

Vision of Return to Jackson County by President John Taylor

The following vision was given to President John Taylor about two years before his death.

President Taylor and other authorities were in Cedar City holding conference. They were staying at the home of Bishop Lunt. President Taylor had stayed home from the morning session to rest. In mid-morning he came into the kitchen where sister Lunt was preparing dinner, and related the vision to her that he had while in his room.

He said, "I saw Salt Lake City become a great and beautiful city, cement sidewalks and streets, wealthy people, beautiful homes, extending almost to the top of the mountain south of the state prison. People became indifferent. War began among the people. I saw blood running down the gutters of Salt Lake City as if it were water. People fighting so much among themselves until it became so serious that the entire church records were taken across the Colorado River.

If you are alive at that time, be sure you are not far behind the records because after the church records leave and are secure, the very powers of hell will be turned loose, and there will be such a destruction that but very little life will remain.

Not only Salt Lake City, but other adjoining cities will be destroyed, and in the East, in Jackson county, Missouri, civilization will become entirely extinct. All means of transportation such as railroads and highways will be destroyed. The only means of travel will be on foot.

And manufacturing of all kinds will be destroyed. Be sure when you see these things come that you will have buttons, needles, and things to work with in order to make clothing. Thread and cloth as much as possible because all tools and things to work with will be destroyed such as machinery.

It will become such a destructive war that the sufferings and drivings of the people from Nauvoo will only be as a drip in the bucket compared with the sufferings that will take place at that time. Until half the people will not follow the church leaders at that time and half the others will die or turn away because of the sufferings that they will have to go through.

But the Lord will bless those who stay with the authorities and they shall not be destroyed. They will travel South and finally form a circle something like a horseshoe before they return to Jackson County, Missouri. Those who will be privileged to help build Jackson County will be placed over them. They will not only be willing to listen to their counsel and advice but will ask to receive it. To be guided and protected heavily that they cry night and day for deliverance. He said also they would be few in numbers and would assist the Lamanites in building the New Jerusalem in Jackson County.

The vision was so terrible that he asked the Lord to close it up. But he said that those who would keep the commandments and adhere to the authorities of the church would survive; and the Lord would protect them as he did the people of Israel. After telling this, President Taylor said to my mother, Sister Lunt, see that you always listen to and obey the counsel of the authorities, always stay with them. The above experience my mother told me many times and she held the experience sacred.

Copied by Edward Lunt Jan. 9, 1952 - Recorded in Social Selection Library at BYU; File no. ML94