

D&C#12 "The Gathering of My People"

Outline:

- I. Introduction
- II. The Lord is Gathering His People
- III. The Saints Gather in Ohio
- IV. The Saints Gather in Missouri
- V. The Saints Now Gather in the Stakes of Zion in Their Own Lands
- VI. Conclusions

I. Introduction

The scattering and gathering of people are two means that have been used by God throughout earth's history to disperse the wicked as well as to concentrate the righteous. With the scattering, there is also a gathering. At times it has involved tribes, as was the case with the ten lost tribes, and later, the tribe of Judah. Others times, it has involved only a small group of individuals, as they are separated from the wicked so they may be preserved in righteousness. Examples included, the Jaredites, the children of Israel out of Egypt, Lehi and his colony, and the Mulekites.

A familiar scattering involved the citizens of Babel. Nimrod who was the grandson of Ham through Cush (Genesis 10:80), and had established a city called Babel.

W. Cleon Skousen states,

"[The city of Babel] was built for purposes which were in direct opposition to the commandments of God. The Lord has told them to spread abroad in the earth, but they built this city to concentrate the population. The Lord knew that city life under the wrong kind of leadership could corrupt a whole nation in one generation.

"[The people determined to build a tower whose] purpose was to escape the vengeance of a just God if there should be another flood. Apparently Nimrod had no confidence in the covenant between Noah and the Lord...He would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach! and that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers." (*The First 2000 Years*. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1953, 229-231).

Genesis 11:5-9

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.
6 And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.
7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.
8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of the earth: and they left off to build the city.
9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

There were a righteous group of people in the city of Babel. Jared requested his brother to petition the Lord not to alter the language of their family or close friends. Because of the righteousness of the people and especially the faith of the brother of Jared, the Lord granted their request. The Lord then proceeded to guide Jared, his brother, and their family and others, across the waters to a land of promise. In this manner, God scattered a wicked people so they could not continue their wicked practices, and also preserved a righteous group. He then gave them a new beginning in ancient America.

This people became known as the Jaredites. They kept a record of their journey across the sea, their establishment as a people, and God's dealings with them as directed through his righteous servants. An abridgment of their record is found today in the book of Ether, a part of the abridged records of the Book of Mormon.

II. The Lord is Gathering His People

Franklin Dewey Richards and James A. Little state,

"The subject of the scattering of Israel is historical, and needs to be well understood, in order for one to comprehend the great work of the gathering in the latter times...

"If a complete history of the house of Israel were written, it would be the history of histories, the key of the world's history for the past twenty centuries.

"The scattering of the seed of Joseph, among all nations, was foreshadowed in the blessing of his father, Jacob: 'Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall' (Gen.49:22).

"A terrible prophetic picture of the afflictions which the Lord would heap upon Israel is drawn by Moses in the twenty-sixth chapter of Leviticus. If persistently disobedient, they were to be scattered among all nations and suffer great afflictions in the lands of their enemies." (*A Compendium of the Doctrines of the Gospel*. Salt Lake City: The Deseret News, 1914 [Reprint: Revised Edition], 84).

The scattering of Israel has included the dispersion of the lost Ten Tribes as well as the scattering of the tribe of Judah. Their distribution throughout the nations of the earth was in response to their disobedience to commandments of God and the wickedness that followed. Through all the afflictions and sorrows they have suffered, the hand of God has been over them. In the latter days, they will be gathered in righteousness to his restored Church so that they may again receive the promises He has for them.

One of the blessings given to the righteous of the tribe of Joseph, through his son, Ephraim, is that they would be the first to be taught the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The LDS Bible Dictionary states,

"Ephraim [Joseph's son] was given the birthright in Israel (1 Chr.5:1-2; Jer. 31:90), and in the last days it has been the tribe of Ephraim's privilege first to bear the message of the restoration of the gospel to the world and to gather scattered Israel (Deut.33:13-17; D&C 133:26-34; 64:36)." (**Ephraim**. *Holy Bible*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1979, 665).

As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, many trace their genealogy in the House of Israel to Ephraim. Therefore, it is not unusual that our latter day scriptures would address our responsibility to

participate in the gathering of scattered Israel and to welcome them home.

The Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's manual states,

"...the gathering of Israel is a prominent theme in the Doctrine and Covenants. [see Topical Guide, "Israel, Gathering of, 234). Anciently when the twelve tribes of Israel fell into apostasy, they were taken captive by their enemies and scattered among the nations of the earth, just as the Lord had warned. Although the prophets grieved over the wickedness of the people, they rejoiced as they foresaw the time in the latter days when Israel would be gathered again. This great process commenced with the restoration of the gospel and the calling of missionaries to 'declare glad tidings of great joy unto this generation' (D&C 31:3)." (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 64).

