

**10. “We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American Continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive it’s paradisiacal glory.”**

The literal gathering is another term for Missionary Work. We have many missionaries – elders, sisters, and couple missionaries serving all over the world sharing the Gospel. Heavenly Father wants all of the inhabitants of the earth to hear the Gospel message. He wants all His children to return and live with Him again. The missionaries are working very hard at sharing the Gospel. (See D&C 29:7,8)

Israel in the Old Testament was God’s chosen people. Moses led the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. The tribes of Israel refer to the lands that each tribe inherited.

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## **“The Scatterings and Gatherings of Israel”** by Edward J. Brandt

[Edward J. Brandt, “The Scatterings and Gatherings of Israel,” \*Ensign\*, Dec. 1981, 27](#)

“Our tenth Article of Faith says, ‘We believe in the literal gathering of Israel.’ This gathering occurs when the lost sheep of Israel come into the Church. It occurs when their sins are washed away in the waters of baptism, so that once again they have power to become pure in heart; and Zion is the pure in heart.

“Our Article of Faith says that ‘We believe ... in the restoration of the Ten Tribes.’ This is in the future. It will occur when the Lord brings again Zion, according to the promises.

“Our Article of Faith says ‘that Zion (the new Jerusalem) will be built upon this [the American] continent.’ This also is future and will occur after the Lord’s people have gained strength and influence and power in all the nations whither he hath scattered them.

“Our Article of Faith says ‘that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.’ This is also future, a day which we devoutly desire and seek. (A of F 1:10.)” (*Ensign*, May 1977, pp. 115-116, 118.)”

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## **“The “Other Tribes”: Which Are They?”** By John A Tvedtnes

[John A. Tvedtnes, “The ‘Other Tribes’: Which Are They?” \*Ensign\*, Jan. 1982, 31, \*Articles of Faith\* by James E Talmage](#)

“The Ten Tribes of land Israel are: Reuben, Ephraim, Issachar, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Dan, Half-tribe of Manasseh, Zebulun, and another half-tribe of Manassah named Machir, after the son of Manassah.

Judah is already known, so the others are currently being gathered by way of missionary work and as a person receives their patriarchal blessing, they are told which tribe they belong to.”

From 35685, D&C and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, 12: “The Gathering of My People”, Purpose, 63:

“Anciently when the twelve tribes of Israel fell into apostasy, they were taken captive by their enemies and scattered among the nations of the earth, just as the Lord had warned. Although the prophets grieved over the wickedness of the people, they rejoiced as they foresaw the time in the latter days when Israel would be gathered again (see Topical Guide, “Israel, Gathering of”). This great process commenced with the restoration of the gospel and the calling of missionaries to “declare glad tidings of great joy unto this generation” (D&C 31:3).

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**Zion is the pure in heart.** (See D&C 97:21) Here again, the word “Zion” is metaphorical in its use. It describes the Church of God and those within that are pure in heart. The scriptures also tell of the place where the Zion will be built – in the tops of the mountains and all nations shall come to it. (See Micah 4:1,2) .

**The New Jerusalem** – is an actual place where Christ has revealed that the city should be built. (See 3 Nephi 20:22, D&C 45:64-67) When this New Jerusalem is built and the People of Zion are of one heart, one mind and one purpose, the Lord will reveal to Enoch to have his Zion of his city come and join with the New Jerusalem. “Articles of Faith” by James E Talmage, p. 351 (See Moses 7:62).

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## “A Choice Land”

**Words of counsel from your friends, the General Authorities,  
spoken during the bicentennial year 1976  
at the 146th Annual General Conference of the Church in April.**

N. Eldon Tanner, “A Choice Land,” *Friend*, July 1976, 32

**President N. Eldon Tanner, First Counselor in the First Presidency:**

”We would expect every man to be loyal to his native land—the land in which he was born, the land in which he lives, works, and rears his family. I think of the words of Sir Walter Scott in “The Lay of the Last Minstrel”:

*Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land?  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned,  
As home his footsteps he hath turned  
From wandering on a foreign strand?*

... The discovery of the Americas was not an accident. The event had been foreordained in the eternal councils. The prophets of old had it in view. Jacob foresaw it when he blessed his son Joseph, calling him “a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall ... unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.” (Gen. 49:22, 26.)

Moses too made promises to the tribe of Joseph, whose land, America, was to be precious for the things of heaven and of earth, and who would “push the people together to the ends of the earth.” (See

Deut. 33:13-17.) ... The Book of Mormon record ... tells of the Jaredites who were the first to come to America. They came at the time of the confusion of languages during the building of the tower of Babel.

