

EPISODE 22 • PART II

Dr. Alexander L. Baugh



D&C 58-59

- John: 00:00:02 Thank you for joining us in Part II, with Doctor Alex Baugh.
- John: 00:00:08 Let's jump right into the content of Section 58. We'll turn it to you Alex, what can you tell us? What's going to happen August 1st?
- Alex Baugh: 00:00:17 Okay. So, now that they're there and there's a certain amount of people. Again, they're not all there. The Colesville Branch isn't all there, but they're coming and others will come. And these other missionaries will wish they were there, but they'll get there. They'll fulfill the revelation, at least get there. In fact, the revelation says for those en route, still hold another conference for them. "Edward Partridge, you can do that once they get here."
- I think the Lord throws a warning shot to them in the opening verses. I don't know how I would have felt had I read this, but it basically says, "Oh, ye elders of my church, give ear to my word." Verse 2, "For verily I say unto you, blessed is he that keepeth my commandments, whether in life or in death; and he that is faithful in tribulation, the reward of the same is greater in the kingdom of heaven." I think he's giving them a little warning here that they're going to have some hardships. You think of Zion and go, "Wow, this is fantastic. We've read about this in the Book of Mormon."
- Hank: 00:01:28 Yeah, the idea, "Here's the plan. We're going to move there, build Zion, the Lord's going to come. This is a perfect plan." And the Lord saying, "It might not happen-
- Alex Baugh: 00:01:38 Just the way-
- Hank: 00:01:39 ... the way you think it's going to happen."

Alex Baugh: 00:01:41 Yeah, it's not going to be all roses. So notice again, verse 4, "For after much tribulation come the blessings." That's a great message to all of us, and I think any of us can say, when you're married, or when you start a mission, you go, "Boy, this is going to be great." Well, it's going to be hard. Life's hard. There's the refiner's fire and tribulation builds Saints. It builds the people of God. Although we need to build Zion, it may not happen in your lifetime even to these saints, but at least be here. And in fact, he says that they, "... might be honored," verse 7, "...in laying the foundation and bearing record of the land upon which the Zion of God shall stand."

I admire these people. Like I say, they had no clue that 200 years down the road, we'd be sitting there going, "The Knights, the Gilberts, the Partridges, these are great Saints, who inspired me to live the gospel in ways that they would never..." They didn't picture themselves as being known throughout the Church. I mean, in just reading the revelations, we mention their names.

Oliver Granger, Section 117, we just mentioned him, but he's there for time immemorial, because he was mentioned in a revelation. I really love these people. Again, we see from hindsight, they just didn't have that. And so the Lord's telling him, it's going to be tough, but you'll be honored. This is a great honor that you're here and can lay the foundation of the Church in Missouri. And when you think about it today, let's just jump ahead, what have we got in Missouri? Right in the Kansas City area, there's seven, eight stakes, we've got a temple, we've got Visitors Centers, we've got, oh my goodness.

John: 00:03:49 I threw out the first pitch at the Kansas City Royals in July of 2018 as part of a Mormon Day for the Royals there.

Alex Baugh: 00:03:59 John, that's wonderful.

John: 00:04:00 Ah, with all the Kansas City missionaries in the stands. I threw it to my wife. They said, "Who do you want to catch it?" And Kim was there, and we practiced at the hotel, and she kept dropping it, but when it came time, she caught it.

Alex Baugh: 00:04:16 Wonderful.

John: 00:04:17 And it was high and outside, but the mascot said it was a strike, so it was pretty funny. But yeah. The Kansas City Temple is there. It's just beautiful.

Hank: 00:04:27 Can I say something real quick? What you just said is so, I just have never noticed verse 7, "That you might be honored in laying the foundation, and bearing record of the land upon which Zion of God shall stand." I'd never noticed that. Because they wouldn't have known. If you would've told them, "Hey, one day we're going to have a podcast and it's going to be all about you." They would have, "What in the world? Why would everyone be talking about us?" "Well, we're going to print these revelations and your names are going to be in them." They wouldn't have any clue that... And I'd never noticed that before. I like to think that the Lord saw programs like the one we have here honoring these people.

Alex Baugh: 00:05:07 God has the big picture, absolutely.

John: 00:05:10 But Alex, this is just the start, because laying the foundation, do you think that was a hint to them that you might not completely build Zion, but you're going to lay a foundation?

Alex Baugh: 00:05:20 Ye, no question about it. And that sticks with them for a long time. And what I mean by that is, in 1833, when they're expelled and there's about 1,200, and when you can imagine Joseph Smith, he's absolutely devastated. But they're going, "Now, hold it. Weren't we supposed to... This is our land, this is the designated spot." That must have been such a huge disappointment. And then, unfortunately, when they do Zion's Camp, we thought maybe this is the chance we have to redeem Zion.

Hank: 00:05:54 Put them back, yeah.

Alex Baugh: 00:05:56 Didn't happen. And then we keep moving, and then, of course, 38, 39 we go again. And Joseph, I know, is just going, "This hurts. Now hold it. Why aren't we there? We're supposed to be there." And then, finally, the Lord says in Section 124, "When men come about to cause problems and prohibit you from...", I'm paraphrasing terribly, but, "... I will require no more at your hand. So don't worry about it, we're not going back to Missouri. We're done for now, but don't worry. We'll still be there. Zion will not be moved down or replaced. It is meant to be." And events-

Hank: 00:06:38 In fact, he writes in the Articles of Faith. That's later on after they've been kicked out, right? But Zion, the New Jerusalem, will be built upon the American continent. He still believes it, even though they're in Nauvoo at that time.

Alex Baugh: 00:06:51 Joseph Smith said, "Zion should be the greatest object of our people." And this is President Nelson. We're not necessarily gathering back to Missouri, but we are establishing through the gathering of Israel in a preparatory way for the establishment of Zion. It's going to happen, and you see it happening, and his emphasis is absolutely right spot on. If we're going to establish that city and that community that will welcome Him when his return comes.

Now, I don't know how the rest of the world will look at our attitudes and views about this, but we have a vision of the future and I'm just grateful to be a part of it at this point in time in my life. I don't know if you'll see it, I don't know if I'll see it. I doubt I will. But in the meantime, gather Israel, build it up, that they will come. Zion will be established. It'll be wonderful.

John: 00:07:53 I think, too, this helps us as we see these different, I wouldn't say evolving, but we're getting different definitions of what Zion is. Because it's a cause at one point, it's a place at one point, it's a people, it's a spiritual state at one point. What would you say it is now, or hoping for a future geographic place-

Hank: 00:08:17 -City.

John: 00:08:17 ... would you say it that way? But we are all trying to reach a state, a spiritual state of Zion, being of one heart and one mind. Does that-

Alex Baugh: 00:08:25 I think we can say there's multiple meanings of Zion. "The pure in heart," it's a location. We've heard of the stakes of Zion. There's multiple uses of that term. But there in this context, I think that we can say that Joseph, and the object of these Saints, was to lay the foundation, prepare for the time when all Saints in their minds would gather here and be the people of God and live like Enoch and his people, and have one heart, one mind.

I do try to kid a little bit with my... I have 14 families, 14 homes in our cul-de-sac, and I said, "If I could have named this street, I would name it Zion Circle." There's such good people. We have a non-Latter-day Saint family, but they are just an elderly couple, but they are the sweetest people. Pat and Ken Mulzak and they love to watch [General] Conference. But they're part of our community.

Hank: 00:09:37 Part of Zion.

Alex Baugh: 00:09:38 Gosh, I got to quit. I'm sorry. All right.

John: 00:09:42 Well, listen, if you expand your circle and any lots, you call me. Call Zion Realty, tell me there's an opening.

Alex Baugh: 00:09:50 Well, I got to tell you, Susan, my wife, the only time I've taken her to Missouri, that's unfortunate, but is in summer. And she said-

Hank: 00:09:50 No more.

Alex Baugh: 00:09:57 She said, "Alex, we got to change the weather patterns here." It was 102 at one time with 98% humidity. Nine months out of the year it's not bad. But I can imagine that game that you did your pitch, you were fanning yourself the rest of the game.

Hank: 00:10:17 I was going to bring that up. I thought, the times I've been to Adam-ondi-Ahman, it was so hot. I thought, "I don't want to hike back here."

