



Peace on Earth

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

The Christian world universally accepts that Christ was born to set up *The Kingdom of God* on earth. At His birth the angels declared, "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord....Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*" (Luke 2:11-14). Isaiah said, "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*" (Isaiah 9:6). It is clear that *The Kingdom of God* on earth has been a *Spiritual Kingdom* and that true believers have peace and good will toward men through the gift of the *Holy Ghost*. The peace and good will that believers possess is one of God's greatest gifts. But what about peace on earth in a natural sense? Will there ever be an ending to hatred, war, killing, greed and envy on the earth? Will God's *Kingdom* ever be both a *Spiritual Kingdom* as well as a *Natural Kingdom* while men are still in the flesh?

The Church of Jesus Christ believes the answer is yes! The 23rd Article of our *Faith and Doctrine* 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 others given below, overwhelmingly confirm that *Zion*, another term for the *Kingdom of God* on earth, will be established and that the *Peaceful Reign* will be an era of peace such as man has never known. It is our desire to summarize the events preceding this era and the conditions that will exist when it is established by God. (Please note that references given are a sampling of scriptures on this subject. There are *many other* applicable references throughout the scriptures.)

Zion and The Peaceful Reign

1. Conditions preceding Zion:

- a. God will unfold all of His revelations to *The Church* and *The Gospel* will be preached throughout the world. (Ether 4:7; Revelation 14:6; Isaiah 60; Matthew 28:19; 1 Nephi 14:12)
- b. A time of travail and destruction. (1 Nephi 21:14; Isaiah 66:5-9; Micah 4:9-12; 3 Nephi 21:11-22; 2 Nephi 27:1-5)
- c. God will destroy the enemies of *Zion* and deliver the righteous. (1 Nephi 22:13,16-17)

2. Facts about Zion and The Peaceful Reign

- a. God has a set time to favor *Zion*. (Psalm 102:13; 3 Nephi 20:29)
- b. *Zion* will be established quickly. (Isaiah 66:8-9)
- c. *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)
- d. *Zion* will be established before the *First Resurrection* and the *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* is where Christ will reign for 1,000 years with those who come forth in the *First Resurrection*. (Revelation 20:4-6)
- e. *Zion* will be established in the Americas. (3 Nephi 20:22; 3 Nephi 21:22-24)
- f. *Old Jerusalem* will also 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)

- g. Blessings promised for those who work to bring forth *Zion*. (1 Nephi 13:37)
- h. Woes promised to those who fight against *Zion*. (1 Nephi 22:14; Isaiah 29:7-8; 2 Nephi 10:13)
- i. *Zion* will be shortened for the sake of the righteous before sin enters in. (Matthew 24:21-22)

3. Results from establishing *Zion*

- a. The *plain and precious* parts of *The Gospel* are returned. (1 Nephi 13:39-40)
- b. 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)
- c. The *Choice Seer* will appear. (Romans 11:25-26)
- d. There will be a condition of righteousness. (Isaiah 62:1)
- e. The *House of Israel* will be restored and gathered. (1 Nephi 22:11-12; Jeremiah 16:15)
- f. The *New Jerusalem* will be built. (Ether 13:10-12; 3 Nephi 21:23)
- g. Christ will make his appearance. (3 Nephi 21:25)

4. Spiritual conditions in *Zion*

- a. There will be righteousness with total unity and Satan will be temporarily bound. (1 Nephi 22:26-27; Isaiah 28:17; Isaiah 52:7-8)
- b. Other records of Israel will be brought forth. (1 Nephi 13:39-40; 2 Nephi 29:12-13)
- c. All knowledge will be given to the righteous. (Ether 4:6-7; Jeremiah 31:34; 2 Nephi 12:3)
- d. The *Choice Seer* and others will preach and convert many. (2 Nephi 3)
- e. *Songs of Zion* will be sung. (Psalm 137:1-4; 2 Nephi 8:3, 11; Isaiah 35:10)

5. Temporal conditions in *Zion*

- a. Peace will reign - there will be no war. (2 Nephi 12:3-4; Isaiah 11:9)
- b. Joy will prevail - with no temporal needs, sickness, affliction or sadness. (Isaiah 33:16-24; Isaiah 35:10; Isaiah 65:21-23)
- c. Earth will be blessed as in the first dominion. (Isaiah 51:3; Joel 2:3)
- d. There will be one pure language. (Zephaniah 3:9)
- e. Long life will be granted. (Isaiah 65:20-22)
- f. There will be peace among the animal kingdom. (Isaiah 11:6-8; Isaiah 65:25)

Zion and The Peaceful Reign will be wonderful! “**But when will it come to pass,**” you may ask? We do not know for certain, but we believe 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. It is our job, as *The Church of Jesus Christ*, to watch for the events listed above, 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 waiting for the full establishment of *Zion*, which will surely come! The following verses in *The Book of Mormon* tell of a *Peaceful Reign* that happened in the land of America many years ago. May they 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 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

We pray that you and your loved ones will have *peace and joy throughout the New Year!*

This is the fourth of a series of messages to *The Church* to reinforce various topics of our *Faith and Doctrine* and *Vision for the Future*. For more understanding of *What We Believe* please visit our web site to obtain resource and contact information: www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com.