

The Richardson Studies Apocalypse Series of Essays on

Consecration & Building Zion

Highlighting “Champions for Zion: Early LDS Teachings on Building Zion” by
Jesse Fisher

Highlighting Lectures of Hyrum Andrus on Zion & Consecration



Nate Richardson

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Highlighting

Champions for Zion

Remarkable Teachings on Building Zion by Early LDS Leaders
Economic Cooperation, Zion's Laws, & Building Zion Cities Today
BuildingZion.org by Jesse Fisher





About

My detailed highlights on this work are shared with permission of the author.

“Champions for Zion” categorizes **over 700 quotes** with the theme of building Zion **primarily from the Journal of Discourses**. The author categorizes and reflects upon these quotes brilliantly in this book.

Here are some highlights and summaries from the text, which I share with permission of the author. What is shown here is a **dramatic under-representation** of the concepts and quotations from the **~380-page** book.

I urge the reader to visit the author’s website for a copy of the book, as well as access to many quotes by topic, certainly an exemplary Zion-like labor of love from the author: [Building Zion: Get anxiously engaged in this good cause!](#) Also visit the author’s initiative on building mini-economic cooperatives to help us prepare for Zion: [Zion Builders Co-op – Reviving Lorenzo Snow's Network of Cooperatives](#)

Chapters:

Ch. 1 Building Zion Was Central to the Gospel

Ch. 2 What IS Zion?

Ch. 3 God’s Will

Ch. 4 Prophecies about Zion

Ch. 5 Our Obligations Regarding Zion

Ch. 6 The Saints were Actively Building a Zion in Utah

Ch. 7 What is Required of Us to Establish Zion?

Ch. 8 Building Zion Is Spiritual AND Temporal!

Ch. 9 Babylon, Zion's Opposite

Ch. 10 Building Zion Includes Economic Independence from Babylon

Ch. 11 Zion Requires Economic Unity

Ch. 12 Cooperation is a Stepping Stone to Zion

Ch. 13 Afterthoughts: Zion Shrugged (Including a special chiasmic structure suggesting that Zion building early Zion building efforts will be repeated in the last days)

Ch. 14 Objections & Rebuttals

Ch. 15 No Need to Wait

[Special Q&A with Jesse Fisher, Author of "Champions for Zion"](#)
on Teachings of Early LDS Leaders on Building Zion Economically & Otherwise

Q&A with Nate Richardson & Jesse Fisher, shared with Jesse's permission.

Question: Is there a better way than capitalism?

Answer: Sure, the prophets have long taught of a superior way, the way of consecration, stewardships, and living unitedly.

Here are some helpful insights from Jesse Fisher, author of "Champions for Zion" (buildingzion.org) on teachings of early LDS leaders on building Zion. Due to his extensive studies on Zion, Jesse is a wealth of knowledge on the subject.

Question: What about capitalism, is it always the best way?

Answer: I'm all for free markets, as was Brigham. But he and John Taylor both believed that unbridled Capitalism leads to a concentration of wealth and then a corruption of government. So they both sought means of, not a redistribution of wealth, but a redirection of wealth's power to the benefit of the community instead of just increasing the wealth of the Capitalists even further beyond their own needs.

Both leaders made attempts to get the successful businessmen to create co-ops to employ the Saints and to fill local needs. Redirected their expertise to blessing the lives of others, rather than just get richer.

John Taylor went so far as to create the Zion Central Board of Trade to accomplish this.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zion's_Central_Board_of_Trade)

Question: In Zion we don't rely on Babylon. So should we all be farmers? Can we pull that off?

Answer: Remember, until the 20th century, around 90% of people had to be farmers. Now that we have better

understanding of agricultural principles, it will be easier to grow more food with fewer people.

Question: Do you think we have enough Craftsman these days or should every Zion aspiring member learn how to use a trowel, etc.?

Answer: We definitely will need all the craftsmen's skills in the future. Sadly, a lot of the old wisdom has been lost.

Question: With all the work of independent living, does that eliminate time for the arts?

Answer: The history of Salt Lake belies the idea that Brigham thought we should leave the arts behind. In fact, just the opposite was true. The Pioneer theatre was one of the earliest buildings built! He actually encouraged fine arts.

Question: The Book of Mormon says the teachers had a day job, and taught (the gospel) on the side. How does that principle look in a united community?

Answer: I think that principle should apply to government as well as to education. Volunteers, not profiteers.



Question: What are you doing to start building Zion economically in your life?

Answer: I'm involved in building what for me is a pre-Zion community -- Riverbed Ranch. As the marketing manager, I don't talk about Zion in our ads or public discussions -- we just say that we're an agricultural co-op. In my book, you'll discover that the early LDS leaders taught that cooperation is a stepping stone to Zion. Riverbed Ranch is being built by the Utah OSR Land Cooperative, an agricultural co-op organized under Title 3 of the Utah Code. The goal is to provide all its shareholders land where they can produce all their own food, water and power. The co-op also encourages its members to organize in "sub co-ops" to fulfill other needs (like education). I see this cooperative community as a learning experience as we move towards a Zion society. Sadly, we all inadvertently bring our babylonian values along with us. So, it's not without its drama. Ideally, we'd all be working for worker-owned co-ops, earning sufficient for our needs and just wants. You could check IC.org, they list all the intentional communities (and communes) all around the country.

Note: Jesse suggests this talk as a favorite for learning about Zion's core principles by Wilford Woodruff, it contains nearly all the core teachings of early LDS leaders about what is involved in building Zion:

<https://buildingzion.org/historical/wilford-woodruff-on-building-zion.pdf>

And a more recent address which also highlights some of these principles:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2006/04/zion-in-the-midst-of-babylon?lang=eng>



Champions for Zion: Introduction

In a heavy-handed way, the United States Government dis-incorporated the Church, seized nearly all its assets, jailed its leaders, and up-ended the lives of numerous men and women who were living in plural marriages at the time. This resulted in the abandonment of all the social mechanisms LDS leaders had created to integrate the love of God and fellowman into the economic organization of the Saints. P4

According to Moses 7:62, Christ won't return until at least one Zion society is built—the New Jerusalem.

Since "Practice makes perfect", getting some practical experience in building and living in Zion-like social organizations (businesses, schools, clubs and, perhaps eventually, communities), might be a great way to prepare ourselves and our children for building the official Zion society, when the Lord so commands it through His prophet. I truly believe in my heart that God would smile upon such an effort, and would see it as our doing "many good things of their own free will, and to bring to pass much righteousness. For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward" (D&C 58:26-28). I can hardly imagine a better good we could do than building and participating in pre-Zion social institutions and communities as practice runs and learning experiences.

Ch. 1 Building Zion Was Central to the Gospel

1. Building Zion was taught by our early Missionaries.

BY: You were annoyed with the ungodly conversation and filthy deeds of your neighbors, your peace was destroyed, and you could not enjoy that happiness held out to you in the Gospel; yet you felt the influence of the spirit of truth burning in your heart, which kindled in you a longing desire to mingle with the Saints; you would exclaim . . ."Oh! that I had means to gather up my little family, and journey to the place of the gathering of the Saints of the Most High." This was your feeling, and this your prayer. You anticipated deliverance from hell, to find a heaven with the Saints; you expected to exchange confusion for a Zion of order and beauty . . . starvation for plenty . . . I think I have drawn a faithful picture of what were the thoughts of the majority of this people, before they were gathered to the body of the Church. - Brigham Young, 1853

BY: You hear brethren talk of coming to Zion to enjoy the blessings of this land; but do you not see that it is the short-sightedness of men which causes their disappointment when they arrive here? They read in the Bible, in the Book of Mormon, and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, about Zion, and what it is to be; but brother Park and others could not realize, before they came here, that they were the ones to help to build up Zion. They gather here with the spirit of Zion resting upon them, and expecting to find Zion in its glory, whereas their own doctrine should teach them that they are coming here to make Zion. - Brigham Young, 185



Building Zion Was Considered a Core LDS Doctrine

Building Zion is Central to the Church's Mission (17 quotes)

DHW: "Here is the Mission of the Saints to go and aid in the gathering of the poor, to labor here for the building of the Temple . . . and prepare to redeem Zion and to build up the waste places thereof, and to establish the principles of righteousness and truth upon the earth." - Elder Daniel H. Wells, April 7, 1862

After reading and reviewing commonalities among the 17 quotes in this subcategory, it becomes clear that the Church's mission at that time included at least these three major elements:) Preach the gospel,) Gather the Saints, and) Build Zion, in that order. P15

Building Zion is Central to God's Last Days Plan to Prepare the World for Christ's Return (24 quotes)

BY: . . .we will roll on the Kingdom of our God, gather out the seed of Abraham, build the cities and temples of Zion, and establish the Kingdom of God to bear rule over all the earth, and let the oppressed of all nations go free. - Brigham Young, July 8, 1855

Building Zion Was a Primary Focus of LDS Leaders (33 quotes)

BY: I have **Zion in my view constantly** - Brigham, 1862

Summary

WW: I do not pretend to know how many tribulations or how much **suffering we shall yet have to endure before Zion is established** in her beauty and glory; but I do know that Zion is not going to be moved out of her place. The Lord, however, will chastise us until we become purified before Him. He will plead with His strong ones, and what He has said concerning Zion will come to pass. I hope that we may exercise wisdom in all things, that we may escape these afflictions. - Wilford Woodruff, 29 July 1889



[Ch. 2 What IS Zion?](#)

In Doctrine and Covenants 97:21 the Lord uses the term in spiritual sense. He says, "Therefore, verily, thus saith the Lord, let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion—the pure in heart . . ." We typically assume that purity of heart is a spiritual condition, which perhaps even non-members may enjoy. In contrast, other of the Lord's uses of the

term Zion are geographic. As the Bible Dictionary reports, D&C 58:49–50, 62:4, 63:48, 72:13, 84:76, and 104:47 all show the Lord using the term Zion to mean a specific geographical place—Jackson County, Missouri. Then in D&C 45:66–67, the Lord uses Zion to mean the New Jerusalem, a physical city to be built, likely by people with pure motives, in Jackson County at some future date. P25

GQC: The evils that have flourished so long in what is called the Old World have been transplanted to this land. If Western men travel through the Eastern States they are struck with the great distinction of classes that exist there. There is an aristocracy of wealth fast growing up there; and at the same time there is another class in degradation and poverty, utterly unable to obtain the blessings and comforts of life. This is owing to various causes, the chief of which is the incorrect organization of society. It is so in Europe and in Asia, and, in fact, wherever wealth abounds. - 1869 General Conference, “The Order of Enoch”, Elder George Q Cannon

GQC: As a people we are expecting the day to come when Jesus will descend in the clouds of Heaven; but **before** this day comes we must be prepared to receive him. The organization of society that exists in the heavens must exist on the earth; the same condition of society, so far as it is applicable to mortal beings, must exist here. And for this purpose God has revealed this Order; for this purpose He is bringing us into our present condition. A great many of the Latter-day Saints scarcely understand the persistency with which the Presidency of the Church has labored to bring about the **oneness of the people in temporal things**; and this cooperative movement is an important step in this direction and is designed to prepare them for the ushering in of this Order to which I have been alluding. It has already produced greater union, and it will produce still greater union than anything that has been witnessed among us; and if we carry it out in the spirit in which it has been taught to us it will produce immense results.

