



THE PEACEFUL REIGN

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

Although there is no greater joy and excitement than finding salvation through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our hearts are often stirred over the many prophecies that lie in our future during this last dispensation of time. One such prophecy is the hope of peace. The 23rd Article of the Faith and Doctrine of *The Church of Jesus Christ* states the following:

“We believe in the fulfillment and ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this period of time as the Peaceful Reign, which shall precede the Millennium, or Thousand Years with Christ.” (Isaiah 2:1-5; Isaiah 35; Isaiah 51:3; Isaiah 55; Isaiah 65:18-25; Hosea 2:18-19; Job 5:22-25; Ezekiel 34: 25-26; 1 Nephi 22: 4-28; 3 Nephi 20: 22; 3 Nephi 21: 23-29; Ether 13: 4-12)

We believe the scriptures above, along with the others below, overwhelmingly confirm that *Zion*, another term for the *Peaceful Reign*, will be an era of peace such as man has never known. In an effort to provide greater understanding and insight into the events and conditions that will exist as the Lord establishes His Kingdom, we have provided numerous references as a sampling of scriptures on this subject. (Please note that there are many other applicable references throughout the Bible and Book of Mormon.)

The Peaceful Reign or Zion

1. Conditions that precede this time:

But, behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles -- yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land and those who shall be upon other lands, yea, even upon all the lands of the earth, behold, they will be drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations -- And when that day shall come they shall be visited of the Lord of Hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm, and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire. 2 Nephi 27:1-2

- God will unfold all of His revelations to The Church of Jesus Christ and The Gospel will be preached throughout the world. (Ether 4:7; Revelation 14:6; Isaiah 60; Matthew 28:19; 1 Nephi 14:12)
- God will destroy the enemies of Zion & deliver the righteous. (1 Nephi 22:13,16-17)
- A time of travail and destruction will occur to cleanse the land from sin. (1 Nephi 21:14; Isaiah 66:5-9; Micah 4:9-12; 3 Nephi 21:11-22)

2. Facts about this time:

And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight, for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward. 3 Nephi 21:23-29

- God has a set time to favor Zion – establishing this Kingdom is part of His plan. (Psalm 102:13; 3 Nephi 20:29)
- *Zion* will be established quickly. (Isaiah 66:8-9)
- *Zion* will be established in a prominent way, on *mountain tops*, for all to see. (Isaiah 2:3; 2 Nephi 12:2-3; Zechariah 8:3)
- *Zion* will be established before the First Resurrection and Millennium, while man is in the flesh. (3 Nephi 21:24-29; 3 Nephi 20:22; Ether 13:8; 1 Nephi 22: 18, 26-27).
 - The Millennium (which follows *Zion*) is when Christ will reign for 1,000 years with those who come forth (or resurrect) in the First Resurrection. (Revelation 20:4-6).
- *Zion* will be established in the Americas. (3 Nephi 20:22; 3 Nephi 21:22-24)
- Old Jerusalem (in the land of Israel) will be restored to the House of Israel for those that do not gather in the Americas. They will eventually come to *Zion* in the Americas on a *highway of holiness*. (Ether 13:11-12; 3 Nephi 21:26-29; Isaiah 11:16; Isaiah 35:8-9)
- Blessings promised for those who work to bring forth *Zion*. (1 Nephi 13:37)
- Woes promised to those who fight against *Zion*. (1 Nephi 22:14; Isaiah 29:7-8; 2 Nephi 10:13)
- *Zion* will be shortened for the sake of the righteous before sin enters in. (Matthew 24:21-22)

3. Spiritual conditions that will exist during this time:

And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture. And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power; wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness, and the Holy One of Israel reigneth. And now behold, I, Nephi, say unto you that all these things must come according to the flesh. 1 Nephi 22:25-27

- There will be righteousness with total unity and the devil will be temporarily bound and have no power over the righteous. (1 Nephi 22:26-27; 2 Nephi 30:18) This is the kingdom of Christ on earth referred to by Daniel as the reign of “The Ancient of Days”. (Daniel 7)

- Other records of Israel will be brought forth. (1 Nephi 13:39-40; 2 Nephi 29:12-13)
- All knowledge will be given to the righteous. (Ether 4:6-7; Jeremiah 31:34; 2 Nephi 12:3)
- The Choice Seer and others will preach and convert many. (2 Nephi chapter 3)
- The Songs of Zion will be sung. (Psalm 137:1-4; 2 Nephi 8:3, 11; Isaiah 35:10)

4. Temporal conditions that will exist during this time:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow-shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Isaiah 2:2-4

- Peace will reign – there will be no war. (2 Nephi 12:2-4; Isaiah 11:9)
- Joy will prevail – with no temporal needs, no sickness, no affliction or sadness. (Isaiah 33:16-24; Isaiah 35:10; Isaiah 65:21-23)
- The earth will be blessed as in the first dominion (garden of Eden). (Isaiah 51:3; Joel 2:3)
- There will be one pure language. (Zephaniah 3:9)
- Long life will be granted (we will be in the flesh and enjoy the peaceful condition of Zion. (Isaiah 65:20-22)
- There will be peace among the animal kingdom. (Isaiah 11:6-8; Isaiah 65:25)

5. Results from establishing this peaceful kingdom:

Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel. Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel. 1 Nephi 22:11-12

- The *plain and precious* parts of The Gospel will be returned. (1 Nephi 13:39-40)
- The Gentile church will demonstrate great faith and receive God's promises to the House of Israel. (Ether 4:4-7; 3 Nephi 21:22-29)
- The Choice Seer will appear. (Romans 11:25-26)
- There will be a condition of righteousness. (Isaiah 62:1)
- The House of Israel will be restored & gathered. (1 Nephi 22:11-12; Jeremiah 16:15)
- The New Jerusalem will be built. (Ether 13:10-12; 3 Nephi 21:23)
- Christ will make His appearance from time to time. (3 Nephi 21:25)

The Peaceful Reign or Zion will be wonderful! But when will “this time” come to pass?

We do not know the exact time for certain, but we are confident that we are living in the latter days referenced in the scriptures and that the process has already begun, starting with the Restoration and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. God knows the exact time for Zion to be fully established and He will move quickly when that time comes. The priesthood of The Church has accepted many revelations over the recent years that reinforce the urgency to

prepare ourselves, in righteousness. It is our responsibility, as members of *The Church of Jesus Christ*, to watch for the events noted above as we seek to draw men and women to Christ. We must diligently continue to carry out the *Divine Commission*, and pray for the understanding that **God wants us to live in the Spirit of Zion today**, while we are watching and waiting for the full establishment of Zion, which will surely come! The following verses in the Book of Mormon, speak of a peaceful reign that existed in the land of America many years ago, and provide even further motivation. May these words encourage us to know that such a time will come again:

And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God. There were no robbers, nor murderers, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of -ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God. And how blessed were they! For the Lord did bless them in all their doings; yea, even they were blessed and prospered until an hundred and ten years had passed away; and the first generation from Christ had passed away, and there was no contention in all the land. 4 Nephi 15-18

May the PEACE of Christ rest upon you,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

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