Alex Baugh: 00:10:25 That's brutal, brutal. While they're going to lay the foundation, the Lord gives a little bit of a timetable, I think, here for us with this parable. I mean, it's interesting to see how these parables prop up, pop up in the revelations of Joseph Smith. But he talks about how there will be, "a feast of fat things" that might be prepared for the poor. We always got to worry about them. But in regards to this great feast, who's going to be invited? Well, "First the rich and the learned, the wise and the noble, and then cometh the day of my power, then shall the poor, the lame, the blind, the deaf, come in at the marriage of the Lamb..."

And I think this is actually, this parable is trying to show us how the gospel will spread. For example, where do we go with the missionary, where does the gospel preach to in the, let's just go the 19th century? Well, the United States, Canada, Europe, the established countries, the economically advantaged countries. Where are we going now? Well, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and I'm not putting those countries down, I'm just saying we could never have come to them with the gospel unless we had the gospel first established in the nations of the earth where it could grow and prosper and we can take the full programs and operations of the Church.

Hank: 00:11:56 Wonderful.

Alex Baugh: 00:11:57 I think the Lord's trying to tell us that it will go forth, but it will have a pattern of, okay, who can sustain the Church in the global

perspective of trying to get the gospel to all the nations? We have to start with those who can sustain it, and then we can have the means whereby we can go to other nations. And I think you all know, where is the gospel going forth the greatest? West Africa, Indonesia, Philippines. In 19th century terms, this would be considered the heathen, and yet, they're vastly outshining our conversions of Europe. And I'm not saying we're not making converts in Europe, but Europe is secularized, even America. Boy, go to Ghana. Ghana and Democratic Republic of Congo. It's amazing the temples that are going in and the people...

- Hank: 00:13:05 Oh, what a great connection, Alex. What a great connection with verses 9, 10, and 11 there. I'd never seen that.
- John: 00:13:12 Yeah, and it's a New Testament parable. And I love that you said that, because I keep noticing that, too, how Jesus expounded a little the scriptures in 1, 2 and 3rd Nephi, and here we go with another one giving us a way to interpret it with modern church history. That's really cool. Called the marriage of the lamb in verse 11, like you said.
- Alex Baugh: 00:13:37 And wasn't it wonderful in the April [General] Conference, who spoke?
- Hank: 00:13:41 Yeah.
- Alex Baugh: 00:13:42 All of the international people.
- Hank: 00:13:44 That was so great. Oh, man.
- Alex Baugh: 00:13:46 And to see these primary children singing, "I am a Child of God," or "I Love to See the Temple," in Korean. I tell you, that was a monumental, momentous conference just for who participated. And some of them spoke in broken English, but boy, I felt testimony. I just sit and there and I go, "These people are powerful, spiritual people, brought into the household of God. And hopefully, they'll learn about Edward Partridge and Joseph Knight and some of these..." These names must be foreign to them, but they'll be well-known. Anyway, that's backing up again in a word.
- Hank: 00:14:27 No, that was wonderful.
- John: 00:14:27 Yeah. No, thank you. That's a great way to look at that. Because at one time, I remember learning in the Nauvoo pageant, just going, "Oh, why didn't I know that?" But they called all the

Twelve and sent them all to the British Isles to focus their missionary work there for a time.

- Alex Baugh: [00:14:47](#) Yeah, industrialized Europe. Go to London, go to Great Britain. And, of course, they came to Nauvoo and helped us build the temple. We could not have done it without the British Saints and the British stonecutters. Fantastic people. So there's a pattern there, and I hope that's a correct assessment. There may be other ways to look at it there.
- Hank: [00:15:09](#) I think it is, Alex, I love it.
- John: [00:15:11](#) Let's keep going.
- Alex Baugh: [00:15:12](#) Well, we mentioned a little bit about Edward Partridge, and there is his condemnation. Unfortunately, there it is. But as you know, he was told, originally, that in him there is no guile. He's like Nathaniel, but he had his moment. But I will tell you, he never wavered after this. Never, never. He saw the saints. He was the main point man for the Church throughout, really, all of Jackson County. And, of course, who does the mob go after on July 20th? Not Oliver Cowdery, he goes after Partridge and Phelps and Gilbert. And the Whitmers-
- Hank: [00:15:51](#) That's two years from now, right, Alex?
- Alex Baugh: [00:15:53](#) Yeah, that's two years from now. They're not out there striking David Whitmer. He's one of the witnesses, but it's Partridge. And then in Clay County, he does everything he can to get them settled there, and then who oversees the move to Caldwell County? It's Partridge, and then, who helps get the saints out of Missouri? Partridge, and then he dies in 1840 in Nauvoo.
- Edward Partridge is just one rock. And again, I just stand... You talk about cemeteries, you stand in Nauvoo at that wonderful memorial to Edward Partridge. You just have to, like I say, you almost weep, what he did for the Church. But he had that one moment, and then he repented so quickly, as I shared that letter, that portion to his wife that he writes back.
- Hank: [00:16:46](#) That was beautiful.
- Alex Baugh: [00:16:47](#) And says, "I don't know if I'm even worthy of this position, and I'll try to be." But he was so quick to repent. I hope I can be like him in so many ways and repent quickly. I make mistakes, we all do, but just repent quickly and move on and make amends.

Hank: 00:17:05 Wow.

Alex Baugh: 00:17:06 He's, of course, to be a judge in Israel. That's what bishops do, verse 17. He's going to have counselors, one's Isaac Morley, going to come and leave Kirtland, and then the other is John Corrill. And next [crosstalk 00:17:21]

Hank: 00:17:21 And Isaac Morley's going to leave a pretty big farm isn't he?

Alex Baugh: 00:17:24 No question about it, and that was his consecration. And he moves there and all three of them are going to move on to the temple property, once that property is acquired.

Hank: 00:17:36 So who are the counselors? Isaac Morley and-

Alex Baugh: 00:17:38 Isaac Morley and John Corrill.

Hank: 00:17:41 ... and John Corrill? Okay.

Alex Baugh: 00:17:41 And they will be his counselors, all the way through the Missouri period.

Hank: 00:17:45 Wow.

Alex Baugh: 00:17:46 Unfortunately, we do lose John Corrill. John Corrill is one good man, a great man. But finally, Caldwell County did him in. He just could not follow the Saints anymore. But he wrote a wonderful history, and that history is in the *Joseph Smith Papers*. He's not better, he's not antagonistic, he's just... And again, I honor him, but he was beat up. He had had it, and he just couldn't take it anymore.

And again, I feel badly about that, but John Corrill was actually elected a Representative from Caldwell County to the Missouri Legislature. And in the legislature, he defended us, tried to help us get out of the state and get some state funds to compensate a little bit. He's a good man, and I think he's gonna be okay. Missouri, it was just too tough on him. And at the same time, there were those who made it through.

Hank: 00:18:50 Yep.

Alex Baugh: 00:18:52 And then, of course, as I mentioned, It's going to be difficult because of the element, the differences of the population that they're around. So it's not surprising the Lord says, "Keep the laws of the land, do everything you can to be loyal, faithful

citizens in spite of their opposition and times in which they may use the law against you."

- Hank: 00:19:14 That's verse 21, right? "Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land." Beautiful.
- Alex Baugh: 00:19:24 And, of course, also keep the laws by "my hand," verse, 23. And, of course, I should back up into verse 22, "... be subject to the powers that be..." and I love President Oaks' talk in conference about what we need to do, what the Constitution stands for. We honor that. We honor the laws of the land, and do everything you can to uphold the laws peacefully. And that was certainly a message to the Latter-day Saints, especially. And we did not retaliate, really, when they came after us in 1833. We tried to somewhat defend ourselves, but when they said, "You have to go," we left. We didn't want to, but we saw no other way to restore peace.
- Well, we have the appointment of Edward Partridge, to have his residence with his counselors. And I could show you a map that we've put together that shows you where they lived on the Temple Lot. I have to jump to verse 26, and this is one of my favorites, simply because if you're trying to become a Zion person, you better have initiative. I don't know how to describe this in any way, but the Lord uses the example in terms of using your agency for a good cause. And if you don't, if you had to be, "... compelled in all things, you're like a slothful servant." And I have joked with my students and said, "I think there's only one reason why the Lord created a sloth as an example of what you shouldn't be." I mean, the animal is so interesting in some ways, but they are slow.
- John: 00:21:16 I love that you pointed out initiative. Keep going with that. That's 1 Nephi-
- Alex Baugh: 00:21:21 Well, the idea is, I think sometimes the Lord just expects us to figure it out. Like you say, a missionary, you get a new companion, you're in a new area, what do you do? Well, figure it out, make it happen. You're coming to BYU or going to school, what are you going to be? Figure it out, take some classes, do this. You don't have-
- Hank: 00:21:46 Get going.
- Alex Baugh: 00:21:47 ... get going, move. Things work out for those who really just dig in and make things happen, make a difference.