GQC: **[W]hen Zion is organized properly, it will be found to be as admirably adapted to the [economic] wants of the children of men as the organization of the Church is today to the [spiritual] wants of the people.** There will be nothing lacking. In every particular it will be found adequate to the wants of humanity. **The evils under which mankind groan today, are attributable to the false organization of society.** The evils under which we groan as a people and from which we suffer are not due to any lack of knowledge as the method or the means that will correct these evils, but they are due to the fact that we ourselves fail to conform to the organization which God has prescribed, which God has revealed. – Elder George Q Cannon 1883

Summary

- 1. Zion is the type of society God wants all his children to enjoy while here in mortality.*
- 2. Zion is the organization of society in Heaven, and we need to be moving in that direction while here, if we are to have a hope of being able to live in it there.*
- 3. Babylon is a false economic organization of society, and eventually results in abundant prosperity for some and misery & destitution for many, and*
- 4. How we define Zion in our minds either paralyzes us, or empowers us. Our choice.*



Ch. 3 God's Will

I found 6 apostles and 4 prophets who made it very clear in 60 separate statements that God intends for Zion to be built, and, that doing so is part of His work. Not only that, the early church leaders in Utah said we are actually called by God to build Zion, in fact, they even go so far as to say we are required and commanded by God to build Zion (so, it's gonna be tough to get out of this!). p36

God Intends Zion to be Built

Building Zion is Part of God's Work

In a talk entitled, "The Work of God", given May 6, 1870, Wilford Woodruff mentions "Zion" twenty-two times, suggesting he saw a relationship between the two terms. P37

WW: Let us lay hold and build up Zion. Let us realize that we are the children of God, that he is at work with us and that we are at work with him . . . He has got a great many good men on the earth, and he is gathering them together to build up Zion, to carry out his work and to do his will. He will also control the course of human events so as to forward his purposes. He holds the destinies of the nations in his hands. He holds Zion in his hands and he will carry out his work and do all he has promised. - "The Work of God", May 6, 1870, Wilford Woodruff

GQC: Now, there are many points upon which we need correction. **We are guilty of many things that are not in accordance with the mind and will of God. There is a certain policy connected with the building up of Zion, a policy which God has sought to enforce upon us from the beginning until the present time.** It is to a great extent the same policy that He urged upon and endeavored to enforce in the midst of Israel, when He led Israel out of Egypt. When He inspired Moses to take the steps that He did towards the emancipation of the children of Israel from the thralldom of the Egyptians, He had a definite purpose in view, and that was to make them a nation of His own, a people who should acknowledge Him as their God, and He wished to make a distinct race of them. For forty years He led them through the wilderness teaching them, counseling them, pleading with them, training them, in order **to relieve them as far as possible from the old traditions** with which they were burdened . . . Now, God in like manner has designed in these days in laying the foundation of Zion to establish a new order of things on the earth; to gather us out from the nations of the earth; to make us a peculiar people; to make us a holy and a pure people upon whom He could place His name

and through whom He can accomplish His great designs and purposes on the earth; to make us a distinct people from every other people that lives upon the face of the earth, and through us to establish and perpetuate a new order of things on the earth which shall be **preparatory to** the ushering in of the full reign of righteousness through our Lord Jesus Christ. **It is for this that the heavens have been opened.** - August 26, 1883, President George Q. Cannon



God Has Declared Zion, So It Must Rise

WW: We have a great future before us. Zion will arise and shine, and the glory of God will rest upon her. Israel will be gathered, Jerusalem will be rebuilt, Zion be established and thrown down no more forever. These things are in the record of divine truth. **Not one of them will ever fail of fulfillment.** They were given by revelation. No matter what the feelings of our enemies may be. - February 24, 1889, Wilford Woodruff

The Lord is Working through His Church to Build Zion

We are Called by God to Build Zion

PP: [W]e shall have all the skill, and all the power, and all the wisdom, and all the treasures, and all the means necessary to build up Zion and do all things necessary to accomplish the purposes of God whereunto we are called.” - Elder Parley P. Pratt, April 1856 General Conference.

We are Required/Commanded to Build Zion (10 quotes)

AW: We ought to desire to build up the **material Zion**; and while we may not be commanded in these things, we should, as the revelation which I have read says, be willing to do many things of our own free will and choice. - Abraham O. Woodruff, 1899 General Conference

Afterthoughts

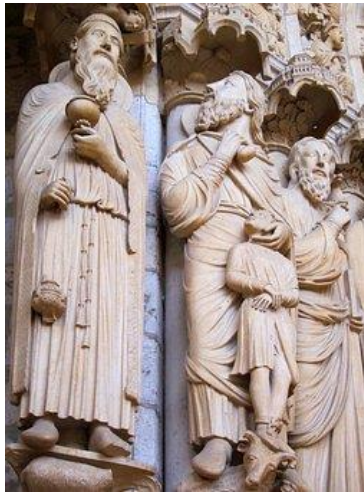
The Church members today appear to be operating under the general belief that we can't build Zion physically now, “So why even think about it?” Here's why: What makes us think God will ask us to participate in a physical Zion society to which we've never given any thought or made any preparations? It makes more sense

that if we at least start exploring in thought and deed how such a material Zion might be established, we would be far better prepared than if we gave it no thought at all. P46

Summary

The early LDS leaders during Utah's territorial years plainly taught:

- *God intends Zion to be built.*
- *Building Zion is part of His work.*
- *God has declared Zion will be built, so it must rise.*
- *The Lord is working through His church to build Zion.*
- *We are called by God to build Zion.*
- *He has required and commanded us to build Zion.*



Ch. 4 Prophecies about Zion

Not only did the early LDS leaders teach the members that ancient prophets had foretold about Zion in the last days, but they taught four specific additional ideas about those prophecies:

- *First, that they would be fulfilled before Christ returns in his glory.*
- *Second, that those prophecies were to be fulfilled in “our day”.*
- *Third, that Isaiah prophesied that Zion was going to be built “in the mountains of Israel”.*
- *Fourth, that the Latter-Day Saints were working to fulfill all of these prophecies by establishing Zion in the Rocky Mountains*

Prophets Foretold of a Latter-Day Zion

WW quoting Robert Mason: “When you read the Bible do you ever think that what you read there is going to be fulfilled? The teachers of the day spiritualize the Bible, but when you read in the Bible about the

dreams, visions, revelations and predictions of **Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, or any other** of the Prophets or Apostles, relative to the gathering of Israel and the building up of Zion, where they say that Israel shall be gathered upon litters, swift beasts and dromedaries, you may understand that **it means just what it says, and that it will be fulfilled upon the earth in the last days.**” - October 1856 General Conference Wilford Woodruff

WW: He has set His hand to establish Zion—the great Zion of God—about which the prophets have said so much. No prophet has spoken more pointedly on this subject than Isaiah. Our drivings from Missouri, our persecutions, our travels along the Platte River, the manner of our coming to the mountains of Israel, our return again to the land of Zion and the building of the Temple in Jackson County have all been spoken of by Isaiah as well as by all the prophets who have spoken concerning the Zion of the latter days. – Wilford Woodruff, December 12, 1869



Zion is to be Built Before Christ Returns

BY: It now remains with us to bear off this kingdom, build up Zion, and establish the law thereof, **until** Christ shall reign King of nations . . . - Brigham Young June 7, 1857 (the earliest mention of this idea during the Utah territorial period)

OP: Jeremiah tells us where [the ten tribes] will go; he tells us there is to be a place called Zion before these tribes come out of the north countries, and when they come with a great company, the blind and the lame with them, and the Lord God leads them with supplication and with tears and with prayers, bringing them forth from those dreary, desolate, cold arctic regions: when that day shall come there shall be a Zion prepared to receive these ten tribes, before they finally go back to Palestine. Is there anything in the Scriptures about this? Yes. In the same chapter of Jeremiah we read that “they shall come and sing in the height of Zion.” Zion, then, will have to be built up before they come; Zion will have to be reared somewhere and prepared to receive them; and it will be a holy place, and it will be a **holy people who will build up Zion**, so much so that the Lord will **bring these ten tribes in** to the height of Zion, into the midst of it. (Jer. 31:6-8) - April 1875 General Conference

That this last quote belongs in this section can be discerned from the chapter headings of Revelation chapters 7 and 8. Chapter 7's heading says, “John also sees in the sixth seal the Restoration of the gospel, the sealing of the 144,000, and the hosts of the exalted from all nations” and chapter 8's heading says, “John sees fire and desolation poured out during the seventh seal and preceding the Second Coming.” It shouldn't be too much of a stretch to assume that events prophesied in the sixth seal precede those in the seventh which

themselves precede His return. So, we can safely assume that the gathering of the Twelve Tribes to Zion comes prior to the Second Coming... p52

WW: Somebody or other has got to build up Zion . . . But before Christ comes, a people have got to be prepared by being sanctified before the Lord. Temples have got to be built; Zion has got to be built up; there must be a place of safety for the people of God while his judgments are abroad in the earth . . . - April 1876 General Conference

WW: The kingdom of God is here, and the Lord will sustain it. But I can bear record as my brethren have, that this kingdom will stand; and that the Zion of God will remain upon the earth until Jesus shall come to receive us unto himself. - October 1889 General Conference, Wilford Woodruff as prophet.

Prophecies about Zion are to be Fulfilled in Our Day (15 quotes)

OP: Thus you see that the people who organize Zion through the everlasting Gospel which the angel brings, have good tidings to declare to all the inhabitants of the earth. But these people are required, according to this prophecy, **to get up into the high mountains**. You Latter-day Saints are four thousand three hundred feet above the level of the ocean, scattered over four hundred miles of Territory, north and south, and you are extending your settlements continually, and are building up some two hundred towns, cities and villages in the mountains of the great American desert, **fulfilling the prophecies** of the holy Prophets. - Orson Pratt March 9, 1873

Isaiah Prophesied Zion to be Built in the Mountains of Israel (Isa. 40)

Early Utah Saints were Working to Fulfill the Prophecies about Zion (9+ quotes)



[Ch. 5 Our Obligations Regarding Zion](#)

50 quotes in 6 categories:

- 1. Building Zion is the work we've been given to do.*
- 2. It is our duty & responsibility to build up Zion.*
- 3. Building Zion is one of our callings from God.*
- 4. We are obligated to build Zion.*
- 5. The Priesthood obligates us to build Zion.*

6. *Building Zion is the whole point of receiving the Priesthood.*

Building Zion is the Work We've been Given to Do

WW: We have to build up Zion, a temporal work here upon the face of the earth, and we have got to establish righteousness and truth. - Elder Wilford Woodruff, April 1867 General Conference

John Taylor spoke of building Zion in all but 2 of the 80 sermons he gave.

It is Part of Our Duty & Responsibility to Build up Zion (13 quotes)

Building Zion is One of Our Callings from God

ES: I do not mean that we shall cease feeding the hungry, no matter whether he is Saint or sinner; but cease to feed and build up the wicked who will not labor with us to develop the resources of the country and help to build up Zion. God has called us to turn away from the folly of sustaining and building up Babylon—the worshippers of mammon—those who have no interest in common with us in establishing Zion and building up the Kingdom of our God upon the earth. - Erastus Snow, April 1868 General Conference

We are Obligated to Build Zion (3 quotes)

BY: We are under obligations to establish the Zion of our God upon the earth, and establish and maintain its laws, so that the law of the priesthood of the Son of God may govern . . . the people. - Brigham Young, December 8, 1867

The Priesthood Obligates us to Build Zion

HCK: Every man that has received the Priesthood, whether an Apostle, Prophet, High Priest, Elder, Bishop, Priest, or Teacher—all should live as one man—be of one heart and one mind. - Heber C. Kimball, July 1, 1860

BY: Read the revelations in the Book of Doctrines and Covenants given through Joseph, and you will find that the burden of the gathering of the House of Israel, the building up of Zion, and the sanctifying of the people, and the preparing for the coming of the Son of Man is upon the elders of this church. - President Brigham Young, July 23, 1867

WW: We ought not to treat lightly the holy priesthood, or attempt to use it for any other purpose under the whole heavens other than to build up the Zion of God. (Wilford Woodruff, July 3, 1880) p61

GQC: Joseph said in the beginning that it was the duty of the Elders of this Church to labor constantly to build up Zion and not to build up that which is opposed to Zion. That embodies in these few words the policy that we should observe. (George Q. Cannon, August 26, 1883) p61

The Whole Point of Receiving the Priesthood is to Build Zion (10 quotes)

WW: The Latter-day Saints cannot stand still; we cannot become stereotyped. God has decreed that his Zion must progress . . . It becomes us, as Latter-day Saints, to realize these things as they are, and also our position and calling before God. We must build up the Zion and kingdom of God on the earth, or fail in the object of our calling and receiving the Priesthood of God in these latter days. - Wilford Woodruff, April 1873 General Conference



Ch. 6 The Saints were Actively Building a Zion in Utah

(97 quotes)

The last third of these 97 quotes gives evidence that the Saints were deeply engaged in building a real, live, brick-and-mortar, Enoch-style Zion society right here in Utah.

