

## **LESSON 12** *by Dennis N. Roberts*

### **“The Gathering of My People”**

(Objective: to help members understand the gathering of Israel today)

#### **Welcome**

*What gives small groups power?*

#### **1- The Lord is gathering His people**

- a. AofF #10      What is the gathering of Israel?
- b. D&C 45:71      Spiritual vs physical gathering
- c. D&C 29:1-2, 7-8      What is purpose of gathering?
- d. D&C 110:11      When were keys of gathering restored?
- e. D&C 88:81-82      Who is responsible for gathering?

#### **2- The Saints gathered in Ohio**

- a. D&C 37:3      The first gathering begins
- b. D&C 39:15      What is one purpose of gathering?
- c. D&C 38:24-27      What counsel did the Lord give?
- d. D&C 38:34-39      What counsel did the Lord give?
- e. OH 18,19,23      3 examples of sacrifices made

#### **3- The Saints gathered in Missouri**

- a. D&C 28:9      Sep 1830 / Zion will be built
- b. D&C 30:5-6      Oct 1830 / 4 missionaries called
- c. D&C 42:62      Feb 1831 / New Jerusalem
- d. D&C 52:2-5      Jun 1831 / missionaries called
- e. D&C 54:8      Jun 1831 / saints continue to Missouri
- f. D&C 57:1-3      Jul 1831 / Zion to be in Missouri
- g. OH 37-39      What can we learn from this example?

#### **4- The Saints now gather in their own stakes**

- a. *Supplement #1      Elder Bruce R. McConkie*
- b. What church conditions changed to alter gathering?
- c. Are purposes of gathering served within stakes?
- d. *Supplement #2      President Ezra Taft Benson*
- e. Why is temple building an essential part of gathering?
- f. *Supplement #3      Joseph Smith*

#### **How does this apply to me?**

What brings righteous power to the Granger 18<sup>th</sup> Ward?

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## LESSON 12 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis N. Roberts*

### SUPPLEMENT #1 *Elder Bruce R. McConkie*

“[The] revealed words speak of there being congregations of the covenant people of the Lord *in every nation, speaking every tongue, and among every people* when the Lord comes again.

“The place of gathering for the Mexican Saints is in Mexico; the place of gathering for the Guatemalan Saints is in Guatemala; the place of gathering for the Brazilian Saints is in Brazil; and so it goes throughout the length and breadth of the whole earth. Japan is for the Japanese; Korea is for the Koreans; Australia is for the Australians; every nation is the gathering place for its own people”

(Mexico and Central America Area Conference 1972, 45)

### SUPPLEMENT #2 *President Ezra Taft Benson*

“Presently, Israel is being gathered to the various stakes of Zion. ... A stake has at least four purposes:

“1. Stakes are] to **unify** and perfect the members who live in [their] boundaries by extending to them the Church programs, the ordinances, and gospel instruction.

“2. Members of stakes are to be **models**, or standards, of righteousness.

“3. Stakes are to be a **defense**. They do this as stake members unify under their local priesthood officers and consecrate themselves to do their duty and keep their covenants. ...

“4. Stakes are a **refuge** from the storm to be poured out over the earth”

(“Strengthen Thy Stakes,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1991, 2, 4–5).

### SUPPLEMENT #3 *Joseph Smith*

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “What was the object of gathering ... the people of God in any age of the world? ... The main object was to build unto the Lord a house whereby He could reveal unto His people the ordinances of His house and the glories of His kingdom, and teach the people the way of salvation. ... It is for the same purpose that God gathers together His people in the last days, to build unto the Lord a house to prepare them for the ordinances and endowments, washings and anointings” (History of the Church, 5:423–24)

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(Objective: to help members understand the gathering of Israel today)

Special interest groups, minority groups and lobbyists have power because a few people band together and then they speak up! United we stand, divided we fall. Can you break one toothpick? What if I twenty toothpicks?

#### Welcome

*What gives small groups power?*

#### 1- The Lord is gathering His people

12 tribes apostatized and were scattered by their enemies.

- |                    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| a. AofF #10        | What is the gathering of Israel? .....      | When did gathering begin? .....                          |
| b. D&C 45:71       | Spiritual vs physical gathering .....       | Two meanings: today = gather in stakes (temples helping) |
| c. D&C 29:1-2, 7-8 | What is purpose of gathering? .....         | What are benefits of members congregating together?      |
| d. D&C 110:11      | When were keys of gathering restored? ..... | Restored through Moses to Joseph and Oliver Cowdery      |
| e. D&C 88:81-82    | Who is responsible for gathering? .....     | Bear our testimony in word and deed                      |

Gathered from among the world into the church

#### 2- The Saints gathered in Ohio

- |                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| a. D&C 37:3     | The first gathering begins .....        | How old was the church? (see OH book, page 18-19)               |
| b. D&C 39:15    | What is one purpose of gathering? ..... | Blessing not known = Temple, appearance of Savior, restore keys |
| c. D&C 38:24-27 | What counsel did the Lord give? .....   | Be one, be united. How can that be a blessing for us?           |
| d. D&C 38:34-39 | What counsel did the Lord give? .....   | Care of poor, govern affairs of church, seek riches of Father   |
| e. OH 18,19,23  | 3 examples of sacrifices made .....     | see Our Heritage book, and marked paragraphs                    |

Saints had read about city of Zion, or New Jerusalem and wanted to locate and establish this city

#### 3- The Saints gathered in Missouri

- |               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| a. D&C 28:9   | Sep 1830 / Zion will be built .....          | “on borders by Lamanites”, precise location identified later         |
| b. D&C 30:5-6 | Oct 1830 / 4 missionaries called .....       | first church members to go to Missouri                               |
| c. D&C 42:62  | Feb 1831 / New Jerusalem .....               | location of New Jerusalem revealed in Lord’s due time                |
| d. D&C 52:2-5 | Jun 1831 / missionaries called .....         | after first conference and sent to Missouri; Lord to consecrate land |
| e. D&C 54:8   | Jun 1831 / saints continue to Missouri ..... | Colesville branch members should continue through Ohio to Missouri   |
| f. D&C 57:1-3 | Jul 1831 / Zion to be in Missouri .....      | JS traveled there; Independence as center place & temple to be built |
| g. OH 37-39   | What can we learn from this example? .....   | Extreme sacrifice and faith required                                 |

Saints gathered in Nauvoo and then in Salt Lake for many years.

#### 4- The Saints now gather in their own stakes

- |                  |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| a. Supplement #1 | Elder Bruce R. McConkie .....                                | The church now gathers in stakes within their own nations |
| b.               | What church conditions changed to alter gathering? .....     | Membership growth and resources (and now temples)         |
| c.               | Are purposes of gathering served within stakes? .....        |   |
| d. Supplement #2 | President Ezra Taft Benson .....                             | 4 purposes of stakes                                      |
| e.               | Why is temple building an essential part of gathering? ..... | Gathering was to build temple and use temples             |
| f. Supplement #3 | Joseph Smith   |   |

#### How does this apply to me?

What brings righteous power to the Granger 18<sup>th</sup> Ward? .....Gathering, worshiping, unity, sharing, helping

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