

The Gathering: (Class 1 of 3 classes)
Looking for that Country, that City “Whose Builder and Maker is God”

Hebrews 10:

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a city.

Jesus is, and Always has been, a Gatherer

D&C Section 3:

15d yea, Satan doth stir up the hearts of the people to contention, concerning the points of my doctrine; and in these things they do err, for they do wrest the Scriptures, and do not understand them;

15e therefore, I will unfold unto them this great mystery; for, behold, *I will gather them as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings*, if they will not harden their hearts; yea, if they will come, they may, and partake of the waters of life freely.

Attention Class Assignment: For next week! (Class 2 of 3) Come prepared to share if you, or your family, or your extended family or progenitors have a testimony of ‘gathering in’ to the centerplace, whatever that means to you. These are important stories for us to hear. I already know of several here in this branch regarding land, homes, journeyings, companions, jobs, etc.

Historical Scriptural Assurances of a Latter Day Gathering
(in the Americas as well as in Jerusalem of Old)

Genesis 7:

70 And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, *to **gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called **Zion; a New Jerusalem.*****

IIIN 9:

49 O house of Israel, and *then shall the remnants which shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth, be **gathered** in from the east, and from the west, and from the south, and from the north;* and they shall be brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God, who hath redeemed them.

50 And the Father hath commanded me that *I should give unto you this land, for your inheritance.*

51 And I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent, after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have scattered my people, then shall ye who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them;

52 And ye shall be in the midst of them, who shall be many; and ye shall be among them, as a lion among the beasts of the forests, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through, both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

53 Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

54 And *I will **gather** my people together, as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor, for I will make my people with whom the Father hath covenanted, yea, I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass.*

55 And thou shalt beat in pieces many people; and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. And behold, I am he who doeth it.

56 And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles.

57 *And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel.*

58 *And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem.*

IIIN 10:

And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem;

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

4 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst, and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people.

5 Verily, I say unto you, At that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people; yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem.

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

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

D&C Section 42:

3b and inasmuch as ye shall find them that will receive you, ye shall build up my church in every region, until the time shall come when it shall be revealed unto you from on high, when the city of the *New Jerusalem shall be prepared, that ye may be **gathered** in one, that ye may be my people, and I will be your God.*

Questions for discussion

1. What is the purpose of the ‘gathering’?
2. How close in to the city is to be considered gathering?
3. What factors might define gathering ‘farther out’?

More Specific Directions for a Latter Day Gathering

D&C Section 23:

2b lift up your hearts and be glad, for I am in your midst, and am your advocate with the Father; and it is his good will to give you the kingdom;

2c and as it is written, Whatsoever ye shall ask in faith, being united in prayer according to my command, ye shall receive; and *ye are called to bring to pass the **gathering** of mine elect, for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts;*[Sec 28:2d] wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father that *they shall be gathered in unto one place, upon the face of this land*, to prepare their hearts, and be prepared in all things, against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked;

D&C Section 32:

2a And verily, verily I say unto you, that this church have I established and called forth out of the wilderness;

2b and even so *will I **gather** mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, even as many as will believe in me, and hearken unto my voice;*

More questions:

4. Who are the 'elect' spoken of in section 23 and 32?
5. What does it mean to harden our hearts in this situation?

The Gathering: (Class 3 of 3 classes) **Specific Geographical Location of the Gathering**

Ether 6:

'Wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him, who dwell upon the face thereof; and *that it was the **place of the New Jerusalem***, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord.

4 Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning *a New Jerusalem upon this land*; and he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come; after it should be destroyed, it should be built up again a holy city unto the Lord;

5 Wherefore it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in a time of old, but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord: and it should be built up unto the house of Israel;

6 And that *a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for which things there has been a type*; for as Joseph brought his father down into the land of Egypt, even so he died there;

D&C Section 57:

1a Hearken, O ye elders of my church saith the Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments, *in this land which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the **gathering** of the Saints:*

1b wherefore *this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion.*

1c And thus saith the Lord your God, ***If you will receive wisdom here is wisdom.***

Id Behold, the place which is now called Independence, is the Center Place, and the spot for the temple is lying westward upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse;

1e wherefore it is wisdom that the land should be purchased by the Saints; and also every tract lying westward, even unto the line running directly between Jew and Gentile.

