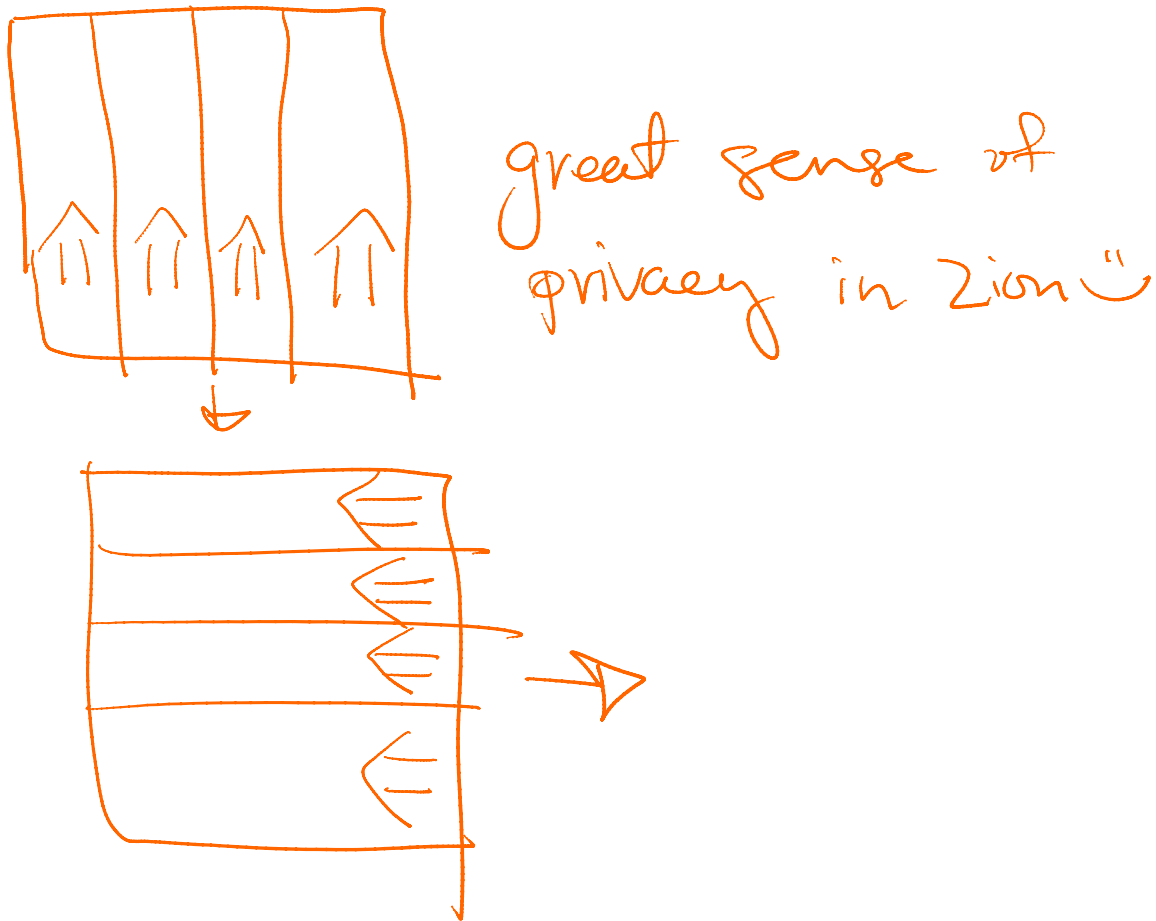


# The State of Missouri 1831-1833

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1831: Jackson County, Independence Missouri was the farthest west city in the United States. As a result Independence is a trail head. Lilburn W. Boggs owned the general store. There were beaver hunters, spanish, indian guides, prostitutes, gamblers etc. It was a wild border town settled by people from Kentucky. Slaves were there. It was the wildest, scariest place in the US. Joseph Smith called 4 missionaries to go to the borders of the Lamanites, this was the logical place. One of the people they baptize is Frederick G. Williams. Peter Whitmer moves in with Lilburn W. Boggs to make him a suit as well as one for Alexander Donophan. They had made a mistake in that they hadn't gotten a license to preach. Oliver Cowdery and others conclude to stay in Independence, while waiting for Joseph's instruction to get a license. Parley heads up to Ohio to talk to Joseph. He receives a revelation to go back to Independence with some others. By the time Joseph reaches Independence he receives a revelation that Zion should be in Independence Missouri. Sidney Rigdon dedicates the entire land of Missouri as Zion. In Joseph's presidential campaign he called all of the northern and southern hemispheres as Zion. Joseph goes up to one of the highest spots in Independence to dedicate the temple site. The temple lot was 64.5 acres, dedicated to be a temple complex. 1 temple for each of the different priesthood offices. 3 more were for communication purposes. Once the temple site was dedicated he introduces the law of consecration. The first man called to live it was Martin Harris. He gave \$1200 which was given to Edward Partridge- the presiding bishop. They buy the temple site and lands of inheritance. Bishop Partridge was left in Missouri. Zion is always a circle, the system is from there we expand outwards. Within the circle there is a square grid system. In the middle of the town would be temple square. Each block of zion would be 10 acres would be divided into 4 rectangular lots. In theory each person should get 2.5 acres with the idea that the four houses to the block



The first temple lot dedicated was Missouri, although we still haven't built any of those 24 temples. There was a recommend to go to Zion. Only those called by the prophet, elect to go and can answer the questions in the interview go. The head of household will answer for the entire family to Joseph. Joseph was big on the ten commandments

- 1- Bun- god is the big mac
- 2- shoe no graven images,

- 3- Tree, trees have veins don't take the Lord's name in vain
- 4- Door - keep sabbath holy
- 5- Hive - honor your parents
- 6- Sticks, don't kill
- 7- Heaven, can't get into heaven if you commit adultery
- 8- Gate, robber at the gate
- 9- Mine, secret gold mine, don't bear false witness