Hank: 00:21:57 John, you've said something like that, "God can't direct you unless you're moving."

John: 00:22:02 Well, there's an old saying of, "God cannot steer a parked car," and I think the Marion G. Romney quotation that I like is "You can't expect God to guide your footsteps unless you're willing to move your feet."

Alex Baugh: 00:22:16 Yeah, perfect.

John: 00:22:17 And I think the one that we always think of here is 1 Nephi 4:6, "I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand..." but he just made tracks. He broke his bow, he made a new one, and the Topical Guide reference there says initiative, and so I'm going to tie that to Nephi making a new bow. Instead of complaining, he just thought, "Well, let's see, I broke it, what should I do? I'll make another one."

Alex Baugh: 00:22:43 Well, he goes on and says, "He that doeth anything until he's commanded," there's the word again, "... he keepeth it with slothfulness..." I think with the ministering commission we have, just go do it. I shouldn't even say this, but I like to make rolls on Sunday, and I just sit there and I go, "Okay, who can I take some rolls to? Our family's not gonna eat them all." Just do it.

John: 00:23:09 I have got to move to your circle.

Alex Baugh: 00:23:13 Well, I have to say, I've been making rolls every Sunday-

John: 00:23:18 No kidding.

Alex Baugh: 00:23:18 ... for Sunday dinner. Well, there was three years I was a bishop, I couldn't do it. My kids love my wife so much. I sit and there go, "At least I could be remembered for something, and that was Grandpa's Rolls."

John: 00:23:33 That's great.

Alex Baugh: 00:23:34 But just do it. Make it happen, follow those initial promptings and just follow through. [crosstalk 00:23:41]-

Hank: 00:23:42 Alex, I always talk about the brother of Jared here, where the Lord says, "What do you think-"

John: 00:23:45 Figure it out.

Alex Baugh: 00:23:46 Yeah. Yeah.

Hank: 00:23:47 Yeah. Come up with an idea, or when the Lord is feeding the 5,000, "Bring me what you have." "Philip, how are we gonna feed all these people?" And Andrew's stealing people's lunches, "Well, I got this kid's lunch." I liked it. I think the Lord likes a little gumption, a little initiative. Zacchaeus climbs the tree so he can see the Lord. I think the Lord likes it when we're trying things, we're putting forth effort.

John: 00:24:09 I think ministering is a perfect example to bring there, because we want a sign-up sheet and a checklist, and with ministering, that's a little different now. It's what you were saying, "Go, go, just do it. Go figure out something you can do."

Alex Baugh: 00:24:25 Yeah, you don't have to-

Hank: 00:24:26 I need to mention right now that my ministering family listens to the podcast, and so I count that as ministering. So to the Day family who is listening, sure love you, hope you're doing well. All right, keep going.

Alex Baugh: 00:24:37 I think that works.

Hank: 00:24:39 Okay, yeah. It's like, "Lord, I did, I made this podcast for them and for other people, but for them."

Alex Baugh: 00:24:47 Teaching Gospel Doctrine this year. I'm grateful for that opportunity.

Hank: 00:24:51 Does your ward realize who they have?

Alex Baugh: 00:24:53 Oh, they're patient with me. Every Friday or Saturday, I do send the entire ward some supplementary materials that I hope will be of benefit to them. And it could just be from the revelations in context, James Covell or things like that. Just things that they can read that will supplement. And then, of course, there's some videos.

When we were talking about the Three Witnesses, I said, "You got to see this classic. There's a whole generation that hadn't seen the classic Three Witnesses video, so I gave them a link for that. Again, it makes me happy, the fact that some would say, "Thank you for sending that to us." I said, "Well, I just wanted you to have something else." But yeah, initiative is the key I think. Just do something and make things happen.

John: 00:25:45 When I've read verse 27 to my classes, I've talked about being engaged. All of us teach at BYU, and engaged people are

obsessed with each other. And so I've always said, this is why the Lord wants us to be anxiously-

- Alex Baugh: 00:26:03 There's your cue right there.
- John: 00:26:04 ... engaged, obsessed with the work. Obsessed, right? "I just got to do more. I want to do more. How can I do more?" And you watch engaged students, and they just can't get enough of each other, and you think, "That's how we need to be with the gospel." Engaged, just can't get enough. I love that Alex.
- Alex Baugh: 00:26:22 Again, looking at verse 30 through 33, I think you've probably explained, or tried to explain, this to others, but we're promised, you keep a commandment, you obey, you get the blessing. And then unfortunately, if you don't obey, the Lord has to revoke it, so it's not over your head, and then you say, "Gosh, didn't work. God didn't fulfill his promises." Well...
- Hank: 00:26:47 Right. And I think we, I think we need to say also, that you don't get to choose the blessing. So often, we say, "I'll be obedient, and I want this particular blessing," when, in some cases, the blessing may be difficult to, like you said, create Zion in you. I've often wanted to choose the blessings I get from keeping the commandments, or I create an expectation or an assumption that if I keep these commandments, I get these particular blessings, and that's not what the Lord has said. I mean, look at these Saints being driven out of Jackson County. They had a certain expectation of what the blessing was going to be, and the Lord still blessed them, but it wasn't what they had thought.
- Alex Baugh: 00:27:30 Yeah, good point.
- John: 00:27:31 That's why going back to verse 3, I just love verse three, "You cannot behold with your natural eyes, for the present time, the design of your God concerning those things which shall come hereafter..." That is an awesome verse in this whole Section, and that's a, "trust me" me type section.
- Hank: 00:27:49 Yeah, that's Isaiah 55, "My ways are not your ways. My thoughts are not your thoughts." It almost is, "You're going to have to trust me on this. I can see things you can't see."
- Alex Baugh: 00:28:00 We have mentioned, Hank, here of good old Martin Harris. And I love this guy, and we have to treat him with great honor and respect, because his brother is the ancestor of Dallin H. Oaks--Emer Harris. I could take you to his grave up there in Logan Cemetery.

Hank: 00:28:20 Of course.

Alex Baugh: 00:28:21 But anyway, I think it's interesting, we have the evidence that Martin Harris was the one who was asked, of course, to get things going here, and he donates \$1,200 to purchase the first lands in Jackson County, Missouri. So we want to give him credit for the Book of Mormon? Absolutely, but he was asked in that, what, verse 35?

Hank: 00:28:47 35.

Alex Baugh: 00:28:48 Yeah. "This is what he shall do with his money there." So he came through. And interestingly enough, I've got all the land purchases in Jackson County of 1831, '32 and '33. I found all of them, with some help from another colleague, and sure enough they spent over \$1,200 for the, that was probably earmarked by, as a result of Martin Harris, but their last purchase in December put them just a little bit over the \$1,200 mark. So give Martin Harris a nice pat on the back. He came through with the helping to establish the first land purchases in Zion.

Hank: 00:29:35 I hope everybody listening will always defend Martin Harris. If you've listened to this podcast, you have, hopefully, come to a new love for this good, good man. And here again, donating, and that's \$1,200 in 1831, Alex.

Alex Baugh: 00:29:51 It's huge. Huge. You and I don't have that money, I'll tell you that much.

Hank: 00:29:57 Goodness. John, what were you going to say?

John: 00:29:58 I just wanted to make sure it's 1,200, and I also... Yeah, we mentioned that in the earlier podcast. We even quoted the Elder Oaks' talk where he said, "My middle name is, I'm Dallin Harris Oaks." And all of that happened, the losing 116 before he was baptized. Well, we believe in baptism for the remission of sins, don't we? And so, look at what Martin did. I love that verse. He's an example for the Church.