1f And also every tract bordering by the prairies, inasmuch as my disciples are enabled to buy lands.

1g Behold, this is wisdom, that they may obtain it for an everlasting inheritance.

D&C Section 58:

1b yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, *and for the **gathering** of his Saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem;*

1c ***which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jr., and others, with whom the Lord was well pleased.***

2a *Verily, this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the **gathering** of the Saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple,*

More Questions:

6. Why specifically Missouri, why Independence?

7. What significance would this location have in light of current events and trends?

Waste Places of Zion

D&C Section 98:

4f Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion, for all flesh is in mine hands: be still, and know that I am God.

4g *Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to **build up the waste places of Zion.** And all these things, that the prophets might be fulfilled.*

4h And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed, neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed *for the work of the **gathering** of my Saints, until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them;*

4i and then I have other places which I will appoint unto them, and they shall be called stakes, for the curtains, or the strength of Zion.

9a Again, verily I say unto you, I will show unto you wisdom in me concerning all the churches, inasmuch as they are willing to be guided in a right and proper way for their salvation, that the work of the **gathering** together of my Saints may continue, *that I may build them up unto my name upon holy places; for the time of harvest is come, and my word must needs be fulfilled.*

9b *Therefore, I must **gather** together my people according to the parable of the wheat and the tares, that the wheat may be secured in the garners to possess eternal life, and be crowned with celestial glory when I shall come in the kingdom of my Father, to reward every man according as his work shall be;*

9c *while the tares shall be bound in bundles, and their bands made strong, that they may be burned with unquenchable fire.*

9d Therefore, a commandment I give unto all the churches, that they shall continue to **gather** together unto the places which I have appointed;

9e nevertheless, as I have said unto you in a former commandment, *let not your **gathering** be in haste, nor by flight; but let all things be prepared before you;*

9f and in order that all things be prepared before you, observe the commandments which I have given concerning these things, which saith, or teacheth, to purchase all the lands by money, which can be purchased for money, in the region round about the land which I have appointed to be the land of Zion, for the beginning of the **gathering** of my Saints;

More Questions:

8. What are the 'waste places'? (Note-Joseph Smith III as prophet later remarked this could not refer to those places in Independence already established at that time)

9. In independence and some areas early designated as the centerplace be reasonably called waste places today? How so?

Not to Gather in Haste/Some to Tarry for a Season

D&C Section 58:

12b And let the privileges of the lands be made known, from time to time, by the bishop, or the agent of the church; and *let the work of the **gathering** be not in haste, nor by flight, but let it be done as it shall be counseled by the elders of the church at the conferences, according to the knowledge which they receive from time to time.*

D&C Section 127:

7a As the *Saints have heretofore been instructed in reference to the **gathering**, they are now again admonished that the gathering must not be in haste, nor without due preparation,*

7b and must be done in accordance with the revelation given to the church upon Fishing River and in accordance with the counsel and advice of the elders of the church whose duty it has been made to counsel and advise the Saints.

7c *The spirit of speculation, the exhibition of greed for gain is unseemly in the Saints and officers of the church, and should be avoided. It has the appearance of evil.*

7d Heed should be paid to the admonitions of those who from time to time preach and write upon the gathering to remove the principle of selfishness from the hearts of the Saints and especially from those upon whom rests the burden of the church and its ministrations abroad.

D&C Section 128:

4a Counsel has already been given to those **gathering** into the regions round about to consult with the elders and the bishops before removing into those regions,

4b that such removal may be accomplished through the having of all things prepared before them who seek to remove and become resident in the regions round about.

5 It is well to understand that *the term "regions round about" must mean more than a small area of country round about the central spot, and that the necessity of the great majority of the church in gathering together can only be provided for by settling carefully together as many in one region as may be practicable and profitable and in accordance with the feelings of the people under the laws existing in the places where such settlements are to be made.*

6a The great variety of callings, avocations, and professions will present difficulties precluding the practicability of all settling and living in near proximity to each other.

Final Questions:

10. What does it mean to gather in haste? What responsibilities are required of those gathering?
11. Do those already 'gathered' and successfully settled in the centerplace have any specific responsibilities?
12. What are the responsibilities to those outside of the centerplace commanded to tarry where they are for a season?