Joseph Fielding McConkie, Robert L. Millet, and Brent L. Top state,

"The message of these seven verses [B/M, 3 Nephi 21:1-7] is simple but direct and vital. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon signals the beginning of the Father's work--the work of the gathering of Israel--in the last days. In this sense the Book of Mormon is itself one of the signs of the times [of the Savior's Return]." (*Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, Vol. 4. Salt Lake city: Bookcraft, 1992, 147).

Joseph Smith states,

"All the prophets...have written, from the days of righteous Abel, down to the last man that has left any testimony on record for our consideration, in speaking of the salvation of Israel in the last days, goes directly to show that it consists of the work of the gathering." (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*. Compiled by Joseph Fielding Smith. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1976, [1977], 83).

As God punished his covenant people in response to their wickedness through their subsequent scattering upon the earth, He gave his promise, through his prophets, that in the latter days, scattered Israel would be given the

opportunity to be taught the principles of the Gospel. They would again be gathered into His fold to receive the covenant blessings He had promised to give them.

Carter E. Grant states,

"On March 1, 1842, there appeared in the *Times and Seasons* at Kirtland, Ohio, one of the early documents of the Church known as the 'Wentworth Letter.' [It was written by Joseph Smith] at the request of John Wentworth, Editor of the *Chicago Democrat*. The Prophet states that Mr. Wentworth was securing this history for a Mr. Bastow, who wished to include it in his history of New Hampshire, a state in which the Prophet lived as a boy...It contained the first brief history of the Church as well as its principle code of belief--The Articles of Faith. These thirteen fundamental statements, proclaiming so concisely the standard principles, ordinances, and doctrines of the Church, have stood unamended for more than a hundred years." (*The Kingdom of God Restored*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1955, 295).

The Tenth Articles of Faith states,

10 We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory. (see PGP, Joseph Smith-History, 61.)

Doctrine and Covenants 45:71

71 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.

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Craig J. Ostler state,

"In particular, the gathering of the righteous seeks to find and save the house of Israel scattered among all nations. The Savior also referred to this work as gathering the wheat from among the tares before the field is burned. Thus, before the destruction of the wicked, the gospel '[must] be preached in all the world" (PGP, Joseph Smith-

Matthew 1:31)." (*Revelations of the Restoration*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 2000, 359).

*What is the gathering of Israel?

The gathering of Israel consists of teaching the gospel to all the inhabitants of the earth. As they embrace the gospel, through their patriarchal blessing, they learn the tribe of Israel of which they are a member by birth. If they were not a direct member of the house of Israel, in the Holy Temple, they will be adopted in and be given all the blessings and privileges promised to Israel.

It is important to understand that the term, "gathering of Israel, has both a spiritual and physical meaning.

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"a. *Spiritual gathering*. The spiritual gathering of Israel occurs as people learn the gospel, come unto Christ, are baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and keep their covenants. In this way they are gathered from the world into the Church, or the kingdom of God on earth.

"b. *Physical gathering*. The physical gathering of Israel occurs as Church members come together in a particular location or in the stakes of Zion throughout the world."

(*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 64).

Doctrine and Covenants 29:1-2, 7-8

1 Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the Great I AM, whose arm of mercy hath atoned for your sins;

2 Who will gather his people even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, even as many as will hearken to my voice and humble themselves before me, and call upon me in mighty prayer.

7 And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect; for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts;

8 Wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father that they shall be gathered in unto one place upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts and be prepared in all things against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked.

*What can we learn from these verses about the purposes of gathering?

*How is being gathered into the Lord's Church a blessing in your life?

At the time of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Roman Legion surrounded the city. No one was allowed to escape.

Bruce R. McConkie states,

"Daniel had foretold this hour when desolation, born of abomination and wickedness would sweep the city (Dan.9:27; 11:31; 12:11). Moses had said the siege would be so severe women would eat their children. (Deut. 28)..."

"And come it did, in vengeance, without restraint. Hunger exceeded human endurance; blood flowed in the streets; destruction made desolate the temple; 1,100,000 Jews were slaughtered; Jerusalem was ploughed as a field; and a remnant of the once mighty nation was scattered to the end of the earth. The Jewish nation died, impaled on Roman spears, at the hands of Gentile overlords." (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, Vol. 1. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1965, [11th Printing, 1976], 644).

The question has been asked, "Were there members of the newly established Church of Jesus Christ, who were also subject to such atrocious and barbaric behavior?"