Alex Baugh: 00:30:25 Yep, absolutely. He comes through every time. He's our financier, I guess you would say. And we had to, there just wasn't... The Saints just didn't have the means there.

John: 00:30:40 That fits with the parable earlier, too, that first we're going to gather the rich and the learned, the wise and the noble, because Martin Harris was in a position to do something that a lot of people wouldn't have been.

Alex Baugh: 00:30:50 Right. Exactly. So we mentioned a little bit about Phelps' personality, but he's obviously, gotten to know Joseph Smith on this trip. They're living with each other, they're in route together, and Joseph, obviously, recognizes his talents and skills. But Phelps is going to be planted down here, and he will be a major player. Of course, they come after the print shop of Phelps, in 1833 and so on. And he's an articulate gifted man. He is a little different in his patriarchal blessing, given, I'm trying to think, 34, 35, somewhere in there, it says, "WW Phelps, thou art a strange man, a speckled bird." His talents and abilities have far exceeded his peculiarities, I guess.

Hank: 00:31:46 Okay, okay, yeah.

Alex Baugh: 00:31:49 Again, Phelps had an ego, there's no question. I don't understand all of his personality. Bruce Van Orden's written a terrific biography of Phelps, and it's worth reading every word. But, something sets him off here a little bit, and Joseph has to, or the Lord has to reprove him. And, of course, he says he's not sufficiently meek. He needs to repent. An interesting verse, and people may wonder why this is even in here, that the Lord would direct Sidney Rigdon, who's a very good writer, by the way, to write a description of the Land of Zion. Well, we live in different times, they don't have photography. The only way you can describe something to someone is through writing. And so he, I'm sure, would have recognized the need for that.

He ended up doing it, but when we get back to Kirtland, he may have not done it while he was here, but when he gets back to Kirtland, he does write something. And unfortunately, in Section 63, the Lord tells Martin, "I'm not pleased with my servant Sydney. He exalted himself," but then he says, "... and his writing is not acceptable unto the Lord and he shall make another." I've had that happen in English class. But anyway, we don't know exactly what was his description and what the first was and what the second one was. There is a description of Zion in the prophets' manuscript history, that may very well be his, "We got to get people to be excited to come here, and you didn't do a good job on that." So a little mild reproof.

Hank: 00:33:46 Goodness. You imagine the Lord, "No, that's not good writing."

John: 00:33:48 No check-plus smiley face on that paper.

Alex Baugh: 00:33:51 Yep. Maybe he should have asked Phelps. He could have done it, maybe, a little better.

John: 00:33:59 Poor Sidney.

Hank: 00:34:00 Okay.

Alex Baugh: 00:34:00 The other thing is, of course, we don't want to overwhelm the local citizenry. And so Lord tells them, verse, 54, 55, 56, "And again in as much as there is land obtained, let there be workman sent forth of all kinds unto this land to labor for the saints of God." So we need tinsmiths, we need people who can run mills, we need various types of people who can contribute and-

Hank: 00:34:31 A cooper. I know who a cooper who is-

Alex Baugh: 00:34:31 A cooper.

Hank: 00:34:32 ... he can make barrels.

Alex Baugh: 00:34:33 There you go.

Hank: 00:34:34 Yeah.

Alex Baugh: 00:34:38 We're going to live the Law of Consecration. We're going to do a lot of sharing. We need different types of people. And then of course, verse 56, "And let the work of gathering not be in haste nor by flight, but let it be done as it shall be counseled by the Eeders of the church." We don't, again, want to overrun this. And unfortunately, like I say, maybe we gathered a little bit too quickly, in some regards.

Because again, one of the arguments used against the Saints, for the reasons, the justifications, I should say, that the Jackson County citizens used against the Saints was that they were fearful they would overrun the land and take over the politics, and everything like that. So you can see the wisdom in not going too quickly, but at the same time, selecting the right people to go that would be most beneficial for the Latter-day Saint communities.

Hank: 00:35:32 Interesting, when the Lord says, "Don't do this," and they do it anyway.

Alex Baugh: 00:35:36 Yep. The next verse is interesting. Again, Joseph will know where he's now supposed to go, and I'll talk about that in just a minute, to actually dedicate the spot. They've probably selected the spot. Two days later, August 3rd, they will dedicate the spot that Joseph has identified for the temple. The interesting thing here

is, though, they want the Lord to ask Sidney Rigdon to consecrate, or dedicate, the actual land, this land of Zion, and then also a spot for the temple, the spot for the temple. As things turned out, the next day they do have a dedicatory service for the dedication to the land of Zion. That's August 2nd, and then on August 3rd, Joseph Smith dedicates the temple site.

So whereas Rigdon was really supposed to do both, I think when it came to dedicating the temple, Joseph goes, "I'm going to do that one." And so we just have a slight variation of what was described in the revelation there. And then, of course, once those are all done, once we've dedicated the land, dedicated the temple site, and had our conference that they were commanded to do in Section 52, we need to head back. And so, that's why he says here, "And let no man return from this land, except he bear record by the way, of that which he knows, and most assuredly believes."

In other words, bear testimony on the way home, preach the gospel, open your mouths, spare not. Sadly, of course, we find out they get partway through Missouri on the way back and the Lord tells them, "You're going back so speedily, there's people perishing on either side of the river. You need to take time-

- Hank: 00:37:34 Right, there's people to talk to.
- Alex Baugh: 00:37:34 ... You need to talk. Open your mouths." So they could have been a little better, at least, trying to fulfill that charge.
- Hank: 00:37:42 So some are going to stay, and some are going back to Kirtland. Is that right?
- Alex Baugh: 00:37:47 Well, yes. I think we can safely say the group that's coming, the larger group, is the rest of the Colesville Branch. Those are the ones we want planted here. Partridge is going to stay here, but some of it, the leadership, are going to stay there. In fact, Phelps, or Bishop Partridge writes to his wife and says, "I hope you can come this season, but I have to stay here and make things happen and purchase the land." So he doesn't go back. I know that. And I'm trying to remember when Lucy comes down. And he tells her in the letter, "Everything you need to bring, bedding, pots, pans," so they could be comfortable.
- Hank: 00:38:28 This is the wild frontier out here.
- Alex Baugh: 00:38:31 I love the last verse, actually verse 64, the capstone of this revelation, "For, verily, the sound must go forth from this place

into all the world, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth, the gospel must be preached unto every creature, with signs following them that believe." Again, emphasis on the gathering, by going into the world, preaching the gospel and then, hopefully, have them gathered to Zion and their expectations for Zion.

- Hank: 00:39:01 "This place," he started with that. "This is the place and the gospel's going to go forth from here." All right. But it looks like Joseph's still there six days later.
- Alex Baugh: 00:39:13 Well, maybe I could just say a little bit about the two dedications. Is that okay?
- Hank: 00:39:19 Okay, what day... Yeah, just tell us what days those happened.
- Alex Baugh: 00:39:21 So August 1, this Revelation 58, and so now they've been told, Rigdon's been told to dedicate or consecrate the land. So the next day, 12 men, does that sound like an important figure, number?
- Hank: 00:39:37 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Alex Baugh: 00:39:39 12 men symbolically laid the first log for the establishment of Zion. So, the 12 men consisted of seven men of the Colesville Branch, who just arrived a few days earlier, and then the five others, names we know a little bit more about, Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon, W.W. Phelps, and then Ezra Booth. I'm absolutely convinced it was right there at the Joshua Lewis property. And so that's where everybody's at. He just barely purchased this, not even a week before. I don't even know if they know where it is yet. But the point is, we have a marker there. I don't know if you remember, Hank, but this is the marker in Troost Park, with the bronze piece with 12 men and Joseph with this log?
- Hank: 00:40:33 Yeah.
- Alex Baugh: 00:40:34 Anyway, maybe you've seen that, too, John. Anyway, that keeps getting stolen, they keep prying it off. It's a bronze piece, and I know that the kids go, "Hey, I can take that to some foundry and get 50 bucks for it." But anyway, that's not the reason that I'm saying it's there, but the reason it is, is because again, they were assembling at the Joshua Lewis property. So Joseph is going to do three things while he's down there, dedicate the Land of Zion, which happened on the 2nd, dedicate the temple site, which is August 3rd, and then have that conference on August

4th. And then they can make plans to go back and that'll be Section 59.