God Wants a Zion Built in Utah

WW: I would to God that the eyes of the Latter-day Saints were open far more than they are to those things that rest upon them! The Lord is looking to them alone to build up his Zion here in the mountains of Israel, and to prepare the bride, the Lamb's wife, for the coming of the Great Bridegroom. - Wilford Woodruff, January 12, 1873

We Can, Want to, and WILL Build Zion Here in Utah

*The reader may still be skeptical with the conclusion that the early LDS leaders differentiated between Zion and the Church. **The idea is still strong today that "Zion" = LDS Church.** If you still believe this, go back and re-read the last half-dozen quotes and ask yourself, "If Zion = LDS Church, then why do the Brethren keep saying, long after the Church is established, 'we are going to build Zion' if Zion already exists in the form of the Church? p66*

[Editor Note: Perhaps the Church is at times called Zion because the Church is where we will build Zion someday, meaning the place that we will get people in on the idea and eventually launch the economic arm of the project.]



Building Zion was the Whole Point of Gathering to Utah

BY: We are gathered together in the tops of these mountains for the express purpose of building up Zion, the Zion of the last days, the glory of which was seen by the prophets of the Almighty from the days of old. - Brigham Young, January 2, 1868

Building Zion to Fulfill Prophecy (Isa. 40 Zion in Mountains / Utah etc., Orson Pratt etc.)

They Called Utah “Zion” Because They were Building One Here

Evidence the Saints were Anxiously Engaged in Building a Zion in Utah (39 quotes)

BY: They strive to practice what they preach, and the Saints in the South are no exception to this rule. They are seeking to live their religion, to serve God, to perfect themselves in the knowledge of the truth, and to build up a Zion here in this Territory. - Brigham Young, Jr., April 1884 General Conference

Notice the word “a” Zion, a specific Zion. Such appears in many of the quotes.

JT: Then again, did **Enoch build up a Zion? So we are doing.** What is it? The Zion of God. What does it mean? The pure in heart in the first place. In the second place those who are governed by the law of God—the pure in heart who are governed by the law of God. Shall we build up a Zion? We shall; but we shall not, every one of us, have our own way about it. We shall feel that we need the will of God; and we shall feel that we require the Priesthood, under His direction, to guide and direct us, **not men who are seeking to aggrandize themselves;** but men who are seeking to build up the Church and Kingdom of God upon the earth; men of clean hands and pure hearts, every one honoring his Priesthood and magnifying it . . . **Now, this is what we are building up, and they built up a similar thing before the flood;** and the Elders went forth in those days as they now go forth; and they baptized people and laid hands upon them, and gathered them to Zion; and after a while that Zion was caught up from the earth. And we will build up a Zion: that is what we are aiming at. And that Zion also, when the time comes, will ascend to meet the Zion from above, which will descend, and both, we are told, will fall on each other's necks and kiss each other. These are some of the things we are after. And we are traveling about to teach the people. Why? Because we want all to have the spirit of Zion. We sing sometimes and talk about Zion, that she shall arise, and the glory of God shall rest upon her. We want to lift up Zion. (President John Taylor, October 20, 1881) p70

Regarding the above JT quote: [Note] how he contrasts those who seek to benefit themselves with those who seek to build the Church and Kingdom of God. It gives us the insight that perhaps “pure in heart” does not mean something close to perfection, as we may imagine, but rather God-centered motives for our day-to-day labors. P70

Summary

1. God wanted a Zion built in Utah,
2. Our leaders were determined that we can, want to, and will build Zion here in Utah,
3. Building Zion was the whole point of gathering to Utah in the first place, and
4. LDS apostles and prophets believed they were building a Zion society in Utah in order to fulfill ancient prophecies about the Last Days

[Editor Note: Prophets have made it clear that the Utah Zion program doesn't cancel the Missouri Zion program.]



Ch. 7 What is Required of Us to Establish Zion?

(100 quotes)

16 subcategories: in 3 groups of **Heart, Gospel, and Temple**.

Heart:

- get Zion into our hearts
- we must desire it
- our eye must be single to building Zion (and not Babylon)
- we must demonstrate to God through our actions that we earnestly seek to build Zion.

Gospel:

- *Faith: Faith & good works*
- *Repentance: Forsake Babylon's values, and, Sanctify ourselves*
- *Baptism: Gather and Unify with our fellowmen (as in join the Church with a covenant that we are “willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light” - Mosiah 18:8).*
- *Gift of the Holy Ghost: Inspiration/Revelation*

Temple:

- *Obedience to God's will*
- *Sacrifice*
- *Live the Law of the Gospel*
- *The Law of Consecration*

(The quotes didn't include the law of chastity but that would be an obvious requirement.)

1. Zion in our hearts

GQC: To build up Zion should be the thought of every heart—to labor to establish the cause of God in the earth, to be a [covenant] people. - George Q. Cannon, August 26, 1883

We must desire it

BY: There is not one thing wanting in all the works of God's hands to make a Zion upon the earth when the people conclude [ie. decide] to make it. - Brigham Young, February 23, 1862

Eye Single to Building Zion and Not Babylon

BY: [D]o you want to be useful? If you do, take a course to be so, for this will bring us to the point where we can build up Zion and be of one heart and of one mind, and it will lead us to do all that we do in the name, in the love, and in the fear of our God. By so doing, if the fear of God is upon us, and we work with an eye single to the building up of Zion, our labors will be blessed. - Brigham Young, February 10, 1867

BY: [T]he man who is faithful to his calling and to this holy Priesthood, never goes hunting for gold or silver unless he is sent. Such men are found following their legitimate pursuits, working in their fields, in their workshops and gardens, making beautiful their habitations; in other words, engaged building up and assisting to establish the Zion of God on the earth, with their minds centered on the true riches and not upon the things of this world. - Brigham Young, June 17, 1877, two months before his passing.



Prove to God we are Earnest about Building Zion

2. Zion in the Gospel

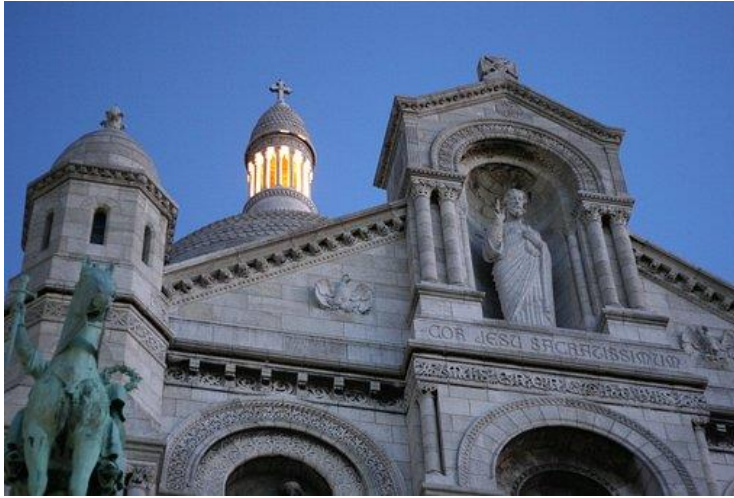
OP: Much patience and forbearance will need to be exercised before the Saints will get completely rid of their old traditions, Gentile notions, and whims about property, so as to come to that perfect law required of them in the revelations of Jesus Christ. But the day will come when there will be no poor in Zion, but the Lord will make them equal in earthly things, that they may be equal in heavenly things; that is, according to His notions of equality, and not according to our narrow, contracted views of the same. - Orson Pratt, April 1855 General Conference

BY: I do not wish you to carry away a wrong impression of our true situation before the heavens relative to perfection. For you to be perfect, in one sense of the word, is to be prepared to inherit eternal glory in the presence of the Father and the Son. Should any mortal attain to this state of perfection, he could not longer remain among his fellow mortals. I do not want you so very perfect, but I am anxious that we should commence the growth of Zion in ourselves, and when we do this, we shall **cease to willingly hold fellowship with that which is evil**. But so long as we **willingly hold fellowship with that which tends to death and destruction, we cannot progress** as we should in the work of perfection in ourselves, nor in building up and beautifying Zion. - Brigham Young, February 23, 1862

WW: [Selfishness] produces disunion and is inconsistent with the profession of a Saint of God. We should labor, each and every one of us to put such feelings from our hearts, and then we, in our family organizations, should strive to promote the general interest of the members thereof; but the interest of Zion and the kingdom of God should be first with us all the time, for we are all members of that kingdom and its welfare is ours. - Wilford Woodruff, May 6, 1870

Gordon B. Hinckley said 121 years later in the October 1991 General Conference. He stated, “If we are to build that Zion of which the prophets have spoken and of which the Lord has given mighty promise, we must set aside our consuming selfishness. We must rise above our love for comfort and ease, and in the very process of effort and struggle, even in our extremity, we shall become better acquainted with our God.”

BY: The Lord is building up Zion, and is emptying the earth of wickedness, gathering his people, bringing again Zion, redeeming his Israel, sending forth his work, withdrawing his Spirit from the wicked world, and commencing to build up his kingdom. Can this be done without revelation? No. You will not make a move, or do anything—plant corn, build a hall or a temple, make a farm, or go to the States—no, not a thing towards building up Zion, without the power of revelation. - Brigham Young, July 28, 1861



3. Zion in the Temple

Obedience

Sacrifice

OFW: How was this miracle of Enoch's city accomplished? Not by an empty and vain profession of righteousness; not by men seeking themselves, and their own honor and glory; not by heaping up gold and silver and precious stones; not by making a golden calf and bowing down and worshiping it; not by the rich grinding under heel the poor; not by the proud despising the humble; not by the poor hating and envying the rich. It was not done by loving the things of this world. But it was by the practice of the grand principle of self-denial, the principle of sacrifice—the foundation stone of the great fabric of human salvation. - Orson F. Whitney, September 22, 1889

GAS: [A]ll that the Latter-day Saints have to do is to live within the confines of God's holy law and up to their privileges. Are we doing so? Are we walking in accordance with these principles? Let us ask ourselves these questions, and if any of us are remiss, let us immediately commence to reform, humble ourselves before God, and be ready to sacrifice ourselves and all we have, if necessary, for the building up and redemption of Zion and for our salvation. - George A. Smith, May 5, 1870

DHW: We hold ourselves ready to go at a moment's warning to the uttermost parts of the earth to subserve the principles of our holy religion, by making them known to others, to save Israel and bring out those the Lord has scattered, to aid in building up Zion, and in building temples of the Most High, wherein we may go and receive the blessings of eternity. We hold our property—our possessions—on the altar, ready at a moment's notice to be handed over to subserve the cause of Zion. - Daniel H. Wells, February 22, 1857

Live the Gospel

Law of Consecration

LS: Hence we learn that the Saints in Jackson County and other localities, refused to comply with the order of consecration, consequently they were allowed to be driven from their inheritances; and should not return until they were better prepared to keep the law of God, by being more perfectly taught in reference to their duties, and learn through experience the necessity of obedience. And I think we are not justified in anticipating the privilege of returning to **build up the Center Stake of Zion, until we shall have shown obedience to the law of consecration.** One thing, however, is certain, we shall not be permitted to enter the

land from whence we were expelled, till our hearts are prepared to honor this law, and we become sanctified through the practice of the truth. - Lorenzo Snow, October 1873 General Conference

LS: The Lord, in Kirtland, established a United Order. He called certain individuals, and united them by revelation, and told them how to proceed . . . He told those people and the Church afar off, to listen and hearken to what he required of men in this Order, and of every man who belonged to the Church of the living God—that all that they received above what was necessary for the support of their families, was to be put in the Lord's storehouse, for the benefit of the whole Church. This is what is required of every man in his stewardship. And this is a law that is required to be observed by every man who belongs to the Church of the living God. Now, this is one of the main features of the United Order. We are not going to stop here, in these valleys of the mountains. Many of us expect to go forth and build up the Center Stake of Zion; but before we are called, we must understand these things, and conform to them more practically than many of us do at the present time. - Lorenzo Snow, April 21, 1878

Afterthoughts

It's almost as if establishing Zion was the whole point of the Restoration — to raise the world up to the level where Celestial beings would be comfortable coming here.