Bruce R. McConkie states,

"But what of the saints who dwelt in Jerusalem in that gloomy day? They heeded Jesus' warning and fled in haste. Guided by revelation, as true saints always are, they fled to Pella in Perea and were spared." (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, Vol. 1. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1965, [11th Printing, 1976], 644-645).

Those who chose not to heed this counsel may indeed have been among those who also experienced suffering along with the remaining inhabitants.

Where will the latter-day Saints go to find protection during the calamities that have been identified? No doubt they will also receive advanced warning from their leaders, which if heeded, will also result in their obtaining protection.

*When were the keys restored in order for the gathering of Israel to occur?

*Who held these keys anciently?

According to the heading of the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 110, we learn that in the temple at Kirtland, Ohio, on April 3, 1836, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery retired to the pulpit of the temple with the veils being dropped, and bowed in solemn prayer. In the vision that followed there appeared to them heavenly messengers, who were preceded by the appearance of Jesus Christ. These messengers bestowed upon them the sacred keys they had held during their mortal lives. The heavenly messengers were: Moses, Elias, and Elijah. (see *Doctrine and Covenants*, 1981, [2013], 228-229).

Doctrine and Covenants 110:11 [underline added]

11 After this vision closed [of Jesus Christ], the heavens were again opened unto us; and Moses appeared before us, and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.

*When did the gathering first commence?

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"[The] dispensation of the gathering began with a few people in New York. It is now spreading throughout the earth, bringing hundreds of thousands of people each year into the Lord's Church." (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 64).

*What responsibilities do we as members have to help gather people into the Lord's Church?

Doctrine and Covenants 33:7

7 Yea, verily, verily, I say unto you, that the field is white already to harvest; wherefore, thrust in your sickles, and reap with all your might, mind, and strength.

Doctrine and Covenants 38:40

40 And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a commandment, that every man, both elder, priest, teacher, and also member, go to with his might, with the labor of his hands, to prepare and accomplish the things which I have commanded.

Doctrine and Covenants 39:11

11 And if thou do this, I have prepared thee for a greater work. Thou shalt preach the fullness of my gospel, which I have sent forth in these last days, the covenant which I have sent forth to recover my people, which are of the house of Israel.

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 39 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to James Covell, at Fayette, New York, January 5, 1831. James Covell, who had been a Methodist minister for about forty years, covenanted with the Lord that he would obey any command that the Lord would give to him through Joseph the Prophet." (Heading: Section 39. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 66).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Craig J. Ostler state,

"The blessings offered [by the Lord] to James Covell were of great import. Because he returned to his life as a Baptist minister, none of the blessings were secured. Although these blessings were personally directed to James Covell, they are available to all who will receive of the fullness of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ." (*Revelations of the Restoration*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 2000, 292).

The mission of James Covell, and ours, is to recover [give the opportunity of receiving the gospel to] my people, "which are of the house of Israel" (D&C 39:11).

Like James Covell, the Lord seeks to bestow blessings upon us, but their receipt is conditioned upon our following His counsel. If we choose not to do so, then we lose the blessings we would have received if we had been obedient.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:81

81 Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Craig J. Ostler state,

"It becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor. All who have been warned of an impending danger have an obligation to warn others. This is true regardless of whether they choose to heed the warning or not. If I have been warned of the necessity of repentance and baptism and choose not to comply, I still have the obligation to warn family and friends that they must repent and be baptized." (Revelations of the Restoration. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 2000, 641).

When it comes to principles of the Gospel, the Lord holds me accountable to warn others, even if I choose not to heed the warning myself. My rejection does not diminish its' effect upon others, nor my accountability before the Lord.

As noted by the above noted scriptures [D&C 33:7; 38:40; 39:11; 88:81], the Lord is specific in His instructions to each of us regarding our responsibilities to gather people to His Church.

III. The Saints Gather in Ohio

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Supplement Manual states,

"In December 1830, just eight months after the Church was organized, the Lord gave the first call in this dispensation for the Saints to gather physically. He revealed to Joseph Smith that the Saints should leave New York and gather in Ohio." (*Doctrine and Covenants and*

Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 64).

Doctrine and Covenants 37:3

3 And again, a commandment I give unto the church, that it is expedient in me that they should assemble together in the Ohio, against the time that my servant Oliver Cowdery shall return unto them.

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 37 states, "Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet and Sidney Rigdon, near Fayette, New York, December 1830. Herein is given the first commandment concerning a gathering in this dispensation." (Heading: Section 37. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 62).

Through the early history, the members of the Church would be called upon to gather in Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and the Great Salt Lake basin. Each occasion required the members to sell personal property, transportation of necessary goods, and their establishment at new, and often unfamiliar, locations. In each instance, the decision was ultimately based upon trust and faith in their leaders. Those who were unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices and didn't have the requisite faith remained, while the Church moved forward.

