

Sisters in Zion

By President Henry B. Eyring

*You **will be** an essential force in the gathering of Israel and in **the creation** of a Zion people.*

The four most important words in that sentence will crop up again and again in this talk: “will be” and “the creation”. Anybody familiar with the “last days timeline debate” it should be painfully obvious which of the three camps President Eyring is in. “Will be” is not the same thing as “can be” or “were”, he is saying that this group of women *will be*, so right off the bat this blows the “times of the gentiles aren’t over” crowd out of the water, ie. the second comings aren’t for another 20-50 years, this statement blows that thought process out of the water. So in President Eyring’s mind, the group of sisters listening to this will in actuality be the ones.

The next statement, “the creation” is a declaration that there will be a creation of a Zion people and there is a “the”, and we know that the “the” creation of a Zion people is New Jerusalem. There might be multiple football games in the history of a year but there is only one “the super bowl”; there have been multiple Zions/Jeruselems/New Jeruselems in the history of this planet (see my paper *Zion, The New Jerusalem, a City of Holiness*) but there is also only one “the New Jerusalem”. Every generation from Joseph Smith to today could have made themselves that generation, but they failed to do so. The reason why President Eyring knows (as I know) that this generation will be the generation to do this is gone over in my paper *The Generation* (hint: there isn’t enough time for another generation). If President Eyring is saying that this generation of women will be the generation to build Zion, in President Eyring’s eyes we are still in the 6th seal and “the Zion” was not figurative and was thus not figuratively filled in the year 2000, but rather will be literally fulfilled in the future and this generation will spear-head it. This blows the 7th seal 2000 crowd, once again, out of the water. Of the three crowds, or lines of thinking:

1. The grand majority of signs, events, doctrine etc is viewed as figurative. The 144,000? Not an actual number, it’s just figurative. The New Jerusalem? Not literal, it’s figurative and is not going to be a thing. Jesus Christ sitting on His throne in New Jerusalem surrounded by the 144,000 and the Church of the Firstborn? Figurative, won’t actually happen literally, it happened at Palmyra. With this viewpoint they believe that Zion has already been created and these signs and wonders have already taken place, we just haven’t recognized them because we expected literal fulfillment. This group believes that the 7th seal opened in the year 2000 and thus in the year 2020 we are approaching the Great and Dreadful Day. The events at Adam-ondi-Ahman, New Jerusalem, 10 tribes returning etc have already taken place in the past
2. The second group believes that all of the signs, wonders, prophecies and in the words of President Nelson “the covenants the Lord made to the house of Israel” will all literally be fulfilled. They believe that the times of the gentiles had its literal fulfilment between the years 1917-1967, they believe in the literal fulfillment of Joseph Smith’s prophecy regarding “the rising generation”, and they believe in the literal fulfilment of Elder Talmage’s prophecy that some born in the year 1917 would live to see the return of the 10 tribes AND read their scriptures. Based off of that, this group believes that the return of the 10 tribes, the redemption and building of New Jerusalem etc will all take place literally but shortly ie. within the next 15 years. Because of that belief, this group by virtue of what I already listed believe that this group of women **will be** the group of sisters to build **the Zion**.

3. The third group of people don't believe in the literal fulfillment of the times of the gentiles, Joseph Smith's prophecy of the rising generation, Elder Talmage's prophecy of the return of the ten tribes and reading their scriptures etc but they do believe in the literal fulfillment to some things. This leaves them with the conclusions that these events will happen but not for an exorbitant amount of time. Some of these people think that there is going to be a third and a fourth world war before New Jerusalem. We know that the generation that will redeem and build Zion according to the Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees that they are the middle aged and the young (see my paper of the same name). Meaning, this third group don't believe that "the generation" has been born or has reached maturity yet.

Those are the three lines of thinking. It should be painfully obvious based off of this quote that President Eyring chose to put at the beginning of his talk which of the three lines of thinking he subscribes to.

My beloved sisters, I am blessed to speak during this wonderful time in the world's history. Every day, we are approaching closer to the glorious moment when the Savior Jesus Christ will come to earth again.