Additional quote from the Ch. 7 Appendix:

BY: Suppose we bring a few illustrations in regard to the present feelings and knowledge of the elders of Israel. We need not go back to Nauvoo or Kirtland, to find illustrations among our merchants, but take them as we find them here. If they enter upon their business without God in their thoughts, it is “How much can I get for this? And how much can I make on that? And how much will the people give for this and for that? And how last can I get rich? **And how long will it take me to be a millionaire?” Which thoughts should never come into the mind of a merchant who professes to be a Latter-day Saint. But it should be, “What can I do to benefit this people?” And when they live, act, and do business upon this principle, and think, “What can I do to benefit the kingdom of God on the earth, to establish the laws of this kingdom, to make this kingdom and people honorable, and bring them into note, and give them influence among the nations, so that they can gather the pure in heart, build up Zion, redeem the House of Israel, and perhaps assist (though I do not think there will be any need of it), to gather the Jews to Jerusalem and prepare for the coming of the Son of Man?” - Brigham Young, February 3, 1867**



Ch. 8 Building Zion Is Spiritual AND Temporal!

It is a False Christian Tradition that God's Kingdom and Zion are Only Spiritual.

BY: You know the old theory is that the kingdom of God, and all pertaining to it, is spiritual and not temporal; that is the traditional notion of our brother Christians. But a person may merely think until he goes down to the grave, and he will never be the means of saving one soul, not even his own, unless he adds physical labor to his thinking. He must think, and pray, and preach, and toil and labor with mind and body, in order to build up Zion in the last days. - Brigham Young, October 1855 General Conference

GQC: There is that terrible tradition, that has such strong hold of all our minds, that the Priesthood of God and the religion of Jesus Christ have nothing to do particularly with temporal matters. It is a tradition almost as old as Christianity. It has come down to us for generations and centuries, and is fully interwoven in the hearts, minds and feelings of the children of men, and it is an exceedingly difficult thing to get them to comprehend that temporal things and spiritual things are alike in the sight of God; that there is no line of demarcation between the two; that the religion of Jesus Christ applies to one as much as another, and comprehends within its scope, temporal equally with spiritual matters. - George Q. Cannon, November 13, 1870

Building Zion has a Strong Temporal Element

DHW: To build up Zion is a temporal labor; it does not consist simply in teaching: teaching is to instruct us how to properly apply our labor . . . Bone and sinew is required to build up the kingdom of God in the last days. - Daniel H. Wells, September 10, 1861

Building Zion Requires Actual Physical Labor

HCK: As members of the body of Christ we are called upon to labor and to do our part towards building up his kingdom, and should all have equal interest in that kingdom. We manifest our attachment to the principles of progress and improvement, both of which are intimately connected with the building up of Zion,

when we plant orchards and vineyards, and when we make good gardens, good farms, and when we build good houses; in doing all of which we get a liberal reward as we go along. Then let us stretch forth our hands and build up the towns and cities of Zion. - Heber C. Kimball, September 2, 1863

LTP: The Prophet had a design to build a community of Saints. He had three major objectives: first, economic; second, educational; and third, spiritual . . . The second basic principle is that of work. Work is just as important to the success of the Lord's economic plan as the commandment to love our neighbor. - L. Tom Perry, April 2001 General Conference

We Must be Ready to Physically Build the New Jerusalem

BY: It is the **duty of the brethren to know how to build a house, how to make a garden**, and how to do everything that can be accomplished by the ingenuity given to man. Why? That we may know how to build and beautify Zion. - Brigham Young, June 3, 1860

BY: Let every [tradesman] and every scientific man of all classes and occupations, and every woman, improve to the best of their ability, faithfully living their religion, and we shall be none too well qualified to build up Zion when that time arrives. **I never saw a stonemason who thoroughly understood his trade.** We have not a quarryman who fully understands getting out rock for the Temple walls. Then **how, amid such ignorance, are you going to properly lay the foundation of the New Jerusalem**—the Zion of our God? - Brigham Young, June 3, 1860

Building Zion requires our full-time labor

BY: No man is going to inherit a celestial glory, who trifles with the principles thereof. The man who does not labor from day to day and from hour to hour for building up this Kingdom and bringing forth the fulness of the Kingdom of God on the earth, and the establishment of Zion, will sooner or later, fall and go out of the Church. - Brigham Young, June 29, 1864

OH: Then I say let the blacksmith attend to his blacksmithing and let him charge a reasonable price for his labor, and not, as has been the custom, charge three or four prices. Let the joiner do likewise, working constantly at that which will most conduce to the building up of Zion, and let the farmer raise the grain. Where you find a man who has plenty of grain to serve him from three to five years . . . tell him to go to work and build for his family a comfortable dwelling house, and point out to him that he is in this way finding employment for the mechanics, making his family comfortable and building up Zion. - Orson Hyde, October 1862 General Conference

Building Zion apparently was not a nights-and-weekends activity, but to be done all day, every day. It appears from this that our motive for our daily work should be to build Zion.

We Can't Think, Talk, or Sing Zion into Existence

GAS: We can get up in our meeting and sing—"The cities of Zion soon shall rise." but how are they going to rise? We are going to build them, so that they will rise far above the clouds; and to accomplish this we are going to build them on the high mountains. We are not only going to sing building them, but we are going to do the labor requisite to carry out our designs. - George A. Smith, October 20, 1861

WW: We have it to do, **we can't build up Zion sitting on a hemlock slab singing** ourselves away to everlasting bliss; we have to cultivate the earth, to take the rocks and elements out of the mountains and rear Temples to the Most High God; and this temporal work is demanded at our hands by the God of heaven . . . This is the great dispensation in which the Zion of God must be built up, and we as Latter-day Saints have it to build. - Wilford Woodruff, October 1873 General Conference



Summary

- 1. Building Zion has a strong temporal element.*
- 2. Building Zion requires actual physical labor.*
- 3. We must be ready to physically build the New Jerusalem Zion society.*
- 4. Building Zion requires our full-time labor; it's not a nights-and-weekends project.*
- 5. We can't think, talk, or sing Zion into existence; we have to physically build it.*

Additional quotes from the Ch. 8 Appendix:

BY: I sometimes think that I would be willing to give anything, to do almost anything in reason, to see one fully organized Branch of this kingdom—one fully organized Ward. “But,” says one, “I had supposed that the kingdom of God was organized long ago.” So it is, in one sense; and again, in another sense it is not. Wheresoever this Gospel has been preached and people have received it, the spiritual kingdom is set up and organized, **but is Zion organized? No. Is there even in this Territory a fully organized Ward? Not one.** It may be asked, “Why do you not fully organize the Church?” Because **the people are incapable** of being organized. I could organize a large Ward who would be subject to a full organization, by selecting families from the different Wards, but at present such a Branch of the Church is not in existence. - Brigham Young, October 1862 General Conference

BY: What is my feeling today? The same as it has been for years concerning houses, lands and possessions. I say to the people, “If you will **give me for my property half what it has cost me I will devote that means for the gathering** of the poor and the building of Zion upon the earth, and will **start again with nothing.** I have **done it before,** and I am willing to do it again . . . - Brigham Young, November 13, 1870

JMG: Do not think you will be without your trials here, that you are to be a stereotyped edition to sit upon stools, singing glory to God, and that that is all you have to do. I have often said to the English brethren and sisters that were I in England . . . I would tell them the first things they might expect to meet in Zion, viz: **to leap into the mire and help** to fill up a mud hole, to make adobies with their sleeves rolled up, and be spattered with clay from head to foot; and that some would be set to ditching in Zion, to making ditch fence ankle deep in mire; and that they might expect to eat their bread by the sweat of their brow, as in their native country. - Jedediah M. Grant, September 25, 1854

BY: Go to **work and say nothing about wages**, but feel that “this is Zion; and what can I do to build it up, without asking any man to pay me one dollar?” Let that be your chief joy and delight, and **you will never lack** for work, food, or raiment. - Brigham Young, September 2, 1860

WW: I want salvation, I wish to inherit eternal life, I wish to get back to the presence of God from whence I came, when I have finished my probation in the flesh. And I believe that I desire nothing in this respect but what you also wish. Then I know that **it requires my diligence and my constant labor and study**, the little time I have to spend in the flesh, to do all I can to build up Zion and to establish the Church and the kingdom of God upon the earth. - Wilford Woodruff, April 1878 General Conference

BY: I can say with all propriety that, if we had strictly followed the counsels that have been given from the commencement until today, instead of being in such poverty, as we are in one sense, we would be a self-sustaining, independent people, **commanding millions just as easy as we now command thousands**. But how unwise, how foolish some of our brethren are! I am ashamed of them, and their condition is deplorable. **Instead of beautifying their homes and improving their farms, and helping to reclaim the community and build up the Zion of the latter days, they have done—what? Dug holes** in the ground? [i.e. become miners] - Brigham Young, June 17, 1877

BY: But a person may merely think until he goes down to the grave, and **he will never be the means of saving one soul, not even his own, unless he adds physical labor to his thinking**. He must think, and pray, and preach, and toil and labor with mind and body, in order to build up Zion in the last days. - Brigham Young, October 1855 General Conference



[Ch. 9 Babylon, Zion's Opposite](#)

What is Babylon?

JT: I feel as though I am among the honorable of the earth when I am here; and when I get mixed up with the people abroad, and mingle with the great people in the world, I feel otherwise. I have seen and deplored the weakness of men—their folly, selfishness, and corruption. I do not know how they feel, but I have witnessed a great deal of ignorance and folly, I think there is a great deal of great littleness about them. There is very little power among them, their institutions are shattered, cracked, and laid open to the foundation. It is no matter what principle you refer to—if to **their religion, it is a pack of nonsense; if to their philosophy and politics, they are a mass of dark confusion; their governments, churches, philosophy, and religion, are all darkness, misery, corruption, and folly. I see nothing but Babylon wherever I go—but darkness and confusion,** with not a ray of light to cheer the sinking spirits of the nations of the earth, nor any hope that they will be delivered in this world, or in the world to come. Elder John Taylor, in 1852

BY: And one of the last writers we have here in this book—John the Revelator—looking at the Church in the latter days, says: “Come out of her, my people”—out of Babylon, out of this confusion and wickedness, which they call “civilization.” Civilization! It is corruption and wickedness of the deepest dye. It is no society for you, my people, come out of her. Gather out . . . and begin to build up Zion. Now, “come out of her, my people,” for this purpose, “and partake not of her sins, lest ye receive of her plagues.” - Brigham Young, February 3, 1867

A False Organization of Human Society

Every Man for Himself

BY: Are we going to be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man? Are we going to be prepared to enter into the fullness of the glory of the Father and the Son? Not so long as we live according to the principles of Babylon. Now we are every man for himself. One says: “This is **my property**, and I am for increasing it.” Another says; “This is mine,” Another: “I will do as I please; I will go where I please and when I please; I will do this, that, or the other; and if I have a mind to raise grain here and take it to market and give it away, it is none of your business.” **It will be said to all such persons, who profess to be Latter-day Saints—“I never knew you; you never were Saints.”** - Brigham Young, April 18, 1874

ES: For the last dozen years many of this people have been going on in the way that our fathers and the world generally walk in; and instead of building up Zion, have been after their personal and individual interests. - Erastus Snow, May 8, 1874

Babylon is self-focus mixed with avarice

LS: In the Gentile world, where the Gospel first reached us, our manner of training, our habits and our education, all went to influence our minds to look after self, and never to let our contemplations or meditations go beyond that which pertained to ourselves. In making any exertion that would in any way tend to benefit ourselves, to exalt ourselves, and assist us in amassing riches, or in gathering information that would confirm or aid in the bringing about this object, we considered we were doing first-rate, for that was the object of life with us . . . This is what our parents taught us to a great extent, and it mattered, with us, but very little, how or what course was pursued if we could gain those things we desired, if we could secure to ourselves those things which were necessary for our own comfort, and for our own individual temporal convenience. - Lorenzo Snow, March 1, 1857