So what's interesting is, when did Joseph Smith actually know where he was to actually dedicate the site? As we've learned in Section 57, Lord said it was on the spot line west of the temple not far, or west of the courthouse. So, at some point in time, he actually had some revelatory understanding. And in 1835, I'm going to excerpt just a little bit, but this is what he wrote.

Hank: 00:41:50

So years later.

Alex Baugh: 00:41:51

Yes. This is years later. So this is reflective four years later. "Having received a commandment to take my journey to the western boundaries of the state of Missouri, and there designate the very spot, which was to be the central spot for the commencement of the gathering together of those who embrace the fullness of the everlasting gospel, I accordingly undertook the journey with certain ones of my brethren," there was eight in his company, "... and after a long and tedious journey, suffering many privations and hardships, I arrived in Jackson County, Missouri. And after viewing the country, seeking diligently at the hand of God, he designated to me and others the very spot upon which he designed to commence the work of the gathering, and the upbuilding of an holy city, which should be called Zion."

So it was a revelatory experience, he didn't go in any detail. But this area that he did select was unfortunately, if I could say it this way, was occupied in terms of the squatters' rights, by a man by the name of Jones H. Flournoy. Flournoy had come to Independence. He lived on the edge of Independence, and the area that composed the temple site was to the west of his house. And somehow, I think Joseph had gained some understanding of where this location was for this temple, but it was, again, as I've mentioned to you, this portion of this land had not come for sale and would not come for sale until December 12th.

And it was part of what we call the Seminary Lands. What the state of Missouri in the federal government did was set aside portions of land that could be used after it was sold, or I should say, that the sales of which would go for schools. And so this Jones H. Flournoy had staked out, I'm thinking it's about 80 acres, and maybe a little bit more. He might have gotten some more. But I think what happened here, and I think we can say this with safety, that Joseph realized where it was, and asked him if they could go on his property. Now it's not his yet,

because he hasn't bought it. But it's his because he's squatting on it. So he has the rights to it.

And said, "This is important to us. We'd like to come here and eventually occupy this property. Would you let us do it? And when it comes available, we will pay you for it." And for some reason, again, we don't know all the reasons with that exchange. But the point is, Joseph would not have gone on this property, and they had to cut through the underbrush. I mean this is a thickly... This is not easy to get to, but it's the highest point in Jackson County outside where the courthouse is. And if anybody's been there, you know this has a slow rise. If you got in a car, you could still see and feel that you were going up to the top here.

It's a prominent place. So I think that's important to note, that I think the prophet had this visionary, or at least regulatory, understanding where it was to be, sought permission, dedicated it, but we weren't able to acquire it until Flournoy could acquire it, so he could sell it to us. Boy, that's a long description of how they got it. But it's very important to know, also, that the most, I think, accurate person in describing the actual dedication is Joseph Smith himself. There are several people who claimed they were there, but Joseph Smith's description is the very best, and I will read that to you.

Hank: 00:45:48 Awesome.

Alex Baugh: 00:45:49 It's very brief. "On the third day of August, I proceeded to dedicate the spot for the temple, a little west of Independence, and there were Sidney Rigdon, Edward Partridge, William W. Phelps, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and Joseph Coe. The 87th Psalm was read and the scene was solemn and impressive." Now, there's another, some of you are interested in, or at least know about Ezra Booth. Ezra Booth is not mentioned as being there but he, obviously, went to the site later, and described trying to get through to actually...

Somebody showed it to him where Joseph had actually dedicated the site and he gave a description. And said that they actually blazed a T on the tree for "temple," and he saw that and said that's what it was. And then he said on the other side of the tree was a letter Z for Zion. So I think Ezra Booth's description is accurate, but he was not there, by any of the accounts, for the actual dedication of the temple site. In 1864, W.W. Phelps wrote to the Church Historian, and said, "I was there, let me tell you what I remember." And his account is quite interesting.

Hank: 00:47:14 Where is Phelps living in '64? He's in Utah.

Alex Baugh: 00:47:17 He's in Utah, yes.

Hank: 00:47:17 Okay.

Alex Baugh: 00:47:19 Yeah, yeah. So he's getting quite old.

Hank: 00:47:21 Yeah.

Alex Baugh: 00:47:22 And he says, "On the fourth day of August," he's got the date wrong, it's the third, "... Joseph Smith, Edward Partridge, W.W. Phelps, himself, Joseph Coe, Oliver Cowdery, Frederick G. Williams, Martin Harris and Algernon Sidney Gilbert, A.S. Gilbert, as elders, and a Brother Holcomb." I've been trying to find out who that is. I think it's Holcomb, but I don't know who it is.

Hank: 00:47:50 Okay.

Alex Baugh: 00:47:51 "Dedicated a little west of Independence the spot for the temple of the Lord. I made the prayer. Joseph Smith delivered the dedicatory words, and Oliver Cowdery closed with a benediction. Coe planted a stone at the southeast corner of the 10 acres for the first temple." So he gives us a little more information there. If his memory's correct, he adds a few more individuals. But I hope to eventually put some flesh on that and help, describe a little more why they had to get permission to probably go on the property, who is there, southeast corner, so and so forth. They did not put a huge cornerstone in, they just marked it with a stone.

Hank: 00:48:40 Just a marker. Okay.

Alex Baugh: 00:48:40 Yeah.

John: 00:48:41 And when you go to Independence today, it's just this big flat grassy area, right?

Alex Baugh: 00:48:50 Yes.

John: 00:48:50 And that's where they think this all is, and you see some reorganized buildings.

Alex Baugh: 00:48:54 Yes, a lot-

John: 00:48:55 I mean, the Community of Christ auditorium. Okay.

Alex Baugh: 00:49:00 John, you've got the layout of the land pretty good there. There are three Restoration groups who have property there.

John: 00:49:08 Yeah. Temple Lot and Hedrickites or what is it?

Alex Baugh: 00:49:12 Church of Christ, Temple Lot. Obviously, we refer to them as the Hedrickites, and then the Community of Christ, they own about 40 acres. We've got streets in there now, so that doesn't have the full acreage of the 63. But we have about 18 acres, and that's where our visitor center is established, built. And just right off the line, there is the stake center. And the Community of Christ has about 40 acres, probably a little less, with the street incursion. Yeah. I don't know if you want me to go into how we got it or-

John: 00:49:54 We'll do that at a future, yeah, a future date. When we do our podcast from Zion.

Alex Baugh: 00:50:00 Yeah, there you go. So on August 4th, we now have the conference of the church that was called for in Section 52. And by this time, there are... The minutes list the names of 14 Elders, in addition to 31 members. So we've got more Elders coming and more members coming from the past week or so. And a hymn was sung, Bishop Partridge prayed, Sidney Rigdon charged the members to exhortation and obedience, and Richard Ziba Peterson confessed his transgressions, and Joseph encouraged all to keep the commandments, and Oliver Cowdery closed the meeting with prayer.

So those are eventful three days, actually four. The first, you get the Revelation 58, the dedication of Zion, the second, the third, the dedication of the temple, and the fourth, the conference. So now, Joseph feels like he's done everything he needs to do. And I should say, just to support the idea that the dedication of Zion took place on the Joshua Lewis property, this is where the conference took place. So I'm absolutely convinced that's where it was in Kaw Township.

Hank: 00:51:17 Wow, you join the Church and they hold a conference at your house. That's a nice plan. Conference is at my house, but it's usually on TV. Alex, let's move to Section 59. It's on August 7th, so just a couple of days after the conference. And in the *Come, Follow Me Manual* there's a big bold question, "Who is Polly Knight?" Because in the Section heading, it says, "On the day this revelation was received, Polly Knight, the wife of Joseph Smith Knight, Sr., died." Give us the background there.

Alex Baugh: 00:52:31 Well, first of all, that's a great inclusion by the Scripture Committee, because we didn't have that in the earlier ones. And part of the reason was is we didn't know which day she exactly died. But we do know it's August 7th, because again, Edward Partridge wrote it in his letter to his wife and said, "Mrs. Knight died this morning." She was 57-years-old. She is, of course, the wife of Joseph Knight, Sr. And even before they left Ohio, her health was tenuous.

