

## Comments on Doctrine & Covenants 48

The early leaders of the Church wondered if Kirtland was to be the New Jerusalem, and how they were to settle all of the newcomers from New York. The Lord instructs them on both of these points.

1 IT is necessary that ye should remain for the present time in your places of abode, as it shall be suitable to your circumstances. 2 And inasmuch as ye have lands, ye shall impart to the eastern brethren; 3 And inasmuch as ye have not lands, let them buy for the present time in those regions round about, as seemeth them good, for it must needs be necessary that they have places to live for the present time.

4 It must needs be necessary that ye save all the money that ye can, and that ye obtain all that ye can in righteousness, that in time ye may be enabled to purchase land for an inheritance, even the city. 5 The place is not yet to be revealed; but after your brethren come from the east there are to be certain men appointed, and to them it shall be given to know the place, or to them it shall be revealed. 6 And they shall be appointed to purchase the lands, and to make a commencement to lay the foundation of the city; and then shall ye begin to be gathered with your families, every man according to his family, according to his circumstances, and as is appointed to him by the presidency and the bishop of the church, according to the laws and commandments which ye have received, and which ye shall hereafter receive. Even so. Amen.

v1-3 They are to be free and familiar with their substance, as well as their lands for those who are gathering in. An early application of the Law of Consecration.

Those who were already at Kirtland wanted to know how they should go about settling the newcomers in. The Lord responds by telling them to obtain legal right to the land they will occupy. Neither squatting nor any hostile means are acceptable.

v4-6 They are to purchase lands justly, according to the law of the lands. This is a recurring theme, and later they are forbidden from obtaining land by the shedding of blood, cp. D&C 44:4, D&C 58:52-53, D&C 63:30-31.

The Lord also makes it clear to them that Kirtland is not to be the New Jerusalem.

## **Historical Material Pertaining to Doctrine & Covenants 48**

This revelation was first published in the Book of Commandments in 1833, page 115. It was published in the Kirtland edition Doctrine and Covenants in 1835, pages 190-191. It was published in Times and Seasons, volume 5, number 2, page 401, dated January 15, 1844. It was published in the Millennial Star, volume 5, number 6, page 82, dated November, 1844.

### **Excerpt from History of the Church**

Upon inquiry how the brethren should act in regard to purchasing lands to settle upon, and where they should finally make a permanent location, I received the following:

[text of D&C 48 quoted]

(Joseph Smith, History of the Church, volume 1, page 166)

### **Excerpt from the Book of John Whitmer**

The time drew near for the brethren from the state of New York to arrive at Kirtland, Ohio. And some had supposed that it was the place of gathering even the place of the New Jerusalem spoken of in the Book of Mormon, according to the visions and revelations received in the last days. There was no preparation made for the reception of the Saints from the East. The bishop being anxious to know something concerning the matter. Therefore the Lord spake unto Joseph Smith, Jr., as follows:

[text of D&C 48 quoted]

(John Whitmer, Book of John Whitmer, chapter 5, paragraph 1)

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