Lesson 46


Because of the focus of the lesson, I have divided the scriptures for this lesson into two sections, one on the meaning of the word Zion and the other on purity of heart.

Scriptures on Zion

2 Samuel 5

Verses 6–7: What does the word Zion mean in these verses?

1 Kings 8

Verse 1: Does Zion mean the same thing here that it meant in 2 Samuel?

Hebrews 12

Verses 22–23: Does Zion mean the same thing here that it means in 2 Samuel and in 1 Kings? Are the mountain of Zion and the city of Jerusalem the same thing, or is there a difference between them?
Doctrine and Covenants 45

Verses 66–67: How does the meaning of the word Zion in these verses differ from those we have already seen (if it does)?

Doctrine and Covenants 57

Verses 1–2: Verse 1 describes the land where the elders have gathered as the land appointed for the gathering of the Saints. Verse 2 reminds us that this is what the Lord has promised, so this is “the land of promise,” in other words, the promised land. Is that a meaning of Zion?

How does the use of the word Zion differ here from other uses we’ve seen? What do those differences teach us?

Doctrine and Covenants 82

Verses 14–15: Does verse 14 use the words beauty and holiness as synonyms? In what sense is the holy beautiful? Is there a sense in which the beautiful is holy?

Remembering what you have discovered about the meaning of the word Zion, what would it mean to enlarge the borders of Zion?

By referring to stakes (in other words, the tent stakes) this revelation seems to be comparing Zion to Moses’s tabernacle. Does that comparison add any meaning to your understanding of Zion?

Just thinking about the metaphor, and not yet about the way we use the word stakes today, what would it mean to strengthen the stakes that keep the ropes of the Zion tab-278
ernacle taut and, by doing so, keep the tent standing? How does a person strengthen a tent stake?

Using the word *stakes* as members of the Church presently use it, how do we strengthen the stakes (plural) of Zion?

**Doctrine and Covenants 101**

*Verse 17:* If Zion’s children have scattered, then in what sense can there still be a Zion and how can it remain where it was?

*Verse 18:* If those who remain are pure in heart, does that mean that those who were scattered were not?

The verse tells us that the children of the pure in heart, as well as those pure in heart, will “come to their inheritances.” Why are children mentioned here? Presumably they, too, must be pure in heart. So why mention them? Why not just say that they will build up the waste places rather than that they and their children will?

Which understanding of the word *Zion* must be at work here if Zion can have waste places?

**Doctrine and Covenants 105**

*Verses 1–2:* What does it mean for the Church to be redeemed? Redeemed from what? What would it mean to us now if the Church had been redeemed when this revelation was given in 1834?

*Verses 3–5:* In verse 3, why does the Lord use the specific example of refusing to support the poor and afflicted as his example showing that the Saints were “full of all manner of
evil”? The quoted phrase tells us that there were a variety of ways in which the Saints were evil. So why choose this particular example over other possible ones?

What does *substance* mean in this context? Why use that word rather than property?

Does verse 4 imply that being united as the law of the celestial kingdom requires has something to do with giving of one’s substance to the poor?

When verse 5 refers to “the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom,” is it referring to the law mentioned in verse 4?

How will God receive Zion? Does the phrase “to myself” add something to what verse 5 means?

**Verses 6–8:** How were the people of the Church being chastened at the time this revelation was given?

How can suffering teach us obedience?

In verse 8, who is asking about the God of Israel and threatening to keep their money?

**Verses 9–10:** What will have to wait for a little season? Is there any clue in these verses how long “a little season” will be?

Verse 10 tells us what must happen during this little season: we must be taught better, have experience, and know our duty better as well as the things that the Lord requires. If the Saints hadn’t already been taught, then why do they need the chastening of this time period rather than good teaching?

What kind of experience does the Lord want them to have?

What is the difference between knowing our duty and knowing what the Lord requires of us, or is there a difference?
Verse 11: What endowment of power were the elders waiting for when this revelation was received? How would that power help solve the problems listed in verse 10?

Verse 12: Is the endowment and blessing referred to here the same as that referred to in verse 11?

Moses 7

Verses 12–13: What do you make of the fact that these verses make the power of Enoch to preach the gospel and the power to bring miracles about parallel to each other?

Why is language so important in both cases? Does that say anything to us about our own relationship to language? If so, what?

Verses 18–19: Compare and contrast the use of the word Zion in these verses to its use in other places. Do the similarities with other places where we’ve seen the word used help us understand better why the Lord called these people Zion?

The Lord speaks of living righteously and then uses the absence of poor as the example of righteousness. (This is the inverse of what he does in D&C 105:3.) Why do you think he chose that particular example to illustrate what righteousness is?

How is our support of the poor and afflicted emblematic of God’s relationship with us?

Given what you’ve seen the word Zion mean in other scriptures, how can it mean “holiness” here?
Article of Faith 10

Why is it important to believe in the literal gathering of Israel?

Here Zion is identified with “the New Jerusalem.” In what sense is this new city a new Jerusalem rather than just a new city?

When will Christ reign on this earth?

What glory did the earth have when paradise was on it? Was it anything more than the glory of having paradise?

Scriptures on Purity of Heart

Matthew 5

Verse 8: This verse repeats an old idea. (See Psalm 73:1, for example.) Some have described purity of heart as single-mindedness, a heart set on doing one thing, the will of God. Others have said that it is the same as purity of conscience. Still others have identified it with complete integrity. What do you think purity of heart means, and why?

What does it mean to see God? Does that have any meanings in addition to the most obvious ones?

Doctrine and Covenants 50

Verse 28: What does it mean to possess all things? When we think about ordinary instances of possession, if I possess something, then another person cannot. But we are all promised that we can possess all things. How
would that be possible? Can we think of another way to understand what possession means?

Is being purified from sin the same thing as having a pure heart? Why or why not?

**Doctrine and Covenants 97**

**Verse 21:** The Lord repeats twice, “Let Zion rejoice.” Why should what he tells us in this verse, that Zion is the pure in heart, cause us to rejoice? Why should the rest of the world mourn at this news?

Which uses of the word *Zion* seem to be most relevant to understanding Zion as the pure in heart?

**Doctrine and Covenants 100**

**Verse 16:** Does this verse give us another definition of purity of heart, namely serving God righteously?

**Doctrine and Covenants 101**

**Verse 6:** Of whom is this verse speaking?

What inheritance is this verse referring to? What are jars-rings? How do they, with contention, envying, strife, and lustful and covetous desires pollute an inheritance?

**Verse 7:** What does it mean to be slow to listen to someone?

**Verse 8:** What does the metaphor of feeling after God suggest?