

“After Much Tribulation Come the Blessings” (D&C 58:4)

The Colesville Branch, including Polly Knight and her son Newel, arrived in Jackson County, Missouri, in time to participate in the dedication of the land of Zion for the gathering of the Saints. Newel Knight recalled:

“On the second day of August, Brother Joseph Smith Jr., the Prophet of God, assisted the Colesville Branch to lay the first log as a foundation for . . . Zion in Kaw Township, twelve miles west of Independence. The log was carried by twelve men, in honor of the twelve tribes of Israel. At the same time, through prayer, the land of Zion was consecrated and dedicated for the gathering of the Saints by Elder Sidney Rigdon. This was truly a season of joy and rejoicing to all the Saints [who] witnessed it. . . .

“On the third day of August the spot for the temple, a little west of . . . Independence, was dedicated” (Newel Knight autobiography and journal, circa 1846–1847, Church History Library, Salt Lake City; spelling, capitalization, and punctuation standardized).

Elders who attended the dedication had different reactions to the event:

“Some of the elders, like Reynolds Cahoon, saw exciting possibilities in these symbolic beginnings. ‘There my mortal eyes beheld grate and marvilous things,’ he wrote, ‘such as my eyes once never even contemplated of seeing in this world.’ But Ezra Booth was unimpressed by the meager start. It was ‘a curiosity,’ he said, ‘but not worth going to Missouri to see’ ” (Matthew McBride, “Ezra Booth and Isaac Morley,” in *Revelations in Context*, ed. Matthew McBride and James Goldberg [2016], 132–33, or history.lds.org).

On August 7, four days after the site for the temple was dedicated, Polly Knight died. Her son Newel described the circumstances of her death:

“She quietly fell asleep, in death rejoicing in the new and everlasting covenant of the gospel and praising God that she had lived to see the land of Zion and that her body would rest in peace, after suffering as she had done from the persecution of the wicked” (Newel Knight autobiography and journal, circa 1846–1847, Church History Library, Salt Lake City; spelling, capitalization, and punctuation standardized).

- Why do you think Polly Knight’s feelings concerning the dedication of the land of Zion were so different from the feelings of Ezra Booth?
- What blessings came to Polly Knight because she remained faithful during tribulation? (See D&C 59:1–2, which the Lord revealed on the day of Polly’s funeral.)
- What experiences have helped you come to know that the Lord will bless those who remain faithful in tribulation?