After reading Isaiah Chapter 60 (which I'd suggest reading) Parley P. Pratt wrote,

"In this chapter we learn, First, that there is a city to be built in the last days, unto which, not only Israel, but all the nations of the Gentiles, are to flow; and the nation and kingdom that will not serve the city shall perish and be utterly wasted. Second, we learn that the name of that city is Zion, the city of the Lord. Third, we learn that it is called the place of His sanctuary, and the place of His feet. Fourth, that the best of timber, consisting of fir, pine, and boxwood, is to be brought in great plenty, to beautify the place of His sanctuary, and make the place of His feet glorious. Fifth, the precious metals are to abound in such plenty, that gold is to be in the room of brass, silver in the room of iron, brass in the room of wood, and iron in the room of stones. Their officers are to be peace officers, and their exactors righteous exactors; violence is no more to be heard in the land; wasting nor destruction within their borders. Their walls are to be Salvation, and their gates Praise: while the glory of God, in the midst of the city, outshines the sun. The days of their mourning are ended; their people are all righteous, and are to inherit the land forever, being the branch of the Lord's planting, that He may be glorified. A little one shall become a strong nation, and the Lord will hasten it in His time.

The Psalmist David has told us, concerning the time of the building of this city, in his one hundred and second Psalm, from the thirteenth to the twenty-second verse: "Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion ; for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come. For Thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Thy glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come : and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord. For He hath looked down from the height of His sanctuary ; from Heaven did the Lord behold the earth ; to hear the groaning of the prisoner ; to loose those that are appointed to death ; to declare the name of the Lord in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem ; when the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the Lord."

From this scripture we learn First, that there is a set time to build up Zion, or the city of which Isaiah speaks, namely, just before the second coming of Christ ; and that when this city is built, the Lord will appear in His glory, and not before. So from this we affirm, that if such a city is never built, then the Lord

will never come. Second, we learn that the people and kingdoms are to be gathered together, to serve the Lord, both in Zion and Jerusalem ; and third, that this Psalm was written expressly for the generation to come, and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord, -when they read it and see it fulfilled.” (Parley P. Pratt, A Voice of Warning, p.79)

President Eyring believes that this generation of women are this generation spoken of here.

We know something of the terrible events that will precede His coming, yet our hearts swell with joy and confidence also knowing of the glorious promises that will be fulfilled before He returns.

President Eyring once again is putting himself in squarely group #2- tribulation → great miracles (ie. the marvelous work and a wonder) → the redemption and building of Zion → the second coming of the Lord to New Jerusalem.

3 Nephi 21:23-25

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

As the beloved daughters of Heavenly Father, and as the daughters of the Lord Jesus Christ in His kingdom, **you will** play a crucial part in **the grand** times ahead.

Once again, he is saying that they will take part in the most crucial parts ahead, not the preludes, not the periphery, but the actual events. In President Eyring’s eyes, we are close enough to this event that he feels comfortable speaking to the women present and confidently saying “this is you”. He is not saying “this was you in the year 2000” and he is not saying “you will raise daughters or granddaughters who **will** do this” (he does later on say you **have** raised women who will do this). Is President Eyring correct? I believe he is. But if you belong to group #1 or #3 you can’t believe this, you’d have to take the position that President Eyring is wrong.

We know that the Savior will come to a people who have been gathered and prepared to live as the people did in the city of Enoch.

After reading the quote from Parley P. Pratt, 3 Nephi 21, etc, it should be painfully obvious that President Eyring is referring to the New Jerusalem and it is literal.

The people there were united in faith in Jesus Christ and had become so completely pure that they were taken up to heaven.

This union is the union required in the Celestial Law. This includes the law of consecration and the law of celestial marriage etc (see my papers *Celestial Law* and *Zion, New Jerusalem, a City of Holiness*).

Here is the Lord’s revealed description of what would happen to Enoch’s people and what **will happen** in **this** last dispensation of the fulness of times:

“And the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve;

President Eyring is once again affirming this is a future event and is here listing the “terrible events that will proceed His coming”:

1. Heavens shall be darkened
2. A veil of darkness over the earth
3. The heavens and earth shall shake
4. Great tribulations among the children of men

These events need to happen before Christ comes to New Jerusalem and before the 7th seal is opened. And the Lord says He will preserve His people, but how will He preserve His people?

“And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men;

The righteousness that the Lord will send down out of heaven is Joseph Smith (see my papers *A test, a Test, a TEST!, Joseph Smith to Return*, etc) and the truth out of the earth is the ten tribes and their book of scripture, which will testify of the Savior and the resurrection of all men (see my *Understanding Isaiah* series)

and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, an Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.

There are many who think that this is referring to our missionary force but the current missionary force does not bring people to New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem does not exist currently, let alone have Jesus dwelling in its midst. This is a reference to the 144,000 missionary force that is to be sent out the last time to gather people in and unto New Jerusalem as also described in 3 Nephi 21 to prepare people for the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord.