In the preceding October of 1830, Oliver Cowdery, Parley P. Pratt, Peter Whitmer, Jr., and Ziba Peterson had been called as the first missionaries to the Lamanites. Their travels had taken them to Kirtland, Ohio, to visit a friend of Parley P. Pratt, named Sidney Rigdon, who was a former Baptist preacher and a founder of the Campbellite movement. Here, in the Kirtland area, they had experienced great missionary success.

*What purpose did the Lord give for commanding His people to go to Ohio?

Doctrine and Covenants 38:31-32, 35

31 And that ye might escape the power of the enemy, and be gathered unto me a righteous people, without spot and blameless--

32 Wherefore, for this cause I gave unto you the commandment that ye should go to the Ohio; and there I will give unto you thy law; and there you shall be endowed with power from on high;

35 And they shall look to the poor and the needy, and administer to their relief that they shall not suffer; and sent them forth to the place which I have commanded them;

Richard O. Cowan and Craig K. Manscill state,

"Section 38 gives the reasons why the Saints were to make the move: (1) to escape the enemy (v.31), (2) to receive the Lord's law (v.32), (3) to be endowed with power from on high (v.32), and (4) to look to the poor and needy and administer to their relief (v.35)." (*The A to Z of the Doctrine and Covenants and Church History*. Sandy, Utah: Leatherwood Press, 2008, 288).

Doctrine and Covenants 39:15

15 And inasmuch as my people shall assemble themselves at the Ohio, I have kept in store a blessing such as is not known among the children of men, and it shall be poured forth upon their heads. And from thence men shall go forth into all nations.

*After the Saints gathered in Ohio, in what ways were they "endowed with power from on high?"

Doctrine and Covenants 95:8

8 Yea, verily I say unto you, I gave unto you a commandment that you should build a house, in the which house I design to endow those whom I have chosen with power from on high;

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 95 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Kirtland, Ohio, June 1, 1833. This revelation is a continuation of divine directions to build a house for

worship and instruction, the house of the Lord (see section 88:119-136)." (Heading: Section 95. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 185).

Doctrine and Covenants 105:33

33 Verily I say unto you, it is expedient in me that the first elders of my church should receive their endowment from on high in my house, which I have commanded to be built unto my name in the land of Kirtland.

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine of Covenants, the heading for Section 105 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, on Fishing River, Missouri, June 22, 1834. Under the leadership of the Prophet, Saints from Ohio and other areas marched to Missouri in an expedition later known as Zion's Camp. Their purpose was to escort the expelled Missouri Saints back to their lands in Jackson County. Missourian who had previously persecuted the Saints feared retaliation from Zion's Camp and preemptively attacked some Saints living in Clay Country, Missouri. After the Missouri governor withdrew his promise to support the Saints, Joseph Smith received this revelation." (Heading: Section 105. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013}, 211).

Doctrine and Covenants 110:9

9 Yea the hearts of thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out, and the endowment with which my servants have been endowed in this house.

Richard O. Cowan and Craig J. Manscill state,

"The temple endowment is a sacred ordinance administered only in holy sanctuaries...President Brigham Young declared that in Kirtland the 'first elders' received only a 'portion of their first endowments, or we might say more, as clearly, some of the first, or introductory, or initiatory ordinances, preparatory to [receiving] an endowment.' (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 2, 31)." (*The A to Z of the Doctrine and Covenants and Church History*. Sandy, Utah: Leatherwood Press, 2008, 237).

*What counsel did the Lord give in D&C 38:24-27, as His people prepared to gather to Ohio?

Doctrine and Covenants 38:24-27 [Church conference]

24 And let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practice virtue and holiness before me.

25 And again I say unto you, let every man esteem his brother as himself.

26 For what man among you having twelve sons, and is no respecter of them, and they serve him obediently, and he saith unto one: Be thou clothed in robes and sit thou here; and to the other: Be thou clothed in rags and sit thou there--and looketh upon his sons and saith I am just?

27 Behold, this I have given unto you as a parable, and it is even as I am. I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine.

Answers may include: being virtuous, loving each other, and being united.

*Why is unity important in the Church?

*How has feeling united with other Church members been a blessing in your life?

*How can we become more united?