In fact, Newel Knight, her son, wrote in his autobiography, "My mother's health was very poor and had been for a considerable time, yet she would not consent to stop traveling." He went on and said, "Fearing she might die during the journey, he purchased some lumber just in case he needed to make a coffin and bury her en route." But then he said, he wrote, "But the Lord gave her the desire of her heart, and she lived to stand upon the land." And again, she died at the home of Joshua Lewis. Awesome marker.

Hank: 00:53:46 This is the Knight family who's known Joseph since what year? 1826?

Alex Baugh: 00:53:50 '26, '27. Yeah, yeah.

John: 00:53:53 Are they the original Colesville family?

Alex Baugh: 00:53:57 Yep.

John: 00:53:57 Yeah.

Alex Baugh: 00:53:58 Yep, yep. And again, a part of the Colesville Branch.

Hank: 00:54:01 The branch met at their house, right?

Alex Baugh: 00:54:03 Yep.

Hank: 00:54:05 Yeah.

Alex Baugh: 00:54:05 They did have another place as well. I'm trying to think. You mean in Colesville?

Hank: 00:54:09 Yeah, just that little house. They've got that little back area.

Alex Baugh: 00:54:12 But initially, there were a couple of places where they met. There was over 70 members of the Colesville Branch.

Hank: 00:54:18 That's the same place where Emma was baptized, across the street, right?

Alex Baugh: 00:54:22 Right there, across the street, Pickerel Pond. Yes.

Hank: 00:54:25 Yeah.

John: 00:54:25 They kept having to make a new dam, and then it would get torn down. That's a sound place, right?

Hank: 00:54:32 So here are these people, I mean this is just incredible, here are these people who know Joseph, long before, I shouldn't say long before, but before the Book of Mormon is printed, before it's translated, before the Church is organized. And Polly Knight is our... I'm sure she's not the first Latter-day Saint to die, but die in the cause of Zion.

Alex Baugh: 00:54:57 This is certainly sobering to all the Colesville Branch. I mean, the Knights were the figurehead family. At the same time, you can imagine her condition, if she's that near death, and yet he makes it there, just wanted to be established in Zion, so to speak.

Hank: 00:55:16 Do they bury her there? Is she the first Latter-day Saint buried in...

Alex Baugh: 00:55:20 That's correct.

Hank: 00:55:21 ... in Zion?

Alex Baugh: 00:55:21 And so again, she's probably buried right there on the Joshua Lewis property. What's interesting, Joseph Knight later said, "My wife being sick, the Lewises took us in their house. They were faithful and good to us." Very comforting and, of course, probably saw to her needs to the very end there. Now, they held a funeral on August 8th, and she was buried in the woods nearby. Sadly, Joseph Knight remembers that he went to visit the grave a few days later, and noticed that some hogs began to root it up, "So we built a pen around it to keep them out," so a fence.

And then he concludes and says, "It was the last thing I'd done for her." So you can imagine the heartache, coming here, the expectations of establishing Zion, but, "I also had to bury my wife." The point is, I think the good thing that her death did was spawn this revelation, and you catch that right again at the very beginning, where verse 2, well, he said, "Blessed, sayeth the

Lord, are they who have come up unto the land with an eye single to my glory, according to my commandments." We could have put Sister Knight-

- John: 00:56:45 Like Polly.
- Alex Baugh: 00:56:46 Right there. "For those that live shall inherit the earth, and those that die, such as Polly, shall rest from all their labors and their work shall follow them, and they shall receive a crown in the mansions of my Father, which I have prepared for them. And blessed are they whose feet stand upon the Land of Zion who have obeyed my gospel, for they shall receive for their reward the good things of the earth and it shall bring forth in its strength, and they shall also be crowned with blessings from above, yea, with commandments not a few..." I like that. Commandments, God gives commandments to bring about our happiness.
- Hank: 00:57:26 Commandments are blessings.
- Alex Baugh: 00:57:28 So it's not... It creates a responsibility, but at the same time, commandments provide blessings. "... commandments not a few and with revelations in their time, they that are faithful and diligent before me." So, again, I think the sobering experience of Polly's death caused Joseph to inquire, "Well, okay, so she made it here but is this the end for her?" Well, not really, and it's not for us either, and you're blessed for having been obedient. And again, ties back to Section 58, they'll be honored as those who have come to sacrifice their lives, their time, their energies, to establish Zion.
- John: 00:58:15 Yeah. This section is short. I was intrigued that the commandments were repeated there. But they're not exactly the same as the 10. In fact, I love verse 7.
- Alex Baugh: 00:58:30 Okay. Of course, we know the Big 10 in Exodus 20. Here's the Big Seven. There really are seven, and some of them are a little bit of a reiteration. The first one, of course, is the Great Commandment. That's Matthew, what, 22, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, they mind and strength." And, of course, the second one is, the second great commandment to love thy neighbor. That's gotta be tough for the Church members in Jackson County. We do have the reiteration of "Thou shalt not steal or commit adultery, nor kill." And the added phrase, "... nor do anything like unto it." So there's six. And then, of course, verse 8, "Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord, thy God, in righteousness, even that of a broken heart and a contrite spirit." He's leading into-

John: 00:59:35 To the sacrament.

Alex Baugh: 00:59:36 .. the sacrament. And again, I think most all of us, and no one understands, Christ died of a broken heart. And I think, even physiologically... There was a wonderful article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* on when the sword pierced Jesus his side, out came water, or a fluid, and it was basically a heart that burst. It was a broken heart. So there's physiological evidence that Savior's sacrifice, or dying on the cross, may have been actually his broken heart.

But the point I want to make here is, is . . . I think the Lord's trying to tell us, Hank and John, that we're in Zion. Now, how do you create a Zion people? You know from Section, what, 42, they are to live a Law of Consecration. And the Law of Consecration to us today is a little different, but we give it everything. We give all to the Lord, time, talents, energies, everything. But how do you manifest that? Well, it's how you worship God himself. And on what day do we worship? Well, the Sabbath. I really think Section 58 is the Lord's. Now, He's mentioned sacrament before in Section...

John: 01:01:06 20.

Hank: 01:01:07 20, what was that?

John: 01:01:09 Section 20 Has the prayers in it.

Hank: 01:01:10 But there was one where he said, "It doesn't matter what you eat and drink," I just can't remember-

Alex Baugh: 01:01:17 Yeah, is that 21?

John: 01:01:17 27?

Alex Baugh: 01:01:19 Oh, gosh. What a jumbled brain.

Hank: 01:01:20 Hey, don't worry about it.

John: 01:01:20 It's 27 when he's going to buy, "Don't buy wine from your enemies."

Alex Baugh: 01:01:24 Yeah, 27. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Hank: 01:01:27 I think it's 27.

John: 01:01:27 27?

Alex Baugh: 01:01:29 Yeah. And now I'll back up. So, in connection with these basic commandments that we're all familiar with, but a little bit of a variation. There's no commandment in the Big 10 to talking about how you worship God, how you actually pay your devotions unto the Most High. And Section 59 capsulizes that principle, and that is, how do you worship me on the sabbath day? "Give me your broken heart and a contrite spirit, but do it at least once a week."

Of course, we have to do it at all times, in all places. But I think what he's trying to tell him here is, if you want to become a Zion people, worship me the way a Zion people should. Hence, "That thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world. Thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments, upon my holy day." Again, as soon as we say sacraments, we typically say what?

John: 01:02:36 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Alex Baugh: 01:02:37 The sacrament of Lord's Supper. But sacraments can be anything that we sacrifice-

John: 01:02:41 Can mean more than that. Yeah.

Alex Baugh: 01:02:43 ... for and so on. I hope you don't mind-

Hank: 01:02:46 So sacraments, you could say sacrifices there, "Offer up your sacrifice."

Alex Baugh: 01:02:50 Yeah. Now, we don't sit there and take a ewe lamb of one year and take them to an altar and have them, their blood spilt. Remember-

Hank: 01:03:01 But we offer other things. I like that.