“And the Lord said unto Enoch: Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there, and we will receive them into our bosom, and they shall see us; and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other;

“And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest.”

The sign of the Son of Man is the city of Enoch returning to earth- it will join earth at “the end of the world” or in other words, “the destruction of the wicked, which is the end of the world”, this is the Great and Dreadful Day. The city of Enoch returning is a countdown to the Great and Dreadful Day (once again, see my paper *Zion, New Jerusalem, a City of Holiness*). The Lord says that the city of Enoch will not begin to make its return (ie. the sign of the Son of Man will not appear) until after the New Jerusalem. We know from studying Revelation, and D&C 88 that this is when the 7th seal is opened.

You sisters, your daughters, your granddaughters, and the women you have nurtured will be at the heart of creating that society of people who will join in glorious association with the Savior.

President Eyring is talking to a wide range of sisters, in this section he is referring specifically to “those that you have nurtured”. As I have said before, the first wave to go to New Jerusalem are the middle-aged and young. The Lord will specify what that actually means. There are grandmothers and great-grandmothers alive today who have children and grandchildren ie. those they have nurtured, that will take part in this creation. Based off of earlier comments he made, I don’t believe he is referring to children under the age of 18, for children under the age of 18 he would have said “women you will nurture or women you will have nurtured”, he says women you have nurtured, meaning these women are out of the home, they have already been nurtured. It’s just like saying children you have raised will take part in this vs children you will raise.

You **will be** an essential force in **the gathering** of Israel and in **the creation** of a Zion people who **will dwell** in peace in **the New Jerusalem**.

Take a moment to reflect on how many will’s and the’s there are in that sentence alone. I would say however that if you are to put stock in this prophecy spoken over the pulpit at conference as literal you would likewise have to accept Elder Talmage’s prophecy as also literal.

The Lord has, through His prophets, made a promise to you. In the early days of the Relief Society, the Prophet Joseph Smith said to the sisters, “If you live up to your privileges, the angels cannot be restrained from being your associates.”

That marvelous potential lies within you, and you are being prepared for it.

How does the Lord say that He is going to prepare the daughters of Zion at this time? Read my [Understanding Isaiah Chapter Three](#).

President Gordon B. Hinckley said:

“You sisters ... do not hold a second place in our Father’s plan for the eternal happiness and well-being of His children. You are an absolutely essential part of that plan.

“Without you the plan could not function. Without you the entire program would be frustrated. ...

“Each of you is a daughter of God, endowed with a divine birthright.”

It’s important to note that the Lord does not hold sisters as second place, but equally important and reflected in Isaiah Chapter 3, the Lord does not hold the daughters of Zion in first place. Meaning, there is no first place because in order for there to be a first place there has to be a second place, third place, etc. Daughters of Zion hold an equal place beside the sons of God. Unrighteous dominion is a two-edged sword that cuts two ways, a man can think he is better than a woman and exercise unrighteous dominion just as easily and frequently as a woman can believe she is superior to man and exercises unrighteous dominion over him. This is the lesson in humility that the daughters of Zion will be taught in Isaiah Chapter 3, and we learn in Alma that we can be humble or we can be compelled to be humble. And the individuals who choose to humble themselves are far better off than those who wait for Isaiah Chapter 3, ie. wait to be compelled to be humble.

Our current prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, has given this description of the part you play in preparation for the Savior's coming:

"It would be impossible to measure the influence that ... women have, not only on families but also on the Lord's Church, as wives, mothers, and grandmothers; as sisters and aunts; as teachers and leaders; and especially as exemplars and devout defenders of the faith.

"This has been true in every gospel dispensation since the days of Adam and Eve. Yet the women of this dispensation are distinct from the women of any other because this dispensation is distinct from any other. This distinction brings both privileges and responsibilities."

Once again, privileges and responsibilities. Ie. double edged sword, ie. just as with the keys of the kingdom, they are given unto man to either exalt him or condemn him. Or in the words of President Ezra Taft Benson, "the Lord puts you on a ledge and gives you just enough rope and sees whether or not you will lift yourself up or lower yourself down."

This dispensation is distinct in that the Lord **will** lead **us** to become prepared to be like the city of Enoch. He has described through His apostles and prophets what that transformation to a Zion people will entail.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie taught:

"[Enoch's] was a day of wickedness and evil, a day of darkness and rebellion, a day of war and desolation, a day leading up to the cleansing of the earth by water.