Just as Noah was directed, this people was instructed to build ships to carry them on the waters. When all was in readiness, they boarded their vessels and “set forth into the sea, commending themselves unto the Lord their God.”

“... And when they had set their feet upon the shores of the promised land they bowed themselves down upon the face of the land, and did humble themselves before the Lord, and did shed tears of joy before the Lord, because of the multitude of his tender mercies over them.” (Ether 6:4, 12.)

Then, six hundred years before the birth of Christ, a prophet by the name of Lehi ... was commanded by the Lord to depart with his family into the wilderness. ... He was mocked and scorned, and the people sought to take his life. In obedience to the Lord’s instructions, he departed with his family and others and, after a period in the wilderness, they too were instructed to build a ship and sail for the promised land.

Nephi saw in vision also the coming of the Pilgrims, who came to escape religious persecution. He foresaw the coming to America of peoples from many nations, their wars and contentions. As Nephi said, they did humble themselves before the Lord.

Thus the American colonies attained their independence and set up the government of the United States, all under the divine intervention of God in preparing this land for its divine destiny.

We believe that both freedom and the continuing reformation that flourished here occurred in preparation for the restoration from heaven of the full gospel of Jesus Christ. That restoration began in the United States of America in the 1820s, through the [assistance] of the Prophet Joseph Smith, who was chosen by the Lord and who, through [visits] from heavenly messengers, received ... records that contained the authentic record of early American peoples and God’s dealings with them. He received the priesthood and authority to reestablish the church of Jesus Christ in these latter days.

At the time of this restoration, God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ actually appeared to Joseph Smith, as they had appeared to leaders of previous dispensations. They announced to him that Christ’s church would be reestablished upon the earth. ... This restoration was the greatest event in the history of mankind since the birth, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

How can we best show our appreciation to God for these marvelous blessings of freedom, of a place where his true and everlasting gospel was restored, of the preparation and divine guidance in every event leading to that most significant event? We must remember what the Lord told the Jaredites when they were first brought to this land, “Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, *if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ.* ... ” (Ether 2:12. Italics added.)”

## **President Ezra Taft Benson, President of the Council of the Twelve:**

“Every Latter-day Saint should love the inspired Constitution of the United States—a nation with a spiritual foundation and a prophetic history—which nation the Lord has declared to be His base of operations in these latter days.

The framers of the Constitution were men raised up by God to establish this foundation of [their] government, for so the Lord had declared by revelation in these words:

“I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of *wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose*, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood.” (D&C 101:80. Italics added.)

Yes, this is a land fertilized by the blood of patriots. During the struggle for independence, nearly 9,000 of the colonist forces were killed. Among those fifty-six patriots who had pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor by signing the Declaration of Independence, at least nine paid that price with their life’s blood.

Who were ... those whom the Lord designated “wise men” whom He raised up? ... These were ... men ... of exceptional character.

“They were not back-woodsmen from far-off frontiers, not one of them. ... *There has not been another such group of men in all* [the 200 years of our history], *that even challenged the supremacy* of this group.” (J. Reuben Clark, Jr., *Conference Report*, April 1957, p. 47.)

The wisdom of these delegates is shown in the genius of the document itself.

Constitutional government, as designed by the framers, will survive only with a righteous people.

America, North and South, is a choice land, a land reserved for God’s own purposes. This land and its inhabitants are under an everlasting decree. The Lord revealed this decree to the Brother of Jared, an American prophet, in these solemn words:

“And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fulness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fulness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity.

“For behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God.” (Ether 2:9-10.)

Many Americans have lost sight of the truth that righteousness is the one indispensable ingredient to liberty. Perhaps as never before in [the] history [of the United States] is [that] nation ... deserving of ... these words [of Abraham Lincoln]:

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have ... forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied

and enriched and strengthened us ...” (“A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America,” March 30, 1863.)

In 1973 the First Presidency of the Church made public this statement, “We urge members of the Church and all Americans to begin now to reflect more intently on the meaning and importance of the Constitution. ...”

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**“...that Christ will reign personally upon the earth... (also known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming)”**

After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, angels promised His Apostles that He would come again (see Acts 1:2-3, 9-11). Modern prophets have also told us about the day when He will return (see D&C 29:1, 11).