Alex Baugh: 01:03:06 I think the interesting thing here is, some of the phrasing, of course, is just absolutely remarkable. We don't have houses of worship, there's no place for them to worship in Jackson County. They're going to build a schoolhouse. Certainly, we've been worshipping in the Isaac Morley house. But the place most people have been worshipping is in their homes. And isn't it remarkable? I don't know if the COVID-19 has done anything for anybody, but for the Baughs, my worship has changed by worshipping in my home. And I will confess that as a typical, maybe I'm not typical, but my sabbath-day worship has taken on such deeper meaning with *Come, Follow Me*, with the need to, Church-supported home worship.

Hank: 01:04:00 Home-centered.

Alex Baugh: 01:04:00 Home-centered. That has made a big, big change in my life. Now, I worshiped with my family on Sunday, but not to the extent that I have in the last year and a half. It has been absolutely remarkable. And I'd like to show you something.

John: 01:04:18 For those watching on YouTube or...

Alex Baugh: 01:04:22 This is a sterling silver pitcher. This is from the Logan Second Ward. This is owned by my grandfather, and I received it upon his death. You can probably understand what this was used for, and there's the common cup.

Hank: 01:04:42 Wow.

Alex Baugh: 01:04:42 Now, this is why you sat at the front of the chapel in the-

John: 01:04:49 You don't want to be the last one to drink.

Alex Baugh: 01:04:50 Right. This means a lot to me. I did find one of these on... This is made by the Samson... Gosh, Simpson Hill Foundry in Connecticut. This dates from 1866 to 1898.

Hank: 01:05:11 No kidding.

Alex Baugh: 01:05:14 But I mean, it's so symbolic of what the sacrament is all about, and the bitter cup and the Atonement, and so on and so forth. But I have to show you this one, too. I don't know if you can see this.

John: 01:05:14 Wow.

Hank: 01:05:27 Wow.

Alex Baugh: 01:05:28 But these are sacrament cups, sterling silver. There's 18 on here, and I have nine of these. What, that's a little less than 160 cups. That replaced, of course, the common cup, because that was impractical to use in terms of health, if nothing else. But in my first worship with my family, during the COVID-19 when they told us-

Hank: 01:05:58 You've got to use them.

Alex Baugh: 01:06:00 ... when they told they us we could have our sacrament at home, I pulled these out. And I'll tell you, that was probably, will be, one of the most memorable... I mean, we've used it ever

since. To think of, again, just the fact that they're priceless in terms of their meaning to us, but at the same time, was my grandfather's. It's the Logan Second Ward on those.

So 1902, they started at least having... There's a [crosstalk 01:06:29] inscription on the back, and it's 1902, that they started using the individual cups. Our sacrament meetings, at my home, have been absolutely heaven, heaven. And to then discuss the wonderful elements of these revelations and the doctrines. I'm sure many of you, and I'm sure both of you can say the same thing, Sunday is my delight. I've had a renewed appreciation.

Hank: 01:07:04 Indeed, the Lord says it himself, "This is a day appointed unto you to rest from your labors and to pay thy devotions unto the Most High." Your kids didn't want to use the common cup, huh?

Alex Baugh: 01:07:16 No.

Hank: 01:07:17 They're like, "No dad."

Alex Baugh: 01:07:19 But, of course, we do have Latter-day Saints, and we're all striving for perfection, but you've always heard the term, "They're Sunday Mormons." And that does happen where we just worship on Sunday, and we may say our prayers all week, but that's about it. But I'm glad the Lord said, "Nevertheless, thy vows shall be offered up in righteousness on all days, and at all times, but on the sabbath, make it a point to worship me."

And I really believe that the sabbath day was created to the ancient Israelites, just like us today, so that if we did worship the Savior the way we're supposed to, that all nations, all people, would know that Israel's God is God. And if Latter-day Saints would do the same, worship God the way we're supposed to, I think people would say, "The Latter-day Saints' God is God. They know how to worship Him, they know what he stands for, they know of his mission and his atonement."

Hank: 01:08:19 I love how you describe "a delight." The sabbath day can be a delight.

John: 01:08:25 I think President Nelson gave a talk about the sabbath being delighte. In fact, I think he's given a few talks about the sabbath over the years. But I remember Brother Truman G. Madsen saying something like, "For the Jews, they would be held accountable for the joy they didn't feel on the sabbath that they should have." Does that ring a bell?

Hank: 01:08:45 No.

John: 01:08:46 That it should be a joy and a delight, and we can get busy, if we got a heavy calling or something like that. But I love that phrase, and I think that should be what we're striving for. And I love that you said that, because I thought, Elder Holland, I believe in one of the [Genera]l Conferences during COVID talked about this home-centered emphasis and how the sacrament... I think he was referring to Section 59 even, the sacrament should mean even more now that we can take it at home.

Alex Baugh: 01:09:21 Yeah. We definitely need to have the fellowship of the Saints. I mean, that's so important that we partake of whether we share our testimonies and our convictions and show our love. But like I say, just being at home with the sacrament and having that opportunity is a rare privilege that we may not have again, maybe for a very long time, maybe very short time there.

Another way we worship, of course, you see some of the most tender and meaningful moments of the Savior's life is when they're enjoying food. And hence, I think the wonderful point in verse 13, "What do you do for your food on the sabbath? Do you prepare it with singleness of heart for the love and service you have for each other?" And I don't know about you, but the best day of the week for dinner with my family as we worship, at least in conversation and in thanks, is on this nice Sunday dinner. I think God approves of that.

It doesn't mean we can't do a little more preparation the day before. You think of the times you're drawn to your family and to worship, and I do review with my family, they knew it. When we came home and had dinner, they had to tell me what they learned in Sunday School and Priesthood, and Sacrament [meeting]. "What touched your heart? What songs did we sing?" And make it a day of worship and gladness and joy. Sunday should be the best day of the week, and I think for most Latter-day Saints, it really is, if they're doing it right.

Hank: 01:11:01 What a great statement. I've noticed that the Lord talks about gratitude, thanksgiving in quite a few places here. Verse 7, "Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things." John, you mentioned that, that's an interesting commandment.

John: 01:11:13 Yeah, that is a commandment, I just love that. Because when I see very strong words like all, I love to say to my class, "Now, what percentage is that anyway?"

Hank: 01:11:25 That's a pretty high-percentage word, all.

John: 01:11:27 Because I think, "In all things," can even mean for the hard times. You're thanking him for everything. The fact that that's in thou shalt language is cool to me.

Hank: 01:11:41 He says it in 15, "Do these things with-

John: 01:11:43 Thanksgiving.

Hank: 01:11:44 ... thanksgiving, a cheerful heart and countenances." And then he goes over in verse 21, "Nothing offends me more than those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments." I'm sensing from the Lord, because I think the Lord teaches us for us, not for him, that gratitude expressed, thanksgiving expressed, blesses the expressor more than the receiver. Right?

I remember President Hinckley's statement, "Gratitude is the mark of an educated person." Right? There's something about it that blesses our own life. When I offer gratitude to John, to Alex, to anyone, when I offer that gratitude, something about it cleanses me. I think the Lord is saying, "You need that cleansing. Offer gratitude, you need it."

John: 01:12:33 If I could add one more thing to that, Hank, I think gratitude is very closely related to humility, because with gratitude, we see where our blessings are coming from. And we all know Moroni's promise, Moroni 10:4, but Moroni 10:3 is, "Ponder how merciful God has been since the creation of Adam until the time you receive these things and ponder it in your hearts, and it should fill us with gratitude and humility." And I think that's there because gratitude is the gateway to revelation, and gratitude, humility are prerequisites to Moroni 10:4, "Then ask if these things are true." So I think that the sequence there of gratitude and humility is important.

Hank: 01:13:18 Wow. I've been really touched by this, Alex, because 58 was, here's Zion, 59 is now become Zion, individually, as a group, become Zion. So I want to take Section 59 with my family and say, "How can we do a little bit better with being Zion?" They're doing a good job at not killing, but we could probably do a better job as a family in keeping the sabbath day, we could probably do a better job of being thankful. Not me, of course, but my children could do better at this. Cheerful hearts and countenances. I just think there's a lot that we could take out of Section 59 and say, "How can I become more Zion-like?"

Alex Baugh: [01:13:18](#) Absolutely.

Hank: [01:14:02](#) "How can I become more Polly Knight-like?" Yeah.