The Saints Left Babylon for Utah

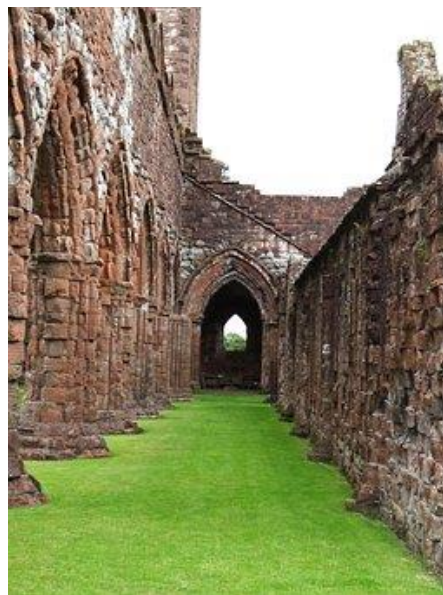
Clinging to Babylon

BY: Have we separated ourselves from the nations? Yes. And what else have we done? Ask ourselves the question, Have we not brought Babylon with us? Are we not promoting Babylon here in our midst? Are we not fostering the spirit of Babylon that is now abroad on the face of the whole earth? I ask myself this question, and I answer, Yes, yes, to some extent and there is not a Latter-day Saint but what feels that we have too much of Babylon in our midst. The spirit of Babylon is too prevalent here. What is it? Confusion, discord, strife, animosity, vexation, pride, arrogance, self will and the spirit of the world. Are these things in the midst of those called Latter-day Saints? Yes, and we feel this. - Brigham Young, April 18, 1874

We must overcome the traditions of Babylon to build Zion

Babylon Will Fall

WW: The day is not far distant when we shall have to take care of ourselves. Great Babylon is going to fall, judgment is coming on the wicked, the Lord is about to pour upon the nations of the earth the great calamities which He has spoken of by the mouths of His prophets; and no power can stay these things. It is wisdom that we should lay the foundation to provide for ourselves. - Wilford Woodruff, May 19, 1867



Quotes from Appendix of Ch. 9

JT: **The world is going to the devil just as fast as it can go.** Corruption, fraud, chicanery, deception, evil and iniquity of every kind prevail, so that you cannot trust a man in any place, you cannot rely upon his word, you cannot rely upon any instrument of writing that he gets up, and there is nothing you can rely upon. Every day's news brings accounts of defalcations, frauds, infamies, rottenness and corruptions of every kind, enough to sink a nation from the presence of God and all honorable beings. And this is not only so in the United States, but other nations, in ours especially. **We, as a people, have come out from Babylon, but we have brought a great amount of these infernal principles with us,** and we have been grabbing, grasping, pinching, squeezing, hauling, horning and hooking on every side, and it seems as though every man was for himself and the devil for us all. That is about the position we are in today. - John Taylor, 1874

JT: We, as a people, have come out from Babylon, but we have brought a great amount of these infernal principles with us, and we have been grabbing, grasping, pinching, squeezing, hauling, horning and hooking on every side, and it seems as though **every man was for himself and the devil for us all**. That is about the position we are in today. We want a change in these things. We have come to Zion. - John Taylor, April 19, 1874

ES: The United Order is designed to help us to be self-reliant and to teach us to understand what it costs to produce that which we consume. One of the chief obstacles in the way of our progress towards becoming a self-sustaining people is the lack of this understanding among the people. They cling to the habits and customs of Babylon that they have learned abroad—the **laborer wishing to eat up the capitalist, and the capitalist constantly guarded for fear he should . . . succumb to the demands of [labor's] operatives**. This is the way of the world, and the warfare that is going on all the time; and why? Because they comprehend not how to promote their mutual interests; covetousness of capital on one hand, and covetousness of labor on the other, **each trying to enrich itself at the expense of the other**. - Erastus Snow, June 3, 1877

BY: If you have the right to buy and sell and get gain, to go here and there, to do this and that, to build up the wicked and the ungodly, or their cities, you have rights that I have not got. **I have the right to build up Zion, but I have no right to build up a city in wickedness**. - Brigham Young, April 1867 General Conference

BY: We have gone just as far as we can be permitted to go in the road on which we are now traveling. One man has his **eye on a gold** mine, another is for a silver mine, another is for marketing his flour or his wheat, another for selling his cattle, another to raise cattle, another to get a farm, or building here and there, and trading and trafficking with each other, **just like Babylon, taking advantage wherever we can**, and all going just as the rest of the world. Babylon is here, and we are following in the footsteps of the inhabitants of the earth, who are in a perfect sea of confusion. Do you know this? You ought to, for there are none of you but what see it daily; it is a daily spectacle before your eyes and mine, to see the Latter-day Saints trying to take advantage of their brethren. There are Elders in this Church who **would take the widow's last cow, for five dollars, and then kneel down and thank God** for the fine **bargain** they had made. - Brigham Young, April 18, 1874

FDR: Does it not make your souls rejoice in the Lord, that He has established His people, and to realize that you are blessed above measure in having a name and a place in this city or territory? **You are better off this afternoon in this place, in rags, and begging your bread, than in England, Scotland, or Wales, earning one hundred pounds per annum**. You would there be dwelling among the cloudy mists of Babylon, where you dare not say your souls were your own. You could make but little advancement in your holy religion there; but here [in Utah] you can receive words of life from those whom God has appointed to lead His people into the way of salvation. - Franklin D. Richards, October 1853 General Conference

BY: Suppose that every person who comes into these valleys should come with a determination to be led by the Lord, from day to day; suppose they should say, "I will serve my God and keep His commandments . . . and this will I do from this time, henceforth and forever;" and then let each one faithfully maintain such a determination, and we could truly say that we have the Territory of Zion, and the spirit, light, glory, and power thereof, and that the God of Zion dwells with this people. But if we bring our old traditions with us . . . and say, **"I will do so and so, this is the path I will pursue, and I am determined to walk in it, regardless of everything else," then we may expect to be overthrown**, and the spirit of the holy Gospel will depart from us. Then you would soon learn that there was no temporal, **no natural prospect for this people to escape from utter destruction** - Brigham Young, April 1855 General Conference



[Ch. 10 Building Zion Includes Economic Independence from Babylon](#)

Economic dependence on the world invites trouble

BY: There are certain rules in life and certain principles to be observed by this people. They must cease trading with those who would destroy us. To be called out from the wicked, and then take a course to call the wicked to us, how inconsistent it is! If the Lord were to say, "I will let the wicked drive you again, and I will call you to another place, where there is no one to disturb you;" how long would it be until the course taken by many would call the wicked in among us again, to seek to destroy us? The Latter-day Saints must stop this course, or they will bring evil upon themselves, and we will have to leave. These are the things we have to learn. We have the privilege of choosing now. It is in our hands, it is within our power, whether we will stay in these mountains and build up the Zion of our God, **or make the wicked and ungodly fat by our labor and give them our possessions.** This many are doing, by **running in debt to our enemies**, and pursuing a course that is wrong. If they do not cease it they will have cause to weep and mourn. - Brigham Young, 1868

Economic Dependence is Servitude

Building Zion Includes Manufacturing All our Consumer Goods

GAS: Man's wants are very numerous, but his necessities are really very few, and we should abridge our wants, and go to work and manufacture everything we can within ourselves; and what we cannot manufacture we can import, and save ourselves the 40, 120, 400, or 1,000 percent that we are now paying for our merchandise, and so **stop building up those who are laying a foundation, openly and above board, for our destruction.** And furthermore, **cease to fellowship every man that will not build up Zion.** Amen. - George A. Smith, October 1868 General Conference

JT: But the ship of Zion is onward; the "little stone" is hewn out of the mountain without hands, and will roll until it fills the whole earth . . . But let us unite closer together, and harmonize our temporal interests, until

we shall manufacture everything we need to make us independent of the world. - President John Taylor, September 22, 1878



Independence through Local Manufacturing

Why is Economic Independence so Important? (9 quotes)

ES: How long do you think it would take if we were all producers, and converting the raw materials into useful articles, to become a self-sustaining people? And then if we heard of Babylon's downfall, we would not of necessity lift up our hands and cry, **“O Lord spare her a little longer, we are not ready for her to go down, we should suffer from the want** of boots and shoes, and for our clothing, and our machinery, and so forth.” The United Order is designed to help us to be self-reliant and to teach us to understand what it costs to produce that which we consume. One of the chief obstacles in the way of our progress towards becoming a self-sustaining people is the lack of this understanding among the people. They cling to the habits and customs of Babylon that they have learned abroad. - Erastus Snow, June 3, 1877

Zion and Her Saints Must Become Self-Sustaining

JT: What has been the teachings to this people for years? To be self-sustaining. - John Taylor, April 1867 General Conference

DHW: We have a great deal to do to destroy wickedness and establish righteousness upon the earth, and to prepare ourselves for the establishment of Zion, that she may become the head upon the earth . . . Do we feel that we will do right and hold ourselves and all that we possess upon the altar of the kingdom of God? Do we feel that we should be **diligent and economical**, that we should seek unto the elements that we are surrounded with, and take that course that will make us the **most independent people upon the earth**? If we should bless the earth and ask God to bless it, that it may bring forth for our support and sustenance, and that we may have power to draw forth and combine the elements, and thus make us independent of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. - Daniel H. Wells, September 30, 1860

GAS: We have been talking about the United Order, and getting up tanneries, shoe shops, &c., and [initial] steps have been taken in some of the settlements with these objects in view; but it takes time to carry out and successfully accomplish such projects. But we can produce these things within ourselves, and it is our duty to do it, and instead of manifesting a disposition to oppose anything of this kind, we should exert all the

influence and energy we possess to bring it about, and to make ourselves self-sustaining . . . the work of making Zion self-sustaining must be regarded as part of the work of the Lord; for it is an obligation devolving upon us to provide within ourselves labor and the [necessities] of life. We must take hold of this matter, brethren and sisters, with all our hearts, and **never let ourselves rest until Zion is independent of her enemies and all the world.** - George A. Smith, October 1874 General Conference

Summary

- 1. Economic dependence on the wicked invites trouble and is servitude.*
- 2. Building Zion includes manufacturing all our own consumer goods.*
- 3. Economic Independence is to be achieved through the local manufacturing of goods.*
- 4. Economic independence is important because Babylon will fall and we will have to provide for ourselves our everyday needs.*
- 5. Zion and her Saints must become self-sustaining*



Afterthoughts

LTP: The Prophet had a design to build a community of Saints [i.e. Zion]. He had three major objectives: first, economic; second, educational; and third, spiritual. The Prophet **Joseph Smith's desire was that the Saints should become economically self-sufficient** . . . A treasured remnant of our heritage of economic self-sufficiency is the Church Welfare Services program. - April General Conference in 2001, Elder L. Tom Perry

The teachings of this chapter are so counter-intuitive to us today because we, and our parents and grandparents, grew up in a society that operates under the assumptions taught in every college Economics 101 class [see Economism, by James Kwak, PhD.]. The American culture has trained us to accept as unquestioned Gospel Truth that economic dependence is actually good for everyone. We are taught, and everyone assumes it to be true, that being economically dependent on each other encourages abundance due to the specialization of labor, mutually-beneficial trading, and leads to the best possible world for all involved. Because of this, it is likely many readers will question the wisdom of these early apostolic and prophetic directives for the Saints to achieve economic independence from the world. Or, some will use the principles taught in Econ 101 to justify our dropping economic independence as a goal altogether. We can simply dismiss these teachings by saying,

“Well, clearly they didn't understand basic economics.” Thus relieving ourselves of the responsibility to seek and do God's will in regards to temporal matters. Only one problem—God wants his Church to be economically independent.