When the Savior comes again, He will bring peace for the nations. He will bring safety and joy for all the righteous. Those who love Him will be prepared to meet Him at that day. We can prepare now by keeping His commandments and by following His example. We can prepare by showing love for others and by listening to the whisperings of the Spirit.

Modern revelation is rich in evidence of an approaching reign of righteousness, with Christ as King; witness the following: “And also the Lord shall have power over his saints, and shall reign in their midst.” (See D&C 1:36) “For in mine own due time will I come upon the earth in judgment, and my people shall be redeemed and shall reign with me on earth.” (See D&C 43:29) – James E. Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, 365

**Activity:**

Read and mark Matthew 25:1-13, the Parable of the 10 Virgins. How does this relate to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming? How can we keep our lamps filled with oil?

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**“...and the earth will be renewed and receive it’s paradisiacal glory.”**

Renew means to restore or to become as new or like new.

Paradisiacal (pronounce every letter! – pair-uh-di-sy-uh-cuhl) is a term meaning paradise-like. Thus, the earth will be like paradise again!

**“Christ and the Creation”**

By Elder Bruce R. McConkie  
of the Quorum of Twelve

***“And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; and they shall be like unto the old save the old have passed away, and all things have become new.” (See Ether 13:9)***

Bruce R. McConkie, “Christ and the Creation,” *Ensign*, June 1982, 9

“ ‘We believe ... that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.’ That is to say, when the earth was first created it was in an Edenic (Eden-like) state in which there was no death. And when the Lord comes again, and the Millennial era is ushered in, the earth will return to its paradisiacal state. It will be made new again; it will become a new heaven and a new earth whereon dwelleth

righteousness. In that day, “there shall be no sorrow because there is no death” as we know it. (D&C 101:29.)

“Thus we learn that the initial creation was paradisiacal; death and mortality had not yet entered the world. There was no mortal flesh upon the earth for any form of life. The Creation was past, but mortality as we know it lay ahead. All things had been created in a state of immortality. It was of this day that Lehi said: “And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end.” (2 Ne. 2:22.) If there is no death, all things of necessity must continue to live everlastingly and without end.”

## “The Second Coming of Jesus Christ”

Adapted from *Doctrine and Covenants Stories* (PBIC037A)

(See **D&C 45**.)

“The Second Coming of Jesus Christ,” *Friend*, July 1985, 20



1 Jesus told Joseph Smith that He would come to earth again. When He comes, He will fulfill the promises He made to previous prophets and Church leaders.



2 Jesus reminded Joseph that when He had lived on earth, He told his Apostles that before He came again, the temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed, the Jews would have to live in other lands, and many of them would be killed. There would be wars, people would not love each other, and the true Church would not be on the earth.



3 Then Heavenly Father would start the true Church on earth again. Many Jews would go back to Jerusalem; they would hear the gospel. Righteous Saints would build the new city of Zion, where they would not fight with each other and where wicked people would not be able to enter.



4 Jesus will come to earth in a bright cloud. Righteous people who have died will be resurrected, and they will meet Jesus in the cloud and come to earth with Him. Then Jesus will stand on a mountain in Jerusalem. The mountain will split in half, the earth will shake, the heavens will shake, and the wicked will be destroyed.



5 The people in Jerusalem will ask Jesus, “What are these wounds in thine hands and in thy feet?” And He will tell them, “I am Jesus that was crucified. I am the Son of God.”  
Then the people will weep because Jesus was crucified.



6 Righteous people will be very happy to see Jesus. The earth will be given to them, and they will raise righteous families. Jesus will live with them and be their king.

## “Twelve Tribes of Israel”

By Janet Kruckenberg

[Janet Kruckenberg, “Twelve Tribes of Israel,” \*Friend\*, Aug. 1990, 26](#)

Find the twelve tribes of Israel, as mentioned in Genesis 49:1-28 [Gen. 49:1-28], by reading forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | E | N | U | L | U | B | E | Z |
| Y | Z | H | A | R | E | U | B | E |
| M | N | A | P | E | B | U | E | R |
| H | A | I | T | H | P | N | A | E |
| A | P | V | M | S | X | H | C | U |
| D | H | E | V | A | C | H | N | B |
| U | T | L | S | A | J | G | J | E |
| J | A | U | S | O | A | N | A | N |
| O | L | S | D | A | J | A | E | D |
| S | I | M | E | O | N | D | Z | B |

|          |          |          |         |
|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Asher    | Gad      | Judah    | Reuben  |
| Benjamin | Issachar | Levi     | Simeon  |
| Dan      | Joseph   | Naphtali | Zebulun |