

THE THEOCRAT

A Weekly Paper advocating the Rule of God in the Individual, in the Home, in the State, in the Nation, and in the World.

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Zion City

When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory.—Psalm 102:16.

I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion.—Jeremiah 3:14.

Zion!—the Zion of God!—the Zion of prophecy!—the Zion of the latter days!—the beginning of "the times of the Restoration of all Things!"—has been born: and God is calling upon all of His people to come out of Babylon and to come into Zion.

Many in different parts of the world have heard God's call, and have taken their stand under Zion's banner.

The building of ZION CITY—the only city of its kind in the world—is a part of God's plan and purpose in these the last days of the Gospel Age and the beginning of the Millennium.

At the close of the old Year, 1899, and the dawning of the New Year, 1900, the Rev. John Alexander Dowie, founder, under God, of Zion and of Zion City, made an announcement in Central Zion Tabernacle, Chicago, that filled the spirits of Zion people everywhere with joy unspeakable, and with expectations that knew no bounds, and that startled the world—causing thousands of newspapers to devote a great deal of space to the giant undertaking: the building of a city which was to be free from all the vices that cursed the cities of the world.

The history of Zion City from the purchase of the site and especially from the opening of its gates in July, 1901, to the beginning of the testing period, is indeed remarkable history.

Adversity came,—God permitted it.

The people were tested;—the true were separated from the false.

And on March 1, 1911, another announcement was made which gladdened the hearts of all true Zion people throughout the world. The announcement was to the effect that we, as the General Overseer, had purchased from the United States District Court all of the assets of the entire Zion Estate.

Well may we, as a people, exclaim: "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad!"

He has given us back Shiloh Tabernacle,—the most interesting place of worship in the world.

He has given us back the Zion City General Stores, now known as Zion Stores,—the largest store in Lake County.

He has given us back Zion Home,—the largest Divine Healing Home in the world.

He has given us back the Administration Building,—the Headquarters of the Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion throughout the world.

He has placed the entire Zion Estate within our hands; and there it will remain, to be developed, and to be made the purest, cleanest, the best spot on the earth, a place of habitation for God's children from the north, east, west and south,—if we, as a people, submit ourselves wholly to God, and place our lives, our money, our houses, our farms, our all upon His altar for the establishment of His Kingdom.

This is my call to one and all in the name of the Lord.

Who Builds Zion City, and Why?

By Deacon Theodore Forby, General Associate Editor

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.—Ps. 127:1.

People of the so-called churches and people of the world may speak adversely of the Zion Movement, and of Zion City, as much as they please, but their protests will amount to no more than the vapor of smoke. God's work will stand; His order of things must and will obtain; the gates of hell cannot prevail against His Kingdom; and Zion,—the Zion with Headquarters at Zion City, Lake County, Illinois,—is the Vine of God's planting, the commencement of the Nation which, some day, shall inculcate into the hearts and minds of all people the ideas of divinely ordained government and authority, and shall rule the world under the immediate reign of Jesus the Christ.

The foregoing declaration is not mere dictum; it is the clear summation of Bible teaching concerning the order of things which must obtain and prevail in the earth in the times of the restoration of all things; and Zion, as a people or nation, is the expression of God's plan for the present Age—the development of His idea of a people who will have God as their Ruler and Guide in every activity.

Humanity positively cannot have any true and abiding happiness and prosperity apart from God. Man's wisdom and devices fail in every direction. True society and real prosperity have for their foundation the Law of God. Only the divine abides.

It must be remembered that Zion City came into being to fulfil a divine plan and in furtherance of a divine purpose—to be a place of refuge exclusively for God's children, and not, as other cities, a place where any-body can settle at will and do as he pleases. No; never!

Zion City was founded with a divine standard for a divine purpose: for a home, for an object lesson to all the world.

That the Devil has sought to destroy Zion City by corrupting her purity has not and cannot change the plan. Did not the Devil try to dethrone God and usurp His power in heaven? and was not he and his corrupting influence purged from the sacred precincts?

Did not the devil pollute the stream of human life in Adam? and has it not been God's plan down the ages to redeem mankind and all the earth, from the curse? No less so of Zion City. The plan stands good. The life-stream still flows. The Spirit still quickens. God's will shall yet be done in earth as it is in heaven.

"Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion."

Just as truly as the pilgrims of Israel from Egypt toward Canaan perished in the wilderness for murmuring, for disobedience, for selfishness, for covetousness, and for indifference—oh, the awful curse of indifference!—just as surely will every man or woman perish physically and spiritually, with all he or she possesses, who puts a single hindrance in the way of Zion's progress as a Nation, or who pollutes Zion City with the virus of worldliness.

Israel's enemies were not all Egyptians; some of them were Israelites—physically members of the emancipated family—but their hearts were not in harmony altogether with God's plan; they longed for the leeks and the onions of Egypt instead of for the angels' food which God gave them daily; neither would they learn the lesson of obedience and duty. Their stubborn hearts rebelled. They despised God's mercies and promises, and rather than to toil on in

journeying to peace and security they would compromise with the devil by enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season. God's blessings they received and they wanted them to continue upon them as individuals and as a Nation; but they were unwilling to sacrifice, it may be, some of their own ease by following in the line of God's plan to obtain these blessings; hence they miserably perished before the promised possession was reached, and their bones, bleached white along the pathway of their wanderings, proclaimed to future generations their folly and infidelity, and history to this day echoes the warning to all men to beware of idolatry, selfishness, and murmuring, and not to hinder Zion, for faithful Israel was then God's Zion.