Doctrine and Covenants 38:34-39 [Church conference]

34 And now, I give unto the church in these parts a commandment, that certain men among them shall be appointed, and they shall be appointed by the voice of the church;

35 And they shall look to the poor and the needy, and administer to their relief that they shall not suffer; and send them forth to the place which I have commanded them;

36 And this shall be their work, to govern the affairs of the property of this church.

37 And they that have farms that cannot be sold, let them be left or rented as seemeth them good.

38 See that all things are preserved; and when men are endowed with power from on high and set forth, all these things shall be gathered unto the bosom of the church.

39 And if ye seek the riches which it is the will of the Father to give unto you, ye shall be the richest of all people, for ye shall have the riches of eternity; and it must needs be that the riches of the earth are mine to give; but beware of pride, lest ye become as the Nephites of old.

Some of the sacrifices made by members of the Church included:

- A. The sacrifices of Newel Knight and Joseph Knight, Sr., in gathering to Kirtland:

Newel Knight states,

"Having returned home from conference, in obedience to the commandment which had been given, I, together with the Coleville Branch, began to make preparations to go to Ohio...As might be expected, we were obliged to make great sacrifices of our property. The most of my time was occupied in visiting the brethren, and helping to arrange their affairs, so that we might travel together in one company." (*Our Heritage*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1996, 18).

Joseph Knight, Sr. states,

"His simple notice in the *Broome Republican* says much about his commitment to the gospel: 'The farm lately occupied by Joseph Knight, situated in the town of Colesville, near the Colesville Bridge--bounded on one side by the Susquehanna River, and continuing about one hundred and forty-two acres. On said Farm are two Dwelling Houses, a good Barn, and a fine Orchard. *The terms of the sale will be liberal.*" (*Our Heritage*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1996, 18).

- B. The exodus of Saints from Fayette, led by Lucy Mack Smith.

"Equally obedient to the Lord's command were 80 Saints from the Fayette Branch and 50 from the Manchester Branch, who left their homes in early May 1831...When they arrived at Buffalo, New York, they found that the harbor on Lake Erie was clogged with an ice field, and the steamboat carrying the Fayette Saints was unable to

leave port. In the difficult situation, [Mother Smith] called upon the members to exercise their faith. 'Now, brethren and sisters, if you will all of you raise your desires to heaven, that the ice may be broken up, and we be set at liberty, as sure as the Lord lives, it will be done.' At that very moment a noise was heard 'like the busting thunder.' The ice parted and a narrow passage formed through which the boat was able to move. They had barely passed through when the avenue again closed, but they were in open water and could continue their journey. Following this miraculous escape, the company was called together in prayer meeting to offer up their thanks to God for his mercy on their behalf." (*Our Heritage*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1996, 18).

C. The sacrifice of Brigham Young in gathering to Kirtland.

Brigham Young states,

"When we arrived in Kirtland [in September 1833], if any man that ever did gather with the Saints was any poorer than I was--it was because he had nothing...I had two children to take care of--that was all. 'Brother Brigham, had you any shoes?' No; not a shoe to my foot, except a pair of borrowed boots. I had no winter clothing, except a homemade coat that I had had three or four years. 'Any pantaloons?' No. 'What did you do? Did you go without?' No; I borrowed a pair to wear till I could get another pair. I had travelled and preached and given away every dollar of my property. I was worth a little property when I started to preach...I had traveled and preached until I had nothing left to gather with; but Joseph said: 'come up;' and I went up the best I could." (*Our Heritage*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1996, 23).

*Why do you think these Church members were willing to suffer financially and in other ways to obey the Lord's call to gather in Ohio?

*What can we learn from their example?

*What sacrifices does the Lord ask us to make to help build His kingdom?

IV. The Saints Gather in Missouri

Prophecies regarding establishment of the city of Zion or New Jerusalem to be established in the latter days:

Isaiah 2:2-3

2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 Nephi 20:22

22 And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.

3 Nephi 21:22-28

22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

26 And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto

you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem.

27 Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name.

28 Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father among all nations in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance.

Ether 2:5-12

5 And it came to pass that the Lord commanded them that they should go forth into the wilderness, yea, into that quarter where they never had man been. And it came to pass that the Lord did go before them, and did talk with them as he stood in a cloud, and gave directions whither they should travel.

6 And it came to pass that they did travel in the wilderness, and did build barges, in which they did cross many waters, being directed continually by the hand of the Lord.

7 And the Lord would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness, but he would that they should come forth even unto the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people.

8 And he had sworn in his wrath unto the brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them.

9 And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon the when they are ripened in iniquity.

10 For behold, this a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the

fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off.

11 And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God--that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities unto the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.

12 Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written.

PGP, Moses 7:61-62

61 And the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve;

62 And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, an Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.

Where the city of Zion or New Jerusalem would be establish and when was an important point of inquiry of the early Church members.