Alex Baugh: [01:14:05](#) Yeah. And notice what he says, "For those who are able to do it," for those who really put into practice these principles we're talking about of worship and sabbath observance and thankfulness, "... what can God not promise you?" Why would he withhold any blessings if you know how to worship him? That's why he says, "Verily I say," this verse 16, "Verily I say, that inasmuch as you do this, the fullness of the earth is yours, beasts of the field, fowls of the air, the herb, all good things which come to the earth for food or for raiment..." Earth life is meant to be enjoyed, and if you can balance the blessings God has given you and recognize who they come from and worship him, appropriately, why couldn't he give you everything?

Hank: [01:14:52](#) Everything.

Alex Baugh: [01:14:53](#) Because he knows you'll worship him, and you won't be drawn by the things of the world or deviate from the covenant path. You know how to worship him. He can give you all things, including eternal life.

Hank: [01:15:06](#) Yeah, that's what he says, "Even peace," this verse 23, "... peace in this world and eternal life in the world to come." It's beautiful.

John: [01:15:13](#) Hank, I hope our, our listeners know about the website, scriptures.byu.edu, where you can see who has mentioned verses in General Conference ever since the Restoration. And that verse 23, I think I was looking, gets the most mentions in General Conference.

Hank: [01:15:34](#) Really?

John: [01:15:35](#) That "peace in this world," this is so great. Because look, verse 2, "Those that live shall inherit the earth, those that die shall rest from all labors, their works will follow them, they'll receive a crown of dimensions of my Father." And that same idea at the end, "... peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come." And it's a promise of what righteousness will give you peace now, even in the midst of Jackson County type experiences and eternal life in the world to come." I thought, "Oh, that's nice in this setting of Polly Knight's, Remembering Polly Knight.

Alex Baugh: 01:16:12 Oh yeah.

Hank: 01:16:13 That is wonderful, John, perfect.

John: 01:16:15 I went to Thanksgiving at my sister's house, in Mapleton, once, and I don't know, I called it a Tree of Life moment. My family was there, my siblings were there, a lot of joy, a lot of laughter, then the food came out and it smelled so good, and it looks so good, and my mom was there, and we talked about my dad who had passed, and I just thought, "This is so heaven-like." And it reminds me of these verses. And I put in my margin here next to verse 18, "What a gracious God that we have."

Look at this, verse 17, 16 is talking about the fullness of the earth, as Alex mentioned. Verse 17, "Yea, and the herb and the good things which come from the earth, whether for food or for raiment, or for houses or for barns or for orchards, or for gardens or for vineyards, yea, all things which come of the earth and the season thereof, are made for the benefit and use of man, both to please the eye and to gladden the heart. Yea, food for raiment, for taste and for smell, to strengthen the body, to enliven the soul."

Listen to this, "And it pleaseth God that He hath given all these things unto men. For unto this end were they made to be used..." I think, "Look at that." Just reading that with my family and now this wonderful food and everything, I'm glad Alex mentioned that food's part of the sabbath. The Lord's actually saying, "I did this. It pleases me to give this to you." How cool is that? How gracious a God we have to please our eyes, gladden our hearts? And I just thought, "I love those verses right there."

Alex Baugh: 01:17:56 Terrific. So good.

Hank: 01:17:57 That reminds me of Nephi saying that the Liahona, "... led them to the more fertile parts of the wilderness."

John: 01:18:04 The best parts, yeah.

Hank: 01:18:06 Yeah, the best parts. It just seems that when I'm doing what the Lord asked me to do, it's still the wilderness, it's still mortality, but it's the more fertile parts of the wilderness, it's the best parts of life. Alex, we have one last question for you. You might've read this in the outline. This is our listeners, they always comment on this part. There's something about hearing the testimony, the personal testimony, of a very-educated

Latter-day Saint. There's something stirring about that. So I'm going to ask you this question.

Alex, you are a professor, you're a historian and you're a scholar. You're also a father and a grandfather. You've been studying the scriptures, especially these revelations, Church History, for decades. Though you don't look at, but it has been decades that you have studied this. Honestly, Alex you know, and I'm not overstating this, when I wrote this out. You know more about the history of Joseph Smith and the Church in Missouri than any other person alive today, and that to me is powerful. I would love to hear your personal thoughts on Joseph Smith, the Restoration, and what it's done for Dr. Alex Baugh.

Alex Baugh:

01:19:29

Wow, that's a loaded question, and I hope I can express it with the right heart. It's just something so magnificent about the Restoration, and, I guess, the more I learn, the more I believe. Again, we are to seek the Lord with all our heart, might, mind and strength, and we alluded to that a little bit. But there's the combination of the mind and the feeling, or the intellect and the feeling of the heart. I think we all just, we wrestle with things at times, but at the same time, I always come back to the feelings I've received over and over and over again of the restoration. It just doesn't end. I discover a new truth or something that just warms my soul again, and just convinces me once again helps me capture my testimony, time and time again.

And I'm just so grateful for wonderful people who have taken the time to write and research and think and ponder. It's helped me in my own testimony. I just pray I'll endure to the end. I'm doing my very best, but I know I can give more. And I just love the fact that the Lord has... I'm privileged to be a witness of the Lord in all things, in all places, in this dispensation. It really is the most glorious dispensation of all time, although I would have liked to have been in the time of the Savior.

My family said, "Dad, if you go back in time, you'd go back to the time of Joseph Smith." And I said no, "I'd probably go back to the time of Jesus. I'd love to see Him. I'd love to see him do the things that He did, the miracles and hear Him teach, hear Him teach." We have glimpses of that, of course, in the Scriptures. And then I said, "And after that, I would probably want to go back and see Joseph Smith and thank him." Because he really is the dispensation head. There's no question about it, God singled him out of the Premortal Existence, and we are privileged to be born in this dispensation of time, in which the fullness is here, but the Restoration is ongoing.

And I hope to do my own part to help that Restoration move forward in my own way. Not in my own way about the Restoration, other than the fact, do what I can to further the work and help people strengthen their testimonies and come unto Christ, and be perfected in him. The gospel's exciting, it's rewarding, it's just mind boggling at times, but boy, with the Spirit, it just is such a powerful influence in my life and I'm grateful.

- Hank: 01:22:30 I think you've done all those things you hope to do, at least with us today.
- Alex Baugh: 01:22:35 Thank you.
- Hank: 01:22:36 I think this is going to bless... I know our listeners are probably just as full as I am just thinking, "... We love Alex Baugh and his testimony."
- John: 01:22:47 Yeah. I'm so glad we know you, and we know we have a resource, because there's a lot more Missouri to come.
- Hank: 01:22:54 There is.
- John: 01:22:55 Yeah. Thank you so much for being with us, and I can't wait to come back to you, to help us with some of these other ones in the future.
- Hank: 01:23:04 Yep. We're going to-
- Alex Baugh: 01:23:04 Well, thank you.
- Hank: 01:23:05 ... have Alex back. Yeah. When the saints are about to leave Missouri, we're going to bring Alex back and he can tell us what's happened to them.
- Alex Baugh: 01:23:12 Look forward to that. You're both doing a great work, and furthering the work of the Kingdom in a way that we wouldn't have been doing 10 years ago, or five years ago. And I hope that the message that you're trying to convey will reach as many people as we can to help them in their own scripture study and their own lives and their own understanding of the gospel, and I think it's doing a great thing. So, thank you so much, Hank and John, for your initiative.
- Hank: 01:23:44 Yes.
- Alex Baugh: 01:23:46 You're "anxiously engaged in a good cause."

John: 01:23:48 Figure it out.

Hank: 01:23:49 We love it. It's interesting what appears to be a sacrifice, says President Hinckley, it turns out to be an investment that blesses your life.

John: 01:23:58 Yeah. It's totally changed my Doctrine and Covenants.

Hank: 01:24:00 Oh, me too. Me, too.

John: 01:24:01 Yeah, it's been great.

Hank: 01:24:03 Yeah. And we're not the only ones that do it, John. We want to thank all of you for listening. We want to thank you for your support. Of course, we're grateful for Dr. Alex Baugh being here today. We're thankful to our Executive Producers, Steve and Shannon Sorensen. Our production crew, we have a great production crew here on Follow Him, made up of David Perry, Lisa Spice, Jamie Nielsen, Kyle Nelson, Will Stotten and Maria Hilton. And we hope that you will join us on our next episode of followHIM.