D&C 78: 3-6: 3 For verily I say unto you, the time has come, and is now at hand; and behold, and lo, it must needs be that there be an organization of my people, in regulating and establishing the affairs of the storehouse for the poor of my people, both in this place and in the land of Zion— 4 For a permanent and everlasting establishment and order unto my church, to advance the cause, which ye have espoused, to the salvation of man, and to the glory of your Father who is in heaven; 5 That you may be equal in the bonds of heavenly things, yea, and earthly things also, for the obtaining of heavenly things. 6 For if ye are not equal in earthly things ye cannot be equal in obtaining heavenly things;

D&C 78: 13-14: 13 Behold, this is the preparation wherewith I prepare you, and the foundation, and the ensample which I give unto you, whereby you may accomplish the commandments which are given you; 14 That through my providence, notwithstanding the tribulation which shall descend upon you, that the church may stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world;

God wants us to be “equal in earthly things” so that we can be “equal in obtaining heavenly things”. If one family has to spend every waking moment trying to scrape together enough food to survive, they certainly can't be “equal in obtaining heavenly things” with those who have abundant surpluses of resources.

Will we also say of God, “He just doesn't understand Economics 101”? Or, will we humble ourselves before Him, deny the wisdom of the world, and embrace and work towards God's economic goals for his children?



Quotes from Ch. 10 Appendix

JT: We raise a large amount of wool here, what do we do with it? We export a great deal of it to the States. We have got a large amount of excellent timber here, what do we do for our furniture? We send to the States for a great deal of it. Where do we get our pails and our washtubs, and all our cooper ware from? We send to the States for it. Where do we get our brooms from? From the States; and so on all the way through the catalogue, and millions on millions of **dollars are sent out** of the Territory every year, for the purchase of articles, most of which we could manufacture and raise at home. **This is certainly very poor economy, for we have thousands and thousands of men who are desirous to get some kind of employment, and they cannot get it. Why? Because other people are making our shoes, hats, clothing, bonnets, silks, artificial flowers, and many other things that we need.** This may do very well for a while in an **artificial state** of society; but the moment any reverse comes that kind of thing is upset, and all our calculations are destroyed. - John Taylor, May 7, 1874

GQC: But this is only one article. When we sit down to our tables, and take a survey, we find many articles that are thus imported. It may be, and frequently is said by a certain class of persons that articles can be **imported much cheaper** than they can be manufactured here. This is urged by them as a reason for importing; but it is a delusion and a snare, and the man who utters such a sentiment is an **ignoramus**. He knows **nothing about the true principles** of building up a people and kingdom. That which is manufactured here, **though it cost ten times** the amount it would cost in the east, **is the cheaper**, for that is the commencement of independence. The man or the family who carries on home manufacture is laying the foundation for true and lasting independence. - George Q. Cannon, April 1868 General Conference

HCK: And I know another thing, that a great many people are becoming so proud—well, perhaps it is not pride, but they have got so that they cannot dress and clothe themselves with anything that is not brought here by the merchants. Many will bring in their wool, and their linsey, and their good clothing that they make here from the wool, and give it to clothe the Indians, for they are too proud to wear it themselves. But **the day will come when the merchants of the earth will lift up their heads and their voices, and cry out, “We have no place to sell our merchandise.”** - Heber C. Kimball, November 26, 1854

BY: **Are you going to prepare for [Babylon's fall]?** We say we are the people of God and are building up the kingdom of God. We say we are gathered out of the nations to establish Zion. **Let us prove it by our works, and we will then manufacture that which we wear.** Do we make clothing enough for me and you to wear? Yes; plenty. - Brigham Young, February 2, 1870

BY: I am satisfied that the people now begin to learn that they can make their own clothing, and that those who do not learn will run the risk of being uncomfortably clad. **But would this people, by their wisdom, ever have brought themselves to that independence that God will, by his providence, in a seeming chastisement? I say seeming, for it is no chastisement: it is a blessing to this people, and one of the greatest that can be bestowed upon us, to cut the thread between us and our enemies, and oblige us to sustain ourselves** in everything that we can produce with our labor, skill, and economy. The Lord can bring this about, or cause the Devil to do it, just as he pleases. - Brigham Young, March 28, 1858



[Ch. 11 Zion Requires Economic Unity](#)

We must be one temporally, too.

LS: Now, perhaps **I do not believe as some do in regard to the United Order—that everybody is to come together and throw all their substance into a heap**, and then come and take of it as they please, or that one man who does not understand temporal affairs at all should be placed as a steward over extensive concerns. I believe that **there is an order** in these things—a pleasing and an agreeable order—and that these things are arranged by the Lord in such a way that when people properly understand them they will be satisfied and admire them. It is because we do not get to understand the requirements of God that we are dissatisfied. God fixes these matters up and arranges them in such a way as will tend to the exaltation of every Latter-day Saint who is disposed to honor them. It is **because of our ignorance that we are displeased with the requirements of the Lord**. - Apostle Lorenzo Snow October 19, 1879

WW: We are one of heart and mind, as it regards faith, repentance, baptism, or the first principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ; but **the same unity must exist in our midst in all our temporal labors**—in building temples, tabernacles, cities, towns, villages, canals, cultivating the earth, or any other labor, if we ever accomplish the object for which we have been raised up. **No people, unless they are united together, can ever build up Zion and establish the Kingdom of God on the earth**. - Wilford Woodruff, April 1867 General Conference

“Being One Temporally” Defined

BY: I have looked upon the community of the Latter-day Saints in vision and beheld them organized as one great family of heaven, each person performing his several duties in his line of industry, working for the good of the whole **more than for individual aggrandizement**; and in this I have beheld the most beautiful order that the mind of man can contemplate, and the grandest results for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God and the spread of righteousness upon the earth. Will this people ever come to this order of things? Are they now prepared to live according to that patriarchal order that will be organized among the true and faithful before God receives His own? We all concede the point that when this mortality falls off; and with it its cares, anxieties, love of self, love of wealth, and love of power, and all the conflicting interests which pertain to this flesh, that then, when our spirits have returned to God who gave them, we will be subject to every requirement that He may make of us, that we shall then live **together as one great family**; our interest will be a general, a common interest. - January 12, 1868, President Brigham Young



Benefits of Economic Unity

- *God will grant us riches needed to accomplish His will*
- *Economic Unity results in a classless society*

“In that the rich are made low”

We do not find a single statement among all the Zion-building quotes that even hinted that redistribution of wealth was ever contemplated among the early LDS leaders. What that phrase likely means is that the rich are humbled, not financially, but in that their focus is redirected to God and accomplishing His will, instead of their own will and benefit. The rich are thereby “humbled”. [Are you relieved?] What we do find are statements suggesting a redirection of wealth's power to the benefit of the poor. Specifically, we find the early LDS leaders imploring the successful Saints not to focus on expanding their wealth even further. The leaders encouraged them to re-focus their wealth-building skills and capital into productive projects that:

- 1. Provided honest work with fair wages for the under- and unemployed,*
- 2. Manufactured products needed in Utah to help the Saints become self-sufficient and independent of the U.S. economy (“Babylon”), and*
- 3. Served to foster economic unity among the Saints.*

GQC: The intention is to use the skill of the businessman in elevating those who are not businessmen, to bring up the poor from their level to the broad upper level, not to pull down the upper level to the plane of the lower. That is not the design, but it is that we shall work for each other's good . . . - President George Q. Cannon, October 1874 General Conference

Economics under God's Direction

DHW: But do we realize that God's kingdom in the latter days is to all intents and purposes a temporal kingdom? And do we realize that if we had stayed in the world [back East] we could have served him spiritually there as well as here? But what kind of a kingdom would that have been for the Savior to rule over when he comes? **When he comes, he is going to reign over a temporal kingdom**, composed of men and women who do his will on the earth. Everything that pertains to us in our life is temporal, and over us and all we possess our Heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ will reign, as well as over all the kingdoms of the world when they become the kingdoms of our God and his Christ. **To build up Zion is a temporal labor . . .** - Daniel H. Wells, September 10, 1861

LS: When one goes into cooperation [i.e. economic unity] with proper spirit and proper views, to superintend or **operate in any of its departments, he has a lawful claim to the Spirit of inspiration, to aid him in his calling.** We read that Jacob, through his honesty of purpose, fair-dealing, and freedom from selfishness, was assisted by an holy Angel with information how to increase and multiply his flocks. It is far better to build up the kingdom of God, in its temporal interests, by the Spirit of God and the wisdom of God, than by the spirit of man and the wisdom of man; on the latter principle we shall always fail, but on the former the results will always be successful. - Lorenzo Snow, October 1873 General Conference

What Economic Unity Looks Like (21 quotes)

GQC: I have endeavored to describe to you the influence we wield because of our union in spiritual matters. The same remark will apply exactly to our union in temporal matters. Let this people be **united in temporal matters**; let it be known that we work together for one another's good, that we labor, as a people to **benefit the whole and not the individual**, and that our influence is in this direction; and I tell you that the same influence, the same power, that wield now as a spiritual organization will be felt in our temporal affairs, in our financial affairs, in all the affairs in fact which attract our attention. - George Q. Cannon, April 1878 General Conference

OP: Again, how great would be the benefit to a body of people—to say nothing of households and families—located for instance, in one region of the country, a people who were united together according to the law of God, desiring to advance each other's welfare and happiness, and each man was required to love his neighbor as himself; a people who knew how to so conduct their, temporal affairs that each man's neighbor might be benefited as well as himself; and each one **looking not only for his own welfare or that of his own household, but for the welfare of the whole community**, with whom he was associated, producing at last that unity and oneness which the Lord requires in the numerous revelations which he has given. - Orson Pratt, August 25, 1878

What prevents economic unity? (Simple answer? Avarice – “greed for wealth or material gain”)

BY: Can you go to work and make a people of one heart and mind while they are possessed of the spirit of the world? You cannot . . . **How can they devote their lives to the building up of the Kingdom of God when they do not delight in it, but delight in building themselves up, in making gain**, and in gathering around them the riches of the world? The Latter-day Saints, in their conduct and acts with regard to financial matters, are like the rest of the world. The course pursued by men of business in the world has a tendency to make a few rich, and to sink the masses of the people in poverty and degradation. Too many of the Elders of Israel take this course. No matter what comes they are for gain—for gathering around them riches; and when they get rich how are those riches used? Spent on the lusts of the flesh, wasted as a thing of nought, and they who were once rich are left in poverty, as they are this day . . . Instead of being united in our feelings to build up all, each one takes his own course; whereas, if we were united, we would get rich ten times faster than we do now. - Brigham Young, April 1867 General Conference



Summary:

- *To become Zion, we must be one temporally too.*
- *“Being One Temporally” means we are “organized as one great family . . . each person performing his several duties in his line of industry, working for the good of the whole . . .”*
- *Economic Unity includes at least these three benefits: God will grant us riches needed to accomplish His will, it results in a classless society, and it eliminates poverty.*
- *In Zion, economic unity is not achieved through the redistribution of wealth, but through the redirection of wealth. Wealth's power is redirected into creating meaningful work for everyone and achieving local economic self-sufficiency.*
- *In a Zion society, economic activity is carried out under God's direction.*
- *Economic Unity looks like everyone laboring to benefit his neighbor as himself, to look out for the welfare of the whole community, and not just his own household.*
- *It's the avarice of the members that prevents economic unity.*



[Ch. 12 Cooperation is a Steppingstone to Zion](#)

As mentioned in earlier chapters, the **early Utah-era LDS leaders saw that the Saints were quickly dividing into classes of rich and poor.** They saw the **values of Babylon were being brought into Utah** by immigrating Saints. They were determined to establish Zion, but knew that the Saints had blown their opportunity under Joseph's tutelage to live the celestial-level law of economics. However, the **LDS leaders found an intermediate step between Babylon's telestial-level economics and Zion's celestial-level United Order.** That “stepping stone” was **Cooperative Free Enterprise— pursuing mutual economic independence and self-sufficiency in a cooperative fashion in a free market.** The Church leaders fully embraced the cooperative as a means to **prepare the Saints for the higher economic law.**

Co-operatives in Utah History

Drawing upon Arrington’s book “Great Basin Kingdom”: the most impressive example of Cooperative Free Enterprise among the Saints: Brigham City, Utah. Under the direction of Apostle Lorenzo Snow, Brigham City, over the span of 10 years, became a world-renown cooperative community. At their peak, all 2,000 inhabitants owned shares in and were employed in one of 40-odd manufacturing cooperatives in town. It was estimated that they produced 85% of all the consumer goods their community needed. In fact, during the world-wide banking panic of 1873, Brigham City had its best year ever. Arrington noted that Lorenzo Snow began this economic miracle by establishing a single marketing co-op in Brigham City. The co-op bought goods produced locally and sold them locally. The profits were used to organize local producers into new cooperatives which manufactured consumer goods needed there in Brigham City. This process was repeated until everything produced in Brigham City was sold through the co-op. The town was so prosperous that they built homes for all the widows and would give food and work to passing indigents.