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"A few months after the Saints began gathering in Ohio, Joseph Smith traveled to Missouri and received a revelation designating Missouri as the place for the city of Zion (D&C 57:1-3). With this revelation, Missouri became a second

gathering place for the Church in this dispensation (D&C 63:24, 36-48). From 1831 to 1838, the Church maintained centers of population in both Ohio and Missouri." (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 65).

Time line: Early Revelations about the land of Zion and the Establishment of the Church in Missouri

A. September 1830 (in New York):

Doctrine and Covenants 28:9

9 And now, behold, I say unto you that it is not revealed, and no man knoweth where the city Zion shall be built, but it shall be given hereafter. Behold, I say unto you that it shall be on the borders by the Lamanites.

The Lord revealed that the city of Zion would be built "on the borders by the Lamanites," with the precise location to be identified later.

B. September and October 1830 (in New York):

Doctrine and Covenants 30:5-6

**5 Behold, I say unto you, Peter [Whitmer, Jr.], that you shall take your journey with your brother Oliver [Cowdery], for the time has come that it is expedient in me that you shall open your mouth to declare my gospel; therefore, fear not but give heed unto the words and advice of your brother, which he shall give you.
6 And be you afflicted in all his afflictions, ever lifting up your heart unto me in prayer and faith, for his and your deliverance; for I have given unto him power to build up my church among the Lamanites;**

Doctrine and Covenants 32:1-3

1 And now concerning my servant Parley P. Pratt, behold, I say unto him that as I live I will that he shall declare my gospel and learn of me, and be meek and lowly of heart.

2 And that which I have appointed unto him is that he shall go with my servants, Oliver Cowdery and Peter Whitmer, Jun., into the wilderness among the Lamanites.

3 And Ziba Peterson also shall go with them; and I myself will go with them and be in their midst; and I am their advocate with the Father, and nothing shall prevail against them.

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 32 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to Parley P. Pratt and Ziba Peterson, in Manchester, New York, early October 1830. Great interest and desires were felt by the elders respecting the Lamanites, of whose predicted blessings the Church has learned from the Book of Mormon. In consequence, supplication was made that the Lord would indicate His will as to whether elders should be sent at that time to the Indian tribes in the West. The revelation followed." (Heading: Section 32. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 56).

The four missionaries [Peter Whitmer, Jr.; Oliver Cowdery; Parley P. Pratt, and Ziba Peterson], were to preach the gospel to the Lamanites and were the first Church members to go to Missouri.

C. February 1831 (in Kirtland, Ohio), soon after the Saints began arriving there:

Doctrine and Covenants 42:62

62 Thou shalt ask, and it shall be revealed unto you in mine own due time where the New Jerusalem shall be built.

Soon after the arrival of the Saints in Kirtland, the Lord said He would reveal the location of the New Jerusalem in His own due time.

D. June 1831 (in Kirtland, after first conference):

Doctrine and Covenants 52:2-5, 42-43

2 Saying: I, the Lord, will make known unto you what I will that ye shall do from this time until the next conference, which shall be held in Missouri, upon the land which I will consecrate unto my people, which are a remnant of Jacob, and those who are heirs according to the covenant.

3 Wherefore, verily I say unto you, let my servants Joseph Smith, Jun., and Sidney Rigdon take their journey as soon as preparations can be made to leave their homes, and journey to the land of Missouri.

4 And inasmuch as they are faithful unto me, it shall be made known unto them what they shall do;

5 And it shall also, inasmuch as they are faithful, be made known unto them the land of your inheritance.

42 And thus, even as I have said, if ye are faithful ye shall assemble yourselves together to rejoice upon the land of Missouri, which is the land of your inheritance, which is now the land of your enemies.

43 But, behold, I, the Lord, will hasten the city in its time, and will crown the faithful with joy and with rejoicing.

The Lord called Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, and other elders to go on a mission to Missouri. The Lord also promised to consecrate the land of Missouri to His people as the land of their inheritance.

E. June 1831 (in Kirtland):

Doctrine and Covenants 54:8

8 And thus you shall take your journey into the regions westward, unto the land of Missouri, unto the borders of the Lamanites.

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 54 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to Newel Knight, at Kirtland, Ohio, June 10, 1831. Members of the Church living in Thompson, Ohio, were divided on questions having to do with the consecration of properties.

Selfishness and greed were manifest. Following his mission to the Shakers (see the heading to section 49), Lemam Copley had broken his covenant to consecrate his large farm as a place of inheritance for the Saints arriving from Colesville, New York. As a consequence, Newel Knight (leader of the members living in Thompson), and other elders had come to the Prophet asking how to proceed. The Prophet inquired of the Lord and received this revelation, which commands the members in Thompson to leave Lemam Copley's farm and journey to Missouri." (Heading: Section 54. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 98-99).

