need you most?” It is a poignant and powerful question, and one that is at the heart of the idea of Zion.

Moses 7:18 And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.

D&C 97:21: Therefore, verily, thus saith the Lord, let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion—the pure in heart; therefore, let Zion rejoice, while all the wicked shall mourn.

D&C: Zion is used to refer to the covenant community of the Church, as well as the land where the Saints live.

D&C 45: Refers to the New Jerusalem (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.)

Moses 7: Zion refers to the City of Enoch (one of my favorite stories in the scriptures)

Historically: (Oxford Companion to the Bible)

<http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Zion>

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  - Becoming “pure in heart”
  - Becoming “one” with yourself, first and foremost
  - Becoming “one” with others. As Jesus taught, we need to learn to care about another’s well being as much as we care about our own. We understand that we are whole people, that we are important, that our feelings matter. It is disturbingly challenging to internalize the reality that every single person we ever meet is just as much a person, just as important, and matters just as much. (Family, friendships, community) I don’t think there is much better than a ward at its best
  - What do we owe each other? What does it mean to be part of a community?
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What exactly is Zion, and how do we achieve it? Is it something we wait for, or must we build it one brick and changed heart at a time? This final episode of the year explores the nature of Zion and how we achieve it.

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- [“Newel K. Whitney and the United Firm”](#): This article describes the purpose of the United Firm, which came to be known as the United Order. The United Order is a fascinating topic. And early church finances is a pretty uncomfortable topic. This essay basically says that Joseph and the other leaders weren’t able to pay their debts. The question of resource allocation, who deserves what resources on what grounds.. these are some of the most difficult in life. Or at least we have the strongest feelings about them.
- [“Teachings of Joseph Smith: Preparing for Zion”](#): This two-minute video introduces the concept of Zion. “Any place where the Saints are gathered is Zion” I appreciated that more than the “we are God’s very favorite” message.

Zion has two main ingredients

“pure in heart” ()

Unity. One heart, one mind. ()

Several ideal societies are described in the scriptures. Would be worth listing and seeing what their characteristics are.

Moses (city of enoch)

D&C (shall kiss each other)

4 Nephi

Alma 1

This episode is more needed than ever. We all wish for “world peace”, right? But how do we get there? And what would it even look like?

Dig into tribalism, selfishness etc for a bit.

Robert Wright’s insights about zero sum

Steps to Zion:

Train yourself into goodness (healthy individuals)

Nurture your immediate relationships (healthy families)

Get involved in your community (healthy tribes)

Foster an environment where tribes can work together for the good of all (think sportsmanship, have teams, but they all productively participate in the system).

I think that is the most promising path to “world peace”, and whatever the state of the world,

Practical suggestions.

Make friends with yourself. Acceptance, curiosity, start where you are.

Reach out and talk to someone you normally wouldn’t. (Use Dennett’s suggestions again)

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2014/03/28/daniel-dennett-rapoport-rules-criticism/>