

Zion 2 - Becoming Zion
(Priest Lesson December 2014 – Roald Peterson)

How can we become Zion?

Knowing about Zion is one thing. Becoming Zion is another. How can we become Zion people?

- Study previous Zion societies.
- Learn the attributes of Zion people.
- Learn and follow the path of spiritual progress to gain Zion attributes.
- Remember, Zion is the Order of Heaven, established only by heavenly people. Learn to become heavenly.
- Take full advantage of the atonement of Christ.

Attributes of a Zion Person

What are the attributes of a Zion person? You should notice two things about these attributes, that they are personal attributes, but that they tend to involve other people.

- Gathers with other people seeking Zion.
 - Lives in the priesthood society.
 - ... I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: 15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. (**Jeremiah 3:14–15**)
 - Embraces beauty.
 - Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. (**Psalms 50:2**)
 - ... If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things. (**Articles of Faith 13**)
 - Unified with other Zion people and with God.
 - 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us... 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;... (**John 17:21–23**)
 - Strives for equality.
 - 18 And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them. (**Moses 7:18**)
 - 20 But it is not given that one man should possess that which is above another, wherefore the world lieth in sin. (**DC 49:20**) (See also DC 82:17–20; DC 104:15-16)
 - Serves others in selflessness.
 - Filled with charity (Pure love of Christ). (See 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Moroni 7:44-48.)
- "I will wait with you. I will wait for you. I will wait upon you." (Barkdull, Portrait of a Zion Person, p11)
- Experiences Joy, happiness, and fullness of life. (See 4 Nephi 15-16).
 - Is holy (sanctified and perfect). Zion is a city of Holiness (Moses 7:19)
 - Pure in Heart. ("... for this is Zion—the pure in heart ..." (DC 97:21))

- Achieves a state of blessedness: **3 Nephi 12:1–10**

1 Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants...

2 And again, more blessed are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am. Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility and be baptized, for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.

3 Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [Realize they beggars and own nothing, not even themselves. See King Benjamin's talk Mosiah 2-4]

4 And again, blessed are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. [Mourn for their sins and fallen nature.]

5 And blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [Humble, teachable]

6 And blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.

7 And blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

8 And blessed are all the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 And blessed are all the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

10 And blessed are all they who are persecuted for my name's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Enjoys true safety and security.

66 And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God; 67 And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion. (DC 45:66-67)

- Has an abundance of things he needs.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

- Lives the Law of Consecration. (DC 82:11-15)
- Enjoys God's presence.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8) (See also: DC 84:19-22; DC 93:1)

Becoming a Zion person

How do we gain these Zion attributes? Taking full advantage of the atonement of Christ by (1) receiving a remission of our sins, and (2) becoming Christ-like through his commandments and covenants.

In DC 42:67 we read, "And ye shall hereafter receive church covenants, such as shall be sufficient to establish you, both here and in the New Jerusalem." Following the cross references leads us to these:

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- New and Everlasting Covenant. (DC 132:4-7)
- Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood. (DC 84:33-44)
- Law of Consecration. (DC 82:11-15)

Learning to live these laws and covenants will enable us to develop Zion attributes.

Remember that we cannot do this on our own. We are to become perfect in Christ. (See Moroni 10)

Further Reading

- Spencer Kimball, "And The Lord Called His People Zion," *Ensign*, August 1984.
- Hugh Nibley, *Approaching Zion*
- Spencer Kimball, "Becoming The Pure In Heart," *Ensign*, May 1978.
- Larry Barkdull, The *Three Pillars of Zion* series. Can be found at: www.PillarsOfZion.com