Cooperative Free Enterprise rolls out Church-wide p358

Again pointing to GBK of Arrington: The goal was threefold: to curb the drain of money out of Utah by non-member merchants, to help Utah become more self-sustaining, and to prevent the rise of a wealthy class in Utah.

More on “Zion’s Co-operative Mercantile Institute” of 17 marketing co-ops in SLC.

Arrington: “Cooperative farming, cooperative herding, cooperative processing and manufacturing of grain, dairy products, leather, wool, cotton, and silk—cooperation in each activity and in each community was the dominant organizational pattern of Mormon economic life . . .”

So . . . Co-ops Help Us Build Zion?

GAS: We are looking forward to the day when we shall return to Jackson County . . . That will one day be the Center Stake of Zion, the center spot of the New Jerusalem which God is to build on this land. We can only be prepared for that work by being united . . . Can we not unite a little in erecting a [cooperative] factory, in establishing a store? Can we not learn, step by step, the principles of unity, which will enable us to be the people of God, like the Zion of Enoch, and prepare us for a dwelling with the blest? Every step we take of this kind is in the right direction. Sustain our **Cooperative stores, and cease to sustain those who do not build up Zion. Elder George A. Smith in the October 1873 General Conference**



So . . . How Do Co-ops Actually Help Prepare us to Build Zion?

BY: I want to impress one thing on the minds of the people, which will be for their advantage if they will hear it. When you start your Cooperative Store in a ward, you will find the men of capital stepping forward, and one says, "I will put in ten thousand dollars;" another says, "I will put in five thousand." But I say to you, bishops, do not let these men take five thousand, or one thousand, but call on the brethren and sisters who are poor and tell them to put in their five dollars or their twenty-five, and let those who have capital stand back and give the poor the advantage of this quick trading. This is what I am after and have been all the time. - Brigham Young, 1869

GQC: A great many of the Latter-day Saints scarcely understand the persistency with which the Presidency of the Church has labored to bring about the oneness of the people in temporal things; and this cooperative movement is an important step in this direction . . . It has already produced greater union, and it will produce still greater union than anything that has been witnessed among us; and if we carry it out in the spirit in which it has been taught to us it will produce immense results. (George Q. Cannon in the April 1869 General Conference)

Cooperatives are a Stepping Stone to Zion's United Orders

BY: This cooperative movement is only a stepping stone to what is called the Order of Enoch, but which is in reality the Order of Heaven. - Brigham Young, April 1869 General Conference

LS: I view cooperation, when properly understood and practiced, as being a steppingstone to the Order of Enoch, and will enable the Saints who receive it in a proper spirit, to gradually prepare themselves to enter, in due time, more fully into the practice of principles necessary to accomplish the building up of the kingdom of our God. - Lorenzo Snow, October 1873 General Conference

Generally, Cooperation is Awesome!

Cooperation, it is well known to every Saint who has his eyes and ears open, has brought much good to Israel . . . - Wilford Woodruff, May 1870

Cooperation Offers us Advantages

GQC: [C]o-operation and its necessity . . . has required days, weeks, and it may be said years of preaching to bring this principle home to the minds of the Latter-day Saints, so that they could see and understand its beauty and propriety, and the advantages which would result from its adoption in our midst. - George Q. Cannon, November 1870

Cooperation leads to prosperity

JT: But I will promise the Latter-day Saints that if they will go into these [cooperative enterprises] allowing God to dictate in the interests of Israel and the building up of his Zion on the earth, and take themselves and their individual interests out of the question, feeling they are acting for him and his kingdom, they will **become the wealthiest of all people**, and God will bless them and **pour out wealth and intelligence**

and all the blessings that earth can afford; but if you will not, you will go downward, and keep going the downward road to disappointment and poverty in things spiritual as well as temporal. I dare prophesy that, in the name of the Lord. - President John Taylor, March 1879



Cooperation Helps us Become Self-Sustaining

GQC: No one man, until quite recently, has had sufficient means to carry on any great undertaking; but by the masses of the people uniting under a cooperative plan, and putting their funds in the hands of those who are judicious and good business men, we can establish every kind of manufacture that is necessary in this country to make us self-sustaining. - George Q. Cannon, April 1875 General Conference

Cooperation is a Matter of Self-Preservation

CCR: If we do not so cooperate, others may come in who have no interest in our prosperity, who will trade and traffic, and when they become wealthy would leave us and spend their means elsewhere. This has been our experience in years past with those who have come among us with their merchandise. We can prevent this in the future by our cooperative institutions. It is right and proper that we should combine for self-defense against this world, and so protect our general interests. - Charles C. Rich, November 1877

Cooperation is God's will for us

BY: [C]ooperation was referred to by Brother Taylor. The man or woman who is opposed to this is opposed to God . . . We cannot do his will, nor be his disciples unless we are one. We must have the same faith and feelings for the building up of the kingdom of God, and for the salvation of ourselves and others, jointly, together, or we shall fail in our attempts to accomplish the work which the Lord has given us to do. - Brigham Young, June 1873

Our motives in taking up cooperation matter

ES: It is not great dividends that are going to make either the United Order, or any of our cooperative associations prosperous, permanent and successful, but honesty and straightforward business habits, and

contentment with 12 - Cooperation is a Stepping Stone to Zion 170 reasonable profits and rewards for our labors. - Erastus Snow, April 1875 General Conference

The Brethren Directed the Saints to Sustain the Co-Operatives

JT: We took a vote at the Priesthood meeting, yesterday, and so far as I could discern, the brethren all voted to sustain cooperation . . . - President John Taylor, September 1878

Summary

*The LDS leaders during the 1850s to 1880s taught these remarkable concepts about **Cooperative Free Enterprise**:*

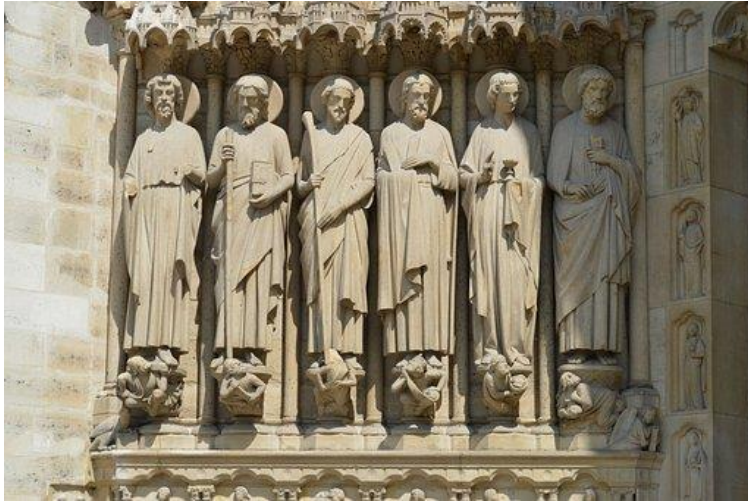
- *Co-operatives are a stepping stone to Zion's United Orders.*
- *Co-ops help prepare us to build Zion by uniting us economically, and by helping to prevent the rise of social classes of rich and poor.*
- *Cooperation offers us advantages, leads to prosperity, helps us become self-sustaining, and is even a matter of self-preservation.*
- *Cooperation is God's will for us.*
- *Our motives in taking up cooperation should be pure—we should seek to bless our community and not just ourselves. [Perhaps this is what is really meant by “pure in heart”]*
- *The Brethren directed the Saints to sustain the co-operatives.*



[Ch. 13 Afterthoughts: Zion Shrugged](#)

So . . . where's the Zion they were building? (It's been over 130 years)

Should we blame our current Church leaders? From the records, it appears that the problem wasn't the leaders. It was the rank and file members.



The LDS Church is taking baby steps towards Zion.

- *The Perpetual Education Fund introduced by President Hinckley in 2001 is definitely a higher level of economic organization. Saints in poor countries are able to attend school by drawing on monies from the Fund. Then after graduating college and landing good-paying jobs, they pay their loans back into the Fund. That's economic cooperation.*
- *The new Self-Reliance program is two steps in one. First, the outward goal of the program is to help families achieve economic self-reliance. As wards and communities, it's much easier to build Zion with people who have the training or skills to provide for themselves. Second, the team focus of the program gets members used to working together for their mutual benefit—a very Zion-like value.*
- *The Church has also been involved in poorer countries with programs to give their members economic training and even micro-loans to start their own businesses. They usually do this through LDS Charities and by partnering with non-government organizations*

The Forces arrayed against Utah's Zion-building effort: Leaders, members, immigrants, government.

Leaders: The leaders simply tired of trying to “herd cats” and finally threw in the towel.

Members: Although [pioneer] spiritual legacy is remarkable--sacrificing life and limb to join the Church and move West—their economic legacy haunts us to this day.

Immigrants: The constant influx of immigrants with old-world economic values also worked against Zion-building.

Government: The United States Government conquered the Church [economically] in the late 1880s... the government's anti-polygamy crackdown forced the leaders of most of the co-ops, the surviving United Orders, and the Zion Boards of Trade into prison or into hiding. Those entities then either collapsed or drifted into private hands.



. . . and Brigham may have rushed things a tad much:

After converting the entire Utah economy from Competitive to Cooperative Free Enterprise, the Saints only had about 10 years for the values of cooperation, mutual benefit, and economic unity to soak into the local culture. After those brief 10 years, Brigham believed the Saints were ready to make the step up to celestial economics. So he organized them all into United Orders. Sadly, the vast majority of the Saints weren't ready, and Brigham's efforts met with drastic failure. Nearly all of the 200+ Orders he established failed within a year of launching...

It is [the author's] belief that if President Young had been satisfied for the Saints to remain on the terrestrial level of economics for at least a generation, the chances of the Saints being able to then successfully make the shift to celestial-level economics would have been greatly increased.

Remember the children of Israel and how many problems they had with the generation that had been used to the way things had been done in Egypt? Same problem. The older generation had to die off before the new values could be completely embraced on a community level. Economic values and traditions can't be changed overnight, or even, apparently over-decade.

[Editors Note: I would suggest Brigham did right in his pace, that he carried out God's will, that this was all as it should have been, even the sad ending of economic Zion which the members elected.]



Were the early LDS Leaders simply wrong [about economics, cooperation, certain Zion, etc.]? No, this is revelation.

