

Summary Handout

Building the Kingdom of God in Nauvoo, Illinois

Lesson
29
Summary

Scripture Summary:

Doctrine and Covenants 124:1–21, 87–90, 97–110; Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Nauvoo, Illinois, January 19, 1841. HC 4: 274–286. Because of increasing persecutions and illegal procedures against them by public officers, the saints had been compelled to leave Missouri. The exterminating order issued by Lilburn W. Boggs, Governor of

Missouri, dated October 27, 1838, had left them no alternative. See HC 3:175. In 1841, when this revelation was given, the city of Nauvoo, occupying the site of the former village of Commerce, Illinois, had been built up by the saints, and here the headquarters of the Church had been established. 1–14, Joseph Smith is commanded to make a solemn proclamation of the gospel to the president of the United States, the governors, and the rulers of all nations; 15–21, Hyrum Smith, David W. Patten, Joseph Smith, Sen., and others among the living and the dead are blessed for their integrity and virtues; 84–96, Hyrum Smith is called to be a patriarch and to receive the keys and stand in the place of Oliver Cowdery; 97–122, William Law and others are counseled in their labors.

Doctrine and Covenants 126; Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, in the house of Brigham Young, at Nauvoo, Illinois, July 9, 1841. HC 4: 382. At this time Brigham Young was president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. 1–3, Brigham Young is commended for his labors and is relieved of future travel abroad.

Doctrine and Covenants 118; Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Far West, Missouri, July 8, 1838, in response to the supplication: “Show us thy will, O Lord, concerning the Twelve.” HC 3: 46–47. 1–3, The Lord will provide for the families of the Twelve; 4–6, Vacancies in the Twelve are filled.

Doctrine and Covenants 64:33–34; Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to the elders of the Church, at Kirtland, Ohio, September 11, 1831. HC 1: 211–214. The Prophet was preparing to move to Hiram, Ohio, to renew his work on the translation of the Bible, which had been laid aside while he had been in Missouri. A company of brethren who had been commanded to journey to Zion (Missouri) was earnestly engaged in making preparations to leave in October. At this busy time, the revelation was received. 33–36, The rebellions shall be cut off out of Zion.

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Zion Building, Then and Now: Joseph Smith, the Prophet, was given the vision of settling a Zion, building a society and establishing communities that would bless and renew the land. He carried out this heaven-inspired yearning wherever he went or was forced to go. This is a pattern reflected in Jewish history. “Ever since the time of the first Babylonian exile over 2,000 years ago, Jews of the world have yearned for the return to Zion. This theme is reflected in the daily prayers, literature, and song of the Jewish people.

Cyrus, King of Persia, Urged Temple Building: The time of 559 to 529 B.C.E., holds a special place in the history of Israel. “Cyrus was a humane conqueror. In keeping with his general policy of benevolence toward his subject peoples, he not only granted permission to the Jews to return to their homeland, but he restored to the exiles the sacred vessels belonging to the Temple, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken and placed as trophies of victory in the temple of Bel. With the return of a large group of the exiles, a new chapter in the history of Israel began—the period of the Second Temple. (*Encyclopædia Judaica Jr.*)

Rebuilding Zion Precedes Messiah: “The Talmud teaches that the ingathering of the exiled kingdoms will be part of the coming of the Messiah. The great exile to Babylonia in the sixth century B.C.E. was ended by Cyrus the Great of Persia. However, the rabbis did not consider his proclamation and the return at that time to be the Ingathering of the Exiles since it was incomplete. The day of the ingathering, the rabbis write, will be ‘as great as the day on which heaven and earth were created.’” (*Encyclopædia Judaica Jr.*)

Two Zions Begin Again: Please note that with the proclamation Joseph Smith made about the keys of the gathering of Israel and restored temple work and the mission of Apostle Orson Hyde to the Holy Land in 1841, a gathering was started again paralleling the gathering of Latter-day Saints in America. “In actual fact, the Land of Israel had never been without a Jewish community— no matter how small—and Jewish immigration to Erez Israel has never ceased. But the dream of re-establishing a Jewish homeland which would draw all of world Jewry to its midst served as a unifying force for the Jews of the Diaspora.