The Lord revealed that the Saints from the Colesville Branch in New York, [under the direction of Newell Knight], who had journeyed to Ohio, should continue on to Missouri.

F. July 1831 (after the Prophet had traveled to Missouri):

Doctrine and Covenants 57:1-3

1 Hearken, O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments, in this land, which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the saints.
2 Wherefore, this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion.
3 And thus saith the Lord your God, if you will receive wisdom here is wisdom. Behold, the place which is now called Independence is the center place; and a spot for the temple is lying westward, upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse.

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 57 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, in Zion, Jackson County, Missouri, July 20, 1831. In compliance with the Lord's command to travel to Missouri, when He would reveal 'the land of your inheritance' (section 52), the elders had journeyed from Ohio to Missouri's

western border. Joseph Smith contemplated the state of the Lamanites and wondered: 'When will the wilderness blossom as the rose? When will Zion be built up in her glory, and where will Thy temple stand, unto which all nations shall come in the last days?' Subsequently he received this revelation." (Heading: Section 52. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 102).

After the Prophet had traveled to Missouri, the Lord revealed that the city of Zion would be located in Missouri, with Independence as the center place. A temple would be built in Independence. (see Timeline. *Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 65-66).

Although the center place of Zion will be in Missouri, Zion will eventually spread over all the earth.

Brigham Young states,

"When Joseph [Smith] first revealed the land where the Saints should gather, a woman in Canada asked if we thought that Jackson County would be large enough to gather all the people...I will answer the question...Zion will extend, eventually, all over the earth. There will not nook or corner upon the earth but what will be in Zion. It will all be Zion...

"We are going to gather as many as we can, bless them, give them their endowments, etc., preach to them the truth, lay the principles of eternal life before them, inform their minds all we have power to do, and lead them into the path of truth and righteousness." (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 9. London: Latter-Day Saints' Book Depot, 20, 1862, [Reprint, 1974], 138).

Experiences of Coleville Saints who were the first to Latter-Day Saints instructed to gather and settle in Missouri:

"Emily Coburn related, 'We most truly were a band of pilgrims, started out to seek a better country.' At Wellsville, Ohio, they boarded a steamboat and using the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers, traveled to Jackson County, Missouri...The Prophet Joseph Smith and other Church

leaders [arrived ahead of them to make advanced arrangements for their location on 14 July 1831].

Joseph Smith and Bishop Edward Partridge, acquired land for the Coleville Branch in Kaw Township, some 12 miles west of Independence. On 2 August 1831, after the arrival of the Colesville Branch, twelve men, representing the 12 tribes, carried a freshly cut log and placed it across a stone that had been set by Oliver Cowdery, thus laying the symbolic foundation for the establishment of Zion.

The first building they built was a combination church and schoolhouse. They did not have any farm implements so teams were sent to St. Louis, more than 200 miles away, to secure the needed implements in order to break up ground. Once outfitted, they were able to proceed with planting.

Despite the inconveniences of the frontier, the Coleville Saints remained happy and cheerful. Parley P. Pratt, who lived with them, recorded, 'We enjoyed many happy seasons in our prayer and other meetings, and the Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon us, and even on the little children, insomuch that many of eight, ten or twelve years of age spoke, and prayed, and prophesied in our meetings and family worship. There was a spirit of peace and union, and love and good will manifested in this little Church in the wilderness, the memory of which will be ever dear to my heart.' (see *Our Heritage*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1996, 37-39).

*What impressed you about these accounts of the Colesville Saints?

*What can we learn from their example?

V. The Saints Now Gather in the Stakes of Zion in Their Own Lands

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"Church members maintained a strong presence in Ohio and Missouri from 1831 to 1838, when persecution forced most of them to leave [To be addressed: D&C#26-28]. In 1839, they gathered in Illinois, and established the city of Nauvoo. They were forced to leave Nauvoo in 1846, [where they then settled in Iowa]...in 1847, President Brigham Young led them

to a new gathering place in the Rocky Mountains near the Great Salt Lake.

"For many years after the Saints settled in Utah, the call continued for Church members all over the world to gather to that area. However, that phase of the gathering has now ended, and Church members are counseled to gather to the stakes of Zion wherever they [currently] live." (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 66).

Bruce R. McConkie states,

"[The] revealed words speak of...there being congregations of the covenant people of the Lord *in every nation, speaking every tongue, and among every people* when the Lord comes again...