- 10- Hen - don't covet, don't look at what other chickens do

The first four commandments are about your relationship with God, the second five commandments are about your relationship with other people, the last one is about your relationship with yourself.

The other questions were

- How do you feel about those that are not as fortunate as you?
- How do you spend your time?
- How self-sufficient are you? Can you take care of yourself?
- Would you be willing to care for people through sickness or trials?

1300 were called and elected to go to Zion. Of this group the first started arriving in 1831 and continued coming until 1833. They had a community in Independence. First thing they would do would be to go to Edward Partridge. They would have an interview to find out what each person had brought with them to Zion- everything they had was itemized. The next question was which items were you willing to give the Lord. If you were not willing to give everything to the Lord then you couldn't stay. Then they would be given a stewardship of a land of inheritance and part of the land to take care of to give to the poor. Bishop Whitney almost always gave the people everything they brought with them as part of their stewardship.

There were some clashes in Missouri because we were mostly Northerners and they were mostly Southerners. They didn't like us much. We didn't use their general store because we were taking care of ourselves, and we did the work ourselves instead of using slaves. The Southerners decided to burn us out. They would go in white sheets with crosses and burn houses down. The next day the people would come together and rebuild. Finally Joseph tells them to take them to court... didn't work because the judges were in on it.

Finally Orrin Porter Rockwell who was running the barge, was one day attacked. They pushed him off, he rides down to the community. Orrin goes and fights them to get his barge back. Asks Brother Whitmer for some people to help him. Some people = most of the community and goes down to recover the barge. There are deaths on both sides. Word is sent to Boggs that the Mormons are uprising. The Jackson county Militia is called out. The Southerners are proud of their lands and their military might. They surround the county and push the Mormons towards the river. They would ask two questions "Do you believe that Joseph Smith is a prophet? Do you believe the Book of Mormon is a true book?" They would then ransack and burn the Mormon property. The plan was to shoot them all at the river. By the time they get to the river it is nightfall, but Southern Gentlemen don't fight at night. It is called the "Night the stars fell", all of the LDS people are stuck there and are swimming back and forth to get everyone to safety. When the militia comes back to kill them, they can't find any of them, they're all over in Clay county. The slaves take us into their hovels there. This is where Zion's camp comes in.