Jewish Efforts Similar to Mormonism: “This dream began to take on practical form during the last quarter of the 19th century, as Jews set about rebuilding Israel to serve as a refuge for victims of the pogroms and for other Jews the world over. In 1878 the first modern Jewish farm village, Petah Tikvah (Gate of Hope) was established and in 1882 the first officially organized group of immigrants, the Bilu arrived in Erez Israel. Most of these early pioneers were professionals and intellectuals, but they gave up their careers in order to work as farmers and

laborers, tilling the soil and building the cities of the Promised Land. Members of this group together with other 'First Aliyah' immigrants, were unfamiliar with agricultural methods and lacking in economic means. They nearly failed but Baron Edmund de Rothschild took them under his wing and gave them support. (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

A Jewish City Beautiful: In the birthing of modern day Israel, other cities began to spring up. It has always been the culture of Israelites to build up the land. Another modern city was Hadera. Like the Mormon Nauvoo, the area of Hadera was drained and improved to become a "City Beautiful."

Swamps Drained: "Haderah a town in central Israel, situated between Haifa and Tel Aviv, was founded in 1890 by members of Hovevei Zion, a group of Zionist immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe. The name Haderah comes from the Arabic al-Khadra ("the Green"), referring to the color of the swamp vegetation of the area. The notorious swamps of Haderah caused more than half the settlers of Haderah to die of malaria during its first 20 years. The settlers received aid, however, in 1895 when Baron Edmond de Rothschild, a wealthy French philanthropist, gave them funds to drain the swamps by building canals and planting large eucalyptus groves. The eucalyptus tree soon became Haderah's symbol." (*Encyclopedia Judaica, Jr.*)

Industry: "At first, agriculture was the main occupation of Haderah's settlers. They planted field and vegetable garden crops and citrus groves. But as the population of Haderah increased, the economy expanded and industrialized. Today, industry has become the main element in the town's economy. Situated in Haderah are the American Israel Paper Mills, and the Alliance Tire and Rubber Company, food-preserve plants and other enterprises. Agriculture, however, has continued to develop and there are now carp ponds, beehives, cattle, poultry, flower and banana fields in Haderah. In the early 1990s, there were 46,000 inhabitants." (*Encyclopedia Judaica, Jr.*)

Opposition Arises: These swampy or desolate lands, abandoned by absentee land owners, were purchased and settled for the eventual building up of Zion. Yet, difficulties ensued. "The British proposal for the partition of Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state was accepted by Ben-Gurion in the belief that even a small Jewish state would be a powerful instrument for the realization of Zionism. However, shortly afterwards the British government abandoned the partition plan and in 1939 issued the declaration of a new anti-Zionist policy (the White Paper of 1939) which restricted *aliyah* and Jewish rights to acquire land. Ben-Gurion condemned the White Paper and called for active resistance. He proposed the intensification of 'illegal' immigration, involving incidents with British coastal guards, and settlement of land in areas prohibited to Jews.

Urging a Gathering: "After World War II Ben-Gurion led the political struggle against the British. "Encouraging 'illegal' immigration, he visited the camps of Jewish survivors in Germany, and at their conference in 1946 he declared: 'We shall not rest until every one of you who so desires joins us in the land of Israel in building a Jewish state'." (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Service Organizations: Service and care for each other are hallmarks of God's covenant people. Latter-day Saints have their auxiliary organizations of Priesthood and Relief Society. The Jews also have activities for men and women dedicated to serve others. "Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, was also active in pioneer medical efforts in Erez Israel, and in 1939, Hadassah Hospital was opened in Jerusalem in conjunction with the Hebrew University. Hadassah has since developed into one of the world's leading research and medical facilities, and together with Israel's several other hospitals, provides the country with outstanding medical care." (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Proclamations: During the biblical conquest of Canaan, Joshua issued proclamations inviting the nations to choose peace and abandon idolatry. Joseph Smith issued proclamations and present-day living prophets continue to do the same.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available FREE at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click "LDS SUPPLEMENTS")

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