"The place of gathering for the Mexican Saints is in Mexico; the place of gathering for the Guatemalan Saints is in Guatemala; the place of gathering for the Brazilian Saints is in Brazil; and so it goes throughout the length and breadth of the whole earth. Japan is for the Japanese; Korea is for the Koreans; Australia is for the Australians; every nation is the gathering place for its own people." (*Conference Report, Mexico and Central America Area Conference 1972*, 45).

Boyd K. Packer added,

"In April 1973, President Harold B. Lee, the 11th President of the Church, quoted those words [of Bruce R. McConkie] in general conference. In doing so, he 'in effect, announced that the pioneering phase of gathering was now over. The gathering is now to be out of the world into the Church in every nation.'" ("To Be Learned Is Good If...", in *Ensign*, November 1992, 71; See also Harold B. Lee. *Ensign*, July, 1973, 4-5).

*What conditions in the Church brought about the change that members should gather in their own nations rather than to a central location?

Church membership had increased world-wide which provided sufficient numbers to establish stakes, and build temples in many areas of the world.

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"One purpose of gathering to a central location during the pioneering phase of the Church's [growth] was so members could strengthen each other and find refuge and protection from the world." (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 67).

Ezra Taft Benson states,

"Presently, Israel is being gathered to the various stakes of Zion...A stake has at least four purposes:

- "1. [Stakes are] to unify and perfect the members who live in [their] boundaries by extending to them the Church programs, the ordinances, and gospel instruction.
- "2. Members of stakes are to be models, or standards of righteousness.
- "3. Stakes are to be a defense. They do this as stake members unify under their local priesthood offices and consecrate themselves to do their duty and keep their covenants...
- "4. Stakes are a refuge from the storm to be poured out over the earth." ("Strengthen Thy Stakes," in *Ensign*, January 1992, 2, 4-5).

Temple building was an essential part of the gathering in Kirtland, Missouri, Nauvoo, and Utah. It continues to be essential as the Saints gather to the stakes of Zion throughout the world.

*Why is temple building an essential part of the gathering?

*How does temple work contribute to the great work of the gathering on earth and in the spirit world?

Joseph Smith states,

"What was the objective of gathering...the people of God in any age of the world?...The main objective was to build unto the Lord a house whereby He could reveal unto His people the ordinances of His house and the glories of His kingdom,

and teach the people the way of salvation...It is for the same purpose that God gathers together His people in the last days, to build unto the Lord a house to prepare them for the ordinances, and endowments, washing, and anointing." (*History of the Church*, Vol. 5. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1951, [Second Edition Revised, 1969], 423-424).

VI. Conclusions

Scattering and gathering of people are two means that have been used by God throughout earth's history to dispense the wicked and concentrate His people.

One example involves the scattering of the wicked from the city of Babel, and the preservation of a righteous group of people who became known as the Jaredites.

The Lord is gathering His people: Through unrighteousness, the house of Israel had been scattered among all nations. These included the lost Ten Tribes and the tribe of Judah. One of the signs of the gathering of scattering Israel was the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. (see B/M, 3 Nephi 21:1-7.)

With the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth, it was Ephraim, the son of Joseph, who received the birthright blessing. This included receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ and the responsibility of gathering scattered Israel into the Church of Jesus Christ. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ we have been given the blessing of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. In this manner, the "righteous shall be gathered out from among all the nations" (D&C 45:71).

The gathering of the righteous is both spiritual and physical. Spiritual as the righteous are gathered out from the world into the Church. Physical as members are gathered to various stakes throughout the world. The keys were given to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery by Moses in the Kirtland Temple on April 3, 1836.

The Saints gathered to Ohio and Missouri: Initially the Saints departed the state of New York, under the direction of the Lord, to gather in Ohio. Later, they would also be established in Missouri.

In Ohio, they would build a temple at Kirtland so the Lord would have a house in which to restore sacred keys and to endow the Saints with power.

In Missouri, they would dedicate a spot for a temple in Independence. At a later date, the city of Zion or New Jerusalem would be built.

Saints now gather in the stakes of Zion established in their own lands: In response to the success of the worldwide missionary effort, there are now sufficient members of the Church living throughout many parts of the world. It is here that stakes of Zion have been established and Holy Temples built affording the Saints all the blessings of the Gospel. It is in their own lands that members of the Church are directed to remain and to strengthen the Church where they live.

How blessed we are to be able to participate in the great latter day gathering prophesied by the prophets of old. The day will come when the Church will be established in all the nations of the earth and Zion will cover the whole earth.

In our next lesson [D&C#13], we will address the multiple contributions the Lord brought to pass through His anointed, latter-day Prophet, Joseph Smith.