"Enoch, however, was faithful. He 'saw the Lord,' and talked with him 'face to face' as one man speaks with another. (Moses 7:4.) The Lord sent him to cry repentance to the world, and commissioned him to 'baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son, which is full of grace and truth, and of the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of the Father and the Son.' (Moses 7:11.) Enoch made covenants and assembled a congregation of true believers, all of whom became so faithful that 'the Lord came and dwelt with his people, and they dwelt in righteousness,' and were blessed from on high. 'And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them.' (Moses 7:18.) ...

Once again, this has reference to the unity required by Celestial Law. Once again confirming its necessity to be lived before it can be made a city of Holiness.

D&C 105:3-5

3 But behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I required at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh saints, to the poor and afflicted among them;

4 And are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom;

5 And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself.

“After the Lord called his people Zion, the scripture says that Enoch ‘built a city that was called the City of Holiness, even Zion;’ that Zion ‘was taken up into heaven’ where ‘God received it into his own bosom;’ and that “from thence went forth the saying, Zion is fled.’ (Moses 7:19, 21, 69.) ...

“This same Zion which was taken up into heaven shall return ... when the Lord brings again Zion, and its inhabitants shall join with the new Jerusalem, which shall then be established.”

You can see Elder McConkie’s talk “Building Zion” or for a more in depth breakdown of what is actually happening here see my paper *Zion, New Jerusalem, a City of Holiness*.

If the past is prologue, at the time of the Savior’s coming, the daughters who are deeply committed to their covenants with God will be more than half of those who are prepared to welcome Him when He comes.

“If the past is prologue” stands for the idea that history sets the context for the present, or in the words of Parley P. Pratt, “Now we have only to ask whether in the days of Moses, the Red Sea was literally divided? Or whether it was only a figure? And as it was then, so it shall be again” (A Voice of Warning, p.27) or in other words, prophecies are dualistic. I have combed through old prophecies looking for any reference that is dualistic in nature that references there being more righteous women at this time period than righteous men. And the only one I know of is Isaiah Chapter Three, “seven women cling to one man”. I would say it is probably a coincidence if not for the totality of the talk/scope of the talk, this is what he is talking about. President Eyring said that tribulation and tough times are ahead and said by the time it ends women will outnumber the men. My belief is that women in the Church desperately need to understand Isaiah Chapter Three, prayerfully study and understand it.

But whatever the numbers, your contribution in creating unity among the people prepared for that Zion will be far greater than half.

I don’t know of a reference that supports the claim that women are better at creating unity than men. Anecdotal evidences are not evidences in the gospel, they are not doctrine. This is President Eyring’s testimony which may or may not be 100% factual. And before you get mad at me, understand that if this is correct, the opposite is also correct, if righteous women produce the majority of unity then unrighteous women produce the majority of contention. One can’t be true and the other false- they are either both true or they are either both false. To claim anything else is to remove intelligence, to remove LOGOS and thus to remove the mind of God and thus God cannot and will not be found in it. If women want to take the crown when unity abounds they need to take the stripes when contention abounds.

I will tell you why I believe that will be so. The Book of Mormon gives an account of a Zion people. You remember that it was after they had been taught, loved, and blessed by the resurrected Savior that “there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.”

So President Eyring’s belief is exactly that, when there is contention it is because women are being unrighteous (as they are responsible for the majority of this). And when there is no contention it is because women are being righteous (once again, because they are responsible for the majority of it).

My experience has taught me that Heavenly Father's daughters have a gift to allay contention and to promote righteousness with their love of God and with the love of God they engender in those they serve.

President Eyring is now making it clear that this is not necessarily doctrinal, it is his testimony or in the words of Paul, "I will speak words of myself, words of wisdom".

I saw it in my youth when our tiny branch met in my childhood home. My brother and I were the only Aaronic Priesthood holders, my father the only Melchizedek Priesthood holder. The branch Relief Society president was a convert whose husband was unhappy with her Church service. The members were all older sisters without a priesthood holder in their homes. I watched my mother and those sisters love, lift, and care for each other unfailingly. I realize now that I was given an early glimpse of Zion.

My tutorial in the influence of faithful women continued in a small branch of the Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I watched the branch president's wife, the district president's wife, and the Relief Society president warm the heart of every newcomer and convert. The Sunday I left Albuquerque, after two years observing the influence of sisters there, the first stake was created. Now the Lord has placed a temple there.