[A possible Last Days Chiastic Timeline suggests Utah's Zion-building effort was no "failure"](#)

- A. Christ appears to Joseph Smith. (1820)*
- B. Translation of the Book of Mormon completed. (1829)*
- C. First missionaries called to preach to the Lamanites. (1830)*
- D. Location of the New Jerusalem revealed to Joseph Smith. (1831)*
- E. Joseph Smith leads Zion's Camp to help Saints expelled from Jackson County. (1834)*
- F. Twelve Apostles ("traveling councilors") are called and sent to preach to all nations. (1835)*
- G. Christ, Moses, Elias, & Elijah give keys to Joseph Smith & Oliver Cowdery. (1836)*
- H. Joseph & Hyrum Smith martyred at Carthage Jail. (1844)*
- I. Brigham Young leads many Saints into Salt Lake Valley. (1847)*
- J. Saints are gathered to Utah to build Zion for 40 years. (1850s-1880s)*
- K. Babylon makes war against the Saints & its economy absorbs them. (1887+)*
- K'. Babylon falls and releases its economic hold on the Saints. (Rev.18)*
- J'. Some Zion society will be built for people to flee to for safety. (D&C 45:68)*
- I'. Man "like as Moses" leads Saints "out of bondage". (D&C 103:16-17)*
- H'. Two witnesses killed & resurrected in Jerusalem. (OR, Joseph & Hyrum resurrect)*
- G'. Christ & Patriarchs take back the keys at Adam-ondi-Ahman. (TPJS, p.157)*
- F'. 144,000 High Priests sent out for last time, 12,000 from each tribe. (D&C 77:11)*
- E'. Redemption of Zion by the "armies of Israel". (D&C 105:28-31)*
- D'. New Jerusalem established. (Moses 7:62)*
- C'. Lamanites embrace the Gospel (and/or Return of Lost Tribes?).*
- B'. Sealed portion of the Book of Mormon translated and/or published.*
- A'. Christ appears in glory.*

It's possible that the first Zion's Camp was merely a foreshadowing of the "real" Zion's Camp prophesied in D&C 105:28-31



Ch. 14 Objections & Rebuttals

“We can't build Zion, only Jesus can build Zion” – But we build it through the power of Christ.

BY: Are we prepared now to establish the Zion that the Lord designs to build up? . . . “Well,” says one, “I thought the Lord was going to do this.” So He is if we will let Him. That is what we want: we want the people to be willing for the Lord to do it. But He will do it by means. He will not send His angels to gather up the rock to build up the New Jerusalem. He will not send His angels from the heavens to go to the mountains to cut the timber and 14 - Objections & Rebuttals 184 make it into lumber to adorn the city of Zion. He has called upon us to do this work; and if we will let Him work by, through, and with us, He can accomplish it; otherwise we shall fall short, and shall never have the honor of building up Zion on the earth. Is this so? Certainly. Well, then, let us keep the commandments. April 1870 by Brigham Young

“We can't build Zion until the prophet commands it” – True, we can't build the center stake in Jackson County, but we can do things to get ready.

Brigham's quotes all make it blatantly clear that we can build a Zion society any time we want. We simply have to want it bad enough to take action.

Some Gentiles are successfully building Zion-like communities.

PREPARE to build Zion by getting involved in its stepping stone— cooperative free enterprise. We have to learn the lessons we simply cannot learn here in Babylon's schools and businesses.

“Since our prophets today aren't calling for Zion to be built, we aren't obligated to do so.” – True, but we can do it if we want to.

AW: We ought to **desire to build up the material Zion**; and while we may not be commanded in these things, we should, as the revelation . . . says, be willing to do **many things of our own free will** and choice. - Elder Abraham O. Woodruff (Wilford's son), October 1899 General Conference

ETB: My dear brethren and sisters, **we must prepare to redeem Zion**. It was essentially the sin of pride that kept us from establishing Zion in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. It was the same sin of pride that brought consecration to an end among the Nephites. Pride is the great stumbling block to Zion. I repeat: Pride is the great stumbling block to Zion. We must cleanse the inner vessel by conquering pride. - President Ezra Taft Benson, April 1989 General Conference

GBH: If we are to build that Zion of which the prophets have spoken and of which the Lord has given mighty promise, we must set aside our consuming selfishness. We must rise above our love for comfort and ease, and in the very process of effort and struggle, even in our extremity, we shall become 14 - Objections & Rebuttals 186 better acquainted with our God. – Apostle Gordon B. Hinckley, October 1991 Conference

DTC: If we would establish Zion in our homes, branches, wards, and stakes, we must rise to this standard. It will be necessary (1) to become unified in one heart and one mind; (2) to become, individually and collectively, a holy people; and (3) to care for the poor and needy with such effectiveness that we eliminate poverty among us. **We cannot wait until Zion comes for these things to happen—Zion will come only as they happen**. In our families and in our stakes and districts, let us seek to build up Zion through unity, godliness, and charity, preparing for that great day when Zion, the New Jerusalem, will arise. - Elder D. Todd Christofferson, October 2008 General Conference

“I’m waiting for the current prophet to tell us.” – True, but “it is not meet that I should command in all things” (D&C 58:26, see also 26-29)



[Ch. 15 No Need to Wait](#)

The Lord is willing

BY: I was present at the time the revelation came for the brethren to give their surplus property into the hands of the Bishops for the building up of Zion. . . . If we are disposed to enter into covenant one with another, and have an agreement made according to the laws of our land, and we are **disposed to put our property into the hands of trustees**, and work as we are directed . . . **the Lord has not the least objection in the world**, and would be perfectly willing for us to do it, and I should like, right well, for us to try it. - Brigham Young, April 1873 General Conference

We are called to do it (BY)

We have everything we need (BY)

We have the authority (GQC)

We have the privilege (LS)

We have the determination (BY)

We have the opportunity (WW)

We have the power (WW)

We have the priesthood (WW)

We have the resources (BY)

And, we have the right to do it (BY)

Brigham called for a model Zion community

BY: Suppose we should say to a few of the Latter-day Saints, if we could find those who would answer the purpose, “How would you like to build up a stake of Zion, a little city of Enoch? How would you like this? Would you like to enter into a covenant, and into bonds, according to the law of our land, and let us **bind ourselves together to go into a systematic cooperative system**, not only in merchandising, but in farming and in all mechanical work, and in every trade and business there is; and we will classify the business throughout, and we will gather together a few hundred families, and commence and keep the law of God, and preserve ourselves in purity.” How would the latter-day Saints like it? Do you think there could any be found who would be willing to do this?... Brigham Young, October 1872 General Conference

Champion Challenge Renewed

GQC: Now we are brought face to face with this question, shall we take these counsels to heart, **shall we listen to the voice of God through his servants which we have heard now these 42 years** in these valleys, and follow the direction which they have given concerning the people of Zion, or shall we make a new departure? Shall we throw aside all that we have heretofore been taught as the correct course and policy to be adopted **in building up the kingdom of God**, shall we throw it aside, cast it behind us and adopt some new principles, some new policy and practice **concerning the Zion** of our God in the earth? - George Q. Cannon, September 1889



Quotes from Appendix B on Cooperation

BY: I will tell you that which I expect will hurt the feelings of many of you: Among this people, called Latter-day Saints, **when the devil has got the crowns, sovereigns, guineas and the twenty dollar pieces, it has been all right; but let the Lord get a sixpence and there is an eternal grunt** about it. – Remarks by President Brigham Young in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1869. Reported by David W. Evans

BY: Another thing I will say with regard to our trading. Our Female Relief Societies are doing immense good now, but they can take hold and do all the trading for these wards just as well as to keep a big loafer to do it. It is always disgusting to me to see a big, fat, lubberly fellow handing out calicoes and measuring ribbon; I would rather see the ladies do it. The **ladies can learn to keep books as well as the men**; we have some few, already, who are just as good accountants as any of our brethren. **Why not teach more to keep books and sell goods, and let them do this business, and let the men go to raising sheep, wheat, or cattle, or go and do something or other to beautify the earth and help to make it like the Garden of Eden, instead of spending their time in a lazy, loafing manner?** – Remarks by President Brigham Young in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1869. Reported by David W. Evans

BY: The **best business to pursue that was ever introduced on the face of the earth is to follow the path of eternal life. Why, it gives us fathers, mothers, wives, friends, houses and lands.** Jesus said they who followed Him would have to forsake these things. I reckon some of us have done it already; and all who will live faithful, may have the privilege of so doing. **Many of this people have sacrificed all** they possessed on this earth, **over and over again**, for the **truth's sake**; and if Jesus gave us the truth in relation to this, we shall be entitled to fathers, mothers, wives, children, gold and silver, houses, lands and possessions a **hundred-fold**. But we do not want the spirit of the world with all this. What is the advantage of following the path of life? It makes good neighbors, and fills everybody with peace, joy and contentment. Is there contention in a family that follows in the path of eternal life? Not the least. Is there quarrelling among neighbors where this course is followed? No. Any going to law one with another? Such a thing is unknown. I say praise to the Latter-day Saints, as far as these things are concerned. – Remarks by President Brigham Young in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1869. Reported by David W. Evans

BY: What I have in my mind with regard to this cooperative business is this— There are very few people who cannot get twenty-five dollars to put into one of these cooperative stores. There are hundreds and thousands of women who, by prudence and industry, can obtain this sum. And we say to you **put your capital into one of these stores. What for? To bring you interest for your money. Put your time and talents to usury. We have the parable before us.** If we have one, two, three or five talents, of what advantage will they be if we wrap them in a napkin and lay them away? None at all. Put them out to usury. **These cooperative stores are instituted to give the poor a little advantage as well as the rich.** I have said to my brethren, in starting these stores in different places, “If you want help I will find means to put in to give the thing a start;”...
- Remarks by President Brigham Young in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1869. Reported by David W. Evans

Note also several quotes show that the United Order was also called the “Order of Enoch.”



Hyrum Andrus Zion & Consecration Highlights

The Idea of Zion - Hyrum Andrus Lecture Highlights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ODPcnMe5QQ>

The Millennium can't happen until there is a Zion people.

Don't ask when the millennium will be, ask when Zion. Zion will be established and Christ will dwell there years even decades before the millennium.

If you aren't Zion, you aren't celestial.

Till cloud and fire we aren't Zion, we aren't saints, we are 'aints and complaints, focused material things.

Without the temple, the fullness of priesthood attained there (which requires marriage), one cannot have the glory of Zion.

Even the trees and grass and flowers will be full of glory in Zion.

Each occupation will be needed in Zion.

Only the Church of the Firstborn goes up with Jesus in the cloud at his coming in glory. Some others endure the day, but they don't get to go up with Christ.

The temple is the main focus, church is the sideshow.

Those who don't get all the temple ordinances will not get the fullness of glory said JS.

The temple is the beginning of the glory which will rest on Zion and her municipalities. The cloud by day and fire by night is by the temple.

There are no great big personalities in the church, none are great, but some do have gifts of the spirit and apply themselves unto it in brotherhood.

3 Ne. 20:22 speaks of the New Jerusalem in America (prior to His coming in glory.)

The DC Revelation about the New Jerusalem says that they would build the foundation and their record of the place but they wouldn't build it yet because there had to be much tribulation first and that only after that would the saints get to have all that Glory such that is hard to fathom.

Zion is not a foreign thing it is merely the infusion of God's law into everything we do.

It is the sanctification of every profession including lawyers.

In the church women do not administer in priesthood ordinances but in the temple and the Zion order they do.

Joseph Smith said it is in connection with their husbands.

The saints will be cleansed and prepared by a holocaust.

The Lord is going to turn things around the mountains will be low in The valleys will be high so there will still be mountains in the

millennium the Lord is a mountain man.

Ephraim as who gets the Richer blessing not because of favoritism but because he is Born the heat of the day and been through the refiner's fire.

In building the New Jerusalem the pure-blooded gentiles will assist the Indians who will assist those who have the keys namely Ephraim.

It is a rank misconception if we think that the Indians are going to be in charge of and basically doing the entire job of building the New Jerusalem.

The ceiling on the forehead with the name of the father Joseph Smith said in teachings page 321 this is symbolic of getting all the ordinances getting all of the blessings and Glory.

The New Jerusalem isn't just a city it's a complex of cities of 15 to 20,000 each in size.

[Note: For reference, Santaquin UT has about 12k, Payson UT has about 20k., so we are looking at these approximate sizes. Keeping it small like in the old testament city organization. See Cleon Skousen "The Majesty of God's Law" for more on this.] The Zion cities will be between the mountain ranges (the lecture also mentioned how far north, I missed that part). This revelation to Joseph Smith has been lost but we have record of someone who referenced it.

[Another note: There is evidence that when Joseph said all of America is Zion from north to south, he was referring to northern states and southern states of the US area, not to the continents of central and south America.]

Highlighting Law of Consecration Lecture by Hyrum Andrus – pending