Will that condition and story be true of any who are nominally of Zion today? Remember the victory at Jericho and the shameful defeat at Ai, and ask yourself the question ever and anon, Why? Why? Methinks from not a great distance will be heard the clanking answer of golden wedges, and the flapping of Babylonish garments, hushing the feeble voice that laments the power of selfishness and of covetousness, "Oh, Ai, Ai!"

While Zion and Zion City are founded on faith, more than "professed" faith is needful to maintain them and make them accomplish their full mission.

Houses and lands—Zion City—a place to dwell, cost *active faith*, and, in this instance, "active faith" takes form in money and in other property used and consecrated to God. This is true, also in extending the work of preaching the gospel by the Elders, Evangelists, Teachers, and by Leaves of Healing and other Zion Literature. Money is required—energy, thought, spirit, crystallized into substance.

Dare any person profess to love God and Zion and withhold his property—money, farms, stocks—from being used directly in promoting Zion's interests?

This is the reconstruction period—"the times of the restoration of all things"—and the dutiful man or woman will turn all his or her force and substance to work on Zion's walls. Every—we mean *every*—resource should be held in readiness subject to Zion's needs and to the call of Zion's leader, under God.

This is reasonable; this is right; for no Zion person can be married to the world and remain in the world, God's command being: "Come out from among them and be ye separate. Ye are the temple of the Living God. What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? What concord hath Christ with Belial?"

"Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."

Who dares to hinder God's work by withholding farm, cattle, money, stocks? Who dares, in the face of Ai's penalties and plagues, to covet the golden wedge and the Babylonish garment? Who dares to presume to say, "That farm, that business, that property, is mine alone," when the ends of all humanity's needs rest upon Zion, and the demand for united effort urgently calls upon all to build Zion's walls as a place of refuge for God's people?

Zion City must be cleansed and redeemed fully from the vile hand of her enemies. She is God's city for the sake of righteousness, for the honor of His holy Name; and from her must go forth the Light—the Law of God—to all people. No other people than Zion have the privileges and the powers. None other is so highly favored. Zion is unique. She is in God's line—His

royal heritage. Her banners are Praise, and her exactors, Righteousness. She alone is raising the cry:

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before Him and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth that He may judge His people:

"GATHER MY SAINTS TOGETHER UNTO ME; THOSE THAT HAVE MADE A COVENANT WITH ME BY SACRIFICE."

Zion, will you be one to help redeem, *forever*, Zion City for God's honor and glory, as a monument to righteousness and divine influence and power? Answer with your substance; respond with your consecrated life. Be not an Achan; be not an Ananias or a Sapphira; BE A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS THE CHRIST and prove your profession by your doings in helping to save Zion City.

ZION CITY

(Continued from First page)

the *extension of the Kingdom of God. Competition* is from Hell and brings with it all the evils that follow, such as lying, cheating, backbiting, stealing, selfishness, covetousness, deception, etc., and cannot find a place in a Zion City.

Politically, Zion City must be a *unit* with no personal interest above the best interest of the whole people, with *no purpose* but to establish the *Kingdom of God*; not *opposing* one evil, but *opposing every evil* that may exist in every branch of our government or among the people.

Educationally, Zion City must have the best facilities possible to teach "how to pray" hat the citizens may know what God wants and expects first, last, and all the time. To earn to *know God* and to *discern His will* and to *know how to pray* puts the believer in a position to get *everything* that God has for him.

The opportunity for the people of God to come together and complete the building of a Zion City is here *now, today*. *What are you going to do about it?* Is God calling *you* to have a part in this great work for humanity, both of the present time and for unborn generations? If He is not, you should mourn and seek His face in sackcloth and ashes to know *why you* should not be allowed *this privilege*. If He is calling *you*, can you afford to wait one moment? Why resist God's Spirit and delay blessings both *to yourself* and to *multitudes*? Your time and opportunities are *passing swiftly*. You cannot *act tomorrow* and accomplish as much for God and for humanity as you can *by acting now*. God has His purpose and will work it out, no doubt; but can we afford to hinder and miss the opportunity that will not only affect our lives and the lives of others now, but throughout eternity.

Zion Institutions and Industries represent the investments of Zion people, and are being operated to employ Zion people and extend the Kingdom of God. They are an essential and important part of this work. Where are *your investments*? Are they being loaned through some Bank or through some Stock investment to persons to operate a saloon or brewery or a theater or some other agency of Satan? Put them where you can feel that they are being used for God.

Zion City is now an *established fact*. This is known throughout the world. Zion City stands for high ideals in every department of life: the Home, the State, the Nation.

Zion Estate is being held to be sold to *Zion people only*. Every Zion man and woman should think into this *deeply* and analyze it and see what it means to him or to her. Don't pass it along to some one else. What is *your responsibility*? What an opportunity for *every one* to hold a piece of this land for God and for humanity!