I moved next to Boston, where I served in the district presidency that presided over little branches spread across two states. There were contentions that more than once were resolved by loving and forgiving women who helped soften hearts. The Sunday I left Boston, a member of the First Presidency organized the first stake in Massachusetts. There is a temple there now, close to where the district president once lived. He had been brought into Church activity and was later called to serve as a stake president and then as a mission president, influenced by a faithful and loving wife.

Sisters, you were given the blessing of being daughters of God with special gifts. You brought with you into mortal life a spiritual capacity to nurture others and to lift them higher toward the love and purity that will qualify them to live together in a Zion society. It is not by accident that the Relief Society, the first Church organization specifically for Heavenly Father's daughters, has as its motto "Charity Never Faileth."

This is the end of President Eyring's anecdotal evidence to support his theory. I personally believe there is wisdom in what he is saying, however, with any blessing there comes responsibility, it comes with a blade that cuts back. A woman's ability to be empathetic and to create unity, that knowledge can also be used to cut individuals deeply and sow division and chaos. If this is correct, if a woman's family, branch, ward etc are in a state of harmony and unity these women deserve praise. Whereas if their families, branches, wards etc are in a state of chaos, contention, disunity, then women are in need of chastisement and condemnation.

Charity is the pure love of Christ. And it is faith in Him and the full effects of His infinite Atonement that will qualify you, and those you love and serve, for the supernal gift to live in that sociality of a long-looked-for and promised Zion.

I don't like President Eyring's segue from his last topic of unity into charity- members incorrectly might assume that unity equals charity or worse, that women have a greater affinity for charity than men (because he just claimed that women have a greater affinity for unity than men) which doctrine is of the

devil as charity is the mind of God, and prophets of God who hold the keys of God are the only ones authorized to speak the mind of God.

Joseph Smith talking of other faiths said,

“Johanna Southcott professed to be a prophetess, and wrote a book of prophecies in 1804, she became the founder of a people that are still extant. She was to bring forth, in a place appointed, a son, that was to be the Messiah, which thing has failed. Independent of this, however, where do we read of a woman that was the founder of a church, in the word of God? Paul told the women in his day, "To keep silence in the church, and that if they wished to know anything to ask their husbands at home;" he would not suffer a woman "to rule, or to usurp authority in the church;" but here we find a woman the founder of a church, the revelator and guide, the Alpha and Omega, contrary to all acknowledged rule, principle, and order.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.209)

Later, when talking about a group called the Irvingites which were led by a prophetess, who with a group of other women, organized apostles, prophets etc. Joseph Smith explained:

“It may be asked, where is there anything in all this that is wrong? First. The church was organized by women, and God placed in the Church (first apostles, secondarily prophets,) and not first women; but Mr. Irving placed in his church first women (secondarily apostles,) and the church was founded and organized by them. A woman has no right to found or organize a church--God never sent them to do it. Second. Those women would speak in the midst of a meeting, and rebuke Mr. Irving or any of the church. Now the Scripture positively says, "Thou shalt not rebuke an Elder, but entreat him as a father;" not only this, but they frequently accused the brethren, thus placing themselves in the seat of Satan, who is emphatically called "the accuser of the brethren." (TPJS, p.210-212)

Believing or teaching that women have more right, affinity etc to charity or the mind of God than that of men is a damning principle and is extremely dangerous. I would say however, that is not what President Eyring is saying here, I'm just worried because of the closeness of these two thoughts that people might incorrectly jump to this conclusion.

President Eyring does however promise the sisters once again, the gift, that society, etc. He is pretty sure of the timing.

There you **will be** sisters **in Zion**, loved **in person** by **the Lord** and those you have blessed.

This has been the scope and purpose of his entire talk- to let the sisters know what is coming (Isaiah Chapter Three) but what is the reward for enduring? And that is New Jerusalem, to dwell there in the presence of the Savior and to there receive by the hand of the Savior an equal inheritance beside the brethren. It is President Eyring's belief that this is in the future of the sisters alive today and in the near future. As with previous talks, I will close this paper/video with President Eyring's words:

I testify that you are citizens of the Lord's kingdom on the earth. You are daughters of a loving Heavenly Father, who sent you into the world with unique gifts that you promised to use to bless others. I promise you that the Lord will lead you by the hand, through the Holy Ghost. He will go before your face as you help Him prepare His people to become His promised Zion. I so testify in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.