

THE RISE OF ZION IN THE LAST DAYS

DISCOURSE BY ELDER ORSON PRATT, DELIVERED IN THE NEW TABERNACLE,
SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 15, 1873

Reported by David W. Evans

I will call your attention to the first two lines in the first hymn that was sung this afternoon—

“Arise, O glorious Zion,
Thou joy of latter days.”

In connection with these two lines, I will cite the attention of the congregation to the first verse of the 60th chapter of Isaiah—

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.”

The passage which I have quoted from Isaiah has reference to the latter-day Zion, about which the choir sang at the opening of the meeting. That there may be no misunderstanding about the people to whom the Prophet had reference, I will read some other passages connected with it—“And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord.” The Zion that is here spoken of is called upon to “arise and shine; for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” There is no one thing more fully revealed in the Scriptures of eternal truth, than the rise of the Zion of our God in the latter days, clothed upon with the glory of God from the heavens—a Zion that will attract the attention of all the nations and kindreds of the whole earth. It will not be something that takes place in a corner on

some distant island of the sea, or away among some obscure people; but it will be something that will call forth the attention of all people and nations upon the face of the whole earth. The rise of Zion, the latter-day Zion. What are we to understand by the meaning of Zion? What I understand, and what the Scriptures have portrayed in regard to the meaning of Zion is, a people who shall receive the law of God, and who shall be acknowledged of the Lord as his people—a people who shall be gathered together from the nations of the earth, and build a house to the name of the Lord in the latter days. A people who shall have their abiding place in the mountains, and who shall build a city that shall be called Zion. All these things are clearly portrayed in prophecy. The people of God must be a people who give the most diligent heed to his word; they will be guided by revelation from him, and among them his power will be made conspicuously manifest. These are characteristics concerning this latter-day Zion, spoken of by the ancient Prophets, which, if the Spirit of the Lord will enable me to clearly comprehend the subject, I will endeavor, this afternoon, in my simple language and in